

**Incident Report**January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026 / KHRG #25-286-I1**Doo Tha Htoo District Incident Report: A DKBA tripwire mine explosion injured two villagers in Hpa-an Township (June 2025)**

*This Incident Report describes an event occurring in Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo (Thaton) District, in June 2025. On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, a villager (from Ab--- village, Be--- village tract, Hpa-an Township) went to fish at Ac--- village, Be--- village tract, where he met with another villager and decided to drive together to Bb--- village, Bb--- village tract, Hpa-an Township. On their way, when they arrived at Bc--- place, in Bb--- village tract, a tripwire mine, which was planted by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), exploded, injuring the two villagers. After the explosion, DKBA armed forces sent the injured villagers to Ae--- hospital (in Ch--- village tract), but did not provide money to the villagers to cover costs. After the incident, one of the villagers cannot walk normally as he did in the past. The recovery of the other villager is unknown.<sup>1</sup>*

**Part 1 – Incident Details**

Type of Incident	[Landmine.] Tripwire mine incident.
Date of Incident(s)	June 8 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Incident Location (Village, Township and District)	Bc--- (also known as Bh---) place, Bb--- village tract <sup>2</sup> , Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.

**Victim(s) Information**

Name	Saw <sup>3</sup> A---	Saw B---
Age	40 years old	37 years old
Gender	Man	Man
Ethnicity	Karen	Karen
Marital Status	Married	Divorced

<sup>1</sup> The present document is based on information received in July 2025. It was provided by a community member in Doo Tha Htoo 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: #25-286-I1 and #25-286-A1-I1.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> ‘Saw’ is a S’gaw Karen male honorific title used before a person’s name.

<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer	Plantation worker
<b>Religion</b>	Buddhist	Buddhist
<b>Position</b>	[Villager.]	[Villager.]
<b>Village</b>	Ab--- village, Be--- (also known as Cb---) village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.	Ad--- village, Be--- (also known as Cb---) village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.

Perpetrator Information (Armed Actors)				
Name(s)	Rank	Unit	Base	Commander's Name
[Unknown]	[Unknown]	DKBA [Democratic Karen Buddhist Army] <sup>4</sup> armed forces [unknown unit]	Kya Ain Paw Taw Mu monastery, Kya Gu place, Meh Ka Raw village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.	Saw Bo Bee

## Part 2 - Information Quality

### **1. Explain in detail how this information was collected.**

A local leader from Be--- village tract [specific position censored for security], named Saw K---, heard the sound of the explosion. Then, he investigated that [the explosion], and learned that villagers were injured by a tripwire mine. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, after learning the information, he [Saw K---] informed me [a KHRG researcher], so I [a KHRG researcher] went to Ac--- village to interview one of the victims, Saw A---, and documented the incident.

### **2. Explain how the source verified this information.**

We can confirm this incident is true because I [a KHRG researcher] conducted an interview with one of the victims [Saw A---], and there is also photographic evidence. [The researcher also talked to Naw<sup>5</sup> G---, the wife of Saw A---].

## Part 3 – Complete Description of the Incident

### **Describe the Incident(s) in complete detail.**

On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, two villagers from Be--- (also known as Cb---) village tract were injured by a tripwire mine at Bc--- (also known as Bh---) place, in Bb--- village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.

On that day, a villager named Saw A--- (also known as Saw D---), who lives in Ab--- village, Be--- village tract, went to trap fish by fishing net at Ac--- village, Be--- village tract. After trapping fish, he [Saw A---] met with his friend Saw B---, who is a resident of Ac--- village [but who is originally from Ad--- village, Be--- village tract]. Then, they decided to go to Bb--- village [Bb---

<sup>4</sup> In 1994, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) split from the KNLA over religious considerations. In 2010, the majority of DKBA troops transformed into BGFs, but one faction refused and changed its name to Democratic Karen Benevolent Army in 2012. In 2015, the DKBA splinter group split from this faction and reclaimed their original name, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army. It is active in Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. The DKBA now cooperate with the Burma military regime and are in conflict with the KNLA troops in the area.

<sup>5</sup> 'Naw' is a S'gaw Karen female honorific title used before a person's name.

village tract]. It was almost dusk when they departed. Saw A--- drove the motorbike while Saw B--- rode on the back. They had drunk alcohol before they went to Bb--- village.

When they arrived at Bc--- place [on the way to Bb--- village], they dodged a stone in the centre of the road. The back wheel of the motorbike hit the wire of a tripwire mine, which exploded. It [the tripwire mine] was planted at the left side of [the road, based on] their direction. So, the shrapnel hit the left side of their body. [In this area, the DKBA is the only active armed group, and DKBA soldiers responded to the incident, leading the victims and the local villagers to believe that this tripwire mine was planted by the DKBA.]

Saw A---, who drove the motorbike, was slightly hit by the shrapnel on the nape of his neck. Also, two of the shrapnel [pieces] hit his [Saw A---'s] left thigh, and one of the shrapnel [pieces] hit his left lower knee [shin]'s bone and tendon. The whole left leg and back of Saw B--- was hit by the shrapnel. After the incident, they were transported to Ae--- hospital by DKBA soldiers, but they [the victims] did not receive any support for the treatment [or as compensation] from the DKBA. The Ae--- hospital is administered by the SAC [State Administration Council<sup>6</sup>], and it is located in Ch--- village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District.

