

NMSP INVITES DONORS TO SUPPORT FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



April 10, 2020

HURFOM: So far official reports indicate there are 27 COVID-19 patients across Myanmar. Union, State and Division governments are all making efforts to prevent, control and treat those seriously infected.

The New Mon State Party (NMSP) efforts are hampered by inadequate health equipment. Officials from the Mawlamyine District NMSP are inviting donors to support the purchase of needed health equipment.

The NMSP has established 40 quarantine centers which have accepted 300 returnees. Some returnees were allowed to go back to their home after isolating for 14 days in the centers. This measure is intended to help stop the spread of the virus, as asymptomatic individuals (no symptoms) can still spread the infection to others.

"We need health equipment to prevent the infection from spreading. When we find an infected patient, our health workers assisting the patient don't have PPE – Personal Protective Equipment or other needed supplies. Some organizations came and made donations but it isn't enough. We need donors who can support us in obtaining protective equipment," said an official with the Mawlamyine District NMSP.

[Read more on page2>>](#)

2020 WORLD REFUGEE DAY STATEMENT BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF MONLAND



[Read more on page 4>>](#)

MUP URGES MIGRANT WORKERS TO VOTE IN ADVANCE IN THEIR HOME CONSTITUENCY



June 11, 2020

HURFOM: During a meeting with local media, Nai Layi Tama, the Secretary #1 of the Mon Unity Party (MUP) urged migrant workers across Burma to vote for candidates in their native or home constituency, via advanced voting for the 2020 general election.

"It's not reasonable that migrant workers in the ethnic regions vote for candidates where they temporarily

work. They should vote for candidates in their native constituency via advanced votes," said the Secretary #1.

In 2015, the electoral law said that migrant workers could cast their vote in the jurisdiction where they temporarily worked if they had been a resident of that jurisdiction for at least 6 months or 180 days. An amendment to the electoral law was made in 2020, allowing migrant workers voting rights in their workplace jurisdictions with only 3 months or 90 days residency.

There has been a criticism surrounding the voting rights and residency requirements of migrant workers.

[Read more on page3>>](#)

NMSP INVITES DONORS TO SUPPORT FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



Currently, the NMSP is providing health services to returnees with 5 infrared thermometers donated by community based organizations (CBO).

There are not enough surgical masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, infrared thermometers, and PPE so there are delays in medical checks of returnees. Many of these essential supplies are difficult to buy currently.

There has been no direct support from the government to the NMSP but the party has been cooperating with local government public health departments to provide health services to the people.

“The government only supports health materials to their public health departments. And the medics are sharing the materials with us. They also don’t have enough support. Our health and government public health

departments are cooperating, which is helping people,” said the official.

Some CBOs made a direct donation without informing the NMSP because they did not have contact information of the Party.

The NMSP wants donors to inform them if they want to help people in their controlled area, according to one official.

“If they inform us, we’ll provide security to them. We’re responsible for that. We have to protect them. If something is wrong, it’s not good for everyone,” said the official.

The NMSP formed a central committee in response to COVID-19 and has been delivering instructions to particular departments. Health services such as measuring body temperatures, doing

medical checks, providing infection control education about COVID-19 is underway. The NMSP is also urging returnees to remain in a strict 14-day quarantine to help stop the spread of the virus.

The NMSP has also agreed with the government that infected patients in their controlled area can have treatment in the government health departments.

“The government only supports health materials to their public health departments. And the medics are sharing the materials with us. They also don’t have enough support. Our health and government public health departments are cooperating, which is helping people

In this issue

- **HURFOM statement:** 2020 World Refugee Day Statement by the Human Rights Foundation of Monland
- **News:** Water scarcity in Mon State worse and has come earlier than last year
- **News:** Community-based quarantine center needs government support
- **News:** Mon CSO Network urges NMSP and KNU to hold a dialogue regarding landmines

MUP URGES MIGRANT WORKERS TO VOTE IN ADVANCE IN THEIR HOME CONSTITUENCY



“The MUP and the other ethnic political parties sent letters to the Union Election Commission (UEC) [voicing their opposition] to this issue. And we also sent letters to particular parliaments. But the amendment was approved even though we all opposed it. That’s unreasonable,” said Nai Layi Tama.

According to the 2014 census, there were 350,000 migrant workers in Mon State. The State government provided household lists and national registration cards (NRC) so migrant workers had the right to cast their vote in Mon State, in the 2015 election.

Despite the constraints associated with COVID-19, the Union Election Commission (UEC) has not announced any plans to postpone the general election, which will take place in November.

There were more than a million voters in Mon State in the 2010 election, and 1.5 millions in the 2015 election. The Mon State Election Sub-commission has reported there are 1.7 million eligible voters for the upcoming 2020 election.

VILLAGES LOCKING DOWN TO CONTAIN C-19, IMPACTING FRUIT MARKETS AND LIVELIHOODS IN YE



April 22, 2020

HURFOM: Concerns with the growing spread of COVID-19, has led some village authorities in Ye Township, Mon State to introduce a lockdown, and restrict residents and travellers movements. This is leaving plantation owners with difficulties to sell their seasonal fruits.

Ye Township plantations produce lemons, mangosteens, durian, betel nut and pomelo.

Most villages in Ye Township have now set up bamboo-pole gates at the entrance of their villages and are conducting medical checks on visitors. Travelers from other villages, and plantation owners were recently, not allowed access to their plantations, according to Lake Pote village resident Nai Htoo.

“Bamboo-pole gates at the village entrance allows villagers to go to their plantation but there are more restrictions on those who want to

travel to the city. There are difficulties as there is no fruit market. There is no income currently so the locals are worried about their livelihoods. Both daily workers and plantation owners have problems. Plantation owners can borrow money (to ease their livelihood problems) but daily workers are really in trouble,” said Nai Htoo.

Nai Myint, a local plantation owner noted that fruits produced in Ye are typically transported to Yangon markets. But now, as fruit collectors stopped buying these commodities local plantation owners are facing a livelihood crisis. However, some plantation operations have begun to make durian jams.

Nai Htoo, added, ***“Large scale fruit collectors are not buying fruits so local traders have stopped buying. In this region, nearly all the villagers work on plantations so they have access to fruit products, but they can’t eat all this fruit and they can’t sell it in their region. It must be transported to other States or Divisions. But they can’t transport their fruit so there is a financial crisis”***.

