

MONTHLY SITUATIONAL BRIEF REPORT

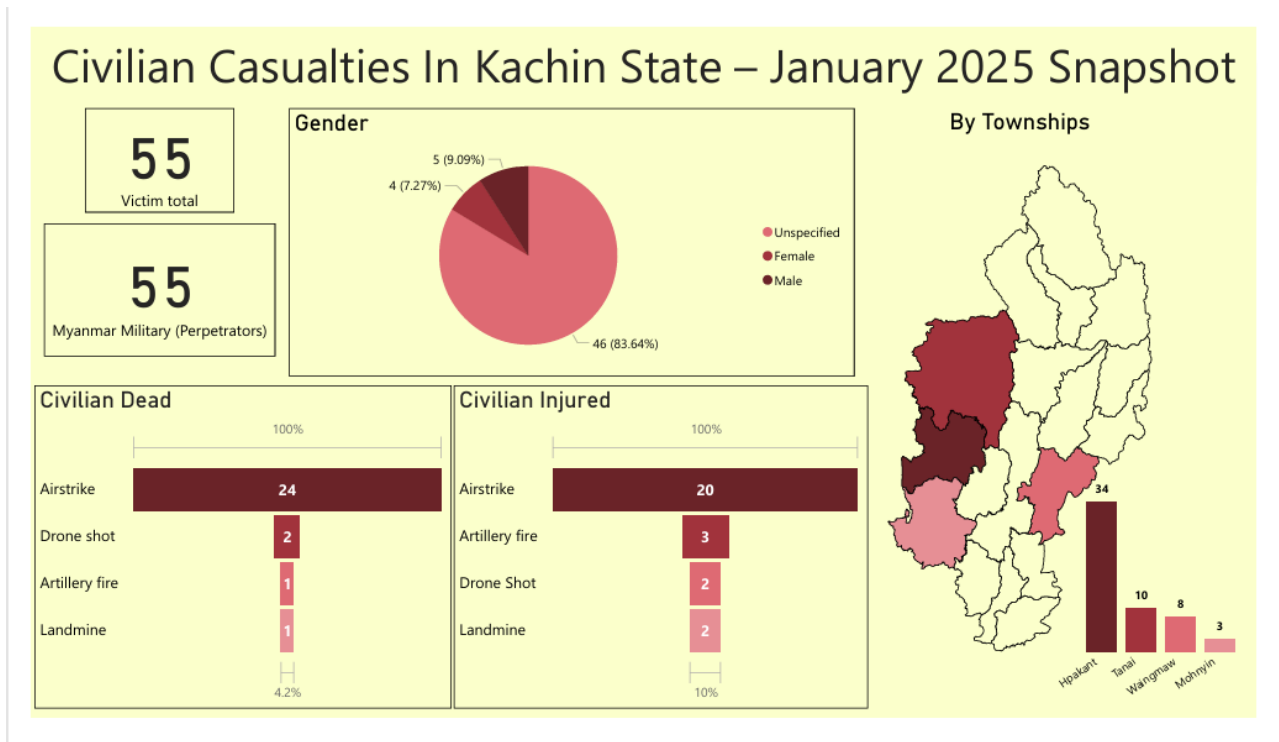
KACHIN HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

January, 2025

KACHIN STATE

www.kachinhumanrightsinsight.org

January 2025 – Escalating Violence and Targeted Strikes



The month of January 2025 witnessed an alarming spike in civilian casualties in Kachin State, totaling 55 victims, all of whom were directly impacted by the actions of the SAC (State Administration Council). The data shows that violence was highly concentrated in Hpakant Township, which accounted for 34 victims, suggesting a heavy military presence or strategic targeting in this resource-rich area. Other affected areas included Tanai (10 victims), Waingmaw (8 victims), and Mohnyin (3 victims). The use of airstrikes dominated as the leading cause of death and injury, indicating a shift toward more indiscriminate and destructive forms of warfare. A total of 24 civilians were killed, with reports also documenting fatalities caused by drone strikes, artillery fire, and landmines—all tactics indicative of an aggressive military campaign with little regard for civilian safety.

Injuries sustained by 20 civilians were likewise largely attributed to air-based attacks and explosives, compounding fears of long-term trauma and disability among survivors. The gender distribution paints a troubling picture of vulnerability: 83.64% of the victims were male, suggesting that men may be disproportionately targeted or exposed due to their roles within the community or perceived affiliations. Nevertheless, the presence of female victims (9.09%) and unspecified (7.27%) underlines the broad reach of the violence. Overall, the data from January reveals a deeply concerning pattern of systemic attacks on civilian populations, with clear signs of militarized targeting and a disregard for human rights norms.

Kachin State Conflict Update – January 2025

In January 2025, fighting in Kachin State intensified significantly, with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) making substantial territorial gains, capturing several key towns and military bases. The conflict's escalation marks a critical turning point in the ongoing struggle between the KIA and the SAC.

Early in the month, the SAC military launched an offensive against Lumyang and Nan Zaw Yan villages in Waingmaw Township. These villages, already under KIA control, were targeted with a combination of ground troops and drone strikes. The attack triggered fierce fighting and appeared aimed at hindering the KIA's momentum, especially near the strategic town of Bhamo.

