



Karenni State Situation Briefer

December 2023

Overview

Fighting first broke out in Demoso town, Karenni State in May 2021 following the coup and has since spread across the state. 282,615 Karenni people have been displaced, and major towns such as Demoso and Hpruso have been completely deserted. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled to rural communities, the forests, neighboring states, and Thai-Karenni border. After intensified fighting and airstrikes targeting IDPs camps in June and July 2023, over 8,000 fled to Thailand of which about 6,000 have been pressured to return while about 2,000 remain in Thailand's Mae Sariang and Mueng districts due to unsafe conditions to return. Following Operation 1111 in Loikaw, over 52,000 Loikaw residents have been displaced.

Key Figures:

282,615 ¹	8,000	52,000	484	14 ²	576
Overall Karenni IDPs	IDPs fled to Thailand	New Displacement Since Operation 1111	Civilians Killed by SAC attacks	SAC Outposts Seized in Loikaw since Operation 1111	Airstrikes Since Operation 1111

Operation 1111

In an attempt to take Loikaw, the state's capital, Karenni resistance forces launched Operation 1111 on November 11, 2023. Resistance forces have captured 13 outposts including the state's police station, state's court, and Loilen Lay's police station in Loikaw area. With that, roughly 85% of Loikaw town has been captured by resistance forces. Junta's forces remain in their strongholds at Regional Operation Commands and in about 6 other battalion bases. See map for location details.

Mese Township

Combined resistance forces launched several operations in June and July 2023 in Mese township, bordering Thailand's Khun Yuam and Mae Sariang districts, and captured two border crossing points, a SAC's tactical operation command base, a township police station, 5 major outposts, and one BGF base. As of this brief, the entire Mese township is under Karenni resistance control. There have also been about 7,000 IDPs in Mese townships who fled from other townships within the past two years and are currently sheltering in 9 camps. Additionally, about 5,000 local residents were also displaced during June and July with most of them fleeing across the border. Over 4,000 of them have since returned to their communities. IDPs committees provides humanitarian assistance services in coordination with Karenni interim administrative authorities and with support from donors.

State of the SAC

The SAC has lost a significant control of Karenni State since the coup. The only administrative services still functioning are in Loikaw, but that is increasingly under threats

¹ Displacement figures fluctuate with frequent movements of IDPs due to safety and humanitarian assistance reasons. Displacement and civilian killed figures source: Karenni Civil Society Network (KCSN)

² Airstrike and outpost seized figures source: Karenni Army

with resistance forces capturing about 85% of the town. SAC troops are now confined to their bases and outposts, and are heavily relying on air supports for attacks, supplies, and reinforcement. Each major troops movement is supported by artillery shots and airstrikes to clear the way. Within the past year, SAC has removed at least 21 of its outposts that were on Thai-Karenni border line. Some of SAC's bases in Loikaw, Demoso, Hpruso, Bawlekeh, and Phasaung still house their family members and provide basic services such as healthcare and education. Since Operation 1111, SAC has suffered at least 90 casualties of which at least 60 of them were in Loikaw.

Displacement

Displacement among Karenni people is widespread with two thirds of roughly 300,000 of the state's population have been displaced. Majority of IDPs are taking refuge in western, northwestern, and southeastern parts of Karenni State. More than 50,000 Karenni in Pekhon township, Shan State have also been displaced since 2021. Loikaw township has the highest number of people displaced at over 92,000, followed by Demoso township at over 83,000, and Pekhon at 56,000. Most of the locations where IDPs are located are out of reach of international organizations for safety reasons or restrictions placed by SAC. As such IDPs in hard-to-reach areas rely on small and irregular amounts donations for food, shelters, and medical supplies. A small number of IDPs are able to find livelihood activities such as small-scale farming, shops, barber shops, saloon, and auto repairs. Such activities usually take place where IDPs communities are located within or nearby large host communities. IDPs have also been taking care of their education, healthcare, and administrative services often with donor's assistance and volunteers' service contribution.

