

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023: **The illegal junta dissolves rival parties and readies internment camps**

- As of 31 Mar, there were at least 21,531 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,438,600 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- The illegal junta dissolved the NLD and 39 other political parties that had refused to re-register with its Union Election Commission (UEC) under the regime's newly enacted Political Parties Registration Law. The dissolved political parties reportedly won 88.45% of parliamentary seats in the 2020 General Election.
- With China's backing, the illegal junta accelerated their 'pilot project' to forcibly repatriate at least 1000 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Burma. Representatives from China, India and ASEAN visited a 'transit camp' for forcibly repatriated Rohingya refugees in Rakhine State. Regime ministers traveled to Bangladesh to 'scrutinize' Rohingya refugees in anticipation of their forced repatriation.
- The UN sent mixed messages, saying Rakhine State is unsafe for Rohingya refugees to return, denying their involvement in the junta-led and China-mediated, repatriation 'pilot project'. Leaked emails revealed UNHCR and WFP allowed their boats to be used to ferry regime officials at the regime's "very firm request".
- Regime forces escalated their brutality throughout Burma. The self-proclaimed 'Ogre column' beheaded at least 4 in Sagaing Region. Junta forces executed 29 civilians in Shan State.
- The junta announced that it would draw lots for 'lucky' men to enlist; a regime aligned monk threatened fresh conscripts with expulsion from their village in Sagaing Region if they did not cooperate. The junta ordered households to surrender one person each for conscription in Tanintharyi Region.
- In commemoration of the Federal Democratic Charter's second anniversary, the NUCC and the NUG released a joint statement highlighting their commitment to draft a constitution and to "consider the suggestions of the revolution's key stakeholders" in the future of building a Federal Democratic Union.
- The NUG sent a formal letter to PTTEP, requesting to transfer future dividend payments from the Yadana offshore oil field project to an NUG-designated account and hand over the project's financial and operational information since the attempted coup began. The letter also warned PTTEP that the NUG would initiate an arbitration process in Singapore if the company did not engage within 30 days.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

Junta continues preparations to rig sham 'election,' dissolves NLD

On 28 Mar, the regime disbanded the National League for Democracy (NLD) and 39 other political parties that did not re-register for their upcoming sham 'election' before the 28 Mar deadline.¹ Visiting Fellow at the US Institute of Peace Ye Myo Hein said in a Twitter post that the dissolved political parties won 88.45% of parliamentary seats in the 2020 General Election.² On 29 Mar, the NLD objected to the junta-controlled Union Election Commission's (UEC) order to dissolve political parties, stating the regime had violated existing laws and did not have the legitimacy to enact such a measure.³ It also stated that "as long as there are people, the party will exist." Political analyst Than Soe Naing underlined the obviousness of the regime's move given the NLD's electoral success and popularity.⁴

The dissolution of political parties raised concerns internationally. On 28 Mar, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for the immediate release of ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and for a return to democracy in Burma.⁵ On 29 Mar, Australia, Japan, Germany, the UK, US, France and Canada expressed concern over the dissolution of the NLD and 39 other political parties, emphasizing that new tough election registration requirements had narrowed the political space in Burma. They also warned that the exclusion of parties could lead to further violence and instability within the country.⁶

On 5 Mar, junta Immigration Minister Myint Kyaing announced a census for 1-15 Oct 2024. As the junta had previously said a national census would be required to ensure the 'accuracy' of voting lists, observers are expecting the junta to hold its sham 'election' in 2025 and extend the "state of emergency" until then.⁷

On 11 Mar, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) chairman Khin Yi met with Rakhine State USDP chairman Dr. San Shwe and 80 members from Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, Ann, Taungup, and three other Townships in Rakhine State to canvas support for the sham 'election.' They reportedly discussed the alleged electoral fraud in the 2020 general elections.⁸

Political parties start to play ball

On 1 Mar, it was reported that 13 political parties had registered before the UEC, eight of which registered to run within a State/Region. According to the junta's Political Parties Registration Law, parties running within a State/ Region need at least 1,000 party members and to deposit MMK 10 million in any Myanmar commercial bank. Parties wishing to contest at the national level must have at least 100,000 members and deposit MMK 100 million within 90 days of registration.

During February and March, the parties that applied for registration were the Arakan Front Party (AFP), Arakan National Party (ANP), Democratic Forces Labor Party (DFLP), Democratic Party, Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP), Federal Democratic Party (FDP), Kachin National Congress (KNC), Kachin State People's Party (KSPP), Khami National Development Party (KNDP), Mon Unity Party (MUP), Mro Ethnic Party, Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD), National Unity Party (NUP), New Democracy Party (Kachin), New National Democracy Party (NNDP), New National Democratic Party, Pa-O National League Organization (PNO), People's Power Party, Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP), Public Contribute Students Party (PCSP), Rakhine State National Unity Party (RSNUP), Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), Union Democracy Party, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), and the Wun Thar Nu Party.⁹

On 28 Mar, the UEC announced it would still allow the establishment and registration of new political parties under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law despite the initial deadline being 28 Mar. A total of 63 parties applied to be registered before the UEC, 13 of which are new political parties.¹⁷

Parties cleaning up house

On 2 Mar, the NLD expelled four party members--Phyo Min Thein, Sandar Min, Toe Lwin, and Win Myint Aung-- who had cooperated with the junta and made false statements against ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.¹⁸ On 20 Mar, the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) expelled former party Vice-Chairman Saw Mra Raza Lin after she issued a statement re-forming the party without the consent of Chairman Khaing Ray Khaing and the central committee members.¹⁹

¹ Reuters (28 Mar 2023) Myanmar junta dissolves Suu Kyi's party as election deadline passes

² Ye Myo Hein, Via Twitter (29 Mar 2023) <https://twitter.com/YeMyoHein5>

³ Than Lwin Times (31 Mar 2023) NLD objects party dissolution order of military junta

⁴ DMG (29 Mar 2023) NLD will exist 'as long as there are people,' party says of junta move to dissolve it

⁵ Eleven Media (30 Mar 2023) UN says its concern about the dissolution of the NLD party and wants to see the return of democracy to Myanmar

⁶ Aljazeera (30 Mar 2023) US, UK, Japan, Australia denounce dissolution of Myanmar's NLD; Than Lwin Times (31 Mar 2023) Military regime draws criticism from international governments for dissolving 40 political parties

⁷ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2023) Myanmar Regime Paves Way for Election With Census Next Year; Eleven Media (10 Mar 2023) Myanmar ruling military hints at further election delay

⁸ DMG (13 Mar 2023) USDP courts voters in southern Arakan State

¹⁷ Eleven Media (30 March 2023) UEC continues to allow applications for new party establishment and registration

¹⁸ Than Lwin Times (4 Mar 2023) NLD expels four party members including U Phyo Min Thein

¹⁹ Narinjara (23 Mar 2023) ALP clarifies former party Vice-Chairman: Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin has been expelled from the party

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

On 31 Mar, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) said regime forces had **arrested at least 21,279 civilians** since 1 Feb 2021. As of that date, the junta had sentenced a total of 150 people to death.²⁰

Civilians and resistance forces held protests throughout the month. They protested against the regime, its sham ‘election,’ and “for a federal democracy Union” in Salingyi (2; 3; 4; 14; 18; 21; 28; 31 Mar)²¹, Myaung (29 Mar)²², Yinmabin (Sagaing Region)(1; 3; 9; 14; 24; 25 Mar)²³, Launglon (Tanintharyi Region)(24 Mar)²⁴, Pyigyidagun (Mandalay Region)(3 Mar)²⁵, and Pakokku Townships (Magway Region) (28 Mar).²⁶ They also held protests to call for cutting funds to the regime and imposing sanctions on its affiliated companies in Yinmabin (4; 7; 29 Mar)²⁷ and Taze Townships (Sagaing Region)(4 Mar)²⁸ and in Launglon Township (Tanintharyi Region)(13 Mar).²⁹ On 11 Mar, General Strike Committee members protested to mark the second anniversary of the junta’s deadly crackdown on peaceful protesters on 11 Mar 2021. They also protested in Myaing and Salingyi Townships (Sagaing Region) to cut revenue to MOGE and the PTT oil company on the same day.³⁰

On 1 Mar, **the junta suspended its new online passport appointments system** after a website overload, adding that the website would still be accessible for the 52,850 people who had been granted appointments up to 28 Mar. The online appointment system was accessible for less than three days.³¹ Still on 1 Mar, it was reported that the passport office in Loikaw (Karenni State) had restricted its access to 90 people a day after being overflowed by applicants following its reopening on 27 Feb. Only people holding a household list confirming their residency in Karenni State can currently apply for a passport.³² On 18 Mar, it was reported that nearly 53,000 people in Yangon had applied for a passport over a five-day period at the end of February. Applicants reported appointments being scheduled months away despite the launch of the new online service. Fees also skyrocketed, up from MMK 40,000 before Feb 2021 to MMK 300,000-600,000.³³ On 21 Mar, it was reported that people in Rakhine State had been applying for passports through middlemen for MMK 300,000-500,000 after the Sittwe passport office stopped accepting new applications. Applying via middlemen reduced their waiting time but they were still required to observe other procedural formalities.³⁴

The junta continued to crack down on the NLD. On 6 Mar, the junta arrested an NLD member who had been hiding since the attempted coup in Hpakant Township (Kachin State).³⁵ On 30 Mar, a regime court sentenced NLD member Thet Htar Hnaung to an additional 11 years in prison under the Counter-Terrorism Law. She had already been sentenced to one year in prison for incitement in May 2022.³⁶

More evidence emerged regarding ill-treatment in junta prisons. On 5 Mar, it was reported that political prisoners in Kyaikmaraw Central Prison (Mawlamyine Township, Mon State) had been forcibly disappeared after demanding human and prisoners’ rights. Prison authorities have been torturing political prisoners mentally and physically, including by providing them with contaminated food and water.³⁷ On

²⁰ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) (31 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

²¹ Than Lwin Times (2 Mar 2023) Letpadaungtaung people stage protest for federal democracy Union; Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Protest held to intensify struggle against military; Than Lwin Times (4 Mar 2023) Protesters conduct anti-dictatorship campaign in Sagaing; Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Protest held to intensify struggle against military; Than Lwin Times (7 Mar 2023) Locals from Chindwin riverside villages stage protest; Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Protesters campaign for genuine federal Union; Than Lwin Times (15 Mar 2023) Sagaing’s residents call for sanction against Myanmar’s energy firm; Than Lwin Times (20 Mar 2023) Letpadaungtaung locals organize anti-dictatorship protest; Than Lwin Times (21 Mar 2023) Letpadaungtaung locals stages protest against military’s planned election; Than Lwin Times (29 Mar 2023) Locals in Letpadaungtaung area stage protest against fascist military; Than Lwin Times (1 Apr 2023) Letpadaungtaung people holds anti-military dictatorship protest

²² Than Lwin Times (29 Mar 2023) Sagaing’s locals protest against rebellious military

²³ Than Lwin Times (1 Mar 2023) Protesters hold student demonstration in Sagaing’s village; Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Protest held to intensify struggle against military; Than Lwin Times (10 Mar 2023) Locals in Sagaing’s village hold anti-dictatorship protest; Than Lwin Times (15 Mar 2023) Sagaing’s residents call for sanction against Myanmar’s energy firm; Than Lwin Times (25 Mar 2023) Anti-dictatorship protest calls for spirited resistance to junta dictatorship; Than Lwin Times (25 Mar 2023) Locals stage anti-election protest in Sagaing

²⁴ Than Lwin Times (24 Mar 2023) Protest staged against military dictatorship in Tanintharyi

²⁵ Than Lwin Times (4 Mar 2023) Night protest staged in Mandalay’s township

²⁶ Than Lwin Times (28 Mar 2023) Anti-junta protest staged in Magway to prevent military’s planned elections

²⁷ Than Lwin Times (5 Mar 2023) Protest in Pyigyidagon targets junta’s energy business; Than Lwin Times (7 Mar 2023) Protesters call for immediate sanction against Myanmar junta’ oil and gas enterprise; Than Lwin Times (8 Mar 2023) Protesters call for cutting funds to junta regime; Than Lwin Times (30 Mar 2023) Locals in Sagaing’s village call for sanction against state owned energy enterprise

²⁸ Than Lwin Times (5 Mar 2023) Protest in Pyigyidagon targets junta’s energy business; Than Lwin Times (7 Mar 2023) Protesters call for immediate sanction against Myanmar junta’ oil and gas enterprise

²⁹ Than Lwin Times (15 Mar 2023) Students organize protest in Tanintharyi

³⁰ Than Lwin Times (13 Mar 2023) Protest marks 2nd anniversary of military’s deadly crackdown in Myaing Township; Than Lwin Times (13 Mar 2023) Anti-military dictatorship protest held in Letpadaungtaung

³¹ Eleven Media (2 Mar 2023) Authorities suspend new passport appointment using online appointment system

³² Kantarawaddy (1 Mar 2023) High volume of applicants following the reopening of Loikaw passport office

³³ RFA (18 Mar 2023) Pessimistic about future, young Burmese rush to get passports to go abroad

³⁴ DMG (21 Mar 2023) Middlemen offer another path to passport in Arakan State

³⁵ Kachin News (8 Mar 2023) NLD Member Arrested In Hpakant

³⁶ DMG (2 Apr 2023) NLD member in Kachin State receives 11 more years for terrorism-related charge

