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Karenni Civil Society Network

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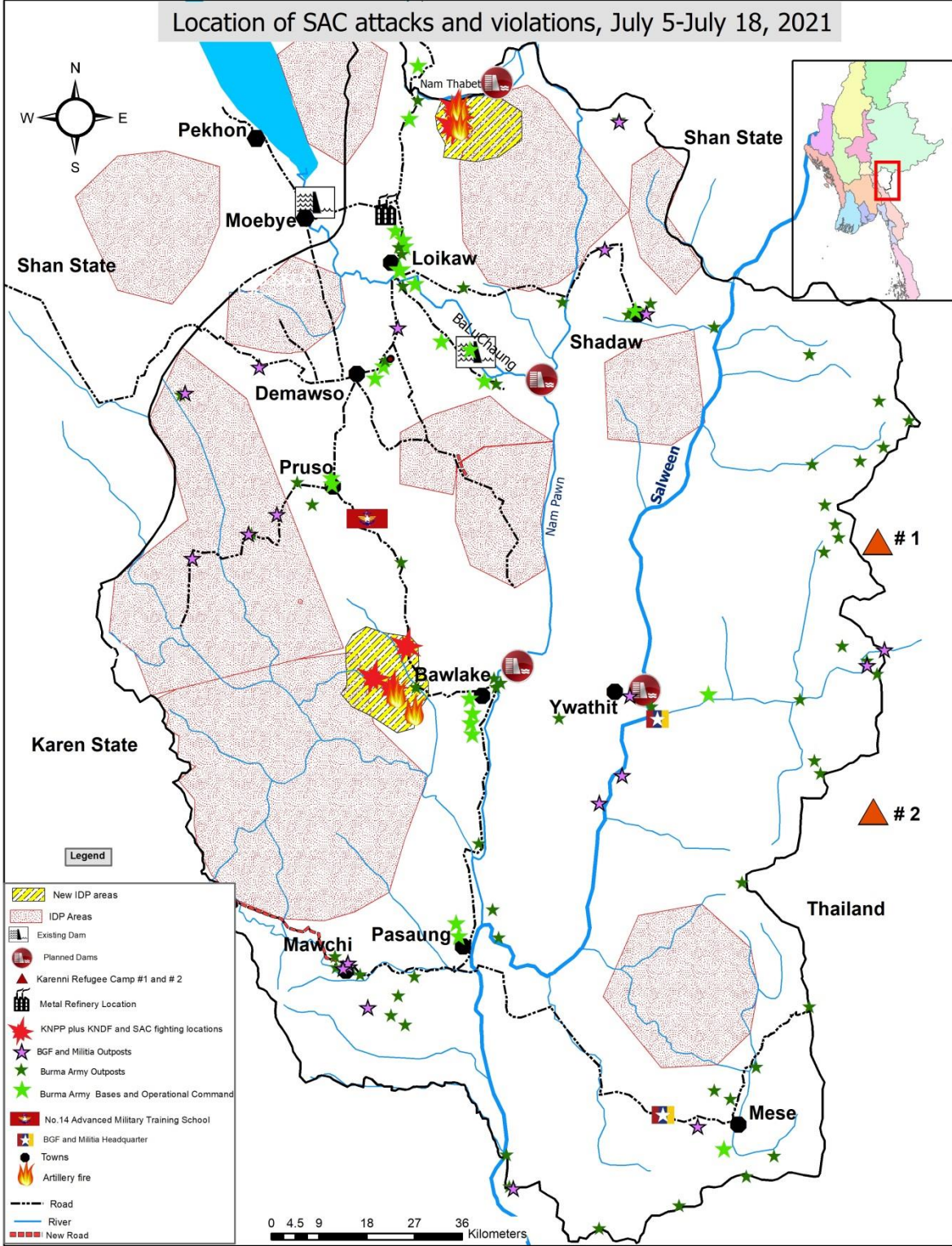
Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, July 5-July 18, 2021
Summary of SAC violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1- July 4	July 5- Jul 18	Total
1	People killed	76	6	82
2	People arrested	132		132
3	People injured	102		102
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw town	7		7
	Demawso town	165		165
	Mobyet 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
	Pekhon Township	648		648
	Bawlake Township		42	42
	Total dismissed	2,581		2,623

Summary of displacement

No	Township	Estimated no. of IDPs by Jul 4	New IDPs Jul 5-Jul 18	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	14,311	8,000	22,311
2	Demawso	55,265		55,265
3	Pruso	2,729		2,729
4	Pasaung	4,000		4,000
5	Pekhon	30,000		30,000
6	Shadaw	729		729
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	300	2,629	2,929
	Total	108,334	10,629	118,963

Location of SAC attacks and violations, July 5-July 18, 2021



- Killing

The number of documented killings by SAC security forces has increased from 76 to 82 during the past two weeks, although the actual total death toll is higher as this does not count the number of decomposed bodies of unidentified civilians that have been found. The six recently killed were civilians who were accused of being informers.

