



Karenni Human Rights Group
Summary of crime against human right within the Karenni State
(From February 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021)

After the coup on February 1, mass peaceful protests emerged, including in Karenni State. On May 21, 2021, the first fight broke out between the civilian arm forces (The People Defense Force) and the Burmese military group (Tatmadaw) after many unjust arrests, torture, robbery, and deaths committed by the Tatmadaw. Since then, the fights intensified, and clashes have taken place on a daily basis in Karenni State, resulting in serious violations of human rights and humanitarian laws. Among the many forms of human rights violations, civilians are experiencing unjust arrested, torture, murder, being burned to death, shot to death, used as a human shield, and properties such as home and livestock have been destroyed, killed, and robbed. In addition, these innocent civilians have been forcibly displaced in nearby forests and jungles.

On the other hand, they also prohibit access to health, education, and work. Therefore, they face a health crisis and struggle to survive with almost zero to no medicine supply and humanitarian aid. Since the coup on February 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, the Tatmadaw have committed horrific crimes that amount to crimes against humanity that are beyond our own documentations. This is due to limited internet access, restrictions on documentations of human rights violations and restrictions on freedom of movement in the State.

Documented cases of killings

After the coup, there were 148 individual deaths due to shooting, arrested, and torture by the Tatmadaw in Karenni State. Below are the reported incidents of human rights violations committed by the Tatmadaw resulting in the deaths of many innocent people.

- 85 individual deaths after arrest and torture by the Tatmadaw,, including being burned to death.
- 47 individuals shot to death by the Tatmadaw.
- 7 individuals died due to poor health during displacement, where they had fled to avoid the clashes and arrest by the Tatmadaw.
- 2 individuals shot to death by the Tatmadaw during the early peaceful protests.
- 4 individuals died due to accident while fleeing from the clashes.
- 1 person died from a landmine.
- 2 died from assassination.

Among those 148 deaths, 25 were women and children. Most of these deaths occurred in Demawso Township. Second township to endure deaths was Puroso Township followed by Loikaw. All these individuals are not necessarily the residents of respective townships in which they were killed. Their deaths are reported by the township where they are killed or passed away.

(Note: Those counted in the incidences of killings are only civilians. They are not armed individuals or taking part in the armed conflict.)

Used as a human shield in conflict

In Karenni State, there are five occasions when the Tatmadaw arrested civilians and used them as human shields in War.

- 1 in Pruso Township, 1 in Demaso Township, 1 in Loikaw Township, and 2 in Pehkon Township.
- They arrested a total of 49 civilians and used them as a human shield.
- Among those 49, 24 are still detained and we have lost contact with some of those who were arrested.
- 4 out of the 49 have died.

Unjustly arrested and tortured

In Karenni State, at least 250 individuals have been arrested by the Tatmadaw, although we do not have the exact number. Among these individuals, the majority of them are youth. In the same situation, at least 100 individuals have been released.

According to the testimonies of the released individuals, they have been tortured at a interrogation center after being arrested. Unfortunately, we cannot assess and reveal the mental well-being and physical well-being of these released detainees yet, although we are trying daily.

The families of those who have been released have assessed that the mental and physical well-being of those who have been detained cannot return to normalcy. In addition, they cannot disclose or tell their story. It shows that they are afraid and in the state of being shocked.

Damaged properties

After the fight broke out on May 21, 2021, the fighting has intensified in Karenni State, resulting in at least 654 houses and other properties were destroyed and damaged by fires, artillery, airstrike, and more.

- 275 homes were burned.
- 192 homes were massively destroyed.
- 181 homes were sustained minor to moderate damage.
- 6 religious buildings were damaged.
- 1 clinic was damaged.

The Tatmadaw intentionally burned down the properties of the people, thus many houses were destroyed. The Tatmadaw intentionally burned the houses in Kotha village in Demawso Township, La Tue village in Pehkon Township, Nawlon village, east of Loilay, and KhoNa village in Loikaw Township. In these four villages, total of 90 houses were burned and damaged. Most of the damaged houses and other properties were in Demawso Township.

