

Intensifying final offensives and integration signs

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#### Introduction

The National Unity Government (NUG) and leaders of the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) and People's Defense Forces (PDFs)/Local Defense Forces (LDFs) have declared 2023 as a decisive year of the Spring Revolution. The armed resistance against the junta becomes stronger and shows the signs which transform into targeted offensives through strong unity.

Since the mid-2022, the country has seen frequent targeted attacks on military camps and police stations where military council soldiers are stationed. On the other hand, we notice the fact that regional resistance forces are making strategic approaches through integration.

The BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news for this week focuses on the resistance forces' final offensives and integration signs.



#### **Incidents**

On 3 April, 2023, four regional alliance forces and a drone force jointly conducted ground and aerial military operations against Ma U police outpost in Yesagyo Township in Magway Region. Ten junta soldiers including a police station head were killed in the operation, according to the Myay Latt Voice. That operation was jointly conducted by the Yesagyo Township PDF, Myaing PDF Battalion-2, Salingyi Special Task Force (SSTF), and the Myanmar Royal Dragon Army (MRDA). Spaceman Salingyi Drone Army (SSDA) which is a company of the SSTF also conducted drone attacks during the operation.

On 28 March, 2023, a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allies captured the military council's Mel Kha Hta camp on the bank of Thanlwin River in the Karen National Union (KNU)-controlled Mutraw District in Karen State. Mel Tayi Hta (aka) Mel Kha Hta camp is the place where Battalion-20 of the KNLA is stationed. It was an old camp of the KNLA when the KNU Headquarters Manerplaw fell into the army in 1995, according to the Karen Information Center (KIC). The KNU/KNLA captured Thee Mu Htar camp in 2021 and Kyaukhnyat camp in 2022, which are located on the bank of the Thanlwin River.

On 16 March, 2023, the Karenni Commando captured a frontline camp on the east bank of Thanlwin River on the Thai-Myanmar border, according to the statement released by the Karenni Military Information Center (KnMIC). On 20 January, 2023, a combined Karenni force captured Mesalaungtaung camp near Nanphae village in Bawlakhe Township in Karenni State, the Kantarawaddy Times reported.

On 8 January, a combined force of the Chin National Army (CNA) and Chinland Defense Force (CDF)-Thantlang captured a police station in Zone Hmon ward in Thantlang Township in Chin

State, the Khonumthung Media Group (KMG) reported. Following it, the military council bombarded a small camp of the CNA on Vanzan mountain ridge in Thantlang Township and Lonelae village in the early morning of 9 February. These are some incidents among the armed resistance wars found during this year. As a result of final offensives, the country sees more and more airstrikes. As a significant point, we notice the fact about integration and cooperation among regional resistance forces in offensive operations against the military council.

#### Signs of cooperation and alliance-making

In the early morning of 7 April, 2023, a joint statement by the regional resistance forces in Karen State emerged. The statement has warned the public about the situations along Asia Highway in Kawkareik and Myawaddy Townships which see intense fighting. The statement was jointly issued by 10 ground columns, urging the public to avoid using the Myawaddy-Kawkareik Asia Highway till 21 April as the military council is carrying out the reinforcements of soldiers and weapons and the supply of rations with the use of civilian vehicles.

The joint statement was signed by the commanders of Cobra column, White Dragon Column and Lion Battalion, battalion commander and tactical commander of the KNU/KNLA-PC, deputy commander of Black Leopard Column, commander of Dawna column, commander of Galon column, White Tiger Column and Deputy Regional Operation Command-2 of the NUG's No.3 Southern Command. On 3 April, armed forces in Karen State held a blood oath ceremony in Kawthoolei territory.





On 28 March, 2023, eight resistance forces in Magway Region issued a joint statement to mark the founding day of the People's Revolution Alliance Force.

