

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023:
Junta’s violence and incompetence exacerbates economic woes**

- As of 28 Feb, there were at least 20,831 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,329,700 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- The junta sentenced 4,683 people to prison terms since the attempted coup according to newly acquired data from the AAPP, doubling previous estimates. The regime’s digital coup and information blockade hampered accurate reporting of their crimes.
- Junta courts rejected ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi’s appeal against a three-year sentence on two charges. The regime denied ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint access to their lawyers.
- NUG officially opened a liaison office in Washington DC to foster and strengthen diplomatic ties.
- The regime continued its campaign of terror against civilians. Regime troops abducted seven civilians including two children who were later decapitated. Junta forces and affiliated militias burned alive a 70-year-old nun, marking the 3000th confirmed civilian death since Feb 2021.
- Junta leadership targeted Rakhine State as the stage of their latest propaganda tours. Regime ministers visited “repatriation” camps intended for Rohingya refugees and coup leader Min Aung Hlaing attempted to curry favor from businessmen and locals in Sittwe. Both visits garnered much criticism.
- The junta’s shortsighted economic policies caused Burma’s rice market to spiral into further chaos. Chevron’s exit from Burma spelled significant losses for the regime’s cashflow. Swiss food giant Nestlé announced plans to halt production in Burma citing poor economic conditions.
- ASEAN showed continued signs of division through member states’ differing approaches on Burma but have yet to prove themselves truly willing to hold the junta accountable.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

Regime extends illegal rule, replaces nearly half its members

On 1 Feb, the regime announced a third six-month extension to its illegal state of emergency, which could potentially delay the sham 'election' it had pledged to hold by August. The junta justified itself by citing instability caused by continued resistance attacks: Coup leader Min Aung Hlaing said only 198 of the country's 330 townships were 'stable and peaceful.' The move appears to violate the military-drafted 2008 Constitution, which only allows two six-month extensions in 'normal' circumstances.¹

On the same day, the regime replaced nearly half the members of its so-called State Administration Council (SAC), and appointed junta vice-chair Soe Win, as well as its Defense, Home Affairs, Transport, and Finance Ministers as deputy prime ministers. The regime also replaced its Foreign Minister and Chief Ministers in Mandalay, Mon, Shan, and Rakhine Region/States; and created a Central Advisory Body comprised of the newly-ousted civilian members of the SAC. No reason was given for the reshuffle.² Most of the new appointees are ex-generals or friends of Min Aung Hlaing.³

Junta continues preparations to rig sham 'election'

On 8 Feb, regime-controlled media announced that the census to facilitate the compiling of voter lists was 99.25% completed in Rakhine State, and that the junta had gathered data from 86.7% of households nationwide during 9-31 Jan.⁴ On the same day, Min Aung Hlaing said the regime was making efforts to hold a 'dignified election that is accepted by the public' in 2023, though he admitted 'having difficulties in holding elections in some regions and states.'⁵

On 14 Feb, it was reported that the regime was planning to test and introduce electronic voting machines. Russia reportedly helped produce them with spare parts from India. Observers said a digital system would allow the junta-appointed Union Election Commission (UEC) to rig the vote more efficiently. Others suggested that the regime might try to introduce online voting because armed conflict had made it impossible to set up polling stations.⁶ On 21 Feb, it was reported that the regime's voting machines would link census data and household member registration information to record voter information, which could potentially endanger those who refuse to vote.⁷

On 15 Feb, it was reported that only the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the Federal Democratic Party (FDP), the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD), and the Union Democracy Party (UDP) had so far re-registered with the UEC, as required by the regime's new Political Parties Registration Law. The USDP, FDP, and MPD were among 34 parties that met then military chief Min Aung Hlaing ahead of the 2020 general election to seek the assurance that he would intervene if voting was deemed "unfair".⁸ On 25 Feb, the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) officially decided not to register for the junta's sham 'election.'⁹

During 26-28 Feb, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing visited Sittwe (Rakhine State). He called on regime soldiers to take a role in national politics and claimed that "lessons needed to be learned from the 2020 election" and the national census was intended to ensure accurate voter lists.¹⁰ Min Aung Hlaing also urged locals to not support the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA). A former Rakhine MP said Min Aung Hlaing's visit was not for the benefit of Rakhine State but to gain more support for the junta.¹¹ An AA spokesperson said they were closely monitoring the visit.¹²

¹ Frontier Myanmar (2 Feb 2023) Junta extends state of emergency, delaying election; Anadolu Agency (3 Feb 2023) Myanmar military junta declares martial law in 37 more townships

² Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta imposes martial law on resistance strongholds, reshuffles cabinet and military council members

³ Irrawaddy (13 Feb 2023) Junta Reshuffle Shows Nepotism Rules in Myanmar

⁴ DMG (10 Feb 2023) Election-related census collection in Arakan State over 99% complete: junta media

⁵ DMG (9 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta chief says much-maligned regime making efforts to hold dignified election

⁶ Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta's New Voting Machines are Also Vote-Rigging Machines: Observers

⁷ RFA (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta's switch to electronic voting won't bode well for voters, analysts say

⁸ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2023) Four Myanmar Parties Register for Junta Election

⁹ DMG (25 Feb 2023) ALD decides not to contest regime-sponsored election

¹⁰ Mizzima (1 Mar 2023) Min Aung Hlaing visits troops in Rakhine State

¹¹ Narinjara News (3 Mar 2023) Junta leader visits Rakhine to consolidate power

¹² Mizzima (1 Mar 2023) Arakan Army monitors Min Aung Hlaing's visit to Rakhine State

Regime isolates top NLD officials

On 15 Feb, the regime-controlled Supreme Court rejected an appeal by ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi against her three-year sentence on two counts of corruption.¹³ On 27 Feb, it was reported that the regime had been preventing her and President Win Myint from meeting with their legal teams since their trials ended in December 2022. NLD MP Bo Bo Oo said the junta was purposely isolating them from the outside world.¹⁴

On 3 Feb, the regime sentenced former NLD Mandalay mayor Dr. Ye Lwin and Mandalay municipality member Kyaw Zeya to two years in prison for misappropriation of public funds.¹⁵ On 17 Feb, the junta imposed a MMK 100,000 fine on former Yangon Region Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein for alleged electoral fraud, after previously sentencing Suu Kyi and Win Myint to three years in prison under the same charge. Phyo Min Thein testified to bribing Suu Kyi in a regime court in 2021, which explains the near absence of punishment against him.¹⁶

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

Number of confirmed sentences now double previous estimates

Newly acquired data by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) revealed that **the junta had sentenced 4,683 people to prison terms**, this new estimate is over double the previous estimate of 2,278 as of 31 Jan. An AAPP spokesperson said that there was a large influx of new data and that not all the newly imposed sentences occurred in February.¹⁷

On 2 Feb, the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2022 rated Burma as the **second least democratic country in the world** for the second year in a row, behind only Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.¹⁸ Burma was ranked 135th out of 167 in 2020, before the attempted coup.¹⁹ On 28 Feb, AAPP said regime forces had **arrested at least 19,936 civilians** since 1 Feb 2021. The junta had sentenced a total of 144 people to death, with 103 currently on death row.²⁰

On 2 Feb, it was reported that Burma's three telecom providers (MPT, Ooredoo, and ATOM) had started notifying their users that they could be prosecuted for engaging with pro-resistance posts on social media. The move was seen as a renewed attempt by the regime to instill fear.²¹ On 14 Feb, the head of Access Now's Myanmar office warned that the regime had been building a database that will enable it to find out all the information about individuals within a few seconds. He said the **'digital coup'** the junta aims for was taking shape, and urged resistance forces to continue to work towards preventing the regime from getting the technologies they need to make it happen.²²

Burma nationals continued to protest against the regime at home and abroad. On 1 Feb, people across the country stayed home and closed their businesses as part of a nationwide silent strike to mark the second anniversary of the attempted coup. Social media posts showed usually busy streets and roads deserted in major cities, including Yangon, Mandalay, and even Naypyidaw. Residents in several towns also took to the streets.²³ In Yangon, Omni Focus Bus Lines, a company owned by the grandsons of former dictator Ne Win, offered free bus rides, likely an attempt to subvert the silent strike.²⁴ On 25 Feb, in Washington, some 300 members of the Burma diaspora staged a 'multi-ethnic march' in front of the White House to demand an end to the junta's airstrikes and the establishment of a no-fly zone over Burma.²⁵

¹³ RFA (15 Feb 2023) Myanmar Supreme Court rejects Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal on corruption charges

¹⁴ RFA (27 Feb 2023) Myanmar's junta denies ousted leaders access to legal representation

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Jails Ousted NLD Mayor for Two More Years

¹⁶ Myanmar Now (27 Feb 2023) Beyond the Headlines: China's special envoy meets ethnic armed organisation representatives on Myanmar visit; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2023) NLD's Ex-Yangon Chief Let Off With Fine After Testifying Against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

¹⁷ RFA (1 Mar 2023, *corrected 3 Mar 2023*) Myanmar junta sentences nearly 2,400 people in February alone

¹⁸ Mizzima (2 Feb 2023) Myanmar second least democratic country in the world

¹⁹ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2022) Myanmar Ranked Second-Least Democratic Nation in World

²⁰ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) (28 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

²¹ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta threatens people with imprisonment for engaging with pro-resistance Facebook posts

²² Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Planning a Digital Coup

²³ France 24 (1 Feb 2023) Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition marks coup anniversary with 'silent strike'

²⁴ Mizzima (3 Feb 2023) Ne Win's grandsons offer free bus rides on coup anniversary

²⁵ Radio Free Asia (27 Feb 2023) Demanding an end to junta's air strikes, Burmese in U.S. march on White House

The junta continued to crack down on the NLD. On 1 Feb, junta troops torched the house of NLD MP Kyaw Swar Win in Katha Township (Sagaing Region).²⁶ On 19 Feb, regime forces arrested, tortured, and killed an NLD supporter in Maha Aung Mye Township (Mandalay Region).²⁷

On 21 Feb, two retired generals, including former Agriculture Minister Myint Hlaing, handed out bamboo spikes to nearly 200 USDP members in Naypyidaw as part of a ‘weapons-granting ceremony.’ Myint Hlaing said the NLD was a ‘treacherous party’ that needed to be ‘set aside’ and ‘abolished’.²⁸

The junta continued to target alleged PDF and NUG supporters. On 1 Feb, regime forces arrested a food seller and his wife in Chauk (Magway Region), before killing the former in custody. Pro-junta Telegram channels claimed that he was arrested on suspicion of funding PDFs, and that he died of a heart attack during questioning.²⁹

On 15 Feb, it was reported that the regime had **charged former Kachin Baptist Convention leader Dr. Hkalam Samson with terrorism for meeting with NUG ministers.** The pastor also faces unlawful association and incitement charges.³⁰ Human Rights Watch called on the regime to drop these ‘baseless charges’ and ‘immediately and unconditionally release him.’³¹ The US Department of State also denounced Dr. Samson’s detention and said it had asked its allies to push the regime to release him.³²

The junta continued to deny healthcare services to political prisoners. On 3-4 Feb, Obo prison (Mandalay) guards indiscriminately beat up 70 women inmates with batons and tasers, including a 20-year-old political prisoner, following a dispute between detainees and prison staff. Previous testimonies revealed that staff typically denied medical care to the beaten inmates.³³ On 18 Feb, it was reported that the regime had repeatedly refused to allow ousted Rakhine State Chief Minister Nyi Pu to undergo eye surgery, in violation of Burma’s Prison Manual.³⁴ On 25 Feb, DMG reported that several other political prisoners in Rakhine State were being denied access to medical treatment.³⁵

