

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR MONTH OF JUNE 2021: Junta worsens threats caused by conflict and COVID-19

- In the fifth month since its forcible and unconstitutional power grab, the junta's oppressive acts to secure political, territorial, or economic control have escalated conflict and the threats posed by a third wave of COVID-19.
- Security forces created battlefields in more towns and cities, expanded airstrikes on Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, and Sagaing States/Regions, and shelled villages in all of these places as well as in Shan State.
- During June alone, security forces killed at least 81 civilians and displaced over 30,000. There were 538 violent attacks that either targeted or failed to protect civilians during 1–25 Jun, and a total 3,012 incidents 1 Feb–25 Jun.
- In total, they have killed over 1,080 civilians, injured thousands more, displaced over 230,000 mainly ethnic minority people, and detained at least 6,435 politicians, activists, journalists and others, in attacks against the democracy movement.
- The economic situation continued to decline for most people in Burma, with COVID-19 and violence depressing work opportunities, and food prices rising by up to 50%. Meanwhile, the junta continued looking for ways to enrich itself, including by selling thousands of tons of timber previously confiscated by the civilian NLD government.
- The National Unity Government (NUG) continued to pursue justice for victims of the junta, established an interim education program, and welcomed defecting Burma military (Tatmadaw) soldiers. It acknowledged past abuses against the Rohingya and welcomed them to participate in rebuilding Burma's democracy.
- Despite Brunei bending over backwards to appease the junta, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing snubbed ASEAN by reasserting his own 5-point plan. China also made its own. Burma now has three "5-point" plans.
- Both the UN General Assembly and the ILO adopted resolutions condemning the coup and calling for a return to democratic rule.
- In order to avert worse violence and create space for dialogue and negotiations, the movement in Burma and allies urge that:
 - The UN, foreign states, and international finance institutions (IFIs) must expand sanctions against the junta;
 - These actors must engage with the NUG as the legitimate government of Burma, rather than the junta; and
 - The UN Security Council must take a more active role, in the face of ASEAN's weakness and the junta's intransigence.

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Five months into the coup, security forces have killed over 1,080 civilians, detained 6,435, and displaced over 230,000.¹ Burma's military (Tatmadaw) moved to project authority by signing bilateral ceasefires in Chin and Karenni States, as fighting becomes less viable with the onset of the rainy season.

In June, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing told Russia's *International Review* "it is too early to say but the election may be held within two years."² He previously promised elections within a year.³

The junta also organized a new legal team led by foreign minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, to present the defense in the Rohingya genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague.⁴

For further incident details, see ALTSEAN's thematic coup trackers for the month of June:

[CONFLICT/DISPLACEMENT](#)

[PROTESTS/CDM/CRACKDOWNS](#)

[CRPH/NUG](#)

[INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES](#)

[BUSINESS/ECONOMIC RESPONSES](#)

[WOMEN](#)

Trials for NLD leaders

The junta proceeded with the trials of President Win Myint, State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, and Naypyidaw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung. It held hearings on 7 and 14 June at the Zabuthiri Township court. It claimed that the defendants "were allowed to meet their lawyers freely" beforehand.⁵

Concurrently, on 10 June, the junta announced that its Anti-Corruption Commission had found Aung San Suu Kyi guilty of accepting \$600,000 and gold from the Yangon Region Chief Minister, and abusing her authority by renting land in Bahan Township (Yangon) under the Anti-Corruption Law.⁶

On 16 June, the National Unity Government (NUG) denounced the junta's actions in framing Win Myint, Aung San Suu Kyi, and others, and addition of the latest charges.⁷

Aung San Suu Kyi was charged under Burma's Import-Export Law and Telecommunication Law for illegally importing and using walkie-talkies; and under the Natural Disaster Management Law (NDML) (two counts) for breaking COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during the 2020 election campaign. She was also charged under the Official Secrets Act, Anti-Corruption Law, and Penal Code Section 505b.⁸

President Win Myint, and Naypyidaw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, were charged under section 505b of the Penal Code. In addition, Win Myint was charged under the NDML for breaching COVID-19 restrictions;⁹ and Dr. Myo Aung was charged with breaching the Anti-Corruption Law.¹⁰

NUG and Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)

On 5 June, the CRPH appointed three new ministers: Union Minister for Justice U Thein Oo, Union Minister for Communication, News Information, and Technology U Htin Lin Aung, and Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Soe Thuya Htun.¹¹

On 14 June, the CRPH announced an amendment of the Public Debt Management Law that bars the junta from borrowing from domestic or foreign lenders "to fund their apparatus of terror, persecution

¹ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) (30 Jun 2021) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 25 Jun 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>; Irrawaddy (25 Jun 2021) UN Agency Reports 230,000 Displaced Since Myanmar Coup

² State Administration Council (SAC) (27 Jun 2021) Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing answers questions raised by Russia 24

³ SAC (1 Feb 2021) Order 1/2021

⁴ Irrawaddy (24 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Reorganizes Legal Team for ICJ Rohingya Genocide Case

⁵ SAC (8 Jun 2021) Cases of ex-president U Win Myint, ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council heard at special court in Zabuthiri Township; SAC (15 Jun 2021) Trials for former president U Win Myint, former state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi start at special court in Zabuthiri Township

⁶ SAC (10 Jun 2021) Ex-state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, ex-chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ex-deputy mayor, ex-member of development committee charged under Anti-Corruption Law

⁷ National Unity Government (NUG) (16 Jun 2021) Statement 6/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/129758909244749>

⁸ AP (8 June 2021) Myanmar junta to start court case against Suu Kyi next week; Reuters (11 June 2021), Myanmar authorities open new corruption cases against Suu Kyi.

⁹ Irrawaddy (1 March 2021) Myanmar Military Sues Suu Kyi and President with Further Charges

¹⁰ Eleven Media Group (10 June 2021) State Counsellor, Dr Myo Aung, Ye Min Oo, Min Thu charged under anti-corruption law

¹¹ Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) (5 Jun 2021) Announcement 30/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/124277356459571>

and slaughter.” The amendment states that borrowing may only take place with the written approval of the legitimate government, any liability incurred by the junta shall not constitute a public debt, and no claims may be made against the legitimate government in connection with junta-incurred liabilities.¹²

Toward a democratic and inclusive Burma

On 1 June, the Ministry of Defense acknowledged Tatmadaw soldiers who have defected, and encouraged others to do so. It said that the junta violates its soldiers’ rights through restrictive policies. It said the NUG will welcome Tatmadaw soldiers and regard them as heroes, and is designing proper military management, to ensure that there are proper regulations and standards in place. It also emphasized accountability for those who have committed abuses.¹³

On 3 June, the NUG invited people from all groups to contribute in drafting the new constitution, and called for Rohingya solidarity in the Spring Revolution. It recognized past military violations against Rohingya people; said it would grant greater ICC jurisdiction over crimes committed against the Rohingya; and called for implementation of the recommendations from the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. It called for abolition of the 1982 Citizenship Law; abolition of the National Verification Cards system; and the voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation of Rohingya people forced to flee.¹⁴

Denouncing the junta

On 7 June, the NUG designated the Tatmadaw and affiliated groups as terrorist organizations, because they have: (1) killed over 800 civilians; (2) arbitrarily detained, tortured, or sexually abused over 5,000 people; (3) decimated the economy; (4) disregarded a food crisis; (5) abandoned Myanmar’s Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan and allowed the health system to collapse; and (6) engaged in “massive money laundering operations.” It also refuted the junta’s designation of the NUG as a terrorist organization.¹⁵

On 8 June, the Ministry of Labour criticized the junta for harassing civil servants, and reassured civil servants that they do not need to pay back loans to the junta.¹⁶ On the same day, the NUG condemned the junta’s efforts to suppress the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) through intimidation, torture, arrests, and pressure on civil servants; as well as the use of “seditious acts” by “agitators.”¹⁷

On 13 and 17 June, the NUG denounced the junta’s 10 June destruction of humanitarian relief materials in Moe Bye Township (southern Shan State). It said that junta forces had destroyed an ambulance

Junta seeks to bolster coup narrative

Since April, the junta has published at least three propaganda books that omitted its killing of over 800 pro-democracy protesters. The books focused on the myth that the military had to take over due to widespread electoral fraud by the NLD in the 2020 elections. According to the books’ prefaces: “Although Myanmar’s democracy foundation shaped by the Tatmadaw since 1988 is making certain progress, the democratic journey is delayed by voter-list errors and poor transparency in the 2020 election and the failure to handle the Tatmadaw’s statements on the election.”

On 10 June, the Ministry of Information reported that the junta’s Union Election Commission had found evidence of electoral fraud by the NLD after examining the voter lists and voting conditions in 49 townships in Shan State. It declared that NLD candidates violated the Hluttaw Election Law, as well as COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines during the campaign and on polling day. The Commission added that the NLD had “arranged to seize power in advance”, and concluded that the election was not free and fair. This was one in a months-long series of examinations by location since February.

During the ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit on Security on 28 June, junta representative Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that electoral fraud by the NLD had led to a loss of trust in democracy and the election system. He claimed that the Tatmadaw had no choice but to take power to maintain stability. Yar Pyae also accused the NLD of banning “the rights of democracy, including media freedom” during its first term in office, and blamed the kyat’s drop in value and increased commodity prices on their “wrong” economic policies.

