



The

# Shwe Gas

Bulletin

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2005

## Protesters Demand India Not to Cooperate With Burma



Burmese people staged demonstration in Dhili, India in March to change Indian policy on Burma

On March 16, Burmese pro-democracy groups staged a demonstration while the US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Indian leaders held a meeting in New Delhi, India.

Over 200 Burmese demonstrators demanded the Indian government to stop cooperating with the Burmese military regime at Junta Manta (near Parliament Street police station).

According to Mon Kim, a coordinator of the Shwe Gas Pipeline Campaign Committee, demonstrators wanted the U.S. and Indian governments to be aware of the current Burmese political situation, the increasing number of refugees in neighboring countries, India's relationship with the Burmese government, investments in the Shwe project and to review Indian policies on Burma.

Mon Kim said, "India, the biggest democratic country in the world, is cooperating with the brutal Burmese junta that supports prolong militarization in Burma".

Three demonstrators including Kim attempted to meet the ministers inside parliament but the police stopped them at the gate.

Demonstrators were stopped by the police and were detained for several minutes.

A letter was sent to the US embassy in India by the Shwe Gas Pipeline Campaign Committee when Rice was in India.

The campaign committee in the letter urged the US government to persuade India and Bangladesh not to cooperate with the Burmese military regime until Burma is a democratic country.

## Toxic Shwe

By Jockai

(Mizzima, April 28, 2005)

Shwe means gold in Burmese. Burmese admire gold and have worn it as jewelries from a long time ago till now. They also called their nation Shwe Myanmar as they esteem gold. When working in neighboring countries, the Burmese were often called Shwe, rather than their names.

As valuable and useful as gold, oil and gas are also called 'Shwe Mae' in Burmese, which means 'Black Gold'. Shwe Mae is a major source of foreign currency earnings for the Burmese military regime.

Recently a natural gas field was discovered in Arakan state, on Burmese western border. An agreement between India, Bangladesh and Burma will see oil and gas piped from Arakan state across Bangladesh and finally ending up in Calcutta, India.

Many NGO's and local people are concerned that the pipeline and

*continue to page 2 -*

### INSIDE

- Editorial - page 2
- Activists Met Korean Ambassador - page 3
- Unocal: Profit at Gunpoint in Burma - page 4
- News Record - page 7
- Anti-Shwe Groups Want Daewoo Out of Burma - page 8

# Editorial

Resource development has the potential to be the catalyst for much needed economic development in Burma. For a country with an estimated economic growth of 0% or less, the profits earned from such ventures could be nothing short of a blessing. Unfortunately for Burma, the military junta isn't sharing. The exploitation of these resources will do nothing to alter the military's pattern of financing its war habit while overlooking expenditures such as health and education. Communities closest to the Shwe gas pipeline, not having any say in the entire process as regards pipeline route, potential environmental damage, and profit sharing will ironically be the most hurt by their own good fortune through the multitude of abuses that will follow the junta's development of the pipeline. Perhaps most cruelly, the gas will be sold to other countries, while in Arakan state most people still do not have access to electricity.

A recent controversial document commissioned by the EU recommended, among other changes in the EU's policy as regards Burma, the restructuring of sanctions in order to enter into a more constructive dialogue with the junta. Thankfully, the EU concluded that in the case of Burma, sanctions are still called for. Any investment in Burma amounts to arming the military junta against its own ethnic peoples. Furthermore, the foreign currency secured through sale of the gas will serve to strengthen the regime, thereby undermining the pro-democracy movement. Investment by Daewoo in the proposed pipeline through Arakan state will most certainly mean increased incidences of human rights abuses. In keeping with a pattern established with Yadana and Yetagun pipelines, the junta has already sent more military forces to Arakan state—an ominous sign. In both previous cases, increased military presence meant dramatically increased incidences of forced labour, rape, extra-judicial killings and mass relocations along the pipeline routes. It is a safe bet that this pipeline experience will be no different.