Internal Displaced People and Humanitarian Information

Since the attacks by the Tatmadaw began in Karenni State on May 21, 2021, until December 31, 2021, the total number of people displaced internally by the conflict has risen to no less than 120,000 people.

- A total of 95,000 people have been confirmed to be displaced.
- Up to 25,000 people could be displaced but has not yet been confirmed.
- Most of the unconfirmed population is displaced in Loikaw and other cities in Karenni State. They fled to Karen and Shan States.
- Children under 18 years of age and women make up 70 percent of the displaced population.
- 65 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in makeshift/temporary camps.
- 80 percent of the IDPs population completely depends on aid. Therefore, they are facing challenge of aid cut.
- The displaced children, pregnant women, breastfeeding children, and the elderly lack access to healthy food such as vitamin-rich foods.
- The daily rice requirement for 100,000 displaced people is 1,111 bags of 3-buckets-bag.
- There is increasing demands for supply of medicine, lack of access to health care and poor and insecure transportation.
- Shortage in medical supplies, limited healthcare, insecure communication and transportation forcing the people to face a health crisis.
- IDPs are struggling to access clean drinking water, cooking water, and water for hygiene including daily shower.
- There are only 100 community-run schools, and there is a shortage of school supplies and teachers' allowances.
- Materials such as wood and more are in shortage that is needed to build temporary shelter to stay and sleep since the tents are too small to live with many people.
- The highest number of displaced people are in Demawso Township and the lowest in Bawlakha Township.

Currently, there are at least 95 internally displaced camps in Karenni State, with the number of displaced people change depend on the situation of the conflict. Depending on the situation of conflict in the State, we are made aware of the establishment of new camps. On the one hand, those who have been displaced depend on the limited humanitarian support. There are not enough support for the people as the population who need support due to challenges such as restriction on financial flow and insecure commute and transportation.

Forms of Human Right Violations

After the attempted coup on February 1, 2021, and conflict following the attempted coup on 21 May the civil war has intensified, and conflict has taken place every day in Karenni State. Due to this ongoing conflict, innocent civilians are facing deaths and crimes against humanity committed against them by the Tatmadaw. The Karenni people are living under Tatmadaw's persecution and daily threat. Besides the loss of the right to associate with politics and the fundamental rights of a citizen, and it is very limited to work and business freely. It means we are not living as human beings as we have lost all of our human rights. Below are under the circumstance of "lack of human dignity". The following crimes are the human rights violations committed by the Tatmadaw in Karenni State.

- Indiscriminate shooting
- Unjust arrest, torture, murder, and bodies being burned to death
- Arrest and torture
- Use of civilians as human shields
- Burning houses

- Shooting and destroying houses and religious buildings indiscriminately
- Destroying and breaking forcefully enter houses without permission to destroy, rob, steal, and eat people's livelihoods
- Seizure and destruction of humanitarian food and medical supplies
- Use of religious buildings and compound as military camps and outposts
- Daily enforcement of unjust inquiries and restriction
- Restriction on the right to access information by blocking information flow to the people, and blocking and restricting the proper access to internet connection
- Frequently cutting off the access to electricity and water supply system
- Threat and intimidation to civilians by indiscriminate shooting
- Unjust prosecution and sentencing
- Prohibit the meeting between detainees and family members
- Destruction of evidence
- Prohibit and arrest the transportation of essential commodities and consumer goods
- Ban and restrict organizations such as social services that conduct charity, religious organizations, and health organizations
- Ban independent reporting and speak up for the news.

The Tatmadaw intentionally continues to commit human rights violations and crimes against humanity.. Some violations of human rights fall into the categories of crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as forms of violations that violate the international humanitarian laws. On December 24, 2021, in Pruso Township, Mo Go village, the Tatmadaw intentionally massacre or burned 39 civilians to death is an act of crimes against humanity and war crime. . It also violates international humanitarian laws by killing two humanitarian workers among those who were burned in the massacre.