

# Weekly News Review

Issue 88, January 11 - 17, 2023



## Myanmar's Life-and-Death Situation: A Concern for UN Member States

# Myanmar's Life-and-Death Situation: A Concern for UN Member States

## Introduction

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) – composed of former UN officials – released a 76-page report on 16 January 2023, entitled "Fatal Business: Supplying the Myanmar Military's Weapon Production." The report highlights that at least 13 countries in the European Union, Asia, and North America have been found to be providing support for the production of armaments by the Myanmar military council, which has been perpetrating brutal human rights abuses in Myanmar.

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review looks at the SAC-M report and other points to ponder.

## Report of SAC-M

The report states that the Myanmar military resorted to an arsenal of weapons to carry out summary executions, massacres, and other human rights abuses in response to peaceful protests and growing armed resistance to the coup attempt in February 2021.

Analysis of witness statements and of video and photographic evidence in relation to such human rights violations shows security forces armed with a variety of locally produced firearms, including sniper rifles, MA-1 semi-automatic rifles, and Uzi-replica BA-93 and BA-94 sub-machine guns. In addition, analysis of images of weapons used by soldiers and the military-controlled Myanmar police force shows that much of the small arms ammunition used against peaceful protestors in 2021 carries the headstamp marking of the Myanmar military's Directorate of Defence Industries (DDI), the report says.

Weapons that can be manufactured by the military regime include various assault rifles as well as mortars, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, rockets and missile launchers, artillery and air defense systems, the SAC -M report says. In addition, land mines and naval mines can also be produced by the regime,



TECHNICAL DATA		PERFORMANCE	
1. SYSTEM OF OPERATION	Bolt Action	1. MUZZLE VELOCITY	853 m/s
2. LOCKING SYSTEM	Rotating Bolt	2. EFFECTIVE RANGE	1,000 m
3. GUN WEIGHT (EMPTY)	7.3 kg (16.0 lb)		
4. OVERALL LENGTH	1,200 mm (47.2 in)		
5. BARREL LENGTH	620 mm (24.4 in)		
6. RIFLING	4 Grooves RH, 1 Groove LH (280 mm)		
7. FEEDING SYSTEM	5 MAG. POUCH FEEDER		



A flyer for the Myanmar-made sniper rifle (MA-S) as showcased by the DDI at the Defense & Security 2019 expo in Thailand.



The DDI's stand at the Defense & Security 2019 expo in Thailand, showcasing a variety of weapons made in Myanmar.

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Cartridges for various firearms, as showcased by the DDI during the Defense & Security 2019 expo in Thailand.



Grenades, bore cartridges and fuses manufactured at KaPaSa factories and showcased at the Defense & Security 2019 expo in Thailand.



Locally produced mortars, as showcased at the Defense & Security 2019 expo in Thailand.

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the United States. More than 50 companies from 13 countries including Australia, France, China, Singapore, India, Israel, Ukraine, Germany, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States are supporting the military council's weapons production activities. The Myanmar military's arms production takes place at so-called "Defence industry" factories that are located in about a dozen different locations across the country, the report said.

"Foreign companies are enabling the Myanmar military – one of the world's worst human rights abusers – to produce many of the weapons it uses to commit daily atrocities against the Myanmar people," the SAC-M's Yanghee Lee, a former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, pointed out in a statement. Foreign companies and their home states have moral and legal responsibilities to ensure their products are not facilitating human rights violations against civilians in Myanmar, Lee said.





## Related points to ponder

At the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting chaired by India on 21 December 2022, UNSC Resolution 2669 (2022) was adopted with 12 votes in favor, none against, and 3 abstentions (China, India, and the Russian Federation). A total of 15 countries - Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the United Arab Emirates - and five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - adopted the resolution on Myanmar.

The Council demanded an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country. It urges the Myanmar military to immediately release all arbitrarily detained prisoners, including President Win Myint and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. The Council reiterated its call to uphold democratic institutions and processes and to pursue constructive dialogue and reconciliation in accordance with the will and interests of the people of Myanmar, and also calls for concrete and immediate actions to effectively and fully implement ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus.



Photo - Myanmar Now



Regarding the Resolution 2669 (2022), US Ambassador Robert A. Wood said that the Security Council should not ignore the arms embargo resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly against the military regime, and pointed out that sanctions to prevent the flow of financial resources to the military council are important factors in stopping the violence of the military council.

"This decision is a strong next step in the Council's efforts to address the Myanmar military regime's egregious behavior. However, it does not go far enough," notes Robert A. Wood.

On 18 January 2021, the United Nations General Assembly condemned the Myanmar military coup and adopted a resolution to "Prevent the flow of arms to Myanmar". Also on 22 February 2022, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, submitted a report " UN Member States' Arms Transfers to the Myanmar Military" to the UN Human Rights Council.

"Stopping the junta's atrocity crimes begins with blocking their access to

weapons. The more the world delays, the more innocent people, including children, will die in Myanmar," UN Special Rapporteur warned in his report.

As Myanmar military council attacks on civilians increase, it is important that UN member states immediately reflect and decide how to respond and find a solution; the role of UN Security Council member states should be examined as the military coup unfolds, Tom Andrews said in the report.

In his report, Tom Andrews called on UNSC members to stop the flow of fighter jets, attack helicopters, armored vehicles, and artillery, missiles and small arms to the military council.

"The choice between action and inaction is literally a matter of life and death," he warned.

## Review

20 January 2023 marks the 719th day of the military coup in Myanmar. Peaceful protest movements against the military regime remain alive in many forms, while the number of days of clashes between the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and military council forces is approaching 2,200. The intensity of the people's resistance, which may have reached tens of thousands of clashes, continues to increase.

During the military coup, thousands of civilians have died at the hands of police and military council soldiers, while tens of thousands have been arrested or detained. As the resistance has intensified, the number of displaced people has risen to



It is imperative that international governments take action by refraining from involvement in the production of military weapons - the last bastion of the military council.



millions. In addition, tens of thousands of civilian homes and residential buildings have been destroyed as military council forces continue to torch towns and villages.

