MON CHARITY GROUP PROVIDES FUNDS TO REPAIR AND FURNISH MON NATIONAL SCHOOLS

August 27, 2018

“Ta Rao Aa Arr” Mon charity, which is led by Monk Aot Jae, provided funding to repair Mon National Schools in Mon populated areas of Mon State, and donated the required school furniture.

The main requirements are the repair and construction of school buildings, but the “Ta Rao Aa Arr” group only helped with funding and providing furniture once the locals fix the school buildings. Read more on page 3 >>

850 DENGUE FEVER CASES AND 3 DEATHS IN MON STATE SINCE START OF RAINY SEASON

July 23, 2018

WCRP: In 2018, ten townships in Mon State have reported 850 cases of dengue fever during the rainy season so far, and three children have died of the illness, according to the Mon State Public Health Department. Read more on page 3 >>

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As 2018 draws to a close, the lack of progress in promoting and protecting women and child rights at both the national and sub-national levels in Burma is a sober reminder of the work that remains to be done in order for Burma to truly transition into a democratic, rights respecting state. For example, the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Bill continues to languish in development five years after it was first proposed. No coherent and overarching child protection laws or policies exist. Burma’s antiquated criminal code dates back to 1861, providing zero provisions against the sexual abuse of children, and in some cases codifying sexual violence, as the rape of one’s wife over the age of 12 years is legally permitted.

In July 2018, HURFOM’s Women and Child Rights Project (WCRP) released “A girl’s life was destroyed: Sexual violence against children continues to rise in Mon State and Mon areas of southern Burma”. A follow-up to HURFOM’s “Crack’s in the Silence”, published in March 2017 and which first looked at the phenomenon of rising reports of sexual violence against children in Mon populated areas, it documented a number of new and disturbing reports of sexual violence against children. It also documented a worrying trend in how cases of sexual violence are reported to authorities. In over half the cases, the assault was first reported to village-level administrators; this is problematic, as village-level justice mechanisms are deeply flawed and end in arbitration and monetary compensation rather than criminal prosecution.

If government and police bodies want to see any change in the numbers of reported cases of sexual violence against women and particularly young girls, it must act now to protect vulnerable members of Myanmar society from abuse, including adopting a modern and coherent child protection policy; ensuring more women participate in judicial systems and processes, including juries; educating all parties involved in legal and judicial processes, male and female, on sexual violence and gender equality; abolishing provisions in the penal code which allow for sexual violence; eliminating the use of customary law and village-level arbitration and compensation as a method of settling cases of sexual violence, and moving forward with the Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women Bill in consultation with civil society.
MON CHARITY GROUP PROVIDES FUNDS TO REPAIR AND FURNISH MON NATIONAL SCHOOLS

“We did not directly help to construct the buildings. The locals told us about their plan to repair and renovate the school buildings, and we found a donor and helped them to get money for the construction,” said Monk Aot Jae.

Monk Aot Jae added, “All the schools that we have built are of different designs. We spend an average about 30 million kyat [US $19,891] per school. If we use very good quality material, then 30 million kyat is not enough. In some schools we just let contractors do the building, but other times we hire normal builders [day laborers] to renovate the schools. Most of the funds come from Mon people who work abroad; we don’t have any NGO donors.”

The group also donated the required school furniture, such as desks, chairs, white boards, and stationery to the schools. Recently, they have been providing money to schools which require long desks the students.

“We asked for help from Monk Aot Jae as the students’ parents wanted to repair the school for the students. Monk Aot Jae encouraged us, and helped us to build the school, and now we have a new school. Even though Ta Rao A Arr’s group provided much help to repair the schools and required school furniture, the Mon Education Department doesn’t know how much they have helped us.”

Sayar Min Aung Zay from the Mon Education Department said, “We heard that a group sent a report to the [NMSP] Mawlamyine District Office. The district did not send it to our department, and there was some misunderstanding, but it is fine now. We told the group [Ta Rao A Arr] to collaborate with us. It is great if charities and citizens can work together with us.”