The governments of South Korea and India have not yet imposed any sanctions against Burma, and are unlikely to do so for political and economic reasons. Thus, it is up concerned citizens everywhere to demand that all Daewoo investment halt, contingent on the government undertaking democratic reforms. For investment to have a positive impact on Burma, the Burmese administration must include democratically elected representatives and an active civil society that can represent and advocate the needs and wishes of the greater public. With decision-making power allocated to local communities, natural gas extraction can be a safe, potentially environmentally friendly way to improve the living standards of people in Arakan state. Until then, we must rally to the cause of divestment as our most direct means of opposition. The landmark Unocal settlement in which victims of human rights abuses sued the company in US court should serve as a warning to Daewoo, that they will be held accountable for any abuses committed along the new pipeline route.

## *From Toxic Shwe-*

exploration site will not benefit the local people.

EarthRights International, a human rights group, is concerned that the Shwe pipeline will lead to human rights abuses and loss of rights for the local community. EarthRights previously campaigned against the controversial Yadana gas pipeline. They found the communities along Yadana and Yetagun pipeline corridors suffered from torture, and there were numerous reports of judicial killings and rape of ethnic minority women by the Burmese military. Thousands of refugees took shelter in refugee camps, while others became internally displaced.

Anti-Shwe gas groups in exile are worried the Shwe project will have the same results as the Yadana pipeline construction.

Carol Ransley, an assistance director of ERI, said that it is not possible to build a pipeline from Arakan state to India via Bangladesh without human rights violations because of the track record of the Burmese military regime. Human rights abuses already have been happening in the proposed pipeline areas, in Arakan as the military goes into prepare for the pipeline project.

***“At present in Arakan state Burmese armies have confiscated hills, lands and plantations from the local people in Ponnagyun areas and have built army stations to protect proposed pipeline in Arakan. Burmese soldiers have also forced local people to cut and clear forests for army stations,”*** said Kyaw Han, Chairman of All Arakan Students and Youths Congress.

The proposed pipeline route is 290-kilometers long starting from Shwe fields, into Arakan state, enter the north-eastern Indian states of Mizoram and Tripura, before crossing over to Bangladesh and finally reaching Kolkata (Calcutta), India. It would also be the first international pipeline for the energy hungry India.

Shwe natural gas field was discovered by Daewoo International Corporation in the Bay of Bengal, the coast of Burma in western Arakan state. The Shwe field is the biggest field among the ASEAN nations in a decade.

According to New Light of Myanmar (Burmese government newspaper), the Burmese regime will profit more from Shwe natural gas field than the combination of Yadana and Raytagon gas sale to Thailand.

As soon as Daewoo discovered the gas fields in the Bay of Bengal, five more Burmese military

*continue to page 6-*



## Shwe Gas Activists Met Korean Human Rights Ambassador



*Korean Human rights ambassador Park and activists from anti-shwe project groups set a meeting in Thailand on april 3.*

April 3, 2005

Shwe gas activists in Thailand raised human rights abuses happening along the propose pipeline route in Arakan state and the human rights situation in Burma in the meeting with Park Kyungsas.

Mr. Park is a professor and a human rights ambassador for the Republic of Korea and former activist.

In the meeting, Carol Ransley, assistant director of EarthRights International said that they wanted to update Mr. Park in his capacity as South Korea's human rights ambassador about the human rights situation in Burma and the fact that one of the South Korea's largest company, Daewoo International, is investing in Burma's offshore gas fields. The concern about human right abuses are already happening in the area as the military prepares for this project.

She added that Ambassador Park was already aware about Burma's human rights situation and was very interested in hearing about human rights violations taking place in the proposed pipeline area. Because the route of the pipeline has not been finalized yet, he was very interested in hearing about the increasing restrictions on the people and the practice of military's forced labor, particularly in Arakan state.

San Ray Kyaw, spokesperson from the Shwe Gas Movement based in Thailand, said that one of biggest shareholder in the Yadana project, Unocal, had to leave Burma. Unocal was sued in the United States for the human rights abuses along its pipeline construction."

He added, "Now the situation with Daewoo and the Shwe gas pipeline is similar to the Unocal and Yadana pipeline project. Daewoo will be responsible for all the human rights abuses along the Shwe Gas pipeline areas in Arakan state."

