

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023:  
The illegal junta commits mass murder ahead of Buddhist new year**

- As of 28 Apr, there were at least 22,103 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,499,400 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- The junta’s 17 air strikes in April kill more civilians than during the entire period of Feb 2021 - Mar 2023.
- Junta carries out its deadliest air strike to date, killing 200 civilians in Sagaing before Thingyan; follows up with clearance operation.
- Clashes with junta forces near shadowy development project displaces over 10,000 civilians.
- Junta engages in witness tampering over Rohingya genocide case at the ICJ.
- Junta escalates attacks on healthcare workers and facilities in the first half of April.
- Junta head Min Aung Hlaing approves a 51% jump in military spending for 2023 - 2024.
- India and Thailand circumvent ASEAN, deal directly with the regime during secretive Track 1.5 meetings.
- The illegal junta continues to weaponize courts, jails ethnic religious leader and other activists.
- AAPP reports the regime handed out a total of 151 death sentences since the failing coup began.
- EU launders junta's reputation through MADE in Myanmar garment sector project.
- Foreign beverage giants benefit from boycotts of local brands; slake junta’s thirst for tax revenue.
- Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon pays visit to coup leader at junta's invitation; engages NUG after backlash.

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## Illegal junta's quest to cement control

### Parties sign up for MAHlection

On 7 Apr, it was reported that 63 parties will run in the junta's sham "election"; 12 out of the 63 parties will run for "elections" at the national level, while the rest will run at the state or regional level. It was also reported that the parties likely to run include the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the military's proxy party; the People's Pioneer Party (PPP), led by Thet Thet Khine, who is the Social Welfare Minister; and the People's Party (PP), led by 88-Generation student leader Ko Ko Gyi, who is now considered a pro-military politician.<sup>1</sup>

### The junta continues to target NLD and sham trials

On 19 Apr, citing individuals close to the court, it was reported that the junta's Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal by Aung San Suu Kyi against the convictions imposed by the regime. A veteran politician, Than So Naing, said that the junta is "buying time" and that it wants to portray the court as fair in response to criticism by the international community. A member of Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team doubted that the appeal would lead to an acquittal, but that it was meant to serve as a record of the court's injustice.<sup>2</sup>

On 2 Apr, it was reported that that in Myitkyina Township (Kachin State) a district court had sentenced NLD MP Thet Htar Hnaung to an additional 11 years in prison. She was previously sentenced to a year's jail for her role in founding the Committee Representing the Kachin State Hluttaw<sup>3</sup>

On 3 Apr, in Pyigyidagun Township (Mandalay Region), regime troops interrogated and executed the husband of a local NLD member who was in hiding. The regime returned the man's body to his family with signs of torture.<sup>4</sup>

On 25 Apr, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that the junta has seized 751 immovable properties between 1 Feb 2021 and 31 Mar 2023, and that 47% of affected property owners are Members of Parliament, NLD members, or NLD supporters.<sup>5</sup>

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

#### The junta continues to weaponize the courts, jailing activists and religious leaders

On 3 Apr, citing the AAPP, it was reported that at least 1,070 people have been killed in regime custody since the attempted coup began.<sup>6</sup>

On 5 Apr, it was reported that about 700 prisoners, most of whom were male political prisoners, had been secretly transferred from Yangon's Insein Prison to other prisons throughout the country between Dec 2022 and Jan 2023. Mizzima reported, citing former Political Prisoners Committee member Tun Kyi, that prison authorities neither informed nor obtained consent from the prisoners' families before moving them. The head of the Octopus Youth Organization added that three of their members were reportedly sent to Thayet prison in Magway Region; however, when their families contacted Thayet prison, staff at the prison said the three men were not there.<sup>7</sup>

On 3 Apr, in Sagaing Region, a junta court sentenced a PDF member, and three civilian women to life in prison for allegedly "funding terrorism" This included Thein Hla, a CDM teacher who was accused of donating the equivalent of US\$48-96 to the PDF.<sup>8</sup>

On 5 Apr, junta prison court in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region) sentenced student activist and anti-junta protest leader Wai Moe Naing (a.k.a. Monywa Panda) to another 34 years in prison. He was already serving a 12-year sentence for his activism.<sup>9</sup>

On 7 Apr, a regime prison court in Myitkyina sentenced prominent Reverend Dr. Hkalam Samson, former head of the Kachin Baptist Convention, to six years in prison under charges of unlawful association, terrorism, and incitement of opposition to the junta.<sup>10</sup> The US State Department issued a statement condemning the six-year sentence handed to Reverend Dr. Hkalam Samson, calling on the junta to end its repression against religious actors, communities, and places of worship in Burma.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Irrawaddy (7 Apr 2023) Myanmar Junta's Planned Election to be Contested by 63 Parties

<sup>2</sup> RFA (19 Apr 2023) Myanmar's junta-controlled Supreme Court to hear appeal by Aung San Suu Kyi

<sup>3</sup> DVB (2 Apr 2023) NLD member in Kachin State receives 11 more years for terrorism-related charge

<sup>4</sup> RFA (5 Apr 2023) National League for Democracy supporter dies during interrogation in Mandalay Palace

<sup>5</sup> AAPP (25 Apr 2023) The Junta's Property Seizures

<sup>6</sup> DVB (3 Apr 2023) Over 1,000 killed in regime custody; Min Aung Hlaing visits Rakhine State again

<sup>7</sup> Mizzima (5 Apr 2023) 700 prisoners secretly transferred from Insein to other prisons

<sup>8</sup> RFA (6 Apr 2023) Junta court sentences 4 people to life for 'funding terrorism'

<sup>9</sup> RFA (7 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta sentences strike leader to a further 34 years in prison

<sup>10</sup> DVB (7 Apr 2023) Kachin leader Hkalam Samson sentenced to six years in prison

<sup>11</sup> US Dept. of State (17 Apr 2023) Reverend Samson's Prison Sentence

On 7 Apr, in Sagaing Region, a regime court sentenced nine activists to prison terms ranging from 3 to 13 years.<sup>12</sup> On the same day RFA reported that the Insein Prison court had sentenced 13 youths to three years of hard labor for incitement. The youths had organized a flash protest in Sep 2022 and were rammed by junta forces in cars.<sup>13</sup>

On 21 Apr, in Yangon Region, regime courts charged a journalist and three celebrities for incitement after they had voiced their opposition online to the deadly bombing of Pa Zi Gyi village.<sup>14</sup> On 30 Apr, a junta court sentenced Su Thon Paing, a member of the Mayangone Student Union, to three years in prison under an incitement charge.<sup>15</sup>

On 7 Apr, the junta released two political prisoners: a 53-year-old Buddhist monk who had participated in the Saffron revolution and a 24-year-old student.<sup>16</sup> On 17 Apr, citing regime media, it was reported that the junta had freed over 3,000 prisoners as part of the New Year's amnesty, including former Minister of Planning and Finance, Kyaw Win. However, no other political prisoners were released that day.<sup>17</sup>

### **The junta targets youth with death penalty**

On 11 Apr, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that the junta has sentenced 151 individuals to death in addition to the four pro-democracy activists executed during 23-24 Jul 2022. The AAPP highlighted that 20 of the 34 those sentenced to death were under the age of 30. According to the AAPP, the regime has sentenced to death 42 individuals who were not present for trial; it has handed multiple death sentences to at least five individuals; and the law under which 16 individuals were sentenced is unknown.<sup>18</sup>

### **The junta's digital coup still poses a threat to civilians**

On 24 Apr, DigitalReach, a digital rights group, published its annual report on the situation in eight countries in Southeast Asia, featuring Burma. The report outlined the strategies of the junta's digital coup, such as raising taxes on SIM card registration and internet service, accessing private user data stored with internet service providers, doxing users on social media platforms, using data extraction technology, criminalizing the use of virtual private networks, and revoking of licenses for independent media. Women activists were usually targeted with sexual harassment and misogynistic comments, while men were attacked with homophobic slurs. DigitalReach told Global Voices that civil society groups in Burma needed support to continue their work on digital rights, adding that safety was an important concern.<sup>19</sup>

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

#### **MAH approves 51% jump in military spending, shocking civilian death toll from airstrikes**

During **Apr 2023** the junta carried out **17 air strikes targeting civilians, killing 195**, surpassing the number of civilians killed in air strikes since the attempted coup began. **From Feb 2021 to Mar 2023** junta air strikes had killed **189 civilians in total**.<sup>20</sup> Fatalities from air strikes in Apr 2023 alone accounted for over 29% of all reported air strike fatalities since 1 Feb 2021.

On Apr 4, UNICEF reported that there were 390 civilian casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Burma in 2022, a 37% increase from 284 in 2021. Out of the 390 casualties, 34% were children.<sup>21</sup>

On 12 Apr, UNICEF reported that during Jan - Feb 2023 there were 159 civilian casualties of landmines and ERWs, representing around 41% of the total casualties in 2022; Sagaing and Bago Regions, and Rakhine State accounted for 30%, 18% and 11% of the total casualties, respectively. It was also reported that 26% of the casualties in 2023 were children.<sup>22</sup>

On 2 Apr, it was reported that the junta had dismissed and replaced the commander of the Southeastern Command, in charge of coordinating military affairs in Mon and Karen states, and the head of Bureau of

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<sup>12</sup> RFA (10 Apr 2023) Sagaing court sentences activists to between 3 and 13 years in prison

<sup>13</sup> RFA (7 Apr 2023) Myanmar court jails 13 youths over protest that authorities rammed with cars

<sup>14</sup> RFA (21 Apr 2023) Junta arrests reporter, celebrities who criticized deadly Myanmar military airstrike

<sup>15</sup> DVB (3 Apr 2023) Mayangone Student Union member sentenced to three years in prison

<sup>16</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Apr 2023) Two Myanmar activists released, as two others are handed heavy sentence

<sup>17</sup> RFA (17 Apr 2023) Myanmar's junta frees more than 3,000 prisoners

<sup>18</sup> AAPP (11 Apr 2023) Sentenced to Death by the Junta

<sup>19</sup> Global Voices (24 Apr 2023) Underscoring the challenges of promoting digital rights in Southeast Asia; DigitalReach (2023) Digital Rights in Southeast Asia Annual Report 2023

<sup>20</sup> ACLED (28 Apr 2023) <https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard/63838A243CE198162963ACABE4631605>;  
<https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard/53FB1D860B6E321596E26CA54B7E580A>;  
<https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard/0EF9EF6FD0FF1E166BFFC271EC250D78>;  
<https://acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard/CF12BE10044FBC4896000539D035C81B>

<sup>21</sup> UNICEF (4 Apr 2023) Children pay a heavy price as more landmines are laid

<sup>22</sup> UNICEF (14 Apr 2023) Myanmar Landmine/ERW Incidents Information - Factsheet (January-February 2023)

Special Operations 4, overseeing activities in Karen and Mon States, and Tanintharyi Region.<sup>23</sup> A military analyst told The Irrawaddy that the reshuffling of these positions meant that the junta was losing ground in Karen State and that fighting would intensify there. However, a KNU spokesperson told The Irrawaddy that appointing new commanders would have no effect on the KNU and that it was the junta's usual procedure after suffering defeats.<sup>24</sup>