He explained that, “Recently, we haven’t had any difficulties with the Mon National Schools, as we have some support from the public and donors from NGOs.”

The Natural Resources and Environment Minister Dr. Min Kyi Win said, “The [Union] government provided 100 million Kyat [US $66,309] for Mon people [Mon State] this year, and the MNEC (Mon National Education Committee) requested 50 million Kyat [US $33,154] from the Mon State government to repair Mon National Schools. However, the Mon State government cannot give the funding under the name of repairing the schools, as the amount is too low.”

According to a list of Mawlamyine District’s Mon Education Department, there are three Mon National High Schools, 16 Mon National Middle Schools, and 113 Mon National Primary Schools, with a total of 10,779 Mon students.
850 Dengue Fever Cases and 3 Deaths in Mon State Since Start of Rainy Season

July 23, 2018

WCRP: In 2018, ten townships in Mon State have reported 850 cases of dengue fever during the rainy season so far, and three children have died of the illness, according to the Mon State Public Health Department.

The three children who died of dengue fever are a nine-year-old from Thanbyuzayat Township, an eight-month-old from Paung Township, and a 16-year-old from Thaton Township.

“The number of dengue cases has rather declined this year. By this time last year, we had had more than 10,000 dengue patients. But only one patient died of the illness last year. We have had three deaths this year. The mortality rate has increased this year,” said Dr. Sithu Ye Naung, the Deputy Director of the Mon State Public Health Department.

Among the ten townships, Mawlamyine and Ye have had the highest numbers of dengue cases. Most of the sufferers have been children between five and nine years old. From January to July of 2017, there were 10,073 dengue cases and one child died of the illness. By June of that year, over 500 cases of children with dengue had been reported. There were also high numbers of dengue cases and deaths in 2011, 2013, and 2015.

“Not only children but also adults have suffered from dengue. About ten patients are being admitted to Mawlamyine General Hospital every day,” said Dr. Sithu Ye Naung.

There are dengue fever outbreaks about every two or three years in Mon State. Normally, Mon State detects dengue fever earlier than other states and divisions in Burma. Governmental departments, community-based organizations, the Public Health Department, and the people all have a responsibility to control dengue fever, according to a statement by the National Malaria Control Center in Naypyidaw.

“School-aged children have a high risk of dengue. Children between five and nine years old have the highest rate of dengue fever, and those between one and four years have the second-highest rate. So primary schools are our first priority when we use insecticides to kill mosquito larvae,” said the doctor.

After cooperating with Township Public Health Departments and Township General Hospitals, the Public Health Department has made a list of all dengue patients who have been admitted to the local hospitals.
**News**

### 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY HER COUSIN’S BROTHER IN YE TOWNSHIP

July 23, 2018

**WCRP:** On July 6th, 2018, a 16-year-old girl from Daminkone Kyar Tan quarter, A Sin village tract, Ye Township, Mon State, was raped by the 20-year-old brother of her cousin.

Daw Lwin Thidar, the girl’s boss, explained, “On July 6th, while the victim was working in Kaung Son store in Aung Thukha quarter, Ye Town, the perpetrator and a 25-year-old friend of his came to the store and asked the store owner to take her to Ye Hospital where the perpetrator’s mother is getting treatment. So the victim followed the perpetrator and his friend by motorbike to the Ye Hospital.”

“At approximately 8pm, the victim, the perpetrator, and his friend came back from the hospital and the perpetrator asked the victim to go with him to take his friend back to Daminkone Kyar Tan quarter. After they got back from taking the perpetrator’s friend home, he took the victim to the bushes near Chaung Taung village, the opposite direction of her work and raped her,” said U Aye Myint, a police officer from Ye Police Station.

According to U Aung Toe Lwin, a village administrator from A Sin, “The perpetrator hit the victim twice in the face and pushed her down. He strangled her and threatened to kill her if she shouted. Then he took off her clothes and raped her for about 20 minutes.”

