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Karen Civil Society Network

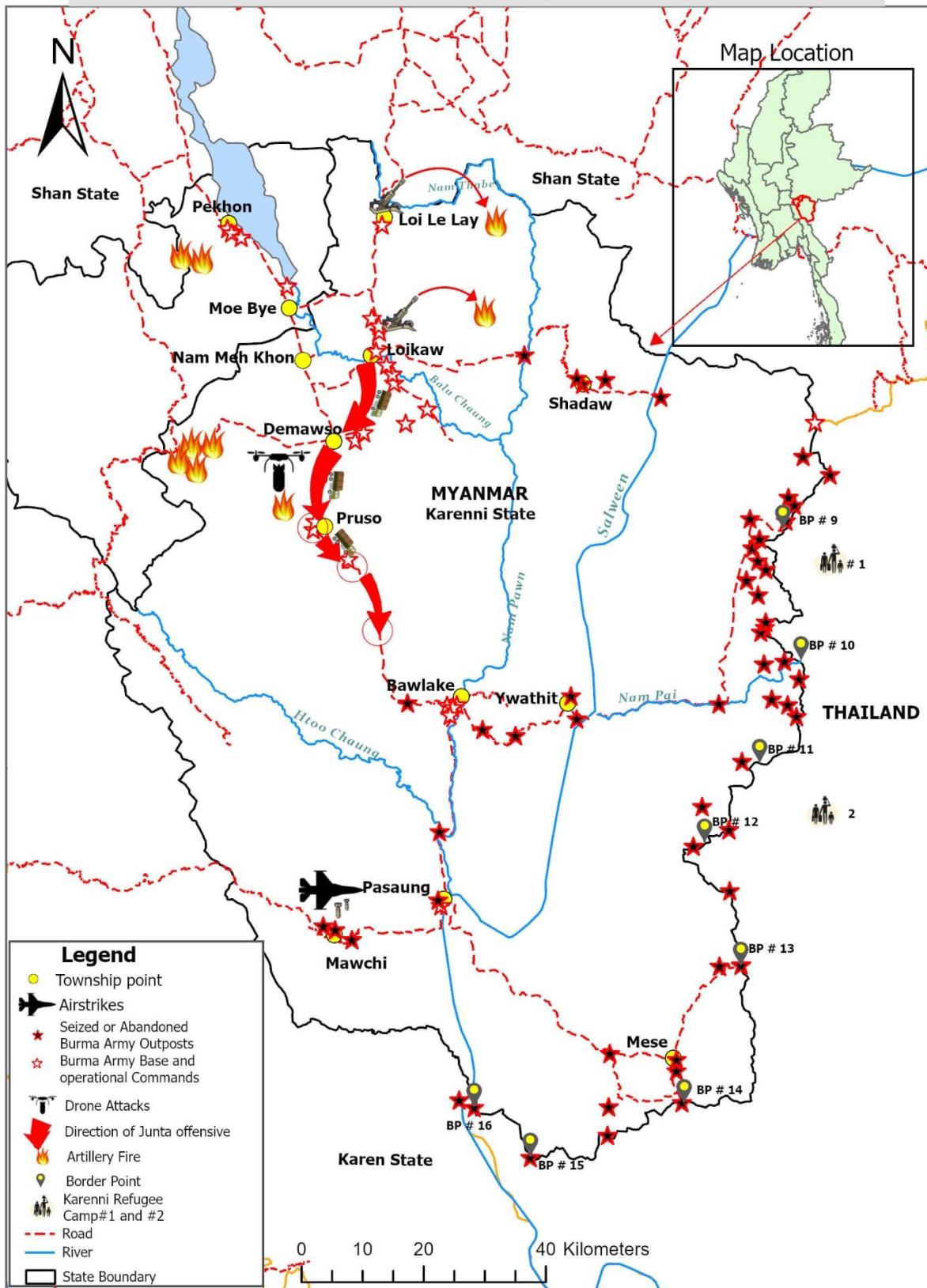
P.O. Box - 100, Mae Hong Son, 58000, Thailand
Phone: 06 5329 7814, E-mail:kcsn2010@gmail.com

