MONTHLY
SITUATIONAL BRIEF REPORT

KACHIN HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

February, 2025

KACHIN STATE

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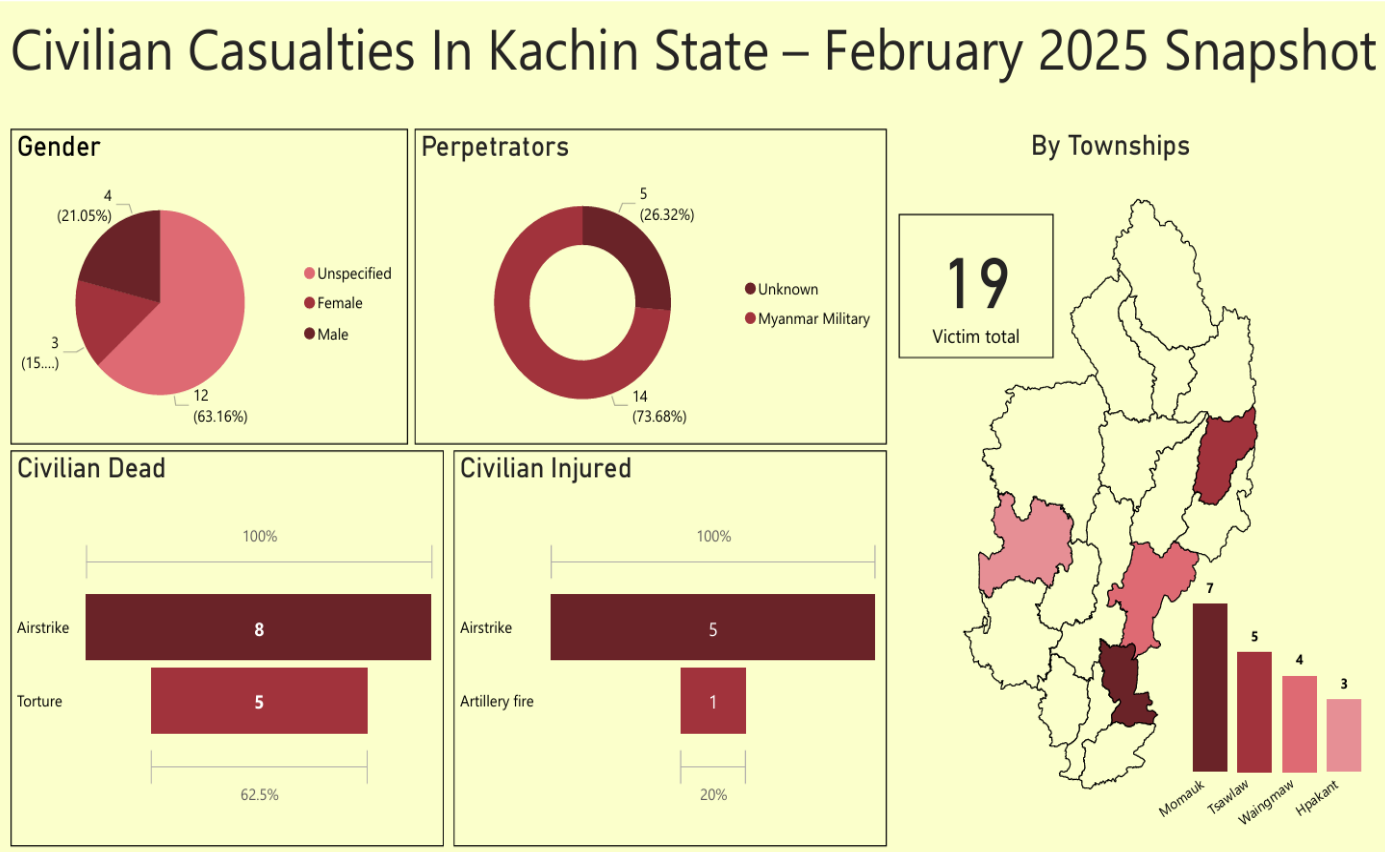

In February 2025, Kachin State witnessed a total of 19 civilian casualties as a result of ongoing conflict, including 13 deaths and 6 injuries. This reflects a continuation of the violence disproportionately impacting civilian populations. The gender breakdown of the victims reveals that 4 were male and 3 were female, while the gender of the remaining 12 victims was unspecified, pointing to significant gaps in data collection in conflict-affected areas.

