



# MNDAA's Destruction and Removal of Ethnic Identity and Human Rights Violations



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April 2026

# Introduction

Kutkai Township in northern Shan State is a place where various ethnic groups live collectively. Located on the Myanmar–China trade route, it is a centrally located economic hub. During the first wave of the Operation 1027, led by the three armed groups of the Northern Brotherhood Alliance, the Ta'ang National Liberation Front (PSLF/TNLA) captured Kutkai from the terrorist military council. Last February 13, clashes began between two groups after TNLA troops removed MNDAA–installed CCTV cameras and flags. This led to the occupation of military bases and the MNDAA blocking the Union Road connected to TNLA–controlled areas. A month later, on March 14, 2026, the MNDAA launched a major offensive on Kutkai, in three columns. To reduce civilian casualties and property damage, the TNLA had to withdraw its troops from the city.

# Human Rights Violations Situation

During the operation to capture Kutkai, MNDAAs forces attacked Ta'ang villages with a large number of drones. Records of casualties among locals and damage to civilian homes, schools, and religious buildings have been collected. There were instances of unauthorized entry into homes, as well as the arrest and detention of locals at halfway points.

After the ceasefire between the two armies, MNDAAs forces threatened local people, organized the destruction of the Ta'ang flag and Ta'ang script on village entrance signs, and ordered them not to use the Ta'ang language or serve in the TNLA. While they claimed they would provide funding for rehabilitation after taking photos of damaged houses, the MNDAAs has shown no responsibility or accountability for their human rights violations. They also pressured Ta'ang soldiers to surrender and tried to convince the Ta'ang people to serve in the MNDAAs by promising military salaries, promotions, and agricultural supplies, recorded from locals who had experienced on the ground.

However, on March 25, 2026, at a public meeting in Hway Khok village school with local people:

1. MNDAAs apologized for the destruction of Ta'ang flags and billboards and agreed to allow the use of the Ta'ang flag.
2. MNDAAs agreed to allow traditional festivals and culture as they were during the previous rules. But in practice, the MNDAAs did not follow through.

## Specific Incidents:

- (a) Before the Kutkai offensive, MNDAA blocked the import of gasoline and commodities into TNLA-controlled areas and banned the Ta'ang people traveling through.
- (b) On February 20, 2026, MNDAA soldiers beat two innocent civilians in Ngao Nga village (Mong Yu Lay Tract) with iron bars and knives. They are still receiving treatment in the hospital.
- (c) During the operation, MNDAA arrested and insulted Ta'ang people in their villages. Targeted drone attacks on houses, schools, and religious buildings killed 7 locals, including children.
- (d) On March 15-16, 2026, five locals fleeing the war were arrested and beaten by the MNDAA, then released after four days.
- (e) In Namhpatkar and Mong Yu Lay, Ta'ang houses were searched, and furniture and appliances were destroyed or taken away.
- (f) The Ta'ang national flag was taken down and stepped on. Village entrance signs in Ta'ang script were destroyed. Now the entrance signboard of the villages were changed with Chinese and Burmese scripts with the leadership of Kokang Army.
- (g) TNLA soldiers captured as prisoners of war during the operation were cruelly murdered.
- (h) In April, the Ta'ang State Education Council (TLEC) was forced to close over 300 schools in 105 Mile and Kutkai to prepare for teaching in Chinese.



## Civilian Casualties from Drone Attacks by the Kokang Army

Drone attacks by the Kokang Army in Kutkai town killed 4 people, including a child, and injured 6 others in the villages of Loi Seng, Mang Htam, and Ho Kyant in Kutkai township.

On March 15 and 16, 2026, the Kokang Army used drones to attack Ta'ang villages such as Ho Kyant, Mong Htam, and Loi Sai, targeting monasteries and homes where people were sheltering.

*“They kept shooting at the monastery with drones all day long. The people in the monastery were running to shelters, some were also running to the forest, some were running to the monastery. They also shot at the monastery. One person was hit. No one dared to go and see him on the day he was hit. When they went to see him, he was already dead,”*

said a Loi Sai resident.

A drone strike by the Kokang army on a monastery in Loi Sai village killed 24-year-old Mai Htun Hla and injured 45-year-old Aik Hein in the head and arm.

*“When the villagers heard the sound, they ran into the monastery in fear. Children and the elderly were running. They rushed drones straight to the monastery. Some of the injured people were killed,”*

said a resident of Mang Htam.



The attack damaged the monastery in Mang Tham village, and many locals who were sheltering inside the monastery were injured and killed. The Kokang army's drone strikes also damaged Shwe Kabar Aye Monastery, Loi Sai Monastery, and Mang Htam Monastery in Kutkai township.