Irrawaddy (24 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Propaganda Books Hope to Rewrite History; SAC (10 Jun 2021) Announcement of Union Election Commission; SAC (29 Jun 2021) Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae joins virtual ASEAN-Russian Federation Summit on Security Affairs

¹² CRPH (14 Jun 2021) Third Amendment to the Public Debt Management Law, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/128550949365545>

¹³ National Unity Government (NUG) (1 Jun 2021) Ministry of Defense Policy Statement on Tatmadaw Soldiers, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/123219533232020>

¹⁴ NUG (3 Jun 2021) Policy Position on the Rohingya in Rakhine State, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/123716479848992>

¹⁵ NUG (7 Jun 2021) Announcement 3/2021, Announcement on Counter Terrorism and Designation of Terrorist Organizations, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/124907459729894>

¹⁶ NUG (8 Jun 2021) Ministry of Labour Announcement 1/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/125136659706974>

¹⁷ NUG (8 Jun 2021) Announcement 4/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGMyanmar/posts/125196859700954>

bringing relief to those displaced in Karenni state, loaded with 80 sacks of rice, medicine and medical equipment. It explained that these actions violated Geneva Convention IV Article 3, as well as Burma's Defence Services Act of 1959. It said the junta had completely ignored the 21 May UN statement asking it to "spare civilians and civilian infrastructure" and ensure "safe and unhindered humanitarian access"; as well as the 12 June UNHCR Commissioner statement that she was seriously concerned about the continued blockage of humanitarian aid for displaced people in Karenni State. The NUG urged the UN and international community to pressure the junta to stop these inhumane acts.¹⁸

Also 17 June, it condemned security forces' arson in Kinma village, Pauk Township (Magway Region) on 15 June. It urged local, national, and international stakeholders to continue documenting the junta's crimes, which is fundamental to holding them accountable.¹⁹

On 18 June, the Ministry of Health condemned the junta's attacks on medical students and healthcare workers; it vowed freedom for those unjustly arrested, and accountability for those killed and harassed.²⁰

Appeals to foreign governments

On 3 June, Burma Permanent Representative to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun—representing the NUG—delivered a statement at the UN Special Session on Corruption, explaining that the Tatmadaw, which has thrived on corruption, continues to do so through its coup.²¹ On 28 June, he spoke at the UN Security Council (UNSC) High-Level Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, calling on the Security Council to demand an end to the coup, ensure the safety of children in Burma, and work with the NUG.²²

On 6 and 24 June, respectively, Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Sasa wrote to Japanese and French parliamentarians, calling for material support, recognition of the NUG as the legitimate government of Burma, and additional pressure on the junta.²³

Pursuing justice

On 7 June, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration said that it would seek justice for victims and their families by taking the junta's acts to the international community, securing court hearings, and collecting evidence; and that those filing cases will also help to secure transitional justice.²⁴ On 8 June, the Ministry provided a location to file complaints. It said that the junta has committed systematic crimes against humanity and genocide against all ethnic nationalities. It said it would work with the Ministry of Justice, and establish special local courts or send cases to international courts.²⁵

On 18 June, the CDM Success Committee blacklisted 17 Ministry of Ethnic Affairs staff who have harassed, pressured, or threatened civil servants, or removed them from government housing.²⁶

On 8 June, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy notified Burma residents that it had instructed energy providers to continue providing services but not demand payment for them.²⁷

¹⁸ NUG (13 Jun 2021) Announcement 5/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/127859682768005>; NUG (17 Jun 2021) Press Release 5/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/130415295845777>

¹⁹ NUG (17 Jun 2021) Announcement 7/2021: Announcement on Kinma Village, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/130267515860555>

²⁰ NUG (18 Jun 2021) Ministry of Health Statement 5/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/130971339123506>

²¹ Kyaw Moe Tun (3 Jun 2021) Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly Plenary on Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Strengthen International Cooperation, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/124603369760303>

²² Kyaw Moe Tun (28 Jun 2021) Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations at the UN Security Council High-Level Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/138355868385053>

²³ NUG (6 Jun 2021) Ministry of International Cooperation, Letter to Japanese Parliament MPs, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/125068846380422>; NUG (24 Jun 2021) The Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation and Spokesperson of the National Unity Government of Myanmar H.E. Dr. Sasa's Address to the Parliamentarians of French Republic, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/134953655391941>

²⁴ NUG (7 Jun 2021) Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Announcement to the People, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/124864293067544>

²⁵ NUG (8 Jun 2021) Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Announcement 1/2021 that people may lodge official complaints to sue the junta <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/125085656378741>

²⁶ NUG (18 Jun 2021) CDM Success Committee Statement 1/2021, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/131208989099741>

²⁷ NUG (8 Jun 2021) Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Order 1/2021: Notice about collecting electricity bills, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/125244489696191>

On 10 June, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy instructed foreign companies not to pay out benefits to the junta. It said that the junta cannot legally take over Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), and that investors should not respect these contracts either. It said that on 1 February, the NUG told Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE): (1) the NUG will assist in continuing operations under existing PSCs; (2) do not try to collect taxes before receiving further instructions; and (3) any actions not in line with existing labor laws, release of unlawful orders, and suppression of civil servants could destroy MOGE.²⁸

Education

On 16 June, the Ministry of Education (MoE) set out basic goals and logistics for its Interim Education Program for basic, higher, and vocational education. It explained that education has been totally undermined by the coup, with over 90% of students choosing not to enroll; and therefore the Ministry is cooperating with students and teachers to open vocation, basic, and higher education in June.²⁹

COVID-19 surge

Burma has experienced a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases since late May, when the junta relaxed COVID-19 restrictions.³⁰ The reopening of schools on 1 June might also have contributed to the spread of the virus; on 24 June, 246 people tested positive at a private school in Yangon.³¹ The situation is particularly critical in Kalay (Sagaing Region), where over 100 people have died from COVID-19 since May.³²

The percentage of positive tests jumped sharply, from under 2% in mid-May to over 18% on 28 June (6,586 tests, 1,225 positive).³³ On 15 June, the junta announced the detection of the more deadly and infectious Alpha, Delta, and Kappa variants in Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Mandalay, and Yangon Regions.³⁴

The COVID-19 response has been severely undermined by the collapse of the healthcare system under the junta, as most of the country's 1,777 government hospitals cannot function properly due to staff shortages.³⁵ Testing dropped significantly after 1 February, from an average 17,000 daily tests to just a few thousand,³⁶ though it recovered to around 7,000/day in late June.³⁷

Despite the gravity of the situation, the junta has continued to crack down on health staff by threatening to revoke the license of private hospitals employing striking doctors. This threatens to further deprive people of access to healthcare. As of 25 June, only around 4% of adults were fully vaccinated. Many continue to refuse vaccination in defiance of the regime.³⁸

On 2–4 June, the junta imposed stay-at-home orders in Kalay and Tamu Townships (Sagaing Region) and Tedim, Falam, Thantlang, Tonzang and Hakha townships (Chin State).³⁹ It issued similar orders in Letpadan and Pyu Townships (Bago Region) on 18 and 21 June;⁴⁰ and in Lashio and Laukkai Townships (Shan State) on 26 and 27 June.⁴¹ On 21 June, junta forces also locked down the China-backed Shwe Kokko (Karen State) new city project after finding at least 10 infections there.⁴²

Conflict and displacement

Fighting has ebbed with the onset of the rainy season, and will likely simmer in coming months. In a bid to exert authority, the Tatmadaw signed tentative bilateral ceasefires in June in Chin and Karenni States. However, these were too late to deal with the hundreds of thousands of people already displaced.

²⁸ NUG (10 Jun 2021) Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Instruction, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/125663036321003>

²⁹ NUG (16 Jun 2021) Ministry of Education Statement 20/2021 on Interim Education Program, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/130326605854646>

³⁰ Irrawaddy (16 Jun 2021) New and More Deadly COVID-19 Variants Found in Myanmar

³¹ Irrawaddy (16 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Threatens Teachers, Parents to Get Children Back in School

³² Irrawaddy (29 Jun) Myanmar Regime Offers no Help as Kalaymyo Struggles with COVID-19 Outbreak

³³ Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2021) Fighting new COVID-19 variants amid turmoil and resistance; Kyodo News (29 Jun 2021) Coronavirus cases surge in coup-hit Myanmar, vaccinations lag

³⁴ Irrawaddy (16 Jun 2021) New and More Deadly COVID-19 Variants Found in Myanmar

³⁵ Frontier Myanmar (23 Jun 2021) CDM crunch: Striking doctors struggle to meet healthcare needs

³⁶ Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2021) Fighting new COVID-19 variants amid turmoil and resistance

³⁷ Kyodo News (29 Jun 2021) Coronavirus cases surge in coup-hit Myanmar, vaccinations lag

³⁸ Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2021) Fighting new COVID-19 variants amid turmoil and resistance

³⁹ Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2021) Fighting new COVID-19 variants amid turmoil and resistance

⁴⁰ Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2021) Fighting new COVID-19 variants amid turmoil and resistance

⁴¹ SAC (26 Jun 2021) Ministry of Health and Sports Order 265/2021; SAC (27 Jun 2021) Ministry of Health and Sports Order 266/2021

⁴² Irrawaddy (21 Jun 2021) Chinese-Backed New City Project on Myanmar-Thai Border Under COVID-19 Lockdown

In the first 25 days of June, there were over 538 violent attacks on civilians or armed clashes, bringing the total number of incidents between 1 February and 25 June to 3,012.⁴³

Ceasefires and temporary reprieve

On 20 June, the Mindat Chin Defense Force (CDF) and the Tatmadaw signed a 14-day ceasefire (to run 20 June–4 July). The township remains under martial law and Tatmadaw occupation.⁴⁴ On 23 June, the Mindat CDF announced the terms of the five-point ceasefire: (1) the junta will not carry out “armed surveillance,” shooting, or arrests in Mindat Town or on the main roads in Mindat Township; (2) the junta will not force CDM staff to return to work; (3) the CDF will not harass or threaten non-CDM government employees; (4) both sides will not disturb vehicles travelling on the Kyaukhtu-Mindat-Matupi road; and (5) both sides will allow safe passage for vehicles with humanitarian aid for IDPs.⁴⁵

On 11 June, the Tatmadaw’s Eastern Command agreed to a ceasefire with three Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) members—the KNLP, KNLPF and KNPDP. On 15 June, the KNDF temporarily halted attacks on the junta in Karenni and Southern Shan State amid the growing humanitarian crisis in the region.⁴⁶ On 17 June, several KNDF fighters rejected the ceasefire, saying their leaders had acted without the consent of other KNDF members. The Demoso People’s Defense Force (PDF) said it would follow the ceasefire; the Kayah Li Phu group said it would not stop fighting.⁴⁷

Displacement in and outside Burma

On 24 June, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that roughly 230,000 people have been displaced since 1 February. It stressed the urgent need for humanitarian assistance, including food and basic shelter, health care, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support.⁴⁸

On 25 June, it was reported that military violence since 1 February had displaced more than 42,000 people in Chin State, who were in desperate need of humanitarian supplies.⁴⁹ On 24 June, RFA reported that at least six had died in the jungle due to lack of medicine since fighting began in April.⁵⁰

On 10 June, it was reported that IDPs in Burma Yang camp (Kachin State) needed emergency humanitarian aid, and were getting sick from drinking dirty water, a problem likely to worsen as the rainy season continues.⁵¹

On 7 June, it was reported that the junta had displaced 25% of the Karenni State population. There were 100,000 IDPs from Demoso Township, and many more from Loikaw Township. Urgently needed food and medicine was obstructed by junta forces blocking access into the State.⁵² On 10 June, in Moe Bye, Pekon Township (Shan), junta forces burned 80 sacks of rice and medical supplies meant for IDPs.⁵³

On 23 June, it was reported that around 1,000 people displaced from Li Woe village were still living in the jungle in Demoso Township (Karenni State) without shelter or medical supplies. People were getting sick because they had no shelter from heavy rains, and aid groups could not reach them.⁵⁴

On 24 June, it was reported that Tatmadaw attacks since March had displaced more than 4,000 local villagers from 90 villages in Hpapun District, who are now in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Hlaingbwe Township. According to a local healthcare provider, they were in dire need of funds to build shelters; and the humanitarian aid they received was insufficient. It was reported that junta forces were still firing heavy artillery shells into villages in Hpapun, and that fighting between the BGF and the KNLA was ongoing. Villagers said they were facing food shortages as combat had closed the Hpapun-Kamaung road.⁵⁵

