



Short Update

June 28th, 2024 / KHRG # 24-94-D1

Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC air strikes killed four villagers and injured nine, including children, in Daw Hpah Hkoh Township (February 2024)

This Short Update describes events occurring in Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thadaunggyi) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District in February 2024. On February 21st 2024, a State Administration Council (SAC) helicopter, from Toungoo air base, conducted an air strike on K--- village, Htee Day (Pi Tauk Kon) village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thadaunggyi) Township. Four villagers were injured, including two children, and an 85-year-old woman was killed. One injured victim was transferred to Naypyidaw city for treatment, where her leg was amputated. The SAC helicopter also conducted an airstrike on M--- village, Htee Day (Pi Tauk Kon) village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thadaunggyi) Township. In that incident, five villagers were injured and three villagers were killed, including two 8-year-old children. The air strike also damaged houses and plantations and killed livestock. There had been no fighting or armed forces' movement in or near the village since the first quarter of 2023. Villagers feel devastated, traumatised and aggrieved.¹

Air strike in K--- village, Htee Day village tract

On February 21st 2024, at 2 pm, an State Administration Council (SAC)² helicopter from Toungoo air base, located at the SAC Southern Command Headquarters (Ta Pa Ka) in Toungoo Town, dropped bombs on K--- village, section 3, in Htee Day (Pi Tauk Kon) village tract,³ Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thadaunggyi) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District. [Previously,] there had been no fighting or movement of armed forces in or near the village since the first quarter of 2023. Due to the air strike, four K--- villagers were injured by shrapnel, and an 85-year-old woman named Daw⁴ L---, also from K--- village section 3, died immediately due to injuries to her head, abdomen, and chest. Daw L---'s skull was broken, and her abdomen perforated, expelling her intestines. A 35-year-old woman, named Daw C---, was injured on her leg and required an

¹ The present document is based on information received in March 2024. It was provided by a community member in Taungoo (Taw Oo) 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 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.

³ A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centred on a large village.

⁴ 'Daw' is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person's name.

amputation. The other three injured villagers were Daw T---, a 35-year-old woman; Ma S---, a 12-year-old girl; and a child (unknown name), who is one-and-a-half years old. They are all ethnic Bamar⁵ and Buddhist. These four injured villagers were transported by car to [a hospital in Yay Tal Shay Town, Bago Division. The hospital in Yay Tal Shay Town lacked resources to treat Daw C---, who required an amputation, so she was transferred to a hospital in] Naypyidaw city, which is [approximately] four hours away. [The injured villagers did not receive any support from any humanitarian organisation to cover treatment costs].

In addition, two houses, belonging to villagers named U⁶ O--- and U J---, were hit by the shrapnel. Both villagers are Buddhist and of Bamar ethnicity, ages unknown. Some domestic animals were injured and died as well: a medium-sized cow, one dog, and some chickens died, three cows were injured, and two dogs lost their legs. Crops were destroyed due to the bomb [explosions] and shrapnel. [As explained by local villagers to the KHRG researcher,] the villagers feel devastated, traumatised, and aggrieved after experiencing the air strike.

Air strike in M--- village, Htee Day village tract

On February 21st 2024, at 2:15 pm, the helicopter from Toungoo air base, located at Southern Command Headquarters, conducted another air strike and dropped bombs on M--- village, Htee Day village tract, Daw Hpa Hkoh Township. One [bomb] landed and exploded on a villager's house, where eight family members lived. Three [out of the eight members] died. The remaining five [family members] were injured. [The injured villagers went to a hospital in Yay Tal Shay Town, Bago Division, to receive treatment. They did not receive any assistance from any humanitarian organisation to cover treatment costs.] In addition, three cows were also killed. M-- - villagers also expressed feeling traumatised after experiencing the air strike.

Tables: information of air strike victims from M--- village

Victims' Information (injured)					
Name	Daw G---	Maung ⁷ D---	Maung E---	Ma ⁸ P---	Maung Z---
Age	40 years old	10 years old	10 years old	9 years old	20 years old
Gender	Woman	Man	Man	Woman	Man
Ethnicity	Bamar	Bamar	Bamar	Bamar	Bamar
Marital Status	[Unknown]	-	-	-	[Unknown]
Occupation	[Unknown]	-	-	-	[Unknown]
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist	Buddhist	Buddhist	Buddhist
Position	-	-	-	-	-
Village	M--- village	M--- village	M--- village	M--- village	M--- village
Note	Life-threatening injury	Injury not severe	Injury not severe	Injury not severe	Injury not severe

⁵ The majority ethnic group in Myanmar, also known as ethnic Burmese or Burman.

⁶ 'U' is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

⁷ 'Maung' is a Burmese male honorific title used before a person's name.

⁸ 'Ma' is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person's name.

Victims' Information (deceased)			
Name	Maung B---	Ma A---	Daw N---
Age	8 years old	8 years old	42 years old
Gender	Man	Woman	Woman
Ethnicity	Bamar	Bamar	Bamar
Marital Status	-	-	[Unknown]
Occupation	-	-	[Unknown]
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist	Buddhist
Position	-	-	[Unknown]
Village	M--- village	M--- village	M--- village



These photos were taken in February 2024 in M--- village, Htee Day village tract, Daw Hpa Hkoh Township, Toungoo District. KHRG received the photos from victims' relatives on February 24th 2024. The left photo shows a dead cow and the right photo shows a female villager, killed by the SAC's air strike conducted by a helicopter from Toungoo air force base on February 21st 2024. The air strikes in M--- village injured a total of five villagers and killed three more, all from the same family. *[Photos: Local villager]*

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

- [“Taw Oo District Short Update: Shelling, air strikes and house burning by SAC troops, and use of forced navigators by PDF soldiers in Htaw Ta Htoo Township \(November to December 2023\)”](#), April 2024;
- [“Taw Oo District Short Update: House burning, indiscriminate shelling and air strikes by the SAC in Htaw Ta Htoo Township \(September to November 2023\)”](#), March 2024;
- [“Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC air strikes killed two villagers, injured three children, and caused property damage in Daw Hpa Hkoh Township \(September 2023\)”](#), February 2024;
- [“Taw Oo District Situation Update: Fighting, shelling, and house burning in Thandaung Town, and air strikes in Htaw Ta Htoo Township \(January to July 2023\)”](#), January 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.khrg.org.

Taw Oo (Toungoo) District Map
SEVEN KNU ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT



Legend

- Town
- Village
- Village tract point
- Army Base
- Army Camp
- Major Road
- Sub-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_Taw Oo
Date: 19-Jul-2022
Size: 33.11 X 46.8 inches