On 4 Apr, citing Chatham House, it was reported that satellite images had revealed increased construction activity on Coco Island (Yangon Region). It was also reported that new construction included an expanded runway and additional hangars. Chatham House analysts said that the hangars could house high-performance aircraft.<sup>25</sup>

On 5 Apr, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing approved a **51% increase in the regime's military spending** for the fiscal year 2023-2024, from USD 1.8 billion to USD 2.7 billion. A former junta officer claimed that the increased spending was not meant to "suppress" internal conflict but to bring the regime's military to a "modern standard". NUG human rights minister, Aung Myo Min said that expanding the regime's military budget will cause more civilian deaths.<sup>26</sup>

On 24 Apr, the Karen National Union (KNU) convened its 17th congress, but due to security concerns, sources did not disclose the location, duration, or participants of the event. Myanmar Now reported, citing KNU officials, that the election of new leadership during the congress is expected to resolve internal disagreements around the KNU's stance on anti-regime resistance.<sup>27</sup> The Irrawaddy reported that all seven Brigades of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) attended the first day of the congress, but Brigades 2 and 5 were not present after the first day.<sup>28</sup>

On 28 Apr, citing the Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP-Myanmar), it was reported that armed clashes had displaced at least 682,344 people in the first four months of 2023, constituting over 25 percent of the total number of IDPs across Burma since the attempted coup began.<sup>29</sup>

### **Sagaing Region**

Junta forces continued their raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported that 763,100 civilians had been displaced in the region as of 1 May 2023.<sup>30</sup>

**In Kalay Township** junta troops clashed with several combined resistance groups, while carrying out air strikes and shelling the area between Pyin Taw U and Nan Saung Pu villages. During 1-3 Apr regime forces fired heavy artillery at the villages. On 4 Apr regime aircraft bombed the area near Pyin Taw U. The fighting has displaced 27,000 locals from 11 villages as of 4 Apr.<sup>31</sup> On 6 Apr, regime soldiers vacated Pyin Taw-U village after having occupied the village during recent clashes with resistance forces. The junta troops left behind the bodies of two civilians and an alleged member of the local defence force that showed signs of torture.<sup>32</sup>

On 8 Apr, in **Kyunhla Township**, regime-backed Pyu Saw Htee militia forces pressured the administrators of Kyauk Aing, Ta Paung and Ngat Pyaw Taw villages to surrender about 50, 25, and 30 people respectively for military training. According to sources close to residents of the Kyauk Aing village tract, Pyu Saw Htee troops demanded replies after a week and also threatened to torch the villages if their demands were not met.<sup>33</sup>

**In Pale Township**, a clash broke out on 2 Apr between regime troops and resistance forces near Hnaw Kan village. On 3 Apr, regime troops raided the village, forcing over 4,000 residents from six villages to flee. Junta soldiers torched all houses except seven out of over 200. Locals were unable to identify which battalion had attacked their village but said the junta troops were reinforced by Pyu Saw Htee militia.<sup>34</sup>

**In Salingyi Township**, regime troops shot dead a resident on 1 Apr near Kan Kone village, and arrested another who was later found dead on 3 Apr. The troops were advancing along the Pathein-Monywa road

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<sup>23</sup> Than Lwin Times (2 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta removes some top military officials dealing with Karen issues

<sup>24</sup> Irrawaddy (1 Apr 2023) Myanmar Junta Sacks Commander After Heavy Casualties in Karen State

<sup>25</sup> RFA (4 Apr 2023) New construction spotted on Myanmar island

<sup>26</sup> RFA (12 Apr 2023) Military budget boost will lead to more civilian deaths in Myanmar: Observers

<sup>27</sup> Myanmar-Now (27 Apr 2023) KNU begins long-postponed congress amid ongoing conflict

<sup>28</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Apr 2023) Myanmar's Oldest Ethnic Armed Organization Reconvenes Congress to Elect New Leadership

<sup>29</sup> RFA (4 Apr 2023) Report: Almost 700,000 people in Myanmar have fled their homes since January

<sup>30</sup> UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 1 May 2023)

<sup>31</sup> Khonumthung Media Group (11 Apr 2023) Nearly 30,000 people displaced by clashes in northern Kalay Township; Myanmar Now (5 Apr 2023) Tens of thousands flee amid junta offensive in northern Kalay

<sup>32</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Apr 2023) Three dead bodies found in northern Kalay Township village

<sup>33</sup> VOA (10 Apr 2023) Intense fighting rages near Mekanei village as Military Council continues heavy shelling and air raids

<sup>34</sup> RFA (3 Apr 2023) More than 4,000 villagers forced to flee fighting in Sagaing region

to provide security for the Letpadaung copper mine project, jointly run by China's state own mining company and the junta's Myanmar Economic Holdings, Ltd.<sup>35</sup>

In **Khin-U Township**, junta troops raided Mya Kan village on 19 Apr, and detained five villagers whom they used as human shields amid clashes with local resistance forces. The regime column then raided and torched nearby Aung Thar village and shelled nearby villages after stationing in Kyun Lal village. Regime raids forced over 20,000 residents of 16 villages to flee.<sup>36</sup>

On 24 Apr in **Indaw Township**, villagers discovered the mutilated, charred bodies of five locals who had been arrested a month earlier. The junta claimed the men were PDF members killed in battle, but there was no fighting at that time.<sup>37</sup>

In **Sagaing Township**, during 21-25 Apr, the notorious “Ogre Column” - made up of around 100 soldiers from Light Infantry Division 99 - reportedly committed atrocities along the Mu River, torching 450 homes in at least six villages. On 23 Apr, they tortured and beheaded a local farmer in Ta Pa Yin Kwe village after raiding and burning down 53 houses and a Buddhist event hall.<sup>38</sup>

## JUNTA CARRIES OUT ITS DEADLIEST AIR STRIKE TO DATE

On **11 Apr**, the junta carried out air strikes in **Kanbalu Township** on a gathering in celebration of the opening of a public administration building in Pa Zi Gyi village. A **fighter jet from North Western Command Headquarters in Monywa Township** strafed the village four times. Ten minutes later, a **Mi35 helicopter from Ta-Da U Township carrying regime troops opened fire on the civilians**. A survivor reported that civilians who were injured in the first attack but had survived were killed in the second attack.<sup>39</sup> The **junta helicopter opened fire again on first responders** attempting to rescue survivors and gather the bodies of those killed. A rescue worker said **“we can say they attacked three times.”**

Late on 11 Apr, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun publicly claimed that the junta’s air strike hit a “weapons’ storage” and that the ensuing explosion had killed civilians on the ground.<sup>40</sup>

On 12 Apr, **initial reporting** on the incident stated that the regime air strikes had **killed over 100 villagers**, including women and children, and injured over 50.<sup>41</sup> On the same day, it was also reported that the junta had deployed a surveillance helicopter and stationed troops near the village, further impeding efforts to rescue the injured and collect the remains of those killed in the attack. As of 12 Apr, rescue workers had cremated 83 bodies including 22 minors.<sup>42</sup> **On 14 Apr the estimated number of casualties had reached 163.**<sup>43</sup> In a statement on **16 Apr**, the **NUG reported** that the regime’s airstrike had **killed 168 people**, including 40 minors.<sup>44</sup> On 17 Apr, a local PDF member was quoted estimating that about 200 locals were killed by the junta air strike, if the missing were taken into account. About 70 Pa Zi Gyi residents were reportedly still sheltering in forests, and six more of the injured had died as of 16 Apr.<sup>45</sup>

**On 20 Apr**, regime **aircraft bombed** Pa Zi Gyi village again, setting some remaining buildings on fire, before junta troops on the ground shelled and raided the village.<sup>46</sup> The regime's air strike and artillery fire forced as many as **5,000 people** from Pa Zi Gyi and seven nearby villages to **flee**. A Kanbalu resident said that the attack looked like a **"clearing-operation"**.<sup>47</sup> On 24 Apr, the head of a local PDF expressed his belief that the junta was trying to hide or destroy evidence that it had killed civilians in 11 Apr air strike. Claims also emerged that the second air strike killed nearly 20 junta troops, but RFA was unable to independently verify them.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Myanmar Now (4 Apr 2023) Two men killed by junta soldiers near Letpadaung mine

<sup>36</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Apr 2023) Tens of Thousands Flee Myanmar Junta Raids in Sagaing

<sup>37</sup> RFA (26 Apr 2023) Locals find mutilated bodies of 5 fellow villagers in Myanmar’s Sagaing region

<sup>38</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Apr 2023) Myanmar military continues rampage across Sagaing Region; RFA (25 Apr 2023) Myanmar military beheads man in Sagaing region village

<sup>39</sup> DVB (11 Apr 2023) ကန့်ဘလူ ပဇိကြီးရွာကို စစ်ကောင်စီက လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်၊ ကလေးများအပါအဝင် ရာချီ ဒဏ်ရာရသေးဆုံး; Myanmar Now (17 Apr 2023) 'Can nobody save us?' – Eyewitnesses recount Myanmar military airstrike on Kanbalu

<sup>40</sup> Reuters (13 Apr 2023) Myanmar military justifies deadly attack on insurgent ceremony

<sup>41</sup> RFA (11 Apr 2023) Myanmar’s military bombs village ceremony killing scores of civilians

<sup>42</sup> RFA (12 Apr 2023) Military stymies rescue efforts at scene of Myanmar strike that killed at least 80

<sup>43</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Apr 2023) Death toll for Kanbalu massacre surpasses 160

<sup>44</sup> NUG (16 Apr 2023) ပဇိကြီးရွာ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရမှု နောက်ဆုံးရသေဆုံးသူစာရင်း

<sup>45</sup> RFA (17 Apr 2023) Death toll from Myanmar junta air attack on northern village rises to 200

<sup>46</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Apr 2023) Myanmar Junta Bombs Pazi Gyi Nine Days After Massacre

<sup>47</sup> RFA (20 Apr 2023) Junta bombs Myanmar village again where earlier strike killed 200

<sup>48</sup> RFA (25 Apr 2023) Junta’s second bombing of Sagaing village meant to destroy evidence, rebels say

## Magway Region

On 10 Apr, RFA reported that in late March, regime-appointed municipal authorities had ordered about 100 families living in a ward adjacent to the Magway air force base to relocate their homes by 20 May. Some locals speculated that the regime feared resistance forces' attacks on the air base.<sup>49</sup>

In **Myaing Township**, three soldiers and four police officers defected to the local PDF on 3 Apr. They received MMK 10.6 million each as a reward for their defection.<sup>50</sup> On 18 Apr, two regime aircraft attacked Ma Gyi Kan village before airlifted junta troops raided the village and a Japan-Myanmar Friendship hospital. The troops killed a 15-year-old boy and destroyed four houses and two vehicles. They initially detained over 100 people, then abducted 19 people upon leaving the village, including the doctor and a female medic.<sup>51</sup>

In **Minhla Township**, local resistance forces launched two short-range missiles at the No.10 Defense Industry (DI-10) on 7 Apr, destroying their factory that produces long-range rockets, tank ammunition, and surface-to-air missiles. Than Lwin Times reported that the attack coincided with a recent visit from Chinese, Russian, and North Korean experts, but was unable to verify this claim, while junta media has not publicized this incident.<sup>52</sup>

