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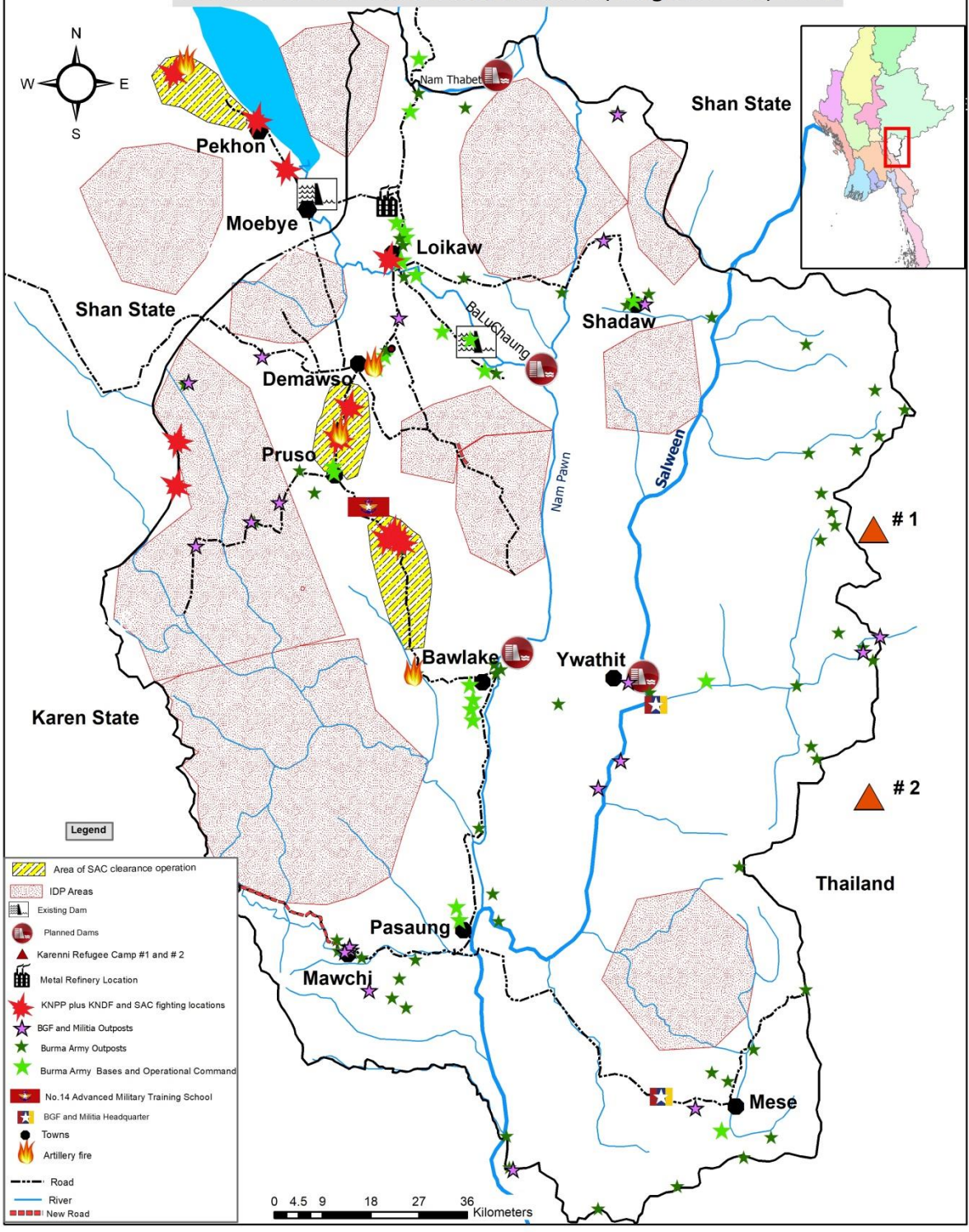
August 17, 2021

Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Aug 2-15, 2021
Summary of SAC violations in Karenni State and Pekhonn Township

No		Feb 1- Aug 1	Aug 2- Aug 15	Total
1	People killed	82		82
2	People arrested	135	15	150
3	People injured	102	4	106
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw town	7		7
	Demawso town	165	2	167
	Pekhonn town	48		48
5	Dismissal of CDM education staff			
	Pruso Township	526		526
	Demawso Township	1,123		1,123
	Mae Set Township	78		78
	Pasaung Township	152		152
	Shadaw Township	54		54
	Pekhonn Township	648		648
	Bawlake Township	42		42
	Total dismissed	2,623		2,623

Summary of displacement				
No	Township	Estimated no. of IDPs by Aug 1	New IDPs Aug 2-Aug 15	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	22,311		22,311
2	Demawso	55,265		55,265
3	Pruso	2,729	674	3,403
4	Pasaung	4,000		4,000
5	Pekhonn	30,000		30,000
6	Shadaw	729		729
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	3,741		3,741
	Total	119,775	674	120,449

Location of SAC attacks and violations, August 2 -15, 2021



- People arrested

In Karenni State the total number of people arrested since the coup has increased from 135 to 150 during the past two weeks. Three villagers were arrested on August 6, from Kayan Thayar village in Loikaw Township. Their names were Khun Nyein Chan, Khun Bey and Khun Poe O. They were tortured while being detained on suspicion of being connected to the KNDF. They were released on August 7.