The junta continued to target student activists. On 9 Feb, a regime court in Yangon sentenced North Okkalapa Students’ Union activist Hein Htet to life in prison for incitement and terrorism.³⁶ On 13 Feb, the junta sentenced former student leader and pro-democracy activist Lin Htet Naing to an additional five years in prison for terrorism, bringing his total sentence to eight years. He has been in custody since 18 Jun 2022.³⁷ As of 14 Feb, the regime had arrested 50 members of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, and sentenced about 30 of them to significant prison time.³⁸

The junta continued to target lawyers. On 10 Feb, regime forces arrested four Mandalay-based lawyers and two legal assistants who were defending political detainees. Pro-junta Telegram channels claimed all six had ties to PDFs. Regime troops have arrested nearly 50 Mandalay lawyers since Feb 2021. Most now face terrorism charges which carry sentences of ten years to life imprisonment.³⁹

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

Desperate regime issues weapons to supporters

On 1 Feb, Min Aung Hlaing said resistance forces had killed over 5,000 military sympathizers, alleged informants, USDP members, regime officials, and employees, and injured a further 4,000 since the attempted coup.⁴⁰ On 3 Feb, it was reported that resistance forces had recently escalated their attacks on junta-affiliated armed groups in Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay Regions, with pro-regime villages hosting military bases and pro-regime militias facing near daily attacks and raids.⁴¹ On 15 Feb, Min Aung

²⁶ Network Media Group (2 Feb 2023) ပြည်သူ့လွှတ်တော်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အိမ်ကို မီးရှို့

²⁷ DVB (21 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing: Mae Sai-Tachileik Thai-Burma bridge reopens to much fanfare

²⁸ Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2023) Military-backed USDP holds ‘weapons-granting ceremony’ in Naypyitaw

²⁹ Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2023) Food seller killed at interrogation centre in central Myanmar

³⁰ Myanmar Now (16 Feb 2023) Kachin Baptist leader hit with terror charge for NUG meeting

³¹ Human Rights Watch (20 Feb 2023) Myanmar: Prominent Religious Leader on Trial

³² Irrawaddy (24 Feb 2023) US Condemns Myanmar Junta’s Graft Case Against Kachin Christian Leader

³³ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2023) Female political prisoners brutally beaten in Mandalay’s Obo Prison

³⁴ DMG (18 Feb 2023) Junta continues to deny eye surgery for imprisoned former Arakan State chief minister

³⁵ DMG (25 Feb 2023) Arakan prisoners endure life behind bars without access to medical treatment

³⁶ DVB (15 Feb 2023) US official attends NUG office opening in DC; Junta court adds more years to student activist’s prison sentence

³⁷ Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Jails Democracy Activist Ko James for Another Five Years

³⁸ DMG (15 Feb 2023) About 30 ABFSU members sentenced since coup, says student activist group

³⁹ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Arrests Mandalay Lawyers Defending Political Detainees

⁴⁰ Irrawaddy (20 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta’s New Policy of Arming its Supporters Will Lead to More Bloodshed

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2023) Pro-Regime Militia Killing Spree Checked by Myanmar’s Growing Resistance

Hlaing admitted that the resistance movement was beyond the military’s control, and continued to blame foreign countries, so-called traitors and political exiles for his own failure.⁴²

On 2 Feb, the regime declared martial law in 37 conflict-affected townships (11 in Sagaing Region, seven in Chin State, five in Magway Region, five in Bago Region, four in Karenni State, two each in Karen State and Tanintharyi Region, and one in Mon State), most of which are known resistance strongholds. The move will transfer all administrative and judicial duties to regional military commanders, enabling them to set up military tribunals for 23 offenses with punishments including the death penalty and indefinite imprisonment.⁴³ On 22 Feb, the regime imposed martial law in Ayadaw, Wetlet and Shwebo Townships (Sagaing Region).⁴⁴

On 11 Feb, it was reported that, on 31 Jan, the regime had adopted a new policy to issue firearm licenses and permits to civilians who agree to participate in local security and law enforcement. The policy will allow those ‘loyal to the state’ to hold pistols and hunting rifles; and give pro-junta militias access to automatic weapons.⁴⁵ On 17 Feb, it was reported that hundreds of people had applied for licenses. Senior lawyer Kyi Myint, a fierce regime critic, said the new policy reflected the growing desperation of the junta: ‘They know they can’t win anymore. That’s why they’re asking the Pyu Saw Htee, ultranationalists, soldiers in retirement and even monks to take up arms and protect them.’ The new policy came amid rumors that the regime has been providing military training to youth members of the USDP to bolster its defenses.⁴⁶

National overview

As of 28 Feb, there had been 595 armed clashes and attacks on civilians during the month (20,831 since 1 Feb 2021).⁴⁷ Regime forces had burned down at least 55,484 homes nationwide during Feb 2021-Jan 2023. Sagaing Region was hardest hit (43,292 houses burned), followed by Magway Region (8,863) and Chin State (1,484).⁴⁸ On 1 Feb, the NUG said 138 regime arson attacks had burned 23 people to death and destroyed 4,807 homes nationwide during January. Sagaing Region was hardest hit with 4,271 houses torched and 17 deaths.⁴⁹

On 7 Feb, it was reported that junta forces had killed 116 civilians and injured at least 37 in January.⁵⁰ On 17 Feb, regime forces and affiliated militias **burned alive a 70-year-old nun** in Khin-U Township (Sagaing Region), **bringing the total number of civilians killed by junta troops to 3,000** according to AAPP.⁵¹

Burma: Only Asian country threatened by airstrikes (Data from ACLED)

During Oct 2022 – Feb 2023, Burma launched the highest number of air/drone strikes against civilians **in the world**.

In this period, there were at least 260 airstrikes which killed 102 civilians in Burma, second only to Ethiopia with 112. In the same period, air strikes killed 0 civilians in Ukraine.

Air/drone strikes with civilian fatalities Oct 2022 to Feb 2023 (Data from ACLED)		
Country	Events	Fatalities
Burma	34	102
Yemen	8	4
Ethiopia	6	112
Burkina Faso	4	24
Mali	4	6
Morocco	2	5
Nigeria	1	64
Somalia	1	7
Afghanistan	0	0
Syria	0	0
Ukraine	0	0

⁴² Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Chief Admits to Rising Resistance Pressure

⁴³ AP News (3 Feb 2023) Military places restive areas of Myanmar under martial law

⁴⁴ RFA (22 Feb 2023) စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း သုံးမြို့နယ်ကို စစ်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးနယ်မြေအဖြစ် ထပ်တိုးကြေညာ; Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Extends Martial Law in Resistance Stronghold Sagaing Region

⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (11 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Planning to Issue Weapons to Approved Civilians; Myanmar Now (13 Feb 2023) Myanmar regime issues right to arms policy enabling easier weapons access for pro-junta individuals and militias

⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2023) Hundreds apply for firearms licenses days after introduction of new policy

⁴⁷ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (accessed 7 Mar 2023) Data export tool, available at: <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2023) Over 55,000 Civilian Homes Torched by Myanmar Regime Since Coup

⁴⁹ RFA (3 Feb 2023) Junta burns nearly 5,000 homes in a month, Myanmar’s shadow government says

⁵⁰ Irrawaddy (7 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Killed Over 110 Civilians Including 10 Children in January

⁵¹ Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta has Killed 3,000 Civilians: AAPP

Regime forces had killed at least 3,071 civilians as of 28 Feb, likely an underestimate.⁵²

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said there were 1,657,700 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burma as of 27 Feb, including 1,329,700 displaced after 1 Feb 2021, with 52,000 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries;⁵³ likely an underestimate. On 21 Feb, UNICEF said landmines and unexploded ordnance had killed or wounded 390 people in 2022, an almost 40% spike compared to 2021. Around two-thirds of the incidents took place in border areas.⁵⁴

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued their raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR said that there were around 707,200 IDPs in the region as of 27 Feb. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁵⁵

In **Shwebo District's Khin-U Township**, regime forces raided and burned 200 houses in Nyaung Pin Yisu village on 1 Feb.⁵⁶ On 24 Feb, junta troops arrested 10 civilians, including the daughter and wife of an NLD MP.⁵⁷ In **Shwebo, Katha and Khin-U Townships**, junta arson attacks on 14 villages killed three elderly civilians and destroyed over 2,000 buildings, including homes and schools during 11-13 Feb.⁵⁸ On 12 Feb, regime forces burned three residents alive in **Shwebo Township's** Tint Tei village, stabbed another to death, torched some 600 houses, and destroyed large quantities of rice.⁵⁹ On 26 Feb, junta troops beheaded four people, including two children, in **Myinmu Township's** Kan Taw village amid clashes with PDFs. Regime forces had abducted the children along with five people from a nearby village to use as human shields and guides.⁶⁰ During 24-27 Feb, junta raids in **Myinmu, Taze and Khin-U Townships** displaced some 25,000 residents.⁶¹

In **Kanbalu district's Kanbalu Township**, daily regime shelling injured a civilian and forced over 10,000 residents to flee during 10-13 Feb.⁶² On 17 Feb, volunteers helping IDPs found the bodies of two men burned to death in Kaing Yoe village.⁶³ On the same day, junta forces raided Shantat village, killing two PDF members before burning their bodies, arresting two IDPs in Innlelgyi village, burning another two to death. They also used a 15-year-old and a woman as human shields in Htan Kone village.⁶⁴ On 25 Feb, Pyu Saw Htee landmines wounded four civilians and critically injured one in Nyaung Zin village.⁶⁵ On 16 Feb, it was reported that at least four people had committed suicide in Kanbalu District over the past year after being tortured, having family members abducted for ransom or their houses being burned in junta raids.⁶⁶

In **Sagaing District's Sagaing Township**, junta forces killed a 6-year-old girl and torched almost 60 houses in Ta Dar U and Tar Taing villages on 2 Feb.⁶⁷ On 14 Feb, Pyu Saw Htee members tortured and killed a 60-year-old man from Yin Ma Kyin village.⁶⁸ In **Myinmu Township**, Pyu Saw Htee members

⁵² AAPP (28 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

⁵³ UNHCR (28 Feb 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2023) Myanmar Land-Mine Casualties Surge Two Years After Coup: UN

⁵⁵ UNHCR (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

⁵⁶ RFA (1 Feb 2023) ခင်ဦးမြို့ ညောင်ပင်ကြီးစုရွာ တစ်ရွာလုံးနီးပါး မီးရှို့ခံရ

⁵⁷ DVB (28 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing: People's Party to compete in Junta election; Arakan League for Democracy shuns it

⁵⁸ Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2023) Thousands of Sagaing Homes Lost in Myanmar Junta Arson Attacks; RFA (15 Feb 2023) ကဘာမှာ

နေအိမ်ခန့်ရာနီးပါး မီးရှို့ခံရ ဒေသခံသုံးထောင်ကျော် ထွက်ပြေး

⁵⁹ Myanmar Now (16 Feb 2023) Elderly villagers among four killed in Myanmar junta raid

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (28 Feb 2023) Two Children Beheaded by Myanmar Junta Troops in Sagaing