## Chin State

On 31 Mar, regime forces torched nine houses in Kalar village following a clash with Chin resistance forces near the village in **Matupi Township**. They burned down 21 more houses before leaving the village the next day.<sup>53</sup> On 1 Apr, regime shells damaged nearly 20 houses in Tlangrawn village in **Falam Township**. On 3 Apr, junta troops torched six houses in Tlangzar village following a clash with Chin resistance forces near the village.<sup>54</sup> On 10 Apr, a regime fighter jet bombed a school run by the Chin National Defense Force (CNDF) in Waibula town, killing 11 civilians, injuring seven others, and destroying some homes. There was no fighting nearby at the time.<sup>55</sup>

On 16 Apr, regime aircraft bombed Panpar village in **Mindat Township**, killing three civilians including two minors, injuring six civilians including four women, and destroying nine houses. There was no fighting in the area prior to the airstrike.<sup>56</sup>

On 25 Apr, it was reported that **Matupi Township** residents had been facing growing socioeconomic hardships with food shortages, high prices, and lack of information. Since declaring martial law, the regime had been practicing its four-cuts policy, which includes blocking transportation of food and medicine via vehicle roads, as well as communication by cutting cellphone and internet services.<sup>57</sup>

On 27 Apr, regime forces conducted an airstrike over Tlanglo village in **Thantlang Township**, killing two villagers including a CDM teacher, injuring at least five others, and destroying at least five houses. The attack occurred after local resistance forces raided and captured a regime outpost between Thantlang and Hakha Townships. Between 30 Mar and 27 Apr, at least 23 civilians died due to regime airstrikes in Chin State.<sup>58</sup> UNHCR said there were around 54,200 IDPs in Chin State as of 1 Mar, including 48,700 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>59</sup>

## Rakhine State

Despite the junta's promises to ease travel restrictions, cease roadblocks around Sittwe, and allow food and medicine deliveries statewide as part of the verbal temporary ceasefire agreement between the regime and the AA, brokered by Nippon Foundation chair Yohei Sasakawa, has not mitigated the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State.<sup>60</sup> It was reported on 7 Apr that the regime's ongoing ban on the transportation of medicines to Rakhine State since Aug 2022 not only prevented the Arakan Army (AA) from obtaining medical supplies but also led to medicine shortages in pharmacies across **every township**, impacting residents the most.<sup>61</sup> On 8 Apr, it was reported that **IDP camp shelters in Rakhine State** were damaged

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<sup>49</sup> RFA (10 Apr 2023) Myanmar authorities tell residents to relocate away from Magway's air force base

<sup>50</sup> Than Lwin Times (4 Apr 2023) 7 soldiers and police defect to local resistance force in Magway

<sup>51</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta carries out air attack targeting community health centre and PDF base in Myaing

<sup>52</sup> Than Lwin Times (10 Apr 2023) Resistance force in Magway fire 2 missiles at No.10 Defense Industry

<sup>53</sup> Khonumthung Media Group (11 Apr 2023) Junta sets fire to 66 percent of houses in Kalar village in Matupi Township

<sup>54</sup> Khonumthung Media Group (11 Apr 2023) Burma army sets fire to six civilian houses in Tlangzar village, Falam Township

<sup>55</sup> DMG (10 Apr 2023) Junta airstrikes on Chin State town kill 11, injure seven others

<sup>56</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2023) Three civilians killed in junta airstrike on Chin village

<sup>57</sup> Karen News (25 Apr 2023) After 10 weeks of martial law in Matupi Township life is difficult for local people

<sup>58</sup> Khonumthung (30 Apr 2023) Jet Fighter Kills 2 Civilians Near CNF Headquarters

<sup>59</sup> UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 01 May 2023)

<sup>60</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Nov 2022) Myanmar Military and Arakan Army Agree Temporary Truce in Rakhine State; Irrawaddy (29 Nov 2022) Rakhine Truce Between Myanmar Junta and Arakan Army 'Hanging by a Thread'

<sup>61</sup> Narinjara (7 Apr 2023) Rakhine State medical supplies still blocked by the Junta after 8 months

and camp officials were in dire need of funding to repair them before the rainy season.<sup>62</sup> On 10 Apr, it was reported that residents of Rakhine State had called on authorities to improve **healthcare services** by providing enough doctors and procuring necessary medical devices.<sup>63</sup> On 11 Apr, it was reported that over 650 IDPs at three IDP camps in **Ponnagyun Township** (Rakhine State) were facing starvation as they could no longer depend on selling firewood to earn a living, and they no longer receive relief supplies from authorities, international aid agencies, or local civil society organizations.<sup>64</sup>

On 24 Apr, it was reported that the regime had forced IDPs, displaced due to the fighting between the regime and the Arakan Army (AA), to return home with a pledge of providing cash relocation assistance, but some returnees have yet to receive the money. Following an informal ceasefire agreement with the AA in late November, the regime has **forced IDPs to return**, without clearing landmines first. The number of returnees has reached about 7,000.<sup>65</sup> On 29 Apr, it was reported that IDPs in **Buthidaung Township** (Rakhine State) were urgently requesting assistance to repair the old, damaged dormitories in their camps before the start of the rainy season. According to a camp resident, IDP camps have not received any subsidies from any organization for nearly a year, adding that they had already sold all belongings to buy food and maintain adequate living conditions.<sup>66</sup>

### **Kachin and Northern Shan States**

On 9 Apr, it was reported that two junta fighter jets attacked Si Thaug village in **Shwegu Township**. Following the airstrikes, ground troops burned all remaining houses. It was reported that due to intense recent clashes with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDF in the area, junta jets attacked Si Mulay and Mang Wein villages on 30 Mar; Si Mulay, Si Mugyi and Si Tha villages on 5 Apr; Tongkok and Si Thaug villages on 6 Apr and Mang Hker and Si Thaug villages on 9 Apr.<sup>67</sup> On 24 Apr, it was reported that the junta reportedly killed two youths in retaliation after an unidentified armed group killed a junta major and four businessmen at restaurant in **Hpakant Township**, on 23 April.<sup>68</sup>

On 2 Apr, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) troops abducted a father in order to force his daughter to join the TNLA. It was reported, citing locals, that the TNLA had been forcibly recruiting young men and women in **Mangton Township** since March. A local resident said that the TNLA would abduct older family members if the adult children of the family were not present at the time of the forced recruitment.<sup>69</sup>

On 5 Apr, it was reported that junta forces shelled and clashed with PDF groups in **Nawngkhio Township**, causing locals to flee. Junta shelling killed two children, injuring both of their parents and one other woman, destroying one house, and reportedly torching eight acres of sugar cane.<sup>70</sup>

On 7 Apr, the junta launched artillery and aerial attacks against the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) near Ner Mahkaw village in **Lashio Township**. An artillery shell injured three people including an 18-month-old child from the village. TNLA soldiers reportedly did not shoot back and retreated from the village.<sup>71</sup> On 11 Apr, it was reported, citing locals, that around 300 United Wa State Army (UWSA) crossed into the west side of Salween River reportedly forcing TNLA and Myanmar National Democratic Force Army (MNDAA) forces to retreat from the area.<sup>72</sup> On 18 Apr, it was reported, citing Mandalay PDF, that clashes between junta troops and resistance forces in **Nawngkhio Township** from 5-16 Apr killed 75 junta troops and seven resistance members. During the clashes, the junta launched 27 airstrikes and accidentally killed 30 of its own troops.<sup>73</sup> On 22 Apr, it was also reported that an intense clash between junta troops and multiple PDFs caused more than 1,000 people to flee. Citing local volunteers, it was reported that clashes had broken out daily since 5 Apr and the number of IDPs had reached 4,000 in the township.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> DMG (8 Apr 2023) Dilapidated IDP shelters need repairs ahead of rainy season: displacement camp officials

<sup>63</sup> DMG (10 Apr 2023) Locals complain of staffing, supply inadequacies in Arakan State healthcare system

<sup>64</sup> DMG (11 Apr 2023) IDPs going hungry in Ponnagyun Twsp displacement camps

<sup>65</sup> DMG (24 Apr 2023) Some IDP returnees in Arakan State yet to receive cash assistance from junta

<sup>66</sup> Narinjara (29 Apr 2023) Urgent repairs needed for dilapidated IDP camps in Buthidaung before rainy season

<sup>67</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Apr 2023) All houses in Si Thaug village burned down by Burma army airstrikes and ground troops

<sup>68</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Apr 2023) Burma army killed two youth in retaliation for murder of military officer and businessmen at Happy KTV

<sup>69</sup> Shan Herald (7 Apr 2023) TNLA Continues Forced Recruitment in Mantong Township

<sup>70</sup> Shan Herald (12 Apr 2023) Two Children Killed by Military Regime Shelling in Nawngkhio Township

<sup>71</sup> Network Media Group (9 Apr 2023) Three people including an infant wounded by Burma army shelling in Lashio Township

<sup>72</sup> Shan Herald (11 Apr 2023) UWSA Deploys Large Number of Troops to Lashio District

<sup>73</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2023) Heavy casualties reported after 10 days of fighting in northern Shan State

<sup>74</sup> Shan Herald (27 Apr 2023) Thousands of People Displaced by Recent Clashes in Nawngkhio Township

## Karenni and Southern Shan States

On 27 Apr, it was reported an outbreak of seasonal influenza and diarrhea affected IDPs, especially children and elderly people in **Demoso Township**. Clashes in the area disrupted the transport of food rations and medicine to IDPs.<sup>75</sup>

On 30-31 Mar, clashes were reported between Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army-South (RCSS/SSA-S) and Pa-O National Liberation Organization/Pa-O National Liberation Army (PNLO/PNLA) in **Maukmai Township**. Citing RCSS/SSA's Tai Freedom, it was mentioned that PNLO/PNLA had invaded the RCSS/SSA camp in Nampartet village and started the clash. PNLO claimed that the attack was a result of RCSS security forces crossing into PNLO/PNLA territory, despite both being members of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) and having signed the NCA.<sup>76</sup>

On 2 Apr, the junta indiscriminately shelled the eastern part of Moby town in **Pekon Township** killing one man, injuring a further four including a child and destroying some houses.<sup>77</sup> On 24 Apr, it was reported that clashes between the Shan State Progress Party/Shan state Army-North (SSPP/SSA-N) and the RCSS in **Laikha Township** forced more than 500 locals to flee.<sup>78</sup>

On 25 Apr, junta jets bombed Saung Hpwya village in **Pekhoh Township**, seriously injuring five civilians, including two women, and destroying buildings and vehicles. Two bombs landed in a hospital compound but did not detonate.<sup>79</sup> On 25-28 Apr, junta troops arrested civilians in **Pinlaung Township** and used them as human shields. The head of a local resistance group claimed that the junta had killed the abductees after using them. It was reported, citing the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF), that on 28 Apr junta troops had arrested villagers from Leh Kyar village.<sup>80</sup>

## Karen State

On 1 Apr, Thai authorities arrested three members of the anti-junta Lion Battalion seeking medical treatment in Thailand at the Thai-Burma border between **Myawaddy Township** and **Thailand's Tak Province**. On 4 Apr, Thai authorities transferred the three resistance fighters into the custody of the junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF). Myanmar Now reported, citing an anonymous source, that BGF troops opened fire on the resistance fighters as they attempted to escape from the boat transporting them.<sup>81</sup> A spokesperson for the Lion Battalion told Radio Free Asia that one of the resistance fighters died from his injuries.<sup>82</sup>

