

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022:

Junta and AA on the brink of war as displacement figures hit record high

- As of 27 May, there had been at least 12,169 armed clashes and attacks in Burma under the junta, and junta forces had arrested 13,902 civilians. It was reported that at least 5,646 civilians had been killed since 1 Feb 2021, a number unprecedented in Burma's modern history.
- The number of IDPs exceeded one million for the first time. Junta troops continued to slash their way through the country, killing civilians and torching villages. Conflict also heated up significantly in the West, with several clashes breaking out between the junta and the Arakan Army (AA) amid an increase in military activity.
- The Restoration Council of Shan State and the New Mon State Party signed several agreements with the regime. The KIO, KNU, KNPP, CNF and other major armed groups refused to attend the junta-led peace talks.
- Reporting showed that junta mismanagement has led to the collapse of healthcare services. Vaccination rates plummeted to staggering lows, resulting in outbreaks of preventable diseases in border areas.
- The regime changed the voting system and created more electoral districts to rig the next elections. It continued to judicially persecute top National League for Democracy (NLD) officials while pro-junta vigilante groups stepped up attacks on party members and supporters.
- The junta continued to target perceived opponents and their families as more reports of torture in custody emerged. It also unleashed terror groups against journalists in a new low for Burma's media environment.
- The cash-strapped regime started targeting businesses and cronies while its disastrous policies continued to hurt the economy. China lent a helping hand, lifting bilateral tariffs on major forex sources and offering cross-border solutions to electricity blackouts.
- ASEAN drew strong criticism for putting the junta at the center of its humanitarian response. In a snub to the regime, Burma was represented with an empty chair at the first US-ASEAN summit. Malaysia broke ranks by becoming the first ASEAN member to officially engage with the National Unity Government (NUG).

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Junta's quest to cement control

On 2 May, the regime removed Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and Police Chief Lt-Gen Than Hlaing (57yo) from his position, sending him back to his previous army duties as an officer. He was replaced by Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet (52yo), the military's Joint Adjutant General since 2019. The reshuffle follows a larger pattern of junta leader Min Aung Hlaing replacing top regime officials with younger generals, arguably to cement his grip on power.¹

Regime gears up for unfair election

On 1 May, the junta's Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Soe Win said that preparations were underway for 'free and fair elections' in 2023, adding that the regime will issue citizen scrutiny cards to eligible voters.² On 3 May, the regime-controlled Union Election Commission (UEC) suspended the Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society (DPMNS) for one year, alleging that it had failed to submit to an order to have its finances audited.³

On 4 May, it was reported that the junta had added 46 electoral districts to the administrative structure of the country. The change is expected to favor junta-backed candidates in the upcoming election, notably by upgrading garrison towns to districts. The reform followed a 27 Apr announcement by the UEC confirming that proportional representation would replace the current first past the post voting system, a move expected to help military aligned-parties secure more seats.⁴

On 20 May, the UEC said that it had identified only 994 cases of fraud during the 2020 general election, adding the obscure statement that over 11.3 million voters "could have been misrepresented in voter lists." Shortly after the attempted coup, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing stated that the military would prove the existence of 10.5 million irregularities.⁵

New charges against Aung San Suu Kyi

On 2 May, the junta filed the 12th and 13th corruption charges against ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, this time alleging that a property developer gave her about USD 550,000 in illegal payments between 2018 and 2020.⁶ On 4 May, the regime-controlled Union Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Suu Kyi against the five-year corruption sentence she received on 27 Apr.⁷

On 24 May, a junta-controlled court formally indicted Suu Kyi on four corruption charges of allegedly building a residence with money from charitable donations and granting permits to rent land at lower-than-market prices to a foundation named after her mother. Former Naypyidaw Mayor Myo Aung is a co-defendant in two of the cases, along with former Naypyidaw Vice Mayor Ye Min Oo and Cabinet minister Min Thu (one case each).⁸

On 25 May, relatives of Suu Kyi filed a complaint with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, saying her situation amounted to "judicial kidnapping." The Working Group, whose decisions carry reputational weight, previously determined that Suu Kyi was arbitrarily detained in 1991 and 2001.⁹

Judicial persecution of top National League for Democracy (NLD) officials continues

On 11 May, junta media sources reported that the regime had charged former Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) deputy governor Bo Bo Nge with corruption, making him the latest figure close to Suu Kyi to be prosecuted. He faces up to 15 years in prison.¹⁰ Bo Bo Nge has been in custody since 1 Feb 2021.¹¹

¹ Myanmar Now (5 May 2022) Myanmar junta removes police chief

² Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) (1 May 2022) Restoration of peace is crucial for holding a free and fair election: Vice-Senior General

³ Development Media Group (DMG) (10 May 2022) Junta's UEC suspends Democratic Party for Myanmar New Society

⁴ DMG (4 May 2022) Myanmar regime elevates two Arakan State townships to districts, scepticism ensues

⁵ Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) (20 May 2022) Junta's election monitor prosecuted "1,000 cases of fraudulent voting" from 2020 elections

⁶ Irrawaddy (3 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Issues Another Corruption Charge Against Suu Kyi

⁷ Irrawaddy (5 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Court Rejects Suu Kyi Corruption Appeal

⁸ Associated Press (AP) (24 May 2022) Myanmar court gives go-ahead for Suu Kyi corruption trial

⁹ Irrawaddy (26 May 2022) Family of Myanmar's Suu Kyi Files Detention Complaint With UN

¹⁰ Eleven Media Group (EMG) (11 May 2022) Myanmar military government charges central bank ex-deputy governor with corruption

¹¹ Irrawaddy (11 May 2022) Junta Accuses Ousted Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar of Corruption

On 16 May, the regime sentenced ousted Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan to 21 years in prison on nine counts of corruption, bringing his total sentence to 23 years.¹² On 26 May, a junta-controlled court sentenced ousted Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo to three years in prison for allegedly breaking COVID-19 regulations, bringing his total sentence to 24 years.¹³

On 26 May, the regime detained Zin Min Aung, a major shareholder in Yangon Petrol Co (YP) on corruption charges. The junta-controlled Anti-Corruption Commission filed corruption charges against ousted Yangon Region NLD figures in connection with this case, including energy minister Han Tun, mayor Maung Maung Soe, vice-mayor Soe Lwin, Yangon City Development Committee secretary Hlaing Maw Oo and joint secretary Than.¹⁴

Threats rise against NLD members as pro-junta vigilante groups sprout over Burma

As of 10 May, the regime had killed 38 NLD party members and arrested 917 others, of whom 701 remained in detention, including 98 MPs. Junta forces also seized 209 houses belonging to party members and destroyed over 100 NLD offices.¹⁵ On 10 May, it was reported that death threats against NLD members and supporters by militias loyal to the regime were on the rise. Since the killing of eight Mandalay NLD members or supporters by junta-aligned terror group Thwe Thout in late April, similar groups have emerged in Naypyidaw, as well as in Bago, Tanintharyi, and Ayeyarwady Regions, posting threats against perceived opponents and their families on social media.¹⁶

The NLD reported that pro-regime terror groups Thwe Thout, Kite, and Myochit had abducted and killed at least 14 NLD members and supporters in Mandalay, Tanintharyi, and Yangon Regions between 21 Apr and 5 May. The victims' dead bodies were dumped on streets with the responsible group's logo on a lanyard.¹⁷ As of 16 May, the figure had risen to at least 20.¹⁸ On 19 May, in Nyaung-U Township (Mandalay Region), resistance forces attacked a group of Thwe Thout members, killing three and injuring one. They reportedly found a hit list of more than 150 individuals.¹⁹

On 16 May, in Maha Aungmyay Township (Mandalay Region), six unidentified, armed men abducted an NLD member from his home. The victim had previously been detained for three months on bogus incitement charges before being released in an October amnesty.²⁰ On 19 May, in Thaketa Township (Yangon Region), unidentified gunmen opened fire on three known NLD supporters, killing at least two of them. On 20 May, in Chanayethazan Township (Mandalay Region), a woman and her daughter, both vocal NLD supporters, were found dead in their home with lanyards bearing the Thwe Thout logo around their necks.²¹

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

The junta continued to target free expression and perceived opponents. On 5 May, the regime announced it had arrested 229 social media users for incitement and terrorism over alleged posts in support of the NUG, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), or People's Defense Forces (PDFs) since 27 Jan.²² As of 31 May, the junta had arrested at least 13,902 civilians, including politicians, activists, and journalists.²³

On 20 May, the regime sentenced two social activists from Thandwe (Rakhine State) to three years in prison for terrorism over alleged links to the resistance; and another to one year in prison on incitement

¹² DMG (17 May 2022) Ousted Mon State chief minister sentenced to 21 years in prison on graft charges

¹³ Irrawaddy (27 May 2022) Ousted NLD Regional Chief Minister Given New Jail Term by Myanmar Regime

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (27 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Detains Petrol Tycoon With Corruption Charge

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) NLD Says at Least 14 Members, Supporters Killed by Pro-Junta Groups in Two Weeks

¹⁶ Radio Free Asia (RFA) (10 May 2022) Activists face new threats as pro-junta militias spread in Myanmar

¹⁷ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) NLD Says at Least 14 Members, Supporters Killed by Pro-Junta Groups in Two Weeks

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (18 May 2022) Myanmar NLD Members, Relatives Live in Fear of Attack by Pro-Junta Terror Group

¹⁹ Myanmar Now (23 May 2022) Murders in Yangon and Mandalay linked to Thwe Thout

²⁰ Myanmar Now (17 May 2022) NLD party member abducted in Mandalay

²¹ Myanmar Now (23 May 2022) Murders in Yangon and Mandalay linked to Thwe Thout

²² RFA (5 May 2022) More than 200 arrested for social media posts supporting Myanmar opposition

²³ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) (31 May 2022) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

charges for leading an anti-junta rally.²⁴ On 26 May, it was reported that another local was sentenced to 10 years in prison on terrorism charges for allegedly sending messages to the PDF.²⁵

The junta continued to target striking staff despite struggling to replace them. On 10 May, the junta-controlled Myanma Railway announced it was looking to hire 60 deputy station masters, with no previous experience required. The company, which is facing difficulties after more than half of its employees joined the CDM, used to fill such roles with experienced staffers. The majority of striking staff have refused to return to work despite intense pressure from the regime, including the eviction of thousands of CDM railway employees from government housing compounds.²⁶

On 13 May, the junta Ministry of Health, citing a shortage of workers, said that the 1,222 people who graduated from medical universities in 2020 and 2021 will face a MMK 60 million fine and the revocation of their licenses if they fail to serve in public hospitals for three years.²⁷ On 18 May, in Taunggyi (Shan State), junta forces detained two striking doctors, husband and wife. They arrested the husband at a private hospital, reportedly beating staff and swearing at patients in the process. They also took CCTV records and a list of employees. On 18-19 May, junta police conducted checks on at least five private hospitals and clinics to see if they were employing striking staff.²⁸

On 18 May, it was reported that the regime had **stopped issuing passports** to striking civil servants since Mar 2022. The junta reportedly sent a list of CDM members to passport offices, and some have been detained and questioned while applying for travel documents. Strikers have also been arrested at Yangon Airport and charged with incitement.²⁹

The junta continued to target the relatives of people evading arrest. Between 30 Apr and 3 May, in Kyaukse Township (Mandalay Region), junta troops raided the house of CDM member Wai Lwin Oo three times. Soldiers ultimately detained nine of his relatives, including his four-year-old daughter, after failing to locate him.³⁰ On 1 May, after failing to find a student activist at home in Dawbon Township (Yangon Region), regime forces detained his parents and five siblings, including at least two children.³¹

The junta continued to use military courts to crack down on dissent. On 18 May, a military tribunal in Yangon **sentenced seven youths to death** on terrorism charges for allegedly murdering a ward official. The same day, the junta sentenced another youth from Yangon's North Dagon Township to life in prison for allegedly having links to and collecting money for resistance fighters.³²

On 24 May, Amnesty International (AI) singled out the junta in its annual Death Sentences and Executions report, noting an “alarming increase in the resort to the death penalty [by] special or existing military tribunals, through summary proceedings and without the right to appeal.” It also reported that the regime had sentenced nearly 90 people to death.³³

