

Weekly News Review

Issue 107, 31 May - 6 June 2023



KNDF's message
on 2nd anniversary
of establishment

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Introduction

The military press release on the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) said that the administrative mechanism of the military council in Karenni State (Kayah) is now only in Loikaw. Founded on 31 May, 2021, the KNDF has formed 22 battalions and six military strategies.

The Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news review for this week highlights the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the KNDF and military and political shifts in Karenni (Kayah) State.

2 Years Conflict Report of KNDF

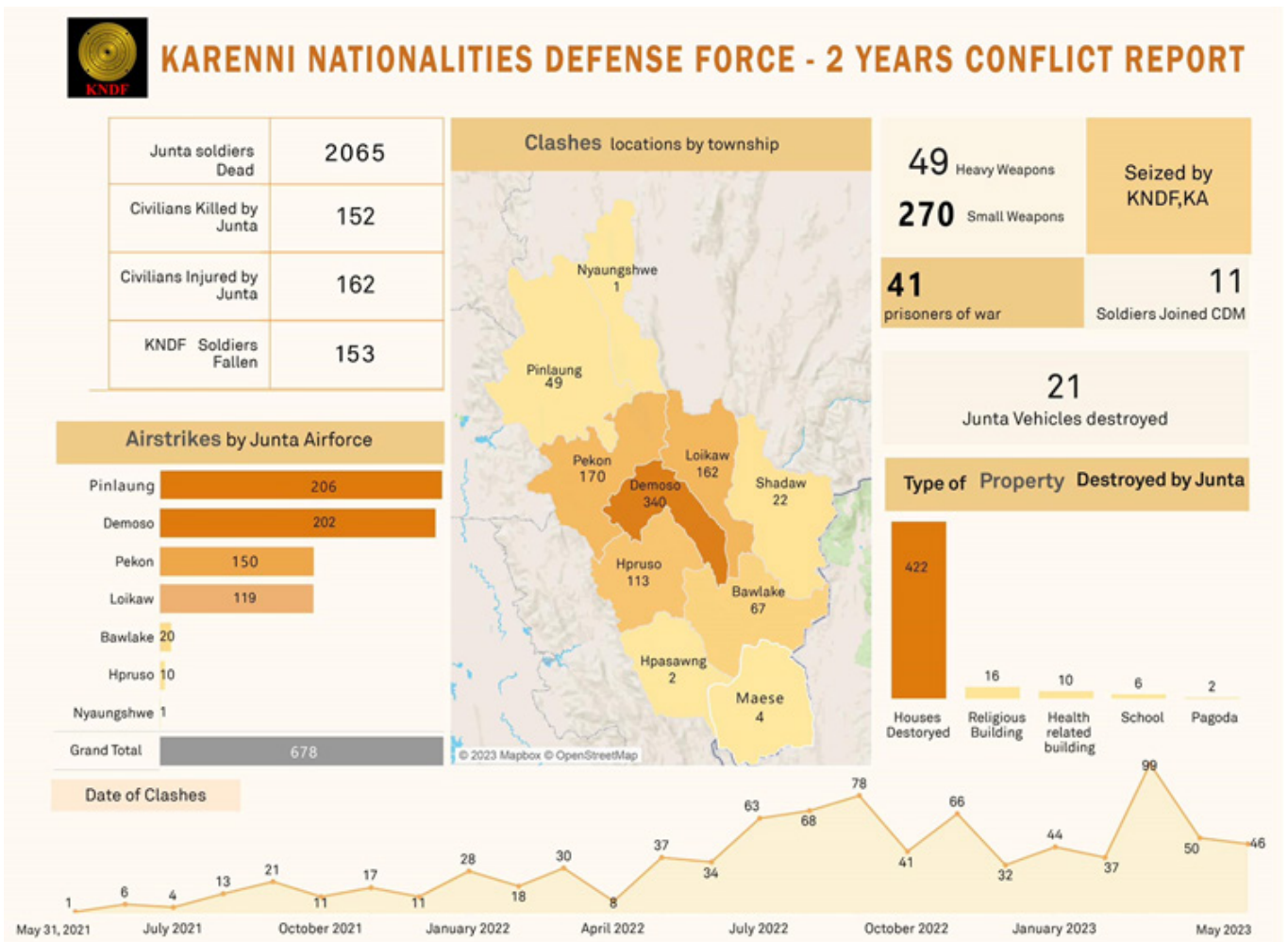
Since May 2021, there have been more than 1,000 battles between the military council and the Karenni revolutionary forces, including the KNDF. More than 2,065 military council soldiers were killed and 41 others captured alive. Ten frontline camps of the military council and some checkpoints were captured, the KNDF announced.¹

¹The conflict report on the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF), <http://rb.gy/hynz3>

The administrative mechanism of the military council in Karenni State is only in Loikaw. Demoso, Hpruso and Bawlake Townships where fighting is taking place, are deserted. Only battalions and their family members remain there.

Although the military council soldiers are present in other townships, they are already under the administration of respective ethnic armed forces. Except the junta-controlled wards, the remaining townships and areas are already under the control of the relevant Karenni revolutionary forces and People's Defense Forces (PDFs).

Following the military coup, the resistance war against the military council troops has spread to Pekon Township and Pinlaung Township on the Shan-Karenni (Kayah) border in addition to seven townships of Karenni (Kayah) State. Demoso Township in Karenni State and Pekon Township in Shan State see the highest number of fighting.



