

Support Our Work

KHRG is a independent local organisation trying to accomplish a great deal. Donations from individuals or groups are always needed and welcome, whatever their size.

Right now, KHRG field researchers are in the villages and forests gathering information on human rights abuses and facilitating workshops to help villagers share and coordinate strategies to claim their rights at the local level. Despite risks of malaria, landmines or being shot on sight, KHRG researchers manage large amounts of work on little more than material support costs. The list below gives some idea of how we could use your donation:

US \$6 buys a hammock, backpack or cook-set for one of our researchers; necessary equipment for travelling in the forest.

US \$30 buys simple recording equipment to capture the voices of villagers telling their own stories which form the core of our reports.

US \$100 pays for up to two months' worth of satellite phone communications to get information directly from the remotest areas of Karen State to our office.

US \$200 can pay all of a field researcher's costs for two months of intensive field work, or it buys a digital camera for one of our researchers to greatly improve the quality and timeliness of their photos.

US \$250 pays for a two or three day workshop for 25 villagers, including all notebooks, supplies and food.

US \$500 buys a computer for transcribing testimonies, writing human rights reports and releasing them on our web site.

Donate online at khrq.org

Get Involved

Wherever you live, you can help us - by organising others to help support our work or by using our materials and those of other groups to increase attention on the situation of Burma's rural people among politicians, policy makers, the media, students and the general public.

For advice and more ideas on how you can get involved, contact us at khrq@khrq.org.

Keep in Touch

Keep up-to-date with the work of KHRG and the situation in Karen State by signing up for our email newsletter. Enter your email address on our website www.khrq.org or contact us.

KHRG T-Shirts



By wearing a KHRG t-shirt you will help to raise awareness of the human rights situation in rural Burma. KHRG t-shirts feature a quote from a villager, reflecting KHRG's mission to project villagers' voices to the outside world.

Purchase your T-shirt online at khrq.org



KHRG Karen Human Rights Group
Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Human Rights in Rural Burma

Villagers in Burma's Karen State face patterns of human rights abuse related to the level of military control in their areas. In heavily militarised areas, villages face persistent exploitative abuses such as forced labour, arbitrary taxation, extortion and looting. In more contested mountainous areas villagers face a shoot-on-sight policy, attacks on villages and crop destruction as the Burma Army implements its forced relocation campaign to drive villagers out of the hills and into military controlled areas in the plains.



"The SPDC Army orders us to carry loads. If we don't do this, they say we are rebels. So we constantly have to labour for the SPDC Army and we have no time to do our own work. So our families are faced with food problems as we have no food to eat... I had to carry loads for the SPDC, but the last time I didn't comply and I fled."



KHRG's work

Established in 1992, KHRG was one of the first organisations to systematically document Burma's human rights situation. Over the years, KHRG has conducted thousands of qualitative interviews across Karen State and elsewhere in rural Burma, in addition to collecting photographic and other documentary evidence. KHRG uses this evidence to produce detailed human rights reports, which are distributed worldwide and used in its advocacy with human rights organisations, international bodies, governments, aid organisations, academics, journalists and others.

Mission

The Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Burma by projecting the voices of villagers and supporting their strategies to claim human rights. We train and equip local people to document villagers' stories and gather evidence of human rights abuses; disseminate this information worldwide; and work directly with local villagers in enhancing their strategies to resist human rights abuses.

Vision

KHRG envisions a future in which people in Burma achieve full human rights and justice. To this end, KHRG seeks to further develop as an independent, credible, and Karen-led organisation working in close cooperation with local communities and operating with a perspective on human rights as articulated by villagers themselves.

Village Agency

One of the lessons learnt by KHRG is that villagers in Karen State are not 'helpless victims'. Instead, villagers have developed many strategies to resist abuse, including ensuring food security, networking with other communities and noncompliance with military orders. This understanding sowed the seed of KHRG's Village Agency Project - a project aimed to both counteract the traditional perception of Karen villagers as 'helpless victims' and strengthen the strategies villagers are already using to claim their rights.

Firstly, the project aims to influence outside perceptions of Karen villagers by incorporating a 'Village Agency perspective' into all KHRG reporting and advocacy. This perspective not only looks at abuses against villagers, but also focuses on their strategies to resist abuse and retain dignity in the face of oppression.

Secondly, the project uses Village Agency workshops to help villagers identify and strengthen the strategies they are already using to resist abuse and claim their rights.

In this way, we aim to achieve a situation where the voices of villagers are incorporated into the political and humanitarian processes which affect them.

