



**Karen Human Rights Group**

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

---

**Short Update**

April 29<sup>th</sup> 2026 / KHRG # 26-100-D1

---

**Taw Oo District Short Update: Burma Army drone strike injured two villagers in Htaw Ta Htoo Township (March 2026)**

---

*This Short Update describes an event occurring in Htaw Ta Htoo (Htantabin) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District. On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, a Burma Army drone dropped three bombs in Aa--- village, Zayat Gyi Taung Chan village tract, injuring two villagers, U A--- (65 years old) and U B---. U A--- sustained severe injuries to his abdomen and right shoulder blade. He was first sent to a Burma military regime-administered hospital, which did not have sufficient equipment or medicines, and he later received treatment at Ac--- hospital, administered by the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW), in Ad-- village, Peh Htee village tract. U B---'s injuries were minor and did not require treatment at a clinic.<sup>1</sup>*

---

On Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, at 1 pm, the SAC [State Administration Council<sup>2</sup>, also known as Burma Army<sup>3</sup>] conducted a drone strike on a tollgate run by the KNU [Karen National Union]<sup>4</sup>, in Aa--- village, Zayat Gyi Taung Chan village tract<sup>5</sup>, Htaw Ta Htoo (Htantabin) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District, injuring two villagers, U<sup>6</sup> A---, 65 years old, and U B---. [At the time of the incident, no fighting was occurring in the area.]

---

<sup>1</sup> The present document is based on information received in March 2026. It was provided by a community member in Taw Oo District who have 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: #26-100-D1; #26-100-A1-I1; #26-100-P1; and #26-100-M1.

<sup>2</sup> The State Administration Council (SAC) was the name of the executive governing body of the Burma military regime 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 was 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 from SAC to State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC), with Min Aung Hlaing retaining his position as chairperson.

<sup>3</sup> The terms Burma military, Burma Army, SAC, Tatmadaw, and junta are used interchangeably throughout this report to describe the Burma military regime'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 31st 2025, the military junta changed its name to the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC).

<sup>4</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>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> 'U' is a Burmese title used for elder men, used before their name.

U A--- and his colleague U B--- were sitting on the right side of the tollgate and watching the news, while another colleague, U C---, was sitting on the left side of the gate. Near the gate, sandbags and pebble bags were stacked up to cover the gate. At 1 pm, a drone from an SAC army camp came and dropped three bombs. The first bomb landed on the sand- and pebble bags. Then, the shrapnel hit and injured U A--- and U B---. U A--- sustained severe injuries to his abdomen and right shoulder blade, while U B--- sustained a minor injury, a scratch on his arm. Motorbikes that were parked near the gates were also hit and damaged by the shrapnel. [The other two bombs landed outside the village and did not injure anyone.]

U A--- was sent to Ab--- hospital, run by the Burma military regime, in Zayat Gyi Taung Chan village tract, with one of the local villagers' motorbikes. However, the hospital did not have enough equipment and medication to treat U A---'s injuries. Therefore, the local village leaders discussed and decided to send him to Ac--- hospital, run by the KDHW [Karen Department of Health and Welfare]<sup>7</sup>, which is located in Ad--- village, Peh Htee village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo Township. On the way to the hospital, they changed cars three times because there were SAC checkpoints. The first car was a KNU local leader's car and it dropped U A--- off before reaching the SAC checkpoint. Then, they passed the checkpoint with a local villager's car. That villagers' car then also drove to a halfway destination. For the last part, the villager was transported to the hospital with a hospital leader's car. When arriving at Ac--- hospital, he had X-rays taken, which showed that he did not sustain any internal injuries. However, after the incident, U A--- was unable to sleep properly, day and night [as a result of both trauma and pain], according to his wife.



On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, the Burma Army dropped three bombs from a drone and one of the bombs landed and exploded at a tollgate administered by the Karen National Union (KNU), in Aa--- village, Zayat Gyi Taung Chan village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo (Htantabin) Township, Taw Oo (Toungoo) District. Shrapnel from the explosion severely injured U A---, 65 years old. His colleague, U B---, sustained minor injuries. The photo on the left shows U A--- receiving treatment, and the photo on the right shows the injuries to his shoulder and abdomen. U A--- received treatment at a Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) hospital in Ad--- village, Peh Htee village tract, Htaw Ta Htoo Township. [Photos: KHRG]

U A---, who lives in Aa--- village, has four children. Three of his children are married and only his youngest son is single. His youngest son works in Thailand; thus, he and his wife live alone together at home. Due to high prices and livelihood difficulties, U A--- works as a toll collector at

---

<sup>7</sup> The Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW) is the health department of the Karen National Union. It was established in 1956 to address the lack of public healthcare resources in rural Southeast Myanmar. It currently operates a network of community-based clinics in the region, but its capabilities remain limited due to funding constraints.

a tollgate run by the KNU, located in Aa--- village. The job pays 15,000 kyat (7.14 USD)<sup>8</sup> per day and it helps alleviate his livelihood difficulties. He has been working at the same gate for over nine months. [While U A--- was able to recover in the hospital and return home, his current livelihood situation is unknown to KHRG.]

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

- [ကဘီယုဟဲလံ 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: Burma Army air strike killed one villager, injured two villagers, and damaged villagers' houses and a monastery in Moo Township \(January 2026\)", March 2026.](#)
- ["Mu Traw District Incident Report: Burma Army air strike and mortar shelling killed a villager, forcing other villagers to flee in Dwe Lo Township \(October 2025\)", March 2026.](#)

### 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).

---

<sup>8</sup> All conversion estimates for Kyat are based on the official market rate as of April 27<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 1 USD = 2,100 MMK, conversion rate available at <https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/mmk-to-usd-rate>

