



Landmine Information
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This briefing document analyses KHRG’s field information gathered February 2013 and August 2013, with incidents from 2013 and one incident from 1977. During this period, villagers trained by KHRG collected a total of 211 oral testimonies, sets of images and written documentation. In response to UNHCR’s request, two KHRG staff analysed available English translations of 60 of these documents, as well as 30 sets of images; 9 of these documents described 11 separate landmine incidents in eastern Burma in 2013. These 11 incidents are included as separate ‘Source Documents’ in this report. KHRG staff coded these documents for four categories identified by ICBL: (1) New use of landmines by armed forces and groups; (2) Marking, fencing and removal of landmines; (3) Human mine sweeping and forced mine clearance; and (4) Landmine casualties (death or injury). Documents were also coded for five additional categories determined relevant by KHRG staff: (1) Forced labour entailing landmine risks; (2) Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks; (3) Civilian use of landmines; (4) Development-related landmine incident; and (5) Livestock casualty (death or injury). Relevant excerpts from all 9 of these documents, 3 of which have also been published on the KHRG website in their entirety, are included below along with coding and remarks.

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2013

Source Document #1: 2013/February/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-46-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	S--- village, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	February 2 nd 2013
Details:	<p>On February 2nd 2013, Saw H---, a 22 year-old whose father's name is J--- and lives in S--- village, Mone Township, went to the forest in order to find firewood. On the way to the forest, nothing happened, but on the way back [home], at 9:00 am, he was hit by landmine at T--- old village. The landmine hit his foot [left side] and caused the deep gash and he was sent to the Ler Doh [Kyauk Kyi] Hospital. His leg did not need to be amputated.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>These photos were taken by a community member trained by KHRG on February 3rd 2013 at Kyauk Kyi hospital, Kyauk Kyi Township. These photos above show 22 year old S--- villager, Saw H---, know as Saw M---, who stepped on the landmine on February 2nd 2013 and accessed medical treatment at Kyauk Kyi's hospital. <i>[Photo: KHRG]</i></p> <p>Villagers are always hit by landmines in Mone Township and the Burmese Military [Tatmadaw] is still active until now. Even though there is a ceasefire agreement, the Burmese military has not ceased its activities yet but is still active there. Even the KNLA military is active there. Therefore, as the two military groups are active, I do not know whether the landmines are old landmines or the new ones. We cannot say whether the landmines are from the Burmese Military or the KNLA for sure. If we look at [the situation], because the armed groups' fighting, the villagers have to suffer in the middle. The places where the landmines exploded are in the Mone Township region.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation update written by a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in May 2013)</p>

Relevant Categories :	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks
Remark:	The Situation Update (13-46-S1) contains four separate landmine incidents, which are presented in this report in Source documents 1-4.

Source Document #2: 2013/April/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-46-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	One mile from Kyuang Su, Kyi La Myaung region, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	April 20 th 2013
Details:	<p>On April 20th 2013, a villager from Mone Township, Saw N---, also called Saw K---, a 23 year-old, whose father's name is U Soe Lwin, was hit by a landmine on April 20th 2013 at 7:00 am while he was looking for firewood. He was sent to Mone Hospital and his left leg was amputated. He was hit by the landmine at [a place] one mile from Kyuang Su, which is in Kyi La Myaung region. Both the KNLA soldiers and the Tatmadaw soldiers are active in that place.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation update written by a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in May 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Remark:	The Situation Update (13-46-S1) contains four separate landmine incidents, which are presented in this report in Source documents 1-4.

Source Document #3: 2013/February/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-46-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	J--- village, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	February 13 th 2013
Details:	<p>On February 13th 2013 at 7:00 am, Saw B---, an 18 year-old boy whose father's name is U P---, from C---- village, Mone Township, went to do logging. He went [to the logging place] with a cart and, on the way there, a landmine hit the cart and Saw B---'s back. The place where [he was hit by landmine] was in J---. He was sent to the Mone Township Hospital after he was hit by landmine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation update written by a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in May 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Remark:	The Situation Update 13-46-S1 contains four separate landmine incidents, which are presented in this report in Source documents 1-4.

