



Incident Report

December 22nd 2023 / KHRG # 23-102-11

Doo Tha Htoo District Incident Report: SAC air strikes killed a villager and damaged civilian property in Hpa-an Township (March 2023)

This Incident Report describes events occurring in Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District, in March 2023. On March 22nd 2023, two State Administration Council (SAC) fighter jets dropped four bombs in Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township, after the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allied troops attacked a Border Guard Force (BGF) checkpoint in Nyaung Kone village, Kyone Kha Na village tract, Hpa-an Township. Due to this air strike, a villager died, and another villager's property and plantation were damaged. SAC troops also conducted indiscriminate shelling in Nyaung Kone village.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Air strike
Date of Incident(s)	March 22 nd 2023
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	A--- place and B--- place, near C--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract ² , Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District

Victim Information	
Name	Saw ³ D---
Age	55 years
Sex	Male
Nationality	Karen
Family	Married

¹ The present document is based on information received in July 2023. It was provided by a community member in Doo Tha 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.

Occupation	Plantation worker
Religion	Buddhist
Position	Villager
Village	E--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
SAC fighter jets	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

On March 23rd 2023, a local leader from Ta Kaw Poe village tract called a KHRG researcher over the phone and informed him about the incident. On the same day, the KHRG researcher went to meet Saw D---'s wife and Saw F--- and conducted interviews with them.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The information providers are the wife of Saw D---, who is a victim of the SAC air strike, and Saw F---, whose plantation and property were damaged by the air strike.

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 night of March 22nd 2023, at around 11 pm, an State Administration Council (SAC)⁴ fighter jet dropped two bombs in B--- place, near C--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. Saw D---, a 55-year-old villager from E--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, was hit by the bombs' explosion when he was sleeping in the hut in his durian plantation, and died on the spot. His chest was hit on the right side by the bomb explosion. He had gone to sleep in his durian plantation because he was planning to set up [fire-breaks] to protect the plantation from being burned by nearby fires, as farmers often [burn their plantations] to refresh the crops' yearly cycle. On that day, he went alone to sleep in his hut. Saw D--- has a wife and three sons. [Since Saw D---'s passing,] his wife does not face livelihood issues, as her sons are adults and are able to support her financially. However, she

⁴ 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.

suffers from loneliness.

On the same night, two bombs were dropped by an SAC fighter jet in A--- place, near C--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township. Due to these bombs' explosions, a hut and a *Japan Kyun Pin*⁵ [trees] plantation owned by Saw F---, a villager from C--- village, were damaged. Usually, Saw F--- goes to sleep in his hut on his plantation. However, on March 22nd 2023, he did not sleep in his hut. Instead, he came back to sleep in his village. Therefore, he was not hit by the air strike. Due to the air strike, most of the objects including pots and plates from his hut were damaged. Saw F--- had planted about 2,500 *Japan Kyun Pin* trees on his plantation. Due to the air strike, more than 1,000 *Japan Kyun Pin* trees were damaged.

Hence, on the night of March 22nd 2023, the SAC conducted air strikes in two different locations; and they dropped two bombs for each strike. The SAC conducted air strikes in the area because Karen National Liberation Army [KNLA]⁶ Battalion #1, and its allied troops, went to attack Border Guard Force (BGF)⁷ Battalion #1014⁸'s checkpoint under the command of the SAC in Nyaung Kone village, Kyone Kha Na village tract, Hpa-an Township on the morning of March 22nd 2023. After the attack, the KNLA and its allied troops retreated from the incident place. The SAC conducted [retaliatory] air strikes in the places where they thought that the KNLA and its combined forces had stayed [been hosted]. [As explained,] due to the SAC air strikes, one villager died and another villager's property was damaged.

Moreover, some villagers' houses [from Kyone Kha Na village tract] were damaged because SAC Military Operations Command (MOC)⁹ #8 from Pein Net Taw army camp, in Pein Net Taw village, Thaton Township, Doo Tha Htoo District, indiscriminately fired 120 mm mortars to help their troops from Nyaung Kone army camp [whose checkpoint had been attacked. They shelled around the checkpoint, in the hope that the KNLA might not be able to attack again in the short term]. In addition, some villagers' houses and property from Nyaung Kone village and its neighbouring villages were damaged because the BGF and SAC combined troops from Nyaung Kone army camp indiscriminately shelled mortars [in and] around [the village, before and after their checkpoint had been attacked]. Due to this indiscriminate shelling, villagers from Nyaung Kone village and its neighbouring villages fled from their villages.

⁵ Variety of fast growing, cheap and easily workable wood commonly used locally to build furniture.

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

⁷ 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.

⁸ KHRG has received numerous reports of human rights violations committed by soldiers from Border Guard Force (BGF) Battalion #1014, including killing, torture, violent abuse, explicit threats, arbitrary taxation and demands and land confiscation. For more information, see "[Human rights violations by Border Guard Force \(BGF\) Battalion #1014 in Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District, May 2012 to March 2014](#)," KHRG, July 2015.

⁹ Military Operations Command (MOC) is comprised of ten battalions for offensive operations. Most MOCs have three Tactical Operations Commands (TOCs) made up of three battalions each.



These photos were taken on March 23rd 2023 in E--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. These photos show the dead body of Saw D---, a 55-year-old E--- villager. He was hit by an SAC air strike on March 22nd 2023 while asleep in his plantation and died on the spot. His chest was hit on the right side by the bomb explosion. [Photos – KHRG]



These photos were taken on March 23rd 2023 in A--- place near C--- village, Ta Kaw Poe village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. These photos show a *Japan Kyun Pin* plantation, owned by Saw F---, a villager from C--- village, damaged due to the SAC air strike on March 22nd 2023. [Photos – KHRG]

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

Saw D---'s wife and Saw F--- gave permission to share or publish this information.

Further background reading on the situation on human rights in Doo Tha Htoo District can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [*“Doo Tha Htoo District Situation Update: Two villagers were killed and 17 villagers were injured by SAC’s indiscriminate shelling in Kyeh Htoh Township”*](#), December 2022 to February 2023.
- [*“Doo Tha Htoo District Situation Update: Killings, landmine injuries, and insecurity in Bilin Township”*](#), January to June 2022
- [*“Doo Tha Htoo District Short Update: House burning and indiscriminate shelling in Kyeh Htoh Township”*](#), January 2023
- [*“Doo Tha Htoo District Short Update: Forcible collection of logs in Hpa-an Township”*](#), July 2022

About KHRG

Founded in 1992, 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.

Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District

