

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022: Attacks continue and ASEAN Chair throws up his hands

- Burma's illegitimate military regime continued to escalate violence as it desperately sought to gain control of the country in the 13th month of its attempted coup. During 1–25 Feb, there were at least 741 armed clashes and attacks on civilians (or 29.64 per day), as conflict continued to escalate. In the prior twelve months, there had been 23.69 incidents per day.
- Junta airstrikes, artillery strikes, and raids displaced tens of thousands more people. UNHCR said that 810,000 people were displaced in Burma, likely a significant underestimate based on local information. These people struggled to survive.
- Junta forces continued to commit grievous atrocity crimes, particularly in Sagaing Region. They targeted civilian areas and IDPs, torched religious buildings and thousands of homes, killed children, burned people alive and desecrated dead bodies, and looted extensively.
- As of 28 Feb, the junta had arrested at least 12,417 civilians, including politicians, activists, and journalists, and killed at least 1,869 civilians.
- The junta greenlit the sale of Telenor Myanmar to Lebanon's M1 Group and crony company Shwe Byain Phyu. Both Telenor and Norway refused to take measures to prevent the data of Telenor's 18 million customers from being handed over to the regime despite civil society calls.
- COVID-19 cases spiked dramatically as experts warned that Burma could face a deadly fourth wave of infections due to low vaccination rates. The junta failed to curb the outbreak, organizing mass gatherings for Union Day instead.
- The EU placed sanctions on 22 individuals and four entities, including Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). This was the first time that anybody sanctioned MOGE, a vital source of revenue for the junta.
- ASEAN's new Special Envoy to Myanmar, the Cambodian Foreign Minister, began attempts at political dialogue. As new ASEAN Chair, Cambodia prevented the junta from attending the first ASEAN meeting of 2022, but conceded that it could do little to improve the situation.
- The NUG withdrew Burma's previously-asserted preliminary objections before the International Court of Justice, implored the court to delegate representation to UN ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, and appointed a legal team to assist him with the case.

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Junta continues its political vendetta

Min Aung Hlaing poses as defender of Buddhism, celebrates himself

On 2 Feb, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing argued that Buddhism had significantly declined under the ousted government. He criticized the disbandment of the Ma Ba Tha, an extremist group he praised as a charity organization; and criticized the National League for Democracy (NLD) government for imposing COVID-19 restrictions on religious buildings and introducing sex education in schools, a move he said “affect[ed] Myanmar culture.”¹ The same day, it was reported that the Mandalay Monks’ Association had denounced the distribution of booklets about alleged electoral fraud to monasteries, calling the move an attempt to exploit religion for political purposes.²

On 12 Feb, the junta organized a grand military parade in Naypyidaw to mark Union Day. Min Aung Hlaing repeated his claims of fraud in the 2020 election and the military takeover as necessary to protect the country from domestic and foreign enemies.³ The junta reportedly tightened security in Naypyidaw ahead of the event, ordering its troops to shoot anyone breaching the 10pm-4am curfew.⁴ Millions reacted by boycotting state-controlled media and working to keep content related to the parade off social media.⁵ The costs involved—at least MMK 9 billion—drew criticism, including from retired military personnel. A similar event under then-President Thein Sein cost an estimated MMK 7 billion.⁶

Judicial persecution of Aung San Suu Kyi, top NLD leaders continues

On 3 Feb, the regime announced it had filed an 11th corruption charge against State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Each charge carries a possible 15-year jail term.⁷ On 14 Feb, the junta began its trial for election fraud against Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and former Minister of the President’s Office Min Thu. A conviction could see them sentenced to up to three years and lead to the NLD being dissolved.⁸

On 2 Feb, it was reported that Aung Naing Oo, a Special Branch police officer close to Suu Kyi, was on trial for violating the Official Secrets Act, for allegedly passing military-related information to pro-democracy activist Ko Jimmy.⁹ On 17 Feb, a regime-controlled court sentenced ousted Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein to 20 years in prison with hard labor for corruption.¹⁰ On 28 Feb, a junta court gave ousted Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing a 21-year sentence for corruption.¹¹

NLD members still under fire as regime moves against the party

The regime had reportedly arrested 686 NLD members as of 1 Feb, including 107 MPs; and killed 14 in custody, including one MP. The party documented at least 91 attacks on its offices and noted that junta forces had sealed off the homes and properties of at least 117 party members.”¹² On 13 Feb, junta troops set fire to an NLD office in Depayin Township (Sagaing Region).¹³ On 21 Feb, they sealed off the Chaungzon Township (Mon State) houses of two detained NLD MPs.¹⁴ On 26 Feb, regime forces arrested a local NLD executive member and his son in Kyun Su Township (Tanintharyi Region).¹⁵

On 18 Feb, it was reported that the junta-appointed Union Election Commission (UEC) had summoned the NLD and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, for an audit planned for 14 Feb. Both parties indicated that they would not comply. The NLD said it did not recognize the legitimacy of the UEC, pointing out that the provisions for declaring a state of national emergency did not grant Min

¹ Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2022) Coup leader hits out at NLD for abolishing Ma Ba Tha, introducing sex education; Irrawaddy (5 Feb 2022) Junta Watch: Old Faces Reappear, Coup Leader Declares Himself Buddhism’s Savior and More

² Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2022) Monks’ association accuses junta of politicizing religion

³ Reuters (12 Feb 2022) Myanmar junta holds parade on major holiday, announces prisoner amnesty

⁴ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Blows Budget on Giant Parade

⁵ Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2022) Junta Soldiers Killed; Social Media Users Boycott Myanmar Coup Leader’s Parade; Mizzima (11 Feb 2022) Myanmar activists call for ‘Black TV Day’

⁶ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Blows Budget on Giant Parade

⁷ Irrawaddy (4 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Files 11th Corruption Charge Against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

⁸ Associated Press (14 Feb 2022) Election fraud trial of Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi begins

⁹ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2022) Former Suu Kyi guard on trial for violating Official Secrets Act

¹⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Jails Ousted NLD’s Bago Chief Minister for 20 Years

¹¹ Mizzima (1 Mar 2022) Former Sagaing Region’s Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing sentenced to 23 years in prison

¹² Eleven Media Group (EMG) (3 Feb 2022) NLD says its 686 party members including 107 MPs detained after Feb 1

¹³ Mizzima (15 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News (15 February, 2022)

¹⁴ Mon News Agency (23 Feb 2022) Homes of former NLD MPs closed in Chaungzon Township

¹⁵ Mizzima (28 Feb 2022) NLD regional executive member and five others arrested in Tanintharyi’s Kyun Su Township

Aung Hlaing the authority to form an election commission.¹⁶ On 23 Feb, the UEC ordered both parties to submit their audits by 9 Mar. It also threatened to take action under the Political Parties Registration Law in case of non-compliance. This could ultimately result in their dissolution.¹⁷

Civil disobedience, crackdowns (more details at protests, CDM, and crackdowns [tracker](#))

On 10 Feb, the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index ranked Burma as the second least-democratic country in the world. Burma ranked 166 of 167, down from 135 in 2020.¹⁸

On 12 Feb, the junta released 814 prisoners—none political prisoners—to mark Union Day, which a Yangon lawyer said was meant to give the international community the false impression that it had released dissidents, while telling opposition forces that it will not free political prisoners.¹⁹ The regime also halved the sentence of ousted Karen State Chief Minister Nang Khin Htwe Myint—a 67-year-old woman—to 40 years.²⁰ As of 28 Feb, the junta had arrested at least 12,417 civilians, including politicians, activists, and journalists; and killed at least 1,869 civilians.²¹

Public, prisoners mark coup anniversary with nationwide silent strike

On 1 Feb, the public stayed at home in a “silent strike,” leaving streets deserted and shops abandoned across Burma, despite junta threats of arrest, jail, and business seizures. Some activists also held small rallies in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing prior to the strike.²² In response, the regime held more than 170 pro-military rallies during 26 Jan–1 Feb in 140 towns across Burma. To create an illusion of normality on 1 Feb, it also organized sports events, broadcasted images of busy streets on state television, told government employees to go to the office only after 10 am, forced shops to open, and required people to receive COVID-19 jabs.²³

Residents across Yangon and Mandalay clapped *en masse* at the end of the strike. Junta forces reportedly arrested over three dozen people for clapping in Yangon alone.²⁴ The junta said it arrested 193 people 27 Jan–8 Feb for allegedly supporting or encouraging others to take part in the strike on social media; it said it would charge them under the Counter-Terrorism Act and Telecommunications Law. On 9 Feb, junta troops arrested nearly 19 people it accused of participating in the strike in Mandalay, bringing the number of those detained in connection with the protest to over 200.²⁵

Also on 1 Feb, 149 political prisoners in Yangon's Insein Prison reportedly began a hunger strike, eating only food sent from their homes. They issued no demands, and prison staff did not try to negotiate. It is the third protest action in the Prison since the coup. Authorities responded to the earlier strikes by beating protesters, denying them medical treatment, and putting them in solitary confinement.²⁶

Junta responds with arrests, torture as population stages nationwide show of defiance

Over 30 general strike committees called for people to join a mass protest on 22 Feb under the slogans “Revolt by the Rural, Defiance by the Urban” and “Regathering for the Six Twos Revolution,” a reference to the date. On 22 Feb 2021, protesters took to the streets in a general strike known as the “Five Twos Revolution.”²⁷ Anti-junta groups called on people to show their support by taking actions that would not disrupt daily routines, such as holding flowers or wearing thanaka or farmer hats.²⁸

¹⁶ Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2022) NLD, SNLD reject audit by junta-controlled election commission

¹⁷ EMG (24 Feb 2022) UEC notifies NLD and SNLD to be audited and threatens to take action if they do not comply with the Political Parties Registration Law

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Ranked Second-Least Democratic Nation in World

¹⁹ Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta's Prisoner Amnesty: No Political Dissidents Released

²⁰ EMG (12 Feb 2022) Former Kayin State Chief Minister gets jail sentence halved to 40 years

²¹ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (28 Feb 2022) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup; ACLED Data Export Tool (updated 2 Mar 2022), available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

²² Guardian (1 Feb 2022) Silent strike empties streets in Myanmar on anniversary of coup; Reuters (1 Feb 2022) Myanmar marks coup anniversary with protests and unrest; AP (2 Feb 2022) Violence, protests mark anniversary of Myanmar army rule

²³ Irrawaddy (5 Feb 2022) Junta Watch: Old Faces Reappear, Coup Leader Declares Himself Buddhism's Savior and More

²⁴ Irrawaddy (2 Feb 2022) Despite Junta Threats, Myanmar People Mark Coup Anniversary With Silent Strike; Southeast Asia Globe (1 Feb 2022) On the first anniversary, Myanmar anti-coup protesters defy junta orders

²⁵ Radio Free Asia (RFA) (11 Feb 2022) New arrests bring total detained over Myanmar's 'Silent Strike' to more than 200

²⁶ RFA (4 Feb 2022) Political inmates stage hunger strike against junta rule in Myanmar's Insein Prison

²⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2022) Myanmar People Urged to Join 'Six Twos Revolution' General Strike Against Regime

²⁸ RFA (22 Feb 2022) Large 'Six Twos' crowds protest Myanmar junta, marking resistance anniversary; Associated Press (22 Feb 2022) Myanmar opposition protests mark general strike anniversary; Mizzima (23 Feb 2022) Twosday' protests take place in Mandalay despite tight security

On 22 Feb, anti-junta protesters gathered across Burma while others participated online. In Yangon, student unions and strikers staged morning demonstrations. Nearly 300 political prisoners in Insein Prison also smeared their face with thanaka and observed five minutes of silence. In Mandalay, the Monk's Union led a flash protest, while civilians holding flowers and wearing thanaka distributed anti-junta flyers and hung banners. Student unions also marched in the city's downtown.²⁹

Junta forces arrested more than 60 people for allegedly taking part in the strike in Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions. In Monywa (Sagaing Region), they detained at least 27 people, including a man they shot in the thigh and business owners accused of supporting the resistance movement. A local resident said that at least some of the 27 were "severely tortured." Troops also tried to ram protesters with a car, causing a pregnant woman to miscarry.³⁰ In Chauk Township (Magway Region), regime forces arrested more than 20 teenagers in connection to the protest. At least four of them were reportedly tortured in custody.³¹ In Mawlamyine Township (Mon State), at least 14 people were arrested.³²

