

The Chin are a minority ethnic group in Burma.

The Burmese have faced ongoing human rights violations since the military junta seized power in Burma in 1962. The Chin are one of the largest ethnic groups in Burma and live mainly in the Western part of Burma and in nearby Indian states. They are mostly Christian and the ongoing harassment and abuses against this group are well documented by human rights groups and the media.

In Chin state, in the Western area of Burma, violations reported include beatings, torture, religious or ethnic persecutions and detention or imprisonment. Households experience moderate to severe hunger and human rights violations related to food insecurity are common. The military frequently confiscates land unlawfully and demands forced labor. Young men and women have often been taken by force and are returned to the village either dead or injured. Many flee from Burma into India where they are usually forcibly returned home, violating their right to refuge under international law.

Paw was approached by soldiers and interrogated and badly beaten. He was beaten savagely from behind and he began coughing up blood. At this point he told us that he feared he would die. After this incident he fled across the border to Thailand and then down to Malaysia where he was recognized as a refugee by UNHRC.

From here he was smuggled from Malaysia and arrived in Australia on a Visitor's Visa. He was directed to the CASE For Refugees office and given assistance to apply for protection.

CASE has conducted several consultations with this client ranging from initial assessment to ongoing preparation of his application and formation of documents and statements in the presence of an accredited interpreter. CASE for Refugees is representing this client and will liaise for the client with the Department of Immigration and will also attend any interview or hearings.

The process of applying for protection may take a few months or a few years – depending on the individual circumstances - so it remains a time of uncertainty for the client.