MONTHLY UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

**APRIL 2019** 

## Conflict and Peace Process Updates:

- March 6: A series of skirmishes took place between Kachin Independence Army (KIA) 8th Battalion troops and a combined force of Burma Army (BA) troops from 45th LIB, 69th LIB and 99th LID at Nam Sung Bum in Nampaka township in northern Shan State.
- March 11: A battle took place between the KIA's 8th Battalion and a combined force of BA 45th LIB and 69th LIB troops at a hill between Nawng Hoi village and Man Lu village in Nampaka township in northern Shan State.
- March 12: KIA's 9th Battalion troops and BA troops engaged in battle at Nawng Hkyu Bum in old JawngKawng village in Kutkai township.
- March 19: AA, MNDAA and TNLA issued a statement calling for the BA to stop its offensives in Arakan and other ethnic regions, and to begin negotiations.
- March 21: The KIA's 36th Battalion troops attacked BA's 99th LID troops near Nawng Heng village in Muse township.



Children injured by a landmine explosion at Man Wing village

- March 21: Representatives from the KIO/KIA, PSLF/TNLA, ULA/AA, and MNTJP/MNDAA held talks with members of the government's National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) at Naypyitaw.
- March 21: The RCSS and SSPP issued a statement that the two sides will cease fighting beginning March 20.
- March 22: Multiple skirmishes between TNLA and Burmese Army, and SSPP/SSA (N) and Burmese Army have been reported.
- On March 25, Maj. Gen. Soe Nai Oo of the Burmese military Information Committee said four-month ceasefire period is enough and the military may not extend its unilateral ceasefire.

## Humanitarian Crisis and Human Rights Violations

- March 5: Burmese government officials accompanied the return of 8 IDP households to Nam San Yang village.
- March 11: Local sources reported that BA's 298th LIB troops stopped travelers on Myitkyina-Danai road and subjected them to a thorough search on March 11.
- March 12: Hpaugun Tang Mai was randomly arrested and beaten for several times by BA soldiers near a morgue in Taryarkone quarter in Kutkai on March 12 around 5:30 pm.
- March 14: Lashi Seng Li was randomly arrested, beaten, and stabbed by BA soldiers near Nawng Mi village in Hpakant township on March 14.
- March 16: A windstorm swept through Salang Yang IDP Camp causing damage to 5 temporary shelters.
- March 18: Severe outbreak of illnesses and shortage of medicine have been reported at Chipwi No. (2) IDP Camp.
- March 21: HRW released a report on conflict affected Kachin women and girls who have been trafficked to China to bear children for Chinese men.
- March 21: The Kachin state government decided not to proceed with the Mongolia Duojin Investment Company Ltd's proposal for extraction of gold and other minerals.

■ March 29: Kachin activist Nang Pu's six month prison sentence was reduced to four months for medical reasons. Two other activists, Lum Zawng and Zau Jat, remain in Myitkyina prison to serve out their six-month sentences.

## **Other Updates:**

- March 1: Chinese Yunnan government officials reportedly told leaders of Kachin Baptist Convention that they will continue with the Myitsone dam project.
- March 2: An IDP woman from Namti IDP Camp was injured by a landmine near the Burmese Army base by the Jan Hka creek and taken to Myitkyina General Hospital.
- March 6: 6 children whose ages range from 12 to 16 have been injured by a landmine explosion at Man Wing village. One child was severely injured in the chest and taken to Mandalay General Hospital.
- March 6: Locals held a press conference to report environmental damages and other effects caused by banana plantations in Myitkyina.
- March 14: State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said various perspectives have to be considered for the Myitsone Dam and other major projects.
- March 30: 3 villages were killed and 4 others injured by a landmine explosion on the way to their rice fields from Manli village. One injured villager was taken to Mandalay General Hospital and three other villagers were taken to Thibaw General Hospital for treatment.

RECAP is a monthly 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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