Data on Injuries / Arrests / Damage (2-Week Period)

No.	Name	Location	Age	Date	Sex (M/F)	Status/ Note
1.	Mai Htun Hla	Kutkai/ Loi Sai Village	24	14 Mar 2026	M	Death
2.	U Aik Hein	Kutkai/ Loi Sai Village	45	14 Mar 2026	M	Injured
3.	Ko Naing Htun + 2 men	Kutkai/ Namhpatkar	-	14 Mar 2026	M	Death
4.	Ya Ma Khin Aye	Kutkai/ Ho Kyant Village	53	15 Mar 2026	F	Death
5.	Tanaingkein	Kutkai/ Manpain Village	37	17 Mar 2026	M	Death
6.	Yalway @ (Ma Aik Fit)	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	48	17 Mar 2026	F	Death
7.	Lway Ewin	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	6	15 Mar 2026	F	Death
8.	Lway Emoe Kham	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	5	15 Mar 2026	F	Death
9.	Lway Um	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	4	15 Mar 2026	F	Injured
10.	Ya Aye Htay	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	50	15 Mar 2026	F	Injured

No.	Name	Location	Age	Date	Sex (M/F)	Status/Note
11.	Ya Aye Sar	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	58	15 Mar 2026	F	Injured
12.	Mai Kham Leik	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	22	17 Mar 2026	M	Injured
13.	Ya Ma Oum	Kutkai/ Man Htam Village	35	17 Mar 2026	F	Injured
14.	Locals in Loi Sai	Kutkai/ Loi Sai Village	-	14-15 Mar 2026	M	(5)Arrested & Released
15.	Administrator of Ho Kyant	Kutkai/ Ho Kyant Village	-	14 Mar 2026	M	Arrested (600,000 Baht paid and released)
16.	13 Houses/ Monaster/ Schools destroyed	Kutkai/ Loi Sai Village	-	14-15 Mar 2026	-	Many destroyed
17.	3 house in Ho Kyant	-	-	-	-	Damaged
18.	Pan Jarot Local	Kutkai/ Namhpatkar		16 Mar 2026	M	Not yet released
19.	Namhpatkar Locals	Kutkai/ Namhpatkar		16 Mar 2026	M	(3) Only 1 returned
20.	9 Houses destroyed	Kutkai/ Namhpatkar		16 Mar 2026		Intrusion & Destruction



## Casualties and Damages due to Kokang Troops Drone Attacks



## MNDAA Replaces Ta'ang National Flags and Signs with Chinese Script in Kutkai

Following the withdrawal of Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) forces from Kutkai, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) has reportedly removed Ta'ang national flags and destroyed village signboards written in the Ta'ang script.

According to local sources, MNDAA forces painted over existing Ta'ang village signs with white paint. In an attempt to quell potential unrest, MNDAA officials summoned village elders for a meeting; however, MNDAA told elders in the meeting that the use of the Ta'ang national flag was strictly prohibited. While the MNDAA claims that the Ta'ang language may still be spoken, they have mandated that all village and public signage be rewritten exclusively in Burmese and Chinese.



*“Village elders are concerned that our Ta'ang villages are being systematically transformed into Chinese-style villages,” a local youth reported. “Even when the TNLA was in control, they never destroyed or altered the cultural signs of Chinese or Kachin communities. Now, they are not only targeting village entrances but also replacing the signs of schools we built ourselves. This ethnic targeting seems to be focused solely on the Ta'ang people, as signs belonging to other ethnic groups remain untouched.”*

Currently, the Kokang Army has led the movement to 15 Ta'ang villages in Kutkai and has painted 15 village entrance signs in Chinese and Burmese. The Kokang Army is also conducting mobilization and organizing activities in the Ta'ang villages in Kutkai. After the Kokang Army took control of Kutkai, the Kokang Army implemented the policy of equality for all ethnic groups during the mobilization period, and stated that it respects the religious beliefs, customs, and traditions of all ethnic groups, and that discrimination and racial humiliation are not allowed at all.



*“To date, at least 15 Ta’ang villages in the Kutkai area—including Manban, Pain Hwel, Panku, Pansay, Mang Mao, Loi Kan, Naung Khun, Ho Naung, Tone Sin Gyi, Kone Chang, Nam Lat, Lone Kein, Pan Law, Ho Seng, and Nam Khome—have been forced to install new signs in Chinese and Burmese,”*

he continued.

Despite the MNDAA’s official policy of ethnic equality, religious freedom, and non-discrimination, local residents view these recent actions as a direct act of ethnic discrimination and a violation of their cultural identity.

The photos of the signs of the names of the Ta’ang villages were written in Chinese





# Requests

1. Rebuild damaged houses, religious buildings, and schools in Kutkai Township.
2. Ensure justice and redress for lives lost and damages from drone attacks.
3. Stop the forced recruitment of ethnic locals without consent in Kutkai township
4. Treat all ethnic groups in Kutkai equally and without discrimination.
5. Rebuild the destroyed Ta'ang national flag signs and script entrance signs.
6. Respect ethnic literature and culture instead of using only Chinese characters.
7. Take effective action against MNDAA soldiers and officers who committed human rights violations.
8. MNDAA leaders must take responsibility and provide a solution on above mentioned human rights abuses.

# Conclusion

This report is a summary of the human rights violations committed by the Kokang Army in Kutkai Township in just two weeks. The information contained in the report is based on the most up-to-date documentation available to Ta'ang civil society organizations. The information includes drone strikes, arrests, damage to religious buildings, local homes, schools, injuries to local residents, and deaths in Kutkai Township. The information contained in the report is more than just factual information on the ground, and is based on the information collected as much as possible.

Ta'ang Civil Society Network