Source Document #4: 2013/March/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-46-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	Meh Pok old village, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	March 2 nd 2013
Details:	<p>On March 2nd 2013, a villager called Saw S---, 25 years old, whose father's name is U R---, from L--- village, Mone Township, was hit by a landmine while he went and looked for vegetables. He was hit by a landmine at Meh Pok old village, and he was hit by the landmine at 5:45 am while he went and looked for vegetables. His right leg was cut off [had to be amputated due to the landmine injury].</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation update written by a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Received in May 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Remark:	The Situation Update 13-46-S1 contains four separate landmine incidents, which are presented in this report in Source documents 1-4.

Source Document #5: 2013/February/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-61-D1
Published as:	"Landmine injuries in Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District since January 2013," KHRG, July 2013, http://www.khr.org/2013/07/13-61-d1/landmine-injuries-mone-township-nyaunglebin-district-january-2013
Location:	Between Maw Lay Forest and S--- village, Kyoh Pay Say village tract, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	February 2 nd 2013
Details:	<p>On February 2nd 2013, at approximately 9:30 am, 22-year-old Saw H--- stepped on a landmine. Saw H--- is from S--- village in Kyoh Pay Say village tract, Mone Township. Saw H--- was on his way home from gathering firewood in Maw Lay Forest (know as Kyaung Pya Forest in Burmese) when he stepped on a landmine. The landmine detonated in the middle of an oxcart road, which is used by villagers to travel. A Tatmadaw camp and a Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) camp are situated in the area; LIB [Light Infantry Battalion] #599 is based at the Tatmadaw camp and KNLA Column #1, under the control of KNLA Battalion #8, is based at the KNLA camp. The villager was hit by the landmine in between the two aforementioned military camps; it remains unclear whether the landmine was planted by KNLA or Tatmadaw soldiers, or when it was planted. The landmine hit the left side of Saw H---'s foot and caused a deep gash, but according to a doctor, did not need to be amputated. Other villagers</p>

	and buffalos were reportedly walking along the same path, with ox carts driving both behind and in front of Saw H--- when the landmine detonated. ¹ News Bulletin written by KHRG based on phone call with a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Phone call received in June 2013)
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Remark:	13-61-D1 contains two separate landmine incidents, which are presented here in source documents 5 and 6.

Source Document #6: 2013/June/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-61-D1
Published as:	"Landmine injuries in Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District since January 2013," KHRG, July 2013, http://www.khr.org/2013/07/13-61-d1/landmine-injuries-mone-township-nyaunglebin-district-january-2013
Location:	Chauck Kway, Kyoh Pay Say village tract, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District
Date:	June 1 st 2013
Details:	On June 1st 2013, at 10:00 am, Maung W--- stepped on a landmine at Chauck Kway while traveling along the road. Maung W--- is an ethnic Burmese villager from N--- village, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District. His parents are U Ht--- and Daw K---. Chauck Kway is known locally as the sixth bend in the road between two Tatmadaw army camps, Ket Pe and Pa Dah. Because of the impact from the landmine explosion, his left leg was severely injured and required amputation. Soldiers from Tatmadaw LIB #60 sent him to Kyauk Kyi Hospital, where he is receiving treatment. He has not received any financial assistance for the treatment. The KHRG community member reported that the Tatmadaw and KNLA have planted landmines in the area, however, as with the case involving Saw H---, it is unknown which party is responsible for the landmine that struck Maung W---. ²

¹ This information was received over the phone right after the incident in February 2013 from a community member trained by KHRG from Nyaunglebin District.

² This information was received over the phone with KHRG in June 2013 from a community member from Nyaunglebin District.

