



RECAP

CONFLICT UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

Armed clashes between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Tatmadaw troops continued in the Kachin region during the last three months, directly contributing to the humanitarian crisis in the region. This report highlights some of the accounts of suffering, physical or otherwise, experienced by civilians in the region.

WHAT HAPPENED AT KASUNG?

Kasung is a village located about 50 miles west of Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State. On August 11, the [Tatmadaw troops launched a surprise attack on the village](#) forcing civilians to flee their homes. As soon as news of what happened in Kasung spread, fear and frustration rippled through the Kachin communities because this attack is closest to the urban center of Kachin State thus far.

- [The attack forced more than 1,000 villagers to abandon their](#)



The attack at Kasung forced more than 1,000 villagers to abandon their homes and become internally displaced persons (IDPs).

[homes](#) and become internally displaced persons (IDPs). 597 of these new IDPs are taking shelter in Lambraw Yang Baptist Church while 496 are living on the Roman Catholic church compound.

- The Tatmadaw [defended the attack as part of clearance](#)

[operations](#) in Kachin State. Tatmadaw's Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung stated, "According to the mandate given by the Constitution, we are carrying out area clearance operations on our own initiative with a sense of responsibility and also in line with the law to stop the unlawful acts of KIA insurgents

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS & HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

July 2017

- In early July, elders from Maran village reported that their villagers who were on their way to Danai and Hpakant were [stopped and checked by the Tatmadaw soldiers](#).
- On July 4, the Tatmadaw forces based at the Maisak Post, which is near Nawng Lung Kawng Ra village in Danai Township, [launched 22 mortar attacks toward the N-ga Ga village](#). Not so long ago, a similar attack took place in Nawng Lung Kawng Ra village, killing villagers and cattles.
- On July 7, Dabang La Wawm and Dabang Brang Awng were [arbitrary arrested and severely beaten](#) by the the Tatmadaw soldiers near Mung Bat village in northern Shan State. Both were released in the evening of July 7 due to the villagers' demand for immediate release.
- On July 9, there were firings between the Tatmadaw and the KIA forces at an orange plantation in Ting Kawk village. The plantation caretakers Hpung Shin, Hkyen Ram, Mangja Tang Di, and San Nai Teng along with his wife Mazung Nen [were injured](#).
- [A 2-year-old child was killed by artillery fire](#) in clashes between the Tatmadaw and the KIA in Tein Kauk village, Danai Township. While the Tatmadaw blamed the KIA, the KIA blamed the Tatmadaw.
- On July 16 in Kutkai, Shan State, Lahtaw Brang Li of Ward 6 who was on his way to the market to buy rice was [abducted in broad daylight and was taken away blindfolded by Tatmadaw soldiers](#). After severely beating him for no apparent reason and robbing 25,000 Kyats from him, the victim was dropped off by the Burmese troops in front of Mung Wun Hall in Ward 5.
- On July 16 at around 4:30 p.m., approximately 50 Na Yang Pa-based Tatmadaw soldiers suddenly appeared south of Lawa village, forcibly collected rice from the villagers, and then swiftly left for Nga Leng route.
- On July 16 at around 6:30 a.m, Dum Bung-based Tatmadaw soldiers abducted Lashi Aung, a Dum Bung

[What Happened at Kasung Continues]

without impacting the lives and property of the people.”

- Tatmadaw's firing of heavy artillery towards Kasung [killed or wounded an unknown number of innocent civilians](#) and destroyed their properties. Two villagers, Lamuk Awng Nu and Lagang La Nan, were reportedly shot and wounded by the Tatmadaw soldiers.
- On August 17, the [Burmese authorities stopped and harassed a convoy of the Hpakant-based Myusha Zinlum Hpung \(MZH\)](#), a Kachin humanitarian aid group, which was on its way to Lambraw Yang where the IDPs from Kasung have been taking shelter. Of the eight aid trucks, four were detained along with two MZH members, Labang Shaing Rip and Yaw Htung. After several negotiations and requests by kachin organizations, the trucks and the two members were released on August 20.
- During the interrogation, a Burmese policeman suddenly pulled MZH's Sarama Kai Ring from the back, causing her to fall hard on the concrete floor. Videos from the event show that Sarama Kai Ring became unconscious as a result and had to be taken to Kamaing hospital to receive treatment for her head wound.
- On August 22, [the IDPs of Kasung returned to their village](#) and found that [their homes have been vandalized and left a mess](#).

villager, to serve as a guide while patrolling along Ting Rat and Loi Li rivers. The abductee was hit several times in the head and was later released around 3:50 p.m.

