

BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

Issue 4

April 2007

- **The SPDC continues to obstruct international humanitarian efforts to assist the people of Burma.**
- **Burmese citizens continue to publicly protest against the junta's gross economic mismanagement. Soaring prices of basic food items, up between 60 and 80 percent from April last year, are intensifying strain on people already struggling with rising inflation.**
- **Harassment, arrest, and detention of activists continue. In April, nine activists are arrested and two are sentenced to jail. SPDC authorities and USDA members brutally beat two human right defenders.**
- **SPDC Army, DKBA, and KNU/KNLA Peace Council combined forces mount major offensives against the KNU, with impacts on Thailand. Military operations continue against ethnic armed opposition groups in Shan and Karenni States.**
- **SPDC and Indian government strengthen military ties as a result of several high-level bilateral meetings. India promises SPDC Army more arms and training.**
- **EU renews sanctions on Burma for another year.**
- **SPDC restores diplomatic ties with N. Korea.**
- **The World Wildlife Funds warns of devastating impact of Salween Dams, while new deals with China and initial construction on Thai projects continue.**

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KEY STORY

SPDC restrictions on humanitarian assistance

Over a year has passed since the SPDC issued new regulations on the delivery of humanitarian aid in Burma. These regulations reflect restrictions that have been increasingly imposed on humanitarian agencies. In April, the US Government Accountability Office released a report that documents the negative impact of the regime's recent actions on humanitarian assistance.¹ The findings, based upon interviews with international agencies operating in Burma, conclude:

¹ US Government Accountability Office (Apr 07) Assistance Programs Constrained in Burma

- The SPDC has restricted FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO² staff in providing assistance to populations living in conflict areas. In addition, the SPDC has impeded the delivery of food, development, and health programs. ICRC staff estimated that between 2002 and October 2006, regime interference reduced the scope of ICRC's assistance and protection activities by 90 percent.
- The SPDC has coerced international organizations to work more closely with regime-sponsored political groups, such as the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA). The ICRC has been forced to halt its prison visits following the junta's insistence that they cannot occur without the presence of the USDA.
- The SPDC has denied UNHCR access to border areas that it does not control along the Thai border. The regime has denied that internally displaced persons are in the region.
- The SPDC is deliberately providing inaccurate socio-economic data. It is also preventing international organization officials from conducting their own surveys and from freely sharing the data they gather regarding the nature and scope of Burma's problems.
- The SPDC has prevented international staff of humanitarian agencies from moving freely within the country, obstructing the timely provision of assistance. WFP efforts to deliver food on schedule have been frustrated because of the regime's bureaucratic clearance procedures.
- Officials of three UN entities reported difficulties in obtaining permission for experts located outside Burma to visit sites in Burma.

In addition to the hostile environment created by the SPDC on humanitarian assistance, development aid is also at risk of being compromised by inadequate monitoring by funders. On 24 April, the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) released a report documenting recent cases including:

- The FAO's funding of US\$14 million to the SPDC's Oil Crop Cultivation Programme despite international awareness that the SPDC has consistently implemented agricultural programs using extortion and forced labor.
- The UNESCAP involvement in the Asian Highway, despite incidents of land confiscation and forced labor in the project.³

INSIDE BURMA

Economy goes down, people rise up

Despite arrests and harassment, citizens continue to publicly protest against the junta's economic mismanagement that is affecting their lives at a very fundamental level. Soaring prices of basic food items are intensifying strain on people already struggling with rising inflation. Prices of chicken, cooking oil, onions and rice in April were up between 60 and 80 percent from the same time last year.⁴

- **4 April:** 400 residents of Chauk Township, Magwe Division, demonstrated in front of the Township Development Committee office to protest the SPDC authorities' decision to double the municipal sales tax. On **5 April**, shop owners in Chauk Township submitted a petition of 500 signatures against the tax increase to the municipal office.⁵
- **4 April:** SPDC authorities arrested Tin Ko, a 33-year-old HIV patient from Kanma Township, Magwe Division, for staging a brief protest in Rangoon calling for easier access to antiretroviral

² International agencies mentioned in this Bulletin are: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Council for the Asia Pacific), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), WFP (World Food Program), WHO (World Health Organization)