The majority of incidents 14 were attributed to the Myanmar military, with 14 out of the 19 cases. The remaining 5 cases involved unknown perpetrators. Airstrikes were the leading cause of civilian deaths, responsible for 8 fatalities, followed by torture, which led to 5 deaths. Among the 6 civilians injured, 5 were wounded by airstrikes and 1 by artillery fire, highlighting the ongoing threat of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Geographically, the casualties were concentrated in five townships, with Momauk suffering the highest toll at 7 victims, followed by Sawlaw with 5, Waingmaw with 4, and Hpakant with 3. These numbers suggest a pattern of intensified military activity in specific regions of Kachin State. Overall, February's snapshot underscores the dire humanitarian situation in the area, with airstrikes emerging as the most destructive tactic.

19.February.2025, Momauk, Dawhpung Yang,

The whole family member had been killed, including three children by the SAC's airstrike in Wa Ngan village. And five civilians were injured in Nang Ing village.

17 February.2025, Langze village

Two civilians were injured by the SAC military airstrike.

16. February.2025, at Warazup village, Hpakant township

Labya Brang Mai who 27 years old was killed by SAC's military Airstrike.

Civilian Casualties and Disappearances

- Decapitated Bodies Near Myitsone (February 16–21)
    - Two men, including 36-year-old U Tein Gaw Khun Mai, went missing while transporting fuel from a gold mine near Myitsone. Days later, two decapitated heads were discovered nearby. The gruesome nature of these killings underscores the escalating impunity and possible targeting of civilians or laborers in resource-rich regions.
- Murder in Phakant (February 24–25)
  The body of Ko Thar Oo (age ~39) was discovered near Lonkhin Bridge, showing signs of severe beating, possibly with a temple bell rod. The murder, alongside another body found in the same area on February 18, indicates a rise in unsolved killings in jade-mining, Hpakant township where KIA and junta-aligned forces operate.

- Fear of Forced Conscription in Naungmon (February 7–12)
  Residents of Naungmon Township were alarmed by a visit from the Township Administrator, who announced that locals must join either the national military or local militia units. Though framed as "defensive service," the message caused significant distress. This suggests the junta is facing troop shortages and is expanding forced recruitment to remote areas.

Airstrikes and Drone Attacks on Civilian Areas

The military's use of airstrikes and kamikaze drones surged in February, focusing not only on military targets but increasingly on internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, residential zones, and KIA-controlled areas. This marks a shift toward strategic terror and retaliation tactics following significant ground losses to the KIA and allied forces.

- February 7–8: Fighter jets bombed Lansai Village and the surrounding regions of Sadung and Panwa in Waingmaw Township, injuring five civilians. These sites were devoid of military activity, suggesting intentional targeting of civilians. Lansai, recently reclaimed by the KIA, appears to be a key site of junta reprisal.
- February 18: In Warazup, a jet bombing killed a 27-year-old civilian and damaged multiple homes. The Min Ze Thant militia, aligned with the military, carried out subsequent daily drone attacks, exacerbating fear and disruption in the region.
- February 19: A family of seven, including three children, was killed in Wa Ngan village, Momauk Township, by coordinated jet and drone strikes. No clashes were reported in the area. This was one of the most devastating single incidents of the month.
- February 24–28: The military bombed KIA Battalion 6 in Phakant and launched a drone strike injuring a civilian water carrier in Sharawhk. Artillery fire from nearby hills was also reported.
- From February 2–5, KIA and KPDF forces launched offensives in Mohnyin, Mogaung, and Indawgyi, resulting in the seizure of several Shanni National Army (SNA) bases and further challenging junta control in central Kachin.

Battles in Which Resistance Forces Captured SAC Troops

Throughout February, the KIA, Kachin People's Defence Force (KPDF), and ABSDF made substantial territorial gains, particularly in Bhamo:

- February 2–4: The joint forces captured Artillery Battalion 366, Bhamo Airport, and Armored Battalion 7006. They now control significant parts of Bhamo city, leading to increased junta reliance on air power, with up to 10 airstrikes daily.
- February 10: Armored Battalion 5014 was seized by KIA-led units despite heavy bombardment. Armored vehicles and munitions were captured, enhancing KIA's operational capacity.
- February 10–14: Myanmar forces attempted diversionary tactics through jungle column movements from Tanphare to Sumprabum and from Phakant to Yuma ward, using jets and drones, though with limited success.