On 2 Apr, it was reported that the junta had dismissed and replaced the commander of the Southeastern Command, in charge of coordinating military affairs in Mon and Karen states, and the head of Bureau of Special Operations 4, overseeing activities in Karen and Mon States, and Tanintharyi Region.<sup>83</sup> A military analyst told The Irrawaddy that the reshuffling of these positions meant that the junta was losing ground in Karen State and that fighting would intensify there. However, a Karen National Union (KNU) spokesperson told The Irrawaddy that appointing new commanders would have no effect on the KNU and that it was the junta's usual procedure after suffering defeats.<sup>84</sup>

Fighting continued in Karen State. During 3-4 Apr, regime forces raided Letpanbyu village in **KNU-defined Toungoo District (Northern Karen State)**, destroying houses, stealing five motorcycles and belongings, and shooting a resident dead. Junta forces also took 16 villagers as guides and porters before releasing seven of them on 5 Apr.<sup>85</sup> On 3 Apr, regime troops opened fire at Yoe Mahar village in **Kawkareik Township**, killing a 13-year-old girl.<sup>86</sup>

On 5 Apr, the junta conducted airstrikes on inner and outer Mae Kane villages in **KNU-defined Dooplaya District (Southern Karen State)**, amid clashes with combined Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) forces, forcing all residents to flee.<sup>87</sup> On 6 Apr, regime forces arrested two young men and demanded a ransom of MMK 500,000 each for their release in **Hpa-an Township**. Karen News reported that junta

<sup>75</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (27 Apr 2023) Outbreak of seasonal influenza and diarrhea hits IDPs in eastern Demoso Township

<sup>76</sup> Shan Herald (5 Apr 2023) Fighting Continues Between RCSS and PNLO in Southern Shan State; Tai Freedom (3 Apr 2023) မောက်မယ်မြို့နယ်တွင် PNLOတပ်ဖွဲ့မှ RCSS တပ်စခန်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်တိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>77</sup> Shan Herald (7 Apr 2023) Junta Shelling of Civilian Areas in Mongpai Town Kills One and Wounds Four

<sup>78</sup> Shan Herald (24 Apr 2023) More Than 500 People Flee After Clash Between Two Shan Forces in Laikha Township

<sup>79</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Apr 2023) Two people critically injured in junta airstrikes on southern Shan State hospital

<sup>80</sup> Shan Herald (30 Apr 2023) Sit-tat Abducts Civilians in Pinlaung

<sup>81</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Apr 2023) Three Myanmar resistance fighters detained in Thailand and delivered to junta ally

<sup>82</sup> RFA (10 Apr 2023) Anti-junta fighter killed during deportation from Thailand to Myanmar

<sup>83</sup> Than Lwin Times (2 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta removes some top military officials dealing with Karen issues

<sup>84</sup> Irrawaddy (1 Apr 2023) Myanmar Junta Sacks Commander After Heavy Casualties in Karen State

<sup>85</sup> Than Lwin Times (7 Apr 2023) 16 residents arrested as porters, one shot dead in KNU's Leiktho

<sup>86</sup> DVB (5 Apr 2023) NUG urges democracies in the region to reject regime election

<sup>87</sup> Than Lwin Times (7 Apr 2023) Shwe Kokko battle forces more than 6,000 residents to flee into Thailand



troops in Hpa-an had been frequently patrolling at night, targeting young people with arbitrary arrest and inspection, and checking overnight guest lists.<sup>88</sup>

During 5-9 Apr, fierce clashes between regime forces and the KNLA and allied resistance forces broke out following the resistance forces' attack on two regime-aligned Border Guard Forces (BGF) outposts near Shwe Kokko-Yatai New City in **Myawaddy Township**, a development project financed primarily by Chinese investors. The clashes forced thousands of civilians to flee into Thailand.<sup>89</sup> Radio Free Asia reported, citing an aid worker, that Thai authorities have designated locations for refugees to take refuge. On 6 Apr RFA estimated that 4000 refugees had crossed into Thailand.<sup>90</sup> On 10 Apr, Karen Information Center reported that some refugees who fled across the border had been returned to Burma by Thai authorities.<sup>91</sup> On 11 Apr, the Diplomat reported that the fighting had escalated by 7 Apr, continued until 9 Apr, and estimated that over **10,000 civilians** had fled across the Thai-Burma border.<sup>92</sup>

On 26 Apr, it was reported that regime shells and airstrikes in March alone had destroyed 360 buildings, including two schools, three monasteries, and a church in **KNU-defined Dooplaya District (Southern Karen State)**. The attacks have killed nine civilians and injured 33 others, including a three-year-old child and the fighting has forced 240,241 residents to flee.<sup>93</sup>

## Bago Region

On 21 Apr, it was reported that approximately 150,000 IDPs in KNU-defined **Nyaunglebin District** were in need of food and medical supplies.<sup>94</sup> On 25 Apr, junta troops wearing civilian clothes destroyed a NLD office in **Tharrawaddy Township**.<sup>95</sup> Resistance bombings and attacks targeted junta forces in **Nattalin** (1 Apr),<sup>96</sup> **Paungde** (2, 20, 21 Apr),<sup>97</sup> **Yedarshe** (3 Apr),<sup>98</sup> **Thegon** (19 Apr),<sup>99</sup> **Thonze Townships** (15 Apr),<sup>100</sup> and **Nyaung Lay Pin District** (22 Apr).<sup>101</sup> Resistance fighters killed a junta-appointed administrator of Thaphan Kaing Village in **Pauk Khaung Township** (19 Apr),<sup>102</sup> killed junta informants in **Gyobingyauk Township** (25 Apr),<sup>103</sup> and killed a township Electricity officer in **Phyu Township** (27 Apr).<sup>104</sup>

## Mon State

UNHCR said there were around 30,900 IDPs statewide as of 1 May. All were displaced after the attempted coup.<sup>105</sup> On 1 Apr, two locals sustained injuries from bullets fired at their car between Bae Lamaing and Aye Gabar villages in **Ye Township**. No group claimed responsibility. According to villagers, the area was a hiding spot for junta troops.<sup>106</sup> On 2 Apr, regime shells injured two civilians, both minors, in Chaung Saunt village in **KNU-defined Thaton District (Northern Mon State)**. Regime-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF) also shelled indiscriminately, injuring a civilian near Winn Phone village.<sup>107</sup> During 2-3 Apr, two dead bodies with gunshot wounds were found near Aungtharyar village in **Ye Township**.<sup>108</sup> On 12 Apr, regime troops shelled Ah Lu Lay village in **Bilin Township** following a Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) attack on junta soldiers near the village monastery, injuring

<sup>88</sup> Karen News (11 Apr 2023) Junta soldiers detain young residents in Hpa-An. Extortion demand of 500,000 kyats for their release Karen State

<sup>89</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Apr 2023) Clashes near Myawaddy displace thousands of civilians to Thailand

<sup>90</sup> RFA (6 Apr 2023) More than 4,000 people flee into Thailand after fighting in Kayin state intensifies

<sup>91</sup> Karen Information Center (10 Apr 2023) ထိုင်းဘက်ခြမ်း ထွက်ပြေးတိမ်းရှောင်ရသည့် ရွှေကုက္ကိုလ်ဒေသခံပြည်သူတစ်ချို့နေရပ်ပြန်ကြ

<sup>92</sup> The Diplomat (11 Apr 2023) Thousands Flee Myanmar Amid Heavy Fighting Around Shwe Kokko

<sup>93</sup> ဒူးပလာယာခရိုင်, via Facebook (26 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/22c3ts52>

<sup>94</sup> Mizzima (21 Apr 2023) 150,000 IDPs in KNU Brigade 3 area need food and medical supplies

<sup>95</sup> DVB (27 Apr 2023) Killed Japanese journalist's camera given to family; 751 properties seized since coup

<sup>96</sup> Irrawaddy (3 Apr 2023) Scores of Myanmar Junta Troops, Four Resistance Members Killed in Four Days of Clashes

<sup>97</sup> DVB (3 Apr 2023) ပေါင်းတည်မြို့မရဲစခန်းမှူးနှင့်အဖွဲ့ တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ; Irrawaddy (21 Apr 2023) Nearly 60 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Clashes With Resistance; Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2023) Battalion Heads, Election Official Among Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>98</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Apr 2023) Over 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>99</sup> RFA (20 Apr 2023) သဲကုန်းက နယ်ထိန်းရဲတပ်သားတစ်ဦး သေနတ်နဲ့ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

<sup>100</sup> RFA (16 Apr 2023) သုံးဆယ်မြို့ We Love Thonze မဏ္ဍပ် ဗုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရလို့ ရဲတစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>101</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2023) Battalion Heads, Election Official Among Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>102</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Apr 2023) Nearly 60 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Clashes With Resistance

<sup>103</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Apr 2023) Nearly 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>104</sup> DVB (1 May 2023) Eight charged for role in Pa Zi Gyi airstrikes; Bangladesh restricts SIM cards for Rohingya

<sup>105</sup> UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 01 May 2023)

<sup>106</sup> Than Lwin Times (2 Apr 2023) Shooting attack at family car injures two people in Ye

<sup>107</sup> KNU, via Facebook (3 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/5f7mbn2s>

<sup>108</sup> DVB (5 Apr 2023) NUG urges democracies in the region to reject regime election

about 10 locals, damaging five homes, and displacing over 1,000 residents. Regime forces also torched three houses.<sup>109</sup>

On 13 Apr, an unknown armed group attempted to derail a passenger train with a landmine attack between Thahnton and Theinseik stations in **Thaton Township**. The rails were damaged but no one was injured. On 14 Apr, another landmine blast damaged a cargo train and train tracks between Thaton and Yinnye. On 16 Apr, two landmines exploded in Taunggyi and Taungsun villages in **Bilin Township**, injuring four residents including a 10-year-old and causing damage to some buildings. Regime forces arrested eight youths following the explosions, four from each village.<sup>111</sup> On 26 Apr, junta shelling into Thonekhwa village area in **Kyaikto Township** injured a monk.<sup>112</sup>

### Tanintharyi Region

UNHCR said that there were around 55,900 IDPs in the region as of 1 May. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>113</sup>

On 28 Mar, resistance forces launched attacks on the regime's strategic hill base near Yebyu village in **Tanintharyi Township**, leading to daily clashes until 5 Apr. Nearly 3,000 residents from 15 villages have fled due to the clashes and need humanitarian assistance.<sup>114</sup> On 4 Apr, it was reported that recent clashes between regime and local resistance forces on **the Hton Hker-Maw Taung road** in Tanintharyi Region had forced almost 2,000 residents, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee.<sup>115</sup>

On 5 Apr, regime troops shelled Wattoe village in **Palaw Township**, injuring seven civilians including three children. On 6 Apr, regime forces shelled the village again, forcing residents to flee.<sup>116</sup>

On 6 Apr, junta forces invaded Yan Pho village in **Tanintharyi Township** and arrested a civilian before shooting him dead. Regime troops also invaded Panaknge village and shot dead two local youths riding a motorcycle.<sup>117</sup> On the same day, junta troops reportedly shot dead a 27-year-old local in **Yebyu Township** for no reason.<sup>118</sup>