The military council, headed by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has demonstrated a growing reliance on airstrikes and bombing in response to increased resistance from the PDFs and LDFs. This indicates that the military regime is relying solely on its military arsenal to maintain power. In light of this, it is imperative that international governments take action by cutting off all sources of funding to the Myanmar military regime and refraining from involvement in the production of military weapons - the last bastion of the military council.

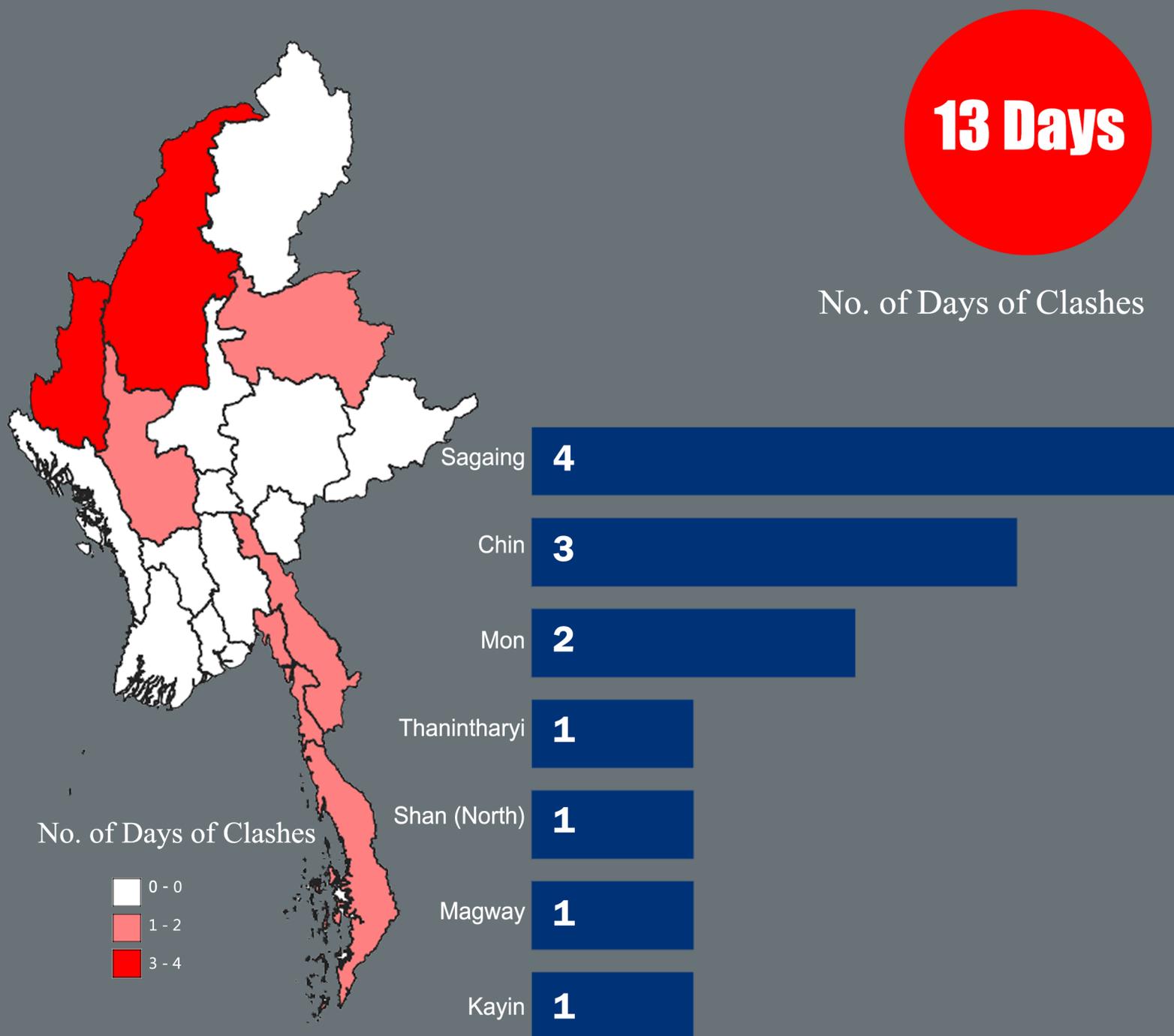
To quote again the words of Mr. Tom Andrews:

"The choice between action and inaction is literally a matter of life and death."

# Part II

## What Happened this Week

According to data collected by Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were 13 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and Ethnic Resistance Organizations (EROs) from January 11 to 17. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region topped the list with four days. The number of days of fighting was recorded in days by township, but could be higher given the number of clashes.



# Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

January 11 - 17, 2023



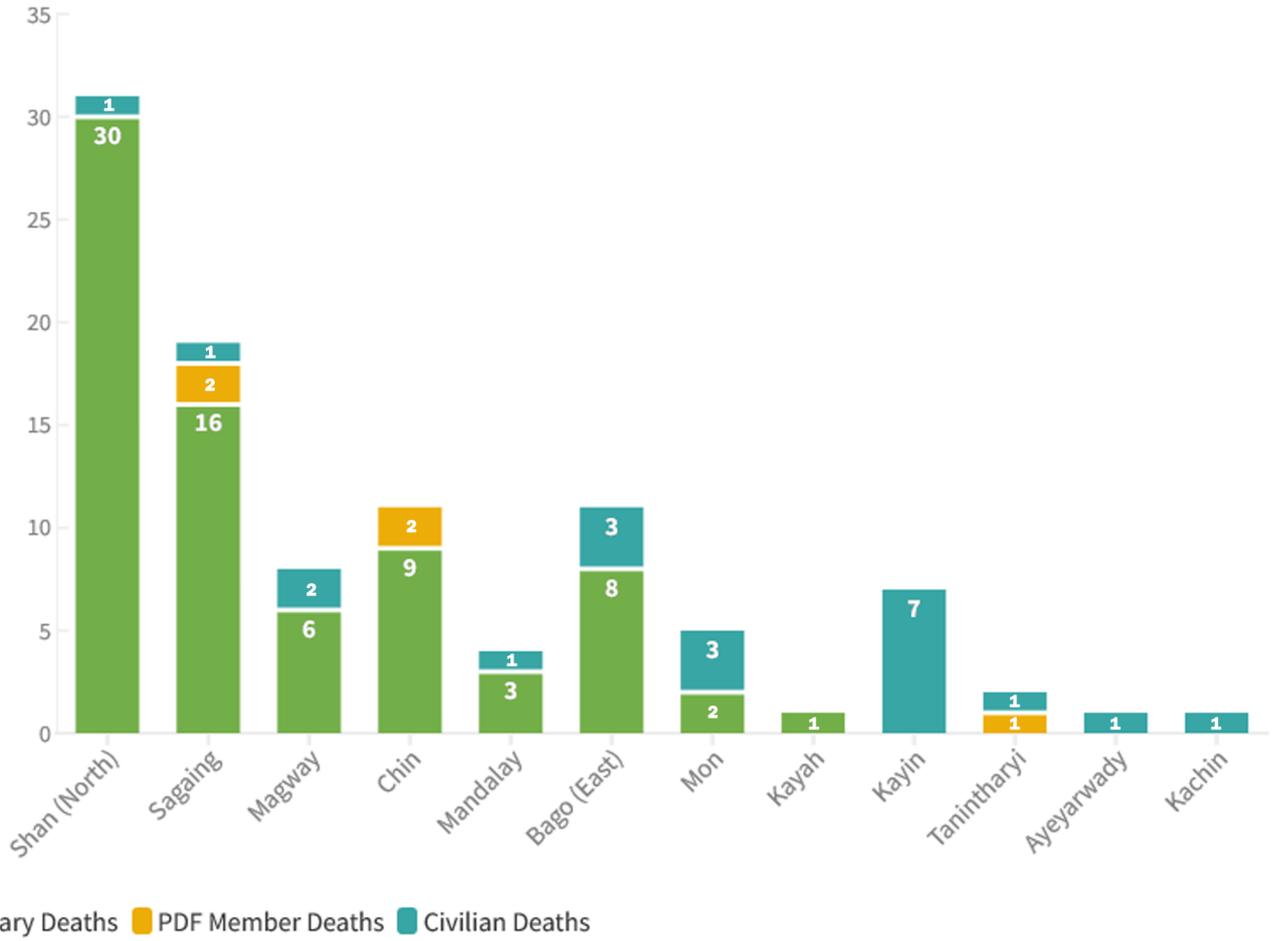
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



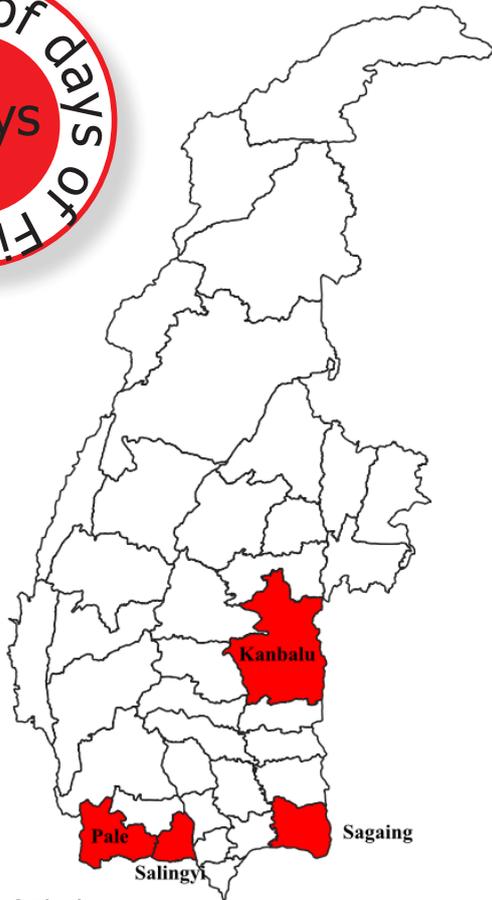
Civilian Deaths



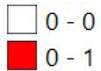
**10,000**

**Total Number of IDPs** (January 11 - 17, 2023)

**Sagaing  
10,000**



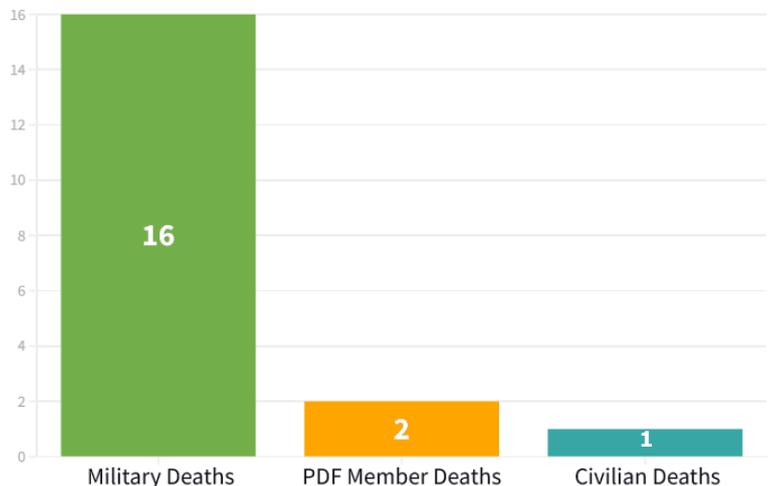
No.of Days of Clashes



Clashes between military council troops and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) occurred in Sagaing, Salingyi, Kanbalu, and Pale Townships, killing 10 regime soldiers and one PDF member. On January 11, six regime soldiers were killed when a military vehicle was attacked with land mines on the road from Shwebo to Kyauk Myaung. On January 15, a member of the resistance was killed when he was hit by a landmine planted by junta troops near Kularma village in Shwebo Township. On January 12, a couple in Indaw township was hit by indiscriminately fired artillery shells from military council troops, killing the husband. Ground attacks and arson attacks by regime columns in Salingyi and Khin-U Townships displaced more than 10,000 residents.

