



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

June 3rd 2021 / KHRG # 21-184-I1

Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: One villager injured, another one missing after being shot at by the Tatmadaw in Moo Township, May 2021

This Incident Report describes events that occurred in F--- village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District on May 28th 2021. A group of Tatmadaw soldiers opened fire on two villagers, injuring one of them. The victim was admitted to the hospital on the same day, but he was later taken away by the Tatmadaw on the pretext of providing him treatment. Local villagers are now unable to contact him. The other villager who was shot at is now missing.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Armed attack against civilians resulting in injuries
Date of Incident(s)	May 28 th 2021
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	H--- village, F--- village tract, ² Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

Victim Information		
Name	Saw ³ B---	Saw A---
Age	27	36
Sex	Male	Male
Nationality	Karen	Karen
Family	Married	N/A
Occupation	N/A	N/A
Religion	N/A	N/A
Village	H--- village, F--- village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District	H--- village, F--- village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

¹ The present document is based on information received in May 2021. It was provided by a community member in Kler Lwee Htoo 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.

² A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centred on a large village.

³ Saw is a S'gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
-	-	Infantry Battalion #75	-	Deputy Commander Zaw Win Naing

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

A KHRG researcher interviewed the family of one of the victims (Saw B---).

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The sources took the injured victim to the hospital after the incident.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

This incident happened on May 28th 2021, at 11 am, in H--- village, F--- village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District. A patrol of Tatmadaw⁴ soldiers opened fire on two local villagers, 36-year-old Saw A--- and 27-year-old Saw B---. Both of them were inside the same hut at the time of the incident. The soldiers involved were from Infantry Battalion (IB)⁵ #75, which is led by deputy commander Zaw Win Naing. They later argued that they fired at these villagers because they thought they were Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)⁶ soldiers.

The incident place is just one hour away on foot from the main road. Saw C---, Saw B---'s father, was on his way to the hut when he heard gunshots and ran away. He went back to the hut after the gunfire [had ceased] and the situation had cooled down. He saw blood at the incident place and eventually found Saw A--- hiding in the bushes. One bullet had gone through his kneecap, so he was not able to run away. Saw C--- took him back to the village and villagers sent him to Ler Doh (Kyaukkyi) General Hospital. Saw B--- is now missing. No one knows where he is or whether he is still alive. His shoes and bag were not at the incident place anymore.

Saw C--- arrived at the hospital [with Saw A---] at 4 pm but, at 7 pm, Tatmadaw soldiers came and took [Saw A---] away on the pretext of providing him treatment. A local villager told KHRG: *"Saw A---'s knee was badly injured. He won't be able to walk again, even after the treatment. The nurse contacted the military hospital and they [Tatmadaw soldiers] came and took him. We cannot contact him on his phone. The Burma Army keeps his phone and we cannot talk to him. We only got to talk to him [on the phone] once [after he was taken away]."* He added: *"We haven't heard anything about Saw B---. We cannot find him since there are travel restrictions [in place] due to security reasons."*

The local villager further explained that, in his opinion, the soldiers had taken Saw A--- [from the hospital] to keep word of the incident from spreading: *"I think that the Burma Army soldiers do not want the information [about the shooting] to spread. This is just like what happened in*

⁴ Tatmadaw refers to the Myanmar military.

⁵ An Infantry Battalion (Tatmadaw) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength with less than 200 soldiers. Yet up to date information regarding the size of battalions is hard to come by, particularly following the signing of the NCA. They are primarily used for garrison duty but are sometimes used in offensive operations.

⁶ The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

the past. One of my cousins was also alone inside a hut after he came back from fishing. Burma Army soldiers went to his hut, then they left a letter saying: 'We took him for treatment'. We tried to find him, but we could not."

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

The family of Saw B--- provided permission to use this information.



This photo was taken on May 28th 2021 in H--- village, F--- village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District. It shows the gunshot injury sustained by Saw A---. The bullet fired by a Tatmadaw soldier went through his kneecap. [Photo: KHRG]

Further background reading on human rights abuses committed by the Tatmadaw in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Kler Lwee Htoo District Short Update: Increased militarisation and fighting between the Tatmadaw and the KNLA prevent IDPs from returning home in Ler Doh Township, March to May 2021"](#), May 2021.
- ["A Worrisome Escalation: Tatmadaw airstrikes kill at least 16 villagers, displace thousands in Mu Traw and Kler Lwee Htoo districts, March 2021"](#), May 2021.
- ["Mu Traw District Short Update: Skirmishes, indiscriminate shelling by the Tatmadaw and landmine contamination in Dwe Lo and Bu Tho townships, March and April 2021"](#), May 2021.

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.khrq.org.

Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) District

