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Karenni Civil Society Network

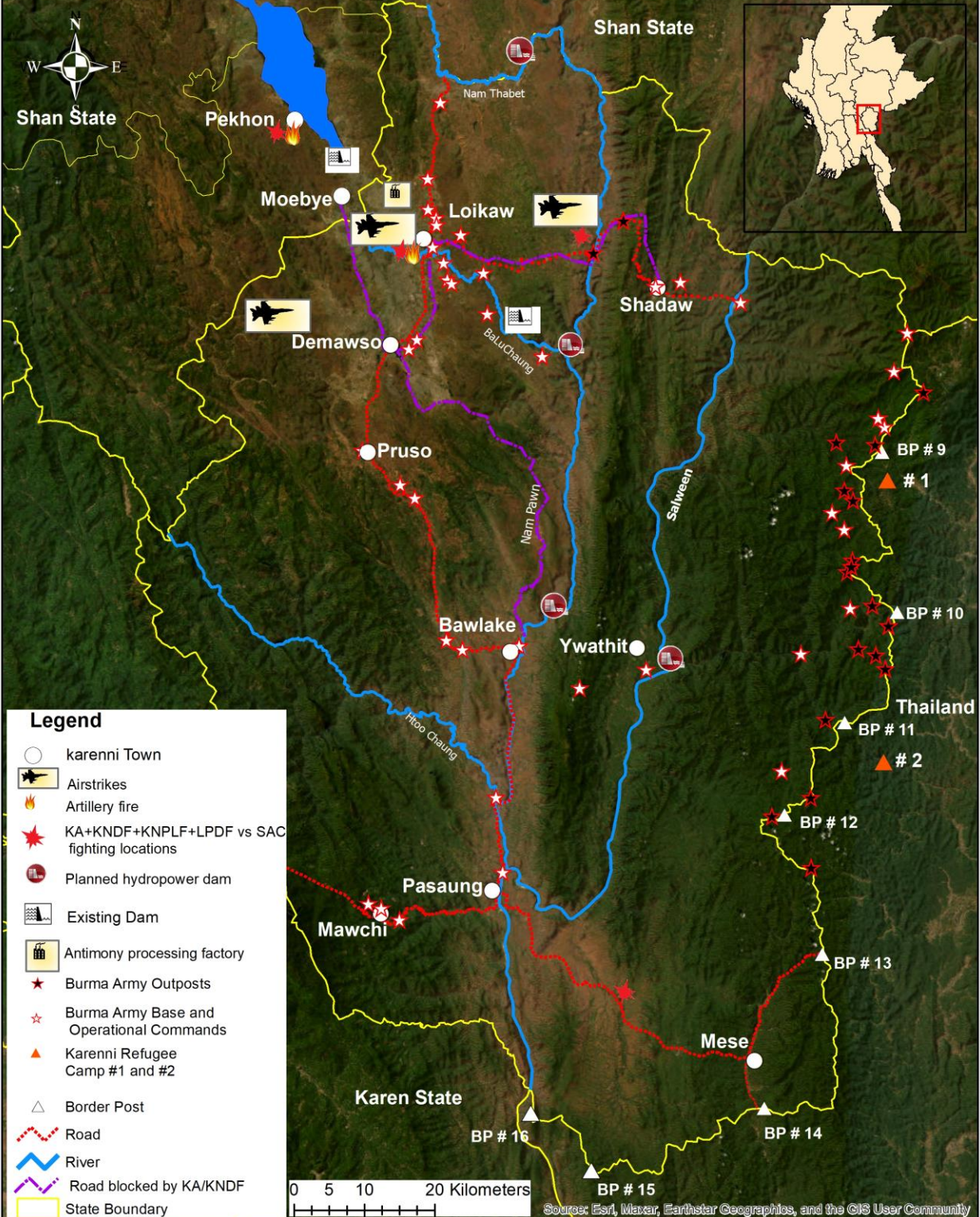
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Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Nov 20–Dec 3, 2023
Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1 2021 – Nov 19, 2023	Nov 20–Dec 3, 2023	Total
1	Civilians killed	477	7	484
2	Civilians arrested	370		370
3	Civilians injured	498	12	510
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	199	100	299
	Demawso township	621	3	624
	Mese township	31		31
	Pekhon township	376		376
	Pruso township	151		151
	Bawlake township	33		33
	Shadaw township	16		16
	Pasaung township	32		32
Summary of displacement				
No	Township	Estimated no. of IDPs by Nov 19, 2023	New IDPs Nov 20–Dec 3, 2023	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	52,311		92,311
2	Demawso	83,265		83,265
3	Pruso	14,403		14,403
4	Pasaung	24,000		24,000
5	Pekhon	56,000		56,000
6	Shadaw	2,395		2,395
7	Mese	5,000		5,000
8	Bawlake	5,241		5,241
	Total	282,615		282,615