## Sagaing Region

On January 15, the military council burned down 129 year old Mary's Magnificat-Her Search for the vaccine of Justice Church which is the biggest and oldest Christian church in Chanthar village in YeU Township. The military council soldiers were stationed there for one night. They also torched the villages. The military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling hit a couple and killed the husband in Indaw Township. The man who was killed in the shelling is U Naing Win, 42, and his wife is receiving treatment.



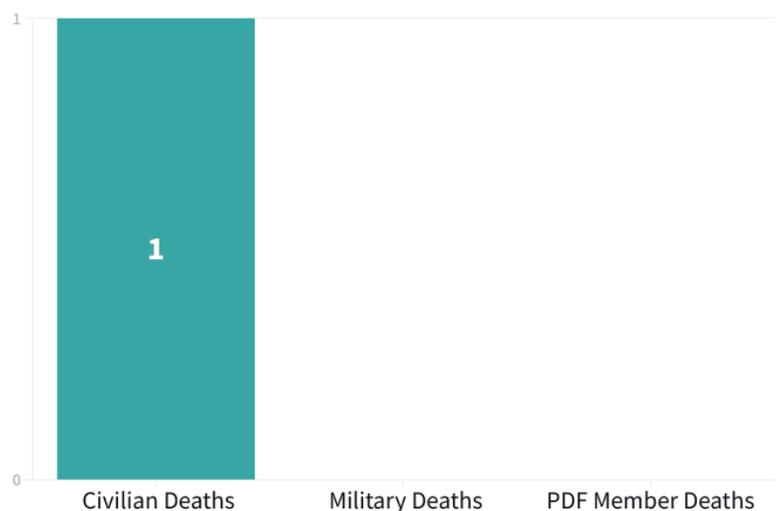


## Kachin State

On January 11, the military council arrested U Tin Aung, ex-leader of the People's Militia Force and his two family members citing that the members of the People's Defense Force (PDF) were staying in Mongnaung village in Indawgyi. The junta soldiers searched the house and arrested U Tin Aung, his son-in-law and a youth working at his house.

At midnight on January 17, the military council soldiers raided a house owned by a massage parlour from Mashikahtaung ward in Hpakant Township and shot him dead. The victim is U Win Ko (aka) Maung Oo. The cause of shootings is still unknown.

On January 17, a massage parlor owner in Mashikahtaung Ward, Hpakant Township, was kidnapped and later shot and killed by military council soldiers.

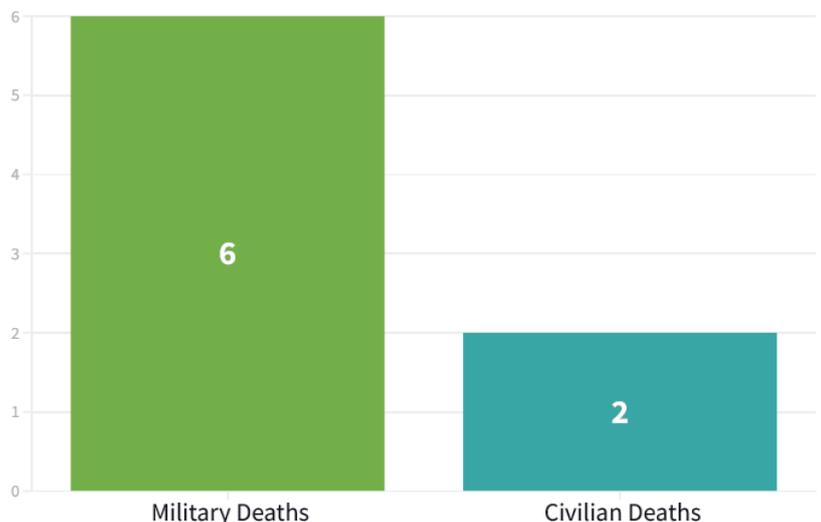




## Magway Region

On January 12, two youths on a motorbike were shot dead by the police and members of military-backed Pyu Saw Htee between Pakokku Industrial Zone and Myothit. Those killed in the shootings are Ko Ye Lin Htet, 27 and Ko Myat Lin Aung, 42 from Pakokku Myothit. The junta forces shot them and accused them of being PDF members. On January 12, the junta soldiers inspected a vehicle leaving NyaungU for Pakokku on Ayeyarwady Bridge in Pakokku and detained Ko Htwe Nyo accusing him of sharing erroneous news. The junta soldiers seized his mobile phone and sent him to Pakokku Myoma police station for interrogation.

On January 11, military council troops clashed with PDF members in Gangaw township. On January 12, PDF members ambushed a group of pro-military Pyu Saw Htee militiamen who were on motorcycles on their way to dig toddy-palm roots in Pakokku Township and killed the militia leader. On January 16, military council soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members were attacked with drones in Yesagyo Township, killing five people on the junta side. On January 12, regime troops shot and killed two youths on motorcycles between the Pakokku and Myothit Industrial Zone.