⁴³ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 25 Jun 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

⁴⁴ BBC (20 Jun 2021) A 14-day ceasefire agreement was reached in Min Tat to allow residents to return home

⁴⁵ Mizzima News (24 Jun 2021) Five points were agreed between the CDF-Mindat and the military council

⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (16 Jun 2021) Karenni resistance fighters agree to ceasefire as number of IDPs passes 100,000

⁴⁷ Irrawaddy (17 Jun 2021) Kayah State Resistance Groups Reject Ceasefire with Myanmar Junta

⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (25 Jun 2021) UN Agency Reports 230,000 Displaced Since Myanmar Coup

⁴⁹ Khonumthung News (25 Jun 2021) Tens of Thousands Displaced in Chin State Since Coup

⁵⁰ RFA (24 Jun 2021) Six Vulnerable Refugees Die in Jungle After Fleeing Conflict in Myanmar’s Chin State

⁵¹ Kachin News Group (10 Jun 2021) Villagers in Remote IDP Camp in Kachin State Need Clean Drinking Water, KBHWT Says

⁵² Kantarawaddy Times (7 Jun 2021) Twenty-five Percent Of Karenni State Displaced By Conflict

⁵³ Ro Nay San Lwin (via Twitter) (11 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/nslwin/status/1403221421610999809>

⁵⁴ Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2021) Over 1,000 people from Kayah village in need of shelter, medicine after fleeing fighting

⁵⁵ Karen News (24 Jun 2021) Burma Army Shelling Continues in Mutraw, Northern Karen State – 90 Villages, 980 Households, 4,000 displaced people – Aid Desperately Needed

Neighboring countries struggled to deal with the outflow of displaced migrants from Burma. On 1 June, Thailand fined three journalists who had fled from Burma, saying it may deport them but is seeking a humanitarian solution.⁵⁶

On 1 June, Mizoram authorities wrote to India's foreign ministry, seeking help to set up eight refugee camps.⁵⁷ It was estimated that the three Indian states of Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland were sheltering around 16,000 people from Myanmar, with the number expected to rise in coming months.⁵⁸ On 16 June, Mizoram State Chief Minister Zoramthanga said his government will give cash support to over 9,000 Burmese refugees, and said that the amount would be announced soon.⁵⁹

On 27 June, it was reported that around 700 people had crossed into Mizoram from Burma in the prior few weeks, including pregnant women, children and senior citizens.⁶⁰

Chin State

On 6 June, CDF forces ambushed a Tatmadaw convoy in Mindat Township, and claimed that they killed 40–50 junta troops. The Tatmadaw responded with heavy artillery and two air strikes, as well as chemical weapons, according to a CDF spokesperson.⁶¹ The Mindat CDF ambushed a second convoy near Shat village, killing around ten soldiers; the military retaliated with artillery shelling; fighting continued into the next morning.⁶²

On 8 June, the military used artillery in clashes with the CDF in Spayar Sakhan and Shat villages, Mindat Township, and killed one CDF member. The fighting was near camps housing IDPs, prompting some to flee into the jungle.⁶³ On 10 June, the CDF said they killed 27 soldiers in multiple ambushes on military convoys in Thantlang and Hakha Townships, but the Tatmadaw sent in 100 reinforcements. The clashes forced 600 people from three villages to flee into the jungle, without food or shelter.⁶⁴

It was reported on 25 June that around 80% of Mindat's more than 20,000 IDPs had returned after the ceasefire, though many were only checking the condition of their homes, and planned to leave after the ceasefire expired. Around 1,000 IDPs were still living in the villages around Mindat.⁶⁵

Kachin State

Fighting between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) continued in early June. On 3 June, the KIA and local PDF attacked the Shwegu town police station.⁶⁶ On 8 June, the KIA ambushed military barges carrying soldiers and supplies in Bo Kone and Shwegu Lay, Shwegu Township,⁶⁷ and attacked the Tatmadaw Light Infantry Battalion 142 base in Daw Hpum Yang, Momauk Township.⁶⁸ Despite KIA attacks and ambushes, the Tatmadaw managed to reinforce its bases in Shwe Bon Thar, Na Win, Num Lang, Myothit, Loijaw Bum, and Daw Hpum Yang.⁶⁹ On 23 June, the KIA attacked a police checkpoint on the Bala Min Htin Bridge linking Myitkyina to Shan State and Mandalay Region.⁷⁰

On 2 June, the Tatmadaw dropped ten bombs on Daru village, Danai Township, destroying a house in a school compound.⁷¹ On 3 June, it carried out two more air strikes on the village, killing a 43-year-old woman and damaging a home and a gold shop.⁷² The strikes reportedly displaced half of Daru.⁷³

⁵⁶ France 24 (1 Jun 2021) Myanmar journalists who fled to Thailand fined, face deportation: lawyer

⁵⁷ Reuters (10 Jun 2021) India frets as Myanmar's pro-democracy fighters cross border

⁵⁸ Reuters (10 Jun 2021) India frets as Myanmar's pro-democracy fighters cross border

⁵⁹ Chindwin (via Twitter) (16 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/ChindwinNews/status/1405062772996689922>

⁶⁰ Hindustan Times (27 Jun 2021) Over 700 Myanmar nationals have entered Mizoram in past few weeks: Police

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (7 Jun 2021) Resistance Fighters Inflict Heavy Losses on Junta Forces in Myanmar's Chin State

⁶² Irrawaddy (7 Jun 2021) Resistance Fighters Inflict Heavy Losses on Junta Forces in Myanmar's Chin State

⁶³ Myanmar Now (9 Jun 2021) Local resistance fighter killed as clashes continue in Mindat

⁶⁴ Khonmunthung News (12 Jun 2021) Tatmadaw Sends Fresh Troops During Fighting in Thangtlang, Outbreak in Rihkhawdar Continues

⁶⁵ Myanmar Now (25 Jun 2021) Mindat IDPs return home during temporary ceasefire

⁶⁶ Kachinland News (5 Jun 2021) Skirmishes rage in Sumprabum, KIA attacks Mung Wi Tactical Command base

⁶⁷ Kachinland News (9 Jun 2021) KIA troops attack SAC ships at Bo Kone and Shwegu Lay

⁶⁸ Kachinland News (9 Jun 2021) KIA troops attack SAC ships at Bo Kone and Shwegu Lay

⁶⁹ Kachinland News (10 Jun 2021) KIA's 19th Battalion troops attack SAC convoy as more troops arrive in Kachin fronts

⁷⁰ Irrawaddy (24 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Police Wounded in KIA Attack; Kachin News Group (24 Jun 2021) KIA Attack Checkpoint On Bridge Linking Myitkyina to Waingmaw

⁷¹ Kachinland News (3 Jun 2021) SAC airstrikes on Daru village as ground battle rages

⁷² Kachinland News (4 Jun 2021) SAC airstrikes hit a house killing a 43-year-old housewife in Daru village

⁷³ BNI (7 Jun 2021) Tatmadaw Airstrikes Target Tanai Township

On 4 June, junta soldiers forced 17 people from Suan Pi Yang village, Putao Township, to be porters and human shields for an 80km walk; and reportedly used civilian vehicles to move around.⁷⁴ On 17 June, it was reported that the army had planted landmines in Daw Hpum Yang, Momauk Township; and that on 15 June a local woman sustained serious injuries after stepping on a landmine.⁷⁵

On 23 June, an artillery shell landed in a camp of 1,600 IDPs in Mai Ja Yang, Momauk Township.⁷⁶

Karenni and Southern Shan States

Fighting between the Tatmadaw and local armed groups operating under the KNDF continued until mid-June. The Tatmadaw shelled Demoso Town (Karenni) several times, damaging or destroying at least 30 buildings during 21 May–12 June.⁷⁷ On 4 June, Tatmadaw troops forced their way into a church and stole money and a phone from the Pastor in Moe Bye (Shan). They abducted ten people, and forced them to stand blindfolded in front of soldiers during clashes with the KNDF. After the fighting, the soldiers forced the civilians to carry explosives.⁷⁸ On 9 June, the Tatmadaw indiscriminately shelled Loikaw, killing a 20-year-old man, injuring another civilian, and destroying several homes.⁷⁹

As IDPs returned to their villages in Moe Bye and Demoso Townships following the ceasefire, they found almost two dozen unidentified bodies. According to a Karenni National Progressive Party official, these people had been killed by the junta's indiscriminate shelling.⁸⁰ On 16 June, it was reported that soldiers who occupied civilians' homes in Demoso had looted or destroyed civilian property, beat local people, and forced them to carry supplies and equipment.⁸¹

On 19 June, junta soldiers occupied a jungle clinic built to support displaced people in eastern Demoso Township, pushing people further into the jungle.⁸² On 23 June, it was reported that around 1,000 IDPs from Li Woe village were still living in the jungle without shelter or medical supplies; some were getting sick because they had no shelter from the heavy rains, and aid groups were not able to reach them.⁸³

Karen State

On 13 June, the junta said that the Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO) had executed 25 civilians working on a road infrastructure project in Myawaddy Township (Karen State). It reportedly found the bodies in two graves on 11–12 June. Six of the bodies were found with their hands tied behind their backs. The KNDO alleged that the victims were military personnel, and while it admitted killing some of them, it alleged others were killed in Tatmadaw shelling.⁸⁴ On 16 June, the Karen National Union (KNU) announced it would investigate the killings and release its findings.⁸⁵ On 18 June, Reuters reported the existence of a video purportedly showing one execution (unverified).⁸⁶

On 1 June, fighting broke out between a joint BGF/Tatmadaw force and several local armed groups, namely the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) splinter group, a local PDF, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC), the KNDO, and a splinter faction of the BGF in Palu village, Myawaddy Township.⁸⁷ Four hundred people from villages affected by the clashes fled temporarily into Thailand.⁸⁸ On 21 June, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) killed eight junta soldiers in a skirmish near Lay Taw Gyi and Mee Bon villages, Hpa-an Township, around 20 miles from Karen State capital Hpa-an.⁸⁹

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (6 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Uses Human Shields to Stop KIA Attacks

⁷⁵ Kachin News (17 Jun 2021) Burma Army Plants Landmines Around Kachin State Town

⁷⁶ Network Media Group (27 Jun 2021) Tatmadaw Shell Strikes IDP Camp in Kachin State

⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (17 Jun 2021) Kayah State Resistance Groups Reject Ceasefire with Myanmar Junta

⁷⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (7 Jun 2021) Burma Army Uses Villagers As Human Shields in Shan State

⁷⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (10 Jun 2021) Interim Govt Wants PDF Respect Military Code of Conduct in Karenni State