The Covid-19 restrictions are leaving fruit markets empty of sellers and buyers.

2020 WORLD REFUGEE DAY STATEMENT BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF MONLAND



HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF MONLAND,

WWW.REHMONNY.ORG,

INFO@REHMONNYA.ORG

June 20, 2020

Today, on World Refugee Day 2020, the Human Rights Foundations of Monland (HURFOM) commemorates the resilience of refugees from Burma/Myanmar and the many internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the ongoing conflict in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, and Karen states.

"Since the onset of the current pandemic, things have become increasingly more challenging for refugees, IDPs, and the local authorities who host them. In Mon and southern Karen states, the daily lives of war affected IDPs were already challenging prior to this crisis. Most of them are extremely vulnerable to socio-economic changes, and they are excluded from national response plans and services. Thus, I would like to call upon humanitarian aid groups and donor agencies to pay special attention to these communities at this time and support their needs," said HURFOM Programme Director, Nai Aue Mon

HURFOM expresses concern regarding the approximately 100,000 mostly Karen and Karenni refugees remaining in the nine refugee camps along the Thailand-Burma/Myanmar

border, whereby a failing peace process and dwindling humanitarian funds compel some refugees to return, despite persecution, the threat of landmines, and lack of access to their former lands as potential issues.

Moreover, HURFOM expresses grave concern over the blocking of international humanitarian aid since 2016 to the approximately 40,000 IDPs who are residing in Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)-controlled areas. The emergence of COVID-19 has made it even more difficult for local aid groups to reach these populations.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, in Kachin areas, we are all in this together. In order to respond to COVID-19 in IDP and remote areas, we, Kachin Women's Association of Thailand (KWAT), collaborated with CSOs, Christian-based charities, and other CBOs and formed a joint committee called 'COVID-19 Concern and Response Committee – Kachin (CCRCK)'. We prioritize assisting children, the elderly, and disabled persons. We have done an assessment and, according to these data, the Government is unable to deliver their resources and

[Read more on page5>>](#)

HURFOM statement:

assistance. Thus, we are currently focusing more on remote IDPs and conflict-affected communities, trying to put everyone in the picture and make sure that no one is left behind."

San Htoi, Kachin Women's Association of Thailand (KWAT)

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have been collaborating with local CSOs and conducting awareness-raising campaigns in conflict-affected populations. Across conflict areas, livelihoods and food security are at risk. As you all know, the government has shut down internet access in most conflict areas and people have no opportunities to access information on prevention and response to COVID-19. Thus, it is important to mobilize local resources and support to civil society groups and, on the other hand, build relationships with frontline leaders and service providers during these critical times."

Ting Do, General Secretary, All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress (AASYC)

Many IDP sites in Mon State, often remote in nature, have forewarned of looming food shortages and crisis in the midst of the rainy season:

"Most of us have been moving into a situation of destitution. Yes, the situation, one of moving from poverty to destitution and this virus [COVID-19], made us increasingly isolated by the lockdown. New regulations and rules make it very hard to access our jobs, we cannot afford to feed our families. Now, that some restrictions are lifted, it is already too late and the rainy season has begun. We did not have a chance to work to collect and store foods during the dry season. On behalf of my villagers, I would like to request the [state-level] government and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) to arrange sustainable jobs for us during the interim and to make sure to recognize health, education, and social rights."

Nai San Do, 44, Baleh Doon White IDP Site, (originally from southern Ye Township, Mon State)

"It is hard for me to say 'NO' when my children come and ask for more food. I know that we cannot feed them enough. This is the hardest time for me during these lockdown periods. My husband left me with 3 children about 2 years ago, and I tried to survive on my own, collecting tall grasses and working in the rubber plantation. As other residents here in Kyaik Soi Mon village, I haven't been able to earn and find food since the second week of April. My neighbors assisted me with approximately 10 kg of rice, and the village committee supported me with another 10 kg. I would like to express my thanks to them. People have big hearts and care for my family."

You know, this lockdown reminds me of my young time, stuck in the forest afraid of being killed by the Burmese soldiers and their landmines. Now, I feel like this again. Now we're afraid of going out and getting the virus. The worst thing is most of us living here with no job now."

Min San Aye, Kyaik Soi Mon DP Site, Eastern Ye Township, Mon State

"We are very concerned about the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. This is why we formed the Committee to Control and Prevent COVID-19, and we collaborated with civil society groups to see what we could change. We have set-up 18 health service checkpoints including some IDPs areas in eastern Ye and northern Yebu townships. We transformed our drug rehabilitation center in Ga Gon Zwel to a quarantine center in the entry of IDPs sites and provided health services to the local residents as well as new returnees from neighborhood countries. Of course, there are lots of difficulties and challenges in this critical time for all of us, and we are making sure not to leave out marginalized and vulnerable communities."

Nai Banyar Lae, the head of COVID-19 Control and Prevention Committee and CEC of NMSP

As long as there is instability in Burma/Myanmar, ethnic people will continue to flee and seek refuge. There is no simple solution to this complex problem, but it is clear that there is no solution if the civil war continues. Thus, this statement also calls upon all stakeholders, international governments, communities, peacemakers, and donors to pressure Burma/Myanmar to build stability and preserve peace

Recommendations:

- ② Immediately end all military offensives and open a dialogue for nationwide ceasefires especially in western, north-eastern, and eastern Burma;
- ② Ensure the emergency support is provided equally with no discrimination or marginalization;
- ② Call upon the Burma/Myanmar government/EOs/Tatmadaw: Allow humanitarian access, including local ethnic service providers, to all refugee camps and IDPs sites with no legal consequences or intimidation;
- ② Continue providing access to IDP sites and refugee camps to ensure the process of voluntary, safe, dignified, and durable returns;
- ② Develop a policy or a system to provide restitution of housing, land, and property for IDPs and conflict-affected refugees in line with international standards.

For further information, please contact:

Nai Aue Mon

Human Rights Foundation of Monland,

+66 086 1679 741

info@rehmonnya.org, auemon@rehmonnya.org

www.rehmonnya.org

News

COMMUNITY-BASED QUARANTINE CENTER NEEDS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



April 7, 2020

HURFOM: In order to control the spread of COVID-19, the government announced that returnees from out of the country must remain in a quarantine facility or remain in a strict home quarantine for 14-days.

Mon State has established a community-based quarantine center.

