



KARENNI HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

Quarterly Briefer

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2022
Volume 1
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The Karenni Human Rights Group second quarterly briefer will breakdown the human rights abuses committed by the Burmese military in Karenni state from April to June 2022.



Quarterly Highlights:

- ◇ Amnesty International released “[Bullets rained from the sky](#)”: War crimes and displacement in eastern Burma on May 29, 2022.
- ◇ In a [joint statement](#) with other civil society organizations, Karenni National Progressive Party rejected the UN and ASEAN plan to collaborate with the Burmese junta.
- ◇ Refugees International released their report, “[Paths of Assistance](#): Opportunities for Aid and Protection along the Thai-Myanmar Border.”



Top Photo: Structure hit by shelling.
Bottom Photo: IDPs by temporary shelter.
Photos: KnHRG



Children eating a meal inside shelter.
Photo: KnHRG

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ANALYSIS

Intro

Despite pleas from the people for support and assistance from the international community, the situation on the ground in Karenni state continues to deteriorate. In addition to heavy munitions, the Burmese military is favoring old tactics – landmines and shoot on sight. In the last three months, the Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) noticed an increase of injuries due to landmine explosions. The Burmese military is also changing strategies and implementing the "shoot on sight" tactic to eradicate Karenni civilians, no matter their age. These old patterns of abuse continue to leave a wake of devastation throughout the state. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increases on a daily basis. There are now an estimated 222,000 civilians displaced, which is more than half of the state's estimated 300,000 population, and more than 200 Karenni killed by the Burmese military since the February 1st coup. As junta forces systematically attack villages, cities, and IDP camps, there is a continuous movement of IDPs in the state. Despite humanitarian aid sent from ASEAN to the junta for disbursement, junta forces steadfastly enforce its ban on humanitarian aid from aid organizations and private donors. There are a significant number of areas within Karenni state that continue to be cut off due to the junta's weaponization of humanitarian aid. As life-saving supplies continue to dwindle, IDPs in Karenni state are forced to face starvation and, ultimately, death. The international community's lack of pressure on the Burmese junta to dispense life-saving aid to all those in dire need only enables the junta's ability to weaponize it.

For this quarterly briefer report, KnHRG collected the raw data from areas of conflict to present accurate information. The raw data can be found in Graphs 1.1 through 4.6 at the end of this briefer report.

Human Rights Violations

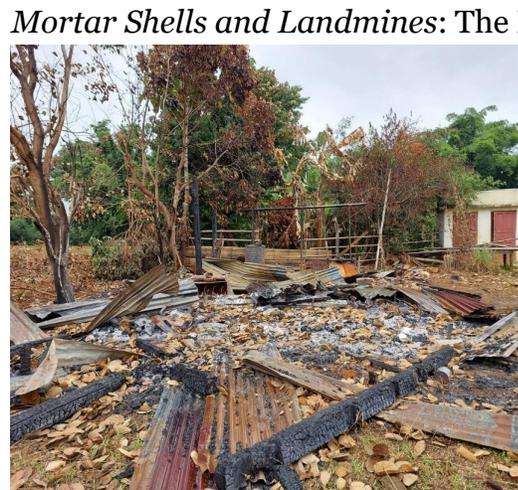
In the last three months, the Burmese junta has changed tactics in comparison to the first quarter of the year. While the first quarter reported an estimated 52 Karenni killed, the number of total killed in the second quarter is reported to be about 19 – a much lower number when compared to the first quarter (Graph 4.1). However, while many Karenni were killed due to mortar shells and airstrikes during the first quarter, the favored tactic by the Burmese military during the second quarter is shooting and killing Karenni civilians. There is also a reported decreased number of Karenni that are arrested and detained, however, the reader must keep in mind that the reported numbers are often lower than the actual number. It is especially difficult to record accurate numbers as the Burmese military continues to launch aerial attacks and heavy artillery in conflict zones, as well as the civilians' fears of retribution for reporting missing family members, friends, or neighbors.



IDP camp in the jungle.

Photo: KnHRG

Arrested & Detained: There are a total of 26 Karenni that are documented to be arrested and detained. The month of April is recorded to have the highest number of arrested and detained – 15 Karenni. This is followed by 10 Karenni in May and 1 Karenni in June (Graph 4.2). There is no additional information about the manner they were arrested, when they were arrested, or why they were arrested. However, despite the lack of information surrounding these arrests, there is at least one confirmation that KnHRG was able to ascertain. In April, there was at least one confirmed Karenni killed during detention (Graph 1.1). Again, the lack of information surrounding the death was unavailable, but given the treatment of detainees at the Burmese military detention centers, it could be one of two possibilities: 1) Denied medical treatment or 2) Torture.



Structure completely destroyed by the Burmese military.

Photo: KnHRG

Mortar Shells and Landmines: The Burmese military continues to launch mortar shells and heavy artillery, destroying homes and religious buildings. Thousands of civilians are forced to flee their homes or safe havens, constantly moving to escape danger in conflict areas. A total of six people were killed by the shelling launched by the Burmese military. This accounts for more than ¼ of the total number of killed over the three-month period. There were 36 recorded instances that mortar shells were used to target civilians (Graph 4.5). In April, civilians were reportedly targeted 26 times with mortar shells (Graph 1.4). Two women in Pa Der Nyeh village in Loikaw Township were killed by the Burmese military’s mortar shells (Graph 1.1). At least seven civilians were reported to be injured by mortar shelling (Graph 1.4). While there were no documented deaths by mortar shells in May, civilians were targeted two times by the Burmese military. One man and one woman were injured during a shelling attack in Daw Tamagyi village in Deemaw Soe

Township. In June, Karenni civilians were targeted by mortar shells eight times (Graph 3.4). At least four Karenni were killed by shelling launched at Daw Paw Kla, Daw Tamagyi, and Nga Ro villages (Graph 3.1). It was reported that five civilians, including two children, were injured from mortar shells in Deemaw Soe Township (Graph 3.4).

