

# Weekly News Review

Issue 94, February 22 - 28, 2023



**When will  
"no-fly zones"  
be established?**



## When will "no-fly zones" be established?

### Introduction

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy once publicly called on the U.S. Congress and the heads of NATO to declare no-fly zones in Ukraine to save the population. However, even a year after the Russian invasion, President Zelenskyy's demand has not been implemented.

In Myanmar, the military council has ramped up targeted airstrikes and bombings against civilians and individuals and organizations resisting the military coup, without regard to time or place. It is no longer enough for international governments opposed to the military coup and supportive of the people of Myanmar and the forces of the Spring Revolution to offer verbal comfort and issue a statement: It is time for practical assistance and protection to be provided to the people of Myanmar.



This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review highlights the activities, facts and figures of the call for "no-fly zones" to ensure practical protection for the people of Myanmar and the Spring Revolution forces from the military council's air strikes.

## Incidents

On 25 February 2023, approximately 300 Myanmar people from various states in the United States gathered in Washington DC to demand the establishment of no-fly zones in Myanmar. The protesting Myanmar people called on the U.S. government to take action under international laws against the Myanmar military council, which conducts targeted airstrikes on civilians, and to sanction the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) - the military council's main source of revenue.

The Karen National Union (KNU), Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), and Chin National Front (CNF) had already issued

a joint statement calling on the international community, including ASEAN, to impose a "military no-fly zone inside Myanmar" since 20 January 2022. The military council's airstrikes have also threatened the free and safe delivery of humanitarian aid to those truly in need in the war-torn country.

The Myanmar military council has carried out targeted airstrikes on IDP camps, schools, churches, and even festivals— notably the bombing of the school in Let Yet Kone village in Tabayin Township, the bombing of the music concert in ANang Pa village, and the bombing of IDP camps in Phruso and Demoso Townships.

## Facts and figures

According to data collected by the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 288 days of military council airstrikes after the coup through 21 February 2023, of which 104 days targeted civilians. The regime conducted 123 days of airstrikes on Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) such as Karen National Union (KNU), Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Arakan Army (AA), Chin National Front (CNF), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), All Burma

Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), while 61 days targeted the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDF/LDF) throughout the country.

Broken down by state and region, the military regime conducted the most airstrikes in Karen State, Sagaing Region, and Kachin State. In



addition, there were more than 10 days of airstrikes in Arakan State, Chin State, Karenni (Kayah) State, northern Shan State, and Magway Region.

Myanmar Peace Monitor data show that the junta's airstrikes resulted in more than 510 casualties, while more than 61,000 people were displaced.

## Review

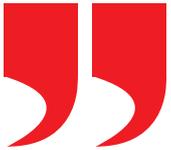
The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which met on 21 December 2022, demonstrated through Resolution No. 2669 (2022) that it stands with the people of Myanmar as they resist in various ways the attempted military coup in Myanmar that has been ongoing for more than two years, in various ways. Resolution No. 2669 (2022) urges that security measures be fully implemented to ensure safe and unimpeded humanitarian access for the people of Myanmar and the protection of medical personnel. International governments are also increasing pressure on the military regime led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and its allies. It must be said, however, that this is not enough.

The military council has not only fired live bullets at unarmed civilians in the head, perpetrated massacres, burned villages, and committed indiscriminate killings, but has also intensified aerial bombardment in recent months. It is time for the international community to take action to protect the people of Myanmar from the military council's airstrikes.

In 1991, the U.S. and its allies established two no-fly zones in Iraq, without support from UN, to protect some ethnic and religious groups from attacks. In 1992, the United Nations passed a resolution banning unauthorized military flights over Bosnian airspace. In 2021, the Security Council UN approved a no-fly zone as part of the military intervention in Libya.



While Myanmar's neighbors such as China, Thailand, and India remain silent, there is an urgent need to establish no-fly zones inside Myanmar in order to protect the people from the threat of airstrikes by the military council.



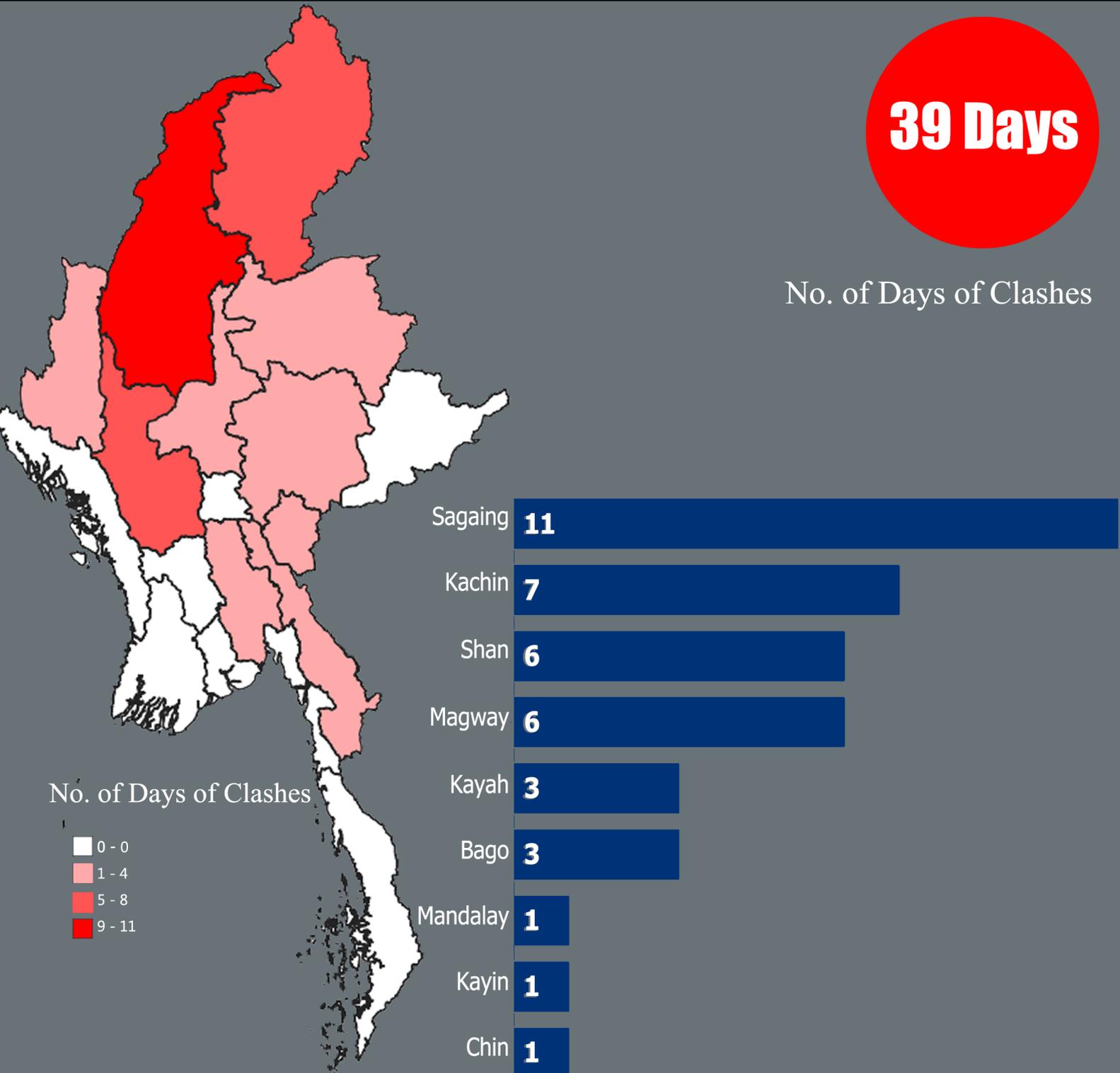
The Myanmar issue is not the same as the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In the case of Myanmar, the military regime led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is trying to seize power by force. The military's attempted coup has led peaceful anti-coup demonstrators to take up arms, resulting in an intensifying civil war. The regime now relies on airstrikes as its ground forces have suffered severe setbacks.