³ Karen Human Rights Group (Apr 07) Development by Decree: The politics of poverty and control in Karen State

⁴ AFP (24 Apr 07) Food prices in military-run Myanmar soar: report

⁵ Irrawaddy (05 Apr 07) Burma Township Residents Protest New Tax Rate

treatment for people living outside the former capital.⁶ Tin Ko was held at Rangoon's Weibagi contagious diseases hospital.⁷

- **22 April:** SPDC police and USDA members assaulted and arrested seven protesters demonstrating at Rangoon's Thingangyun Sanpyat market. The protesters, led by activist Htin Kyaw, were calling for lower commodity prices, better healthcare, and improved utility services.⁸ In Rangoon, residents are complaining that blackouts are worsening, with some receiving electricity only three hours per day.⁹ Serious water shortages are also reported.¹⁰
- **25 April:** SPDC security officials arrested 61-year-old former political prisoner Ohn Than for staging an anti-junta protest in downtown Rangoon. He was demanding the establishment of a democratically elected government.¹¹

As ordinary people in Burma struggle to make ends meet, the massive development of Naypyidaw continues. "How much it cost is not that important," according to Information Minister Kyaw Hsan. However, one western diplomat reflected that some in the military leadership might be realizing the financial "black hole" that has been created, necessitating "continuous investment for 15 to 30 years."¹²

Political activism

Despite the regime's ongoing campaign of harassment and intimidation against pro-democracy activists, groups such as the 88 Generations Students and the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP) continued their political activities throughout April.

- **5 April:** the 88 Generation Students group urged the SPDC to end discrimination against citizens seen as being anti-junta, saying restrictions have been regularly placed on lawyers, doctors and small businesses with perceived links to the pro-democracy movement.¹³ On **30 March**, SPDC authorities shut down a business venture run by the brother of Mya Aye, one of the leaders of the 88 Generation Students group. No reason was given.¹⁴ On **4 April**, SPDC authorities in Kalay, Sagaing Division, issued a demolition notice for the house of Chin Sian Thang, a 68-year-old Chin MP and member of the Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP).¹⁵
- **17 April:** during a symbolic ceremony held near the house of detained democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon, activists led by the 88 Generation Students group freed fishes and birds to mark Burmese New Year. The group also released a statement calling on the SPDC to address development issues in Burma.¹⁶
- **18 April:** a group of about 100 people comprising local SPDC authorities, police officers and the head of the Township's USDA assaulted and severely beat human rights activists Maung Maung Lay and Myint Naing in Oakpon village in Hinthada Township, Irrawaddy Division. The two activists, who are members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters, had left Rangoon for Hinthada to carry out a human rights training. Following the attack, they were hospitalized for surgery in Hinthada for surgery and then transferred to Rangoon General Hospital to receive further treatment.¹⁷

⁶ Irrawaddy (04 Apr 07) Solo Protest Staged by HIV Patient in Rangoon; DVB (05 Apr 07) Rangoon man protests lack of HIV treatment in Burma; DVB (11 Apr 07) Supporters call for the release of HIV protestor

⁷ DVB (11 Apr 07) Supporters call for the release of HIV protestor

⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Apr 07) Burma's junta vows to crack down on human rights activists; DVB (23 Apr 07) Rangoon protestors bashed, detained by police; ABC (22 Apr 07) Burma arrests seven over rare protest; Mizzima News (23 Apr 07) Junta detains seven protestors in Rangoon

⁹ AFP (15 Apr 07) Myanmar cashes up on energy, but locals in the dark

¹⁰ Reuters (09 Apr 07) Myanmar learns to live with the lights out

¹¹ Mizzima News (25 Apr 07) Solo protestor arrested in Rangoon

¹² AP/The Peninsula (07 Apr 07) Myanmar's new capital raises more questions

¹³ IHT (06 Apr 07) Myanmar pro-democracy activists demand an end to discrimination; DVB (06 Apr 07) 88 students slam government over discrimination

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (02 Apr 07) Junta closes family business of 88 generation leader; Mizzima News (02 Apr 07) Junta seals business venture of activist's family

¹⁵ Mizzima News (20 Apr 07) MP to initiate legal action against house demolition order