However, the government has not provided medical staff support or protective equipment to quarantine centers. Local communities are now facing challenges as they operate these centre centers without government support.

“There is not enough medical staff to take care of the returnees. Also there is not enough equipment. The public health staff just come outside office hours to measure body temperature of the returnees. The staff say they are doing as they’re instructed by their department. They said they would come once in three days. However, there are not enough surgical masks and hand sanitizers. Protective equipment is out of stock so we have to buy our own equipment,” said a resident of Naing Hlone village, Mudon Township.

Most villages are taking care of returnees at schools but there has been

no support from the authorities. Social groups are collecting money from the villagers to help operate the quarantine centers.

“The village administration has offered no support to the quarantine centers. We collected money from our friends and got about 400,000 Kyat. We bought surgical masks and hand sanitizer with that money. Returnees are also being taken care of by their parents or relatives,” said a resident from R Ru Tong village, Ye Township.

The call for quarantines has created some confusion.

This is because people may be sick with the virus for 1 to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment.

Health officials are requiring all migrants or travellers returning to the country to immediately isolate themselves in quarantine for 14-days to avoid passing along the virus before symptoms may appear.

Not everyone realizes the 14-day isolation period is intended to contain the virus. A person may feel well but

can still pass the virus to others – hence the 14-day quarantine procedures.

“We requested medical staff in our village take care of the returnees. We kept them at school in accordance with the instructions from the medical staff. But because returnees were kept separately, villagers think they are infected by the disease. So we also have difficulty in dealing with the returnees,” said a resident from Naing Hlone.

“Some follow the rules but some returnees returned via an illegal route and are hiding in the village. If we notice, we went to them and brought them to the quarantine center. There is enough food in the center but surgical masks, hand sanitizer and infrared thermometers are needed,” said a resident from R Ru Tong.

The Ministry of Health and Sport in Myanmar announced on March 29 that returnees who came back after March 22 must remain in a strict quarantine facility or remain in home quarantine for 14-days.

As of April 3, 2020, there were 20 reported cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar with one fatality.



We requested medical staff in our village take care of the returnees. We kept them at school in accordance with the instructions from the medical staff. But because returnees were kept separately, villagers think they are infected by the disease. So we also have difficulty in dealing with the returnees



News

RETURNEE JAILED FOR THREE MONTHS FOR BREACHING C-19 QUARANTINE LAW

April 23, 2020

HURFOM: In order to try and contain COVID-19, the government had ordered all returnees to Myanmar (migrant workers) to spend 14-days in a community quarantine camp. That protocol has now been amended to 21-days in a community based quarantine camp. If those quarantined show no signs of infection they can return to their home communities, but then they must spend another 7-days in strict home quarantine.

A 32-year-old man from Kawdut village, Ye Township was found to have breached the law and was sentenced to 3-months imprisonment by the Ye Township court on April 21.

The man returned from Thailand on April 7. He was ordered to a community based quarantine facilities located at No #1 Basic Education High School in Kawdut village. Although he initially stayed at the facility, on two separate occasions he attempted to escape. The

authorities had to bring him back. Then on April 18, he intentionally destroyed chairs and drinking water bottles owned by the school, and verbally abused the Facility Authority, reported Nai Maung, the Kawdut Administrator.

"He didn't follow the rules and regulations imposed by the government. He ran away twice. We had to bring him back. We were trying to calm him down. But he was violent on April 18. He destroyed school materials and said foul words to us. When he tried to run away thrice, I contacted the Lamine police, and they came to arrest him. He also confessed his crime," said the Administrator.

On April 21, the Ye Court sentenced the returnee to a 3-month prison term. This is the first case in Ye Township where the Natural Disaster Management Law was imposed.

"There were lots of returnees who didn't want to stay in the quarantine. The Village Administrators and

community leaders had to pursue them and ensure they stayed in the quarantine. If they refused, we informed the police to bring them to the quarantine," said Nai Wai, the Administrator of Myo Ma #3 Ward, Lamine Town.

There are 42 community based quarantine facilities across Ye Township and 845 returnees have been accommodated. Among them, 18 returnees were residents of Kawdut village, but they were all allowed to go back to their homes after completing their quarantine period, without having shown symptoms of the C-19 infection.

COVID-19 symptoms can include fatigue, fever, chills, headache, body/joint aches, or a dry cough.

Anybody who intentionally violates the C-19 quarantine regulations issued under the Natural Disaster Management law and/or who destroys rescue equipment can face up to one year imprisonment, or a fine, or both.



News

WATER SCARCITY IN MON STATE WORSE AND HAS COME EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR



Government orders to help contain and mitigate the spread of Covid-19 are conflicting with the Mon residents' struggle to get water. Local people think water scarcity will be even worse in the future.

Pahe Do, a villager said, ***"Now only two wells in our village can produce water. But one of the well owners banned us from collecting water, so we have only one water resource. That well is at the rubber plantation and we have to go there to collect water. But the government has ordered people not to gather together in one place, but we have to gather at the well, to collect water."***

April 24, 2020

HURFOM: Since March of this year, most villages in Mon State are experiencing water scarcities. Conditions this summer are worse and have come earlier than last year.

"We experienced water scarcity earlier this year. At this time last year, water scarcity wasn't too much. Water well dried up only after Songkran. But this year, wells in most houses dried up in March. Nearly all villages are experiencing water scarcity. Last year we didn't have enough drinking water but at least we had bath water. But this year all water resources have totally dried up. We can do nothing," said Ma Nwe Ni Tun, Yaung Daw village, Mudon Township.

Young people have formed teams to help fight against water scarcity, by delivering water to households. But they cannot provide water everyday, so the villagers have had to buy water.

"If young people can provide water to us everyday, there is no problem. They are giving enough water for one day's use. But they can't provide water everyday. I have to get up early to collect water at my relative's house," continued Ma Nwe Ni Tun.

Water scarcity has been an annual issue in Mon State, and groups of young people and donors have been helping by donating water to villagers. But this year, donors were not able to go to area villages because of COVID-19.

A Thanbyuzayat resident said, ***"we rely solely on underground water wells in the monastery for water resources. I don't have a well at my house. Now, I'm thinking of digging a well next year, because water scarcity is happening every year. We're afraid of the disease (COVID-19). We don't want to gather together in one place but, there are more than 10 people around the well. I'm afraid that water collectors may spread the disease."***

Local people are demanding Village Administrators and the Mon State government find a quick solution to the water scarcity difficulties and not to prevent people from gathering together at any water collection sites.