Location of SAC operations and human rights violations Nov 20 - Dec 3, 2023



Repeated SAC airstrikes cause widespread damage across Loikaw town, injure eleven IDPs in Demawso church

During the past two weeks, SAC aircraft have carried out repeated airstrikes over Loikaw town, damaging over a hundred civilian buildings, but failing to dislodge resistance troops who now control a third of the town. An airstrike on a church in Demawso township injured eleven IDPs sheltering there. Meanwhile, SAC troops have been forced to abandon two key military outposts in Karenni State: on November 24, they retreated from their last remaining outpost in Mese township, and on December 2, retreated from their outpost at the Pawn River bridge in Shadaw township.

On November 20, at 6 pm, the SAC carried out an airstrike targeting the Catholic church in Daw Rot Khu village, Demawso township. As a consequence of this airstrike, 11 internally displaced persons (IDPs) including a social aid worker seeking refuge at the church from the conflict sustained injuries and the church was also damaged.

On November 21, two soldiers, called Zaw Moe (age 31) and Than Htike (age 24), who had disguised themselves as civilians and deserted from their unit, identified as LIB 519, were apprehended by Thai authorities near Parpat village in Mae Hong Son township.

Late at night on November 24, SAC troops from LIB 512 under ID 55 retreated from their camp in Pan Tein, the last SAC military camp in Mese township.

On November 25, SAC troops patrolling through Kwan Lon and La Hwae villages in Pekon township, were attacked by resistance groups and forced to retreat. The SAC retaliated by launching heavy artillery towards these villages, causing the Karenni National Defence Force (KNDF) to urge local residents to evacuate to safer locations. On the same day, 15 SAC troops in Loikaw defected to the KNDF with their weapons, and the SAC troops retreating from Pan Tein, Mese township, were ambushed by combined Karenni forces, leaving 20 SAC soldiers dead.

On November 27, SAC troops entered the Christu Bayay Church compound in Loikaw, where about 60 IDPs, including some sick patients, had sought refuge. The head pastor of the church pleaded with the SAC troops not to enter the church, causing them to temporarily withdraw. But shortly afterwards, the church came under heavy artillery attack. The troops then returned, forcibly opened the church doors and proceeded to demolish it. The IDPs sheltering in the church were forced to flee, and approximately 50 SAC troops are currently encamped there. Between November 22 and 27, Loikaw town residents saw seven civilians shot dead by SAC troops in the streets, but have not yet been allowed to collect the bodies.

On November 28, combined Karenni forces cleared 10 landmines laid by the SAC in Daw Se, Demawso township.



SAC aerial bombing damage in Loikaw town

Civilian driver shot dead by SAC, Loikaw town

On November 29, SAC's aerial bombing of Loikaw town was particularly intense, with around 60 bombs dropped throughout the day, including 500 lb bombs. As a consequence, numerous civilian houses were destroyed.

On November 30, at 1 pm, despite there being no clashes at the time, the SAC indiscriminately fired 10 artillery shells into western Demawso township, injuring a woman and damaging some houses. At 9 pm, a SAC fighter jet bombed the area three times, damaging some civilian houses.

On December 1, the Loikaw People's Defense Force (PDF) and Falcon Wings carried out drone attacks on SAC troop camps within Loikaw town. The Loikaw PDF reported that the weapon storage depot inside IB 54 base in the outskirts of Loikaw town was burnt down as a result of these drone attacks. On the same day, combined Karenni forces attacked the SAC IB 72 outpost at the Pawn River bridge in Shadaw township. In retaliation, SAC fighter jets bombed around the area.

On the night of December 2, SAC troops retreated from the IB 72 outpost on the Pawn River, and on December 3, combined Karenni forces seized the outpost with some ammunition. They also killed ten of the retreating SAC troops, and capture nine.

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