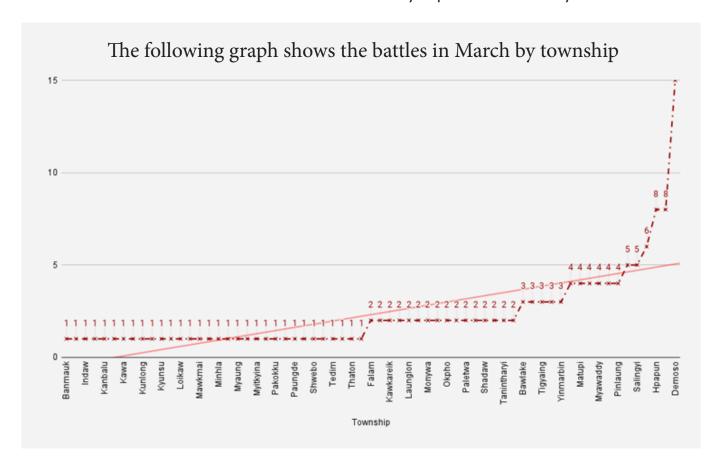
Efforts should be made for the emergence of an army which is concrete and united in terms of politics and military, among oppressed races which are making revolution separately and the people from the different strata. The concrete army should be formed based on mutual respect, generosity and honesty, according to the statement.

The resistance forces which include in the statement are the PRA-Magway, the People's Independent Army, Student Armed Force, Asho Chin Defense Force, Moegyo Guerrilla Force, the People's Liberation Force, the People's Revolutionary Force (West Region) and the CDF (Asho).

According to the BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's records, it is found that resistance wars against the military council troops have emerged through integration between the EROs and the PDFs/LDFs which emerged in the EROs-controlled Kachin, Karen,

Karenni (Kayah) and Chin State as well as in Sagaing Region, following the coup.

It is found that the PDFs/LDFs can transform the resistance war into an offensive under the control and command of the EROs which have had military experiences for many decades.



Take a look at the battles between the PDF/LDF, the EROs and the military council in 2023, March topped the list of battles with 150 days reported. According to the BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, there were 127 days of clashes in February and 116 days in January. Take a look at the battles in March, the clashes were reported in 65 townships in 11 regions and states. Demoso Township in Karenni (Kayah) State stood first on the list of clashes. More than five days of clashes were reported in Hpapun in Karen State, Yesagyo Township in Magway Region, Hpakant and Shwegu Townships in Kachin State and Salingyi Township in Sagaing Region.





Intensifying offensives and integration signs can be viewed as important manifestations for the decision of the Spring Revolution.



#### Review

As the revolutionary forces declared 2023 as a decisive year of the Spring Revolution, it is observed that the civil war becomes more intense by looking at the conflict-related data. With wider civil war, the number of people displaced by the war has been on the increase day by day. On the other hand, it is found that the military council has intensified burning of villages and airstrikes to retain its seized power. We all notice the fact about the prolonged existence of the regime in the Spring Revolution whose goals are to root out all dictators including the military dictatorship and to build up a federal democratic union.

Intensifying offensives and integration signs can be viewed as important manifestations for the decision of the Spring Revolution. It is observed that only political cooperation and military integration among the forces involved in the Spring Revolution can be determinants of the Spring Revolution.

## Weekly Highlight News



## Children account for 34 percent of civilian landmine casualties in Myanmar: UNICEF

7 April 2023

The number of civilian casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war is rising in Myanmar, with children making up 34 percent of the victims, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said in a report published on 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

UNICEF Myanmar said the report aims to raise awareness of the danger of landmines as conflict has intensified across Myanmar



and there are indications are that more landmines are being laid. According to UNICEF, there were 390 civilian casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the country in 2022 - 102 deaths and 288 injuries, including 133 children and 257 adults. In 2021, there were 284 casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in 2021, with most casualties in Arakan State, Chin State, Karenni (Kayah) State, Shan State, and Sagaing Region.

One woman died and five children were injured after the detonation of an unexploded bomb found at a farm near Sa Par Htar village, northeast of Minbya Town, Arakan State, on 10 January 2021.

Between January and September 2020, 49 children were killed and 134 maimed as a direct result of the conflict in Myanmar. Tun Tun, a DRC project officer who conducts Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) says the situation is becoming increasingly difficult.

"One of the main problems children in this area are facing is that safe places, where they can be children and play, are getting narrower and narrower. They can't enjoy their childhood anymore," he said.