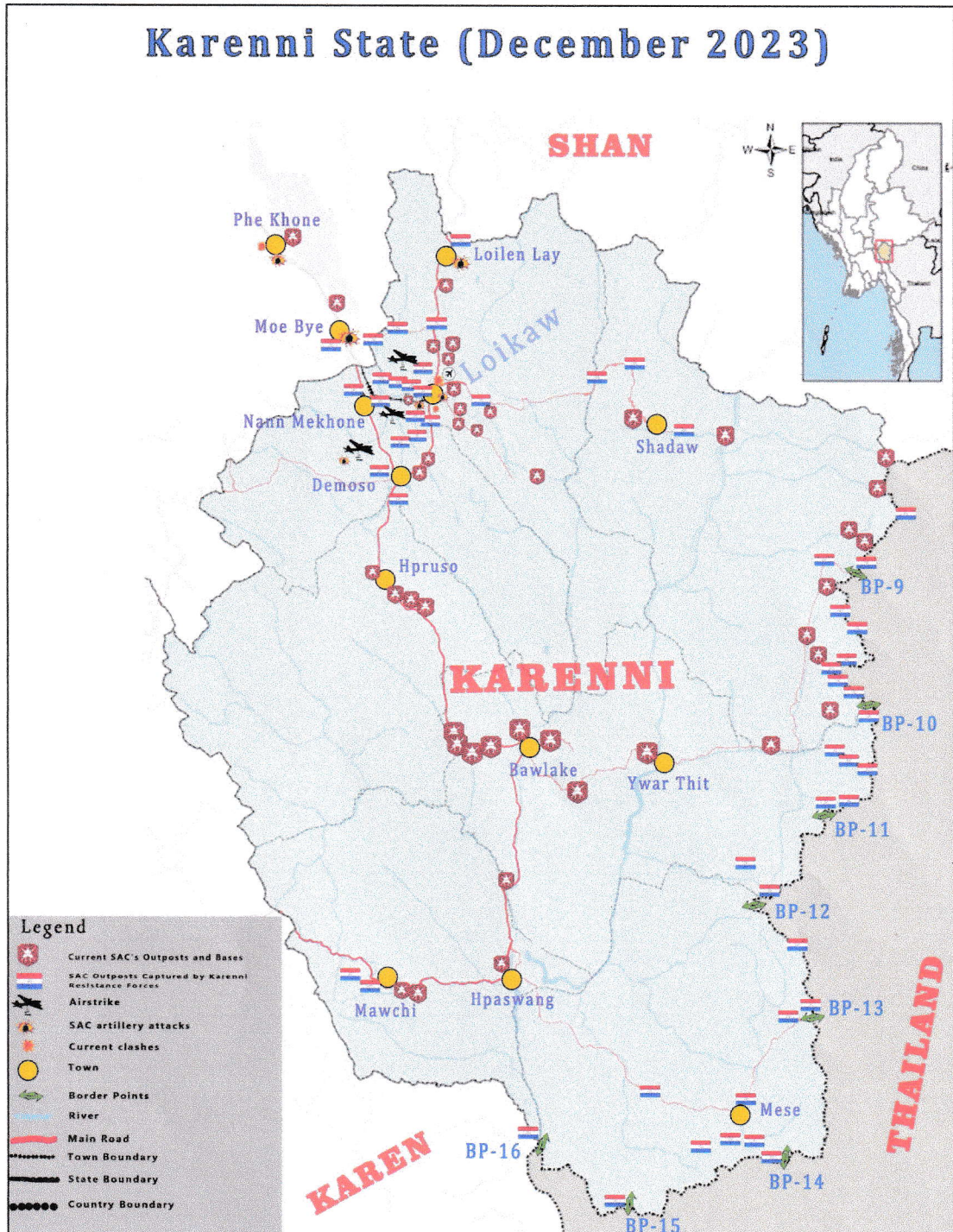
Interim Arrangement

While defending the people and providing for their humanitarian needs, Karenni stakeholders including KNPP and other armed groups, civil society organizations, women and youth groups, and political parties have also taken several collective political initiatives for the interim period and the future of the state as a unit of a future federal democratic union. The followings are some of the key initiatives taken since 2021.