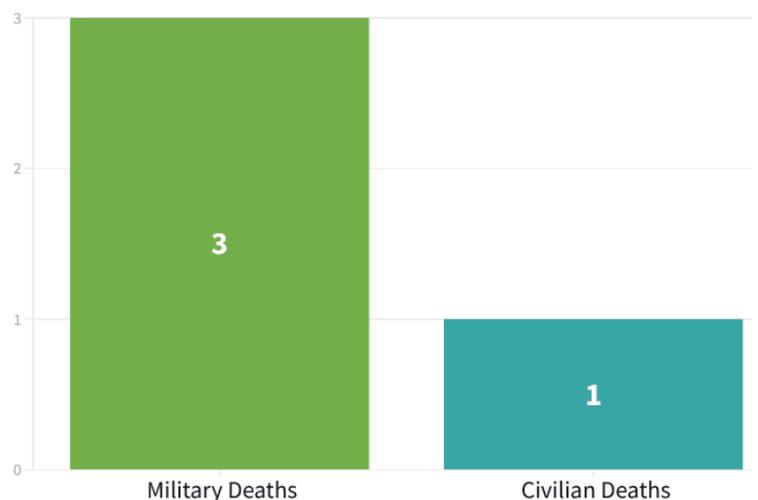


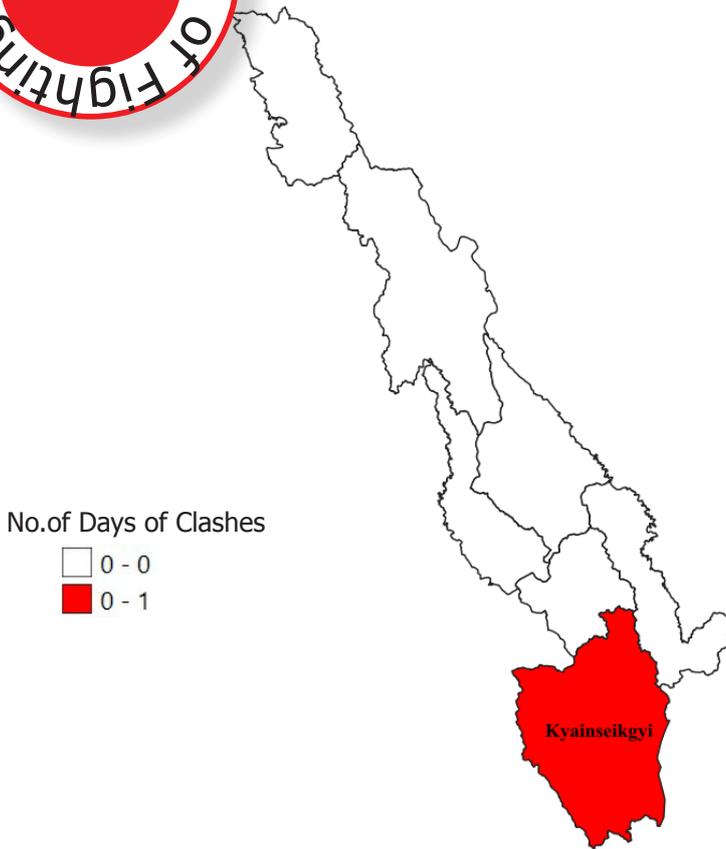
## Mandalay Region

On January 13, military-appointed administrator U Aung Pu from Ngatataing village in Thabeikkyin Township was shot dead by Bo Lin Yone Force (Pyin Oo Lwin District PDF). He was assassinated when he was present together with his subordinate Michael (Dar Chatgyi). Administrator U Aung Pu served as a military informant and frightened the villagers.

Former USDP Chair U Nyan Tun Aung and his subordinate deputy in-charge and treasurer U Kyar Hla were shot dead by Natogyi People's Defense Force (NPDF) as they were organizing the public about an illegal election.

In Singu Township, military council troops and members of the pro-military Pyu Saw Htee militia moving from village to village were attacked with drones, killing three regime soldiers. In addition, the junta-appointed administrator of Ngatetaing village in Thabeikkyin Township was shot dead by PDF members on January 13.

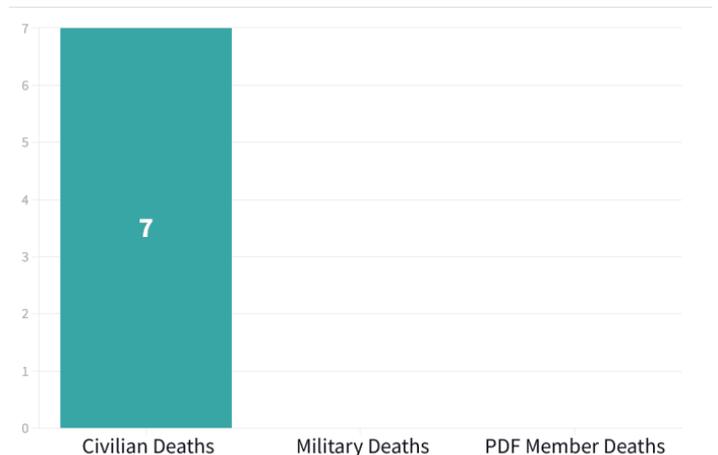




## Karen State

On January 12, a pastor and five villagers were killed and seven others wounded by the military council’s airstrikes on a church in Laywar village in Paykay village-tract in Luthaw Township in Mutraw (Hpapun) District in No.5 Brigade-controlled territory of the Karen National Union (KNU). On January 13, a 70-year-old woman who was collecting firewood near the military council’s camp in Thanmoetaung of Thandaunggyi Township was killed in a mine blast as she stepped on a landmine. On January 14, the military council soldiers detained and beat more than ten locals including women in Winyaw Township (Kyarinseikgyi Township) in Dupalaryar District under the KNU-controlled territory. The detainees were seriously wounded due to torture by the junta soldiers.

On January 13, clashes occurred between military council troops and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in Ahlel village, Kyainseikgyi Township. On January 12, the military regime conducted airstrikes on Laywar village church in Paykay village tract in Luthaw township, Hpapun District, killing five residents, including a pastor. In addition, a woman in her seventies was killed when she was hit by a landmine while collecting firewood near the Thanmoetaung regime's camp in Thandaung Gyi Township. On January 14, U Myint Aung, the junta-appointed administrator of District No. 2, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen while he was on his way to the monastery on Kyondoe Hill in Kyondoe Township, Kawkareik Township.

