

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF May 2023:
Cyclone Mocha: Illegal junta obstructs humanitarian aid**

- As of 31 May, there were at least 26,722 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,514,800 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- From bad to worse: Junta delays humanitarian aid access to States and Regions hit by Cyclone Mocha.
- Junta conducts violent raids during Cyclone Mocha, displacing thousands.
- Junta perpetuates Rohingya genocide through ineffective evacuation “attempt”.
- Bangladesh moves ahead with repatriation project, sends delegation to Rakhine ignoring Rohingya refugees’ demands for equal rights, citizenship and safe return to their homes.
- ASEAN diplomatic convoy attacked in Shan State by unknown assailants.
- ASEAN summit concludes with Chair admitting little progress made on Burma.
- Russia, China, Singapore named as top dealers in USD 1 billion arms trade with the illegal junta.
- Junta continues targeting healthcare facilities and workers with air strikes.
- NUG establishes new federal education policy prioritizing ethnic languages while illegal junta further restricts education.
- KNU elects new leadership, further commits to federalism.
- Pazigyí airstrike: new evidence shows crime against humanity through use of unconventional weapons.
- Thai PM-Elect reiterates Thailand’s integral role in ASEAN Five-point consensus and suggests establishment of humanitarian corridor.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

Junta continues to target NLD and associates

On 5 May, in Mandalay Region a junta-appointed ward administrator and junta troops vandalized the National League for Democracy (NLD) Mandalay regional office in Chanayethazan Township and blocked nearby roads, firing guns into the air and threatening residents to not leave their houses. They also jeered and shot at people who filmed the incident. On 8 May, in Amarapura Township, junta forces bombed houses belonging to the ousted NLD vice chair and chief minister of Mandalay Region and his sister-in-law. The junta claimed that resistance fighters conducted the bombing because of an internal dispute over funding, but locals saw junta troops laying bombs around the houses.¹

On 20 May, the Committee Representing the Peoples Parliament (CRPH) reported via social media that the junta had arrested 130 NLD members, killed 16, and revoked the citizenship of four others. Those detained include 41 MPs from the Union-level parliament and 87 from state or region parliaments. It was also reported that imprisoned NLD members would lose fundamental rights such as the right to legal representation, visitations, or due process and would be subjected to torture and be denied medical treatment. The junta reportedly took family members hostages to force NLD members to give themselves up.² On 23 May, NLD said that the junta had seized nearly 1,000 properties, including places of business, restaurants, religious buildings, hospitals and clinics, schools, guesthouses, and hotels, belonging to 849 of its members and affiliated individuals. The junta had also sealed off at least 115 NLD party offices since Feb 2021.³

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

During 30-31 May, the **Sagaing Forum** with **173 revolutionary organizations** based in 28 townships in Sagaing Region announced that they met with the aim to establish the Sagaing Region Consultative Council. This was to be a federal democratic body where all regional political and revolutionary organizations collectively coordinate to eliminate all forms of dictatorship and adopt self-autonomy and self-determination. The Sagaing Forum discussed four main sectors (political, military, local governance, and general) and other sectors such as strikes, CDM, natural resources, and humanitarian assistance for IDPs. It also committed to implement four steps agreed upon during the forum, in accordance with the Federal Democratic Charter.⁴

Weaponizing the courts: On 31 May, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) reported that regime forces had **arrested at least 22,842 civilians** since 1 Feb 2021. As of that date, the junta had sentenced a total of **156 individuals to death**.⁵

On 1 May, a secret court inside Insein prison sentenced student activist Banyar Soe Htet to another 10 years under the counter-terrorism act on top of a previous sentence of 74 years on two charges of murder.⁶ On 2 May, in Myitkyina Township (Kachin State), a prison court denied an appeal filed by Dr. Rev. Hkalam Samson's lawyer against his conviction. Samson's lawyer said that the appeal was immediately denied by the prison court and that she intends to file an appeal with the state court and the supreme court if necessary.⁷