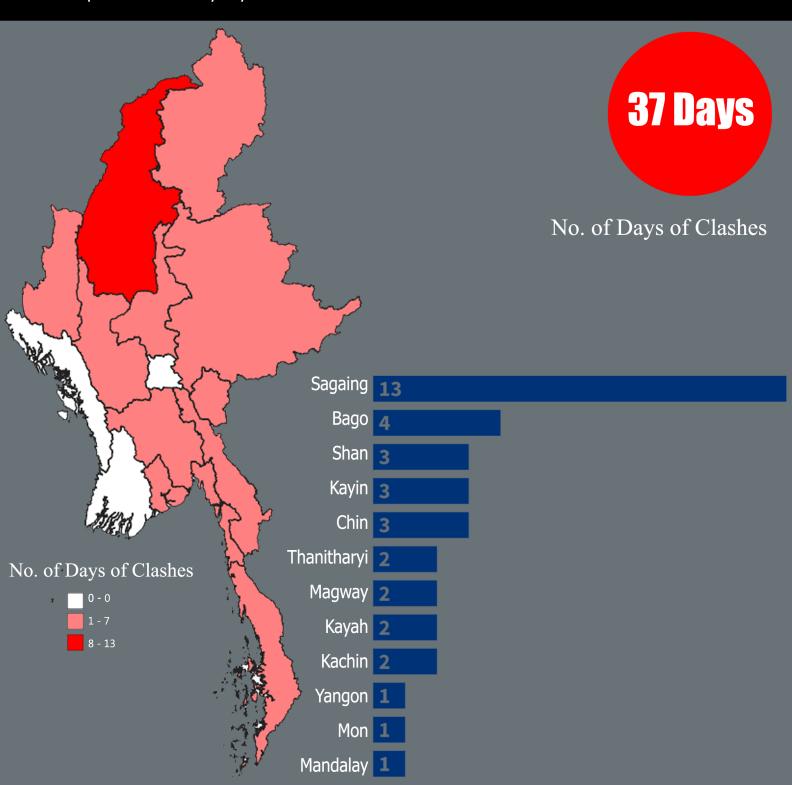
International Day for Mine Awareness, observed annually on 4 April, reminds the world of the horrors of landmines and calls on more countries to sign the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. The treaty is a legally binding international agreement that bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel mines and obliges countries to de-mine, assist victims and destroy stockpiles. 164 states are party to the Mine Ban Treaty - 80 percent of the world's states. Myanmar has not signed the treaty.

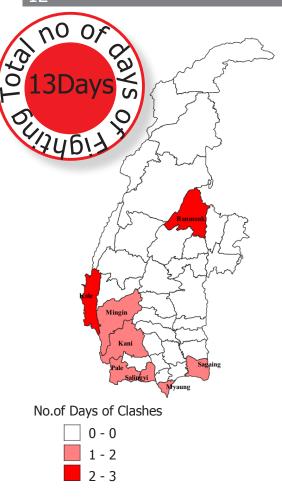
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## Part II

### What Happened this Week

According to the Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, 37 days of clashes were recorded between the military council, the People's Defense Forces (PDFs), the Local Defense Forces (LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 29 March to 4 April. Sagaing Region topped the list of clashes in the regions and states, with 13 days. The number of clashes may be higher than that as the clashes in townships are recorded by day.





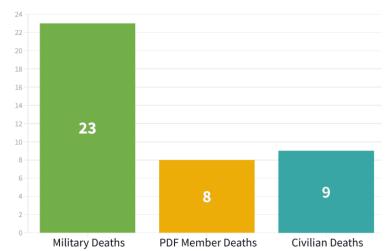
#### Sagaing Region

A military court in Indaw Township on 3 April sentenced to life imprisonment three women, including a CDM teacher, who had been charged under sections 50(j) and 52(a) of Counter-Terrorism Law. Those wrongfully sentenced to life imprisonment are Daw Thein Hla, a woman in her 40s, Daw Khin Pyae Pyae Tun, a merchant, and Daw Aye Aye. The regime raided their homes, arrested them, and held them in Katha Prison for allegedly supporting the PDF.

On 1 April, junta troops arrested and murdered two people from Kankone village in Salingyi Township. A military column of about 80 soldiers from the junta's Northwest Regional Command violently entered the village through Shwe Taung Oo, ransacked the houses, and killed the two villagers.

On 31 March, three people were killed, two others injured, and houses damaged after the junta's air force bombed two fighter jets near U Lar Ba Pagoda and in Paukkone village in Htigyaing Township.