After he raped the girl, he did not bring her back to her work, but instead brought her to his house in Chaung Taung village, to stay with his aunty Daw Aye Tin. He threatened again to kill her if she told anyone about the incident. However, the victim told her boss and her mother about the rape once she returned to her job on July 7th around 11 am.

The perpetrator was charged on July 7th at Ye Police Station under Burma Penal Code Article #325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous bodily harm), Penal Code #376 (punishment for rape), and Penal Code #506 (punishment for criminal intimidation).

U Aung Toe Lwin, A Sin village administrator, explained, “She started working as a store clerk one month ago. Her mother reported the incident to Ye Police Station on July 7th at around 2pm. The perpetrator was arrested at his house on the day after the incident at around 5pm.”

In a similar case on April 24th, 2018, in the same village, a 12-year-old girl was raped by a 19-year-old man who was working in the fishing industry in A Baw village tract, Patamyar Kout Tan quarter, Ye Township, Mon State. On May 7th, 2018, a 33-year-old man named Maung Naing Oo, from Duya village, Ye Township, in Mon State, was reported to have raped a 12-year-old girl from the same village in Ye Township. The perpetrator has since fled from his home.

### 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED WHILE TRYING TO SEEK SHELTER FROM THE FLOODS

September 20, 2018

**HURFOM:** On September 3rd, 2018, an 8-year-old girl who was taking temporary shelter from the flood was raped by a motorcycle taxi driver near Mawlamyine Railway Station.

The girl lives in B— village, Hlyne Bwa Township, Karen State, and was temporarily staying in Shan Su Street, Aung Kyin Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State. She was raped near the station while trying to go to Mote Tama Town.

“The taxi driver took her mother and younger brother together with the girl. When they reached near Than Lwin Park, the driver dropped off her mother and brother saying he would take some clothes for the girl. He took the girl with his bike,” said an official from the Mawlamyine Police Station.

After 15 minutes, the driver came back with the girl.

“When they came back, the mother asked the girl what happened and she replied that the driver didn’t give her the clothes but raped her in a bush nearby the old Taung Yoe Tan Street (on the way to the station). When the mother checked her vagina, she saw it was bleeding. The mother took her child to the Dyne Wun Kwin Police Station and reported the case. The Dyne Wun Kwin Police Station transferred the case to the Mawlamyine Township Police Station,” continued the official.

The perpetrator was arrested at the motorcycle taxi stand nearby the Mawlamyine Railway Station on the evening of September 3rd and he was charged with rape.

“Now the perpetrator has been detained at the Mawlamyine Police Station. After receiving the medical results of the girl, we will bring him to the court. Currently, the Mon State Department of Social Welfare and the Woman and Child Organization take care of the child,” said the police official.

Also, on August 18th, a 15-year-old girl was repeatedly raped by her 43-year-old father in T— village, Mudon Township, Mon State.

*The taxi driver took her mother and younger brother together with the girl. When they reached near Than Lwin Park, the driver dropped off her mother and brother saying he would take some clothes for the girl. He took the girl with his bike.*
**15-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED REPEATEDLY BY HER FATHER IN MUDON TOWNSHIP**

**August 31, 2018**

**HURFOM**: In August 2018, a 15-year-old girl from Kin Chaung village, Mudon Township, Mon State, reported being raped ten times by her 43-year-old father. The 15-year-old and her cousin reported the abuse to the village administrator on August 18th.

“I have been raped by my father about 10 times during this month. Then he threatened me that if I was to tell anyone about the rape, he would kill me with a knife. I want to send him to jail.”

On August 19th, the village administrator went to arrest the perpetrator, U Hla Kyaw, and he was charged under Burma Penal Code Article #376 (punishment for rape) at the Mudon Police Station.

The girl’s mother had travelled to Paung Township, when her father began to drink and rape her repeatedly at night. Her mother reportedly went Moketama village to escape her husband, who drank and beat her every day.

“The girl’s mother is living and working in Moketama village, Paung Township and has not returned home yet. The girl is unable to attend school as her mother is unable to pay the cost to attend. She is currently staying with her cousin in the village,” said U Kyaw Myint, Kin Chaung’s village administrator.