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (19 Jun 2021) IDPs return to Karenni towns to find unidentified bodies in streets, schools

⁸¹ Kantarawaddy Times (16 Jun 2021) Villagers Displaced By Conflict in Demawso Township Find Homes Looted and Destroyed

⁸² Kantarawaddy Times (22 Jun 2021) IDPs Flee Again After Tatmadaw Seizes Jungle Clinic in Demawso Township

⁸³ Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2021) Over 1,000 people from Kayah village in need of shelter, medicine after fleeing fighting

⁸⁴ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 2021) Only Myanmar Regime Undercover Soldiers Murdered, Not Civilians: KNDO

⁸⁵ Karen National Union HQ (16 Jun 2021) KNU statement of the KNDO killing 25 person on news

⁸⁶ Reuters (18 Jun 2021) Myanmar ethnic group pledges probe into mass grave allegations

⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (3 Jun 2021), Karen Rebel Leader Warns Myanmar Regime of More Fighting

⁸⁸ Karen Women Organization (via Twitter) (2 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/karenwomenorg/status/1399996957402165251>

⁸⁹ Myanmar Now (22 Jun 2021) Eight regime soldiers killed in clashes around Hpa-an

Clashes between Tatmadaw and local defense forces in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions

- 3 Jun The Mindat CDF attacked a military garrison in Shwe Aung Thar village, Htilin Township (Magway Region), killing between three and seven soldiers. It retreated under artillery fire.⁹⁰
- 9 Jun In Kani Township (Sagaing Region), the local PDF said they killed 10 junta soldiers and wounded 10 more when they ambushed a convoy along the Monywa-Kalaywa Highway.⁹¹
- 14 Jun The Tatmadaw clashed with the Tabayin PDF (Sagaing Region). Tatmadaw forces killed one PDF member, injured another, and arrested three. The PDF killed two junta soldiers.⁹²
- 15 Jun The Tatmadaw stormed Kinma village, Pauk Township (Magway Region), clashing with local self-defense forces. Junta forces eventually burned the 240-home village to the ground.⁹³
- 20 Jun Junta forces attacked the Gangaw PDF near Bawpyin village, Gangaw Township (Magway Region) after a tip-off. Two PDF members, including 24-year-old leader Kyaw San Oo, and two junta soldiers, were killed. Kyaw San Oo was reportedly executed at close range.⁹⁴
- 22 Jun In Chan Mya Thazi Township (Mandalay Region), clashes broke out after the Tatmadaw raided a boarding school the Mandalay PDF was using as a safe house. Junta forces killed two PDF members and arrested six; the rest escaped, with support from other local PDF units.⁹⁵ Following the raid in Mandalay, the Mandalay PDF allegedly killed three Tatmadaw members, including a lieutenant colonel and a captain.⁹⁶
- 24 Jun: In Shwe Kyaung Kone village, Katha Township (Sagaing Region) the KIA and local PDF jointly attacked Tatmadaw troops.⁹⁷
- 22 Jun: In Nagzon Township (Mandalay City), 25 Zero Guerrilla Force members raided a police checkpoint. Sources said that the group killed a police captain and another officer.⁹⁸
- 27 Jun In Kalay Township (Sagaing Region) the local PDF ambushed a military convoy travelling from Magway. The PDF said they killed at least nine soldiers in the attack.⁹⁹

On 24 June, soldiers attacked local PDF members near Samyin village, Mingin Township (Sagaing Region). A PDF spokesperson said that the soldiers were wearing civilian clothes and pretending to be fleeing villagers.¹⁰⁰ If true, this would be another example of junta troops committing **perfidy**.

On 27 June, in Kyauktaw Town (**Rakhine State**), the AA surrounded a group of 20 officers from the Mrauk-U police battalion garrisoned in the Mahamuni Buddha Temple and confiscated their weapons. Local people said that the AA had repeatedly told the junta to not station forces at the sacred site.¹⁰¹

Protests and violent crackdowns

Protests continued despite health and safety threats. During 1–25 June, there were at least 348 protests against the coup, against the junta education system, in support of the CDM, in support of the NUG, or demanding the release of political prisoners. These took place in at least 65 townships across 11 of 15 states/regions/Union Territory. They included traditional street marches, flash mobs, silent strikes, motorcycle protests, and a “flower strike” in honor of Aung San Suu Kyi.¹⁰²

The junta continued to unleash lethal violence throughout the country, killing, injuring, or otherwise harming civilians in towns and cities of each State and Region. Security forces continued to arrest family members when failing to find anti-coup activists, in violation of domestic and international human

⁹⁰ Myanmar Now (4 Jun 2021) Three regime soldiers killed in clash with Chinland Defence Force on Magwe-Chin border

⁹¹ Irrawaddy (10 Jun 2021) Ten Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Sagaing Region Ambush

⁹² Irrawaddy (17 Jun 21) Myanmar Junta Troops Go on Rampage in at Least a Dozen Sagaing Villages

⁹³ Irrawaddy (via Twitter) (16 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/IrrawaddyNews/status/1405017437477638144>

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (22 Jun 2021) Leader of resistance force in Magwe Region shot dead

⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (22 Jun 2021) UPDATED: Two Civilian Fighters Killed Amid Shootout With Myanmar Junta Troops in Mandalay

⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (23 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Colonel Killed in Raid on Mandalay Resistance

⁹⁷ Mizzima News (29 Jun 2021) Katha local PDF claim to have killed about 30 military council troops

⁹⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Jun 2021) Around 30 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Sagaing

⁹⁹ Mizzima News (28 Jun 2021) At least 9 military junta soldiers reported killed in ambush by local PDF in Sagaing region

¹⁰⁰ Irrawaddy (25 Jun 2021) 15 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Sagaing Region Firefights

¹⁰¹ Irrawaddy (28 Jun 2021) Arakan Army Seizes Weapons From Regime's Police Force in Rakhine

¹⁰² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 25 Jun 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

rights law.¹⁰³ On 14 June, Human Rights Watch demanded the junta immediately and unconditionally release all family and friends who were taken hostage to coerce others.¹⁰⁴

The junta continued to conduct **arbitrary arrests, detentions, and abductions**:

- 3 Jun In Kaw Thauung (Tanintharyi Region) security forces abducted at least eight young protestors, including protest organiser Ko Zaw Zaw, in a midnight raid.¹⁰⁵
 - 4 Jun In Mudon (Mon State) troops abducted at least five civilians accused of joining the CDM. Local residents said some were innocent and a man was taken instead of his sister, who is in hiding.¹⁰⁶
 - 7 Jun In Yangon soldiers arrested a schoolgirl and schoolboy, after they asked why a teacher wasn't joining the CDM.¹⁰⁷
 - 7 Jun 69 people, nine of them girls, remain detained in Hakha (Chin State) police station for opposing the coup. Parents are extremely worried as the police station only has capacity for 20 people.¹⁰⁸
 - 8 Jun In Chaung-U Township (Sagaing Region) junta forces shot and arrested environmental defender and protest leader Man Zar Myay Mon.¹⁰⁹
 - 10 Jun In Taungdwingyi (Magway Region) security forces abducted photographer Ko Myo Win Aung. The reason for his arrest is still unknown.¹¹⁰
 - 16 Jun In Kanpetlet town (Chin State), junta forces arrested Catholic priest Father Michael Aung Ling, accusing him of providing rice to the Chinland Defence Force. The priest and a boarding student were held and questioned for 11 hours, before being released.¹¹¹
 - 23 Jun: In Hlaing Township (Yangon), soldiers arrested three men and three women for taking photos on the street on which ultranationalist and alleged military informer Kyaw Aye was shot.¹¹²
 - 25 Jun: It was reported that after a Sagaing Region school was burned, security forces “viciously beat about 15 people” in Lelzin village, Monywa Township (Sagaing Township), and detained six. Zeyar Lin, one of the six, died in detention. Zeyar Lin, who was not involved in the fire, was reportedly singled out because he bore tattoos of both Aung San and Aung San Suu Kyi.¹¹³
 - 27 Jun: The junta charged three Christian leaders in Kachin State under 505(a) of the Penal Code for joining a peace prayer service in March.¹¹⁴
- On 2 June, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told reporters that the US is pressing for the release of detained US journalists Danny Fenster and Nathan Maung.¹¹⁵ On 14 June, security forces released Maung, who had been detained four months in Insein prison.¹¹⁶ On 17 June, State Department Spokesman Ned Price said that consular officials still had no access to Fenster.¹¹⁷
- On 16 June, Australia Vice Admiral David Johnston spoke with junta official Vice Senior General Soe Win, and called for immediate release of detained Australian economist Sean Turnell.¹¹⁸
- On 30 June, the junta released 2,296 people who had been detained, mainly for participating in protests. Those released included six journalists.¹¹⁹

¹⁰³ RFA (7 Jun 2021) Myanmar Security Forces Arresting Relatives of Anti-Coup Activists They Can't Nab in Raids

¹⁰⁴ Human Rights Watch (14 Jun 2021) Myanmar: Stop Holding Family, Friends Hostage

¹⁰⁵ HURFOM (via Twitter) (3 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/HURFOM/status/1400335490209837059>

¹⁰⁶ HURFOM (via Twitter) (4 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/HURFOM/status/1400658227876880385>

¹⁰⁷ 2021 Revolution Tweets (via Twitter) (7 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/2021Revtweets/status/1401781633661816835>

¹⁰⁸ BNI (7 Jun 2021) The Hakha police station hold about 70 in only 20 people capacity

¹⁰⁹ Edith Mirante (via Twitter) (9 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/EdithMirante/status/1402450569223049216>

¹¹⁰ Ro Nay San Lwin (via Twitter) (11 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/nslwin/status/1403214038943862786>

¹¹¹ UCA News (17 Jun 2021) Myanmar military arrest Catholic priest in Chin state

¹¹² Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2021) Alleged military informant and ultranationalist shot dead in Yangon

¹¹³ Myanmar Now (25 Jun 2021) Man with tattoos of Suu Kyi and her father killed in regime custody

¹¹⁴ Kachin News (29 Jun 2021) Christian Leaders Arrested For Attending Prayer Service in Northern Kachin State

¹¹⁵ Washington Post (1 Jun 2021) Family members, U.S. officials press Myanmar for release of detained journalist Danny Fenster

¹¹⁶ Reuters (14 Jun 2021) US journalist Nathan Maung freed from detention in Myanmar

¹¹⁷ Al Jazeera (17 Jun 2021) Detained US journalist makes appearance in Myanmar court

¹¹⁸ ABC News (17 Jun 2021) ADF Vice Chief David Johnston calls on Myanmar's junta to immediately release Australian Sean Turnell

¹¹⁹ Irrawaddy (30 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Frees Political Prisoners and Journalists