Nineteen junta soldiers and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDFs in Sagaing, Salingyi, Banmauk, Myaung, Kani, Minkin, Pale and Kalay Townships. On 2 April, four junta soldiers were killed in the PDF's shootings in Myawaddy Bank and Myanmar Economic Bank in Monywa. On 4 April, the junta soldiers abducted and killed seven PDF members in Wetlet Township. Seven locals from Banmauk, Myaung, Htigyaing and Salingyi Townships were killed by the military council's shootings. Over 33,000 locals from Salingyi, Pale, Depayin and Htigyaing Townships have fled to safer places due to the military council's arson and operations.







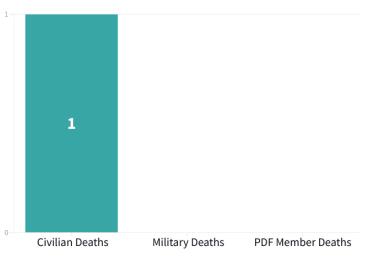
#### Kachin State

Military council troops arrested more than 30 locals following clashes between junta troops deployed between Simulay and Simugyi villages and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and PDF in Shwegu Township.

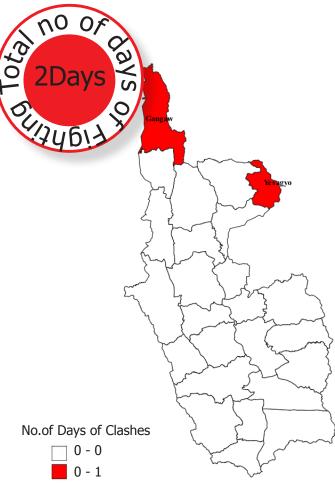
The military council sentenced Daw Thet Htar Hnaung, a National League for Democracy (NLD) MP for Mohnyin Township, to 11 years in prison on 30 March under Section 50(j) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. The regime had arrested them at their home in Nanmar's Aung Mingalar Ward last August and sentenced them to one year in prison on 26 March 2022, and additionally charged them under Section 50(j).

On 30 March, about 25 members of a special commando unit of the regime's Northern Command arrived in three civilian vehicles and took five men from a tattoo shop in Rampu Ward in Myitkyina with their hands tied behind their backs, accusing them of being KIA trainees.

From 29 to 30 March, there was a clash between the military council troops and a combined force of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDF in Shwegu Township. On 30 March, junta soldiers killed a driver of a truck heading to Hpakant, at the entry of Karmaing in Hpakant Township, for no apparent reason.



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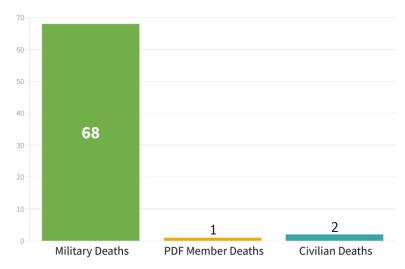


#### Magway Region

A bomb explosion occurred at a house in 1st Street of Aungthabyay Kwetthit, Ward 3, Pakokku Township. The explosion of improvised explosive devices in the kitchen killed the 37-year-old father and his 14-year-old son and their bodies were taken to the Pakokku mortuary. Junta soldiers reportedly found tools used to build improvised bombs and arrested two other members of the victims' family.

On 2 April, the regime arrested 28 civilians from four wards- 3, 7, 11 and 15 - in downtown Pakokku on the pretext that they had not registered as overnight guests. Among those arrested are three children under 10 years old, some elderly people and women.

There were clashes between the military council and the PDFs in Gangaw and Yesagyo Townships, killing 65 junta soldiers and one PDF member. On 2 April, three junta soldiers were killed in a friendly-fire incident between the military council soldiers in Seikphyu Township.





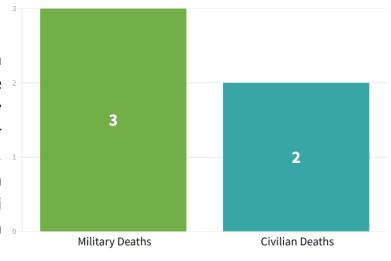


#### Mandalay Region

Junta soldiers shot and arrested an NLD party supporter in the Ward (G) in Pyigyidagun Township on 3 April and asked the victim's family to take the body. On 3 April, the regime soldiers came to the house of the victim, U Win Kyaw, and questioned him about his wife, who is a village and town NLD leader, who had gone into hiding. The husband was shot, beaten and taken to the Mandalay Nandwin interrogation centre. On 4 April, the regime asked the family to take the body from the Mandalay General Hospital morgue. When the body of U Win Kyaw, who was around 40 years old, was recovered, black and blue bruises were found on his face, back and head.