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (19 Apr 07) Rangoon's New Year wishes; DVB (19 Apr 07) 88 students call for military commitment to development

¹⁷ Mizzima News (19 Apr 07) USDA orders attack on human rights activists: Activists; DVB (19 Apr 07) Two rights activists bashed in Irrawaddy Division; DVB (20 Apr 07) Activists slam government groups over attack

- **22 April:** more than 80 people led by the 88 Generation Students group took part in the ongoing “White Sunday” campaign, visiting families of political prisoners to offer them moral support. Police harassed and interrogated the family of political prisoner Ko Ba Nyar after such a visit.¹⁸

SPDC Army in disarray

Additional evidence corroborates reports that the SPDC Army increasingly suffers desertions and low morale. [See *March 2007 Burma Bulletin* and *February 2007 Burma Bulletin*] Hundreds of soldiers who participated in the 27 March Armed Forces Day parade in Naypyidaw reportedly deserted. Of 300 men from the Military Operations Command (MOC) #18 based in Eastern Shan State approximately 140 returned from Naypyidaw to their command post.¹⁹

Soe Win to retire?

Speculation is rife that SPDC Prime Minister General Soe Win will retire “very soon” due to poor health. The 58-year-old general has been in Singapore since the end of February to receive treatment for a serious medical condition. SPDC Secretary-1 Lieutenant-General Thein Sein is rumored to succeed Soe Win as the junta’s new Prime Minister.²⁰

SPDC Army offensives against ethnic groups

• Karen State

During April, combined forces from the SPDC Army, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and the splinter group KNLA/KNU Peace Council began a major offensive against KNLA²¹ units located in Burma near the Thai-Burma border. Eight columns from at least three SPDC Army battalions are involved in the operation.²²

- **7 April:** SPDC Army combined forces captured three KNU bases in Karen State along the Thai border. DKBA troops launched rockets that killed at least three KNU soldiers. The DKBA lost eight soldiers from a landmine explosion.²³
- **8 April:** SPDC Army combined forces attacked the KNLA 101st Battalion base at The Law, the KNLA 24th Battalion at Maw Pana Hta, and the KNLA 7th Brigade headquarters at See Ta Taw.²⁴
- **9 April:** the KNU 101st Battalion abandoned its headquarters base following three days of fighting.²⁵
- **11 April:** the headquarters of the KNLA 7th Brigade was reportedly captured.²⁶
- **23 April:** SPDC Army combined forces launched four separate attacks on the KNLA 6th Brigade in areas opposite Thailand's Phop Phra District of Tak Province.²⁷ More than 400 civilians sought refuge in Thailand as a result on the ongoing fighting.²⁸

The spillover from clashes inside Burma into Thailand forced the Thai Army to tighten security along the border.²⁹

¹⁸ DVB (23 Apr 07) Family interrogated after 88 students' visit

¹⁹ SHAN (05 Apr 07) Massive AWOLs on Armed Forces Day

²⁰ DPA (18 Apr 07) Burma PM 'likely to retire soon'; Asia-Pacific News (18 Apr 07) Myanmar's ailing prime minister to retire soon, source says; Bangkok Post (18 Apr 07) Burma PM 'likely to retire soon'; DVB (11 Apr 07) Security still tight for Burma's PM in Singapore hospital; Mizzima News (18 Apr 07) PM Soe Win Reportedly to Step Down

²¹ The KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) is the military wing of the KNU (Karen National Union)

²² FBR (09 Apr 07) Over 130 Families Flee to Thailand as Burma Army Attacks

²³ Reuters (09 Apr 07) Myanmar border clashes claim 17 lives

²⁴ FBR (09 Apr 07) Over 130 Families Flee to Thailand as Burma Army Attacks

²⁵ Irrawaddy (09 Apr 07) Splinter Rebels Overrun KNU Battalion Headquarters

²⁶ BBC Burmese Service (11 Apr 07) KNLA brigade 7 under siege

²⁷ Mizzima News (24 Apr 07) Repeated attacks by joint forces of DKBA, Burmese Army on KNLA