The international community should seriously consider protecting the people of Myanmar and the Spring Revolution forces working to create a federal democratic union and end tyranny, including military dictatorship. While Myanmar's neighbors such as China, Thailand, and India remain silent, there is an urgent need to establish no-fly zones inside Myanmar in order to protect the people from the threat of airstrikes by the military council.

# Part II

## What Happened this Week

According to data collected by BNI- Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 39 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDF/LDF), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 22 to 28 February. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region topped the list with 11 days. BNI-MPM records the situation of fighting in days by township, but the actual number of incidents may be higher given the frequency of clashes.



# Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

February 22 - 28, 2023



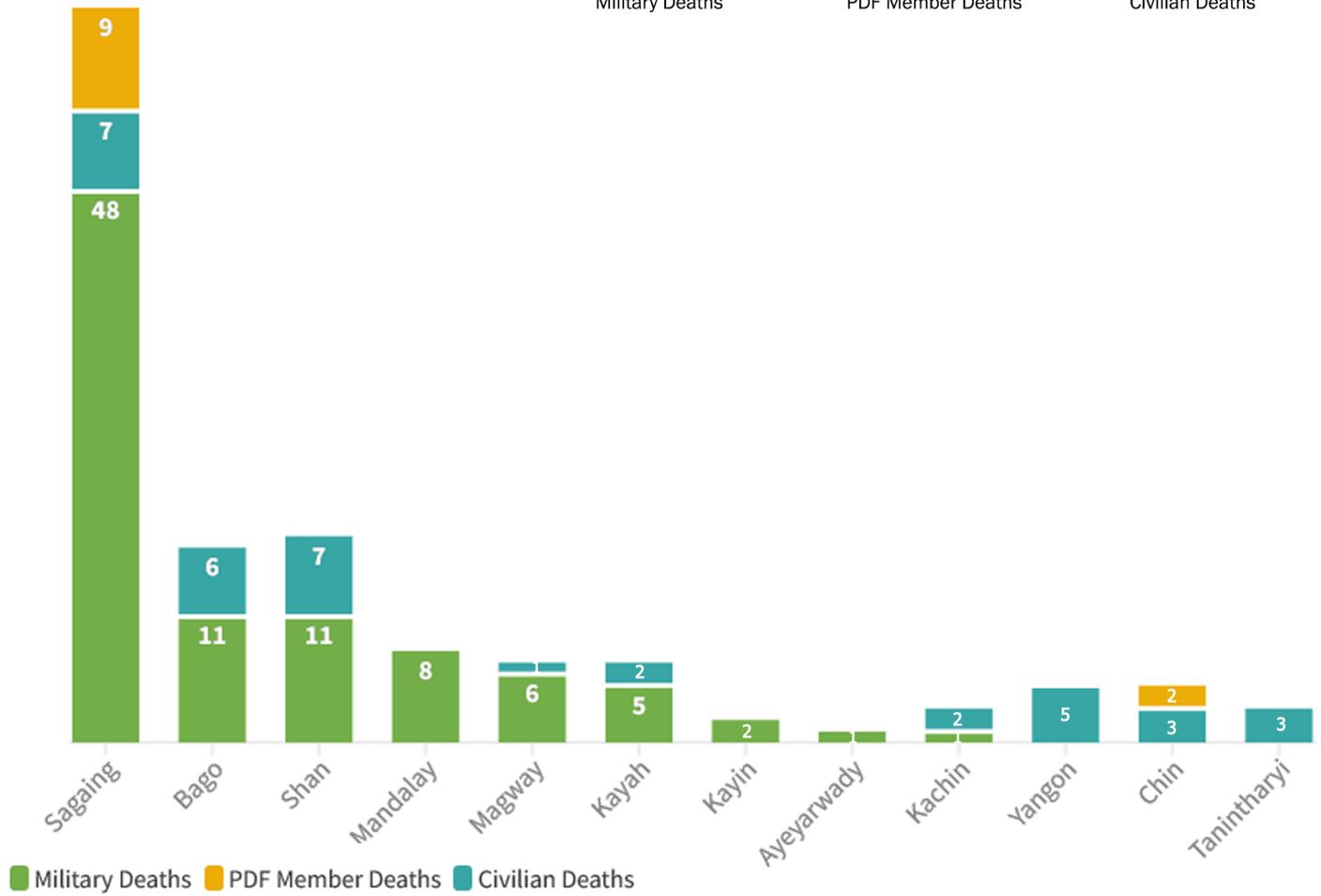
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



## 19,000 Total Number of IDPs (February 22 - 28, 2023)



■ Sagaing 
 ■ Shan 
 ■ Bago 
 ■ Kachin



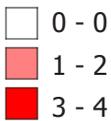
## Sagaing Region

The military council arrested Ko Min Min Oo (aka) Ko La Min, 26 from Kanni village in Indaw Township, accusing him of being a PDF member. On 26 February, he was sentenced to life imprisonment under Section 50 (J) of the Penal Code. He is making charcoal in the forest. The military council arrested him when he returned to Indaw from the forest on 8 February.

