



RECAP

CONFLICT UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

ARMED CONFLICT

- Intense [fightings largely subsided](#) in the Kachin areas during the month of April. However, the [Tatmadaw continued to deploy](#) more troops in the Kachin and Shan States front lines.

- There were clashes between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Tatmadaw forces almost everyday during the latter half of May.

- On May 19, the KIA troops clashed with the Tatmadaw forces in Hpakant Township, Kachin State. According to a KIA Lieutenant Colonel, [at least five Tatmadaw battalions entered the KIA-controlled area](#).

- On June 3, the Tatmadaw's 126th Light Infantry Regiment launched an attack on the KIA's [Maisak Post in Danai Township](#). The KIA soldiers stationed at the post withdrew from the post.

- During the second half of June, battles continued to rage between the KIA and Tatmadaw troops in the western part of Kachin State. Some of the battles occurred in the following areas:

17th - Gala Kawng, located between Nam Shen and Labang Kahtawng
- Lagat Yang, located between Man Den and Ka-maing

20th - Loi Li Hka and Ting Rat Hka on Lido Road
- Kawa Pang, located between Lawa and Dum Bung

21st - Near Hkum Tsai Yang village



The UN reports over 250,000 IDPs in Myanmar. Of it over 100,000 people are displaced as a result of fighting in Kachin and northern Shan states.

Children pose at an IDP camp outside Mai Ja Yang.

AFP photo

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS & HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

March 2017

- As of the end of March 2017, [food rations have been cut for men between age 19 and 35 at two camps for internally displaced persons](#) (IDPs) in the areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO).

- Due to the abnormal monsoon season, there have been [gusty winds and heavy rains in the Sha-it Yang IDP Camp](#) area where over 400 households have been taking shelter. The Sha-it Yang Camp dwellers relocated from Zai Awng Mungga Zup Camp a few months ago after heavy clashes, involving airstrikes and heavy artillery shellings, took place between the Tatmadaw and KIA troops in close proximity to the camp.

April 2017

- On April 2, two villagers from Mung Hkawng, Uraw Tu (17) and Tsumhka Myu San Awng (29), were [arbitrarily arrested by the Tatmadaw soldiers](#). Both men were released on April 5.
- On April 7, the family of a Kachin political prisoner, Lahpai Gam (56), appealed for his release in order to hospitalize him. He was [suffering serious health problems resulting from tortures](#) he endured at the time of his arrest. He was arrested by Tatmadaw soldiers in his IDP camp in Waingmaw where his family fled due to the armed conflict.
- On April 19, Mr. Hpaula Gun Mai and wife Thida Hkaing of Manbun, northern Shan state, were [severely injured by a Tatmadaw soldier's gunfire](#) around 10:30 pm. The soldier reportedly opened fire at them without warning and also without apparent reason.
- On that same day, Ja Seng Pan (22), Ji Pan (16), and Htu Tawng (9), daughters of Mr. Wahpai Brang Nan and Mrs. Ale Mi, stepped on a landmine on their way to the family farm in Manje Township, located in southern Kachin State. It was reported that all three girls were severely injured and the youngest died of the bomb explosion. The site of [the landmine explosion](#) was only about 100 meters away from the base of Tatmadaw forces in the area.

May 2017

- According to the residents of the villages in northern Shan State, on May 9, Man Bang local militia (the Tatmadaw's ally) began [forced recruitment of the locals into their militia](#); the militia had a list of name and forcibly recruited over 200 men. The militia reportedly claimed to have done so according to instructions from the nearby Tatmadaw forces. On the same day, Tatmadaw forces gathered village chiefs from the villages in the Nyawng Pin Ta and Tahpan Pin areas and asked for at least 5 people per village.
- On May 24, President Htin Kyaw issued [an amnesty for 259 prisoners](#). The executive order freed 186 Myanmar nationals and 73 foreigners, however, two Kachin religious leaders, Langjaw Gam Seng (35) and Dumdaw Nawng Lat (65), were not among the prisoners who were freed.

The 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference

On May 25, the second session of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference commenced. The Tatmadaw stated that it wants a commitment from the ethnic armed organizations that they [pledge not to separate from the state](#). Tatmadaw's Commander-in-Chief Senior-Gen. [Min Aung Hlaing called the demands of some ethnic armed groups "unrealistic"](#) and said that the discussions, presentations and fundamental concepts outlined by some ethnic armed groups had reached "far beyond" the right to autonomy promised in a federal system. He continued, "Such acts go against the desires and interests of the people, who have high expectations [for] democracy and the peace process."

The Second Conference of the United Nationalities Federal Council

During the second conference of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), which was held from June 20 to 29 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, four ethnic armed groups, the KIA, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Wa National Organization officially [resigned from the UNFC](#) but will join as observers in future conferences. [Five armed groups currently remain in the UNFC.](#)

•On May 25, three Kachin IDPs from Mung Hkawng IDP Camp, Sumdu Gam Awng (31), Labya Nawng Hkum (27) and Maran Brang Seng (22), were arrested and abducted by Tatmadaw soldiers. [A day after the abduction, the three IDPs were killed](#) at Hka Pra Yang, about 4 miles from Mung Hkawng. On May 30, the office of military's commander-in-chief issued a press release stating that the Tatmadaw has began an investigation into the murder of the three Kachin men.