²⁸ HRW (13 Apr 07) Burma: Army and Its Proxies Threaten Refugee Camps

²⁹ Mizzima News (11 Apr 07) Burmese Army likely to attack KNU soon

- **9 April:** at least five artillery rounds fired during a clash between DKBA and KNU forces fell inside Thai territory in Mae Ramat District.³⁰
- **12 April:** Thailand's Foreign Ministry said that the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) kidnapped a Thai citizen and that the person was still being detained.³¹

- **Karenni State**

In April several clashes between SPDC Army forces and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) soldiers were reported. One SPDC Army soldier was killed and one injured while a KNPP soldier was also injured in a clash occurred between 1-2 April.³² On 6 April, the SPDC Army continued mortar attacks on the KNPP base at Nyamu.³³

- **Shan State**

The Shan State Army (SSA) reported more than 10 clashes with SPDC Army troops in early April. On 7 April, an SPDC Army major was reportedly killed and four others injured following fighting between SSA troops and the SPDC Army's 131st Battalion near the villages of Kye-thi and Manli in central Shan State.³⁴

Bird flu lingers

On 22 April, SPDC-controlled media announced that the junta had lifted bans on selling chicken in bird flu-affected areas of Rangoon.³⁵ However, the possibility of bird to human infection remains a concern. "If you look at the infrastructure that exists, if human cases broke out it would be more difficult than in many other countries in the region," said one UN official. "It would be close to impossible to contain".

Opium production and prices up in Shan State

The opium harvest in Northern Shan State reportedly increased for the season that ended in March 2007. Most of the opium production was in areas under the control of the SPDC Army and pro-SPDC Army militia. Opium prices have also increased from 2006. The price for a kilogram of opium has increased to 625,000 kyat (US\$500) from 438,000 kyat (US\$350) a year ago.³⁶

HUMAN RIGHTS

In and out of jail

- **2 April:** Rangoon's Thingyankyun Township Court acquitted Burmese satirist Thein Zan. He was arrested on 7 March for his satire against skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.³⁷ [See *March 2007 Burma Bulletin*]
- **2 April:** SPDC authorities released pro-democracy activist Thwin Lin Aung. He was arrested at Rangoon airport on 5 March. [See *March 2007 Burma Bulletin*] Thwin Lin Aung was released after being questioned about the activities of the American Centre - an education centre and library run by the US embassy.³⁸

³⁰ TNA (09 Apr 07) Karen factions battle in Myanmar; artillery shells, refugees cross border

³¹ Bangkok Post (16 Apr 07) Burmese take Thai hostage

³² Kantarawaddy Times (09 April 07) Seven clashes during ceasefire talks between KNPP and SPDC

³³ DVB (06 Apr 07) Burmese troops shell KNPP camps despite peace talks

³⁴ Irrawaddy (10 Apr 07) Burma's Junta Steps Up Attacks on Ethnic Rebels

³⁵ AFP (22 Apr 07) Myanmar lifts ban on chicken sales

³⁶ SHAN (19 Apr 07) Increased opium production in the north

³⁷ Mizzima News (02 Apr 07) Court acquits Burmese satirist; DVB (02 Apr 07) Commodity price protestor Thein Zan released

³⁸ AFP (03 Apr 07) Myanmar frees pro-democracy activist; ABC (03 Apr 07) Burma frees pro-democracy activist

- **25 April:** the Nyaungdon Township court in Irrawaddy Division sentenced Ko Tin Htay and Ko Than Htun to two and four and-a-half years in prison respectively for possessing copies of the video of the lavish wedding of Senior-Gen Than Shwe's daughter.³⁹ [See *March 2007 Burma Bulletin*]

Misrule of law

- **11 April:** police in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, killed Nabi Hussain, a 30-year-old Rohingya from Ngar Yant Chaung village. Police arrested Nabi Hussain for allegedly breaking a promise of marriage. He was severely beaten at the local police station. His hands and feet were tied to a log and he was killed by rolling him down a hill.⁴⁰ Ironically, the SPDC designated 2007 as the year of discipline for the Myanmar Police Force.⁴¹
- **15 April:** a drunken SPDC Army official shot and killed Gisu Hoke, a 21-year-old Muslim in Aung Tha Bray village, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.⁴²

