



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Short Update

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Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC soldiers shot and injured a villager, and conducted shelling and an air strike causing destruction, in Htaw Ta Htoo and Daw Hpah Hkoh townships (January to March 2025)

This Short Update describes events occurring in Htaw Ta Htoo (Htantabin) and Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thandaunggyi) townships, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District, during the period from January to March 2025. On January 11th 2025, State Administration Council (SAC) soldiers shot a villager as he attempted to flee after he was arrested in Aa--- village area, Day Loh village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo Township, seriously injuring him on his right arm. On February 2nd 2025, SAC soldiers from Infantry Battalion (IB) #39 army camp in Lay Maing ('Four Miles') village, Day Loh village tract, fired one mortar round into Bb--- village, Day Loh village tract, damaging villagers' plantations. On March 13th 2025, SAC soldiers from Shel Tho Maing ('13 Miles') Town fired six mortar rounds into P'Saw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, causing damage to villagers' property, including a house, a shop, and a church. On the same day, an SAC aircraft dropped two bombs in P'Saw Loh village tract, damaging villagers' rubber plantations.¹

January 2025: SAC soldiers arrested and shot a villager in Aa--- village, Day Loh village tract, causing serious injury

On January 11th 2025, SAC [State Administration Council²] soldiers from an unknown battalion were conducting military operations [aimed at 'clearing areas' by attacking local armed resistance groups] in Aa--- village area, in Day Loh village tract³, Htaw Ta Htoo Township, Taw Oo District. At around 7:30 am, one of the SAC soldiers aimed his gun at a villager named A---, while he [the villager] was travelling by motorbike on a road in front of the house of a villager (named U⁴ B---), in the middle of Aa--- village. The SAC soldiers demanded A--- to stop driving the motorbike. When he stopped, the SAC soldiers questioned him and confiscated his

¹ The present document is based on information received in February and March 2025. It was provided by a community member in 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. This document combines several received reports with the following KHRG internal log numbers: #25-43-P1 and #25-103-D1.

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 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. The military junta changed its name in July 31st 2025 to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

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

motorbike and phone. Then, they arrested him, and some [SAC] soldiers took him to the forest outside of the village. The SAC soldiers told him to take out his shoes and cap. After that, one of the soldiers turned around while talking on the phone, and A--- escaped. As he was escaping, the SAC soldiers shot at him four or five times. He was hit by a bullet and seriously injured on his right arm. It was bleeding, but he kept running away and went back to his house [in Aa--- village]. A--- reported to KHRG: *"They told me to take out my shoes and my cap after they took me to the forest. Then, they said 'You will have to rest here. You will rest forever'. Based on their words, I thought they would kill me for sure. So I had to [try to] escape even if I am dead or alive [in consequence]. When I escaped, they shot at me. I was hit by the bullet and injured."*

When he arrived [at home], his family members saw that he was bleeding and immediately called a car driver from the village church to send him to the General Hospital in Toungoo Town for medical treatment. The hospital is administered by the SAC. His upper arm bone [humerus] was broken due to the injury and was [surgically] attached by a steel plate. On the day of the incident, before he was arrested, he had travelled from his house to work on his plantation. Before the incident, these SAC soldiers, from an unknown battalion, collaborated with SAC soldiers from IB [Infantry Battalion⁵] #39 army camp, in Lay Maing ('Four Miles') village, Day Loh village tract.

A--- lives in Aa--- village, and he is a 48-year-old father of four children. There are six people in his family. His wife's name is Naw⁶ C--- (aged 42). His eldest son's name is Saw⁷ D--- (aged 22). His daughter's name is Naw E--- (aged 19). His second son's name is Saw F--- (aged 15), and his youngest son's name is Saw G--- (aged 12).



This photo was taken on February 3rd 2025 in a villager's house in Bb--- village, Day Loh village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo Township, Taw Oo District. It shows a villager named A--- who was injured on his right arm, as he was arrested and shot by SAC soldiers on January 11th 2025 in a forest near Aa--- village, Day Loh village tract. [Photo: KHRG]

February 2025: SAC shelling damaged plantations in Bb--- village, Day Loh village tract

On February 2nd 2025, at 11:57 am, SAC soldiers fired one mortar round into Bb--- village, Day Loh village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo Township, Taw Oo District. The soldiers are based in IB #39 army camp in Lay Maing ('Four Miles') village, Thandaunggyi Road, Htaw Ta Htoo Township. The mortar shell landed on a plum mango plantation in the village, owned by a villager named U H---, and exploded. The shrapnel hit and damaged some plum mango trees. The shrapnel also hit and damaged some bamboo plants in the house compound of U I---, which is located close to the fence of the plum mango plantation.