The 15-year-old added, “My mom had been in Paung Township for about a week. I live at home with my two sisters and father. My father drinks every day and doesn’t work. One of my sisters works at our relative’s tea shop and is also studying. Currently, I and my 6-year-old sister are staying at my cousin’s home.”

A female neighbor said, “Her father is always drunk and does nothing. His wife went to stay in Paung Township because he beats and tortures his wife every day. He orders his daughter to buy alcohol for him, and if she gets home late, he beats her as well.”

After repeatedly suffering abuse at the hands of her father, the 15-year-old could no longer suffer in silence and told her cousin and a female neighbor.

Her cousin, Daw Thin Thin Yee, explained, “Once I returned from picking vegetables in the field, I saw my sister [cousin] and she told me about how her father abused her. Then, I went to the village administrator’s house and filed a report with the administrator. I also phoned her mother and told her about it, but she hasn’t come home yet. I took my sister [cousin] to stay at my home for her security.”

On August 20th, the girl was taken to Mawlamyine Hospital for a medical examination and the State Social Welfare office visited the girl the next day and is currently supporting her.

The girl’s cousin added, “She had a medical examination at the hospital. The State Social Welfare office came and helped us, and they said they would provide for us if we are interested in learning vocational work or farming. Our difficulty is that we don’t have money to use for my sister’s [legal] case as we are daily worker and we don’t have money to spend for it.”

The communities in the village feel bad on the case because it. As this is the first reported case of a father raping his own daughter, the local community has expressed feeling upset about the case.

U Win Tin, a man from the village said, “The perpetrator is in a good health even though he is drinking alcohol. As I remember, this is the first ever case of a daughter raped by her father in our village. I feel bad about what he did.”

In a similar case on July 6th 2018, a 16-year-old girl from Daminkone Kyar Tan quarter, A Sin village tract, Ye Township, Mon State, was raped by her 20-year-old cousin.

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**8-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED REPEATEDLY AND THREATENED BY HER GRANDFATHER IN MUDON TOWNSHIP**

**November 29, 2018**

**WCRP**: In November, an 8-year-old girl from Htin Kone village, Mudon Township, Mon State, reported being raped five times by her maternal, 50-year-old grandfather, who she had lived with since she was 3 months old. The girl’s parents had migrated to Thailand five years ago for work.

According to the young girl, the last incident took place on November 11th while she was watching TV in the afternoon. Her grandfather took her to his room and raped her. While he sexually abused the young girl, a 14-year-old girl from the neighbor’s house passed by in front of the victim’s grandparents’ house and saw the incident taking place. She then informed the perpetrator’s wife about what she saw.

On November 16th, U L— from the neighbor’s house phoned the young girl’s paternal grandfather and told them about the incident. The girl’s paternal grandfather went to see her granddaughter and asked her about what took place; she told him that she had been raped five times by her maternal grandfather.

On November 18th, the girl’s paternal grandfather went to the Mudon Police Station to report the abuse to the police, and they arrested the perpetrator who was charged under Burma Penal Code Article #376 (punishment for rape) at the Mudon Police Station.

“My grandfather would take me to his room if I had no school. Sometimes he would take me to his room once my
August 24, 2018

WCRP: On August 6th, a 33-year-old woman was abducted by her ex-boyfriend in Karot Pi village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. She has been missing for two weeks.

On the day she was abducted, the teacher went to the Education Office in Thanbyuzayat to apply for a job teaching middle school, and once she left the office premises, she saw her ex-boyfriend Mg Khin Maung Htwe, who was waiting outside the office for her in a white truck.

Her 16-year-old nephew Mg Kyaw Htet Zin, said, “The two of them quarreled and the perpetrator Mg Khin Maung Htwe pulled a knife on my aunty and left in his truck.”

The victim’s aunt, Daw San Aye, explained, “My son told me that, while my son and the victim were driving a motorbike to go back home, the perpetrator followed them with his friends and they forcibly dragged the teacher into their truck, taking her.”