The junta continued to arrest or otherwise target people it perceived as opposing it. On 3 Feb, junta troops arrested a female activist at her home for allegedly publishing anti-regime posts on social media.³³ On 13 Feb, they arrested a female student from Mawlamyine University (Mon State) at her home for participating in anti-regime protests.³⁴ On 21 Feb, junta forces sealed off the Yangon home of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society leader Min Ko Naing.³⁵

The junta continued to use civil and military courts to crack down on dissent. On 3 Feb, it was reported that a regime-controlled court had sentenced Dawei Coalition Strike Committee member Htoo Myat Lwin to two years in prison with hard labor for incitement on 28 Jan.³⁶ On 10 Feb, the junta sentenced nine students from Hpa-an University to prison sentences from 12 to 13 years for allegedly trying to join the armed resistance movement. The man who was driving them when they were arrested was given a 13-year sentence. The Hpa-An Students' Union said the students were brutally tortured.³⁷

On 15 Feb, a military tribunal sentenced a Mawlamyine Technological University student to **life imprisonment** for terrorism.³⁸ On 17 Feb, the junta sentenced female student activist Yin Myat Noe Oo to three years for incitement.³⁹ On 16 Feb, the regime sentenced two female students from Dawei University to seven years under Counterterrorism Law Section 52b for allegedly funding anti-regime activities. The two women had previously made MMK 5,000 donations—less than USD 3—to assist IDPs. According to the Dawei Political Prisoners Network (DPPN), they did not receive legal representation. Lawyers in Dawei reportedly stopped defending political detainees in October after several were threatened with arrest as accessories to their clients' alleged crimes.⁴⁰

The junta continued to target alleged PDF and NUG supporters. On 9 Feb, junta forces detained 15 civilians during a raid on alleged PDF members in Mandalay.⁴¹ On the same day, a former military doctor was sentenced to one year in prison for incitement in Mawlamyine Township (Mon State). He had been arrested on 5 Dec at a Mawlamyine hospital on charges of buying NUG treasury bonds.⁴²

²⁹ RFA (22 Feb 2022) Large 'Six Twos' crowds protest Myanmar junta, marking resistance anniversary; Associated Press (22 Feb 2022) Myanmar opposition protests mark general strike anniversary; Mizzima (23 Feb 2022) Twosday' protests take place in Mandalay despite tight security

³⁰ RFA (2 Feb 2023) Dozens arrested during strike as Myanmar military expands retribution campaign; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2022) Pregnant Woman Miscarries, 4 Detained as Myanmar Regime Cracks Down on 'Six Twos' Protest; Associated Press (22 Feb 2022) Myanmar opposition protests mark general strike anniversary

³¹ Myanmar Now (25 Feb 2022) Some 20 minors detained in Magway Region for promoting anti-junta protest

³² Development Media Group (DMG) (25 Feb 2022) Several people arrested in Mawlamyine for joining 'Six Twos' protest

³³ DMG (4 Feb 2022) Two detained in Bago Region's Paungde for alleged anti-regime activities

³⁴ DMG (14 Feb 2022) Mawlamyine University student arrested for anti-regime activities

³⁵ DMG (22 Feb 2022) Junta seals off several homes owned by celebrities, political activists

³⁶ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) Dawei protest leader and journalist sentenced to two years in prison

³⁷ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2022) Junta court hands hefty sentences to Hpa-An students suspected of trying to join armed resistance

³⁸ Mon News Agency (21 Feb 2022) Mawlamyine technological university student sentenced to life in prison

³⁹ Myanmar Now (21 Feb 2022) Student activist handed three-year sentence by Insein Prison court

⁴⁰ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2022) Dawei University students get 7-year prison sentences for IDP donations

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Regime Forces Detain 15 Civilians in Mandalay

⁴² Mon News Agency (11 Feb 2022) Philanthropist Dr. Chan Myae Aung sentenced to one year in prison

On 16 Feb, it was reported that junta forces had seized all property belonging to the Mandalay-based Mahar Rescue group, which was providing free healthcare for COVID-19 patients, for allegedly associating with PDFs. Regime troops detained at least eight members of the group during the raid.⁴³

The junta continued to target CDM members. On 1 Feb, it was reported that the regime had arrested at least 140 of them since the coup, of whom 107 remained in detention. At least eight CDM members had died in custody, with seven of their bodies showing signs of torture. Regime troops also took 46 people hostage in an attempt to force their striking family members to turn themselves in; 39 of these hostages remained in custody.⁴⁴ On 3 Feb, junta forces arrested a local Development Affairs Committee staffer accused of joining the CDM in Paungde (Bago Region).⁴⁵

On 2 Feb, it was reported that a Norwegian university professor had nominated the CDM for the Nobel Peace Prize.⁴⁶ On the same day, it was reported that thousands of CDM members had returned to work because of financial hardship. They reportedly had to undergo a rigorous bureaucratic investigation, and eventually found themselves working under a cloud of suspicion. Many striking civil servants also reported difficulties finding a job because of wary superiors fearing retaliation from the junta.⁴⁷

The junta continued to target the relatives of opponents or people evading arrest. On 7 Feb, it was reported that, every day since November, an average of six to seven families had posted notices in junta-controlled newspapers cutting ties with relatives who have publicly opposed the regime—for a total of about 570 notices. This started after the regime announced it would seize the properties of opponents and arrest people sheltering protesters. Burma Campaign UK (BCUK) noted that the military had a long history of targeting families of opposition activists, and said the junta had used this tactic far more frequently since 1 Feb 2021.⁴⁸

More evidence emerged regarding torture and ill-treatment in junta custody. On 17 Feb, the University Students' Union Alumni Force posted a political prisoner's handwritten letter saying that some detainees in Insein Prison urgently needed medical attention. A female protester who was rammed by a military car in early December 2021 had suffered severe untreated headaches and nosebleeds since her arrest. Another prisoner reportedly experienced regular fainting spells and was believed to have suffered nervous system damage after being subjected to violent interrogations.⁴⁹

On 19 Feb, the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) reported that junta forces had raped one female ABSFU member and two men in their 20s in an interrogation center inside Mandalay Palace. The woman sustained injuries and was denied medical attention, access to a lawyer, or family visits.⁵⁰

The junta continued to target artists who opposed its rule. In 2021, the junta arrested at least 15 celebrities for taking part in pro-democracy demonstrations. Around half of them were convicted by special courts. On 9 Feb, regime troops arrested award-winning film director Htun Zaw Win at his Yangon apartment, almost a year after putting him on a wanted list for encouraging government employees to join anti-junta protests.⁵¹ On 15 Feb, junta forces sealed off the Yangon home of celebrity couple Lynn Lynn and Chit Thu Wai, both of whom had gone into hiding.⁵² On 22 Feb, a junta-controlled court sentenced authors Maung Thar Cho and Htin Lin Oo to two and three years in prison for incitement, respectively. The two were arrested on 1 Feb 2021.⁵³ On 25 Feb, Arakanese author Min Di Par was handed down a 10-year sentence with hard labour for terrorism. He has been detained since 15 Oct on suspicion of financing the PDF.⁵⁴

The junta continued to target journalists as the world celebrated their work. On 1 Feb, 13 organizations, including Reporters Without Borders and the International Federation of Journalists, strongly condemned the continued violence against media workers in Burma and called on the

⁴³ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Seizes Anti-Regime Celebrity and Journalist Homes

⁴⁴ Guardian (1 Feb 2022) Teachers on the run: striking public sector workers hunted by Myanmar's military

⁴⁵ DMG (4 Feb 2022) Two detained in Bago Region's Paungde for alleged anti-regime activities

⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (2 Feb 2022) Myanmar's CDM, Shadow Govt Among Nobel Peace Prize Nominees

⁴⁷ Frontier Myanmar (2 Feb 2022) The CDM: Anxiety, hardship and sacrifice but no regrets

⁴⁸ Reuters (7 Feb 2022) Fearing junta, hundreds of Myanmar parents disown dissident children

⁴⁹ Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2022) Letter from Insein further details abuse of political prisoners, denial of medical care

⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2022) Junta forces raped three detainees in Mandalay interrogation centre, student activists say

⁵¹ Associated Press (10 Feb 2022) Prominent Myanmar filmmaker arrested after a year on the run

⁵² Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Seizes Anti-Regime Celebrity and Journalist Homes

⁵³ DMG (22 Feb 2022) Authors Maung Thar Cho and Htin Lin Oo sentenced to prison on incitement charges

⁵⁴ DMG (25 Feb 2022) Arakanese author Min Di Par sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labour

international community to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. They noted that many journalists and media houses had fled to Thailand and India, where they faced numerous obstacles to safety, such as the obtainment of visas, discrimination, and dangerous ethnophobia.⁵⁵

On 1 Feb, UNESCO Myanmar reported that the junta had arrested 146 journalists, of whom 52 were still detained, killed three journalists, and filed charges against 36 others. Women made up 17.8% of the journalists arrested (26), 23% of those still detained (12), and 19.4% of those charged (7).⁵⁶ On 3 Feb, it was reported that a junta-controlled court had sentenced former 7Day News reporter Sai Ko Ko Tun to two years in prison with hard labor for incitement on 28 Jan.⁵⁷ On 9 Feb, junta forces detained two freelance journalists in Mandalay.⁵⁸ On 13 Feb, regime troops sealed off the Yangon house of Khit Thit Media Chief Editor Thalun Zaung Htet and seized his possessions.⁵⁹

On 17 Feb, Myanmar Diaries, a documentary on the junta crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, filmed by citizen journalists, won the Documentary Award at the Berlin International Film Festival.⁶⁰

The junta continued to restrict access to information and the internet. On 12 Feb, it cut off mobile data in Sittwe, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw, Kyaukphyu, and Thandwe Townships (Rakhine State), leaving millions of people without internet access and preventing them from transferring money electronically. Mobile internet services were also reportedly shut down in other cities across the country on Union Day, including Yangon and Mandalay.⁶¹

On 11 Feb, it was reported that the junta's internet shutdowns had cost Burma's economy an estimated USD 2.8 billion in 2021.⁶² On 15 Feb, Human Rights Watch called on the junta to scrap its cybersecurity bill, which it said would consolidate the junta's ability to conduct pervasive censorship and surveillance and hamper the operation of businesses.⁶³

Post-coup turmoil fuels rise in crime

On 1 Feb, it was reported that increased instability since the attempted coup began had led to a surge in confiscation of narcotics produced in Burma, suggesting an increase in production and trafficking. Authorities in Laos, Thailand and Burma had seized at least 90 million methamphetamine tablets and 4.4 tons of crystal methamphetamine in January 2022, most of it manufactured in border areas of Shan State. In Thailand, a traditional conduit for illicit drugs from Burma, 520 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in fiscal year 2020-2021, up from 361 million in 2019-2020.⁶⁴

On 4 Feb, it was reported that illegal logging had increased in Rakhine State due to COVID-19 and the coup. Loggers reportedly used backhoes to build mountain roads, which they used to smuggle large quantities of timber. A Forest Department official stated that local rangers were understaffed and unarmed, making it difficult to arrest timber smugglers and patrol remote areas.⁶⁵ On 13 Feb, it was reported that forests were being destroyed at alarming annual rates. More than 1,629 tons of illegal timber were seized statewide Feb 2021–Jan 2022, including 494 tons just in Jan 2022.⁶⁶

On 18 Feb, it was reported that crime rates were increasing in Burma's cities and towns, including Yangon and Mandalay. A Yangon lawyer said that it was too dangerous to stay alone, either at home or outside, pushing people to spend time in groups. Robberies with deadly weapons, as well as crimes like phone theft, necklace theft, and bank and gold shop robberies are reportedly on the rise as regime-controlled police stations focus exclusively on countering political and armed resistance.⁶⁷ On 28 Feb,

⁵⁵ IFEX (1 Feb 2022) One year after the coup in Myanmar: Silencing and oppression of critical voices

⁵⁶ EMG (3 Feb 2022) UNESCO Myanmar announces 146 journalists arrested in Myanmar in one year of political upheaval

⁵⁷ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) Dawei protest leader and journalist sentenced to two years in prison

⁵⁸ Mizzima (11 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 11 February 2022

⁵⁹ Mizzima (14 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 14 February 2022; Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Seizes Anti-Regime Celebrity and Journalist Homes