During the second quarter of the year, KnHRG highlighted an issue with landmine explosions. There were at least a total of 10 landmine explosions from April to June (Graph 4.4) In April, there were five documented landmine explosions after the Burmese military withdrew troops from occupied villages (Graph 1.3). There were four landmine explosions in Htee Poe Soe village areas and one landmine explosion in Loi Tamu village in Loikaw Township. Of these five occurrences, landmines were activated twice by motorbikes and three times by a “Tawlagyi,” or a taxi. Despite these five separate explosions, only one Karenni reported minor injuries from these incidents (Graph 1.3). There were no reported deaths linked to these landmine explosions. In May, there were two documented landmine explosions. At least one woman was injured in Yel Ni village in Loikaw Township and one vehicle sustained damage in Deemaw Soe Township after the reported incidents (Graph 2.2). During the month of June, KnHRG documented a landmine explosion in Daw Sel village in Deemaw Soe Township that killed one man and injured another civilian (Graph 3.3).

Shot on Sight: As stated before, the Burmese military favored the "shoot on sight" tactic to eliminate civilians over the last three months – a change from utilizing aerial strikes to kill Karenni. From April to June, there were a total of eight Karenni that were shot and killed. This is almost 1/2 of the total killed during the three-month period. In April, three civilians were shot and killed while traveling by motorbike in Daw Nyeh Khu village areas in Hprusoe Township. In a separate case, an eight-year-old boy was shot and killed in Chit Kae village in Loikaw Township (Graph 1.1). The documented kills in April make up about 1/2 of the reported shot and killed from April to June. In May, one civilian was shot and killed in Loi Tamu village in Loikaw Township. In June, three civilians were reportedly shot and killed (3.1). No additional information was available about the three civilians killed in June.

Outlier (Missing/Found Dead & Exploded ordnance injury): During the three-month period from April to June, there were only three outlier deaths. Two missing Karenni were found dead in April. Their bodies were recovered in Zee Hpue Kong village in Deemaw Soe Township. It is assumed that their deaths were caused by the Burmese military. The last outlier death was of an elderly woman that was also reported in April (Graph 1.1). She was found dead in her home in Ngu Palaw village in Deemaw Soe township. Also in June, there was an explosion from residual munitions left by the Burmese military that injured two children in Deemaw Soe Township (Graph 3.3*).

Destruction of Property

From April to June, a total number of 197 buildings were damaged or intentionally destroyed by the Burmese military (Graph 4.3). In three months, more than 3/4 of the total number were intentionally burned down by junta troops. In April, a total of 128 structures were burned or sustained damage in Karenni state. More than 3/4 of the total documented structures were burned to the ground. At least 23 buildings, including three religious buildings, sustained damage from mortar shelling in Deemaw Soe and Hprusoe Townships (Graph 1.2).

In May, there were a total of 60 structures that were reported as burned down and sustained damage (Graph 2.1). Almost 100% of the total number of documented structures were intentionally burned to the ground by junta forces in Saung Nan Kae, Loi Paw, Nan Paw Lon, and Nan Sue villages in Phe Khong Township as well as Ngue Taung Ywe Thit and Nan Pae villages in Hpru Soe and Baw Lake Townships. There was a significant decrease in the number of structures intentionally burned down or damaged during the month of June. There were a total of nine buildings that burned down or sustained damage. At least five homes and three religious structures were intentionally burned down. One church sustained damage from mortar shelling launched by the Burmese junta (Graph 3.2).



Remnants of a church that was torched by the Burmese military.

Photo: KnHRG

*See Note

IDP camps

The Burmese junta is notorious for its ban on humanitarian aid throughout Burma – Karenni state is no exception. With [access to humanitarian aid](#) severely limited, the IDP population is at risk of starvation, dehydration, and, potentially, death. Many IDP camps in Karenni state are completely reliant on private donors and aid agencies for food, medicine, clean water, and other life-saving aid. However, even those supply lines are dwindling due to the humanitarian aid ban.

On May 6, the decision to place the Burmese junta in control of [humanitarian aid disbursement](#) occurred during a closed-door Consultative Meeting on the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar. While Karenni state was included in the plan for aid disbursement, this does not mean the impacted populations will receive the life-saving aid. This decision to allow the junta to control aid disbursement and exclude local actors enables the junta to weaponize humanitarian aid and commit more human rights violations.

Due to the Burmese military's incessant attacks on the Karenni people, the safety and security of temporary and permanent IDP camps are not guaranteed. The Burmese military has attacked IDP camps, repeatedly forcing the constant movement of IDPs in Karenni state. Unfortunately, these places of refuge are not safe from the junta's offensive maneuvers. In April, there were 2,500 new IDPs in the state. In May, there were an additional 10,000 new Karenni IDPs. There is currently no documentation of new IDPs in the month of June (Graph 4.6). However, the latest reports of 12,000 new IDPs still raised the estimated total to 222,000 IDPs throughout Karenni state.

Conclusions

In the last three months, the Burmese military is switching up tactics and implementing a "shoot on sight" tactic. In the first quarter, the killing of Karenni was more indirect with the use of mortar shells and aerial strikes. During the second quarter, KnHRG saw more cases of direct killing as junta forces shot and killed Karenni civilians. This is not uncommon as [witnesses from Sagaing](#) report Burmese soldiers telling civilians to run away before shooting them in the back. The cruelty of the Burmese junta and its armed forces knows no bounds. The cases of Karenni injured from landmines also show that the Burmese military are still using indirect methods to eradicate the Karenni. Despite the Burmese military leaving occupied villages, they still leave behind the landmines for civilians to unfortunately discover at



*Top Photo: Children learning in IDP camp
Middle Photo: Children in center of camp
Bottom Photo: IDP camp in jungle*

Photos: KnHRG

Even though the numbers for the second quarter are much lower from the first quarter report, the crimes committed by the Burmese military are still reprehensible. The Burmese military must be held accountable for its war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human rights violations, otherwise the junta will continue to act with impunity. Unfortunately, international bodies are slowly working with junta representation despite the many calls to not engage. These decisions to work with or collaborate with the Burmese junta, as seen with the decision to give the junta control of humanitarian aid disbursement, comes at a cost: the lives of the Karenni people and the rest of the people of Burma. Simply put, the Burmese junta does not care what happens to the Karenni people. This can be seen with the continued ban on humanitarian aid from aid organizations or private donors and the campaigns of violence seen throughout Burma.

