



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Short Update

April 9th 2026 / KHRG # 26-14+58-D1

Taw Oo District Short Update: Burma Army shelling killed one villager, injured a pregnant woman, and caused damage in Daw Hpah Hkoh Township (December 2025 and February 2026)

This Short Update describes events occurring in Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thandaungyi) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District, in December 2025 and February 2026. On December 27th 2025, the Burma Army cut off phone signal from Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract and set up a checkpoint on a road within the same village tract. Later that night, they fired two shells into Aa--- place, Thandaungyi Section 1, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract. One of the shells injured a pregnant woman and also hit her house walls. Villagers believed that the shells were fired from the Karen New Year Hill in Thandaungyi Town. On December 28th 2025, Burma Army soldiers fired shells into Ab--- village, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract, after the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) combined with People's Defence Force (PDF) attacked them with six rockets. On February 3rd 2026, the Kan Ni Revolution Army, a local group of the People's Defence Force (PDF), operating under the KNLA Battalion #5 from Brigade #2, received information that the Burma Army planned to carry food rations to their military camp with the cars of local villagers. Subsequently, they checked villagers' cars on a road in Ac--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract. On the same day at 10:30 am, two mortar shells landed and exploded inside Ac--- village. One of the shells killed a 38-year-old woman and hit her house walls and her toilet walls. Villagers believe that the shells were from Infantry Battalion (IB) #26, based near Ae--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract. On the same night, the Burma Army soldiers intruded into Ae--- village, causing fear among villagers and making them afraid to remain in the village.¹

On December 27th 2025, in the morning, the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC)² cut off phone signal from [parts of] Daw Hpah Hkoh (Thandaungyi) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District [including Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract³]. At 3 pm, the SSPC set up security checkpoints on roads in Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township and

¹ The present document is based on information received in January and February/2026. 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: #26-14-D1; and #26-58-D1.

² The State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC) is the new name of the executive governing body created in the aftermath of the February 1st 2021 military coup. Formerly called the State Administration Council (SAC), it was renamed by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on July 31st 2025. 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 and remains the head of the SSPC. The name State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC) is used interchangeably with military junta and Burma military regime.

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

checked travellers. Later, between 8:06 pm and 8:11 pm, [the KHRG researcher heard] two explosion sounds [from shells landing]. Additionally, [the researcher] heard many gunfire sounds, similar to fighting happening.

[Villagers believed that] the shell type was 79 [M-79], and they were fired by the SSPC soldiers, who were securing [increasing militarisation at roads near] the Karen New Year Hill [a geographical feature within], Thandaungyi Town, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township. [Light Infantry Battalion (LIB)⁴ #98 is based near the Karen New Year Hill.] One of the shells landed near the house of a villager named Naw A---, who was pregnant and had three children, [located in] Aa--- place, Thandaungyi Section 1, Day Loh Mu Nu Lar Hta village tract. When the shell landed near her house, the shrapnel hit her neck and her house walls. She bled, so villagers and local leaders sent her to Af--- hospital [administered by the Burma military regime] to receive treatment. [It is unknown to KHRG how much the treatment cost, but hospitals run by the Burma military regime usually charge treatment fees.] The injury on her neck was not severe. While she was receiving treatment, she delivered her fourth baby in the hospital. [The other shell landed outside of the village and did not injure anyone.]

On December 28th 2025, at 11:30 am, KNLA [Karen National Liberation Army]⁵ [soldiers] combined with PDF [People's Defence Force]⁶ [soldiers] under the command of [the KNLA in] Brigade #2 [Taw Oo District], attacked the Thandaungyi Bayin Naung army camp of the SSPC, Thandaungyi Town, with six 107 mm rockets. All the rockets landed inside the SSPC army camp area. The SSPC responded to the attack by conducting shelling, and the shells landed outside of Ab--- village, Day Loh Mu Nuh Lar Hta village tract. No villager sustained injuries or was killed.

On February 3rd 2026, in the morning [before 10 am], the Kan Ni Revolution Army [a local group of the PDF], operating under the KNLA Battalion #5 from Brigade #2, was near a phone signal pole, located close to a road of Ac--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township. A villager from Ac--- village told [the KHRG researcher that] the Kan Ni Revolution Army [a local PDF group] checked [cars on the road] because the KNLA soldiers had heard that the SSPC would carry their food rations to their army camp with villagers' cars. [However,] there was no fighting. The Burma Army⁷ soldiers sheltered inside a school in Ad--- village, [P'Shaw Loh village tract].