Saw A---, one of the villagers who was hit by the DKBA's tripwire mine, explained to KHRG: *"After the explosion, they [DKBA soldiers] came to us and when they were about to hit us with weapons [guns], we said to them that we are nothing [not related to any armed group] and we folded our hands and apologised to them. Then they interrogated us. After that, one of their leaders phoned them [the DKBA soldiers who found the villagers]. After they had a conversation on the phone, they forced us to get in a black car; the car was a Vigo or something [unspecified; pickup truck]. So, we had to ride in the back of the pickup truck. And then, they sent us to Ae--- hospital to get medical treatment."* He continued: *"After that, the doctor provided surgery to take out the shrapnel in our bodies. Afterwards, I saw the doctors took out the tiny shrapnel from the back of Saw B---. Later, the cousin of Saw B---, who lives in Bm--- village [Ch--- village tract, Hpa-an Township], came to pick us up, so we slept in his house for one night. The next morning, his cousin sent us back to our houses by a three-wheeled motorbike."*

Saw A--- already [returned to his village and] recovered from the injuries which were on the nape of his neck and thigh. [He did not have to pay anything for the treatment cost because the health workers in that hospital knew him and sympathised with him]. However, Saw A--- cannot work properly as before [he was injured] because he was also injured on his lower knee [shin] [from which he has not fully recovered]. He said that sometimes he has to hang his leg [tie it up] by rope to elevate it [to remove pressure] because it [his shin] is numb and aches. [The inability to work as before has impacted his family's livelihood.] Saw A--- is married and has two sons.

On the contrary, Saw B--- is divorced and has one daughter. His wife got remarried. After [receiving initial treatment], Saw B--- went back to Ad--- village, where his mother lives, for further treatment, so his current situation is unknown [to KHRG].

<sup>6</sup> The State Administration Council (SAC) is the executive governing body created in the aftermath of the February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 military coup. It was established by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Burma, 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 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).



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These three photos were taken by a KHRG researcher in July 2025 in Ac--- village, Be--- (also known as Cb---) village tract, Hpa-an Township, Doo Tha Htoo District. These photos show the shrapnel injuries of Saw A--- on his left shin, thigh, and the nape of his neck after he was hit by a suspected DKBA tripwire mine at Bc--- place, Bb--- village tract, Hpa-an Township, on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025. He was travelling by motorbike with another villager, who was also injured by the explosion. [Photos: KHRG]

Regarding the two innocent villagers who were hit by the tripwire mine that [locals believe] DKBA armed forces planted, they [the DKBA] did not respond and did not provide anything for the cost of the medical treatment. The wife of Saw A---, named Naw G---, explained: *“Until the next morning, after they were hit by the tripwire mine, the motorbike was still left at the incident place. The model of the motorbike is WAVE Fi. The whole motorbike smells of gunpowder. The motorcycle can be driven; it did not break. However, the cover of the motorcycle was hit by a few of the shrapnel [pieces].”*

The DKBA armed forces, which are led by Saw Bo Bee, are supported by a monk of Kya Ain Paw Taw Mu [monastery] named U<sup>7</sup> Nanda Tha Ra, and they get paid and serve under the armed forces of Min Aung Hlaing<sup>8</sup>, who was the leader of the [2021] coup [and the Burma military regime<sup>9</sup>]. So, they [the DKBA] do everything the SAC commands them, to prevent the KNU [Karen National Union<sup>10</sup>] administration and its [the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)<sup>11</sup>] military operations, which are increasing.

<sup>7</sup> ‘U’ is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

<sup>8</sup>A Senior General in the Burma Army who has served as Chairman of the State Administration Council, the executive body governing Burma/Myanmar since February 2021. He has also served as the Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's Armed Forces since March 2011. Min Aung Hlaing seized power after overthrowing the civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1st 2021, ending a nearly ten-year period of civilian rule. He has appointed himself as Prime Minister of Myanmar on August 1st 2021, and became Acting President of Myanmar on July 22nd 2024.

<sup>9</sup> The terms Burma military regime, Burma Army, junta, and SAC are used interchangeably throughout this report to describe Burma's armed forces. Villagers themselves commonly use Burma Army, Burmese soldiers, or alternatively the name adopted by the Burma military regime at the time –from the 2021 coup to July 2025, the State Administration Council (SAC). On July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, the military junta changed its name to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

<sup>10</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>11</sup> The Karen National Liberation Army is the armed wing of the Karen National Union.

## **Part 4 - Permission for Using the Details**

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

This information is allowed for use by one of the victims, Saw A---, and his wife, Naw G---, so that the international [community] will know about the increasing human rights violations conducted by the SAC (and the allied forces under their control).

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

- [ကျော်မြော်လှုပ် Aircraft coming! : Impacts of air strikes on local communities and villagers' protection strategies in Southeast Burma since the 2021 coup](#), November 2024.
- “[Kler Lwee Htoo District Incident Report: Landmine explosion severely injured a teenager in Moo Township \(January 2025\)](#)”, December 2025.
- “[Dooplaya District Short Update: A landmine explosion killed a 60-year-old woman in Noh T'Kaw Township \(July 2025\)](#)”, December 2025.

### **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.khrg.org](http://www.khrg.org).