	 <p>The photos above were taken in June 2013 by a community member trained by KHRG, and show Maung W--- after his left leg was amputated because of the impact of landmine incident on June 1st 2013. He is shown here accessing medical treatment at Kyauk Kyi Hospital. <i>[Photos: KHRG]</i></p> <p>News Bulletin written by KHRG based on a phone call with a community member, Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District (Phone call received in June 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury)
Remark:	13-61-D1 contains two separate landmine incidents, which are presented here in source documents 5 and 6.

Source Document #7: 2013/February/Hpapun

KHRG source:	13-74-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	Z--- village, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District
Date:	February 5 th 2013
Details:	<p>Now, Burma government soldiers [Tatmadaw] are waiting to see [how the condition is going], and they just let the BGF [Border Guard Force soldiers be] active and [see the condition]. Now, BGF soldiers are active in two battalions called Battalion #1013 and 1014 in Bu Tho Township. They are active in Htee Th'Daw Hta village tract and Kyaw Pha village tract and they reach in Day Wah village tract as well. Two BGF battalions active are Battalion #1013, Battalion Commander (Hla Kyaing), Battalion Deputy commander Kyaw Win, Battalion #1014, Battalion Commander Maw Hsee, Battalion Deputy Commander Tin Mounng Soe Battalion #1013 based in Paw Htee Hkuh and Battalion #1014 new places close to Tha Aw Plee.</p> <p>Now, those two battalions have combined, and in each battalion there are over ten soldiers providing security in Meh Hsee village. They set up a camp and used [landmines] and on February 5th 2013, one of their landmines exploded and hit a buffalo belonging to a person from Meh Hsee village, but the buffalo did not die and</p>

	<p>they [Border Guard soldiers went and shot it and ate it without paying anything. The landmine that hit the villager's buffalo was planted beside the fence of a sugar cane plantation, and they did not let the owner of the sugar cane plantation know. At that time, the person that led Meh Hsee [military] camp was Platoon Commander Pah Tha Beh from [Border Guard] Battalion #1014 member; his position is Platoon Commander and his Battalion commander is MOUNG HSEE.</p> <p>Situation update written by a community member, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District (Received in July 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Livestock casualties (death or injury); New use of landmines by armed forces and groups
Remark:	

Source Document #8.1: 2013/February/Hpapun

KHRG source:	13-37-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	P--- village and S--- village, K'Ter Tee village tract, Hpapun District
Date:	February 11 th 2013
Details:	<p>The human rights abuses and social problems that happened between January 1st 2013 and March 18th 2013</p> <p>The social problems that have been happening include the explosion of a landmine in the west of the Yunzalin River Bank, between P--- village and S--- village, K'Ter Tee village tract, Papun District. The explosion happened in February 2013. Regarding this explosion, none of the armed groups took responsibility.³</p> <p>The human rights abuses that happen from Meh Mweh village tract to Htee Th'Daw Hta tract are caused by the Myaing Gyi Ngu monk, U Thuzana,⁴ who controls the whole area of Myaing Gyi Ngu. For the landmine explosion case, we still do not know and still cannot figure out who the perpetrator was.</p> <p>Even though we do not know why the landmine was planted, we know that U Thuzana's construction of the bridge in Karen State is to make the transportation [routes] better, so he constructed the Htee Lah Eh Hta Bridge.</p> <p>On February 11th 2013, because of the landmine explosion, five villagers died and a car was damaged. The explosion happened between P--- village and S--- village, [in</p>

³ For detailed information on this incident, see "Landmine explosion and death of villagers in Papun District," KHRG, May 2013.

