



Report on Human Rights Violations in Karenni State (2024)

Volume 1



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Preface

Accusing the result of the 2020 election as unscrupulous, the military took over power on 1st February, 2021. After the coup, the people of Myanmar throughout the country took to the street for peaceful demonstration to restore public power and urge the military to accept and tolerate the outcome of the 2020 elections. Peoples, students, and youths from Kareni State also protested peacefully against the military to extradite power to the elected government. As the State Administration Council (SAC) crushed down the peaceful demonstration by force, the youth and students all over the country, including Karenni, responded and reversed the SAC by armed revolution.

Human rights violations have increased in Karenni State after the coup and the consequences of the armed fighting. During the 3 years revolution period, there have been several killings, murders, arrests, violence, shelling, heavy cannon, and airstrikes. Additionally, there were food crises and malnutrition in the Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) Camps. Besides, the SAC has been burning down peoples' homes and properties, unwarranted shelling, and conducted airstrikes at residents, villages, and IDPs camps.

This report reveals human rights violations in Karenni State, which rights violation cases collected by the Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY). The report also intends that the rights victims are able to express the violations in the report, the victims have channels to demand for justice, and also request and provide recommendations to relevant authorities to respond and take action on human rights violation issues.

Human Rights Violations in Karenni State

1) Village Status before Daw Si Ei Village School's Airstrike

Daw Si Ei Village is located in Demawso Township, Karenni State. There are (100) houses in the village and the Kayan is the largest ethnic group. Majority of the villagers earn a living by farming. There is a primary school in the village, and children who complete primary education in the village continue high school at the Loi Nan Phat High School.



The village of Daw Si Ei is a peaceful village, but many IDPs from Loikaw and Demawso took refuge in the village after the coup and armed conflict took place in Karenni State. There was a self-support school run at Village Primary School for IDPs' and villagers' children at village owned primary school.

Daw Si Ei is one of the villages under the control of the Karenni Revolutionary Forces. After the fighting initiated between the SAC and Karenni combined forces took place in Karenni State, the SAC often fired heavy weapons to the village, but none of the shelling fell into the village. The village hosted (100) IDPs households. Local peoples and IDPs are working together in solving all the social, educational, and health related issues of the village. There were (205) students studied in the school and (20) % out (205) students were refugee children.

Airstrike on School

On 5th, February, 2024, the SAC launched a targeted attack on the primary school at Daw Si Ei Village, Demawso Township, Karenni State. The SAC bombed the Daw Si Ei School with (500) pounds (2) at a time by K-8 Jet Fighter. There were (4) children killed on the spot and at least another (10) were seriously injured from the airstrike.

2) Expression of Human Rights Violations Victims in Karenni

The rights violation victims express their views to respective authorities/perpetrators as follows.

2.1) Civilians Views on the Perpetrators (SAC)

After the 2021 coup, peoples throughout the country against the military dictatorship by peaceful demonstration, but they later were violently suppressed and dismantled. In the violent crackdown, the SAC used real bullets and killed the demonstrators. Thereafter, in response to the SAC's cruel suppression, the concept of armed fighting has amplified among the public. In fact, young people have mostly joined in the armed revolution, which aims to root out the aged-old military regime and to build a federal democracy that all the people want.

The Ethnic Resistance Organizations which have been fighting against the successive military dictatorships for decades also provided military assistance to the newly formed revolutionary forces that emerged after the 2021 coup, and together combated the SAC at Daw Ngan Kha Village, Demawso Township, in Karenni State on 21st May 2024 at 8:00 AM. This fighting has fueled the armed revolution to expand throughout the country. As a result of the extensive conflicts, the SAC has widely and intentionally committed human rights violations, such as burned down civilian homes, bombarded schools, targeted religious buildings, unlawfully arrested civilians, using the hostage as human shield, killing the detainees, and attacking civilians. Thus, the intention of the Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY) for collecting rights violations information and interviewing people is to make the public aware of how human rights violation victims view the SAC.

According to the data, the human rights victim answered that the SAC purposefully targeted shelling and bombardment the refugees. They said that the attacks were the highest at the IDPs' camps and places where no armed engagement took place. Besides, the SAC's troops have done more bombings and shelling where they assume the revolutionary forces bases and warfare related sites. Moreover, in order that the public services collapsed and weakened, the SAC has deliberately targeted hospitals, clinics, and schools. Some still said that, if the SAC deems that whoever opposes them, they would attack on anyone without separating from armed forces to civilians.

2.2) Voices of Public to National Unity Government (NUG) and Karenni State Interim Executive Council (KSIEC)

The public demand the National Unity Government (NUG) and the Karenni State Interim Executive Council (KSIEC) to form a good government (civilian government) that reflects peoples' voices. Besides, family members of those who have been arrested suggest that the relevant

authorities, such as the Union Government, State Government and CSOs should investigate their loved ones whereabouts and well-being conditions. Moreover, in order to restore rights and dignity during the transitional period, the rights victims call for justice, healing, rehabilitation, prosecution of the rights perpetrators, and to end the revolution soon. Besides, the public demanded the relevant local authorities to renovate bombed schools, hospitals, clinics, and public buildings in villages and at IDPs Camps, so that they will be able to continue using them for public services. Additionally, the public demanded the relevant authorities to take quick actions and responses to provide assistance which was requested for people living in remote areas.