• • • • • February 6, 2026 • • • • •

Monthly situation update by the Karen Civil Society Network, January 1-31, 2026
Summary of Junta human rights violations in Karen State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1 2021 – Dec 31, 2025	Jan 1-31, 2026	Total
1	Civilians killed	717	3	720
2	Civilians arrested	592		592
3	Civilians injured	954	11	965
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	1586		1586
	Demawso township	694	1	695
	Mese township	37		37
	Pekhon township	844	3	847
	Pruso township	162	3	165
	Bawlake township	35		35
	Shadaw township	56		56
	Pasaung township	190		190

Location of Junta operations and human rights violations Jan 1-31, 2026



Amidst sham polls, junta bombardment and landmines kill three civilians, injure nine in Demawso, Loikaw, Pekhon and Pasaung

The second phase of the junta military council's sham election in Karen State was held on January 11 in military camps in Demawso and Pruso townships, after the first phase was held on December 28, 2025 in Loikaw and Bawlake. In the morning of the polls on January 11, junta forces launched drone bombs and artillery shells indiscriminately in Demawso and Pruso, causing a house and a granary to burn down in one village. Both before and after the polling date, the junta carried out air and artillery attacks on civilian targets, not only in Demawso and Pruso, but also in Loikaw, Pekhon and the Mawchi mining area, killing two civilians and injuring six. During January, three civilians were injured and one was killed from stepping on landmines laid by junta forces.

Timeline of conflict incidents during January

On the afternoon of January 4, around 3 pm, two male refugees, one of whom was an 8th-grade student, were shot at by the junta military council near the Daw Nga Kha neighborhood in Demawso township, and they sustained serious injuries after stepping on a landmine while trying to escape.

On the morning of January 5, a 43-year-old man from Daw Mu Kla village in Loikaw township lost his life after stepping on a landmine planted by the junta military council while delivering supplies.

On January 8, at around 9 pm, two artillery shells were fired by the junta military council artillery-based forces on a village in the western part of Pekhon township, injuring a woman and damaging several houses.

On January 11, during the morning of the 2nd phase of the junta military council's election, junta drone bombs and artillery shells were launched indiscriminately in Demawso and Pruso township. One shell exploded in a village in Pruso township, burning down a house and a granary.

On the evening of January 13, the junta military council in Loikaw town continuously fired heavy weapons at the outskirts of the town. In addition, heavy weapons were fired in Loikaw town and Loi Lin Lay town, where there was no fighting.

On January 14, a village in Demawso township was targeted by drones of the junta military council after three reconnaissance missions by aircraft. At around 5 pm, four artillery shells were fired at a village church, damaging the walls and windows of the church.

On January 18, at 1 am, 86 prisoners of war escaped from captivity in Mese Prison No. 2 under control of the IEC. Eight were killed and two arrested by Karen security forces in a firefight during the escape. 68 were later arrested by Thai authorities and returned to junta officials at the Mae Sot-Myawaddy crossing.

On January 18, at 10 am, the junta military council fired artillery shells at a village in Pruso township, where there was no fighting, and two drone shells were fired, damaging a house in the village.

On January 21, a man in Daw U Khu ward, Loikaw township, who was cleaning around his compound after returning home from an IDP camp, stepped on a landmine planted by the junta military council and lost his left leg.

On January 25, at 11 am, the junta military council fired artillery shells into a farm in Mobye township, killing a 56-year-old man.

On January 30, at 4 pm, junta military aircraft targeted two places in the Mawchi mining area and fired with guns after bombing, killing one civilian, injuring five and damaging some houses.

Contact persons:

Khu Ko Reh Tel: +66 65 329 7814
Maw Thue Myar Tel: +66 63 608 3153
Website: www.karennicsn.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kcsnengbur>
Email: kcsn2010@gmail.com