The international community must implement targeted sanctions and enforce a coordinated global arms embargo to prevent further death and destruction in Karenni state and hold the Burmese junta accountable for its crimes. In order to assist and support Karenni IDPs, the international community must coordinate emergency humanitarian aid provisions as well as formally designate safe zones. These asks can be found in the following recommendations, which seek to support and aid the people of Karenni state.

The Graphs, which can be found at the end of the briefer report, break down the raw data into the individual months to give the reader a clear picture of the death, displacement, and destruction caused by the Burmese military.

Wounded Karenni receiving treatment for injuries sustained from attack by the Burmese military.

Photo: KnHRG



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct coordinate emergency humanitarian aid provision efforts, including through cross-border channels, for the aid to reach the vulnerable population of more than 200,000 Karenni IDPs resulted from the military violence and airstrikes, and combat COVID-19, by providing resources and working in equal and meaningful partnership and collaboration with ethnic and community-based humanitarian and civil society organizations;
2. Impose further targeted sanctions against the military and its leadership, military businesses including specifically targeting Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises (MOGE), military-linked business partners and network of arms dealers;
3. Impose a coordinated global arms embargo on the Burmese military;
4. Sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Burmese military to end airstrikes and impose no fly zone;
5. Recommend the International Criminal Court to accept the declaration lodged by the National Unity Government of Burma, under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute accepting the Court's jurisdiction with respect to international crimes committed in Burma territory since 1 July 2002;



Piece of munitions discovered after attack from the Burmese military.

Photo: KnHRG

NEH MEH'S AND MU BEE'S STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE

The Burmese junta's continued attacks on Karenni State have led to the displacement of many Karenni people who are now residing in IDP camps. Neh Meh and Mu Bee share their stories of life in an IDP camp and their struggles. Neh Meh fled her village on May 22, 2021. She has since fled four times, once to a mountain 6 miles away, once to a monastery, and once in Daw Rok Khu, and is now at Daw Ta Mee IDP camp. Mu Bee fled her home in June 2021 and was forced to flee three more times in the last year. She is currently at Daw Ta Kale Village IDP Camp.

Neh Meh has five children. Her children sometimes have runny noses and coughs, and, as of right now, they have enough medicine. However, the doctors' visits to the camp are inconsistent- if there is a patient who needs medication, the situation becomes difficult if a doctor is not present to provide treatment. Mu Bee has a small baby and is in poor health. For Mu Bee, it is "difficult to find work when living with a baby." Although her living conditions are tough, she is unable to work. She notes that children in the IDP camps are not educated and cannot go to school.



Makeshift shelters at IDP camp.

Photo: KnHRG

Mu Bee expresses that travel expenses, food and shelter, and family health problems are the main challenges. She has to "make do with the rice, oil, blankets, clothing, and water that she has." Neh Meh wishes they were "at a good place to live because there are a lot of kids." She finds it difficult that there is no nutritious food for the children and is in need of money.

Both Neh Meh and Mu Bee express how arduous life is in the IDP camp. Neh Meh has a lot of children, making it hard to live in other villages. She is "worried" because "families are divided" and "wonder(s) when families can be reunited." Mu Bee has faced many difficult problems in escaping the war and wishes that "peace be upon the country as soon as possible."

When asked about their main necessities, Neh Meh lists blankets, warm clothes, rice, and oil. She also adds that "salt is essential," and she does not know "whether or how long we will live so we need everything." Mu Bee cannot earn money and find food as a mother and so "needs everything to feed my children." She also said electricity is needed.

Mu Bee wants the international community to know that her earnest desire is to "come back to our homes and villages, and share our hearts openly about what we experience as people fleeing from the war." Until she is returned to her home safely, the international community must provide desperately needed resources to the Karenni people in IDP camps.

Until the international community enacts targeted sanctions, implements a coordinated global arms embargo, coordinates emergency humanitarian aid, and designates safe zones for IDPs, the Burmese junta will continue to act with impunity.

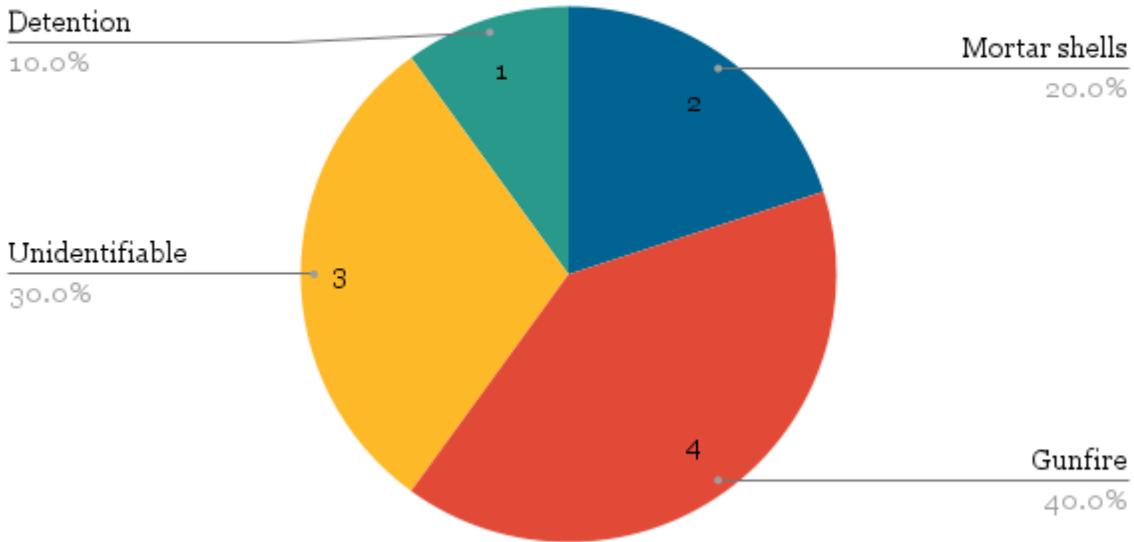
**Names changed to protect identity*

Cut the weapons. Cut the cash. Cut the impunity.