⁴ U Thuzana is an influential Buddhist monk based in Myaing Gyi Ngu who was instrumental in the formation of the DKBA in 1994; see "Inside the DKBA," KHRG, March 1996. In 1995, KHRG reported that U Thuzana had collaborated with the Tatmadaw, and met with then-Southeastern Commander Major General Maung Hla to obtain weapons and supplies for 4,000 soldiers in his monastery. As a result of the agreement, U Thuzana's monastery in Myaing Gyi Ngu, in northern Hpa-an District, reportedly developed a reputation as a mystical safe haven for villagers avoiding Tatmadaw abuses. See "Karen Human Rights Group commentary," KHRG, February 1995.

the] western part of Yunzalin River in K'Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Papun District. The place where the landmine exploded is not close to the K'Ter Tee army camp and is three furlongs⁵ away from the vehicle road. The place where the explosion happened is located in the eastern part of the vehicle road.

No one knows who is to blame for the landmine explosion. The armed groups who are active in the area are the BGF [Border Guard Force Battalion]⁶ #1013, BGF #1014, DKBA [Democratic Karen Benevolent Army]⁷ and KNU [Karen National Union].⁸

None of them took responsibility regarding this incident and none of them tried to find out who the perpetrator was.

Even though we do not know who the perpetrator of the landmine explosion was, there was a lot of damage and death. It happened like this: U L---, who is from Papun, lent his car to Ko Myo, former administrator of K'Ter Tee who took responsibility for the transportation of sand for Green Hill Company.⁹ Therefore, U L---'s car was the car that carried sand for the Green Hill Company.

Green Hill Company is [based in] the building that was built for the Border Guard Force #1013 and #1014 to stay in. While carrying the sand for the Green Hill Company, the car got hit by a landmine that was planted by unknown people. It got hit by the landmine on February 11th 2013 while carrying sand from the sand bank.

When the landmine exploded, U L---'s car was damaged and left the car driver and four other villagers dead. Five villagers died in total. For the death of the villagers, Green Hill Company donated 300,000 kyat (*US \$318.13*)¹⁰ [to the family] for each villager who died. Likewise, the former administrator Ko Myo also donated 200,000 kyat (*US \$212.10*) [per family] for the villagers who died.

⁵ A furlong is a unit of distance equivalent to 0.125 of a mile or 0.2 of a km.

⁶ Border Guard Force (BGF) battalions of the Tatmadaw were established in 2010, and they are composed mostly of soldiers from former non-state armed groups, such as older constellations of the DKBA, which have formalized ceasefire agreements with the Burmese government and agreed to transform into battalions within the Tatmadaw. BGF battalions are assigned four digit battalion numbers, whereas regular Tatmadaw infantry or light infantry battalions are identified by two or three digit battalion numbers. For more information, see "DKBA officially becomes Border Guard Force" Democratic Voice of Burma, August 2010, and, "Exploitation and recruitment under the DKBA in Pa'an District," KHRG, June 2009.

⁷ The Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), formerly the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, was formed in December 1994 and was originally a breakaway group from the KNU/KNLA that signed a ceasefire agreement with the Burma government and directly cooperated at times with Tatmadaw forces. The formation of the DKBA was led by monk U Thuzana with the help and support of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the name of the military government in Burma at that time. For more information on the formation of the DKBA, see "Inside the DKBA," KHRG, 1996. The DKBA now refers to a splinter group from those DKBA forces reformed as Tatmadaw Border Guard forces, also remaining independent of the KNLA. The DKBA changed its name from "Buddhist" to "Benevolent" in April 2012 to reflect its secularity.

⁸ Here the villager is referring to the armed wing of the KNU, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).

⁹ Green Hill Company is affiliated with both BGF #1013 and #1014, and also comes under Burma government control.

¹⁰ As of June 13th 2013, all conversion estimates for the Kyat in this report are based on the official market rate of 943 Kyat to the US \$1.

