



Incident Report

July 24th, 2020 / KHRG # 20-71-11

Mu Traw District Incident Report: Tatmadaw soldiers killed a female villager and then stole her jewellery in Dwe Lo Township, July 2020

This Incident Report describes events that occurred in Poh Loh Hta village, Ku Thu Hta village Tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District on 16th July 2020. Two Tatmadaw¹ soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #409 shot dead a female villager at close range and stole some of the jewellery she was wearing. She leaves behind one husband and three children.²

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Killing and robbery
Date of Incident(s)	July 16 th 2020
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Poh Loh Hta village, Ku Thu Hta village Tract, Dwe Lo Township

Victim Information	
Name	Naw ³ Mu Naw
Age	38
Sex	Female
Ethnicity	Karen
Family	Married
Position	Villager
Village	Poh Loh Hta village

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Hein Min Htet	Soldier	LIB #409, MOC #8	Ku Thu Hta army camp	Camp commander: Kyaw Wanna Battalion commander: Lin Lin

¹ Tatmadaw refers to the Myanmar military.

² The present document is based on information received on July 23rd 2020. It was provided by a community member in Mu Traw District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions on the ground. The names of the victims, their photos and the exact locations are censored for security reasons. The parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG.

³ Naw is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

				Htut Deputy battalion commander: Hlu Min Han
Than Soe Lwin	Soldier	LIB #409, MOC #8	Ku Thu Hta army camp	Camp commander: Kyaw Wanna Battalion commander: Lin Lin Htut Deputy battalion commander: Hlu Min Han

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

A KHRG researcher interviewed the husband and the nephew of the victim.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The sources are relatives of the victim.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On July 16th 2020 at around 1 pm, two Tatmadaw soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion #409, Military Operations Command #8, shot dead a female villager named Naw Mu Naw in Poh Loh Hta village, Ku Thu Hta village Tract, Dwe Loh Township.

The two soldiers, Hein Min Htet and Than Soe Lwin are based in the nearby Ku Thu Hta army camp. They are under the authority of deputy battalion commander HLu Min Han. On the day of the incident, they had lunch at the village monastery. After that, they came into the village and asked where the house of Saw⁴ Pu Aye [Naw Mu Naw's husband] was. Local people showed them the house, but the villagers told them that Saw Pu Aye was not home because he went to Bilin town to take his daughter and son back to school.

Saw Pu Aye used to be a Myanmar government village head, and he now runs a small shop under his house. It is located on the edge of the village, at the base of a hill and near the Poh Loh stream. The soldiers reached the shop, sat down and drank alcohol. Two local villagers also sat down in the shop to keep an eye on them. After the two soldiers were done drinking, they left the village so the two villagers went back to their houses.

A moment later, the two soldiers came back to the shop to ask for a plastic bag so they could bring back djenkol beans. At the time, Saw Pu Aye's niece was in the shop to visit Naw Mu Naw, so the two soldiers left the village again. After she left, they came back to the house. The neighbour then heard Naw Mu Naw scream, followed by three gunshots.

One of the soldiers shot her three times with his MA-1 [the Tatmadaw's service assault rifle]. Two bullets hit her in the back and exited through her upper chest and mouth. The other bullet hit her in the back of her head and exited through her left eye. According to local villagers, Hein Min Htet was the one who shot Naw Mu Naw. The two soldiers stole the necklace and one of the earrings she was wearing, after which they ran away from the village. Saw T---, a local villager, was the first to arrive at the scene after the two soldiers left.

Naw Mu Naw was 38 years old. She leaves behind a husband and three children. Her 18-year-

⁴ Saw is a S'gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

old daughter, Naw U---, is a 9th grader at the R--- village high school, Moh Kaw (Moe Kaung Wa) village tract, Thaton Township. Her older son, 15-year-old Saw V---, is attending Grade 5 at the same high school. Her youngest son is 12-year-old Saw W---. On the day of the incident, he was playing with his friends in the village.

The Tatmadaw said that it would prosecute the perpetrators. When the KHRG researcher contacted him [on July 23rd 2020], Saw Pu Aye was in Bilin Township. LIB #409 Battalion Commander Lin Lin Htut asked him to go there to participate in the proceedings.

[At the time of drafting this report, the LIB #409 soldiers that were manning the Ku Thu Hta army camp had been replaced by soldiers from LIB #402]

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

Did the victim(s) provide permission to use this information? Explain how that permission was provided.

The source gave KHRG permission to use this information for publication.



These photos were taken in Poh Loh Hta village, Ku Thu Hta village Tract, Dwe Lo Township.

The photo on the top left corner was taken on July 16th 2020. It shows the body of Naw Mu Naw after she was shot dead by the soldiers.

The photo on the top right corner was taken on July 17th 2020 during her funeral.

