



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

January 22nd, 2026 / KHRG # 25-88-I1

Mergui-Tavoy District Incident Report: SAC air strikes injured two children in Ler K'Saw Township (March 2025)

This Incident Report describes events occurring in Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, in March 2025. On March 10th 2025, a State Administration Council (SAC) aircraft conducted an air strike on Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township. Two bombs were dropped during the air strike: one bomb landed in the vicinity of Ks--- village and the other landed in Tr--- village. As villagers were fleeing, machine guns were also fired from the aircraft into Tr--- village. The gunfire from the air strike caused injuries to two sisters, a 17-year-old girl and a 5-year-old girl. After the injury, they were taken to a hospital located on a mountain nearby, run by the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW). As a result of the air strike, villagers' betel nut plantations were also damaged, and villagers were afraid and no longer dared to stay in their village. Therefore, they fled to plantations located far from the village. Villagers were not expecting the air strike because soldiers do not operate in the village, nor was fighting happening there at the time of the attack. Air strikes had never happened in Tr--- village, only in Pl--- village, Htee Wah area, T'Naw Th'Ree (Tanintharyi) Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, a frontline area.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	[Air strike.] A State Administration Council (SAC) ² air strike injured two villagers.
Date of Incident(s)	March 10 th 2025.
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Tr--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District.

Victim(s) Information		
Name	Ma ³ K---	Ma C---

¹ The present document is based on information received in March, 2025. It was provided by a community member in Mergui-Tavoy 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 Burma, the executive branch of the government. Min Aung Hlaing assumed the role of SAC chairperson following the coup. The military junta changed its name on July 31st 2025 to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

³ 'Ma' is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person's name.

Age	17 years old	5 years old
Gender	Girl	Girl
Ethnicity	Bamar ⁴	Bamar
Marital Status	-	-
Occupation	-	-
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist
Position	[Villager]	[Villager]
Village	Tr--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District.	Tr--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District.

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)			
Type of Aircraft	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
Y-12	Burma [SAC] Air Force ⁵	Myeik Town, Htee Moh Pyah area, Ler Muh Lah Township, Mergui-Tavoy District.	[General Tun Aung serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the Burma (SAC) Air Force]

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.

A KHRG researcher went to the incident place to do the documentation. Then, he met with a [Karen National Union (KNU)⁶] local authority named Saw⁷ J---, from Jz--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township, and asked about the incident that had happened in the area. [The KHRG researcher also discussed the events informally with a soldier from an armed resistance group who confirmed the type of aircraft.]

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

This information is authentic since the local leader who provided the information witnessed the incident. [Saw J---, the local authority, was in Tr--- village when the incident occurred.]

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

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

⁵ The terms Burma military regime, Burma Army, junta, and SAC are used interchangeably throughout this report to describe Burma's armed forces. Villagers themselves commonly use Burma Army, Burmese soldiers, or alternatively the name adopted by the Burma military regime at the time –from the 2021 coup to July 2025, the State Administration Council (SAC). On July 31st 2025, the military junta changed its name to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

⁶ 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 (NCA) in 2015, following the 2021 coup staged by Burma Army leaders, the KNU officially stated that the NCA has become void.

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

On March 10th 2025, at 3:47 pm, an aircraft of the State Administration Council [SAC] conducted an air strike in Tr--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, without any fighting happening in the village. Two bombs were dropped, and they [the SAC] also fired machine guns from the aircraft after dropping the bombs. The first bomb landed in the vicinity of [nearby] Ks--- village, without causing casualties or property destruction, while the second bomb landed in Tr--- village.

The first bomb that was dropped by the [SAC] aircraft landed in the vicinity of Ks--- village, located between Tr--- and Sn--- villages, in Ma Nol Rol area. Ks--- village is a place where the KNLA [Karen National Liberation Army⁸] has ambushed SAC soldiers whenever they [SAC soldiers] patrolled or conducted military offensive operations through the village. Ks--- village is located 10 minutes by foot from Tr--- village. Also, they [the SAC] dropped another [the second] bomb behind [the former] Tr--- clinic, located in Tr--- village, which was administered by the SAC. Now, there is no healthcare worker, and the clinic was closed after the coup in 2021, because the SAC-assigned healthcare worker did not dare to stay in the village due to their security concerns.