On 11 Apr, it was reported that the intensification of clashes between the regime and local resistance forces had made it more difficult for IDPs in **Tanintharyi Township** to buy food and medicine, as the junta had banned the transportation of food and medicine, and resistance forces had warned against using the Union Road and Tanintharyi-Mawtaung highways.<sup>119</sup> On 20 Apr, a junta column on its way to Myitta Town arrested nearly 20 residents, including women and children from villages along the way in **Dawei Township**, to be used as human shields against potential attacks from local PDF. As of 22 Apr, the detainees had not been released.<sup>120</sup>

In **Thayetchaung Township**, local resistance forces attacked junta troops camped in Saw Hpyar village on 9 Apr. Regime forces retaliated with raid on Kyauk Hlay Kar village on the same day. On 11 Apr, the same junta troops raided villages around Kayin Taung Pyauk vilage tract, forcing nearly 3,000 residents from four nearby villages to flee.<sup>121</sup> During 23-24 Apr, junta forces arrested, tortured and interrogated over 100 civilians from Yange and Weyit villages before releasing them. On 25 Apr, regime troops arrested five locals from Peintaw and Kazi villages for alleged involvement in a landmine explosion located between the two villages.<sup>122</sup>

### Naypyidaw Union Territory

On 14 Apr, in **Det Khi Na Thi Ri Township**, a resistance group bombed a substation near housing for visiting foreign dignitaries, damaging some transformers in the compound's substation.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Than Lwin Times (14 Apr 2023) 10 local residents injured by junta artillery strike in Belin

<sup>110</sup> Than Lwin Times (16 Apr 2023) Cargo train under landmine attack in Mon state

<sup>111</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Apr 2023) Eight youths arrested after explosions in Belin

<sup>112</sup> Than Lwin Times (28 Apr 2023) A monk injured by junta artillery shells in Kyaikto

<sup>113</sup> UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 01 May 2023)

<sup>114</sup> Than Lwin Times (2 Apr 2023) Junta's strategic hill base attacked in Tanintharyi; Than Lwin Times (6 Apr 2023) Daily fighting continues to rage in Tanintharyi

<sup>115</sup> Network Media Group (4 Apr 2023) Nearly 2,000 local people displaced by multiple days of clashes near Maw Tawng in Tanintharyi Region

<sup>116</sup> Than Lwin Times (7 Apr 2023) 7 people including 3 children injured by junta's heavy weapons in Palaw

<sup>117</sup> Than Lwin Times (8 Apr 2023) Three civilians gunned down by junta in Tanintharyi

<sup>118</sup> Than Lwin Times (9 Apr 2023) Yebyu resident shot dead by junta for no reason

<sup>119</sup> Than Lwin Times (11 Apr 2023) Restrictions create obstacles for displaced people in Tanintharyi to buy food

<sup>120</sup> Than Lwin Times (22 Apr 2023) Nearly 20 Dawei residents arrested as human shields

<sup>121</sup> Than Lwin Times (12 Apr 2023) Nearly 3,000 local residents flee junta's offensive in Thayatchaung

<sup>122</sup> Than Lwin Times (26 Apr 2023) Regime forces arrest, torture villagers in Thayatchaung Township

<sup>123</sup> RFA (15 Apr 2023) နေပြည်တော် နိုင်ငံတော်စည်ပင်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ဓာတ်အားခွဲရုံ ဖုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

## Ayeyarwady Region

On 2 Apr, a PDF group detonated a bomb outside the junta-owned Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank in **Wakema Township**, injuring a security guard.<sup>124</sup> Resistance bombings and attacks targeted regime forces in **Pathein** (5 Apr),<sup>125</sup> **Ingapu** (15 Apr),<sup>126</sup> **Myanaung** (17 Apr),<sup>127</sup> and **Mawlamyinegyun** Townships (17 Apr).<sup>128</sup> Resistance forces targeted junta informants, killing, or injuring in **Ngapudaw** (13 Apr),<sup>129</sup> and **Yaygyi** Townships (27 Apr).<sup>130</sup>

## Mandalay Region

On 1-2 Apr, pro-regime Thwe Thout militia group reportedly killed two civilians and dumped their bodies in **Chanmyathazi** and **Madaya** Townships. A resident said they could not identify one of the bodies, however, Irrawaddy reported that the other victim was an NLD member who had been in hiding. Irrawaddy added that the Thwe Thout group had dumped at least 70 dead bodies in public in Mandalay Region following the attempted coup.<sup>131</sup> On 3-4 Apr, junta troops killed an NLD supporter in **Pyigyitagon** Township.<sup>132</sup> On 8 Apr, junta troops, transported by aircraft, raided a PDF base in **Madaya Township**, injuring seven resistance fighters and junta forces torched over 100 homes in Kin Village on 11 Apr.<sup>133</sup> On 8-10 Apr, junta troops arrested residents from eight villages in **Myingyan Township** as guides and hostages after fighting with resistance fighters.<sup>134</sup>

Since 13 Apr, a junta column has been repeatedly clashing with resistance forces in the Tagaung area in **Thabeikkyin Township**. The junta reportedly carried out five airstrikes, even targeting an area where displaced villagers were sheltering, with an unknown number of casualties. Junta authorities ordered the residents of seven villages nearby to “finish relocating” by 16 Apr ahead of further airstrikes. The majority of residents had left the affected area, while a few people stayed to protect their properties.<sup>135</sup>

On 23 Apr, pro junta Thwe Thout group shot dead a resistance fighter and dumped his body in **Madaya Township**.<sup>136</sup>

Resistance fighters targeted killing regime administrators in **Pyigyitagon** (3 Apr),<sup>137</sup> and killing junta policemen in **Patheingyi** (6, 20 Apr),<sup>138</sup> **Taungtha** (10 Apr),<sup>139</sup> **Madaya** (11 Apr),<sup>140</sup> **Thabeikkyin** (18 Apr),<sup>141</sup> and **Natogyi** Townships (26 Apr).<sup>142</sup> Resistance bombings and attacks targeted regime troops in **Madaya** (7, 25 Apr),<sup>143</sup> **Mogoke** (7 Apr),<sup>144</sup> **Thabeikkyin** (5, 12, 29 Apr),<sup>145</sup> and **Natogyi** (22 Apr),<sup>146</sup> a junta intelligence office and the junta-controlled Ministry Of Construction in **Madaya Township** (18 Apr);<sup>147</sup> a junta checkpoint in **Myingyan Township** (29 Apr),<sup>148</sup> and an Electric Power Corporation’s office in **Mogoke Township** (29 Apr).<sup>149</sup>

<sup>124</sup> Mizzima (5 Apr 2023) Security guard injured in Wakema Township bank bomb blast

<sup>125</sup> Mizzima (7 Apr 2023) Tuk-tuk driver injured in Pathein City bank blast

<sup>126</sup> DVB (15 Apr 2023) အင်္ဂုပျံ့သင်္ကြန်မဏ္ဍပ်တွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲပြီး စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်သား ၃ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>127</sup> DVB (18 Apr 2023) ရောဝတီတိုင်း မော်ကွန်းနှင့် မြန်အောင်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်များ တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>128</sup> DVB (18 Apr 2023) ရောဝတီတိုင်း မော်ကွန်းနှင့် မြန်အောင်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်များ တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>129</sup> Network Media Group (16 Apr 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီ သတင်းပေးဆိုသူ ဟိုင်းကြီးကွန်းတွင် သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်ခံရ

<sup>130</sup> Network Media Group (28 Apr 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီ သတင်းပေးဆိုသူ မှုခင်း သတင်းထောက်တစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

<sup>131</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Apr 2023) Myanmar Junta-Linked Militia Kills Mandalay Men

<sup>132</sup> RFA (5 Apr 2023) မန္တလေးမှာ NLD ထောက်ခံသူတစ်ဦး ဖမ်းဆီးခံရပြီး ၂၄ နာရီအတွင်း သေဆုံး

<sup>133</sup> Myanmar-Now (10 Apr 2023) လေတပ်က မတ္တရာနယ် ပြောက်ကျားတပ်ဖွဲ့စခန်းကို သွားရောက် တိုက်ခိုက်; RFA (12 Apr 2023) Junta troops torch over 100 homes in a Mandalay village

<sup>134</sup> RFA (11 Apr 2023) မြင်းခြံမှာ အရပ်သားတွေကို ဓားစာခံအဖြစ် စစ်ကောင်စီဖမ်းဆီးနေ

<sup>135</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta tells villagers to flee as it carries out airstrikes in northern Mandalay Region

<sup>136</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Apr 2023) Thwe Thout card found on body of defence team member in Mandalay

<sup>137</sup> DVB (4 Apr 2023) မန္တလေးမြို့သစ်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီခန့်အပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူး အသတ်ခံရ

<sup>138</sup> DVB (7 Apr 2023) ပုသိမ်ကြီးမြို့နယ်တွင် ရဲတပ်ကြပ် ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ; Myanmar Now (20 Apr 2023) ပုသိမ်ကြီးတွင် ဈေးသွားသည့် စစ်သားများ ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ တစ်ဦး ပွဲချင်းပြီးသေ

<sup>139</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Apr 2023) တောင်သာတွင် ပျူစောထီးနှစ်ဦးနှင့် စစ်သားတစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

<sup>140</sup> RFA (12 Apr 2023) Junta troops torch over 100 homes in a Mandalay village

<sup>141</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Apr 2023) Nearly 60 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Clashes With Resistance

<sup>142</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Apr 2023) Nearly 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>143</sup> Irrawaddy (10 Apr 2023) Nearly 90 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (26 Apr 2023) Around 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>144</sup> Irrawaddy (10 Apr 2023) Nearly 90 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>145</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Apr 2023) စစ်တပ်နှင့် ပကတိ တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်စဉ် ထမင်းချက်နေသည့် အမျိုးသမီး ကျည်ထိသေဆုံး; Irrawaddy (7 Apr 2023); Over 100 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks; Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta tells villagers to flee as it carries out airstrikes in northern Mandalay Region; Irrawaddy (1 May 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Regime Forces Killed in Single day of Resistance Attacks

<sup>146</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2023) Battalion Heads, Election Official Among Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>147</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Apr 2023) Nearly 60 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Clashes With Resistance

<sup>148</sup> Irrawaddy (1 Apr 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Regime Forces Killed in Single day of Resistance Attacks

<sup>149</sup> DVB (1 May 2023) မိုးကုတ်မြို့ လျှပ်စစ်ရုံး ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ

## Yangon Region

In **Khayan Township**, resistance forces bombed two junta security checkpoints on 3 Apr.<sup>150</sup> On 9 and 10 Apr, resistance fighters launched 40mm rocket launchers against police stations in Pan Kan, Khayan Myoma and Ping Kan villages and army outposts in Kayin Kan and Thit Taw villages. On 14 Apr, resistance fighters bombed an immigration office. Junta forces arrested around 50 civilians on suspicion of involvement in a series of attacks. On 15 Apr, junta troops retaliated by torching the PDF group leader's house and closing all roads in and out of the township until 20 Apr. Moreover, the junta imposed a restriction on three-wheeled vehicles in the township, seriously impacting people's lives.<sup>151</sup>

Resistance fighters killed a retired lieutenant colonel and his two relatives in **Thanlyin Township** (18 Apr),<sup>154</sup> a deputy director general of the junta's election commission in **Thinganyun Township** (22 Apr),<sup>155</sup> and a retired junta officer in **Bahan Township** (29 Apr).<sup>156</sup>

Resistance bombings and attacks also targeted a security checkpoint near the Aung Mingalar Highway Bus Terminal's entrance gate in **Mingalardon Township** (1 Apr),<sup>157</sup> a ward administration office in **North Okkalapa Township** (5 Apr),<sup>158</sup> Thingyan pavilion in the People's Square in **Dagon Township** (9 Apr),<sup>160</sup> and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office in **Insein Township** (23 Apr).<sup>161</sup>

On 6 Apr, a resistance group fired improvised artillery rounds at **Yangon International Airport** in **Mingaladon Township**. Exact casualties were unknown and airport operations resumed the same day.<sup>162</sup> On the same day, another resistance group attacked the junta's **Mingaladon Air Force Base**, damaging the Air Force Head Office and aircraft fuel tanks.<sup>163</sup> Junta mouthpiece media did not report either of these attacks.

