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Karenni Civil Society Network

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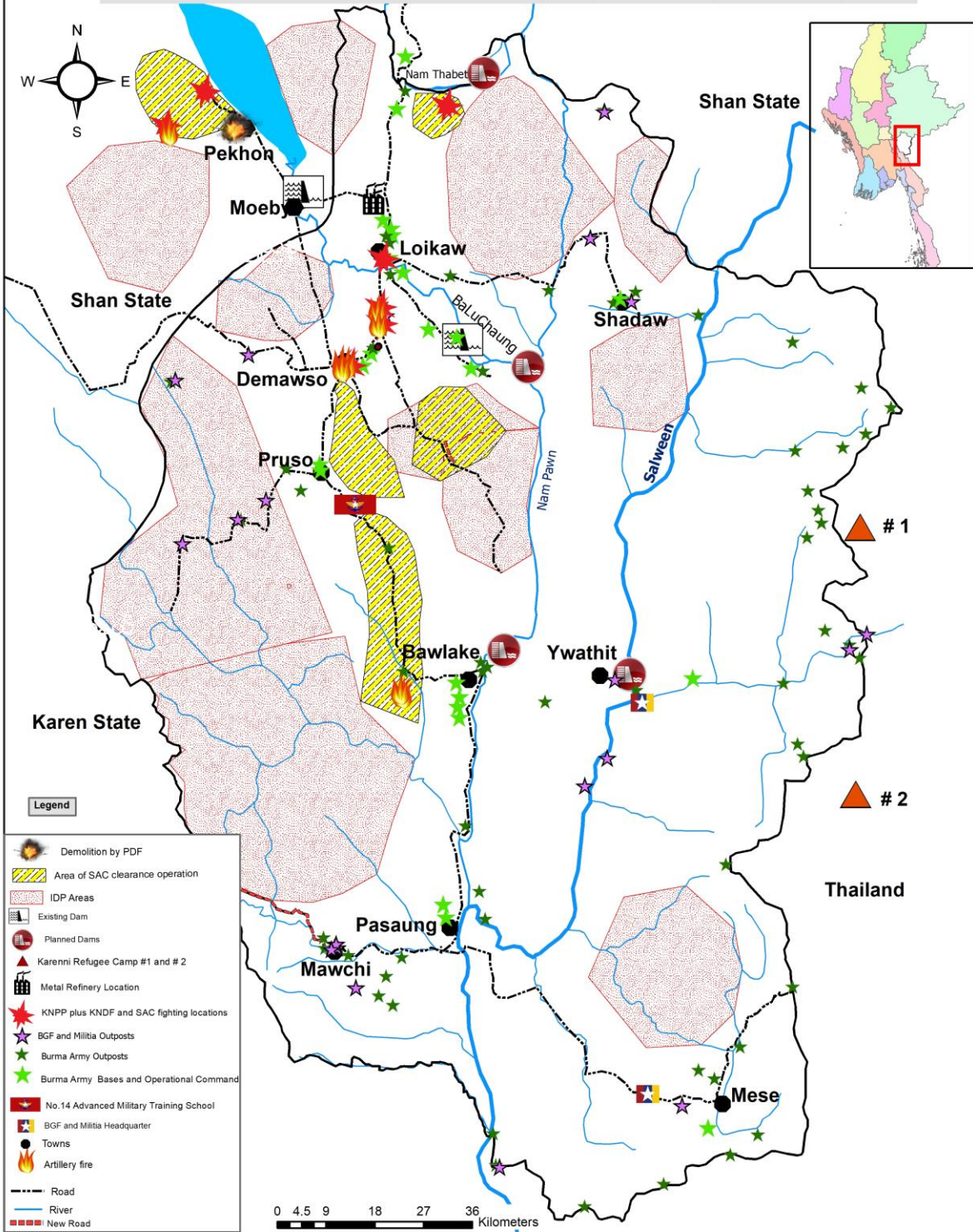
Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Aug 30- Sept 12, 2021
Summary of SAC violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

| No | | Feb 1- Aug 29 | Aug 30- Sep 12 | Total |
|----|-----------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | People killed | 82 | 4 | 86 |
| 2 | People arrested | 170 | 9 | 179 |
| 3 | People injured | 107 | 4 | 111 |
| 4 | Buildings damaged/destroyed | | | |
| | Loikaw township | 18 | | 18 |
| | Demawso township | 167 | 14 | 181 |
| | Pekhon township | 54 | | 54 |
| 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 |
| | Pekhon Township | 648 | | 648 |
| | Bawlake Township | 42 | | 42 |
| | Total dismissed | 2,623 | | 2,623 |