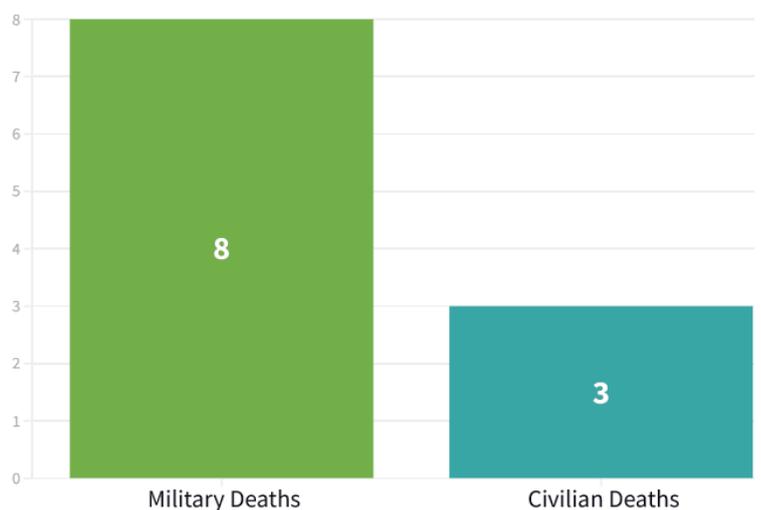


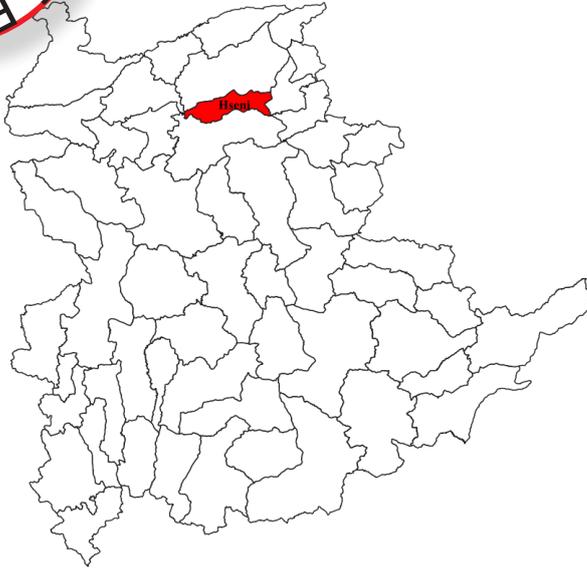


## Bago Region

On January 17, U Khin Maung Win, ex-administrator and member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) from Htantabin Township and military-appointed administrator U Soe Naing were shot dead by the unknown gunmen on a vehicle. An eight-month-old child got a gunshot wound in the shooting. Both U Khin Maung Win and U Soe Naing were assassinated when they were travelling by car and arrived at Ywatharyar village in Htantabin Township.

Military council troops stationed in the pro-military villages of Naungkone and Lelwaingyi in Kyaukkyi Township were attacked with drones, killing two regime soldiers. In addition, four regime soldiers and two members of the Pyu Saw Htee were killed when military council troops were attacked with drones on the road between Kyaukkyi and Natthankwin on January 13. On January 17, U Khin Maung Win, a Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) member and former administrator, and military council appointee U Soe Naing were killed when they were shot multiple times by unidentified people from a car on their way home on Ywartharyar Road. An eight-month-old child playing on the roadside was also killed in the shooting.

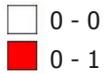




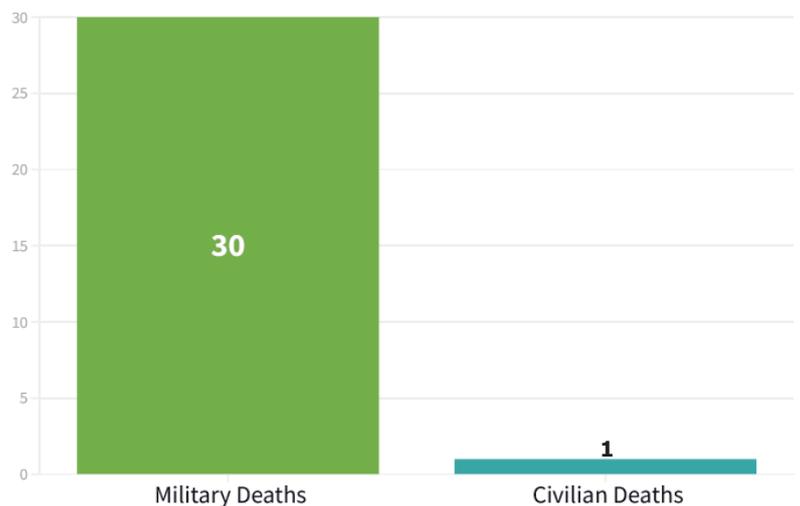
## Shan State

Five pregnant Karenni women who are taking shelter in Hseng Township are in need of cash assistance for delivery while other Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are facing livelihood difficulties. On January 16, the military council’s indiscriminate artillery shelling landed on the place where the IDPs are taking shelter, near Moebye Township, killing Daw Mu Lin, a 33-year-old refugee and severely wounded two others.

No.of Days of Clashes



On January 14, clashes broke out between military council troops and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Theinni Township, killing 30 regime soldiers. In addition, a woman was killed when artillery shells fired indiscriminately by junta troops hit an IDP camp near Moebye town on January 16.



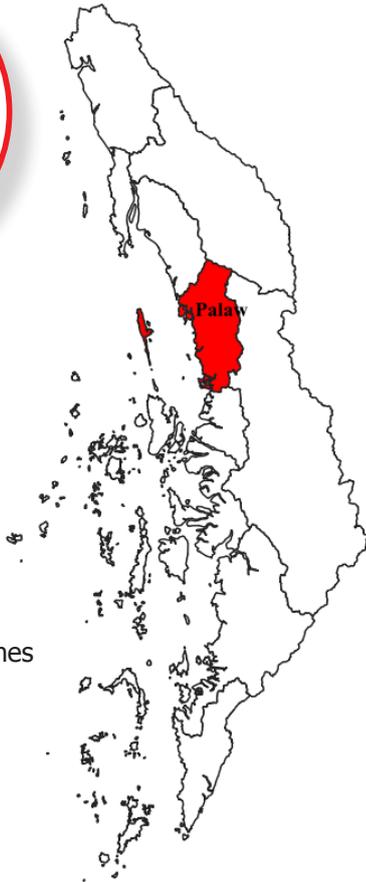


## Kayah State (Karenni State)

On January 15, three family members—two females and one male—were wounded by the heavy shells fired by the military council in Loilemlay in Loikaw Township. The military council is carrying out indiscriminate artillery shelling in Phruso and Demoso Townships without any battles. The artillery shelling landed in the villages and damaged civilian houses.