Due to the military council's arson attacks, shelling, airstrikes and bombings in Karenni State which sees strong armed resistance, more than 400 civilian houses, 12 religious buildings, six schools and 16 clinics were destroyed, the KNDF says.

The military council troops committed mass killings of civilians in Hpruso Township of Karenni (Kayah) State and Pinlaung Township in southern Shan State. During the two years of the Spring Revolution, 153 KNDF members were killed while resisting the military council troops, according to the statement.



We must reject the administration of the military council and build an administration which represents the Karenni people



Message conveyed by KNDF Chair

Khun Bee Htoo, Chair of the KNDF promised that in building a future federal democratic union, the KNDF cooperates with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), the National Unity Government (NUG) and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) on their stances and activities. In addition, the KNDF will cooperate with the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) on the emergence of state government and other public services such as protection, education and health of Karenni people, at the state level.

"We must reject the administration of the military council and build an administration which represents the Karenni people"²

Khun Bee Htoo continued to say that he recognized the military leadership of the Karenni Army (KA) during two years of the Spring Revolution. With the military leadership of the KA, cooperation with other forces have led to the high level of military understanding and trust and could overcome difficulties. Thanks to various kinds of ammunition and invaluable military aid provided by the Three Brotherhood Alliance, namely Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party/ Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNTJP/MNDAA), Palaung State Liberation Front/Ta'ang National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA) and United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA), the KNDF, has been able to walk

² Chairman's speech to mark the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF), <http://rb.gy/nglf5>

on the military and political path to date. It had the opportunity to learn a lot of military training and techniques from the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA).

Review

Revolutionary forces such as the NUG, the KSCC, the Three Brotherhood Alliance (MNTJP/ MNDAA, PSLF/TNLA and ULA/AA), the Bamar People's Liberation Army (BPLA), Tavoy People Liberation Force (TPLF), the PDF (Mandalay), No.1008 Battalion Southern Shan Revolution Youth (SSRY) under the military region-3 of the Central Command under the NUG, the People's Revolution Front (PRF) and the Myanmar Royal Dragon Army (MRDA) sent congratulatory messages to the two-year anniversary of founding the KNDF.

According to the data collected by the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor in townships, until 31 May, 2023, there were more than 270 days of clashes between the military council army and the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) including the KNDF in Karenni (Kayah) State and southern Shan State. Fighting is reported mostly in Demoso, Pekon, Loikaw and Hpruso. May 2022 and March 2023 were recorded as the months with the most fighting.³ With the intensifying resistance war, Demoso Township was the township most affected by the military council's airstrikes. Pekon Township is the second most affected township.⁴ It must be said that the military council relies heavily on artillery shelling and airstrikes in their operations rather than ground offensives in Karenni State which has only seven townships and Pekon Township of Shan State.

To sum up, the messages sent to the two-year anniversary of founding the KNDF show the momentum and strength of the Spring Revolution. The collective and united resistance among the forces of the Spring Revolution is a good example for the resistance forces in other regions and states.

3 Myanmar Armed Conflict Dashboard , 31 May 2023 , <http://rb.gy/o299w>

4 Military Regimes Airstrikes in Myanmar, 31 May 2023 <http://rb.gy/0wv9n>

Weekly HighLight Quote



We had to work hard to achieve this situation from nothing. We're still fighting in the armed resistance against the military council. We're quite satisfied with what we have achieved in the last two years. In this revolution, we're determined to continue our struggle until our state enjoys national equality and self-determination and a federal democratic union is established.