LANDMINE SERIOUSLY INJURES PLANTATION WORKER

May 5, 2020

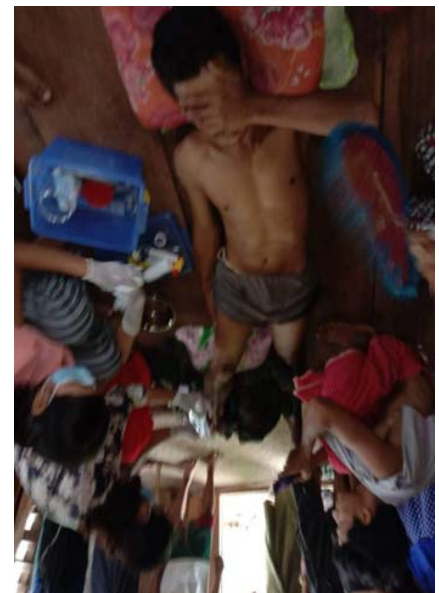
HURFOM: In the early afternoon of May 4, a 37-year-old plantation worker stepped on a landmine. The blast took his right foot.

The victim is a resident of Ham Gam village. He stepped on the landmine on his way home from the plantation, according to the Village Administrator.

"We sent the victim to the Ye Township General Hospital at about 3 pm," said U Tin San, the Village Administrator.

The victim is married with no children.

Since late 2018, there have been at least 10 landmine explosions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries in Yebyu Township. Half of the incidents have taken place in the Kyaung Shar Kwin area.



News

POLITICAL PARTIES WORRY COVID-19 WILL AFFECT ELECTION CAMPAIGNS



May 8, 2020

HURFOM: On May 4, 2020, U Myint Nine, spokesperson for the Union Election Commission (UEC), told State Media the general election will be held this November. However, political parties are worried the restrictions on people's movements and restricting the size of gatherings to no more than 5 people, will impact election campaigning.

In order for the general election to take place in November, the UEC must officially announce the date this June in order to allow political parties adequate time to prepare. According to the Mon State Election Sub-commission, the UEC has not officially announced that a general election will be held in November this year.

"The UEC must give us two months for the election campaign. This is in accordance with the election law. The UEC must manage not to have an

impact on campaign period. If UEC announcement comes very close to the election date, that will have a bad impact on our campaign," said Nai Layi Tama Secretary #1 of the Mon Unity Party (MUP).

Other political parties voiced similar concerns.

"Now, the pandemic is happening in our country so we're worrying that we don't have enough time for the election. We've gone to villages and remote places to meet with our party members, but now we can't do that because of the 'Local Order' (restricting movement and size of crowds). If the disease is still happening in August, we're surely in trouble," said U Win Maw Oo, State Secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

Parties are calling on the UEC to develop concrete methods and rules, with their inputs, that will detail how

campaigning should proceed given the restrictions created by the presence of C-19.

There has been a suggestion that election campaigning take place online. U Win Maw Oo responded to this idea, **"If we look at the whole country, we have questions. If the internet is widely used. This is a problem. Some areas are underdeveloped and some don't have electricity. There are too many people who can't use the internet. Online campaigning is theoretically possible but it has too many challenges at the ground level. On the other hand, 'Local Orders' ban people from gathering, so our scope is very limited."**

He added that voters need to have contact with those seeking to represent them, without this interaction, he fears it will impact voter turnout.

"There is no problem in technologically advanced countries but we aren't in a perfect country. Despite the ruling party, all political parties have been struggling with getting access to the media [regarding the election campaign]," continued U Win Maw Oo.

Political parties want to meet with the UEC to discuss what concrete election campaign rules and regulations can be developed as Covid-19 crisis continues.

"All election campaigns must be in accordance with the rules of the UEC so it's important that (the UEC makes sure) all political parties have equal rights," said Nai Layi Tama.

MON CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK RESPONDS TO LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS

May 11, 2020

HURFOM: The Mon Civil Society Network (CSO) issued a statement on May 8th in response to a growing number of innocent villagers being injured and killed by landmine explosions in Ye Township.

Part of the statement reads, **"intentional use of landmines to attack civilians is a cowardly and inhumane act that the Mon CSO Network totally opposes."**

[Read more on page 10>>](#)



News

MON CSO NETWORK URGES NMSP AND KNU TO HOLD A DIALOGUE REGARDING LANDMINES



May 15, 2020

HURFOM: In Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division, frequent landmine explosions have caused casualties and numerous injuries, primarily to civilian villagers.

In response, on May 14, 2020, the Mon CSO Network urged the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Karen National Union (KNU), who are both active in that area, to have a dialogue in order, for those responsible for the placement of the mines, to be held accountable and for victims to seek justice.

“The area where the landmines [exploded is within] NMSP and KNU territories. They both signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and we demanded the two parties have a dialogue. We also sent a letter to the Mon State and Tenasserim Division Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committees (JMC’s) and at Union level, we’ve sent letters to the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST). We want to pressure on both the NMSP and the KNU to have dialogue about these

landmine bursts,” said Mi Cherry Soe, a spokesperson of the Mon CSO Network.

Since late 2018, there have been at least 16 persons who suffered serious injuries and casualties due to landmine explosions in Yebyu Township.

The NMSP and the KNU have held previous dialogues concerning the use of landmines and both parties have released statements condemning their use however, civilians continue to pay the price with lost limbs, lifelong disabilities or loss of life.

“Landmine destroys lives. That’s not a good thing. It isn’t a war between two armed groups. This is abuse, this is crimes against civilians. It isn’t just one or two [occasions]. It’s happening repeatedly — there must be action to stop this. There must also be social support for landmine victims,” continued Mi Cherry Soe.

On May 8, the Mon CSO Network released a statement opposing the use of landmine citing their use as inhumane.

Myanmar has not signed the Mine Ban Treaty, and is the only country in the world with the longest on-going civil war.