³⁷ Than Lwin Times (5 Mar 2023) Political prisoners forcibly disappeared in Kyaikmaraw prison

7 Mar, it was reported that Obo Prison (Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region) had been committing the most human rights violations among all prisons in Burma. Political prisoners were no longer allowed to receive food and clean water, take showers or see a lawyer, and staff regularly beat them up and denied them medical treatment.³⁸

On 19 Mar, in Patheingyi (Ayeyarwady Region) prison staff assaulted two prisoners, including a Rohingya who died of his injuries, after they allegedly killed a cat for its meat. On 24 Mar, it was reported that four other Rohingya prisoners had reportedly died of starvation in March alone. Patheingyi prison authorities had prevented their families from bringing food for the previous three months. Released prisoners reported that staff beat Rohingya prisoners every night. The junta reportedly arrested over 700 Rohingya fleeing from Rakhine State to Ayeyarwady Region, 200 being detained in Patheingyi prison.³⁹

The junta continued to target NUG supporters. On 1 Mar, the junta announced it will prosecute parents enrolling their children in National Unity Government (NUG) online schools after information on the Free Online Educational Institution Myanmar (FOEIM) leaked. On the same day, FOEIM announced its temporary shut down for students and teachers' safety.⁴⁰ On 23 Mar, junta forces arrested an alleged NUG supporter and a man who shared anti-coup activities on Facebook in North Okkalapa Township (Yangon Region).⁴¹

The junta continued to target health workers, teachers, pro-democracy activists. On 3 Mar, it was reported that the junta had killed nearly 70 health workers, arrested nearly 900, and injured more than 780 between 1 Feb 2021-28 Feb 2023.⁴² On 9 Mar, a regime court sentenced a primary school teacher to 17 years in prison on three counts for his alleged implication with the resistance.⁴³ On 20 Mar, junta forces arrested prominent Burmese film director 'Mr. Steel' at his home in Thanlyin Township (Yangon Region) after he publicly criticized junta leader Min Aung Hlaing.⁴⁴ On 5 Mar, the junta arrested Pyigyitagon anti-dictatorship strike group leader senior Monk Sayadaw Agga Wuntha and five locals in Lak Ka Pin village, Myinmu Township (Sagaing Region).⁴⁵

The junta continued to target student activists. On 22 March, a regime court sentenced 20-year-old North Okkalapa Students' Union (Yangon) member Kaung Sett Paing to life imprisonment. He had been detained since 1 Dec 2022. As of 24 Mar, the junta had sentenced around 50 All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) members since 1 Feb 2021, 30 of which were sentenced to prison and 10 to death.⁴⁶ On 28 Mar, a regime court sentenced two Dawei Technological University students (Tanintharyi Region) to 10 years in prison under Section 50 (j) of the Anti-Terrorism Act. One of them had already been sentenced in May 2021 under Section 505 (a) and (c) of the Penal Code for protesting against the regime before being released on parole.⁴⁷ On 30 March, a regime court sentenced an 18-year-old Mayangone Student Union (Yangon Region) to three years in prison for incitement.⁴⁸

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

National overview

As of 31 Mar, there had been 702 armed clashes and attacks on civilians during the month (21,531 since 1 Feb 2021).⁴⁹ Junta forces had killed at least 3,194 civilians as of 31 Mar, likely an underestimate.⁵⁰ On 20 Mar, it was reported that regime forces had burned down some 60,459 houses as of 28 Feb 2023, including 47,778 houses in Sagaing Region, 9,019 in Magway Region, and 1,485 in Chin State.⁵¹ On 3 Mar, OHCHR reported that 255 out of 330 townships in Burma had been impacted by armed clashes between 1 Feb 2021 and 31 Jan 2023. Over the same period, the regime killed at least 2,940 civilians, nearly 30% of which died in detention. This is likely an underestimate.⁵² On 6 Mar, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated that 17.6 million people--almost a third of Burma's population-- needed humanitarian assistance in 2023.⁵³

³⁸ Than Lwin Times (8 Mar 2023) Political prisoners being subjected to most brutal torture in Obo prison

³⁹ NMG (24 Mar 2023) Rohingya Inmates Die In Patheingyi Prison

⁴⁰ Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Military council threatens to take action against those enrolled in NUG schools

⁴¹ DVB (24 Mar 2023) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာပတွင် စန္ဒရားဆရာအပါအဝင် အမျိုးသား ၂ ဦးကို စစ်တပ်က အင်အားသုံးဖမ်းဆီး

⁴² Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Nearly 70 health workers killed in two years of military coup

⁴³ Karen News (17 Mar 2023) Kyarinseikgyi Teacher Opposed to Coup, Sentenced to 17 Years-in Jail with Hard Labor

⁴⁴ DVB (21 Mar 2023) The NUG requests aid groups seek authorization to enter its territory

⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (11 Mar 2023) Prominent Myanmar Monk Disappears After Being Detained by Regime Forces

⁴⁶ DMG (24 Mar 2023) Junta sentences another student activist to life imprisonment

⁴⁷ Than Lwin Times (30 Mar 2023) Two Dawei Technological University students receive ten-year prison terms each

⁴⁸ DVB (3 Apr 2023) Mayangone Student Union member sentenced to three years in prison

⁴⁹ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (accessed 4 Feb 2023) Data export tool, available at: <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

⁵⁰ AAPP (31 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

⁵¹ Narinjara (20 Mar 2023) 2 years after military coup - more than 60,000 houses destroyed by political arson attacks; Data for Myanmar, via Facebook (20 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/ynsmb6d4>

⁵² OHCHR (28 Feb 2023) Situation of human rights in Myanmar since 1 February 2022 - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Fact Sheet

⁵³ OHCHR (6 Mar 2023) Myanmar: High Commissioner details severe violations amid shocking violence; UN News (6 Mar 2023) 'Hope is rare now in Myanmar', UN Human Rights Council hears;

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said there were 1,766,600 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burma as of 27 Mar, including 1,438,600 displaced after 1 Feb 2021, with 52,200 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries;⁵⁴ likely an underestimate.

On 7 Mar, it was reported that military defection had slowed down as most of the roughly 3,000 soldiers and 7,000 police officers who deserted did so in 2021. Defectors reportedly face three years of imprisonment, torture or execution, and expose their family to junta retaliation. It was highlighted that more soldiers would defect if they could seek asylum and be resettled. NUG figures revealed that less than 500 offshore humanitarian visas and around 150 permanent protection visas had been granted to people from Burma from 1 Jul-31 Dec 2022.⁵⁵ On 20 Mar, it was reported that many defectors faced hardship and struggled to survive despite a NUG monthly stipend. Some committees are providing financial help and emotional and emergency support but defectors have to rely on Burma's neighboring countries and the international community's help.⁵⁶

On 11 Mar, two members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, the Arakan Army (AA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) vowed to fight together until the alliance's third member, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), regained control of the Kokang region.⁵⁷ On 15-16 Mar, the Federal Political Negotiation and Consultative Committee met in Wa State's Pangsang Township (Shan State) to discuss the importance of ethnic minorities in building peace and a 'federal democratic union' and their cooperation with China to enhance stability in the border region and collaborate on health, social welfare, immigration, and trade issues. The FPNCC is a coalition of seven EROs: the United Wa State Party (UWSP), Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), Shan State East Special Region 4 Peace and Solidarity Committee (PSC), Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP), United League of Arakan (ULA), and Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)⁵⁸

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 744,000 IDPs in the region as of 27 Mar. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁵⁹

In **Sagaing District's Sagaing Township**, regime troops raided Tar Taing village and beheaded and dismembered a local PDF leader on 1 Mar. On 2 Mar, junta forces arrested 16 residents including three women to use as **human shields** upon leaving the village. On the same day, locals found the bodies of the detainees in three places with signs of torture and rape on the women's bodies.⁶⁰ In **Myaung Township**, junta forces raided and shelled at least 10 villages amid clashes with local PDF during 4-7 Mar, arresting a civilian and torching at least 89 houses.⁶¹ In **Myinmu Township**, regime forces raided Let Ka Pin village and detained almost all residents in a monastery on 5 Mar, forcing almost 10,000 locals from nearby villages to flee.⁶² During 7-9 Mar, locals found the dead bodies of ten residents among the detainees, most of whom are IDPs, in the Ayeyarwaddy river.⁶³ In **Myaung Township**, regime forces raided a local PDF camp near Swea Lwe Oh village on 30 Mar, beheaded a deputy commander and shot dead two 19-year-old PDF fighters.⁶⁴

In **Shwebo District's Khin-U Township**, regime forces shelled Yartaw and Kyuntawgyi villages and torched houses, forcing residents from seven neighboring villages to flee. On 4 March, it was reported that regime offensives in the western part of **Khin-U Township** had displaced over 10,000 residents.⁶⁵ On 4 Mar, regime troops raided and shelled Inn Pat village, injuring two civilians.⁶⁶ On 5 Mar, an unexploded ordnance killed a 12-year-old child in Ah Lel Sho village.⁶⁷ On 6 Mar, junta troops raided and shelled indiscriminately Galone and Mon Hla villages, killing an 8-year-old IDP and displacing almost 8,000 locals.⁶⁸ On 13 Mar, regime forces shot dead a civilian and a local "defense team" member before beheading the latter at Than Po village. Junta troops took two hostages upon leaving the village before releasing one of them.⁶⁹ On 17 Mar, regime forces raided and torched Tham Mar Yoe village,

⁵⁴ UNHCR (29 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Mar 2023)

⁵⁵ Aljazeera (7 Mar 2023) Defections from Myanmar military slow as generals tighten grip

⁵⁶ RFA (20 Mar 2023) Security personnel defectors face hardship in Myanmar's remote border regions

⁵⁷ DMG (11 Mar 2023) AA, TNLA vow to work together to return Kokang region to hands of MNDAA

⁵⁸ Narinjara (17 Mar 2023) Ethnic minority strength crucial for establishment of federal democratic union FPNCC statement

⁵⁹ UNHCR (29 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Mar 2023)

⁶⁰ RFA (6 Mar 2023) တာတိုင်ရွာသတ်ဖြတ်မှုမှာ အမျိုးသမီးသုံးဦး အဓမ္မပြုကျင့်အသတ်ခံခဲ့ရ; AP News (7 Mar 2023) Myanmar army killed 17 people in 2 villages, residents say

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2023) Myanmar Junta Forces Torch Over 80 Homes in Sagaing's Myaung Township

⁶² RFA (7 Mar 2023) Myanmar army arrests 50 villagers in Sagaing region

⁶³ Myanmar Now (Mar 16 2023) 10 more found dead in wake of Ogre Column raid in Myinmu Township; Myanmar Now (Mar 15 2023) ဘူဦး သတ်ခဲ့သည့်စစ်ကြောင်း မြင်းမှုတောင် အရပ်သား ၁၀ ဦးကို သတ်ဖြတ်

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (1 April 2023) Myanmar Resistance Fighter Beheaded, Two Teens Killed in Sagaing Raid

⁶⁵ Than Lwin Times (4 Mar 2023) More than 10,000 locals fled from home amid junta's offensive attacks in Sagaing's southern township

⁶⁶ RFA (5 Mar 2023) လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ခင်ဦးမြို့နယ် အင်းပတ်ရွာဒေသခံနှစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁶⁷ RFA (6 Mar 2023) ခင်ဦးနံ့ကသာမှာ ဗုံးသီးပေါက်ကွဲလို့ ကလေးနှစ်ဦးသေ၊ တစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁶⁸ RFA (6 Mar 2023) ခင်ဦးမှာ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ကလေးတစ်ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး ဒေသခံ ရှစ်ထောင်နီးပါး ထွက်ပြေး; Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2023) Village defence team member beheaded, another man killed in Khin-U Township

⁶⁹ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2023) Village defence team member beheaded, another man killed in Khin-U Township

burning an elderly resident to death and destroying 269 houses including a monastery. Regime's arson attack victims are in need of shelter and food supplies according to the **Wetlet Township** People's Strike Committee.⁷⁰ In **Shwebo Township**, two explosions near a local bus station in Shwebo killed a four-year-old child and a man and injured 18, including a child and eight women on 28 Mar. No group claimed responsibility.⁷¹

In **Kale District's Kalay Township**, junta troops opened fire on two civilians on a motorcycle on 2 Mar, killing the passenger and injuring the driver, who managed to flee.⁷²

In **Monywa District's Monywa Township**, regime forces raided and torched Hta Naung Taw village on 15 Mar, destroying some 68 homes and killing three elderly civilians in the fire who were unable to flee. Junta troops also captured some fleeing civilians, and looted houses before torching them.⁷³ In **Budalin Township**, regime forces conducted an arson attack in Sonkone village, killing six elderly residents in fire and destroying some 450 houses.⁷⁴

In **Katha District's Indaw Township**, junta troops arrested and interrogated 22 civilians including three CDM teachers following the arrest of two local PDF members on 3 Mar.⁷⁵ On 8 Mar, it was reported that regime troops had arrested 22 people, including 17 women, over alleged PDF ties in Indaw.⁷⁶ On 21 Mar, it was reported that regime troops had been building a camp on strategic Chin Kon Hill since 11 Mar, causing concerns among local PDFs and residents.⁷⁷