The junta continued to torture and kill detainees. On 2 May, it was reported that junta forces had been subjecting some 20 political prisoners from Monywa Prison (Sagaing Region) to repeated beatings and other forms of torture since a riot broke out at the facility on 3 Apr. The regime's prison authorities are reportedly planning to file more charges against them regarding the incident.³⁴

On 11 May, it was reported that anti-regime protest leader Thura Aung, who was rumored to be dead following his arrest on 9 Feb, was being held in the notorious Mandalay Palace interrogation center, where junta forces routinely torture prisoners. Thura Aung is reportedly suffering from serious injuries; local activist groups have appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and foreign embassies to intervene.³⁵

²⁴ Narinjara News (21 May 2022) Three Thandwe social activists sentenced to prison

²⁵ Irrawaddy (27 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Jails Man for 10 Years for Alleged Ties to People's Defense Force

²⁶ DVB (11 May 2022) Desperate Myanma Railways seeks staff: no experience required

²⁷ DMG (13 May 2022) Regime orders medical graduates to work for it or have their licences revoked

²⁸ Irrawaddy (24 May 2022) Myanmar Regime Sends Striking Doctor Couple to Interrogation Camp

²⁹ Irrawaddy (18 May 2022) Striking Myanmar Civil Servants Denied Passports

³⁰ Mizzima (6 May 2022) Family and four-year-old daughter of CDM participant arrested instead of him

³¹ Irrawaddy (3 May 2022) Myanmar Regime Detains Child Relatives of Student Protester

³² RFA (20 May 2022) Myanmar junta tribunal sentences 7 youths to death in Yangon

³³ Al Jazeera (24 May 2022) Executions surge 20 percent in 2021 led by China, Iran: Amnesty

³⁴ Myanmar Now (2 May 2022) Political prisoners tortured after Monywa Prison riot

³⁵ Myanmar Now (11 May 2022) Mandalay protest leader still in interrogation centre three months after his arrest

On 17 May, it was reported that junta forces had **detained around 400 villagers** in Kawhmu Township (Yangon Region) after several army officers were killed in a 3 May attack on a junta convoy. Soldiers released them on 15 May after forcing them to sign a pledge to provide information about resistance groups active in the area. Regime troops tortured more than 30 of them during questioning and forced the others to sit in the sun for hours.³⁶

On 19 May, in Paungde (Bago Region), regime troops arrested NLD member Ko Min Min following a PDF attack on police officers near his betel nut shop. On 19 May, junta forces told his family that he had died of a cold, and prevented them from taking the body home. According to the NLD, regime forces had **tortured 18 party members to death** during interrogation as of 10 May.³⁷

The junta stepped up its attacks on journalists. On 2 May, it was reported that pro-junta terror group Thwe Thout had called for the deaths of several reporters and editors, as well as their family members. Khit Thit media editor Tha Lun Zaung Htet, who was among those named, said the group was acting on orders from the regime. Veteran journalist Myint Kyaw stated that the situation constituted “a new low” for Burma’s media environment.³⁸ On 3 May, in Mrauk-U Township (Rakhine State), junta forces and public servants distributed leaflets claiming that local ‘state-destroying, lying’ news agencies were spreading misinformation to deceive people into making donations.³⁹

On 3 May, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) dropped Burma to 175th out of 180 countries in its 2022 World Press Freedom Index, from 140th in 2021. The new ranking puts Burma behind only North Korea, Eritrea, Iran, and Turkmenistan. RSF stated that the regime had “obliterated” the fragile progress towards greater press freedom that had been seen since 2011; and noted that Min Aung Hlaing openly promotes a policy of terror towards journalists.⁴⁰

On 7 May, in Sittwe (Rakhine State), junta forces raided the old office of news agency Narinjara, prompting its reporters to go into hiding and the indefinite suspension of operations.⁴¹ On 10 May, in Hpa-an Township (Karen State), junta forces detained freelance journalist Maung Myo at the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint and took him to an undisclosed location.⁴² On 16 May, former Irrawaddy photojournalist Zaw Zaw, who had been missing since 9 Apr, was transferred to Mandalay’s Obo Prison after being reportedly tortured in junta custody.⁴³ On 18 May, a military tribunal sentenced Shan journalist Than Soe Aung—in custody since March 2022—to five years in prison for incitement.⁴⁴

Opposition calls for boycott as regime reopens schools, universities

On 8 May, the CDM Students Supporting Team called on students not to return to public schools.⁴⁵ On 9 May, resistance group Urban Task Force PINDAYA (UTF-PDY) detonated a mine at the Pindaya Township Education Office (Shan State). The group said the attack was merely a warning, promising ‘a fatal explosion’ if the junta authorities go ahead with their plans to reopen schools.⁴⁶ The regime started its basic education enrolment week on 26 May, and plans to reopen schools on 2 Jun. More than 1.6 million students enrolled on 26 May alone, according to junta figures.⁴⁷

On 12 May, the regime reopened universities and colleges despite an aggressive boycott campaign by students’ and teachers’ unions.⁴⁸ On 15 May, local media reported low enrolment rates in Dagon and East Yangon Universities (Yangon Region).⁴⁹ On 18 May, it was reported that only 67 students had

³⁶ Myanmar Now (17 May 2022) Abducted locals released after signing pledge to inform on PDFs

³⁷ Mizzima (21 May 2022) NLD member dies under interrogation in Bago’s Paungde Town

³⁸ RFA (2 May 2022) Pro-junta militia calls for killing of Myanmar reporters and their family members

³⁹ DMG (3 May 2022) Junta distributes propaganda leaflets against opposition in Mrauk-U

⁴⁰ Reporters Without Borders (accessed 3 May 2022) Asia-Pacific, Myanmar; RFA (3 May 2022) Little to celebrate on Press Freedom Day amid worsening media crackdown in Myanmar

⁴¹ DMG (7 May 2022) Police raid Narinjara office, reporters go into hiding

⁴² Mizzima (14 May 2022) Journalist arrested at Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint in Hpa-an Township, Karen State

⁴³ Myanmar Now (19 May 2022) Mandalay journalist turns up at Obo Prison more than a month after his arrest

⁴⁴ Mizzima (21 May 2022) Shan journalist reportedly sentenced to five years in jail

⁴⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (12 May 2022) Student Group Wants Parents To Continue Supporting Burma’s CDM

⁴⁶ Mizzima (12 May 2022) Explosion at Pindaya Township Education Office

⁴⁷ Star (27 May 2022) Over 1.6 million students enroll in basic education schools across Myanmar; Covid-19 total now rising to 613,260

⁴⁸ Frontier Myanmar (18 May 2022) Inside the junta’s war on student unions; Mizzima (15 May 2022) Low college and university enrollment under Myanmar Military Council

⁴⁹ Mizzima (15 May 2022) Low college and university enrollment under Myanmar Military Council

enrolled at Hinthada Technological University (Ayeyarwady Region), compared to over 1,000/academic year under the NLD government.⁵⁰ On 18 May, the Yangon University of Education Students' Union stated that attendance rates remained at less than 10%.⁵¹

On 18 May, it was reported that the abolition of student unions at universities under the junta had coincided with the emergence of alternative groups known as student associations, which are believed to be supported by the regime to convince students to go back to class and undermine opposition to its rule.⁵² As of that date, the junta had arrested over 30 members of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU). Three of them died in custody, including former ABFSU leader Ko Nyi Min Thu.⁵³

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

RCSS and NMSP sign deals with regime as major EAOs reject peace talks

As of 9 May, at least six EAOs had officially rejected the peace dialogue proposed by Min Aung Hlaing in April, including four signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA): the Karen National Union (KNU), Chin National Front (CNF), Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), and All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF). The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Karenni Army (KA) also formally declined to attend the peace talks.⁵⁴

On 10 May, junta media sources claimed that 10 EAOs had expressed interest in participating. These included seven NCA signatories—the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), KNU-KNLA/Peace Council, Pa'O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), New Mon State Party (NMSP), Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), and LDU—and three non-signatories—the United Wa State Army (UWSA), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), and Shan State Army – North (SSA).⁵⁵ On 15 May, 24 Rakhine State youth organizations issued a joint statement condemning the ALP's participation.⁵⁶

A delegation led by RCSS Chairman Yawd Serk met with Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyidaw on 20 May. The RCSS and the regime discussed general issues related to peace and development, and reportedly signed several agreements following three days of negotiations.⁵⁷ On 23 May, it was reported that the NMSP and the junta had agreed to draft a “state constitution for equality and self-determination” and a “constitution for the establishment of a federal union.”⁵⁸ On 27 May, it was reported that the regime and the NMSP had ratified an agreement reached on 25 May, but that the details were not yet known.⁵⁹

Post-coup death toll “unprecedented” in modern history

As of 27 May, there had been 886 armed clashes and attacks on civilians in May, 4,511 in 2022, and 12,169 since 1 Feb 2021.⁶⁰

On 17 May, it was reported that the Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP Myanmar) had documented at least 5,646 civilian deaths during 1 Feb 2021–10 May 2022, a death toll “unprecedented” in the modern history of Burma. At least 1,831 civilians were killed in shooting deaths. At least 3,107 civilians were killed after being labeled as military informants, according to the junta and the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). These figures are consistent with Radio Free Asia's (5,683 civilian deaths between during 1 Feb 2021–12 May 2022).⁶¹

⁵⁰ Mizzima (May 2022) Only 67 students enrol at Hinthada Technological University for 2022-23 academic year

⁵¹ Frontier Myanmar (18 May 2022) Inside the junta's war on student unions

⁵² Frontier Myanmar (18 May 2022) Inside the junta's war on student unions

⁵³ DMG (18 May 2022) Myanmar devastated by military coup, says ABFSU official

⁵⁴ DMG (9 May 2022) Major ethnic armies reject junta chief's peace talks offer as deadline to register arrives

⁵⁵ GNLM (11 May 2022) 10 EAOs—7 NCA-signatories and 3 non-NCA signatories to attend the peace talks so far: Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

⁵⁶ DMG (16 May 2022) Arakanese CSOs slam ALP decision to join junta-sponsored peace talks

⁵⁷ GNLM (20 May 2022) Peace delegation led by RCSS/SSA Chairman arrives in Nay Pyi Taw upon SAC Chairman's invitation; EMG (23 May 2022) SAC's peace negotiation team, RCSS sign agreements after 3 days of talks

⁵⁸ DMG (23 May 2022) New Mon State Party second EAO to work with junta following talks

⁵⁹ Mon News Agency (27 May 2022) SAC and NMSP sign negotiation agreement

⁶⁰ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (27 May 2022) Data export tool, available at: <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

⁶¹ RFA (17 May 2022) New civilian death toll since coup 'unprecedented' in Myanmar's history

Resistance forces continued to attack military targets. On 1 May, a group detonated a mine on the Taungoo-Naypyidaw railway line, in Taungoo Township (Bago Region), which the junta uses to move food, ammunition, and other supplies.⁶² On 7 May, local resistance forces attacked junta troops stationed at Budalin Township Police Station (Sagaing Region) with artillery, damaging the police station and nearby houses.⁶³ On 8 May, in Tanintharyi Township (Tanintharyi Region), a coalition of forces raided a military-owned rubber factory causing junta personnel and Pyu Saw Htee members to flee. On the same day in Tanintharyi Township, the same coalition attacked the Sin Phyu Shin HtonKha Prison, killing three junta soldiers and injuring others.⁶⁴ On 14 May, in Mingaladon Township (Yangon), two urban guerrilla groups attacked a junta military base, killing two junta soldiers and injuring four.⁶⁵ On 17 May, in Mayangone Township (Yangon), resistance forces bombed a junta bunker, killing three soldiers and injuring two others.⁶⁶

Unseen junta destruction

On 18 May, it was reported that conflict between pro-military Pyu Saw Htee groups and anti-junta PDFs would have more substantial, and longer-lasting, social consequences than conventional military conflict, as it pits neighbor against neighbor. The junta is reportedly worsening this conflict by forcibly recruiting Pyu Saw Htee members to fight PDFs; in Magway and Sagaing Regions, locals said that they were ordered to form a pro-military militia or be hurt or killed, or have their village torched or water supply cut off.

