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Karenni Civil Society Network

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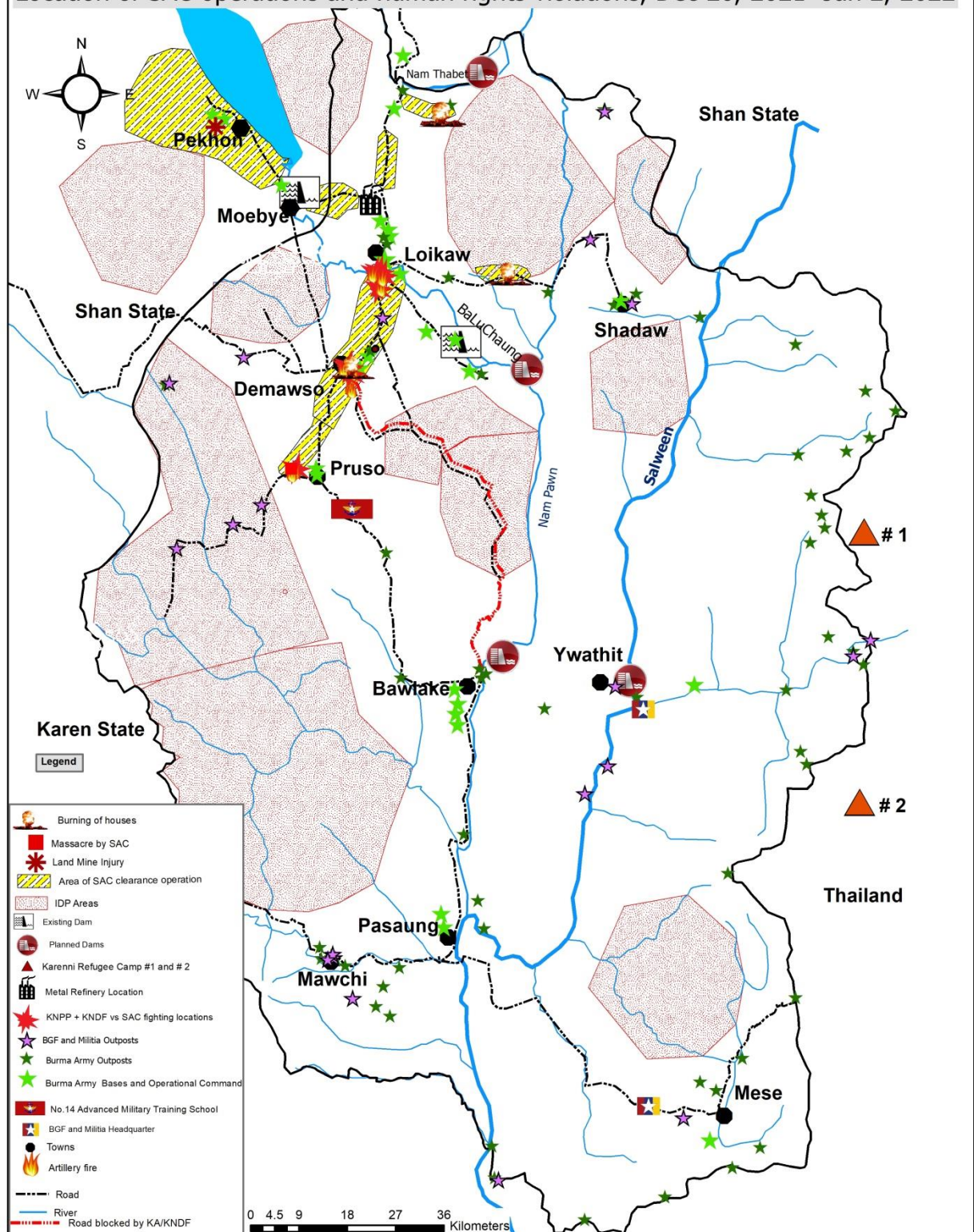
January 6, 2022

Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Dec 20, 2021–Jan 2, 2022

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

No		Feb 1- Dec 19	Dec 20 – Jan 2	Total
1	People killed	133	49	182
2	People arrested	257	11	268
3	People injured	146	1	147
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	44	20	64
	Demawso township	259	1	260
	Pekhon township	109		109
	Pruso township	3		3
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 Dec 19	New IDPs Dec 20 – Jan 2	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	2,215		2,215
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	3,741		3,741
	Total	156,935		156,935

Location of SAC operations and human rights violations, Dec 20, 2021- Jan 2, 2022



Christmas Eve Massacre by SAC troops

On December 23, about 200 SAC soldiers from LIB 108 (under Infantry Division 66), who had been staying at LIB 427 and IB 102 bases in Demawso, headed south on foot from Demawso town towards Pruso. On the way they spent one night at Daw Nyi Khu village on the main road leading to Pruso.