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (27 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Raids Displace 25,000 in Sagaing

⁶² RFA (14 Feb 2023) ကန့်ဘလူမှာ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် လူတစ်သောင်းကျော် ထွက်ပြေး

⁶³ Network Media Group (19 Feb 2023) မီးလောင်ထားသည့် အဝတ်ထုတ်ပြန်ယူသည့် စစ်ရှောင် နှစ်ဦး၏ အလောင်းတွေ့ရှိ

⁶⁴ DVB (18 Feb 2023) ကန့်ဘလူနှင့်အရာတော်တွင် စစ်တပ်က လူငယ် ၂ ဦးအားသတ်ဖြတ်ပြီး လယ်တီရပ်ကွက်ကိုမီးရှို့; RFA (10 Feb 2023)

ကန့်ဘလူမှာ နယ်မြေရှင်းလင်းရေးကြောင့် ဒေသခံ နှစ်သောင်းကျော် ထွက်ပြေးရ

⁶⁵ NMG (27 Feb 2023) အရပ်သား ၅ ဦး မိုင်းထိပြီး ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁶⁶ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2023) Civilians Resort to Suicide as Myanmar Junta Steps Up Attacks

⁶⁷ Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2023) စစ်ကိုင်းမြို့နယ်မှ ၆ နှစ်အရွယ် ကလေးတစ်ဦး စစ်တပ်ပစ်၍ သေဆုံး; Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2023) Child shot dead in drunken soldiers' attack on civilian homes

⁶⁸ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2023) Girl, 7, among three injured by junta shelling in southern Sagaing

shot at three civilians in Kywel Pon village on 6 Feb, killing one.⁶⁹ On 12 Feb, the regime shelled Gon Nyin Seik village, injuring three civilians, including a seven-year-old girl. There was no fighting at the time.⁷⁰

In Kale District's Mingin Township, fighting broke out between regime and resistance forces during 18-20 Feb. On 20 Feb, regime troops abducted 53 residents upon leaving the village.⁷¹

In Monywa District's Ayadaw Township, regime forces raided Ayadaw Town, arresting over 50 residents, ransacking houses before torching about 100 on 17 Feb.⁷² During 20-25 Feb, junta troops raided villages and torched buildings, including schools, monasteries, houses, and a PDF camp. Exact casualties were unknown.⁷³ On 16 Feb, regime forces torched **Chaung-U Township's** Yargyitaw and Wayar villages, destroying over 70 houses.⁷⁴

In Kawlin District's Kawlin Township, regime forces raided Nyaung Pintar village on 1 Feb following a clash with resistance forces, burning three houses and a barn. Indiscriminate regime small arms and artillery fire killed a civilian and injured three others.⁷⁵ On 4 Feb, junta troops raided Hpayartaung village and shot dead an IDP.⁷⁶ On 8 Feb, indiscriminate regime small arms fire injured at least five locals.⁷⁷

In Yinmabin District's Salingyi Township, regime forces shot dead a civilian at the entrance of Salingyi on 3 Feb.⁷⁸ On 4 Feb, regime clearance operations prompted over 10,000 civilians from 20 villages to flee.⁷⁹ On 16 Feb, regime forces raided **Pale Township's** Mintaingpin village, destroying two school buildings and eight houses. During 18-19 Feb, regime forces raided villages, forcing over 6,000 residents to flee and torching at least 7 buildings, including a NUG school.⁸⁰

In Hkamti District's Homalin Township, regime troops advanced towards PDF-controlled Nant Nan village, a gold production and strategic transport hub on 8 Feb.⁸¹

In Katha District's Katha Township, junta troops torched the house of NLD MP Kyaw Swar Win on 1 Feb.⁸² On 15 Feb, residents returning to Inn Gyi village after a junta raid found the bodies of seven men who had been shot dead.⁸³ **In Indaw Township**, junta troops shot dead a man in front of a police station on 8 Feb. On 21 Feb, regime forces shelled Kyaw Kyae and Moe U villages, injuring four civilians and destroying four houses. There was no fighting at the time.⁸⁴

In Tamu District's Tamu Township, junta shelling killed a 5-year-old child and injured a child and a woman on 25 Feb.⁸⁵

Magway Region

Junta soldiers continued to target civilians amid clashes with the resistance. On 1 Feb, regime forces arrested a food seller and his wife in **Chauk Township**, before killing the former in custody.⁸⁶ On 7 Feb, regime troops arrested 17 civilians, including youths, at a checkpoint in **Gangaw Township**. They

⁶⁹ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2023) Girl, 7, among three injured by junta shelling in southern Sagaing

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2023) Girl, 7, among three injured by junta shelling in southern Sagaing

⁷¹ RFA (22 Feb 2023) မင်းကင်းမြို့နယ်က ဒေသခံ ၅၀ ကျော် စားစာခံအဖြစ် ဖမ်းဆီးခံထားရ

⁷² Network Media Group (19 Feb 2023) အရပ်သား ၅၀ ကျော်ကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ဖမ်းဆီး၊ နေအိမ်အချို့ မီးရှို့

⁷³ NMG (27 Feb 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က အရာတော်မြို့နယ်ထဲတွင် နေအိမ်များမီးရှို့

⁷⁴ RFA (17 Feb 2023) ချောင်းဦးမှာ ရွာနှစ်ရွာက နေအိမ် ၇၀ ကျော်မီးရှို့ခံရ

⁷⁵ RFA (2 Feb 2023) ကောလင်းမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် အရပ်သားတစ်ဦးသေ၊ သုံးဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

⁷⁶ Network Media Group (7 Feb 2023) ကောလင်းဝန်းသိုနယ်အတွင်း စစ်ရှောင် အမျိုးသားတစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

⁷⁷ Network Media Group (10 Feb 2023) ညမထွက်ရ အမိန့်ထုတ်ပြီး မြို့တွင်း သေနတ်ဖြင့် ရမ်းသန်း ပစ်ခတ်။ လူ ငါးဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁷⁸ RFA (4 Feb 2023) နယ်မြေရှင်းလင်းရေးကြောင့် ဆားလင်းကြီးက ဒေသခံတစ်သောင်းကျော် ထွက်ပြေး

⁷⁹ RFA (4 Feb 2023) နယ်မြေရှင်းလင်းရေးကြောင့် ဆားလင်းကြီးက ဒေသခံတစ်သောင်းကျော် ထွက်ပြေး

⁸⁰ Mizzima (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta troops burn down houses in Sagaing's Pale Township

⁸¹ Irrawaddy (8 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Advance on Sagaing Gold Hub

⁸² Network Media Group (2 Feb 2023) ပြည်သူ့လွှတ်တော်ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အိမ်ကို မီးရှို့

⁸³ Radio Free Asia (16 Feb 2023) Myanmar military kills 7 villagers in Sagaing region

⁸⁴ DVB (22 Feb 2023) လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် အင်းတော်နှင့် ခင်ဦးဒေသခံ ၆ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ၊ ကန့်ဘလူခရိုင်တွင် နေအိမ် ၂၄၀ ကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ; RFA (22 Feb 2023) လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် အင်းတော်နဲ့ ခင်ဦးမှာ အရပ်သား ခြောက်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁸⁵ DVB (28 Feb 2023) People's Party to compete in Junta election; Arakan League for Democracy shuns it

⁸⁶ Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2023) Food seller killed at interrogation centre in central Myanmar

detained them for over 10 days.⁸⁷ From 13 to 16 Feb, regime troops raided villages and a temporary local PDF camp in **Pakokku and Seikphyu Townships**, forcing some 20,000 residents to flee.⁸⁸ UNHCR said that there were around 161,700 IDPs in the region as of 27 Feb. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁸⁹

Chin State

Fighting between resistance and junta forces centered around **Thantlang**. On 1 Feb, a regime jet resorted to indiscriminate strafing fire following the capture of six junta personnel in a joint ambush by Chinland Defence Force (CDF) and Chin National Army (CNA).⁹⁰ On 8 Feb, a joint CNA/CDF force attacked and seized the central police station, killing at least four regime personnel.⁹¹ In response, the junta launched repeated aerial attacks on Thantlang in a push to reclaim the town.⁹² On 26 Feb, regime Mi 35 gunships attacked Thantlang and its vicinity.⁹³

On 13 Feb, the regime ordered churchgoers in **Hakha, Tedim, Tonzang, Falam, Matupi, Kanpetlet, Thantlang, and Mindat Townships** to report to junta-appointed administrators a week in advance of attending Sunday services. It is unclear how long the new reporting rule will stay in effect. The Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) pointed out that the new rule was a direct violation of the freedom of religion and freedom of assembly.⁹⁴ On 25 Feb, regime forces shelled Am Laung village, **Mindat Township**, killing a child, its parents, and a CNA fighter.⁹⁵

UNHCR said there were around 51,600 IDPs in Chin State as of 27 Feb, including 46,100 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁹⁶ On 14 Feb, it was reported that the regime had started surveying IDPs in Paletwa Township on return preferences, raising fears that it might force them to leave displacement camps despite the lack of security guarantees and potential landmine contamination in their home villages.⁹⁷

Rakhine State

On 2 Feb, it was reported that around 2,000 IDPs at the Thayek Oak camp, **Kyauktaw Township** lacked access to clean drinking water and adequate toilet facilities. Some IDPs, including children, reported suffering from illnesses due to poor sanitation.⁹⁸

On 2 Feb, it was reported that an unexploded grenade had killed a 13-year-old boy in **Maungdaw Township**.⁹⁹

On 3 Feb, it was reported that 80% of the 50+ school-aged children in Myo Oo Khaung IDP camp, **Mrauk-U Township** were unable to continue their education due to a lack of teachers and funding.¹⁰⁰

On 8 Feb, in **Myebon Township**, two junta defectors shot two civilians in Htuchey Village and stole a boat. One civilian survived and the other was presumed dead. Regime soldiers entered the village in search of the defectors. The AA allegedly captured the defectors and the surviving villager.¹⁰¹

On 14 Feb, in **Mrauk-U Township**, the WFP delivered aid in the Oo Gaung IDP camp but failed to reach those outside the camp at the time. Narinjara reported that 200 out of 783 IDPs had received aid after

⁸⁷ Than Lwin Times (20 Feb 2023) Young adults arrested in Mawgway as they tried to go abroad

⁸⁸ DVB (17 Feb 2023) ဆိပ်ဖြူနှင့် ပခုက္ကူတွင် ရွာသား ၂၀,၀၀၀ ခန့်ထွက်ပြေးနေရာ၊ ဆိပ်ဖြူတိုက်ပွဲ၌ စစ်ကောင်စီအရာရှိ အပါအဝင် အများအပြားသေ

⁸⁹ UNHCR (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

⁹⁰ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2023) Chin resistance forces capture six, including an army lieutenant, in Thantlang ambush

⁹¹ Myanmar Now (9 Feb 2023) Resistance forces overrun main junta police station in Chin State town under martial law

⁹² Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2023) Military launching daily airstrikes in attempt to reclaim control of Chin State's Thantlang

⁹³ Irrawaddy (27 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Helicopter 'Hit' in Fierce Battle for Chin Town

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta demands lists of churchgoers in Chin State

⁹⁵ RFA (27 Feb 2023) Junta shells Chin state village killing 3 family members

⁹⁶ UNHCR (28 Feb 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

⁹⁷ DMG (14 Feb 2023) Some wary as IDPs are surveyed on return preferences in Chin State's Paletwa