- **9 April 2021:** Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) is formed with 17 members, representing armed resistance organizations in Karenni State, political parties, Karenni State legislative committee, CSOs, youth, women, and strike committees
- **18 January 2022:** Karenni State Interim Arrangement is adopted in line with Part 2 of the Federal Democratic Charter's provisions on the need to have legislative, executive, and judiciary arrangement within federal units during the interim period
- **6 June 2023:** Karenni State Interim Executive Council (IEC) is formed with 7 members
- **7 September 2023:** Departments of Home Affairs, Education, Health, Humanitarian and Rehabilitation, and Treasury and Taxation are formed under IEC
- **18 October 2023:** Department of Women and Children Affairs is formed under IEC
- **17 November 2023:** Karenni State Interim Parliament (KSIP) is announced (initially, the legislative body was known as Karenni State Interim Legislative Committee) to act as the legislative body during interim period
- **29 November 2023:** Department of Justice is formed under IEC

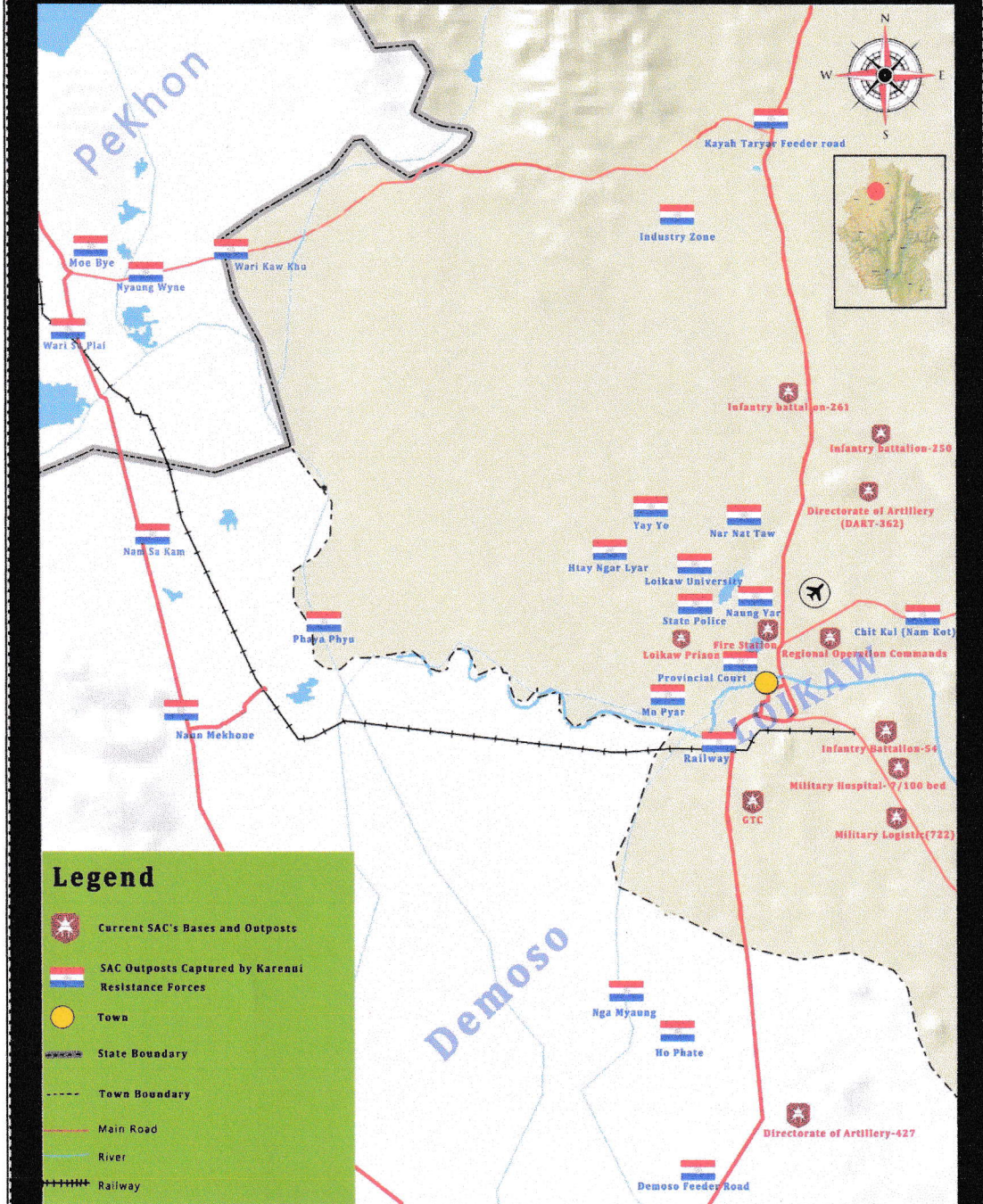
- **5 December 2023:** KSIP enacts Karenni State Police Department Act and Karenni State Interim Judiciary Act

Maps³



³ Karenni Ministry of Home Affairs

Loikaw, Karenni State (December 2023)



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