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Karenni Civil Society Network

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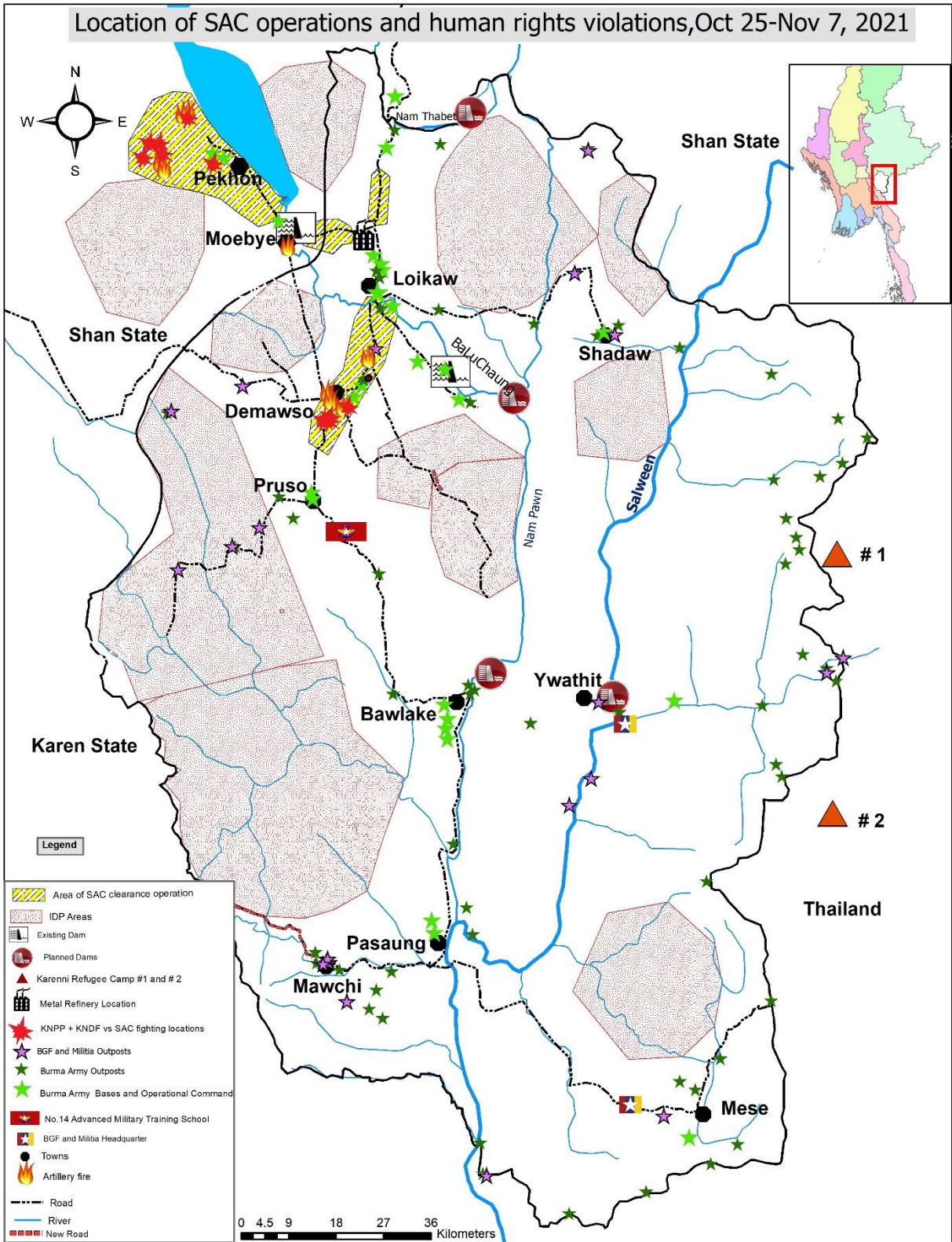
November 9, 2021

Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Oct 25–Nov 7, 2021
Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

No		Feb 1- Oct 24	Oct 25 – Nov 7	Total
1	People killed	123	4	127
2	People arrested	195	23	218
3	People injured	137	6	143
4	Buildings damaged/destroyed			
	Loikaw township	33		33
	Demawso township	239	7	246
	Pekhon township	60	12	72
	Pruso township	2		2
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 Oct 24	New IDPs Oct 25 – Nov 7	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	31,000	10,000	41,000
6	Shadaw	729		729
7	Mae Set	1,000		1,000
8	Bawlake	3,741		3,741
	Total	145,449	10,000	155,449



Ongoing SAC clearance operations, shelling of towns and villages, causing death and injury of civilians

During the past two weeks, SAC troops have scaled up military operations in Pekhon and Demawso townships, in an attempt to secure control of the main access roads from southern Shan State to Loikaw, and from Loikaw to southern Karenni State. SAC troops have shelled directly into towns and villages, killing and injuring civilians and damaging numerous buildings. Hundreds more SAC troops have been deployed from Naypyidaw to try and sweep out resistance forces in the hills west of Pekhon town.