3) View on Civil Societies

Human rights violations information and case studies collected by the Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY) include the feelings, voices, and recommendations of the rights victims towards the respective governmental departments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Based on the above-information, the report shall provide public voices as the following:

- 1) The public is vulnerable to documenting human rights violations committed against them, so they request CSOS to provide them technological assistance for systematically collecting documents, and also demand CSOs to collect information.
- 2) The relevant governmental departments and CSOs provide health, education and emergency relief to those living in remote places and locations where the donors are hard to reach out.
- 3) To provide psychological counselling to human rights victims due to the rights victims have physical injuries as well as psychological damage.
- 4) Despite several difficulties and hardships, the IDPs request CSOs to support children's education in areas where the related authorities or administration services could not access.

4) Subsequent Problems of Rights Victims

The consequences of human rights violations, such as airstrikes, shelling, and detaining committed by the SAC has resulted in problems like health, death and injuries to civilians. Besides, individuals with serious injuries have subsequent health related problems and could not adapt themselves in the society. Furthermore, people who have lost part of their bodies are psychologically collapsed and socially breakdown. In addition, the health-related consequences, such as the recurrence of injuries, brain damage, bleeding from the ears, and loss of hearing have often occurred among the victims.

Some peoples' loss all family's members, homes, and possessions by the SAC's air strike. Such attack and bombardment of the SAC could be defined as war crimes and the genocide. Families which lost homes, barns and properties by the SAC's airstrike have subsistence problems, such as they have difficult access to foods, clothing, and work.

The airstrikes have brought about fears among children to continue schooling. Feeling insecure, children have lost interest and enthusiasm in education.

Civilians have encountered health services difficulties due to the hospitals and clinics being attacked. Actually, those hospitals and clinics are the ones people heavily depend on. As a consequence of the closure of clinics and hospitals, local peoples and IDPs have no place to have medical treatment, so some sick people die just because of unreachable medication. As a result of inaccessible medication at respective nearby hospitals and clinics, people go for medical treatment to remote areas which cause costly transportation fees, time consuming, and unnecessary death.

As the armed fighting has become widespread throughout the Karenni State, for security safety, people have dug bunkers, trench, and always stay alert for all the times. Since the attacks from the SAC can happen anywhere, there is no place where people can live freely and securely. On the other hand, the civilians have to work for a living, so they could not care for their security at the times.

5) Acres of Paddy Fields Damaged by Releasing Myo Bye Dam's Outlet

Majority of people living around Moe Bye areas are making a living by farming, and normally they grow paddy in April. However, these farm lands heavily rely on water from Phekon's Dam. The Phekon's Dam torrent throughout Moe Bye Areas by Be Lu Chaung to Lapita to generate electric power. There are thousands of acres of farm lands located throughout Be Lu Chuang. The dam outlet is controlled by the SAC's Light Infantry No. 422 and the dam security forces. So, when farmers needed water, the Light Infantry No. 422 and the dam security forces didn't open the dam outlet. But when farm lands had enough water in July and paddy was about to ripen, the SAC's troops opened the dam's outlet. Thus, thousands of paddy fields were flooded and spoiled. According to the interview about the opening of the dam's outlet, one peasant said, "This is a rainy season, but prior to the coup, it has never been flooded in the previous years. However, after the coup the dam's security forces did not open the water outlet during the cultivation season, but unlocked the outlet when grains are about to ripen and harvest". Farmers expressed their views and considered that, the SAC's troop do it deliberately against them.

According to the voices of the peasants and revolutionary forces, the SAC's troops based at the Dam intend to harden public livelihood by blocking the water outlet during cultivation season and opening the outlet to make the paddy fields flood in harvest period. In July 2024, the SAC's troops opened the dam outlet, and as a consequence, thousands of acres of paddy fields and IDPs' temporary shelters throughout Be Lu Chaung were drowned and the IDPs had to evacuate.

Additionally, as the peasants note, by the beginning of September 2024, the Light Infantry Battalion 422 and the dam's security forces opened the dam's outlet again which damaged thousands of acres of paddy fields. As a result, there were estimate (4000) acres of farm lands drowned and many acres of the drowned paddy fields were ready to harvest.



6) SAC's Terrorist Attacks on Public Hospital

The SAC has committed a nationwide scale war crime by conducting airstrike, shelling, and deliberately arson public owned properties. For instance, the SAC's troop burned over (30) peoples alive in Pruso Township and killed more than (30) peoples and monks at Nan Nin Village in PinLaung Township in 2023. Besides, the SAC also targeted IDPs' camps and villages' which host the IDPs. In addition to the burning of civilian homes, the SAC also bombed and shelled public hospitals, clinics, and the sacred places such as monasteries and temples. Among the crimes committed by the SAC, we UKSY would like to point out one of the cases that occurred at Lar Ei Village, Re Ngwet Village Tract, Phekho Township.