On 19 May, a junta court in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region) sentenced strike leader and author, Wai Moe Naing ("Monywa Panda"), to an additional 20 years for treason and rebellion, bringing his total sentences to 54 years.⁸ On 24 May, the junta arrested rapper Byu Har over his video on social media voicing dissatisfaction with electricity cuts due to the junta's mismanagement of the power grid.⁹

First time death penalty in civilian court: On 18 May, the junta-controlled civilian court in Insein Prison handed down the death penalty to four men and a woman who were allegedly involved in an attack on a Yangon circle train in August 2021, where six junta police officers were fatally shot. This was the first time the death penalty was used in a "civilian" court as it was usually imposed by military tribunals.¹⁰

Fake amnesty for China visit: On 3 May, the junta announced the release of 2,153 political prisoners on the Buddhist holy day of Kasone, allegedly to emphasize humanitarianism. Citing a source close to the Prison Department, RFA reported that the pardoned were exclusively prisoners that had been charged with incitement that were **already close to their release date**. This amnesty coincided with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang's visit.¹¹ On 5 May, as part of the mass amnesty on 3 May, the junta announced that it had commuted 38 death sentences to life imprisonment as part of the mass amnesty. The junta did not announce the names of the 38 detainees, nor did it elaborate on the circumstances of the prisoners.¹²

¹ Myanmar Now (11 May 2023) Detained NLD chief minister's home bombed, NLD office attacked in Mandalay

² Mizzima (23 May 2023) Junta imprisons NLD members of parliament; CRPH (20 May 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4x6k4zj6>

³ RFA (23 May 2023) Nearly 1,000 NLD-affiliated properties seized by Myanmar's junta since coup

⁴ Sagaing Forum (4 Jun 2023) Statement by the First Sagaing Forum

⁵ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) (31 May 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

⁶ RFA (1 May 2023) Yangon student activist sentenced to another 10 years by Myanmar prison court

⁷ RFA (3 May 2023) Myanmar court denies appeal filed by religious leader

⁸ RFA (22 May 2023) Court in Myanmar's Sagaing region sentences student activist to another 20 years

⁹ RFA (25 May 2023) Myanmar junta arrests rapper who made online complaints about power shortages

¹⁰ Myanmar Now (19 May 2023) Myanmar regime sentences five to death for alleged role in 2021 train attack

¹¹ RFA (3 May 2023) Myanmar military announces amnesty for more than 2,000 political prisoners

¹² DVB (5 May 2023) Student union members freed in amnesty; Death sentences of 38 prisoners commuted

On 11 May, civilians held a protest in Monywa City, Monywa Township (Sagaing Region) to protest the Chinese government's engagement with the regime. RFA reported that on 7 Apr, in Natogyi Township (Mandalay region), a PDF group attacked junta troops guarding the operations office of a Chinese-owned oil and gas pipeline. One of the attackers said the attack was planned in response to Chinese officials visiting the junta.¹³

Torture in jail: On 21 May, citing a community group that monitors prison conditions, it was reported that junta personnel at Myingyan Prison in Myingyan Township (Mandalay Region) had isolated ten political prisoners and had been torturing them after accusing them of using hidden cell phones. On 22 May, prisoners began a hunger strike after regime personnel did not return their fellow prisoners to their cells, prompting the guards to take two more prisoners from their cells and to place the prison on a lockdown.¹⁴

Blanket arbitrary execution order in Kachin: On 10 May, Kachin News Groups reported that in Hpakant Township (Kachin State), a newly appointed junta commander had ordered his troops to kill anyone suspected of being members of resistance forces. On 9 May, junta troops arrested four youths suspected of being PDF and took them to the junta's camp on a strategic hilltop in Hpakant town instead of the police station.¹⁵

New weapons law aims to prevent defections: On 11 May, the junta enacted a new Weapons Law restricting ownership, sale, production, distribution, import, and export of firearms. The law would enable the regime to hand down sentences of up to 10 years in prison to individuals who have purchased or were in possession of firearms with "intent to commit treason". The law also prohibits the theft, destruction, sale, or transfer of junta-owned weapons and ammunition, punishable by a sentence of 10 years to life in prison or the death penalty.¹⁶ On 22 May, RFA reported that the new Weapons Law had led to the arrest of eight members of a Mandalay-based resistance group, Royal Phoenix Force, and five civilians suspected of funding the resistance group.¹⁷