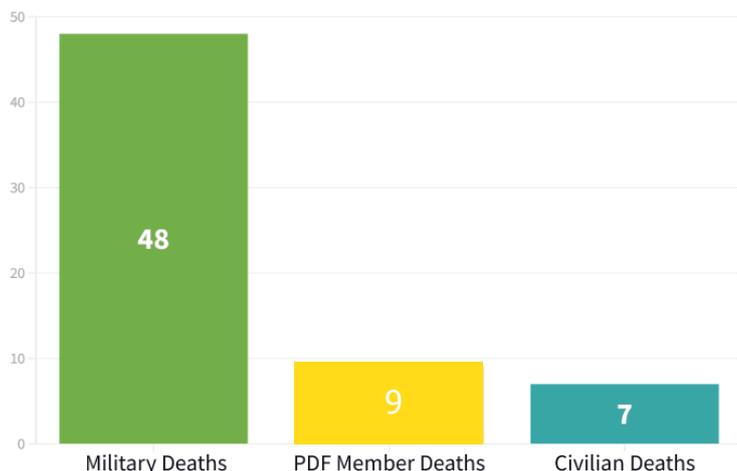
On 26 February, the military council troops entered Kantaw village in Myinmu Township and burned down two monasteries and more than 10 civilian houses.

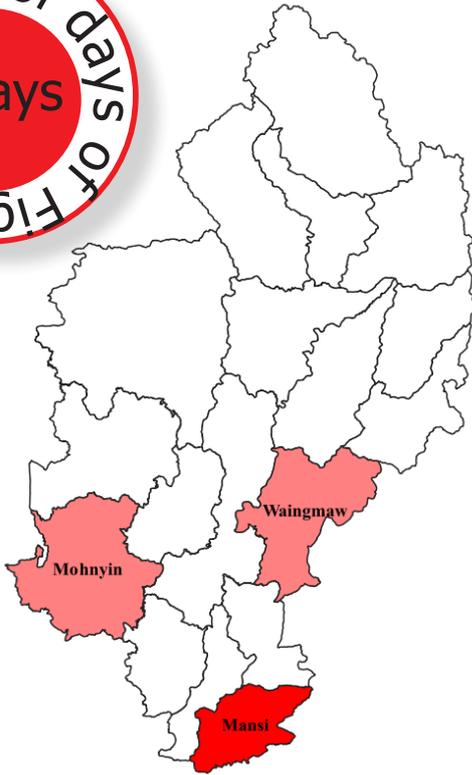
On 25 February, the heavy shell fired by the military council landed on the house of a pastor in Nanpharlone at No.12/a Myoma ward in Tamu, killing a five-year-old child and wounding a child and a woman. The military council troops are firing heavy shells into the town via the military hill located in the southern part of Tamu.

No. of Days of Clashes

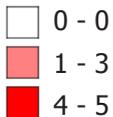


Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Yinmabin, Ayadaw, Myinmu, Khin-U, and Wuntho Townships, resulting in the death of 48 junta soldiers and nine resistance fighters. On 27 February, a former junta deputy corporal named U Than Naing from Myothit Ward of Monywa was gunned down by PDF members. In addition, violent incursion of military council troops into Ayadaw and Khin-U Townships forced more than 15,000 people to flee to safety.





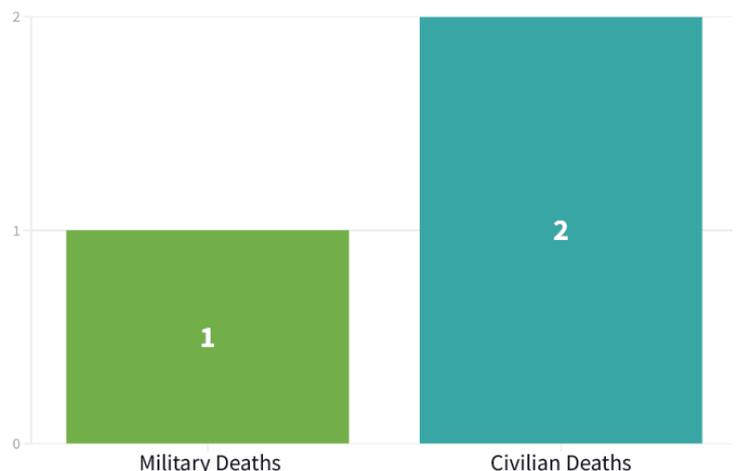
No. of Days of Clashes



## Kachin State

On 27 February, two innocent civilians were killed as the military council dropped bombs in Shwegu Township for no apparent reason. Two men were killed and many others wounded by the military council's airstrike near Ngapaukwa village on the bank of Ayeyarwaddy River where the civilians were running small-scale gold mining. On 27 February, the military council arrested more than 60 civilians by tying their hands behind backs, following an ambush on the junta soldiers who were patrolling Sabyitkhu village in Hpakant Township by civilian vehicles. Among the detainees are some locals, company workers, scavengers and daily wage earners.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and KIA in Mansi, Waingmaw, and Mohnyin Townships, resulting in the death of one regime soldier. On 26 February, indiscriminate shooting and violate incursion by regime troops into Letpantan village of Nanmar village tract in Mohnyin Township forced about 400 people to flee to safer places. On 27 February, the junta air force carried out airstrikes on Nga Paukwa village in Shwegu Township using a fighter jet, resulting in the death of two civilians.