On 2 April, a man was found with multiple knife wounds near Sagaing Junction between Sanpya Road and 78th Street in the South Ward of Chanmyathazi. A sign reading "Thway Thaut Group - Red Clearance Group" was found on the body.

On 2 April, the PDF attacked Kyatpyin police station in Mogok. On 30 March, three junta soldiers were killed in an ambush by the PDF on a military convoy leaving for Ngapyinin village in Singu. On 31 March, military-appointed 100-head house U San Aung from Htuntone ward in Chanmyathazi Township, was shot dead by an unknown armed force.





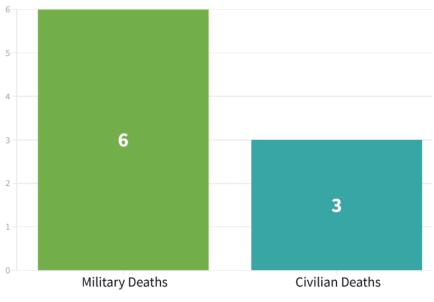
#### Karen State

On 3 April, a 12-year-old child was fatally shot by a bullet fired indiscriminately from a junta vehicle in Manikone Village, Kyondoe Township, Kawkareik Township. The child, named Maung Waitharli Tun, who was hit in the thigh, succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

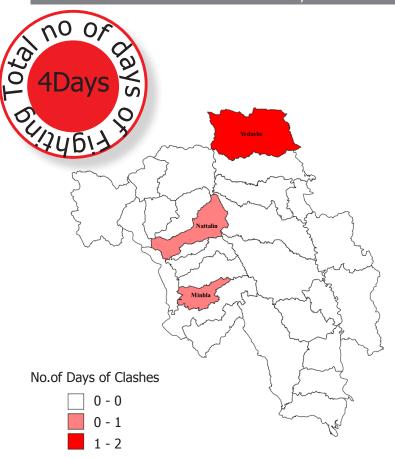
On 2 April, two women, one from Wingyi ward in Kawkareik and another from Yaypu village, were fatally shot by indiscriminately fired bullets from military council troops.

Junta troops stationed in Thapyaynyunt village in Thandaunggyi Township fired artillery indiscriminately at the village, killing a 15-year-old child. On 30 March, a 13-year-old child was fatally hit by a landmine planted by junta troops outside the village. Unprovoked artillery fire by regime troops has forced residents to flee to safer locations.

Five junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council troops and a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the PDF in Myawaddy and Tandaunggyi Townships. On 4 April, one member of the people's militia force was shot dead by an unknown armed force in Hlaingwa village in Kawkareik Township. Three civilians from Kawkareik, Thandaunggyi and Hpapun<sup>3</sup> Townships were killed by the military council's shootings. Over 1,000 locals fled to safer places due to the military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling into the villages in Myawaddy Township from 25 to 31 March.





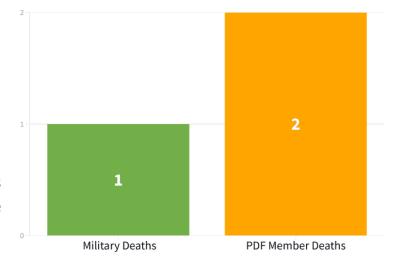


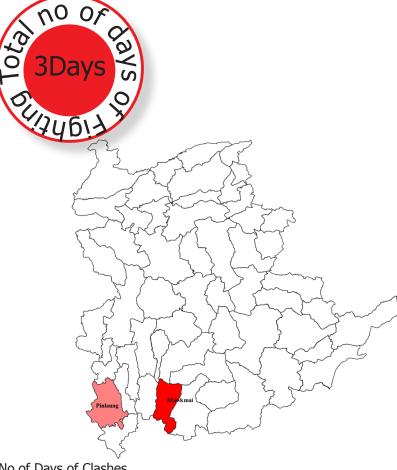
#### Bago Region

The military regime carried out aerial bombardments on Myethnarpyin, Shwethaung, and Hnawpin villages as junta troops clashed with the PDF in Yaydashe Township on 2 and 4 April, forcing residents to flee to safety.

The Gyobingauk Students Union distributed Issue 12, Volume 2 of Oway Magazine to the public on 3 April with the reported intention to prevent the people from losing the urgency in the revolution.

