

Karens continue fighting for base

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Tak — Fighting continued yesterday at Mae Taw Wor, opposite Tha Song Yang district, as Karen rebels attempted to seize a Burmese troop garrison.

Explosions were heard as Karen gunners traded mortar and recoilless rifle fire with the entrenched Burmese forces.

Col Ralph, general staff officer of the Karen National Liberation Army, said he expected to know the result of the attack on the garrison within one or two days.

"It depends on whether the Burmese troops receive reinforcements and logistic supplies or not. If not, they will have to abandon the base soon. But if reinforcements and new supplies arrive, we will have to pull out," said the colonel.

About 700 villagers living in Ban Tha Song Yang near the Thai-Burmese border have been evacuated since the fighting broke out on Monday night.

Kamnan Kamol Maonoi said the evacuation was a precautionary measure for villagers' safety.

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