



Incident Report

July 1st 2022 / KHRG # 21-215-I1

Mu Traw District Incident Report: Three villagers in Dwe Lo Township were physically assaulted by a soldier from BGF Battalion #1013, March 2021

This Incident Report describes events that occurred in Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District in March 2021. On March 26th 2021, three villagers from the same family living in E--- village, R---village tract were physically assaulted by a soldier from (Border Guard Force) BGF Battalion #1013 at the nearby BGF checkpoint.1

Part 1 – Incident Details

Table with 2 columns: Incident Detail, Description. Rows include Type of Incident (Physical assault), Date of Incident(s) (March 26th 2021), and Incident Location (E--- village, R--- village tract2, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District).

Table with 4 columns: Victim Information, Name, Age, Sex, Ethnicity, Family, Occupation, Religion, Position, Village. Rows list details for three victims: Ko3 O---, Ma4 Y---, and U5 W---

1 The present document is based on information received in July 2021. 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 information 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 Ko is a Burmese title meaning older brother. It can be used for relatives as well as non-relatives.

4 Ma is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person's name.

5 U is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

	tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw District	tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw District	tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw District
--	--	--	--

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Kyaw Kyaw	Soldier	Border Guard Force (BGF) <sup>6</sup> #1013	K'Ter Tee village, K'Ter Tee village tract, Dwo Lo Township, Mu Traw District.	Lieutenant Colonel Saw <sup>7</sup> Kyaw Win

## Part 2 - Information Quality

### 1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

Ko A---, the R--- village tract administrator, who also lives in E--- village, learned about this incident because the BGF checkpoint is close by where he is living. The KHRG field researcher met with Ko A--- in E--- village to collect the information. Ko A--- told the KHRG researcher about the incident that occurred.

### 2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The source is a resident of E--- village, where the incident happened, and a village tract administrator. He also met with the victims and spoke to them about the incident [prior to being interviewed by the KHRG researcher].

## Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

**Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail. For each incident, be sure to include 1) when the incident happened, 2) where it happened, 3) what happened, 4) how it happened, 5) who was involved, and 6) why it happened. Also describe any villager response(s) to the incident, the aftermath and the current living situation of the victims. Please use the space prepared below, and create an attachment if needed.**

On the evening of March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021, Ko O---, a 32-year-old male living in E--- village, R--- village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw District was assaulted by Kyaw Kyaw, a soldier from Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1013 at the BGF checkpoint close to their family store located in E--- village. This BGF unit is led by Lieutenant Colonel Saw Kyaw Win.

The incident began when Ko O---'s car was stopped at the BGF checkpoint on his journey to Kamamaung Town to buy food ordered by other villagers living in E--- village. When he arrived

<sup>6</sup> Border Guard Force (BGF) battalions of the Tatmadaw were established in 2010, and they are composed mostly of soldiers from former non-state armed groups, such as older constellations of the DKBA, which have formalised ceasefire agreements with the Burma/Myanmar government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw.

<sup>7</sup> Saw is a S'gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

at the checkpoint, the BGF soldier stopped him and ordered him to pay a road tax [toll] (the rate varies from day to day). However, the BGF soldier asked him to pay a higher rate than usual. The two of them then had arguments between themselves over the tax rate. During the argument, the BGF soldier, Kyaw Kyaw, punched Ko O--- in the face, which became swollen.

Hearing that Ko O--- was punched by the BGF soldier, his father U W---, and sister Ma Y---, who own and operate a grocery store near the BGF checkpoint, went to help him. They arrived at the checkpoint while Ko O--- was still there. Kyaw Kyaw, the same BGF soldier, then punched U W--- and Ma Y--- in the face, resulting in both of them suffering swollen faces. Ko O--- then paid the tax and continued his journey to Kamamaung Town without further obstruction and U W--- and Ma Y--- returned to work at the family grocery store.

Although the village head knew about the incident, he did not dare involve himself to resolve the case that involved the three family members due to fear of repercussions by the BGF. The three villagers recovered from their injuries and the case remains unresolved by the local authorities.

#### **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 and the victims gave permission for the provided information to be used.