Activists also highlighted in the meeting the cases ERI made against Unocal on the Yadana gas pipline in US courts such as the abuses that occurred along the pipeline area. Activists worry that the Shwe project will be another Yadana under the Burmese military regime.

Korean company Daewoo International has 60% stake and Korean Gas Corporation has 10% in Shwe, Arakan.

The pipeline construction from Arakan to India via Bangladesh is under negotiation of tri-nations.

## Youth in Arakan Erected Signboards Against Daewoo

April 2, 2005

A group of Arakanese youth recently erected three signboards protesting against Daewoo's consortium gas extraction in Sittwe, capital city of Arakan state, at midnight secretly despite the dangers in the tight military ruled Burma.

Arakanese youth launched signboards on February 17 in three main places of Sittwe. The signboards were placed in front of the post office, city market and the Communication Office. The signboards were 3 feet wide and 6 feet length.

They expressed in the signboard a brief history of Arakan state and its lack of resources due to Burmese military regime.

They also urged in a signboard that all Arakanese need to be organized and be active until the brutal military and the Daewoo consortium leave Arakan state.

The launching of the signboards expressed Arakanese's opinions against the military regime and their disapproval on the Shwe gas exploration, said Kyaw Han, the director of the Shwe Gas Movement. "Despite the developments of the natural gas by the military regime and the consortium, Arakanese will still not benefit from this development."

At present people in Sittwe receive electricity 3 to 4 hours a day. Most of them purchase electricity monthly from local generators.

Mg Mg (not real name) who just arrived from Arakan state said, "I don't agree with this Shwe gas exploration. Our natural resources are being used by other people. The Shwe gas exploration will not be beneficial for the Arakanese. Although the gas is our resource, we cannot decide what to do with it. If we can develop this gas project for our own use, it will benefit and be useful for Arakan".

# Profits at Gunpoint: Unocal's Pipeline in Burma Becomes a Test Case in Corporate Accountability

by **Daphne Eviatar**

**M**aung Maung is no stranger to the brutality of the government of Burma (called Myanmar by its military rulers). A former geologist and leader of the National Mineworkers' Union, Maung was forced to flee the country in 1988 when, following a massive citizens' uprising, a new military government began to arrest, torture and execute thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators. But Maung was nevertheless surprised when, nine years ago, he came across hundreds of Burmese crowded into a cluster of straw huts along the Thai-Burma border, a makeshift village that sank in the mud when it rained.

Why had they fled Burma's lush Tenasserim district, a peninsula of coastline, farmland and thick forests, to live here like cattle? In a series of interviews with Maung, founder of the exiled Federation of Trade Unions of Burma, the villagers described armed military men expelling indigenous fishermen from their homes and farmers from their land razing villages and enslaving their inhabitants. They reported that the soldiers forced everyone from children to the elderly into labor, making them cut through thick swaths of jungle, build military installations and haul army equipment. All of this, Maung later learned, in order to prepare the area for a new gas pipeline.

One woman said soldiers came to her home as she was cooking over an open fire. When her husband attempted to flee, they shot him and shoved her and her baby into the flames, killing the baby and leaving her with disabling scars. Others described seeing their neighbors executed when they refused to leave their homes. Many who joined forced-work collapsed from exhaustion or disease after weeks of toiling under a scorching sun with little food or water. Two girls said they were raped by soldiers at knifepoint.

Many of these victims were plaintiffs in two landmark lawsuits against Unocal, part of a consortium of companies behind the gas pipeline. The significance of these trials determined whether American corporations will ever be forced to account for the brutal human rights abuses being committed around the world in their interests.

As has now been well documented by EarthRights International, a human rights group co-founded by former Burmese student activist Ka Hsaw Wa, the military began clearing the land and enslaving locals only after the oil companies initiated negotiations with the Burmese government to build the \$1.2 billion project in 1990. The accounts collected by Ka Hsaw Wa and Maung are corroborated by volumes of sworn deposition testimony from villagers, filed under seal but cited in several court opinions. According to the testimony, plaintiffs' lawyers and further interviews conducted by such independent human rights

organizations as Human Rights Watch, hundreds of villagers were driven from their homes and farms, and forced to work at gunpoint to prepare the area for the pipeline.