On the night of August 6th, an aunt of the victim reported the case to the police station in Karot Pi and the Thanbyuzayat police station.

“If they are good people, they will tell the girl’s family or relatives the next day. After four days, the perpetrator’s family let someone come to us and asked us about what we wanted for our niece [i.e., do they want money or marriage for them not to call the police]. For us, we only want to talk to our niece and would like to know about her decision. I will accept her decision. Then another person visited our house again and said that teacher and the perpetrator had signed a marriage certificate in court and they would like the victim’s family to close the case that the victim’s family have opened against the perpetrator at the police station,” said the victim’s aunt.

Daw San Aye replied, “we would like to meet with our niece first. Then we will agree with her decision. We will not decide if we do not meet with our niece. If she agreed we have nothing to say. We will accept them to get married.”

On the evening of August 10th, the victim’s mother and Daw San Aye went to the court and administration office in Ye Township and asked about the marriage certificate of the teacher and perpetrator, but the court said that they had not signed it yet.

Daw San Aye said, “On day five, the perpetrator’s father went to the victim’s house and said if the victim’s family ended the [police] case they bring back the teacher. I think he may know where their son took my niece.”

The victim’s parents, her aunty, and the teachers from the school are worried for the victim as she has not been answering their phone calls, even though they have rung her phone many times.

The perpetrator is the previous Karot Pi village administrator’s son. His father is a powerful man in the village and the villagers are afraid of him. He is friends of the police as well.

The victim’s family requested help from a police officer from Thanbyuzayat Town to find the victim, and the police officer told them that he needs to review the case from both sides, as the information from both sides is very different and they have not found a victim yet.

As for the lack of activity from the police, on August 13th, the victim’s family reported the case to Mon State Minister Dr. Aye San and the house speaker Daw Tin Ei and they replied that they would help as soon as possible.

The victim’s aunt explained, “Once we reported to a Mon State minister, we saw that many police seemed to be actively working on the case. The minister told us that they would find and bring the teacher home this week, and we are waiting for the teacher to come home. If the victim does not come home on August 14th we [the victim’s family] will meet with a minister from Mon State again.”

The victim, Daw Aye Mi San, teaches Kindergarten students in primary school in Winpatoke village, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.
HURFOM's Women and Child Rights Project (WCRP) releases: “A Girl’s Life was Destroyed”: Sexual violence against children continues to rise in Mon State and Mon areas of southern Burma. The report documents 14 cases of sexual violence against children, including 11 cases of child rape, which have occurred since June 2017 in Mon State and Mon areas of southern Burma. [Download Full Report]

Reported cases of sexual violence against children are rising across Burma. In February the Ministry of Home Affairs released crime statistics for 2017, showing a 27% increase on the previous year in the total number of recorded rapes, and a 33% increase in recorded child rapes. WCRP’s research reveals several factors underlying the violence, including a lack of sex and gender education, poverty, and the impunity for perpetrators caused by inadequate legislation.
As well as documenting the incidents, WCRP documented the obstacles which families face when seeking justice for their children. In over half of the cases which WCRP documented, the family first reported the crime to village administrators. Village-level justice is flawed as it often involves arbitration and compensation rather than prosecution of the perpetrator. Families who chose to take the case to the police faced problems too. Burma continues to use archaic legislation dating back to 1861 when prosecuting gender-based violence. In addition, families described corruption in the judicial system. A lack of legal knowledge, and a lack of access to legal aid, compounded most families’ problems. WCRP confirmed these findings in interviews with members of civil society who are working to improve survivors’ access to justice.

The Burmese government must reform current legislation to combat this worrying trend. Burma’s domestic legislation concerning gender-based violence is antiquated and inadequate, as it lacks specific provisions for sexual violence against children. All the cases in this report which were brought to trial used the 1861 Penal Code. As a priority, legislators must pass the Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women Bill, which has been stalled in the Pyithu Hluttaw since 2013. In addition, HURFOM recommends that the Burmese government eliminate corruption in police and judicial systems, educate all parties involved in judicial processes on sexual violence and gender equality, and provide sex and gender equality education in order to eliminate harmful beliefs surrounding sexual violence.