On January 15, a military council soldier was killed when the 71st Kayah State Day celebration at Kayah State Hall was attacked with drones.

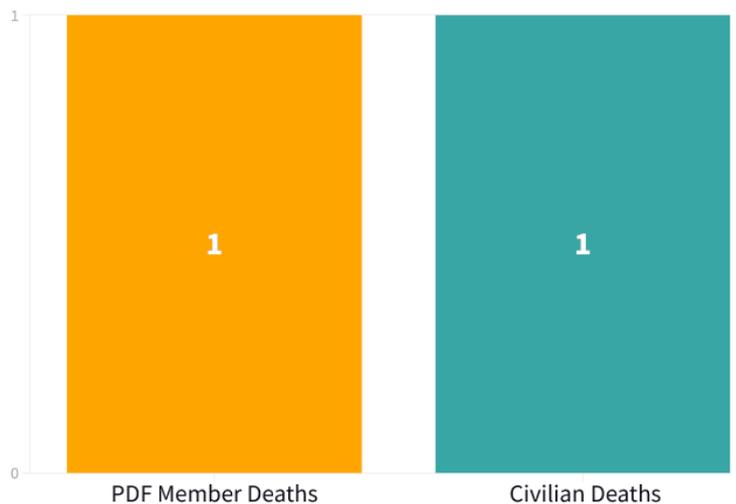




## Tanintharyi Region

On January 12, a bomb blast occurred at a wedding reception in Nattwin village in Yebyu Township, wounding the guests. This attack came after the news emerged of a ban on wedding and public gatherings near the village. No organization has yet to claim responsibility for the attack. Intense fighting has displaced more than 17,000 locals in Tanintharyi Region which sees intense fighting. More than 1,600 refugees are taking shelter at the IDP camps. They are in need of rations and medicine due to the military council’s ban on rations.

On January 14, military council troops clashed with the PDF in Palaw Township, killing one PDF member. On January 11, a man was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle in Myeik Township because he allegedly had a personal grievance.



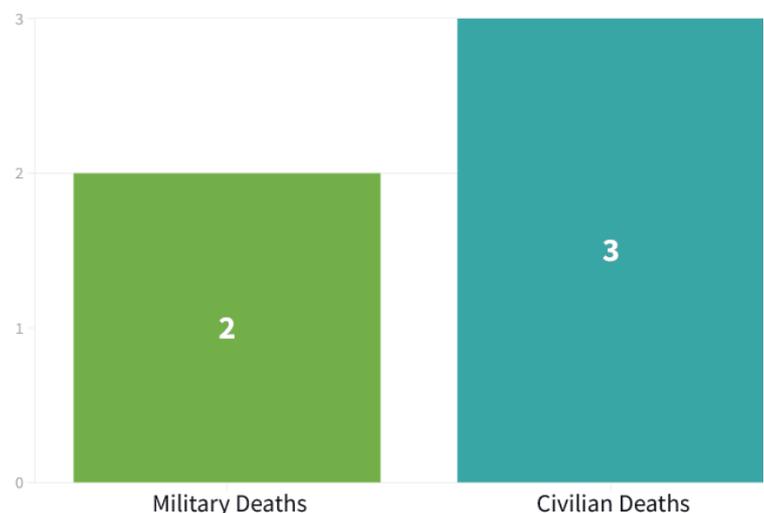
Total no of days of Fighting  
2Days



## Mon State

On January 14, U Rakhine, a war veteran from Mawkanin village in Lamaing of Ye Township was assassinated by Ye Guerrilla Force (YGF). U Rakhine is a military informant living near Light Infantry Battalion-106 in Mawkanin village. The YGF shot him dead as he resisted and ran. The YGF seized a homemade pistol, a handcuff, a knife and a sword. On January 14, military-appointed administrator U Aung Tun from Mayanchaung village in Kyaikto Township was shot dead by the unknown gunmen.

Clashes broke out between military council troops and PDF members in Kyaikto Township, killing two regime soldiers. In addition, a woman was killed in the township when junta police officers opened fire indiscriminately in Kawtbein village on January 16. On January 14, PDF members in Mawtkanin village in Lamaing township, Ye Township, attempted to capture a junta veteran named U Rakhine, who was shot dead for resisting. The junta-appointed administrator of Ma Yan Chaung village in Kyaikto Township was also gunned down by unidentified gunmen on January 14.



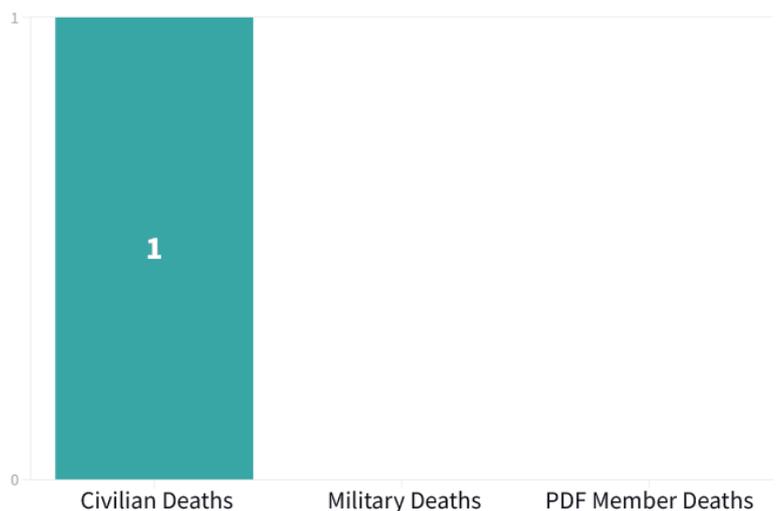


## Ayeyarwady Region

On January 14, some people in the ward informed a police member that Ko Kyaw Aung Thu, 25, got drunk and ran amok in the ward in Pathein. Then, the police and junta soldiers arrived there and shot him. He was sent to Pathein Hospital as he had a gunshot wound to his arm. He died on January 16 while receiving treatment at the hospital.