⁹⁸ DMG (2 Feb 2023) Shortage of drinking water and lack of toilets trouble Kyauktaw Twsp IDP camp

⁹⁹ Narinjara News (3 Feb 2023) Grade-5 student from Kha Maung Seik village in Maungdaw killed by remnant of war grenade explosion

¹⁰⁰ DMG (3 Feb 2023) Dozens of school-aged children from Mrauk-U displacement camp find education out of reach

¹⁰¹ Narinjara News(10 Feb 2023) Fisherman missing and another escape in Myebon after being shot by two military deserters

showing valid identification.¹⁰² The WFP Country Director specified that the WFP was still identifying eligible recipients.¹⁰³

On 15 Feb, in **Ponnagyun Township**, the regime Chief Minister for Rakhine said IDPs returning home would receive MMK 600,000 per family and 2 months of rice but ignored requests to clear landmines in the area.¹⁰⁴

On 15 Feb, in **Kyauktaw Township**, a landmine explosion seriously injured a 42-year-old resident. Landmines killed six people statewide and injured 13 since 26 Nov, according to DMG.¹⁰⁵

On 16 Feb, it was reported that an alleged regime landmine blast had killed two junta soldiers near a regime camp in **Kyauktaw Township**.¹⁰⁶

On 19 Feb, in **Rathedaung and Maungdaw Townships** residents urged junta forces occupying a pagoda mountain between two villages to move their camp. A Buddhist Committee trustee said the camp prevented locals from visiting the temple on the mountain.¹⁰⁷

On 23 Feb, in **Minbya Township**, junta officials ordered over 2,000 IDPs in Minbya town to return home, providing them with MMK 500,000 per household without assuring that the area would be cleared of mines. A junta-affiliated media reported that another MMK 100,000 per household was provided to returning IDPs.¹⁰⁸

On 24 Feb, it was reported that nearly 300 IDPs at a displacement camp in **Ponnagyun Township** were ill due to contaminated drinking water.¹⁰⁹

Kachin and Northern Shan States

On 17 Feb, it was reported that junta troops had tightened security in Myitkyina and Hpakant Towns (Kachin State) by setting up checkpoints and inspecting passersby, and inspecting households at night.¹¹⁰

During 17-23 Feb, in **Mansi Township** (Kachin State), clashes between junta troops and KIA reportedly killed one junta soldier and injured a further 39.¹¹¹ On 23 Feb, it was reported that over 1,000 IDPs from N. Kachin State had returned to their villages despite fears of fighting flaring up at any time due to the junta's disruption of food and medicine delivery to IDP camps, and the collapse of the banking system.¹¹²

On 4 Feb, the TNLA evacuated 127 locals, including 20 children, who had been forcibly recruited by a junta-backed local militia in **Mongyai Township** (N. Shan State).¹¹³ On 10 Feb, the junta launched airstrikes on KIA and resistance forces in **Nawngkhio Township**, destroying a monastery and displacing more than 150 locals.¹¹⁴

Karenni and Southern Shan States

On 1 Feb, it was reported that recent clashes between junta and resistance forces in **Demoso Township's** Chauk Mai village tract had forced three nearby IDP camps to relocate.¹¹⁵ On 22 Feb, it was reported that junta heavy attacks had displaced 180,000 people – 40% of the population – and destroyed around 1,200 houses in 87 villages of Karenni State. Aid workers reported that humanitarian aid couldn't reach IDPs due to the junta confiscating food and medicine at road checkpoints.¹¹⁶

¹⁰² Narinjara News (17 Feb 2023) ကျောင်းတက်နေသူများနှင့် စခန်းပြင်ပအလုပ်သွားလုပ်သူများကို WFP ထောက်ပံ့ငွေ မပေး၍ အခက်တွေ့ရဟုဆို

¹⁰³ Narinjara News (23 Feb 2023) WFP reviews IDP population in central Rakhine State

¹⁰⁴ Narinjara News (17 Feb 2023) Rakhine Chief Minister ignores IDP safety demand over landmines, while offering two months rice rations -if they return home

¹⁰⁵ DMG (15 Feb 2023) Kyauktaw Twsp man loses leg in landmine blast

¹⁰⁶ Narinjara News (22 Feb 2023) Two soldiers killed after stepping on their own landmine in Kyauktaw Rakhine state

¹⁰⁷ Narinjara News (23 Feb 2023) Rakhine people urge to remove armed forces stationed in pagodas and temples

¹⁰⁸ DMG (24 Feb 2023) IDPs return home in Minbya Township following junta's order

¹⁰⁹ DMG (24 Feb 2023) Shortage of drinking water troubles Ponnagyun Twsp IDP camp

¹¹⁰ Kachin News Group (17 Feb 2023) Curfew orders and military checkpoints make life difficult for local people in Myitkyina and Hpakant towns

¹¹¹ Kachin News Group (23 Feb 2023) KIA Ambush Junta Forces In Mansi

¹¹² RFA (23 Feb 2023) Despite danger, hundreds of displaced in Myanmar's Kachin state return to their homes

¹¹³ Shan Herald (10 Feb 2023) Jaryan Militia Forced Recruits Include Under- age Young People From Villages In Northern Shan State

¹¹⁴ Shan Herald (16 Feb 2023) Military Council Jet Fighters Attack KIA And PDF In Nawngkhio Township; Shan Herald (16 Feb 2023) More Than 150 IDPs In Need Aid Following Artillery And Jet Fighter Attacks In Nawngkhio Township

¹¹⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (1 Feb 2023) People from three IDP camps in Karenni State flee to safer place following Burma Army offensive

¹¹⁶ RFA (22 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta's confiscation of food, medicine leaves Kayah state residents at risk

On 8 Feb, junta heavy artillery fire killed five of its own troops amidst clashes with local PDFs in **Moebye Township** (S. Shan State).¹¹⁷ On 22 Feb, in Tangyan Township (N. Shan State), junta troops killed three civilians at their home over alleged Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) links. SSPP spokesperson blamed the junta for the attack.¹¹⁸ On 24 Feb, the regime indiscriminately fired artillery shells at villages located between **Pekon and Pinlaung Townships** (S. Shan State) after clashing with resistance forces, killing a woman and damaging four houses.¹¹⁹

Karen State

Fighting continued in Karen State. In KNU-defined **Hpa-An District** (Central Karen State), daily regime artillery fire in Thandaung town injured a civilian, displaced nearly 8,000 residents, and destroyed eight houses and a church during 27 Jan-5 Feb. The junta also stepped up arbitrary arrests, torture of civilians, and torching of houses.¹²⁰ During 5-6 Feb, landmines planted around a Border Guard Force (BGF) camp killed a woman and wounded another in Meikhtila village.¹²¹ On 21 Feb, junta troops burned five houses, a car and a motorcycle in Thandaung following a clash with resistance forces.¹²² Still on 21 Feb, regime troops shelled Leik Tho Town following a Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) attack on a junta checkpoint and injured four civilians including a 5-year-old child, destroyed a church and over ten houses, and forced over 1,000 residents to flee.¹²³

In KNU-defined **Dooplaya District** (Southern Karen State), the junta bombed Htee Kapale village, destroying a church on 9 Feb.¹²⁴ On 19 Feb, regime airstrikes hit a temporary IDP camp, injuring three civilians, including a child. On 20 Feb, junta aircraft also bombed a forest area in southern **Kawkareik Township**. Casualties were unknown.¹²⁵ On the same day, the junta conducted two airstrikes on Mihpanyar village. There was no fighting at the time.¹²⁶

In Karen National Union (KNU)-defined **Kawkareik Township** (Southern Karen State), the regime bombed Panwet Phoe Khaloe village on 10 Feb and 13 Feb, prompting over 3,600 residents to flee.¹²⁷

In KNU-defined **Hpapun District** (Northeastern Karen State), regime aircraft bombed Debono village, destroying six houses on 14 Feb. On 15 Feb, junta aircraft bombed Pakaydae village, destroying a school, six houses and three shops.¹²⁸ In Kyain Seikgyi Township (Karen State), regime shells injured two civilians and destroyed houses following a resistance attack on Payathozu’s police station on 25 Feb.¹²⁹

Bago Region

In Bago Region, clashes between junta and KNLA forces as well as regime shelling on local villages continued. On 4 Feb, regime forces invaded Myin Thar Yar village in KNU-defined **Nyaunglebin District** (Eastern Bago Region), clashed with KNLA forces, and fired artillery shells into villages,

¹¹⁷ Myanmar Now (10 Feb 2023) Five soldiers killed by own artillery in Moebye

¹¹⁸ Shan Herald (28 Feb 2023) Soldiers Kill Father & Sons In Lashio

¹¹⁹ Shan Herald (28 Feb 2023) Junta Shelling Kills Woman In Taunggyi District

¹²⁰ DVB (5 Feb 2023) သံတောင်မြို့ စစ်ဘေးရှောင် ၈၀၀၀ ကျော် နေထိုင်စားသောက်ရေး အခက်အခဲကြုံနေ; Than Lwin Times (8 February 2023) Regime forces invade Thandaung Township amid military tension; DVB (6 Feb 2023) သံတောင်မြို့၌ စစ်တပ်က လက်နက်ကြီးငယ်များဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်၊ ဒေသခံများကို ဖမ်းဆီးနှိပ်စက်

¹²¹ Than Lwin Times (11 Feb 2023) One civilian killed, another injured in landmine explosion in Thaton

¹²² Mizzima (21 Feb 2023) သံတောင်မြို့တွင် နေအိမ် ၅ လုံးအပါအဝင် ကားနှင့် ဆိုင်ကယ်များကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီး; DVB (22 Feb 2023) သံတောင်မြို့သစ် ၁၃ မိုင်တွင် တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်၊ ဒေသခံနေအိမ် ၈ လုံး မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

¹²³ DVB (21 Feb 2023) လိပ်သိုမြို့တွင် စစ်တပ်က လက်နက်ကြီးပစ်ခတ်ဖြင့် ဘုရားကျောင်းပျက်စီး၊ ကလေး ၂ ဦး အပါအဝင် ၃ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ; RFA (21 Feb 2023) Junta shelling injures 4, forces more than 1,000 to flee Kayin state town

¹²⁴ Than Lwin Times (12 Feb 2023) More aerial bombing over KNU Brigade 6 by Junta army

¹²⁵ Myanmar Now (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar regime bombards villages in southeast and is intercepted by resistance near Thai border; Mizzima (20 Feb 2023) ကော့ကရိတ်မြို့နယ်တွင် တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်ပွားခြင်းမရှိဘဲ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ဖွဲ့က လေကြောင်းမှတိုက်ခိုက်

¹²⁶ DVB (20 Feb 2023) ကော့ကရိတ်တောင်ပိုင်း ကေအန်ယူ တပ်မဟာ ၆ နယ်မြေကို စစ်တပ်က လေကြောင်းမှ တိုက်ခိုက်၊ မြို့နယ်အတွင်း လူငယ်များကို စစ်ဆေးဖမ်းဆီး

¹²⁷ Karen News (20 Feb 2023) Military Council shelling and airstrikes 3,600 flee to Thai border Kawkareik Karen State

¹²⁸ DVB (17 Feb 2023) ကေအန်ယူနယ်မြေတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က တိုက်လေယာဉ် ၆ စင်းဖြင့် ဖုံးကြုံ၊ စာသင်ကျောင်းအပါအဝင် လူနေအိမ်များ မီးလောင်ပျက်စီး

