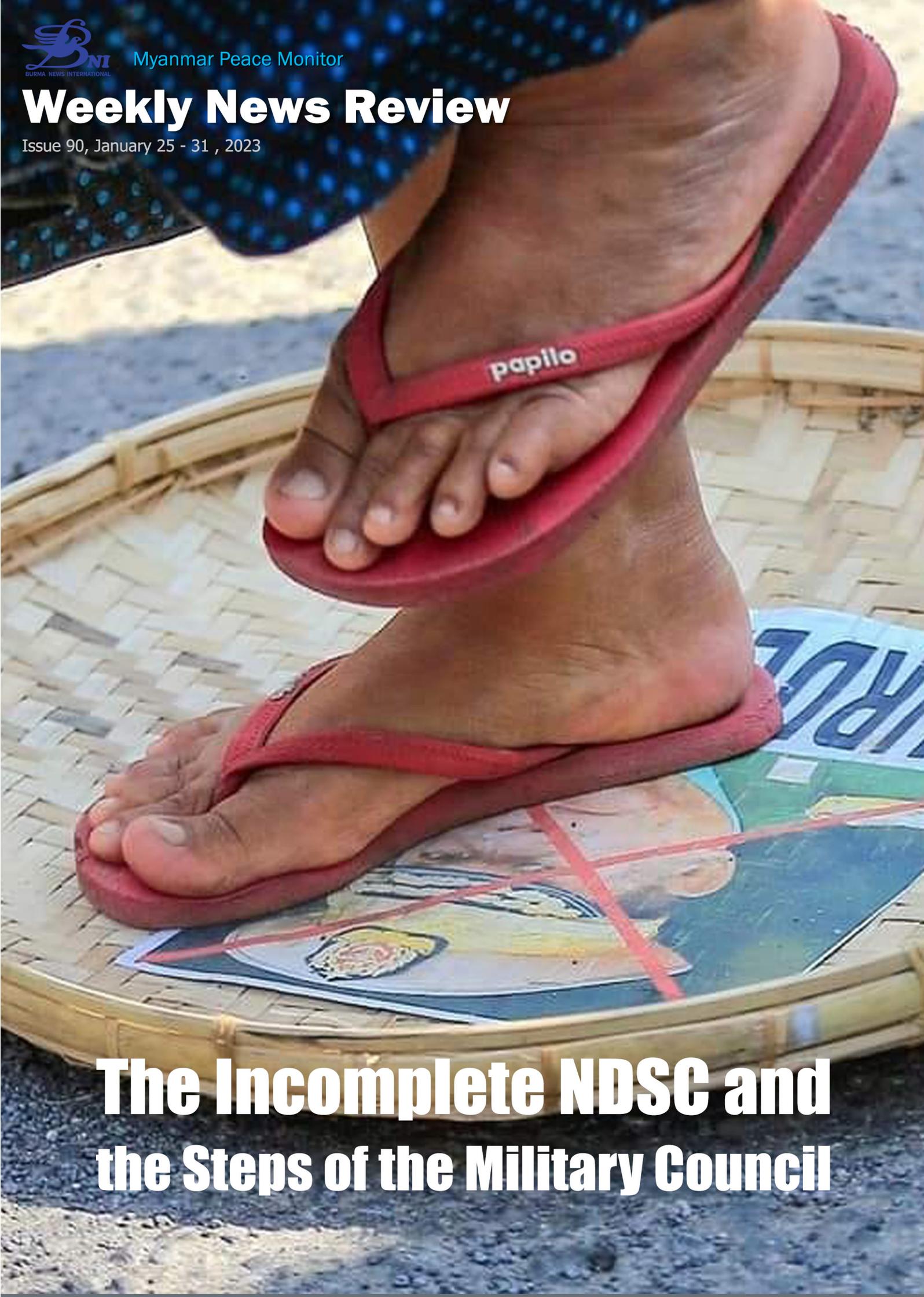


Weekly News Review

Issue 90, January 25 - 31, 2023



The Incomplete NDSC and the Steps of the Military Council

The Incomplete NDSC and the Steps of the Military Council

Introduction

1 February 2023 marks two years since the military coup in Myanmar. Yet, the military regime is still struggling to gain control of all the powers in the country that it seized by force. Although the military has attempted to illegally rule the country in violation of the 2008 Constitution by declaring a state of emergency through the incomplete National Defense and Security Council (NDSC), it has not been successful even after two years. The people's determination to resist the regime's actions in various ways has grown even stronger.

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review takes a look at the steps taken by the military regime after the second anniversary of the coup.



The Incomplete NDSC Meeting

According to the Article 201 of the 2008 Constitution, which the military regime has clung onto, the National Defense and Security Council (NDSC), led by the President, is composed of The President, two Vice-Presidents, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services, Minister for Defense, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Home Affairs, and Minister for Border Affairs. However, because the six members of the 11-member defense and security body are appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, it continues to be dominated by the military regime.

Since the military coup on February 1, 2021, the President and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw are no longer members of the NDSC, leaving it with only nine members, including Vice President U Myint Swe and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing-seven of the total nine members currently provided by the military. Although Vice President Henry Van Thieu and Pyithu Hluttaw spokesman U T Khun Myat are still listed as members



of the NDSC, it is difficult to say whether they are still willing to join the body.

U Henry Van Thieu did not attend all three meetings of the NDSC held after the military coup. However, U T Khun Myat was personally present at the second and third meetings, except for the first.

In the 37-page press release issued by the military council after the NDSC meeting (1/2023) held on January 31, 2023, one day before the 2nd anniversary of the military coup, it is clear from the discussions in the statement that their coup attempt has not been successful.

The statistics of the Ministry of Health personnel revealed the importance of the role of the officials who participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) among other forces of the Spring Revolution against the military dictatorship. Moreover, the military regime also failed to earn the acceptance and trust of all the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) that its leader himself invited for dialog. The regime has declared the Central Committee of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), the National Unity Government (NUG), and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs), which emerged after the



military coup, to be terrorist groups, also claiming in its statement that they are supported by the EROs.

In the NDSC meeting, the military council chairman even mentioned the names of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Karen National Union (KNU), and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP).

The 37-page press release said that of the country's 330 townships, only 198 are 100 percent peaceful, and the coup leader acknowledged that the remaining 132 still face security problems. However, he seemed uneasy between the planned general elections, which they are determined to hold, and their ability on the ground to execute them in more than half of all constituencies. On the one hand, the junta is making it clear that they want to work to reduce the number of constituencies compared to the 2010, 2015, and 2022 elections, but at the same time he seems frustrated by the practical impossibility of maintaining the number.

In any case, the junta is determined to change the electoral system from First Past the Post (FPTP) to Proportional Representation (PR). At the NDSC meeting (1/2023), it was decided by the so-called consensus of the chairman of the



military council and all other members to extend the state of emergency for another six months from 1 February 2023, in accordance with Article 425 of the 2008 Constitution, and to give the Chairman of the military council (the so-called State Administration Council) all the powers of the state.

The Steps of the Military Council

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's two-year military coup attempt has obviously failed. The nationwide silent strike on 1 February 2023 proved that the people's protest has not stopped for a single day since the military took power by force on 1 February 2021.

The pressure exerted by the forces of the Spring Revolution in all fields, including the military, politics, economy and international affairs, has dealt a daily blow to the military regime.

The military junta has yet to receive the support of the entire people of Myanmar and even the recognition of the international community despite its continuous efforts to legitimize the administrative powers it has illegally usurped,

except for its props and stooges. Therefore, holding general elections as a way out of the overall crisis of the coup must be a top priority.

To hold such elections, the military junta has begun to distinguish between townships it can no longer control and those it assumes it can still control, and will likely change its forms of administration (e.g., declaring martial law) and accelerate army, navy, and air force offensives (especially airstrikes). In addition, the military regime can likely pressure the public by threatening and coercing them.

Again, the military council will most likely invoke the 2008 Constitution, which it can use at will if its top priority-the holding of elections-cannot be accomplished for a period of time, and further extend the state of emergency. This is because, according to Article 426, "the NDSC shall declare the annulment of the ordinance transferring the sovereign power to him on receiving the report that the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services has accomplished the duties assigned to him." Therefore, even with a lame excuse that "the country is not in a normal state," there is a chance that they will be able to drag out all the powers they seized by force for a long time.

