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Karenni Civil Society Network

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Dec 20, 2023

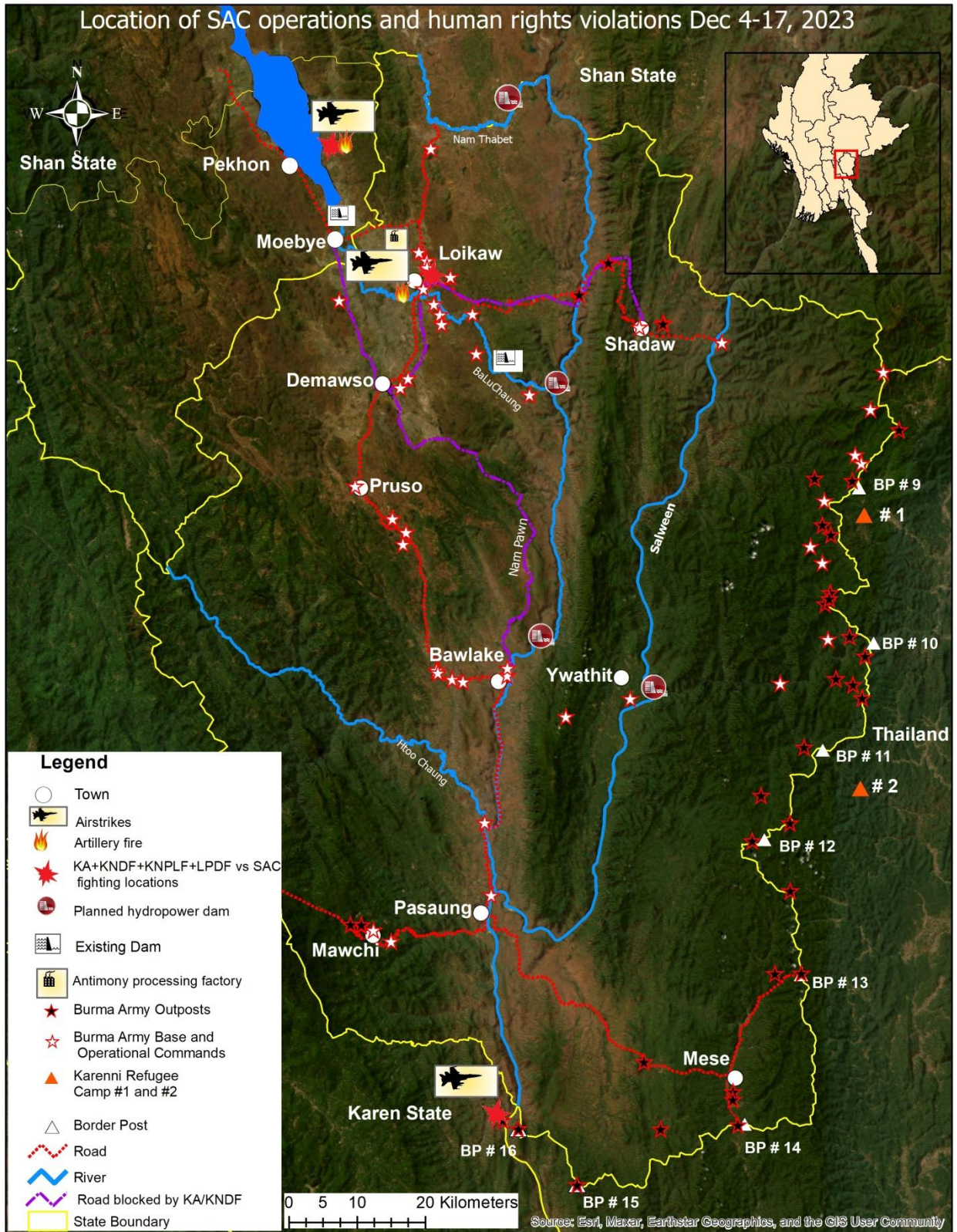
Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Dec 4-17, 2023
Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1 2021 – Dec 3, 2023	Dec 4-17, 2023	Total
1	Civilians killed	484	4	488
2	Civilians arrested	370	3	373
3	Civilians injured	510	2	512
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	299	1,100	1,399
	Demawso township	624	3	627
	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 Dec 3, 2023	New IDPs Dec 4-17, 2023	Total displacement
1	Loikaw	52,311		52,311
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 Dec 4-17, 2023



SAC shelling and airstrikes destroy hundreds of buildings, main market of Loikaw town

Karenni resistance forces have continued launching attacks in Loikaw under Operation 11.11, and on December 9, managed to seize Loikaw police station. SAC troops have responded with fierce artillery fire and airstrikes which have destroyed hundreds of civilian buildings across Loikaw town, including the main Thiri Mingalar Market, which housed over 1,000 shops.

On December 7, with intense fighting continuing under Operation 11.11, the SAC fired artillery into Loikaw town, killing two men.

On December 9, the SAC fired artillery into Lawdamar quarter, Shwe Taung quarter and Mingalar quarter of Loikaw town, causing one general store and several civilian houses to burn down. On the same day, revolutionary forces seized Loikaw police station. Many SAC soldiers were killed in the operation and some escaped.

On December 10, the Taung Kwe Pagoda compound in Loikaw was hit by SAC artillery fire, resulting in damage to the monastery within the pagoda premises. Several internally displaced persons (IDPs) seeking refuge in the monastery sustained injuries, and the pagoda itself was damaged. SAC artillery fire also caused the complete destruction of the Thiri Mingalar Market, a vital commercial hub with over 1,000 shops which many local vendors depended on for their livelihoods.

On December 11, a person in civilian clothes, suspected to be a SAC police officer, was apprehended carrying WY pills in Loikaw town by the KNDF. The arrest yielded the confiscation of 12 WY pills, 3 grenades, 2 mobile phones, and a sum of cash. At 8:00am, combined Karenni forces attacked the SAC outpost at Saung Nam Ke, east of Phekon Lake.

On the morning of December 12, intense fighting erupted between the SAC army and combined resistance forces in Loikaw town. SAC Battalion 54 relentlessly fired heavy artillery at Daw U Khu village and Naung Yar village. By 11 pm, the Golden Loikaw Welfare Association office in Loikaw, along with seven ambulances and nearby houses, was set ablaze due to the SAC's heavy artillery fire. Residents fleeing the conflict from Minelon Ward in Loikaw returned briefly to retrieve essential belongings, resulting in two fatalities and one injury from SAC shelling.



SAC aerial bombs, west Demawso township



Building damaged by SAC shells in Loikaw town

On December 14, the SAC carried out four aerial bombings in Loikaw, specifically targeting Badoh ward, an area without direct fighting. As a consequence, civilian homes were destroyed by the bombing.

In Nyaung Shwe town, located in Southern Shan State, on December 15, SAC troops conducted raids and inspections in the area where IDPs from Karenni were seeking refuge. Fifteen IDPs were initially apprehended, and although twelve have since been released, three remain in detention.

On December 17, at 4 pm, despite there being no clashes, the SAC dropped bombs in two areas of west Demawso township, injuring one man and damaging shelters, cars and motorbikes. On the same day, the combined Karenni forces and KNLA seized the SAC's outpost in Mo Lo Kyo (Pe Htan), Karen state.

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