DISPLACEMENT

Conditions in Burma forcing more Rohingya to leave

On 2 April, six UN human rights experts, including the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, released a statement calling on the SPDC to stop discriminating against Rohingya. The statement said that the denial of citizenship "has seriously curtailed the full exercise of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and has led to various discriminatory practices [...]. As a consequence, thousands have fled to neighboring countries, in turn creating complex humanitarian situations in the region."⁴³

On 3 April, in the latest reports of the current exodus of Rohingya, Thai Marine police apprehended more than 150 men and boys from Maungdaw and Buthidaung, Arakan State, off the western coast of Southern Thailand. They had been without food for about five days in their two small boats. They are likely to be deported to Burma.⁴⁴

Malaysia arrests

On 20 April, Malaysia officials stopped a boatload of 13 refugees, including two children, from entering Malaysia.⁴⁵ NGOs continued calls on the Malaysian government to change its policy with regard to refugees.

- **5 April:** SUARAM reported that thugs from RELA "Volunteer People's Corp" have been so effective in their efforts to detain asylum seekers and migrant workers in Malaysia that detention camps have become overcrowded, with 400 detainees confined per room.⁴⁶
- **20 April:** The Chin Human Rights Organization called on Malaysia to recognize and protect refugees and asylum seekers from Burma. They added that the current detention of at least 20 children from Burma contravened its commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁴⁷
- **April:** The Mon Refugee Committee sent letters of concern to the international community raising their concerns for the safety of Mon asylum seekers detained by Malaysian authorities, including UNHCR card holders.⁴⁸

³⁹ Mizzima News (25 Apr 07) Two jailed for distributing video footage of Than Shwe's daughter; DVB (25 Apr 07) Men get jail time for watching Thandar Shwe video

⁴⁰ Kaladan News (23 Apr 07) Rohingya man killed brutally by police

⁴¹ Xinhua (23 Apr 07) Myanmar builds new capital with 3 objectives

⁴² Narinjara News (23 Apr 07) Army Official Guns Down Muslim Youth During Water Festival

⁴³ Irrawaddy (04 Apr 07) More Rohingya boat people detained in Thai waters

⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (04 Apr 07) More Rohingya boat people detained in Thai waters

⁴⁵ Bernama (20 Apr 07) Smuggling of 13 Myanmar foiled

⁴⁶ Mizzima News (11 Apr 07) Over 2,000 Burmese refugees and migrants detained in Malaysia

⁴⁷ Mizzima News (20 Apr 07) Malaysia should recognize Burmese refugees: CHRO

⁴⁸ Kaowao (22 Apr 07) MRO calls for the safety of Mon detainees in Malaysia

“Martial law for migrant workers”

Thai authorities report that the SPDC is holding up registration of migrant workers from Burma. The SPDC is insisting that Thai employers take their workers to registration points in Burma.⁴⁹

In Chiang Mai, Thai local authorities have drafted new prohibitions on migrant workers that include: gathering in groups of more than five people; owning or riding motorcycles; and leaving their places of employment or residence after 8 pm (a particularly difficult restriction for night workers). “Basically, this is like martial law for migrants,” said Jackie Pollock, from the Migrant Assistance Programme Foundation.⁵⁰

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

EU renews Burma sanctions

On 23 April, the European Union extended diplomatic and economic sanctions against Burma for another year, saying that the country was making no “tangible progress” in improving its human rights record. EU Foreign Ministers said in a statement that the bloc “continues to be concerned by serious violations of human rights” and restrictions on the work of domestic and international human rights organizations in Burma.⁵¹

Burma and North Korea resume diplomatic ties

On 26 April, Burma and North Korea agreed to restore diplomatic relations. The announcement came after North Korea’s deputy foreign minister Kim Yong-Il met with his SPDC counterpart, Kyaw Thu, for an hour in Rangoon.⁵²

