



Karen Human Rights Group
Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

March 31st 2025 / KHRG # 24-450-I1

Taw Oo District Incident Report: SAC indiscriminate shelling damaged villagers' houses and property and caused displacement in Daw Hpah Hkoh Township (November 2024)

This Incident Report describes events that occurred Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thandaunggyi) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District, in November 2024. On November 11th 2024, the State Administration Council (SAC) soldiers from an artillery unit based in Bi Yin Naung army camp, Thandaunggyi Town, indiscriminately fired three rounds of mortar into A--- village, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township. One of the mortar shells landed and exploded in the village, damaging seven villagers' houses, a church, a motorbike, and some trees. The shrapnel also hit and injured a villager's dog. Due to the shelling, villagers fled to various locations, including their plantations near the village. Some avoided sleeping in their homes and instead stayed in their makeshift bunkers, fearing further attacks. Local students also had to stop studying at their schools due to the fear of shelling. Local villagers do not know why the SAC shelled their village. However, fighting had not happened in Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract and there were no local armed resistance groups in the area.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	SAC [State Administration Council ²] indiscriminate shelling
Date of Incident(s)	November 11 th 2024
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	A--- village, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract ³ , Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District

Victim(s) Information								
Name	Naw ⁴ B--	Saw ⁵ C--	Saw D--	Naw E--	Saw F--	Naw G--	Saw H--	Saw K--
	--	--	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

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.

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

Age	32 years old	36 years old	Unknown	40 years old	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Gender	Woman	Man	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Man
Ethnicity	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen	Karen
Marital Status	Married	Married	Married	-	-	Married	Married	Unknown
Occupation	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Plantation worker	Unknown
Religion	Christian	Christian	Christian	Christian	Christian	Christian	Christian	Unknown
Position	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager	Villager
Village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village	A--- village

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Unknown	Unknown	SAC Artillery Unit [unknown number]	Ba Yin Naung army camp in Thandaunggyi Town	Cantonment Area Commander (name unknown)

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.

Saw I--- and Saw J---, two local leaders [specific position censored for security] from Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract, informed me [the KHRG researcher] about this incident. Then, I [the KHRG researcher] contacted the village head from A--- village and went to meet him. The village head called [some of] the villagers [Naw B---, Saw K---, Saw C---, and Naw E---] whose houses [and property] were damaged and I [the KHRG researcher] conducted interviews with them.

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

This information was verified by [the villagers interviewed by the KHRG researcher]: Naw B---, Saw K---, and two other villagers, Saw C--- and Naw E---, whose houses [or property] were damaged. Naw B--- and Saw K--- are the daughter and son of Saw D---.

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

⁵ ‘Saw’ is a S’gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person's name.

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On November 11th 2024, at around 2 pm, SAC soldiers from an artillery unit in Bi Yin Naung army camp, Thandaunggyi Town, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District, indiscriminately fired three rounds of mortar into Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. On that day, fighting did not happen in the area, but the SAC still fired mortar rounds into the area [Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract]. Local villagers do not know what type of mortar the SAC used. One of the mortar shells landed and exploded in A--- village, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract, while the other two landed and exploded outside the village [and did not cause any damage].

The mortar shell that landed in the village exploded in front of the house of Saw D---. The mortar shell damaged the house and household materials, such as a big plastic bottle containing rice [which weighted 10 viss⁶], cooking pots, and the house's zinc roof, wooden floor, ladder, and bamboo wall. A betel nut tree, a mango tree, and a papaya tree owned by Saw D---, as well as a motorbike owned by his son [Saw K---], were damaged. The shrapnel also hit and injured Saw D---'s dog, on the leg.

In addition, other six villagers' houses, owned by Naw B---, Saw C---, Naw E---, Saw F---, Naw G--- and Saw H---, suffered minor damages. The roof and two windows of the church were also damaged.

