



[CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.](http://www.chinmd.org)

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Tatmadaw Occupies Cathedral Compound in Loikaw, Karenni

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Washington, DC --- On Nov. 27, 2023, the Burmese military, also known as the Tatmadaw, occupied Christ the King's Cathedral in Loikaw, Karenni State.

According to a statement from the Loikaw Diocese, the Christ the King's compound had seen an influx of displaced people since Nov. 11 due to ongoing conflict in Karenni, for a total of 1,300. The Tatmadaw tried on three previous attempts to take over the church compound from Bishop Celso Ba Shwe and resident priests.

On the night of Nov. 26, the Tatmadaw [fired](#) at least five 120mm artillery shells at the church compound's Pastoral Center, damaging the roof. At the time, a total of 82 people, including 10 priests, remained in the Center.

On Nov. 27, the Bishop and priests decided to leave, at which point 50 Tatmadaw soldiers arrived to occupy the Center.

CAM issues the following statement:

1. Condemning the Burmese military's attack on Christ the King's Cathedral and its occupation of the church compound.
2. Calling on the administration to determine that these continued military atrocities against Christians in Burma constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) is a non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland with an office in Washington, DC. CAM advocates for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons in Burma, religious freedom, and human rights. CAM also works to empower the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.