APRIL 2022

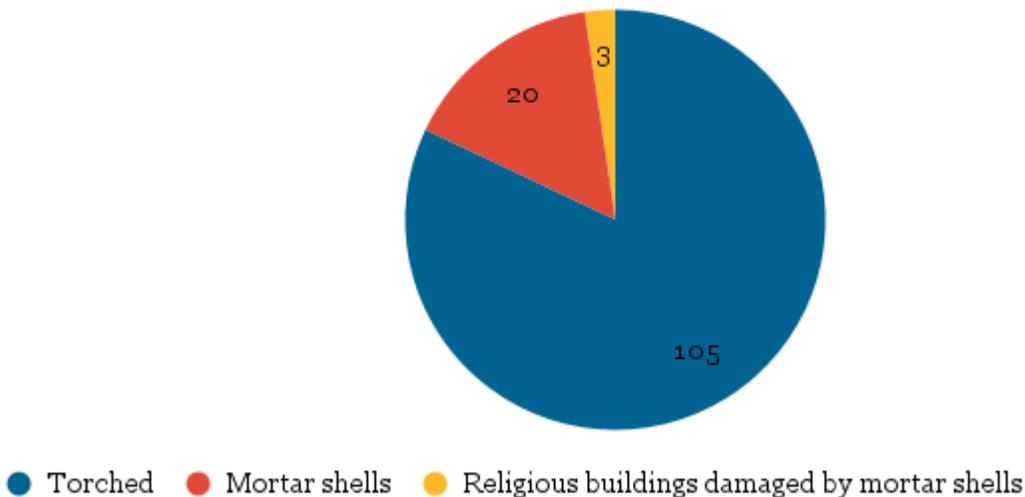
Graph 1.1 Causes of Karenni deaths in April 2022

Total number of deaths: 10



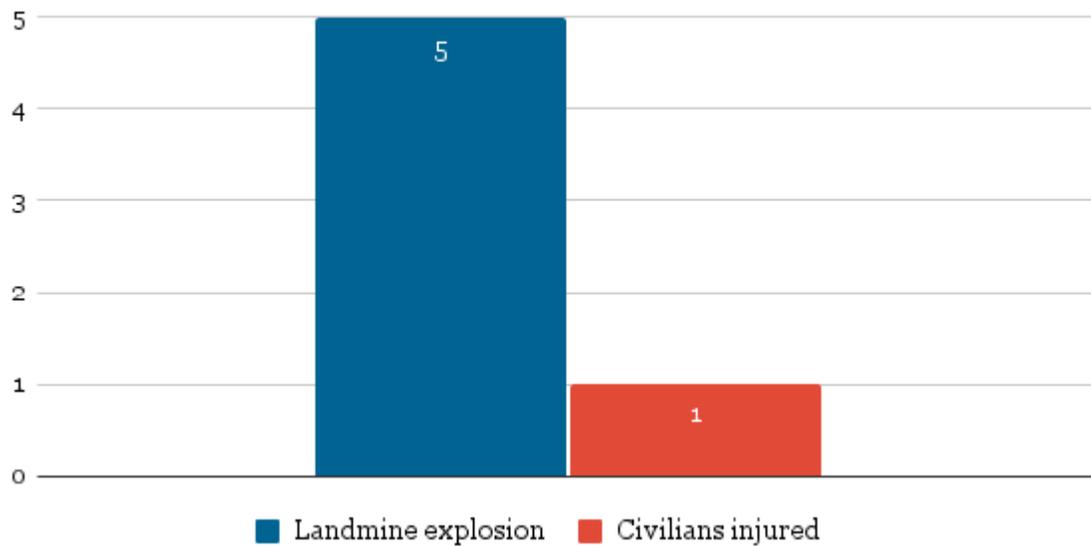
Graph 1.2 Causes of structural damage due to the Burmese military in April 2022