• • •

News from page no.9



တရားဝင် အကြေခံသည့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အတွင်းရှိ
နယ်လုံးတစ်လုံးလုံး အကျဉ်းချုပ်ချက်ချင်း

မူရင်း ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၁၀ ရက်နေ့

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ၁၀၀ နှစ် ဝမ်းမြောက်နေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ် အဖြစ် အထွတ်အမြတ် အသုံးပြုရန် အတွက် အကြေခံသည့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အတွင်းရှိ နယ်လုံးတစ်လုံးလုံး အကျဉ်းချုပ်ချက်ချင်း မူရင်း ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၁၀ ရက်နေ့

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် အတွင်းရှိ နယ်လုံးတစ်လုံးလုံး အကျဉ်းချုပ်ချက်ချင်း မူရင်း ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၁၀ ရက်နေ့

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် အတွင်းရှိ နယ်လုံးတစ်လုံးလုံး အကျဉ်းချုပ်ချက်ချင်း မူရင်း ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၁၀ ရက်နေ့

Mi Kon Chan Non, Chair of the Mon Women’s Organization (MWO) said, *“These landmine [explosions] happen very often. So we’ve released this statement to ease the suffering of the local villagers, to hold those who use landmines accountable and responsible and to create a landmine clear zone for civilians.”*

The CSO Network suggests an unnamed organization is intentionally using landmines to get control of the territory, to monopolize natural resources, and to seize plantations abandoned by villagers who fear the presence of landmines.

“We, the Mon CSO Network, will submit this statement to the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and discuss what we should do in the future,” said Mi Kon Chan Non.

The statement also urges the NMSP and the Karen National Union (KNU) to take immediate action to prevent the use of landmines, to bring justice for the landmine victims and to hold those who planted the mines, accountable for their actions.

• • • •

News

IT'S TIME TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR LANDMINE VICTIMS



May 11, 2020

HURFOM: In Kyaung Shar Kwin Area, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division, innocent civilians are suffering from landmine explosions. Some have lost their legs and at least one person has died.

Most recently, in the early afternoon of May 4, a 37-year-old plantation worker stepped on a landmine. The blast took his right foot. Since late 2018, there have been at least 10 landmine explosions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries in Yebyu Township. Half of the incidents have taken place in the Kyaung Shar Kwin area.

Mon Activist, Monk Ashin Ott Ja (also known as/aka) U Zin Zaw Latt, said it is time to fight for justice for landmine victims.

"The landmine problem is not a personal problem. Now, 10 people were injured by landmines. Within 2 years, 8 or 9 people have lost their legs. Among them, there was only one soldier. The rest were innocent civilians. The international community doesn't accept using landmines. We, Mon people, also don't accept landmines. As we showed our strength at the 'Blue Kyune (Chaung Zone) Bridge Demonstration', we must organize a national level protest. We must find justice," said U Zin Zaw Latt.

Kyaung Shar Kwin Area is at the border of Mon State and Tenasserim Division. Most of the inhabitants are Mon people. Both New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Karen National Union (KNU) are active in the region. Armed clashes and landmine explosions are commonplace.

"First, we should organize protests to reveal who is responsible for the use of landmines. Landmine explosions don't happen in war zones. Landmine explosions occur in places where people live. We must force the government to find a solution and ensure accountability. Whoever or which ethnicity was attacked by landmine, the most responsible body is the union government. Secondly, the State government, the Mon and Karen army and the Burmese military must find a solution together," said the Monk.

In 2020, one person died due to a landmine explosion while three individuals have lost their legs.

Suspicion of who is responsible is palpable in the communities affected.

"We can't say for certain which organization set up the landmine. We didn't see with our naked eyes. But it's sure that the landmine burst didn't happen in NMSP territory but in KNU territory," said one Myauk Chaw resident.

While there is agreement with the Mon Activist, Monk Ashin Ott Ja call, for a national level protest, some residents are not hesitant to locate accountability.

"It happened in Tenasserim Division but it is also related to Mon (State) CSO's and CBO's. I think Mon CSO's are weak in fighting against landmines. I think we should organize a national level protest and demand justice," said Rehmonnya Eam Chai, a Ye resident.

Even though it is not known which organizations are responsible for these landmines, both the NMSP and the KNU must be accountable for regional stability, stated the Dawei District NMSP on March 16, 2020. The statement said both parties would try their best to find a solution.

Such statements are not reducing residents' frustration with the situation.

"The KNU and the NMSP discussed [the issue of] landmines explosions but [the

Read more on page 12>>

News

MON STATE GOVERNMENT ORDERS REDUCTION IN ELECTRICITY FEES, BUT PRIVATE COMPANY REFUSE



May 21, 2020

HURFOM: In response to the COVID-19 crisis and to provide residents of Myanmar with some economic relief, the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy announced that 150 kWh of residential electricity consumption from April 1 to 30, 2020, and 75 kWh of consumption from May 1 to 15, 2020 would be delivered free.

The Mon State government also ordered private companies who deliver electricity across Mon State to use a base rate of 300 Kyat per 1 kWh of electricity consumption as of April, 2020.

However, Southern Myanmar Development (SMD), a private electricity company has ignored these government orders. They are charging consumers 400 Kyat per 1 kWh of electricity for the month of April.

“The Mon State and the Union governments both ordered reductions in the electricity fees. Private companies must [follow these orders] to collect 300 Kyat per 1 kWh of electricity consumption in our region. But the company didn’t ... and (instead) collected 400 Kyat per 1 kWh. We can’t accept this rate. We must talk with the village Administrator,” said a Pa Nga resident who is calling for reduced electricity fees.

Local consumers gathered to meet with village Administrators and have filed their demands. The Ye Administrator promised the companies would charge only 300 Kyat per 1 kWh of electricity consumption for May, 2020.

Consumers expressed skepticism with the Administrators promise, because it was made without the presence of representatives from the electricity companies.

“We can’t trust him at all. According to what we agreed with the company, if there is something changed, the company and the consumers must meet and make a negotiation. But we don’t meet each other now. The company said nothing about the government’s order and just collected 400 Kyat per 1 kWh. If the company didn’t follow the order, we will organize a protest,” said a local consumer.

The Mon State government identified the following companies to reduce electricity fees: Myat Thu Ya Company Limited, SMD Company Limited, SEGAP Company Limited, BFL Company Limited and Khaw Zar Electricity Providing Committee.

Lamin town, Taung Pone, Taung Pyin, Kawdut, Maw Kanin, Maw Kanin Gone Paw Yaw Tit, Hnint Kayin and Tha Pyay Thit villages all receive electricity provided by SMD Company Limited.