Lar Ei Village has about (700) houses and is located in Phekho Township. Most of the villagers profess Buddhism. There is a self-support run hospital in the village, and people from Lar Ei and its nearby areas come to the hospital for medical treatment. Apart from the local peoples, the IDPs living in Lar Ei Village and surrounding areas also came for medication at the hospital.



The SAC bombed the Lar Ei's Public Hospital (3) times on 22nd March 2024 at 10:15 AM. There were (2) people dead and (6) injured by the airstrike. There were health workers and patients in the hospital during the airstrike. Among the dead were the (18) year old man (Lar Ei Villager) and the (45) year old man (IDPs).



7) Airstrikes on Re Lon Re Kan and Re Ngwet Village Tracts

The SAC launched an airstrike on Peking Village (Re Ngwet Village Tract) and Lwel Yin Village (Relon Re Kan Village Tract) in Phekon Township. These two villages are adjacent to each other and they share a clinic and market together. Majority of the villagers earn a living by farming. It is estimated that there were about (700) houses and (2000) residents in the villages. There are (2) high schools and about (2000) to (3000) students' study yearly. Those students are local children and also children of the IDPs coming from different areas after the coup. Majority of the villagers are Christian and about one fourth are Buddhist.

The SAC bombed the villages of Peking and Lwel Yin on 11th, April 2024 at 10:15 PM. The first attack targeted Pekin Village and (7) minutes later at Lwel Yin Village. There were four of (300) pound bombs dropped in (2) times. (1) hospital, (1) water tank, (1) barn, some houses were damaged and (2) peoples wounded by the attack in Pekin Village. However, there were (1) school, (1) water tank, (1) barn, (6) houses, public administrative office building ruined, and (4) people dead and (4) seriously injured at Lwel Yin Village attack. Among the dead were the (65) year old women and the under (18) year old (3) children.

8) Airstrike on Kone Thar Village (Loikaw Township)

Kone Thar Village is located in Loikaw Township, Karenni State. Kayan, Shan, and Pa Oh ethnic are the majority residents, and there are about (600) houses and (3000) peoples residing in the villages. Most of the villagers profess Christianity and a minority worship Buddhism. Rice, corn, and beans are the major crops that people reside in Kone Thar Village make a living.



Kone Thar Village Located only a few distance from Loikaw, so after the coup it was often targeted by the SAC's shelling. There were several people killed, dozens of houses and religious buildings ruined by a series of heavy weapon attacks. Since the coup, the SAC has shelled into the villages more than (500) times.

The SAC launched an airstrike on Kone Thar Village on 24th April 2024 at 11:00 AM. There were (6) people killed and (16) wounded by the airstrike. The SAC's troops have shelled at Kone Thar Village several times, but it was the 1st time of airstrike. There was (1) child under age (5) was killed and (3) children under age (18) were wounded. (2) houses, (1) Village's Hall, (1) youth center, (2) barns, and village tract administrative office were damaged by the bombardment.



9) Deaths, Injuries and Damaged Lists of Human Rights Violations Collected by the Union of Karenni State Youth -UKSY

The Union of Karenni State Youth-UKSY aims to contribute justice for rights violation victims during the transitional period and to urge the international community to take action against human rights violations committed by the State Administration Council.

These case studies are collected by the Union of Karenni State Youth-UKSY from June-August. In fact, resulting from the confrontation between the SAC's troops and the combined revolutionary forces, there are more human rights violations on the ground than the lists.

Death		Injuries	
Ages		Ages	
Under age 5	3	Under age 5	4
Age 5-18	8	Age 5-18	58
Age 18-60	24	Age 18-60	29
Above 60	1	Above 60	10
Total Death	37	Total Injuries	101

Damaged Buildings and Vehicles

No	Descriptions	Quantity
1	School	11
2	Houses	78
3	Barns	11
4	Clinics	8
5	Administrative Office	2
6	Religious buildings	3
7	Motor cars	5
8	Motor cycles	10
9	Water Tank	2
10	Village Hall	3

Conclusion

Currently, the Karenni State's politics, administration, legislative and judicial sectors have operated systematically under the political leadership of the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC). And the relevant State Authorities and the CSOs cooperated in providing humanitarian assistance to the IDPs who've fled from armed fighting.

Not only human rights violation cases, but also social problems such as drugs and gambling have widely increased in Karenni State after the 2021 coup. Prior to the forming of the IEC, the Karenni State Police (KSP) and the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) have coordinated in handling the rule of law and human rights violation cases in the State.

After the establishment of the Karenni State Interim Executive Council-(KSIEC), respective departments under IEC are formed, and thus more effective and systematic administration and public services are functioning. Additionally, judicial activities have been carried out by townships, hence the rule of law and public security have been improved. Moreover, the laws to be executed for the State are enacted by the Karenni State Interim Parliament (KSIP) that was formed with representatives from 2020 elected parliament members. In order that the (3) pillars of judiciary, legislative and administrative functioned smoothly, the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) leads the Karenni State according to the Interim Arrangement Plan.

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