



Incident Report

September 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 / KHRG # 21-221-I1

Mu Traw District Incident Report: One villager died and another two villagers were injured due to landmine explosions along a road in Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District, July 2021

This Incident Report describes events that occurred in Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw (Hpapun) District in July 2021. On July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, at around 8:40 am, there were two separate landmine explosions triggered by tripwires placed along the road between U--- village and N--- village. The two incidents happened within minutes of each other. The first explosion resulted in the death of a villager from U--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township and the second explosion resulted in minor injuries to two villagers from N--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District. Local villagers are now frightened to leave their village.<sup>1</sup>

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Landmine explosion
Date of Incident(s)	July 16 <sup>th</sup> 2021
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	U--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, <sup>2</sup> Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District

Victim Information			
Name	Sai <sup>3</sup> Lin Naing	Sai T---	Sai H---
Age	46	50	45
Sex	Male	Male	Male
Nationality	Shan	Shan	Shan
Family	Married	Married	Married
Occupation	Makes and sells charcoal	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> 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 parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG.

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

<sup>3</sup> Sai is a Shan male honorific title used before a person's name.

<b>Religion</b>	Buddhist	Buddhist	Buddhist
<b>Position</b>	Villager	N--- village head	Villager
<b>Village</b>	U--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District	N--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District	N--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District

## Part 2 - Information Quality

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

A KHRG office staff member phoned the wife of one of the victims. She provided the details of both incidents.

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

The source is the wife of one of the victims (the man who died); she is also the relative of another one of the victims.

## 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.**

### **First landmine incident**

On July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, at about 8:40 am, a villager named Sai Lin Naing, 46 years old, who lives in U--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, ran over a tripwire that detonated a landmine planted by Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)<sup>4</sup> Battalion #102, Company (1), on the road between U--- village and N--- village (approximately 200 to 300 feet [61 to 91 metres] away from U--- village).

Sai Lin Naing noticed other villagers travelling on the road on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, therefore, on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 he thought it would still be okay to travel. That was why he set out on his journey. That morning, they [the family] only had 7,000 kyats [USD 3.94]<sup>5</sup> left, so he told his wife that he would go to other villages to try to sell seven bags of charcoal. The family of Sai Lin Naing make charcoal from scratch and sell it to secure the family's livelihood. The incident happened while riding his motorbike on his way to sell the charcoal. A few minutes after he set out from the village, his wife heard an explosion.

As soon as she heard the explosion, she went by bicycle to see whether her husband was

<sup>4</sup> The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

<sup>5</sup> All conversion estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 official market rate.

hurt. When she reached the incident place (about 200 to 300 feet away from the village), she found him unconscious on the ground. She explained to KHRG that it was lucky that she had not stepped on any other tripwires at the incident location. The wire was so tiny that it was hard to see. When she saw her husband was bleeding profusely and had injuries to the right side of his chest, she went back to the village to get help.

At first, she wanted to send him to Hpapun Public Hospital, but the village head told her that they would not be able to make it in time [given the extent of his injuries]. In their village, there is no clinic or hospital. Later, some villagers helped bring him back to his house. He passed away as soon as they brought him back to his home.

The KNLA soldiers usually inform villagers not to travel on the main roads when they have planted landmines nearby. This time, however, the KNLA soldiers failed to inform the villagers about the landmines that they planted.

The victim's family members never attended the Mine Risk Awareness training provided in their village as they were struggling every day to secure their livelihood. They had only been provided pamphlets to read. [In this case, however, if villagers have not been made aware that landmines have been planted on the road, they are at elevated risk of accidentally encountering a landmine and being harmed, whether they have received Mine Risk Awareness training or not.]

Sai Lin Naing is survived by his wife and four children: three daughters and a son. All four children attend school. Since her husband's death, Sai Lin Naing's wife doesn't know what to do. In her village, it is really hard to find work. The family is currently facing financial difficulties. The wife does not even have money to bury her husband. The funeral service group helped the family with 20,000 kyats [USD 11.26]. Later, KHRG was able to provide 555,000 kyats [USD 313.34] for the family.

### **Second landmine incident**

On the same day, a few minutes after the accident involving Sai Lin Naing, two villagers, Sai T--, 50 years old, and Sai H--, 45 years old, from N--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, drove over a tripwire which detonated a landmine while riding on their motorcycle to U--- village. Their injuries were minor, and they did not require medical treatment as the speed at which they were riding protected them from most of the shrapnel.

## **Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details**

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

The interviewee has given permission for the information to be used.



These photos were taken on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 in U--- village, Meh Klaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Mu Traw District. The photos show the villager who died after running over a tripwire along the road between U--- village and N--- village. The villagers buried him outside the village. [Photos: Villager]

Further background reading on problems of landmine contamination in Southeast Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [“Mu Traw District Incident Report: Two villagers were seriously injured as a result of landmine explosions in Dwe Lo Township, Mu Traw District, June 2021”](#), July 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.
- [“Kler Lwe Htoo District Incident Report: Two villagers killed, one injured in a landmine explosion in Ler Doh Township, March 2021”](#), April 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.khr.org](http://www.khr.org).

# Mutraw (Hpapun) District