Summary of displacement

| No | Township | Estimated no. of IDPs by Aug 29 | New IDPs Aug 30- Sep 12 | Total displacement |
|----|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Loikaw | 27,311 | | 27,311 |
| 2 | Demawso | 55,265 | 3,000 | 58,265 |
| 3 | Pruso | 3,403 | | 3,403 |
| 4 | Pasaung | 4,000 | | 4,000 |
| 5 | Pekhon | 31,000 | | 31,000 |
| 6 | Shadaw | 729 | | 729 |
| 7 | Mae Set | 1,000 | | 1,000 |
| 8 | Bawlake | 3,741 | | 3,741 |
| | Total | 126,449 | 3,000 | 129,449 |

Location of SAC attacks and violations, August 30-September 12, 2021



- **Ongoing SAC clearance operations and targeting of civilians**

During the past two weeks SAC troops have continued to carry out clearance operations in Pekhon, Loikaw, Demawso, Pruso and Bawlake townships, with the aim of securing the main transport routes in these areas. The clearance operations have been led by over 700 elite combat troops from Infantry Division 66, deployed to Karenni State four months ago from Rakhine State, to reinforce the over 2,000 locally stationed SAC troops. Following clashes with resistance forces, SAC has retaliated by shelling civilian areas and shooting at civilians.

On August 31, KNPP and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops patrolling near Daw Tahay village, northern Loikaw township, at 1 pm. Two KNDF and KNPP soldiers were slightly injured. Casualties on the SAC side are unknown.

On September 1, while SAC troops were patrolling near Kaung Ee village in Pekhon township, they clashed with KNPP and KNDF troops from 3 pm to 5 pm.

On September 1, the SAC soldiers who were taking security for the city hall in Loikaw town had a serious clash with the Loikaw PDF, according to Loikaw residents.

On September 7, at 3 pm, a clash took place near Daw Poe Si village between Loikaw township and Demawso township. At 5 pm, another clash took place between 5-mile and 6-mile villages in Demawso township. Four SAC soldiers were killed in these clashes, according to a KNDF statement. After these clashes, the SAC fired artillery shells which damaged six houses and caused four houses to burn down in 6-mile village, and damaged at least four houses in Daw Hseh village, injuring one small child. A group of villagers fleeing the fighting in a car had an accident which killed one of the passengers, an eight-year-old child. On the same day, the KNPP and KNDF troops ambushed Demawso police station, but SAC forces kept control of the station.



Houses damaged by SAC shells in Demawso township (Photo: KT)

On September 8, at the entrance of Pu Cheh village, Gone Hsone village tract in Pekhon township, the KNDF and PDF-Pekhon carried out a mine attack on the SAC troops and killed five of them. After the attack, the SAC shot at two civilians who were driving a motorbike on the road in Pekhon township.

On September 9, PDF-Pekhon blew up a Mytel tower in Pekhon town.

On September 9, SAC troops based on Mae Salong Mountain shelled into Nan Peh village in Bawlake township killing a 20-year-old woman and injuring three other villagers who were harvesting sesame in their fields.

- **Villagers arrested and used as human shields**

In Karenni State the total number of people arrested since the coup has increased from 170 to 179 during the past two weeks.

On September 4, 2021, at 8 am, the SAC arrested a local farmer U Maung Gyi and his wife near their paddy field in Shwe Pyi Aye village, Gone Hsone village tract, Pekhon township of Southern Shan State. They were forced to walk with the troops as human shields and act as guides for them.

On September 6, the SAC arrested two young men in Pan Kan village in Loikaw township, and took them to the 6-mile security checkpoint in Demawso township.

On September 7, a youth from Gone Thar in Loikaw township was arrested at the Kayan Thayar security checkpoint near Thebyaygone while he was going to pick corn in a field at Ye Phyu, according to local villagers in Gone Thar.

On September 8, two men were shot at while they were driving a motorbike on the Pekhon-Pinlaung main road in Pekhon township of southern Shan State, and then taken away by military truck

On September 8, two teenagers, Pascale and Pedale, who had fled the fighting in Daw Poe Si on September 7, were arrested by LIB 427 while returning home. They were used as human shields to guide SAC troops carrying out an offensive in Seven Lakes area in Demawso township.

On September 10, three teenagers, Mawris, Lee Reh and Michael, from Padawdu village were arrested at a traffic light in Demawso town. According to eyewitnesses, they were forced to kneel down, beaten with guns and accused of being connected to the KNDF.

- **Ongoing displacement due to SAC attacks**

Due to the ongoing clashes between SAC troops and KNPP and KNDF forces, the number of IDPs in Karenni state has continued to increase. After the SAC shelling of civilian areas in Demawso township on September 7, over 3,000 villagers from 10 villages fled into the nearby jungle.

- **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 |
| August 16- August 29, 2021 | 492 | 16 |
| August 30-September 12, 2021 | 796 | 27 |

The Covid situation in Karenni State continues to worsen, with the actual number of Covid cases likely to be much higher than the figures given by the SAC health ministry, which do not cover the large IDP population.

In Tee Po Klo village tract, Demawso township, where villagers have been displaced, 45 Covid-19 positive cases have recently been identified. Lockdown houses have been visited by aid volunteers bringing necessary medicines and materials, while serious cases have been sent to Loikaw hospital.

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