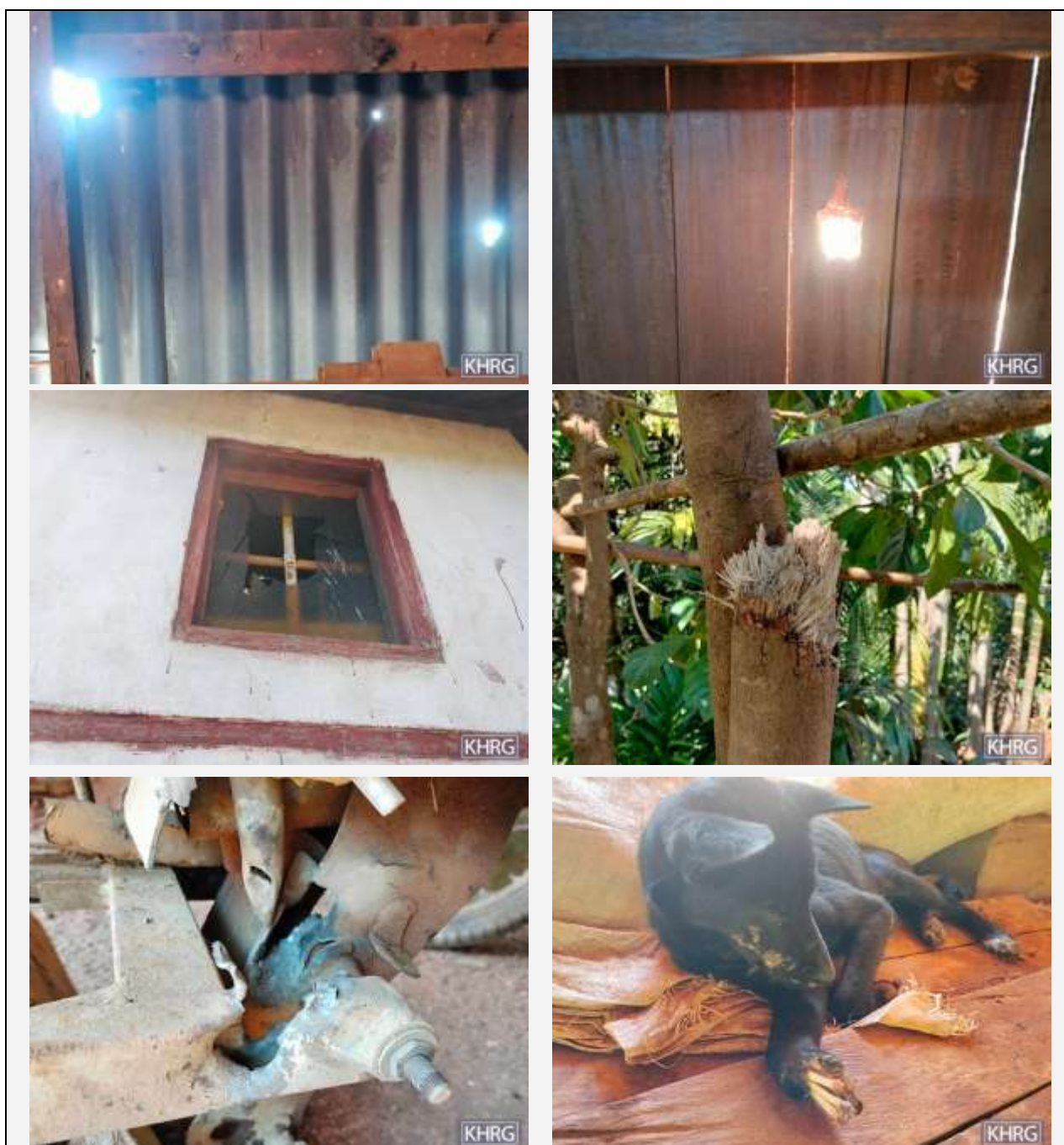
No local villager was injured or killed by the mortar shell's explosion in the village. However, it caused fear and panic among the villagers. Local children were attending school in the village when the SAC fired the mortars. The children in the school were afraid, so they started crying loudly. Their parents, worried about their children, quickly went to pick them up from the school and fled to their plantations near the village. Other villagers hid in their makeshift bunkers. Some villagers had to stop cooking to hide in their bunkers when the shelling happened.

Due to the SAC shelling, some villagers were afraid to sleep in their houses and instead slept in their makeshift bunkers. According to Saw C---, a villager whose house was damaged by the SAC shelling: *"Due to the shelling, we do not feel secure living in our village. We worry about our safety. We are afraid to sleep in our houses, so we go to sleep in the bunkers."* Naw B--- also said: *"When the mortar shell landed and exploded in front of my father [Saw D---]'s house, I was standing near the incident place. My mother and my sister were also near the incident place, but, luckily, we were not hit by the mortar shell. We were very afraid. My sister felt dizzy [due to the loud explosion of the mortar shell] and she was very frightened."*

Local villagers do not know why the SAC fired mortars into Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract. As explained by Saw C---: *"I don't know why they [SAC] conducted the shelling into our village. [...] Fighting did not happen in our area. I think they [SAC] just wanted to fire mortars. Also, there are no Karen soldiers [Karen National Liberation Army⁷] in our area."* He added: *"They [SAC] did not apologise to villagers for what they did and also they did not pay any compensation [for the damage]."*

⁶ A viss is a unit of weight equivalent to 1.6 kg or 3.52 lb.

⁷ The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.



These photos were taken in November 2024, in A--- village, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. On November 11th 2024, the SAC conducted shelling into A--- village, damaging seven villagers' houses, a church, a motorbike, and some trees, as well as injuring a dog. The two photos on the top row show some villagers' houses that were damaged. The left photo on the middle row shows a window of a church that was damaged. The right photo on the middle row shows a tree, owned by a villager, which was damaged. The left photo on the bottom row shows a motorbike, owned by Saw K---, which was damaged. The right photo on the bottom row shows the dog of Saw D---, injured by shrapnel.

[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.

Villagers who I [the KHRG researcher] interviewed and local authorities from A--- village gave

KHRG permission to publish this information.

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

- [“Taw Oo District Incident Report: SAC shelling killed four villagers and injured two, including a 15-year-old boy, in Htaw Ta Htoo Township \(May 2024\)”](#), February 2025.
- [“Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC indiscriminate shelling killed one villager and injured six, including children, and destroyed villagers’ property in Daw Hpah Hkoh and Htaw Ta Htoo Townships \(October and December 2024\)”](#), February 2025.
- [“Dooplaya District Situation Update: SAC shelling, militarisation and air strikes causing casualties, displacement, and education, healthcare and livelihood challenges in Kaw T’Ree Township \(January to August 2024\)”](#), December 2024.
- [*Striking Fear: Impacts of State Administration Council \(SAC\) shelling on villagers’ lives in Southeast Burma \(January to October 2023\)*](#), December 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.