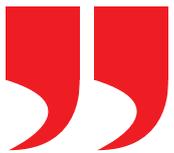
Review

In the press release after the third meeting of the incomplete NDSC, the failure of the coup attempt led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing became clear. Therefore, the military regime itself has extended the state of emergency for another six months to hold the general election. If this is not enough,





If this six-month extension is not enough, the regime leader will not shy away from extending the deadline again and again, as his own words prove: "There is nothing I dare not do."



the regime leader will not shy away from extending the deadline again and again, as his own words prove: There is nothing I dare not do.

In a statement released on 1 February 2023, the regime removed ethnic and civilian politicians, who were only accepted into the military council as sham members, from the military council and included them in a so-called central advisory body of the military council. In addition, it is unique that as many as five deputy prime ministers have been appointed to the military council, which is led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing himself as prime minister, possibly resulting in a loose connection between them. On 2 February 2023, the regime imposed martial law on 37 townships in eight states and regions, with most townships in Sagaing Region and Chin State.

On the other hand, the military council faces broad simultaneous resistance and pressure from the Spring Revolution forces and EROs in the political, economic, military, and international affairs sectors, and is still gradually seeking a way out to return to the status quo. The military regime has repeatedly shown how it can drive a wedge between ethnic peoples and political forces and break down unity among them.

On the second anniversary of the military coup, the people of Myanmar have already sacrificed numerous lives and property. At the same time, the number of People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) has grown to hundreds. It should be noted that at a time like this, unity is needed more than ever so that CRPH, NUG and NUCC, including the EROs and the Spring Revolution forces, can fight the dictatorship with one voice and one force.

With the year 2023 set as the decisive year for the Spring Revolution, the steps of the military council must be watched with caution to prevent the military coup from dragging on.

Part II

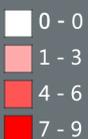
What Happened this Week

According to data collected by Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were 33 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 25 to 31 January. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region topped the list with nine days. The number of days of fighting was recorded in days by township, but could be higher given the number of clashes.

33 Days

No. of Days of Clashes

No. of Days of Clashes



Sagaing

9

Magway

7

Tanintharyi

5

Shan

3

Mon

2

Kayin

2

Chin

2

Kayah

1

Kachin

1

Bago

1

Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

January 25 - 31, 2023



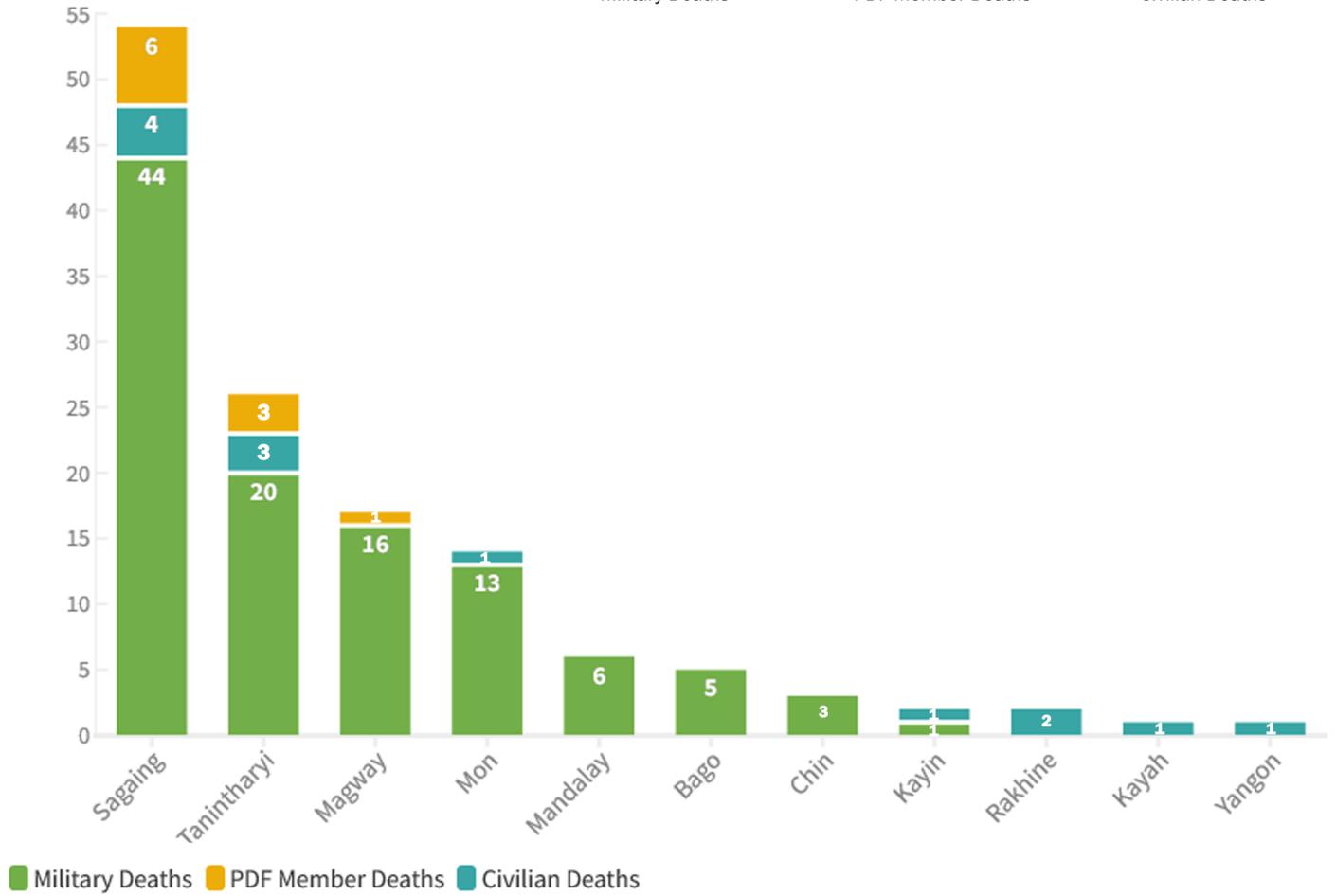
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths

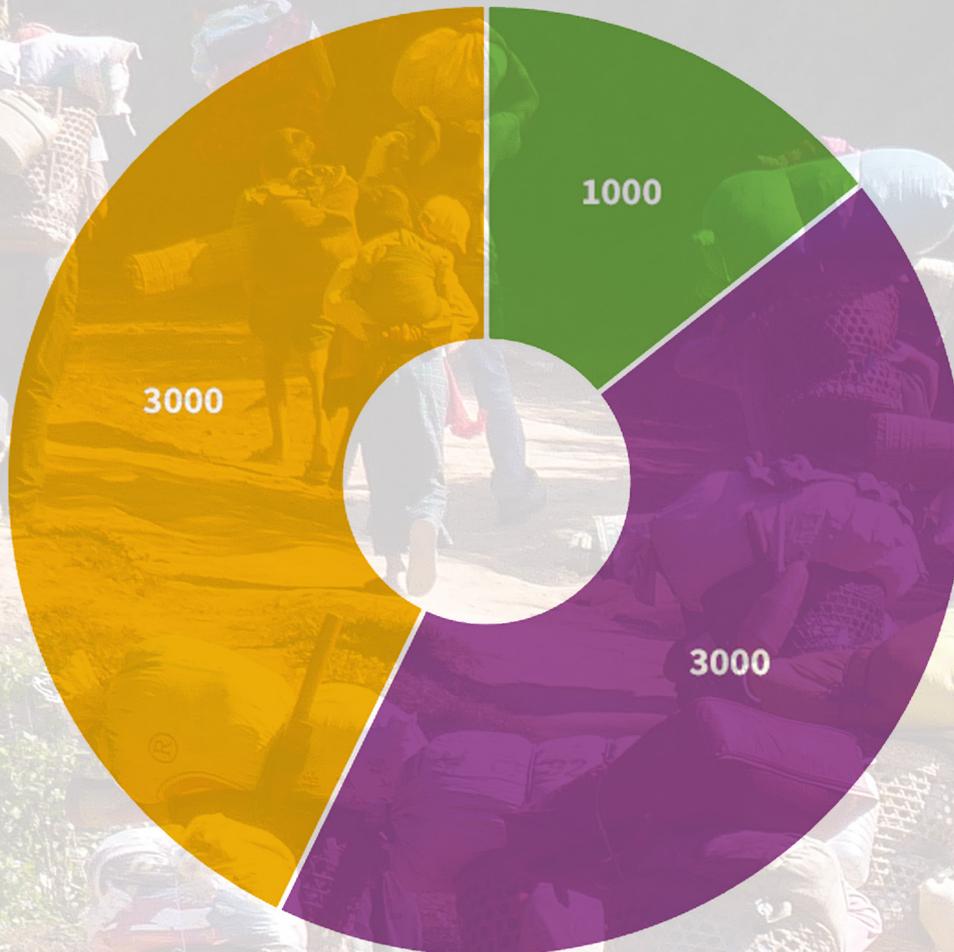


Civilian Deaths



7,000

Total Number of IDPs (January 25 - 31, 2023)



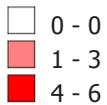
Sagaing

Tanintharyi

Magway



No.of Days of Clashes



Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDFs in Wetlet, Yinmabin, Shwebo and Homalin Townships, resulting in the death of 25 regime soldiers and six resistance members. In addition, 19 junta soldiers were also killed in the landmine attacks by the PDF in Sagaing, Myaung, Budalin, and Myinmu Townships. Four locals were lost their lives due to indiscriminate artillery shelling and killing by the regime troops in Kalewa and Katha Townships. Moreover, more than 3,000 locals were forced to flee their homes columns of junta foot soldiers entered Salingyi Township as of January 28.