¹²⁹ Irrawaddy (25 Feb 2023) Karen Resistance Attack Myanmar Junta Police Station

injuring two civilians and forcing 2,431 residents from three villages to flee.¹³⁰ On 8 Feb, regime heavy artillery fire following a clash with KNU forces near Ohnpinsu village killed a civilian, injured three and forced over 4,000 locals to flee.¹³¹ On 11 Feb, regime mortar shelling injured three locals and damaged homes and rice barns in Nyaungpingyi village. Regime shelling on Nyangpingyi Ywarthit and Nyangpingyi Ywama villages during 11-12 Feb also prompted 1,243 locals to flee.¹³² On 13 Feb, a bomb blast at Nyaunglebin railway station killed three civilians and wounded nine. No group claimed responsibility.¹³³ On 18 Feb, regime shells killed a woman in Kyuntaw village, seriously injured her two children, and destroyed a house in Thitchaseik village.¹³⁴ Regime artillery fire also killed three civilians in Htaung Laung village (21 Feb) and two civilians in nearby Nyaungbingyi Ywar Thit (23 Feb).¹³⁵

During 24-28 Feb, regime shelling forced over 4,000 residents to flee in **Mone Township**'s Nyaungpintha village and take shelter in nearby forests.¹³⁶ It was reported that around 150 junta soldiers were deployed to the village on 28 Feb.¹³⁷ On 14-16 Feb, clashes between regime and resistance forces displaced almost 5,000 residents in **Yedashe Township**. According to UNHCR, there were around 61,600 IDPS in Bago Region as of 27 Feb since 1 Feb 2021.¹³⁸

Mon State

UNHCR said there were around 25,500 IDPS statewide as of 27 Feb. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.¹³⁹ In **Paung Township**, resistance forces shot dead a former Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) MP on 1 Feb.¹⁴⁰ On 2 Feb, regime forces shot and injured a truck driver in **Thanbyuzayat Township**'s Aye Kabar village.¹⁴¹

In KNU-defined **Thaton District** (Northern Mon State), a landmine planted by a regime-affiliated Border Guard Force (BGF) killed a civilian and wounded another on 9 Feb.¹⁴² On 11 Feb, a junta artillery shell hit a monastery in Migyaung Ai village, injuring two monks and an 11-year-old novice.¹⁴³ On 21 Feb, junta shelling killed a civilian amid clashes with KNLA forces. Regime forces also ransacked houses in Khemauk village.¹⁴⁴

On 11 Feb, it was reported that frequent clashes between regime and resistance forces and regime retaliatory artillery and air attacks led villagers in Northern **Ye Township** to dig bomb shelters.¹⁴⁵ On 10 Feb, a regime artillery shell killed a 10-year-old novice and wounded a monk at Ka Nin Ka Mawt village. There was no fighting at the time.¹⁴⁶ On 14 Feb, regime forces arrested a local businessman from Mawt Ka Nin village.¹⁴⁷ On 17 Feb, a landmine severely wounded a Lamaing Town resident. Four landmines exploded in the area during 28 Jan-17 Feb. Regime troops stationed in the area suffered from regular

¹³⁰ Than Lwin Times (7 Feb 2023) All residents from 6 villages flee junta attacks in Mone Township; Karen National Union, via Facebook (5 Feb 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/45vaf2cy>

¹³¹ Than Lwin Times (11 Feb 2023) Junta artillery kills 1 civilian, wounds 3 others in Nyaunglaybin

¹³² Than Lwin Times (15 Feb 2023) All villagers from 3 villages in Nyaunglaybin displaced by junta artillery fire

¹³³ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2023) သောင်လေးပင်ဘူတာ ဝေါက်ကွဲမှုတွင် ခရီးသည် ၃ ဦးသေ၊ ၉ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ; Mizzima (14 Feb 2023) Three people killed, nine wounded in Myanmar bomb blast

¹³⁴ RFA (21 Feb 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး သေဆုံး; Karen National Union, via Facebook (20 Feb 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/fm68pydk>

¹³⁵ Myanmar Now (27 Feb 2023) Myanmar junta shelling kills five civilians in eastern Bago

¹³⁶ Than Lwin Times (2 Mar) Junta soldiers kill two residents from KNU Brigade 3 territory

¹³⁷ DMG (03 Mar) Thousands of residents flee junta raid in eastern Bago Region

¹³⁸ UNHCR (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

¹³⁹ UNHCR (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

¹⁴⁰ Network Media Group (3 Feb 2023) ပြည်ခိုင်ဖြိုးပါတီ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်ဟောင်း ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁴¹ Than Lwin Times (3 Feb 2023) A driver shot by junta in Thanbyuzayat for no reason

¹⁴² Than Lwin Times (11 Feb 2023) One civilian killed, another injured in landmine explosion in Thtaton

¹⁴³ Than Lwin Times (14 Feb 2023) Tow monks, one novice injured in artillery strike in Belin

¹⁴⁴ Than Lwin Times (23 Feb 2023) Fighting erupts between KNLA joint force, junta army in Belin

¹⁴⁵ Mon News (11 Feb 2023) Northern Ye residents dig bomb shelters for safety

¹⁴⁶ Network Media Group (12 Feb 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ကိုရင်တစ်ပါး ပျံလွန်တော်မူ

¹⁴⁷ Network Media Group (18 Feb 2023) မွန်ပြည်နယ်က စီးပွားရေး လုပ်ငန်းရှင်တစ်ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ဖမ်းဆီး

resistance forces attacks.¹⁴⁸ In **Kyaikto Township**, unknown armed men arrested the headmistress of Tagay Chaung Phyar village before killing her on 23 Feb. No group claimed responsibility.¹⁴⁹

Tanintharyi Region

As of 4 Mar, Southern Monitor had documented 37 clashes between regime and resistance forces in Tanintharyi Region in Feb. Attacks targeting civilians killed 34 residents and injured 10.¹⁵⁰ UNHCR said there were around 41,100 IDPs in the region as of 27 Feb. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.¹⁵¹

On 22 Feb, the International Karen Organization (IKO) urged the KNU Brigade 4 and the Kaw Thoo Lai Army (KTLA) to stop fighting following a clash and rising tensions between them.¹⁵² On 1 Feb, resistance forces shot dead a junta-appointed village administrator in **Thayetchaung Township**.¹⁵³ On 3 Feb, junta troops torched Nyaungzin village's school in retaliation for the killing of a military informant.¹⁵⁴ On 7 Feb, junta forces raided Ya Ngaw village, arrested two civilians before killing them, and destroyed properties.¹⁵⁵ In **Launglon Township**, junta troops raided Minyat village, shot dead a resident and burned down his shop and home on 3 Feb.¹⁵⁶ On 16 Feb, unknown gunmen shot dead a Pyu Saw Htee member in Launglon. On 17 Feb, regime forces raided the area and arrested four women.¹⁵⁷

In **Palaw Township**, indiscriminate regime shelling amid clashes with PDFs killed a woman in Tanshin village on 3 Feb.¹⁵⁸ On 5 Feb, regime troops forced displaced people seeking refuge in a monastery to return home.¹⁵⁹ On 6 Feb, regime artillery fire killed a woman and injured a child in Tanshin village. There was no fighting at the time.¹⁶⁰ During 10-13 Feb, regime arson attacks destroyed over 100 houses belonging to CDM members and their relatives in Toh village.¹⁶¹ The regime also shot dead an IDP. On 13 Feb, junta artillery shells injured a monk in Nantaung village and killed a woman IDP in Shatpon village.¹⁶² During 15-17 Feb, junta troops torched 165 houses in Kade village, forcing 2,000 residents to flee.¹⁶³

In **Tanintharyi Township**, regime troops shelled Banlaw village, destroying at least five houses and a monastery, before ransacking houses as retaliation for a PDF attack on a junta convoy on 18 Feb.¹⁶⁴ On 26 Feb, the junta arrested at least 20 people for allegedly participating in anti-regime activities in Tanintharyi town.¹⁶⁵ In **Dawei Township**, junta troops torched at least two houses in Wakone village following clashes with PDFs on 14 Feb.¹⁶⁶ On 16 Feb, regime heavy artillery fire wounded a 6-year-old girl from Yammazu village.¹⁶⁷

¹⁴⁸ Network Media Group (19 Feb 2023) အရပ်သားတစ်ဦး မိုင်းနင်းမိ၍ အပြင်းအထန် ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁴⁹ Than Lwin Times (26 Feb 2023) Both sides trade accusations for death of headmistress in Kyaikto

¹⁵⁰ Southern Monitor (4 Mar 2023) Myanmar: Tanintharyi Region monthly situation update (28 February 2023)

¹⁵¹ UNHCR (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Feb 2023)

¹⁵² Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2023) Rival Ethnic Karen Groups Urged to Stop Fighting Each Other in Southern Myanmar

¹⁵³ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2023) တနင်္သာရီတိုင်းတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးတစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁵⁴ Network Media Group (6 Feb 2023) ထားဝယ်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က စာသင်ကျောင်းတစ်ခုကို မီးရှို့; Than Lwin Times (6 Feb 2023)

Junta troops set fire to school in Tanintharyi's village

¹⁵⁵ Mon News (9 Feb 2023) Two Ya Ngae villagers arrested and killed by military forces

¹⁵⁶ Than Lwin Times (5 Feb 2023) Tea shop owner shot dead, his home and shop set on fire in Launglon

¹⁵⁷ Than Lwin Times (18 Feb 2023) Four women detained after death of a militia member in Launglon; Network Media Group (19 Feb 2023) ပျူစောထီး သတ်ခံရပြီးနောက် အမျိုးသမီးလေးဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီး

¹⁵⁸ Than Lwin Times (5 Feb 2023) A woman killed in artillery strike in Palaw

¹⁵⁹ Than Lwin Times (7 Feb 2023) Displaced people in Palaw forced to return home by military council

¹⁶⁰ Network Media Group (6 Feb 2023) လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အို အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး သေဆုံး; ကလေးငယ်တစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁶¹ DVB (16 Feb 2023) The NUG criticizes UNOCHA aid efforts in Burma; Mae Sot refugees suspend protests after online threats

¹⁶² Mizzima (16 Feb 2023) Two killed and monk injured by Myanmar junta in Palaw Township; Network Media Group (18 Feb 2023) နေအိမ်သို့ ရေပုံးပြန်ယူသူ စစ်ရှောင်တစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁶³ DVB (17 Feb 2023) ပုလောမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က နေအိမ်များကို မီးရှို့ ထားဝယ်တွင် ကလေးငယ် ၁ ဦး လက်နက်ကြီးထိမှန် ဒဏ်ရာရ;

Than Lwin Times (21 Feb 2023) More than 160 houses destroyed by fire in Palaw's Kade village

¹⁶⁴ Than Lwin Times (22 Feb 2023) Schools, houses damaged by junta shelling of Tanintharyi

¹⁶⁵ DVB (28 Feb 2023) People's Party to compete in Junta election; Arakan League for Democracy shuns it

¹⁶⁶ Than Lwin Times (16 Feb 2023) Fighting erupts in Dawei's Wakone village, junta army burns civilian houses