The photo on the left shows Naw Mu Naw when she was still alive.

[Photos: Saw Pu Aye, community members]

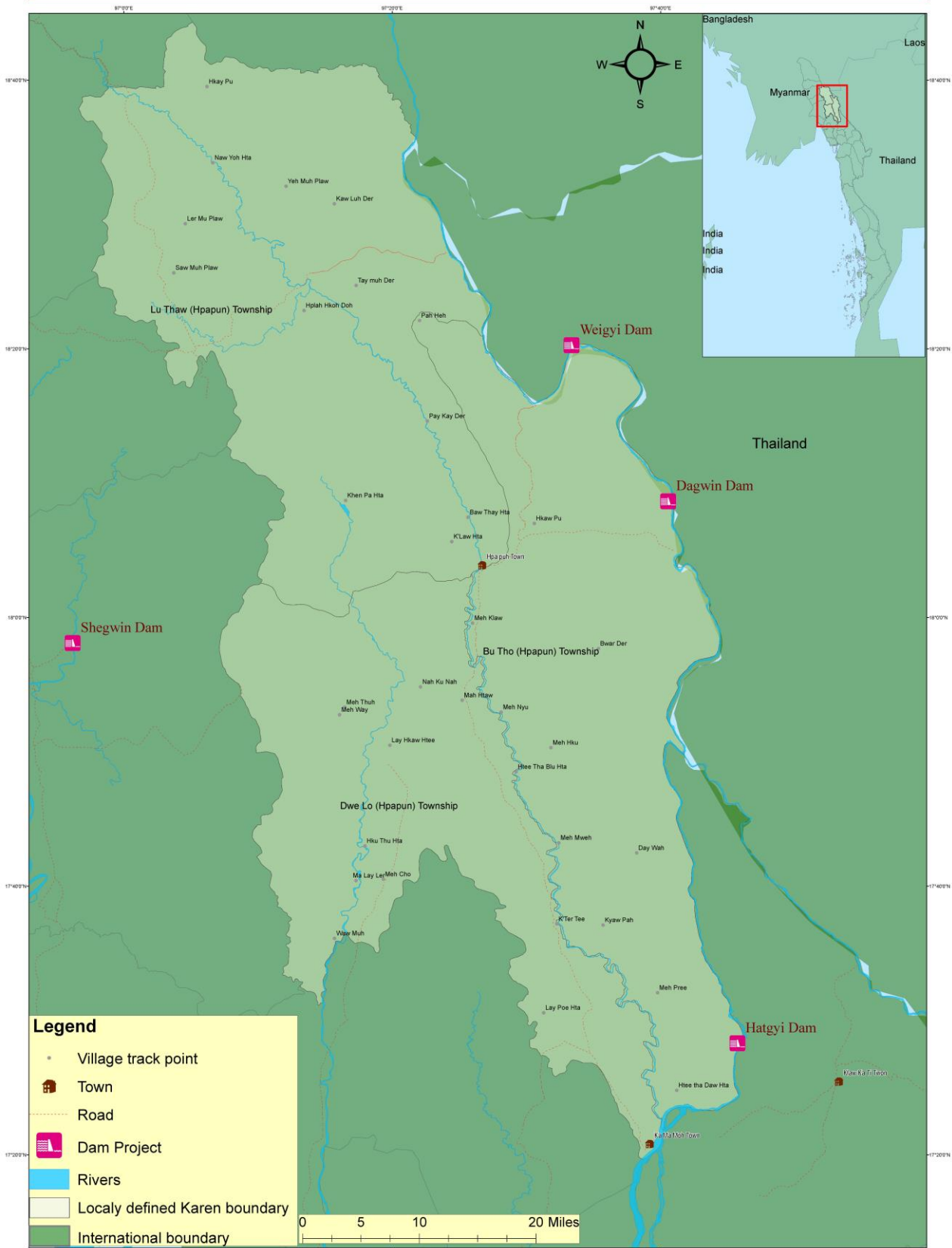
Further background reading on the situation on Tatmadaw in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Mu Traw District: Tatmadaw soldiers killed a Karen community leader and a KNU forest ranger in March 2020"](#), (April 2020)
- ["Dooplaya Incident Report: Two Tatmadaw deserters killed seven civilians in Win Yay Township, April 2019"](#), (June 2019)
- ["A Karen Community Leader, Saw O Moo, Was Murdered by Tatmadaw forces in Hpapun District, April 2018"](#), (June 2018)

About KHRG

Founded in 1992, the Karen Human Rights Group is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Southeast Myanmar. KHRG trains local people to document and gather evidence of human rights abuses, and publishes this information to project the voices, experiences and perspectives of local communities. More examples of our work can be seen online at www.khr.org.

Mutraw (Hpapun) District



(KHRG)