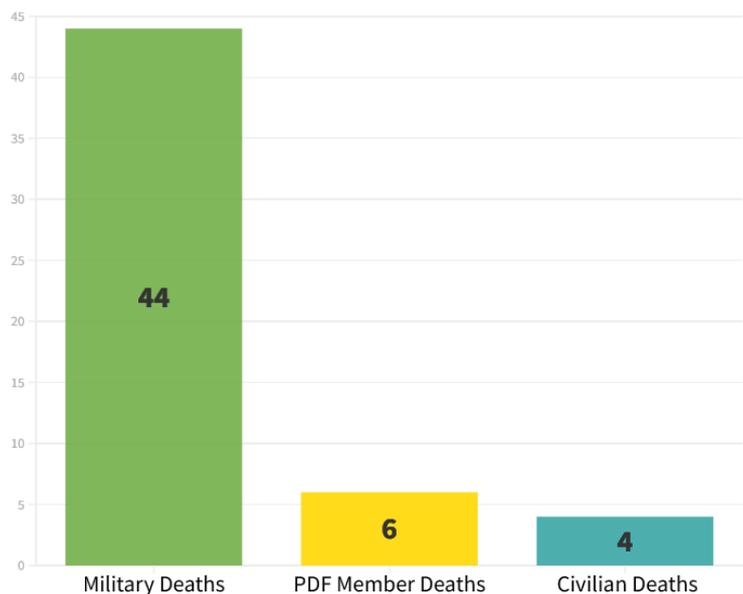
Sagaing Region

Elephants and families of mahouts from Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park in Kani Township who joined the CDM are facing a shortage of medicine and livelihood difficulties. A total of 33 households and more than 100 populations from mahout families and 42 elephants joined the CDM. Mahouts are staying in the forest along with elephants as they cannot return to their home by abandoning elephants. The place where they are taking shelter is easily reachable in the winter season. But it is not easily reachable in the rainy season and the summer season.

Elephants and families of mahouts who are hiding in the areas with difficult road access have received donations from some PDFs. But they are facing the difficulty in the availability of sufficient medicine and rations.

Before the military coup, these elephants and mahouts had had to rely on money generated by transporting pilgrims to Alaungdaw Kathapa.

On 30 January, a combined force of around military council soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members torched the houses in Taungyarseik village-tract in Kyunhla Township. The arson burned down 33 rice barns and 170 civilian houses. The combined force torched Thayettaw, Aungyankin, MyintharOo and Taungyarseik villages in Taungyarseik village-tract.





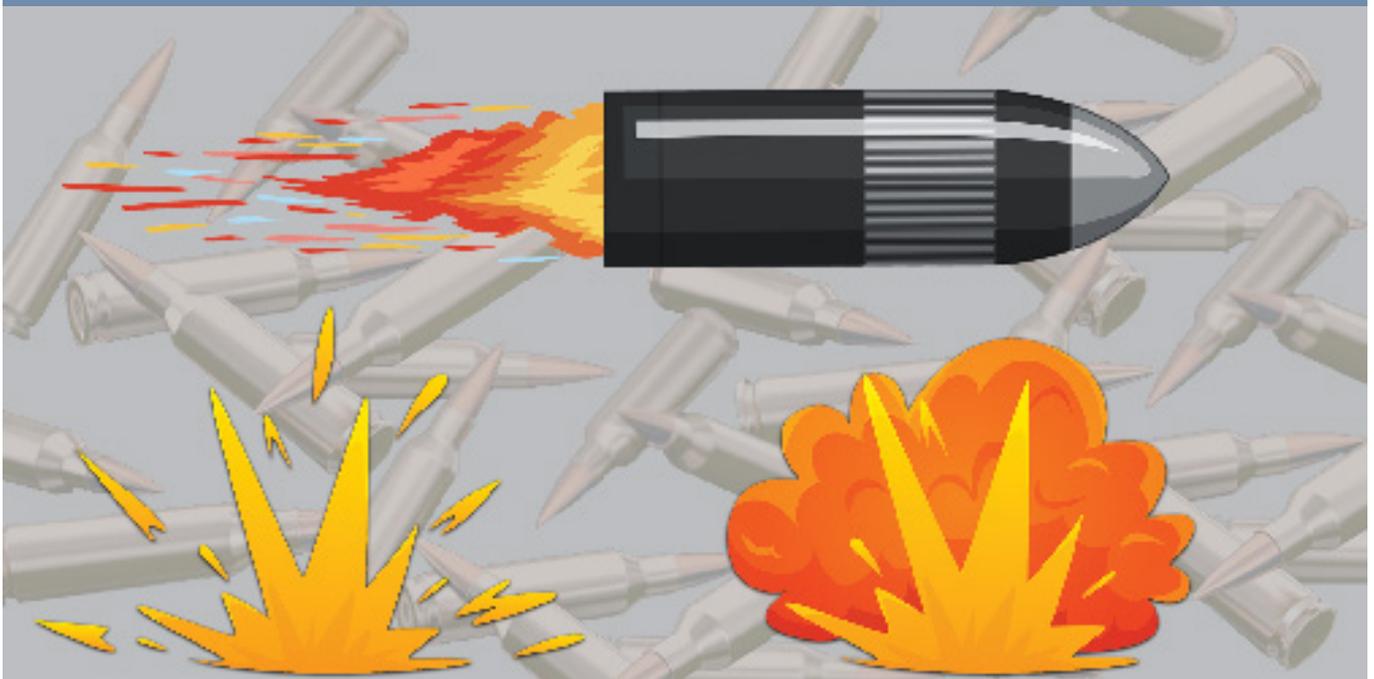
No.of Days of Clashes



Kachin State

Five gunmen in plainclothes arrested two men on a motorcycle at the corner of roundabout road in Thidar ward in Myitkyina Township. The gunmen tied the legs and hands of the detainees with ropes and carried them by car. The two detainees are: an unknown youth and an unknown middle-age man. The Myitkyina PDF has denied that they are not PDF members. On 26 January, five unknown men abducted U Aung Win, Secretary of Mazwatyan village in Hpakant Township from his house at gunpoint.

On January 30, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) attacked a military regime camp at the entrance to Lone Khin village in Hpakant Township.





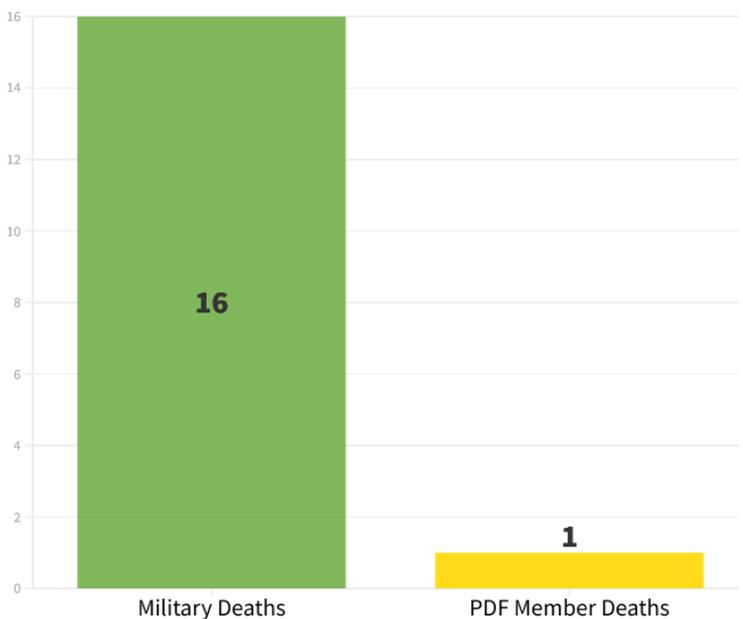
Magway Region

On 25 January, a person with mental disabilities was arrested by the junta soldiers at No.6 ward in Yesagyo Township. The detainee is Ko Min Min Htike. The junta soldiers arrested him accusing him of preparing to plant a mine. He got wounds to his face and body due to the beating by the junta soldiers.