National Unity Government (NUG)

- February 1 – Call for Military Defection and Political Unity
  On the fourth anniversary of the coup, NUG Interim President Duwa Lashi La issued a public appeal urging military personnel and commanders to defect and align with the pro-democracy movement. Acknowledging internal weaknesses, he emphasized the need for greater coordination between political and armed resistance, and a reform agenda that reflects the people's will.
- February 9 – Panglong Day Fundraising in London
  The 78th anniversary of Panglong Day was marked with a fundraising event in London, attended by NUG UK representative Dr. Thet Ko Ko, civil society members, and Kim Aris, son of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The event symbolized continued international solidarity with Myanmar's democratic struggle.
- February 19 – Accountability for priest Killing
  In a landmark act of internal accountability, the NUG condemned the killing of Catholic priest Fr. Donald Martin and vowed prosecution against members of the Shwebo People's Defense Force and others involved. The NUG stated that several suspects were under arrest and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting civilians and religious figures in all resistance areas.
- February 20 – Foreign Minister Appeals at Munich Security Conference
  At the Munich Security Conference, Foreign Minister Daw Zin Mar Aung called on the United States to strengthen its support for Myanmar's democracy movement and openly criticized China's ambivalent role, accusing Beijing of favoring its strategic interests

over human rights. The remarks reinforced the NUG's push for broader international alignment and pressure against the military regime.

KIA/KIO Statement

- Statements by General N'Ban La (February 5)
  Marking the KIO/KIA anniversary, General N'Ban La delivered three separate but thematically united public addresses, reinforcing political clarity and leadership restraint: "Don't Seek Peace on the Battlefield." Speaking directly to junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, General N Ban La warned that true peace cannot be achieved through military aggression. He called on military leadership to act in the country's interest and open pathways to political resolution rather than destruction.

- General N'Ban La expressed hope that victory over the military regime is close, calling on all Kachin people and revolutionary partners to act with restraint and shared purpose. He emphasized the importance of building a legacy of peace, not only for present-day resistance, but to establish a future federal democracy free of conflict for coming generations.

- B. Unity Over Expansion
  Addressing territorial friction in northern Shan State, General N'Ban La stressed that "control must come from the people's trust—not the barrel of a gun."
  The KIO acknowledged tensions with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in Brigade 6 areas, clarifying that no firefights had occurred and that the KIO has no intention of expanding territory. The speech urged mutual respect between ethnic armed organizations and cautioned against internal ethnic divisions that play into the regime's hands.

SAC statement

February 20, 2025 – Military Council Vows Crackdown on Illegal Resource Extraction

The military council announced it would investigate and suppress illegal extraction of natural resources, which they claim are funding revolutionary armed groups. These resource operations are reportedly active in areas controlled by resistance forces. The junta stated that action will be taken against those involved in such activities, though specifics were not disclosed.

February 22, 2025 – Min Aung Hlaing Pledges to Continue Fighting in Officer School Speech

Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, speaking at the early graduation of cadets at Ba Htoo Officer Training School, reaffirmed that the military will continue its fight. He urged officer trainees to master military strategies and modern technologies. Analysts suggested the early graduation signals a shortage of officers, possibly due to ongoing heavy combat, particularly in southern Shan State. Ba Htoo is located near conflict zones where TNLA and military forces are clashing, and reinforcements are reportedly being routed through this region.

February 28, 2025 – Military Council Launches Nationwide QR Code Payment System

The Myanmar QR (MMQR) digital payment system was launched on February 27, with military leader Min Aung Hlaing in attendance. The system is initially intended for shopping but will expand to include tax, utility, salary, and pension payments. The launch included services from major digital wallet platforms like KBZ Pay, AYA Pay, Wave Money, and others. Min Aung Hlaing warned of potential online fraud risks and emphasized the need for close regulation. This QR initiative builds on a civilian-era digital finance strategy initiated in 2019 under the previous government.

Military Council Extends State of Emergency (January 31, 2025)

- The council extended emergency rule by six more months, claiming the need for stability before holding elections.