A day earlier, it was reported that the junta may intentionally be fomenting conflict: “Unable to assert its authority in any other way, the regime may be hoping that a further deterioration of the situation will lead to greater acceptance of its rule among a population already reeling from the country’s ongoing death spiral.”

This take was based on the junta’s admission of supporting Pyu Saw Htee groups, and on the striking similarity between the Thwe Thout group killing NLD supporters in Mandalay and Swan Arr Shin, a group of thugs hired by the military to suppress opponents with violence, notably in 1988, 2003, 2007, and 2015.

RFA (18 May 2022) Conflict between Myanmar’s proxy forces may outlast a political resolution; Myanmar Now (17 May 2022) Recent murder spree revives fears of return of old junta tactics

Resistance forces continued to attack non-military targets and individuals. On 9 May, in Inle Region (Shan State), a resistance group shot dead a pro-regime militia leader and his son-in-law.⁶⁷ On 16 May, in Lewe Township (Naypyidaw), the Naypyidaw PDF carried out a bomb attack on military supporters gathering for a pro-junta rally, injuring an estimated six people. The Naypyidaw PDF warned that those who continue to support the regime will face the same consequences.⁶⁸ On 17 May, unknown gunmen shot dead a junta-appointed ward administrator in Yangon’s Ahlone Township.⁶⁹ On 28 May, the Magway PDF killed a junta mouthpiece Myawady News official and alleged Pyu Saw Htee leader in Pauk (Magway Region).⁷⁰

On 11 May, the USDP chairman said that resistance forces had killed about 1,530 party members.⁷¹

Update by State/Region

On 31 May, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) had exceeded one million for the first time in Burma’s history. As of 26 May, more than 694,300 persons had been internally displaced since 1 Feb 2021, including 336,600 in Sagaing Region, 91,700 in Karenni State, 83,300 in Karen State, 56,600 in S. Shan State, and 53,600 in Magway Region. An estimated 40,200 had also fled to neighboring countries. UNOCHA warned that the monsoon season was now in full swing with strong storms and heavy rain hitting Rakhine, Kachin, S. Shan, and Karen States since April, causing damage to shelters and further compounding existing vulnerabilities.⁷²

⁶² Mizzima (3 May 2022) Local Defense Force explodes mine on Taungoo to Naypyidaw railway line

⁶³ Mizzima (11 May 2022) Sagaing’s Budalin Township Police Station attacked with heavy weapons

⁶⁴ Mizzima (10 May 2022) PDF raids military-owned rubber factory in Nyaung-Pinkwin Village, Tanintharyi Township

⁶⁵ Myanmar Now (16 May 2022) Urban guerrillas fire grenades at military base in Yangon

⁶⁶ Mizzima (21 May 2022) Junta bunker bombed in Yangon’s Mayangone Township

⁶⁷ Mizzima (11 May 2022) Pro Junta militia leader and son-in-law shot dead in Inle, southern Shan State

⁶⁸ Myanmar Now (16 May 2022) Bomb explosion injures junta supporters ahead of pro-military rally in Naypyitaw

⁶⁹ Myanmar Now (18 May 2022) Ward administrator shot to death in Yangon’s Ahlone Township

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (1 Jun 2022) Resistance force assassinates local staff member of military mouthpiece

⁷¹ EMG (13 May 2022) Assassins kill over 1,500 USDP members and supporters: USDP’s chairman

⁷² UNOCHA (31 May 2022) Myanmar—Humanitarian Update No.18

Karen

On 1 May, it was reported that, in March, Thai soldiers had destroyed a makeshift bridge used by refugees fleeing deadly attacks in Burma near Mae Sot, Thailand. In line with Thai PM Prayut Chan-ocha's order to prevent "illegal immigration" from Burma—a euphemism for blocking refugees—Thai authorities have forced thousands of refugees back to Burma.⁷³ On 5 May, UNHCR cited the Thai government in saying that since 17 Mar, 2,655 Burma refugees had crossed into Thailand's Tak province; 1,543 remained on the Thai side of the border.⁷⁴ On 23 May, junta troops stormed five villages along the Dawei-Myittar-Hteekhee road in Dawei Township (Tanintharyi Region), causing 300 locals to flee to—and be turned away from—the Thai border.⁷⁵

On 10 May, it was reported that Karen fighters had killed 356 junta troops and Border Guard Force (BGF) members in 507 clashes in April.⁷⁶ On 1 May, in Hpapun Township, junta fighter jets repeatedly bombed Mae Nu Hta village in response to the Bamar People's Liberation Army (BPLA) and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) taking over the Kyout Nyat army camp.⁷⁷ On 18 May, the KNLA seized control of a junta base in Myawaddy Township, six junta troops, and a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and equipment.⁷⁸ On 26 May, over 300 BGF soldiers attacked Lay Kay Kaw village, presumably in an attempt to reclaim the base.⁷⁹

Fighting extended to Mon State and Tanintharyi Region, where the junta clashed with the KNLA and aligned forces. On 1 May, junta forces dropped several bombs on Lay Kay village, Bilin Township (Mon State), injuring three civilians and destroying eight homes and a monastery.⁸⁰ On 3 May, near Ingabo village, Kyaikto Township (Mon State), junta forces clashed with the KNLA, forcing more than 1,000 civilians to flee.⁸¹ On 10-11 May, in Kyaikto Township, a KNLA-led coalition launched separate attacks on a junta convoy of around 30 military trucks, prompting local residents to flee.⁸² On 12 May, it was reported that junta forces used more than 100 civilians as porters and human shields during a march from Hpa-An Township (Karen State) to Bilin Township.⁸³

On 4 May, in Dawei Township (Tanintharyi Region), regime shelling destroyed six houses in Pakaryi village.⁸⁴ On 14-16 May, junta forces shelled Karen National Defence Organization (KNDO) positions and local villages, destroying about 10 homes and forcing more than 1,000 villagers to flee. The junta cut off both internet and mobile phone access.⁸⁵ On 24 May, it was reported that the junta had carried out a four-day assault on villages, leading to the capture and decapitation of two resistance fighters and two civilians. On 18 May, a junta column raided Taku village, Tanintharyi Township; local defense forces counterattacked, leading to clashes that lasted until 21 May. During the clash, regime troops killed a 10-year-old intellectually disabled child and a 30-year-old man.⁸⁶ The junta offensive used heavy artillery and displaced the entire village.⁸⁷

On 20 May, it was reported that IDPs in Tanintharyi Region urgently needed medical support after malaria and dengue cases were reported at displacement camps in Dawei, Yebyu, Thayetchaung, Myeik, and Tanintharyi Townships. The regime imposed tight security checks along the Myeik-Tanintharyi-Dawei road, making it difficult to transport medicines and food supplies; and displacement camps also faced shortages of healthcare professionals. Over 3,000 people have fled to displacement

⁷³ Mizzima (5 May 2022) Myanmar refugees face arbitrary arrest and alleged extortion

⁷⁴ UNHCR (6 May 2022) Myanmar Situation - Inter-Agency Operational Update

⁷⁵ DMG (24 May 2022) Locals flee to Thai border after Myanmar military storms Dawei Twsp villages

⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) Over 350 Junta Troops Killed in April in Southeast Myanmar

⁷⁷ Karen News (9 May 2022) Military Council Responds to Loss of its Army Base with Multiple Airstrikes

⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (19 May 2022) KNU seizes control of junta base near Thai-Myanmar border

⁷⁹ Mizzima (31 May 2022) BGF forces attack Myawaddy Township's Lay Kay Kaw village

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (4 May 2022) Military carries out airstrikes on KNU territory in Mon State

⁸¹ DMG (4 May 2022) Over 1,000 locals displaced as junta troops clash with KNLA in Mon State's Kyaikto Twsp

⁸² DMG (11 MAY 2022) Locals forced to flee as KNLA clashes with junta troops in Mon State's Kyaikto

⁸³ Myanmar Now (12 May 2022) KNU accuses Myanmar military of abducting civilians for use as as human shields

⁸⁴ DMG (5 May 2022) Myanmar military shelling destroys homes in Tanintharyi Region village

⁸⁵ DMG (16 May 2022) Fighting reported along Dawei-Hteekhee road in Tanintharyi Region

⁸⁶ Myanmar Now (24 May 2022) Four people found decapitated after junta assault on southeastern Myanmar villages

⁸⁷ Mizzima (21 May 2022) Villagers in Taku village, Tanintharyi Township flee due to heavy junta weapons fire

camps and surrounding forests in May due to fighting between junta troops and a coalition of the KNDO and allied resistance groups in areas controlled by KNLA Brigade 4.⁸⁸

Karenni

On 7 May, in Hpruso Township, the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) and Karenni Army ambushed a convoy of around 20 junta vehicles, killing 15 junta soldiers. The junta sent reinforcements; resistance forces then killed another ten soldiers.⁸⁹ On 17 May, it was reported that since 1 Feb 2021, 199,615 people had been internally displaced in the State, or 51.16% of its population. The figures were calculated by ISP Myanmar, based on reports from independent CSOs.⁹⁰

Shan

On 12 May, the Pekon PDF and KNDF attacked a junta outpost in Hti Ri village, Nyaung Shwe Township, killing over 15 troops and taking five prisoners. The outpost was shared by junta troops and members of the Pa-O National Army (PNA).⁹¹ The regime then conducted an aerial assault on Hti Ri, causing many locals to flee their homes.⁹² On 13 May, junta and PNA troops prevented over 100 IDPs from leaving by blocking a security gate near Loi Tong village.⁹³ On 16 May, Saung Nang Khae village (Pekon Township) was seen burning after junta troops occupied a hill nearby. The arson attacks were preceded by heavy artillery fire and clashes which caused civilians to flee.⁹⁴

On 19 May, it was reported that military aggression had caused over 20,000 civilians in Moebye and Pekon Townships to flee the week before. Around half of them came from around 20 villages along the eastern shores of Pekon Lake, affected by indiscriminate shelling by junta forces in retaliation for the 12 May resistance attack in Hti Ri. On 17 May, 10,000 more people were forced to leave their homes in five wards in Moebye, which lies opposite two villages hit by military shells. On 18 May, a local from Loi Pann Sone village in Pekon said that junta shells fired into the community injured two young men—aged 16 and 18—and destroyed a monastery and home.⁹⁵

On 26 May, it was reported that the Pa’O National Organization (PNO)—the political wing of the PNA—was trying to form a new pro-junta militia in Southern Shan State. It reportedly forced villages located between Taunggyi and Hopong to provide three civilians each and collected MMK 30,000/household for “military security.” Those who refused had to pay MMK 45,000.⁹⁶

On 16 May, it was reported that in Ywangan Township, junta forces murdered 10 civilians, abducted 25 others, and set fire to 13 houses during Feb 2022–Apr 2022. Regime attacks also forced over 800 villagers to flee into nearby forests. On 9 Apr, the local PDF killed four junta soldiers; since then, junta troops have gone from village to village, interrogating civilians and searching for the PDF’s camp.⁹⁷ On 11 May, it was reported that plainclothes junta troops abducted four villagers from Thaphan Pin village, Ywangan Township, and threatened to kill them if they did not say where the PDF camp was located.⁹⁸

On 3 May, it was reported that Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) soldiers had threatened villagers in Zup Awng IDP camp, outside Kutkai, who had asked them to leave the area. Villagers reportedly do not feel safe with the soldiers clashing with the junta and sexually harassing women. One source reported that the MNDAA seems to be using the IDPs as human shields to protect themselves. The camp, established in 2011, is home to 1,000 villagers.⁹⁹ On 15 May, in Kutkai

⁸⁸ DMG (20 May 2022) Tanintharyi Region IDPs in urgent need of medicines

⁸⁹ Myanmar Now (9 May 2022) Karenni fighters kill 25 junta troops in attack on army convoy

⁹⁰ Mizzima (17 May 2022) Almost 200,000 IDPs created in Karenni State since the coup

⁹¹ Myanmar Now (13 May 2022) Karenni fighters kill 15, capture five in raid on junta outpost in southern Shan State

⁹² Shan News (18 May 2022) Due to SAC Air Strikes and Shelling, Residents Fled Homes in Phaikhun