India promises SPDC Army more arms and military training

- **2 April:** A seven-member SPDC delegation headed by Vice-Admiral Soe Thane met with Defence Minister A K Antony, Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Prakash, Army chief General J J Singh and Defence Secretary Shekhar Dutt. The Indian officials promised more military aid and training to the regime’s armed forces.⁵³
- **23 April:** SPDC quartermaster general, Lt Gen Tin Aung Myint Oo, met with his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Sudhir Sharma and Indian Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Deepak Kapoor. Tin Aung Myint Oo requested the sale of military arms to assist in the SPDC efforts to control anti-Indian armed groups operating along the India-Burma border.⁵⁴
- **25 April:** Indian and SPDC military officials met at in Delhi. The SPDC requested more military arms and technical support from India. SPDC Army personnel will receive training at the Counter-Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School of Vairengte in Mizoram.⁵⁵

ECONOMY

Salween dams

On 12 April, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that hydropower projects being built on the Salween River could destroy a fragile ecosystem and displace tens of thousands of ethnic villagers in Burma.

⁴⁹ Irrawaddy (24 Apr 07) Burmese migrant worker registration hits snags

⁵⁰ Irrawaddy (19 Apr 07) New Regulations for Migrant Workers in Chiang Mai

⁵¹ IHT (23 Apr 07) EU extends diplomatic, economic sanctions against Myanmar for another year

⁵² AFP (26 Apr 07) Secretive Myanmar, NKorea to restore ties

⁵³ Times News Network (01 April 07) Myanmar navy chief in India

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (24 Apr 07) Burma to Buy More Indian Weapons

⁵⁵ Hindustan Times (27 Apr 07) Indian, Myanmar army delegations meet in Kolkata

Most of the electricity generated from these projects will be sold to neighboring Thailand. New deals for the construction of dams continue to be negotiated between the SPDC and foreign investors.⁵⁶

- **30 March:** Thailand's MDX Group Co Ltd began construction of the Tasang hydro-power dam on the Salween River in Eastern Shan State. The US\$6 billion project will generate 7,110 megawatts.⁵⁷
- **5 April:** the SPDC signed a memorandum of understanding with China's Farsighted Investment Group Co Ltd and Gold Water Resources Co Ltd to build a 2,400 megawatt plant on the Salween River, Kunlong, Northern Shan State.⁵⁸
- **19 April:** Sr Gen Than Shwe visited a 600 megawatt hydro project in Namkham District, Shan State. The project is reportedly 51% complete.⁵⁹

Gas pipeline saga continues

Contradictory reports continue to emerge over whether the SPDC has actually decided to sell China the gas from A-1 and A-3 blocks. Daewoo reportedly plans to make a counter offer for the gas, and initiate legal proceedings against Rangoon for losses that the consortium will suffer from a decision by the junta to sell the gas to China below market value.⁶⁰ Reports from the SPDC maintain that a decision is being held off until final reserve reports from Daewoo's latest survey of A-1 and A-3 that began on 17 April.⁶¹

China's oil giant Sinopec announced that construction of the pipeline from Akyab, Arakan State, to Chongqing, Southwest China, is expected to begin soon, saying that the National Development and Reform Commission approved the pipeline at the beginning of April.⁶² One analyst calculated that the total rent over 30 years to the SPDC from China for building oil and gas pipelines would amount to US\$9 billion – or \$300 million annually.

PTTEP finds more gas

On 3 April, Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production Pty Ltd (PTTEP) announced it had made a significant natural gas discovery, the largest of four discoveries made in M-9 in the Gulf of Martaban, since the start of 2007.⁶³

APRIL CHRONOLOGY

1	A drunk policeman attacks a woman from Chan Aye Tharzan Township, Mandalay Division.
2	Singapore's foreign minister George Yeo arrives in Burma on an official three-day visit.
2	Rangoon's Thingyankyun Township Court acquits satirist Thein Zan.
2	SPDC authorities release pro-democracy activist Thwin Lin Aung.
2	SPDC Foreign Minister Nyan Win says the junta will wrap up the National Convention by the end of 2007.
2	Over 600 new settlers from central Burma arrive in Akyab for relocation to model villages in Arakan State built with forced labor.
2	A group of UN Human rights experts call on the SPDC to stop discrimination against Muslims living in Northern Arakan State.
3	The International Trade Union Confederation appeals to multi-national companies investing in Burma to withdraw.
3	More than 160 Rohingya from two boats are apprehended off the coast of Southern Thailand.

