



RECAP

QUARTERLY UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

SPRING 2020

CONFLICT UPDATES

■ Between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Burma Army, there were 2 clashes in January, 4 in February and 4 in March of 2020. During these three months, there were 6 provocations as well. This is a slight decrease from the number of armed clashes that occurred in the previous three months (14 clashes between October to December of 2019).

■ Although the armed conflict between the KIA and the Burma Army was relatively calm during the past three months (January to March 2020), there were many reports of civilian injuries and death by [landmine explosions. A high-ranking official of the Burma Army stated that landmine removal can begin only once the KIA signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.](#)



Women carrying firewood wash their hands at IDP camp of Trinity Kachin Baptist Church in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, northern Burma.

■ During the past three months, the Burma Army reoriented its forces from northern and northeastern Burma to western Burma where armed [conflict between it and the Arakan Army escalated.](#)

■ In March it was reported that the Burma Army told the KIA to [expel the Arkan Army from the KIA-controlled areas.](#) The Northern Command Chief of the Burma Army reportedly stated that permission had already been granted to attack the KIA headquarters in Laiza and Mai Ja Yang unless if the Arakan Army is driven out.

Humanitarian Crisis and Human Rights Violations

January 2020

Lasi Lu (48), a mother of seven from a Bhamo Lisu IDP camp, was [killed by a landmine explosion.](#) At the time she was gathering vegetables in a field near her camp with her older sister Lasi Hkawn and her sister-in-law Su San Na. in Momauk. She was buried on January 17. The older sister and the sister-in-law were receiving treatment at Bhamo hospital at the time of reporting.

February 2020

On February 5, after attending the 60th Kachin Revolution Day commemoration in Nawng Jang village, Lat Du La Htoi was asked to stop at a checkpoint at Kawng yang village while on his way back home. Because he did not stop, he was shot. He escaped with injury to his left shoulder.

On February 7, two Kachin Baptist ministers, Rev. Bima Dau Lum and Sumlut Tu Htang, were [detained by the police](#) and charged under Article 17(1) of the Unlawful Association Act for attending the commemoration of the 60th Kachin Revolution Day on Feb 5. They were [released from prison](#) after spending two weeks there.

On February 14, a villager in the resettled IDP community of Nam San Yang [was injured by a landmine blast](#) while going fishing. He had to have his leg amputated due to the injuries he sustained. Mr. Je Hpwi (55) of Nam San Yang village was also injured by a landmine explosion in February while tending to his cows.

March 2020

On March 5 around 10:30 am, Galau Ze Bawm (45) and Kareng Naw Awn (50), residents of IDP camps in Namti (Mogaung Township), were [injured by a landmine blast](#). Galau Ze Bawm's right leg was broken into pieces and shrapnel hit Kareng Naw Awn's right thighs.

On the morning of March 29, Mr. Marang Brang Sawng (69) and his son Mr. Maran Naw (30) of Dingga Zupra village were [seriously injured by a landmine explosion near](#) Loi Mawk river. They were taken to Bhamo hospital but remain in critical condition.

OTHER UPDATES

This January 19 marks five years since the brutal rape and murder of two Kachin teachers, Maran Lu Ra (20) and Tangbau Hkawn Nan Tsin (21) inside Kawng Hka Kachin Baptist Church compound in Muse Township compound. No one has been charged for this horrific crime. [Justice is yet to be served.](#)

[IDP camp officials](#) expressed concerns that the government has [no plan to protect tens of thousands of people living in camps from COVID-19.](#) Positive cases of COVID-19 began appearing in Burma in late March.

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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