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Karenni Civil Society Network

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March 16, 2022

Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Feb 28-Mar 13, 2022

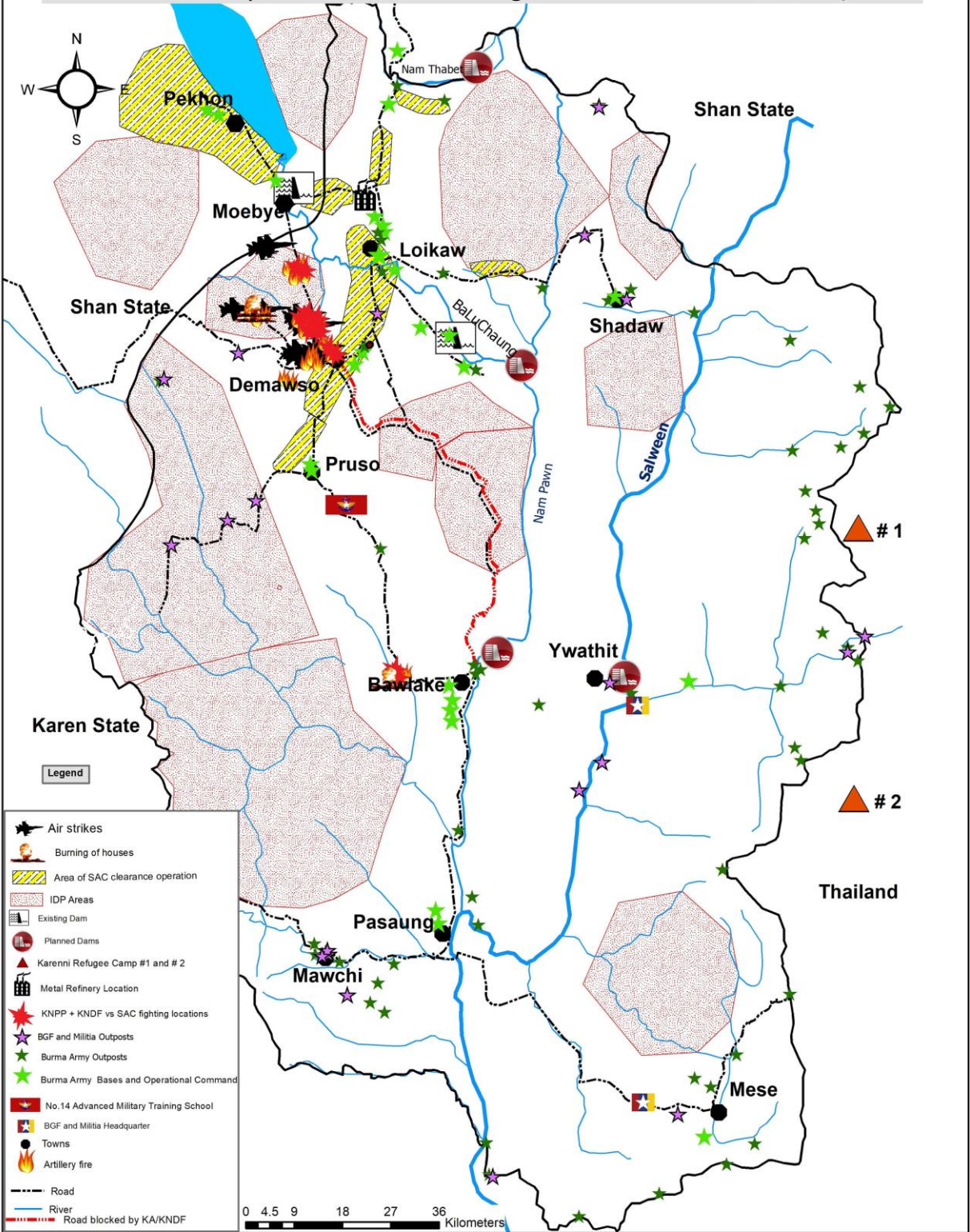
Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1- Feb 27	Feb 28– Mar 13	Total
1	People killed	223	12	235
2	People arrested	283		283
3	People injured	175	2	177
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	82		82
	Demawso township	323	48	371
	Pekhon township	119		119
	Pruso township	3	4	7
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 Feb 27	New IDPs Feb 28 – Mar 13	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	52,311		52,311
2	Demawso	68,265	10,000	78,265
3	Pruso	4,403		4,403
4	Pasaung	4,000		4,000
5	Pekhon	41,000	10,000	51,000
6	Shadaw	2,395		2,395
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	3,741		3,741
	Total	177,115	20,000	197,115