Led by the French oil company Total (now TotalFinaElf), the consortium entered into a joint venture with the Burmese government around 1995 to transport vast quantities of natural gas from the offshore Yadana field in the Andaman Sea through a pipeline that would extend east to Thailand. The pipeline would have to pass through Tenasserim, a region whose ethnic groups opposed military rule. Because its agreement with the companies required the Burmese government to protect the pipeline from sabotage, the government increased its military presence along that thirty-nine-mile stretch. According to testimony from villagers, many of those forced into service cutting down trees, digging out stumps, building barracks and helipads-were beaten regularly by guards. Some of these same helipads were used to ferry Unocal officials when they came to inspect the project's progress.

To prevent workers from fleeing, the military took extreme measures. "There was a guy who had his hands and feet bound with seven people with rope," says Maung, who met the man while interviewing the villagers who had fled to the Thai border. "They were put in a pit to keep them from running away."

It was Maung who first brought the idea of suing the oil companies to attorney Terry Collingsworth, then an AFL-CIO representative in Nepal and a leader of the Washington, DC-based International Labor Rights Fund. Collingsworth, together with Burmese activists, decided to try using an obscure 1789 law known as the Alien Tort Claims Act, which grants non-citizens access to US courts in cases involving violations of international law. That act had been used before to prosecute torture by foreign military officers, but it had yet to be successfully used against a corporation whose officers hadn't personally perpetrated the abuses. In 1996 Collingsworth and the Labor Rights Fund used it to sue California-based Unocal on behalf of four Burmese villagers for encouraging and profiting from murder, torture, rape and slavery in Burma. About a month later, EarthRights International filed a similar lawsuit on behalf of fourteen others, targeting Unocal, Total and the state-run Burmese and Thai gas companies. (The plaintiffs in both cases remain anonymous to protect them from retaliation.) Although the court ruled that it had no jurisdiction over the foreign companies, the cases, remarkably, went forward against Unocal.

The claims against Unocal were straightforward. The villagers argued that because the California company was a business partner of the Burmese government, whose military is notorious for using forced labor, the company is

responsible for the systematic human rights violations the military committed in order to complete the company's pipeline. While charging an American company with slavery is controversial, there's nothing unusual in American courts holding a company responsible for the acts of its business partner. And international criminal tribunals have often held individuals responsible for "aiding and abetting" international crimes like genocide. Either of these grounds could allow the court to rule in the villagers' favor, forcing Unocal to face a trial.

After years of legal wrangling during which the case was dismissed, reinstated and then appealed-the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reconsidered whether the company can be held responsible for forced labor and murder committed by the Burmese military in connection with the pipeline. Its decision can have implications far beyond Unocal and the Burmese villagers. Although the Alien Tort Claims Act, originally enacted to prosecute piracy, lay dormant for almost two centuries, human rights and labor activists are increasingly using it to charge American corporations with egregious violations of international law. The Labor Rights Fund alone has half a dozen such cases pending in federal courts around the country, claiming human rights abuses by Exxon Mobil in Indonesia, Coca-Cola in Colombia and Del Monte in Guatemala, among others. The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights has used the law to charge Royal Dutch/ Shell and Chevron-Texaco with complicity in murder and military attacks in connection with their oil projects in Nigeria. The rising tide of these cases has alarmed American corporations. They're fighting back hard, filing briefs in support of the defendants and lobbying Congress to repeal or amend the Alien Tort Claims Act. Still, most courts' substantive decisions have favored the plaintiffs, and the cases have slowly marched ahead with the case against Unocal taking the lead-and thus promising to set a precedent. If the Ninth Circuit rules that Unocal must face trial for collusion in murder, torture, rape and slavery, it will confirm that human rights activists have hit upon a powerful tool for holding corporations legally accountable for profiting off of the most despicable practices of abusive governments overseas.

The US government worked to prevent that. In May, Attorney General John Ashcroft filed a brief with the Ninth Circuit court denouncing the villagers' attempt to use the Alien Tort Law to sue Unocal and arguing that every court that has allowed such claims for the past twenty years has been wrong. In a sweeping argument against legal accountability for human rights violations, the Administration argued that all suits filed under that law should be dismissed because they interfere with US foreign policy and undermine America's war on terrorism. Kenneth Roth, director of Human Rights Watch, calls Ashcroft's intervention "a craven attempt to protect human rights abusers." So far, no court has endorsed the Justice Department's view.

