



Incident Report

September 30th, 2024 / KHRG # 24-240-I1

Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: A landmine explosion severely injured a 14-year-old girl in Moo Township, May 2024

This Incident Report describes events occurring in Moo (Mone) Township, Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) District, in May 2024. On the morning of May 29th, a 14-year-old girl from H--- village, Nat Than Kwin village tract, stepped on a landmine planted by troops from State Administration Council (SAC) (including Light Infantry Battalions (LIBs) #439 and #307 and Light Infantry Division (LID) #77), inside her village. Her right leg was blown off by the landmine explosion, and her left leg was injured. Her family sent her to a hospital under the Karen National Union (KNU) administration in Hplee Hta village tract, with the help of KNLA soldiers, to receive treatment for both her legs. Due to this incident, the villagers were afraid and have to live in fear.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Landmine explosion causing injury [to a 14-year-old girl]
Date of Incident(s)	May 29 th 2024
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	H--- village, Nat Than Kwin village tract ² , Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

Victim Information	
Name	Ma ³ E---
Age	14 years old
Gender	Woman
Ethnicity	Bamar ⁴
Marital Status	-

¹ The present document is based on information received in May. 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 ‘Ma’ is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person’s name.

⁴ The majority ethnic group in Myanmar, also known as ethnic Burmese or Burman.

Occupation	Student
Religion	Buddhist
Position	Villager
Village	H--- village, Nat Than Kwin village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Unknown	Unknown	Combined troops from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) ⁵ #439, LIB #307 and [unknown battalion(s) under] Light Infantry Division (LID) ⁶ #77	Ka Nyut Kwin army camp [LIB #439]; Shway Wa army camp [LIB #307]; Nat Than Kwin Town [unknown battalion(s) under LID #77]	Unknown

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.

A local leader of the Karen Department of Healthcare and Welfare (KDHW)⁷ in Moo Township, named P'Doh⁸ Saw B---, informed the KHRG researcher about the incident. On May 30th 2024, [the KHRG researcher] went to meet the victim [at a Karen National Union (KNU)⁹-administered hospital in Hplee Hta village tract, Moo Township], to take photos [of the victim's injuries] and conduct an interview with the victim's uncle, named U¹⁰ C---.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The person [U C---] who provided this information is a family member of the victim and was present in the village during the incident. He also sent the victim to the hospital.

⁵ A Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most Light Infantry Battalions are under-strength with less than 200 soldiers, 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.

⁶ A Light Infantry Division (LID) is commanded by a brigadier general, and consists of ten light infantry battalions specially trained in counter-insurgency, jungle warfare, search and destroy operations against ethnic insurgents. They were first incorporated into the Tatmadaw in 1966. LIDs are organised under three Tactical Operations Commands, commanded by a colonel, three battalions each and one reserve, one field artillery battalion, one armoured squadron and other support units. Each division is directly under the command of the Chief of Staff (Army).

⁷ 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.

⁸ P'doh is a title meaning 'governor' or 'minister' within the government or military.

⁹ The Karen National Union (KNU) is the main Karen political organisation. It was established in 1947 and has been in conflict with the 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 remain tense.

¹⁰ 'U' is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

During February 2024, combined troops from the State Administration Council (SAC)¹¹ Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) #439, based in Ka Nyut Kwin army camp; LIB #307, based in Shway Wa army camp; and unknown battalion(s) under Light Infantry Division (LID) #77 from Nat Than Kwin Town, entered some areas and villages in Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District. Then, they burned down houses, fired mortar rounds, and planted landmines [in those Moo Township areas], thus making many villagers afraid and [forcing them to] flee. When the villagers returned to their houses after the SAC retreated, many cases of villagers being injured by landmines occurred, as the SAC had planted landmines in the villages [and surrounding areas].

On May 29th 2024, at 8:30 am, a 14-year-old villager named Ma E--- and her mother, [both residents of] H--- village, Nat Than Kwin village tract, Moo Township, were going to a place nearby the school [to dispose of] a tree branch [after cleaning their house]. [On the way], Ma E--- stepped on a M14 mine, which had been planted by the SAC. She sustained serious injuries on both of her legs, losing her right leg [due to the explosion]. At that time, there were Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)¹² soldiers in the village and, therefore, with their help and accompaniment, Ma E--- was taken to a KNU-administered hospital [in Hplee Hta village tract, Moo Township] by her parents and her uncle, named U C---. Her right leg had to be operated on, but her left leg did not need to be amputated even though she also sustained injuries to it.

Regarding the treatment at the hospital, Ma E---'s uncle, U C---, explained: *“Now, I don’t know about the treatment cost yet. The medics at the clinic understand us [our financial difficulties] and mostly they will help civilians [treat them for free]. [...] They [the victim’s parents] face difficulties, as their family[’s financial] condition is not that stable. I told them [the victim’s parents] not to feel down and told them that the doctors will understand us.”* U C--- further explained: *“Her [the victim’s] parents are daily wage labourers. [...] Now, we can’t work. We can’t travel either, as there is shelling happening, and we also have to be afraid of the landmines underground. It is very difficult to [secure] a livelihood. It is quite difficult for the villagers in the village. For farmers, it is better but for daily wage labourers, they don’t know what to do in this situation”.* [It is unknown whether their family received any support for medical costs or livelihood costs from any organisations after the treatment].

As the SAC soldiers had planted several landmines [while they were patrolling in H--- village area in February 2024], the villagers have to travel and work in fear, because they do not know where the landmines have been planted. Due to Ma E---'s incident, the villagers feel like there is no safety when they are travelling, and they have to live in fear.

¹¹ 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.

¹² The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.



