



Incident Report

November 4th 2022/ KHRG # 22-287-11

Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: Two villagers were seriously injured in a landmine explosion in Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District, July 2022

This Incident Report describes events that occurred in Ler Doh (Kyaukkyi) Township, Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) District in July 2022. On July 9th 2022, at around 7:00 am, a 4-year-old boy stepped on a landmine, injuring himself and his 24-year-old mother. The incident occurred at a dock located three miles away from where the victims live in Y--- village, A--- village tract, Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District. The mother was bringing her son to the Ka Yin Yoe hospital because he was sick. The boy sustained serious injuries to both of his legs and his mother was injured on her head and face, with minor injuries to her elbow. As the family works to secure their livelihood as day labourers, the costs tied to treatment have left them facing financial difficulties. Although they were provided some financial support, they still need money to cover travel costs.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Landmine explosion
Date of Incident(s)	July 9 th 2022
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	At a dock located three miles away from Y--- village, A--- village tract ² , Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

Victim Information		
Name	U---	B---
Age	4 years old	24 years old
Sex	Male	Female
Ethnicity	Bamar ³	Bamar
Family	Yes	Yes

¹ The present document is based on information received in July 2022. 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 The majority ethnic group in Myanmar, also known as ethnic Burmese or Burman.

Occupation	None (dependent)	Day labourer
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist
Position	Villager	Villager
Village	Y---, A--- village tract, Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District	Y---, A--- village tract, Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On July 22nd 2022, the KHRG field researcher contacted a local Karen National Union (KNU)⁴ leader to get the contact number of the victims' family members for detailed information about the incident after the news emerged on social media. On July 23rd 2022, the KHRG field researcher conducted an interview with T---, one of the family members.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The information was provided by T---, the great uncle of the boy who was injured in the landmine explosion. He is one of the guardians of the boy, and took responsibility for sending his grandnephew and his niece to the hospital, gave recommendations for their treatment, and provided his signature to approve of the medical treatment 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.

At around 7:00 am on July 9th 2022, U---, a 4-year-old boy, stepped on a landmine at a dock in Y--- village, A--- village tract, Ler Doh Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District, injuring himself and his 24-year-old mother, B---. The victims were three miles away from their home in Y--- village. They were waiting for a boat to go to the Ka Yin Yoe hospital in Kyauk Ta Gha (Kyauktaga) Township [Bago Region, outside of KHRG's operational area] because the boy was sick. B--- thought that she and her son could travel to the Ka Yin Yoe hospital when they saw other people were crossing from Y--- village to I--- village to go to a funeral ceremony for a relative. The boy stepped on the landmine near the dock when he got off the dock to urinate. Due to the landmine explosion, the boy sustained serious injuries to both of his legs and the mother to her head and face, along with minor injuries to her elbow.

After the landmine explosion, B--- tried to carry her son back to her village to get treatment for his injuries from village healthcare workers. On the way back to the village, they met a female villager from Y--- village who took them back to the village by motorbike, which took half an hour. B--- was unconscious when they arrived back to the village due to her injuries and shock. The healthcare workers in the village could not do anything to treat the boy because they had

⁴ The Karen National Union (KNU) is the main Karen political organisation. It was established in 1947 and has been in conflict with the Burma/Myanmar government since 1949. The KNU wields power across large areas of Southeast Burma and has been calling for the creation of a democratic federal system since 1976. Although it signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in 2015, relations with the government remain tense.

inadequate medical supplies, so U--- and B--- were sent to the Ka Yin Yoe hospital [in Kyauk Ta Gha Township] by boat [from the same dock where they were injured], accompanied by seven family members. It took them about 30 minutes to get to the Ka Yin Yoe hospital. A doctor from the Ka Yin Yoe hospital bandaged the injuries that the two victims sustained from the landmine explosion. The Ka Yin Yoe hospital was however unable to fully treat the injuries due to a lack of medical supplies. The victims were then transferred (by two ambulances) to Kyauktaga [Public] Hospital. When the boy and his mother were sent to Kyauktaga Hospital, the great uncle, T---, noticed that his grandnephew's lips started to become pale. T--- told the healthcare workers at Kyauktaga Hospital to give U--- a blood transfusion, which the doctors did. Healthcare workers at Kyauktaga Hospital then instructed to transfer U--- and B--- to Pago [Bago] General Hospital as they also lacked adequate medical supplies. At first, the great uncle of U--- considered sending his grandnephew and his niece to Yangon General Hospital, but instead followed the recommendation of Kyauktaga Hospital.

