



# RECAP

CONFLICT UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

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## THE LAI NAWNG HKU ORDEAL

***“We want to flee, but the military won’t let us. We are short of food, and want to move to a safe place...”*** a displaced person trapped in Lai Nawng Hku.

2018 **APRIL**

■ On April 10 people from Lai Nawng Hku [started fleeing from their villages](#) due to the recent increases in fighting between the Tatmadaw and KIA troops. Many of them became trapped in the conflict zone.

■ On April 16 Lai Nawng Hku villagers, including three seminary students Tu Tu Awng, Lana Ja Seng Nan and Hpakawn Hkawn Lung,

were [held for three days and were interrogated by Tatmadaw soldiers](#). On that same day, a local humanitarian group who are on the way to rescue the civilians (approximately 160) who were trapped in the Lai Nawng Hku area were [blocked by the Tatmadaw troop](#) stationed at Hpakant.

■ On April 30 [a mass rally, drawing about 5000 participants, was held](#) in Myitkyina to ask for a safe passage of civilians trapped in the conflict zone. The next day about [500 youths participated in peaceful sit-in protests to demand rescue of the Lai Nawng Hku villagers](#) trapped in the conflict zone.



Residents fleeing armed clashes in the Kachin area.  
Photograph: Zau Ring Hpara/AFP/Getty Images

2018 **MAY**

- On the evening of May 3 the Kachin State Chief Minister and the youth protest organizers held a meeting. The youth organizers were of the understanding that the rescue of about 160 trapped Lai Nawng Hku villagers could go ahead. [However, they were stopped by army commanders](#) and were told that they would only be allowed to deliver food supplies to the IDPs.
- Residents of Mandalay, Pyay and Yangon also took to the streets calling for an end to the fighting in ethnic areas and the rescue of trapped families displaced by the attacks. Subsequently, police of Kyauktada Township, Yangon [filed a lawsuit against the organizers](#) for holding the march without official approval. Police of Bahan Township, Yangon [took the same action](#). The No. 8 police station in Mandalay's Chanayethazan Township also filed a lawsuit against three activists under Article 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law; they have been [sentenced to two months of imprisonment](#). Similarly, two ethnic Kachin youth leaders were charged with and [fined for violating the Article 19 for organizing a protest](#) in Myitkyina to demand that authorities assist IDPs trapped by armed clashes in the state. Another three in Myitkyina were [sued for defamation](#) by the Tatmadaw Northern Command.
- On May 16 [a lieutenant of Tatmadaw's Northern Command filed a lawsuit against three Kachin activists](#), Lum Zawng, Zau Jet, and Nang Pu, for leading the above mentioned peaceful rally. They were charged for defamation with Article 500 under the Penal Code.



Displaced Kachins in the jungle. Photograph: Kachinland News

## Humanitarian Crisis and Human Rights Violations

*According to the United Nations OCHA's estimates, more than 5,000 people are estimated to be newly displaced since early April in Kachin State following heavy fighting between the Tatmadaw and the KIA.*

### 2018 **APRIL**

- On April 1 in Nam Wa village in Muse township area, the Tatmadaw troops [“threatened to torch the entire village unless families of KIA servicemen living in the village leave immediately.”](#)
- On April 4 Tatmadaw soldiers [forced two Dum Bang villager elders to serve as guides.](#) On April 5 the clashes between the KIA and Tatmadaw troops in the Dansa Pa and Lajawng area in Bhamo township [displaced 10 families](#) (17 males and 15 females) from Awng Nan village.
- On April 8 a Lisu [villager was injured during armed clashes](#) between the Tatmadaw and KIA troops in Lamung village, Hpakant township.
- On April 8 three village elders, Nram Dan Hkawng, Lazum Seng Du and Kadau Tang of Lamung village, were [taken by the Tatmadaw troops](#) stationed at Danai; they were released the next day.
- On April 8 and 9 eighteen villagers from Kahtan Yang and Loi Seng [villagers were taken away by Tatmadaw soldiers.](#) One was killed on April 13 and the rest were released on April 17.
- On April 9, Mr. Mwihipu La Awng of Hkalum IDP camp in Munggu township was [forcefully enlisted to serve as a local guide.](#)
- Sporadic fightings in the Danai area since April 11 have forced Sut Yang, Sut Ya and Awng Lawt villagers to [take refuge in the jungle where they are badly in need of humanitarian supplies.](#)
- On April 11, Mr. Npawp Yaw and his son Npawp Naw Ring (22) of Awng Lawt village were [hit by shrapnel while they were on their way home from farm.](#) The father was injured in the knee while the son lost his life. On that same day Mr. Wangde La Rip was injured by a shrapnel while his coworker Mr. Shang Naw San of Laiza was hit and [killed by a shrapnel.](#)
- On April 11, seven villagers who were working on farm in the area of the confluence of Hka San and Tau Byen streams in Hpakant township were [arbitrarily detained by Tatmadaw soldiers.](#) They were released six days later on April 17.
- On April 18 two Kachin travellers who were reportedly stopped at the checkpoint, taken to the nearby Ting Ret stream, made to put on KIA uniforms, and [severely beaten and killed.](#) Their tortured bodies were later left along the Lido Road.