June 2017

•On June 3, [fightings erupted in Danai Township](#). On June 5, Tatmadaw helicopters dropped leaflets over Danai Township, ordering local residents to evacuate specific areas by June 15, or they would be "considered as cooperating with the terrorist group KIA," and warning that the Tatmadaw would soon "clear the area." Then, on June 7, between 500 and 700 villages [attempted to flee the area but were blocked by authorities](#).

•Due to armed clashes in the Danai area, the number of IDPs in Danai has increased by [1500](#), and around 1000 IDPs fled to Hkan Ti. Some took shelter in the church compounds and Buddhist monasteries. Moreover, food crisis intensified for the IDPs; churches have a [ration of four bags of rice](#) per day for about 500 people. It was reported that the Union Solidarity and Development Party donated 10 bags of rice, and a local company donated 10 bags of rice and some drinking water; however, the Tamadaw and government, both state and national levels, have not done anything to alleviate this urgent humanitarian crisis.

•On June 4, after the Tatmadaw forces seized KIA's Maisak Post, [three civilians were injured in Tatmadaw's 60mm mortar shelling attacks](#) in Nawng Lung Kawng Ra village. It was reported that pieces of mortar shrapnel hit Lanawng Kaw Ja (56) on the nose, Nbwi Lu (19) on the left shoulder and right hand, and Nbwi Roi (17) in both legs. A cow belonging to Nhkum Bawk Di was also killed by the mortar shell.

•On June 13, [the Myitkyina Township court charged three Kachin men](#), Hkawng Zu Jat, Labang Gam Awng and Khun Seng, under Article 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Law for organizing a public prayer marking the 6th anniversary of renewed conflict in the Kachin region on 9 June. They were fined 30,000 kyats each or would face 15 days of imprisonment if unable to

Amnesty International's Report

Amnesty International published a report titled "All The Civilians Suffer": Conflict, Displacement and Abuse in Northern Myanmar. The report examines international human rights and humanitarian law violations in Kachin and northern Shan States since mid-2016. The investigation found that Tatmadaw soldiers have subjected ethnic minority civilians to "arbitrary arrest and torture and other ill-treatment" and documented four incidents of extrajudicial execution, involving at least 25 victims and a massacre of at least 18 people as well as two incidences of enforced disappearance. The investigation also found that "when fighting ethnic armed groups, the Tatmadaw forces regularly fired mortar and artillery shells" which often "land in civilian areas, killing or injuring civilians, damaging civilian houses, and proving mass displacement." Furthermore, it found that the ethnic armed groups also "violate international humanitarian laws, forcibly recruit[ing] civilian men, women and children, and demand[ing] sacks of rice or money from villagers."

Red Cross Access Blocked

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recently [asked Burma to let aid workers get access to people caught up in conflicts](#). According to the ICRC president Peter Maurer, "Authorities have blocked the ICRC from areas under the control of ethnic minority forces and from visiting some prisoners."

pay the fine. Similarly in Hpakant Township, two Kachin men, Lamawng La Tawng and Lating Sau Bawn, were [charged under the same law for organizing the same event](#). According to Lamawng La Tawng, “they had asked permission from local authorities to hold the ceremony but were told at the court that they had failed to act in accordance with procedure.”

- On June 19, IDP students from an IDP camp in the Sadung area attempted to travel to Sha-it Yang IDP camp to attend school. However, due to turbulent weather, [the bamboo float on which the student were traveling submerged in the river](#) and two students, Tsinyu Lu Din (18) and Labung Zung Yi (17), drowned.

- On June 19, [Tatmadaw troops fired several gunshots into Sawng Hka village](#) around 7 am.

- On June 20, after armed clashes between the Tatmadaw forces and the KIA has ceased, [Tatmadaw soldiers abducted a resident of Lawa village](#), Nlam Bawk Naw (57). The Tatmadaw soldiers accused him of being a KIA soldier. As of June 29, the Lawa village elders have not received any news about the abducted villager.

- Hpuksin Lum Hkawng, father of five children from Seng Hpra village, was arrested by Tatmadaw personnel for violating the curfew. The curfew in the area is imposed from 6 pm to 6 am; Mr. Hpuksin had to travel to another village to buy medicine for his sick wife and when he was on his way back, it was already past 6 pm. On June 22, when the Seng Hpraw village leaders sought information on Mr. Hpuksin from the Tatmadaw personnel, they were told that they (the Tatmadaw personnel) did not know anything about Mr. Hpuksin. Regarding this matter the Seng Hpra villagers lamented, “Things have been really difficult for us; because of the curfew, [we cannot freely go outside even for critical matters](#) as we used to be able to do during time of peace.”

- On June 21, 48 of 51 Putao youths, who were [detained on their way back from an agriculture workshop](#) from Laiza, were released after more than 8 months (253 days) of detention. Of the remaining three, two will soon be release but the other youth has not been able to obtain permission for release.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Visits Canada

The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Canada from June 5 to June 9. On June 9, the State Counsellor met with the Canadian-Burmese community in Toronto city hall. During the event she answered several pre-submitted questions from the community. According to Canadian-Kachin attendees, when she was asked regarding the situation in Danai, where the civilians trying to flee to safety from area of heavy fightings were blocked by the authority, she simply stated that she was not aware of the situation.

RECAP is a quarterly newsletter that aims to inform policymakers and relevant advocacy organizations of Kachins’ struggles and humanitarian crisis in the Kachin region. It is based on a wide-ranging news outlets and trustworthy local sources. It is in no way comprehensive.



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