In **Kanbalu District's Kyunhla Township**, it was reported that the junta had forced residents to attend militia training and to engage in clashes on 14 Mar. A local said that the trainings were led by two monks and trainees were threatened with expulsion from their village if they refused to participate in patrols.⁷⁸

In **Tamu District's Tamu Township**, junta forces torched Kuntaung Ywathit village during 25-26 Mar, destroying 24 houses out of 29 in the village.⁷⁹

Magway Region

Junta soldiers continued to target civilians amid clashes with the resistance. On 7 Mar, it was reported that the junta had shut down the internet and was randomly cutting mobile phone communication in **Gangaw, Pauk, Tilin, Saw and Myaing Townships** following the imposition of martial law on 2 Feb. Residents reported continuous arrests of locals and frequent regime raids which negatively impacted high school students. In **Saw Township**, regime forces blocked the road to Pakokku and **Seikphyu Townships**, making it harder to provide aid to IDPs, and threatened to torch villages. Regime bribes at checkpoints also prevented civilians and half of the traders from entering Myaing Town by car.⁸⁰ On 9 Mar, the junta conducted airstrikes over Htan Pauk village in **Myaing Township** in retaliation for the death of regime troops during clashes with PDFs, injuring a civilian and forcing residents to flee.⁸¹ On 23 Mar, two female garment factory workers committed suicide in **Pakokku Township**. Regime forces had sexually assaulted and raped them after arresting them for carrying scissors, according to locals.⁸² On 28 Mar, regime troops burned down nearly all 138 houses in Kin Mon Chone village in **Salin Township** following a heavy clash with combined resistance forces.⁸³

Chin State

On 10 Mar it was reported that nearly 500 residents in a village in **Paletwa Township (Chin State)** who had recently returned from India's Mizoram State were in need of relief supplies, job opportunities and schooling for their children. In August 2022 the civilians fled fighting between the junta and the Arakan Army (AA).⁸⁴ On 19 Mar it was reported that the regime had forced about 2,000 IDPs living at displacement camps in Samee town, **Paletwa Township (Chin State)**, to return to their homes by the end of May as the camps will be closed soon despite the IDPs' concerns over landmines and their livelihood.⁸⁵ On 28 Mar, the junta forced the IDPs to return to their villages providing them only MMK 100,000 and some household items.⁸⁶ On 30 Mar, it was reported that IDPs who had returned to Abaungthar village in **Paletwa Township (Chin State)** have gone back to Paletwa town fearing

⁷⁰ Irrawaddy (20 Mar 2023) Woman, 78, Killed, Hundreds of Homes Torched in Myanmar Junta Raid in Sagaing

⁷¹ Mizzima (31 Mar 2023) Two explosions injure 20 at Shwebo bus station

⁷² Khonumthung Media Group (8 Mar 2023) Soldiers Kill Person On Motorbike In Kalay

⁷³ Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2023) Elderly civilians killed in Myanmar military arson attack in Monywa

⁷⁴ DVB (28 Mar 2023) Regime vows to crush resistance; UK imposes fresh sanctions

⁷⁵ RFA (6 Mar 2023) Junta arrests 22 civilians after mine blast in Sagaing region

⁷⁶ Kachin News Group (8 Mar 2023) Military Arrests Many Civilians In Indaw

⁷⁷ Kachin News Group (21 Mar 2023) Regime Builds Strategic Hilltop Camp In Indaw Township

⁷⁸ DVB (14 Mar 2023) The CPRH meets with US State Department

⁷⁹ Than Lwin Times (28 Mar 2023) Military set fire to entire village in Sagaing

⁸⁰ RFA (7 Mar 2023) စစ်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးကြေညာထားတဲ့ မကွေးတိုင်း ငါးမြို့နယ်က ဒေသခံတွေ အခက်အခဲဖြစ်နေ

⁸¹ Than Lwin Times (11 Mar 2023) Junta drop bombs over Myaing township

⁸² DVB (27 Mar 2023) US sanctions jet fuel suppliers; UEC to dissolve non-registered political parties

⁸³ Irrawaddy (31 Mar 2023) At Least 40 Myanmar Junta Troops, Resistance Commander Killed in Four Days of Clashes

⁸⁴ DMG (10 Mar 2023) Nearly 500 Paletwa Twsp villagers struggle to survive after returning from India

⁸⁵ DMG (19 Mar 2023) 2,000 IDPs in Chin State town reportedly told to return home by end of March

⁸⁶ DMG (29 Mar 2023) 1,500 IDPs in Chin State town reportedly pushed to return home

continued clashing, between junta forces and the Arakan Army, (AA) and citing livelihood difficulties in their village.⁸⁷

On 30 Mar, the junta's airstrike on Khuafu village, in **Thantlang Township (Chin State)**, 10 miles from the Indian border, reportedly killed 10 people and injured around 20.⁸⁸

Rakhine State

On 3 Mar, it was reported that 532 IDPs returned home in **Ponnagyun Township** (Rakhine State). The regime gave the IDPs MMK 600,000, a month's supply of food and an additional MMK 9,000 per person to purchase rice.⁸⁹ Also on 3 Mar, it was reported that an estimated 5000 IDPs have returned to their homes in Rakhine State since late November. An IDP returnee said that the regime forced them to go home but they cannot access their farmland due to the risk of landmines, adding that one-month food supply and MMK 600,000 was insufficient.⁹⁰ On 6 Mar, it was reported the regime refused to respond to repeated requests by IDPs in **Kyauktaw Township** (Rakhine State) to clear landmines and rebuild burnt homes in order to return to their village. An IDP said that they are willing to return immediately but want regime soldiers to withdraw from their village.⁹¹ On 20 Mar, In **Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung Townships** (Rakhine State), strong winds damaged 83 homes in five IDP camps and IDPs were struggling to repair the damaged homes.⁹² Over 154,000 people were internally displaced over Jan-Feb 2023, bringing the total of people displaced after the coup to more than 1.3 million as of 27 Feb.⁹³

On 4 Mar, The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that national and international NGOs providing humanitarian assistance were still restricted in **Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships** (Rakhine State) despite the Nov 2022 ceasefire and improvements in **Sittwe and Pauktaw Townships**.⁹⁴ On 28 Mar, the Arakan State Administration Council (ASAC) warned 40 local civil society organizations that it will fine the organizations and sentence their members to prison under the new Association Registration Law if they fail to abide by it.⁹⁵

On 30 Mar, it was reported that extension of curfew orders in over half of 17 townships in Rakhine State had caused economic, health-related and social hardships for residents.⁹⁷ On 30 Mar, it was reported that the regime had sent reinforcements of troops, food supplies, and weapons to **Maungdaw, Rathedaung, and Buthidaung Townships** (Rakhine State) despite the ceasefire agreement with the Arakan Army (AA) on 26 Nov.⁹⁸

Kachin and Northern Shan States

On 1 Mar, it was reported that junta troops arrested 130 civilians from Shraw Hka village in **Hpakant Township**. On 2 Mar the majority of those arrested were released while over 30 were held for interrogation. An anonymous activist said regime would arrest entire villages to find supporters of the Spring Revolution. The junta told residents of the village who had moved there after the attempted coup to leave by 25 Feb.⁹⁹ On 5 Mar, it was reported that junta artillery targeting the KIA and resistance forces critically injured a mother and her daughter in Seng Tawng village.¹⁰⁰ On 10 Mar, it was reported that two junta jets attacked a KIA base killing a few troops and destroying a hospital among other buildings.¹⁰¹ On 11-13 Mar, regime forces raided the Kachin Cultural Office in Hpar Pyin village arresting several civilians and KIA members. The following day four gunmen in plain clothes shot dead a regime-appointed immigration officer in Hpakant town. A local man said locals did not know to which group the gunmen belonged. A source connected to a local PDF said 20 in total were arrested in Hpar Pyin village and some were released on 13 Mar but the claim could not be verified.¹⁰² On 18 Mar, after an attack by the KIA and PDF on a junta checkpoint that killed three regime policemen, junta forces indiscriminately shelled the area, killing a man and injuring five residents, including a woman and a two-and-a-half-year-old child.¹⁰³ 30-31 Mar, two junta fighter jets bombed areas south of Shwegu and ground troops fired heavy artillery into Man Wein village, **Shwegu Township** targeting local defense forces. The attacks

⁸⁷ Narinjara News (30 Mar 2023) Abangthar villagers return to Paletwa in face of livelihood woes

⁸⁸ Myanmar Now (3 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta forces mount air and ground attacks in three states

⁸⁹ DMG (3 Mar 2023) Over 500 IDPs in Ponnagyun Twsp displacement camp return home

⁹⁰ DMG (3 Mar 2023) About 5,000 IDPs in Arakan State return to their homes

⁹¹ DMG (6 Mar 2023) Tinma villagers still not permitted to return to home

⁹² DMG (21 Mar 2023) Dozens of IDP shelters in three Arakan State townships damaged by strong winds

⁹³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) (4 Mar 2023) MYANMAR Humanitarian Update No.27

⁹⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) (4 Mar 2023) MYANMAR Humanitarian Update No.27

⁹⁵ DMG (29 Mar 2023) Junta warns Arakan CSOs not to engage with illegal organisations

⁹⁷ DMG (30 Mar 2023) Four months after ceasefire, curfews still disrupt Arakan State residents' lives

⁹⁸ DMG (30 Mar 2023) Military reinforcing troops, weapons in Arakan State: residents

⁹⁹ Kachin News Group (7 Mar 2023) Military Keeps 30 Villagers Prisoner In Hpakant Township

¹⁰⁰ Kachin News Group (7 Mar 2023) Shelling Injures Family In Hpakant

¹⁰¹ Kachin News Group (13 Mar 2023) Regime Flies Airstrikes On KIA In Hpakant Township

¹⁰² Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2023) Shooting deaths occur amid heightened security, military arrests in Hpakant

¹⁰³ Kachin News Group (22 Mar 2023) Shelling Kills Man, Injures His Wife & Son In Hpakant

forced thousands of residents to flee to Shwegu town, neighboring villages or nearby forests. A Shwegu resident said that junta troops arrested 30 civilians who took shelter in a monastery and drove others to return to their villages. On 30 Mar, junta forces occupying the monastery in Man Wein village shelled surrounding areas where they believed resistance forces were hiding.¹⁰⁴

On 1 Mar, KIA's information officer said that the armed group has formed a committee to investigate the murder of nine civilians in **Hpakant Township** in late January. Citing local sources, Myanmar Now reported that 2 KIA and several members of UG Black K, also known as Mogaung People's Defence Team, have been held for interrogation. Multiple sources claimed that the victims were accused of having ties to the Shanni Nationalities Army.¹⁰⁵ On 2 Mar, the Putao PDF announced that it will restrict traffic on the Myitkyina-Putao road in order to halt heroin trafficking by the junta and its proxies in Kachin State. The group told that buses and trucks will not be allowed to use the road between 6PM and 6AM.¹⁰⁶

On 7 Mar, a clash broke out between local PDF/KIA and junta forces in **Kunlong Township** (N. Shan State), killing one PDF.¹⁰⁷ On 11 Mar, it was reported that in a message to commemorate the third anniversary of MNDA day, two members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, the Arakan Army (AA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) vowed to fight together until the alliance's third member, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA), regained control of the Kokang region.¹⁰⁸ In Lashio District (N. Shan State), junta troops attacked SSPP soldiers at a bridge near Mongyai, Lashio District and a clash broke out causing casualties on SSPP side. Junta troops returned to the bridge after the clash to interrogate nearby residents and shopkeepers.¹⁰⁹

Karenni and Southern Shan States

On 1 Mar, it was reported that citing locals, that junta has set up at least 9 checkpoints in Loikaw and intensified impromptu checks of civilians. A local man said that soldiers dressed as civilians had been checking travelers on the road entering Loikaw.¹¹⁰ On 23 Mar, it was reported that a junta airstrike on timber production site in **Bawlake Township** killed three civilians and injured a further five.¹¹¹ On 28 Mar, a junta fighter jet bombed Daw Yauk Khu village in **Demoso Township** killing one person and injuring a further three¹¹² and on 30 Mar, the junta bombed and shelled an area outside Htee Hpoe Ka Loe village, reportedly targeting a local clinic and a community-run school and killing a KNDF member.¹¹³

On 9 Mar, it was reported that IDP camp residents in **Hpruso Township** have been suffering from skin rashes and that young children have developed diarrhea. An anonymous health worker said there is insufficient clean water to bathe or drink.¹¹⁴ On 14 Mar, it was reported, citing local monitoring groups, that junta assaults since 10 Mar had forced more than 6,000 civilians from seven villages of **Demoso Township** to flee. The spokesperson of KNDF said that the junta had used helicopters to transport reinforcements into **Loikaw, Hpruso, Demoso and Bawlakhe Townships** from southern Shan State since mid-February.¹¹⁵ On 25 Mar, it was reported that the junta held a fake food distribution event for IDPs in Nam Baw Wan Ward, **Loikaw Township**. Citing IDPs who had attended the event, junta personnel took back the distributed items after taking photos of IDPs with the distributed food packets.¹¹⁶ On 27 Mar, it was reported, citing U Banyar, head of the Karenni State Consultative Council's Humanitarian Assistance Committee, that there were 250,000 IDPs in Karenni State, more than 2/3 of the whole state's population. Nearly 3000 civilians from **Demoso Township** and thousands of villagers from **Bawlakhe Township** fled their homes after 16 Mar due to clashes and junta's airstrikes. The KNDF Chairperson expressed hope that donors would provide cross-border assistance for IDPs.¹¹⁷

On 2 Mar, clashes broke out between RCSS and SSPP near Nam Tut village, **Kunhing Township**. RCSS signed the junta's so-called Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement whereas SSPP did not.¹¹⁸

On 11 Mar, it was reported that junta forces executed 29 civilians including three monks and two teenage boys from Nanneint village in **Pinlaung Township** (S. Shan State). Junta troops committed the mass killing following a series of clashes with the KNDF and its allies starting 24 Feb, where regime forces suffered heavy casualties.¹¹⁹

On 12 Mar, it was reported that regime forces killed four civilians in a IDP camp near Lel Tun village in **Pekhoh Township**, including an elderly couple who were reportedly burned alive inside their home.