Unocal fought this case every step of the way, refusing to acknowledge even basic facts surrounding the pipeline's construction. The company denied, for example, that under its contract with the state-owned Burmese gas company, the government had pledged to provide security for the pipeline. Yet Unocal's own documents, produced for the lawsuit, stated that "the government of Myanmar is responsible for protecting the pipeline." Unocal's representative in Burma told the US Embassy that "the companies have hired the Burmese military to provide security for the project." Additional documents reveal that Unocal officials on the pipeline project held daily meetings with army commanders to tell them where they needed roads, military installations and security. And villagers have testified that Unocal officials regularly visited the pipeline site.

Unocal claimed that it was unaware that the Burmese military regularly used forced labor. Yet Unocal's own consultants warned the company, according to court documents, that "throughout Burma the government habitually makes use of forced labour to construct roads." Even the US State Department reported at least as early as 1991 that the military government routinely uses forced labor. The United Nations issued more warnings of serious human rights abuses in 1995.

With the evidence mounting, Texaco, which had large investments in a Burma gas field, pulled out of the country in 1997. But Unocal retained a 28 percent interest in the pipeline, and then-Unocal president John Imle was defiant. At a January 1995 meeting with human rights organizations, he had argued that locals were threatening sabotage, adding, "If you threaten the pipeline there's gonna be more military. If forced labor goes hand and glove with the military, yes, there will be more forced labor. For every threat to the pipeline there will be a reaction."

If there remained any doubt, in March of that year Unocal's Burma representative, Joel Robinson, confirmed that he had received information from human rights groups that "depicted in more detail than I have seen before the increased encroachment of [the Burmese military's] activities into the villages of the pipeline area." Robinson concluded that Unocal's insistence that the military had not used forced labor on the company's behalf "may not withstand much scrutiny."

By the end of 1995, Unocal consultant John Haseman, a former military attaché at the US Embassy in Rangoon, added to the chorus in a report to Unocal: "Based on my three years of service in Burma, my continuous contacts in the region since then, and my knowledge of the situation there, my conclusion is that egregious human rights violations have occurred, and are occurring now, in southern Burma," he told Unocal. "The most common are forced relocation without compensation of families from land near/ along the pipeline route; forced labor to work on



infrastructure projects supporting the pipeline...and imprisonment and/or execution by the army of those opposing such actions"-exactly the core charges of the plaintiffs. "Unocal," Haseman continues, "by seeming to have accepted [the Burmese military's] version of events, appears at best naive and at worst a willing partner in the situation."

Unocal nonetheless adamantly maintained that no abuses occurred. In June 2002 the company released a statement saying that the pipeline "was constructed and is being operated according to high ethical standards and modern business practices," and that despite "the challenges" of investing in a country "ruled by an authoritarian military government," it is "confident that no human rights abuses have occurred in the construction or operation of the pipeline." Even if some abuses did occur, says Daniel Petrocelli, the lead lawyer defending Unocal, "no Unocal person participated in any of the alleged wrongdoing. Unocal has no control over the Myanmar military."

When the pipeline was completed and was producing profits for Unocal, the company insisted that the project benefits Burma. The pipeline produced 700 million cubic feet of gas per day, well above early projections of 525 million, according to Unocal spokesman Barry Lane, who said the project "exceeded our investment objectives." After a large group of shareholders asked Unocal in May to reconsider its continued involvement there, Unocal chief executive Charles Williamson maintained that the company would not withdraw from the project.

Lane called the project "a good investment for the company, and a good investment for the people of Myanmar. Our disappointment is that there aren't a hundred such projects in the country." Unocal said that because of its project, infant mortality in the region was down, school attendance was up and close to 600 people have pipeline-related jobs. The company did not calculate how many farmers and fishermen lost their livelihoods as a result of the project's construction.

