



# RECAP

QUARTERLY UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

SUMMER 2019

## CONFLICT UPDATES

- The Burma Army first declared a four-month [unilateral ceasefire](#) in Kachin and Shan states from December 21, 2018 to April 30, 2019. It then extended the ceasefire from May 1 to June 30 which was then extended to August 31. Then on September 20 the alliance of ethnic armed groups [extended ceasefire](#) until the end of this year.
- Despite the declared ceasefires, armed clashes and other military action continued to occur in Kachin and northern Shan States. Between the Burma Army and various ethnic armed groups in Kachin and northern Shan States, including the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), there were 4 clashes in [February](#), 3 clashes and 3 artillery/mortar attacks in [March](#), and 26 clashes and 1 artillery/mortar attack in [April and May](#).<sup>[1]</sup>
- Between the Burma Army and the KIA alone, there were 4 clashes in May, 8 in June, 3 in July, 1 in August and 3 in September. Additionally, there were 3 provocations in June, 1 in July, 2 in August and 6 in September.<sup>[2]</sup>



Burma Army tank ready on the hill overlooking the town

- In the month of August, the Burma Army and joint forces belonging to the Arakan Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army [clashed nearly everyday](#) in northern Shan State along the road connecting Kutkai, Nampaka, Lashio, and Muse. This led to travel ban and government school closure in northern Shan State.

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## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS & HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS <sup>[3]</sup>

### JULY

- On July 3 in Kutkai Township, NhkumNan Htang (51), [a Kachin IDP woman, was apparently murdered](#). The details of the murder is still unclear but the Burma Army soldiers reportedly came by her home to buy tea salad and borrow a solar panel from her that evening.
- On July 5 in Danai Township, the Burma Army soldiers [detained some 70 civilians](#) for trespassing army-owned mining site.
- On 10 July in Kutkai Township, Lum Ze (39), father of three, was [seriously injured by a landmine blast while working on his paddy farm](#). Northern Shan State is a high-risk area for landmines, and in 2018, 123 of 276 landmine blasts in Myanmar occurred in that area.

- On July 26 the local General Administration Department announced that [the Burma Army will not withdraw from or compensate for land it seized](#) from the village of Shwe Nyaung Pin in Kachin State's Waingmaw Township. The seized land includes farmland and a graveyard, and it is being used as a banana plantation.

## AUGUST

- On August 1 in Hpakant Township, Ungsau La Sam (41), a resident of Lawa village, went to search for vegetables in the nearby forest and did not return home. On August 2, his family found him [dead with two gunshot wounds](#) to the chest.
- On August 7 Laphai Htiang Nan (37) of Pinlung village was reportedly killed by Tatmadaw soldiers. On August 11 in northern Shan State, a high school student, Hkawng Lum of Maw Han, was [injured by pieces from shells blast](#) fired by the Burmese army near Tamonye.
- On August 13 in northern Shan State, Mwihaw Naw Mai (19), a Kachin civilian from Tamonye, was killed by mortar shells during the fighting between the MNDAA and the the Burma Army. MNDAA personnel came to the victim's family on August 17 to offer condolences and MMK 10 lakhs.
- On August 13 in northern Shan State, [Lahpai Zau San Lum](#), a headmaster from Mong Si was wounded on the left side of the rib cage during clashes between the Burma Army and the TNLA; the victim was traveling to Kutkai at the time.
- On August 13 in Hpakant township, two villagers who were working in Gaw Lu Yang were arrested for no apparent reason and taken to the Karmaing military post by the Burma Army soldiers.
- On August 19 in northern Shan State, [two motorbike drivers were shot dead and two travelers were injured](#) reportedly by the Burma Army soldiers on the Muse-Kutkai road.
- Due to escalation of armed clashed in northern Shan State, by August 21 [more than 1000 in Lashio](#) and [700 in Kutkai](#) have taken temporary shelter in monasteries, churches and relatives' homes especially in Lashio-Kutkai-Muse areas. According to locals, the [IDP have not received any humanitarian assistance](#). According to a local news report on August 24, the total displacement in northern Shan State is as high as [over 5000 people from 46 villages](#), and they are taking shelter in 22 camps with their relatives.
- On August 26 in Myitkyina township, a high-ranking [Burma Army personnel filed alawsuit against Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson of the Kachin Baptist Convention](#). The reverend requested support for Burma's transition to "genuine" democracy and expressed support for US sanctions against the Burma Army Commander-in-Chief and three other senior officers when he met President Trump on July 17, 2019. [The case was dropped](#) on September 9.
- On August 29 in Kutkai township, seven Kachin civilians were arrested by the Burma Army soldiers without any apparent reason.
- On August 31 in Kutkai township, five civilians, an 18-year-old mother [Lasham Lu San Aung and her 8 months old](#) daughter, and [Hpaugun Htoi Ja \(37\) and her 2 children Zakhung Nang Mun Pan \(14\) and Zakhung Zau Hkun Lat \(10\)](#) were killed by mortar shells. Three of them died immediately from the shelling and two others died after arriving at a hospital in Kutkai. In addition, three other people were injured. The deaths occurred as government representatives and the Northern Alliance met in the eastern Shan State town of Kengtung for peace talks.