Mi Htaw

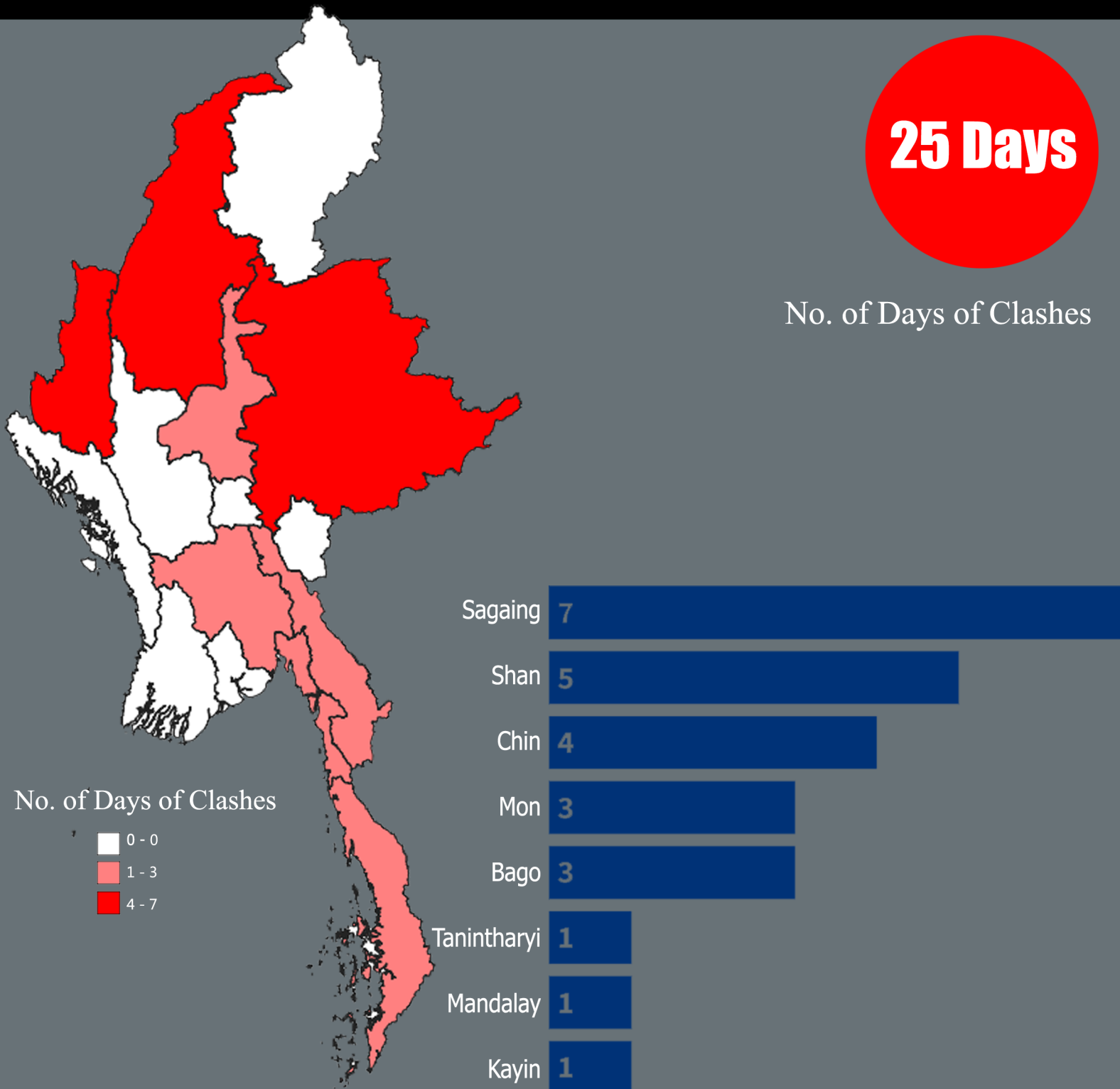
- Logistics soldier
- Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF)

(An excerpt from "Voices of KNDF comrades commemorating the 2nd anniversary" by BNI-MPM)

Part II

What Happened This Week

According to data collected by BNI- Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 25 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDF/LDF), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 31 May to 6 June. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region topped the list with seven days. MPM records the situation of fighting in days by township, but the actual number of incidents may be higher given the frequency of clashes.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

31 May - 6 June 2023



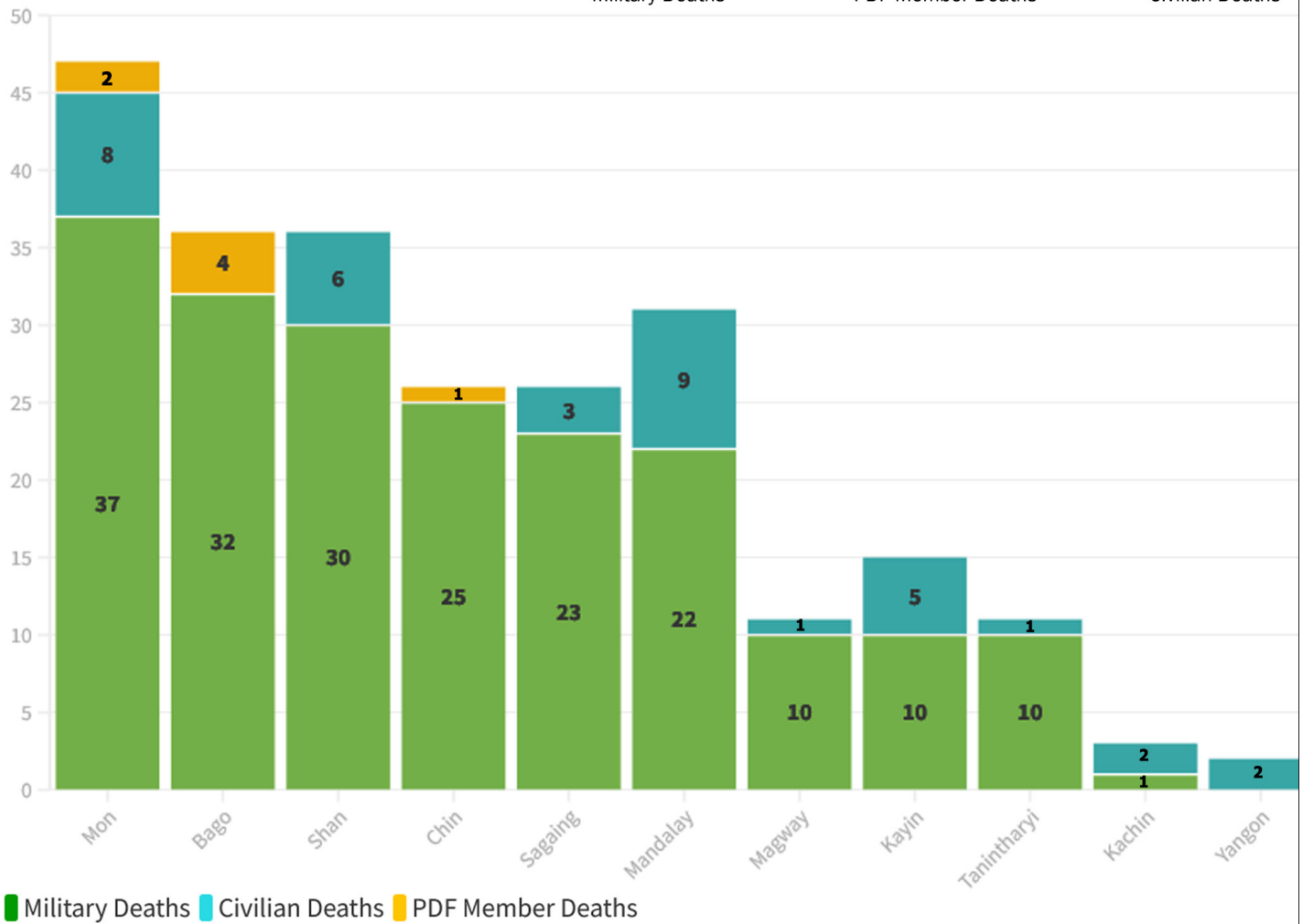
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



