



## **The Karenni Human Rights Group Condemns the Latest Airstrike in Karenni State, which Killed and Injured Innocent Civilians**

*For Immediate Release*

12 April 2024

The Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) strongly condemns the latest deployment of deadly airstrikes by the military junta. On 11 April 2024, at 10:15 PM, in Loi Yin-Pi Kin village, PheKhong Township, three civilians were killed, including two children, a 3-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, and at least five civilians were injured. The ongoing aerial bombardments threaten civilian safety and security and must end.

According to reports on the ground, the military junta used a 500-pound bomb that was fired from the air to attack a local village. In addition to the civilian injuries and deaths, several buildings were also damaged. Two of the victims had previously fled violence and were internally displaced within the State. KnHRG has documented cases of airstrikes, with at least 30 occurring in March of this year alone.

The junta has continued to scale up its attacks against civilians through the use of airstrikes. According to ALTSEAN-Burma, a network of ASEAN organizations and individuals working to support human rights and democracy in Burma, the regime conducted 26% of all airstrikes it deployed since the failed coup within the first three months of the year. As a result of the airstrikes and violence on the ground in Burma, nearly three million people have been forcibly displaced. And yet, despite the overwhelming evidence which indicates these are not isolated incidents, the international community has been slow to act.

On 4 April 2024, during a UN Security Council briefing on Burma, the body failed to address the severity of the situation in the country. Notably, it fell short of explicitly calling for a global arms embargo and targeted sanctions on aviation fuel. These have been long-time demands from civil society and human rights organizations

who see the direct impact and devastation caused by the airstrikes from victims on the ground.

Therefore, KnHRG further emphasizes our calls to the international community, notably UN bodies and ASEAN, to respond to the crisis in Burma in line with Resolution 2669, which was adopted in December 2022 and demands an immediate end to the violence in Burma.

**Media Contact**

May Zin Latt: Director

Email: [karenni.hrg@gmail.com](mailto:karenni.hrg@gmail.com)

Signal: +95 9 44931 0828

Ko Banya: Co-founder, Karenni Human Rights Group

Email: [banya7881@gmail.com](mailto:banya7881@gmail.com)

Signal: +95 9 254 150 436

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*The Karenni Human Rights Group is a community organization dedicated to reporting on the current situation on the ground in Karenni State and the human rights abuses committed by the junta.*