¹⁰⁴ Myanmar Now (3 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta forces mount air and ground attacks in three states

¹⁰⁵ Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2023) KIA launches investigation into killing of civilians accused of belonging to rival ethnic army

¹⁰⁶ Kachin New Group (3 Mar 2023) PDF Restricts Traffic Hours On Putao To Myitkyina Road

¹⁰⁷ Shan Herald (9 Mar 2023) PDF Soldier Killed In Lashio District

¹⁰⁸ DMG (11 Mar 2023) AA, TNLA vow to work together to return Kokang region to hands of MNDA

¹⁰⁹ Shan Herald (14 Mar 2023) Junta Forces Attack SSPP In Mongyai

¹¹⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (1 Mar 2023) Junta Tightens Security In Loikaw

¹¹¹ Kantarawaddy Times (31 Mar 2023) Aerial Bombardment Hits IDP Sheltering Village in Demoso West, Leaving 1 Dead and 3 Injured

¹¹² Kantarawaddy Times (31 Mar 2023) Aerial Bombardment Hits IDP Sheltering Village in Demoso West, Leaving 1 Dead and 3 Injured

¹¹³ Myanmar Now (31 Mar 2023) Myanmar junta airstrike on Karenni village targets community clinic and school

¹¹⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (9 Mar 2023) Water Shortage Causes Illnesses In Hpruso Displaced Camps

¹¹⁵ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2023) Thousands displaced by Myanmar military attacks in Demoso Township

¹¹⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (28 Mar 2023) Military Council cheats IDPs in cruel charade after a fake food distribution for media propaganda

¹¹⁷ Kantarawaddy Times (27 Mar 2023) 50,000 Villagers Displaced In Karenni State In 2023

¹¹⁸ Shan Herald (5 Mar 2023) SSPP Attacks RCSS In Loilem

¹¹⁹ Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2023) Junta forces kill 29, including three monks, in southern Shan State

Anti-regime forces later fought junta soldiers on the hill where the IDP camp was located. In a statement, Pekhon PDF said the junta had deployed artillery and conducted three airstrikes during the clash.¹²⁰ On 20 Mar, junta jets attacked positions in **Pinlaung Township** held by resistance forces. A Pa-O National Defence Force spokesperson said that junta fighter jets attacked at resistance group bases least twice and that there was a clash in Nam Neing village. He added that the junta sent reinforcements to township. A member of Pekhon PDF said that junta troops were traveling around the Pekhon area and clashes could happen at any time.¹²¹ On 25-26 Mar, around 100 junta troops entered the Ah Lae Chaung village, **Ywar Ngan Township** looting and destroying houses. 30 junta troops burned down a house in Nget Thouk village of a man they alleged was a PDF supporter. Junta troops began patrolling Ah Lae Chaung, Nge Thouk, Nabang Gyi and Lae Kai and have increased security at checkpoints the entrances to Ywar Ngan town.¹²² On 27 Mar, a junta fighter jet bombed the village of North Salong in **Pinlaung Township**.¹²³

Karen State

On 1 Mar, it was reported that there were over 530,000 IDPs in Karen State since the attempted coup.¹²⁴ On 21 Mar, it was reported that regime targeted airstrikes and shelling against civilians in KNU-controlled areas had reached its highest point in 2023, killing at least five civilians and injuring 11 between January and March, and the IDPs were in dire need of humanitarian assistance.¹²⁵ The junta had committed 1,493 human rights violations of 19 different types, including using civilians as porters, as human shields and placing landmines in civilian roads, in KNU territory between Feb 2021 and Dec 2022 according to a KNU statement on 27 Mar. It was also reported that 192 civilians were killed, 485 were injured, 1,301 were arrested and at least 365,187 were displaced as of Dec 2022.¹²⁶

On 2 Mar, regime forces raided Botegone village in **Thandaunggyi Township** and indiscriminately opened fire, injuring a child and killing three civilians. Regime soldiers then arrested three residents and burned down the home of a pastor in addition to four motorcycles.¹²⁷ On 4 Mar, junta troops torched nine houses in Thandaung Town. On 10 Mar, it was reported that over 8,000 IDPs were too scared to return, fearing further attacks. Junta forces had been shelling the town since 27 Jan.¹²⁸ In **Hpa-An Township**, two locals died and one child sustained injuries during the fighting between junta and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) forces on 22 Mar.¹²⁹ In **Kawkareik Township**, clashes between regime and combined resistance forces killed a 14-year-old boy and injured a woman on 26 Mar.¹³⁰

On 21 Mar, regime forces shelled Ywa Thit village in **KNU-defined Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District (Southern Karen State)**, destroying several houses and killing livestock. On 23 Mar, junta troops shelled Kyaung Shar Kone village, injuring four residents including a nine-year-old girl. There was no fighting at the time.¹³¹ Between 25-26 Mar, heavy clashing between regime troops and combined forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDF broke out in **KNU-defined Kyonedoe Township**, killing four locals, injuring three, forcing thousands of residents to flee and destroying over 30 houses, many household items, four cars and three motorcycles in fire.¹³² On 29 Mar, it was reported that IDPs in Kyonedoe Township were facing food, shelter and health difficulties amid extremely hot weather and were hesitant to return home due to the threat of regime shelling.¹³³

On 28 Mar, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) raided and seized the junta's long-standing and strategically important Mae Ka Hta camp before torching it.¹³⁴

Bago Region

In Bago Region, clashes between junta and KNLA forces as well as regime shelling local villages continued. During 1-19 March, regime forces raided and shelled villages in **KNU-defined Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi Townships, Nyaunglebin District (Eastern Bago Region)**, injuring nine civilians, detaining four and forcing at least 22,000 residents to flee. Regime forces damaged 16 houses, a monastery and a barn, and destroyed 20 homes, one shop, and three motorcycles.¹³⁵ In **Mone Township**, junta troops raided and shelled Thinganpin village on 11 Mar, forcing 1,350 residents to flee. Regime troops also shelled Lu Ah village, injuring two civilians including a 14-year-old.¹³⁶ On 14 Mar, junta troops shelled

¹²⁰ Myanmar Now (15 Mar 2023) Military kills elderly, displaced couple in southern Shan State

¹²¹ Shan Herald (23 Mar 2023) Fighting Continues In Panglaung Township

¹²² Shan Herald (30 Mar 2023) Military Raids Villages In Ywar Ngan Township

¹²³ Shan Herald (30 Mar 2023) Shan Village Bombed by Military Council's Jet Fighter

¹²⁴ Than Lwin Times (1 Mar 2023) More than 530,000 people displaced in KNU-controlled territory; Karen Peace Support Network (27 Feb 2023) Kawthoolei IDP Update

¹²⁵ Than Lwin Times (21 Mar 2023) Junta continues to carry out targeted attacks on civilians in KNU territory

¹²⁶ Karen News (29 Mar 2023) KNU Reports Over a Thousand War Crimes Committed by Military Council in Past Two Years

¹²⁷ Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) One child injured, some residents arrested as junta opens fire amid no fighting: Thandaung

¹²⁸ RFA (10 Mar 2023) Residents too scared to return to resort town in southern Myanmar amid junta shelling

¹²⁹ DVB (27 Mar 2023) US sanctions jet fuel suppliers; UEC to dissolve non-registered political parties

¹³⁰ Eleven Media (27 Mar 2023) Fresh fighting near Kayin's Kawkareik T/S kills a civilian

¹³¹ Karen News (27 Mar 2023) Military Council's shelling of Kawkareik injures 4 civilians Karen State

¹³² Mon News (30 Mar 2023) Over 30 homes and belongings destroyed by fire during conflict in Kyon Doe Township

¹³³ Karen News (29 Mar 2023) Displaced residents in Karen State's Kyonedoe Township struggle with living and food challenges amid fighting

¹³⁴ Than Lwin Times (29 Mar 2023) Junta's Mae Ka Hta outpost captured by KNLA joint forces; RFA (28 Mar 2023) Karen rebels seize large Myanmar military camp on Thai border

¹³⁵ Than Lwin Times (22 Mar 2023) All villagers from 40 villages fleeing junta's invasion in Nyaunglebin

¹³⁶ Karen National Union, via Facebook (11 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/376y6zut>

Nyaunggon village, injuring a child and destroying a church.¹³⁷ On 20 Mar, the junta conducted airstrikes over Takatpu and Takawde villages, injuring a civilian, forcing nearly 3,200 residents to flee and destroying five houses and a school.¹³⁸

On 7 Mar, local resistance forces bombed a junta encampment at Kwin Da La Gyi village in **Shwegyin Township**. On 8 Mar, regime troops raided and shelled Nyaungbingyi village, injuring at least 10 civilians, torching motorcycles and destroying medical supplies at a local clinic.¹³⁹ Regime shells into villages also injured a civilian in Waing Kyun village and two others from Thite Tu village on the same day.¹⁴⁰ On 12 Mar, regime forces raided Waing Kyun and Thite Tu villages, burning down a house. They also raided nearby Inn Ba Lar village, shot dead four civilians and shelled the village, forcing residents to flee.¹⁴¹ On 14 Mar, it was reported that regime raids and shelling of villages in Shwegyin Township had displaced almost 10,000 residents since 9 Mar. Exact casualties and damages were unknown.¹⁴²

On 24 Mar, it was reported that hundreds of vehicles had been stuck at the Nyaung Kha Shay checkpoint gate in Waw Township after x-ray machines were installed and used to inspect all vehicles. Motorists said the four-hour trip from Yangon to Mawlamyine now took up to two days.¹⁴³ On 28 Mar, a woman sustained injuries from an explosion at the Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda festival in Bago Township.¹⁴⁴ According to UNHCR, there were around 80,700 IDPs in Bago Region as of 27 Mar since 1 Feb 2021.¹⁴⁵

Mon State

UNHCR said there were around 26,500 IDPs statewide as of 27 Mar. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.¹⁴⁶

On 5 Mar, regime forces indiscriminately shelled Aung Thar Yar village in **Ye Township**, critically injuring an elderly woman who reportedly died later.¹⁴⁷ On 15 Mar, junta troops closed the road between Kyaungywa and Sone Pa Dot villages after a local resistance group shot at a civilian car. They then ordered the village's administration to destroy the bamboo bridge connecting Kyaungywa and Aingshey villages, leaving only one road open and causing transportation difficulties in at least eight villages.¹⁴⁸ On 23 Mar, regime troops shot dead a local motorist near Kyonlaung village for being out during curfew.¹⁴⁹

In **Kyaikto Township**, four unknown men killed two civilians with a grenade in Ingapo village on 5 Mar. On 10 Mar, six armed men shot dead a woman in Wardatkwin village. No group claimed responsibility and local PDF announced that they did not conduct the killing.¹⁵⁰ On 20 Mar, regime forces shelled Karaway Seik village, killing two men, injuring a pregnant woman and forcing over 1,000 residents to flee.¹⁵¹ On 21 Mar, junta troops shelled Takaychaung, Nghet Pyaw Taw, Zee Kone, Pitoutaw, Chanmyae and Kayawayseik villages following a resistance attack on a Kyaikto-based regime headquarter, prompting over 7,000 residents from six villages to flee.¹⁵² On 22 Mar, a man died after stepping on a landmine while logging on Mount Wisa. No group claimed responsibility for planting the landmine.¹⁵³

In **KNU-defined Bilin Township, Thaton District (Northern Mon State)**, regime shells destroyed four houses in Wintapin village on 11 Mar.¹⁵⁴ On 18 Mar, regime forces shelled Shweyaungpya village tract, killing a six-year-old child from Ahwungyi village. There were no clashes in the previous two weeks.¹⁵⁵ On 20 Mar, regime forces shelled Karawaleseik village, killing two civilians following an attack by resistance forces on a junta checkpoint.¹⁵⁶ On 29 Mar, regime shells injured six residents, including two five-year-olds, and destroyed a house in Taungalay village.¹⁵⁷ On the same day, junta troops shelled Ah

¹³⁷ Than Lwin Times (19 Mar 2023) More than 1,000 residents flee homes due to junta's artillery strikes in KNU's Mone Township; Karen National Union, via Facebook (18 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2vw32xaj>