⁶⁰ Berlinale, via Twitter (17 Feb 2022) <https://twitter.com/berlinale/status/1494020023383474185>; Berlinale (accessed 21 Feb 2021) Myanmar Diaries

⁶¹ DMG (12 Feb 2022) Junta cuts mobile internet access in some Arakan State townships

⁶² Al Jazeera (11 Feb 2022) Myanmar's internet gets pricier for dissenters, apolitical alike

⁶³ Human Rights Watch (15 Feb 2022) Myanmar: Scrap Draconian Cybersecurity Bill

⁶⁴ Reuters (2 Feb 2022) Drug trafficking surging in year since Myanmar coup

⁶⁵ DMG (4 Feb 2022) Lacking manpower and gunpowder, Forest Department struggles to curb illegal logging: official

⁶⁶ DMG (13 Feb 2022) Illegal logging continues to threaten Arakan State's forests in post-coup period

⁶⁷ Mizzima (18 Feb 2022) Myanmar crime increases after the coup

it was reported that robberies were on the rise in Yangon's North Okkalapa Township, with most of the incidents happening in Hta Won Bel ward, Nya ward and Wai Bar Gyi Myothit.⁶⁸

Conflict and displacement (more details at conflict & displacement [tracker](#))

During 1–25 Feb, there were **at least 741 armed clashes and attacks on civilians** (or 29.64 per day), as conflict continued to escalate. In the prior twelve months, there had been 23.69 incidents per day.⁶⁹

On 17 Feb, it was reported that junta forces had burned down at least 4,571 civilian homes nationwide, over half (2,567) in Sagaing Region. They had also burned down 976 buildings in Chin State, 626 in Magway Region, 310 in Karenni State, and dozens of others in Karen, Shan, Mandalay, Tanintharyi, and Bago States/Regions.⁷⁰ On 10 Feb, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that in the two weeks prior 1,080 buildings, including religious buildings, had been destroyed.⁷¹

On 21 Feb, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 451,400 people had been internally displaced in Burma since 1 Feb 2021, bringing the number of IDPs to 821,800; and that an additional 29,300 people had been displaced to neighboring countries. The number of new IDPs included 226,400 in Southeast Myanmar, 146,500 in Sagaing Region, 34,000 in Chin State, and 21,400 in Magway region.⁷²

On 6 Feb, it was reported that the junta was preparing to repatriate Muslim (**Rohingya**) refugees who fled to Bangladesh in 2016-2017. According to Rakhine State junta authorities, two repatriation centers were being arranged: Ngarkhuya, for those coming back via water; and Taung Pyo Let Wae, for those returning overland. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will reportedly not be allowed to enter Burma.⁷³ On 8 Feb, Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) reported that 63% of refugees surveyed in Bangladesh wanted to be resettled in a third country. Most respondents said that camps were crowded and rife with violence.⁷⁴ On 24 Feb, it was reported that Rohingya refugee activists in Bangladesh had said that they would not return to Rakhine State unless granted equal rights and freedom of movement.⁷⁵

On 17 Feb, it was reported that IDP camps in northern Rakhine were facing a crisis of food and drinking water. Over 90,000 IDPs in Rakhine State were unable to return to their homes for security reasons.⁷⁶

On 17 Feb, in Sittwe Township (Rakhine State), junta forces arrested 65 “Muslims” headed to Malaysia, including 39 women. They were reportedly charged under Penal Code sections 367 and 114.⁷⁷ On 8 Feb, in Kyauktan Township (Yangon Region), junta forces arrested 46 “Muslims” believed to be from Rakhine State, including 37 women, reportedly attempting to find work in Thailand and Malaysia.⁷⁸

Karen (and Tanintharyi)

On 3 Feb, it was reported that armed conflict throughout Karen State had left tens of thousands of people displaced and struggling for safety. On 26 Jan, the Karen National Union (KNU) said that junta troops and Border Guard Forces (BGFs) had conducted daily attacks, since 1 Feb 2021, targeting the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO).⁷⁹

⁶⁸ Mizzima (28 Feb 2022) Robberies on the rise in Yangon's North Okkalapa Township

⁶⁹ ACLED Data Export Tool (updated 2 Mar 2022), available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>. The event sub-types included here are Abduction/forced disappearance, Air/drone strike, Armed clash, Arrests, Attack, Excessive force against protesters, Grenade, Looting/property destruction, Protest with intervention, Sexual violence, and Shelling/artillery/missile attack.

⁷⁰ Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2022) Over 4,500 Homes Torched by Myanmar Junta Forces Since Coup

⁷¹ EMG (10 Feb 2022) Over 400,000 people displaced by armed conflicts in northwestern and southeastern Myanmar and access to humanitarian aid remains restricted: OCHA Myanmar

⁷² UNHCR (21 Feb 2022) Myanmar emergency overview map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced

⁷³ DMG (5 Feb 2022) Plans again underway to repatriate Muslims who fled to Bangladesh: Arakan military council spox

⁷⁴ Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) (7 Feb 2022) We also have dreams: Ongoing safety and quality of life issues for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

⁷⁵ RFA (24 Feb 2022) Rohingya refugees reject return to Myanmar without assurances

⁷⁶ Narijara News (17 Feb 2022) Refugee camps in northern Rakhine lack food, drinking water

⁷⁷ DMG (18 Feb 2022) 65 Muslims travelling to Malaysia arrested in Sittwe

⁷⁸ DMG (9 Feb 2022) Dozens of Muslims from Arakan State arrested in Yangon Region

⁷⁹ Karen News (3 Feb 2022) Karen State: Airstrikes, Artillery Bombardments, Ground Fighting – Making it Impossible for Tens of Thousands of Displaced Villagers to Return Home

On 3 Feb, it was reported that recent junta offensives had displaced up to 20,000 villagers from 27 villages and forced schools to close in Kawkareik Township.⁸⁰ On 4 Feb, it was reported that villagers had been forced to abandon their farmland and livestock as junta forces increased operations nearby.⁸¹

On 5 Feb, it was reported that displaced villagers from Lay Kay Kaw were forced to live in makeshift plastic sheet shelters on the Burma side of the Moei river, which forms the Thai-Burma border, an area contaminated with landmines. Junta troops had displaced over 10,000 villagers from Lay Kay Kaw and nearby villages, as many as 4,000 of whom had fled to Thailand. After providing basic needs for almost one month, Thai authorities ordered closure of the temporary shelters; but over 2,000 displaced villagers stayed on the Burma side of the river, where they lacked food and clean drinking water.⁸²

On 10 Feb, it was reported that the KNU had warned junta-appointed administration staff and BGF members, and their families, to leave its territory immediately. This included BGF bases and administration staff in Hpa-an, the Karen State capital. The KNU also warned civilians not to engage or collaborate with junta forces.⁸³

On 16 Feb, it was reported that residents from three KNU districts had fled again due to clashes between the junta and the KNLA and artillery fire that landed in Po Loe, Dwe Loe, and Hpapun Townships.⁸⁴

On 18 Feb, junta troops burned down houses and fired heavy weaponry during clashes with PDFs and the KNLA at Pawa and Lae Thit villages, Tanintharyi Township. Recent clashes in Tanintharyi Region have displaced over 5,000 people.⁸⁵ On 25 Feb, junta artillery fire and ensuing clashes displaced residents from four villages near Kwal Htain, Myeik District (Tanintharyi Region).⁸⁶

On 22 Feb, it was reported that the junta had sent 300 BGF reinforcements to help it wrest control of Hpapun Township from the KNLA. The KNLA estimated that the junta had increased its battalions in the area to 32 from 28, bringing its total troops there to around 4,000 soldiers. Fighting in the area is taking place daily and residents of Hpapun are fleeing due to the escalation of the conflict.⁸⁷

Karenni

On 3 Feb, a Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) spokesperson was cited as saying that the junta controlled only an estimated 10% of Karenni State.⁸⁸

On 9 Feb, it was reported that some locals were beginning to return to Loikaw, despite clashes. Fighting since 1 Feb 2021 in Karenni State has displaced around 170,000 people, i.e. 60% of the state's population.⁸⁹ On 3 Feb, it was reported that over 6,000 IDPs in western Hpruso Township had only one month of food supplies left.⁹⁰ On 7 Feb, it was reported that over 30,000 IDPs from Karenni State were residing in Pinlaung and Hsihseng Townships, in the Pa'O Self-Administered Zone (Shan State).⁹¹

On 10 Feb, a junta artillery shell hit an IDP camp in Mya Le village, Demoso Township, injuring one person and destroying several shelters and a church. The camp is 10 miles from the nearest of three clashes in Loikaw and Demoso that took place the same day. Local reports said that most villagers in the area fled when the fighting began.⁹² On 23–24 Feb, a junta fighter jet bombed two villages and an

⁸⁰ Karen News (3 Feb 2022) Burma Army Attacks: Displaces 20,000 Villagers and Closes Schools in Kawkareik Township

⁸¹ Karen News (4 Feb 2022) Fighting Forces Displaced Villagers to Abandon Farmlands and Livestock – Burma Army Soldiers Kill and Eat Villagers Chickens, Ducks and Pigs

⁸² Karen News (5 Feb 2022) Displaced Villagers Face Continued Hardship – Thai Temporary Shelters Close, Burma Army Occupy Villages, Illnesses Hit Children and Elderly

⁸³ Myanmar Now (10 Feb 2022) KNU warns junta personnel to leave Karen territory

⁸⁴ DMG (16 Feb 2022) Residents flee homes again due to clashes between military and KNLA joint force in Kayin State

⁸⁵ DMG (21 Feb 2022) Tanintharyi Region locals flee homes amid clashes between military and PDF/KNU joint forces

⁸⁶ Mizzima (26 Feb 2022) Myanmar junta artillery fire forces people to flee in Tanintharyi township

⁸⁷ Karen News (22 Feb 2022) Heavy Casualties Force Burma Army to Deploy 300 of its Border Guard Force militia to KNLA Brigade 5 to Defend its Supply Routes

⁸⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (3 Feb 2022) Regime Controls Only Ten-percent Of Karenni State, KNDF Says

⁸⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (9 Feb 2022) There are some returnees in Loikaw, but they are still worried

⁹⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (3 Feb 2022) In the western part of Phruso, there is only one month's supply of food left for the refugees

⁹¹ EMG (7 Feb 2022) Pinlaung and Hsihseng townships have over 30,000 IDPs from Kayah State

⁹² Myanmar Now (11 Feb 2022) Karenni State IDP camp hit by Myanmar army artillery during day of multiple battles

IDP camp in Demoso Township, killing three civilians and injuring five others, after seven previous consecutive days of fighting in the area.⁹³

On 16 Feb, it was reported that displaced people from Karenni State could starve within three months. The flow of goods into IDP camps has been tightened, with the junta blocking the transport of rice and medicine. Local refugee relief have also struggled to provide aid, due to lack of funding.⁹⁴

Shan

On 15-16 Feb, fighting between junta forces and resistance groups caused an estimated 28,000 civilians to flee Moebye (Mongpai) town, leaving it largely deserted. On 15 Feb, junta vehicles brought over 200 reinforcements to Moebye, who fired indiscriminately at civilian housing.⁹⁵ On 18 Feb, clashes in Moebye left 20 junta soldiers and 20 resistance fighters dead, and the junta carried out airstrikes on the town.⁹⁶ The junta continued to carry out daily air and artillery strikes in Moebye through 21 Feb.⁹⁷ Troops from junta Light Infantry Division 66 are stationed across the Township. The notorious unit was involved in the deadly crackdowns against the 2007 Saffron Revolution in Yangon, as well as the 2021 Christmas Eve massacre in Karenni State.⁹⁸

On 1 Feb, two people were killed and 38 injured in a grenade attack as crowds returned from a pro-military rally in Tachileik, on the Thai border.⁹⁹ It was later reported that junta troops had fired indiscriminately into the crowd after two explosions. According to locals, people were forced to attend the rally to bolster support for the junta. Pro-military rallies were also held in Lashio and Hopon.¹⁰⁰

On 6 Feb, junta forces carried out airstrikes on a Lashio Township training ground of the Northern Alliance—the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Arakan Army (AA)—leaving over 30 fighters dead.¹⁰¹ On 17 Feb, it was reported that hundreds of people had fled fighting between military troops and Northern Alliance members in the Mong Yaw area. Local reports stated that those displaced were mostly elderly people, women, and children who fled when junta fighter jets attacked the area.¹⁰²