One junta soldier and two PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Nattalin, Minhla and Yedashe Townships.





Shan State

On 3 April, a man from Konenyaung village in Naungcho Township was hit by a landmine and received medical treatment at Naungcho Hospital.

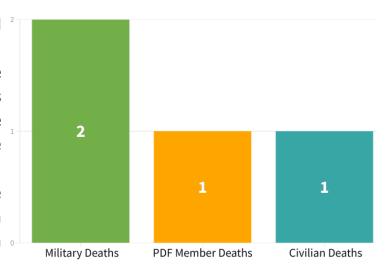
A 20-year-old former militia member named Meing Soe Tun from Loihkum village in Homaw Ward in Kutkai Township was abducted by an unidentified group while he was on his way home after visiting the immigration office in downtown Kutkai to obtain his national registration card.

No. of Days of Clashes

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On 29 March, one PDF member was killed in a battle between the military council and the PDF between Lonepyin village and Taungmaethin village in Pinlaung Township. From 30 and 31 March, the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) clashed with the Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization/ Pa-Oh National Liberation Army (PNLO/PNLA) in Maukmae Township. On 2 April, the military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling into the villages on the eastern bank of Moebye Township killed one civilian. On 31 March, two members of Myoma people's militia force were killed in the shooting by an unknown armed force in the compound of Thein Than

Chi bus terminal in Muse Township.



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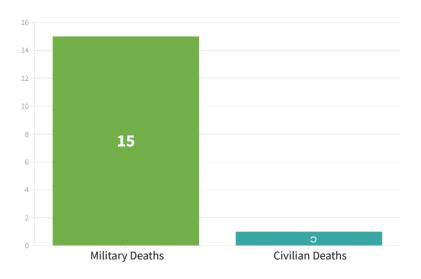


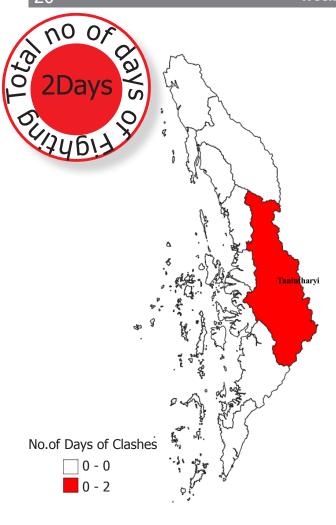
#### Karenni (Kayah) State

Military council troops shelled the east of Demoso township with artillery and flew airstrikes on 30 March, damaging a school, wounding a 25-year-old man and injuring some others. The junta's air force fired eight times and also shelled villages.

Explosions of artillery shells fired indiscriminately by regime troops around 6 pm on 4 April damaged houses in western Demoso Township.

From 29 to 30 March, 15 junta soldiers were killed in a clash between the military council troops and a Karenni combined force near Dawhlyarkhu village in Demoso Township. A 25-year-old man was killed in an airstrike by the military council which suffered heavy casualties.



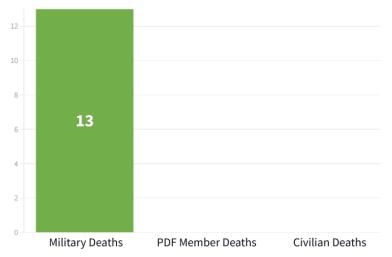


#### Tanintharyi Region

The military council arrested three men and five women between the ages of 20 and 50 in Launglon Township from 20 March to 2 April. Those arrested include NLD party member U Win Zaw and his wife and daughter.

On 1 April, the Myat Mandalar Tun Express, which was traveling from Myeik to Kawthaung at night, came under fire near the rubber plantation between Leltaungyar and Tamokechone villages, Sinchayphone village tract, Tanintharyi Township. In the attack, a six-year-old child was killed and a woman in her 60s was wounded, while two monks and two men were also injured. The People's Defence Force - Tanintharyi claimed responsibility for the attack and apologized for the mistaken shooting.

On 28 and 29 March, 12 junta soldiers were killed in battles between the military council troops and the PDF in Tanintharyi Township. On 29 March, a captain from the military council was killed in a drone attack by the PDF on a regional police station in Palaw Township.