On 29 January, a combined force of junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee inspected a vehicle leaving Yesagyo, near Zeetaw village. They arrested driver Ko Ni Aung Latt, Daw Thaug Thaug Myint, Daw Saw Hla Nwe and Daw Wai Wai Oo for alleged links with the PDF and seized the vehicle and their mobile phones. Then, they were taken to the interrogation center at Yesagyo Myoma Police Station.

On 30 January, a combined force of around 200 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee stormed and torched Kantaw, Kanyatgyi and Kanyatlay villages in Pakokku Township. Due to it, around 1,000 villagers fled for safety.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDFs in Gangaw, Yaesagyo, Pakokku, Pauk, and Myaing Townships, killing 11 junta soldiers and one PDF member. On January 29, five regime soldiers were killed when they were attacked with landmines in Seikphyu Township. More than 1,000 residents were forced to flee their homes after military council troops carried out arson attacks on Kantaw, Kanyatgyi and Kanyatlay villages in Pakokku Township as of January 30.



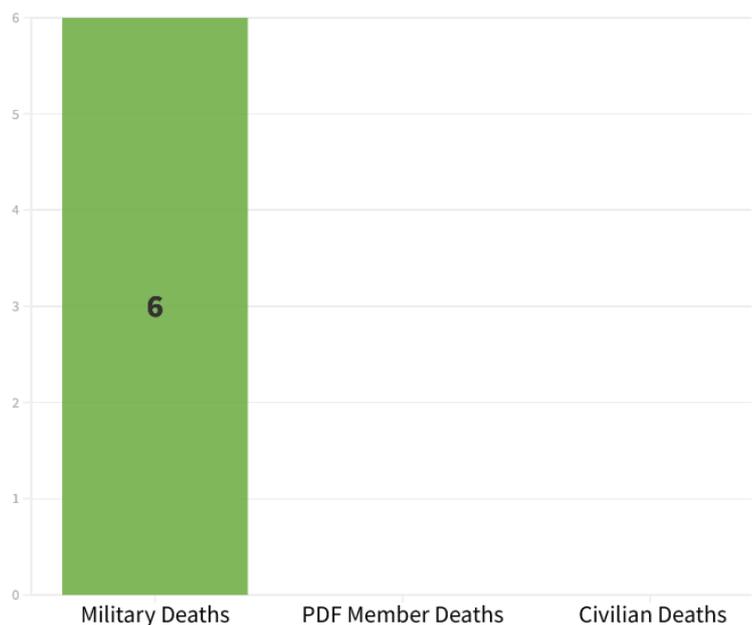


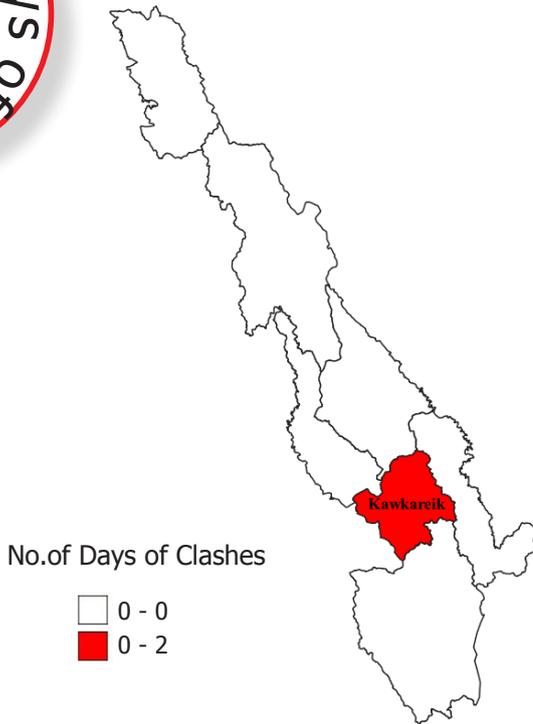
Mandalay Region

The military council carried out the forced eviction of people from Mandalay Myothit by designating them as squatters. As a result, a lot of homeless people are found in the town. Many homeless people are found on the bank of the river, beside railway tracks and the brick walls of houses in some wards. During this month, two bodies of the persons who died without any wounds were found on the roadsides.

On 26 January, a former captain who is an owner of Yadana Tun wood, bamboo and construction material shops from Pyawbwe Model village in Myingyan Township, and his wife shot dead by LuGyanGyi Special Guerrilla Force. Former captain Khin Maung Tun (BC-38584) from LaKaTa (2031) and his wife were shot dead at the house as they had a close relation with the military council soldiers and served as military informants.

On January 25, six regime soldiers were killed when they were attacked by landmines in the town of Hsimekhon in Myingyan Township.-



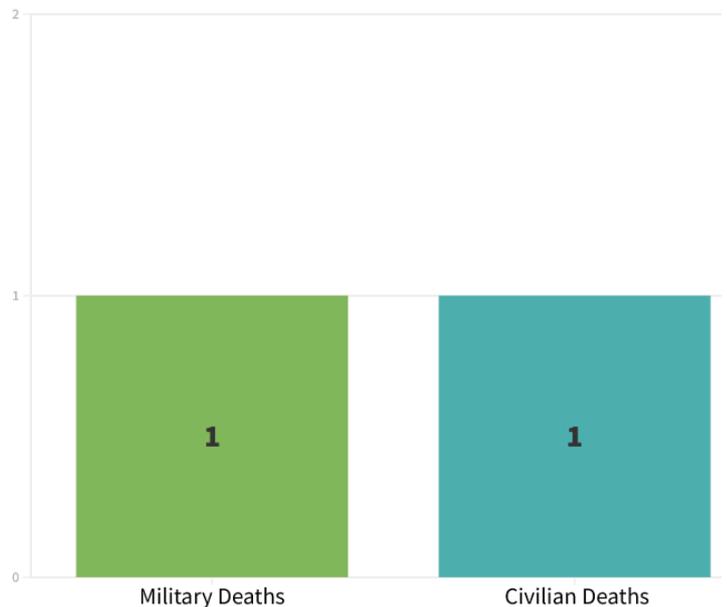


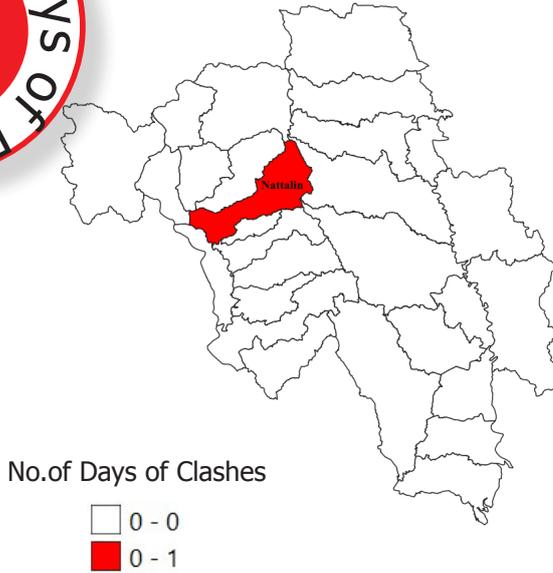
Karen State

On the evening of 26 January, unexploded ordnance went off in Tharyarkone village in Maungma village-tract in the southern part of Kawkareik Township, killing a child and wounding three others. The blast occurred when a child picked up an unexploded 40-mm grenade in Tharyarkone village which recently saw intense fighting. The child killed in the blast is Saw Kaung Kaung, 10 and those wounded in the blast are Myo Win Zaw, 7, Kyaw Khuu, 2 and Daw Phu Mu, 53.