¹⁶⁷ DVB (17 Feb 2023) ပုလောမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က နေအိမ်များကို မီးရှို့ ထားဝယ်တွင် ကလေးငယ် ၁ ဦး လက်နက်ကြီးထိမှန် ဒဏ်ရာရ

Ayeyarwady Region

On 24 Feb, unknown gunmen shot and injured a people's militia leader in **Mawlamyinegyun Township**. He was a member of Patriotic Association of Myanmar and a president of the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA).¹⁶⁸

Mandalay Region

On 1 Feb, it was reported that indiscriminate regime small arms fire had injured two women in **Madaya Township**'s Shin Hla Taung village.¹⁶⁹ On 19 Feb, junta forces arrested, tortured, and killed an NLD supporter,¹⁷⁰ and a photographer¹⁷¹ in **Maha Aung Mye Township**. In **Pyigyidagun Township**, resistance forces shot dead a regime administrator in on 4 Feb¹⁷² and a Railway Police Deputy Chief on 25 Feb.¹⁷³ On 19 Feb, they shot and injured a police officer in **Mogok Township**.¹⁷⁴

Resistance bombings and attacks targeted regime troops in **Madaya Township** (1, 9 Feb),¹⁷⁵ and **Ngazun Township** (5,18,20 Feb);¹⁷⁶ junta vehicles in **Thabeikkyin, Ngazun, Myingyan, Natogyi, Chanmyathazi, and Thabeikkyin Townships** (2,4,8,9,10,15 Feb);¹⁷⁷ administration offices in **Pyigyidagun, Patheingyi, and Mogok Townships** (4,21,23 Feb);¹⁷⁸ a regime airbase in **Tada-U Township** (9 Feb),¹⁷⁹ a regime camp in **Natogyi Township** (15-17 Feb);¹⁸⁰ regional parliamentary building in **Aungmyethazan Township**; a court in **Chanayethazan Township** (21 Feb);¹⁸¹ and a police outpost in **Singu Township** (22 Feb).¹⁸²

Yangon Region

On 22 Feb, alleged pro-junta militia members shot dead a family of five, including a 3-year-old boy and an 80-year-old man, over Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) links in **Hlegu Township**.¹⁸³ Resistance fighters targeted civilians, killing or injuring regime administrators in **Hlaing** (4 Feb),¹⁸⁴ **Thanlyin** (18 Feb),¹⁸⁵ **South Dagon** (19 Feb),¹⁸⁶ and **Sanchaung** (20 Feb)¹⁸⁷ Townships; injuring three electricity management office staff in **Hmawbi Township**;¹⁸⁸ injuring an administration office staff in **Bahan**

¹⁶⁸ DVB (24 Feb 2023) မော်လမြိုင်ကျွန်းတွင် ပြည်သူ့စစ်ခေါင်းဆောင် ပစ်ခတ်ခံ

¹⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (1 Feb 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks;

¹⁷⁰ DVB (21 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing: Mae Sai-Tachileik Thai-Burma bridge reopens to much fanfare

¹⁷¹ DVB (27 Feb 2023) Burmese democracy activists in U.S. march on White House; NUG recruiting medical staff

¹⁷² Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2023) မန္တလေးတိုက်ခိုက်မှုများတွင် ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူး သေဆုံး

¹⁷³ Mizzima (28 Feb 2023) Railway Police Deputy Chief shot dead in Mandalay

¹⁷⁴ DVB (21 Feb 2023) Mae Sai-Tachileik Thai-Burma bridge reopens to much fanfare

¹⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (13 Feb 2023) Nearly 80 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2023) Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces, Officials Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (8 Feb 2023) Almost 70 Myanmar Regime Forces Reported Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (20 Feb 2023) Over 100 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2023) Over 20 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2023) Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces, Officials Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2023) ရွှေဘိုခရိုင်နှင့် ငါးဇွန်တွင် စစ်တပ်ယာဉ်များ မိုင်းဖြင့် တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ; Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2023) At Least 33 Myanmar Regime Forces Reported Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; DVB (11 Feb 2023) မန္တလေး ချမ်းမြသာစည်တွင် ရဲနှင့် စစ်သား

တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး ၅ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ; DVB (13 Feb 2023) Japan's Special Envoy; Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2023) At Least Eight Myanmar Junta

Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2023) မန္တလေးတိုက်ခိုက်မှုများတွင် ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူး သေဆုံး; Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2023) Over 20 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (24 Feb 2023) Over 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁷⁹ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2023) At Least 33 Myanmar Regime Forces Reported Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁸⁰ Irrawaddy (20 Feb 2023) Over 100 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁸¹ Than Lwin Times (23 Feb 2023) Soldiers killed as guerilla forces attack Mandalay regional parliamentary office, court

¹⁸² Irrawaddy (24 Feb 2023) Over 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁸³ RFA (27 Feb 2023) Five people related to activist teacher gunned down in their home

¹⁸⁴ DVB (4 Feb 2023) လှိုင်မြို့နယ် ၃ ရပ်ကွက်တွင် ရာအိမ်မှူးအပါအဝင် ၂ ဦး ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁸⁵ DVB (19 Feb 2023) သန်လျင် မြယာရိုးကျေးရွာ ရာအိမ်မှူး သေနတ်ဖြင့်ပစ်ခတ်ခံရပြီး သေဆုံး

¹⁸⁶ DVB (21 Feb 2023) Mae Sai-Tachileik Thai-Burma bridge reopens to much fanfare

¹⁸⁷ DVB (21 Feb 2023) စမ်းချောင်းမြို့နယ်တွင် ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူး ၁ ဦး ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁸⁸ DVB (7 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing: At least four killed in landmine explosion in Karenni State; Burmese protest against arrest of refugees in Mae Sot; DVB (6 Feb 2023) မှော်ဘီ လျှပ်စစ်ရုံး ဖုံးပေါက် ဝန်ထမ်း ၃ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

Township (20 Feb);¹⁸⁹ and killing an alleged military informant in **Thaketa Township** (19 Feb)¹⁹⁰. On 18 Feb, a resistance bomb also targeted a junta bunker near Insein prison in **Insein Township**. Exact casualties were unknown. Junta troops retaliated by arresting two youths.¹⁹¹

Rohingya

On 5 Feb, four regime ministers visited Maungdaw (Rakhine State) and instructed the local junta authorities to prepare transit camps for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees. Rohingya activists said the move was an attempt to salvage the regime's reputation, and pointed out that the Rohingya would not return to Burma unless their rights are guaranteed.¹⁹² On 22 Feb, NUG Human Rights Minister Aung Myo Min said it was 'required to acknowledge' the 2017 Rohingya genocide and to 'ensure that justice is served.'¹⁹³ On 27 Feb, the AA criticized the regime's 'repatriation' plans, calling them a show to gain international recognition.¹⁹⁴

On 9 Feb, Human Rights Watch called on the countries that endorsed the [Bali Process](#) to help Rohingya refugees at sea, including by responding to boats in distress, coordinating search-and-rescue operations, taking boats ashore to the nearest safe port, and providing humanitarian aid. It also urged them to assist the Rohingya with work and residency permits and exert coordinated and unified pressure on the junta to end the abuses that compel Rohingya to flee.¹⁹⁵ On 23 Feb, it was reported that Malaysia had deported 114 'Muslim' Burma nationals including children and other vulnerable people to Burma in January. Amnesty International said it was 'deeply dismayed' by the decision and criticized Malaysia's 'hypocrisy in policy and practice.'¹⁹⁶

On 17 Feb, the World Food Programme announced that, from 1 Mar, it will cut its monthly allowance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh by 17% due to a USD 125 million funding shortfall, and warned that more cuts will be necessary without new funding by April. The UN Special Rapporteurs on food insecurity and on the human rights situation in Burma warned that the repercussions of these cuts will be 'immediate and long-lasting.' Both noted that there were already high levels of malnutrition in the camps, with more than a third of refugee children being stunted and underweight.¹⁹⁷

On 21 Feb, seven Rohingya rape survivors, including a 15-year-old girl, filed a formal complaint against the manager of a Sittwe IDP camp (Rakhine State) who is said to have sexually assaulted some 45 girls and women between 2012 and his arrest by junta forces in August 2022. His family members had almost succeeded in closing the case by bribing or otherwise pressuring several victims into dropping charges.¹⁹⁸

Women remain defiant despite regime crackdown (more details at [women tracker](#))

On 7 Feb, the Burmese Women's Union said junta forces had killed 414 women since the attempted coup. The regime also arrested a total of 2,778 women, including 365 education staff, 51 healthcare workers, and 92 members of political parties.¹⁹⁹ On 4 Feb, guards at Obo Prison (Mandalay) beat and injured over 80 female political prisoners after an argument broke out.²⁰⁰ On 17 Feb, it was reported that the prison administration had banned political prisoners from attending hearings at the facility's junta-controlled court, likely to hinder scrutiny into the treatment of prisoners.²⁰¹

On 15 Feb, Burma News International organized an online discussion on ethnic media and the voices of women. Participants said women have traditionally been underrepresented in newsrooms due to negative gender stereotypes, and highlighted that female journalists only represented a small percentage of voices

¹⁸⁹ DVB (21 Feb 2023) ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ဗိုလ်စိန်မှန်ရပ်ကွက် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံး ဗုံးခွဲ တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁹⁰ DVB (20 Feb 2023) သာကောတမြို့နယ်တွင် စစ်တပ်ထောက်ခံသူ ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁹¹ DVB (21 Feb 2023) Daily Briefing: Mae Sai-Tachileik Thai-Burma bridge reopens to much fanfare

¹⁹² Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta: Rohingya Repatriations Planned

¹⁹³ Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2023) NUG Rights Minister Demands Justice for Rohingya

¹⁹⁴ DMG (27 Feb 2023) Regime criticised as taking 'pretend step' with purported plan to repatriate Muslim refugees in Bangladesh

¹⁹⁵ Human Rights Watch (9 Feb 2023) Bali Process Needs To End Rohingya Deaths at Sea

¹⁹⁶ RFA (24 Feb 2023) Malaysia departs 114 Muslim Myanmar nationals, including children, their lawyer says

¹⁹⁷ WFP (17 Feb 2023) Lack of funds forces WFP to cut rations for Rohingya in Bangladesh; Al Jazeera (17 Feb 2023) Alarm grows over WFP plan to cut food aid for Rohingya refugees

¹⁹⁸ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2023) Rohingya women file charges against alleged serial rapist in Rakhine State IDP camp

¹⁹⁹ DMG (9 Feb 2023) Nearly 2,800 women detained since coup: advocacy group

²⁰⁰ RFA (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar prison guards injure more than 80 inmates when argument turns violent

²⁰¹ Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2023) Political prisoners barred from testifying at Mandalay's Obo Prison court

published in ethnic media. Shan News' chief editor said some outlets had started aiming for at least 30% female representation in their newsrooms to tackle the issue.²⁰²

On 1 Feb, Karen political activist Zoya Phan met with King Charles III in London. She told him about the regime's attacks against civilians and how the people in Burma were desperate for help. The King reportedly expressed willingness to visit the country 'if there are genuine democratic reforms.'²⁰³ On 17 Feb, it was reported that Dr. Cynthia Maung, the founder and director of the Mae Tao clinic (Mae Sot, Thailand), had applied for Thai citizenship to be able to secure more funding. The Mae Tao clinic helps around 30,000 border-based patients/year, with a budget of around THB 48 million. It never received funds from the Thai government.²⁰⁴

COVID-19, Health, Education (more details at [COVID-19, healthcare, and education tracker](#))

Regime figures showed few daily COVID-19 infections throughout the month: 13 on 1 Feb,²⁰⁵ 5 on 15 Feb,²⁰⁶ and 4 on 28 Feb.²⁰⁷ Vaccination rates remained low. Only 37,783,456 people had received shots as of 25 Feb,²⁰⁸ from a population of 55.8 million.²⁰⁹ It is unclear how many had been fully vaccinated, or boosted.