- Ongoing military aggression

On July 12, KNPP plus KNDF troops had four armed clashes with SAC troops from LIB 530 and Infantry Division 66, who were carrying out clearance operations and entered into a KNPP controlled area in northern Loikaw township. The four clashes were: 1) at 8 am northeast of Nan Kwe village; 2) at 12 pm near Thiree Dah Wan Kai village; 3) at 4:15 pm near Daw Tahay village; 4) at 6 pm near Daw Tahay and Payapyu villages. The SAC troops fired artillery in the vicinity of Loile Lay town and Tee Lon village tract but retreated from the area when 14 of their soldiers were killed. During their operation, the SAC troops killed local villagers' livestock, including chickens and pigs, for food. As a result of the fighting, 20 villages with a population of around 8,000 have been displaced as IDPs.

On the same day, July 12, KNPLF, KNLP and Kayaw Ni troops found several unidentified decomposed dead bodies in a ditch next to house No. 3-27 in San Pya 6-mile village of Demawso township where the SAC troops from Infantry Division 66 had been based for two months. The SAC troops had moved out during a troop rotation on July 10. The KNPLF troops helped to burn the dead bodies.

On July 16, at 2:45 pm, joint KNPP and KNDF troops had a 30-minute clash with about 50 SAC troops from Infantry Division 66 near Nan Peh village of Bawlake township, where the KNPP and KNDF have been operating. The number of SAC casualties is not known, but the SAC then brought in about 200 more troop reinforcements to continue their clearance operation. On July 18, SAC troops from Bawlake town launched artillery attacks into Nan Peh village tract in Bawlake township, and ground troops entered Nan Peh village and continued to patrol into Taw Kho village tract in Pruso township. As a result, around 2,629 villagers from 7 villages in Taw Kho village tract and Nan Peh village tract have fled their homes to

hide in the surrounding jungle. The SAC troops also entered Nan Peh village and broke windows and front doors of villagers' houses



New IDPs in Nan Peh village tract. Photo by PKPF

Due to the ongoing offensives carried out by SAC, the KNDF has announced that they will cooperate with local ethnic armed organizations and fight against the SAC, meaning that the temporary cease-fire agreement has failed and there will be more fighting.

- Covid situation in Karenni State

As in other areas of Burma, the third wave of the Covid 19 pandemic has also spread to Karenni State. From June 15 to July 17, there were 157 Covid cases, 3 of whom died. Most of the cases were Loikaw town residents. The fast spread of the disease has caused increased worry among the IDPs, who are already facing health problems and insufficient health care. Local communities have set up their own Covid 19 screening points at village entrances, but there is a shortage of experienced health personnel and equipment. The SAC's mismanagement of the country and collapse of the health care system are fuelling fears that the pandemic will become much worse.

- Situation of IDPs and humanitarian aid

Due to the rainy season, it is difficult for the IDPs to shelter from the rain. Some IDPs have plastic tarpaulins, but due to wear and tear, they need to use two tarpaulins instead of one to protect themselves from the rain. However, during heavy rain, even double tarpaulins are insufficient to keep dry. Some IDPs have nothing, no tarpaulins or even thin plastic sheets.

Moreover, due to lack of clean water for drinking and cooking, and lack of nutritious food, the IDP children and pregnant women have been suffering from diarrhea and skin diseases, such as scabies. The lack of hygienic toilets is also causing diarrhea. As it is the rainy season, flu and malaria are becoming more prevalent too. There is an acute shortage of medicines to treat these diseases. In some sites, they only have paracetamol.

Local civil society groups and church based groups under the Karenni IDPs Support Network (KISN) and Karenni Humanitarian Team (KHT) have been helping the IDPs to receive rice, cooking oil, salt, beans, noodles and other dried food. Mosquito nets, tarpaulins and school materials have also been distributed. However, the aid received has been inadequate to meet all the IDP needs.

It is unclear whether international agencies such as Save the Children, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, NRC, ACF, MAG and IRC, who used to have a presence in Karenni State, are still operating there. They have not been seen giving assistance to the local Karenni people.

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