Cyclone Mocha

Further devastation of livelihoods already jeopardized by junta

On 14 May, Cyclone Mocha reportedly killed six people, disrupted telecommunications, and damaged a large number of structures in Sittwe and Kyauktaw. A spokesperson for the Arakan Army (AA), said that **'the whole northern Rakhine has suffered severe damage'**. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that the full magnitude of the disaster could not yet be assessed with ongoing heavy rains in Rakhine and **telecommunications down**.¹⁸ On the same day, it was also reported that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed 85% of buildings including houses, schools and religious buildings in **Sittwe Township**.¹⁹ On 15 May, it was reported that Cyclone Mocha had inflicted **heavy damage** in Rakhine State, with widespread flooding in Sittwe and surrounding areas. 90% of Sittwe Township had been 'damaged or in debris' according to aid and relief groups.²⁰

On 16 May, the United Nations reported that Cyclone Mocha had damaged over 1,200 houses across **Chin State**. A Chin Fire Department official said that rescue teams were unable to reach Paletwa and Matupi Townships due to **security concerns**, emphasizing the **lack of communications**. A local foundation reported that Sami town was still flooded, a landslide had hit a church construction site in Sami, and fever had spread through **Paletwa and Sami**.²¹ On 19 May, the Matupi Chinland Defence Force (CDF) reported that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed numerous houses, two schools, a church, and the CDF headquarters in **Matupi, Kanpetlet, Paletwa and Hakha Townships**. The **regime's telecommunications blackout** in Chin State had caused delays in relaying information on the damage caused by the storm.²² On 20 May, it was reported that 1,774 houses in eight out of nine townships in Chin State had been damaged, with **Matupi, Paletwa and Mindat towns** being the hardest-hit.²³ On 25 May, the Interim Chin National Consultative Council (ICNCC) stated that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed at least 3,338 buildings including houses, schools, religious buildings, and barns, and killed 69 domestic animals including cows, chickens and pigs in Chin State. An ICNCC member said that they would provide relief aid based on their finalized data together with the [NUG] Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, and called on local and foreign organizations to donate emergency relief.²⁴

On 14 May, in **Magway Region's Salin Township**, flooding caused by Cyclone Mocha killed three locals, damaged hundreds of houses and killed over 100 cattle. Residents said that there were **no warnings or help**

¹³ RFA (11 May 2023) Activists burn China's flag amid growing anger over its support for junta

¹⁴ Myanmar Now (25 May 2023) Myingyan prison authorities 'torture' political detainees suspected of keeping mobile phones

¹⁵ Kachin News Group (16 May 2023) Soldiers Arrest Youths In Hpakant

¹⁶ RFA (18 May 2023) Myanmar enacts Weapons Law aimed at keeping guns away from resistance

¹⁷ RFA (23 May 2023) New weapons law leads to roundup of activists and fighters in Myanmar cities

¹⁸ RFA (14 May 2023) Six dead as Cyclone Mocha makes landfall in western Myanmar coast

¹⁹ Narinjara (15 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha: 5 Sittwe residents killed, 85 % buildings damaged

²⁰ RFA (15 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha inflicts heavy damage on Myanmar's Rakhine state

²¹ Irrawaddy (17 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha Causes Heavy Damage in Chin State

²² Khonumthung Media Group (19 May 2023) Mocha Leaves Path Of Destruction In Chin State

²³ Khonumthung Media Group (20 May 2023) Mocha Destroys Thousands Of Homes In Chin State