These photos were taken by a KHRG researcher in May 2024, in a KNU-administered hospital in Hplee Hta village tract, Moo Township, Kler Lwee Htoo District. The photos show a 14-year-old girl, Ma E---, who was injured by a landmine explosion. The landmine had been planted by SAC troops in February 2024. Her right leg was blown off by the landmine explosion and her left leg also sustained injuries. [Photo: 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 allowed KHRG to use and publish this information to let other people know about this incident.

Further background reading on the situation on landmines and UXOs in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

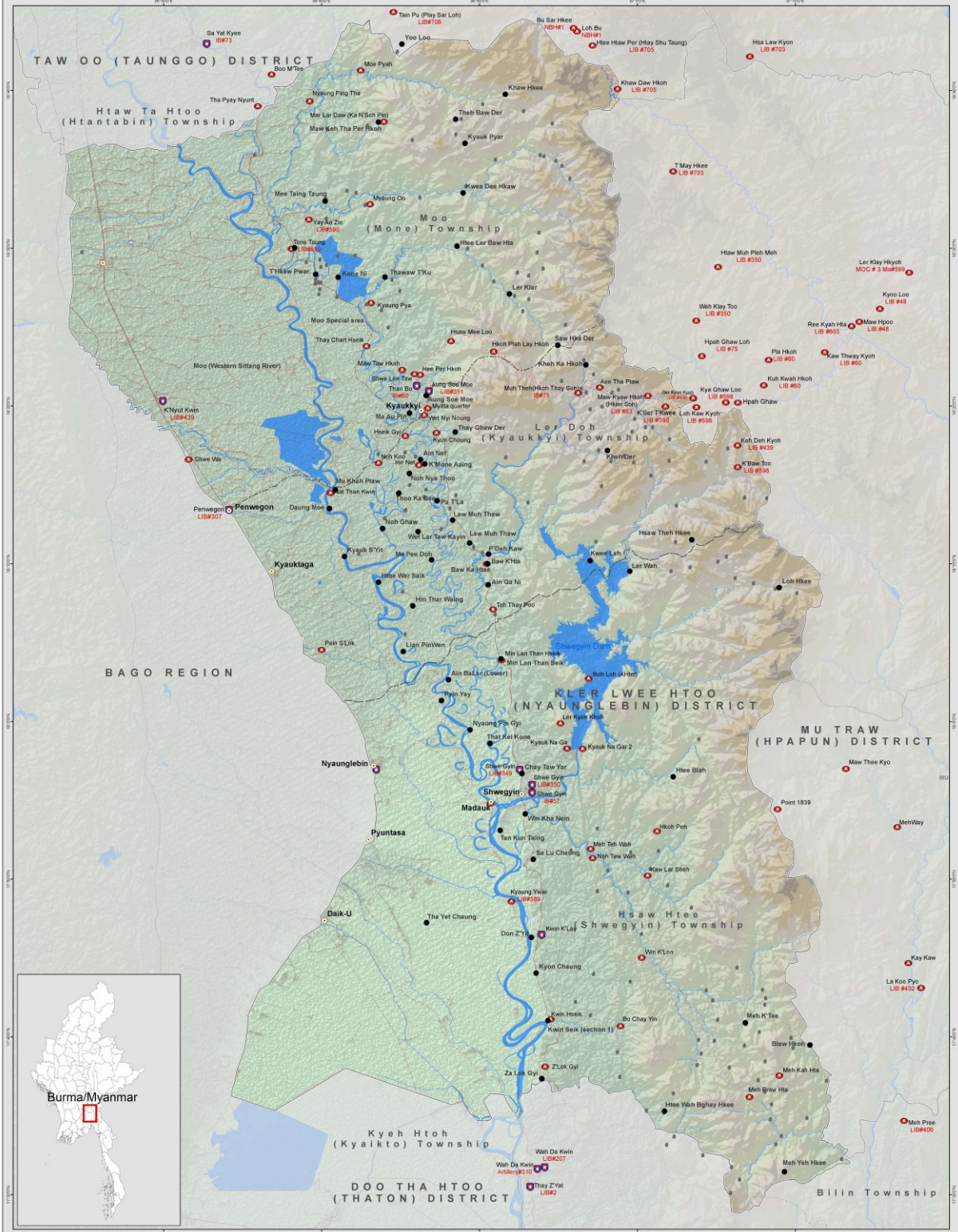
- [“Doo Tha Htoo District Situation Update: SAC looting and shelling causing casualties, destruction, and displacement, and landmine contamination in Tha Htoo Township \(February to November 2023\)”](#), July 2024;
- [“Taw Oo District Short Update: fighting, SAC looting and burning of villagers’ houses, and two children killed by an UXO explosion, in Daw Hpa Hkoh Township \(February and March 2024\)”](#), July 2024;
- [“Mergui-Tavoy District Incident Report: A 19-year-old villager was injured by a landmine explosion in K’Ser Doh Township, October 2023”](#), May 2024;
- [“Dooplaya District Incident Report: A 21-year-old villager stepped on a landmine in Kaw T’Ree Township, December 2023”](#), April 2024;
- [“Photo Set: Landmine incidents in Southeast Burma, March 2021 to January 2024”](#), April 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.

Kler Lwee Htoo (Nyaunglebin) District Map

SEVEN KNU ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT



Legend

- Town
- Village
- Village tract point
- Army Base
- Army Camp
- Major Road
- Sub-Road
- Tarmadaw Road
- Water
- Kawthoolei Township boundary
- Kawthoolei District boundary

Elevation (meter)

- 35 - 15
- 15 - 96
- 96 - 261
- 261 - 493
- 493 - 841
- 841 - 1,337
- 1,337 - 2,016
- 2,016 - 5,711

Map ID: KHRG_District_Map_Kler Lwee Htoo
 Date: 18-Jul-2022
 Size: 33.11 X 46.8 inches

