



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Incident Report

May 30th, 2025 / KHRG # 25-138-I1

Dooplaya District Incident Report: an SAC air strike killed two villagers in Kaw T'Ree Township (March 2025)

This Incident Report describes events occurring in Kaw T'Ree (Kawkareik) Township, Dooplaya District. On March 19th 2025, at 11 am, the State Administration Council (SAC) conducted an air strike into Aa--- village area, Noh Poe village tract, killing two villagers: Saw A--- and Saw B---. One bomb landed next to Saw B---'s house, completely burning it down. The other bomb landed nearby, beside a farm hut where Saw B--- was resting, and killed him. Shrapnel from the bomb blasts killed the other villager, Saw A---, as he was walking on a nearby road located outside of the village. The wives and children of the two villagers are encountering extreme livelihood difficulties after their husbands' deaths.¹

Part 1 – Incident Details

Type of Incident	Air strike killed two villagers
Date of Incident(s)	March 19 th 2025
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Aa--- village [area], Noh Poe village tract ² , Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District

Victim Information		
Name	Saw ³ A---	Saw B---
Age	35 years old	34 years old
Gender	Man	Man
Ethnicity	Karen	Karen
Marital Status	Married	Married
Occupation	Farmer	Farmer
Religion	Buddhist	Buddhist
Position	Villager	Villager

¹ The present document is based on information received in March and April 2025. It was provided by a community member in Dooplaya District who has been trained by KHRG to monitor human rights conditions on the ground. The names of the victims, their photos and the exact locations are censored for security reasons. The parts in square brackets are explanations added by KHRG. This document combines several received reports with the following KHRG internal log numbers: #25-101-A1-I1; #25-101-A2-I1, #25-101-A3-I1; #25-101-M1; and #25-138-I1.

² A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centred on a large village.

³ 'Saw' is male honorific title in S'gaw Karen language.

Village	Aa--- village	Aa--- village
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Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
N/A	N/A	Burma Army Air Force [under the command of the State Administration Council (SAC) ⁴]	N/A	[General Tun Aung serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the Burma Army Air Force] ⁵

Part 2 - Information Quality

1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.

A KHRG field researcher received the information from a local villager and went to the incident place [Aa--- village] in March 2025 [exact date censored for security] to document the information. [At Aa--- village, the researcher interviewed Naw C---, the wife of Saw B---; Naw D---, the wife of Saw A---; and Saw E---, Aa--- village administrator]

2. Explain how the source verified this information.

The researcher interviewed the wives of Saw B--- and Saw A---: Naw⁶ C--- and Naw D---. In addition, the researcher also interviewed Aa--- village administrator, Saw E---, who knows about the incident [as he found the dead body of Saw B---].

Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.

On March 19th 2025, in the morning, at around 11 o'clock, an aircraft came and dropped two 500-pound bombs inside Aa--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District, resulting in the deaths of two villagers. [One bomb landed in front of the house of Naw C--- and Saw B---, and another bomb landed beside a nearby farm hut, where Saw B--- was taking a nap. The distance between the place where the first and second bomb landed was around 20 metres from each other.]

- **The death of Saw B---:**

On March 19th 2025, Saw B--- was staying in a farm hut to work [around 20 meters away from his home, at Aa--- village]. At around 11 am, he was in the hut taking a nap in a hammock. At that time, the air strike happened and a bomb was dropped near the hut. The shrapnel hit him and he died on the spot. The hut was also damaged.

Earlier that day, Saw E--- (40 years old), the Aa--- village administrator, went searching for vegetables with [another villager named] Saw F--- inside a forest far from the village. The two did not know that the air strikes had happened in their village at around 11 am. In the afternoon, the

⁴ The State Administration Council (SAC) is the executive governing body created in the aftermath of the February 1st 2021 military coup. It was established by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on February 2nd 2021, and is composed of eight military officers and eight civilians. The chairperson serves as the de facto head of government of Burma/Myanmar and leads the Military Cabinet of Myanmar, the executive branch of the government. Min Aung Hlaing assumed the role of SAC chairperson following the coup.

⁵ See: The Irrawaddy, "[Myanmar Air Force Chief Forced to Retire](#)", January 2022.

⁶ 'Naw' is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

two returned to the village. [On their way back, Saw E--- was walking ahead of Saw F---.] When Saw E--- arrived at Aa--- village area, he--- saw the farm hut, where Saw B--- was resting, built under a tree, and the place was filled with coldness [he could sense something was not right]. When he looked, he saw a hammock and dangling legs. A body had fallen off from the hammock and was laying on the ground. The hammock was tied not too high from the ground. Saw E--- felt scared to enter the hut alone. Thus, he went back to [the centre of] the village and informed others to come along with him.

When they [Saw E--- and other local villagers] returned, they saw a long piece of bamboo had penetrated the abdomen of Saw B---. When villagers flipped him up, they saw that the flesh of the body of Saw B--- from chest to waist [his torso] was blown off by shrapnel. His flesh had broken down into pieces and was scattered everywhere inside and outside of the farm hut. Villagers could not gather all of the remains as they were too small and they were everywhere. Thus, villagers burned down the farm hut and cremated the body of Saw B--- at the incident place, as it was too hard to carry it back to the village.