	Situation update written by a community member, Bu Tho Township, Hpapun District (Received in March 2013)
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Development-related landmine incident; New use of landmines by armed forces and groups
Remark:	Source documents 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 document the same landmine incident

Source Document #8.2: 2013/February/Hpapun

KHRG source:	13-37-A2-I1
Published as:	“Papun Interview: Saw A---, March 2013,” KHRG, August 2013, http://www.khrg.org/2013/08/13-37-a2-i1/papun-interview-saw-march-2013
Location:	P--- village, K’Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District
Date:	February 11 th 2013
Details:	<p>What township is K’Ter Tee village tract in?</p> <p>K’Ter Tee village tract is in Dwe Lo Township.</p> <p>I heard that in your area there was a problem that occurred recently. What problem was it?</p> <p>The problem was the explosion of the landmine. We also didn’t know clearly at first. They said they [the company and sand collectors] would come to collect sand, and we told them that if everything is fine between them, it is fine for them to come and collect sand. We told them that we wouldn’t stop them from collecting sand from our area as they really needed it. They told us that we wouldn’t have to worry about the other armed groups.¹¹ Everything would be fine if we just accepted them collecting sand.</p> <p>Who did you talk to?</p> <p>We talked to Ko Myo from K’Ter Tee [K’Taing Tee] because he was the one who led</p>



This photo, taken in March 4th 2013 in P---village, K’Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Papun District, shows land owner Saw A---, who described the landmine-related incident that happened in K’Ter Tee village tract. [Photo: KHRG]

¹¹ Although the villager does not specify in this interview, it is likely from corroborating information received by KHRG that he means the Tatmadaw BGF and KNLA. Manager Ko Myo secured permission from the BGF for the Green Hill Company, which is affiliated with BGF Battalions #1013 and #1014, to collect sand. According to an unpublished incident report written by a community member from Papun District, Ko Myo did not, however, receive permission from area KNU/KNLA representatives to undertake these efforts.

people in collecting sand in our area. He also brought a manager from a company with him.

Do you know the name of that manager?

Yes, the company manger's name was Zaw Lwin.

Do you know the company's name?

No, I don't know the name of the company.

Did Zaw Lwin take the sand from Ko Myo?

At first he [Zaw Lin] came to collect sand by himself, but later he heard that the company couldn't come and collect sand [on account of villager wishes], and later he made the agreement and signed that he wouldn't come and collect it anymore. But he took [sand] from Ko Myo, and Ko Myo started to collect sand [instead]. When he started collecting sand, he told us that he was collecting it for building the school. So, we told them that if he already negotiated it with the other armed group that it was fine for them to collect the sand.

Was there any problem when Ko Myo collected the sand for the school?

There was not any problem because he went to see with the vice village tract leader and discussed it with them.

Which vice village tract leader did they go to see?

They went to see the K'Ter Tee village tract leader.

What did the vice village tract leader tell them?

The vice village tract leader told them to stop collecting sand. But they did not stop.

Did they pay you anything for the sand that they collected in your area?

I only knew that they paid 600,000 kyat (US \$613.50).¹² There are many farms that they collected the sand from, so he only paid a very little amount to each of the owners. I have received 200,000 kyat (US \$204.50). They have been collecting the sand from my farm since last year. Our farms have already been damaged so it is kind of [like] they wanted to compensate [us for the damages].

Are you the land owner?

Yes, I am.

Was there any problem between Ko Myo and you as a land owner after the

¹² As of July 11th 2013, all conversion estimates for the Kyat in this report are based on the official market rate of 978 kyat to the US \$1.

explosion?

There was not any problem. There was not any problem because I already told them at the beginning that if they had negotiated [between Ko Myo and the armed groups] with each other, everything would be fine with me. I already told them that I wouldn't take responsibility regarding the armed groups. They wanted to collect sand in my land, and I let them collect it, but I told them that they should talk to the armed group first. If the armed group is fine with that, I'm also fine.

Was there any warning, especially to Ko Myo, before the landmine explosion?

Yes. People warned him but he didn't take it seriously.

Was there anyone else that Ko Myo worked together with?