On 27 January, a battalion commander was killed in an attack on the military council’s Laketho battalion in Thandaung Township by the PDF members. In response to it, the military council fired heavy shelling into the town, displacing locals.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in Kyondoe-Kani village in Kawkareik Township from January 25 to 26. In addition, a junta battalion commander was killed when a military camp under Leiktho Battalion based in Thandaung Township was opened fired at by PDF members on January 27. On January 26, a child was killed when he was picking up an unexploded 40mm shell in Tharyarkone village.





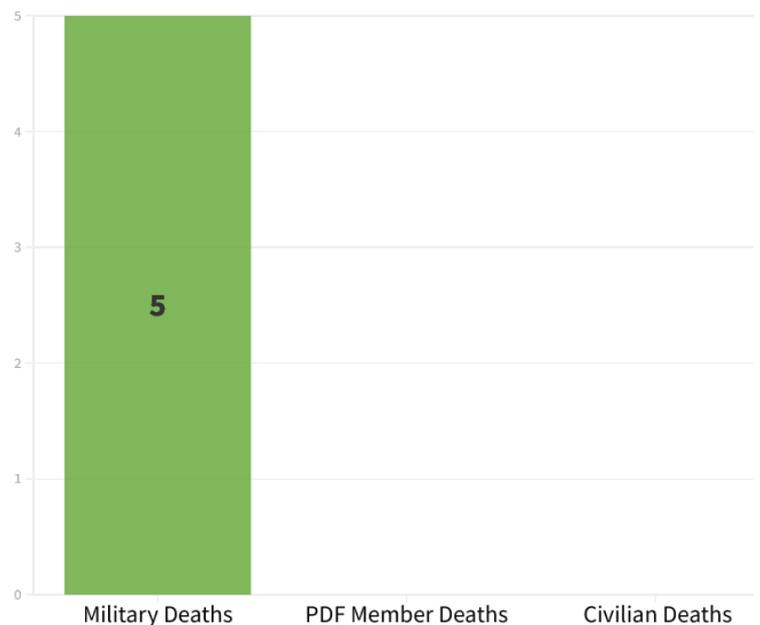
Bago Region

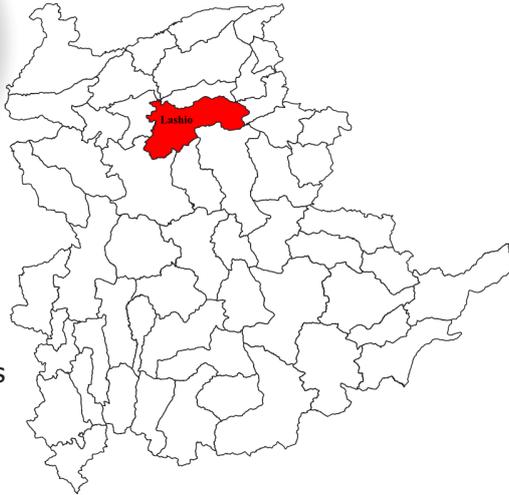
Pyu Saw Htee leaders from Minhla and Phyu Townships in Bago Region were shot dead by the People's Defense Forces (PDFs). On January 29, U Tun Win, Khwatma village-tract administrator and Pyu Saw Htee leader was shot dead by a combined force of No.3 force of Thayawaddy Galone Force and Minhla Township PDF members.

He was assassinated as part of Bago Region Nan Htike Aung operation as he was providing cash assistance to the military council through the tortures of civilians, extortion and gambling, according to the statement by the Thayawaddy Galone Force.

On 25 January, Ko Myo Zaw Oo, a Pyu Saw Htee leader from Bago Road in Nyaungbinthar of Phyu Township was shot dead by the Phyu PDF as part of Nan Htike Aung operation as he caused troubles to the public in cooperation with the military council.

On January 26, clashes occurred between military council troops and PDFs in Nattalin Township, killing four regime soldiers. A leader of junta-backed Pyu Saw Htee militia living on Bago Street in the town of Nyaungbintha, Phyu Township was shot dead by PDF members on January 25.





No.of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 3

Shan State

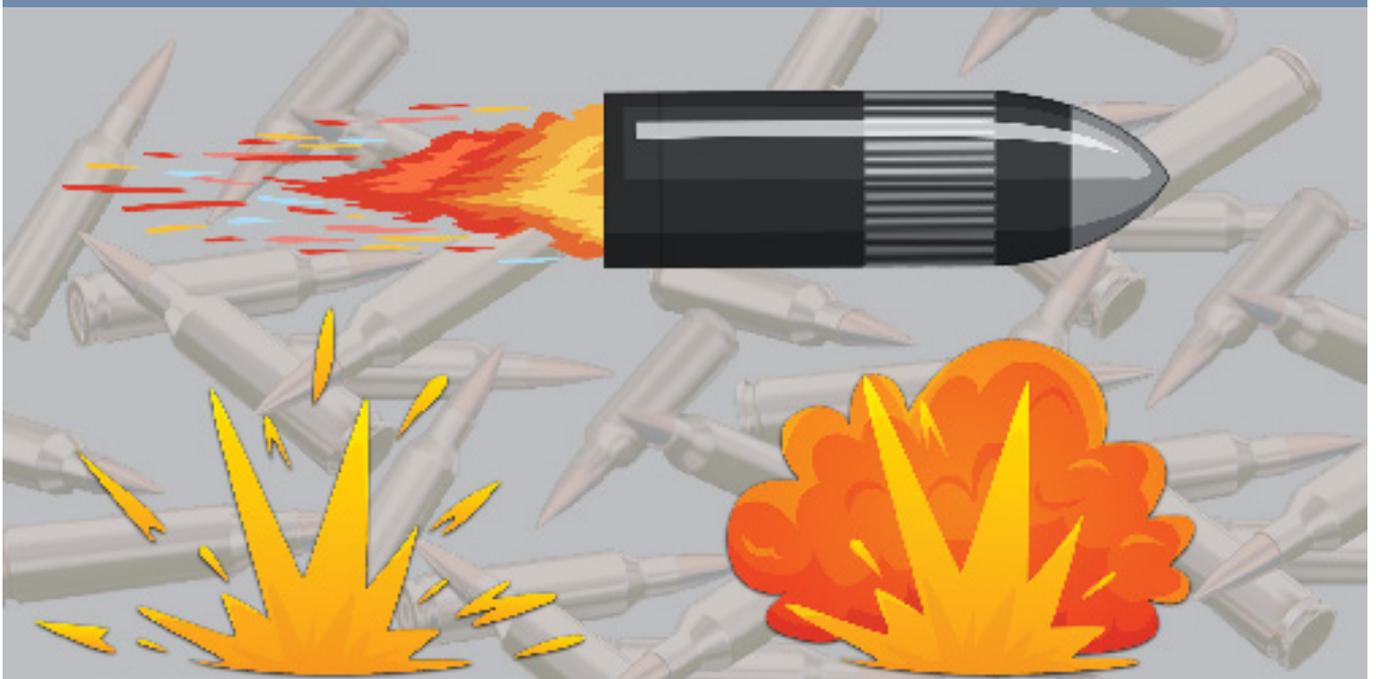
On 29 January, the military council soldiers arrested a female basic education school head who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) from Bawkyo village in Hsipaw Township. Currently, it is still unknown where she was taken. Her family has lost contact with her. The military council arrested seven youths including four education staff, who joined

the CDM in Hsipaw. They are being detained at the prison of Thibaw police station.

The number of the IDPs in His Hseng Township has increased by over 3,000 within two months. They are in need of accommodations and rations. Locals from villages near Loikaw were displaced by the battles in Karenni State in December 2022 and January 2023.

Most of the new refugees are Pa-O ethnic. Among the new refugees are Shan and Karenni ethnics. They are displaced by the on-going fighting and heavy shelling.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (NNDAA) in Lashio Township, northern Shan State, from January 27 to 29.