Total number of buildings damaged or destroyed: 128

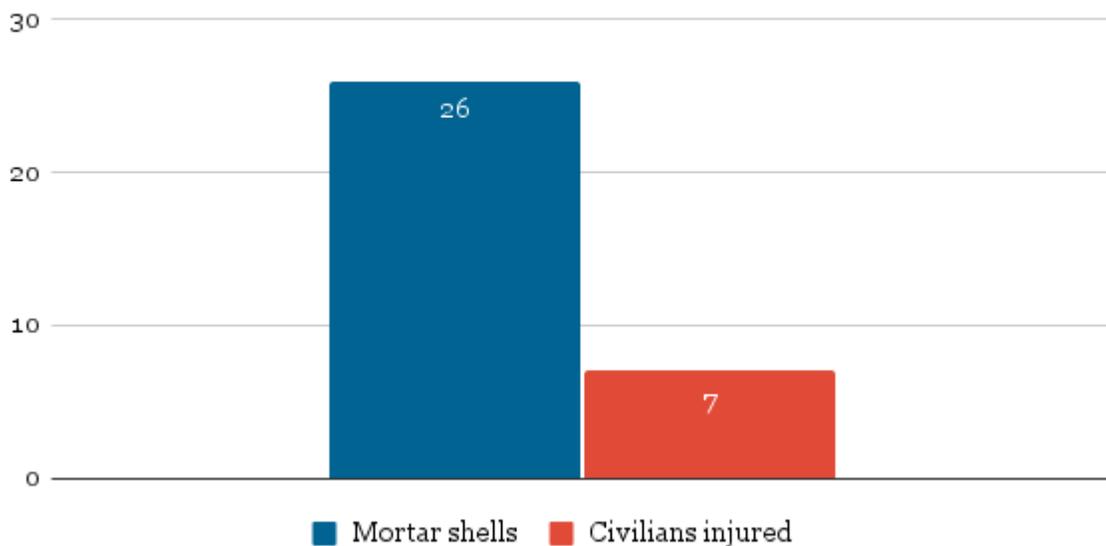


APRIL 2022

Graph 1.3 Number of landmine explosions and its impact in April 2022



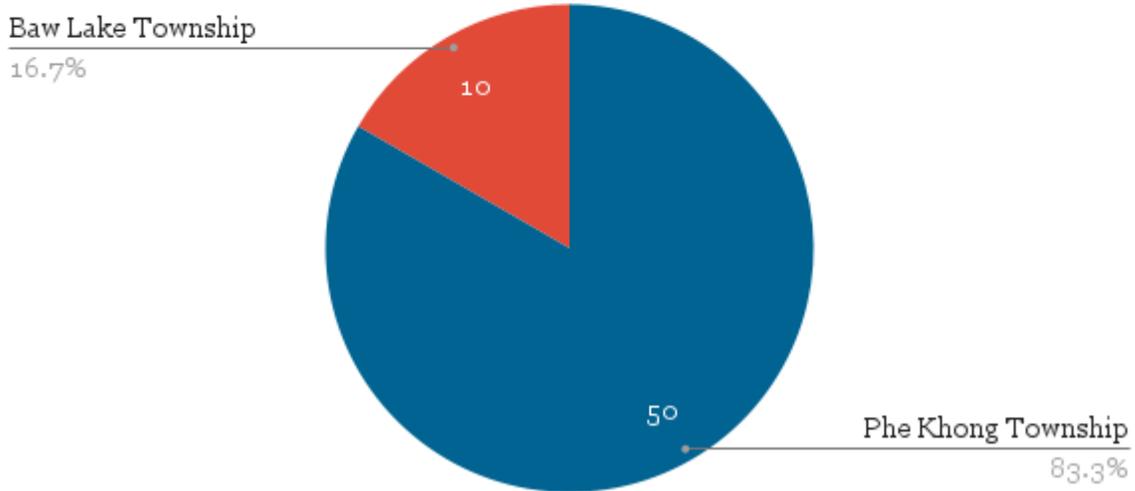
Graph 1.4 Number of mortar shelling and its impact in April 2022



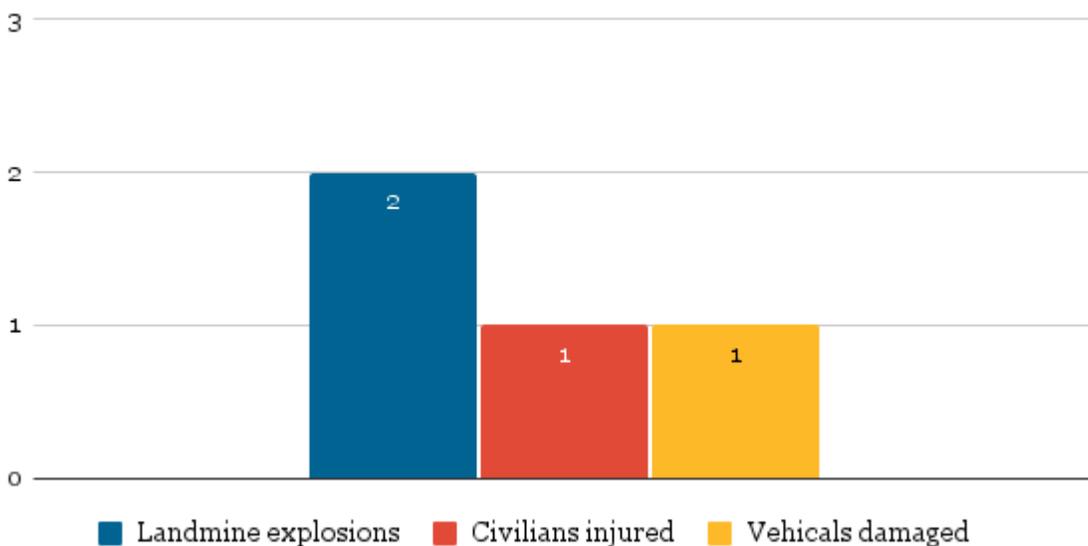
MAY 2022

Graph 2.1 Number and location of structural damage due to the Burmese military in May 2022

Total number of buildings damaged or destroyed: 60



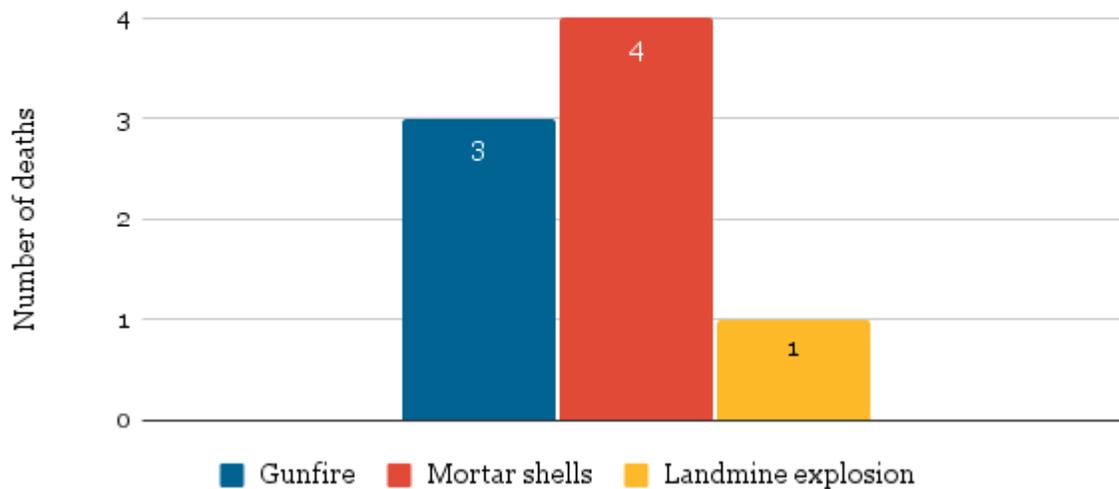
Graph 2.2 Number of landmine explosions and its impact in May 2022