During 8–12 Feb, the SSA-N and the SSA-S clashed in Yat Sauk Township, causing over 2,000 people to flee and trapping others in their villages.¹⁰³ On 10 Feb, the SSA-S clashed with the SSA-N and TLNA near Kyauk Gu village, Lawksawk Township, sending villagers fleeing into the nearby jungle.¹⁰⁴ On 3 Feb, it was reported that displaced villagers living in Kyaukme had run out of food and other essential items. Nearly a thousand villagers living in Kyaukme have been displaced by the long-running conflict between the SSA-N, SSA-S, and TNLA in northern Shan state.¹⁰⁵

Kachin

On 1 Feb, a stray bullet killed a seven-year-old boy who was inside playing video games with his brother in Myitkyina. Junta troops had opened fire indiscriminately after an attack at a nearby police station.¹⁰⁶

On 1 Feb, the KIA attacked five junta army bases in Putao Township (Kachin State) and Kutkai Township (Shan State) on the anniversary of the attempted coup.¹⁰⁷ It captured the Suampeyan base in northern Putao Township and seized a large amount of ammunition; the junta retaliated by launching two days of airstrikes, injuring five civilians and forcing nearly 1,000 to flee into the jungle.¹⁰⁸

⁹³ Myanmar Now (24 Feb 2022) Military bombs civilian area in Karenni State's Demoso Township, killing three people; Mizzima (25 Feb 2022) Locals flee again as Kayah State fighting intensifies

⁹⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (16 Feb 2022) Karenni war refugees could starve within three months

⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2022) Civilians Flee as Myanmar Junta Fights to Secure Strategic Town Near Capital

⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2022) Both Sides Sustain Casualties as Fighting Rages Between PDFs and Myanmar Junta

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2022) Junta Airstrikes Hit Lower Myanmar as Fighting Intensifies

⁹⁸ Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2022) Junta soldiers implicated in Christmas Eve massacre occupy town of Moebye

⁹⁹ Irrawaddy (2 Feb 2022) Two Killed, 38 Injured at Rally Attack on Myanmar Coup Anniversary

¹⁰⁰ Shan News (3 Feb 2022) Junta Soldiers Shoot At Pro-military Rally In Tachileik

¹⁰¹ Shan News (8 Feb 2022) Regime Attacks Northern Alliance In Mong Yaw

¹⁰² Shan News (16 Feb 2022) Northern Shan State Villagers Flee Regime Airstrikes

¹⁰³ Mizzima (17 Feb 2022) Military clashes in several Myanmar regions force people to flee

¹⁰⁴ Shan News (10 Feb 2022) RCSS Fights Northern Alliance In Southern Shan State

¹⁰⁵ Shan News (8 Feb 2022) Displaced Kyaukme Villagers Out Of Food

¹⁰⁶ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) Child shot dead as police open fire on Myitkyina neighbourhood following explosion

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) KIA attacks multiple junta bases on coup anniversary

¹⁰⁸ Mizzima (17 Feb 2022) Military clashes in several Myanmar regions force people to flee; Mizzima (5 Feb 2022) KIA and PDFs attack and seize military base in Kachin State's Sum Pian village

During 3–5 Feb, KIA forces reportedly killed over 200 junta soldiers, including a battalion commander, in three days of fighting near Kat Hmaw village, Hpakant Township. The junta retaliated by launching indiscriminate airstrikes against KIA troops and civilian targets, killing two civilians.¹⁰⁹

Sagaing

On 1 Feb, it was reported that the dead bodies of two villagers were found floating in the Chindwin River in Kani Township on 31 Jan, shortly after soldiers traveling by boat detained several people in the area. A third person was found alive in the river and survived despite suffering multiple stab wounds. On 1 Feb, a bomb went off at the house of a local resistance leader, killing his wife. Reports suggest that the soldiers may have extracted information from the detainees to find the resistance leader.¹¹⁰ On 20 Feb, junta troops attacked and set fire to 14 houses and two pig farms in Ai Taung West Village, Kani Township, reportedly killing one civilian and displacing almost the entire village.¹¹¹

On 1 Feb, it was reported that junta soldiers burned down 12 houses as well as stores of rice and other properties in three villages in Depayin Township, displacing thousands.¹¹²

On 3 Feb, it was reported that junta assaults on Pa Dat Taing and Ma Gyi Kan villages, Myinmu Township, had killed dozens and displaced thousands. Five junta helicopters attacked Pa Dat Taing, after which locals said that they found the mutilated remains of at least 20 villagers in a nearby field. On 3 Feb, three brothers and an unidentified fourth man ran into junta soldiers who had just raided a PDF base in Ma Gyi Kan. The soldiers arrested the four, and sent the bodies of the brothers back to their home of Nyaung Pin Win village with their throats slit and bullet wounds in their heads.¹¹³

On 5 Feb, it was reported that junta troops had tied six villagers' hands and **burned them alive** in Thit Sein Gyi village, Wetlet Township, around a week after 100 troops entered the village.¹¹⁴

On 2 Feb, Pyu Saw Htee (pro-junta militia) members killed two village defense force leaders in Kanbalu Township, after pretending to have weapons to sell them.¹¹⁵

On 17 Feb, plainclothes junta troops killed 14 local resistance force members, including six teenagers, near Myo Thit village, Khin-U Township. Around 80 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members arrived in Myo Thit in cars and motorcycles, reportedly dressed like resistance forces, and ambushed those who went to greet them.¹¹⁶ On 17 Feb, resistance fighters attacked around 80 junta troops who were torching and looting houses in Myothit village, Khin-U township in a raid that displaced over 1,000 residents.¹¹⁷

On 25 Feb, junta troops torched over 500 homes and fired indiscriminately at civilians, hitting three, in Hna Ma Sar Yit village, Shwebo Township, forcing over 3,000 people to flee the area. The attack came a day after regime soldiers destroyed hundreds of premises in two nearby villages.¹¹⁸

Kale Township

On 5 Feb, junta troops fired artillery shells at houses where civilians were hiding in Tin Thar village, Kale Township, injuring eight people, including three children. Locals reported that there was no fighting taking place and the junta did this to dissuade people from siding with the PDF.¹¹⁹

On 18 Feb, it was reported that resistance had repeatedly attacked the camp of junta troops that had interrogated locals, pressured them to form pro-junta militias, and fired artillery at a nearby village.¹²⁰

Taze and Mingin Townships

On 9–10 Feb, junta forces raided at least four villages in Mingin and Taze Townships, displacing an estimated 5,000 villagers. On 9–10 Feb, around 120 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members looted

¹⁰⁹ Irrawaddy (7 Feb 2022) Over 200 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days: Kachin Independence Army

¹¹⁰ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) Explosion kills wife of guerilla leader in Sagaing after soldiers capture and kill villagers

¹¹¹ Mizzima (22 Feb 2022) Soldiers burn 14 houses and kill civilian in Sagaing's Ai Taung West Village

¹¹² Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2022) Soldiers burn 12 houses in Sagaing after suffering casualties in PDF ambush

¹¹³ Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2022) Dozens killed following assaults on two villages in Sagaing's Myinmu Township

¹¹⁴ Mizzima (5 Feb 2022) Myanmar troops 'burn six villagers alive' in Sagaing's Wetlet township

¹¹⁵ Myanmar Now (5 Feb 2022) Leaders of local defence force murdered by Pyu Saw Htee in Kanbalu

¹¹⁶ Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2022) Multiple youth members of local defence force killed in Sagaing battle

¹¹⁷ Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2022) Resistance Fighters Suffer Heavy Losses During Sagaing Clash With Myanmar Junta

¹¹⁸ RFA (25 Feb 2022) Pro-junta forces torch hundreds of more homes in Myanmar's volatile Sagaing region

¹¹⁹ Myanmar now (8 Feb 2022) Children among 8 civilians injured by military artillery fire in Sagaing

¹²⁰ Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2022) Resistance forces attack military camp in Kalay after troops pressure locals to fight for junta

and burned down houses in Palchaung and Khayutaw villages, Taze township, displacing around 3,000 residents. On 10 Feb, three detachments of over 200 junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members raided and burned down 178 of 200 houses in Moktha village, as well as a monastery and 120 of 150 houses in Moukhat village, Mingin Township. They reportedly spared only military supporters' homes. On 10 Feb, locals discovered three bodies burned to ashes, and a fourth with a bullet hole in his head.¹²¹

On 11–14 Feb, junta troops burned down 39 houses in Kabaung Kya village, Taze Township. Twelve prior attacks on Kabaung Kya over the past few months had reduced 124 houses to ashes and left the village—normally home to around 30,000 people in 700 households—deserted.¹²²

Pale Township

On 2 Feb, junta troops razed 220 of the 265 houses in Mwe Tone village and nearly a quarter of the 800 houses in Pan village, displacing an estimated 10,000 civilians.¹²³

On 5 Feb, junta forces retaliated for a PDF attack, displacing around 10,000 people from ten villages. Junta forces had razed over 1,000 houses in the township since 31 Jan.¹²⁴

On 7 Feb, it was reported that junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members had murdered four people and burned down hundreds of homes during a three-day rampage in Pale Township. On 3 Feb, around 100 junta troops killed four captives and burned their bodies in Min Taing Pin village. They also looted and ransacked houses and village stores, reportedly stealing around USD 393,000 from a jewelry store. On 4 Feb, the soldiers marched to nearby Kaing Twin and Hlaw Kar villages, robbing homes and businesses and setting fire to houses. In total, they razed 800 of the 1,200 houses in the two villages.¹²⁵

On 7 Feb, it was reported that around 100 junta troops had destroyed houses and contaminated stored rice with acid and soap powder in Nyaung Pin Thar, a village of around 200 houses in Myaing Township. They marched on to Mwe Ton village, Pale Township, where they burned down 199 houses; and Pann Ywar and Hlaw Kar villages, where they burned down 175 and 200 houses, respectively. A farmer from Pann Ywar said that the soldiers burned down barns, destroying farmers' harvested crops and killing cattle and pigs. The raids reportedly displaced at least 1,500 people.¹²⁶

On 19 Feb, junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militia set around 270 houses on fire, destroying all of Chaung Oo village, Pale Township. Residents were reportedly too scared to try putting out the fires because junta troops fired indiscriminately as the houses were burning down.¹²⁷

Magway

On 1 Feb, it was reported that junta troops had recently rampaged through the crude oil fields in Pauk and Myaing Townships, killing six civilians. They reportedly demanded bribes of up to MMK 500,000 from small drilling operation owners and torched hundreds of wells of those who could not pay.¹²⁸

On 16 Feb, in Pauk Township, Pyu Saw Htee members raided Tha Nat Pin Zin village, which has about 100 residents, ransacking eight houses; and destroyed around 20 homes in Kokkosu village. The attacks, which caused hundreds of villagers to flee, came after resistance fighters attacked the home of two alleged Pyu Saw Htee leaders, killing two people.¹²⁹

Chin

On 1 Feb, it was reported that junta forces had torched nearly 100 buildings in Thantlang town during three days of fighting. The Chinland Defence Force (CDF) said that the most recent clashes began on 30 Jan, when the CDF ambushed junta troops stationed in the town.¹³⁰ Junta troops reportedly used

¹²¹ Irrawaddy (11 Feb 2022) Thousands Flee as Myanmar Regime Raids Villages in Sagaing Region; Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2022) Bodies of four civilians found in Sagaing after soldiers burn down two villages

¹²² Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Regime Forces Torch Houses in Upper Myanmar in Latest Arson Attack

¹²³ RFA (2 Feb 2022) Junta troops raze hundreds of homes in Myanmar's Sagaing region

¹²⁴ Mizzima (17 Feb 2022) Military clashes in several Myanmar regions force people to flee

¹²⁵ Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2022) Soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militiamen murder four, burn hundreds of homes in Sagaing

¹²⁶ Mizzima (7 Feb 2022) 1,500 displaced and needing help after Myanmar troops burn houses and destroy food

¹²⁷ Mizzima (19 Feb 2022) Village of 270 houses in Sagaing 'completely destroyed' by junta arsonists

¹²⁸ Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2022) Burned corpses found in Magway oil drilling region amid junta arson campaign

¹²⁹ Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2022) Pyu Saw Htee militia terrorises Magway villages after two of its members die in ambush, guerilla group says