The most significant event occurred on January 8, when the KIA fully captured Mansi, a town located near the China border, following over a month of sustained fighting. Alongside the town, the KIA seized control of three military bases: LIB 601, 319, and 352. SAC army forces retreated toward Bhamo, pursued closely by KIA units intent on blocking their escape. By this point, the KIA had consolidated control over 13 towns in Kachin State and one in Shan State, demonstrating rapid growth in their regional influence.

Following the fall of Mansi, the KIA focused on encircling Bhamo, a major military stronghold still held by SAC forces. Efforts concentrated on cutting supply routes to key bases, such as LIB 47 and the 21st Operations Command (OC21). Roadways and river passages were blocked, forcing the SAC force to rely on risky airdrops. The SAC responded with frequent airstrikes and drone attacks to defend its positions; however, these operations also inflicted civilian casualties and damage, particularly in the Minghla and Naung Kho neighborhoods.

Between January 24 and 26, the KIA launched a multi-pronged assault on Bhamo. On January 25, they successfully captured the 7006 Armored Regiment base, seizing seven military vehicles. Concurrently, KIA forces advanced into the Bhamo airport vicinity, reaching fuel storage facilities. Social media footage showed KIA fighters moving within the airport compound. Attacks also extended to military zones near Bhamo University. Despite relentless air attacks by the Myanmar military—daily bombings and drone strikes—the KIA pressed forward, steadily expanding its territorial control.

The escalating conflict severely impacted civilians. Blocked roads and waterways have restricted access to food, medicine, and other essentials. Air and drone strikes in populated areas have caused injuries and property damage, heightening concerns for civilian safety. Humanitarian organizations face significant obstacles in delivering aid amid ongoing hostilities.

In the final week of January, intense clashes resumed across key frontline areas in Kachin State and northern Sagaing Region, notably around Inndaw Township and Bhamo Town. The K-

PDF forces, primarily the KIA and allied groups, continued pressing to dislodge the remaining SAC military strongholds.

On January 27, heavy fighting erupted in Inndaw as K-PDF(Kachin - People Defense Force) forces launched an assault on the last major military base—the Japanese Tunnel Hill post. The battle began early in the morning, accompanied by multiple military airstrikes. By midday, the SAC military had conducted at least 18 airstrikes involving fighter jets and Y-12 aircraft, while ground troops fiercely defended the base. For security reasons, the Myitkyina–Mandalay highway passing through Inndaw was temporarily closed, disrupting civilian travel and trade.

This offensive forms part of a campaign initiated in August 2024, during which resistance forces captured numerous military and police outposts in the area. The SAC military, having lost most positions within Inndaw town, regrouped around religious sites and elevated terrain, including Pagoda Hill, City Monastery, and Japanese Tunnel Hill. Reports confirm reinforcements arrived from Shani National Army (SNA) militias to support junta forces.

Meanwhile, the KIA made further advances in Bhamo, securing full control of the airport. Fighting continued around the 21st Operations Command (OC21). From January 24 to 27, resistance forces captured three major military installations: the armored regiment, Artillery Battalion 366, and the airport compound. Other units—including LIB 236, 237, 47, and various logistics and engineering regiments—remain entrenched but face growing pressure.

In Kachin's Putao District, conflict spread to Hkaunglanhpu Township, where KIA and allies seized a People's Militia base near Phaphone village on January 27. The base, staffed by 40 to 50 troops, was taken after a brief clash, with some militia members fleeing to surrounding areas.

On January 27, resistance forces launched their fourth wave of assaults in Inndaw, targeting remaining military strongholds. The day saw continuous airstrikes and heavy artillery fire from the military. Tragically, on the night of January 26, shelling struck a civilian home in Naryakhone



Village, killing a woman and severely injuring her husband, who lost a leg. These attacks mark a resumption of intense hostilities after a brief pause and underscore the escalating risk to civilians.

By January 29, resistance forces reported capturing two additional military positions near Japanese Tunnel Hill, edging closer to full control of Inn Daw. Fighting involved drone strikes and heavy artillery, highlighting the conflict's intensification.

Separately, on January 13, a devastating environmental disaster struck Swan Par village in Hpakant Township, where a tailings dam collapse triggered a landslide that destroyed around 50 houses. At least 12 bodies have been recovered, including those of three mothers with children. Many residents remain missing under debris, raising fears of a larger death toll. The incident highlights the ongoing environmental hazards linked to jade mining operations in Hpakant, which have experienced repeated tailings dam failures due to unsafe waste disposal.

In summary, January 2025 marked a major turning point in the Kachin conflict, with the KIA achieving significant battlefield successes—including the capture of Mansi, extensive parts of Bhamo, and key positions in Inn Daw. These gains reflect the expanding control of resistance forces, while the Myanmar military increasingly relies on air power to compensate for its diminishing ground presence. Meanwhile, the ongoing conflict and environmental disasters—such as the Hpakant tailings dam collapse—compound the humanitarian crisis, endangering civilian lives and complicating aid delivery. With roads blocked, populations displaced, and access restricted, the situation remains fragile and volatile.

January 14th,2025 Hpankant Mazup Yang & San Hka Village

Civilian Dead by military airstrike



On January 11th, 2025, in Labu Hka, Tanai Township, 15 civilians were killed in a military airstrike.