JUNE 2022

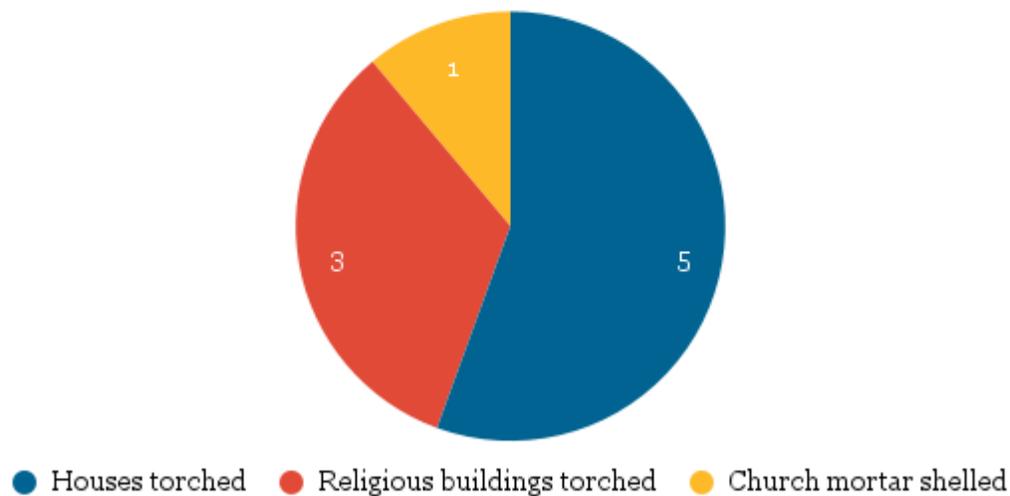
Graph 3.1 Number and causes of Karenni deaths in June 2022

Total number of deaths: 8



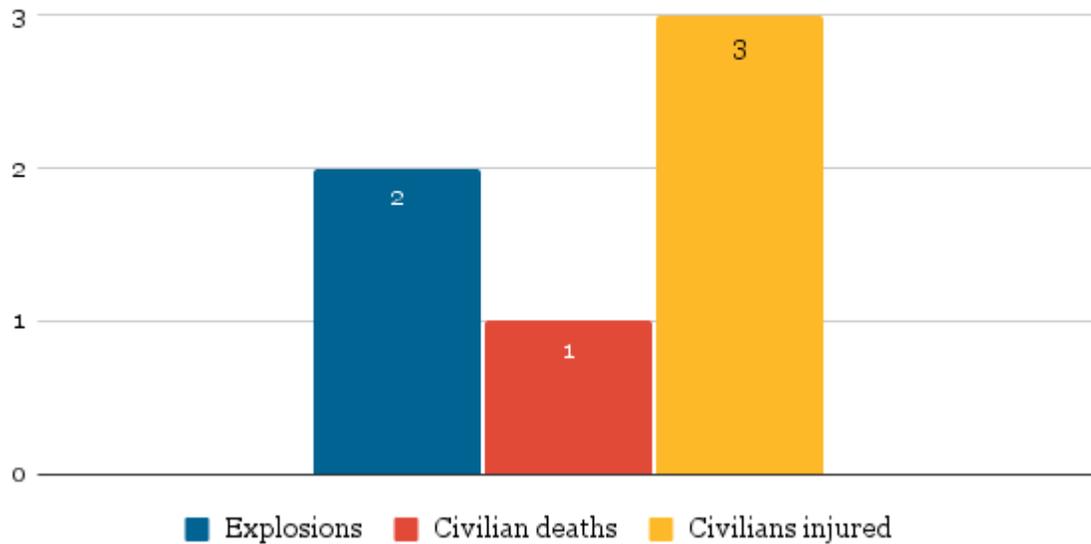
Graph 3.2 Number and cause of structural damaged due to the Burmese military in June 2022