News from page no.12

discussion was not] effective. Landmines continued to explode while they were discussing the topic, so it looks like both parties do not respect the issue they were discussing. Normally, problems must be solved after the discussion. But in reality, it isn’t like that, so I think they don’t value the people who are suffering the impacts of landmine. Without a concrete plan the landmine problem is going to get bigger.” said a Myauk Chaw resident.

Residents seek solutions to allow their livelihoods

Kyaung Shar Kwin residents had met with the KNU and demanded they officially acknowledge farmland and plantations in their territory. The KNU was asked to allow hillside plantations where villagers work leveling the ground and clearing bushes. In addition, residents want to be able to do paddy farming. The KNU has allowed other types of farming and irrigation systems, by extending “Land Use/Ownership Certificates” to villagers.

However the KNU has also denied some “Land Use/Ownership Certificates”

cases arguing that such rest requests must be reported to the upper authorities. According to a Myauk Chaw resident, in these cases the KNU said **“they would try to get a true and just solution within a week.”**

There are about 20 Mon residents who work on plantations in KNU controlled areas in the Kyaung Shar Kwin region and there are about 2,000 acres of plantation. Mon residents bought their plantation in accordance with the “Customary Land Tenure” process and even though they do not have “Land Use/Ownership Certificates” approved by KNU, they still have to pay taxes to KNU, according to the villagers.

News

NMSP SAYS, THEY HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED INTERFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FOR ITS COVID-19 ACTIVITIES



May 19, 2020

HURFOM: The New Mon State Party (NMSP), one of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatories, has been implementing COVID-19 prevention and control measures with no interference from the government or military, reported Nai Bnyair Lel, Chief of the NMSP Home Affairs.

“There was no interruption from the government and military in our controlled area. But first, we had to [conduct] negotiations [for planned activities in] mixed controlled areas. For instance, if we want to open a health check point, we have to negotiate in advance. And, we have to wear our national [clothing while offering] health services. We have to do this, when we [plan to do] something in a mixed controlled area,” said Nai Bnyair Lel.

After negotiating with the local military battalion, the NMSP and the military set up “Health Service Check Points” at the entrance of Japanese Well village near

Thai-Burma border, where the NMSP Battalion #3 is located. However, the military withdrew their check points on April 23 and the NMSP also voluntarily withdrew their “Health Service Check Points” on May 13. The withdrawal was not due to the pressure from the military, according to Nai Bnyair Lel.

“In reality, the comings and goings weren’t allowed (where we set up the check points). We and the military already decided to close that route. We opened “Health Service Check Points” at Battalion #3 nearby Japanese Well village, and the military opened “Health Service Check Points” just before the TPP – Three Pagoda Pass. It isn’t our permanent base. After negotiating with the military, we opened the checkpoints to [monitor] the comings and goings during COVID-19 period. [Because] the military withdrew their check point, we also did the same,” said Nai Bnyair Lel.

On May 16, in order to promote protection and prevention against COVID-19 in NMSP controlled areas, the

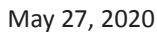
Commander of the South East Command, Brigadier General Ko Ko Maung, and his fellows donated protective equipment to the NMSP.

According to the NMSP officials, the donation included 200 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment PPE, 5,000 surgical masks, 200 bottles of hand sanitizing gel, 3,000 surgical gloves, 100 goggles and 2 pesticide tanks.

In order to perform protection and prevention activities against COVID-19, the NMSP has formed Central, District and Township committees, and opened 18 “Health Service Check Points” and 12 quarantine centers.

The situation for the KNU has been different. In a statement released on May 15, 2020, the KNU said there was a misunderstanding with the Burmese military in Mu Taw District, Thaton District where the KNU were delivering protection and prevention activities against COVID-19. That situation resulted in a violent clash.

STUDENTS CAN USE ETHNIC TITLES BUT ADULTS MUST USE BURMESE TITLES



"Not only in this academic year but in previous years, we accepted ethnic names. We registered the students' names in accordance with their parents' desire. We've requested a birth certificate during student registration. If Burmese midwife puts the Burmese title "Maung or Ma" in the certificate, we also have to put "Maung or Ma". If the parents don't want to put Burmese title, please don't write in the certificate. But if the parents want to correct, we also fulfill their desire. When the school teachers put Burmese titles in ethnic names, the parents can complain that they don't want to put Burmese titles. If not, it's difficult to correct after the name is recorded in the school registration list," said U Min Htay Oo, the Chief of the Ye Township Department of Basic Education.

The announcement stated that schoolteachers must register students with their names using birth certificates or household lists, and for those who could not present a birth certificate or household list, and who live in remote ethnic areas, student's name registration must be in accordance with the parents' desire.

But Mi Ngwe Lay, a Central Committee Member of Mon Women's Network, responded, ***"Even though we've become adults, it isn't inappropriate to put 'U/Daw' ahead of our names. Because, for instance, in our Mon community, we put 'Min' ahead of a young male's name and put 'Nai' when he becomes an adult. So if they put 'U/Daw' ahead of Mon names, we have no special meaning to have Mon names. What we want is to put 'Min***

“For those who want name cards with the correct Mon pronunciation, please send me an official Mon name, date of birth and names of parents. I’ll create name cards with the correct Mon pronunciation and send them back. I’ve already created more than 100 name cards. The cards include names in Mon, Burmese and English languages, their date of birth and parents’ name, so everything is okay after showing the name card,” said Min Arkar Htet.

The Department of Basic Education has indicated ethnic titles are allowed when registering students.



News

MNEC CONDUCTS A SURVEY TO START SCHOOL SEASON



June 2, 2020

HURFOM: With the start of the school season, the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) is conducting a survey to better implement protective measures against COVID-19.

“We’re collecting data related to how to start the school season. We’re considering how to manage students and timetables. [This includes surveying what] protective measures we should implement, for instance, how to use surgical masks and hand sanitizer and where to place hand washing basins. We’re collecting data on how we should implement protective measures,” said Min Aung Zay, the Director of the MNEC.

The government has been planning to start the school season in the third

week of July and high school students will be returning to school first. If there are no spikes in infection (no COVID-19 outbreak), the middle schools and the primary school will be opened next, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Education.

“The Mon national schools have connections with government schools. We can’t start the school season alone. We have to negotiate with the Department of Basic Education. We have to be ready when the government starts the school season. We will have a meeting with the Mon State Department of Basic Education and discuss how to start the schools,” said Min Aung Zay.