Timeline on December 24:

Early morning: The SAC troops searched through villagers' houses in Daw Nyi Khu village, then left the village and carried on walking southwards, leaving the main road.

11.30 am: The SAC troops stopped about 2 kilometers west of Pruso town on a small road used by local villagers and other civilians wanting to avoid travelling on the main highway from Pruso to Demawso, where there were frequent armed clashes. They stopped about one kilometer north of Mo Hso village, Mo Hso tract, Pruso township.

11:30 am-1 pm: The SAC troops forced the following vehicles to stop: 3 trucks carrying gasoline from Loikaw to Bawlake; 3 cars; 1 tractor with a trailer; and 15 motorbikes. There were 42 people on these vehicles, and they were all detained.

1-2 pm: Four soldiers from the local BGF Battalion 1004, under the Burma Army, came to try and negotiate for the release of the arrested villagers. The SAC troops tied their hands behind their backs and killed them by shooting them in the head. Their bodies were left at the massacre location, but not burned.

2 pm: The SAC troops poured gasoline on the 42 detained villagers, who appear to have been tied up and tortured, and then set them on fire, together with their vehicles. Some appear to have been burned alive. Only 10 motorbikes were left unburned. During the burning, the SAC LIB 108 troops fired their guns, and mortar shells were fired from the nearby LIB 531 and LIB 428 bases in Pruso town. It seems they wanted to pretend they were clashing with Karenni forces, even though this was not the case.

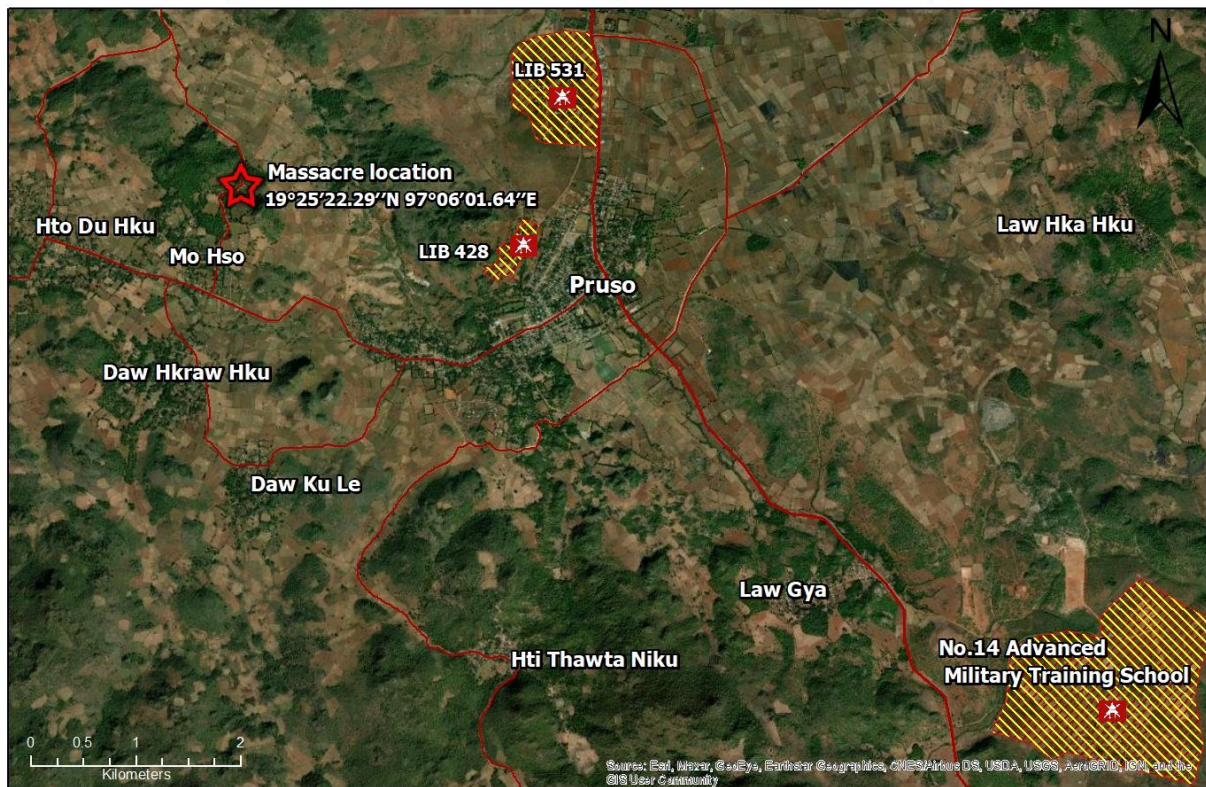
After this, the troops LIB 108 walked east to the LIB 531 base on the northern edge of Pruso town.

3 pm: Seeing the clouds of smoke, some Karenni Army (KA) and Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) troops tried to approach the area, but dared not get too close, and thought that only vehicles had been burned.