¹³⁰ Myanmar Now (4 Feb 2022) Nearly 100 houses torched in Thantlang during three days of fighting

drones to attack PDFs during the clashes.¹³¹ On 13 Feb, junta forces set fire to more homes in deserted Thantlang. Junta forces have torched buildings in Thantlang 25 times since September 2021, destroying 900 of the town's 2,300 homes and 19 religious buildings. Junta troops' occupation and clashes have displaced all of Thantlang's 8,000–10,000 residents.¹³²

On 6 Feb, Indian officials reported that around 8,000 refugees from Burma had recently crossed into Mizoram State following violent clashes in Chin State, bringing their total numbers to over 22,000.¹³³

On 7 Feb, junta forces traveling on the Mindat-Matupi road in Mindat Township killed a 13-year-old boy with artillery fire, while his family was trying to flee junta troops approaching their village. The convoy of more than 70 military vehicles, including two tanks, has been going back and forth along the Mindat-Matupi road since early Jan, and has repeatedly been attacked by resistance forces.¹³⁴

Rakhine

On 2 Feb, junta authorities in Kyauktaw Township imposed a 9pm–5am curfew, reportedly to remain in place for two months, following attacks on junta troops in the region.¹³⁵

On 6 Feb, the AA attacked a vehicle carrying junta soldiers in Maungdaw Township, killing the driver and the owner of the vehicle, both civilians, during a 30-minute clash.¹³⁶ The same day, seven junta soldiers were reportedly killed in another clash around three kilometers east.¹³⁷ During 4–7 Feb, clashes between junta troops and AA killed at least 11 combatants, including junta Major Myint Swe Win.¹³⁸

On 18 Feb, it was reported that political instability continued to prevent the rebuilding of IDP camps in Rakhine State. According to of the Rakhine Ethnic Congress (REC) General Secretary Zaw Zaw Htun, most of the state's IDP shelters had collapsed and there were insufficient funds to repair them.¹³⁹

Mandalay

On 14 Feb, a PDF attacked 13 junta soldiers guarding an off-take station of a Chinese-backed oil and gas pipeline in Natogyi Township, damaging the station.¹⁴⁰ Junta forces responded with arrests and tighter security across the township, bringing in reinforcements and detaining at least 45 NLD leaders and supporters, including the brother of U Naing Htoo Aung, who is an ousted NLD lawmaker and the permanent secretary of the NUG Ministry of Defense.¹⁴¹

On 19 Feb, it was reported that junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militia had beaten two civilians to death over the past week in Myingyan Township. On 16 Feb, they beat San Aung in front of his family for renting his loudspeakers to anti-junta protestors. Junta troops reportedly prevented medical treatment, and he died two days later. On 17 Feb, they killed Aung Nyunt for allegedly working for a local village charity. He had fled, but returned when they threatened to burn down his house.¹⁴²

On 23 Feb, in Meiktila Township, junta soldiers shot and killed a man riding his motorbike. The man had been on the bike with a friend who managed to drive away unharmed. Since November, the junta has barred two males from riding together on a motorbike in certain townships, including Meiktila.¹⁴³

Yangon

On 1 Feb, the NUG's Yangon Division Command launched attacks against 24 junta targets in Yangon as the country marked the anniversary of the attempted coup with a nationwide silent strike. The attacks

¹³¹ Mizzima (3 Feb 2022) Military use drones as fighting escalates in Thantlang

¹³² Myanmar Now (16 Feb 2022) Junta troops set fire to more homes in Thantlang after battalion commander loses leg to landmine

¹³³ Sangai Express (7 Feb 2022) Over 22K Myanmar refugees in Mizoram now

¹³⁴ Myanmar Now (12 Feb 2022) 13-year-old boy killed by artillery fire in Mindat

¹³⁵ DMG (7 Feb 2022) Junta imposes nighttime curfew in Kyauktaw Twsp

¹³⁶ Myanmar Now (9 Feb 2022) Two civilians killed in clash between AA, junta troops in Maungdaw

¹³⁷ Narinjara (10 Feb 2022) Two civilians including a woman killed in fighting in Maungdaw

¹³⁸ Mizzima (17 Feb 2022) Military clashes in several Myanmar regions force people to flee

¹³⁹ Narinjara News (18 Feb 2022) Difficulty arises for rebuilding Rakhine refugee camps due to political instability

¹⁴⁰ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2022) China-Backed Pipeline Facility Damaged in Myanmar Resistance Attack

¹⁴¹ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Rounds Up NLD Members After Pipeline Attack; Myanmar Now (21 Feb 2022) Junta arrests another 20 villagers in Natogyi, including an amputee

¹⁴² Mizzima (19 Feb 2022) Myanmar junta troops beat two civilians to death in front of family members in Mandalay

¹⁴³ Irrawaddy (25 Feb 2022) Regime Forces Kill Motorbike Rider in Central Myanmar

covered 11 townships and targeted an air force lieutenant colonel, soldiers, security posts, administration offices, and junta informants with remotely detonated explosives.¹⁴⁴

On 9 Feb, it was reported that resistance groups had been targeting the Yangon homes of junta pilots responsible for raids that killed dozens of civilians and displaced tens of thousands. A list of names and addresses of 45 air officers allegedly involved in the airstrikes went viral on social media in January, and people used that information to target the pilots' homes. Resistance groups attacked the house of Colonel Pyae Phyo Kyaw with grenades on 6 Feb; and attacked four other targets over the past week.¹⁴⁵

Junta military struggles

On 2 Feb, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing stated that implementing the 2010 People's Military Service Law would be "a must" once Burma's stabilized. The law, enacted under former dictator Than Shwe, requires both men and women to do up to three years of military service, and five in the event of a national emergency. The NUG said the statement showed that the military was under strain, and efforts to bolster troop numbers would likely work to the advantage of anti-junta resistance forces.¹⁴⁶

On 2 Feb, it was reported that, according to allegations made by resistance groups in Chin State and Sagaing Region, the junta had enlisted Indian insurgent groups from Manipur to help fight against the resistance; that Meitei armed groups from northeast India, who operate inside Burma, had also joined up with the junta; and that the Zomi Revolutionary Army had continued to clash with and raid the bases of resistance groups in Chin State.¹⁴⁷

On 18 Feb, it was reported that the junta had removed one of its most notorious commanders, Lieutenant General Than Hlaing, from his position leading clearance operations against civilian resistance groups in Sagaing, Magway, and Chin Regions/State. The move was a sign that the junta was failing to crush armed resistance in Upper Burma. The EU, USA, UK, and Canada have all imposed sanctions on the Lt-Gen for his role in the junta since the attempted coup began.¹⁴⁸

Resistance killings of civilians

On 2 Feb, junta sources were cited as saying that 367 junta-appointed administration officials had been killed and 336 others wounded during 1 Feb 2021-20 Jan 2022.¹⁴⁹ During 2-9 Feb, at least four others were killed in Mahlaing Township (Mandalay Region),¹⁵⁰ Mingaladon Township (Yangon Region),¹⁵¹ and Ye and Kyaikto Townships (Mon State).¹⁵²

On 15 Feb, PDFs warned junta-appointed administrators in Naypyidaw to resign from their posts.¹⁵³

In addition, during 1-9 Feb, at least six alleged junta supporters and informants were killed in Kyaik Latt Township (Ayeyarwady Region),¹⁵⁴ Indaw Township (Sagaing Region),¹⁵⁵ Maha Aung Myay Township (Mandalay),¹⁵⁶ Ywangan Township (Shan State),¹⁵⁷ Magway Township (Magway Region),¹⁵⁸ and Ye Township (Mon State).¹⁵⁹

On 3 Feb, in Pa Dat Taing (Sagaing Region), anti-junta armed group Zero Guerrilla Force (ZGF) shot dead poet Myint San, who they accused of being a junta informant. Sixteen Sagaing-based civil society groups penned a statement in response, saying that Myint San was actively involved in charity and community development projects, and had participated in pro-democracy groups even before the coup. They called on ZGF to explain how it decided that the poet was an informant, and to sign a pledge

¹⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2022) NUG's forces carry out bomb attacks across Yangon on coup anniversary

¹⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2022) Resistance Fighters Target Homes of Myanmar Junta Pilots After Airstrikes on Civilians

¹⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (4 Feb 2022) NUG says Min Aung Hlaing's conscription plan shows regime's weakness

¹⁴⁷ Irrawaddy (2 Feb 2022) Junta Enlists Indian Insurgent Groups to Fight Resistance Forces in Western Myanmar

¹⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2022) Notorious Junta General Removed from Upper Myanmar Command as Resistance Intensifies

¹⁴⁹ Irrawaddy (2 Feb 2022) Almost 370 Myanmar Junta Officials Assassinated Since Coup

¹⁵⁰ Mizzima (7 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 7 February 2022

¹⁵¹ Mizzima (10 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 10 February 2022

¹⁵² Mon News Agency (3 Feb 2022) Ashin village administrator U Maung Myint shot dead; Mizzima (10 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 10 February 2022

¹⁵³ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Resistance Fighters Warn Local Officials in Myanmar Capital to Resign

¹⁵⁴ Mizzima (4 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 4 February 2022

¹⁵⁵ Mizzima (9 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 9 February 2022

¹⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Regime Forces Detain 15 Civilians in Mandalay

¹⁵⁷ Mizzima (10 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 10 February 2022

¹⁵⁸ Mizzima (11 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 11 February 2022

¹⁵⁹ Mon News Agency (10 Feb 2022) Aung Naing Win, a retired army philanthropist, shot dead

promising to stand trial when Burma is under civilian rule. The Committee of Civil Society Peace Forum, of which Myint San was a member, said it would report the incident to the NUG.¹⁶⁰

Women's leadership despite victimization (more details at women [tracker](#))

As of 1 Feb, according to civil society group Women's Peace Network, the junta had killed at least 106 women and girls and arbitrarily arrested at least 2,342.¹⁶¹

Women continued to lead protests despite threats. On 14 Feb, women held a strike in Kale (Sagaing Region).¹⁶² On 15 Feb, women demonstrated in Tha Yet Chaung Township (Tanintharyi region).¹⁶³

Women continued to bear the brunt of ongoing violence. On 1 Feb, in Kale (Sagaing Region), a 42-year-old CDM teacher was fatally shot in the stomach while she was riding a motorcycle with her child on her back, near a military base.¹⁶⁴ On 3 Feb, it was reported that junta artillery fire killed a man and injured two women in Kanpetlet Township (Chin State).¹⁶⁵ On 18 Feb, junta troops shot a married couple traveling by motorcycle in Putao Township (Kachin State), killing both people. Locals claimed that the attack was retaliation for a resistance ambush earlier in the day.¹⁶⁶ On 23 Feb, junta soldiers killed and burned a woman and her two teenage daughters in Kale Township (Sagaing Region).¹⁶⁷

In an article marking a year since the coup attempt, Women's League of Burma (WLB) Coordinator Naw Hser Hser said that since 1 Feb 2021, the WLB network had grown considerably and enlarged its collaboration with other women and several women's organizations. She estimated that around 80% of women opposed the junta, even if they did not organize or openly resist. She also noted that women held key positions in politics, including within the NUG, which appeared more inclusive than any previous government in Burma.¹⁶⁸

COVID-19: Junta remains passive as cases spike (more details at COVID-19 [tracker](#))

On 8 Feb, the junta reported 1,145 cases, the sharpest spike in COVID-19 infections in Burma in months. The junta continued to insist that normality was returning and organized mass gatherings to mark Union Day. On 8 Feb, it staged a relay involving large crowds carrying a flag from Yangon to Naypyidaw as part of the celebrations.¹⁶⁹ On 10 Feb, the COVID-19 test positivity rate exceeded 5%.¹⁷⁰ The WHO considers COVID-19 outbreaks controlled when less than 5% of samples come back positive over a two-week period, *assuming that surveillance is comprehensive*.¹⁷¹ Despite the surge, over 10,000 people attended Min Aung Hlaing's military revue on 12 Feb.¹⁷²

On 9 Feb, it was reported that Burma could face a deadly fourth wave of COVID-19 due to low vaccination rates, reliance on less effective Chinese-made vaccines, and a weak public health system. Experts said that the real number of Omicron cases was far higher than official data suggested, and that Omicron might already be the dominant variant in Burma. Although Omicron is less virulent than the Delta variant, a spike in cases could overwhelm the already strained health system.¹⁷³