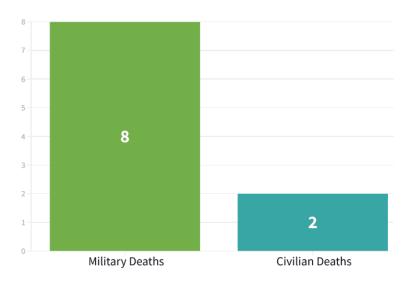


#### Mon State

A joint force of Battalion 3 of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and local defence forces attacked a junta convoy with mines near Ahlu Village in Bilin Township on 29 March, prompting junta troops to respond indiscriminately, killing two civilians.

On the same day, an 80mm artillery shell from Battalion 314 of Light Infantry Division 44 stationed in Zeewun village struck the house of Daw Thaung in Taungkalay village, Ahnaingpun village tract, Bilin Township, wounding Naw Pyo, 48, and Saw Zarni Zaw, 14, including 80-year-old Daw Thaung. The regime's army have shelled villages in Bilin Township with heavy weapons for no apparent reason.

On 4 April, two junta soldiers were killed in the PDF's ambush attack on a camp between Aryutaung village and Taungzun village in Ye Township. On 29 March, six junta soldiers were killed in the PDF's drone attack on an operation gate at Mokepalin junction in Mokepalin village in Kyaikto Township. Two civilians were killed by the military council's indiscriminate shootings after an ambush attack on a military convoy near Alu village in Bilin Township on 29 March.





#### Ayeyarwady Region

Military council soldiers arrested seven locals on 22 March and three others on 2 April following the shooting of the juntaappointed administrator of Inhpyar village in Kyonepyaw Township. U Than Htike, one of those arrested, reportedly died on the same day he was arrested.

As part of Operation Nan Htike Aung, Irrawaddy Dolphins PDF and Wakhema - PDF jointly carried out an explosive attack on Myanma Agricultural Development Bank in Wakhema, injuring a security guard. The joint attack was reportedly carried out in response to the bank manager and his staff threatening local farmers that they would seize their farms if they did not repay the bank loan.





No.of Days of Clashes

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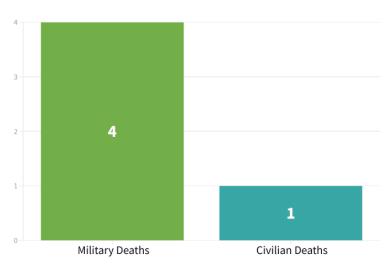
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#### Yangon Region

The junta arrested about ten young people, including women, after the administrator of Kanbae village in Kayan Township was shot dead. The junta-appointed administrator was shot while taking video recording at a donation event at the village monastery on 30 March. Subsequently, regime soldiers arrested the young people from Kanbae and Depauk villages and interrogated them at the latter's school.

On 29 March, two days after announcing the dissolution of 40 political parties, including the NLD, the military council began removing signs from NLD township offices in Yangon. On 31 March, township elders and municipal officials took down the signs of NLD party offices in Hlaing Township.

On 30 March, two police members who were collecting extortion money were shot dead by the PDF in Thongwa Township. On 30 March, administrator Myo Zaw Oo from No.1 ward was shot dead by an unknown armed force at the donation ceremony in Kanbae monastery in Kanbae village in Kayan Township. On 3 April, two junta soldiers were killed in a battle between the military council troops and the PDF in Kayan Township.



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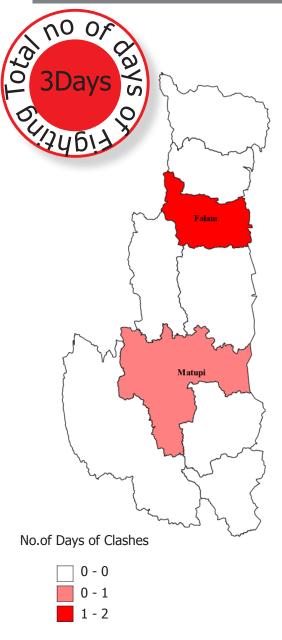


The World Food Programme (WFP) was unable to deliver aid to more than 28,000 displaced people in northern Maungdaw and southern Buthidaung Townships in March as supplies remained restricted due to alleged unrest in the areas.

The military council army has closed Ponnagyun-Rathedaung Road for ten months, affecting the social, economic, educational and health situation of more than 50 vilalges that rely on the road, including the transportation of goods.

On 31 March, the All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress (AASYC) sent messages to the phones of Arakan people against the planned election by the military council. Also on 12 April, the students' union campaigned by putting antijunta election posters on benches along Shukhinthar Road and distributing them on the street.