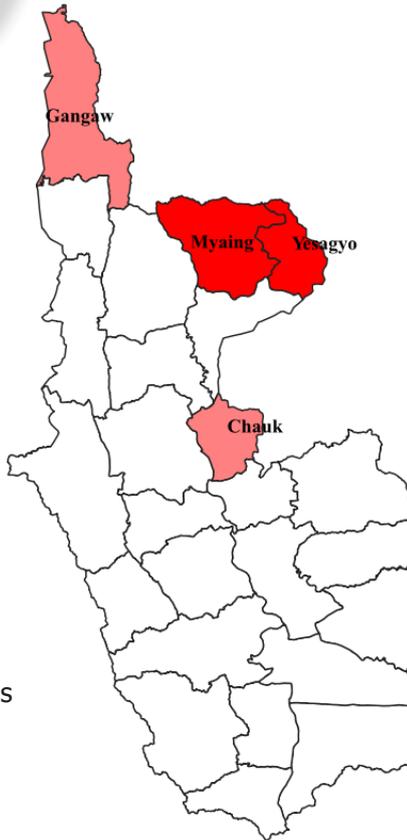




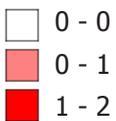
## Magway Region

An innocent person was shot dead by the military council troops which returned from the upper Minhla after the military operation. The victim is Ko Naing Lin Aung, 26, from Kyone village in Mindone Township. He got arrested on 20 February as he met with the military council on the way to Shwechaung to buy fish sauce together with two friends. The military council released two of three detainees. On 25 February, the body of Ko Naing Lin Aung was discovered.

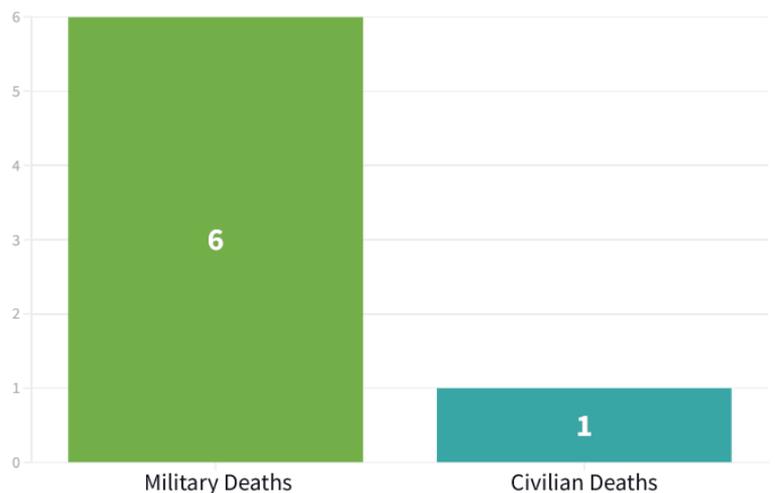
The military council troops which suffered heavy casualties in the battles in Thayet Township are carrying out door-to-door inspections in the villages after the reinforcements of troops. The junta soldiers seized mobile phones and money, opened the doors by kicking with legs and threatened to torch the village by firing shots.



No. of Days of Clashes



Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Yesagyo, Gangaw, Chauk, and Myaing Townships, killing six regime soldiers. In addition, junta soldiers arbitrarily shot and killed an innocent civilian in Upper Minhla Township on 20 February.



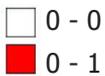


## Mandalay Region

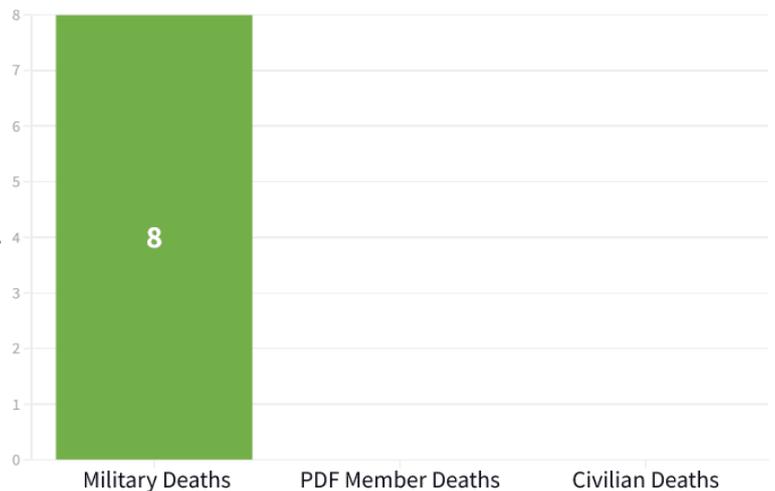
On 23 February, five junta soldiers were killed and two wounded as the People’s Defense Force (PDFs) attacked the administrator office in Mogok where the military council soldiers are stationed. The attack destroyed the office.

On 22 February, Bolinyone PDF carried out a drone attack on Nweyone police station in Singu Township. Three junta soldiers were killed and two others wounded in the attack. On 27 February, the military council troops demolished around 100 houses on Matkhayar Street in L-ward on the border of Pyigyitagun-Patheingyi Township with heavy machinery by accusing them of being squatters. On 28 February, the military council continued to destroy the houses near Zeeouk village on No.49th Street in Pyigyitagun Township. The persons who lost the houses have been living there for 10 to around 20 years.

No.of Days of Clashes



On 23 February, five military council soldiers were killed when the administration office of Kathe village tract in western Mogok was raided by PDF. On 22 February, three junta soldiers were killed when Nweyon police station in Singu Township was attacked by resistance members using drones.