¹³⁸ Karen National Union, via Facebook (22 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/49dd9wyd>; DVB (23 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing: NUG meets UK Minister; More US sanctions expected

¹³⁹ Myanmar Now (10 Mar 2023) Junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia torch villages on Sittaung River

¹⁴⁰ Karen National Union, via Facebook (9 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/fjsn3f42>

¹⁴¹ Karen News (16 Mar 2023) Shelling causes 6000 residents to flee in Bago's Shwegyin Bago region

¹⁴² RFA (14 Mar 2023) Nearly 10,000 Bago region residents forced to flee ahead of junta raids

¹⁴³ DVB (24 Mar 2023) Thais arrest 83 in Mae Sot raid; Regime resumes its 'peace talks'

¹⁴⁴ DVB (31 Mar 2023) Mauk Kham Wah wins World Press Photo award; Fashion brands fleeing Burma

¹⁴⁵ UNHCR (29 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Mar 2023)

¹⁴⁶ UNHCR (29 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Mar 2023)

¹⁴⁷ Than Lwin Times (7 Mar 2023) Elderly woman in critical condition with serious injuries after being struck by artillery shell in Ye

¹⁴⁸ Mon News (22 Mar 2023) Bridge over the Kyaungywa-Aingshey Creek in Ye Township Destroyed: Transportation Problems Result

¹⁴⁹ Than Lwin Times (25 Mar 2023) Three residents shot dead by junta in Belin, Ye Townships

¹⁵⁰ Mon News (12 Mar 2023) သိမ်စေ့ဝှဲ ဝါးဒက်ကွင်းရွာတွင် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁵¹ DVB (22 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing: 60,000 homes destroyed by arson; CSOs urge UN to prevent Rohingya repatriation

¹⁵² Mon News (23 Mar 2023) More than 7,000 Residents of Kyaikhto have been Forced to Flee due to Heavy Weapons fire by SAC Military Council

¹⁵³ Mon News (25 Mar 2023) Man killed by landmine in Kyaik Htee Yoe Wisa Mountain

¹⁵⁴ DVB (16 Mar 2023) Tokyo protest against chairperson of Japan-Myanmar Association

¹⁵⁵ Mizzima (21 Mar 2023) Six-year-old killed by mortar fire in Mon State's Bilin Township

¹⁵⁶ Mizzima (23 Mar 2023) Two killed by artillery shell in Mon State's Bilin Township

¹⁵⁷ KNU- Doo Tha Htu District, via Facebook (31 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/5ev74jtt>

Lu and Win Pyan villages following a clash with a combined Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDF forces, killing a resident and injuring another.¹⁵⁸

In **Thaton Township**, following a KNLA drone attack on a regime station in Thaton on 8 Mar, regime troops indiscriminately shelled Kyone Maing village, killing a 10 and a 12-year-old, injuring another child and a civilian, and forcing locals to flee.¹⁵⁹ On 24 Mar, it was reported that regime forces had increased security in **Mawlamyine town** following a resistance drone attack on Mawlamyine-based Southeastern Command on 16 Mar. Junta forces randomly searched motorcycles, cars, and pedestrians, conducting overnight guest list checks and patrolling the city at night.¹⁶⁰

Tanintharyi Region

UNHCR said there were around 56,200 IDPs in the region as of 27 Mar, all displaced after 1 Feb 2021.¹⁶¹

On 2 Mar, a clash between regime and local resistance forces broke out near Auk Kyauk Wut village in **Launglon Township**.¹⁶² On 4 Mar, regime forces raided the village, torched at least three houses and arrested six villagers before shooting them dead, forcing nearly 800 residents to flee.¹⁶³ On 4 Mar, junta troops arrested six men before shooting them dead.¹⁶⁴ On 6 Mar, regime troops raided Karen Gyi village, forcing residents to flee. On 8 Mar, junta troops torched the village, destroying at least five houses. Exact damage was unknown.¹⁶⁵ On 10 Mar, regime forces raided Pa Nyit village and fired indiscriminately, torching 5 houses and forcing residents to flee.¹⁶⁶ On 16 Mar, junta troops raided Yatain village and arrested over 30 IDPs as **human shields**.¹⁶⁷ On 21 Mar, regime forces raided and torched Nyawpyin and Aukkyaukwut villages, shooting dead a resident, destroying over 100 houses and forcing locals and residents from nearby villages to flee.¹⁶⁸

In **Tanintharyi Township**, junta troops arrested three civilians, alleged to be PDF members, charging them under the Counter-Terrorism Act in Tanintharyi town on 6 Mar.¹⁶⁹ On 10 Mar, regime forces shelled Lethit village, killing a child, injuring four other civilians, destroying at least two houses and forcing over 200 residents to flee.¹⁷⁰ On 31 Mar, fierce clashes between regime and resistance forces occurred in Chaung Hna Pauk village, forcing all residents of Chaung Hna Pauk and Thein Khun villages to flee.¹⁷¹

In **Yebyu Township**, regime troops fired at a bus after the driver refused to follow their order to stop, injuring five civilians including a woman on 8 Mar.¹⁷² On 11 Mar, regime forces arrested two 18-year-old girls. On 12 Mar, junta troops arrested two former political prisoners and four of their family members following an attempted killing of a militia leader by an armed group.¹⁷³ It was reported that the junta had ordered to enlist one person per household in mandatory military training or else pay a MMK 10,000 fine in **Bokepyin Township** on 10 Mar.¹⁷⁴

Naypyidaw Union Territory

On 1 Mar, nine prisoners escaped from a prison van carrying 19 men and two women, including six political prisoners. The van was headed for Yamethin Prison. Police shot dead one escaping prisoner and recaptured two. As of 2 Mar, six of the escaped prisoners had avoided capture.¹⁹⁰ In **Zabuthiri Township**, bombs exploded at the Mandalay Paradise restaurant (1 Mar) and a checkpoint (2 Mar).¹⁹¹ On 3 Mar, it was reported that a local resistance group bombed the house of a USDP executive advisor in Shwe Kyar Pin ward of **Zabuthiri Township**.¹⁹² On 13-14 Mar, resistance forces targeted a junta base in **Lewe Township**. Residents said that junta forces retaliated by firing two artillery shells. Fighting resumed the following day, reportedly leading to the injury of a junta commander.¹⁹³ On 24 Mar, junta forces arrested two PDF members who planned to attack the Armed Forces Day parade in **Pyinmana Township**.¹⁹⁴

¹⁵⁸ Than Lwin Times (31 Mar 2023) 2 residents killed, 4 others injured in junta attack in Belin, Thaton
¹⁵⁹ RFA (8 Mar 2023) သထုံမှာ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ကလေးနှစ်ဦး သေဆုံး; Than Lwin Times (9 Mar 2023) Two children killed by junta's artillery shell in Thaton
¹⁶⁰ Than Lwin Times (24 Mar 2023) Mamwlamyine under stringent check after attack on Southeastern Command
¹⁶¹ UNHCR (29 Mar 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 27 Mar 2023)
¹⁶² Than Lwin Times (5 Mar 2023) Five villagers killed, village torched in Launglon's lower Kyaukwut village
¹⁶³ RFA (4 Mar 2023) လောင်းလုံးမြို့နယ် အောက်ကျောက်ဝပ်ရွာ ဒေသခံခြောက်ဦး အသတ်ခံရ; DVB (4 Mar 2023) လောင်းလုံးတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က အမျိုးသား ၆ ဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်၊ နေအိမ် မီးရှို့
¹⁶⁴ DVB (6 Mar 2023) UN report condemns Burma Army 'scorched earth policy'
¹⁶⁵ Than Lwin Times (9 Mar 2023) Junta troops torch Karen Gyi village in Launglon
¹⁶⁶ Mon News (11 Mar 2023) လောင်းလုံးမြို့နယ် ပညာရပ်ရွာထဲ စစ်တပ် ဝင်ရောက်ပစ်ခတ်ပြီး နေအိမ်များမီးရှို့
¹⁶⁷ Than Lwin Times (18 Mar 2023) More than 30 displaced people arrested as human shields in Launglon Township
¹⁶⁸ Karen News (25 Mar 2023) Military Council conducts arson attacks across villages in Tanintharyi Region
¹⁶⁹ DVB (8 Mar 2023) China Special Envoy meets with regime and EAO leaders
¹⁷⁰ Than Lwin Times (11 Mar 2023) One child killed, four others injured in junta's artillery attack in Tanintharyi
¹⁷¹ Than Lwin Times (1 Apr 2023) fighting intensifies on the Tanintharyi-Mawdaung road
¹⁷² DVB (8 Mar 2023) China Special Envoy meets with regime and EAO leaders
¹⁷³ Than Lwin Times (14 Mar 2023) At least 10 local residents arrested in Yebyu
¹⁷⁴ Than Lwin Times (10 Mar 2023) Military council pressures every household to attend mandatory military training in Bokepyin
¹⁹⁰ RFA (2 Mar 2023) Prisoner killed as inmates break out of police van in Naypyidaw
¹⁹¹ RFA (3 Mar 2023) Myanmar's capital hit by 3 days of blasts
¹⁹² Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2023) Senior USDP official's home bombed in Naypyitaw
¹⁹³ Myanmar Now (15 Mar 2023) People's Defence Force attacks Myanmar army base in junta capital
¹⁹⁴ Mizzima (30 Mar 2023) Two Naypyitaw PDF fighters arrested before they can attack Armed Forces Day parade

Ayeyarwady Region

On 6 Mar, the junta sealed off eight houses of alleged PDFs or PDF supporters in **Ingapu**.¹⁹⁵ Resistance fighters targeted a junta column, policemen, and regime affiliates in **Ingapu** (2,8 Mar),¹⁹⁶ and junta troops and policemen in **Maubin** (6 Mar).¹⁹⁷

Mandalay Region

On 2 Mar, it was reported that junta troops had killed four alleged NLD supporters in **Myingyan Township**.¹⁹⁸ Junta troops killed or injured civilians in **Myingyan** (1 Mar),¹⁹⁹ and **Pyigyitagon** (16 Mar)²⁰⁰ Townships. On 9 Mar, junta forces arrested a factory owner in **Chanayethazan Township** after Burmese author and pro-democracy activist Pencilo posted on social media that their products were available in her grocery store in the U.S.²⁰¹ In **Madaya Township**, junta troops arrested 30 civilians from 10 villages (12-14 Mar)²⁰² and four villagers (23 Mar). They then beheaded and burnt a villager.²⁰³ On 28-29 Mar, junta forces burned houses in **Madaya Township**. Resistance forces attacked them the next day, killing six junta troops and injuring one.²⁰⁴

Resistance fighters targeted killing regime administrators in **Aungmyethazan Township** (21, 24 Mar),²⁰⁵ killing junta informants in **Aungmyethazan** (2 Mar),²⁰⁶ and **Myingyan** (12 Mar)²⁰⁷ Townships; and killing a deputy chief immigration officer in **Madaya Township**.²⁰⁸ On 27 Mar, resistance fighters killed a junta-appointed 100-household administrator in **Mahlaing Township**. Junta troops retaliated by arresting 14 locals, including a 70 year-old man.²⁰⁹ Resistance bombings and attacks targeted regime troops in **Thabeikkyin** (10, 29 Mar),²¹⁰ **Madaya** (10-11, 12 Mar), **Mandalay** (24 Mar)²¹¹, and **Tagaung** (28 Mar) Townships;²¹² a former police outpost in **Madaya** (3 Mar);²¹³ an administration office in **Chanmyathazi** (4 Mar);²¹⁴ a junta battalion, a police outpost, and a military vehicle factory in **Myingyan** (6, 9, 11 Mar);²¹⁵ **Chaug Sone** village's monastery and a junta checkpoint in **Taungtha** (6, 23 Mar),²¹⁶ a police station and an electric power corporation office (7 Mar),²¹⁷ a General Administration Department office and an Electricity Supply Corporation Office (13 Mar),²¹⁸ and a police station (21 Mar)²¹⁹ in **Natogyi**; the Road Transportation Department office in **Chanayethazan** (20 Mar);²²⁰ the district court in **Amarapura** (22 Mar);²²¹ a junta-owned building in **Maha Aungmye** (27 Mar);²²² and a police station in **Pyawbwe** (27 Mar);²²³ Townships.