²⁴ Mizzima (25 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha destroyed 3,338 buildings in Chin State

from the junta.²⁵ On 25 May, local sesame growers reported that flooding had **destroyed over 70,000 acres** of sesame fields in Magway Region, totaling an estimated MMK 18 billion in financial losses with Sagu, Salin and Pwintbyu Townships suffering most. Over **20 villages were flooded** and over 38,000 acres of crops including over 21,000 sesame fields were destroyed in Salin Township. The storm flooded over 7,000 acres of sesame fields across eight village tracts in **Sagu Township.**²⁶ On 26 May, the junta's Ministry of Information reported that Cyclone Mocha had **killed** a total of 4,209 **buffaloes**, 7,666 **cows**, 2,295 **pigs**, 738 **goats** and 517,005 **chickens** and destroyed 62,836 **acres of cultivated crops** across Burma including 56,000 acres of spring rice, spring sesame and green bean in Magway Region.²⁷

On 25 May, local fruit growers reported that Cyclone Mocha had **damaged thousands of acres of fruit trees**, destroying crops in **Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U Townships** in Rakhine State.²⁸ On 26 May, it was reported that the decreased supply of fruits and vegetables to Sittwe led to produce prices almost doubling, with residents calling on authorities to address the situation.²⁹ On 25 May, it was reported that Cyclone Mocha had damaged or washed away fishing boats in several villages in **Mrauk-U and Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State**, leaving **Rohingya fishing communities** unable to resume their livelihoods.³⁰ On 29 May, it was reported that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed 11 solar-powered fish drying facilities in Sittwe, Pauktaw, and Ponnagyun Townships.³¹

Junta violence continues even during Cyclone

In **Sagaing Region's Kani Township**, on 12 May, junta raids and clashes with local PDF forced more than 13,000 residents from five villages to **flee amid heavy rain and floods** caused by Cyclone Mocha. On 13 May, regime troops detained a local in Twin village. On 14 May, junta jets bombed areas near Min Ma village after heavy clashes with resistance forces.³² On 15 May, the junta troops were joined by a second column and shelled Lel Shey village before they took 30 IDPs hostage in Bant Bway village on 16 May. On 17 May, the junta carried out an airstrike on Chaung Ma (West) village which injured two locals and damaged several buildings.³³ On 14 May, in **Khin-U Township**, junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militia raided Inn Pat, Chan Thar Kone, and Kone Thar villages amid heavy rain caused by Cyclone Mocha. Junta troops injured a four-year-old child in Inn Pat village and caused 3,000 residents to flee.³⁴ On 16 May, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that communities in Magway and Sagaing regions had been displaced by conflict during the cyclone.³⁵ In **Chin State's Mindat Township**, the regime reportedly **launched airstrikes** on villages **after the cyclone hit** on 15 and 17 May, and deployed about 300 troops in Kyaukhtu. The spokesperson of the Interim Chin National Consultative Council stated that local resistance forces were **in a dilemma**, since fighting junta troops entering their territories under the **pretext of humanitarian operations** would mar their image, while allowing them to enter would allow the regime to easily regain control of the area by claiming resistance forces had accepted the regime.³⁶

No reported casualties in Bangladesh camps, junta negligence proves deadly in Burma

On 13 May, Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said that law enforcement agencies in Cox's Bazar (**Bangladesh**) were **ordered to stop Rohingya** people sheltering at camps from leaving and "taking advantage of the disaster to cross the barbed-wire fence". Despite the fact that **Bangladeshi authorities had moved 400,000 people** from coastal areas in Cyclone Mocha's projected path into shelters, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, the country's refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, said that the Rohingya would have to seek shelter at mosques, community centers and madrassas within the refugee camps. Md. Enamur Rahman, Bangladesh's state minister for disaster management and relief, said that "as there are **1.2 million Rohingya**, we have **no capacity to evacuate them** to cyclone shelters."³⁷ On 15 May, refugee relief commissioner Rahman said that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed over 2,800 shelters, learning centers, health centers and other infrastructure in refugee camps in the sub-districts of Teknaf and Ukhaia, Cox's Bazar. Rahman added that 120 landslides had occurred in refugee camps but there were **no casualties as they relocated refugees 'at an appropriate time'**.³⁸