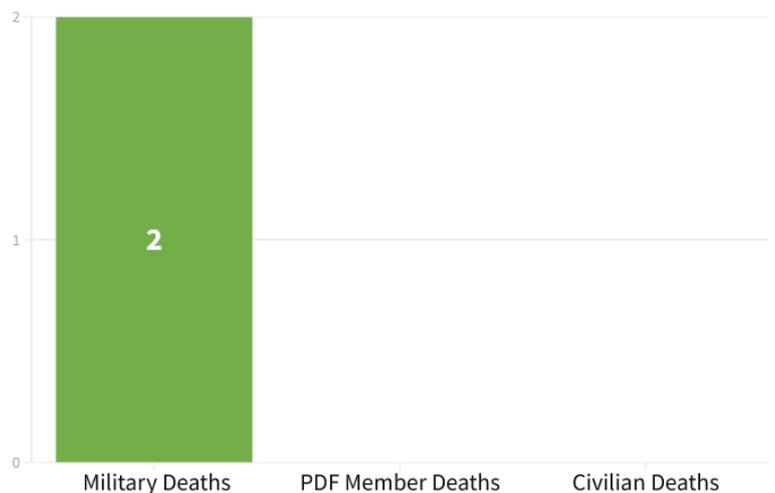


## Karen State

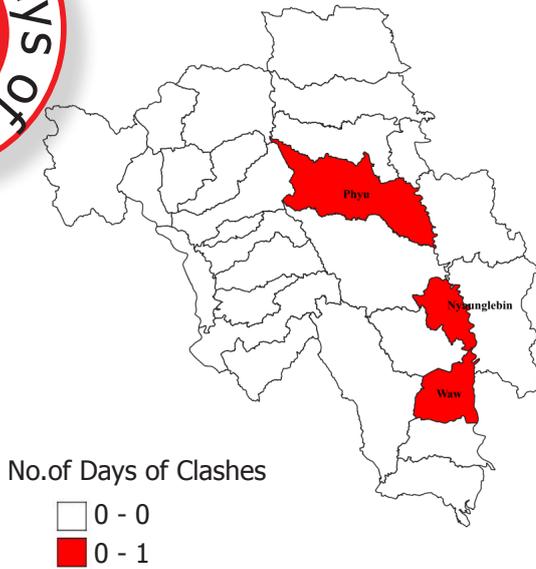
The military council troop beat and arrested more than 30 locals in Kyarinseikgyi Township where martial law was declared. As the junta soldiers threaten locals who go outside from 6 pm to 6 am by firing warning shots and beat and arrest them, locals have to close the shops which operate at night. Locals are facing livelihood difficulties. A combined force of the military council and the military-backed Border Guard Force (BGF) arrested an abbot, two laymen and one laywoman from Wimottethukhawihara monastery where Sayardaw Minthonenya (Buddhist University) spent the week, on Hpa-An-Kawkareik road in Phayakone village in Hpa-An Township. The arrests of the abbot and civilians come after some monks came to the monastery for temporary stay in the monastery on 26 February. Some military council soldiers and some monks of the Association for Protection of Race and Religion remained in the monastery.



On 22 February, clashes broke out between military council troops and KNLA in Myawaddy Township, killing two junta soldiers.



Total no of days of Fighting  
3Days

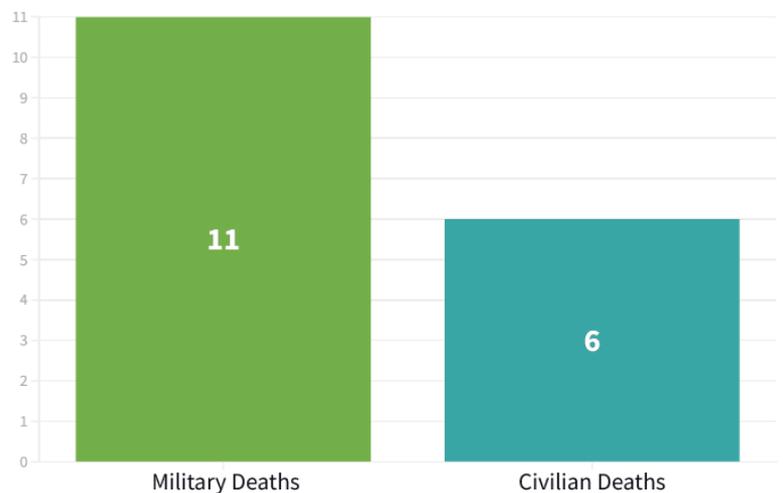


## Bago Region

At around 5.30 am on 22 February, the artillery shells fired by the military council killed three locals and destroyed a monastery in Nyaungbingyi village and Pazunchang village in Nyaunglebin Township. More than 600 locals fled to safer places as the military council intentionally fired the heavy shells into the village in Mu Township (Mone Township) on 24 February. The military council soldiers broke into abandoned houses and looted valuables.

On 24 February, around 60 junta soldiers who left Paukhaung arrested 14 locals from Nattalin Township who were doing upland cutting. Among the detainees are children and women.

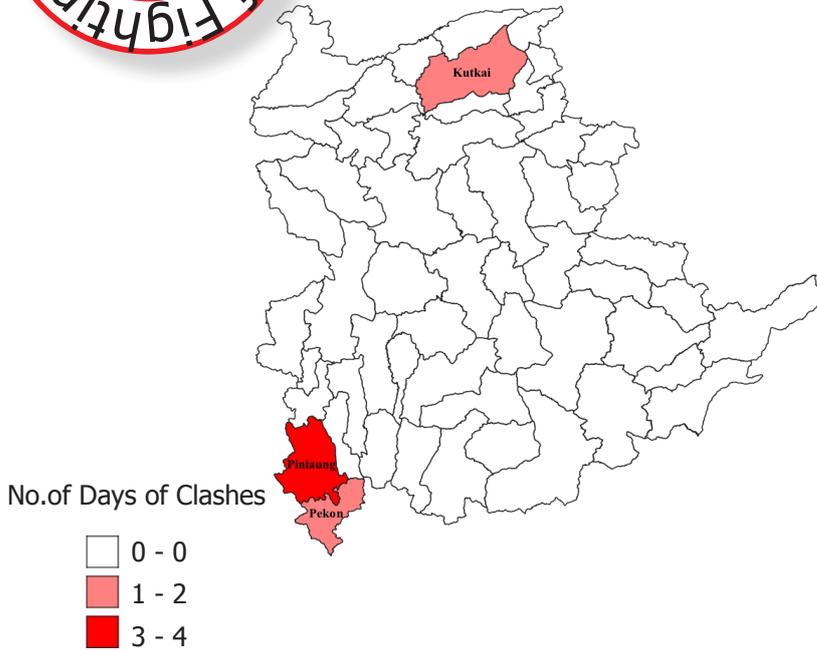
Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Nyaunglebin, Waw and Phyu Townships, killing 11 junta soldiers. During the clashes in Waw Township, a 10-household head and a firefighter was also killed by gunfire from PDF side. On 25 February, a man named Ko Soe Naing, a widely known informant for the military council, was shot and killed by the resistance members on 25 February. Artillery shelling of villages in Nyaunglebin Township by military council troops killed three people and forced more than 600 flee to safer locations.