⁹³ Shan News (17 May 2022) IDPs Forced to Stop by PNA and Military Junta Soldiers

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (18 May 2022) Displaced locals witness ‘whole village’ burn following junta occupation in southern Shan State

⁹⁵ Myanmar Now (19 May 2022) Tens of thousands of people displaced on Shan-Karenni border

⁹⁶ DVB (26 May 2022) Pro-military PNO forcing Pa-O men into new militias

⁹⁷ Shan News (16 May 2022) Burma Army Killing Civilians In Ywar Ngarn Township

⁹⁸ Shan News (11 May 2022) Regime Forces Abduct More Villagers From Ywar Ngarn Township

⁹⁹ Kachin News Group (3 May 2022) Displaced Villagers Want MNDAA To Leave Kutkai Camp

Township, 20 MNDAA soldiers abducted 12 IDPs from the Pan Lot IDP camp to conscript them, before reportedly releasing seven of them the next day.¹⁰⁰

On 4 May, junta troops stopped two youths and forced them to carry around 15 soldiers in the back of their truck. As the truck approached Ma Tawng village, Muse Township, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) troops stationed on a nearby hill shelled it, flipping it over and killing the two youths and at least 10 junta soldiers.¹⁰¹ On 8 May, MNDAA and TNLA members clashed with junta troops in Hsenwi Township.¹⁰² On 13 May, in Muse Township, a resistance group attacked a junta convoy returning from the frontlines of a clash with the MNDAA, killing 20 soldiers.¹⁰³

Kachin

On 3 May, the junta shelled Maw Pon village, Hpakant Township, killing two civilians.¹⁰⁴ On 23 May, still in Hpakant, junta soldiers killed a man who failed to stop at a checkpoint.¹⁰⁵

On 16 May, the KIO warned civil servants working under the junta to “voluntarily resign from their posts” in Myitkyina, Hukawng, and Shin Bway Yang Districts and Tanai Township. It added: “anybody who continues to work for the junta will have to take responsibility for any consequences.”¹⁰⁶ On 23 May, the junta suspended the services of regime-controlled telecoms companies MPT and Mytel as 30 military vehicles were seen in Putao, raising fears that an attack was imminent.¹⁰⁷

Chin

On 3 May, junta soldiers burned down more than 20 homes in two villages along the Hakha-Falam road in Falam Township. The Chin National Defence Force (CNDF) subsequently ambushed the junta unit responsible, killing around 18 troops.¹⁰⁸ On 4 May, in Matupi Township, the Mindat Chinland Defense Force (CDF) intercepted a convoy of 70 junta vehicles, killing five junta soldiers and injuring many others. On 5 May, a group led by the Mindat CDF battalion

Junta-AA tensions rise

The Burma military fought with the Arakan Army (AA) ferociously from 2018 to 2020, dubbed the AA a terrorist group, and jailed hundreds for ties to the group. The military made an informal ceasefire with the AA just before its February 2021 power grab, a move some said was aimed at freeing up resources for the crackdowns and fighting that would predictably ensue from a coup.

In May, the regime started once again arresting civilians over alleged ties with the AA and United League of Arakan (ULA)—of which the AA is the armed wing. On 6 May, junta forces entered Sar Pyin village, Taungup Township, to look for ULA-appointed administrators; similar searches were reported elsewhere in the state.

On 22 May, in Ann Township, residents heard heavy and light weapons in the night, sparking fears of renewed conflict. Similar activity was reported in other townships. On 26 May, junta forces raided the homes of a ULA official and a local they suspected of ties to the AA in Ramree Township. On 31 May, it was reported that the regime was stepping up military activity in northern Rakhine State, and sending more troops along with large quantities of weapons and equipment.

This tension has not been limited to Rakhine State. On 5 May, it was reported that the regime had arrested at least 40 people from four coastal villages in Ngaputaw Township (Ayeyarwady Region) over alleged links to the AA. About 15 of them had been released, but the rest remained imprisoned at the Haigyi Island naval base.

On 8 May, it was reported that about 60 people from Paletwa Township (Chin State) had fled to IDP camps in Rakhine State as the military continued to arrest villagers on the suspicion of links with the AA. On 15 May, junta troops clashed with the AA in Paletwa Township, after AA fighters fired at a junta helicopter. On 26 May, junta troops detained a village administrator and two 10-household heads in Paletwa Township following another clash with the AA earlier in the day.

Myanmar Now (10 May 2022) Junta searches for AA-linked administrators, in latest sign of Rakhine tensions; Irrawaddy (20 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Risks War in Rakhine State with Civilian Arrests; Myanmar Now (24 May 2022) Nighttime weapons fire from junta bases in Rakhine State alarms locals; DMG (26 May 2022) Junta troops raid homes of ULA official and resident in Laytaung town; DMG (5 May 2022) Junta arrests dozens of Arakanese in Ayeyarwady Region for alleged AA links; Narinjara (8 May 2022) Arrests in Paletwa compel 60 people to flee for Rakhine; Irrawaddy (16 May 2022) Junta Troops Clash With Arakan Army in Western Myanmar; DMG (27 May 2022) Junta detains three administrators following Paletwa Twsp fighting; Myanmar Now (30 May 2022) Junta troops occupying religious sites in northern Rakhine State, locals say Myanmar Now (31 May 2022) Myanmar's military tightens security, intensifies activity in Rakhine as tensions grow

¹⁰⁰ Mizzima (18 May 2022) MNDAA abduct IDPs to conscript them

¹⁰¹ Mizzima (10 May 2022) Two youth forced to transport junta troops killed in roadside ambush in Muse, northern Shan State

¹⁰² Shan News (11 May 2022) TNLA, MDA A Clash With Regime In Muse

¹⁰³ Myanmar Now (16 May 2022) Defence force in northern Shan State claims deadly ambush on junta convoy returning from battle

¹⁰⁴ Kachin News (5 May 2022) Junta Shelling Kills Restaurant Owner And Customer In Hpakant Township

¹⁰⁵ Kachin News (25 May 2022) Burma Army Kills Man In Hpakant

¹⁰⁶ Irrawaddy (16 May 2022) KIO Warns Civil Servants in Northern Myanmar Not to Work for Junta

¹⁰⁷ Network Media Group (24 May 2022) Regime Cuts Cellular Services In Putao

¹⁰⁸ Myanmar Now (6 May 2022) Military burns more than 1,000 homes in northwestern Myanmar in one week

commander attacked another group of junta troops, killing seven.¹⁰⁹ On 23 May, junta troops shelled a village in Mindat Township, hitting two houses and injuring a woman and child. The child's leg had to be amputated.¹¹⁰

On 4–5 May, the Chin National Front (CNF) ambushed around 30 junta vehicles traveling along the Hakha-Falam road, killing more than 20 junta troops and losing nine of their own. The convoy was transporting 15 suspected CDF members. Junta troops used the prisoners as human shields during the attack.¹¹¹

Rakhine

On 6 May, it was reported that IDPs in local camps were suffering as the junta Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had stopped providing rice to camps in February. There are over 10,000 IDP in Kyauktaw Township; over 1,000 in Mrauk-U; and over 10,000 in Rathedaung Township. In addition, makeshift huts housing 28,000 people in Rakhine camps need repairs ahead of the monsoon season. On 21 Apr, UN OCHA said there was a USD 4.7 million funding gap for these repairs.¹¹²

On 8 May, a fire broke out in Maha Muni IDP Camp, burning down 262 huts and leaving 1,073 people homeless. An initial investigation suggests that the fire was caused by negligence. The camp shelters 1,799 IDPs in 432 huts.¹¹³ On 18 May, it was reported that the camp had announced that a committee formed by the local junta authorities would collect donations for the fire victims.¹¹⁴

On 21 May, a Malaysia-bound boat with Rohingya from Sittwe capsized off the coast of Ayeyarwady Region. The boat had been holding around 90 people—at the time of reporting, 14 deceased bodies had been recovered, over 50 people remained missing, and over 20 survivors had been detained.¹¹⁵

Refugees in Bangladesh and India

On 7 May, Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn) beat several refugees—including a 62-year-old woman—with bamboo sticks as they were returning to their shelter in Kutupalong camp after collecting food rations. Five Rohingya refugees also described being beaten by APBn and other officials at camp checkpoints over the days prior. Bangladesh authorities have introduced a draconian permission system for movement within two camps—which some refugees compared to the conditions they had faced in Burma—and reportedly plan to extend it to all camps. The crackdown follows the temporary detention of 656 Rohingya for celebrating the Eid al-Fitr holiday at a Cox's Bazar beach on 5 May.¹¹⁶

On 12 May, it was reported that in Mizoram State (India), almost 3,000 Burma refugees were facing medicine shortages and lack of access to healthcare. Diseases like malaria, flu, and dysentery have become common among displaced populations.¹¹⁷ On 18 May, the Mizoram State Minister for Law, Transport and the Environment opened a clinic for Burma refugees in Champhai District. The clinic, which will be run by CDM staff, will provide free treatment to refugees who hold a refugee card issued by the Mizoram government.¹¹⁸

Sagaing

On 2 May, junta forces executed nine IDPs sheltering at a local Buddhist meditation center in Oak Pho, Budalin Township. They reportedly forced the victims to sit in a line before shooting them in the head. Residents reported that soldiers also ransacked at least a dozen houses and destroyed several vehicles.¹¹⁹ The same day, junta forces attacked Seikhun village, Shwebo Township with shelling and heavy weapons, killing three civilians, and then used civilians hiding in the village monastery as human

¹⁰⁹ Mizzima (7 May 2022) Heavy fighting in Chin State's Matupi Township kills 12 junta soldiers

¹¹⁰ Myanmar Now (24 May 2022) Woman and child injured by junta artillery fire in Mindat

¹¹¹ Myanmar Now (9 May 2022) Resistance forces strike Myanmar army convoys on Chin State roads

¹¹² Irrawaddy (6 May 2022) Myanmar Regime Stops Supplies for Displaced Rakhine Villagers

¹¹³ EMG (9 May 2022) Late-night fire at IDP camp in Rakhine State destroys over 200 huts

¹¹⁴ DMG (18 May 2022) Donations for Kyauktaw IDP camp's fire victims to be distributed via junta-formed committee

¹¹⁵ Reuters (24 May 2022) Rohingya refugee boat sinks off Myanmar, dozens dead or missing, media reports say

¹¹⁶ Human Rights Watch (12 May 2022) Bangladesh Police Beating Rohingya Refugees

¹¹⁷ Irrawaddy (12 May 2022) Myanmar Refugees on Indian Border Face Danger of Disease and Shortage of Medicines

¹¹⁸ Mizzima (24 May 2022) Refugee clinic opens in Mizoram's Zokhawthar Village in India

¹¹⁹ Myanmar Now (5 May 2022) Myanmar soldiers execute nine IDPs sheltering at Sagaing meditation centre

shields. In Nyaungbin Thar village, they killed six villagers after they raided the village for the second time in a week.¹²⁰

On 4 May, local CSOs stated that over 100 people were killed and their bodies dumped in Ye-U Township during Jul 2021–Apr 2022. The victims included alleged informants, seven regime-appointed village administrators, junta sympathizers, and missing persons.¹²¹ On 16 May, it was reported that residents had discovered 21 charred bodies in Mone Taing Pin and Inpin villages, Ye-U Township.¹²² On 6 May, it was reported that junta troops razed over 1,300 houses in Ayadaw, Shwebo, and Khin-U Townships, during 29 Apr–2 May. Over 10,000 people were displaced by junta raids in Khin-U, including 4,000 residents of four villages on 2 May (including 2,000 just from Inpat village).¹²³

On 18 May, in Mya Thein Tan Pagoda Hill, Kani Township, a coalition of local resistance forces attacked 200 junta troops, killing over 20. Regime forces responded by setting fire to houses in Ye Budalin village, before doing the same in Chaung-Wagyi village and camping there, causing many villagers to flee.¹²⁴ On 18–19 May, junta troops raided and torched at least seven villages along the Chindwin River in Kani Township, destroying around 200 homes. Villagers found a dead man with a wound on his neck. The PDFs speculated that the raids were timed to clear and secure the area ahead of a major jade shipment expected to travel down the river.¹²⁵