Location of SAC operations and human rights violations Feb 28_Mar13, 2022



- **Escalated SAC air strikes and shelling, including with multiple rocket launchers, cause mounting civilian casualties**

During the past two weeks, SAC has launched a large-scale operation, involving hundreds of ground troops, tanks, artillery and airstrikes, to try and seize back control of Demawso town, which lies at the strategic crossroads of transport routes from Pekhon, Loikaw and Toungoo. The ferocity of the assault, including multiple rocket launchers for the first time, forced combined Karenni troops to temporarily retreat on March 13 from Daw Ngan Khan quarter of Demawso, which lies on the crossroads.

On March 1, about 100 SAC troops with 2 tanks carried out an offensive operation in Kyone Taw village, Okay village tract, Demawso township, and clashed with PDF, KNDF and KA troops, resulting in 24 SAC soldiers being killed and one tank being damaged.

On March 2, KNDF from Pekhon Zone searching through Hsin Taung village, Demawso township, found 2 houses had been burned down and the burned remains of 3 people.

On March 3, three columns of SAC troops with tanks and artillery began launching an offensive in Thay Hsu Leh village and Pu Pah village in Demawso township. During clashes with PDF troops, SAC indiscriminately fired artillery shells into these villages, damaging 17 houses.

On March 4, the SAC clashed with combined KA and KNDF troops for 5 hours at Thar Yar Gone village in Nan Peh village tract between Pruso town and Bawlake town, killing at least 5 SAC soldiers. After the clash, while SAC was retreating, they torched 3 houses in Kweh Thit village and one house in Thar Yar Gone village. They also killed and burned the bodies of two villagers from Thar Yar Gone village.

On March 5, SAC troops carrying out an offensive between Thay Hsu Leh village and Daw Naw Ku village in Demawso town clashed with combined Karenni troops, resulting in at least 35 SAC soldiers being killed, according to a Demawso PDF statement.



Houses torched by SAC in Thay Su Leh village

On March 6, combined troops of KA, KNDF, Demawso PDF, Loikaw PDF, Pekhon PDF and KGZ clashed with SAC troops near Kyauk Hsae Kan in Demawso township, resulting in more than 40 SAC soldiers being killed and two SAC soldiers being captured. Due to the high number of casualties, two jet fighters launched air strikes at 2 pm. On the same day, SAC arrested and killed two boys: Maw Austine, age 17, and Maw Hlasaru, age 10, from Pekhon Khon, Moebye township.

On March 8, at 2 am, the SAC fired artillery near Hsaw Du Lar village in Demawso township, damaging Hsaw Du Lar church and some houses. Moreover, at 7 am, 3 jet fighters launched airstrikes on Thay Hsu Leh village and Pu Pah village, ၵၼ်းၵၢၼ်း Demawso township. At noon, indiscriminate SAC shelling into Loi Tweh village, Loikaw township, killed three children and injured two while they were playing outside.

On March 9, clashes occurred in the west part of Demawso town killing 1 CDM teacher and a female aid provider from Free Burma Rangers.

On March 10, at 6:19 am, two jet fighters launched 6 airstrike attacks, damaging a Catholic convent school in Daw Ngan Kan quarter in Demawso town. The SAC troops carrying out the offensive in Demawso township since March 7 set up camp in Daw Nga Kan quarter, then burned down more than 40 houses in nearby Pu Pah village and Thay Hsu Leh village.

On March 11, at 4 am, the SAC launched an airstrike on Daw Rauk Khu village in Demawso township, killing 2 civilians. Then again at 7 am 2 jet fighters launched 3 airstrike attacks on the same village.

On March 13, due to the heavy shelling, including by multiple rocket launchers, and aircraft attacks, the combined Karenni troops had to temporarily retreat from Daw Ngan Khan quarter, according to a KNDF BO1 statement.

According to KDNF sources, the multiple rocket launchers appear to have been used since February 16, when they started seeing multiple explosions. Sources say there are at least three multiple rocket launchers in Karenni State, including one at LIB 102, Demawso



SAC shelling from a multiple rocket launcher in Daw Ngan Khan quarter, Demawso

- **Increased displacement due to escalated SAC offensives**

The escalated ground and air offensives by the SAC have caused new displacement, as increased numbers of villagers no longer dare stay in their homes, and have sought shelter in existing IDP camps or in jungle hiding places. There are about 10,000 new IDPs in Pekhoh township and 10,000 new IDPs in Demawso township.

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