



Incident Report

June 20th 2024 / KHRG # 23-180+181-I1

Dooplaya District Incident Report: SAC shelling into a village injured two villagers, including a 15-year-old, in Kruh Tuh Township, May 2023.

This Incident Report describes events occurring in Kruh Tuh (Kyonedoe) Township, Dooplaya District in May 2023. On May 7th 2023, State Administration Council (SAC) Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #546, under Military Operation Command (MOC) #12, shelled mortar rounds into E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract, Kruh Tuh Township, and injured a 50-year-old villager. The SAC soldiers also stole some money and belongings from villagers who fled their homes. On May 28th 2023, the SAC troops fired mortar shells again and injured a 15-year-old boy. Due to the SAC shelling, the villagers dared not continue farming. Many villagers fled the village.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Two villagers were injured by SAC shelling [into a village].
Date of Incident(s)	May 7 th and May 28 th 2023.
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract ² , Kruh Tuh Township, Dooplaya District.

Victim Information		
Name	B---	A---
Age	50 years old	15 years old
Gender	Man	Man
Ethnicity	Karen	Karen
Marital Status	Married	-
Occupation	Farmer	-

¹ The present document is based on information received in June 2023. It was provided by a community member in Dooplaya 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 centered on a large village.

Religion	Animism	Buddhism
Position	-	-
Village	E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract, Kruh Tuh Township, Dooplaya District.	E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract, Kruh Tuh Township, Dooplaya District.

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Unknown	Unknown	Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) ³ #546, under Military Operations Command (MOC) ⁴ #12	Kyon K'Lay village, Kruh Tuh Township	Aoh Hka Min

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how you collected this information.

[The KHRG researcher] contacted the [Karen National Union (KNU)⁵'s] Documentation Group⁶ in Kruh Tuh Township to check information on the incident. [Later, the KHRG researcher] interviewed B---'s wife, named Naw⁷ C---, and the village leader from E--- village, named D---. [The KHRG researcher also interviewed A---'s mother, named F---].

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

[The KHRG researcher] contacted local villagers and the Township [KNU] Documentation Group [to obtain information] regarding this incident. [After, the KHRG researcher conducted three interviews with family members and witnesses. He also visited B--- in his village.]

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

³ A Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) comprises 500 soldiers. Most Light 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. LIBs are primarily used for offensive operations, but they are sometimes used for garrison duties.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 Myanmar 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 remained tense.

⁶ This documentation team, formed by a group of researchers, is founded by the Karen National Union (KNU) in Kler Lwee Htoo District, and hence they are part of the KNU district staff members. Their role is to collect and document human rights violations on the ground and share them with KNU's Township and District staff, which then will be shared with the general public through the KNU's media pages and website.

⁷ 'Naw' is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On May 7th 2023, at about 12 pm, State Administration Council (SAC)⁸ Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #546, under Military Operations Command (MOC) #12, led by [Battalion Commander] Aoh Hka Min, fired mortar shells into E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract, Kruh Tuh Township [with no active fighting in the area]. A mortar shell (81mm) landed next to B---'s house, who is a 50-year-old villager, injuring him on his right knee and foot. After the incident, the village leaders sent him to Mawlamyine's hospital [located in Mon State]. The doctor inserted metal rods into his leg, and he had to rest at home [due to not being able to walk properly].

A few days after B--- was injured, SAC soldiers contacted his family and asked for information regarding his injury. The SAC asked how seriously B--- was injured and how much the medical treatment cost. The SAC asked information regarding B---'s injury but did not provide any assistance to him. The victim's family faced financial problems [and intended to sell their cow in order to pay for B---'s treatment, however] it was very hard for them to sell their cow in the ongoing conflict. B---'s family borrowed some money from another villager in order to pay for his treatment. Naw C--- [the victim's wife] said: *"We received some money from our children but we spent it all for our living. We borrowed money from other people to pay for B---'s treatment. We will repay our debt when we are able to sell our cow. Currently, it is hard to sell the cow"*. B--- is a farmer; he supported his family by doing farming. However, after he was injured by shrapnel from the mortar shells, he cannot walk properly. Thus, he is unable to continue farming to support his family as before. [As of June 2023,] the victim's family had not received any support [for their livelihood] from any [humanitarian] organisation.

After the shelling [on May 7th 2023], SAC soldiers entered E--- village, unlocked the villagers' doors and rummaged through the houses. According to a village leader named D---, the SAC soldiers did not arrest nor torture any villagers. However, the SAC soldiers took some chickens from the villagers when villagers fled from the village. D--- explained: *"SAC soldiers took some money that was left in the house after the villagers fled and could not take it. The SAC took 1,500,000 kyat [713.70 USD]⁹ from me, that I kept in my home. The SAC fired mortar shells and I ran, so I dared not take my money from my home. SAC soldiers broke my door and rummaged in my house. The SAC soldiers took the things that they saw. The SAC soldiers also took some money and a phone from another woman's house]. I don't know how much money was in her purse."*

⁸ 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.

⁹ All conversion estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the official market rate of 1 USD = 2102 MMK as of February 26th, 2024 <www.xe.com/currency/mmk-burmese-kyat>



These four photos were taken on June 3rd, 2023 at E--- village, Ywa Ka Lay village tract, Kruh Tuh Township, Dooplaya District. These photos show B---'s leg and foot injured by shrapnel from mortar shells fired by SAC soldiers from LIB #546 on May 7th 2023. [Photos: KHRG].

On May 28th 2023, at about 8 pm, SAC LIB #546, under MOC #12, shelled two rounds of mortar into E--- village. A mortar shell landed in a house and injured a villager named A--- (15 years old) on his cheek. He was sent to a nearby clinic. The treatment cost was 56,000 kyat [26,64 USD]. The victim had to pay around 10,000 kyat [4,75 USD] more per follow-up treatment. The victim's family members work as daily labourers and faced difficulties to find a job during the summer [dry season]. Therefore, the victim's family faced financial problems. Some villagers supported the victim's family by providing some money. [As of April 2024, the victim's family had received support from an international non-governmental organisation].

[As reported by local villagers,] SAC soldiers fire mortar shells whenever they hear rumours [about the presence of armed resistance forces in the area]. Due to this shelling incident, some of the villagers dared not continue with their farming activities. Some villagers fled to other areas, while others fled to their relatives' houses [in nearby villages] and stayed there.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

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

[D---, the village leader; Naw C--- (Saw B---'s wife); and F--- (A---'s mother)] gave permission to use this information as needed.

Further background reading on the situation on indiscriminate shelling and looting in Southeast Burma can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [“Dooplaya District Situation Update: Indiscriminate shelling of villages causing displacement and livelihood difficulties \(March to May 2023\)”](#), January 2024.
- [“Striking Fear: Impacts of State Administration Council \(SAC\) shelling on villagers’ lives in Southeast Burma \(January to October 2023\)”](#), December 2023.
- [“Dooplaya District Incident Report: A villager was killed by SAC shelling in Noh T’Kaw \(Kyainseikgyi\) Township, June 2023”](#), December 2023.

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.