On 14 Feb, Yangon General Hospital announced that it would close five outpatient departments for ten days due to staff shortages. It had already shut down its Department of Cardiovascular Medicine for five days, a week earlier, after senior doctors contracted COVID-19. Also on 14 Feb, the outpatient department of the Yangon Ear, Nose and Throat Public Hospital announced that it would close for eight days, after most of its staff got infected.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁰ Myanmar Now (15 Feb 2022) Anti-junta guerrillas draw outrage for killing respected democracy activist

¹⁶¹ Women's Peace Network (1 Feb 2022) Statement on the one-year anniversary of the February 1 coup attempt

¹⁶² Mizzima (15 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News

¹⁶³ Mizzima (16 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News

¹⁶⁴ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2022) Teacher taking part in CDM shot dead while riding motorcycle with her child on her back

¹⁶⁵ Khonumthung News (3 Feb 2022) Regime Shelling Kills Kanpetlet Man

¹⁶⁶ Kachin News Group (18 Feb 2022) Burma Army Kills Newlyweds In Putao

¹⁶⁷ Myanmar Now (25 Feb 2022) Junta soldiers kill and burn woman and her two teenage daughters in Sagaing, say resistance fighters

¹⁶⁸ DW (1 Feb) Myanmar women take the lead in resisting the military

¹⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2022) Myanmar Faces COVID-19 Spike as Junta Prepares Ceremonies

¹⁷⁰ EMG (15 Feb 2022) COVID-19 infection rate increases by more than 7 per cent despite no death report for three weeks

¹⁷¹ World Health Organization (WHO), *Public health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19*, 12 May 2020

¹⁷² Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2022) Major Myanmar Hospital Closes Outpatient Departments as Doctors Hit by COVID-19

¹⁷³ Frontier Myanmar (9 Feb 2022) Omicron wave threatens to overwhelm Myanmar's health system

¹⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2022) Major Myanmar Hospital Closes Outpatient Departments as Doctors Hit by COVID-19

The junta required all domestic flight passengers to present a COVID-19 negative test certificate beginning 15 Feb.¹⁷⁵ On that day, the junta reported 2,467 confirmed cases and three deaths, up from 1,586 cases on 14 Feb. Observers warned that the actual number of cases might be far higher, given that many people were isolating at home.¹⁷⁶ An additional 3,391 infections and three deaths were reported on 25 Feb, out of 27,158 samples tested—a positivity rate over 12.48%.¹⁷⁷

Vaccination rates remained low. As of 22 Feb, according to the junta, only 20,768,335 people had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 2,671,812 others had received a first shot, from a population of 54.4 million.¹⁷⁸ According to data compiled by Reuters, at least 44,208,482 doses had been administered as of 22 Feb, enough to fully vaccinate just 40.9% of the population. Burma had reportedly administered an average 177,729 doses per day over the prior week—versus 281,334 in the week prior to 11 Dec. At that rate, it would take around 61 days to vaccinate another 10% of the population.¹⁷⁹

Business and economics (more details at Business and economic responses [tracker](#))

Economic indicators in the red as junta set to be excluded from major trade pact

On 1 Feb, it was reported that January 2022 marked the 17th consecutive month of contraction in factory activity in Burma. Output shrank faster, and new orders dropped for the 17th month running, while buying levels were down for 23 consecutive months. Power outages and raw material shortages also led to a record rate of backlog accumulation, and severe delivery delays persisted. In parallel, input cost inflation accelerated due to higher transport costs and the depreciation of the kyat against the dollar. Selling prices also rose for the 14th consecutive month, as the rate of inflation was the steepest since October 2021 and among the fastest in history.¹⁸⁰ Burma is the only ASEAN country that recorded a deterioration in manufacturing conditions in January.¹⁸¹

On 25 Feb, it was reported that the income of casual laborers and daily workers (typically MMK 4,800/day) was no longer sufficient for them to survive due to a steep rise in living costs in the past year. In Yangon, the price of a bag (~2 kg) of rice reportedly rose from MMK 1,000 to MMK 1,500/2,000; while the price of cooking oil increased by around 50%. The depreciation of the kyat against the dollar also pushed up the price of imported goods. The Myanmar Petroleum Association reported that 92 Octane petrol prices rose from MMK 1,000 to MMK 1,600, leading some Yangon bus lines to illegally double their fares. The prices of imported medicine, which used to cover 70% of domestic needs, also skyrocketed, forcing people to rely on locally produced traditional products.¹⁸²

On 4 Feb, junta spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun was quoted as saying the regime planned to establish a digital currency to support domestic payments and boost the economy. A World Bank senior economist said Burma was “not in the best position to be able to pursue something like this,” noting that it would require a very good regulatory structure and high capacity within the administration.¹⁸³

Ironworker self-immolates over degrading economic conditions

On 1 Feb, Ko Aung Aung, a 20-year-old ironworker, burned himself in front of a Mandalay electricity and energy office to protest the harsh economic conditions and frequent power outages since the coup. He was taken to hospital in critical condition, and is reported to have died.

Regular blackouts reportedly prevented Ko Aung Aung from working, disrupting his ability to earn enough income. He left a note in which he wrote “May the people get electricity for 24 hours a day. We are not going back to 2001/2002.”

Swiss Info (1 Feb 2022) Un birmano se inmola en protesta por el régimen de la junta militar; Jurist (1 Feb 2022) Myanmar dispatch: ‘Today... a 20 year-old man burnt himself in front of the office of Electricity and Energy’; Mizzima (2 Feb 2022) Spring Revolution Daily News for 2 February 2022

On 17 Feb, New Zealand said it would not recognize Burma’s instrument of ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world’s largest trade agreement, which took effect

¹⁷⁵ DMG (14 Feb 2022) Air passengers to be tested for Covid-19 regardless of vaccine status

¹⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) COVID-19 Cases Spike Again in Myanmar

¹⁷⁷ EMG (26 Feb 2022) Myanmar reports 3391 new patients and 3 deaths on Feb 25

¹⁷⁸ World Bank (accessed 27 Jan 2022) Population, total - Myanmar; Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) (24 Feb 2022) 3,381 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 February, total figure rises to 575,508

¹⁷⁹ Reuters (accessed 25 Feb 2022) COVID-19 tracker – Myanmar; ALTSEAN Burma (updated 5 Jan 2022) Burma Coup Watch for Month of December 2021

¹⁸⁰ Trading Economics (accessed 18 Feb 2022) Myanmar Manufacturing PMI

¹⁸¹ Business Times (3 Feb 2022) Singapore PMI dips in the new year, echoing slowdown seen across Asia

¹⁸² Mizzima (25 Feb 2022) Low-income Burmese face price rises on all fronts

¹⁸³ Bangkok Post (4 Feb 2022) Myanmar to have own digital currency

in 2022, citing the deadly violence and democratic setbacks since 1 Feb 2021. The Philippines followed suit on 18 Feb, but did not cite any reason for its decision. The position of other RCEP countries, including all 10 ASEAN members, China, Japan, Australia, and South Korea, remains unclear.¹⁸⁴

Regime greenlights sale of Telenor Myanmar to crony company

On 4 Feb, it was reported that Telenor's sale of its Burma subsidiary to Lebanon's M1 Group and military-linked gems and petrol conglomerate Shwe Byain Phyu was expected to be completed by 15 Feb. Two junta members involved in Shwe Byain Phyu will reportedly benefit from the sale. The official buyer will be Investcom Myanmar, a joint venture majority-owned by Shwe Byain Phyu. On 4 Feb, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) called on Telenor to explain who the beneficial owners of the deal were and ensure that the personal data of 18 million people is not handed to the junta.¹⁸⁵

On 5 Feb, JfM said that Telenor was acting in complicity with the junta to sell their business and cover up who the buyers were. It noted that this "irresponsible" sale was likely to help finance the bullets, bombs, and jet fuel that enable the junta's atrocity crimes; and called on the Norwegian government to urgently halt the sale.¹⁸⁶ On 9 Feb, it was reported that the sale process was almost complete, with Telenor's top management "rushing very quickly" to fulfill the remaining paperwork. On the same day, Telenor Myanmar employees issued a letter accusing Telenor of a "lack of transparency" and urging the chair Telenor's board of directors to "immediately intervene to terminate the sale."¹⁸⁷

On 11 Feb, a Telenor spokesperson was quoted as saying that the company had had no dialogue with Shwe Byain Phyu, and that its sale agreement was only with M1 Group.¹⁸⁸ On 12 Feb, 694 civil society organizations called on Telenor to immediately stop the sale; and to consider all alternatives to it, including re-licensing, permanently deleting all user data, and shutting down its telecommunications infrastructure.¹⁸⁹

On 19 Feb, the company stated that there were no good alternatives to a sale, adding that all stakeholder-proposed alternatives would have even greater negative consequences.¹⁹⁰

On 24 Feb, the junta's Posts and Telecommunications Department gave regulatory approval for the sale of Telenor Myanmar, a significant step toward finalizing the transaction. Telenor reported that it was now awaiting approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission.¹⁹¹

Telenor, Norway refuse to protect user data as civil society rushes to stop the sale

On 7 Feb, a Norwegian law firm filed a complaint with the Norwegian Data Protection Authority against Telenor to prevent the transfer of sensitive user data to the regime. The complaint stated that the sale would violate the privacy of the more than 18 million Telenor users in Burma; and breach the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), by which

Telenor under fire for sharing user data with the junta

On 7 Feb, it was reported that Telenor had complied with at least 200 junta requests for sensitive user data, including records of calls, call locations and the last known location of a number. The company is also said to have complied with instructions to shut down mobile numbers. Thousands of customers are believed to have been impacted.

Telenor confirmed that it had received data sharing requests, and stated that refusing to comply would have had "severe and completely unacceptable consequences" for its employees.

Justice for Myanmar called the news an "alarming" revelation, adding that Telenor's cooperation with the junta made it complicit in acts amounting to crimes against humanity. It urged the Norwegian government to urgently investigate whether the company had aided and abetted crimes committed by the regime.

Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2022) Telenor has shared sensitive customer data with military since the coup: industry sources

¹⁸⁴ Associated Press (17 Feb 2022) New Zealand won't engage Myanmar in largest free trade bloc; Mizzima (20 Feb 2022) Philippines rejects Myanmar's inclusion in trade pact

¹⁸⁵ Myanmar Now (4 Feb 2022) Telenor sale to military-linked consortium to be complete in mid-February

¹⁸⁶ Justice for Myanmar (5 Feb 2022) Norwegian government must urgently stop Telenor Myanmar sale or it will be complicit with terrorist junta

¹⁸⁷ Myanmar Now (9 Feb 2022) Telenor 'rushing' to get junta approval for sale to military-linked company by end of week—industry source

¹⁸⁸ Reuters (12 Feb 2022) EXCLUSIVE-Myanmar firm poised to control Telenor unit after military backs bid-sources

¹⁸⁹ Progressive Voice (12 Feb 2022) Statement signed by 694 civil society organizations to oppose Telenor's irresponsible management of user data and its plan to sell Telenor Myanmar to a military-linked company

¹⁹⁰ Telenor (19 Feb 2022) We cannot make our employees in Myanmar delete data and break the law (Update by Jørgen C. Arentz Rostrup, EVP and Head of Telenor Asia)

¹⁹¹ Myanmar Now (24 Feb 2022) Telenor sale gets green light from Myanmar junta's telecoms regulator; Myanmar Now (25 Feb 2022) Norwegian govt called on to intervene as junta stops Telenor execs from leaving Myanmar

Norway is bound. It also suggested that Telenor Group could minimize potential privacy risks by deleting its customer database before the sale. Telenor replied that the GDPR did not apply to customer data from Telenor Myanmar because it was not processed in Norway or the EU.¹⁹²

On 11 Feb, the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM) submitted a complaint against Telenor's leadership with the Norwegian police, urging them to probe into whether the sale of Telenor Myanmar was in violation of Chapter 16 of the Norwegian Penal Code on genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.¹⁹³ On 16 Feb, Norway's Industry Minister said that the Norwegian government would be unable to prevent the transfer of customer data to the regime, and that it had not asked Telenor to postpone the sale, as the decision was up to the company's board and management.¹⁹⁴ However, the Norwegian government is Telenor's majority shareholder, holding 53.97% of shares.¹⁹⁵