- On April 23 the Tatmadaw soldiers stationed at the Hkawng Law Yang checkpoint shot 8 IDPs who rode their motorbikes past the checkpoint. The incident [killed 2 and wounded 3 IDPS](#).
- By April 26 about 1,000 villagers from Injanyang, Myitsone area, have [fled from their home](#). As of May 18, 600 displaced persons were trapped in Injanyang Township with the Tatmadaw troops preventing them from fleeing to safety.
- On April 30 [Tatmadaw soldiers detained 9 civilians](#). Ms. Galau Ja Hpang, Ms. Lahtaw Htoi Lat, Mrs. Galau Lu Sang, Mrs. Zahkung Seng Bu, Mrs. Maran Ja Bawk, Mrs. Hprawmai Kaw Seng, Mr. Sumlut Brang Nan, a Shan man and a child, in a field near Mungya village in Kutkai township. The soldiers reportedly threatened the women to tell them who had set up explosives near the village or else they will rape them.

## 2018 **MAY**

- On May 11 four school boys, Labya Bawk La (18), Myu Jat Awng (12), Ya Ku (13) and Myu Lat (12), were [taken away by the Tatmadaw soldiers while fishing](#) at Wara Stream. Mr. Labya La Wawm and wife who happened to witness the arrest, appealed to the soldiers to let the boys go, but the husband was arrested instead. All were released later that same day when the village administrator phoned the Tatmadaw commander of the area.
- On May 21 eleven villagers working at a tea plantation in Nampaka, northern Shan State were [arbitrarily arrested by Tatmadaw troops](#).
- A number of Mungya villagers of Kutkai Township were reportedly [forced to carry bamboo poles to build a military base](#) for the Tatmadaw troops in the area.
- On May 25 Mr. Uhku Tu Nan (19) of Seng Tawng was stopped and taken away by Tatmadaw soldiers while he was riding a motorcycle in Hpakant Township. He was reportedly [accused of being a KIA soldier and was severely beaten](#).
- On May 24 Mr. Marip Brang (30) and Mr. Kyaw Swe Mg (40) of Dum Bang village, Danai Township were [arbitrarily arrested and taken away while fishing](#) at a stream near their village.

## 2018 **JUNE**

- On June 2 [the Tatmadaw troop based at Ka-maing arrested Brang Shawng, a local boy who salvages recyclable plastic bottles and cans](#), at around 10 am and interrogated him at the Tactical Command hill. He was released in the afternoon around 4 pm.
- On June 16 Mr. Lashi Gam (65) of Hu Hpyet was collecting mushrooms when he stepped on a landmine. He was injured in his left arm and left leg at the explosion.

## Other Updates

- On April 5 [a memorial service was held for Nlam Bawk Naw](#) (53) of Tsalun who was taken away by the Tatmadaw soldier on June 20, 2017 and was presumed dead.
- On April 17 Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Langjaw Gam Seng who were jailed under unlawful association act were [released by Presidential amnesty](#); they were sentenced to 4 years and 3 months and 2 years and 3 months respectively by a court in Lashio in October 2017.
- On April 19 Fortify Rights [called on the authorities to account for murders of Hpaugan Yaw \(65\) and Nhkum Naw San \(35\)](#), whose bodies were found on March 8 with exit wounds at the back of their heads. One of the victims' relative, Kaw Awng (45), [had to go into hiding after accusing the Tatmadaw of killing the two men](#); she has been charged by the Tatmadaw with violating section 17(1) of the law for allegedly concealing information that the slain men were members of the KIA. Fortify Rights also said the Tatmadaw "should drop charges against a victim's' family member who called for accountability in the case."
- On June 2 during a workshop with the UN delegates, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement [announced a plan to close the camps for internally displaced persons](#) (IDPs) and refugees in Kachin, Karen, Rakhine and Shan states. The minister stated, "If camps are open for too long, this may hinder the social and educational development of those staying at camps as well as their livelihoods. Our reason is that simple." However, it was reported that local civil society organizations providing humanitarian assistance in these states were not invited to the workshop.
- On June 9 Kachin communities in Burma and around the world commemorated seventh anniversary of war resumption in the Kachin area. Several Kachin communities released a joint statement titled, "Enough is enough! The world must act to end Burma Army's devastating war on Kachin."
- On July 4 the Irrawaddy reported that [the government has invited all members of the Northern Alliance](#) to attend the 3rd session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference.
- On June 19 authorities in Kachin State resettled 95 IDP families in newly built low-cost housing in Waingmaw Township. It is reportedly [the first time that the government has built shelters in the area for civilians internally displaced by civil war](#).
- On June 22 Mizzima reported that [not all IDPs in Kachin State receive the financial assistance provided by World Food Programme](#) (WFP). Many IDPs work outside of the camps in order to make ends meet. According to an activist named Doi Bu, "Some adolescent girls have become the victims of human trafficking gangs when they sought jobs." Because WFP give financial assistance based on IDPs found in each camp during their visit rather than list of actual households residing the camps, some families end up not receiving financial assistance.
- On June 29 the Irrawaddy reported that Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the commander-in-chief, [claimed that the Tatmadaw had nothing to do with the rape and murder of two volunteer KBC teachers](#) Maran Lu Ra and Tangbau Hkawn Nan Tsin which took place in Kaung Kha village, Kutkai on January 19, 2015. He reportedly said "a thorough investigation was conducted and it was found that two KIA members killed them and that it had nothing to do with the Tatmadaw."

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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