- On July 17 around 9:30 p.m., the Maran Kahtawng-based [Tatmadaw soldiers tortured driver Maung Win after he refused to pay an extortion fees](#) of 200,000 kyats. The driver's left arm is broken as a result of reckless beatings.
- On July 20 in Hpakant Township, the Bun Ra village head U Maung Oo was [taken away by Tatmadaw soldiers](#). When villagers went to inquire their village head's whereabouts on July 22, they were told that Tatmadaw did not have U Maung Oo.
- On July 22 Abela, a civilian travelling from Bang Kani to Man Mun for business, was [abducted by Tatmadaw soldiers](#). When the village elders went to the Tatmadaw base, the major of troop, to which those Tatmadaw soldiers belonged, refused to admit the abduction, stating that the soldiers under his care had taken no such person.

August 2017

- On August 9, two Kachin civilians, Hpaukap Naw Let and Labang Naw Bawk of Lam Braw Yang village, were [killed with a bomb strapped to their bodies](#) by the Tatmadaw troops at Sari Bum, located near the Siden post. A bomb set up and detonated by Tatmadaw soldiers ripped through the two men whose bodies were abandoned by the roadside. The two men reportedly went for fishing on the morning of August 8 and were stopped at a checkpoint on their way back. The Tatmadaw inspectors found some TNT explosives used for fishing and thus, detained them.
- On August 21, the Tatmadaw troops and Tatmadaw supported local militia [detained two Kachin women](#) from Htoi San Yang village and brought them to serve as guides on the way towards Wang Bum. On that same day, the Loi Seng-based Tatmadaw troops detained two Kachin men and [forced them to serve as guides](#) on the way to Jan Mai Pa. All four detainees were released on the same day.
- On August 22 at noon, two senior members of Warazup's Kachin Baptist Church, who were travelling

OTHER UPDATES

- [Dumdaw Nawng Lat and Langjaw Gam Seng](#), the two pastors who were arrested back in December 2016 and were charged under the Unlawful Association Act, are now [facing an additional charge of defamation for speaking to media about human rights violations committed by the Tatmadaw](#). Regarding this case, chief executive officer of Fortify Rights stated, "[The Myanmar military works hard to intimidate and repress the civilian population](#) in Kachin and Shan states... This is yet another case of the Myanmar authorities targeting those who expose the military's wrongdoing—but it's not too late to reverse course. They should immediately drop these charges and free both men."

- At the Forum on Myanmar's Democratic Transition in Naypyitaw on August 11, Col. Aung Myint Oo of National Defense College stated, "[Considering the reality, it is impossible to remove the military from politics](#)... For a government to be strong, it needs to solve security problems in its territory. For Myanmar to do so, it has to make use of the Tatmadaw as one of its institutions."

- According a report on The Irrawaddy, [displaced mothers are struggling to feed their children](#). From 2011 to 2016, each IDP beneficiary used to receive 13.5 kilograms of rice, two bottles of oil, salt and two cups of beans every month. But in 2017, food has been replaced with cash. Now, each IDP receives 9,000 kyats (US\$6.60) monthly, or, for those deemed the most vulnerable, 13,000 kyats

from Warazup to the Kachin Baptist Convention Administrative office in Myitkyina with 2 million kyats (approx. USD 2,000), were detained and interrogated by Tatmadaw soldiers. The [soldiers reportedly stole 700,000 kyats along with other personal items](#) from the two travellers' bags. After hours of interrogation, the two men were released around 6 pm that day.

September 2017

- On September 18, Lahpai Seng Seng Li, age 28, son of a deacon in Ting Kawk village was taken by Tatmadaw soldiers to serve as a guide while he was working on a nearby farm.

Because the victim did not return home, the village elders and ten villages began searching for him on September 24. The [victim's corpse was eventually found](#) buried near Tsai Raw river; the victim suffered two bullet wounds on the right thigh, 2 in the chest and 1 in the left arm.

- On September 24, a battle took place between the KIA and Tatmadaw troops at Kumtsai Yang village, located on Ledo road in western Kachin State. According to a local source, the [Tatmadaw soldiers fired several mortar shells on Kumtsai Yang village](#), forcing the Kumtsai Yang villagers to flee from their homes.

“We can't even buy meat for a few days a month. How can I pay for tuition fees for my children?”
- A young IDP Mother

[Other Updates Continues]

(\$9.53), which means most IDPs receive just 300 kyats per day (\$0.22). A young IDP mother commented, “We can't even buy meat for a few days a month.

How can I pay for tuition fees for my children?” Another mother stated, “We eat rice with salt when we have no money to go shopping.”

- The RFA's Myanmar

Service reported that two soldiers, two officers, and a battalion commander from Tatmadaw's 319th Light Infantry Regiment have been charged with murdering of three Kachin IDPs. During a military court hearing on September 19, the abovementioned [Tatmadaw personnel admitted to killing three Kachin IDPs](#), Nhkum Gam Awng, Marang Brang Seng, and Labya Naw Hkum, in Mansi township back in May 2017 when the Tatmadaw was engaged in intense armed hostilities with the KIA in the township.

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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