On 12 May, the **regime-appointed National Disaster Management Committee issued a warning** stating that Sittwe, Pauktaw, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Myebon, Kyaukpyu and Manaung Townships had been

²⁵ Irrawaddy (17 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha Destroys Myanmar's Farmland in Sagaing and Magwe

²⁶ DMG (23 May 2023) Over 70,000 acres of sesame fields ruined by floodwaters in Magway Region

²⁷ Eleven Media Group (26 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha destroys over 62,800 acres of cultivated crops

²⁸ DMG (25 May 2023) Thousands of acres of fruit trees destroyed by Cyclone Mocha in Arakan State

²⁹ DMG (26 May 2023) Skyrocketing vegetable prices afflict Sittwe residents

³⁰ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Western Myanmar Fishing Villages Devastated by Cyclone Mocha

³¹ DMG (29 May 2023) Fishing communities struggle as storm destroy drying facilities

³² Irrawaddy (15 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Force 16,000 to Flee Amid Cyclone Mocha

³³ Myanmar Now (22 May 2023) Junta airstrike destroys school and injures two in Kani Township

³⁴ Mizzima (16 May 2023) Junta soldiers and Cyclone Mocha force 3,000 to flee Khin U Township

³⁵ OCHA (15 May 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Flash Update #4 (as of 15 May 2023)

³⁶ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Chin State Humanitarian Crisis Deepens as Aid Agencies Fail to Gain Access

³⁷ RFA (13 May 2023) Rohingya must stay at camps despite approaching cyclone, Bangladesh govt says

³⁸ Benar News (15 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha flattens thousands of Rohingya shelters in Bangladesh

categorized as 'red-level' areas with high risk of disaster.³⁹ On 15 May, local media and residents reported that at least 30 people were presumed dead in Rakhine State. The **junta announced three people had died** while **NUG announced a death toll of 18**.⁴⁰

On 25 May, it was reported that local organizations in Chin State urged international aid agencies to deliver relief supplies through the NUG or local people's authorities. A Mindat People's Administration spokesperson warned that if aid was delivered through the regime, the **junta would provide part of the aid in towns for show, but not in rural areas**. He added that supplies could be provided through India and Bangladesh, where there were many routes the regime could not control.⁴¹

Rohingya amongst worst hit, least aided

On 13 May, it was reported that most locals at the coast and in lowland areas of **Sittwe Township had evacuated** to monasteries and schools at higher elevations, while other residents had left for Kyauk Taw and Mrauk-U Townships. According to a Rohingya elder from Bumay village, **Rohingya IDP families left** for Thetkay Byint school while some sought refuge at their relatives' homes, **noting the lack of assistance from the junta**. Residents from two villages in Maungdaw Township had been evacuated, while locals from Kyaukpandu and Hindu villages were relocated to schools on 12 May.⁴² On 14 May, **Cyclone Mocha destroyed an IDP camp** and many houses in Tain Nyo village in Mrauk-U Township (Rakhine State), forcing Rohingya IDPs and other civilians to seek refuge in monasteries and schools. U Kyaw Myint, the camp's head, said that the IDPs were in urgent need of drinking water, food and medicines.⁴³

On 16 May, citing the NUG and local aid workers, it was reported that cyclone Mocha had likely **killed almost 400 Rohingya from IDP camps** in Rakhine State. The NUG stated that the figure was based on damage assessments during ongoing search and rescue attempts. Volunteers from the Muslim Aid and Relief Society said **most of the dead were children, pregnant women, and elderly** and that they were **still searching for bodies**. Nay San Lwin, the co-founder of the Free Rohingya Coalition, said that the **regime intentionally neglected Rohingya communities** instead of helping them survive in such natural disasters. A Rohingya camp resident said that some **Rohingya villages had 'completely disappeared'** due to flooding. Another Rohingya IDP said that the **flood washed away bodies** of those who died trying to flee and caused damage to roads and bridges leading to the camps, hindering transportation in the area.⁴⁴