On 16 Feb, it was reported that several investors were seeking assurances from Telenor that customer data will be protected, including DNB Asset Management (1.64% stake in Telenor) and Storebrand Asset Management (1.31%). Pension fund KLP (0.96%) said it was also scrutinizing the sale but did not elaborate further.¹⁹⁶ On 19 Feb, Telenor reiterated that it could not delete user data without putting its employees at considerable risk.¹⁹⁷

Foreign investment keeps plummeting as more international firms exit Burma

On 7 Feb, junta media sources reported that Burma had secured over USD 506.82 million worth of foreign direct investment (FDI) during Oct 2021–Jan 2022. Sixteen Chinese businesses invested USD 109.6 million, primarily in the manufacturing sector, making China Burma's second biggest source of FDI behind Singapore (USD 275.7 million).¹⁹⁸ The four-month figure pales in comparison to fiscal years 2019–2020 and 2021–2022, when Burma attracted USD 4.9 and 3.8 billion in FDI, respectively.¹⁹⁹ On 8 Feb, it was reported that the World Bank had identified 22 major foreign investors as having suspended their operations or pulled out of Burma since 1 Feb 2021.²⁰⁰

On 6 Feb, it was reported that Yangon's iconic five-star Savoy hotel had announced its permanent closure.²⁰¹ On 10 Feb, Taiwan shipping giant Evergreen Marine stated that it would no longer send its ships to dock at the military-owned Hteedan Port Terminal in Yangon. The company did not specify whether it would still send vessels to other Burma ports.²⁰² On 15 Feb, it was reported that Tesco was in the process of exiting Burma "responsibly." The move followed reports that Chinese-owned GTIG Eastar Garment, one of its Yangon suppliers, had refused to compensate thousands of workers after announcing its closure in October.²⁰³

Kirin throws in the towel following months-long dispute with military conglomerate

On 14 Feb, Japanese beer giant Kirin announced that it had begun discussions with military conglomerate Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) to complete its exit from their joint venture Myanmar Brewery and from the Myanmar market, tentatively by the end of June. Kirin, which had previously said it would remain in Burma after ending the venture, will reportedly seek to sell its two Burma units instead. Myanmar Brewery sales declined 39.3% in 2021 due to public boycotts of military-linked products. Justice For Myanmar welcomed the move, urging a responsible divestment.²⁰⁴

¹⁹² Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2022) Myanmar citizen files data privacy complaint against Telenor with Norwegian government agency

¹⁹³ Myanmar Now (12 Feb 2022) Norwegian civil society network reports Telenor Myanmar sale to police

¹⁹⁴ Reuters (16 Feb 2022) Norway can't stop transfer of Telenor data to Myanmar rulers-minister

¹⁹⁵ Telenor Group (31 Dec 2021) Major shareholders from beneficial ownership. See <https://www.telenor.com/investors/share-information/major-shareholdings/>

¹⁹⁶ Reuters (16 Feb 2022) Telenor investors scrutinise Myanmar sale

¹⁹⁷ Telenor (19 Feb 2022) We cannot make our employees in Myanmar delete data and break the law (Update by Jørgen C. Arentz Røstrup, EVP and Head of Telenor Asia)

¹⁹⁸ GNLM (7 Feb 2022) Myanmar attracts \$109.6 mln of FDI from China in past four months

¹⁹⁹ Reuters (27 Jan 2022) Myanmar junta reports \$3.8 bln FDI since coup, says stability restored

²⁰⁰ Mizzima (8 Feb 2022) Two dozen foreign investors have exited in wake of Myanmar coup

²⁰¹ Mizzima (6 Feb 2022) Yangon's Savoy Hotel shuts its doors in wake of Myanmar crisis

²⁰² Mizzima (11 Feb 2022) Taiwan shipping giant Evergreen stops using Myanmar junta linked port

²⁰³ Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (15 Feb 2022) Myanmar: Tesco announces 'responsible' exit from Myanmar amid continued labour rights violations

²⁰⁴ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2022) Japanese brewer Kirin to withdraw from Myanmar

In a separate statement, Kirin pledged to prioritize the livelihood and safety of local employees and their families when formulating a withdrawal plan, and to give due consideration to all stakeholders.²⁰⁵ On 15 Feb, the regime dismissed Kirin's announcement, saying that it would be "easy to substitute."²⁰⁶ On 17 Feb, Human Rights Watch stated that Kirin should conduct rigorous human rights due diligence to ensure that it does not sell its stakes to military-owned entities.²⁰⁷ On 21 Feb, Kirin said it had just become aware that MEHL had filed a new petition to liquidate Myanmar Brewery on 27 Jan, a day after a Yangon court dismissed a similar petition.²⁰⁸

Regime goes weapon shopping with help from Iran, Pakistan, Serbia

On 11 Feb, it was reported that the regime was planning to purchase mortars, grenade launchers, and heavy machine guns from Pakistan; and that a senior level junta delegation would visit the country to inspect the products ahead of their shipment. The regime was also eyeing to purchase air-to-surface missiles from Pakistan for its JF-17 fighter jets.²⁰⁹ On 14 Feb, BCUK said that those weapons will be used against civilians, and called on Pakistani PM Imran Khan to stop arming the junta.²¹⁰

On 16 Feb, a plane belonging to Iranian cargo airline Qeshm Fars Air landed in Naypyidaw and reportedly delivered 21 boxes thought to contain military hardware.²¹¹ It was the third such flight documented since 1 Feb 2021, raising speculation of secretive military-to-military cooperation between Iran and the junta. In 2019, the US Treasury imposed sanctions on Qeshm Fars Air for allegedly transporting weapons to Tehran-backed groups in Syria.²¹²

On 22 Feb, Myanmar Witness revealed that Serbian arms manufacturer Jugoport-SDPR delivered, under an export license granted by the Serbian government, 1,644 80mm air-launched rockets to the regime via a Belarussian airline on 9 Feb 2021. These rockets were used by the Burma Air Force's Russian-made Yak-130 fighter jets and Mi-24/35 attack helicopters, which conducted numerous airstrikes against civilian targets, especially in Sagaing, Karenni, Karen, and Chin Region/States. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar stated that these transfers likely breached Serbia's obligations under the Geneva Convention and customary international law.²¹³

PTTEP set to take over Yadana gas field as POSCO steps up operations

On 12 Feb, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun was quoted as saying that Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) had offered to acquire the combined 59.5% stake in the Yadana gas field held by TotalEnergies and Chevron. Zaw Min Tun said that the regime was not sure whether it should allow PTTEP to acquire all these shares, adding that several local firms were also interested. He said that discussions between the junta, PTTEP, and other prospective buyers had already begun.²¹⁴

On 17 Feb, it was reported that South Korea's POSCO International will conduct drilling activities at the Shwe gas field off the Rakhine coast from 16 Feb to 15 Mar. POSCO, which has a 51% stake in the project, plans to invest USD 473 million in drilling eight production wells in 2022. Other shareholders

Australia's sovereign fund divests from Tatmadaw supplier

On 15 Feb, it was reported that the Future Fund, Australia's sovereign wealth fund, had divested USD 4.9 million dollars from Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), a supplier of the Burma military. In Nov 2021, JfM revealed that the Future Fund held just under USD 158 million in 14 publicly owned companies with links to Burma's military, including almost USD 18 million in Indian defense firm Bharat Electronics. On 15 Feb, 18 leading organizations including JfM called on the Future Fund to divest from any companies linked to the regime.

Guardian (15 Feb 2022) Future Fund forced to divest \$5m from sanctioned Chinese weapons company; Justice for Myanmar (15 Feb 2022) Joint Open Letter: Calling on Australia's Future Fund to divest from companies doing business with the Myanmar military

²⁰⁵ Nikkei Asia (14 Feb 2022) Kirin makes painful decision to exit Myanmar over human rights

²⁰⁶ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2022) Myanmar Regime Downplays Japanese Brewer Kirin's Exit From Country

²⁰⁷ Human Rights Watch (17 Feb 2022) Japan Beverage Giant to Withdraw from Myanmar

²⁰⁸ Reuters (21 Feb 2022) Japan's Kirin says partner filed new petition to liquidate Myanmar brewery venture

²⁰⁹ Economic Times (11 Feb 2022) Myanmar and Pakistan in arms deal, guided by China

²¹⁰ Burma Campaign UK (14 Feb 2022) Imran Khan: Stop Arming the Burmese Military!

²¹¹ Asia Times (16 Feb 2022) Another Iranian plane lands in Myanmar

²¹² Asia Times (20 Jan 2022) What is Iran's Revolutionary Guard doing in Myanmar?

²¹³ Irrawaddy (25 Feb 2022) Serbia Sold Arms to Myanmar Junta After Coup

²¹⁴ Mizzima (12 Feb 2022) Thailand's PTTEP seeks control of Myanmar's Yadana gas field as Western companies exit

include junta-controlled MOGE (15%), India's ONGC (17%), South Korea's KOGAS (8.5%), and India's GAIL (8.5%).²¹⁵

On 18 Feb, it was reported that Japanese trading house Mitsubishi Corp, which holds a 1.93% stake in the Yetagun gas field as part of a consortium including the Japanese government and ENEOS Holdings, had stated its intention to divest, citing technical and economic reasons.²¹⁶ In a joint statement, JfM, Mekong Watch, and Friends of the Earth Japan called on Mitsubishi to ensure that its exit is responsible and to prevent further complicity in human rights violations associated with the project.²¹⁷

International responses (more details at international response [tracker](#))

On 1 Feb, in a joint statement, the EU, UK, US, Australia, Albania, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, and Switzerland called for the junta to end the state of emergency, allow full humanitarian access, and release all people unjustly detained; and gave support for an ASEAN-led resolution.²¹⁸

On 1 Feb, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi condemned the escalation of violence in Burma and urged the junta to take concrete actions to stop the violence and restore democracy.²¹⁹ On 8 Feb, Japan's Foreign Minister announced that Japan will provide USD 18.5 million in humanitarian aid to Burma—food, emergency supplies, and measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among IDPs and refugees—to be channeled through international organizations.²²⁰

On 6 Feb, the Australian Foreign Minister issued a statement rejecting allegations against detained economist Sean Turnell and urging the junta to release him.²²¹ On 12 Feb, it was reported that hundreds of academics across Australia were calling on the federal government to “do more” to free economist Sean Turnell. Australian National University Associate Professor Nick Cheesman petitioned the Parliament of Australia, asking the House “to call for Professor Turnell's situation to be made among Australia's top consular priorities.” The petition asked Foreign Minister Marise Payne to outline steps taken so far to get Turnell released and propose a schedule to “scale-up action toward that end.”²²²

On 7 Feb, Russia and China voiced concerns over unilateral sanctions implemented by western countries against Burma and other countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, and Belarus. Russia's Deputy Ambassador to the UN suggested that only UNSC-endorsed sanctions were legal and that unilateral sanctions were hurting peace efforts and interfering with the internal affairs of states.²²³

On 8 Feb, the junta Minister for International Cooperation met with the UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Burma to address humanitarian

A dispute over a dispute at the International Court of Justice

On 1 Feb, President Duwa Lashi La announced that the NUG had advised the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that Burma accepts the Court's jurisdiction and withdraws all preliminary objections in *The Gambia v Myanmar*, and he urged the Court to accept Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun as Burma's agent in the case. On 15 Feb, he announced the formation of a new legal team to work with Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun and the NUG in representing Burma at the ICJ.

On 21 Feb, the ICJ allowed junta lawyers to represent Burma before the court in *The Gambia v Myanmar*. Experts and civil society actors criticized the court's decision. Junta lawyers asked the court to dismiss the case, arguing that *The Gambia* is acting as a proxy for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and traditionally only states can bring cases to the court.