On December 25, the KA and KNDF troops reached the massacre site and found the burned bodies of the massacre victims. While they were still at the site, SAC troops from LIB 108 and LIB 531 returned to the site, leading to armed clashes which lasted from 9 am and 2 pm.

According to the anti-regime Karenni State Police Force, which has been investigating the massacre, the 42 burned victims include 26 male villagers, 5 female villagers and a young girl age between 12 and 15 year-old. The identity of the other bodies has not yet been confirmed, as the remains were so damaged. Most of the victims were villagers from Marcrawshay village, Law Gya village, Hku Rah Khu village and Mo Hso village in Pruso township, except for the owner of the gasoline trucks, Kyaw Lwin, who was from Pa Kan in Loikaw, and some of his workers, and two Save the Children staff members on the way back to their office after providing humanitarian assistance (as confirmed by Save the Children on December 28).

Massacre by SAC near Mo Hso village in Pruso Township, Dec 24 2021



The charred vehicles and remains of civilians massacred by SAC near Mo Hso village, Pruso township

- **Ongoing SAC clearance operations, shelling of civilian areas, torching of houses, arbitrary arrest and torture of villagers**

On December 20, SAC troops burned down 5 more houses in Kon Nan village, eastern Loi Le Lay, Loikaw township. Between December 18 and 19, the SAC had previously burned down 24 houses in this area (not 11 houses, as documented in the last KCSN update).

On December 21, while SAC troops were carrying out operations in eastern Pekhon township, they arrested 8 villagers from Hsi Me Law village. On the same day, two elderly villagers from Shwe Pyi Aye in Pekhon township (U Maung Yo, 67 years old, and U Soe Tint, 49 years old) died at Taunggyi No. 1 police station, after being tortured by SAC. They were among 19 Shwe Pyi Aye villagers arrested by SAC on October 28. The remaining 17 villagers are still being detained in Taunggyi No. 1 police station, on charges of rebelling against the state government.

On December 24, SAC troops indiscriminately fired artillery shells at Bardo village in Loikaw township, killing a villager and damaging one house.

On December 25, at 3:45 pm, combined troops of Demawso PDF and KGZ attacked SAC troops based in Demawso Myoma police station, killing 3 SAC soldiers. Two Demawso PDF were injured. After the clash, the SAC troops torched a house near Demawso Myoma police station.

On December 27, combined troops from Demawso PDF and Loikaw KGZ attacked a SAC ambush unit near the railway line passing through Mine Lone quarter in Loikaw, and seriously injured 3 SAC soldiers, according to a Demawso PDF statement.

On December 29 at 3 am, troops of the Karenni Democratic Front (KDF), PDF and GZ-21 attacked Loikaw district office killing 2 SAC soldiers. On the same day, while a mother and a daughter were picking corn in their field near the SAC's LIB 336 base at Pekhoh, the daughter stepped on a land mine and was sent to Loikaw hospital for treatment.

On December 30, at 8 pm, KDF troops attacked Demawso-based LIB 427, killing 8 SAC troops and injuring 20, according to KDF.

On December 31 at 9 am, combined troops of the PDF, KNDF and KA clashed heavily with SAC troops in Demawso town. At 3:30 pm, 3 SAC fighter jets dropped bombs to back up their troops, inflicting casualties on the Karenni forces.

On January 1, 2022, at 16:30 hrs, combined PDF, KNDF and KA troops attacked SAC troops which were camped in the pagoda compound near Myoma police station in Demawso town, killing 5 SAC soldiers.

On January 1, 2022, at 11 pm, combined troops of KDF, PDF and GZ-21 attacked a SAC ambush unit in Daw U Khu quarter of Loikaw town, killing 3 SAC soldiers and injuring 5.

On January 2, 2022, a serious clash occurred between combined Karenni forces and SAC troops near Ngwe Taung Dam close to Demawso town, leaving one Loikaw PDF soldier and one KA soldier dead. There were also deaths on the SAC side, but the exact figures are not known.

On January 2, 2022, SAC troops arrested 3 IDPs from Daw Tayoke village, Loikaw township, who were trying to collect rations from their homes, and released them the same day. They also burned down one house there.

- **IDPs suffering from aid shortages and heightened insecurity**

Due to ongoing armed clashes and due to SAC clearance operations, IDPs still dare not return home, and are suffering from the poor living conditions in the IDP camps, and shortages of food and medicine. IDPs' fears that their camps will be attacked by SAC troops have been heightened by the December 24 massacre.

- **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
Dec 6- Dec 19, 2021	43	6
Dec 20- Jan 2, 2022	10	1

The sharp drop in numbers is misleading as it only includes cases from SAC health facilities. Most civilians in Karenni State and Pekhon township, including over 150,000 IDPs, do not dare go to the SAC-run hospitals, due to SAC aggression and mismanagement of the health system. The IDPs are relying on health care from Karenni medical personnel and from doctors and nurses who joined the CDM, but there is a shortage of medical supplies.

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