I don't really know about that.

Who do you think the perpetrator of the landmine explosion is?

I don't know about that. But I think the explosion was not perpetrated by the villagers. So, I think it could be one of the armed groups.

Which armed group was it do you think?

I can't even take a guess. I don't know which group it was because there are so many armed groups.

What day did the landmine explode?

I don't remember the exact date that it exploded.

How many days ago was it?

I think it was over a mother ago.

So, was it a month ago?

Yes, it was over a month ago.

Which year was it?

It was in early 2013.

Was anyone injured?

Yes, five people were injured. Three people died immediately when the landmine exploded and another one died on the way to the hospital, while the fifth person died in the hospital.

Were there any women among the five people who died?

No, everyone was male.

Was there anyone who was under 18 among the five people who died?

Three people were under 18.

Was any vehicle damaged?

A car was damaged.

Where did the landmine explode?

It exploded at the source of the river [Yunzalin River].

What is the name of this village [the village in which they're conducting the interview]?

The name of the village is G---

Did it explode in G---

Actually, it exploded between T--- village and G--- village.

Which village tract are these two villages in?

They are in K'Ter Tee village tract.

Which township is K'Ter Tee village tract in?

K'Ter Tee village tract is in Dwe Lo township.

Was the place where the explosion happened closer to G--- or T---

Neither of them is closer. It just happened halfway.

Do you know exactly who the perpetrator was?

I don't know because the perpetrator also didn't tell us anything about their [intent]. It just exploded suddenly.

Do you know which armed group was it?

I don't know.

How far is the explosion place from the vehicle road?

I think it is about two furlongs [0.25 miles/ 0.4 km]¹³ far.

¹³ A furlong is a unit of distance equivalent to 0.125 of a mile or 0.2 of a km.

	<p>How far is the Tatmadaw army camp from the explosion place?</p> <p>I think it is one furlong far [0.125 miles/ 0.2 km].</p> <p>Do you think the perpetrator targeted the Tatmadaw with the landmines?</p> <p>I don't think so, because when Ko Myo came to collect sand the Tatmadaw didn't come with him. And the sand collectors are villagers who do daily wage [labour]. They are hired daily to collect sand. There were no Tatmadaw soldiers, so I don't think the perpetrator intended it for them. I think the perpetrator only intended to damage the car.</p> <p>Why did they want to damage the car?</p> <p>I also don't know about that.</p> <p>So, you think the perpetrator wasn't targeting the Tatmadaw with the landmine?</p> <p>Yes, I don't think so, because the Tatmadaw soldiers didn't come together with the sand collectors. The sand collectors are just villagers. So, it didn't relate to the Tatmadaw.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Saw A---, (male, 50), G--- village, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District (Interviewed in March 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Development-related landmine incident; New use of landmines by armed forces and groups
Remark:	Source documents 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 document the same landmine incident

Source Document #8.3: 2013/February/Hpapun

KHRG source:	13-37-I1
Published as:	"Landmine explosion and death of villagers in Papun District," KHRG, May 2013, http://www.khrg.org/2013/05/13-1-nb1/landmine-explosion-and-death-villagers-papun-district
Location:	K--- village and T--- village in K'Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun district
Date:	February 11 th 2013
Details:	On February 11 th 2013 at 8:00 am there was a landmine explosion beside the Yone S'Lin River, between K--- village and T--- village in K'Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Papun District. Five villagers were hit by the landmine explosion while transporting sand in a car, having been hired to do this by the Green Hill Company ¹⁴

¹⁴ Green Hill Company is affiliated with both BGF #1013 and #1014, and also comes under Burma government control.

manager Ko Myo¹⁵. Specifically, the villagers were paid by the company to carry sand from a sand bank¹⁶ in H--- village to a Green Hill Company building using villager U M---'s car.¹⁷

