



Incident Report

December 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 / KHRG # 24-294-I1

Doo Tha Htoo District Incident Report: SAC air strikes injured two villagers and damaged monasteries and farms in Hpa-an Township, April 2024.

This incident report describes events that occurred in Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District, in April 2024. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, just before 9 pm, the State Administration Council (SAC) conducted air strikes on Ha T'Reh village tract and on Meh Th'Na village tract, resulting in at least 18 bombs being dropped. The SAC air strikes damaged two monasteries, nearby farms, and a road. The SAC dropped two bombs on A--- Monastery in B--- foothill, Ha T'Reh village tract, damaging the roof, dropped one bomb on a nearby farm, and one bomb between two nearby farms. An elderly woman and a 12-year-old girl from C--- village, Meh Th'Na village tract, were injured when two other bombs were dropped by the SAC onto C--- Monastery, M--- foothill, Meh Th'Na village tract. The girl received injuries to her arm, while the grandmother sustained injuries to her neck and her feet. The SAC aircraft then dropped one bomb on a villager's house in C--- village, Meh Th'Na village tract, four bombs on a villager's farm near C--- Monastery, and seven bombs on a farm and the nearby road in C--- village. The villagers were concerned about being injured by the shrapnel while farming, because they were unable to remove all of the shrapnel from the bombs.<sup>1</sup>

Part 1 – Incident Details

Table with 2 columns: Incident Detail, Description. Rows include Type of Incident (Air strikes by fighter jet), Date of Incident(s) (April 20th 2024), and Incident Location (Village, Township and District) with detailed bullet points.

Victims Information

1 The present document is based on information received in June 2024. 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.

<b>Name</b>	Naw <sup>3</sup> D---	Naw E---
<b>Age</b>	85 years old	12 years old
<b>Gender</b>	Woman	Girl
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Karen	Karen
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married	-
<b>Occupation</b>	Dependent	Dependent
<b>Religion</b>	Buddhist	Buddhist
<b>Position</b>	- [villager]	- [villager]
<b>Village</b>	C--- village, Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.	C--- village, Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo 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>
-	-	State Administration Council (SAC) <sup>4</sup> fighter jet	-	-

## **Part 2 - Information Quality**

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

[A KHRG field researcher] was first informed by a local leader [position censored for security] about the places that were damaged and the two people [who were injured]. The KHRG researcher went to those places to do documentation and conducted interviews [with one injured victim, Naw D---, and a farmer from G--- village named Saw<sup>5</sup> L---] and took photos [of the two injured villagers and the damaged places]. [The KHRG researcher also spoke informally with a senior monk from C--- Monastery, who was in the incident location during the air strike.]

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

This information could be verified by listening to the audio interviews [with the victim Naw D--- and a farmer from G--- village named Saw L---] and looking at the photos [taken by the KHRG researcher of the injured villagers and the damaged properties].

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 'Naw' is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

<sup>4</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 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>5</sup> 'Saw' is a S'gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, the State Administration Council (SAC) conducted air strikes on A--- Monastery which is located at B--- foothill, Ha T'Reh village tract, and on C--- Monastery, in M--- foothill, Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, before 9 pm, an SAC fighter jet dropped two small bombs on A--- Monastery [Ha T'Reh village tract] and two pieces of bomb shrapnel hit the roof of the monastery and also slightly hit the pagoda. Similarly, a small bomb was dropped on Saw H---'s farm which is located close to A--- Monastery and another small bomb was dropped between Saw I---'s and Saw J---'s farms.