At 10:30 am, two 60 mm shells landed and exploded inside Ac--- village. [The villagers believed that] the shells were fired from IB [Infantry Battalion]⁸ #26 [leader's name unknown] which is

⁴ A Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) comprises 500 soldiers. Most Light Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength 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. LIBs are primarily used for offensive operations, but they are sometimes used for garrison duties.

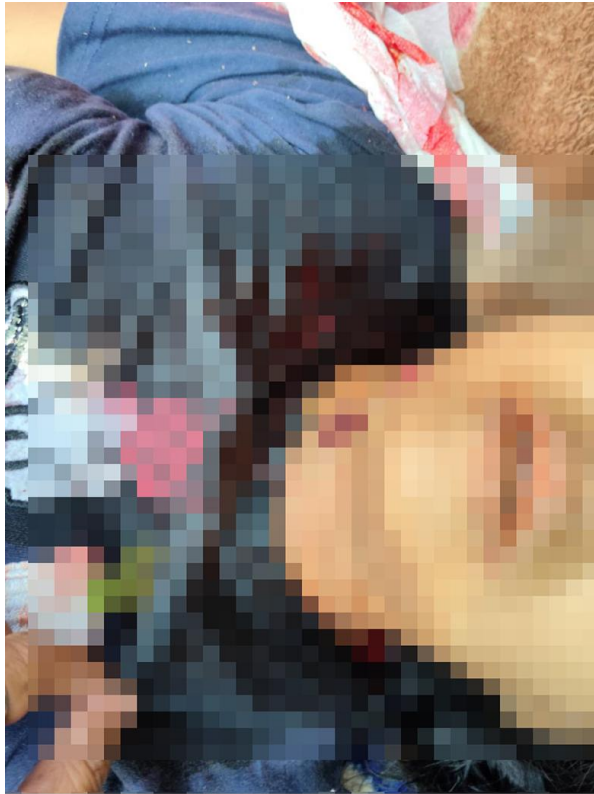
⁵ The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

⁶ The People's Defence Force (PDF) is an armed resistance established independently as local civilian militias operating across the country. Following the February 1st 2021 military coup and the ongoing brutal violence enacted by the junta, the majority of these groups began working with the National Unity Government (NUG), a body claiming to be the legitimate government of Burma/Myanmar, which then formalized the PDF on May 5th 2021 as a precursor to a federal army.

⁷ The terms Burma military, Burma Army, SAC, Tatmadaw, and junta are used interchangeably throughout this report to describe the Burma military regime'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 the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

⁸ An Infantry Battalion (IB) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength 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.

based near Ae--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract. The two shells exploded near a house of a villager named Naw B--- (38 years old), located in Ac--- village. When the shelling happened, Naw B--- [was trying to] run into a bunker. While she was running toward the bunker, the shrapnel hit her throat. A few minutes later, she died on the spot. Naw B---, a Karen Christian, is survived by her husband and their three children. The shells also hit her house walls and her toilet walls.



On February 3rd 2026, at around 10 am, two 60 mm shells believed to be fired by the Burma Army landed and exploded inside Ac--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract, Daw Hpah Hkoh Township, Taw Oo District. The photo on the left shows a villager named Naw B---, 38 years old, who was hit by shrapnel from one of the shells on her throat and died on the spot. The photo on the right shows Naw B---'s toilet walls, which were also hit by one of the shells. Villagers believe that the shells were fired from Ae--- village, P'Shaw Loh village tract. *[Photos: Local villager]*

On that night, 200 Burma Army soldiers [battalion unknown] intruded into Ae--- village. [Thus, following the incident,] villagers were afraid [to live in the village] because the Burma Army had conducted shelling.

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

- ["Why would they target us?": Exploring patterns of the Burma Army's retaliatory abuses against villagers across Southeast Burma](#), June 2023.
- ["Taw Oo District Situation Update: Burma Army indiscriminate shelling and burning, casualties, displacement, challenges in education and healthcare, and natural disasters in Daw Hpah Hkoh Township \(June to August 2025\)"](#), February 2026.

- ["Dooplaya District Short Update: SAC shelling and displacement challenges in Kruh Tuh Township \(July 2025\)", January 2026.](#)
- ["Dooplaya District Incident Report: Burma Army shelling injured a villager in Noh T'Kaw Township \(December 2025\)", January 2026.](#)

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.