On January 12, prison authorities did not return the body of Ko Wai Yan Phyoo who was killed in a crackdown in Pathein prison. The victim's family held the funeral service at Chaungtha where the family is living. The junta soldiers did not allow the victim's family to see the dead body although the family members waited in front of Pathein prison at night when he was shot dead. The family was allowed to see the cremation of the victim from a distant place.

On January 14, a drunk man was shot dead by junta soldiers on Yadana Street in No. 6 Ward in Pathein Township.





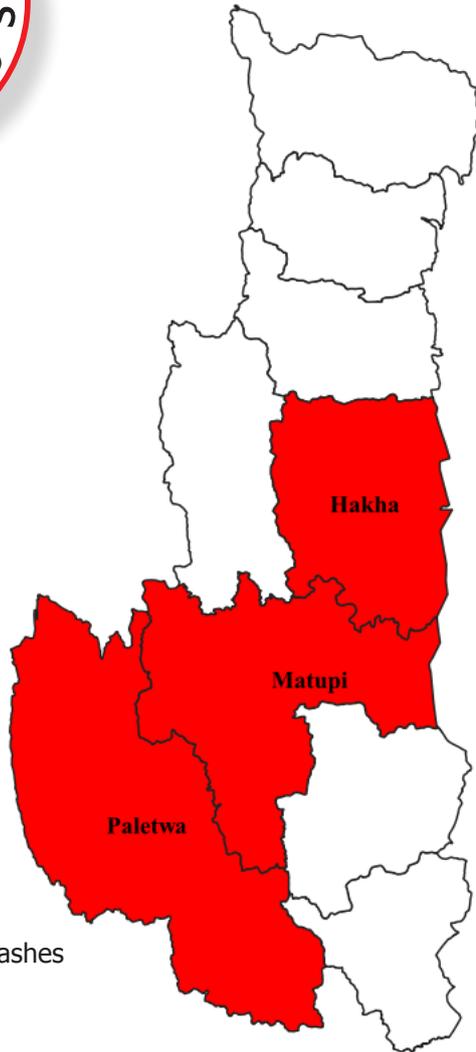
## Yangon Region

At night on January 16, two unknown men arrived at a dormitory on Bo Min Yaing road at No.8 ward in Shwepyithar Township and shot a man. On January 17, an unexploded bomb was found at the ward administrator office at the corner of Aungthukha Street in No.68 ward in Dagon Seikkan Township when the people were gathering at the ward administrator office for the collection of the census data. Then, the military council soldiers detonated the bomb.



## Arakan State

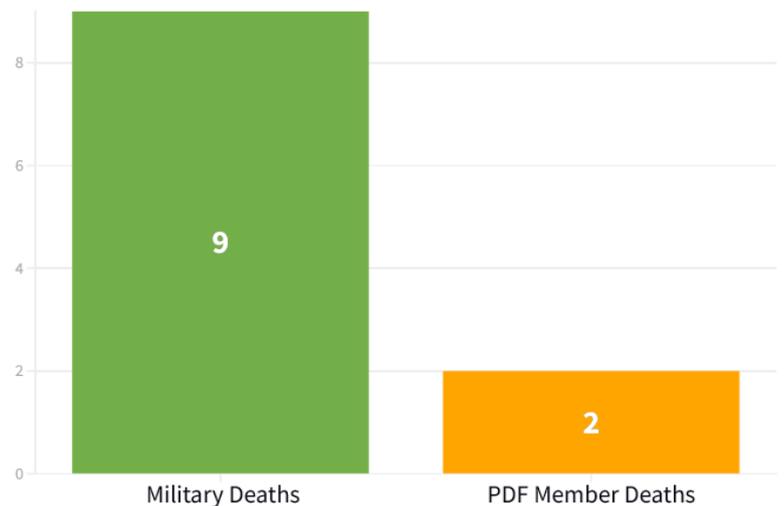
Three locals who are facing the charge under Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code in MraukU were charged under Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act. The military council arrested Ko Kaw Win Hlaing from Kyaukyitkay ward, Ko Ko Nyunt from Bandolla Ward and Ko Pyae Sone Win from Teinnyo village in MraukU Township on June 21 and 22, 2022. More than 20 out of 70 village administrators who have resigned from their posts in Ponnagyun Township sent their resignation letters to the Township Administrator citing their health conditions.



## Chin State

Chin National Organization/Chin National Defense Force (CNO/CNDF) issued a statement on January 11, calling for a total ban on the military council’s planned election in Falam Township and the upper Chindwin region. Due to the military council’s indiscriminate artillery shelling in Matupi Township where fighting is taking place between the military council and the Chinland Defense Force (CDF)-Matupi, locals fled to safer places. On January 17, the military council carried out shootings in Rihkhawdar on the India-Myanmar border in Falam Township for no apparent reason.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and local Chin defense forces in Matupi, Hakha and Paletwa Townships, killing nine junta soldiers and two resistance members.



## International



Myanmar has faced violence, oppressions and severe human rights violations since the coup. As this example illustrates, adherence to the rule of law is more important than ever.



On January 16, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) issued travel advice for its citizens due to armed conflicts and instability in Myanmar. The FCDO advises against all travel to Mon, Kachin, Chin, Karenni (Kayah) and Karen States, Sagaing and Magway Regions and northern Arakan State. The FCDO advises against all but essential travel to Shan State, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Regions and the Central Arakan State.

The US's State Department advises its citizens to avoid all travel to Myanmar due to ongoing civil unrest and armed conflict. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Myanmar has faced violence, oppressions and severe human rights violations since the coup. As this example illustrates, adherence to the rule of law is more important than ever.

On January 12, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged Indonesia to step up and act on the Myanmar crisis as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). This is an opportunity for Indonesia to step up, the HRW said.

### Remark:

References and news sources for the 'What Happened This Week' section are from local and foreign news agencies as well as 15 media organizations of Burma News International - BNI.