Then, at 9 pm, two bombs were dropped on C--- Monastery [M--- foothill, Meh Th'Na village tract], injuring an [85-year-old] grandma and her [12-year-old] granddaughter and damaging a two-room attached toilet. After hearing the sound of aircraft reconnaissance [the jet flying around], the grandma called her granddaughter, and they went down the stairs of the [stilted] monastery [to go outside]. When they were hiding under a Marian plum tree [next to the monastery], there was a bomb, middle size [exact size unknown], that landed in front of them and exploded. The distance between the place where they were hiding and the place where the bomb landed and exploded was about only 20 feet [6 meters] away. Therefore, the granddaughter's right arm was hit by the shrapnel of the bomb, and the grandma was hit by the bomb shrapnel on the upper part of her right foot. Her [the grandma's] three toe tendons on her right foot were cut and [she] sustained injuries to two toe tendons on her left foot. Furthermore, the bomb shrapnel also hit the left side of her neck. A senior monk [name unknown] from C--- Monastery reported to KHRG that he told her to stay in the monastery, but the grandma felt insecure and went downstairs to hide and [was] hit by the bomb shrapnel. A second bomb exploded in front of the two-room attached toilet, [so] the toilet was also hit by a lot of shrapnel from the bomb and was damaged.



These photos were taken on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 in C--- monastery, M--- foothill, Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. These photos show an 85-year-old grandmother and her 12-year-old granddaughter who were injured by an SAC air strike conducted on the evening of April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. Two small bombs hit the monastery in C--- village, injuring the two villagers who hid under some trees outside when hearing aircraft reconnaissance. The granddaughter was injured on her right arm and her grandmother was injured on her right foot, cutting three of her toes, and injuring her left foot and the left side of her neck. [Photos: KHRG]

Similarly, [after the bombs hit C--- Monastery] a small bomb [from the SAC] landed and exploded near the fence of Saw K---'s house from C--- village, Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpa-an Township.

Then, four bombs [from the SAC] were dropped onto a farm [located close to C--- Monastery] owned by a 60-year-old villager, named Saw L---, from G--- village, in Meh Th'Na village tract. Among those four [bombs], one [bomb] landed inside the buffalo's fence [but no buffalo were injured]. Saw L--- had planted sugar cane, rambutan plants, and paddy in his farm. Saw L--- explained [to KHRG]: *"I just would like to say: how [are we going] to do [deal] with those shrapnel [from the bombs dropped]? Should we hide it in a safe place? It might cut our legs and hands. We cannot collect them [shrapnel] all."* As the bombs landed and exploded on Saw L---'s farm, he was worried that his hands and legs would be injured by shrapnel while doing cultivation on his farm. His farm is located in M--- foothill, the same as C--- Monastery, in Meh Th'Na village tract.

Additionally, one SAC fighter jet dropped seven bombs onto a villager's farm from C--- village, named Saw N---. Those seven bombs [created craters in the ground and] landed 20 or 30 feet [6 to 9 meters] away from the road [that is used] to travel from C--- village and G--- village. Of those 7 bombs, one bomb landed in the center of the road [and damaged it]. The SAC fighter jet came and did reconnaissance [flying around], which lasted for half an hour [before the bombs were dropped].



These two photos were taken on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, near C--- Monastery in Meh Th'Na village tract, Hpan-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, an SAC aircraft dropped four bombs on Saw L---'s farm, located close to C--- Monastery, and two bombs on C--- Monastery in Meh Th'Na village tract. The photo on the left shows a crater in the ground caused by an SAC air strike that landed inside Saw L---'s buffalo fence. The photo on the right shows a two-room attached toilet located outside C--- Monastery that was damaged by the SAC air strike. [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.**

This information is allowed to be used [by those interviewed, one farmer and Naw D---, who gave KHRG permission for this information to be published].

Further background reading on the situation of air strikes in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [ကဘီယုဟဲလ် Aircraft coming! : Impacts of air strikes on local communities and villagers' protection strategies in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup](#), November 2024.
- ['Doooplaya District Short Update: SAC shelling and air strikes resulted in civilian casualties, property destruction and displacement, in Kruh Tuh Township, December 2023'](#), August 2024.
- ['Doooplaya District Incident Report: SAC air strike killed a villager, injured three, and destroyed houses and two schools, in Kaw T'Ree Township, March 2024'](#), August 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.

### 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](http://www.khr.org).