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

Chevron's exit adds to troubles facing Burma's natural gas industry and junta's revenue

On 28 Feb, it was reported that pressures from human rights campaigners had pushed foreign energy companies to exit Burma to impact the junta's revenue. On 10 Feb, US oil giant Chevron sold its 41.1% stake in the Yadana Project to a unit of Canada's MTI Energy for an undisclosed sum, a year after announcing its departure from Burma. It also condemned the junta's human rights violations.²¹⁰ The two major foreign companies remaining in Burma--Thailand's PTTEP and South Korea's POSCO International-- also faced external pressures, leading PTTEP to postpone a USD 2 billion project. Nikkei Asia foresaw a sharp decline in the regime's revenue which heavily depends on gas operations for foreign income. The junta-owned MOGE lacks knowledge to develop and operate gas fields alone and struggles to secure financing due to international sanctions.²¹¹

Junta's trade policies trigger rice market turmoil

On 16 Feb, it was reported that junta violence and mismanagement was driving up rice prices. In some areas, rice prices had more than doubled since the coup began.

In conflict areas, the junta had been torching villages and their grain and seed storage. In other zones, the rising price of agricultural inputs and regime mismanagement of fertilizer deliveries also drove down production. The situation worsened because trade restrictions aimed at securing forex had pushed traders to abandon restricted commodities and enter the domestic rice trade, intensifying competition for a dwindling rice yield. .²¹²

On 23 Feb, the junta Ministry of Commerce instructed rice exporters to exchange 65% of their export earnings at the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)'s rate, starting from 1 Mar.²¹³ The regime's directive allegedly brought rice exports to a near halt, resulting in a financial loss.²¹⁴

Nestlé halts production while India and China push ahead

On 7 Feb, it was reported that the junta Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) had approved 70 foreign projects with companies from eight countries during Apr 22-Jan 23 for a total of USD 1.476 billion. Singapore is top foreign investor, having invested USD 1.157 billion in 15 projects, followed by Hong

²⁰² DMG (16 Feb 2023) Women's voices still missing from too much reporting and too many newsrooms in Myanmar: journalists

²⁰³ Mizzima (9 Feb 2023) Burmese activist meets with King Charles III

²⁰⁴ Bangkok Post (17 Feb 2023) Cynthia Maung seeks Thai citizenship

²⁰⁵ GNLM (2 Feb 2023) 13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 February, total figure rises to 633,833

²⁰⁶ GNLM (16 Feb 2023) 5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 February, total figure rises to 633,875

²⁰⁷ GNLM (1 Mar 2023) 4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 February, total figure rises to 633,918

²⁰⁸ GNLM (27 Feb 2022) 4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 February, total figure rises to 633,911

²⁰⁹ GNLM (4 Oct 2022) Population of Myanmar estimated at 55.8 million on 1 October 2022

²¹⁰ Reuters (11 Feb 2023) Chevron agrees to sell Myanmar assets and will exit country

²¹¹ Nikkei Asia (28 Feb 2023) Myanmar's natural gas income in jeopardy as foreign firms exit

²¹² Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2023) Myanmar Farmers Crushed by Rising Input Prices and Junta Attacks

²¹³ Eleven Media (24 Feb 2023) Authorities instruct 65% of the export earnings of rice and rice products from the border to exchange with the rate set by CBM

²¹⁴ Than Lwin Times (25 Feb 2023) Rice exporters struggle to survive over military council's directives

Kong (USD 165 million in 12 projects) and China (over USD 105.55 million in 36 projects).²¹⁵ Meanwhile, Swiss food giant Nestlé announced it would halt production in Burma due to the ‘current economic situation’ but would continue to sell its products through distributors.²¹⁶

On 9 Feb, it was reported that construction of the Paletwa-Zorampur road from Chin State to the Indian border had resumed with five tendering companies in Dec 2022. It had been suspended for two years due to coup-induced instability and other factors.²¹⁷ On 27 Feb, it was reported that Eryuan Engineering Group, a Chinese state-owned company, and the junta-controlled Myanma Railways had resumed preliminary work on the Muse-Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway project which would link Kuming (Yunnan province, China) to Kyaukphyu (Rakhine State). The railway would cross the Bagan UNESCO World Heritage site and active conflict areas. Local resistance forces said they would attack the project to deny revenue and other benefits to the regime.²¹⁸

Illegal border trade flourishes amid conflict and regime restrictions

On 18 Feb, it was reported that Burma’s maritime trade value had reached USD 22.24 billion during Apr 2022-Feb 2023, a 19.42% increase year on year. Maritime exports rose by 10.21%, reaching USD 9.22 billion, while maritime imports rose by 26.94% (USD 13.01 billion). In the same period, the total foreign trade value reached over USD 29.33 billion, more than USD 7.09 billion coming from border trade.²¹⁹

On 8 Feb, it was reported that junta restrictions allegedly aiming to prevent weapons from reaching resistance forces had caused a steep decline in trade between Thailand and Burma. Revenue dropped from USD 4 billion during the 2019-2020 financial year to USD 3.6 billion during the 2022-2023 financial year. Frequent fighting along the border caused trade delay and an increase in taxes. The junta has reopened five of the seven border crossings.²²⁰ On 20 Feb, the No. 1 Thai-Burma Friendship Bridge linking Tachilek (E. Shan State) and Mae Sai (Thailand) reopened to commercial traffic after being closed for three years due to COVID-19.²²¹

On 23 Feb, it was reported a gap in trade value between China and Burma of nearly USD 11 billion during Apr-Nov 2022, suggesting a rise in illegal trade as China likely recorded all commodities entering from Burma. The regime reportedly exported rare earth minerals to China, earning over USD 400 million.²²²

Russia and junta growing ties on tourism, nuclear energy, and technology ventures

On 4 Feb, the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association and Burma business owners, including Aung Myo Min Din, a hotelier with close ties to Min Aung Hlaing’s family, signed deals to implement several tourism and real estate projects in Thandwe Township (Rakhine State).²²³ On 6 Feb, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing met with the director general of Russia’s state atomic energy company during the inauguration of a nuclear power information center in Naypyidaw. Both sides entered into an agreement to cooperate on the development of Burma’s nuclear energy infrastructure. The regime is reportedly planning to build and operate a small modular nuclear reactor to fill energy shortages.²²⁴ On 14 Feb, the junta Ministry of Science and Technology joined the ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ARMMSTI) hosted by the Russian Federation to promote cooperation in technology and innovation.²²⁵

²¹⁵ Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2023) Beyond the Headlines: Urban guerrilla force detonates bomb in Myanmar junta capital; DICA (assessed 10 Feb 2023) Yearly Approved Amount of Foreign Investment (By Country/Region)

²¹⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Feb 2023) Nestlé to Close Factory, Head Office in Myanmar

²¹⁷ DMG (9 Feb 2023) Construction of India-backed Paletwa-Zorampur road resumes with targeted completion in five years

²¹⁸ Frontier Myanmar (27 Feb 2023) China and Myanmar resume work on Muse-Kyaukphyu railway

²¹⁹ Xinhua News (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar’s maritime trade up 19.42 pct in over 10 months

²²⁰ Irrawaddy (8 Feb 2023) Myanmar’s Trade With Thailand Slumps Since Coup

²²¹ DMG (20 Feb 2023) Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge in Tachilek reopens to traffic after three-year pandemic closure

²²² Than Lwin Times (25 Feb 2023) China- Myanmar illegal trade grows under military regime

²²³ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2023) Russian Business Chiefs Sign Tourist Deals for Myanmar Beach Resort; Narinjara News (7 Feb 2023) Russia-Myanmar signed MOU for Ngapali resort project

²²⁴ AP News (8 Feb 2023) Myanmar, Russia sign pact on developing nuclear power; Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2023) Rosatom signs agreement with Myanmar junta on development, use of nuclear energy

²²⁵ GNLM (15 Feb 2023) Russia holds ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (ARMMSTI) virtually

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

Nothing new on the ASEAN front

On 1 Feb, Indonesian President and ASEAN Chair Joko Widodo said he planned to send a top general to show Min Aung Hlaing how Indonesia made a successful transition from military rule to democracy.²²⁶

On 3 Feb, ASEAN Foreign Ministers met in Jakarta without their regime counterpart. They urged the junta to reduce violence and allow unhindered aid delivery to pave the way for a national dialogue. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said the regime's lack of progress in implementing the Five-Point Consensus (FPC) was a test to the bloc's credibility, adding that ASEAN's efforts toward peace would be coordinated with those of other countries and the UN.²²⁷

On 10 Feb, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that ASEAN should 'carve' Burma out for now, rather than let the country's crisis hinder the bloc; while also stressing the need to 'go beyond' current efforts.²²⁸ He noted that the FPC was not 'cast in stone,' and added that ASEAN needed to 'discuss more viable ways' to help end the crisis.²²⁹ On 27 Feb, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said the fact that ASEAN members did not recognize the junta did not give the bloc a license to interfere in Burma's domestic affairs. He said Singapore believed that a 'honest-to-goodness conversation' between internal stakeholders was the only way to solve the crisis.²³⁰

Thailand continues to lend legitimacy to the regime

On 9 Feb, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim urged Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha to play a bigger role in bringing stability to Burma.²³¹ On 15 Feb, it was reported that Thailand had invited the junta to the Border Management Cooperation Dialogue for the ASEAN Region. The meeting, which will be co-organized by Thailand and the UNODC, is slated for 28 Feb-1 Mar.²³²

On 13 Feb, the Maesot Myanmar Refugee Voice (MMRV) led a silent demonstration demanding rights for Burma refugees in front of the Mae Sot UNHCR office (Thailand). This followed similar protests in front of a prison and the chief district officer's house on 6 Feb. MMRV demanded the release of some 300 refugees held by Thai immigration in Mae Sot and Bangkok, and urged Thai authorities to stop extorting money from refugees. MMRV eventually suspended their protests after receiving online threats on 14 Feb, but vowed to continue to advocate for refugee rights online.²³³

New EU sanctions amid calls for tougher action

On 2 Feb, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) spokesperson Yadanar called on Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US to sanction MOGE and adopt a total ban on the supply of jet fuel to the regime. She also urged Japan, South Korea, and India to join them in sanctioning the junta.²³⁴

On 6 Feb, Human Rights Watch said the economic sanctions imposed by the US, EU, and UK on the junta had not been tough or enforced enough to have a meaningful impact. It added that Asian countries that could have helped enforce these sanctions through anti-money laundering laws, such as Singapore and Japan, had not done so. Human Rights Watch also noted that banks continued to process and send to junta-controlled entities USD revenue from Burma's natural gas exports, partly due to the fact that the US and UK had not matched EU sanctions on gas revenue.²³⁵

On 6 and 24 Feb, it was reported that junta-owned companies were evading growing international sanctions. The junta allowed the US-sanctioned Htoo Group to import three times more palm oil per month than other companies, amounting to over USD 5.4 million of revenue.²³⁶ The sanctioned Myanma Economic Holdings Public Company Limited (MEHL) used its subsidiary company, Myawaddy Trading