## SEPTEMBER

• On September 2 Kachin activists Pawlu and Seng Nu Pan were [charged with “unauthorized protest”](#) and [were sentenced to 15 days imprisonment](#) or pay K30,000 fine for organizing a street theatre performance, which included a re-enactment of the aerial bombing of Kachin villages by the Tatmadaw. The performance was organized to commemorate the resumption of civil war in the Kachin area on June 9. Pawlu was [given additional 3 months of imprisonment](#) because he gave the presiding judge a set of broken scales to show his dissatisfaction with the sentence when the sentence was handed down. The judge responded by filing a lawsuit against him for “disturbing the duties of a civil servant and for insulting and disrespecting the court.”



Pawlu was taken into police custody in Myitkyina

## OTHER UPDATES

- This January 19 marked four years since the brutal rape and murder of two Kachin teachers, Tangbau Hkawn Nan Tsin and Maran Lu Ra. They were [raped and murdered](#) reportedly by Major Aung Phyo Myint of the Burma Army and his soldiers inside Kawng Hka Kachin Baptist Church compound in Kawng Hka village in Muse Township on January 19, 2015. After four years the investigation is said to be on-going and there is still no justice for the two teachers.
- Since early 2019 the Burma Army [oversaw the return of around 200 IDPs to their village](#), Nam San Yang in Waingmaw Township, without the support of the KIO or the KBC. Many are now concerned that the return was premature, as the returnees no longer receive humanitarian support from aids group and received very little help from the government. One of the returnees stated, “No one is helping to repair our houses that were destroyed during the conflict,” she said. “They should at least have fixed our houses before we returned.” A report in June indicates that the returnees [lack access to safe drinking water](#).
- According to OCHA’s statement in March 2019, [almost 47,000 people have been temporarily displaced](#) by fighting in 21 Townships in Kachin and northern Shan states since January 2018. The statement continues, “Civilians have been displaced multiple times, increasing psychological trauma, especially for elderly people and disrupting children’s education.”
- *The Irrawaddy* reported on May 10 that the government [plans to issue identity cards to IDPs](#); without the identity cards they face challenges with movement, school registration and employment opportunities.
- This June 9 marked [8 years since fighting resumed in the Kachin area](#). Commemorative prayer services were held in Kachin communities globally. This June 9 also marked three years since the government has [denied the UN agency to deliver aid to thousands of IDPs](#) in the non-government areas of Kachin and Shan States.
- In her report on July 18 Yanghee Lee, a UN Special rapporteur, mentioned that ethnic minority women and girls from northern Burma, including Kachins, are being taken by brokers to China where they are kept as “brides” and, shockingly, raped, impregnated and forced to give birth. [Trafficking is particularly rampant in the conflict-affected areas](#).

- An OHCHR statement from August 5 [urged the international community to sever ties with the Burma Army and the vast web of companies it controls and relies on](#). It continues, “the revenues the military earns from domestic and foreign business deals substantially enhances its ability to carry out gross violations of human rights with impunity.”

[1] These figures are primarily based on reports by the Burma Free Rangers.

[2] These figures are based on our own tally. Any incident of gun firing, bombing, artillery/mortar shelling or ambush that did not escalate to a battle is considered to be a provocation.

[3] Note that these accounts cover only the reported incidences and thus, are in no way comprehensive.

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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