Total number of buildings damaged or destroyed: 9



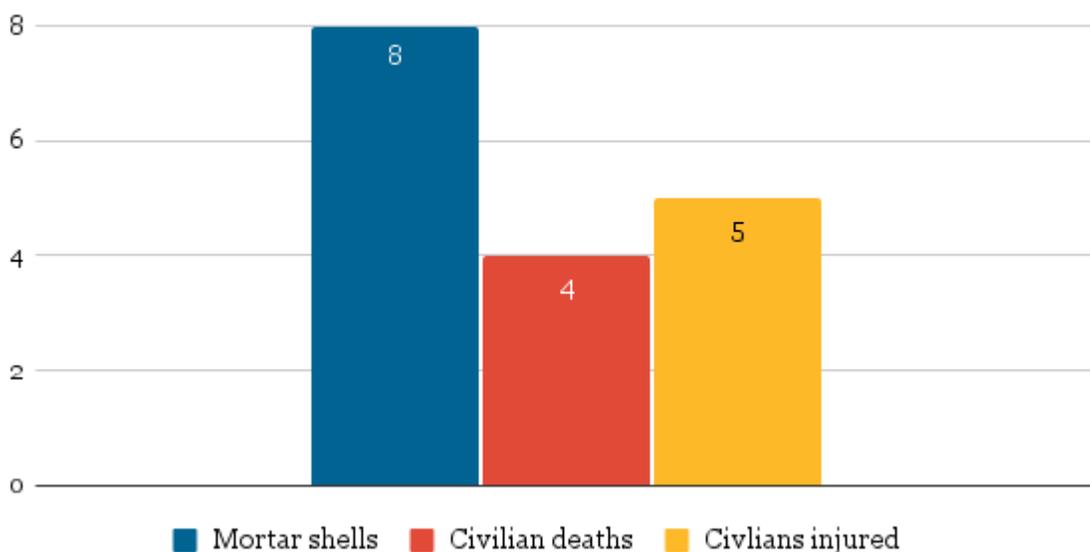
JUNE 2022

Graph 3.3 Number of landmine explosion and its impacts in June 2022



Note: Originally, both explosions were thought to be landmine related, but it was determined that one explosion was caused from munitions left by the Burmese military. This explosion injured two children.

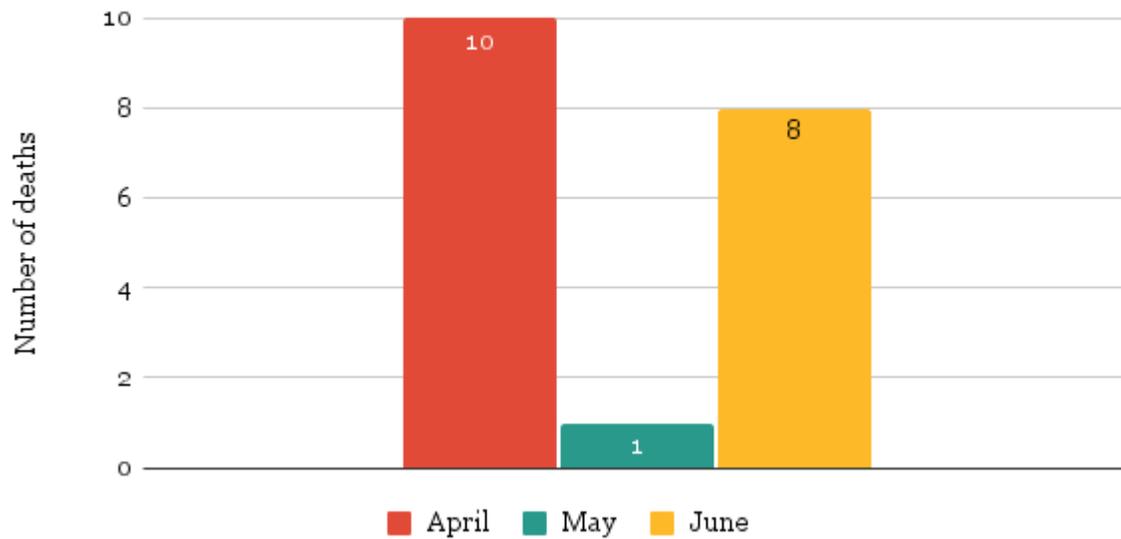
Graph 3.4 Number of mortar shelling and its impacts in June 2022