Initially, the company is reported to have claimed that the sand would be used for the building of a school, but later it became clear that the sand was being used for company business, with no benefit to the school. Saw L---, a sand bank owner living in T--- village reported: *"Before asking the villagers to carry the sand for them, they [Green Hill company] went to talk with the vice village tract leader and the vice village tract leader told them to stop¹⁸ but they didn't, so I think that was how the problems started."*¹⁹ Likewise, T--- village administrator, Saw P---, said, *"Before the landmine explosion, Ko Myo, who was a former K'Ter Tee village administrator, went to talk to the KNU [KNLA] who is controlling the area about the carrying of the sand. The KNU leader told Ko Myo to stop it on the day before the explosion [happened], however, Ko Myo didn't [do anything to] stop it."*²⁰



These photos were taken on March 2013 in K--- village, K'Taing Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Papun District. They show the devastated car that the villagers were driving in when the landmine exploded between T--- village and K--- village. [Photos: KHRG]

Of the five casualties, including the driver, G---, *"Three of them were under 18. One was 13 years old while the other two were 14 and 18 respectively,"* reported K--- villager, Maung S---. The villager also reported to the community member that three of the victims died immediately in the explosion while one injured villager died on the

¹⁵ Ko Myo is a former administrator of K'Ter Tee village and is currently in charge of transporting the sand supplied by the villagers to the Green Hill Company base.

¹⁶ A sand bank is a naturally occurring deposit of sand, often found close to rivers.

¹⁷ This information was included in three unpublished interviews, one incident report and one situation update submitted to KHRG by a community member in Papun District.

¹⁸ The KNU leader is reported to have asked the company to bring a stop to their work because of concerns about its' effect on villagers' livelihoods.

¹⁹ This information was included in an unpublished interview submitted to KHRG by a community member in Papun District.

²⁰ This information was included in an unpublished incident report submitted to KHRG by a community member in Papun District.

	<p>way to hospital; the fifth victim died in the hospital. Until now, it has not been determined who planted the landmine or the reason why it was planted. A special security unit linked to the government military, the <i>Sa Ah Pa</i>, based in K'Ma Maung village, stated that it was the KNLA that planted the landmine, though villagers interviewed remain unsure about who planted it.²¹</p> <p style="text-align: center;">News Bulletin written by KHRG based on information written by a community member, K--- village and T--- village in K'Ter Tee village tract, Dwe Lo Township, Hpapun District (Received in March 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Development-related landmine incident; New use of landmines by armed forces and groups
Remark:	Source documents 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 describe the same landmine incident

Source Document #9: 2013/April/Hpapun

KHRG source:	13-70-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	Ka Buh Hkee village, Htee Baw Hkee village, Htee Moo Hkee village, Blaw Hkoh Village, Lu Thaw Township, Hpapun District
Date:	April 5 th 2013
Details:	<p>I was going to the upper part [of the village] called Saw Muh Plaw, Ler Muh Plaw village tract, Say Poo village tract, Naw Yoh Htah village tract and Kaw Luh Der village tract. They [Tatmadaw] came and live in the villagers' farm, repairing the place of the camp and old roads.</p> <p>[Tatmadaw soldiers] started scattering salt on Aril 5th 2013 [in order to attract animals to graze in the area and detonate landmines]. Burma government soldiers [Tatmadaw] came and lived at the hilltop called Taw Muh Plo Meh camp in order to repair the camp. To cut down the trees, they did not dare go out due to being afraid of planted landmines in that area. So, they planned to scatter the salt under the bamboos, and the buffalos came and caused an explosion by stepping on the landmines. Twenty or thirty of the civilians' buffalos were killed by stepping on the landmines. The villages that buffalos step on landmines were Ka Buh Hkee village, Htee Baw Hkee village, Htee Moo Hkee village and Blaw Hkoh Village, because of being close to the village. And then one of the villagers who live close to W--- village mentioned this to me. Because many buffalos had been killed by the planted landmines. People whose buffalos died do not have more buffalos for cultivation and that causes problems for them and they have to hire other people's buffalos for cultivation. The work does not go smoothly because there is no buffalo left for work. Moreover, they have to pay for hiring buffalos. So the villager stated this to me and he also said that his buffalos also were killed and lost the profit by paying money for hiring buffalos from others. This is the problem that he has faced.</p>

²¹ This information was included in an unpublished incident report submitted to KHRG by a community member in Papun District.