¹⁹⁵ Network Media Group (8 Mar 2023) အင်္ဂပူတွင် နေအိမ် ၈ လုံး ချိတ်ပိတ်ခံရ

¹⁹⁶ Network Media Group (9 Mar 2023) အဖြေလွှာ ပို့သည့်ကား မိုင်းဆွဲ တိုက်ခံရ; Network Media Group (9 Mar 2023) အဖြေလွှာ ပို့သည့်ကား မိုင်းဆွဲ တိုက်ခံရ

¹⁹⁷ Network Media Group (8 Mar 2023) မအူပင် မြို့အဝင် ဆိုင်းဘုတ်အနီး ဖုံးကွယ် စစ်သားနှင့် ရဲအချို့ ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁹⁸ Irrawaddy (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Regime Forces Kill Four Villagers in Mandalay Region

¹⁹⁹ RFA (2 Mar 2023) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ်မှာ အရပ်သား ငါးဦးဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်ခံရ

²⁰⁰ DVB (20 Mar 2023) SNLD announces it will not re-register with UEC

²⁰¹ DVB (13 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing: At least 30 civilians killed in southern Shan State

²⁰² RFA (15 Mar 2023) မတ္တရာမြို့နယ်က အရပ်သား ၃၀ နီးပါးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ဖမ်းဆီး

²⁰³ DVB (23 Mar 2023) မတ္တရာတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ရှာသား ၁ ဦးကို ခေါင်းဖြတ်သတ်ပြီး မီးရှို့

²⁰⁴ DVB (29 Mar 2023) မတ္တရာတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီစစ်ကြောင်း မိုင်းဆွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး ၆ ဦးသေဆုံး

²⁰⁵ Irrawaddy (24 Mar 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; DVB (27 Mar 2023) US sanctions jet fuel suppliers; UEC to dissolve non-registered political parties

²⁰⁶ Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2023) မန္တလေးမြို့တွင် လူငယ်တစ်ဦးကို မြို့ပြပြောက်ကျားအဖွဲ့ ပစ်သတ်

²⁰⁷ RFA (13 Mar 2023) ကန့်ဘလူနဲ့ မြင်းခြံမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီနဲ့ ဆက်စပ်သူ ခြောက်ဦး သတ်ဖြတ်ခံရ

²⁰⁸ DVB (15 Mar 2023) မတ္တရာမြို့နယ် လ.ဝ.က ဒု-ဦးစီးမှူး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

²⁰⁹ DVB (28 Mar 2023) မလိုင်မြို့တွင် ရာအိမ်မှူး ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

²¹⁰ Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2023) Over 70 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (31 Mar 2023) At Least 40 Myanmar Junta Troops, Resistance Commander Killed in Four Days of Clashes

²¹¹ Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2023) Over 70 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (15 Mar 2023) Nearly 50 Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹² DVB (29 Mar 2023) တကောင်းမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်တပ်ယာဉ်တန်း မိုင်းဆွဲခံရ၊ မန္တလေး-မြင်းခြံလမ်းမပေါ်တွင် ကားတစ်စီးမိုင်းဆွဲခံရပြီး ဘုန်းကြီးနှင့် ယာဉ်မောင်း ဒဏ်ရာရ

²¹³ Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2023) 35 Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹⁴ Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2023) 35 Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹⁵ Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2023) Over 70 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹⁶ Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (24 Mar 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹⁷ Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2023) At Least 16 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²¹⁸ RFA (14 Mar 2023) နွားထိုးကြီးမြို့က စစ်ကောင်စီရုံးတွေ တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး တစ်ဦးသေ၊ သုံးဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

²¹⁹ Irrawaddy (24 Mar 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²²⁰ DVB (22 Mar 2023) 60,000 homes destroyed by arson; CSOs urge UN to prevent Rohingya repatriation

²²¹ DVB (22 Mar 2023) အမရပူရခရိုင်တရားရုံး ဖုံးပေါက်၊ ရဲ ၁ ဦးသေပြီး ၁ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

²²² DVB (27 Mar 2023) စစ်တပ်ပိုင် ရတနာပုံခန်းမအနီး ဖုံးပေါက်ကွဲ စစ်သား ၂ ဦးသေဆုံး

²²³ DVB (28 Mar 2023) ပျော်ဘွယ်မြို့နယ်၊ သောင်ကုန်းတိုက်နယ်ရဲစခန်း တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

Yangon Region

On 31 Mar, junta forces shot dead a civilian near Day Pauk village in **Kayan Township**.²²⁴ Resistance fighters targeted civilians, killing or injuring regime administrators in **Twantay** (3 Mar),²²⁵ **Insein** (18 Mar),²²⁶ and **Kayan** (30 Mar) **Townships**;²²⁷ killing two policemen near the border of **Kayan** and **Thongwa Townships**.²²⁸ On 17 Mar, unknown gunmen shot dead two policemen and a man in **Thaketa Township**.²²⁹ Junta forces retaliated by arresting five civilians on 18 Mar and shooting dead two on 19 Mar.²³⁰ On 18 Mar, junta forces arrested six people for allegedly sharing photos of anti-junta activities with a local news outlet in **Thaketa Township**.²³¹ On 24 Mar, a resistance group shot dead an alleged junta legal and money-laundering aide in **Thanlyin Township**.²³²

Resistance bombings and attacks also targeted a military weapons factory in **Taikkyi Township** (8 Mar),²³³ a ward administration office in **North Okkalapa Township** (16 Mar),²³⁴ the local Court in **Hlegu Township** (17 Mar),²³⁵ a police housing compound in **Yankin Township** (20 Mar),²³⁶ the township court in **Kyimyindaing Township** (23 Mar),²³⁷ the junta UEC office in **Hlaingthaya Township** (25 Mar),²³⁸ the junta-owned Mytel telecommunication towers in **Htantabin, Hlegu, and Mingaladon Townships** (27 Mar),²³⁹ and two police traffic inspection points in **Tamwe and Hlaing Townships** (28 Mar).²⁴⁰

Rohingya

On 5 Mar, in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh), a fire in a Rohingya camp destroyed over 2,000 houses, left some 12,000 people homeless and led to the disappearance of some 100 children. As of 9 Mar, around 20 children were still missing.²⁴¹ The Irrawaddy reported that Bangladesh was investigating the fire as it followed growing tensions between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO). According to a Bangladesh Army intelligence report, over 27% of the 222 fires in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar between January 2021-December 2022 were acts of sabotage.²⁴²

On 1 Mar, the UN World Food Programme reduced its assistance to Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar's camp due to a lack of funding. UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Tom Andrews reported that the cuts would impact nearly one million Rohingya who already had to cut back on essential food items due to spiking prices. He called on UN Member States to take action to prevent further dwindling of rations. UN News reported that four in 10 Rohingya children sheltering in Bangladesh were suffering from stunted growth.²⁴³ On 7 Mar, the UN and Bangladesh launched a 2023 joint response plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Geneva. Nikkei Asia, citing UN officials, reported a drop in overall funding of Rohingya camps in 2023 amid growing donor fatigue and international crises in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Pakistan. They foresaw less than 50% of the USD 876 million requested for 2023 will be met. Aid cuts are said to trigger further decline in minimum care standards, including nutrition, protection, shelter and health.²⁴⁴ On 7 Mar, the U.S. pledged an additional USD 26 million in humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and the SEA region for people affected by ongoing violence in Burma, reaching nearly USD 2.1 billion since August 2017.²⁴⁵

On 6 Mar, it was reported that the regime had tried to intimidate Rohingya people from Rathedaung Township (Rakhine State) into giving a favorable testimony as it faces genocide charges before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On 23 Jan, the junta restructured its special investigative tribunal to gather information and testimonies on the 2017 Rohingya genocide. Regime representatives allegedly met with over 30 survivors from Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.²⁴⁶

²²⁴ DVB (31 Mar 2023) ခရမ်းမြို့နယ်တွင် ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့က အရပ်သား ၁ ဦးကို ပစ်သတ်

²²⁵ DVB (6 Mar 2023) Daily Briefing: UN report condemns Burma Army 'scorched earth policy'

²²⁶ DVB (19 Mar 2023) အင်းစိန် ပေါက်တောဝတွင် ရာအိမ်မှူးအပါအဝင် ၃ ဦး သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

²²⁷ DVB (31 Mar 2023) ခရမ်းမြို့နယ်တွင် ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့က အရပ်သား ၁ ဦးကို ပစ်သတ်

²²⁸ Irrawaddy (31 Mar 2023) At Least 40 Myanmar Junta Troops, Resistance Commander Killed in Four Days of Clashes

²²⁹ Eleven Media Group (17 Mar 2023) Two police corporals and a man shot dead in Thaketa

²³⁰ RFA (20 Mar 2023) သာကေတမှာ ပြည်သူ့နှစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရပြီး ငါးဦးအဖမ်းခံရ

²³¹ DVB (21 Mar 2023) The NUG requests aid groups seek authorization to enter its territory

²³² Irrawaddy (25 Mar 2023) Yangon Guerrillas Kill Myanmar Junta Money Laundering Chief

²³³ Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2023) At Least 16 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

²³⁴ DVB 16 Mar 2023) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာပမြို့နယ် ယ ရပ်ကွက် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံး ဗုံးပစ်တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

²³⁵ DVB (20 Mar 2023) SNLD announces it will not re-register with UEC

²³⁶ DVB (22 Mar 2023) 60,000 homes destroyed by arson; CSOs urge UN to prevent Rohingya repatriation

²³⁷ DVB (23 Mar 2023) ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်တရားရုံးရှေ့ ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ

²³⁸ Mizzima (28 Mar 2023) Junta Election Commission office in Yangon bombed

²³⁹ DVB (28 Mar 2023) ထန်းတပင်နှင့် လှည်းကူးတွင် စစ်တပ်ပိုင် Mytel တာဝါတိုင်များ ဗုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

²⁴⁰ Mizzima (31 Mar 2023) Two attacks on Yangon traffic police in one day

²⁴¹ DMG (6 Mar 2023) Fire at Muslim refugee camp in Bangladesh leaves thousands homeless; Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2023) 20 children missing after fire at Rohingya refugee camp; AP News (6 Mar 2023) Fire at Rohingya camp in Bangladesh leaves refugees homeless

²⁴² Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2023) Bangladesh Probes Rohingya Camp Fire

²⁴³ UN News (2 Mar 2023) Food rationing for Rohingya refugees a 'matter of life and death': rights expert

²⁴⁴ Nikkei Asia (7 Mar 2023) Donor fatigue deepens Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

²⁴⁵ DVB (9 Mar 2023) US to increase humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees

²⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2023) Regime seeking out Rohingya witnesses for Myanmar's ICJ defence

On 8 Mar, in Maungdaw Township (Rakhine State) a junta official and a Rakhine State chief minister met with diplomats from China, India, Bangladesh, and representatives from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (ACHA) at a "transit" camp intended to receive Rohingya refugees returning from Bangladesh. An anonymous source at the camp said that returning refugees would be issued a household certificate (Form 66). A refugee in Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh said they were not consulted on repatriation and expressed that guarantees of safety, return to their original homes, and citizenship would be needed in order for them to agree to return.²⁴⁷ On 7 Mar the Chinese embassy said the Chinese ambassador had praised the junta's plans to return Rohingya refugees to Burma adding that Beijing would assist with the "rehabilitation" of the first group of returned refugees.²⁴⁸

On 9 Mar, in Sittwe Township (Rakhine State), the regime issued National Verification Cards (NVCs) to 36 Rohingya from the Thet Kae Pyin camp which houses over 6,400 IDPs. A young Rohingya civilian reported that most Rohingya people were refusing NVCs because the registration system was similar to the one for foreign nationals and did not grant freedom of movement. According to the Immigration act, NVCs are currently mandatory to apply for citizenship.²⁴⁹

On 14 Mar it was reported that activists and refugees criticized the junta's repatriation 'pilot project'. They underlined the lack of political stability in Burma and pressure from China, adding that the repatriation program was "just to look good in the international community". Rohingya Youth Association Director, Khin Maung questioned the regime's motives highlighting that junta needs to say how long returnees would be staying in the camps and where they would be sent afterwards. Former Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Touhid Hossain expressed concerns over the project, saying that sustainable repatriation could only be achieved when Rohingya would voluntarily return to Burma.²⁵⁰

On 15 Mar, a junta delegation led by Social Welfare Minister and Maungdaw district administrator visited Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh and met with refugees to scrutinize their documentation as part of the regime's repatriation 'pilot project'. The junta officials did not tell Rohingya refugees when their forced relocation would take place.²⁵¹

UN's collusion with illegal junta's forced repatriation plan

On 16 March the Myanmar Accountability Project (MAP) reported that it had obtained a leaked email sent by UN Resident Coordinator in Burma, Ramanathan Balakrishnan, to UN staff confirming that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme had provided their boats to be used by junta officials during their visit to areas housing Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh).²⁵² The email also revealed that the regime's "very firm request" was made on short notice and that the UNHCR fulfilled the request in accordance with its role stipulated in their MoU with the "de facto Ministry of Immigration and Population". Balakrishnan concluded his email describing the UN's work in Burma as requiring a "tight-rope act" guided by UN principles and that all UN agencies shared a collective accountability in maintaining the UN's reputation in Burma.²⁵³

On 19 Mar, the UNHCR confirmed it had transported junta officials aboard unmarked UN boats to Bangladesh the previous week to "engage in further talks and meet with refugees who could return under a pilot repatriation program." UNHCR however stated that conditions in Rakhine State were "not conducive to the sustainable return of Rohingya refugees." A Rohingya leader underlined the role of the UN during previous repatriations of Rohingya in 1978 and 1992. Former UN official and MAP Chris Guinness Director stated that removing UN markings from the boats was "a serious breach of UN neutrality" and put UN convoys across Burma at risk of being attacked by resistance groups.²⁵⁴

On 24 Mar, it was reported, that the regime had spent MMK 5 billion on their 'pilot program' to repatriate Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. However, the regime did not specify how the funds were spent. A resident of Maungdaw Township that the regime had built ten buildings in Nga Khu Ya village to house returned Rohingya refugees and that repairs on the buildings have stopped for four months.²⁵⁶

