



Incident Report

August 30th, 2024 / KHRG # 24-205-11

Dooplaya District Incident Report: SAC air strike killed a villager, injured three, and destroyed houses and two schools, in Kaw T’Ree Township, March 2024

This Incident Report describes an event occurred in Kaw T’Ree (Kawkareik) Township, Dooplaya District. On March 20th 2024, an air strike was conducted by the State Administration Council (SAC) onto G--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T’Ree Township, killing one villager and injuring three. Saw A--- was travelling with his infant when an aircraft flew over them in G--- village. After hearing the sound of aircraft a second time, he got his child to safety with his wife in a bunker, but he was fatally hit by the air strike. Saw A--- was sent to a local clinic, located in B--- village, P’Lu village tract, by local authorities, but passed away en route. Saw A--- was survived by his wife and three children. The air strike also injured three women and destroyed five houses, one elementary school, one middle school, and one animist temple.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Air strike by fighter jet [causing civilian casualties]
Date of Incident(s)	March 20 th 2024
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	G--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T’Ree Township, Dooplaya District

Victim(s) Information				
Name	Saw ² A---	Naw ³ E---	Naw H---	Naw J---
Age	41 years old	42 years old	Unknown	Unknown
Gender	Man	Woman	Woman	Woman
Ethnicity	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen
Marital Status	Married	Married	Unknown	Married

¹ The present document is based on information received in May 2024. 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 ‘Saw’ is a S’gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person’s name.

³ ‘Naw’ is a S’gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person’s name.

Occupation	Farmer	Seller	Unknown	Unknown
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist	Unknown	Unknown
Position	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager
Village	G--- village, Noh Poe village tract ⁴ , Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District	G--- village, Noh Poe village tract	G--- village, Noh Poe village tract	G--- village, Noh Poe village tract

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
N/A	N/A	Burma [State Administration Council (SAC) ⁵] Air Force	N/A	[Htun Aung serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the Burma (SAC) Air Force]

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.

A Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)⁶ soldier informed [a KHRG researcher] about the incident. The KHRG researcher went to the incident place and interviewed G--- villagers. After that, he met with the village head. The village head showed him the areas destroyed by the air strike, [including] five houses, one middle school and one elementary school. The KHRG researcher conducted interviews with the village head, [a family member of the deceased victim,] a victim of [injury due to] the incident, and [other] local villagers.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

[KHRG field researcher] conducted interviews [separately] with (i) Saw C---, the brother of Saw A---; (ii) Saw D---, the village head of G--- village; and (iii) Naw E---, who was injured by the shrapnel [from air strike].

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On March 20th 2024, in the evening, an air strike was conducted on G--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township. When Saw A--- had finished showering, it was around 5 pm. Saw A---'s four-month-old son was unwell, so Saw A--- rode his bike to take his child to a [local] medical nurse who lived in the same village [around 200 meters away from his home]. His wife, Naw F---, had given birth four months prior so she did not accompany her husband. When Saw

⁴ A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centered on a large village.

⁵ 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.

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

A--- reached half-way [to the nurse's house], he heard the sound of an aircraft flying across the sky, so he stopped his bike, hid in a covered place and watched the aircraft pass over him [, as witnessed by a local villager named Naw E---].

After, he met with the medic nurse and did the checkup for his son, Saw A--- visited Naw E--- [a villager from G--- village,] at her house [around 40 meters from the local nurse's house]. As Saw A--- was eating betel nut [at Naw E---'s house], he heard the sound of an aircraft once again, around 15 minutes after the first aircraft. This time, the aircraft sounded like it was dipping down. In fear, he rushed to bring his son to safety with his wife.

As soon as he reached his wife, Naw F---, she went inside the [underground] bunker. While they [mother and three children] were in the bunker, Saw A--- was [outside] searching to see where the aircraft was. He saw the SAC fighter jet drop a bomb, so he tried to flee to a covered place, but he could not reach safety. The bomb landed beside him and his body was propelled by the force of the explosion. He was found lying next to a house, injured all over. Saw A--- was taken to a KNLA-run clinic in B--- village [also known as B--- clinic], P'Lu village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, by the Cobra Column⁷ security in Dooplaya District, but he died on the way. His wife became a widow with three children. [At the time of the incident,] his eldest child was 9 years old, middle child was 5 years old, and the youngest was 4 months old.



These pictures were taken in March 2024 by local villagers. On March 20th 2024, at 5 pm, an air strike injured four villagers from G--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. The photos above show one of the injured victims that died while being transported to B--- clinic, P'Lu village tract, for medical treatment. [Photos: Local villager]

The bomb also injured three women, including Naw E--- [who Saw A--- had visited], as reported by Saw A---'s brother named Saw C---. Naw E--- was minorly injured on her face. For the other two elderly women, Naw H--- was injured severely on her stomach and Naw J--- was injured on her ear. The injured villagers were sent to B--- clinic with Saw A---.

The air strike also destroyed five villagers' houses, an elementary school located inside a church compound, an animist temple, one middle school located near a football ground, a rice barn, and one toilet in G--- village.

⁷ The Cobra Column is one of eight armed resistance forces that have emerged since March 2022 under the joint command of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defence Force (PDF). The Cobra Column operates largely under KNLA Company #1, Battalion #27.



These pictures were taken in March 2024, after the SAC air strike conducted on 20th March 2024 in G--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. The two photos on the top row show the destroyed villagers' houses. The picture on the bottom left shows the destruction of an elementary school located in G---'s church compound, and the picture on the bottom right shows the destruction of G---'s middle school. One villager was killed and three other villagers were injured during this incident. *[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 interviewees gave permission for this information to be used by KHRG.

Further background reading on the impacts relating to air strikes in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [*Schools Under Attack: Challenges to the right to education in Southeast Burma \(June 2023-February 2024\)*](#), July 2024
- ['Dooplaya District Incident Report: SAC airstrikes injured an 11-year-old boy and a pregnant woman, in Kaw T'Ree Township \(November and December 2023\)'](#), May 2024
- ['Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC air strikes killed four villagers and injured nine, including children, in Daw Hpah Hkoh Township \(February 2024\)'](#), June 2024
- ['Kler Lwee Htoo District Short Update: SAC air strikes and indiscriminate shelling caused casualties, destruction and displacement, in Hsaw Htee Township \(November to December 2023\)'](#), June 2024.

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.khr.org.