To Maung, it's about much more than a court verdict. "When I told the villagers that we could sue Unocal, they thought I was crazy," he says. "We're trying to say that corporations can't just come in and do what they want. They have to answer to the law."

Unocal was hoping for a way out. August of 2002, it asked the State Department to intervene, claiming that a trial might interfere with US foreign relations. The company was inspired by a case pending against Exxon Mobil for alleged human rights violations in connection with its operations in Indonesia. There, the State Department asked the federal judge to dismiss the lawsuit on the grounds that it would interfere with the US war on terrorism. But that's a harder case to make with Burma. In 1997, the United States imposed sanctions against Burma, and the State Department's latest reports state that "the government of

Burma severely abuses the human rights of its citizens" and has "severe and pervasive forced labor problems." (According to EarthRights International, on April 2, 2005 a settlement was reached in the Unocal case. Unocal agreed to compensate the Burmese villagers had sued them for the sufferings that was induced to them from the construction of the pipeline. The details of the settlement were not released.)

Daphne Eviatar, a Brooklyn-based writer and attorney, is a contributing editor at *The American Lawyer*.

(*The Nation* magazine, June 30, 2003)

---

### ***From Toxic Shwe-***

forces were placed around the Arakan state, Voice of Arakan reported in 2004.

Human rights abuses in Arakan state has already occurred since the military regime seized power in 1900 in Burma. One clear thing is that in November 2004 the Burma Light Infantry Battalion 34 forced over 500 labors from six surrounding villages of Kyaukpyu to work on sections of Yangoon-Kyaukpyu road, according to Arakan League for Democracy.

Arakan state, partly a coastal region, has one of the most sea food producers in Burma. Most of the people are employed on farms and in fisheries for their livelihood. This is their traditional work.

After Daewoo started drilling natural gas fields in November 2003, authorities banned fishermen from catching within the 27 mile radius of the Shwe drill ship until early 2004.

However, San Ray Kyaw, a spokesperson of the Shwe Gas Movement from Thailand, said, "fishermen cannot access banned areas and if they even get close to the navy, the navy will stop them, question them and ask them for money. If they refuse, they will be arrested."

He stressed that it is very difficult for the local people to survive around the gas fields and along the proposed pipeline area. It will be the same as the Yadana gas project.

Unocal, an US oil company and one of the biggest shareholders in Yadana, was sued by ERI in US courts over human rights abuses associated with the pipeline construction. Eight years later, on April 2, 2005, the case was settled out of court. The settlement is being seen as a major victory for human rights and corporate accountability.

"We can be happy with the outcome," said Ka Hsaw Wa, Executive Director of Earth Rights Internatioal, with a big smile, who lobbied the US about human rights abuses as a result of the Yadana project.

Wall Street Journal reported that the settlement was worth around 30 million dollars.

*continue to page 7-*

# News Diary

1. *Myanmar's ruling junta has barred foreign firms from onshore exploration and production, in a move that has confused energy experts as Myanmar formerly welcomed foreign investment. Myanmar wants to increase production from 10,000 barrels per day to 50,000, and at the same time apparently wants to maintain control over its own resources. (April 3, Agence France Presse)*
2. *Belgium is set to reopen an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed by French oil giant Total in Myanmar. In a decision reached Wednesday, the constitutional court granted Aung Maw Zin, one of the four political refugees who filed a lawsuit against Total, the same rights as a Belgian citizen, allowing the court to try perpetrators of these crimes committed anywhere in the world. (April 15, Reuters)*
3. *On Harvard University campus, the Burma Action Movement (BAM) released a statement yesterday calling upon the university to divest from Unocal. Harvard has held Unocal shares at least since March 31, 1999. The statement called for Harvard to set an ethical example for its students by withdrawing its support for Burma's brutal dictatorship. (April 15, The Harvard Crimson)*
4. *On April 16 in Sittwe, capital city of Arakan, one Burmese soldier was killed and another badly injured in a fight that broke out between soldiers and Arakanese youth. The soldiers reportedly molested several local girls, which enraged the youth and prompted the fight. 27 local residents were arrested following the incident, while two youths who were involved in the fight fled to Bangladesh. (April 19, Mizzima)*
5. *Informed sources revealed that the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Office gave its approval of the proposed tri-nation gas pipeline from Myanmar to India passing through Bangladesh on Tuesday in a note sent to the Energy Ministry on the pipeline project. Despite its initial reluctance to sign any agreement with India, the PMO now says it is ready to negotiate, and hopes to finalize the matters in the first week of next month. (April 21, The New Nation)*