On October 25, SAC troops fired artillery shells and shot guns at Lud Mae Taw Catholic church in San Pya 6 mile, Demawso township. They also indiscriminately shelled into Mar Ner Plaw quarter in Demawso township, damaging a house there.

On October 26, combined KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops travelling between Htu Lwi Belar village and Ngwe Taung Ywa Thit village in Demawso township. 10 SAC soldiers were killed and 2 military trucks damaged.

On October 26, Pekhon PDF troops and other Karenni forces clashed with SAC troops camped near Katheh village in Gone Hsone village tract, Pekhon township, causing one of the PDF soldiers to be injured. The SAC then indiscriminately shelled into Katheh village, injuring 3 villagers.

On October 27, the SAC again indiscriminately shelled into Katheh village in Pekhon township damaging five houses and a local clinic.

On October 29, Moe Bye-based LIB 422 battalion indiscriminately shelled into and around Moe Bye town, killing a woman from Sigan 2 quarter and injuring a man from Pau Oo 2 quarter; and also killed a villager in his farm near the town.

On October 30, SAC troops carrying out operations between Loikaw town and Moe Bye town set fire to stacks of harvested paddy along the roadsides.

On October 31, SAC troops shot at two villagers from an IDP camp in Demawso township while they were returning to their village to get rations, luckily causing no injury. SAC troops also burned down several houses in Ngu Plau quarter in Demawso township, according to a Demawso PDF statement. Moreover, SAC troops fired shells into Daw Tama Nge village in Demawso township, injuring one villager and damaging some houses.

On November 1, SAC troops patrolling from Shwe Yauk quarter in Demawso township indiscriminately shelled into Daw Nga Khan quarter 2 in Demawso township, damaging a community-owned store and 3 houses.



Buildings in Pekhon damaged by SAC shells



Shwe Pyi Aye clinic, damaged by SAC shells

On November 1, combined KA and KNDF troops clashed with SAC troops camped at Htu Lwi Belar village, Demawso township, killing 8 SAC soldiers. One KNDF soldier was injured.

On November 2, at 2 pm, the KA, KNDF, Pekhon PDF and Moe Bye PDF clashed with SAC troops while they were carrying out clearance operations in western Pekhon township. Five SAC soldiers were killed and 2 PDF soldiers injured. These clearance operations, being carried out by about 500 SAC soldiers, caused the villagers of Loi Lon and Loi Hweh villages, who were in the middle of harvesting their rice fields, to flee to nearby jungle.



Villagers fleeing from SAC clearance operations while harvesting in western Pekhon

On November 3, the KA, KNDF, Pekhon PDF and Moe Bye PDF attacked SAC troops camping in Loi Hweh village in western Pekhon township, killing 2 SAC soldiers and injured many others. 2 PDF soldiers were injured.

On November 5, during a clash between SAC troops and combined Karenni forces in Hseh Taung village, Kaung Ee village tract, Pekhon township, a soldier from KA was killed while 10 SAC soldiers were killed and many injured, according to a KNDF statement. During the clash, the SAC shelled into Kaung Ee village and Hseh Taung village indiscriminately, damaging 6 houses and injuring an IDP woman.

On November 6, at 5:40 pm, a clash between KA/KNDF and SAC occurred near Chay Taw Yar Payan Taung near Htu Lwi Belar village, Demawso township, leaving 3 SAC troops dead and 5 injured. On the same day at noon, the KNDF Pekhon battalion and Pekhon PDF attacked the SAC LIB 421 base near Pekhon town, killing 3 SAC soldiers and injuring many others.

On November 6, KNDF Battalion 9 issued a statement that they had found two dead bodies of civilians buried near a former SAC camp at 6-mile village, Demawso township. Their necks were tied with rope, and it is presumed they were tortured and killed by SAC troops.

- **Ongoing arbitrary arrests and forcing of villagers to be human shields**

On October 28, SAC arrested 19 villagers from Shwe Pyi Aye village in Pekhon township and used them as human shields during their military operations. They have not yet been released.

On October 31, SAC troops searched through Nyaung Gone village in Pekhon township, breaking into houses, and arrested four villagers: one from Nyaung Gone quarter 1 and three from Nyaung Gone quarter 3.

- **Ongoing displacement**

Due to the increased fighting in Pekhon township during the past two weeks, about 10,000 villagers, mainly from 8 villages in western Pekhon -- Gone Hsone, Kaung Ee, Hseh Taung, Loi Hweh, Shwe Pyi Aye (Katheh), Loi Lon, Loi Pa Thar and Pu Chae – as well as some town residents, have fled from their homes to IDP camps in the jungle.

- **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

The official caseload has again risen, but is much lower than the real figures, which do not include the cases in IDP camps, or in villages where people are too afraid to go to SAC health facilities. There are reports that entire villages have been infected, but people are just self-treating with herbal medicine. Some have died.

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