



September 1, 2019

The Kachin Alliance, a network of Kachin communities in the U.S, is deeply troubled by the killing of five innocent Kachin civilians, including children, and injuring three others, amid fighting between the Burma Army and the three Northern Alliance groups, a collection of ethnic armed groups in northern Shan state. We are also deeply concerned that the shrapnel and mortar fins are indicated as resembling Ka-Pa-Tsa manufactured rocket design, a manufacturing owned by the Burmese military.

Sumlut Htoi Ja, Zahkung Zau Hkun Lat, Zahkung Nan Mun Pan, Lajing Saw Merry Lu San and Lasham Hkawn San were killed on August 31 after the residence of Mawhik village in Kutkai Township were shelled by artillery. We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims as the community of Kutkai Township held funeral service for the victims.

Latest waves of fighting indicate more frequent strikes against civilians. We strongly condemn indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians while skirmishes occur in the residential areas. It is a serious violation of international human rights laws that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. We urge the Burmese government, the military and all stakeholders of the conflict in the region to respect and adhere to the convention of war and responsibility to protect unarmed civilians in conflict.

Because Burma lacks domestic mechanisms necessary to protect civilians during armed conflicts, we demand an international intervention and that this urgent need be addressed at the United Nations Security Council.