MNEC has been preparing to implement protective measures, despite not

knowing exactly when the school season could start.

“This academic year is more challenging than others. We’ve drawn the curriculum for the whole year so if we start a month late, there are certain challenges. But protecting against the disease is also important, so that we must take good protective measures,” said the Director of MNEC.

The school season in Myanmar normally starts in the first week of June, but both the Department of Basic Education and the MNEC have not decided the exact date to begin this academic year, due to COVID-19.

"The exam results (for the last academic year) were done but the 8th, 9th and 10th Grades which are connected with the government schools haven't finished yet. We will finish it all at the end of June," said the Director.

The MNEC has 133 schools, 700 education staff and 25,000 students.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), on May 29, 2020, released a statement urging the Ministry of Health and Sport to appoint health workers at schools and to release a precise and detailed manual of rules and regulations related to the protection against COVID-19 in schools.

MON PEOPLE NOT REPORTING TO “SPECIAL ANTI-DRUG REPORTING CENTER” DUE TO LACK OF TRUST AND AWARENESS

June 4, 2020

HURFOM: On June 1, 2020, the President Office released a statement related to drug arrests reported to the ‘*Special Anti-drug Reporting Center*.’ According to the statement there have been 18 drug arrests but there have been no reports filed from Mon State.

“Mon State ranks high in drug problems. But why was there no report? Frankly, people don’t trust the reporting mechanism,” said an activist from Ye Township.

According to the activist who wishes to remain anonymous, the authorities do not protect the security of those making reports.

If there is a report to the 'Special Anti-drug Reporting Center', the President's Office should not instruct local authorities to make an arrest, rather they should directly handle the case, said an activist from Mudon Township.

"If the upper authority does not come to do the arrest but instead instructs the local authorities to do so, it isn't effective," said the activist.



ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတရုံး
သတင်းထုတ်ပြန်ချက်အမှတ် ၂၁ / ၂၀
၁၃၈၂ ခုနှစ်၊ နယုန်လဆန်း ၁၁ ရက်
(၂၀၂၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ စွန်လ ၁ ရက်)

*တိုင်းကြားပေးလိုတာသော မူဝါဒဆေးဂိဿာဏ်မူဝါဒနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ထင်မိသောထုတ်ဖော်ချက်များ ထုတ်ပြန်ခြင်း။

၁။ မူလခံဆေးခန်း စီကုံးပုံပြင်ပါပေးသည့် ဆေးခန်းအမှတ်တံဆိပ်ကဏ္ဍပုံနှိပ်ခင်းဆောင်ရွက် ပြသပုံလူထုထံမှ ရောက်ရှိကြောင်းလာသည့် သတင်းအမှန်အလက်များကို ခန့်မှန်းကျ လက်ခံပျံ့နှံ့ခံရ မှုမူလခံဆေးခန်း အထူးသတင်းစာကြမ်းပေးရန်'ကို ဂျွန်စတင် ဦးစီးသောဆေးကြမ်းပုံ ၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၆ ရက်နေ့တွင် အမှတ်(၁၁)သည့် ထုတ်ဝေမှုခေါ်ဝေါ်ပါသည်။

၂။ “ဗုဒ္ဓ၏ဆေးဝါး အထူးသတင်းတိုင်ကြားရေးဌာန”သို့ ၂၀၂၈ ခြွယ်နှစ် မေလ ၃၈ ရက်နေ့အထိ လေ့ရှိ တိုင်ကြားလာသည့် ဗုဒ္ဓ၏ဆေးဝါးသတင်းများနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတများ၏ ညွှန်ကြားချက်အရ ခြွယ်ထဲမှရွေးချယ်နိုင်သော အောက်ပါစာတိုင်း ထပ်မံဖော်ထုတ်ခံရမည်အစောယူနိုင်ခဲ့ပါသည်။

[illegible]

Read more on page 16>>

News

KNU ARRESTS MON ADOLESCENTS AND DEMANDS HEAVY FINE



June 4, 2020

HURFOM: On May 28, 2020, the Karen National Union (KNU) arrested 4 Mon adolescents, accusing them of using illicit drugs, at a rubber plantation near Ngar Kalay stream of Kyaung Yaw village, Ye Township, Mon State. The KNU demanded 2 million Kyat for their release, according to family members of the detainees.

“Four people with KNU military uniforms came to our plantation at night and arrested my son and 3 adolescents in the plantation accusing them of using drugs. One of them was caught with 10 (methamphetamine) pills in hand. That boy must be

punished at the KNU military base but the remaining three need to pay 2-million-Kyat fine for their release," said a mother of a detainee.

The four adolescents have been detained at a KNU base nearby Bel La Mu village, Ye Township.

One of them was tortured and suffered an eye injury and his mother had to pay 700,000 Kyat to the KNU for his release. KNU said the other two would be released when they paid 1.3 million Kyat.

"My son lost his eye when he was a child and we replaced it with a fake eye five years ago. After being beaten by

KNU, his (fake) eye was bleeding. He also suffered from pain so I went to the KNU base on May 31 and paid 700,000 Kyat for his release. Now, he has been taking treatment in Mawlamyine," said his mother.

The family members of the rest two detainees are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay the heavy fine of 1.3 million Kyat demanded by the KNU.

On May 7, 2020, No. 4, the Karen National Police Force (an entity within the KNU) arrested 37 young Mon people for possession and sale of illicit drugs and kratom leaves, and also imposed heavy fines.

News from page no.15

According to those at the community level, they are not even aware of the existence of a '*Special Anti-drug Reporting Center*' and for those who may have heard of the Centre, they are unfamiliar with the reporting mechanisms.

"I think it's better if the government launches a special operation run by the State budget for drug education," said an activist.

According to the President's Office statement, since the establishment of the '*Special Anti-drug Reporting Center*' on June 26, 2018, there were 1,156 drug arrests as of May 30, 2020.

The President Office states that, people can report incidents of illicit drug use to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State or Division governments and as a special case, people can safely report to the ‘*Special Anti-drug Reporting Center*’ of the President Office via telephone 067-590 200, or fax 067-590 233 within office hours, or by email antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm.



ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတရုံး၊
သတင်းထုတ်ပြန်ချက်အမှတ်၊ ၂၁ / ၂၀၂
၁၃၈၂ ခုနှစ်၊ နှစ်လယ်သန်း ၁၁ ရက်
(၂၀၂၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ ၁ ရက်)

*တိုင်ကြားပေးဖို့လာသော မူဝါဒဆေးဝါးသတင်းများနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ထပ်မံခေါ်ထုတ်ရန်ရှိမည့် ထုတ်ပြန်ခြင်း။

၁။ မူလဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးအနွယ်ဝားဆီကော့ပွန်းခြင်းမေးအတွက် ပြည်သူ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့် ဆေးကုသိုလ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနသည် သတင်းအချက်အလက်များကို စနစ်တကျ လက်မီဆုတ်ခြင်းနှင့် စုံစမ်းစစ်ဆေးပါ။ အထူးသတင်းကိုကြားရသော* ကို ဂျွန်နီလ် ဖွင့်လှစ်ထားမိကြောင်း ၂၀၁၁ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လ ၂ ရက်နေ့တွင် အမည်ပြသသည့် ထုတ်ပြန်ချက်ကောက်ခဲ့ပါသည်။

၂။ “မူယစံဆေးဝါး အထူးသတင်းတိုင်ကြားရေးဌာန”သို့ ၂၀၂၁ ခြောက်နှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၃၈ ရက်နေ့အထိ ပေးလိုတိုင်ကြားလာသည့် မူယစံဆေးဝါးသတင်းများနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ နိုင်ငံတော်သမ္မတများနှစ် ညွှန်ကြားချက်အရ ခြောက်လအတွင်း ဘဏ္ဍာရေး ဘဏ္ဍာရင်းအတွင်း ထပ်မံတောင်းခံထားသည့်အရေအတွက်နှင့်ပတ်သက်-

[illegible]

Information on HURFOM and Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers

Dear Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people, The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- ☐ Monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and other areas in southern Burma
- ☐ Protecting and promoting internationally recognized human rights in Burma,

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM produces the monthly “Mon Forum” newsletters. If publication is delayed it is because we are waiting to confirm information, and it comes with our heartfelt apologies.

We encourage you to write to us if you have feedback or if you know someone who you think would like to receive the newsletter.

Please email or mail a name and address to:

HURFOM, P.O. Box 35, Sangkhalburi Post Office,

Kanchanaburi, 71240 Thailand

E-mail: info@rehmonnya.org

Website: <http://www.rehmonnya.org>

With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER DESPITE DECLINING INTEREST IN POLITICS DUE TO COVID-19

June 8, 2020

HURFOM: Despite financial hardship and a low interest in politics due to the COVID-19 world pandemic, the Union Election Commission (UEC) says they will not postpone the November election.

U Win Maw Oo, State Secretary with the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) believes people must be interested in politics in order to bring changes to the country in 2020.

“Now, (due to) COVID-19 people are facing financial hardship. The election is about to come, but people aren’t interested in politics. But when the election comes, people must be interested in politics in order to change their country’s fortune,” said U Win Maw Oo.

The decline of people’s interest in politics is not limited to the havoc created by COVID-19, but also related to the performance of the incumbent government, according to Min Aung

Htoo, the Coordinator of the Mon State CSO Network.

“We have five months before the election. So it’s reasonable to have an election (in November). The National League for Democracy (NLD) has been preparing for the election, but the other ethnic and opposition parties still have barriers due to the “Local Order” (C-19 protection measures) of the government. The ethnic and opposition parties have to try very hard to get votes from their local people,” said Min Aung Htoo.

The USDP collected a list of proposed election candidates two months ago, and reported them to the District/State Committee for Candidate Selection. Now the Central Committee is reviewing their proposed list.

“We instructed the township candidates to file their proposals. We reported the proposals to the District/State Committee for Candidate Selection. After that, they are reported to the Central Committee. Now the

proposals are in the hands of the Central Committee,” said U Win Maw Oo.

The proposed election candidates for the Mon Unity Party (MUP) have been approved by the Central Executive Working Team, although that selection process was halted due to COVID-19. The candidate list was sent to the party Central Executive Committee on June 7, said the Party Secretary #2, Nai San Tin, to HURFOM on June 6.

“Soon after the approval of the central committee, we’ll start township campaign trips. We’ll explain to the people about the election candidate selection process, rules and regulations of the party and our election goal and strategy,” said Nai San Tin.

The last two general elections for Myanmar were both held in November. The 2010 general election was held on November 7, and the 2015 election was held on November 8th, 2015.



SEVEN VILLAGES UNDER NMSP UNABLE TO VOTE IN 2020 ELECTION DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

June 22, 2020

HURFOM: People living in seven villages in the Ye Chaung Phya region, a New Mon State Party controlled area in Ye Township, Mon State will lose their right to vote in the 2020 election.

"We've been making a huge effort for the people in Ye Chaung Phya to get the right to vote. But we aren't allowed to collect a voter list. There are challenges," said an activist who lives in Ye Town.

Activists filed a report to the Ye Township Administrator seeking the ability to collect names for a voter list in seven villages of Ye Chaung Phya area, but the Kyaung Yaw village Administrator said there are security concerns in the area. As a result the Ye Administrator has not approved the request.

"We're ready to collect the voter list. We have organizations who will help us. We've already talked with the Immigration Department to grant a National Registration Card (NRC) to those people. But the Kyaung Yaw village Administrator reported to the Township Administrator that there is a security concern so we can't continue our work," said the activist.

All seven villages are controlled by the NMSP and none were able to vote in both the 2010 and 2015 elections. The NMSP signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in February, 2018 leaving the people living in those villages with the hope they would be able to cast their votes in the 2020 election.

"Both the NMSP and the Mon Unity Party – MUP should make an attempt for Ye Chaung Phya villages to get the right to vote. It isn't appropriate for them to lose right to vote," said a member of MUP in Kyaung Yaw village.

U Myint Nyne, a member of Union Election Commission (UEC), said the Commission would hold a meeting with Division and State Election Sub-commissions and particular government departments in the third week of June to discuss the issue and arrange constituencies for the 2020 election.

The United Wa State Army (UWSA) met with the UEC in February, 2020 and discussed holding an election in their self-administered zone.

Although holding elections and arranging constituencies falls under the authority of the UEC and there is no history of holding an election in areas totally controlled by Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

HURFOM

P.O BOX 35,
Sangkhlaburi Post Office,
Kanchanaburi 71240,
Thailand
info@rehmonnya.org

PRINTED MATTER