Additional information

- Ongoing Negotiation Challenges Between PSLF/TNLA and Military Council
  On February 16–17, the Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)/Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) engaged in negotiations with the SAC in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The talks, mediated by Chinese Special Envoy Deng Xijun, ended without reaching any agreement. The PSLF/TNLA demanded a ceasefire based on current military positions, cessation of all offensive operations including drone and artillery attacks, and unrestricted humanitarian access.
- The SAC expanded its Union Election Commission to over 2,600 personnel. The new positions focus on electoral tribunals and digital infrastructure, including electronic voting systems. This administrative move comes amid the

continued extension of the national state of emergency, which the junta claims is necessary to restore electoral order.

- Myanmar has become the global epicenter for landmine-related civilian casualties. According to the United Nations and humanitarian agencies, 889 civilian deaths and injuries were reported in 2023. More than half of Myanmar's 330 townships are now classified as hazardous due to active mine usage.
- U.S. Reaffirms Myanmar as a National Security Threat
  Former U.S. President Donald Trump extended the national emergency designation for Myanmar, citing ongoing military repression, human rights abuses, and the absence of democratic governance. This decision maintains existing sanctions and restrictions. Additionally, the U.S. government has prolonged Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Myanmar nationals until at least November 2025.
- U.S. Congressional Hearing on Myanmar Human Rights
  On February 3, a hearing was held at the U.S. Senate's Dirksen Office Building to address Myanmar's worsening human rights crisis. Testimonies focused on the persecution of religious minorities and called for enhanced U.S. action, including international accountability efforts and more scrutiny of China's support for the junta.
- Argentina Issues Arrest Warrants for Myanmar Military Officials
  An Argentine federal court issued arrest warrants for 22 Myanmar military officials, including Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, over genocide and crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingya population. Although warrants were also issued for former President U Htin Kyaw and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, the rights group BROUK clarified it submitted evidence only against military leaders. The case marks a significant step forward in international accountability measures.
- Russia Deepens Economic Ties with Myanmar Junta
  Russia continues to bolster its economic relationship with Myanmar. In February, Russia's Minister of Economic Development, Maxim Reshetnikov, met with the junta and signed a memorandum of understanding to develop the Dawei Special Economic Zone. Planned projects include a port, a coal-fired power plant, and an oil refinery, signaling Moscow's sustained engagement with the isolated regime.
- Singaporean Firm Halts Operations Amid Military Fuel Supply Allegations
  Interra Resources, a Singapore-based energy company, suspended its operations after being implicated in supplying over two million barrels of oil to the Myanmar military over the past three years. The Singapore Exchange (SGX) launched an inquiry following growing concerns about the firm's role in enabling military airstrikes and attacks.

Kachin State – February 2025 Situational Summary

February 2025 marked another month of intense conflict and humanitarian deterioration in Kachin State. Airstrikes and drone attacks by the Myanmar military escalated, with indiscriminate targeting of civilian areas including IDP camps and villages far from active combat zones. This resulted in 19 civilian casualties—including entire families—highlighting the junta's use of aerial warfare as a punitive and terrorizing tactic.

The resistance forces, particularly the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Kachin People's Defence Force (KPDF), and allied groups, made significant strategic gains in Bhamo and surrounding regions, capturing key military installations. These successes, however, were met with increased reliance on air power by the junta, underscoring a volatile and deadly turn in the conflict.

The reporting period also revealed a sharp rise in brutal civilian crimes—including decapitations and unsolved murders in mining regions—pointing to deepening lawlessness and impunity in contested zones. Additionally, forced conscription threats stirred fear among rural populations, particularly in Naungmon Township, signaling the junta’s growing manpower crisis.

On the political front, the KIA/KIO reinforced calls for unity and political clarity through public addresses by General N’Ban La, emphasizing restraint, ethnic solidarity, and long-term vision for federal democracy. Meanwhile, the National Unity Government (NUG) undertook notable international advocacy and internal accountability measures, further strengthening its credibility.

In conclusion, the situation in Kachin State remains critical, with ongoing military aggression against civilians, mounting human rights violations, and the continued absence of effective protective mechanisms. Despite these challenges, the growing momentum of the resistance and heightened international attention offer a cautious sense of resilience and resolve among the Kachin people and their allies.