“Since we released our previous report on sexual violence against children – “Cracks in the Silence” – in March 2017, sexual violence towards children in Mon State and Mon areas of southern Burma has continued. Since then we have documented 14 more cases of sexual violence against children. But all these cases are only what was collected by HURFOM, and there may have been many more cases which were not reported to us. As I see it, the number of cases of sexual violence towards children in Burma has increased, as we can see both in our report and on social media. I think the perpetrators do not respect the law in Burma; they believe that they can pay money to finish the cases. The government should take more action and respond quickly to solve the problem of sexual violence toward children. They should not release on bail perpetrators in child abuse cases. Moreover, the government must raise the punishment for perpetrators in order to protect children from sexual abuse.”
FAMILY ALLEGED TORTURE BY POLICE TO FORCE A CONFESSION FROM A 13-YEAR-OLD ACCUSED OF RAPE AND MURDER IN MAWLAMYINE

November 27, 2018

WCRP: A 13-year-old boy’s family is accusing police of torture to try to force a confession from a 13-year-old boy after he was taken into custody. Thirteen-year-old Mg A— is suspected of raping and killing his 8-year-old adoptive sister on November 18th in the Tar Yar Aye Quarter of Mawlamyine, Mon State. The perpetrator’s family said that the boy is currently being held in a Youth Care Training Center, under the control of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement.

On October 18th, around 10 am, the victim left for her aunt’s house but never returned home. The family, worried, went to look for her but could not find her. The family reported her as missing to the police on November 19th, and her body was found around 2 pm in a brick-making pit near Hlaing Yadana Street.

The police suspected the 13-year-old brother, Mg A—, and arrested him on November 1st around 11 pm.

"Police from the Zayar Thiri Police Station took my son to the police station two times and sent him back home on November 1st. Then they took my son again at around 11 pm [that day] while we were sleeping. I was not at home as I was selling at my shop at the festival in Mawlamyine. After I got back home at 3 am, my husband was sick and told me that the police had not returned our son back home yet. Early the next morning, I went to police station and I asked to meet with my son, but they did not allow me to see him," said Daw T—, the mother of 13-year-old boy.

On November 2nd, the boy’s father died from a previous illness. On the evening of that day, the mother of the boy phoned the police asking to send food to her son, but police told her that her son had been sent to the Youth Care Training Center in San Kyi, Mawlamyine.

Daw T— explained, “The police did not tell us about sending my son to the center and they did not let us meet with our son. I met him only once on the day of his father’s funeral on the Saturday. His father did not have a chance to see him.”

She added, “My son told me on the phone that on November 1st the police took my son to the police station and tried to force him to confess. The police also told my son that if he confessed that he raped and killed the girl, they would send him back home. However, my son said he did not do it [sign the confession], even though the police forced my son to stand up as if he was driving a motorbike for the entire night [not allowing him to sit].”

Inspector Maung Win from the Zayar Thiri Police Station explained, “The boy and the female victim were not real brother and sister. The female victim was an adoptive daughter of the boy’s parents. While the female victim disappeared from the house, the boy was not at home. We suspected him as the perpetrator because once we searched and found the girl, we could not find him as well.”

However, Mg A—’s neighbors informed the police that he had been playing with his friends in the village while the victim went missing.

Ma Thidar Aye, who lives on the same street as the boy explained, “Most children normally like to play in front of our house with my child. He [Mg A—] was playing with his friends in front of my house on that day. My child fell asleep early that night, and after we watched television at about 11 pm, I saw the boy, Mg A—, was sleeping and we woke him up and told him to go back home.”

The neighbors commented that it was not impossible that the boy raped and killed his adoptive sister, but that he was only being accused by the police.

Inspector Maung Win said, “We have asked the court to hold him for 20 days beginning on November 2nd. As the court has given us permission, we sent him to the center. If we obtain some evidence during these 20 days, we can charge him and if we find nothing, we will release him.”