WPN: Rohingya at greater risk since coup

On 22 Mar, the Women's Peace Network reported on the deteriorating situation of Rohingya people in Burma and across South and Southeast Asia, calling for urgent international and regional action. The report highlights that the situation of 600,000 Rohingya in Burma rapidly worsened after the attempted coup. The regime has been targeting with arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence, and murder, and laws and policies that criminalize the exercise of fundamental freedoms, and. The report states that the junta arbitrarily arrested and detained at least 2753 Rohingya, including over 863 women, since 1 Feb 2021, sentencing most of them to two years in prison under the junta's Act 6(2)/6(3) of the 1949 Registration Law. It also underlines an increasing risk of genocide fueled by the national verification

²⁴⁷ DMG (9 Mar 2023): Foreign delegation visits refugee transit camps in Maungdaw Twsp

²⁴⁸ DMG (10 Mar 2023) Chinese ambassador praises junta preparations to repatriate Muslim refugees in Bangladesh

²⁴⁹ Narinjara (11 Mar 2023) Military council issues National Verification Card to 30 Muslim refugees

²⁵⁰ RFA (14 Mar 2023) Activists wary of project that would return 1,000 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar

²⁵¹ DMG (15 Mar 2023) Junta ministers visit Muslim refugee camps in Bangladesh

²⁵² The Myanmar Accountability Project (16 Mar 2023) Leaked Document Shows UN Participating in Rohingya Repatriation Pilot Despite Fears for Refugee Safety

²⁵³ The Myanmar Accountability Project (18 Mar 2023)

Leaked Email Shows UN Participating in Rohingya Repatriation Pilot Despite Fears for Refugee Safety

²⁵⁴ RFA (20 Mar 2023) UN refugee agency confirms involvement in junta boat transport

²⁵⁶ DMG (24 Mar 2023) Junta official says regime has spent 5 billion kyats on Muslim repatriation

cards system, naturalized citizenship, forced repatriation, life-threatening abuses, and restricting access to basic needs, essential services, safety, and protection. The report also highlights the deteriorating situation of Rohingya outside of Burma, including at sea and in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and India, where the majority of them seek refuge.²⁵⁷

On 8 Mar, the NUG stated that **483 women had been killed by the junta** across Burma since the attempted coup. It also said that the **junta had sexually assaulted 122 women and detained 3,125, 11 of whom received death sentences and 15 life imprisonment.** According to NUG Minister for Women, Youth and Children Affairs Susanna Hla Hla Soe, the **NUG is compiling documentation of the regime's crimes against women to hold it accountable.** Women's League of Burma Secretary General Nang Moh Moh underlined the **key role of international cooperation.**

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

On 7 Mar, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee criticized male-dominated governments for excluding women from peace negotiations, disregarding a 2000 UN resolution. UN women Executive Director Bahous underlined that politically motivated online abuse of women in Burma had increased by at least five times since the attempted coup, and the civic space for women organizations and activists had dramatically shrunk.²⁵⁸ On 8 Mar, women's organizations held small events for international women's day across Burma. Burmese Women's Union (BWU) joint secretary Zu Zue reported that fighting in Karenni and Bago Region/State had prevented larger gatherings.²⁵⁹

On 8 Mar, Women's Initiative Organization Chairperson Saw San Nyein Thu said legal actions against violence, discrimination, work exploitation and sexual harassment

of women in Rakhine State remained insufficient. Over 40 Rohingya women from the Phwaeyarkone IDP camp reported being raped by camp authorities. Saw San Nyein Thu stated that many more women and underaged children in IDP camps have been subjected to sexual harassment but they "did not dare to complain." Lawyer Daw Mya Thu Zar reported a decrease in complaints in 2022 due to the political situation despite an increase in sexual violence and human rights restrictions based on religion and custom--i.e. domestic violence--following the attempted coup.²⁶⁰ On 13 Mar, Gender Equality Network Director May Sabe Phyu and another women rights organization leader urged the U.N. Security Council to refer the regime to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and neighboring SEA countries to support the pro-democracy movement.²⁶¹

On 9 Mar, it was reported that junta forces had arrested at least 20 women and charged them under Article 505 (a) and (b) of Counter Terrorism Law in Indaw Township (Sagaing Region) following the arrest of two men at a checkpoint in Indaw on 3 Mar.²⁶² On 30 Mar, the regime court sentenced NLD member Thet Htar Hnaung to an additional 11 years in prison under the Counter-Terrorism Law and an 18-year-old Mayangone Student Union (Yangon Region) to three years in prison for incitement.²⁶³

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

On 3 Mar, NUG Ministry of Health reported that the junta had killed nearly 70 health workers, arrested nearly 900, and injured more than 780 between 1 Feb 2021 and 28 Feb 2023. In Jan 2023, the junta carried out airstrikes on health facilities, arrested, tortured, and killed health workers in violation of international and domestic laws.²⁶⁸ On 26 Mar, Narinjara reported that 10 cottage hospitals in several Townships in Rakhine State did not have doctors. One villager said that it had been two years since their village hospital had a doctor and that residents would have to go to the hospital in Mrauk-U using waterways. Locals made a call for doctors to be appointed in cottage hospitals across Rakhine State.²⁶⁹

On 2 Mar, it was reported that the junta's ministry of education ordered Karen State Education officers to impose rules to prevent the indoctrination of "western democratic culture" in private schools.²⁷⁰ On 8 Mar, the Rakhine State Education Department reported that 16,928 students (87.76% of the 19,290 registered students) had taken the matriculation exam in the State for the 2022-2023 academic year. They were 41,757 in 2021-2022.²⁷¹ Parents reportedly complained about power outages in some Sittwe wards during the exam. The electricity supply enterprise had issued a notice on 3 Mar, urging micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) not to operate from 5 p.m-6 a.m. during the exam period.²⁷² On 9 Mar, it

²⁵⁷ Women's Peace Network (22 Mar 2023) "We are targeted for being Rohingya in Myanmar and everywhere"

²⁵⁸ AP News (8 Mar 2023) Governments criticized for keeping women from peace talks

²⁵⁹ NMG (14 Mar 2023) Burma's Regime Prevents International Women's Day

²⁶⁰ Narinjara (10 Mar 2023) Efforts should be made to eliminate violence and discrimination against women in Arakan State, women rights activists say

²⁶¹ AP News (14 Mar 2023) Activists urge UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to court

²⁶² Kachin News Group (9 Mar 2023) Regime Continues Arrests Of Women In Indaw

²⁶³ DMG (2 Apr 2023) NLD member in Kachin State receives 11 more years for terrorism-related charge; DVB (3 Apr 2023) Mayangone Student Union member sentenced to three years in prison

²⁶⁸ Than Lwin Times (3 Mar 2023) Nearly 70 health workers killed in two years of military coup

²⁶⁹ Narinjara (26 Mar 2023) Rakhine residents deprived of healthcare facilities as doctors go missing in cottage hospitals

²⁷⁰ Than Lwin Times (2 Mar 2023) Learning democracy in school poses a big threat to military council

²⁷¹ DMG (8 Mar 2023) Nearly 17,000 students take matriculation exam in Arakan State

²⁷² DMG (8 Mar 2023) Sittwe parents, students complain of power outages during matriculation exam period

was reported, citing data from the junta's State Education Department that 5800 students, roughly 93% of the total registered, sat the matriculation exam in 23 exam centers in Mon State.²⁷³ On 9 Mar, it was reported, citing the junta's data, that the number of students registered for matriculation exam dropped by more than 100,000 students compared to registrations in 2022. 90% of the registered students sat the exam on March 8.²⁷⁴ On 15 Mar, staff from junta's communication department in Naypyitaw handed out propaganda pamphlets on the last day of matriculation exams. A teacher said that the regime was trying to brainwash students. A former junta army captain added that the junta referred to the matriculation exam period as "recruitment season", capitalizing on student's fragile psyches and emotional stress.²⁷⁵

The World Bank forecasts slow growth under the junta

	2020	2021	2022	Oct 2022 forecast for 2023	Apr2023 forecast for 2023
Thailand	-6.2	1.6	2.6	4.1	3.6
Vietnam	2.9	2.6	8.0	6.7	6.3
Cambodia	-3.1	3.0	5.2	5.2	5.2
Burma	3.2	-18.0	3.0	-	3.0

World Bank East Asia and the Pacific Economic Update April 2023: Reviving Growth - 31 Mar 2023

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

NUG urged PTTEP to cut ties with regime

On 20 Mar, the NUG sent a formal letter to PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP)—a subsidiary of the Thai state-owned PTT, requesting PTTEP to halt dividend payments from the Yadana offshore oil field project to the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and instead transfer future funds to an NUG-designated account. The NUG also requested that PTTEP hand over information on payments made to the junta and monthly reports of activities since the attempted coup.²⁷⁶ The letter also included a warning to PTTEP that the NUG would initiate an arbitration process if the company did not engage with them.²⁷⁷ During a press conference on 20 March the NUG minister of finance and planning said that the NUG was willing to wait 30 days for PTTEP to respond and that it was ready to file a lawsuit with the Singapore International Arbitration Center. The minister also said the NUG is in talks with two international donor organizations to fund the lawsuit.²⁷⁸ Upstream, a publication focusing on the oil and gas industry, reported that PTTEP confirmed it has yet to receive any communication from the NUG.²⁷⁹

European, Japanese, Thai and Indian firms help fuel junta atrocities

On 1 Mar, Amnesty International, Global Witness, and Burma Campaign UK reported that in Oct and Dec 2022, two aviation fuel shipments had arrived at the port terminal of Puma Energy Aviation Sun Co. Ltd. (PEAS), a former subsidiary of Swiss and Singapore-based Puma Energy. The rights organizations also identified companies that had provided services such as insurance, shipping, and financial services to vessels used for shipping aviation fuel from India, Thailand, Japan, Greece, and Luxembourg. Amnesty International revealed that Puma Energy had announced its departure from Burma in Oct 2022 and sold its assets to Shoon Energy, a subsidiary of Asia Sun Group, in Dec 2022. In Feb 2023, the US and UK sanctioned individuals and companies behind Asia Sun Group. Amnesty International, Global Witness, and Burma Campaign UK called on countries to suspend their export and transport of aviation fuel to the regime and suspend the provisions of third-party services around aviation fuel shipment.²⁸⁰

Junta pushed eyed energy projects while foreign companies exit

On 1 Mar, the junta Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with two Chinese companies and a local company to develop Burma's first wind power projects in Ann, Gwa and Thandwe townships (Rakhine State). The Irrawaddy, citing the junta MOEP and regime's Minister of Electric Power, reported that the projects could generate up to a total of 360 Megawatts by 2025. A local environmentalist revealed that the projects lacked transparency and public consultations, suggesting they would not benefit the community.²⁸¹

On 14 Mar, Justice for Myanmar (JfM), citing leaked tax filings, reported that the Swiss branch of Swedish firm AFRY AB and the Burma office of a subsidiary of Austrian-German firm ILF Group accepted a total of USD 5.78 million in fees from the regime for consultation work done during February 2021 - September 2022 and February 2021 - April 2022 respectively. AFRY AB consulted on the Upper Yeywa Project in Shan State and Middle Paunglaung Hydropower Project near Naypyidaw while ILF Group's subsidiary consulted on the Tha Htay Hydropower Project in Rakhine State. Human and

²⁷³ Thanlwin Times (9 Mar 2023) 93 % of students sit for matriculation exam in Mon State

²⁷⁴ DVB (9 Mar 2023) Over 160,000 students take matriculation exams, states regime

²⁷⁵ Myanmar Now (17 Mar 2023) Pro-military propaganda handed out to students taking matriculation exams in junta capital

²⁷⁶ The Irrawaddy (21 Mar 2023) NUG Demands Thai Energy Giant Switches Off Gas Payments to Myanmar Junta

²⁷⁷ National Unity Government (20 Mar 2023) National Unity Government Press Statement on Yadana Project

²⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2023) NUG requests cooperation from Thai oil and gas company, warns of potential legal action

²⁷⁹ Upstream (27 Mar 2023) Myanmar's shadow government wants petroleum revenues to stop flowing to junta

²⁸⁰ Amnesty International (1 Mar 2023) Myanmar: New shipments of aviation fuel revealed despite the military's war crimes

²⁸¹ Irrawaddy (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Regime Signs Wind Energy Deal With Chinese Companies

environmental rights group, The Namtu River Protectors also named firms from China, Japan and France as participants in the Upper Yeywa dam project. The group called on all foreign firms to withdraw from the project. JfM also called on companies involved in the projects to disclose their human rights due diligence, provide justification for advising the junta, to remediate damage already incurred per the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as well as suspending all remaining work until the establishment of federal democracy.²⁸²

On 6 Mar, it was reported that Keppel Land and Double Peak Holdings, the subsidiaries of Singaporean state-backed conglomerate, Keppel Corporation, announced their plans to sell their 100% stake in their Burma subsidiaries, Greenfield Development and Straits Greenfield, to Spring Blossom Ventures for USD 57.4 million. The subsidiaries operated the five-star Sedona Hotel Yangon. The divestment would be completed by the first half of 2023.²⁸³ Myanmar Now reported that the Keppel Corporation had not cited political or human rights concerns for its exit.²⁸⁴