On 17 May, the NUG Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management reported that Cyclone Mocha had killed 455 individuals and that there were **431 fatalities in Rakhine State alone**.⁴⁵ The same day, the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) announced that at least 400 Rohingya had been killed by Cyclone Mocha in IDP camps in Rakhine State, highlighting that many **people were missing and communication services were down**. They added that there was **no humanitarian aid from the regime** and that the international community had to act urgently to prevent more deaths.⁴⁶

On 17 May, activists and humanitarian workers said that the **death of 460 Rohingya in Rakhine State could have been prevented** had so many people not been living in camps near the seashore. They said that most villagers were **not properly informed about the storm**, and many others were **not allowed to evacuate** ahead of time. A Rohingya survivor from Thet Kae Pyin camp said that despite warnings from the regime and NGOs, all emergency **shelter centers were already overcrowded** with people, forcing them to stay in the camps.⁴⁷

On 24 May, UN Human Rights Commissioner Volker Turk called on the junta to allow needs assessments to happen and life-saving aid to reach cyclone-affected areas. He said that the **junta had been eroding the Rohingya's capacity to survive** by denying them free movement, including to seek shelter from Cyclone Mocha, while also denying humanitarian agencies access.⁴⁸

Junta arrests social workers, delays humanitarian access

On 13 May, it was reported that over 100,000 people, including some IDPs, had moved to **evacuation shelters designated by "local authorities"**. On 19 May, UNICEF reported it had **not yet received travel authorization** to access Rakhine State and State and Regions in the Northwest. On 30 May, UNICEF reported that **aid delivery remained constrained** due to **bureaucracy, ongoing conflict, poor communication, movement restrictions of humanitarian agencies, and delays in transportation of supplies due to checkpoints**. Children reportedly started showing signs of mental health and psychosocial distress, in addition to being increasingly engaged in reconstruction and income-generation activities to support their families.

³⁹ DMG (12 May 2023) Junta to prosecute those who remain in areas designated as red alert for Cyclone Mocha

⁴⁰ RFA (15 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha inflicts heavy damage on Myanmar's Rakhine state

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Chin State Humanitarian Crisis Deepens as Aid Agencies Fail to Gain Access

⁴² Narinjara (13 May 2023) Evacuation of residents, including IDPs, continues from various Rakhine townships

⁴³ Narinjara (15 May 2023) Tain Nyo IDP camp supporting nearly 3000 refugees destroyed by cyclone Mocha

⁴⁴ RFA (16 May 2023) Nearly 400 feared dead after Cyclone Mocha hit Myanmar's Rakhine state

⁴⁵ NUG (17 May 2023) Number of Mortalities by State and Region (as of 17th May 2023)

⁴⁶ Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (17 May 2023) At Least 400 Rohingya Feared Dead In IDP Camps – Humanitarian Aid Urgently Needed

⁴⁷ RFA (17 May 2023) Death toll seen rising in Myanmar's Rakhine state in aftermath of Cyclone Mocha

⁴⁸ Mizzima (25 May 2023) UN urges Myanmar junta to open up for Cyclone Mocha relief

UNICEF also reported the need for a speedy restoration of learning infrastructure in Rakhine, Kachin, and the Northwest of Burma, while emphasizing the risk of explosive ordnance to children and women.⁴⁹

On 16 May, **junta media stated that “offers from the international community for providing aid have been accepted.** But, relief and rehabilitation tasks must be done through existing united strength.”⁵⁰ However, Al Jazeera reported that the delays to relief response not only presented an issue, but that UN agencies and **INGOs were being heavily criticized for their continued engagement with the junta**, which served to legitimize the regime. Citing an anonymous staff of an international organization, it was reported that the junta was delaying first line humanitarian assistance to portray itself as a competent first responder, as it did in 2008 for Cyclone Nargis.⁵¹

On 17 May, Sittwe residents said that no help had arrived even days after the cyclone and that more people were at risk of dying 'from not having food, purified water and emergency treatment.⁵² Locals stated they were unable to fetch supplies from neighboring towns due to **junta restrictions on the use of air and waterways.**⁵³