The junta continued its **extra-judicial killings and torture**. On 4 June, the military shot and killed two civilians on the street in Moe Bye, Pekon Township (Shan State) an hour before the town's curfew began.¹²⁰ On 5 June, security forces killed 20 civilians who tried to confront over arresting a villager in Kyonpyaw Township (Ayeyarwady Region).¹²¹ On 21 June, in Lel Zin village, Monywa Township (Sagaing Region), junta forces tortured a civilian to death following a raid that reportedly sent residents fleeing into the forest.¹²²

On 28 June in Sagaing Region, the military forced the immediate cremation of 19-year-old Mai Nuam Zai Thiang, saying she had died of COVID-19. Soldiers shot Mai Nuam Zai Thiang on 23 June, as well as Salai Ngun Naing Pan, who died at the scene. Mai Nuam was taken to the Kalay Military Hospital, where she died. Relatives were not allowed to see her body but the post-mortem listed blood loss as the cause of death.¹²³

The junta continued **targeting politicians and the media**. On 2 June, a junta military court in Myeik (Tanintharyi Region) sentenced journalists Aung Kyaw (DVB) and Zaw Zaw (Mizzima) to two years in prison for incitement and spreading false news.¹²⁴ On 6 June, armed forces arrested NLD lawmaker Tin Myint in Taunggyi (Shan State).¹²⁵ On 7 June, the junta sentenced NLD Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo to two years in prison for incitement, making him the first state/region-level official the junta sentenced to prison.¹²⁶

On 25 June, the junta released government spokesperson U Zaw Htay from military custody in Naypyidaw, after over four months in detention.¹²⁷

As of 27 June, security forces had detained at least 89 journalists, in all but three of Burma's 15 states/regions/Union Territory.¹²⁸

In late June, a junta military tribunal sentenced 16 people to death over the stabbing of an alleged informant and his sons in March. It remains unconfirmed whether any of the 16 were involved. As of 28 June, the junta had sentenced 64 people to death, 40 in absentia.¹²⁹

Junta's "perfect information"

In light of widespread condemnation by independent media, the NUG, and foreign governments, the junta sought to dispute the facts about its military actions.

On 7 June, it denied that its troops initiated a 5 June shootout with villagers armed with homemade guns in Kyonpyaw Township (Ayeyarwady Region). This contradicted news reports that the Tatmadaw fired first. The junta also alleged that three villagers were killed, compared to 20 in other sources.

On 19 June, it criticized CNN and Reuters for their "wrong news without media ethics" after they reported, on 17 June, that junta forces had burned down 80% of homes in Kinma Village, Pauk Township (Magway Region). It alleged that a local PDF and insurgents from Chin State set fire to the house of a USDP member during a clash with security forces on June 15, leading to more fires. Also on 19 June, it published a press release on the incident, accusing the CRPH, NUG, PDF, extremist NLD members and followers of spreading rumours on social networks to cause instability. On 20 June, it alleged that the PDF had deliberately set fire to Kinma to raise funds through Facebook donations, tarnish the image of the government, and draw international condemnation.

On 21 June, the (reconstituted) Myanmar Press Council released a statement that unlicensed local media outlets, international news agencies, and foreign embassies had spread fake news regarding the events in Kinma to help international organizations interfere with the country's internal affairs. It said it would not be responsible for further disputes that occur if media workers contact and provide information to news outlets whose licenses were revoked by the junta. The next day, the junta said official news media had already provided "the perfect information" and urged news agencies to follow international media ethics.

SAC (7 Jun 2021) Exaggeration of media on attack in Ayeyawady Region; Myanmar Now (5 Jun 2021) Junta troops kill three civilians in shootout over arrest of local villager; Guardian (6 Jun 2021) Myanmar junta forces reportedly kill 20 civilians in fresh clashes; SAC (19 Jun 2021) CNN, Reuters news agencies presenting news without media ethics need to post correct news; SAC (19 Jun 2021) Public information released not to believe fake and false news on social networks; SAC (20 Jun 2021) Statement strongly condemns media outlets and organizations spreading false information on Kinma fire case; SAC (22 Jun 2021) Media council releases statement urging to follow journalism ethics; SAC (26 Jun 2021) Myanmar Press Council – Announcement 5/2021

¹²⁰ Shan Herald (7 Jun 2021) Burma Army Attacking Civilians in Shan State

¹²¹ Guardian (6 Jun 2021) Myanmar junta forces reportedly kill 20 civilians in fresh clashes

¹²² Irrawaddy (23 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Forces Torture Civilian to Death

¹²³ Myanmar Now (28 Jun 2021) Military forces immediate cremation of shooting victim, claiming she had Covid-19

¹²⁴ Reuters (2 Jun 2021) Myanmar jails two journalists for incitement and spreading false news, employers say

¹²⁵ Shan News (9 Jun 2021) Military Council Arrests NLD MP in Southern Shan State

¹²⁶ Irrawaddy (7 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta Jails Magwe Chief Minister in Incitement Case

¹²⁷ CTGN (27 Jun 2021) Myanmar President's Office spokesperson U Zaw Htay released;

¹²⁸ Reporting ASEAN (updated 27 Jun 2021) IN NUMBERS: Arrests of Journalists and Media Staff in Myanmar

¹²⁹ Myanmar Now (28 Jun 2021) Junta sentences 16 Yangon residents to death over murder of alleged informant

Resistance bites

The junta continued to appoint ward (in cities) and village tract (in rural areas) administrators, roles the it historically used to monitor communities. In June, at least 12 administrators were killed and eight others injured across Shan and Mon states and Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Sagaing, and Bago regions. At least three administrators' offices were bombed or set on fire in Rakhine State and Bago and Yangon regions.¹³⁰

On 13 June, two daughters of a village administrator in Tapayin Township (Sagaing Region) were stabbed to death.¹³¹

Former village administrators were also targeted, with at least five killed in Sagaing and Yangon regions and Kachin State.¹³²

Bomb and arson attacks continued to target schools nationwide.¹³³ On 11 June, Save the Children reported that in May alone, 103 schools and other education facilities had been attacked, many damaged by explosives.¹³⁴ At least 15 schools were torched across Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, and Yangon regions and Kachin State, mainly by unidentified attackers.¹³⁵ The junta blamed resistance fighters, but several PDFs have in turn blamed "Pyu Saw Htee" groups made up of pro-junta supporters.¹³⁶

On 18 June, a Tatmadaw truck with soldiers on board was blown up in Tamwe Township (Yangon). On 27 June, two explosions at a Mayangone Township (Yangon) immigration office injured several Tatmadaw soldiers.¹³⁷

Women continue to lead and be targeted

On 24 June, a feminist coalition demanded that ASEAN and the international community hold the junta accountable for sexual violence, and that women's voices are included in UN processes on Burma.¹³⁸

The junta continued to perpetrate sexual and gender-based violence, primarily against women in detention. On 21 June, in Hmawbi Township (Yangon), a woman reportedly miscarried after junta forces beat her for having protest photos on her phone. She was one of more than 40 people arrested in connection with a fire that broke out at a primary school in the village of Sein Shwe Kone on 14 June.¹³⁹

Latest information control measure: whitelists

In June, internet providers in Burma confirmed that the junta plans to allow access only to approved ("whitelisted") websites/platforms, whereas before the internet was open except for blacklisted sites.

From February, the junta instructed internet providers to ban platforms like Facebook and Twitter, and continued to add other websites, often via twice-weekly directives. A senior official at Burma telecommunications company MPT said the junta gave the company hundreds of thousands of IP addresses to blacklist, including news websites.

For nearly 50 days, there were only around 500,000 internet connections in a country of 54 million. Website/platform bans and internet blackouts disrupted even the most basic functions of the banking, education, transportation, and healthcare sectors.

The junta restored access to the internet over mobile data in May. Popular websites and platforms like Facebook and Twitter remain inaccessible without a VPN, but some mobile banking applications became usable again. An IT professional said that while the junta could not ban some Cloudflare VPNs, most VPNs could be shut down as whitelisting begins.

All internet users in Burma will likely eventually be affected by whitelisting, but so far the whitelist only seems to be affecting mobile internet. The ministry has sent its lists of over 1,000 websites and applications to be whitelisted, and mandated that mobile operators and internet service providers follow the whitelist plan.

MPT was also recently required to begin monitoring calls and the most frequently visited websites. Senior official said they could not view emails and chats, but were monitoring the highest traffic websites from local IP addresses.

Frontier Myanmar (30 Jun 2021) Whitelisted internet takes Myanmar back to a 'dark age'

¹³⁰ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 30 June 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

¹³¹ Myanmar Now (15 Jun 2021) Daughters of junta-appointed village administrator in Depayin killed; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 30 June 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>.

¹³² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 30 June 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

¹³³ Irrawaddy (3 June 2021) Myanmar School Attacks Unacceptable Says UNICEF

¹³⁴ Save the Children (11 June 2021) Myanmar: More than 100 Attacks on Schools in May

¹³⁵ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 30 June 2021) Data Export Tool, available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

¹³⁶ Irrawaddy (3 June 2021) Myanmar School Attacks Unacceptable Says UNICEF

¹³⁷ Myanmar Now (29 Jun 2021) Regime soldiers terrorise Yangon neighbourhood after shooting of police officer

¹³⁸ Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (24 Jun 2021) Press Release: Women Leaders of Burma/Myanmar Disappointed with International Community

¹³⁹ Myanmar Now (21 Jun 2021) Pregnant woman miscarries after beating by soldiers

On 2 June, security forces arrested Nadi Hline in her Myeik (Tanintharyi Region) beauty parlor, after failing to find her friend for whom they had an arrest warrant.¹⁴⁰ On 8 June, a Myeik (Tanintharyi Region) court sentenced 32 activists and protesters, including well-known poet Maung Yu Paing and six women protesters, to two to four years' imprisonment.¹⁴¹ On 12 June, the family of Daw Pyone finally learned where she was detained, nearly three months after security forces shot her. She urgently needs medical help, which she has not been allowed to receive.¹⁴²

On 4 June, Insein prison officials returned Myanmar Now journalist Kay Zon Nway to her cell, after separating her from other inmates on 28 April for apparently staging a hunger strike when she was actually fasting for Ramadan. They said it had been a case of mistaken identity.¹⁴³

On 8 June, Human Rights Watch demanded that the junta respect the rights of menstruating women and girls in Burma's prisons. It said the prisons' lack of safe and accessible toilets with running water and privacy, and insufficient menstrual hygiene supplies, was degrading treatment in violation of international human rights law.¹⁴⁴

On 16 June, Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) released a report, "Deadly Reprisals," documenting the Tatmadaw's April–May attacks on civilians, including indiscriminate shootings, shelling, air strikes, arbitrary detention, torture, and killing.¹⁴⁵