31000

Total Number of IDPs (31 May - 6 June 2023)

19,000

10,000

2000

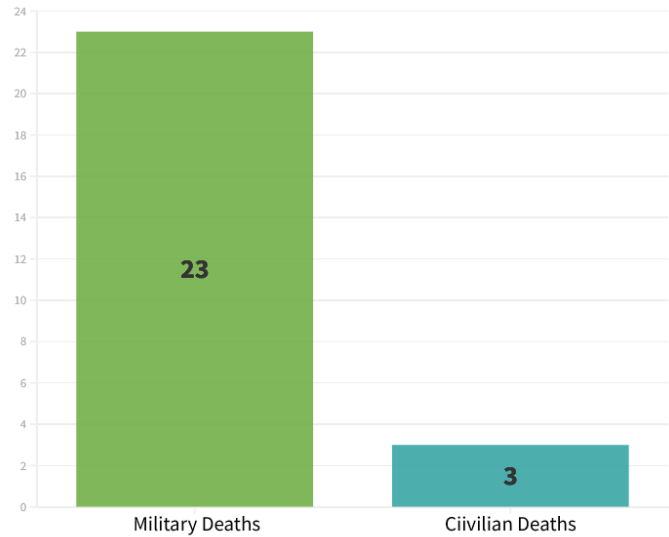
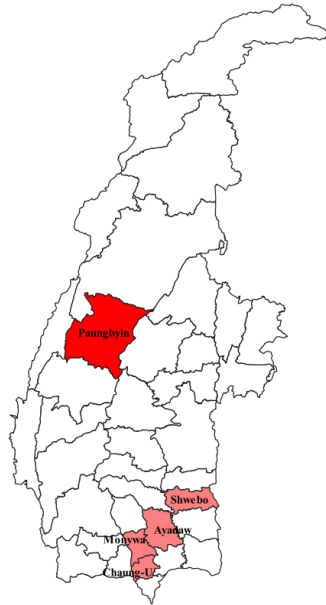
■ Sagaing
 ■ Bago
 ■ Tanintharyi

Total no of days of clashes

7 Days

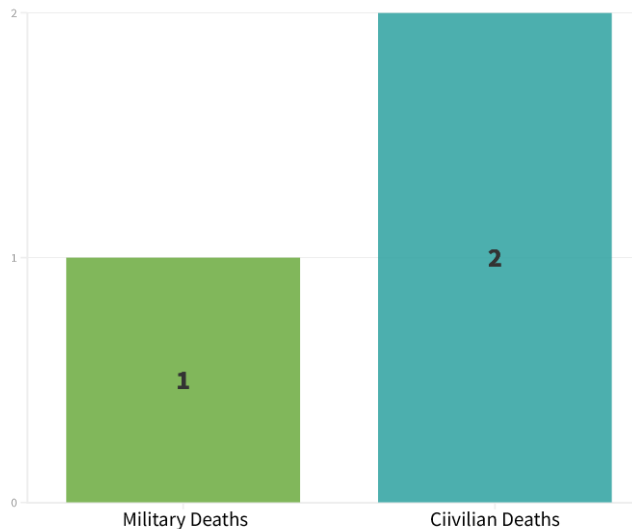
No. of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 3



Sagaing Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and PDF in Chaung-U, Paungbyin, Monywa, Ayadaw, and Shwebo Townships, resulting in the death of 22 junta soldiers. In addition, a policeman was killed when junta guards on duty at collective plantation of the Northwest Regional Command in Khinmun village, Chaung-U Township, was attacked on 5 June. In Khin-U and Wetlet Townships, three people were shot dead by junta soldiers. In addition, the Myanmar army's advance forced more than 19,000 residents in Khin-U, Salingyi, and Sagaing Townships to flee to safety.