On 10 May, in Pale Township, a resistance group attacked the junta-occupied village of Zee Phyu Kone, killing over 20 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members. A junta helicopter ultimately forced the resistance fighters to retreat.¹²⁶ On 13 May, following a resistance attack, junta forces fired artillery shells on the Mya Thein Tan monastery in Pale Township, killing the abbot and three novice monks, and injuring five others.¹²⁷

On 11 May, junta forces shelled villages in Khin-U Township, destroying over 20 houses and injuring a 65-year-old civilian.¹²⁸ On 19 May, regime troops fired artillery shells at local IDPs, killing five and injuring 13 others.¹²⁹ On 25 May, still in Khin-U Township, the junta shelled Kan Thit village, killing a 70-year-old man.¹³⁰

On 16 May, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members raided villages in Shwebo and Wetlet Townships, torching around 1,200 houses and displacing over 9,000 civilians, leaving 27 villages abandoned.¹³¹ On 18–22 May, junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members raided and torched around 400 houses in 18 villages in Myaung Township, displacing over 5,000 people.¹³² On 20 May, junta forces torched around 500 houses in Taze Township, displacing a further 5,000.¹³³ On 22 May, junta forces torched 53 houses in Na Gar Twin village, Depayin Township, six of which were owned by known backers of Burma's junta.¹³⁴ On 25 May it was reported that 6,281 Sagaing Region homes were burned down during 1 Apr–24 May, displacing residents as the rainy season began. The most homes were destroyed in Kalay (1,609), Khin-U (874), and Mingin (609) Townships. Most of Sagaing's 34 townships and more than 5,900 villages have been affected by fighting.¹³⁵

On 23 May, it was reported that junta troops had set fire to multiple villages along the Irrawaddy River, destroying hundreds of homes and buildings of religious and historic significance. The operation began on 16 May in Katha and Htigyaing Townships and escalated to a clash with resistance forces on 19 May near Thapyay Thar village in Katha. Immediately afterward, junta troops torched the village and

¹²⁰ RFA (5 May 2022) Junta forces kill 20 civilians in one day in Myanmar's Sagaing region

¹²¹ Irrawaddy (4 May 2022) Junta Sympathizers Among 100 Killed in Upper Myanmar

¹²² Myanmar Now (16 May 2022) More burned bodies discovered in Sagaing's Ye-U Township

¹²³ Irrawaddy (6 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Burn Over 1,300 Houses in Four Days in Northwest

¹²⁴ Mizzima (20 May 2022) Junta troops burn down two villages in Sagaing's Kani Township after being attacked

¹²⁵ Myanmar Now (21 May 2022) Myanmar army columns set fire to multiple villages along Chindwin River

¹²⁶ Myanmar Now (13 May 2022) Guerrilla force ambushes Myanmar military convoy and base in Sagaing

¹²⁷ Irrawaddy (24 May 2022) Four Myanmar Buddhist Monks Killed in Artillery Strike

¹²⁸ Irrawaddy (12 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Troops Step Up Sagaing Raids

¹²⁹ Myanmar Now (23 May 2022) 5 IDPs killed by junta artillery fire in Khin-U Township

¹³⁰ Myanmar Now (27 May 2022) Elderly man killed in northwestern Myanmar after junta artillery shell hits his home

¹³¹ Irrawaddy (24 May 2022) More Than 9,000 Civilians Flee Myanmar Junta Raids

¹³² Irrawaddy (25 May 2022) Thousands Displaced by Myanmar Junta Arson Attacks

¹³³ Irrawaddy (23 May 2022) Over 5,000 Flee Junta Arson Attacks in Upper Myanmar

¹³⁴ Myanmar Now (25 May 2022) Homes of military supporters destroyed in junta arson attack

¹³⁵ RFA (25 May 2022) Thousands of homes burned by soldiers in Myanmar's Sagaing region

neighboring Inn village, where they demolished a mosque. Later that day, junta troops fired artillery from Inn which landed one mile away on a monastery in Pay Lan Kone, injuring seven novice monks, all aged 12 and under, and killing the mother of one of the young monks.¹³⁶

On 25 May, in Yinmabin and Salingyi Townships, junta forces captured five IDPs taking shelter near the community of Done Taw, and killed two. Both victims showed signs of torture.¹³⁷

Magway

On 10 May, it was reported that junta forces had killed at least 155 civilians, arrested 683, and razed over 2,100 houses in Magway Region since 1 Feb 2021. Nearly all the incidents occurred in Magway, Pakokku, Seik Phyu, Gangaw, Saetottara, and Myaing Townships—all pockets of strong resistance.¹³⁸

On 13 May, junta forces fired artillery at Padauk Kan village, Myaing Township, destroying at least 45 houses and killing three members of the same family. Junta soldiers also arrested five people who were beaten and interrogated. On 15 May, junta forces attacked the village again, destroying 17 more houses. On 14 May, junta soldiers attacked Letyetma, a nearby village, destroying an estimated 800 houses.¹³⁹ As they were advancing through Myaing Township, regime troops took 40 villagers hostage and used them as human shields. Six of them were found dead on 26 May; their bodies showed signs of torture.¹⁴⁰ On 16 May, it was reported that regime forces had torched at least 10 villages in Yesagyo Township following clashes with the resistance. Since 10 May, they have burned houses in Mi Pa Yar, Mee Laung Kyaun, Hpyonbu, Kan Oo, Kyine, Min, Mae Kone, Na Ta Yaw, Moe Gwal, and Myay Swan villages. On 16 May, junta troops fired artillery at Moe Gwal and Kan Oo villages, which were later burned down, according to reports from local resistance forces. In April regime troops destroyed at least 27 villages in the Yay Lae Kyaun area. Thousands of villagers have fled the area.¹⁴¹

Mandalay

On 3 May, in Chanmyathazi Township, junta troops surrounded and fired on a guesthouse, killing five members of the Myitnge PDF inside.¹⁴² The same day, in Madaya Township, around 200 junta troops attacked a resistance base and arrested five fighters. While defending the base, the fighters killed 11 junta soldiers and injured another eight.¹⁴³ On 6 May, in Madaya Township, resistance fighters found burned human remains in a mango orchard just two days after the junta raid a nearby base of the Naga Nyi Naung guerrilla force in Thaphan Kaing village, and engaged in a subsequent clash with them before torching the community's homes. Junta troops arrested five resistance fighters and a villager after the clash. Villagers suspected that the bones belonged to the six people that were captured.¹⁴⁴

On 17 May, in Singu Township, junta forces set fire to three villages, a day after resistance fighters killed a local Pyu Saw Htee member.¹⁴⁵

Regime recruitment adds to women's plight as female voices speak up for their rights (more details at [women tracker](#))

Mizzima published a series of articles in May highlighting women's experiences under the junta.

On 1 May, it reported that COVID-19 restrictions and the post-coup turmoil had made it particularly difficult for women without a university degree to find work, noting that there were no shortages of job opportunities for their male counterparts. According to one woman who has been struggling since she resigned from her job in a convenience store: "Due to the socio-political situation, women are not allowed to work there on the night shift which lowers our earnings compared to men. [...] Some customers want to sexually exploit [abuse] the girls who are working alone in the store. So, I had to

¹³⁶ Myanmar Now (23 May 2022) Junta armed forces target villages along Irrawaddy River in central Myanmar arson campaign

¹³⁷ Myanmar Now (27 May 2022) Myanmar military captures, kills local employees of Chinese copper mining company

¹³⁸ RFA (10 May 2022) Deaths and arrests rise in Myanmar's heartland

¹³⁹ Myanmar Now (17 May 2022) Three civilians killed by artillery shell as Magway villages come under heavy fire

¹⁴⁰ Myanmar Now (30 May 2022) Six civilians used as human shields found dead near Myaing village

¹⁴¹ Irrawaddy (16 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Burns Magwe Villages

¹⁴² Irrawaddy (5 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Forces Shoot Dead Five Resistance Fighters in Mandalay

¹⁴³ Myanmar Now (6 May 2022) Hundreds of junta troops raid Mandalay resistance base

¹⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (9 May 2022) Charred human bones found near site of military raid in Mandalay

¹⁴⁵ Myanmar Now (18 May 2022) Mandalay villages torched a day after killing of Pyu Saw Htee member

leave that job because of the insecurity.”¹⁴⁶ On 2 May, it reported that the majority of women did not feel safe since 1 Feb 2021; a Yangon woman recounted her experience being sexually assaulted on a bus. The outlet also pointed to a rise in maltreatment and theft affecting women in major cities.¹⁴⁷

On 3 May, Mizzima reported that the regime’s military had been coercing soldiers’ wives into attending military training, noting that they were regarded as reserve forces and forced to take guard duties in some bases. The outlet noted that, although military wives had on occasion expressed their displeasure at the junta, they mostly remained silent out of fear of reprisals against their husbands. It urged anti-junta activists to work on ways of offering these women and their husbands an exit strategy from the military.¹⁴⁸

On 8 May, Mizzima published an article about how social norms, patriarchy and gender discrimination had long violated the rights of Burma women. A Yangon woman said that her 76-year-old grandmother was pressured to stop her education in order to care for her husband, and deplored that elements of the attitudes involved still lingered on. However, another female teenager interviewed by the outlet vowed to turn the tide: “The notion of male dominance needs to be rooted out from the society because these unnecessary kinds of discrimination against gender, which we have been holding on to for years, leads people to suffer disadvantage.”¹⁴⁹

On 17 May, Mizzima published an article commending the efforts of Burmese actresses and beauty queens in fighting against the junta.¹⁵⁰ On 19 May, it detailed the security challenges faced by female reporters, especially under the junta, with a female reporter sharing her experience covering recent fighting in Lay Kay Kaw (Karen State).¹⁵¹ On 26 May, Mizzima published an interview with the mother of a female activist who was killed during a pro-democracy protest. Although she was initially against her participation in the anti-coup movement, she praised her for fighting for democracy.¹⁵²

On 26 May, it was reported that, in the face of unprecedented nationwide armed resistance, the Burma military was trying to recruit young women to bolster troop numbers. A 23 May advertisement in junta mouthpiece *The Mirror* invited women aged 18–25 who have completed Grade 9 to join the reserve forces. Female soldiers are typically assigned to administrative duties, but military defectors speculated that the junta may be starting to use them in combat positions to make up for the losses inflicted on it.¹⁵³

On 28 May, it was reported women in conflict-affected areas faced challenges dealing with their monthly periods and maintaining proper hygiene. Inflation has driven up the cost of sanitary pads, leaving many unable to afford them; while fighting has shut down local markets and made it harder to deliver goods. Women residing in male-controlled displacement camps with little supply of clean water and menstrual products are left particularly vulnerable: fear of bloodstains due to insufficient sanitary pads could push them into social isolation, while the inability to bathe with soap and clean water leaves them susceptible to infection, often with limited access to healthcare services.¹⁵⁴

COVID-19: Junta fully reopens Burma despite low job rates (more details at [COVID-19 tracker](#))

Junta numbers showed few daily infections throughout the month: 17 on 1 May,¹⁵⁵ 4 on 15 May,¹⁵⁶ and 10 on 31 May.¹⁵⁷ On 12 May, the regime announced that it will resume issuing tourist “e-Visas” on 15 May in an attempt to boost Burma’s moribund tourism industry. Myanmar hosted 4.36 million visitor arrivals in 2019, but the number fell to 903,000 in 2020--the latest year for which statistics are available--after the country closed its borders to visitors in March.¹⁵⁸ Justice for Myanmar (JfM) warned that the

¹⁴⁶ Mizzima (1 May 2022) Job search tough for young Myanmar women in the wake of COVID-19 and the coup

¹⁴⁷ Mizzima (2 May 2022) Going out alone no longer safe for Myanmar women

¹⁴⁸ Mizzima (3 May 2022) Myanmar soldiers’ wives face army abuse

¹⁴⁹ Mizzima (8 May 2022) Norms and discrimination against women in a Myanmar marriage

¹⁵⁰ Mizzima (17 May 2022) Female stars caught in Myanmar’s post-coup crossfire

¹⁵¹ Mizzima (19 May 2022) Challenges faced by female reporters in Myanmar post-coup