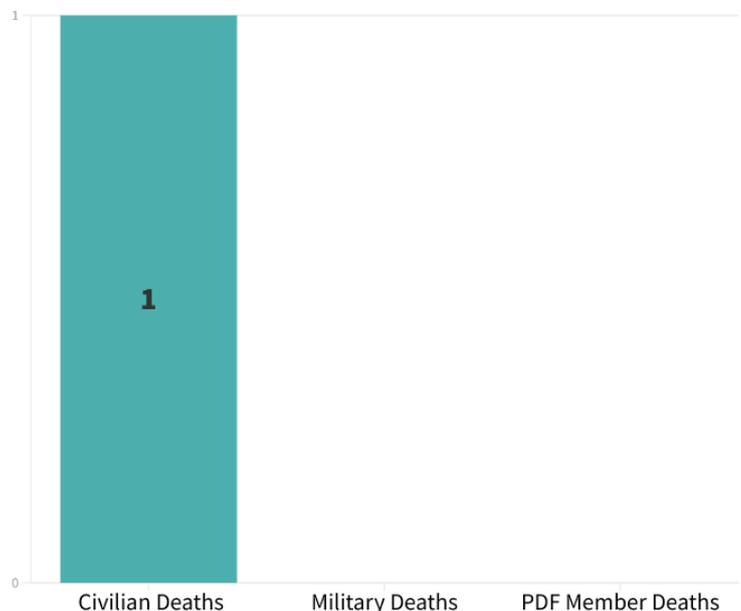
No.of Days of Clashes



Kayah State (Karenni State)

An infant from the IDP camp in the eastern part of Demoso Township died while on the way to the clinic. Similar cases are reported at the IDPs camps due to the lack of regular medical checkup and care during pregnancy, poor transportation and the lack of sufficient number of health staff. The military council is carrying out an offensive in the eastern part of Demoso which sees intense fighting between the military council and the PDF. The IDPs may face more difficulties in health care in the long-run due to the closure of Loikaw-Dawtamagyi-Bawlakhae road.

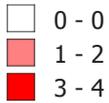
On 30 January, a male refugee who was taking shelter in Dawtahay village in the eastern part of Loikaw cut off his left leg after stepping on a landmine on the way back from the farm. The victim is Maung Saw Yal, 23 and is admitted to Loikaw People’s Hospital.



On January 25, clashes occurred between military council troops and a joint force of PDFs in eastern part of Demoso Township. Also, on January 29, a resident was killed by indiscriminate artillery fire from the junta in the same area.



No.of Days of Clashes

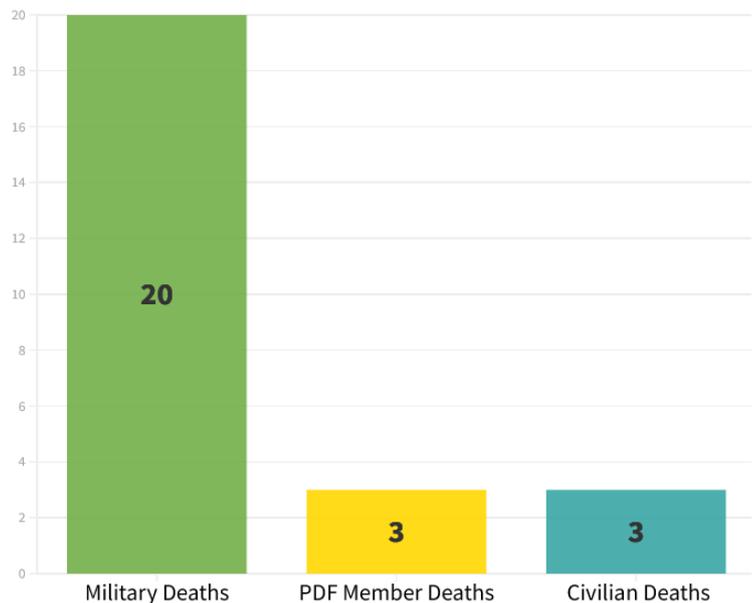


Tanintharyi Region

On 29 January, a man and his son who went to the Church in Minthar village in Yebyu Township were shot by the military-backed Pyu Saw Htee members. The injured is Aung Aw Nay Theint, 16, from 60-Mile village in Kaleinaung Township. The Pyu Saw Htee members shot him while he was riding a motorcycle on the backseat.

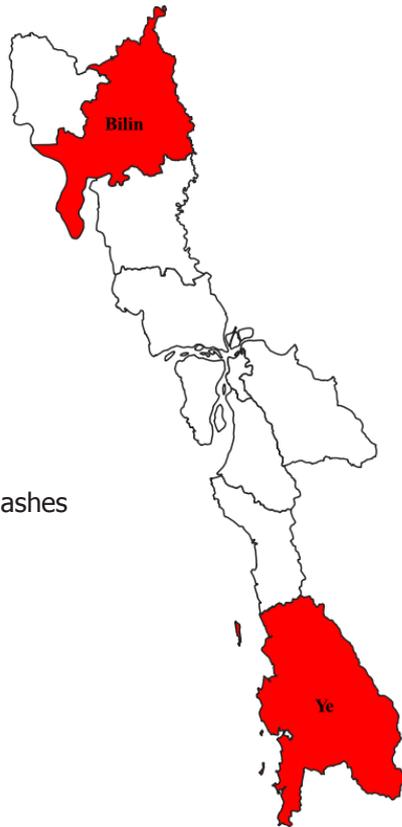
On 25 January, the military council arrested around ten locals including women after a village administrator was shot dead in Kanpauk in Yebyu Township. The detainees are Ko Min, Ko Akar Mann from Matgin ward in Kanpauk and U Hsan Oo, Daw Mar Yi, Ma Cho Latt, Ma Ni, Daw Pu and U Tun Shein from Hlegone village. The military council soldiers arrested them from their houses with the use of excessive forces.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDFs in Palaw and Tanintharyi Townships, resulting in the death of 20 regime soldiers and three resistance members. In addition, more than 3,000 locals in Tanintharyi Township were forced to flee to safety due to the intense fighting between the two sides. On January 25, military council-appointed village administrator and his subordinate named U Khin Soe and U Hla Htay were assassinated by PDF members in Kan Pauk area of Yebyu Township. A similar case occurred on January 26, when the junta-appointed administrator of Ayemyatha village in Kawtbamar village tract in Bokeyyin Township was shot dead by PDF members.





No. of Days of Clashes



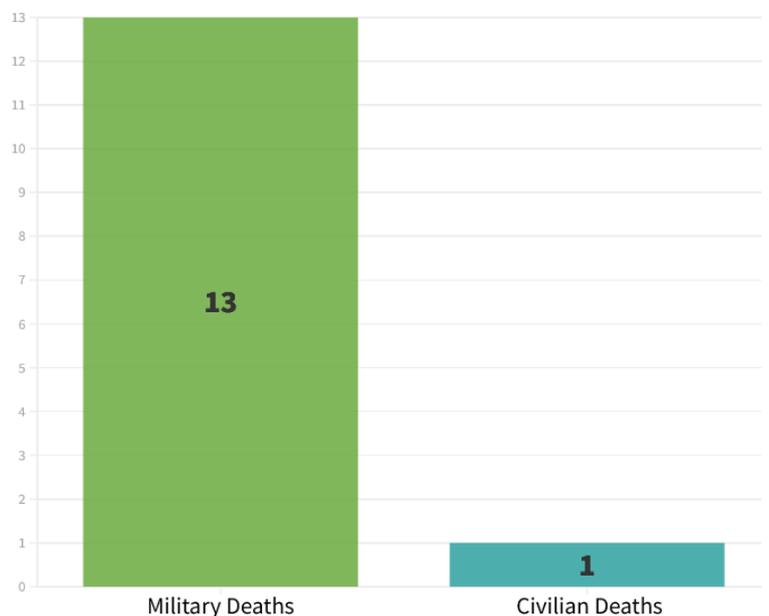
Mon State

On 25 January, a heavy shell landed on a bus carrying eight passengers who were on a pilgrimage tour to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda near Mokepalin inspection gate in Kyaikto, killing a man and seriously wounding seven passengers.

On 26 January, a 60-year-old monk from Kyuchang village in Kyaikto Township was shot dead. The monk is the uncle of Ko Aye Min Tun, an in-charge of Thaton District PDF. The monk was shot dead at a rest house at the entrance of Kyuchang village when returning to the monastery after the collection of alms.

On 30 January, a 70-year-old man who repaired the pipe near the creek in Suspension Bridge village where the junta soldiers are stationed in Ye Township, cut off his leg after stepping on a landmine. That village sees frequent clashes between the military council troops and the PDFs.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and KNLA and PDFs in Ye and Bilin Townships, killing 11 junta soldiers. In addition, two members of Pyu Saw Htee members in Weizin village, Ye Township, were shot and killed by PDF members on January 25. On the same day, a man was killed when a passenger bus was hit by an artillery shell near Moke Pa Lin checkpoint in Kyaikto Township.





