

## THE LAW SAFEGUARDING PEASANT RIGHTS (1963)

[Unofficial Translation]

Law No. 9, 1963

[Exact Date Unknown]

The Chairman of the Union of Burma Revolutionary Council makes the following Law:

1. (1) This Law shall be called the Law Safeguarding Peasant Rights, 1963.
- (2) This Law shall extend to the whole of the Union of Burma and shall come into force at once.
2. In this law, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:
  - (a) "Agricultural Land" means either land used for cultivation or possessed for an agricultural purpose.

Explanation 1: The expression includes what in common usage are identified as paddy or hillside fields, or silt land; or rubber or palm plantations, or orchards; or vegetable or flower gardens; or island or alluvial lands.

Explanation 2: The expression does not include private residences, religious buildings and compounds, or unused public cultivation plots inside a township or village boundary.

Explanation 3: The expression is inclusive of structures built upon agricultural land.

(b) "peasant" means either a person who works agricultural land by one's hand as the primary means of livelihood; or a person who has always worked by one's hand; or who throughout the work time of the relevant year has worked agricultural land by hand as the primary means of livelihood.

3. (1) Notwithstanding anything elsewhere contained in any existing law, a Civil Court shall not make a decree or order for:

(a) A warrant of attachment for or confiscation of agricultural land; neither for employed livestock and implements, harrows and implements, other animate and inanimate implements, nor the produce of agricultural land.

(b) Prohibition of work upon or entry into agricultural land.

(c) Prohibition of movement or sale in whole or part or use of employed livestock and implements, harrows and implements, other animate and inanimate implements, or the produce of agricultural land.

- (d) Arrest and detention of a peasant in connection with any matter included in paragraphs (a) (b) and (c).
- (2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to:
  - (a) Actions taken for the obtaining of government revenue;
  - (b) Actions taken over events concerning inheritance rights; or,
  - (c) Government actions taken for law and order.
- (3) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to rubber plantations.