⁵⁶ AP (12 Apr 07) Villagers said at risk from Myanmar dam; IHT (13 Apr 07) Burma: Warning of Detrimental Dam; AP (12 Apr 07) WWF says Myanmar hydro project will destroy Asia's Salween River; AFP (08 Apr 07) China and Myanmar sign new hydropower dam deal; Xinhua (21 Apr 07) Myanmar to implement some six hydropower projects; Standard (16 Apr 07) At risk from drowning

⁵⁷ AFP (05 Apr 07) Myanmar, Thailand begin work on controversial dam

⁵⁸ IHT (13 Apr 07) Burma: Warning of Detrimental Dam

⁵⁹ DPA (20 Apr 07) Myanmar's first Shweli hydroelectric project half built

⁶⁰ Indian Express (14 Apr 07) Daewoo fears losses from Myanmar-China gas deal, India may gain

⁶¹ AFP (06 Apr 07) Myanmar, Thailand begin work on controversial dam

⁶² Xinhua (22 Apr 07) Construction of China-Myanmar oil pipeline expected to start this year

⁶³ Bangkok Post (04 April 07) PTTEP gets 'high flow' of Burma gas

3	400 residents of Chauk Township protest in front of their local SPDC office, objecting to a new tax increase.
3	Japan International Cooperation Agency donates bio-safety equipment worth US\$14, 638 for the prevention of bird flu to the SPDC Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.
4	SPDC reopens the Thai-Burma border checkpoint at Mae Sot-Myawaddy.
4	Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Farid Ejlali, meets with SPDC Deputy Foreign Minister, Kyaw Thu, to discuss the need to broaden cooperation in the agriculture sector.
4	SPDC authorities arrest a 33-year-old HIV patient from Kanma Township, Magwe Division, for staging a brief protest in Rangoon calling for easier access to antiretroviral treatment for people living outside the former capital.
4	SPDC authorities in Kalay, Sagaing Division, issue a demolition notice for the house of Chin Sian Thang, a 68-year-old Chin MP and member of the Committee Representing People's Parliament.
4	Shop owners in Chauk Township submit a petition of 500 signatures protesting a new tax increase.
4	SPDC signs a memorandum of understanding with China's Farsighted Investment Group and Gold Water Resources to build a hydropower plant on the Salween River.
5	88 Generation Students group releases a statement calling on the SPDC to end discrimination against citizens seen as being anti-junta.
6	UN deputy chief for humanitarian affairs Margareta Wahlstrom meets with the SPDC Health Minister and other junta officials.
7	One SPDC soldier is killed and four others injured during a clash between SPDC Army and Shan State Army near the villages of Kye-thi and Manli in central Shan State.
7	One Karenni soldier and three SPDC Army soldiers are wounded during a clash near the Thai-Burmese border opposite Mae Hong Son.
7	Two bombs explode in Myawaddy, Karen State, killing one SPDC Army soldier.
8	250 Karen fleeing attacks from junta-aligned groups arrive in Mae Ramat District, Thailand
9	SPDC army troops and their allies seize two outposts of the KNLA's Brigade 7 following a day of fighting.
11	Policem from Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, kill a 30-year-old Rohingya from Ngar Yant Chaung village.
11	A villager from Thabyaynyunt Village in Pegu Division is seriously injured by a landmine explosion.
12	Democratic Karen Buddhist Army kidnaps a Thai citizen.
12	International conservation group World Wildlife Fund says that tens of thousands of villagers may be displaced and a fragile ecosystem destroyed by a hydropower project being built on the Salween River.
15	SPDC security officials arrest 61-year-old former political prisoner Ohn Than for staging an anti-junta protest in downtown Rangoon demanding the establishment of a democratically elected government.
16	Indian authorities in Delhi shut down Burmese news agency Mizzima.
17	Lahu Democratic Front, Palaung State Liberation Front, and Pa-O People's Liberation Organization commit to a total ban on anti-personnel mines by signing Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment.
17	Rangoon-based veteran Burmese politicians urge the SPDC to set up an interim government to help solve the country's political and social crisis.
17	88 Generation Students group releases a statement calling on the SPDC to address development issues in Burma.
17	Daewoo begins new exploration in blocks A-1 and A-3.
18	The Municipal Corporation of Delhi unseals the Mizzima office in New Delhi.
18	A group of about 100 people comprising local SPDC authorities, police officers and the head of the Township's USDA assaulted and severely beat human rights activists Maung Maung Lay and Myint Naing in Oakpon village in Hinthada Township, Irrawaddy Division.
19	Sr Gen Than Shwe visits hydropower project in Namkham District, Shan State.
19	A 15-year-old Rohingya girl is raped in Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazaar district by three local men.
20	Chin Human Rights Organization calls on Malaysia to recognize and protect refugees and asylum seekers from Burma.
20	Malaysian authorities stop 13 people from Burma from entering Malaysia.
22	SPDC Narcotics Branch Police in Northern Shan state seize over 60 kilograms of opium in a raid involving the Pansae militia in Pansae village, Namkhan Township.
22	SPDC police and USDA members assault and arrest seven protesters demonstrating at Rangoon's Thingangyun Sanpyat market.
22	More than 80 people led by the 88 Generation Students group take part in the ongoing "White Sunday" campaign, visiting families of political prisoners.
22	SPDC police harass and interrogate the family of political prisoner Ko Ba Nyar after the 88 Generation Student group visited their home.