Ayeyarwady Region

On 30 January, Ayeyarwady Region Social Affairs Minister Dr. Hla Myat Thway from the National League for Democracy (NLD)-led government was sentenced to two years in prison by the Patheingyi prison court under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code. She won a seat in the 2015 General Election. She secured the parliamentary seats for Yegyi Township in 2012 By-election and the General Elections in 2015 and 2020.

On 27 January, a police member was seriously injured in a bomb blast near Doe Family Construction Materials Shop in Kyonpyaw Township. The injured is Lance Corporal Thura Aung who is extorting money from travellers. He was also included in the brutal crackdown on locals in Hlay Swel village in Kyonpyaw Township.

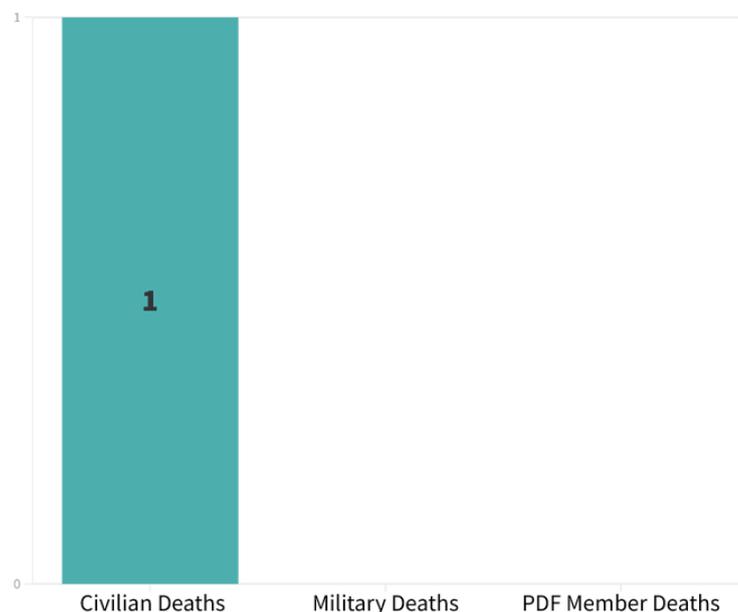
Yangon Region



On 30 January, U Myint Soe, Deputy General Manager of Shwewar soap factory was shot dead by an unknown gunman while he was buying noodle salad on Bayintnaung Road at No.2 ward in Hlaing Township.

On 30 January, a ward administrator and three 100-household heads were wounded in an attack on No.60 ward administrator office at the corner of Shweli road and Ayar Wun road in Dagon Seikkan Township. The unknown gunmen on motorbikes shot them and threw a bomb at them when the administrator and his members were preparing to close the office after the completion of overnight guest list registration.

On January 26, a child was killed in a mine explosion in Phoekhaung Chaung village in Buthidaung Township. Also, a 50-year-old man named U Than Shwe Maung from Hpapyo village in Minbya Township was killed when he was hit by a landmine while gathering firewood.



Arakan State

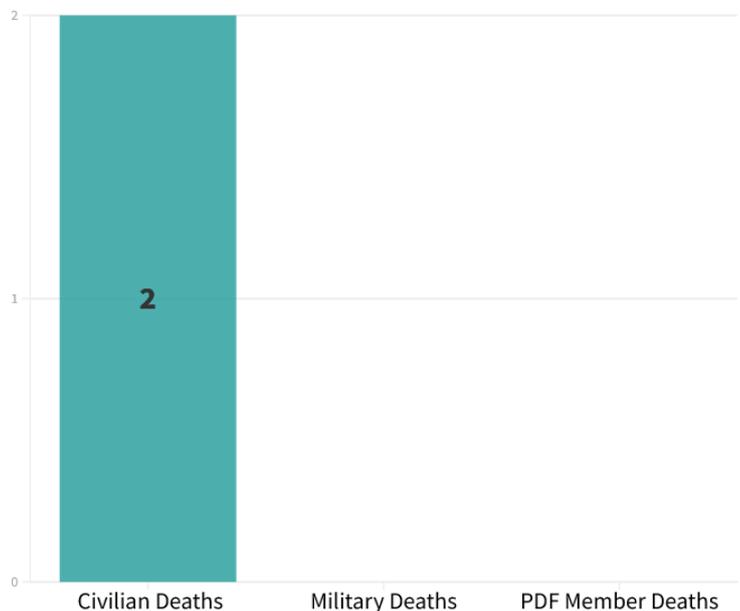


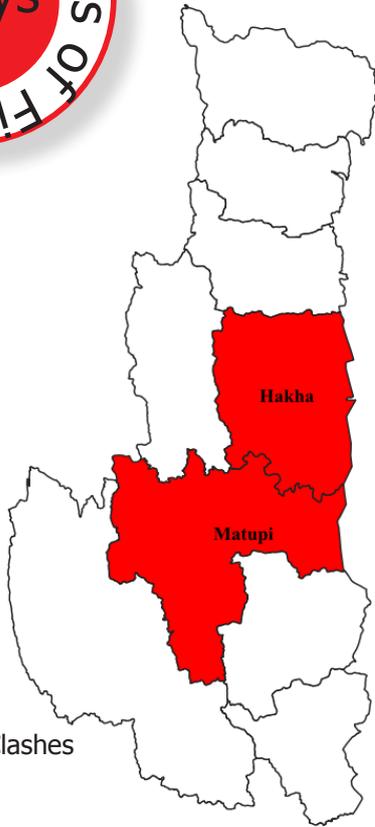
Mine explosions resulted in casualties in Minbya and Buthidaung Townships. On 26 January, a mine explosion killed Marmatnu, 11 and seriously wounded Jarniarlam, 14, Aawziular, 12 and Robyuharsaung, 12 from Phoechaungchaung (Muslim) village in Buthidaung Township.

On 27 January, U Than Shwe Maung in his 50s from Pharpyo village in Minbya Township died after stepping on a landmine while going to the forest to collect firewood.

On 31 January, around 50 soldiers from Battalion-550 near Uritetaw Bridge in Sanpya ward in Ponnagyun Township shot and arrested two vessels carrying cows from Pauktaw Township, to be exported to another country. The military council soldiers seized more than 30 cows. Locals are frightened as this is the first-ever gunshots during the ceasefire period between the military council and the Arakan Army (AA).

On January 26, a child was killed when a mine explosion occurred in Phoekhaung Chaung village in Buthidaung Township. In addition, on January 25, two members of the Pyu Saw Htee militia were shot dead by PDF members in Weizin village, Ye Township. On the same day, one man was killed when a passenger bus was hit by an artillery shell near the Moke Pa Lin checkpoint in Kyaikto Township.





No.of Days of Clashes

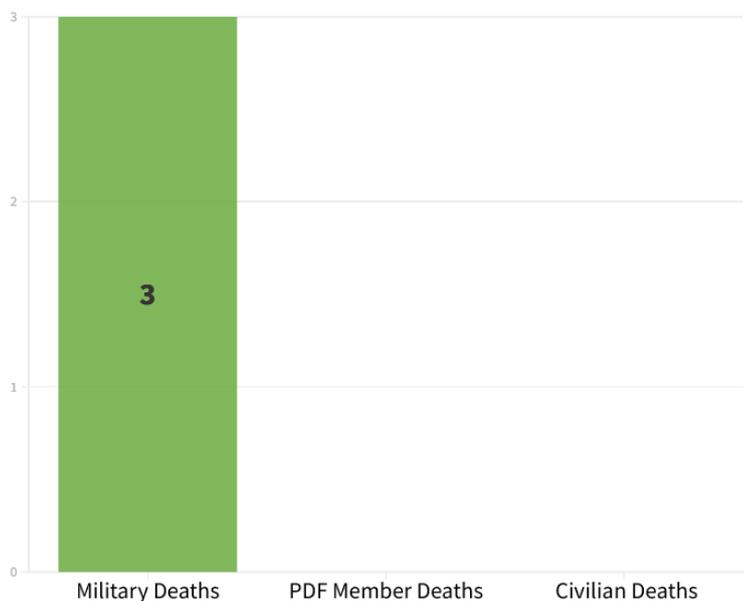


Chin State

On 31 January, artillery shells fired by Battalion-274 in Mindat landed near a clinic in Ohn village at No.11 Station in Mindat Township, seriously wounding three 14-year-old girls and a 42-year-old woman. The artillery shelling hit and destroyed the village clinic, a jeep and a civilian house. The military council is carrying out indiscriminate artillery shelling into Mindat Township. Jet fighters are flying there every day.