As soon as the blood transfusion was finished, the boy and his mother were sent to the Pago General Hospital in Bago Town and arrived there at around 12:00 pm on July 9th. After they arrived at the Pago General Hospital, the doctor told the great uncle of the victim that his grandnephew needed to have both of his legs amputated. The doctors amputated Y---'s legs at around 3:00 pm. B--- was also in critical condition and required treatment for her injuries from the landmine fragments. The boy and his mother were hospitalised for seven days at Pago General Hospital. On July 15th 2022, they were discharged from the hospital. After the hospitalisation, the boy and mother stayed at E--- village at an acquaintance's house [village tract not specified] for medical follow up at Kyauktaga Hospital. [At the time of reporting] neither the boy nor his mother had made a full recovery yet.] The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) contacted the Hpa-an prosthetic factory for U---'s prosthetic legs. The prosthetics will be given to the boy after two months [to wait for his injuries to heal].

The victims received 100,000 kyats [USD 47.62]⁵ from a State Administration Council (SAC)⁶ army captain in Kyauktaga Town. A [cabinet] minister of the Pago Division also provided the victims 1,000,000 kyats [USD 476.19]. U---'s father is working as a day labourer in Thailand and sent his family some financial support [did not specify the amount]. The MRCS also provided the victims 600,000 kyats [USD 285.71] for the boy. There were seven family members, including the great uncle, who accompanied the victims to the different hospitals. It cost 1,300,000 kyats [USD 619.05] for the family members to pay for all of their travel and food costs. However, it did not cost anything for the medical treatment for the victims [the victims were not charged for the treatment].

It is unknown which armed group planted the landmine because the location of the landmine incident was an area where SAC troops, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA),⁷ and other local ethnic armed groups have been operating. There had never been a landmine incident in Y-- village in the past. This was the first time a landmine incident happened there. The villagers from Y--- village have never attended a Mine Risk Awareness training. Now, the villagers are fearful of landmine explosions.

The family members of the victims are ordinary day labourers who have no farmland. Therefore, the father of the child has to work in Thailand for the family's livelihood. The family still needs

⁵ All conversion estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the November 2nd 2022 official market rate of 1,000 kyats to USD 0.48 (taken from <https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/mmk-to-usd-rate>).

⁶ The State Administration Council (SAC) is the executive governing body created in the aftermath of the February 1st 2021 military coup. It was established by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on February 2nd 2021, and is composed of eight military officers and eight civilians. The chairperson serves as the de facto head of government of Burma/Myanmar and leads the Military Cabinet of Myanmar, the executive branch of the government. Min Aung Hlaing assumed the role of SAC chairperson following the coup.

⁷ The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

help from charity [aid] organisations [to cover the travel costs]. The victim's great uncle does not want landmines to be planted in or nearby the village because they interfere with villagers' livelihoods and ability to travel.

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 gave permission to document the information and publish it.



The photo on the left was taken on July 9th 2022 at the Ka Yin Yoe hospital, located in Kyauk Ta Gha Township, Bago Region and shows U--- getting his first treatment at the hospital. The photo on the right was taken on July 15th 2022 after the boy was discharged from the hospital. The photo shows that the boy is recovering from his injuries after being hospitalised at the Pago General Hospital. [Photos: Local villager]

Further background reading on the security and human rights situation in Kler Lwee Htoo District in Southeast Burma can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [“Kler Lwee Htoo District Situation Update: SAC air strikes, shelling and fighting, displacement, insecurity, and livelihood, education and healthcare challenges in Ler Doh Township, February to May 2022”](#), August 2022.
- [“Kler Lwee Htoo District Short Update: SAC airstrikes destroyed two houses and resulted in the displacement of villagers in Ler Doh and Hsaw Htee townships, March to April 2022”](#), June 2022.
- [“Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: Villagers forced by SAC security forces to get a COVID-19 vaccination without their consent, April 2022”](#), June 2022.
- [“Kler Lwee Htoo District Situation Update: Violation of the right to information, travel restrictions, torture, increased SAC activities and displacement in Ler Doh and Moo Townships, August 2021 to February 2022”](#), April 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.

Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) District