On 18 May, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**OCHA**) announced that about 500 were homeless and around 50,000 people had been affected by the storm in Chin State alone. Local CSOs reported that no international organization were providing aid in Chin State.⁵⁴ On 21 May, **OCHA** reported that based on discussions in Naypyidaw, there would be a **detailed, two-week distribution plan** across all affected communities shared soon. OCHA also reported that there had been a rise in waterborne disease, an influx of venomous snakes into flood-affected homes, widespread childhood trauma, and migrating landmines due to flooding.⁵⁵

On 23 May, **regime forces arrested** Rakhine writer and **social worker**, Wai Hin Aung, his daughter and some youths near the Kyauk Tan checkpoint in **Sittwe Township** while on their way to deliver relief supplies to cyclone-affected families. The reason for the arrests or where the detainees were being held was unknown.⁵⁶

On 24 May, it was reported that the **regime had blocked shipment of medicine** while humanitarian aid organizations were awaiting permission to travel to cyclone-affected areas in Rakhine State.⁵⁷

On 25 May, it was reported that the **regime had denied local and international NGOs to deliver aid** to cyclone-affected communities in Rakhine State. An INGO staff member in Sittwe said that the **regime had denied them permission to enter townships other than Sittwe**, leading NGOs and INGOs to supply aid through local CSOs.⁵⁸ Sittwe residents reportedly had not received aid despite relief supplies donated by the international community having arrived in Rakhine State.⁵⁹ The same day, it was reported that Chin State **had not received any international relief aid**, including **three IDP camps in Matupi**, more than a week after Cyclone Mocha struck.⁶⁰

On 26 May, an anonymous senior aid worker reported that **supplies were sitting in warehouses** in Yangon while aid agencies were awaiting clearance. He added that they needed full, unimpeded access to deliver assistance but were **not speaking out publicly for fear of retribution from the junta.**⁶¹ The same day, Arakan Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) **called on the regime** to allow international organizations and CSOs unrestricted access to storm-hit areas in Rakhine State, highlighting that tight inspection at checkpoints and regime restrictions had been hampering relief efforts.⁶² A Sittwe-based foundation reported that junta troops **were blocking the Yangon-Sittwe highway** from 6pm to 6am, forcing transport to pause overnight and further delaying aid delivery.⁶³

On 29 May, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (**UNHCR**) reported that current in-country stocks of core relief items were unlikely to meet people's needs. It furthermore continued advocating for unimpeded humanitarian access together with other humanitarian partners.⁶⁴

On 1 Jun, OCHA reported that the **junta had not yet approved travel authorization**, or transportation of supplies from warehouses in and outside of Burma, or the two-week distribution plan. It also highlighted that

⁴⁹ UNICEF (2 Jun 2023) UNICEF Myanmar Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9 (Cyclone MOCHA): 30 May -01 June 2023

⁵⁰ GNLM (16 May 2023) It is necessary to rehabilitate Rakhine State to be better than the original situation: Senior General

⁵¹ Al Jazeera (18 May 2023) Survivors wait 'in hell' after Cyclone Mocha pummels Myanmar

⁵² Reuters (18 May 2023) Aid groups seek green light from Myanmar junta to access cyclone-hit state

⁵³ Narinjara (17 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha: Rakhine State faces water and food shortages; CNN (19 May 2023) Myanmar junta travel restrictions are holding up vital aid to cyclone-hit communities

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Chin State Humanitarian Crisis Deepens as Aid Agencies Fail to Gain Access

⁵⁵ OCHA (21 May 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Flash Update #9 (as of 14:00 21 May 2023)

⁵⁶ Narinjara (23 May 2023) Arakanese social worker writer Wai Hin Aung and his crew face military detention for assisting storm victims

⁵⁷ DVB (24 May 2023) Military blocks aid to Rakhine State; KNU sends condolences to cyclone victims

⁵⁸ DMG (25 May 2023) Myanmar junta bars aid agencies from directly helping storm victims in Arakan