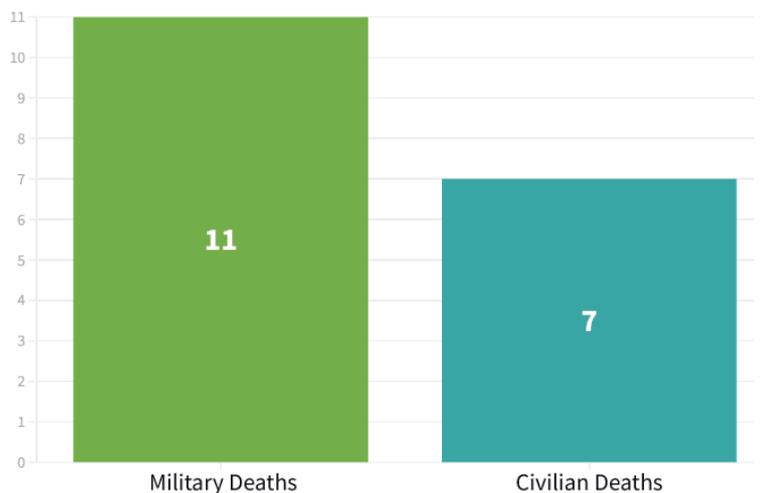


## Shan State

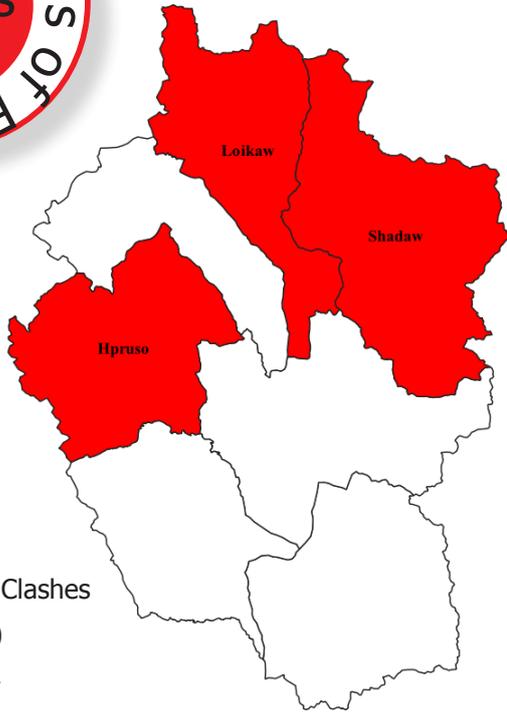
The artillery shell fired by the military council troop killed a woman in Taungsalone village in Pinlaung Township. The military council carried out indiscriminate artillery shelling following a battle between the military council and the PDF in Pinlaung Township on 24 February. On 27 February, the military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling wounded two civilians and destroyed a monastery and houses in Gaungei village in Pekon Township.



Clashes occurred between military council troops and the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), Karenni Army (KA) and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) occurred in Pinlaung, Kutkai, and Pekon Townships, killing nine regime soldiers. Four locals residents were killed and more than 3,000 people were forced to flee to safety due to the fighting in Pinlaung Township. In addition, on 22 February, military council soldiers fired on the house of a Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) member in Tangyan Township of Lashio District, killing three family members. On 22 February, a junta police inspector was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in Muse Township. On 25 February, a bomb explosion occurred at No.2 Myoma militia house in Sum Sao ward of Muse.



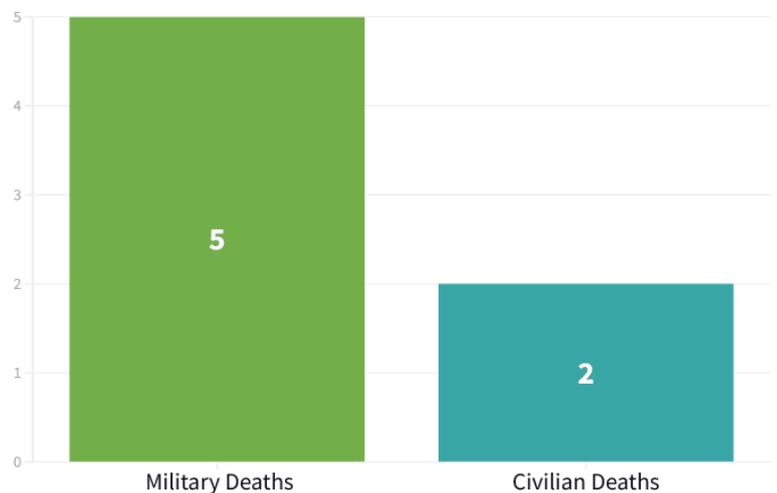
Total no of days of Fighting  
3Days

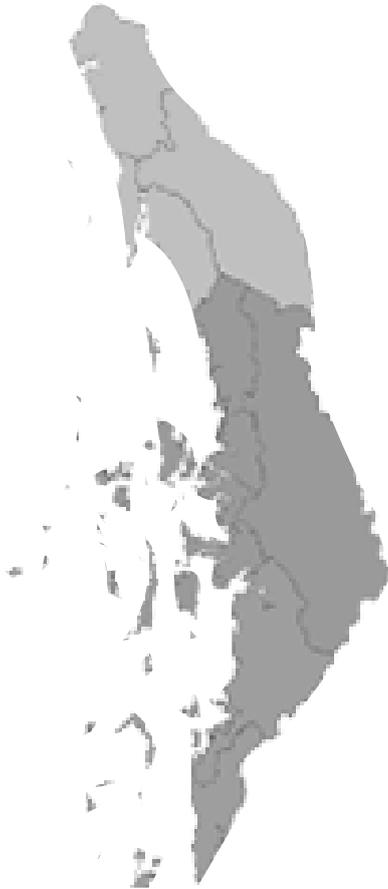


## Kayah State (Karenni State)

On 27 February, the military council fired heavy shells into the eastern part of Demoso although there was no battle. The artillery shelling killed a 70-year-old man and wounded a woman and a man and destroyed civilian houses. The military council's firing of artillery shelling into the western part of Demoso killed a woman and seriously wounded two others.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and a combined force of KNLA in Loikaw, Shadaw, and Demoso Townships, killing five regime soldiers. On 27 February, two people were killed by artillery fire from regime troops in Demoso Township.





