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Karenni Civil Society Network

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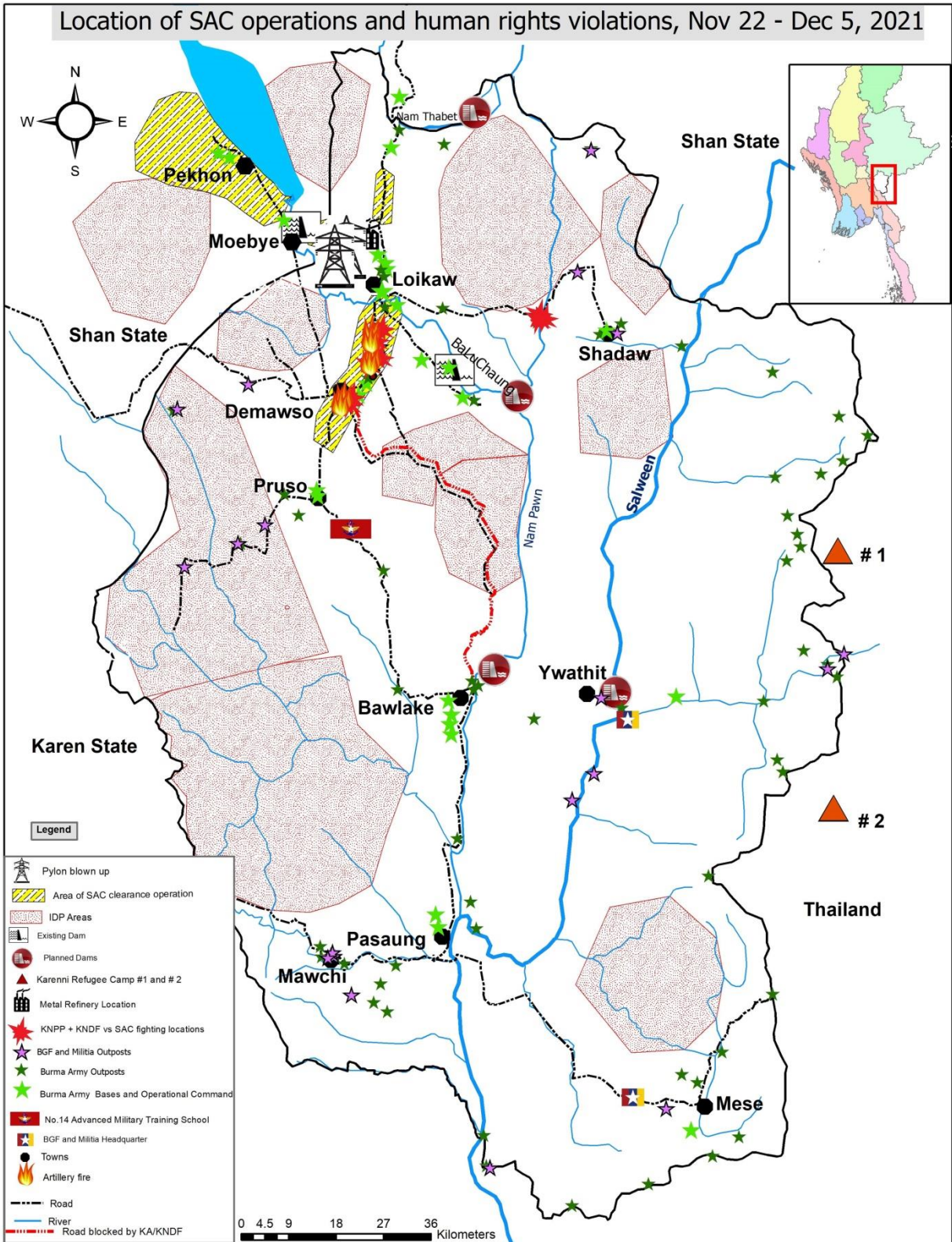
December 7, 2021

Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Nov 22–Dec 5, 2021
Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1- Nov 21	Nov 22 – Dec 5	Total
1	People killed	132		132
2	People arrested	239	18	257
3	People injured	146		146
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	33		33
	Demawso township	251	5	256
	Pekhon township	109		109
	Pruso township	2		2
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 Nov 21	New IDPs Nov 22 – Dec 5	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	32,311		32,311
2	Demawso	68,265		68,265
3	Pruso	4,403		4,403
4	Pasaung	4,000		4,000
5	Pekhon	41,000		41,000
6	Shadaw	729	1,486	2,215
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	3,741		3,741
	Total	155,449	1,486	156,935



- Resistance forces attack and block SAC transport routes; SAC arrests volunteer medics, uses villagers as human shields, and burns houses as collective punishment

During the past two weeks, clashes have mainly occurred in and between the towns of Loikaw and Demawso, as KA and KNDF troops have stepped up attacks to block the SAC from using this main road as a transport artery. On December 1, KNDF issued a statement that they would close this road, as well as the road link to Bawlake via Daw Tamagyi, from December 3 indefinitely. SAC has meanwhile continued inflicting collective punishment on local communities, carrying out arbitrary arrests, forcing villages to be human shields and burning down civilian houses.