## Rohingya

### The junta prepares for the ICJ as continues its campaign of persecution against Rohingya

On 7 Apr, it was reported that regime officials had been questioning potential witnesses and even allegedly forcing people to alter their testimony in Rakhine State as the junta prepares for a counter-memorial of its case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 24 Apr.

In Buthidaung Township, junta troops brought a group of Rohingya to a military base and questioned them one at a time, whether they had witnessed Rohingya in Chut Pyin village burning down their houses during the military's genocidal attack against Rohingya in 2017. Military and intelligence officers and regime officials also questioned Rohingya and Hindu residents from Maungdaw, Rathedaung, and Buthidaung Townships in February and reportedly coerced them into signing statements that Rohingya burned their houses and then fled to Bangladesh.<sup>164</sup>

On 22 Apr, it was reported that the ICJ had denied the regime's request to postpone the deadline to submit a Counter-Memorial for The Gambia v. Myanmar case. The regime's legal team submission deadline was on 24 Apr, but on 14 Mar the junta requested a 10-month postponement until 24 Feb 2024. Despite having rejected the junta's request, the ICJ extended the deadline by one month to May 24.<sup>165</sup>

On 21 Apr, citing camp officials, it was reported that Rohingya from the Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukphyu Township (Rakhine State) were being relocated to a new camp nearby until May 15. A Muslim IDP camp resident expressed his concerns about the lack of electricity, and that the roads and schools had not been completed yet.<sup>166</sup> On 25 Apr, it was reported that Rohingya IDPs in Rakhine State had called on the World Food Programme (WFP) to return to the previous aid packages that provided basic food necessities instead of the current stipends of MMK 21,000 (US\$10) per month. People have been going hungry because the stipend failed to take into account soaring commodity prices.<sup>167</sup>

<sup>150</sup> DVB (4 Apr 2023) ခရမ်းမြို့နယ်တွင် စစ်တပ်စစ်ဆေးရေးဂိတ် ၂ ခု တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>151</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2023) Dozens arrested in connection with attacks in Yangon Region's Khayan Township

<sup>154</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2023) Ex-army officer, two others, shot dead in Thanlyin

<sup>155</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2023) Myanmar military election official killed by guerrilla group in Yangon

<sup>156</sup> Eleven Media Group (30 Apr 2023) Former military officer shot dead in Bahan Township

<sup>157</sup> Mizzima (5 Apr 2023) Two Police officers injured by explosion outside Yangon bus station

<sup>158</sup> DVB (5 Apr 2023) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာ c ရပ်ကွက် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံးတွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ

<sup>160</sup> DVB (11 Apr 2023) Rakhine people celebrate AA anniversary; Min Aung Hlaing visits Coco Islands amid controversy

<sup>161</sup> DVB (24 Apr 2023) အင်းစိန် စီအိုင်ဒီရုံး ဗုံးဖြင့် တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>162</sup> Irrawaddy (7 Apr 2023) Myanmar's Main Airport Rocked by Explosions

<sup>163</sup> DVB (7 Apr 2023) Yangon's Mingaladon Air Force base attacked

<sup>164</sup> Frontier Myanmar (7 Apr 2023) Myanmar junta sets its sights on Rohingya ahead of UN court deadline

<sup>165</sup> Narinjara (22 Apr 2023) ICJ Rejects Military Council's Request for 1 year Postponement in the genocide case filed by Gambia in 2019

<sup>166</sup> DMG (21 Apr 2023) Muslim IDPs in Kyaukphyu Twsp displacement camp set to be relocated

<sup>167</sup> DMG (25 Apr 2023) Muslim IDPs ask UN aid agency to resume food package delivery system

## Restriction and criminalization of Rohingyas' mobility rights continues

On 2 Apr, regime navy forces arrested 128 Rohingya including 20 women and six children, on a boat in the Salween River at Chaungzon Township (Mon State). They were attempted to flee to Malaysia from Rakhine State.<sup>168</sup>

On 26 Apr, the township court sentenced 70 Rohingya, including 12 women, to two years imprisonment under the Immigration Act in Ngapudaw Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region). They had been arrested at sea on 19 Apr. Among them, 26 minors will be sent to the Nget Aw San Youth Rehabilitation Centre, and two children under the age of seven to the Children's Rehabilitation School.<sup>169</sup>

On 24 Apr, it was reported that for the last eight months, locals from Maungdaw Township (Rakhine State) have been required to show a recommendation letter from their respective ward or village administrators to pass through the regime's security checkpoints. This has restricted the travel and movement of civilians from at least 30 villages in the northern part of the township.<sup>170</sup>

## The junta and its partners move ahead with forced repatriation

On 3 Apr, the junta-appointed chairman of the Immigration and Citizenship Verification Work Committee said that out of the over 87,000 Rohingya refugees listed by Bangladesh, the committee had verified over 56,000 people as having lived in Myanmar before, about 900 as “terrorists”, and over 30,000 as undocumented. In addition to the over 700 refugees to be repatriated in the first ‘pilot project’, the committee also examined over 400 of their relatives or family members. The committee planned to repatriate over 300 verified Hindu refugees in its second ‘pilot project’.<sup>171</sup>

On 18 Apr, **Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary** met with representatives from China and the military junta in Kunming, China. On 20 Apr, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister said that despite China's encouragement, they had not seen any results so far, noting opposition from Western countries.<sup>172</sup> A former Defense Attaché to Bangladesh's embassy in Myanmar said that 100,000 Rohingya refugees who fled Rakhine in 2012 have also yet to return.<sup>173</sup>

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

On 6 Apr, based on data from reliable news agencies, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) concluded that the junta arrested a total of 58 women and killed 29 women in March 2023 alone. Sagaing Region has the highest number of women arrested and killed.<sup>174</sup>

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

Regime figures showed daily COVID-19 infections throughout the month: four on 1 Apr<sup>175</sup>, nine on 18 Apr<sup>176</sup>, and 71 on 30 Apr<sup>177</sup>. Vaccination rates remained low. Only 37,853,592 people had received shots as of 29 Apr<sup>178</sup>, from a population of 55.8 million.<sup>179</sup> It is unclear how many had been fully vaccinated.

On 21 Apr, NUG's Ministry of Health said that the junta's airstrikes – on Nyaung Pin Thar Hospital in Tigyaing Township (Sagaing Region), Si Thar Station hospital in Shwegu Township (Kachin State), frontline healthcare workers in the Karenni and Shan border, and Man Gyi Kan hospital in Myaing Township (Magway Region) -- during the first 18 days of April had killed and injured healthcare workers; destroyed hospitals, ambulances, and medical supplies. Citing data from the Insecurity Insight, the Ministry of Health stated that the junta had killed 70 healthcare workers, arrested a further 836 staff, occupied, attacked and destroyed health facilities 188 times, destroyed 59 ambulances, and stolen or hijacked 49 ambulances since the attempted coup began.<sup>180</sup>

On 3 Apr, it was reported that NUG's Ministry of Education organized its very first round of matriculation exams, both in-person and online, in the Southern Military Region 3 area from 15 to 21 Mar. The NUG's Ministry of Defense and local resistance forces provided security and emergency health care. Citing the Deputy Minister of Education, Mizzima also reported that nearly 60,000 people sat the exam, including

<sup>168</sup> Mon News (6 Apr 2023) 128 Rohingya community members arrested on boat traveling on the Salween River

<sup>169</sup> Network Media Group (29 Apr 2023) 70 Rohingya Sentenced In Irrawaddy Region

<sup>170</sup> DMG (24 Apr 2023) Recommendation letter required for local travel in northern Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>171</sup> GNLM (4 Apr 2023) Immigration & Citizenship Verification Work Committee holds meeting 2/2023

<sup>172</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Apr 2023) China Hosts Myanmar Junta and Bangladesh to Discuss Rohingya Repatriations

<sup>173</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Apr 2023) China Hosts Myanmar Junta and Bangladesh to Discuss Rohingya Repatriations

<sup>174</sup> BWU (6 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xhzmb>

<sup>175</sup> GNLM (2 Apr 2023) Four new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 April, total figure records 634,084

<sup>176</sup> GNLM (16 Apr 2023) Nine new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 April, total figure registers 634,174

<sup>177</sup> GNLM (1 May 2023) 71 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 April, total figure registers 634,877

<sup>178</sup> GNLM (1 May 2023) 71 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 April, total figure registers 634,877

<sup>179</sup> GNLM (4 Oct 2022) Population of Myanmar estimated at 55.8 million on 1 October 2022

<sup>180</sup> NUG's Ministry of Health (20 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2zsam3de>

PDF members and students from all over the country, and that the MOE planned to hold the exams twice a year, in March and August.<sup>181</sup>

On 10 Apr, Myanmar Now reported that the junta had arrested 15 civilians in Mandalay who were teaching for an online school operating under the NUG, including the head of the school. It was also reported that junta officers had confiscated computers and curriculum materials. A local resident said that the regime had been investigating the school since its opening, and officers had allegedly posed as parents registering their children.<sup>182</sup> On 20 Apr, it was reported that CDM online schools had partnered with Yale University instructors to provide education to students and teachers from Burma by allowing them to join online lectures given by Yale professors.<sup>183</sup>

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

**Critics slam EU’s “MADE in Myanmar” project for legitimizing junta and ignoring labor rights**

On 13 Apr, it was reported that labor rights activists and trade union organizations opposed the EU’s new “MADE in Myanmar” (Multi-Stakeholder Alliance for Decent Employment in the Myanmar apparel industry) program, raising labor rights concerns.<sup>184</sup>

**OECD & ADB forecast slow GDP growth under the junta**

On 31 Mar, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) projected that Burma’s GDP in 2023 would grow by 2%, placing it last among Southeast Asian countries.

