



## Incident Report

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 / KHRG # 23-351-I3

## Dooplaya District Incident Report: SAC shelling injured a villager in Noh T’Kaw (Kyainseikgyi) Township, in November 2023.

*This incident report describes events occurring in Noh T’Kaw (Kyainseikgyi) Township, Dooplaya District. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023, the State Administration Council (SAC) indiscriminately fired rounds of mortar into A--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District. A mortar shell landed and exploded next to a villager’s house and injured Saw B---, a 20-year-old villager. Saw B--- sought treatment at Khoh Ther See (Thon Set Thon Hsu) hospital, Khoh Ther See village tract, Kaw T’Ree Township, Dooplaya District. Due to the ongoing armed conflict in the area, villagers had to flee and the school had to close.<sup>1</sup>*

### Part 1 – Incident Details

<b>Type of Incident</b>	[Indiscriminate shelling] SAC shelling injured a villager
<b>Date of Incident(s)</b>	November 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2023
<b>Incident Location (Village, Township and District)</b>	A--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract <sup>2</sup> , Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District.

Victim Information	
<b>Name</b>	Saw <sup>3</sup> B---
<b>Age</b>	20 years old
<b>Gender</b>	Man
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Karen

<sup>1</sup> The present document is based on information received in November 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.

<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> Saw is a S’gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person’s name

<b>Marital Status/Family</b>	Unmarried
<b>Occupation</b>	Plantation farmer
<b>Religion</b>	Christian
<b>Position</b>	[villager]
<b>Village</b>	A--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District.

<b>Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)</b>				
<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Commander’s Name</b>
Unknown	Battalion Commander	SAC Infantry Battalion (IB) <sup>4</sup> #283	Ther Ter camp	Aung Ning Lin

## **Part 2 - Information Quality**

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

A soldier from Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)<sup>5</sup> Battalion #17 and a former local leader [first] informed a KHRG researcher of this incident. Later, a KHRG researcher conducted an interview with the father of the victim.

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

An interview was conducted with the victim’s father [who was present during the shelling incident].

## **Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident**

**Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.**

<sup>4</sup> An Infantry Battalion (IB) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most 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 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). They are primarily used for garrison duty but are sometimes used in offensive operations.

<sup>5</sup> The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed (KNLA) wing of the Karen National Union (KNU).

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023, fighting broke out between the Kawthoolei Army (KTLA)<sup>6</sup> and State Administration Council (SAC)<sup>7</sup> in Seik Gyi Town, Dooplaya District. After, SAC Infantry Battalion (IB) #283, based at Ther Ter camp, led by Battalion Commander Aung Naing Lin, indiscriminately fired rounds of mortar into A--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District. At around 8 am, a mortar shell landed and exploded next to the house of a villager named Saw B---’s, and his knee was injured by the shrapnel of the mortar shell. The victim's father, Saw C---, explained: *“There were four people, two of my children, one of my younger brothers and myself, staying together in the house when the incident happened. I have two sons; Saw B--- is my older son. [He was] injured by shrapnel from the mortar shell. He was injured on his right knee. After the incident happened, I had no idea what to do. I ran [in]to the village and asked for help from a former local leader [unidentified name]. He contacted the clinic [D--- clinic] in E--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, and organised a car to transport my son to the clinic. However, the clinic was unable to provide the treatment [as they lacked skills and resources to treat a severe injury].”* Therefore, a health worker contacted the clinic in F--- village, Wa Ka village tract, Kru Tu (Kyonedoe) Township [run by the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW)<sup>8</sup>]. This clinic was also unable to provide the treatment [also due to lacking skills and resources for severe injuries]. Later, a health worker from F--- clinic contacted Khoh Ther See (Thon Set Thon Hsu) hospital, in Khoh Ther See village tract, Kaw T’Ree Township, and Saw B---’s father transported the victim to Khoh Ther See hospital. It cost approximately 1,000,000 kyat [475.82 USD]<sup>9</sup>, which included both treatment and transportation expenses.

Saw B---’s injuries have recovered slightly, but he is still needing to go to the F--- clinic Kru Tu Township once a week for his wound to be treated. From the shelling, the victim's house and a two-wheeled tractor both sustained minor damages.

SAC soldiers have previously indiscriminately fired rounds of mortar into many locations in this area [following the 2021 military coup].<sup>10</sup> Mortar shells have been fired into A--- village three times, causing casualties in two out of these three occasions. When these previous shelling incidents were happening, some villagers fled from the village and were displaced to another

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<sup>6</sup> The Kaw Thoo Lei Army (KTLA) was founded on July 17th 2022 by Brigadier-General Nerdah Bo Mya. Nerdah Bo Mya, former Commander-In-Chief of the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO), was dismissed by the KNU in 2022. KTLA operates in two districts in Southeast Burma, in KNU-controlled areas, namely Mergui-Tavoy and Dooplaya districts. In Dooplaya District, they operate in alliance with resistance armed groups. KTLA battalions in Mergui-Tavoy District are in conflict with both SAC and KNLA troops.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> The Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) is the health department of the Karen National Union. It was established in 1956 to address the lack of public healthcare resources in rural Southeast Myanmar. It currently operates a network of community-based clinics in the region, but its capabilities remain limited due to funding constraints.

<sup>9</sup> All conversion estimates for the kyat in this report are based on the official market rate of 1 USD = 2101.63 MMK as of February 28th, 2024 (taken from <https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/mmk-to-usd-rate>)

<sup>10</sup> See KHRG: [“Dooplaya District Incident Report: A villager was killed by SAC shelling in Noh T’Kaw \(Kyainseikgyi\) Township, June 2023”](#), December 2023; [“Dooplaya District Short Update: Killing, house burning, shelling, and displacement, from January to February 2023”](#), December 2023; [“Dooplaya District Short Update: Indiscriminate shelling and a landmine explosion in Noh T’Kaw Township, June to September 2022”](#), April 2023.

area. Normally, villagers flee temporarily to places nearby when the SAC indiscriminately shells their village. The villagers then return when the attacks stop. The number of villagers who have fled recently because of these attacks [on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023] is higher than previously. The school in the village [also] had to close due to the insecurity. The villagers are still waiting for the situation to improve in order to reopen the school [as of November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023].



These four photos above were taken by KHRG on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 in A--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023, SAC Infantry Battalion (IB) #283 conducted mortar shelling into the village, injuring a 20-year-old villager and causing damages. The top-left photo shows Saw B---’s injured leg, after treatment. The top-right photo shows his two-wheel tractor damaged by the shrapnel. The two photos at the bottom show his house damaged by SAC shelling. [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.**

The victim and his father gave KHRG permission to use this information.

Further background reading on the situation on indiscriminate shelling in Dooplaya District, 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, 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.khrg.org](http://www.khrg.org).