On November 22, a large number of SAC soldiers and police searched Christu King Church in Naung Yan quarter, Loikaw town, as well as the Karuna clinic in the church compound, and arrested 18 volunteer workers, including Catholic sisters, from the clinic. Moreover, they moved patients, including Covid patients, to Loikaw government hospital and locked up the clinic. The 18 clinic volunteers arrested on November 22 were released on November 23 at 6 pm.



Christu King Church that was raided by SAC soldiers and police (Photo: CJ)

On November 22, combined KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops 3 times at San Pya 6 mile village on the Loikaw-Demawso road, while SAC was carrying out operations in the area. Three SAC soldiers were killed and one KNDF soldier was injured.

On November 23, at 6:57 am, KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops camped at Daw Po Si monastery in San Pya 6 mile village, Demawso township. At 3 pm the same day, combined KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops camped near a monastery in Pa Kan quarter, Loikaw town, killing one SAC soldier. Another clash occurred near 5 mile and 6 mile villages in Demawso township, in which two SAC soldiers and one KNDF soldier were injured. Also, a clash between SAC and combined Karenni troops took place near Demawso town police station killing two SAC soldiers and injuring seven of them.

On November 25, at 5:30 am, the KA and KNDF troops clashed with Demawso town-based LIB 427 SAC troops in San Pya 6 mile village, Demawso township. During the clash 4 KNDF soldiers were killed. After the clash, SAC arrested 7 villagers from the village and forced them to act as human shields for them. They were released at noon that day.

On November 25, two electric pylons between Hsaw Kee Daw and Daw Lo Shay in Loikaw township were blown up. These two pylons carried the transmission line from No 1 Lawpita Electric Power station to the cities of Naypyidaw, Mandalay and Rangoon.



Electric pylons that were blown up



Funeral ceremony for 4 KNDF soldiers

On November 25, KA and KNDF troops had four clashes with SAC troops near Pon Chaung village in Shadaw township, and one clash on November 26. During the clashes, three SAC soldiers were injured. 3 nearby villages with 309 households fled from the clashes.

On December 1, KNDF issued a statement that for public security reasons, they would close the Loikaw-Demawso–Daw Tamagyi car road connecting to Bawlake town from December 3 indefinitely. They requested villagers not to travel after that date. They said they closed that road because the SAC were using it for troop rotation and reinforcement, and to transport ammunition and rations.

On December 3, KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops near Chaytawya Payan pagoda and Htulwi Belar village in Demawso township. After the clash, SAC set fire to 5 houses in Htulwi Belar village.

- **New displacement in Shadaw; IDPs in Demawso fear their houses will be torched**

Nearly 1,500 villagers, from about 309 households, fled their homes to hide in the jungle after fighting on November 26 near Pon Chaung village in Shadaw township. This has tripled the number of new IDPs in Shadaw township since the coup.

At the end of November, SAC troops began spreading the news that Demawso town would soon be reduced to ashes. IDPs from Demawso have therefore been sneaking back into the town to collect their belongings and take them back to their jungle hiding places. They still dare not return to live in their homes.

- **Covid situation in Karenni State**

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

Date	Covid positive cases	No. of deaths from Covid
Jun 15-Jul 18, 2021	157	3
Jul 19-Aug 1, 2021	463	20
Aug 2-Aug 15, 2021	425	27
Aug 16-Aug 29, 2021	492	16
Aug 30-Sep 12, 2021	796	27
Sep 13– Sep 26, 2021	780	28
Sep 27- Oct 10, 2021	776	25
Oct 11- Oct 24, 2021	378	15
Oct 25- Nov 7, 2021	752	82
Nov 8 – Nov 21, 2021	386	13
Nov 22- Dec 5, 2021	118	11

The official statistics again show a drop in Covid infection, but do not reflect the real situation, as they do not include cases in the IDP camps, and also many villagers are reluctant to go to the regime's health facilities for testing or treatment. This can be seen from the fact that Covid patients preferred to receive treatment at the Karuna clinic in the Christu King church compound, rather than go to Loikaw public hospital.

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