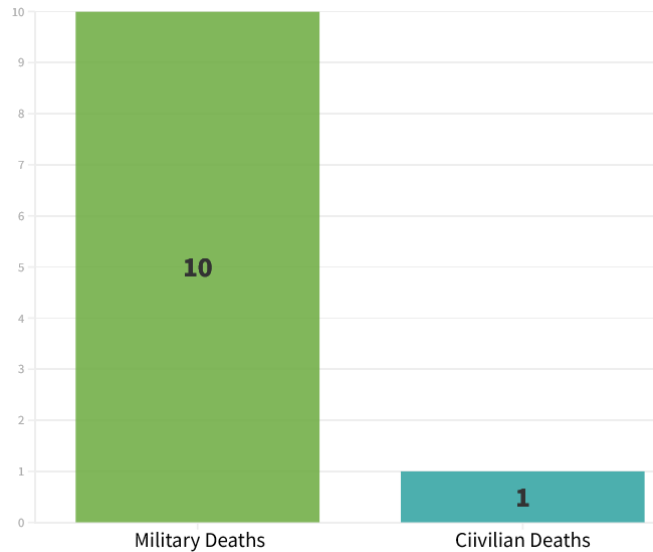
Kachin State

On 3 June, a surveillance police sergeant named Win Ko Ko from Hopin police station was arrested by PDF members. He was fatally shot in the head and died on the spot after trying to get away. In addition, two bodies of men with wounds were found near Hsengtaung village in Hpakant Township on 6 June.



Magway Region

Nine military council soldiers were killed when regime columns came under mine attacks in Pakokku and Yesagyo Townships. On 2 June, a Myanmar army's sergeant was shot dead by PDF members as he went to buy food in Chauk Township. On 5 June, PDF members killed a man named Ko Tin Maung Win from Myintegy village in Natmauk Township, who was widely known as junta informant.



Total no of days of clashes

1 Day

No. of Days of Clashes

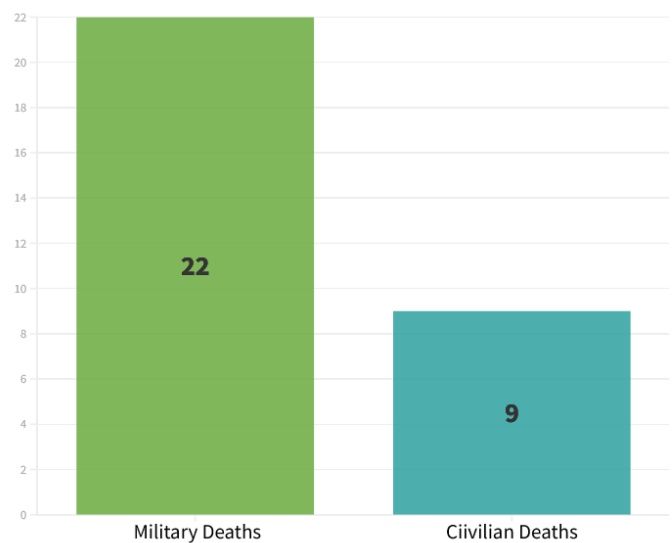
0 - 0

0 - 1



Mandalay Region

Military council troops stationed at Zayatgyi village monastery in Taungtha Township, clashed with the PDF on 2 June, killing at least seven junta soldiers. In addition, 15 junta soldiers were killed when Myanmar army troops were attacked with drones in Myingyan and Mahlaing Townships. On 4 June, a military veteran named Hla Moe, who was acquiring information about the PDF in Taungtha Township, was shot dead by PDF members. On 4 June, seven burned bodies of local residents were found by local defence forces conducting clearance activities after junta columns left Kyettuyway and Theainn villages in Singu Township. On 1 June, a teenage boy was killed on the spot when a bomb planted about two feet from the entrance to Konetanlay village in Madaya Township.



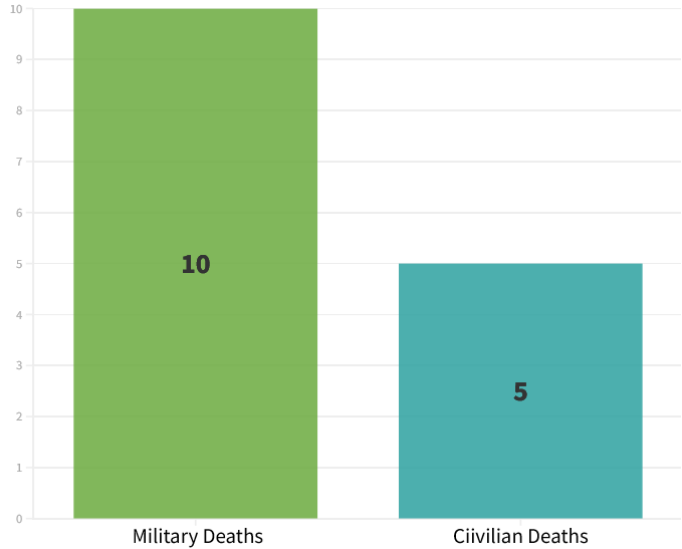
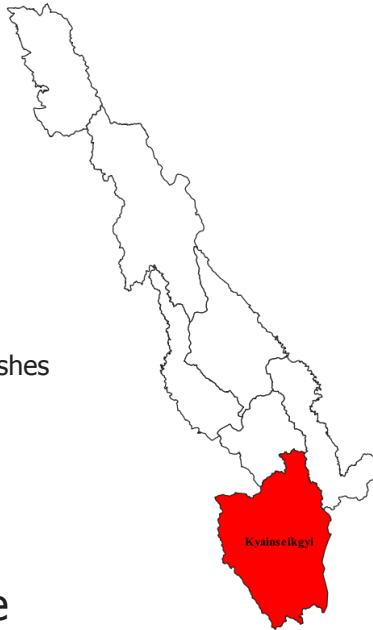
Total no of days of clashes

1 Day

No.of Days of Clashes

0 - 0

0 - 1



Karen State

On 2 June, ten military council soldiers were killed and about 15 others wounded when joint forces of KNLA, Special Operation Force (SOF), and Cloud Wings drone force carried out an attack on the offices operating under the military council in Kyainseikgyi Township. In addition, five local residents in Kyainseikgyi and Kawkareik Townships were killed by indiscriminate artillery fire from military council forces.