## From Toxic Shwe-

Ka Hsaw Wa said "Burma is one of the top human rights violators in the world. Unocal was not respecting human rights and the environment in Burma. If they were concerned with human rights and the environment, Unocal would not have made a business deal with the military dictatorship in Burma. By dealing with

them you are marrying the most brutal dictatorship of Burma."

He added that Daewoo issues is very similar to the Unocal in regards to the nature of the investments as well as the nature of the project. By associating with the military regime they are directly or indirectly violating human rights and environments.

ERI has made a commitment to work alongside Arakan communities to

prioritize a campaign on the Shwe Gas project over the coming years, said Carol, "ERI will explore various options as to what can be done to prevent human rights abuses from happening in the area, as well as what can be done to obtain justice for people who suffer from human rights violations associated with the project."

### Arakan Gas Research Team

K.Kyaw Khaing  
 Nyi Nyi Lwin  
 Jay Chou (Volunteer)  
 Susan (Volunteer)  
 Claudia (Volunteer)  
 Layout & Designed by  
 Herman  
 thanks BRC for supporting

Contributions of pictures, articles, news, or research papers are welcome. Any suggestions or advice to improve the quality of news and information sharing from you are most valuable to us.

# Anti-Shwe Gas Groups Want Daewoo Out of Burma

April 12, 2005

Anti-Shwe Gas project groups expressed their opinions at a seminar on April 12, in Korea that Daewoo moves out of Burma and postpone the gas project until Burma becomes a democratic country.

The seminar was held in Human Rights Center in Seoul, Korea to gather information on Daewoo International and Korea Gas Corporation investments and gas exploration in Arakan state, western Burma.

Representatives from the anti-Shwe groups, Ka Hsaw Wa, executive director of EarthRights International and Nyi Nyi Lwin from the Arakan National Council presented at the seminar about human rights violations in Burma, Daewoo's investment in Shwe gas fields and its corollary human rights violation happening along the proposed pipeline areas.

Ka Hsaw Wa also spoke about his experiences in the Yadana gas pipeline project in Burma, which resulted in law suits against U.S based Unocal oil giant. The law suit was settled on April 2<sup>nd</sup> after Unocal agreed to compensate 10 plaintiffs from Burma.

Ka Hsaw Wa said, "We are asking and demanding Daewoo not to associate itself with the military government. Any way associated with the military government, they are directly or indirectly violating human rights and environment."

The Daewoo case is very similar to the Unocal case in regards to

said Ji-Hoon Cha, Chairman of Lawyers for a Democratic Society.

Fifty representatives from Korean non-governmental organizations, Sungkonghoe University, Seoul National University, and law firms took part in the seminar organized by Korea House for International Solidarity (KHIS).

The Korean civil societies agreed in the seminar to take reaction on Daewoo's investments and highly criticize Burma for its human rights violations and use of forced labor.

The seminar discussed possible ways to get Daewoo out of Burma, including law suits against Daewoo in Korea, the U.S. and international courts. It also discussed ways to put pressure on Daewoo International and Korea Gas Corporation (Kogas) to release all the information and contracts agreement between the Burmese regime and the corporation.

Daewoo International holds 60 % stake in A-1 gas block and Kogas holds 10%.



investments as well as the nature of project, according to Ka Hsaw Wa.

"I was shocked when I saw all these graphic pictures of forced labor and torture in Yadana gas pipeline project during the powerpoint presentation by Mr. Ka Hsaw Wa,"

**Please sign the petition on the [www.shwe.org](http://www.shwe.org) website.**

## Arakan Gas Research Team

PO.Box 184, Mae Paing Post Office, Chaing Mai 50301 Thailand

E-mail: [Shwenews@yahoo.com](mailto:Shwenews@yahoo.com): Phone: 66 4 046 5813

Monthly Bulletin

To:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