Growing India-junta ties evidenced by India's arms component exports

On 1 Mar, JfM reported that Indian state-owned company, Yantra India Limited, had shipped 20 pieces of 122mm barrels to Burma in Oct 2022. Innovative Industrial Technologies Company Limited, owned by arms dealer Kyaw Kyaw Htun, received the shipment. JfM also reported that junta had indiscriminately fired 122mm howitzer rounds into civilian areas in Hpakant and Bhamo Townships (Kachin State) in December 2022. JfM highlighted that India is a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement adding that this transfer of weapons components demonstrated India's disregard for the Wassenaar Arrangement and international humanitarian law. JfM called on India to immediately impose an arms embargo on the junta and Yantra Limited to stop doing business with the junta.²⁸⁵

On 1 Mar, it was reported that junta leader Min Aung Hlaing had visited the India-Burma bilateral Kaladan transport project which started 12 years prior and links Sittwe's seaport (Rakhine State) to Paletwa (Chin State) via the Kaladan River and Paletwa to Mizoram State (Northeast India) by road. Min Aung Hlaing demanded for the project to be completed in 2023 despite the unstable situation in Rakhine State and resistance strongholds in Chin State.²⁸⁶

Garment industry exodus sparks labor rights fiasco

On 1 Mar, it was reported, citing the Solidarity Trade Union of Myanmar, that two Chinese-owned garment factories in Yangon announced their departure without giving prior notice to their workers, the junta's Ministry of Labor, Immigration, and Population, or their client, Primark. A Primark spokesperson said Primark expected suppliers to comply with their code of conduct and that their local staff would investigate the allegations.²⁸⁷

On 12 Mar, it was reported that employers have taken advantage of junta's lack of legal protections subjecting workers to forced labor, wage theft, and removal of worker's rights such as medical and maternity leave. A spokesperson of the Federation of General Workers of Myanmar (FGWM) said that workers who demanded for their rights to be respected were fired by employers. Than Lwin Times also reported that labor exploitation was most common in large garment factories in Yangon where workers faced physical and sexual assault if they failed meet a quota and that employers threatened to call regime forces on workers who protested for legal protection.²⁸⁸

On 30 Mar, it was reported that Japan's Fast Retailing Group, a global clothing retailer for UNIQLO, had decided to end outsourced production in Burma. The Japanese firm has joined other companies such as Marks & Spencer and Muji home goods chain operator, Ryohin Keikaku. It was also reported that increases in power outages, logistics breakdowns and tighter fuel supplies posed challenges to production. The CEO of EuroCham Myanmar said that responsible companies exiting would further deteriorate conditions for worker's rights and lead to greater unemployment. However, the weakened kyat has led to a growth in exports with the EU, US and Japan importing a combined USD 4.7 billion worth of goods from Burma - the highest value since 2011.²⁸⁹

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

Regime slapped with new sanctions

On 2 Mar, the US Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) added the junta Ministry of Transport and Communications, Fisca Security and Communication Co., and Naung Yoe Technologies Co. Ltd to its trade blacklist for 'facilitating or engaging in human rights abuses' by providing surveillance technology to the junta. They now face restrictive license applications, reviews and permission to export.²⁹⁰ On 24 Mar, the US announced additional sanctions on two individuals and six companies in Burma, including Asia Sun Trading Co. Ltd. and the Star Sapphire entities, who supplied

²⁸² Justice for Myanmar (14 Mar 2023) European Firms Paid Millions by Illegal Myanmar Junta for Disastrous Dam Projects; Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2023) 'Leave our country,' locals tell international firms involved in Myanmar junta hydropower projects

²⁸³ The Straits Time (6 Mar 2023) Keppel Land to divest Myanmar hotel project for \$77 million; Nikkei Asia (10 Mar 2023) Singapore's Keppel sells upscale Myanmar hotel for \$57m

²⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (7 Mar 2023) Singapore company divests from Myanmar hotel development subsidiary

²⁸⁵ Justice for Myanmar (1 Mar 2023) India Supporting Myanmar Junta Atrocities Through Supply of Gun Barrels

²⁸⁶ Irrawaddy (1 Mar 2023) Myanmar Junta Boss Visits Indian Transport Project

²⁸⁷ RFA (1 Mar 2023) Chinese firms shut Primark brand factories in Yangon

²⁸⁸ Than Lwin Times (12 Mar 2023) Worst labor exploitation occurs under military regime

²⁸⁹ Nikkei Asia (30 Mar 2023) Uniqlo owner joins clothiers exiting Myanmar

²⁹⁰ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2023) US Adds Three Myanmar Organizations to Trade Blacklist

the junta with jet fuel. Justice For Myanmar, the Sentry, and NUG spokesperson Nay Phone Lat welcomed the sanctions but Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies Executive Director Thein Tun Oo foresaw that such sanctions would not impact the junta as it could turn to Russia for jet fuel.²⁹¹

On 7 Mar, the **EU** sanctioned officials and entities from six countries, including the junta Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Toe Ui for being responsible "for systematic and widespread sexual and gender-based violence."²⁹²

On 27 Mar, the **UK** sanctioned the director of Shoon Energy, director of the Star Sapphire Group, and a company from Burma for supplying the junta with equipment and aviation fuel, barring any financial dealings with UK entities and travel to the UK.²⁹³ On 28 Mar, Burma Campaign UK and JfM welcomed the sanctions but called for a total ban on jet fuel sales to the junta.²⁹⁴ On 30 Mar, it was reported that the Shoon Energy Director had been tied to at least 10 other companies in Burma.²⁹⁵

Nothing new on the ASEAN front

On 3 Mar, **Malaysian** Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that ASEAN needed to be more assertive regarding the Burma crisis considering its impact on neighboring countries, including Malaysia which houses over 200,000 displaced people from Burma, mostly Rohingya. The Prime Minister suggested exploring new areas of collaboration with the junta.²⁹⁶

On 15 Mar, it was reported that **Indonesia** had engaged in discussions with various parties in Burma to address the crisis and that Indonesia and ASEAN's priority was to implement the five-point consensus. President Joko Widodo stated the importance of neutrality and of strengthening ties away from the public eye in "resolving complicated issues."²⁹⁷ On 16 Mar, **Singaporean** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced Singapore would work with Indonesia, other ASEAN members, and the UN to push the junta to implement a peace plan and the five-point consensus.²⁹⁸

Thailand continues to lend legitimacy to junta

On 29-30 Mar, the junta National Human Rights Commission joined the first working group meeting of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) under **Thailand's** chairmanship. Discussion topics included drafting ASEAN's Environmental Rights Framework and an action plan for the safety of journalists, cooperation with OHCHR, and group actions on statelessness.²⁹⁹

China gets involved in so-called 'peace process'

On 6 Mar, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing met with **Chinese** Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deng Xijun in Naypyidaw to discuss holding peace talks with EROs to ensure peace in border and interior areas, the participation of China in peace processes, and economic cooperation.³⁰⁰ On 7 Mar, Chinese ambassador Chen Hai visited the junta-appointed UEC in Naypyidaw and discussed election preparations, the status of political parties, and holding a "free and fair election in a peaceful and stable environment," according to junta media.³⁰¹

Civil society calls for accountability amid release of alarming reports

On 1 Mar, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) released its 2023 'accountability report,' stating that the regime had been committing crimes against humanity daily. AAPP called for targeted sanctions against regime officials and support of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). It also called on ASEAN to enact legislation that enables universal jurisdiction over the junta and International Criminal Court (ICC) Member States to refer the situation in Burma to the Court.³⁰² On 13 and 18 Mar, the Gender Equality Network, Women's League of Burma,³⁰³ and Democratic Youth Council (DYC) also called on the ICC to take action against the regime.³⁰⁴

On 2 Mar, Associates to Develop Democratic Burma (ADDB) highlighted the regime's continuous use of airstrikes targeting civilians, villages, and civilian infrastructures as a result of the regime's heavy losses on the ground in 'rural and ethnic regions.'³⁰⁵ On 13 Mar, Human Rights Watch (HRW) called for

²⁹¹ RFA (27 Mar 2023) U.S. sanctions two people, six entities for supplying Myanmar with jet fuel; Justice for Myanmar (JfM) (24 Mar 2023) Joint Statement Welcoming US Sanctions on Myanmar Cronies

²⁹² Mizzima (8 Mar 2023) EU includes Myanmar in sanctions for violence against women

²⁹³ Reuters (27 Mar 2023) Britain targets suppliers to Myanmar junta in new sanctions

²⁹⁴ Mizzima (28 Mar 2023) New UK aviation fuel sanctions welcome, but complete ban needed; JfM (28 Mar 2023) JfM welcomes UK and US sanctions on the Myanmar junta's jet fuel supply chain

²⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (30 Mar 2023) Businesswoman Sanctioned for Supplying Junta Tied to at Least 10 More Firms in Myanmar

²⁹⁶ Eleven Media (7 Mar 2023) Malaysia PM Anwar says Asean must not be silent, show it can help resolve Myanmar crisis

²⁹⁷ Eleven Media (15 Mar 2023) Indonesia in talks with Myanmar, says Jokowi as he stresses Asean's focus on a peaceful region

²⁹⁸ Nikkei Asia (16 Mar 2023) Singapore to push Myanmar peace plan with Indonesia, U.N., ASEAN

²⁹⁹ GNLM (31 Mar 2023) Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joins 1st Working Group Meeting of Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF)

³⁰⁰ Eleven Media (7 Mar 2023) SAC chair meets Asian Affairs Special Envoy in NPT

³⁰¹ Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2023) Chinese Ambassador Visits Myanmar Junta Election Chief

³⁰² Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) (1 Mar 2023) Towards Accountability: The Urgent Need for Renewed International Attention to Sit-Tat's Crimes Against Humanity in Burma

³⁰³ AP News (14 Mar 2023) Activists urge UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to court

³⁰⁴ Karen News (20 Mar 2023) DYC urges ICC to take action against Military Council for crimes against humanity

³⁰⁵ Associates to Develop Democratic Burma Inc (ADDB) (2 Mar 2023) Myanmar Military Air Strikes Target Civilians: An ASEAN Member State's Air Force Bombing IDPs, Villages, and Civilian Infrastructures

the adoption of tangible measures to hold the junta accountable for ongoing abuses. It also called on ASEAN's Indonesia Chair to support the adoption of additional Security Council measures and other countries' efforts to block the flow of revenue and arms to the junta.³⁰⁶

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

On 8 Mar, the NUG stated that 483 women had been killed by the junta across Burma since the attempted coup. It also said that the junta had sexually assaulted 122 women and detained 3,125, 11 of whom received death sentences and 15 life imprisonment. According to NUG Minister for Women, Youth and Children Affairs Susanna Hla Hla Soe, the NUG is compiling documentation of the regime's crimes against women to hold it accountable. Women's League of Burma Secretary General Nang Moh Moh underlined the key role of international cooperation.^{307 308} On 15 Mar, NUG's Ministry of Human Rights reported that the junta conducted 64 mass killings of more than five civilians in five states and regions between 11 Jul 2022 to 13 Mar 2023, killing 766 victims including 78 women and 62 children under the age of 18.³⁰⁹ On 16 Mar, Minister for Human Rights stated that the junta had committed four massacres since the beginning of Mar, killing a total of 52 people in S. Shan State, Sagaing, and Tanintharyi Regions. The Ministry also reported 64 massacres across Burma from Jul 2021-Mar 2023, resulting in 766 civilian deaths.³¹⁰ On 28 Mar, NUG Acting President Duwa Lashi La expressed his appreciation to political parties that didn't register for the junta sham 'election,' adding that the regime feared losing territorial control to the NUG and PDFs.³¹¹ In a filmed speech, NUG Prime Minister, Mahn Winn Khaing Thann called on regime personnel and police to defect and join the resistance against the junta. Citing the ministry of defense, he also claimed that the junta has suffered more than 30,000 deaths and more than 14,000 soldiers and police have defected since the 2021 coup.³¹²

On 11 Mar, NUCC launched the Federal Democracy Charter application for mobile phones, a website (<https://federaldemocracycharter.com/dl/fdc>) to read and download Federal Democracy Charter written in seven languages.³¹³ On 31 Mar, Commemorating the second anniversary of the Federal Democratic Charter, the NUCC and the NUG released a joint statement highlighting their commitment to draft a constitution and to consider the suggestions of "the revolution's key stakeholders" when building a Federal Democratic Union.³¹⁴

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³⁰⁶ Mizzima (14 Mar 2023) HRW: Concrete UN Security Council Action Needed in Myanmar

³⁰⁷ RFA (8 Mar 2023) Myanmar's junta killed nearly 500 women in just over 2 years

³⁰⁸ NUCC, via Facebook (8 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/f675a9a6>

³⁰⁹ Irrawaddy (18 Mar 2023) Myanmar Regime Massacres in Numbers; Ministry of Human Rights (15 Mar 2023) Statement regarding the mass killing of civilians by military terrorist group

³¹⁰ Narijara (17 Mar 2023) Military Council commits four massacres killing 52 during March

³¹¹ Than Lwin Times (30 Mar 2023) NUG president extends his appreciation to political parties that shun junta's elections

³¹² Irrawaddy (30 Mar 2023) Myanmar's Civilian PM Warns Junta Force to Defect

³¹³ NUCC, via Facebook (22 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2s47wsmt>

³¹⁴ NUCC, via Facebook (31 Mar 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/atp75jwu>