OVERALL DATA OF SECOND QUARTER

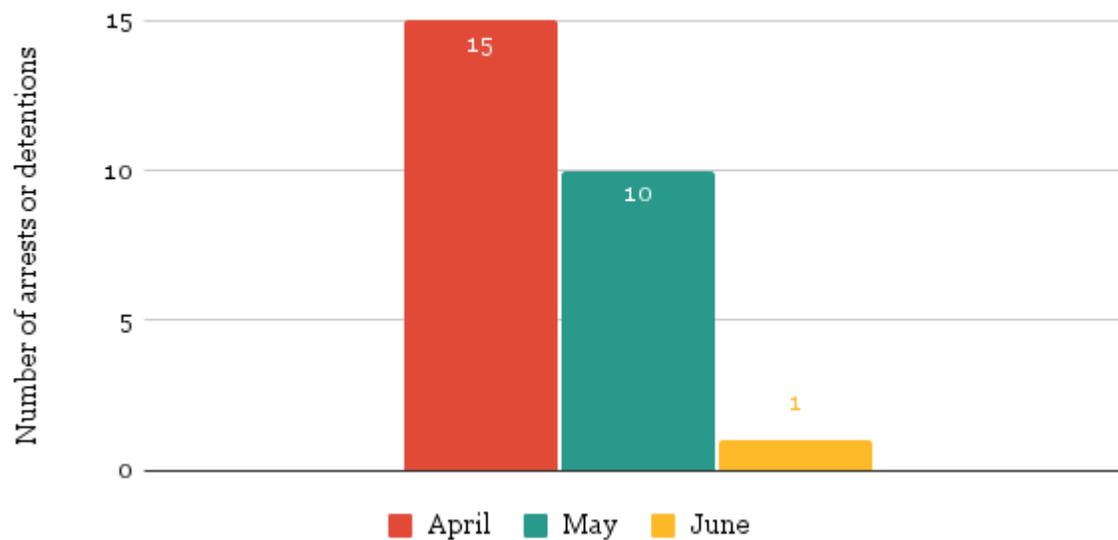
Graph 4.1 Number of Karenni deaths

Total number of deaths this quarter: 19



Graph 4.2 Number of Karenni arrested or detained

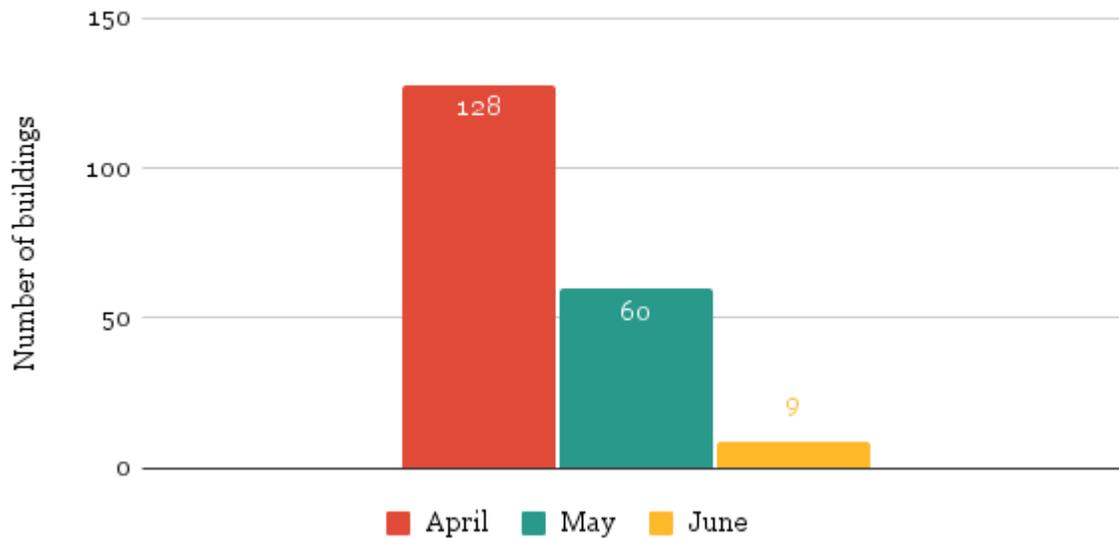
Total number of arrests or detentions this quarter: 26



OVERALL DATA OF SECOND QUARTER

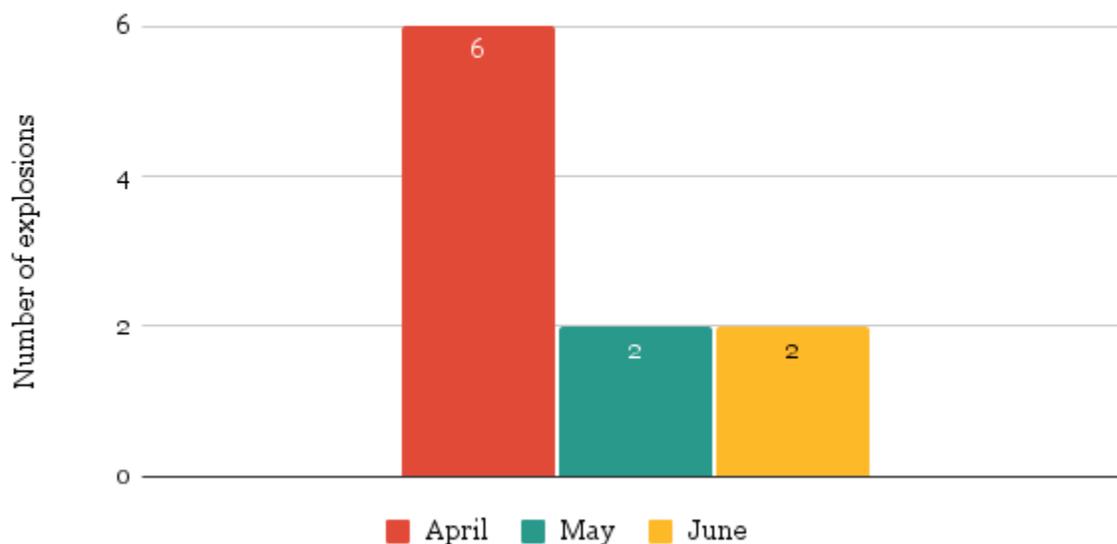
Graph 4.3 Number of buildings damaged or destroyed

Total number of damages this quarter: 197



Graph 4.4 Number of Landmine explosions

Total number of explosions this quarter: 10

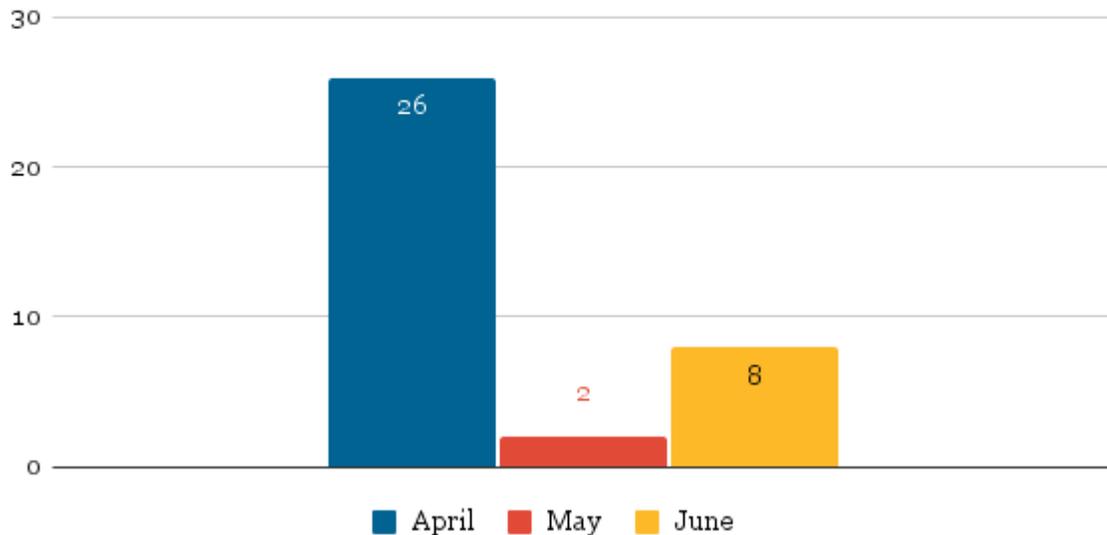


Note: Regarding the two landmine explosions in May, please see the note added to Graph 3.3 on page 13.

OVERALL DATA OF SECOND QUARTER

Graph 4.5 Number of mortar shell targeting civilians

Total number of mortar shells this quarter: 36



Graph 4.6 Number of new Karenni IDPs this quarter