International reactions, sanctions

On 8 June, UN Myanmar expressed concern over the rapidly deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Karenni State and southeastern Burma, saying that indiscriminate attacks have internally displaced an estimated 100,000 civilians now in urgent need of support.¹⁴⁶ On 17 June, it expressed alarm over recent acts of violence illustrating a deterioration of the human rights environment across Burma, including the discovery of two mass graves in Myawaddy Township and security forces burning more than 150 homes in Kin Ma village, Pauk Township.¹⁴⁷

On 11 June, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said that a further escalation of violence was unfolding across Burma, which must be halted to prevent greater loss of life and a deepening humanitarian emergency.¹⁴⁸ Bachelet appealed for hospitals, schools and places of worship to be protected throughout the country.¹⁴⁹ On 13 June, the junta Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected her statement, saying it unfairly failed to mention the acts of local militias in addition to the junta.¹⁵⁰

On 15 June, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Credentials Committee decided not to accredit any delegate from Burma.¹⁵¹

On 19 June, the International Labour Organization (**ILO**) passed a resolution calling on Burma to: (1) restore democratic order and civilian rule; (2) cease attacks, threats, and intimidation against workers, employers, their organizations, the general public, and ethnic and religious minorities; (3) end human rights violations and restore fundamental principles and rights at work; (4) respect ILO Convention 87 and ensure workers and employers can exercise freedom of association; (5) repeal orders since 1 February curtailing freedom of expression, assembly, and of workers, employers and their organizations to act without threat of intimidation or harm; and (6) ensure safe humanitarian access to all in need.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁰ Ro Nay San Lwin (via Twitter) (2 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/nslwin/status/1400014830975791104>

¹⁴¹ HURFOM (via Twitter) (10 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/HURFOM/status/1402813770661974019>

¹⁴² Myanmar Now (12 Jun 2021) Woman's family finds her alive, but detained and badly injured

¹⁴³ Myanmar Now (4 Jun 2021) Detained Myanmar Now reporter separated from prison population for more than one month

¹⁴⁴ Human Rights Watch (8 Jun 2021) Rights of Women Violated in Myanmar Prisons

¹⁴⁵ Kachin Women's Association Thailand (16 Jun 2021) Deadly Reprisals: Regime steps up attacks on civilians in retaliation for conflict losses in Northern Burma

¹⁴⁶ UN in Myanmar (8 Jun 2021) Statement by the United Nations in Myanmar on the Humanitarian Situation in the South-East

¹⁴⁷ UN in Myanmar (17 Jun 2021) UN in Myanmar Alarmed at Sharp Deterioration of Human Rights Environment

¹⁴⁸ UN OHCHR (11 Jun 2021) Bachelet issues strong warning of imminent further bloodshed and suffering in Myanmar

¹⁴⁹ UN OHCHR (11 Jun 2021) Bachelet issues strong warning of imminent further bloodshed and suffering in Myanmar

¹⁵⁰ SAC (13 Jun 2021) Press Statement from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

¹⁵¹ UN FAO (15 Jun 2021) Second Report of the Credentials Committee

¹⁵² International Labour Organization (ILO) (19 Jun 2021) ILC.109/Resolution II: Resolution for a return to democracy and respect for fundamental rights in Myanmar

On 3 June, International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**) president Peter Maurer met with the junta—the first senior Western official to do so—to stress the importance of humanitarian access.¹⁵³

Japan and Australia called for democracy but enacted no sanctions. On 3 June, Australia Foreign Minister Marise Payne defended the decision not to impose sanctions in support of an ASEAN-led solution.¹⁵⁴ On 9 June, Japan foreign minister Motegi Toshimitsu met with Payne, along with their respective ministers of defense; the four ministers agreed on coordination to ensure that ASEAN’s five point consensus leads to concrete outcomes.¹⁵⁵ On 10 June, Toshimitsu reiterated Japan’s support, particularly the appointment of an envoy and the release of detainees.¹⁵⁶

On 8 June, Japan’s House of Representatives adopted a resolution condemning the coup and calling on Japan to “make full use of all diplomatic resources and every effort” to restore democracy in Burma.¹⁵⁷ Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato said that Japan would review its existing development aid to Burma, and that Japanese firms’ investment could suffer if the situation does not improve.¹⁵⁸

The **UK** continued to ramp up sanctions against, and condemned, the junta. On 15 Jun, Ambassador Dan Chugg issued a statement saying “extra-judicial killings—whether committed by the junta or by opposition forces—are completely unacceptable.”¹⁵⁹ On 21 June, the UK imposed sanctions against the SAC and state-owned companies Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Myanmar Pearl Enterprise.¹⁶⁰

The **US** continued its condemnations, and expressed support for the NUG. On 7 June, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the NUG’s pledge to address discrimination and abuses against the Rohingya was an important signal to those working for an inclusive, democratic future.¹⁶¹

At the 18 June UN General Assembly briefing on Burma, US Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis called on the international community to end support for the junta and hold it to ASEAN’s five-point consensus.¹⁶²

On 15 June, the **EU** and US issued a joint statement saying they will work together to promote a swift return to democracy in Burma.¹⁶³ On 21 June, the EU added sanctions against eight individuals, three economic entities, and the War Veterans Organisation.¹⁶⁴

On 22 June, **Canada** welcomed UK and EU sanctions and urged other countries to follow suit.¹⁶⁵

On 21 June, **Russia** Security Council secretary Nikolai Patrushev met with Min Aung Hlaing in Moscow, where they discussed cooperation, security measures, and Burma’s current affairs, and committed to further strengthening security ties between the two countries.¹⁶⁶ En route to Moscow, Min Aung Hlaing had stopped for several hours in Irkutsk (Russia), where Russia’s United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) factory produces advanced fighter jets such as the Su-30. The Tatmadaw purchased six Su-30SM jets from UAC in 2018, and Min Aung Hlaing inspected one in Irkutsk in 2019.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵³ International Committee of the Red Cross (3 Jun 2021) The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Peter Maurer, visited Myanmar to meet with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on June 3rd 2021.

¹⁵⁴ SBS News (3 Jun 2021) Marise Payne defends Australia's refusal to impose sanctions after Myanmar coup

¹⁵⁵ Minister for Foreign Affairs Australia (9 Jun 2021) Ninth Japan-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations; Ninth Japan-Australia 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (9 Jun 2021) Joint Statement; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (9 Jun 2021) Ninth Japan-Australia Foreign and Defence Ministerial Consultations (“2+2”)

¹⁵⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (9 Jun 2021) Japan-Indonesia Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk

¹⁵⁷ Kyodo News (8 Jun 2021) Japan's lower house slams Myanmar coup, calls for return to democracy

¹⁵⁸ Kyodo News (8 Jun 2021) Japan's lower house slams Myanmar coup, calls for return to democracy

¹⁵⁹ UK in Myanmar (via Twitter) (15 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/ukinmyanmar/status/1404778804812423168>

¹⁶⁰ UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (21 Jun 2021) Foreign Secretary announces further sanctions on companies linked to Myanmar's military regime

¹⁶¹ Antony Blinken (via Twitter) (7 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1401706687157915653>

¹⁶² United States Mission to the United Nations (18 Jun 2021) Remarks at a UN General Assembly Briefing on Myanmar

¹⁶³ European Council (15 Jun 2021) EU-US Summit Statement

¹⁶⁴ European Council (21 Jun 2021) Myanmar/Burma: third round of EU sanctions over the military coup and subsequent repression

¹⁶⁵ Global Affairs Canada (via Twitter) (22 Jun 2021) <https://mobile.twitter.com/CanadaFP/status/1407046237925302274>

¹⁶⁶ Reuters (21 Jun 2021) Russia and Myanmar junta leader commit to boosting ties at Moscow meeting

¹⁶⁷ Irrawaddy (23 Jun 2021) Myanmar Coup Maker Visits Russian Military Aviation Hub

During this trip, Min Aung Hlaing attended the Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS-2021) and held meetings on “further enhancement of military technology,” and a delegation led by Navy Admiral Moe Aung attended the International Maritime Defence Show (IMDS-2021).¹⁶⁸

ASEAN engagement

On 4 June, Brunei representatives met with Min Aung Hlaing and election commission chairman Thein Soe, and discussed cooperation with ASEAN, among other topics.¹⁶⁹ The delegation did not meet with NUG representatives;¹⁷⁰ nor did it inform ASEAN foreign ministers beforehand or brief them after.¹⁷¹

The delegation’s objective was apparently to present Min Aung Hlaing with “the nominations proposed by ASEAN member states for the special envoy of the ASEAN chair to Myanmar,” allowing him to choose from special envoy candidates.¹⁷² On 1 June, it was reported that ASEAN was delaying the appointment of a special envoy due to disagreements between Indonesia and Thailand.¹⁷³

On 6 June, **Thailand** foreign ministry spokesperson Tanee Sangrat voiced concern over the ongoing crisis in Burma, and reiterated a call for an end to the violence, release of all detainees, and “concrete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus” as soon as possible. Sangrat said that many of Thailand’s diplomatic efforts have not been made public, due to its view that quiet diplomacy is more effective.¹⁷⁴

Civil society groups pointed out that the delegation broke ASEAN’s 5-point consensus by not meeting the NUG (“the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned”); and broke the spirit of the ASEAN Charter (“To strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms”).¹⁷⁵

The visit effectively split ASEAN members, with Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore trying to distance themselves from the visit. On 7 June, Indonesia Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said she hopes for transparent implementation of the five-point plan following the ASEAN-China meeting.¹⁷⁶ Malaysia Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the international community is awaiting ASEAN action following the “painfully slow” development of the five-point plan.¹⁷⁷ Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan also expressed disappointment with the pace of progress, and said that the ASEAN diplomatic effort “only makes sense if there is a desire within Myanmar itself.”¹⁷⁸

On 5 June, protesters in Mandalay burned an ASEAN flag, accusing the bloc of colluding with the junta and ignoring the wishes of the people.¹⁷⁹ On 14 Jun, protesters in Yangon burned an ASEAN flag.¹⁸⁰

ASEAN-China meeting

China continued to support the junta. On 5 June, China Ambassador Chen Hai met with Min Aung Hlaing ahead of the scheduled China-ASEAN meeting scheduled for 7 June.¹⁸¹ Chinese state newspaper Global Times reported that Min Aung Hlaing was willing to implement “a consensus,” and China was

¹⁶⁸ SAC (28 Jun 2021) Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party arrive back from Russian Federation; SAC (25 Jun 2021) Myanmar navy delegation attends int'l maritime defence show in Russia; SAC (26 Jun 2021) Myanmar navy delegation attends 2nd-day int'l maritime defence show in Russia

¹⁶⁹ Reuters (4 Jun 2021) ASEAN envoys meet Myanmar junta chief - state TV; Al Jazeera (5 Jun 2021) Myanmar coup opponents say no faith in ASEAN as envoys visit; Nikkei Asia (4 Jun 2021) Myanmar's junta chief meets with ASEAN representatives

