

## **I come from . . .**

By Kyi May Kaung – Chevy Chase, Maryland

I come from – dried chilies and dust

I come from stupas gilded with real gold.

I come from – people shot on the street.

I come from – child soldiers.

I come from – rape as a weapon of war.

I come from – nothing but fish paste and broken rice to eat.

I come from crows and sparrows shot and netted for food.

I come from dengue hemorrhagic fever

I come from all my friends and relatives -- dead.

All my students – disappeared.

My professors – lost.

I come from – everything – state-owned.

I come from – soldiers -- everywhere.

I come from -- no more -- universities.

I come from elephantiasis

Money not worth the paper -- it's printed on.

I come from her six foot son come home in a five foot coffin.

I come from – hello goodbye

*Arnahdé* -- or feeling bad to say – No.

But in life it is necessary to say -- No – often.