On 4 Apr, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) expected that Burma’s GDP would grow by 2.8% in 2023, forecasting to experience wider trade and current deficits. Adding that inflation would decrease to 10.5% in FY2023.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
OECD	-17.9%	2.0%	2.0%	
ADB	-5.9%	2.0%	2.8%	3.2%

OECD, Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2023- 31 Mar 2023; Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023- 4 Apr 2023

Led by Germany’s Sequa GmbH, in partnership with the European Chamber of Commerce (Myanmar), the project would have a duration of four years, with the EU providing EUR 3 million in funding and additional funding provided by private sector retailers.<sup>185</sup>

The President of the Industrial Workers’ Federation of Myanmar (IWMF), Khaing Zar Aung, said that the project would legitimize the junta under the ILO and help conceal labor rights violations. In a statement made on 5 Apr, the Confederation of Trade Unions, Myanmar (CTUM) said it would not collaborate with the “MADE in Myanmar” project, that the project would be unable to address labor rights issues in Burma, and echoed concerns that the project would legitimize the junta with the ILO. Responding to concerns around the condition of garment workers in Burma EU ambassador to Burma, Ranieri Sabattucci said he believed the “MADE in Myanmar” project could actually help address some of the concerns raised.<sup>186</sup>

**Foreign beverage giants accused of fueling junta with tax payments**

On 19 Apr, it was reported that crony-owned Myanma Golden Star Group and Grand Royal Group with their foreign partners Heineken, Carlsberg, and ThaiBev had paid the junta MMK 62.5 billion in taxes during Oct-Dec 2021, suggesting that the three foreign companies could have paid the junta up to MMK 250 billion (USD 155 million) in taxes per year.

Justice for Myanmar (JfM) also identified Myanma Golden Star Group as the domestic partner of LOTTE Chilsung Beverage, a subsidiary of South Korea’s LOTTE Corporation. It was also reported that LOTTE Hotels & Resorts had made annual lease payments to the junta through its investment in a hotel and serviced apartment development with POSCO International. JfM highlighted that these drink giant companies and LOTTE have been paying taxes in accordance with rates set by the junta. JfM called on Heineken, Carlsberg, ThaiBev and LOTTE to follow their international human rights responsibilities and end payments to the junta.<sup>187</sup>

<sup>181</sup> Mizzima (3 Apr 2023) Nearly 60,000 students take NUG matriculation exams

<sup>182</sup> Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2023) Military arrests teachers from National Unity Government online school

<sup>183</sup> DVB (20 Apr 2023) Over 1.8 million people displaced; Yale University partners with CDM schools

<sup>184</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Apr 2023) EU’s new project to support Myanmar’s garment industry faces backlash

<sup>185</sup> SMART Factories (28 Mar 2023) MADE in Myanmar project fact sheet

<sup>186</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Apr 2023) EU’s new project to support Myanmar’s garment industry faces backlash

<sup>187</sup> Justice for Myanmar (19 Apr 2023) Heineken, Carlsberg and Thaibev Pay Tens of Millions of Dollars in Tax to Myanmar Junta

## Norway's excludes of Korea's KOGAS and India's GAIL from sovereign wealth fund, ENEOS and AFRY to exit

On 27 Apr, Norway's USD 1.4 trillion wealth fund, the world's largest, excluded South Korea's state-run Korea Gas Corp (KOGAS) and Indian gas firm GAIL (India) Ltd, stating their business collaboration with junta-affiliated company contributed to "serious violations of individuals' rights in situations of war or conflict."<sup>188</sup>

On 13 Apr, ENEOS Holdings, Inc. announced that the company had completed procedures for withdrawal from the Yetagun gas project in Burma on 12 Apr.<sup>189</sup> JfM said that ENEOS Holdings' withdrawal statement did not include a commitment to responsibly exit, in accordance with the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD's Guidelines. JfM added that ENEOS and its two project partners, Malaysia's Petronas and Thailand's PTTEP, had allegedly failed to ensure that revenue from the project would not flow to the regime or take appropriate steps to close the field.<sup>190</sup>

On 21 Apr, Swedish engineering firm AFRY AB announced that the company had decided to withdraw from hydropower projects in Burma by the end of 2023 due to the deteriorating human rights situation in Burma. AFRY stated that the contracts for the three hydropower projects it had committed to were signed prior to the attempted coup, after which it had not signed additional contracts.<sup>191</sup>

JfM called on AFRY to immediately stop all technical support to the junta, responsibly exit Burma by adhering to UN and OECD guidelines, disclose its human rights due diligence while operating in Burma, and investigate and remediate any negative human rights impacts from its operations in Burma.<sup>192</sup>

## Junta keeps selling energy to China despite dwindling power supply for civilians

On 2 Apr, the junta signed a power purchase agreement for the Dapein 1 hydropower plant with China. It was reported that following the attempted coup, the regime reportedly negotiated to sell China 120MW of the 240MW of power produced by the Dapein 1 hydropower plant, however further details about the deal have not been revealed. Prior to the coup 81% of the power generated by the Dapein 1 hydropower plant was sold to China.<sup>193</sup> On 18 Apr, Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) announced daily power cuts lasting 8 hours, leading to operational difficulties for small and large businesses.<sup>194</sup> On 23 Apr, it was reported that junta's Ministry of Planning and Finance issued a directive to grant customs tariff exemption for the import of solar and related components starting 1 Apr.<sup>195</sup> YESC announced that it would purchase surplus electricity from households using solar panels at MMK 85 per kWh.<sup>196</sup>

## Calls grow to end Canal+ and Thaicom airing junta propaganda

On 28 Apr, it was reported that French broadcast company Canal+ and Thailand's satellite operator Thaicom have been broadcasting junta propaganda channels: Myawaddy TV (MWD); Myanmar International TV (MITV); and Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV). These channels have been regularly distributing close-ups of individuals detained by the junta with signs of torture. JfM reasoned that the broadcast of such images was in violation of the spirit of Article 13(2) of the Geneva Convention, which protects prisoners of war against "insults and public curiosity". JfM added that Protocol II of the Geneva Convention, which France has ratified, extends the application of Article 13(2) to non-international armed conflict. JfM called on Canal+ and Thaicom to immediately stop broadcasting junta propaganda and to abide by their responsibilities under the OECD Guidelines and international law.<sup>197</sup>

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<sup>188</sup> Reuters (28 Apr 2023) Norway sovereign wealth fund excludes Korea Gas, India's GAIL over Myanmar link

<sup>189</sup> ENEOS Holdings, Inc. (13 Apr 2023) Completion of the procedures for withdrawal from the E&P business in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (update)

<sup>190</sup> Justice for Myanmar (17 Apr 2023) Serious questions over the withdrawal of ENEOS Holdings and other entities from the Yetagun gas project"; Myanmar Now (14 Apr 2023) ရဲတပ်ခွန်ဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံကိန်းမှ ဂျပန် ENEOS ကုမ္ပဏီထွက်ခွာမှု အဆုံးသတ်

<sup>191</sup> ARFY (21 Apr 2023) AFRY to end its commitment in hydropower projects in Myanmar

<sup>192</sup> DVB (26 Apr 2023) Swedish engineering firm exits Burma; NUG urged to hold PDFs accountable; Justice for Myanmar (28 Apr 2023) Joint statement: AFRY's decision to leave Myanmar welcome but concerns remain"

<sup>193</sup> Irrawaddy (3 Apr 2023) Myanmar Regime Signs Energy Agreement With China

<sup>194</sup> Narinjara (19 Apr 2023) Yangon to experience daily 8-Hour electricity outages announcement from Yangon Electricity Corporation

<sup>195</sup> Eleven Media Group (23 Apr 2023) Solar, related components exempt from customs duties: Ministry

<sup>196</sup> Eleven Media Group (23 Apr 2023) Solar, related components exempt from customs duties: Ministry

<sup>197</sup> Justice for Myanmar (28 Apr 2023) Canal+ and Thaicom are broadcasting Myanmar junta incitement of genocide & images of prisoners of war against international law"

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

### After the junta's deadliest air strike on civilians to date the international community send its condolences, little else

On 11 Apr, the UN Secretary-General condemned the regime airstrikes on Pa Zi Gyi village and called for the junta to be held accountable for its crimes. The **US**, **UK**, **Canada**, and **France** issued statements of condemnation calling for an end to the junta's violence. Vedant Patel, a spokesperson at the US State Department, said that the attacks on Pa Zi Gyi "further underscore the regime's disregard for human life". The embassy of France in Yangon called for the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point consensus.<sup>198</sup>

On Apr 11, Amnesty International's Business and Human Rights Researcher Montse Ferrer said that the air strikes in Sagaing were horrifying, unlawful, and a trademark of the junta. She reiterated Amnesty International's call on international governments and businesses to stop shipments of aviation fuel to the junta. She also urged the United Nations Security Council to take effective action including referring the crisis in Burma to the International Criminal Court.<sup>199</sup>

On 19 Apr, the British parliament debated sanctioning Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and banning British companies from supplying aviation fuel. A British Labour Party MP said that the **UK** government should do more to coordinate international efforts, and that it must go further with sanctions.<sup>200</sup>

Burma Campaign UK called on five British insurance companies: UK P&I, Steamship Mutual, Britannia P&I, North Standard, and Shipowners Club, to stop providing insurance cover for vessels delivering aviation fuel to Burma. The Director of Burma Campaign UK said that these companies were a vital part of the supply chain to deliver aviation fuel to Burma, and thus were complicit in airstrikes against civilians, and should therefore stop immediately.<sup>201</sup>

On 28 Apr, Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma, stated that "the international community's response to the Burma crisis is failing" and urged Japan to "step up pressure on the country's junta." He expressed his belief that Japan had a major role to play in preventing the impending humanitarian disaster in the Rohingya refugee camps, calling on UN member states to "increase humanitarian contributions" while "imposing targeted economic sanctions" to weaken the junta's capacity to attack their own people. He also urged Japan to terminate a Ministry of Defence training program for Burmese military personnel and to actively renounce the junta's planned fraudulent national elections. He added that the Prime Minister should ensure that a "strong, unified message and action" emerges from the upcoming G7 summit.<sup>202</sup>

### Continued human rights violations

On 6 Apr, **India** closed two border crossings in Matupi Township (Chin State) following the murder of three, Burma-born and ethnic Chin, Indian citizens whose charred bodies were discovered in Matupi Township. A resident from Matupi said that the border closure has cut off access to food, medical treatment and safe refuge for civilians. Residents of India's Manipur State said that Indian authorities have conducted arrests of Burmese civilians on the grounds of illegal immigration since the murder of the three Indian citizens. The border closure occurred days before a junta conducted an air strike in Falam Township (Chin State) killing 11 civilians and forcing civilians to flee into India's Mizoram State.<sup>203</sup>

On 17 Apr, the US State Department issued a statement condemning the six-year sentence handed to Reverend Dr. Hkalam Samson, calling on the junta to end its repression against religious actors, communities, and places of worship in Burma.<sup>204</sup>

On 18 Apr, Peng Xiubin, the Director-General of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of **China** (CPC), met former dictator Than Shwe and ex-President Thein Sein in an informal meeting in Naypyitaw.<sup>205</sup> According to BBC News Burma, neither the CPC nor the junta released information about the meeting, during which Peng proposed to meet with five ethnic parties from Burma but was denied. The CPC had already invited said ethnic parties for a ten-day visit to China in early April, but the Union Election Commission claimed the registration of parties was still being verified.<sup>206</sup>

<sup>198</sup> DVB (12 Apr 2023) The international community condemns military regime airstrikes

<sup>199</sup> Amnesty International (11 Apr 2023) Myanmar: Urgent need to suspend aviation fuel as air strikes wreak havoc

<sup>200</sup> DVB (21 Apr 2023) British parliament debates additional sanctions on Burma

<sup>201</sup> Burma Campaign UK (20 Apr 2023) British Companies: Stop Insuring Aviation Fuel Deliveries to Burma