¹⁷⁰ Diplomat (7 Jun 2021) Myanmar's Opposition Shadow Government 'No Longer Has Faith' in ASEAN

¹⁷¹ Jakarta Post (10 Jun 2021) Brunei's disastrous mission

¹⁷² Nikkei Asia (8 Jun 2021) 'Painful' Myanmar engagement sows rage as ASEAN seeks envoy; Business Standard (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN submits list of nominees for special envoy to Myanmar military regime

¹⁷³ Reuters (1 Jun 2021) EXCLUSIVE Amid divisions, ASEAN leaders plan Myanmar visit this week

¹⁷⁴ Reuters (6 Jun 2021) Thailand concerned at Myanmar violence

¹⁷⁵ FORUM-ASIA, Progressive Voice, and ALTSEAN-Burma (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN: Failure to meet with all parties neglects ASEAN's own five-point consensus; ASEAN (24 Apr 2021) Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Dec 2007) The ASEAN Charter

¹⁷⁶ Reuters (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN ministers pressure Myanmar after 'painfully slow' progress

¹⁷⁷ Hishammuddin Hussein (via Twitter) (7 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/HishammuddinH2O/status/1401896993480343552>

¹⁷⁸ Reuters (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN ministers pressure Myanmar after 'painfully slow' progress

¹⁷⁹ Matthew Tostevin (5 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/TostevinM/status/1401192742336679939>

¹⁸⁰ Civil Disobedience Movement (via Twitter) (14 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/cvdom2021/status/1404281582202941447>;

Cape Diamond (via Twitter) (14 Jun 2021) https://twitter.com/cape_diamond/status/1404253234261237761

¹⁸¹ Reuters (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN ministers pressure Myanmar after 'painfully slow' progress; Global Times (6 Jun 2021) Myanmar willing to work with ASEAN, highlights China's role in maintaining domestic stability

willing to take a constructive role in supporting this.¹⁸² The following day, China’s embassy in Yangon referred to Min Aung Hlaing as “the leader of Myanmar.”¹⁸³

On 7 June, ASEAN foreign ministers, including junta representative Wunna Maung Lwin, met with China to ask for assistance implementing the five-point consensus agreed to in April.¹⁸⁴ China Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the meeting that China supports the gradual implementation of the five-point consensus, and urged all parties in Burma to engage in dialogue and to refrain from violence.¹⁸⁵

A day after the meeting, China Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed the current situation in Burma, and listed five points different from ASEAN’s five points, notably missing a call for a special envoy.¹⁸⁶

There are now three five-point plans, none of which are realistic or tenable. None of them address the demands of the people of Burma, or meaningfully account for a return to democracy.

Junta’s 5 points (Feb 2021)	ASEAN’s 5 points (Apr 2021)	China’s 5 points (Jun 2021)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law. 2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum. 3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible. 4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible. 5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.¹⁸⁷ 	<p>First, there shall be immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint.</p> <p>Second, constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people.</p> <p>Third, a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary General of ASEAN.</p> <p>Fourth, ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre.</p> <p>Fifth, the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet with all parties concerned.¹⁸⁸</p>	<p>We are willing to continue to work with ASEAN to jointly urge all parties in Myanmar to put the interests of the people first, and keep calm to eliminate all kinds of violence.</p> <p>We encourage all parties in Myanmar to engage in political dialogue within the constitutional and legal framework and restart the process of democratic transformation.</p> <p>We will jointly provide assistance for Myanmar in fighting the pandemic, curbing the spread of the pandemic in Myanmar and safeguarding the lives and health of its people.</p> <p>We will jointly support Myanmar’s efforts to restore its economy, improve people’s livelihood and ensure the rights and interests of people at the grass-roots level.</p> <p>We will jointly urge all countries to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and avoid unilateral sanctions and undue interference.¹⁸⁹</p>

On 7 June, NUG Minister of Foreign Affairs Daw Zin Mar Aung wrote to China Foreign Minister Wang Yi, encouraging China to engage with the NUG. She welcomed China’s constructive role in addressing regional stability concerns, but denounced the Chinese embassy statement calling Min Aung Hlaing Burma’s leader. She also expressed concern that China and ASEAN failed to include the NUG when preparing for the China-ASEAN foreign minister’s meeting and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Forum in Chongqing. She called for China to suspend Burma from the LMC, which should focus on restoring Burma’s officially elected government.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸² Global Times (6 Jun 2021) Myanmar willing to work with ASEAN, highlights China’s role in maintaining domestic stability

¹⁸³ Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (6 Jun 2021) The Leader of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing Met with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

¹⁸⁴ Nikkei Asia (7 Jun 2021) ASEAN meets with China as progress on Myanmar consensus stalls

¹⁸⁵ Embassy of The People’s Republic of China in The Kingdom of Thailand (8 Jun 2021) Wang Yi Talks about the Situation in Myanmar

¹⁸⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (8 Jun 2021) Wang Yi Talks about the Situation in Myanmar

¹⁸⁷ Global New Light of Myanmar (24 Feb 2021) Five future programmes of State Administration Council

¹⁸⁸ ASEAN (24 Apr 2021) Chairman’s Statement on the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting

¹⁸⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (8 Jun 2021) Wang Yi Talks about the Situation in Myanmar

¹⁹⁰ NUG (7 Jun 2021) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Open Letter to Chinese Foreign Minister,

<https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/124952289725411>

UN General Assembly resolution on Burma

On 18 June, the UN General Assembly voted 119-1 to approve a resolution on Burma, calling for an end to the violence, respect for the people's will as expressed in the November 2020 elections, a return to democracy, the release of political detainees, an end to the state of emergency; and for all member states to prevent the flow of arms in Burma. Belarus voted against the resolution and 36 countries abstained, including China, Russia, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.¹⁹¹ While the resolution calls for a stop to arms flowing into Burma, it does not address dual-use technology.

Burma Permanent Representative to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun made a statement before the General Assembly following the vote, welcoming the resolution on Burma, but lamenting the ways in which it fell short: (1) it does not ensure that the international community, including ASEAN, engage with relevant stakeholders including the NUG, Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), and CSOs; (2) it did not include an arms embargo; (3) it was too slow; and (4) it was not unanimous in condemning the junta. He said the UN and international community should act immediately and decisively to save lives and stop the military's brutality.¹⁹²

On 19 June, UN special envoy on Burma Christine Schraner Burgener warned the UNGA that there is a real risk of civil war in Burma and the window of time to reverse the military takeover is narrowing.¹⁹³ Amnesty International called on China and Russia to stop obstructing the international community by vetoing a UNSC resolution to impose a global arms embargo on Burma.¹⁹⁴ Human Rights Watch UN Director Louis Charbonneau also said the UNSC should pass such a resolution.¹⁹⁵

G7 summit

On 7 June, NUG Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Sasa appealed to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to put Burma on the agenda for the summit, and requested G7 leaders to: (1) engage with the NUG as the legitimate representative of Burma; (2) help address the humanitarian crisis; and (3) enact greater sanctions, including against all state-owned enterprises and by making Burma a no-fly zone.¹⁹⁶

On 10 June, Human Rights Watch called on France President Emmanuel Macron to push for stronger sanctions at the upcoming G7 summit.¹⁹⁷ HRW said that the deep connections between the French government and energy company Total may be affecting Macron's stance.¹⁹⁸ On 1 June, 40 French parliamentarians published a letter urging their government to recognize and endorse the NUG; they also called for increased pressure on French energy group Total and to advocate at an EU level for further sanctions against the junta.¹⁹⁹

Immediately following the 11–13 June G7 summit, G7 leaders issued a communiqué condemning the coup in Burma and violence committed by security forces in the strongest terms.²⁰⁰ The communiqué said that the G7 nations “pledge our support to those advocating peacefully for a stable and inclusive democracy,” and that G7 members will pursue “additional measures should they prove necessary.”²⁰¹

Effects on foreign business

On 11 June, a bomb exploded in a factory owned by Chinese company Huabo Times Textile and Clothing in Patheingyi (Ayeyarwaddy Region). A Chinese state-run newspaper has claimed that 32 factories in Burma built with Chinese financing have been damaged since 1 February, causing an

¹⁹¹ VOA (18 Jun 2021) At UN, States Condemn Myanmar's Junta

¹⁹² NUG (18 Jun 2021) Statement by Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations after adoption of the draft resolution (A/75/L.85/Rev.1) at the 83rd Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 18 Jun 2021), <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/132194072334566>

¹⁹³ Al Jazeera (19 Jun 2021) UN stops short of calling for global arms embargo against Myanmar

¹⁹⁴ Al Jazeera (19 Jun 2021) UN stops short of calling for global arms embargo against Myanmar

¹⁹⁵ Al Jazeera (19 Jun 2021) UN stops short of calling for global arms embargo against Myanmar

¹⁹⁶ NUG (7 Jun 2021) Dr. Sasa, Special appeal to put deepening Myanmar (Burma) crisis on the G7 agenda,

<https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/125488913005082>

¹⁹⁷ Human Rights Watch (10 Jun 2021) Macron Needs to Push for Stronger Sanctions on Myanmar at the G7

¹⁹⁸ Human Rights Watch (10 Jun 2021) Macron Needs to Push for Stronger Sanctions on Myanmar at the G7

¹⁹⁹ Le Monde (1 Jun 2021) Un appel de parlementaires: en solidarité avec le peuple birman, « la France doit adopter des mesures fortes et se positionner sans ambiguïté »

²⁰⁰ White House (13 Jun 2021) Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

²⁰¹ White House (13 Jun 2021) Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

estimated USD 37 million in damage. Activists have countered that these arson attacks were a plot by the military to justify harsher crackdowns.²⁰²

On 14 June, it was reported that a KIO/A statement threatened anyone trying to use the land previously occupied by the Yuzana crony company in Danai Township (Kachin State). The statement came after businessmen tried to retake the land. The KIO/A said it would retain ownership of the land, but encouraged local people to protect the land from exploitation by managing it themselves.²⁰³

On 22 June, Norwegian pension fund KLP announced its intention to divest from Adani Ports and SEZ, on the grounds that the company's links with the Tatmadaw breach the fund's responsible investment policy. KLP had an investment worth NOK 9 million (USD 1.05 million) in Adani Ports.²⁰⁴

Foreign business links exposed and criticized

On 1 June, a letter from civil society actors in Japan demanded an end to non-emergency humanitarian aid, suspension of Official Development Assistance projects, withdrawal from the Myanma Port Authority and Yankin Urban Development project, cancellation of the Yankin Urban Development loan, suspension of development loans, and severance of private ties with Tatmadaw companies.²⁰⁵