	Situation update written by a community member, Lu Thaw Township, Papun District (Received in July 2013)
Relevant Categories:	Livestock casualties (death or injury); Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks
Remark:	

Source Document #10: 2013/April/Hpa-an

KHRG source:	13-44-S1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	Ht---, Th--- village, Te--- village, T’Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District
Date:	April 2013
Details:	<p>Landmines are also common risks in those areas, especially since there are plenty of landmines near Ht---, Th---, and Te---, according to my research and interviews. This issue started two years ago, in 2010, when the DKBA [then-Democratic Karen Buddhist Army] split away from Tatmadaw by refusing to be part of the BGF, but landmines are still a threat for the villagers.²² At [the end of] those two years, the armed groups planned to protect themselves or to trap their opposing armed groups by planting landmines around their operating areas. But, sometimes they even planted them in the villagers’ plantation gardens or farms, which they thought their enemy might enter. As a result, the villagers from Ht---, Th--- and Te--- said that they do not even dare to think about going into the forest, or into the gardens, as some of the villagers have stepped on the landmines before. Also, their domestic animals were also hit by landmines. Because of those experiences, the villagers are very aware of the landmines and also the armed groups haven’t informed the villagers where they planted the landmines. The villagers said that they couldn’t remember the places, some even step on their own landmines, and may be some already die. One of the KNLA Battalion #101 soldiers said that they informed the villagers where the landmines are planted because they knew where most of their landmines are. The villagers said to be aware of landmines during the daytime, and also to be aware of Viper snake at nighttime and this is a warning stage for their children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Situation update written by a community member, T’Nay Hsah Township, Hpa-an District (Received in March 2013)</p>

²² While Tatmadaw and DKBA units had operated together for years, this operational hierarchy became formalised with the DKBA’s transformation into a ‘Border Guard Force’ under control of the Tatmadaw and containing a fixed number quota of Tatmadaw officers. This transformation dates to at least May 2009, when commanding officers stated in high-level meeting of DKBA officers that the DKBA would transform itself into a ‘Border Guard Force;’ unpublished leaked minutes from the May 2009 meeting are on file with KHRG. Ceremonies attended by Tatmadaw commanders officially announced the transformation of large portions of the DKBA into Border Guard Forces in September 2010; see, for example: “Border Guard Forces of South-East Command formed in Paingkyon of Kayin State,” *New Light of Myanmar*, August 22nd 2010; and “Border Guard Force formed at Atwinkwinkalay region, Myawady Township, Kayin State,” *New Light of Myanmar*, August 25th 2010

Relevant Categories:	Movement restrictions resulting from landmine risks; Livestock causality (death or injury); Marking, fencing and removal of landmines
Remark:	

1977

Source Document #11: 1977/Nyaunglebin

KHRG source:	13-46-P1
Published as:	<i>Unpublished</i>
Location:	Mi--- village, Nyaunglebin District
Incident Date:	1977
Details:	 <p>These photos were taken on March 4th 2013. The above left photo shows a Mi--- villager, Saw Ne---, who was hit by landmine in 1977 when we went for portering. Until today, his wound has not healed properly and he does not have a prosthetic leg. This photo was taken when he received some medical treatment. <i>[Photos: KHRG]</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Photo note update written by a community member, Nyaunglebin District (Received in May 2013)</p>
Relevant Categories:	Landmine casualties (death or injury); Forced labour entailing landmine risks
Remark:	