

True Facts about Pu Rein Village incident in Rakhine State on 4 June 2013

- With regard to the construction of relief shelters, 100 families from Pu Rein North Village were against it and 400 families from Pu Rein South Village were for it. Under the circumstance, it was unavoidable to use force to disperse the unruly mob.
- On 4 June 2013, while workers from the Lattma Bengali Village were carrying construction materials for building relief quarters in Pu Rein Bengali Village, a group of 400 unruly people came and attacked the workers and the members of security forces by throwing at them stones, sticks, knives, slingshots and homemade weapons. The mob attempted to assault Ma Thein Hla and the villagers from Pu Rein South Village, the workers from Lattma Village and the members of the security forces.
- 13/14 men led the group, putting women and children at the front as human shields. The workers and the security forces were on the run. The unruly group confronted the security forces from only 100 yards away and blocked them from three sides. The other side is a cliff. The security force gave warnings to the group for three times to stop their violent activities. However, they did not listen and, therefore, the security forces made seven warning shots into the air.
- Despite the warning shots, the Bengali group got bolder, getting closer to the 32 workers. The group came within 20 yards of the security forces and threatened their lives. The group armed with slingshots, homemade iron crossbows, sticks and knives, was shouting in Bengali, “We don’t want construction materials”, “Don’t bring them”, “We don’t want soldiers and police, kill them”, “We will kill Ma Thein Hla who helps them”, “We will kill the 32 workers”.
- The security forces warned the Bengali group for three times not to come much closer. However, the group became more hostile and threatened the lives of the workers and the security forces. Inevitably, situation, the security forces made three shots and broke their way out of the mob rule.

Complaint

- On 6 June 2013, a mob with sticks, knives and spears came into the house compound of Ma Thein Hla and attacked her. She was injured in the head, knee, legs and arms. She also got a stab wound on the left chest. Therefore, her son, Sharsan, lodged a complaint against the twelve perpetrators including Armi Tu Saung. A case was filed with the Myanmar Police Station under Section 452/326/294/506/114 of the Penal Code.

- Police Lieutenant Tin Maung Htwe made a complaint against the rioters, who were involved in the incident. A case was filed with the Myoma Police Station under Section 147/148/353/506 of the Penal Code.

Use of force

- On 4 June 2013 at 1415, 32 Bengali workers from Lattma Village were carrying construction materials from the boat to the shore for use in building 26 living quarters in Pu Rein Bengali Village of Mrauk Oo Township. Meanwhile, a group of 400 people from Pu Rein Village gathered and stopped the work by throwing stones, slingshots and other homemade iron weapons at the workers and the security forces and threatened to kill them. The security forces gave warning for three times to disperse, however, they became more hostile and the situation was getting out of control. The size of the security forces was much smaller than the mob. Therefore, in accordance with the riot control procedures, force was used.
- Squad Unit (3) of Riot Platoon Unit (5) Rakhine Police Force led by Lieutenant Maung Maung Htwe fired two shoots and a team led by Lieutenant Colonel Aung Thu Tun from Battalion No (289) fired one shot. They broke their way out of the mob and moved to the outside of the village. The hostile mob followed and attacked them before they got out of the village.

Investigations

- Rakhine State Police Force established a tribunal and made investigations into the case. No penal, disciplinary or administrative sanction has been imposed as the force was used inevitably for self-defense purposes. It was not excessive. It was consistent with riot control procedures.
- Information from responsible authorities from Township Medical Department, Township General Administration Department and Township Police Force has been collected to form a tribunal led by a Tactical Operation Commander of Tactical Operation Command No.2 under Military Operation Command No.5.

Medical care

- Emergency medical care to the injured persons was provided by a Medical Warrant Officer from Battalion No. (289) and three dead people were buried well. Three among six injured people were sent to Sittway Hospital with the help of two ICRC vehicles. Township administrator offered 50,000 kyats and District administrator provided 100,000 kyats to Ma Thein Hla who was injured seriously.