



Fig. 4. Deficiency in Bak but not Bax rescues the apoptotic phenotype associated with deletion of Vdac2. (A) Number of total thymocytes (represented as the mean \pm SD) from sex-matched littermate mice of the indicated genotypes at 6 to 8 weeks of age ($n = 8$ for Vdac2^{f/f}-Bak^{+/+}-Lck-Cre⁺ mice and $n = 5$ for Vdac2^{f/f}-Bak^{-/-}-Lck-Cre⁺ mice). (B) A representative photograph of thymi from sex-matched littermate mice of the indicated genotypes. (C) Numbers of total thymocytes (represented as the mean \pm SD) from sex-matched littermate mice of the indicated genotypes at 6 to 8 weeks of age ($n = 8$ for Vdac2^{f/f}-Bax^{+/+}-Lck-Cre⁺ mice and $n = 9$ for Vdac2^{f/f}-Bax^{f/f}-Lck-Cre⁺ mice). (D) A representative photograph of thymi from sex-matched littermate mice of the indicated genotypes. (E) Vdac2 KO or Vdac2, Bak DKO thymocytes were treated with ionomycin and cell death was quantified by staining with annexin V at the indicated times. Data shown are the mean percentage of annexin V-positive cells \pm SD from $n = 3$ experiments. (F) Vdac2 KO or Vdac2, Bax DKO thymocytes were treated with ionomycin and cell death was quantified by staining with annexin V at the indicated times. Data shown are the mean percentage of annexin V-positive cells \pm SD from $n = 3$ experiments. (G) Number of total thymocytes (mean \pm SD)

from sex-matched littermate mice of the indicated genotypes at 6 to 8 weeks of age ($n = 5$ for Vdac2^{f/+}Bak^{-/-}-Lck-Cre⁻ mice and $n = 4$ for Vdac2^{f/f}-Bak^{-/-}-Lck-Cre⁺ mice). (H) Bak KO or Vdac2, Bak DKO thymocytes were treated with ionomycin and cell death was quantified by staining with annexin V at the indicated times. Data shown are the mean \pm SD. from three independent experiments. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$.