¹⁵² Mizzima (26 May 2022) From flowers to wedding dresses, Myanmar women stand up for freedom post-coup

¹⁵³ Myanmar Now (26 May 2022) Threatened on multiple fronts, Myanmar junta calls on young women to join its armed forces

¹⁵⁴ Al Jazeera (28 May 2022) Period pain: Women in Myanmar struggle with menstrual hygiene

¹⁵⁵ GNLM (2 May 2022) 17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 May, total figure rises to 612,900

¹⁵⁶ GNLM (16 May 2022) 4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 May, total figure rises to 613,140

¹⁵⁷ GNLM (1 Jun 2022) 10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 May, total figure rises to 613,336

¹⁵⁸ AP (12 May 2022) Myanmar to resume issuing tourist visas after 2-year hiatus

military's vested interests in swathes of the economy mean tourist money will likely end up in the junta's coffers; and called on anyone considering a holiday in Burma to boycott the country.¹⁵⁹ On 24 May, it was reported that Thai Smile, Air Asia, and Nok Air will resume flights to Yangon on 1 Jun, 3 Jun, and 1 Jul, respectively.¹⁶⁰

Vaccination rates remained low. As of 24 May, according to the junta, only 26,110,318 people had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 5,235,209 others had received a first shot, from a population of 54.4 million. Only 1,997,310 people had received a booster shot.¹⁶¹ According to data compiled by Reuters, at least 56,989,806 doses had been administered as of 9 May, enough to fully vaccinate just 52.7% of the population. Burma had reportedly administered an average 167,150 doses per day over the prior week—versus 196,768 in the week before 26 Apr and 238,494 in the week before 26 Mar, indicating that the rollout was losing steam. At that rate, it would take a further 65 days to vaccinate another 10% of the population.¹⁶²

Junta mismanagement in the spotlight as public healthcare falls apart

On 3 May, it was reported that the shortage of healthcare professionals was preventing the regime from providing the level of care at public hospitals that was possible before the coup, despite moves by the junta to fill vacancies caused by striking staff. An estimated 40,000 healthcare workers were still on strike as of 1 Apr. Many medical students have reportedly joined the CDM, leaving the regime with limited options to replenish the health workforce. Staff shortages are exacerbated by the refusal of many private and charity-run hospitals and clinics to hire CDM doctors and nurses because they fear reprisals from the regime.¹⁶³

On 19 May, it was reported that, in late April, four senior public health officials filed a complaint against the regime-appointed Director-General of the Department of Public Health, accusing her of soliciting bribes from pharmaceutical companies and misappropriating funds. The complaint alleged that she had misused funds for health initiatives to be implemented in coordination with international organizations, falsified expense reports, and sold surplus medication and supplies for profit. A public health official said that, under her leadership, the Department ran out of vaccines for children.¹⁶⁴

Also on 19 May, it was reported that child vaccination rates under the junta had plummeted to staggering lows not seen since the 1980s, resulting in outbreaks of preventable diseases in conflict-affected border areas. In Karen State, the annual immunization programs once conducted by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with EAOs have stopped since the attempted coup, resulting in chickenpox and rotavirus outbreaks in IDP camps. Vaccination was also suspended in EAO-controlled areas of Karenni and Chin States. Experts warned that the likely outcome is a rise in preventable diseases, with infections such as tuberculosis risking re-emergence.¹⁶⁵

¹⁵⁹ Mizzima (13 May 2022) Myanmar junta to reopen borders to tourists

¹⁶⁰ EMG (24 May 2022) Nok Air, Thai Smile and Air Asia to resume flights from Yangon International Airport

¹⁶¹ GNLM (26 May 2022) 18 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 May, total figure rises to 613,256; World Bank (accessed 27 Jan 2022) Population, total – Myanmar

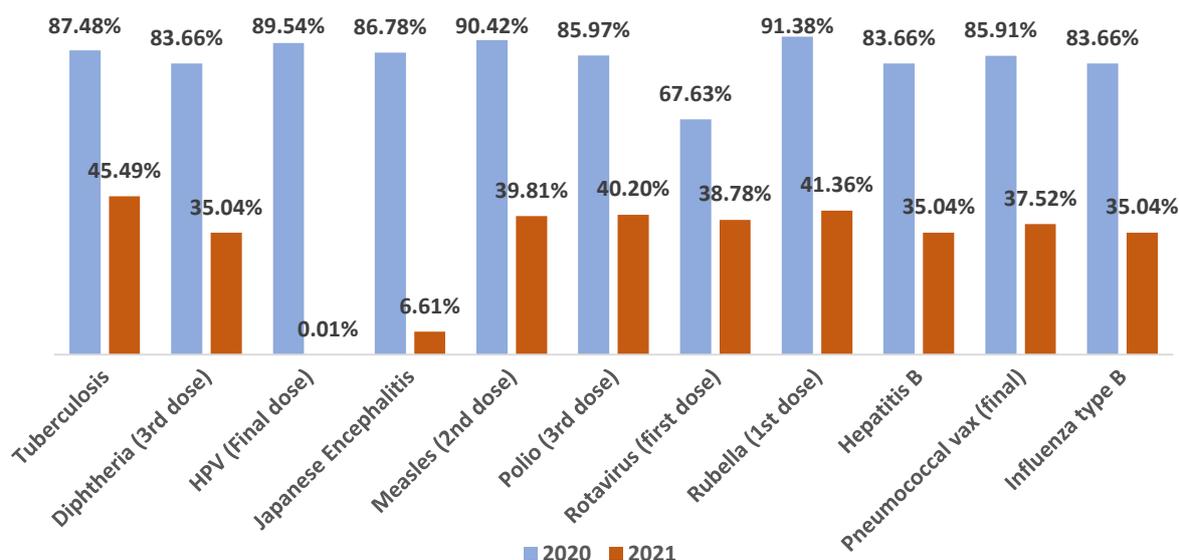
¹⁶² Reuters (accessed 29 May 2022) COVID-19 tracker – Myanmar; ALTSEAN-Burma (5 May 2022) Burma Coup Watch for the month of April 2022: Not satisfied with metaphor, junta tries to burn Burma down

¹⁶³ Frontier Myanmar (3 May 2022) Coup creates public healthcare emergency

¹⁶⁴ Myanmar Now (19 May 2022) Public health officials accuse department's junta-appointed director-general of corruption

¹⁶⁵ Frontier Myanmar (19 May 2022) Fears of disease outbreaks as child vaccination rates plummet

Vaccination coverage in Burma by target group, 2020 vs 2021 (Source: [WHO](#))



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

Inflation, junta mismanagement continue to hurt the economy

On 2 May, it was reported that commercial fishers engaged in purse seine fishing off the coast of Rakhine State were working at a loss due to rising commodity and fuel prices. Fuel prices have reportedly tripled over the past year, from nearly MMK 200,000 to 600,000/barrel.¹⁶⁶

On 17 May, it was reported that the devaluation of the MMK had tripled the cost of livestock inputs, forcing small-scale livestock farmers in Mon State to abandon their businesses. A local farmer said that about 60% of livestock businesses had ceased operations over the last three months, driving up unemployment and threatening the livelihoods of entire families who rely on the trade.¹⁶⁷

On 18 May, it was reported that Burma was still facing fuel shortages. Industry sources said that fuel imports had declined by two-fifths due to the regime’s strict forex controls and its failure to sell off enough USD to importers. They warned that steady market demand could soon cause stocks to run out. Market insiders also pointed out that even major fuel importers like BOC and Denko were not receiving enough USD to meet retail demand.¹⁶⁸

Cash-strapped junta turns against businesses, opponents

On 5 May, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun stated that the regime had obtained court permission to auction off the properties it seized from opponents; a move lawyers said was against the law. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) called the announcement a form of “retaliation” against democracy and human rights activists, pointing out that many of the homes belonged to people whose trials had not yet been ruled on by courts.¹⁶⁹

On 9 May, the regime-controlled CBM announced that it had added 158 companies and their board of directors

Poor households on the line as prices of edible oil set to increase

On 11 May, it was reported that the regime had suspended peanut and sesame exports to bolster domestic oilseed supply after Indonesia suspended palm oil exports in Apr. Up to 94% of Burma’s palm oil imports come from Indonesia.

On 12 May, it was reported that the junta had limited the supply of palm oil to the market to 1,000 tons/day, half of the country’s daily demand, due to declining stocks (only 18,000 tons left). Importers are trying to address the situation by sourcing palm oil from Malaysia, but edible oil prices are nonetheless expected to increase, which will ultimately hit low-income families the hardest.

DMG (11 May 2022) Export of peanuts and sesame halted in effort to boost domestic supply; DMG (12 May 2022) Commerce Ministry limits supply of palm oil

¹⁶⁶ DMG (2 May 2022) Arakan fishing businesses suffer losses on high fuel prices and other rising expenditures

¹⁶⁷ BNI (17 May 2022) Small-scale livestock farming likely disappears in Mon State

¹⁶⁸ Irrawaddy (18 May 2022) Myanmar Fuel Importers Blame Shortages on Junta Dollar Controls

¹⁶⁹ RFA (6 May 2022) Auction of activists’ homes seen as revenge for sale of junta assets

members to a blacklist for failing to deposit export earnings from 2016, 2017, and 2018 into accounts in domestic banks.¹⁷⁰ On 10 May, Mizzima reported that the regime had revoked the export licenses of 346 companies that failed to deposit their export earnings in 2021, and of 177 others in 2022 as of 27 Apr; suggesting an increasingly tougher enforcement of its Nov 2021 directive requiring firms to deposit their earnings within three months of the export date at the latest.¹⁷¹

On 19 May, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said that the regime was preparing to raise taxes on businesses.¹⁷²

On 19 May, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun admitted that the regime was more than seven months late in paying soldiers the dividends they are owed from the 2021 revenue of military-owned conglomerate Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL). He added that junta leader Min Aung Hlaing was aware of the problem, and that the military was “trying [their] best to come up with a plan.” A CDM captain speculated that the junta had already exhausted MEHL’s revenue and would be unable to recover it.¹⁷³ On 25 May, the CBM ordered ministries and local governments not to use foreign currencies for domestic transactions on the pretense of preventing further exchange-rate fluctuations.¹⁷⁴

Regime bars cronies from traveling to prevent capital flight

On 8 May, junta forces briefly detained Kanbawza Bank’s deputy chief executive officer Nang Lang Kham at Yangon International Airport as she was preparing to leave for Thailand. She is the eldest daughter of crony business tycoon Aung Ko Win, who has close ties with Min Aung Hlaing. Junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun denied the incident had occurred.¹⁷⁵

On 18 May, it was reported that the junta appeared to have subjected 27 leading cronies to travel bans, including Zaw Zaw and Tay Za, two of the country’s richest and most high-profile individuals.¹⁷⁶ The regime is also said to have asked military-linked crony Teza, the chairman of the Htoo Group of Companies, as well as Cooperatives Bank owner Khin Maung Aye to return to Burma.¹⁷⁷

An economic analyst speculated that the cash-strapped junta was trying to prevent cronies from fleeing Burma with their wealth. Its troops have arrested and detained several prominent business figures in 2022, raising concerns among the business community about who could be targeted next.¹⁷⁸ On 20 May, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun was quoted dismissing the travel ban allegations as rumors.¹⁷⁹

Beijing wraps up trade deal with regime, Cambodia set to be next

On 1 May, junta media sources announced that China had become the first country to recognize Burma’s instrument of ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), adding that bilateral tariffs on 5,969 products would be lifted from that date on. Among them are 181 mineral products, 234 forest products, and 62 pearls and other gems; all major forex sources for the regime.¹⁸⁰ The RCEP, which entered into force on 1 Jan 2022, includes all ASEAN members, China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand. In Feb 2022, both New Zealand and the Philippines announced that they would not recognize Burma’s instrument of ratification.¹⁸¹

On 4 May, the regime-controlled Ministry of Commerce reported that China remained Burma’s biggest export market, with exports totaling USD 1.98 billion between Oct 2021 and Mar 2022. This figure amounts to almost 24% of Burma’s total exports.¹⁸² However, on 13 May, junta media sources revealed that the value of bilateral border trade had reached USD 141.343 million in Apr 2022, a 32.9% decrease