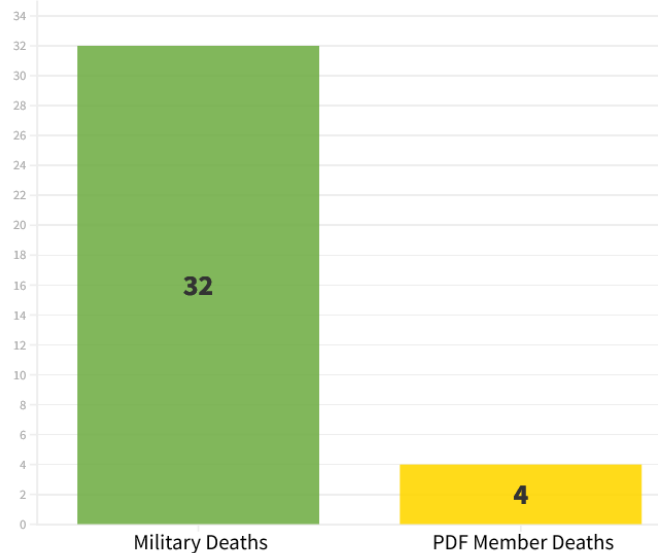
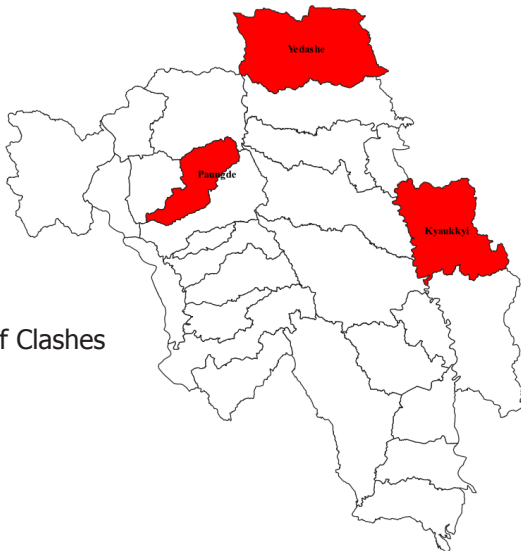
Total no of days of clashes

3 Days

No.of Days of Clashes

0 - 0

0 - 1



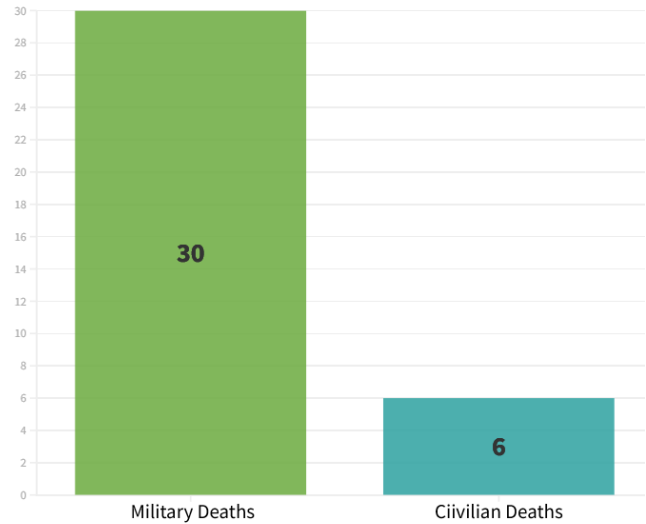
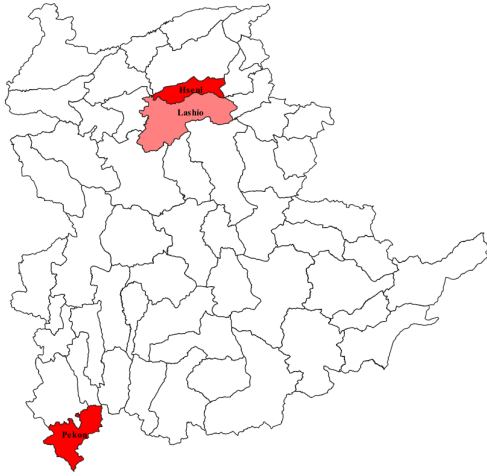
Bago Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in Paungde, Yedashe, and Kyaukkyi Townships, resulting in the death of 31 junta soldiers and four resistance members. In addition, on 31 May, PDF members shot dead Lieutenant Colonel Ye Naing of Taungoo-based air base while he was riding a motorcycle on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Highway. Fighting in Kyaukkyi Township displaced more than 10,000 residents from villages including Yaetwinkonegyi and Bonthabaw villages in the east of Natthankwin town.