On 8 June, Justice for Myanmar criticized Bangladesh-based INGO the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) for inviting Min Aung Hlaing to represent Myanmar instead of a representative from the legitimately elected NUG.²⁰⁶

On 14 June, Justice for Myanmar reported that Indian arms company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has supplied the junta with at least seven shipments of mainly radar technology since 1 Feb. BEL has existing agreements with Beretta and Elettronica (Italy), Saab (Sweden), Terma (Denmark) and Thales (France/Netherlands), whose technology transfers are subject to the EU arms embargo on Burma.²⁰⁷

On 21 June, Justice for Myanmar reported that the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) have indirectly financed telecommunications infrastructure company Myanmar Fiber Optic Communication Network (MFOCN). MFOCN has sold fiber optic cables and leased parts of its nationwide 27,000km fiber optic network to mobile operator Mytel, which is controlled by Vietnamese and Tatmadaw-owned businesses, and provides revenue and technology for the Tatmadaw.²⁰⁸

On 22 June, Justice for Myanmar released a report exposing the ties between the junta and the Belarusian military. Belarus is one of the biggest arms exporters in the world, and has a documented history of selling arms and military technology to Burma since the formation of a joint military commission in 2008. In 2011 the two countries increased economic and trade cooperation on oil exploration, mining, fertilizer, vehicle manufacturing and technology transfer.²⁰⁹

On 23 June, Global Witness exposed how Facebook allowed the junta to publish and promote content urging violence against anti-coup and pro-democracy protesters. Examples include a 1 June post calling striking students "criminals," and a post seeking to discredit local and independent media institutions.²¹⁰

Economy continues to sink

The Central Bank of Myanmar sold off at least another USD 12 million in June, to stabilize the value of the kyat.²¹¹ It sold USD 24 million in May, up from USD 6.8 million sold in February. From January 2020 to January 2021, the bank had only *bought* dollars to stabilize its currency.²¹² On 12 June, the

²⁰² Irrawaddy (11 Jun 2021) Bomb Explodes at Chinese-Backed Factory in Myanmar

²⁰³ Kachin News Group (14 Jun 2021) KIO Warns Cronies Against Re-seizing Land in Tanai Township

²⁰⁴ Reuters (22 Jun 2021) Nordic fund KLP divests from Adani Ports over links to Myanmar military

²⁰⁵ Justice For Myanmar (via Twitter) (1 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/JusticeMyanmar/status/1399589956704636929>

²⁰⁶ Justice for Myanmar (via Twitter) (8 Jun 2021) <https://twitter.com/JusticeMyanmar/status/1402180307629920257>

²⁰⁷ Justice for Myanmar (14 Jun 2021) Bharat Electronics Limited Supplying Technology to Myanmar since Attempted Military Coup

²⁰⁸ Justice For Myanmar (21 Jun 2021) AIIB and World Bank Group Financially Exposed to Myanmar Military Business

²⁰⁹ Justice For Myanmar (22 Jun 2021) Belarus Votes Against UN Resolution After Over Decade Of Myanmar Military Ties

²¹⁰ Guardian (23 Jun 2021) Myanmar: Facebook promotes content urging violence against coup protesters – study

²¹¹ SAC (30 Jun 2021) CBM sells \$3 mln for third time in June

²¹² Eleven Myanmar (19 May 2021) CBM sells US\$18 M during May; SAC (30 Jun 2021) CBM sells \$3 mln for third time in June

junta reported that the dollar exchange rate had dropped (i.e. MMK value increased) by under 1%, from 1,590 on 7 June to 1,577 on 11 June.²¹³

On 12 June, the junta reported that garment exports had declined by over 20% between October 2020 and May 2021, and a third of garment industry workers—95% of whom are women—are out of work.²¹⁴

On 30 June, the junta reported that imports over the prior eight months had dropped 24.5% compared to the same period the prior fiscal year (from USD 14.36 billion to USD 10.84 billion).²¹⁵

It was reported on 3 June that fighting between junta forces and EAOs are causing fuel and food prices to rise in Hpruso, Bawlakhe, Hpasauing, and Maese Townships (Karenni State). The cost of a bag of rice rose from MMK 40,000 (\$24) to MMK 100,000 (\$70); the cost of petroleum rose to MMK 5,000 (\$3) per liter; and potatoes, tomatoes, eggs, and instant noodles were unavailable. A Hpasauing Township resident reported that fuel shortages meant emergency vehicles could not operate.²¹⁶

On 11 June, IDPs in Kachin State told Network Media Group that since the coup their World Food Programme (WFP) stipends of USD 7/month are arriving late, due to the junta's controls on cash withdrawals. Basic food costs have increased in Kachin State, with some IDPs forced to borrow money or live on rice and salt.²¹⁷

On 23 June, Shanni media reported that illegal gold mining had massively increased since 1 February in Homalin Township (Sagaing Region). Locals said that illegal miners were digging up a part of Naungmikemal Lake with machinery. They said they did not know who the miners were or where they came from, or to whom they could submit a complaint.²¹⁸

According to a 24 June WFP report, the cost of domestic goods has risen significantly in the prior month: palm oil prices rose 11%; mixed oil +8%; rice +3%; onions +11%; tomatoes +22%; and pulses +5%. Compared to May 2020, the average price of cooking oil rose 47%, mixed oil rose 52%, and rice rose 18%.²¹⁹

On 21 June, China ordered all nationals in Burma to return to China, with at least the Kyukok-Pansai border crossing to be closed from 22 June.²²⁰ On 23 June, the junta reported that its ministers had met to discuss the opening of two other border crossings with China, the Namsang-Kokang BP-125 crossing and the Chinshwehaw-Montain (Minton) crossing.²²¹

Junta continues economic activities for its own benefit

The junta tried to gain control of the economy and get its hands on foreign currency. On 4 June, it banned the overland import of soap, detergent, and toothpaste, in an apparent effort to benefit from domestic production.²²² This added to a list of goods that cannot be imported over land, which includes “various beverages, coffee mix and tea mix, instant coffee, and condensed milk and evaporated milk.”²²³

On 8 June, it was reported that Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE)—now run by the junta—held three auctions and sold almost 10,300 tons of timber for around USD 5 million in late May, with plans to auction off another 14,181 tons on 23–24 June. The wood reportedly came from a stockpile of 200,000 tons previously confiscated by the NLD government.²²⁴ On 21 May, the Environmental Investigation

²¹³ SAC (12 Jun 2021) Dollar exchange rate falls by K10 after CBM sells \$3 mln

²¹⁴ SAC (12 Jun 2021) CMP garment exports drop by 20 per cent in eight months

²¹⁵ SAC (30 Jun 2021) Imports down by \$3.5 bln as of 18 June, MoC reports

²¹⁶ Kantarawaddy Time (3 Jun 2021) Food and Fuel Costs Soar in Karenni State Amid Conflict

²¹⁷ Network Media Group (11 Jun 2021) IDPs in Kachin State Reliant On WFP Stipends Struggle Amid Banking Restrictions

²¹⁸ Burma News International (23 Jun 2021) Illegal gold mining rampant in Homalin Township

²¹⁹ World Food Program (24 Jun 2021) Myanmar Market Price Update: May 2021

²²⁰ Mawkun Magazine (via Facebook) (21 Jun 2021) Chinese citizens and casinos are closed and returned home in Muse <https://www.facebook.com/mawkunmagazine/posts/4014386372007558>; Karen Information Center (via Facebook) (21 Jun 2021) <https://www.facebook.com/KICNewsPage/posts/1710298689154945>

²²¹ SAC (23 Jun 2021) MOC coordinates checkpoint opening on Myanmar-China border

²²² Irrawaddy (9 Jun 2021) Myanmar Regime's Ban on Imported Soap and Toothpaste Criticized for Aiming to Boost Military Profits

²²³ SAC (21 Jun 2021) Individual trades through land border exceed K18.3 bln in eight months

²²⁴ Irrawaddy (8 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta to Sell More Timber in Search for Hard Currency

Agency reported that the junta was seeking to gain hard and fast cash by selling off thousands of tons of illegal timber to international markets.²²⁵

On 19 June, Kachin News reported that residents of Nogmung Town (Kachin State) told reporters that the junta had restarted construction, at night and in secret, on an airstrip that the NLD cancelled in 2017. They said that locals are too poor to afford flights. They also said that after the coup, someone with connections to the USDP had built a twenty-room hotel in the town since 1 February.²²⁶

On 27 June, a Panama-registered tanker arrived from Singapore and offloaded A1 jet fuel—which can be used by commercial and military planes—at the Puma Energy jetty in Thilawa (Yangon). Unmarked tanker trucks were waiting to receive the fuel and the jetty was guarded by Tatmadaw Navy soldiers.²²⁷

On 28 June, Kyodo News reported that Japan Myanmar Development Institution Inc., run by former Minister Hideo Watanabe, has been pursuing a project to develop land owned by the junta’s defense ministry, through a joint venture with a military-affiliated firm. The company said that the land lease was signed but that they had not yet paid rent, with the project set to begin operations in 2023, and that the possibility of funds benefitting the Tatmadaw will be “unknown until we reach that stage.”²²⁸

On 28 June, the junta’s Department of Mines published an open tender for the purchase of 5,008 metric tons of cathode copper in US Dollars. The copper was being stored in Yangon, and in Monywa (Sagaing Region), which was where the copper was mined.²²⁹ The Irrawaddy reported that the Department issued additional tenders for 440,000 tons of slag and tailings from Namtu Township (Shan State) and 89 tons of metal ores from Loilem and Heho Townships (Shan State). Based on previous prices, the estimated value of the metals is around USD 51 million.²³⁰

On 29 June, Global Witness reported that the junta had taken back control of the Burma jade sector’s regulatory bureaucracy, further tightening its grip on the USD 30 billion industry. The NLD suspended jade licensing in 2016, but the junta is poised to start issuing mining permits to fund its administration.²³¹

²²⁵ Environmental Investigation Agency (21 May 2021) Myanmar junta looks to line its pockets and fund the coup with massive auction of illegal timber

²²⁶ Kachin News (19 Jun 2021) Locals say the suspended Naungmon Airport is being rebuilt (Burmese)

²²⁷ Myanmar Now (28 Jun 2021) Tanker discharges jet fuel at Yangon’s Thilawa Port

²²⁸ Kyodo News (Jun 28 2021) Firm led by former Japan minister in JV linked with Myanmar military; Irrawaddy (28 Jun 2021) Ex-Japanese Minister’s Firm Partners With Myanmar Military-Linked Company

²²⁹ SAC Department of Mines/MONREC (28 Jun 2021) Open Tender No.(3/2021)

²³⁰ Irrawaddy (28 Jun 2021) Myanmar Junta to Sell Metal Worth US\$51 Million

²³¹ Irrawaddy (29 Jun 2021) Myanmar Jade Industry Risks Becoming Regime’s Slush Fund: Report