NUG (1 Feb 2022) President's Office, Announcement 2/2022: Myanmar withdraws all preliminary objections to the International Court of Justice hearing on the genocide case; NUG (15 Feb 2022) President's Office Announcement 4/2021, Announcement of the Legal Counsel for the Gambia-Myanmar case at the International Court of Justice; AP (21 Feb 2022) Myanmar seeks to have Rohingya case thrown out of UN court; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2022) Myanmar Junta Asks UN's Top Court to Drop Rohingya Genocide Case at Hearing in The Hague

²¹⁵ Narinjara News (17 Feb 2022) POSCO in collaboration with MOGE prepares for drilling in Rakhine offshore

²¹⁶ Reuters (18 Feb 2022) Mitsubishi, Petronas to exit Myanmar Yetagun gas project; Nikkei Asia (18 Feb 2022) Mitsubishi Corp. to offload interest in Myanmar gas field

²¹⁷ Justice for Myanmar (18 Feb 2022) Mekong Watch, FoE-J and JFM cautiously welcome Mitsubishi Corporation's withdrawal from the Yetagun project and call for responsible disengagement

²¹⁸ Minister of Foreign Affairs Australia (1 Feb 2022) Joint statement on the situation in Myanmar

²¹⁹ Kyodo News (1 Feb 2022) Japan's Hayashi condemns ongoing violence in Myanmar after coup

²²⁰ NHK Japan-World (8 Feb 2022) Japan to send Myanmar \$18.5 mil. in humanitarian aid

²²¹ France 24 (6 Feb 2022) Australia urges Myanmar to free detained economist

²²² ABC Australia (12 Feb 2021) Sean Turnell's colleagues petition federal parliament to secure his release from Myanmar jail

²²³ Bangkok Post (8 Feb 2022) At UN, Russia, China call out 'unilateral' sanctions

issues and areas of cooperation.²²⁴ On 8 Feb, junta Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin held a diplomatic briefing on recent developments in Burma for foreign diplomats and heads of UN agencies. Only three ambassadors attended the briefing, at which officials repeated the junta's narrative of the takeover. ASEAN members only sent low-level representatives. Wunna Maung Lwin urged UNCTED, ACCT, ASEANPOL, and Interpol to denounce the "terrorist" acts of NUG, CRPH, and PDFs; and called for cooperation in counterterrorism operations. On 10 Feb, Interpol declined to do so.²²⁵

On Feb 22, it was announced that representatives of 20 Burma CSOs met with the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General to Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer. Representatives signaled the importance of justice and accountability measures and the need to expand the UNSE's mandate from peace-brokering to emphasizing justice and accountability. Among the recommendations, CSOs urged that the UN and ASEAN continue to work directly with the NUG, EAOs, and civilian groups, rather than the junta.²²⁶

On 21 Feb, the EU approved sanctions against 22 persons and 4 entities, including the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), government ministers, a SAC member, UEC members, and top military officials. EU sanctions now apply to 65 individuals and 10 entities, and include an asset freeze, a travel ban, and a prohibition from making funds available to them.²²⁷

Cambodia as ASEAN Chair

On 2 Feb, ASEAN member states welcomed the appointment of Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn as the new ASEAN Special Envoy to Myanmar and called on the junta to allow him to meet with all stakeholders in Burma.²²⁸ Min Aung Hlaing said that the junta would cooperate only if Burma's sovereignty, national interests, and future plans were not threatened.²²⁹

On 7 Feb, a Cambodian Minister said that the junta had agreed to arrange for Prak Sokhonn to meet NLD members on a future visit, though it did not specify which members.²³⁰ On 17 Feb, Prak Sokhonn requested permission to meet with the NUG.²³¹ On 21 Feb, the junta rejected the request, saying it could not agree to the envoy engaging with "unlawful associations and terrorist groups" because they were "perpetrating violence and pursuing [a] total destructive path."²³²

On 16 Feb, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen was quoted as saying that it would probably be up to the next ASEAN Chair to resolve the crisis in Burma, given the difficulty of progressing without the junta's cooperation.²³³

On 3 Feb, Cambodia announced that only a non-political representative of Burma would be welcome at the ASEAN ministers meeting on 16–17 Feb.²³⁴ Indonesia welcomed the decision, having previously protested the invitation of junta-appointed foreign minister Wunna Maung Lwin to the retreat.²³⁵ On 9 Feb, the junta announced that it would not send a representative to the Foreign Ministers' Meeting.²³⁶ On 17 Feb, Prak Sokhonn expressed regret that Burma was not able to participate fully in the event and said he hoped that lines of communication and cooperation with the junta would stay open.²³⁷

On 17 Feb, Singapore Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan said that ASEAN would continue to take a principled stance on Burma and was signaling disappointment over the junta's failure to pursue

²²⁴ GNLM (9 Feb 2022) U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Mr David Carden, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Myanmar

²²⁵ Irrawaddy (12 Feb 2022) Junta Watch: A Disingenuous Call for 'Peace', Regime Boss Seeks Divine Help, and More

²²⁶ 20 Myanmar Civil Society Organizations (22 Feb 2022) Press Statement: Myanmar CSOs meet with the UN Special Envoy

²²⁷ AP (21 Feb 2022) EU sanctions 22 Myanmar officials, gas company, over abuses

²²⁸ Jakarta Post (4 Feb 2022) Indonesia welcomes Cambodia's decision not to invite Myanmar's military junta

²²⁹ Bangkok Post (2 Feb 2022) Asean urges 'immediate' end to Myanmar violence

²³⁰ EMG (7 Feb 2022) Myanmar ruling military chief said Asean envoy can meet Daw Aung Suu Kyi party members: Cambodian minister

²³¹ Reuters (17 Feb 2022) ASEAN envoy seeks Myanmar junta blessing to meet its opponents

²³² Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2021) Myanmar Junta Rejects ASEAN Envoy's Request to Meet Shadow Govt Representatives

²³³ RFA (16 Feb 2022) Cambodia's Hun Sen gives up on Myanmar

²³⁴ Reuters (3 Feb 2022) ASEAN to exclude Myanmar foreign minister from meeting, says Cambodia

²³⁵ Jakarta Post (4 Feb 2022) Indonesia welcomes Cambodia's decision not to invite Myanmar's military junta

²³⁶ CGTN (9 Feb 2022) Myanmar's SAC not to send representatives to ASEAN meeting: official

²³⁷ VOA (17 Feb 2022) ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meet Dominated by Myanmar's Absence

the Five-Point Consensus. He said that junta was not being excluded from ASEAN, that it still had access to the other members, and that its officials had dialed into some of the retreat's sessions.²³⁸

On 17 Feb, it was reported that ASEAN's foreign ministers were unable to make significant progress on leading a resolution to the crisis.²³⁹

CRPH & NUG (more details at CRPH & NUG [tracker](#))

On 2 Feb, the Ministry of Defense said that the people's administrative body in Thantlang Township (Chin State) had been established; and that on 1 Feb 2022 it appointed administrators in 51 villages, and established a PDF, a police force, and education, health, and transportation departments.²⁴⁰

On 6 Feb, the NUG introduced its policy on collecting and distributing taxes during the interim period of regional administration, based on provisions in the Federal Democracy Charter (FDC). Among other things, it said: 30% of all taxes collected will be managed by the union and regional governments; 30% will be managed by the people's administrative body, from which a third would go to the humanitarian distribution sector; and 40% will go to the PDF, which must use half to engage in natural environment preservation and regional security.²⁴¹

On 8 Feb, the Federal Health Professional Council (FHPC) announced its establishment and mission. It said that the FHPC was set up by medical professionals and people from different professions, from various ethnic health organizations, in order to fulfill the healthcare needs of ethnic people during the revolutionary period, interim period, and transitional period, and to ensure that healthcare professionals and medical workers are able to benefit during these periods.²⁴² On 9 Feb, the FHPC denounced the Myanmar Medical Council (MMC)—which it said was working as lackeys of the junta and oppressing medical professionals and those working for the health of the people—and promised to take severe action against the MMC's leadership.²⁴³

On 10 Feb, President Duwa Lashi La wrote to Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, calling on the Norwegian Government not to allow Telenor to complete its sale to Lebanon's M1 Group. He called attention to Norway's ethical business practices in Burma, particularly regarding Telenor; and criticized M1 Group's sketchy business history. He said that if the sale is completed, 18.3 million Telenor customers in Burma will face security risks from the junta getting their data.²⁴⁴

On 12 Feb, the CRPH, NUG, and NUCC marked the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Panglong Agreement, which pledged in 1947 to build a federal democratic union upon the exit of the British from Burma.²⁴⁵ The Ministry of Planning gave notice that it would produce official stamps, marking the 75th anniversary, that would be required for official documents.²⁴⁶ At least 17 political bodies, student unions, strike committees, civil society groups, and others sent their felicitations for the day as well.

On 16 Feb, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management stated its policies and goals regarding the treatment of people with disabilities. It said that the Ministry was working for these people

²³⁸ CNA (17 Feb 2022) ASEAN to continue taking 'principled position' on Myanmar, but the issue will not hijack the agenda: Vivian Balakrishnan

²³⁹ Nikkei Asia (17 Feb 2022) ASEAN fails to achieve Myanmar breakthrough again

²⁴⁰ NUG (2 Feb 2022) Ministry of Defense, Battle news summary, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/244194051217159>

²⁴¹ NUG (6 Feb 2022) Policy on collecting taxes and distribution of revenues during the interim period of the regional administration, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/246618867641344>

²⁴² Federal Health Professional Council (8 Feb 2022) Statement 1/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/248631807440050>

²⁴³ Federal Health Professional Council (8 Feb 2022) Statement 2/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/248632314106666>

²⁴⁴ NUG (10 Feb 2022) President's Office, Letter to Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/249648644005033>

²⁴⁵ CRPH (12 Feb 2022) Statement for the 75th anniversary of the Panglong Agreement, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/250666133903284>; NUCC (12 Feb 2022) Statement on the 75th Anniversary of the Panglong Agreement, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/250698893900008>; NUG (12 Feb 2022) Ministry of International Cooperation, H.E. Dr. Sasa's message on the 75th anniversary of signing of Panglong Agreement, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/251301737173057>

²⁴⁶ NUG (12 Feb 2022) Ministry of Planning, Finance and Investment, Statement 2/2022 on the release of tax stamps for the 75th anniversary of the Panglong Agreement, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/250846283885269>

to have full and equal rights, including by established the Myanmar Coordination Committee for Equal Rights of People with Disabilities (MCERP), and it laid down policies to this end.²⁴⁷

On 24 Feb, the Ministry of Commerce designated three businesses as supporting terrorism by providing aviation fuel to the junta: Yangon Aerodrome Company Ltd (a subsidiary of Asia World Group), Asia Sun Energy (a local subsidiary of Puma energy, and Myat Myittar Mon Group of Corporations).²⁴⁸

During February the Prime Minister's Office blacklisted 330 junta employees who it said had harassed or fired civil servants taking part in the CDM. These included employees of Myanmar Railways and the junta-controlled Union Election Commission (UEC).²⁴⁹

On 13 Feb, the Ye Special Task Force (YSTF), a coalition armed resistance groups, announced that it would soon take over Ye Township (Mon State).²⁵⁰ On the same day, it was reported that resistance "People's Administrations" had been consolidating power in rural areas of Chin, Karenni, Magway, and Sagaing States/Regions since November. A shadow official in Saw Township (Magway) said that his administration, with a presence in around 80 of the township's 110 villages, had restarted the local education system with 20 schools, had set up mobile clinics to provide healthcare services to residents five times per month, and was raising funds with the NUG for CDM members and displaced people. In Mindat Township (Chin State), the People's Administration had reportedly established control over "95% of the area," excluding the township seat. In Yinmarbin Township (Sagaing), local PDFs reported that the junta had lost all control of rural areas. In Karenni State, the KNDF said that the junta only controlled a few wards in Loikaw and Bawlakhe Townships.²⁵¹

On 17 Feb, the Zomi-PDF said that the NUG Ministry of Defence had provided more than MMK 22.1 million in its third round of funding for PDFs operating in Kale Township (Sagaing Region).²⁵²

²⁴⁷ NUG (16 Feb 2022) Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Pledge for disabled people, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/253593403610557>

²⁴⁸ NUG (24 Feb 2022) Ministry of Commerce, Statement 2/2022 regarding entities providing aviation fuel to the terrorist military council, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/258901619746402>

²⁴⁹ NUG (3 Feb 2022) Prime Minister's Office Statement 3/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/244562537846977>; NUG (5 Feb 2022) Prime Minister's Office Statement 4/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/245982834371614>; NUG (17 Feb 2022) 5/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/253971796906051>

²⁵⁰ Mizzima (15 Feb 2022) YSTF resistance group claims they will take control Mon State's Ye Township soon

²⁵¹ RFA (15 Feb 2022) 'People's Administrations' supplant junta rule in Myanmar's remote border regions

²⁵² Mizzima (17 Feb 2022) Myanmar's NUG provides over 20 million Kyat for Zomi PDF