¹⁷⁰ EMG (10 May 2022) Myanmar’s central bank blacklists 158 companies for violating regulation

¹⁷¹ Mizzima (10 May 2022) Companies have export licences suspended for not following banking rules

¹⁷² Mizzima (23 May 2022) Myanmar Military Council prepares to raise taxes on businesses

¹⁷³ Myanmar Now (20 May 2022) Junta acknowledges soldiers’ payouts from military conglomerate still missing

¹⁷⁴ Reuters (26 May 2022) Myanmar c.bank orders state bodies not to use foreign currencies

¹⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) Daughter of Myanmar Junta Crony Briefly Detained at Yangon Airport

¹⁷⁶ DVB (18 May 2022) Leak suggests 27 leading cronies banned from leaving Burma

¹⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) Daughter of Myanmar Junta Crony Briefly Detained at Yangon Airport

¹⁷⁸ DVB (18 May 2022) Leak suggests 27 leading cronies banned from leaving Burma

¹⁷⁹ EMG (20 May 2022) Business persons have not been barred from going abroad: SAC Spokesman

¹⁸⁰ GNLM (1 May 2022) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force between Myanmar and China

¹⁸¹ 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

¹⁸² EMG (5 May 2022) China remains Myanmar’s biggest export market in six-month period

compared to Apr 2021. This is mostly due to China's decision to close its borders in response to COVID-19.¹⁸³

On 23 May, regime officials attended the inauguration of the Chongqing-Lincang-Mandalay train route in Chongqing (China). The 2,000 km long freight line, which is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, will have terminals connecting Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Burma. However, trains are not yet able to operate within Burma due to construction delays. Cargo will be sent to Chinshwehaw (Shan State), before being carried by truck to Mandalay for the time being.¹⁸⁴

On 24 May, it was reported that the regime and Cambodia were in the process of expediting negotiations on an investment agreement and a double taxation avoidance agreement to increase bilateral trade and investment.¹⁸⁵

Chinese mines under fire as resistance keeps targeting the junta's revenue sources

On 5 May, Chinese mining giant Wanbao expressed deep concerns over attack threats from resistance groups, adding that it was closely monitoring the situation for the safety of staff, their families, contractors, and the community. The firm runs three copper mines in Salingyi Township (Sagaing Region) in partnership with MEHL. Wanbao is currently attempting to resume mining after output was restricted by striking employees.¹⁸⁶

On 4 May, resistance groups carried out a mine attack on three junta vehicles traveling to Wanbao's copper mines to enhance security, reportedly killing several soldiers.¹⁸⁷ On 8 May, in Yinmarbin Township (Sagaing Region), local PDFs clashed with junta forces guarding two Chinese-owned copper mine projects. A PDF spokesperson said that the PDF only engaged with the troops after they began raiding villages.¹⁸⁸

On 11 May, in Moebye (Shan State), local PDF members posted notices in public areas warning people not to sell products from military companies. On 18 May, Shan News reported that, although some shops refused to comply, the sale of such products had declined in the area.¹⁸⁹ On 17 May, AA leader Major Aye Tun urged ethnic Rakhine people to stop buying, selling, and using products manufactured or distributed by military conglomerates in order "to bring down the Junta regime."¹⁹⁰

On 24 May, it was reported that the Sagaing PDF's A-Mi-Myay group had set up a special task force to investigate whether businesses have been paying taxes to the NUG in Yinmarbin Township (Sagaing Region). The task force said it would take action against those who fail to comply or pay taxes to the junta, but did not give further details.¹⁹¹

Regime appoints new Electricity Minister, bets on China to address blackouts

On 5 May, it was reported that the regime had canceled tenders invited under the NLD government for 26 solar power projects (out of 29 in total), and blacklisted the companies for breaching tender regulations. Chinese companies won the bids to build 28 out of the 29 plants, but most have repeatedly postponed signing the power purchase agreements since October 2020 over profitability concerns. Each of the projects was expected to generate 30 to 40 megawatts of electricity.¹⁹²

The junta's blacklisting of the firms came after it replaced Electricity and Energy Minister Aung Than Oo with Thaug Han, the former chairman of the Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation, with the stated purpose of 'better implementing the electricity and energy sector' amid serious power outages.¹⁹³ According to a 2 May report, the regime also split the Ministry of Electricity and Energy into the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy; both of which are now headed by Thaug

¹⁸³ GNLM (13 May 2022) Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade plunges by 32.9 per cent in April

¹⁸⁴ DVB (27 May 2022) Chongqing-Mandalay train link begins operations, track build stalled within Burma

¹⁸⁵ EMG (24 May 2022) Cambodia, Myanmar expedite trade deals

¹⁸⁶ Irrawaddy (9 May 2022) Chinese Mining Giant Wanbao Fears Myanmar Resistance Attacks

¹⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (9 May 2022) Chinese Mining Giant Wanbao Fears Myanmar Resistance Attacks

¹⁸⁸ RFA (9 May 2022) PDF clashes with junta troops guarding mines in Myanmar's Sagaing region

¹⁸⁹ Shan News (18 May 2022) Few Shops Sell Products Owned by SAC after Moebye PDF Advocating Locals

¹⁹⁰ Mizzima (20 May 2022) AA urges Rakhines to boycott junta products

¹⁹¹ Mizzima (24 May 2022) All businesses in Sagaing's Yinmarbin Township to pay NUG taxes or face consequences

¹⁹² Mizzima (5 May 2022) Junta ministerial reshuffle

¹⁹³ Irrawaddy (5 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Cancels Chinese-Backed Solar Power Projects

Han.¹⁹⁴ On 13 May, he met with the Chinese ambassador to Burma to discuss cross-border electric power lines, power generating projects, as well as other oil and gas projects.¹⁹⁵

Junta turns to Russia as another gas company set to leave Burma

On 2 May, Japanese energy company ENEOS Holdings announced it would withdraw, upon regulatory approval, from the nearly depleted Yetagun gas project, in which it holds a 19.3% stake together with the Japanese government and Mitsubishi Corporation. The company said it had “decided to withdraw [due to] the country’s current situation, including the social issues, and project economics based on the technical evaluation of Yetagun gas fields.”¹⁹⁶ On 4 May, Mekong Watch, Friends of the Earth Japan, and JfM cautiously welcomed ENEOS’ “belated withdrawal from a project that has been financing the Myanmar military.” They also urged the firm and its partners to close the field in an environmentally responsible way, and to ensure that no more revenues flow to the regime.¹⁹⁷

On 5 May, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun stated that the recent withdrawals of oil and gas companies from the Yetagun gas project were the consequence of declining output and profits, and had nothing to do with political instability; a view backed by Singapore-based energy research analyst Readul Islam. Zaw Min Tun added that the regime planned to expand its oil and gas cooperation with Russia ‘as soon as possible,’ but did not offer further details.¹⁹⁸ On 11 May, six hundred and thirty-seven civil society organizations, schools, labor unions, and over 220,000 individuals signed an open letter to US president Biden, urging him to sanction the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). The letter also said that gas companies and banks who engage with the junta should be charged with money-laundering.¹⁹⁹

Regime seeks to deepen economic ties with Moscow

On 2 May, JfM reported that Russian company Kamaz was in talks with the regime to manufacture trucks in Burma, train personnel, and establish a service network. Kamaz is Russia’s biggest truck manufacturer, producing military and civilian vehicles. The firm, which has been under EU and Australian sanctions since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, reportedly expects to send specialists to Burma in May and to finalize an agreement with the junta this June. JfM warned that deepening cooperation with Kamaz and other Russian businesses would provide the regime with arms and funds as it intensifies violent attacks on the people of Burma; and called for international targeted sanctions against Russian companies and individuals doing business with the junta.²⁰⁰

On 4 May, it was reported that, in a letter dated 25 Apr, the CBM notified the Myanmar Banking Association that five Russian banks would hold talks with local lenders in May, including the military-owned Innwa and Myawaddy banks. Analysts speculated that both lenders could act as conduits for military purchases of Russian weaponry. Junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun refuted the claim, saying that the need to establish bilateral banking links stemmed from regime plans to purchase energy from Russia, as well as import fertilizer from and export agricultural products to Tatarstan. A source in the banking industry stated that the meeting could set the stage for linking the two countries’ banking systems and allow direct exchange between their two currencies.²⁰¹

More companies singled out for working with junta, violating human rights obligations

On 4 May, the regime launched Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) propaganda apps on Apple’s App Store and Alphabet’s Google Play Store, as well as a website hosted by the US-based company GoDaddy.com, to live stream broadcast content and distribute articles from state-run media. On 5 May, JfM reported that the apps were developed by US company Apps Web Social LLC, which listed them on the App Store and Play Store on behalf of the junta. JfM called on all four companies to stop contributing to human rights violations; and urged the US to close all remaining loopholes that may allow the junta and its conglomerates to transact with US companies. The same day, Apps Web Social

¹⁹⁴ Mizzima (5 May 2022) Junta ministerial reshuffle

¹⁹⁵ GNLM (14 May 2022) MoEP/ MoE Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

¹⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (2 May 2022) Japan’s ENEOS Withdraws From Myanmar Gas Project

¹⁹⁷ Justice for Myanmar (4 May 2022) NGOs cautiously welcome ENEOS’ withdrawal from Myanmar; call for responsible disengagement and decommissioning of Yetagun gas project

¹⁹⁸ RFA (6 May 2022) After more firms quit, Myanmar junta claims Russia to enter energy industry

¹⁹⁹ Irrawaddy (11 May 2022) Myanmar Activists Lobby US to Sanction Regime’s Oil and Gas Sector

²⁰⁰ Justice for Myanmar (2 May 2022) Russian truck giant Kamaz in talks with terrorist junta to manufacture trucks in Myanmar

²⁰¹ RFA (4 May 2022) Myanmar Bank missive suggests junta seeks more than financial ties with Russia

removed the MRTV app from both Stores, but other military apps remained available. On 6 May, the MRTV website also went down.²⁰²

On 10 May, Burma Campaign UK added 56 more firms to its 'Dirty List' of companies doing business with the junta, bringing the total to 172. The new additions included 15 Russian companies that sell military equipment to the junta; UK accreditation services company GCL International Ltd, whose logo appears on promotional materials for the military-owned Tri-Star tire brand; UK multinational media company Daily Mail & General Trust, which licenses copy to the military-owned Myawady Daily newspaper; and US private equity Carlyle Group, owner of AsiaSat, which broadcasts the military-owned MWD TV channels.²⁰³

On 12 May, Lebanon's M1 Group transferred control of 310 shares in Singapore-based Investcom Pte Ltd to the military-linked Shwe Byain Phyu conglomerate. The transaction increased the latter's stake in Telenor Myanmar from 49 to 80%, giving it full control over its operations and intercept technology. On 16 May, JfM criticized Telenor for failing to meet its human rights due diligence obligations, and called on the UK, Norway, and Cyprus (where the M1 Group subsidiary that purchased Telenor Myanmar is based) to investigate sanction breaches resulting from the transfer of intercept technology to Shwe Byain Phyu, and ensure accountability. JfM also urged Singapore to take measures to prevent its financial system from being used to finance and arm the regime.²⁰⁴

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

ASEAN

On 5–7 May, a junta delegation attended the Consultative Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Burma in Cambodia.²⁰⁵ Officials selected five priority regions for aid distribution. The junta detailed its conditions for receiving the aid and was persuaded against taxing incoming humanitarian supplies.²⁰⁶ International and local organizations heavily criticized this meeting, warning that aid delivered through the junta would be politicized.²⁰⁷

On 7 May, the NUG expressed its disappointment with the outcome of the Consultative Meeting. It noted that the NUG had reached out to ASEAN representatives multiple times, to no avail. It decried that ASEAN had put the junta at the center of its humanitarian response in Burma, legitimizing the regime and threatening failure of assistance delivery, discrimination in delivery, and politicization of humanitarian aid. The NUG lamented that ASEAN had made no effort to involve civil society, ethnic resistance organizations, or other representatives in its discussions on aid.²⁰⁸ On 9 May, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar condemned the plan, clarifying that the priority regions were not under the regime's control and that aid delivery through the junta would only boost its military campaigns.²⁰⁹