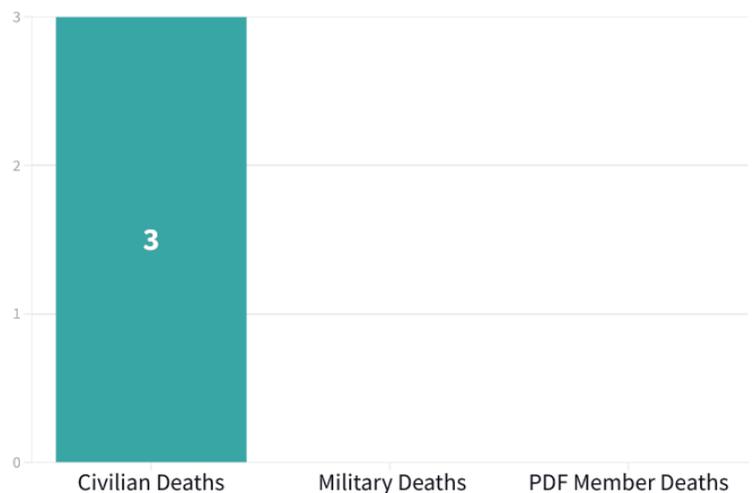
## Tanintharyi Region

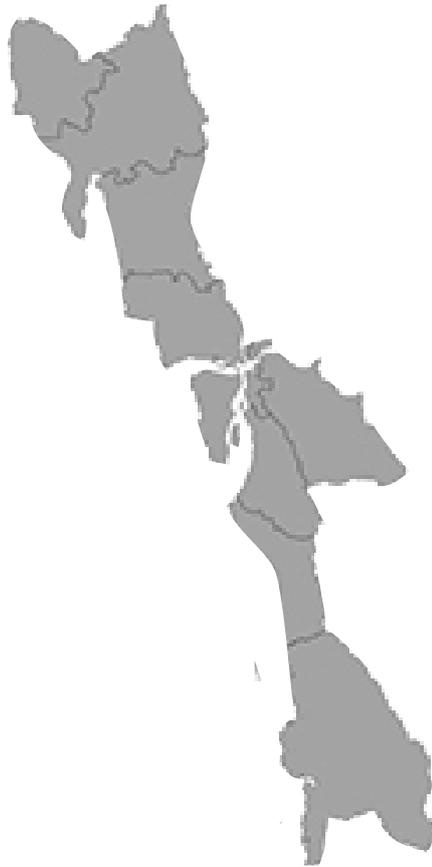
On 22 February, the military council arrested four female teachers who joined the CDM and 12 civilians in Palaw Township and extorted money from them.

On 26 February, the military council abducted more than 20 women and town-elders including a retired female teacher in Tanintharyi.

On 26 February, the Hninsiyaung Women Team which has been conducting the anti-dictator movements organized a public rally in cooperation with local women and youths in Launglon Township. To show their opposition to the military council’s election, the protestors held the banners reading “Boycott the Fascist’s election and walk bravely on the federal road.”

On 22 February, junta-appointed 100-household head U Tun Lin Aung and his wife Daw Aye Sein from Ywathit village, in Kawthaung Township, were shot dead by PDF members. In addition, they shot dead the administrator of Leltaungyar village in Tanintharyi Township on 25 February.





## Mon State

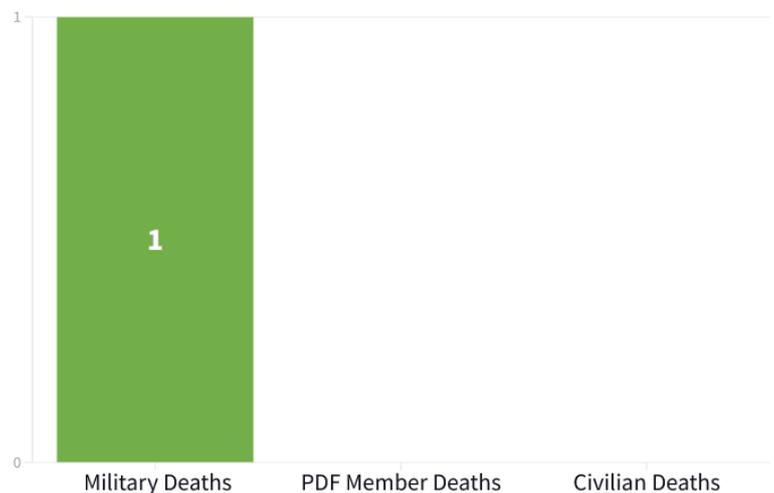
On 23 February, the military council's artillery force fired three rounds of heavy shells into the northern part of Ye Township. The heavy shells landed in the compound of Lainmawchan monastery and destroyed a factory in the monastery and a clinic in Lainmawchan village. On 23 February, the ward administrator office in Kyaungpaing ward near Myoma police station in Thanbyuzayat Township was completely destroyed by the mine attack. The military council is conducting search operations at the entry and exit of the town following the mine attack.



## Ayeyarwaddy Region

On the morning of 24 February, U Kyaw Tint Oo, head of the People’s Militia Force from Mawlamyinegyun Township got wounds to his arm, abdomen and uterus in a shooting at a tea shop. He is also a chair of the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion and a notorious military informant. The military council soldiers arrested locals following the shooting. In November, 2021, he faced an assassination.

The military council asked war veterans who took superannuation pension in Maubin to perform security duties by paying a daily wage of MMK-10,000. They have to wear the military uniforms and accompany the junta troops for patrolling and checking the overnight guest lists from 8 am to 8 pm, locals said.

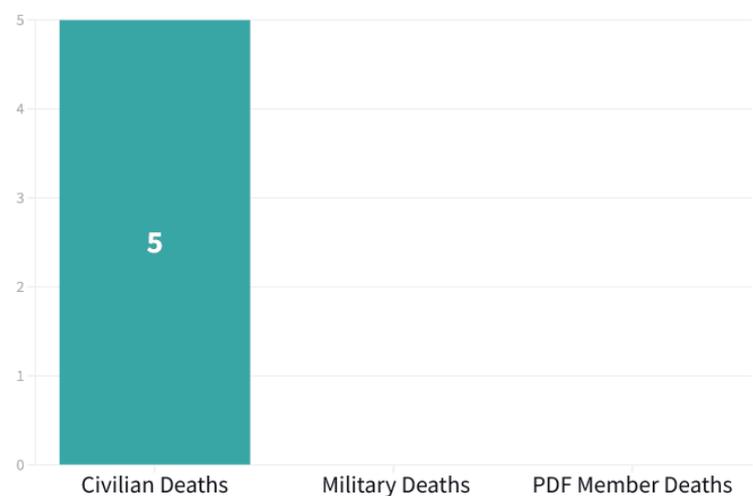




## Yangon Region

On 22 February, five people including a three-year-old child were shot dead by unknown gunmen at a house on Mayyawaddy 4th Street in Yeikthar ward in Hlegu Township. Those killed in the shooting are four family members and a guest.