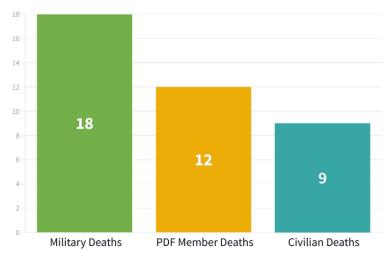


#### Chin State

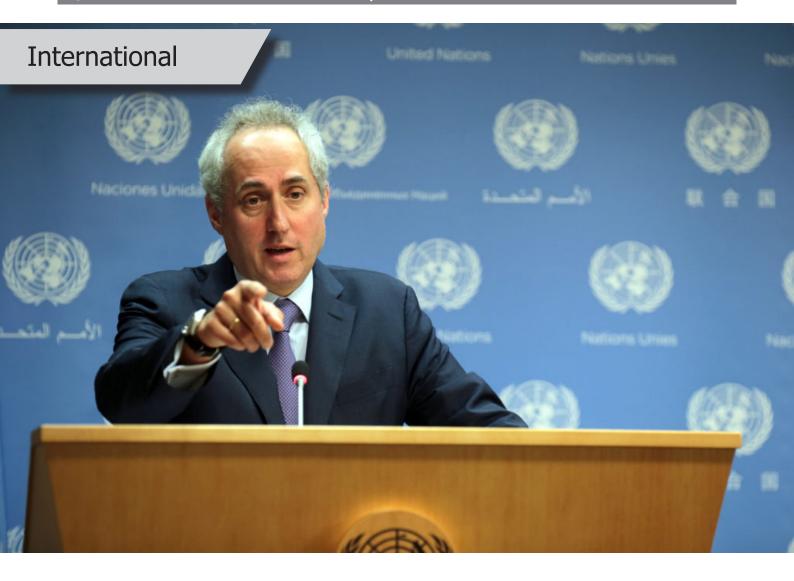
The military regime unprovokedly bombed Khuafo village, located three miles from the town of Thantlang, unprovoked on 30 March, killing eight civilians and wounding 20 others. Among them were two children aged six and nine, and five women.

On 29 March, junta soldiers disrobed and arrested a Buddhist monk in his late 30s who was helping camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near Day and San villages in Mindat Township. The camps have been in operation for more than two years and house more than 500 people.

Eighteen junta soldiers and 12 members of Chinland Defense Force (CDF) were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the CDF in Matupi and Falam Townships.



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The United Nations expressed concern over the dissolution of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by the Myanmar military council. In a response to the dissolution of the 40 parties on 29 March, Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, said he called for a return to democracy and the release of the other detainees, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The United States, Britain, Japan and Australia also expressed concern over the dissolution of the parties and strongly condemned the military council's Union Election Commission.

In a statement released by the US Department of State, US Secretary Antony Blinken said the people of Myanmar voted overwhelmingly to re-elect the NLD and other parties in November





...the human rights situation in Myanmar has deteriorated since the coup and that the junta has consistently shown it holds no respect for international rule of law, human rights or democracy.



2020 national elections; the military regime's decision to dissolve the political parties shows its continued contempt for the popular will of Burma's people and multi-party democracy; the military's ongoing efforts to stifle political dissent and eradicate civic space are designed to further entrench its own power and interests; and this action further demonstrates that the regime's plans for deeply flawed elections, if held, will not represent the will of Burma's voters.

On 4 April, Simon Manley, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, told the 52nd regular session of the Human Rights Council that the human rights situation in Myanmar has deteriorated since the coup and that the junta has consistently shown it holds no respect for international rule of law, human rights or democracy.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in a press conference that talks with all stakeholders to resolve the Myanmar issue are making progress in the three months since the Southeast Asian nation took over as rotating chair of the ASEAN. She also said in line with the points in the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN, Indonesia is holding talks with key stakeholders as well as those with whom talks had never been held before.

Political analysts say the Myanmar military council is trying to cooperate with Russia in an effort to maintain its power. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing and the delegation led by Igor Krasnov, Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation, reportedly discussed expanding diplomatic relations and legal cooperation between the two countries when they met in Nay Pyi Taw in March.

#### Remark:

References and news sources for the 'What Happened This Week' section are from local and foreign news agencies as well as 15 media organizations of Burma News International - BNI.