When villagers heard the sound of the bombs landing [in the vicinity of Ks--- village], they were shocked and afraid, so they ran [fled]. Shortly after the villagers from Ks--- village, Sn--- village, and Tr--- village began to run [flee], [the SAC] also fired machine guns from the aircraft towards Tr--- village [seemingly targeting fleeing villagers in both the village and its surroundings]. Then two sisters named Ma K--- (17 years old) and Ma C--- (5 years old) were hit [grazed] by [bullets from] the machine gunfire. Ma K--- was injured on her buttocks and Ma C--- was injured on her legs. The two injured villagers were going out to buy a meal for their dinner when the air strike was conducted.

After the air strike, the two injured villagers were taken to Bc--- hospital to receive treatment [because there is no longer a clinic in the village]. A monk transported them to the hospital by car. Their parents also accompanied them to the hospital. Bc--- hospital is located on a mountain in Khel Chaung area, Ler K'Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District, which is located about 30 minutes from Tr--- village by motorbike and is administered by the KDHW [Karen Department of Health and Welfare⁹]. The hospital did not charge them medical or treatment fees. [Their injuries were not severe and required treatment but not hospitalisation. They have recovered.]

In addition, betel nut plantations owned by villagers were also damaged by the air strikes. Presently [as of March 2025], villagers dare not stay in their village [due to their fear of further air strikes]. So, they packed their things and went [fled] to their plantations.

Villagers did not take any special [safety] precautions on the day that the air strike happened in the village. A local KNU leader [specific position censored for security], named Saw J---, stated: *"We didn't think things would happen like this [that an air strike would occur]. We heard the sound of an aircraft when it came. But aircraft pass through our village every day to conduct air strikes in a place where fighting happens, at Pl--- village [in Htee Wah area, T'Naw Th'Ree Township], and it [aircraft] has never conducted an air strike in our village. Fighting happens every day in Pl--- village [but never in Tr--- village]. So, we didn't think that an air strike would happen in our village. Moreover, the aircraft [which conducted an air strike] is white, so we thought it was a passenger aircraft."* [A soldier of an armed resistance group informed the KHRG researcher that the aircraft was a Y-12. He was in Tr--- village buying food at the time of

⁸ The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

⁹ 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.

the attack, without wearing a uniform.]

The local leader, Saw J---, informed the KHRG field researcher that there is no armed group [operating] in the village. That is why the villagers there [were able to] do their jobs peacefully. [The day of the air strike,] villagers went to their work as [it was a] regular day. Local armed groups [sometimes] travel to Tr--- village to buy food [there]. In addition, they [the KNLA] [regularly] advance through the village to go to the frontline at Pl--- village, Htee Wah area, T’Naw Th’Ree (Tanintharyi) Township, Mergui-Tavoy District. It takes one hour by motorbike from Tr--- village to Pl--- village.



These three photos were taken by a KHRG researcher in March 2025, in Tr--- village, Ma Nol Rol area, Ler K’Saw Township, Mergui-Tavoy District. The two photos from the top row show betelnut plantations of villagers damaged by the State Administration Council (SAC)’s air strike, which was conducted on March 10th 2025, on Tr--- village, and the surrounding area. The photo below shows shrapnel from one of the two bombs dropped, which landed and exploded behind the clinic building of Tr--- village. The SAC also strafed Tr--- village with machine guns from the plane, injuring two children. [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.

A local KNU leader allowed us [KHRG] to use this information for publication. [He further clarified that the parents of the victims had provided the KNU with consent to release this information to other organisations for documentation and publication purposes, as the parents of the victims want the international community to know the harm that the Burma military regime is causing to local villagers.]

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

- [ကဘီယုဟဲလံ Aircraft coming! : Impacts of air strikes on local communities and villagers' protection strategies in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup](#), November 2024.
- ["Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: SAC air strike caused casualties, including a child, and destruction in Moo Township \(April 2025\)"](#), December 2025.
- ["Doo Tha Htoo District Incident Report: The Burma Army air strikes killed five children and injured nine villagers in Bilin Township \(October 2025\)"](#), December 2025

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.