Total no of days of clashes

5 Days

No. of Days of Clashes



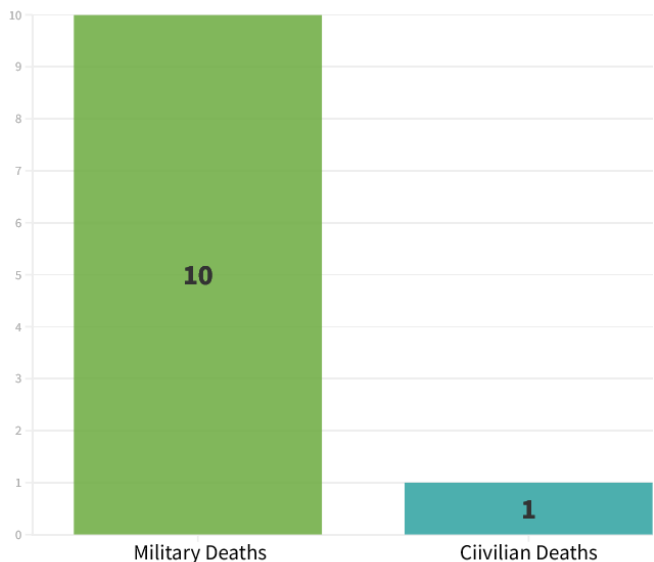
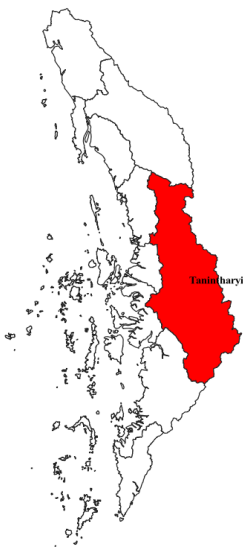
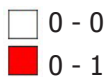
Shan State

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and the PDF and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Theinni, Lashio, and Pekon Townships, killing 30 junta soldiers. In addition, six local residents were killed by indiscriminate artillery fire from Myanmar army troops in Pekon and Moebye Townships on 5 and 6 June.

Total no of days of clashes

1 Day

No. of Days of Clashes

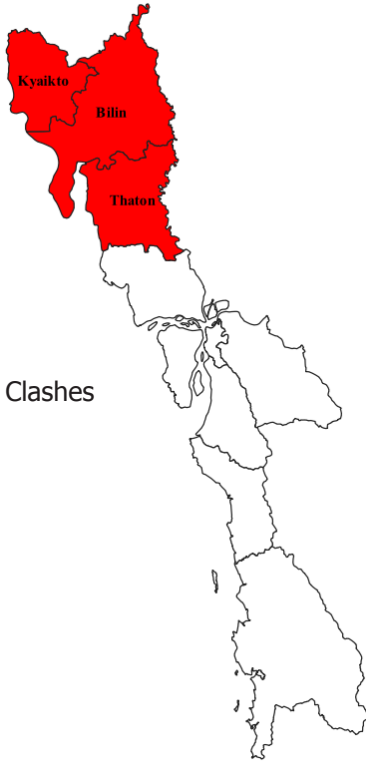


Tanintharyi Region

On 6 June, Myanmar army troops stationed at Chaungnyiko village monastery in Banlamut village tract, Tanintharyi Township, clashed with the PDF, killing at least ten military council soldiers. On 1 June, junta soldiers fatally shot a man named Ko Naing Oo in Kaleinaung town, Yebyu Township allegedly for not stopping the motorcycle at the Kaleinaung Bridge checkpoint and for using profanity. In addition, junta troops fired artillery indiscriminately and continuously at Lelthit village in Tanintharyi Township on 1 June, forcing more than 2,000 residents to flee to safer locations.