In regard to this case, the police from Zayar Thiri Police Station are holding the boy and charged him under Article 376/302 (punishment for rape/punishment for murder) of the Penal Code on November 1st.
LOCAL WOMAN DIES AFTER BEING HIT BY VESSEL HIRED BY MCL

October 3, 2018

HURFOM: On September 19th, 2018, Daw Myo Tha Dar Shwe, aka Ma Pae Pae, a local fisherwoman, died after having an accident with the “MV Kaung Hein” vessel of the High Mix Company that was hired by the Mawlamyine Cement Limited (MCL) to transport coal to their coal-fired cement factory in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

“According to U Ohm Tun, a local fisherman, his boat was behind Ma Pae Pae’s. Upon seeing the vessel, Ma Pae Pae rowed her boat to the [Ataran] riverbank. But the vessel tried to avoid the fishing net and also came near to the riverbank. After that, the rear part of the vessel hit Ma Pae Pae and she fell into the river. U Ohm Tun tried to save Ma Pae Pae, but he had to row back to the riverbank as another vessel reached the scene of the accident. After the second vessel left, U Ohm Tun tried to search for Ma Pae Pae, but he found nothing.” said U Aung Tin Oo, the Chairperson of Kyaikmayaw Fisheries Department.

Ma Pae Pae lived in the 3rd Shin Saw Pu Ward and earned her livelihood from farming, livestock, and fishing. But during the growing season, she stayed in Kha Now village on the opposite side of Ataran River.

“She lived in Kha Now village during the growing season. On that day, she went to her home to send fish and prawns caught by her father to sell in the Kyaikmayaw market. She had an accident during her way back to home,” said Daw Than Shane, the mother of Ma Pae Pae.

According to the Kyaikmayaw Police Station, the body of Ma Pae Pae was found at 6 am on September 21st.

“The MCL gave 500,000 kyat [US $326] to our family to provide food for those who helped with searching for the body [of my elder sister],” said the sister of Ma Pae Pae.

Published by the Woman and Child Rights Project, Human Rights Foundation of Monland.
HURFOM: According to an official from the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC), the committee has given up on requesting education funding from the Mon State government.

"More than a month ago we requested 50 million kyat (US $32,446) for the Mon education system. We hoped to repair about 50 damaged schools with that money. But our proposal doesn’t match the budget policy of the Mon State government. So the government replied that we must change the goal of our proposal to get funding. They advised us to plan an organizing event or a kind of competition to get funding. We informed the committee [MNEC] about their suggestion and the committee decided to stop requesting funds from the government," said Nai Rot Ga Kao, an official of the MNEC.

The Mon State government is allocating 100 million kyat (US $65,000) for Mon affairs in the 2017-18, and 50 million kyat was already funding the graduation ceremony of the “Summer Mon Literature School”. Therefore, the MNEC has planned to apply for the rest of the 50 million kyat for educational purposes.

Currently, the MNEC is facing a funding challenge for Mon school teachers’ salaries and the cost of school utilities and stationery. In the past, the MNEC used to request 180 million kyat (US $116,806) for Mon education from the Mon State government; however, the government could do nothing as the New Mon State Party (NMSP) had not yet signed the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

"Now the NMSP has signed the NCA, but I have heard nothing about supporting Mon education. I think the government will not give funding and we have a tough budget at the moment. So to support the salary of the Mon school teachers we have to totally rely on donors," said the official.

The Mon State government had planned to allocate 150 million kyat for the Karen, 150 million kyat for the Pa-O, and 150 million kyat for Bamars in Mon State in this budget year. Mon lawmakers have requested the Mon Chief Minister, Dr. Aye Zan, to grant funding for Mon people, and the Mon State government decided to allocate 100 million Kyat for Mon affairs.

The MNEC was found in 1972 under the NMSP and runs 133 Mon national schools and 32 mixed schools (schools run by the MNEC and the Mon State Ministry of Education). Currently, the MNEC has 780 schoolteachers and 59 educational staff.