On 27 January, Manipur state police arrested 80 Myanmar IDPs who were taking shelter in Manipur state of India due to the battles between the military council and the PDF in Tamu District. Those IDPs are taking shelter in Lanchan village and Niyusalbone village located about four kilometers from Moreh which is a border town on the India-Myanmar border in Manipur State. Most of the IDPs are Chin ethnic. Around 3,000 Myanmar IDPs are taking shelter near the border of Moreh.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and local Chin defense forces in Hakha and Matupi Townships, killing one junta soldier. On January 25, two regime soldiers were killed when they were ambushed by resistance fighters on their way to send meals to military council camp in Hakha Township.



International



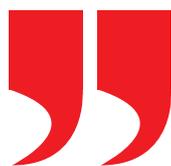
Norway's sovereign wealth fund said on 25 January it has excluded China's AviChina and India's Bharat Electronics from its investment portfolio due to their involvement in the sale of weapons to Myanmar. The decision, made by the Norwegian central bank, which manages the fund, was based on violation of the fund's ethical guidelines.

According to the most recent data available, the fund owned 0.37 percent of the Chinese group and 0.32 percent of the Indian company at the end of 2021. Its market value was \$1.3 trillion. The fund announced that it has sold its shares in AviChina Industry & Technology and Bharat Electronics as they pose "unacceptable risk that the companies are selling weapons to a state that uses these weapons in ways that constitute serious and systematic breaches of the international rules on the conduct of hostilities".

Recently, Norwegian sovereign wealth fund dropped Thailand's PTT Plc and PTT Oil and Retail Business Plc (OR) from its portfolio over concerns of human rights abuses in Myanmar.



UN Secretary-General expressed concern over the intention of Myanmar's ruling junta to hold elections amid intensifying aerial bombardment and the burning of civilian houses along with ongoing arrests, intimidation and harassment of political leaders, and civil society actors.



The U.S, the UK, Australia and Canada announced economic sanctions and travel bans on generals and civilian officers, arms dealers and their family members and the companies which are importing aviation fuel and supplying it to the military.

Counselor of the U.S. Department of State Derek Chollet discussed U.S. efforts to promote accountability for the Myanmar military regime's atrocities, at the U.S. Department of State's Asia Pacific Media Hub on 26 January. Counselor Derek Chollet held talks with Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, about Myanmar human rights crisis.

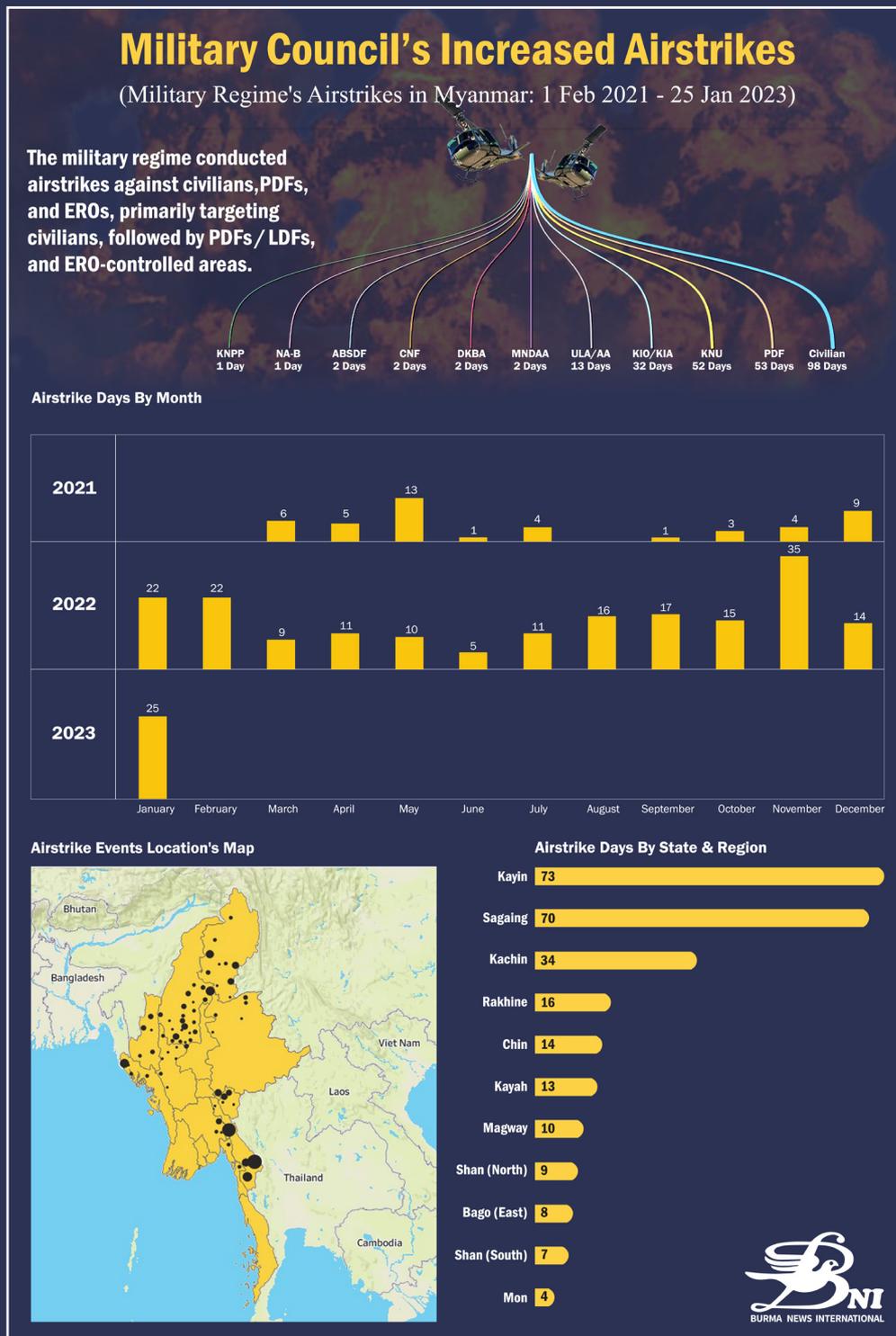
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews said it has been two years the international community cannot effectively deal with Myanmar crisis.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern on 30 January over the intention of Myanmar's ruling junta to hold elections amid intensifying aerial bombardment and the burning of civilian houses along with ongoing arrests, intimidation and harassment of political leaders, civil society actors and journalists. "Without conditions that permit the people of Myanmar to freely exercise their political rights, the proposed polls risk exacerbating instability," his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, said in a statement.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said on 30 January that it would be "impossible" to resolve the crisis in Myanmar during Jakarta's term as ASEAN chair and that it wouldn't resort to "megaphone diplomacy" to force the Myanmar junta to implement a regional roadmap to peace.

Military council's increased airstrikes

27 January 2023



The military council's increased airstrikes have borne witness to the fact that the ground military columns become weaker, with the resistance war of the Spring Revolution gaining momentum.

During the period from 1 February, 2021 to 25 January, 2023, the military council carried out airstrikes on civilian targets and the territories controlled by the People's Defense Force (PDF), Local Defense Forces (LDF) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), for 257 days, according to the record of the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor. The total number of airstrikes may be higher than that as our BNI-MMP records airstrikes in the townships by day. According to the findings, the military council conducted at least three to five airstrikes per day.

Villages, schools and refugee camps stood first on the list of the military council's targeted airstrikes, followed by the frontlines where the PDFs and LDFs are active and the EROs-controlled areas.

The military council conducted targeted airstrikes on territories controlled by ninth EROs which joined the Spring Revolution during the coup period, namely the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA), the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)-Kokang, the Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Northern Alliance-Burma (NA-B), the Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army (KNPP/KA), All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA). The military council conducted targeted airstrikes on eight EROs for more than 100 days with the KNU/KNLA and the KIO/KIA experiencing the airstrikes the most.

Taking a look at the airstrikes by years and months, May and December in 2021 saw the highest number of airstrikes. In 2022, the military council conducted airstrikes the most in November, followed by January and February. Comparing the regions and states, Karen State where the KNU-controlled territories are located, recorded the highest number of airstrikes, with 73 days.

The National Unity Government (NUG) announced 2023 as the decisive year of the Spring Revolution. The EROs, the PDFs, the LDFs and the NUG, which are the major pillars of the Spring Revolution, are working to speed up the resistance war by increasing their cooperation. At the same time, the military council has stepped up its airstrikes.

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.