<sup>202</sup> UN News (28 Apr 2023) UN expert urges Japan to 'step up pressure' on Myanmar junta

<sup>203</sup> RFA (18 Apr 2023) India shuts borders to Myanmar's Chin state after killing of three nationals

<sup>204</sup> US Dept. of State (17 Apr 2023) Reverend Samson's Prison Sentence

<sup>205</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2023) Beyond the Headlines: Ex UN chief meets Myanmar coup leader

<sup>206</sup> BBC News Burmese (20 Apr 2023) တရုတ်ကွန်မြူနစ်ပါတီရဲ့ နိုင်ငံတကာဆက်ဆံရေးဌာနသွန်ချုပ် မြန်မာကို တိတိဆိတ်လှာရောက်



On 26 Apr, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that the junta finally admitted to the Japanese Foreign Ministry that it misused two **Japan**-funded civilian vessels to transport soldiers and weapons in Rakhine State in Sep 2022. HRW first reported the incident in Oct 2022. The Japanese government objected and demanded the prevention of misuse but had not received a response for months. The junta reportedly “expressed regret over the situation,” and will do its “utmost to prevent recurrence.”<sup>207</sup>

### **Thailand continues to lend legitimacy to junta**

On 10 Apr, **Thailand**’s opposition Commoner’s Party issued a statement criticizing the Thai government for cooperating with the regime after Thai authorities transferred three resistance fighters to the custody of the junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF).<sup>208</sup> On 12 Apr, Human Rights Watch Asia Director Elaine Pearson, said that Thai officials have colluded with the junta by returning the three men to Burma and called on the UN, alongside concerned governments, to pressure the Thai government to end violations of international law.<sup>209</sup>

On 21 Apr, **Thailand**’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Don Pramudwinai, accompanied by Thai Ambassador, Mongkol Visitstump, met with junta chief Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyitaw. The Bangkok Post reported, citing junta media that their discussion included regional air pollution and “peace and stability” at the Thai-Burma border.<sup>210</sup> Myanmar Now reported, also citing junta media that on the same day, Pornpimol Kanchanalak the Deputy PM’s special advisor and convicted lobbyist, met with the junta’s minister for international cooperation Ko Ko Hlaing. Their meeting reportedly focused on “strengthening the existing bilateral ties” and included discussion on aid delivery through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance.<sup>211</sup>

### **Former UN secretary general, Ban Ki-Moon surprise visit to junta leader sparks outrage**

On 24 Apr, Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General and deputy chairperson of the NGO The Elders met with junta chief Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyitaw at his invitation, calling for an immediate end to violence. DVB reported that Ban warned that holding elections under current conditions would risk further violence and division and would not be recognized by the people of Burma, ASEAN, or the wider international community. He urged the regime to take the first steps toward constructive dialogue among all parties concerned, including the NUG. Ban’s visit was met with criticism inside the country, with the NUG stating that instead of taking photo ops with the junta chief, “concrete actions against the terrorist military to end atrocities in Burma” should be taken.<sup>212</sup>

On 30 Apr, the NUG publicized that in a virtual meeting with Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary-General and Deputy Chair of The Elders, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the NUG requested that any visits to Burma be made in consultation with important stakeholders, including the NUG, and underscored the need for more coordinated pressure and sanctions from the international community on the junta. He also asserted that the junta had no right to hold elections.<sup>214</sup>

## **After two years of inaction pressure mounts on ASEAN**

24 Apr marked the second anniversary since ASEAN agreed on the Five Point Consensus (5PC) in response to the attempted coup. The 5PC called for the immediate cessation of violence, the start of constructive with all stakeholders, the appointment of an ASEAN special envoy and his/her engagement in Burma, as well as the delivery of humanitarian aid.<sup>215</sup> Despite agreeing to the 5PC, the junta has been exponentially increasing the violence, culminating in an air strike on 11 Apr that was estimated to have killed over 200 civilians, sparking further global outrage.<sup>216</sup> The Burma crisis is expected to be a key issue during the 9-11 May ASEAN summit on the Indonesian island of Flores.

### **1. ASEAN’s failure**

ASEAN and especially its current chair Indonesia have been drawing strong international and regional criticism for its inaction over the implementation of the flawed 5PC, which failed to include the release of political prisoners or a sustainable solution for the Rohingya crisis. ASEAN’s Special Envoy to Burma

<sup>207</sup> HRW (27 Apr 2023) Tokyo Confirms Myanmar Military Misused Japan-Funded Ships; Irrawaddy (27 Apr 2023) Japan Objects to Myanmar Junta Use of Donated Ships

<sup>208</sup> RFA (10 Apr 2023) Anti-junta fighter killed during deportation from Thailand to Myanmar

<sup>209</sup> Human Rights Watch (12 Apr 2023) Thailand: Myanmar Activists Forcibly Returned

<sup>210</sup> Bangkok Post (22 Apr 2023) Foreign minister Don meets Myanmar junta chief

<sup>211</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2023) Beyond the Headlines: Ex UN chief meets Myanmar coup leader

<sup>212</sup> DVB (24 Apr 2023) Ban Ki-Moon calls for a halt to violence during visit to Naypyidaw

<sup>214</sup> NUG (30 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2h48y3zw>

<sup>215</sup> MYANMAR: ASEAN needs to address its failing approach to the crisis in Myanmar following the military coup, Amnesty International, 24 April 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ASA1666872023ENGLISH.pdf>

<sup>216</sup> RFA (17 Apr 2023) Death toll from Myanmar junta air attack on northern village rises to 200

was to be selected by the current chair with a one-year term. Brunei and Cambodia both appointed an envoy with significant delay, Indonesia has yet to appoint one for the current term.<sup>217</sup> Both of the first two Special Envoys met with the junta chief but were denied access to the NUG, EAOS, or imprisoned State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

On 15 Oct 2021, at an emergency meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers, the bloc decided to exclude “Myanmar political representation” i.e., junta leadership from attending its summit.<sup>218</sup> The junta continues to be officially excluded from the ASEAN Summit and the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, but continues to attend scores of other ministerial and high-level ASEAN meetings.

In Nov 2022, the severely deteriorating situation in Burma and loss of ASEAN credibility spurred the ASEAN Summit to task the Foreign Ministers with drafting an “implementation plan.” The process has been opaque and excluded key stakeholders, including civil society organizations working on the ground, further undermining the principles of inclusive dialogue and worsening distrust in ASEAN’s capacity to be a principled mediator.<sup>219</sup>

## **2. Track 1.5 Dialogue**

On 25 Apr, India hosted a second “Track 1.5 dialogue” on Burma in New Delhi as a follow-up to an initial meeting hosted by Thailand in Bangkok on 13 Mar. In addition to Indian officials and representatives of the regime, the meeting’s attendees included think tank experts and representatives from China, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Japan, despite attending the first meeting, did not attend this time due to “extremely short notice.”<sup>220</sup> An anonymous source said the meeting’s participants were interested in including the NUG in future meetings. Another source said that participants discussed the reduction of violence from all sides, creating space for dialogue, and the delivery of humanitarian aid, underscoring that these dialogues are complementary to the 5PC.<sup>221</sup> Indonesia skipped the first meeting but was present at the second one, which indicates an effort to prevent being circumvented as ASEAN chair.

## **3. Silent Diplomacy**

On 11 Feb, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, stated that she will lead a planned Office of the Special Envoy on Burma wherein she will engage with “all stakeholders”.<sup>224</sup> After months of radio silence, on 5 May, Reuters reported that Retno said that her country was using “quiet diplomacy” to speak with all sides of the conflict and spur renewed peace efforts. Indonesia, as chair of ASEAN, had sent diplomats to hold more than 60 engagements with key stakeholders in Burma - a.k.a. the junta, the NUG, and EAOS - as well as neighbors India, Thailand, and China. Retno underscored that non-megaphone diplomacy is vital in building trust with all parties concerned, and reiterated that contrary to popular belief, Indonesia has done many things in the past four months. She added that Indonesia tried to be as inclusive as possible in its role bridging the “wide and deep” gap among stakeholders. A spokesperson for the NUG has confirmed its cooperation with ASEAN, but the junta and the EAOS have yet to respond. Retno confirmed that the junta is still barred from the upcoming ASEAN leaders’ summit.<sup>225</sup> On 6 May, the Jakarta Post reported that Retno named the US, the EU, Japan, and the UN as further key stakeholders Indonesia engaged with.

In response to criticism that the AHA Centre does not have sufficient capacity, and the junta frequently redirects aid for itself, Retno pledged to monitor and coordinate more closely with the AHA Centre.<sup>226</sup>

On 7 May, the Bangkok Post reported that the former Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa criticized this covert approach and emphasized the importance of openly inviting the NUG to ASEAN meetings, to prevent other nations from trying to take the lead in resolving the situation. The Singaporean Foreign Minister urged caution in taking either collective or individual action, to prevent making the situation worse.<sup>227</sup>

<sup>217</sup> Reuters (4 August 2021) ASEAN appoints Brunei diplomat as envoy to Myanmar; The Diplomat (16 December 2021) Cambodian PM Nominates Top Diplomat as ASEAN Envoy on Myanmar

<sup>218</sup> Aljazeera (26 Oct 2021) ASEAN summit begins without Myanmar after top general barred

<sup>219</sup> Great Expectations: Analysis of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, Progressive Voice, 4 August 2021, <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2021/08/04/great-expectations-analysis-of-the-asean-coordinating-center-for-humanitarian-assistance-on-disaster-management/>

<sup>220</sup> Nikkei Asia (26 Apr 2023) India hosts ‘1.5’ informal Myanmar talks amid flurry of diplomacy

<sup>221</sup> Reuters (26 Apr 2023) Myanmar’s neighbours, some ASEAN members hold secretive talks on crisis

<sup>224</sup> Nikkei Asia (11 Feb 2023) Indonesia to set up office of ASEAN special envoy on Myanmar

<sup>225</sup> Reuters (5 May 2023) Exclusive: Indonesia quietly engaging key stakeholders in Myanmar crisis, foreign minister says

<sup>226</sup> Jakarta Post (6 May 2023) Engagement with Myanmar high, but challenges persist: Retno

<sup>227</sup> Bangkok Post (7 May 2023) Myanmar crisis to dominate Asean leaders summit

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

On 16 Apr, at a press conference the NUG reported that the regime had killed 168 people, including 40 minors, in the air strike on Pa Zi Gyi village.<sup>228</sup> On 25-27 Apr, the NUG's acting president's statement called Ban Ki-Moon's meeting with the junta “ethically inappropriate”, as it could imply that he was giving the junta chief an international platform.<sup>229</sup> In a virtual meeting with Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary-General and Deputy Chair of The Elders, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the NUG requested that any "visits to Burma be made in consultation with important stakeholders, including the NUG," and underscored the need for "more coordinated pressure and sanctions from the international community" on the junta. He also claimed that the junta had no right to hold elections.<sup>230</sup>

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<sup>228</sup> NUG (16 Apr 2023) ပစ်ကြိမ်းရွာ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရမှု နောက်ဆုံးရသေဆုံးသူစာရင်း

<sup>229</sup> DVB (25 Apr 2023) NUG dismisses Ban Ki-Moon visit as 'ethically inappropriate'

<sup>230</sup> NUG (30 Apr 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2h48y3zw>