

Force Labour along the offshore gas pipeline

Interviewed by local FTUB official

Interview Date. May 26, 2002

Name Ko Sein Win
Age 37
Address Pya Village, Tanasserim Division

Interview Date. May 29, 2002

Name Daw Kyi Win
Age 41
Address Bu Lae Htaw Village, Tanasserim Division

Just before year 2000, we had to work for the SPDC army's so call "Voluntary works program' to build railway road, highway and their army camps with our own food and expenses.

But, as our village "Pya" is located near Total Company's gas pipeline area, we were exempted from working as porters for nearly two years.

In the year 2000-2001, we saw SPDC's force labour prohibition order on the trees in our village. After that order we only had to work streets and village cleaning works for once a week.

In **April, 2002**, SPDC authorities asked villagers to build Kanbauk- Maung Ma Gan highway. Villagers were forced to build a road from Kan Bauk village, Pya village, Zar Te village, Kung Pyan village, Dite Kaw village, Chang Chung village, Bu Lae Htaw Wa village, Thaphu Chung village, Bwar, to Pya Tet village, Htein Gyi village, Muu tuu village, Pa Lay village, New Pan Tet Inn village, Old Pan Tet village and to Maung Ma Gan were needed to worked for that highway.

Every family had to build a four meter wide-20 meter long road with stone¹ beating works.

The SPDC army personals, local military intelligence, village chairman U Thein Myint and secretary U Maung Shwe told us this building road work "is not a volunteer work and they will pay money when the road building work is done when they get the money from the higher authority".

Our family had to work 20 days, some families had to work more than a month if they do not have many family members.

All the villagers are poor. SPDC authorities uses force to make us work at the same time. we all are unable to work for our daily survival.

In May 2002, we hear that Total Company paid money to the authority for the road building, so we asked village leaders for our payment and they said they have not received money yet and they promised that they would report to higher authority.

Until we arrive Thailand on May 19, 2002, we did not heard any news about our payments and we now believe that we will not get this money and it looks like our works will be a " free volunteer works" for the SPDC.

-Ends-

¹ The SPDC practiced force labour to those villagers to dig the stones in the past. (Refer to Force Labour interview-January 1, 2002)