On 22 February, two homeless men were found dead in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township. A 40-year-old man was found dead near the post office bus stop on the Upper Pazundaung Road in Kyi Taw ward and a 50-year-old man on the bridge on Myanmar Gone Yay Road on 93th street in Kan Taw Lay ward.





## Arakan State

Locals face travel difficulties as the military council has closed Rathedaung-Ponnagyun road which is crucial for travel and trading for locals, for over nine months. The military council released 391 out of 594 civilians detained during the refreshed fighting. Although the United League of Arakan/ Arakan Army (ULA/AA) is coordinating with the military council for the release of 203 detainees, the military council has not released the detainees yet.



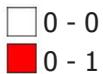
## Chin State

On 25 January, four locals and a comrade of the Chinland Defense Force (CDF)-Mindat were killed as a heavy shell fired by Light Infantry Battalion-274 based in Mindat landed on a house where locals from Anlaung village of Mindat Township and those helping the Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The artillery shelling killed CDF-Mindat comrade Salai Bili Aung Htan, a house owner and his wife, a child and wounded four others including two children. The fallen comrade was a pastor from Mindat before the coup. He joined the CDF-Mindat after the coup and worked for the IDP affairs.

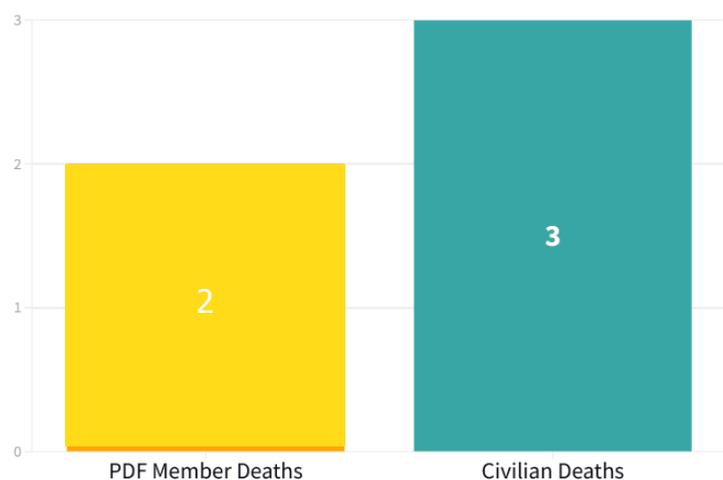
Light Infantry Battalion-274 usually fires heavy shells into the villages in Mindat Township. The artillery shelling destroyed civilian houses.

According to a statement by the CDF-Thantlang on 26 February, 20 junta soldiers and six members of a combined force of the Chin National Army (CAN) and the CDF-Thantlang were killed during a 60-day battle in Thantlang. The military council troop conducted 95 times of airstrikes by jet fighters and military helicopters, the statement says.

No. of Days of Clashes



Clashes occurred between military council troops and Chin defense forces in Thantlang Township, killing one resistance fighter. Also, on 25 February, an artillery shell fired by regime soldiers struck a house in Amlaung village in Mindat Township, killing three people and a local Chin fighter.



## International



The Working Group on Independent National Human Rights Institution for Burma/Myanmar ("Working Group") and the Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI) condemn in the strongest terms the extending of an invitation to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which will be held in person in Geneva, Switzerland on 14 -16 March 2023. We strongly urge GANHRI to disinvite the MNHRC, which is nothing more than a proxy-body of the Myanmar military and is complicit in barbaric human rights violations and atrocity crimes against the people of Myanmar since the illegal failed coup on 1 February 2021. The ANNI sent an open letter to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Chairperson, Chairperson of the Qatar NHRC.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the World Kachin Congress (WKC) condemned the arrest and detention by the Myanmar junta of Rev. Dr Hkalam Samson, the Kachin Baptist leader. The WKC released a statement expressing deep concern over “the unlawful and arbitrary arrest” of their faith leader, Rev. Dr Hkalam Samson.

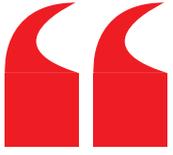
Reverend Hkalam Samson is the former head of the Kachin Baptist Convention, an organization based in northern Myanmar's Kachin State representing the mostly Christian Kachin minority, who was detained in December 2022 by authorities.

On 26 February, Myanmar activists organized a rally in front of the white house in Washington DC of the United State, making a plea for a no-fly zone over Myanmar and taking effective action against the military council.

On 22 February, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) clashed with the ARSA near Zero Line between mile-post No.30 and 35 on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border at No.8 Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar District in Bangladesh. A Rohingya male student and a Rohingya female student were wounded in the fighting.

The CSOs issued a statement on 26 February, strongly condemning the Manipur state government over the death of a Myanmar refugee at the Foreigner Detention Centre (FDC) near Sajiwa jail in Manipur's Imphal East district.

The Kuki Students' Democratic Front (KSDF), Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization (KWHRO), Myanmar Kuki Students Organization (KSO-M) and the Tamu District Civil Organizations



...to declare  
a no-fly zone over  
Myanmar and take  
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against the  
military council.



Network (TDCN) with one voice strongly opposed and condemned the inhumane acts, such as the lack of humanity and treating innocent people (Myanmar refugees) arrested by the Manipur government like foes. We are here to earnestly request the Manipur government of India, which is practicing a democratic system, to release the arrested refugees as soon as possible and recognize and accept the refugees from Myanmar. In addition, international governments and civil organizations are also seriously requested to establish procedures to stop this kind of treatment inflicted on the neglected Myanmar refugees who are sheltering on the India-Myanmar border in Manipur state, the statement says.

During his visit to the headquarters of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Mr. Deng Xijun urged the KIO to refrain from fighting the Myanmar military, along the Myanmar-China border. Special Envoy Mr. Deng Xijun arrived in Laiza, the headquarters of the KIO on 18 February and visited the IDPs near Laiza.

Some observers see Mr. Deng Xijun's meeting with the revolutionary forces as an effort to protect the China's investments in Myanmar and counter the Burma (Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability) Act, part of the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) that was passed by the United States Congress in December.

## 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.