⁵ An Infantry Battalion (IB) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are understrength 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 NCA. They are primarily used for garrison duty but are sometimes used in offensive operations.

⁶ 'Naw' is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

⁷ 'Saw' is a S'gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

March 2025: SAC shelling and air strike damaged villagers' property in P'Saw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township

On March 13th 2025, at 9:17 pm, SAC soldiers indiscriminately fired three rounds of mortar into P'Saw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. The SAC soldiers are based in an army camp in Shel Tho Maing ('13 Miles') Town, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township. A few minutes later, an SAC aircraft dropped two bombs on a rubber plantation near Dd--- village, P'Saw Loh village tract, and a few minutes after the air strike, the [same] SAC soldiers from Shel Tho Maing ('13 Miles') Town fired three mortar rounds into P'Saw Loh village tract. Although fighting had not happened that day, the SAC conducted shelling and an air strike in a civilian area.

One of the mortar shells landed on a villager's house in Cc--- section of Dd--- village, P'Saw Loh village tract. The house and almost all belongings inside were destroyed. The house was owned by Naw J--- (aged 52). When the incident happened, Naw J---, her husband, and her grandchild were under the house. When they heard the sound of the shelling, they quickly ran to the kitchen, located near the house [in the house compound], to hide. [The kitchen was the nearest place for villagers to hide quickly when the incident happened.] Therefore, they were not injured when the mortar shell landed on the house.



These photos were taken in March 2025 in Cc--- Section of Dd--- village, P'Saw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. On March 13th 2025, SAC soldiers from Shel Tho Maing ('13 Miles') Town indiscriminately fired six rounds of mortar into P'Saw Loh village tract. One of the mortar shells landed and exploded on a villager's house in Cc--- Section in Dd--- village, destroying the house almost completely. These photos show the destroyed house, owned by Naw J---. [Photos: KHRG]

Another mortar shell landed and exploded on a mango tree in the house compound of Saw K--- in Cc--- section of Dd--- village. The shrapnel from the explosion hit Bwe Moe Bwar Baptist Church. The church's zinc roof and wall were slightly damaged. The shrapnel also hit three other villagers' houses and some trees, which were slightly damaged. However, no villager was injured.

The last mortar shell landed on a stump beside a tar road in Ee--- section of Dd--- village and exploded. The shrapnel hit the tar road and an electricity wire, which were damaged. The shrapnel also struck a shop beside the tar road, owned by a villager named L---. The shop's zinc roof, the glass of the door, and some bottles of bean jam were damaged. The shrapnel also hit another house, a cement fence, and a warehouse, owned by a villager named M---. The house's cement pillar, the cement fence post, and the warehouse's zinc roof were slightly damaged. No villager was hit or injured.

One of the bombs dropped by the SAC aircraft [on that same day] landed and exploded in a ditch between the rubber plantations of two villagers named Daw N--- and O---. The ditch is

located near 'Pa Thit' hydropower dam, close to Dd--- village. The bomb's explosion damaged some rubber trees owned by Daw N--- and O---. Daw N--- is a villager from Ff--- village, P'Saw Loh village tract, and O--- is a villager from Dd--- village. The other bomb dropped by the SAC aircraft landed on the rubber plantation of O---. It did not explode, but it went into the ground to a depth of eight feet, creating a hole that was 1.5 feet [around 45 cm] wide. Local villagers believe that these two bombs were 500-pound bombs.

According to local villagers who saw the incident sites, nobody would have been safe, whether they had stayed in their houses or hidden in bunkers, if these bombs had been dropped and exploded in a village. [They said that] everybody would have died. Local villagers were very afraid.

The other three mortar shells landed and exploded in a forest to the west of Ff--- village. There were no damages or casualties.



These photos were taken in March 2025 in a rubber plantation near Dd--- village, P'Saw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. On March 13th 2025, an SAC aircraft dropped two bombs on rubber plantations owned by local villagers. One bomb exploded, while the other one did not. The left photo shows a large hole in the rubber plantation where the unexploded bomb landed. The right photo shows rubber trees that were damaged by the explosion of the second bomb. [Photos: KHRG]

Further background reading on the situation of shooting-on-sight in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC shot dead a minor and arbitrarily arrested, detained and tortured a villager in Htaw Ta Htoo Township \(May 2024\)"](#), July 2024.
- ["Dooplaya District Incident Report: SAC shot and injured a villager in Noh T'Kaw Township, October 2023"](#), May 2024.
- ["Why would they target us?": Exploring patterns of the Burma Army's retaliatory abuses against villagers across Southeast Burma](#), June 2023.
- [Deadly Encounters: Killings of civilians by armed actors in Southeast Burma \(October 2022 - April 2023\)](#), June 2023.

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.khrq.org.