Junta officials were welcomed to at least four other ASEAN events in May, including the 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting in Indonesia,²¹⁰ the 25th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors,²¹¹ the ASEAN Rural Development Leadership and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards Ceremony,²¹² and the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting in Bali, Indonesia.²¹³

²⁰² Justice for Myanmar (5 May 2022) US tech firms enabling Myanmar junta propaganda; Irrawaddy (7 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Propaganda App Ditched by Apple and Google

²⁰³ Burma Campaign UK (10 May 2022) 56 companies added to Burma 'Dirty List'

²⁰⁴ Justice for Myanmar (16 May 2022) Military-linked company Shwe Byain Phyu has taken control of Telenor Myanmar

²⁰⁵ GNLM (8 May 2022) Myanmar Delegation led by MoIC Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre arrives back

²⁰⁶ Phnom Penh Post (6 May 2022) Prak Sokhonn announces progress on Myanmar assistance plans

²⁰⁷ Irrawaddy (11 May 2022) ASEAN's Plan to Deliver Aid to Myanmar via Junta Condemned

²⁰⁸ NUG (7 May 2022) Statement 9/2022, Response to the Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/308674814769082>

²⁰⁹ Mizzima (16 May 2022) NGOs express concern over plan to deliver aid to Myanmar junta directly

²¹⁰ GNLM (15 May 2022) Myanmar delegation led by MoH Union Minister attends 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting

²¹¹ GNLM (13 May 2022) MoPF Union Minister attends 25th ASEAN+3 finance ministers and central bank governors' meeting

²¹² GNLM (13 May 2022) MoCRD Union Minister attends 5th ASEAN Rural Development, Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards ceremony

²¹³ GNLM (19 May 2022) Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attends ASEAN Economic Ministers' Special Meeting

In a 12 May speech, Cambodian Prime Minister and current ASEAN Chair Hun Sen warned the people of Burma that resisting the regime-led peace-talks with EAOs would elicit increased violence and civilian casualties.²¹⁴ These comments drew criticism from opposition actors across Burma.²¹⁵

On 3 May, the junta warned **Malaysia** against engaging with “terrorist organizations,”²¹⁶ labeling previous Kuala Lumpur’s calls to meet with the NUG as “irresponsible and reckless.”²¹⁷ In an unprecedented move for an ASEAN member, Malaysia’s Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah met with his NUG counterpart on 14 May. They discussed humanitarian aid, technical training, and the educational needs of Burma refugees.²¹⁸ Saifuddin Abdullah said he shared the NUG’s vision of transparent humanitarian aid distribution; and stated that, after a year of inaction from the junta, ASEAN leaders should not shy away from meeting with the NUG.²¹⁹

International

UN Special Envoy to Burma Noleen Heyzer met with ASEAN Chair Hun Sen during the Davos World Economic Forum (22–26 May). Hun Sen discussed the need to impose a ceasefire, deliver aid, and foster constructive political dialogue with all parties. Heyzer mentioned that Min Aung Hlaing had invited her to visit Burma in the near future.²²⁰ On 2 May, Hun Sen had spoken with Min Aung Hlaing and urged him to allow Heyzer to meet with Suu Kyi and ousted President Win Myint.²²¹

From 12 to 13 May, the **US hosted the first US-ASEAN Summit**.²²² The Biden administration and ASEAN leaders agreed to put out an empty chair to represent Burma following the junta’s refusal to send a non-political representative.²²³ The Summit’s Vision Statement included a paragraph raising grave concerns over the worsening situation in Burma and the need for a swift implementation of ASEAN’s Five-Point consensus. They also called for access to all parties concerned and urgent aid distribution; and stated that the UN and new US Envoy to ASEAN, Yohannes Abraham,²²⁴ will work closely to achieve a swift resolution to the escalating conflict.²²⁵

On 11 May, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met with Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn to discuss the country’s ASEAN Chairmanship, urging him to speed up the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus.²²⁶ On 12 May, Sherman met with the NUG’s Foreign Minister in Washington.²²⁷ During the meeting, she vowed to work with ASEAN and other stakeholders to ensure a just resolution to the crisis. Both officials also condemned the escalating violence and called for unhindered humanitarian access.²²⁸

On 4 May, junta Commerce Minister Dr. Pwint San met with a **Japanese** delegation led by Watanabe Hideo, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Association.²²⁹ On 17 May, Japan’s Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar met with Malaysia’s Foreign Minister. They discussed the situation in Burma and agreed on the importance of enforcing a ceasefire to protect civilian populations. They also discussed the importance of implementing ASEAN’s Five-Point consensus and engaging with all stakeholders.²³⁰

²¹⁴ Fresh News (12 May 2022) Protest against ASEAN Chair’s Resolution Would Harm Innocent Lives in Myanmar, PM Hun Sen Warns (Video Inside)

²¹⁵ Irrawaddy (13 May 2022) Hun Sen Slammed After Scolding Critics of Myanmar Junta’s ‘Peace’ Bid

²¹⁶ Irrawaddy (3 May 2022) Myanmar Junta Slams Malaysia’s Call for ASEAN to Engage Shadow Govt

²¹⁷ GNLM (3 May 2022) Myanmar strongly protests and rejects the remarks of the Malaysian Foreign Minister proposing ASEAN establish informal engagement with terrorist group so-called the National Unity Government (NUG)

²¹⁸ AP (15 May 2022) Malaysian foreign minister meets Myanmar opposition figure

²¹⁹ RFA (16 May 2022) Malaysian FM: ‘Junta should be more open to ASEAN proposals’

²²⁰ Phnom Penh Post (26 May 2022) Premier, UN envoy hash over efforts on Myanmar

²²¹ Irrawaddy (3 May 2022) ASEAN Chair Urges Myanmar Regime Leader to Let Envoy Meet Suu Kyi

²²² AP (12 May 2022) Biden hosts ASEAN as he looks to show Pacific commitment

²²³ Bloomberg (12 May 2022) Biden Team Weighs Empty-Chair Myanmar Protest for ASEAN Summit; VOA (12 May 2022) Empty Chair for Myanmar in US-ASEAN Special Summit

²²⁴ News Herald (13 May 2022) Biden names envoy to SE Asia bloc, stressing US attention

²²⁵ White House (13 May 2022) ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit 2022, Joint Vision Statement

²²⁶ US Department of State (11 May 2022) Deputy Secretary Sherman’s Meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn

²²⁷ Irrawaddy (13 May 2022) US Engages Shadow Govt as Biden Welcomes ASEAN Leaders

²²⁸ US Embassy in Burma (12 May 2022) The Deputy Secretary’s Meeting with NUG Representatives

²²⁹ GNLM (5 May 2022) MoC Union Minister receives delegation led by Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman

²³⁰ Malaysia China Insight (17 May 2022) Saifuddin meets Japan’s special envoy for national reconciliation in Myanmar

On 10 May, it was reported that **UK** ambassador to Burma Pete Vowels, whose title was recently downgraded to chargé d'affaires, was **denied re-entry** into the country. The junta had previously notified the UK that it would not accept Vowels as chargé d'affaires.²³¹ On 17 May, it was reported that **Australia** would replace its ambassador to Burma with a lower-ranked representative to avoid legitimizing the junta.²³² On May 20, it was reported that **Germany** had also begun to downgrade its representation, downgrading its ambassador to a chargé d'affaires.²³³

On 27 May, **China** and **Russia** blocked the UN Security Council from issuing a statement expressing concern at the violence and serious humanitarian situation in Burma and the “limited progress” on implementing ASEAN’s Five-Point Consensus.²³⁴

Rohingya situation

On 9 May, in a meeting with USAID, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister stressed that the US could push ASEAN leaders to pressure the regime to stop persecuting the Rohingya and facilitate their repatriation. The Minister thanked the US for the recently announced Joint Response Plan (JRP) 2022 for the Rohingya crisis, which entails the disbursement of USD 152 million.²³⁵ On 20 May, the European Commission announced an additional EUR 22 million in humanitarian aid to fund life-saving support of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh and in Burma.²³⁶

On 10 May, the Bangladeshi Minister for Disaster Management and Relief said that the UN had not yet started the work it committed to in 2020 to support and provide aid to Rohingya refugees in Bhasan Char Island. He said, however, that his ministry was working in close collaboration with the World Food Program and USAID to support UNHCR in delivering on its commitment.²³⁷

On 14 May, the UN’s Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar completed its second official visit to Bangladesh. During this seven-day visit, IIMM officials visited Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar camps, met with Bangladesh officials to discuss ongoing cooperation, carried out six interactive dialogues with Rohingya representatives, and met with civil society representatives.²³⁸

On 25 May, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees urged the international community to be proactive about resolving the Rohingya crisis, calling on India, China, Japan, and South Korea for their support. He also called on ASEAN countries to share the burden with Bangladesh.²³⁹

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

On 4 May, the NUG announced it had established a central counter-terrorism body.²⁴⁰ On 5 May, the NUG announced that its interim central committee for regional administration had started implementing tasks in Sagaing and Magway Regions, in areas under NUG control.²⁴¹ On 19 May, the NUG announced that it had appointed interim judges in 15 townships: Katha, Kawlin, Kanbalu, Banmauk, Kyunhla, Inn daw, Hteekyaint, Kani, Wetlet, Ayerdaw, Myinmu, Thanse, Khin-U, Tamu, and Yinmarbin.²⁴²

On 5 May, the NUG said that it would sell 100,000 shares, for USD 100 each, of Min Aung Hlaing’s Yangon residence to raise funds for its revolution.²⁴³ On 18 May, NUG Minister of Planning and Finance Tin Tun Naing announced that around USD 5 million in shares—half—had already been sold.

²³¹ Irrawaddy (10 May 2022) UK’s Top Diplomat to Myanmar Stranded in Bangkok

²³² Irrawaddy (17 May 2022) Australia Downgrades Diplomatic Ties With Myanmar Junta

²³³ RFA (20 May 2022) Myanmar junta gets effective diplomatic downgrade as a result of military coup

²³⁴ AP (28 May 2022) Russia and China block UN statement on Myanmar crisis

²³⁵ Asia News Network (10 May 2022) US may influence Asean to press Myanmar take back Rohingyas: Bangladesh minister

²³⁶ New Age Bangladesh (20 May 2022) European Commission announces addl €22m in Bangladesh, Myanmar

²³⁷ Bdnews24 (10 May 2022) UN has not started aid work for Rohingya in Bhasan Char, Bangladesh state minister says

²³⁸ IIMM (16 May 2022) IIMM Conducts Mission to Bangladesh

²³⁹ New Age Bangladesh (27 May 2022) UNHCR urges regional powers to play rol

²⁴⁰ NUG (4 May 2022) Prime Minister’s Office Statement 1/2022, Establishing a central counter-terrorism body, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/306431778326719>

²⁴¹ NUG (5 May 2022) NUG People’s Administrative Central Implementation Body Office Statement 1/2022, To establish a state/federal unit legislation, administration, and judicial mechanisms according to the Federal Democracy Charter, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/307300238239873>

²⁴² NUG (19 May 2022) Statement 11/2022, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/316575833978980>

²⁴³ Irrawaddy (5 May 2022) Myanmar Shadow Govt to Sell Shares in Junta Chief’s Residence for \$100 Each

He said that the NUG had identified 60 Yangon plots confiscated by regime leaders and military-controlled defense ministries, adding that those plots would be included in further sales.²⁴⁴

On 5 May, it was reported that the CRPH had enacted its People's Police Force (PPF) Law to regulate law enforcement in areas controlled by resistance forces. Home Affairs and Immigration Minister Lwin Ko Latt said that the establishment of the force would allow the NUG to transition to prosecution from merely accepting complaints; adding that the ministry had so far received over 400 complaints about junta atrocities against civilians.²⁴⁵

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²⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (19 May 2022) Myanmar Civilian Government to Sell Off More Junta Property

²⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (5 May 2022) Myanmar's Civilian Government Passes Police Law for its Controlled Areas