



# Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

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## Short Update

December 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 / KHRG #25-279-D1

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### **Doooplaya District Short Update: A landmine explosion killed a 60-year-old woman in Noh T’Kaw Township (July 2025)**

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*This Short Update describes events occurring in Doooplaya District in July 2025. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025, a 60-year-old woman from Aa--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, Noh T’Kaw Township, Doooplaya District, stepped on a landmine while she and her daughter were collecting bamboo shoots in the forest near the State Administration Council (SAC) army camp of Infantry Battalion (IB) #283. The explosion tore off both of her legs, caused multiple shrapnel injuries across her body, and left her unconscious. She was taken to Mawlamyine Hospital the same day, but she passed away two days later due to the severity of her injuries. The family were daily labourers and, during the rainy season, faced additional challenges due to the lack of job opportunities. As of the reporting period, the daughter has not received any support from any organisations. Villagers believe the landmine was planted by the SAC as retaliation for armed resistance groups’ attacks. As a result of this landmine incident, villagers live in fear of working and travelling in the area. <sup>1</sup>*

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#### **A villager was killed by an SAC landmine in Noh T’Kaw Township:**

[Although Noh T’Kaw Township, in Doooplaya District, is largely under Karen National Union (KNU)<sup>2</sup> control,] the KNU cannot fully control some areas near Seik Gyi Town, in Noh T’Kaw Township. [The State Administration Council (SAC)<sup>3</sup>’s] Infantry Battalion (IB)<sup>4</sup> #283 has an army

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<sup>1</sup> The present document is based on information received in July 2025. It was provided by a community member in Doooplaya 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: #25-279-D1 and #25-279-A1-II.

<sup>2</sup> The Karen National Union (KNU) is the main Karen political organisation. It was established in 1947 and has been in conflict with the government since 1949. The KNU wields power across large areas of Southeast Myanmar and has been calling for the creation of a democratic federal system since 1976. Although it signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in 2015, following the 2021 coup staged by Burma Army leaders, the KNU officially stated that the NCA has become void.

<sup>3</sup> 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. The military junta changed its name on July 31st 2025 to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

<sup>4</sup> An Infantry Battalion (IB) comprises 500 soldiers. However, most Infantry Battalions in the Tatmadaw are under-strength with less than 200 soldiers. Yet up to date information regarding the size of battalions is hard to come by, particularly following the signing of the NCA. They are primarily used for garrison duty but are sometimes used in offensive operations.

camp located near Aa--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract<sup>5</sup>, Noh T’Kaw Township, about one mile [1.6 km] away from Seik Gyi Town. [Meanwhile,] [SAC’s] IB #284 is based near Ab--- village, Kya Hka Chaung (T’Hka Kloh) village tract, also about one mile [1.6 km] away from Seik Gyi Town. The centre of these two camps is Seik Gyi Town, where the [SAC’s] IB #32 is based. These three battalions combined are under [the control of] one Tactical Operations Command (TOC)<sup>6</sup>. [The TOC army camp is also located near Seik Gyi Town]. Sometimes, combined armed resistance forces have attacked these SAC army camps using drones and snipers. [Local villagers believe that,] in response, the SAC soldiers planted landmines in villagers’ rubber plantation fields, located about six furlongs (1,207 meters) away from their camps.

In July, during the rainy season, bamboo shoots were sprouting, and villagers [from the nearby area] went to the plantation fields to collect them for food. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025, a villager named Daw<sup>7</sup> A--- (60 years old) and her daughter, Ma<sup>8</sup> B--- (19 years old), from Aa--- village, went to a rubber plantation about six furlongs [1,207 meters] away from [SAC’s] IB #283 [located near Aa--- village] to gather bamboo shoots. After collecting them, Daw A--- lifted the heavy bag full of bamboo shoots for her daughter, Ma B---, to carry. As Daw A--- stepped forward, she stepped on a landmine. The [landmine] explosion tore off both of her legs, filled her body with shrapnel, and left her unconscious. Ma B--- immediately called villagers by phone to report that her mother had been injured. Village leaders arranged transportation for her [Daw A---] to be sent to Mawlamyine Hospital [administered by the SAC]. She was admitted to the hospital and placed on oxygen support. However, due to the severity of her injuries, she passed away on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2025. [She received treatment free of charge.]

Daw A--- was a widow and worked in a rubber plantation as a daily labourer. During the rainy season, [following Daw A---’s death,] there was not much work available, so Ma B--- (Daw A---’s daughter) faced challenges finding a job and became unemployed.

U<sup>9</sup> C---, a village leader from Aa--- village, Noh T’Kaw village tract, explained to KHRG that: *“It would have been best if it [the landmine incident] had not occurred. As workers, we have to go to the farms as well as into the forest. If landmines are planted, we must work and travel in constant fear. Life is valuable, and I pray that such incidents will not happen again in the future. On behalf of the victim’s family, I would like to request support from any organisation that can help them [the victim’s family].”*

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<sup>5</sup> A village tract is an administrative unit of between five and 20 villages in a local area, often centred on a large village.

<sup>6</sup> Tactical Operations Command is made up of three battalions and a headquarters, usually under a Military Operations Command (MOC) and a Light Infantry Division (LID).

<sup>7</sup> ‘Daw’ is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person’s name.

<sup>8</sup> ‘Ma’ is a Burmese female honorific title used before a person’s name.

<sup>9</sup> ‘U’ is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.



KHRG received this photo from an officer of Noh T’Kaw Township’s KNU Documentation Group<sup>10</sup> on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025, a villager stepped on a landmine near the SAC army camp of Infantry Battalion (IB) #283, located near Seik Gyi Town, in Noh T’Kaw Township, Dooplaya District. The photo, taken on the way to the hospital, shows the 60-year-old villager, Daw A---, who lost both legs and sustained injuries to her body due to the landmine explosion. She died at the hospital two days later. *[Photo: local authority]*.

Further background reading on the situation of landmines in Southeast Burma/Myanmar can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- [Stolen Childhoods: Violations of children’s rights, urgent needs, and local agency in rural Southeast Burma during the conflict](#), October 2025.
- [“Mergui-Tavoy District Incident Report: Two villagers, including a 17-year-old boy, stepped on landmines in Ler Doh Soe Township \(April 2025\)”](#), November 2025.
- [“Mergui-Tavoy District Incident Report: An SAC landmine injured a 51-year-old woman villager \(March 2025\)”](#), October 2025.
- [Danger Beneath Our Feet - Landmine contamination in Southeast Burma and its impacts on villagers since the 2021 coup](#), December 2023.

### 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.khrq.org](http://www.khrq.org).

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<sup>10</sup> These documentation teams, formed by groups of researchers, are founded by the Karen National Union (KNU) in the districts, and hence they are part of the KNU District staff members. Their role is to collect and document human rights violations on the ground and share them with KNU's Township and District staff, which then will be shared with the general public through the KNU's media pages and website.