²²⁶ Reuters (1 Feb 2023) Exclusive: Indonesia to send general to Myanmar to highlight transition, president says

²²⁷ AP (3 Feb 2023) ASEAN ministers urge reduced violence, dialogue in Myanmar

²²⁸ Straits Times (11 Feb 2023) Anwar says Asean should 'carve' Myanmar out for now

²²⁹ Thai PBS World (11 Feb 2023) Exclusive: Anwar calls for new ASEAN approaches to deal with Myanmar crisis

²³⁰ South China Morning Post (27 Feb 2023) Asean has no licence to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs: Singapore

²³¹ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2023) Malaysia's Anwar Urges Thailand to Step up on Myanmar Crisis

²³² Myanmar Now (15 Feb 2023) Thailand invites Myanmar junta to meeting on border management in ASEAN countries

²³³ DVB (14 Feb 2023) Burmese in Thailand protest at UNHCR in Mae Sot and Bangkok; Another 21 Burma nationals arrested in Thailand; DVB (16 Feb 2023) The NUG criticizes UNOCHA aid efforts in Burma; Mae Sot refugees suspend protests after online threats

²³⁴ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2023) Activists offer qualified praise as US promises 'lockstep' action against Myanmar regime

²³⁵ Human Rights Watch (6 Feb 2023) Myanmar's Junta Benefits from Weak International Response

²³⁶ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Rewards Crony Arms Dealer With Palm Oil Plum

Limited, to set up a new firm and keep importing fuel and palm oil. It also attempted to receive international transfers through another affiliated company.²³⁷

On 20 Feb, the EU adopted a sixth round of sanctions against the regime. The measure targeted nine individuals and seven entities, including the regime's Energy Minister, prominent businessmen, high-ranking military officers, and private companies supplying fuel, arms, and funds to the junta.²³⁸ JfM welcomed the move and called on the US and Asian democracies to follow suit and target the regime's jet fuel supply chain.²³⁹

US offers every support, short of help

On 1 Feb, the US State Department condemned the regime's move to extend the state of emergency for another six months, and added that it will continue to work with allies to deny the junta international credibility.²⁴⁰ On the same day, US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet said the US will try to limit Russian military supplies to the regime and keep looking for ways to prevent the junta from acquiring arms or generating revenue.²⁴¹

On 13 Feb, the NUG officially opened an embassy in Washington. US Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya attended the event. She said the US was committed to the restoration of democracy in Burma, adding that it was important for the countries in the region not to accept the regime's 'fake election.'²⁴² On 14 Feb, NUG Foreign Minister Zin Mar Aung met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Washington.²⁴³ Sherman pledged to work closely with partners, including ASEAN, to expand assistance to the people of Burma.²⁴⁴

Japan envoys meet regime officials

On 4 Feb, Nippon Foundation chair Yohei Sasakawa, Japan's Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Burma, visited IDP camps in Mrauk-U Township (Rakhine State) with local regime officials. He also met with ULA officials, and urged them to work towards preventing renewed fighting between junta and AA forces.²⁴⁵

On 6 Feb, he said ASEAN should set up an office in Burma to pursue working-level talks with the regime, adding that 'criticizing from afar will not solve the problems.'²⁴⁶

On 20 Feb, junta Leader Min Aung Hlaing handed the 'Thiri Pyanchi' honorary title to Hideo Watanabe, the chair of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and a notorious junta apologist. Min Aung Hlaing called Watanabe a 'good friend' and thanked him for his efforts to 'foster ties between the two countries and two armies, and attract Japanese investment into Myanmar.'²⁴⁷

Junta strengthens ties with Russia

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On 20 Feb, **China's Special Envoy to Burma** Deng Xijun visited IDP camps in the Mong La area (Northern Shan State) and met with representatives from the **United Wa State Army (UWSA), Kachin Independence Army (KIA), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), Arakan Army (AA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).**

He reportedly tried to persuade them to reach some form of ceasefire with the regime.

Source: Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2023) Chinese Envoy's Visits Signal Growing Tensions With US Over Myanmar

²³⁷ Myanmar Now (24 Nov 2024) Myanmar's junta-owned companies maintain international economic ties despite sanctions

²³⁸ European Council (20 Feb 2023) Myanmar/Burma: EU imposes sixth round of sanctions against 9 individuals and 7 entities; Reuters (20 Feb 2023) EU imposes sixth set of sanctions on Myanmar officials, firms over coup

²³⁹ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Hit With Fresh Sanctions by European Union

²⁴⁰ Bloomberg (1 Feb 2023) US Denounces Myanmar Junta's Extension of Emergency Rule

²⁴¹ Reuters (1 Feb 2023) U.S. says it seeks ways to limit Russian military supplies to Myanmar junta

²⁴² RFA (14 Feb 2023) Myanmar's opposition opens foreign ministry office in US

²⁴³ DVB (17 Feb 2023) NUG Foreign Minister meets with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State; NUG to take action against online schools

²⁴⁴ Mizzima (17 Feb 2023) US Deputy Secretary of State pledges to support democracy in Myanmar

²⁴⁵ DMG (6 Feb 2023) Japanese peace negotiator urges permanent halt to fighting between Myanmar military and AA

²⁴⁶ Nikkei Asia (10 Feb 2023) ASEAN working-level talks key to Myanmar peace: Japan special envoy

²⁴⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2023) Myanmar Junta Chief Hands Honorary Title to Japanese Ally

tourism and real estate projects in Thandwe Township (Rakhine State).²⁴⁸ On 6 Feb, Min Aung Hlaing met with the director general of Russia's state atomic energy company during the inauguration of a nuclear power information center in Naypyidaw. Both sides agreed to cooperate on the development of Burma's nuclear energy infrastructure.²⁴⁹

On 16 Feb, the regime hosted a Myanmar-Russia Friendship and Cooperation Forum to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Speaking at the event, Min Aung Hlaing said he was grateful to the Russian leaders who always helped Burma overcome the challenges posed by big countries who seek its "utter devastation". He also vowed to further increase cooperation in trade, religion, culture and tourism.²⁵⁰ On 24 Feb, the junta's Health Ministry held a virtual meeting with Russian representatives to enhance bilateral cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and establish a Burma-Russia Pharmaceutical Council.²⁵¹

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

On 1 Feb, the NUG said it would give honorary awards to striking CDM members, promote them to higher positions, and compensate their unpaid wages in full once the junta is ousted.²⁵³ On 7 Feb, it was reported that the NUG had started to independently provide internet services in at least 15 townships where the regime has cut off mobile access, enabling the civilian government to administrate and run online schools.²⁵⁴

On 11 Feb, it was reported that 6,500 apartments had been preordered in one day under "Spring Bliss," the NUG's second housing project. The NUG prime minister said that the success of the NUG Ministry of Planning, Finance and Investment (MOPFI) had raised funding and showed the confidence and participation of the people in the revolution.²⁵⁵

On 7 Feb, it was reported that the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) had included Burma's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Kyaw Moe Tun and the NUCC in its 2023 Nobel Peace Prize shortlist. The shortlist is PRIO's own opinion on worthy recipients of the Prize and not affiliated with the Norwegian Nobel Committee which is authorized to make the award.²⁵⁶

On 10 Feb, it was reported that the regime's attempted coup had seriously impacted the education sector and university students. Many students rejected the regime's education system and refused to return to school. Some joined resistance forces, switched study paths, or even left to work. Some continued their education in NUG-affiliated universities but the universities face credibility issues, insufficient majors and resources.²⁵⁷

On 12 Feb, the NUG's Interim Board for Heritage Administration said it will take action against the junta under existing laws for destroying and deploying troops at historical structures and culturally important landmarks.²⁵⁸

On 13 Feb, the NUG officially opened an office in Washington DC. US Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya attended the event. She said the US was committed to the restoration of democracy in Burma, adding that it was important for the countries in the region not to accept the regime's 'fake election.'²⁵⁹ On 14 Feb, NUG Foreign Minister Zin Mar Aung met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Washington.²⁶⁰ Sherman pledged to work closely with allies and partners, including ASEAN, to expand assistance to the people of Burma in support of

²⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2023) Russian Business Chiefs Sign Tourist Deals for Myanmar Beach Resort; Narinjara News (7 Feb 2023) Russia-Myanmar signed MOU for Ngapali resort project

²⁴⁹ AP News (8 Feb 2023) Myanmar, Russia sign pact on developing nuclear power; Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2023) Rosatom signs agreement with Myanmar junta on development, use of nuclear energy

²⁵⁰ Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2023) Myanmar Regime Chief Vows to Boost Ties With Russia

²⁵¹ GNLM (25 Feb 2023) Videoconferencing meeting held to increase cooperation between Myanmar and Russia in pharmaceutical sector

²⁵³ DVB (3 Feb 2023) The NUG hands out awards to CDM striking civil servants

²⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (7 Feb 2023) Myanmar's Civilian Government Provides Internet in Rebel-Held Territory

²⁵⁵ Irrawaddy (13 Feb 2023) Myanmar Civilian Govt's Housing Sale Gets 6,500 Orders in a Day

²⁵⁶ DVB (7 Feb 2023) Kyaw Moe Tun and the NUCC shortlisted for Nobel Peace Prize; Info on the PRIO Nobel Shortlist <https://www.prio.org/nobelshortlist>

²⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2023) The Crisis in Education Under Myanmar's Military Rulers

²⁵⁸ Mizzima (15 Feb 2023) NUG will take action against Myanmar junta for desecration of historic sites

²⁵⁹ RFA (14 Feb 2023) Myanmar's opposition opens foreign ministry office in US

²⁶⁰ DVB (17 Feb 2023) NUG Foreign Minister meets with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State; NUG to take action against online schools

their aspirations for an inclusive, multiparty democracy.²⁶¹ On 18 Feb, it was reported that the NUG Foreign Minister had called for financial sanctions on MOGE whilst meeting US administration officials and Congress members, saying it would cut off a major source of foreign currency for the junta and reduce its access to aviation, thus preventing airstrikes on civilians. She asked the US to provide an ‘early warning system’ to notify villagers of incoming junta attacks and other communications help.²⁶²

On 15 Feb, it was reported that at least 4.5 million people from remote conflict areas are in need of assistance, including 52% women, 32% children and 12% disabled people. UNOCHA allocated USD 764 million of humanitarian assistance to those people in January. Ethnic Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) Director claimed that UNOCHA only provided aid in junta-approved areas, complying with junta restrictions. The NUG Minister of Humanitarian and Natural Disaster Management said that UNOCHA’s programs were mainly concentrated in the Yangon region and did not address the most urgent situations.²⁶³

On 22 Feb, NUG Human Rights Minister Aung Myo Min said it was ‘required to acknowledge’ the 2017 Rohingya genocide and to ‘ensure that justice is served.’²⁶⁴

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²⁶¹ Mizzima (17 Feb 2023) US Deputy Secretary of State pledges to support democracy in Myanmar

²⁶² Reuters (18 Feb 2023) Myanmar parallel government asks U.S. for more sanctions, funding for anti-junta forces

²⁶³ RFA (15 Feb 2023) UN efforts in Myanmar fail in implementation: Shadow government, aid groups

²⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2023) NUG Rights Minister Demands Justice for Rohingya