These photos were taken on March 19th 2025 by a local villager at Aa--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. They show the dead body of Saw B--- after he was killed by an air strike which landed beside a farm hut where he was resting. The explosion blew the torso of Saw B--- to pieces. Local villagers burned down the bloodied farm hut and also cremated him. *[Photos: Local villager]*

The other bomb exploded near the house of Naw C--- (who is the wife of Saw B---). On that day, she was staying at home when she heard the aircraft come. She and her two kids went inside the bunker [location censored for security]. A few minutes later, she thought she heard the sound of rain, so she went outside to check. She saw her house was burning, so she took her kids and ran to the [centre of the] village without slippers, hoping to receive some help [to put the fire out]. However, when she arrived to the [the centre of the] village, the house had already burnt down. Later she heard that her husband had died, but she did not dare to go see [the dead body of] her husband, because it was too heartbreaking for her to have to witness losing both their house and also her beloved husband.

Naw C--- explained [to the KHRG researcher] that she faced difficulties after her husband's death, as all her properties and everything inside the house (such as food, goods, and household equipment) had been destroyed. She also said that her two children are too young to support their family's livelihood.



These photos were taken on March 19th 2025 by a local villager at Aa--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. The photos display the impact of a bomb dropped by an SAC aircraft, which landed near the house of Naw C--- and completely burned down her house and damaged another building (that had been previously used by the PDF soldiers for training) near the house. The photo on the top left displays how close the building is to the bomb blast site. The photo on the bottom left displays the nearby building damaged by the bomb. The photo on the top right displays the house of Naw C--- completely destroyed. *[Photos: Local villager]*

- **The death of Saw A---:**

On March 19th 2025, in the morning, Saw A--- went to the hill farmland, located outside of Aa--- village, to make charcoal. He also went to his mother-in-law's house to cook. At around 11 am, he decided to return home. On his way home [on a road on the outskirts of the village], he was hit by the air strike [by the shrapnel from the two bombs which landed near the house of Saw B--- and Naw C---] and died on the road. Nobody knows any details about his death as he was going home alone.

In the afternoon, the father-in-law of Saw A--- went out to search for his cows [that were grazing outside of the village]. A few minutes later, his nephew also followed him. On the way, they saw Saw A--- was laying on the road. For a moment, they thought Saw A--- got drunk and fell asleep on the road because he looked like he was breathing. So, they approached Saw A--- and checked on him. They saw that the hunting rifle of Saw A--- [which was lying next to him] was stained red with blood. At first, the father-in-law thought Saw A--- had shot himself. The spine of Saw A--- was broken and detached from his body, as he had been hit by shrapnel. When the

father-in-law flipped him up, Saw A---'s organs came out from his body. His eyes were blinking and his mouth was open but he could not talk. The father-in-law returned to the village to inform other villagers. Meanwhile, the nephew stayed with the corpse and cried out loud. The corpse was brought back to his house. His body was cleaned before he was buried.



These photos were taken on March 19th 2025 by a local villager from Aa--- village, Noh Poe village tract, Kaw T'Ree Township, Dooplaya District. The photos show the body of a villager named Saw A--- as he was found after he was hit by shrapnel of an SAC air strike, on that same date, and killed on his way home. The photo on the right shows the dead body of Saw A--- lying face up on the ground, and the photo on the left displays the wound that he sustained. [Photos: Local villager]

When the aircraft came, Naw D---, the wife of Saw A---, was inside their house [in the village] with their youngest child (2 years old), who was upstairs. Their other two children (aged 9 and 8 years old) were playing outside in the field. She called the two children, grabbed her youngest child, and ran into the bunker. In the evening, she was informed about her husband's death, and she fainted twice. Naw D--- explained [to the KHRG researcher] that, after the death of her husband, livelihood difficulties grew for her. She worried that she would be unable to send her children to school as she did not know what to do to obtain income. Saw A--- was the breadwinner of the family and the family relied on his income.

Local villagers believe that the aircraft which carried out the attack was a State Administration Council (SAC) aircraft because ethnic armed groups do not have aircraft. Villagers also believe that the air strike happened as the SAC was targeting a building where People's Defence Forces (PDF)⁷ used to provide military trainings, located on the opposite side of the road to the house of Saw B---.

There had been no air strikes prior to this incident in the village. Now, villagers do not dare to turn on the lights during the nighttime as they fear aircraft will come.

Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details

Did the victim(s) provide permission to use this information? Explain how that permission was provided.

Regarding the documented information that I [researcher] have written and documented

⁷ The People's Defence Force (PDF) is an armed resistance established independently as local civilian militias operating across the country. Following the February 1st 2021 military coup and the ongoing brutal violence enacted by the junta, the majority of these groups began working with the National Unity Government (NUG), a body claiming to be the legitimate government of Burma/Myanmar, which then formalized the PDF on May 5th 2021 as a precursor to a federal army.

related to this air strike incident in Aa--- village, the victims' family members [Naw C--- and Naw D---] gave permission to use this information according to KHRG's publication policies [with censoring]. [In addition, Saw E--- (the village administrator) also allowed to use this information].

Further background reading on the situation on air strikes in Kaw T'Ree Township in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- ["Dooplaya District Situation Update: fighting, SAC air strikes and shelling causing destruction, displacement, and livelihood, healthcare and education challenges in Kaw T'Ree Township \(April to July 2024\)"](#), March 2025
- ["Dooplaya District Situation Update: SAC air strikes and shelling caused death, injury, damage, and displacement in Kaw T'Ree Township \(December 2023 to March 2024\)"](#), March 2025
- [ကဘီယုဟဲလံ Aircraft coming! : Impacts of air strikes on local communities and villagers' protection strategies in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup](#), November 2024

About KHRG

Founded in 1992, Karen Human Rights Group is an independent local organisation committed to improving the human rights situation in Southeast Burma. KHRG trains local people to document and gather evidence of human rights abuses, and publishes this information to project the voices, experiences and perspectives of local communities. More examples of our work can be seen online at www.khrgh.org.