On August 11, another three youth from Daw U Khu quarter in Loikaw township were arrested at their homes by SAC. It appears they were arrested on suspicion of connections with a PDF.

On August 14, four male villagers from Daw Takleh and Htee Phoe Kaloe village in Demawso township, including a 15-year-old boy, were arrested while they were going back to their village from an IDP camp to get some rations for their families. They were tied up with rope and brought to the SAC camp on Daw Tadah Mountain.

On August 14, SAC troops came to the home of social worker Roselynn (also known as Ma Ei) in Naung Yang, quarter of Loikaw Town and arrested her mother and brother and 3 young volunteer aid workers who were in the house. The SAC troops said that if Ma Ei gave herself up, they would free those who were arrested.

- Ongoing military aggression

The SAC has declared it is continuing its unilateral ceasefire from August to October, but in practice, it has increased clearance operations into the areas where the KNDF and IDPs are staying, and clearly has no intention of stopping its military offensives in Karenni State.

On August 3, SAC troops under Infantry Division 66 clashed with KNPP and KNDF troops four times while moving from Tah Leh village to Marcrawshay village in Pruso township. 11 SAC soldiers were killed and over 20 were injured during the clashes. At 4 pm, the SAC shelled and fired machine guns into Nan Peh village in Bawlake township for no apparent reason, then entered the village and looted goods and money from shops.

On August 4, SAC troops under Infantry Division 66 were carrying out an operation against the KNPP and KNDF, when they clashed with KNPP and KNDF troops between Kupra mountain and Bethu (upper) village in western Demawso township. 3 SAC soldiers were killed and some injured.

On August 4, at 8:45 am, SAC troops entered Naung Yang quarter of Loikaw town and shot at some houses without giving any reason. Some houses were damaged, and a young woman was wounded in her knee by an explosive shell.

On August 6, at 10 pm, two youths riding a motorbike in Loikaw town were shot from behind by SAC troops. One was hit in the back and one was wounded in one arm.

On August 8, 300 SAC troops clashed with KNPP and KNDF troops between upper Bethu village in Pekhonn township and Domoko village in Pruso township. 10 SAC soldiers were killed during the clash.

On August 9, in the evening, fighting took place between SAC and KNPP/KNDF troops near Beya village in western Pruso township. On the same day, while carrying out military operations, SAC troops from Pinlaung township in Shan State clashed with KNDF troops near Lawei village and Kaung Ei village in Pekhon township, Shan State

On August 10, over 120 CDM staff from Loikaw Teik Chauk Lone building (government housing) were evicted by SAC.

On August 12, SAC troops clashed with KNPP/KNDF troops near Htee Klu Daw village in Pruso township. Five SAC soldiers were killed and three were injured. During this clash, KNDF reported that they seized some small guns and one mortar from the SAC. After this, on the same day, SAC troops started deploying more soldiers in and around Pruso town. A clash took place near Kadah Lah village, close to Pruso town, between SAC and KNPP/KNDF troops. LIB 102 and LIB 531 based in Demawso township launched artillery shells to support their troops in Pruso township, injuring a woman from Htee Por Hso village in Pruso township in her thigh, and a male villager in his arm from Nyow Khone village, Demawso Township.



A woman from Htee Por Hso village was injured by SAC shelling. Photo: KT

On August 14, at 7 am, SAC troops together with PNO troops from Pinlaung township entered Pekhon township, and clashed with combined troops from Pekhon PDF, Moebye PDF, KNDF and KNPP near Pin Pon village and Lahwei village. The fighting lasted about 11 hours. Two of the PDF were injured, and five SAC soldiers and six PNO soldiers were killed.

On August 15, 100 SAC troop reinforcements in 35 military trucks were heading from Loikaw to Pekhon, when they were ambushed by KNPP and KNDF troops at Kaung Maing village near Moebye town.

- Situation of IDPs and humanitarian aid

The number of IDPs continues to increase due to the ongoing fighting. Following the fierce SAC offensive around Pruso town on August 12, a further 674 villagers from nearby villages fled to the jungle as IDPs. The growing number of IDPs is causing increased humanitarian needs. Apart from the need for food and shelter, medical aid is urgently required due to the growing spread of Covid 19 in IDP camps. In Hsin IDP camp, in eastern Loikaw township, 47 Covid positive cases have been found during the past two weeks.

- Covid situation in Karenni State

Covid cases in Karenni State (from the SAC health ministry):

Date	Covid positive cases	No. of deaths from Covid
June 15-July 18, 2021	157	3
July 19-August 1, 2021	463	20
August 2- August 15, 2021	425	27

Location of Covid cases in Karenni State (June 15-August 15, 2021)

Township	No. of cases
Loikaw	745
Pasaung	258
Bawlake	39
Pruso	6

The above figures do not include cases in areas outside SAC control, such as IDP camps, and are therefore likely to be much lower than the real numbers. Due to the rapid increase of Covid positive cases among the Karenni people, the KNPP issued a statement calling on international governments, humanitarian aid NGOs, and civil society groups in and outside the country to provide speedy assistance and take measures to protect the Karenni people.

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