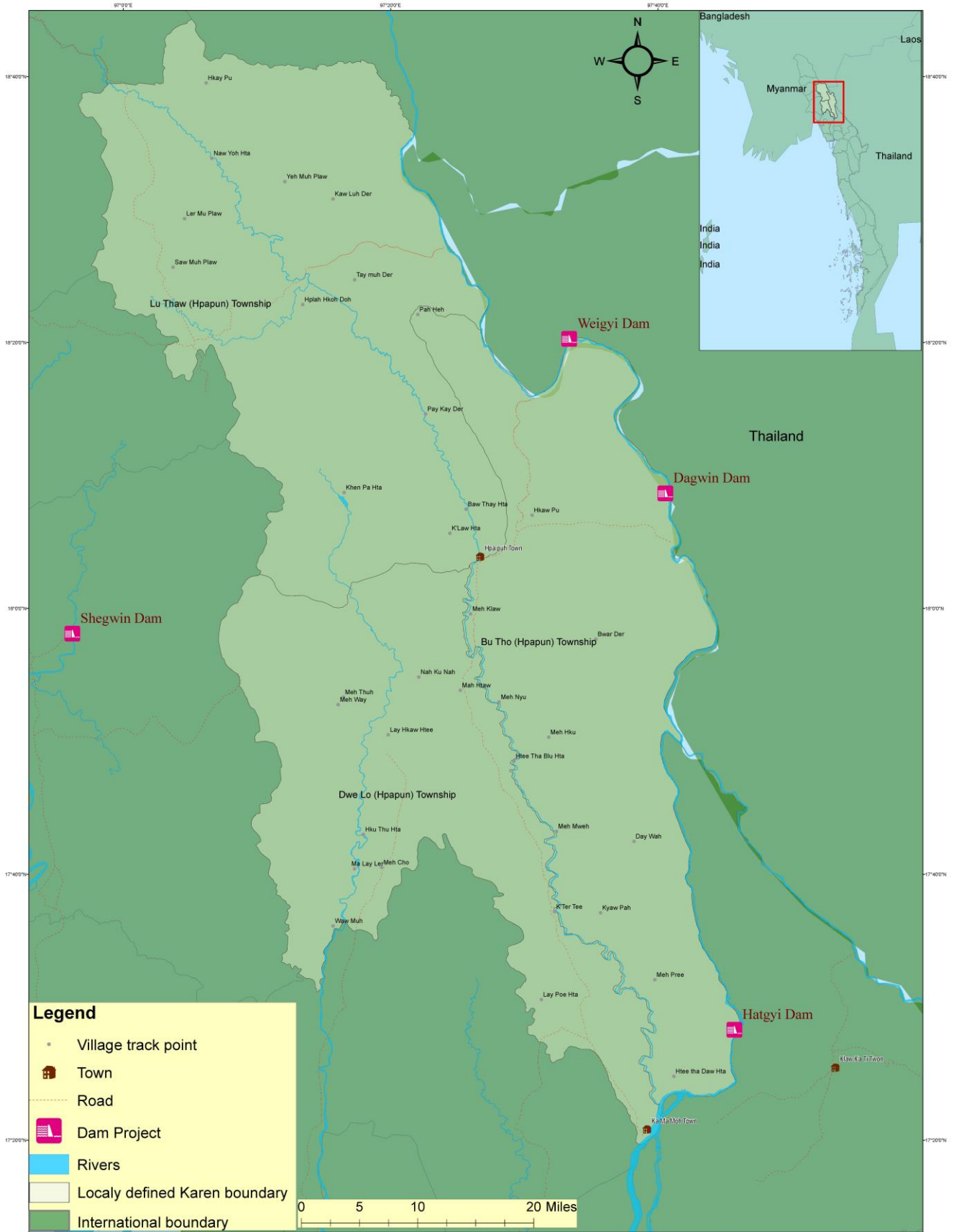
Further background reading on the security situation and human rights violations in Mu Traw District in Southeast Burma can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Mu Traw District Short Update: SAC troops fired mortars into a village, killing seven villagers and injuring four, March 2022"](#), March 2022.
- ["Mu Traw District Incident Report: A villager died due to a landmine explosion in Bu Tho Township, January 2022"](#), February 2022.
- ["Mu Traw District Situation Update: Human rights violations including looting, killing, arbitrary arrest and torture, and the burning of houses and villages, April to July 2021"](#), January 2022.
- ["Mu Traw District Incident Report: Torture of three villagers in Dwe Lo Township by an SAC officer, August 2021"](#), January 2022.

#### **About KHRG**

Founded in 1992, the Karen Human Rights Group is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Southeast Burma. 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](http://www.khrq.org).

# Mutraw (Hpapun) District



KHRG