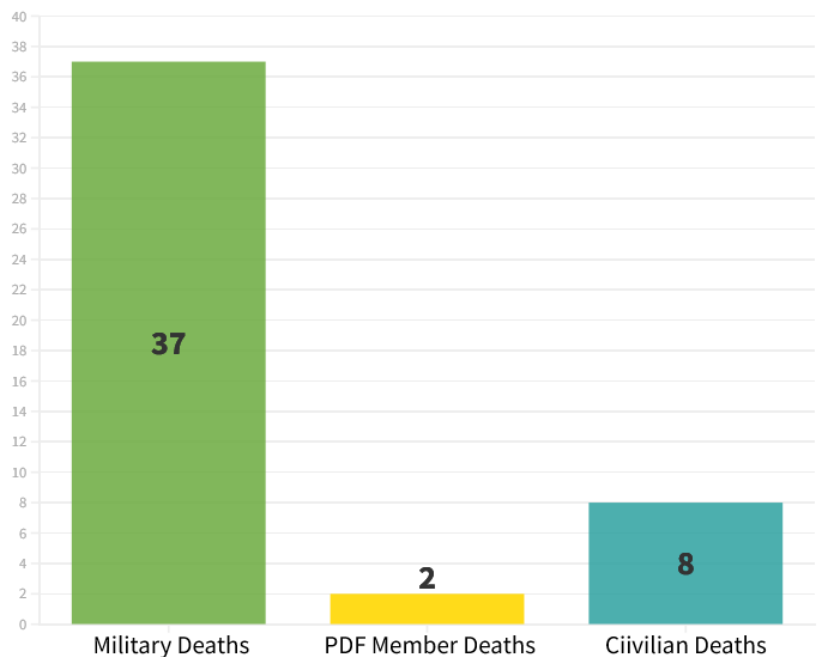
Total no of days of clashes

3 Days



Mon State

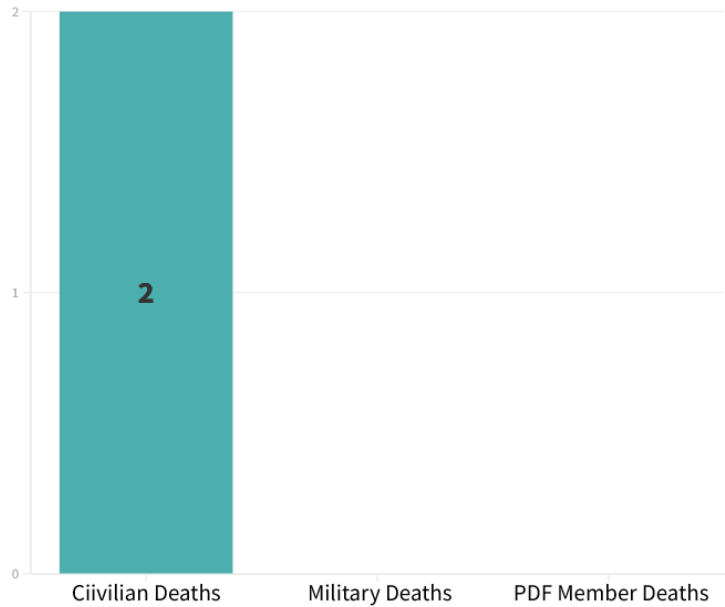
In Kyaikto, Bilin and Thaton townships, Myanmar Army troops clashed with joint forces from KNLA-PDF, killing 34 junta soldiers and two members of the resistance. During the fighting, the Myanmar army supported with artillery. The shells struck Duyinseik and nearby villages, killing one man and one woman in Duyinseik village and also injuring three other civilians. On 1 June, three junta soldiers were killed when joint resistance forces attacked Mokepalin checkpoint in Kyaikto Township with two 60mm grenades and also fired upon at least ten times with 40mm grenades. On 2 June, PDF members shot dead a veteran named U Pann Shwe in Chaungtaung village in Ye Township. On 31 May, U Myint, 68, and his son Pote Kyi (also known as Ohn Han), 40, were killed by unknown gunmen in the field outside of Hpehtaw village, Kawthlar village tract, Mawlamyine Township.





Yangon Region

On 6 June, two female preschool teachers were gunned down by unknown gunmen in Rakhine Yoe Gyi village, Htatabin Township.

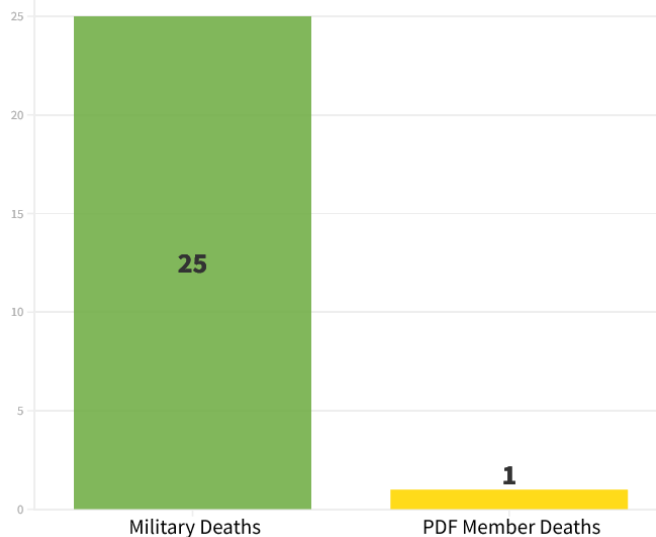


Total no of days of clashes
4 Days



Chin State

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and joint Chin defence forces in Thantlang and Mindat Townships, killing 25 junta soldiers and one resistance fighter.



No. of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 3



The Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General announced that Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, met in person with Daw Zin Mar Aung, Foreign Minister of the Government of National Unity (NUG), in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 June.

During the meeting, Ms. Noeleen Heyzer said that she has always strived to resolve the crisis in Myanmar in accordance with the will and needs of the people of Myanmar. She said she has held regular engagements with the NUG leadership since the beginning of her term in December 2021, including consultations prior to her visit to Nay Pyi Taw in August 2022.

After the meeting, Noeleen Heyzer also stressed that holding elections without "inclusive political dialogue" risks exacerbating violence.

The IISS Shangri-La Dialogue, organised by the UK-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), was held 2-4



It is important to work in a timely manner to ensure the availability of food and clean drinking water before the monsoon season in Arakan State.



June in Singapore. Defence ministers and representatives from more than 30 countries around the world, including military powers such as the United States, China, Japan, the European Union, Australia and the United Kingdom, attended the event and discussed the regional security and military situation. However, the Myanmar issue was excluded from the main agenda of the event.

Russia bought back old ammunition and military equipment it had sold to Myanmar and India to allegedly use in the war against Ukraine. The purchase included \$24 million worth of ammunition and equipment sold by the Russian machine-building company Uralvagonzavod in December 2022.

The Bangladesh government pledged not to allow the involuntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar under the controversial resettlement plan, Kelly Clements, deputy high commissioner in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said 5 June after her five-day visit to Bangladesh.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative for Myanmar Titon Mitra said it is important to work in a timely manner to ensure the availability of food and clean drinking water before the monsoon season in Arakan State.

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.