22	Thai police raid the wedding party of migrant workers from Burma, arresting of 28 people in Samut Prakan Province.
22	China's Sinopec announces that construction will begin this year on an oil pipeline from Akyab to Chongqing, Southwest China.
22	SPDC announces lifting of ban on selling and transporting chicken in bird flu-affected areas.
23	European Union extends diplomatic and economic sanctions against Burma for another year.
23	SPDC Army requests more military arms from India to assist India in border security issues.
23	Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong arrives in Burma and discusses bilateral relations with SPDC officials.
23	SPDC Army delegation on a four-day visit to Indian Eastern Command Headquarters.
25	Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor, Ifhekhar Ahmed Chowdury departs from Dhaka on a four-day official tour of Burma.
25	SPDC reports that it arrested 322 people in 217 drug-related cases in March and seized opium and amphetamines.
25	Nyaungdon Township court in Irrawaddy Division sentences Ko Tin Htay and Ko Than Htun respectively to two and four and-a-half years in prison for possessing copies of the video of the wedding of Senior-Gen Than Shwe's daughter.
25	Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and Secretary-General's Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders Hina Jilani release a joint statement in Geneva voicing deep concern over the brutal attack against rights defenders in Burma.
25	SPDC security officials arrest 61-year-old former political prisoner Ohn Than for staging an anti-junta protest in downtown Rangoon.
25	Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor, Ifhekhar Ahmed Chowdury departs from Dhaka on a four-day official tour of Burma.
26	Burma and North Korea agree to restore diplomatic relations.
29	IPU delegates state that Burma's problems are spilling over into the region and affecting stability.
30	Belgium Defense Minister Andre Flahaut reinstates legal proceedings brought by four refugees from Burma against oil company TotalFina.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN APRIL 2007

“Four Villagers Killed, Three Shot Point Blank, as 2,000 Flee Burma Army Attacks”, Free Burma Rangers
<http://www.freeburmarangers.org/Reports/2007/20070407.html>

Report on the recent SPDC Army attacks and atrocities against civilians in Karen State.

“Development by Decree: The politics of poverty and control in Karen State”, Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)

<http://www.khrg.org/khrg2007/khrg0701.pdf>

Report illustrating how the SPDC infrastructure and “development” projects fuel human rights abuses in Karen State.

“Assistance Programs Constrained in Burma”, US Government Accountability Office (GAO)

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07457.pdf>

Report describing the negative impact of the regime's recent actions on the efforts of relief agencies to address Burma's humanitarian crisis.

“Issues and Concerns Volume 4: The Security Dimensions”, ALTSEAN-Burma

<http://www.altsean.org/Issues%20and%20Concerns%20Vol%204.pdf>

Collection of briefers covering: Drug Production And Trafficking; The Social Impact Of Burma's Drug Production And Trafficking; Regional Impacts Of Burma's Health System Failure – HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB, Filariasis & Avian Influenza; Internally Displaced Persons & Refugees; Protection Of Civilians In Armed Conflicts