⁵⁹ DMG (25 May 2023) Sittwe residents yet to receive relief supplies

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Chin State Humanitarian Crisis Deepens as Aid Agencies Fail to Gain Access

⁶¹ Reuters (23 May 2023) Cyclone-hit Myanmar, Bangladesh need \$375 mln in aid - UN

⁶² DMG (29 May 2023) Arakan CSOs call for unrestricted access to storm-hit areas

⁶³ RFA (30 May 2023) Humanitarian groups say storm aid still not reaching parts of Myanmar's Rakhine state

⁶⁴ UNHCR (29 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency - Flash Update #2 on Cyclone Mocha (29 May 2023)

due to the pending access authorization, it was **depending on local partners to deliver aid**, but that these **local CSOs continued facing intense scrutiny at checkpoints** and unreliable telecommunication services.⁶⁵

Junta's dangerous incompetence, essentials increasingly scarce

On 12 May, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) warned of a “catastrophic disaster”, saying that it was coordinating with the junta to transport essential supplies from ASEAN.⁶⁶ On 15 May, the **regime declared** 17 townships in Rakhine State as **disaster-affected areas**.⁶⁷ On 16 May, the AHA Centre reported that the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) would be deployed immediately once approved by the junta's Department of Disaster Management (DDM). Approval was also pending for the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) relief items to be retrieved from warehouses in Malaysia and Thailand.⁶⁸

On 18 May, the regime **sent high-ranking military officials** to 14 townships in Rakhine State and four townships in Chin State to supervise 'relief and rehabilitation' initiatives.⁶⁹ On the same day, it was reported that even four days after Cyclone Mocha had hit large parts of Rakhine State, **no regime or international aid** had arrived for cyclone-affected families. As a result, there were **shortages of food and drinking water**, and **prices of essential commodities** had skyrocketed. A IDP camp official said the lack of relief could lead to people dying of starvation.⁷⁰

On 20 May, it was reported that IDPs in camps damaged by the storm in Rakhine State had not received any aid from the regime or humanitarian organizations almost a week after the storm hit, exacerbating difficulties already posed by armed conflict.⁷¹ On 21 May, an official from the regime-controlled **Mrauk-U Township** General Administration Department Office claimed that about 700 rice bags and 450 viss of cooking oil had been provided to cyclone victims in 18 villages.⁷² On 22 May, it was reported that the **regime had supplied only limited amounts** of rice to a few urban wards and rural villages and that it had not provided any shelters.⁷³ On the same day, the Rakhine State military council stated that they were **distributing clean drinking water** in some townships using portable LifeStraw water purifiers that do not require electricity. A social activist from Rathedaung, emphasized the water supply was **'by no means sufficient'** and many neighborhoods were **still without water**.⁷⁴

On 23 May, it was reported that nearly all townships in **Rakhine State** were devastated, and people in the hardest-hit places like Sittwe were in **imminent danger of famine**.⁷⁵ On 24 May, locals reported that **clean drinking water shortage** was still prevalent in Sittwe, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw and Kyauktaw Townships more than a week after the cyclone hit, forcing residents to **drink boiled 'dirty water'** despite the lack of treatment possibilities and risk of infections. The price for purified drinking water had reportedly doubled in most towns and tripled in rural areas after the storm.⁷⁶ The same day, it was also reported that residents from storm-hit townships in **Chin State** were in **dire need of shelter, food, and medicines**. A member of the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) in **Matupi** said that the storm had damaged silos, causing food shortages, and that they could not buy roofs for damaged houses and IDP camps. A **Falam** Youth Organization member said that the storm wreaked havoc on those already displaced by fighting. According to the Chin State Healthcare Group, the storm affected over 4,400 people and injured 72.⁷⁷

On 30 May, it was reported that the regime had provided only **two sacks of rice and some cloth storage boxes** to some storm-affected villages.⁷⁸ On the same day, it was reported that residents from remote areas in Rakhine State were suffering from diarrhea and sickness from consuming contaminated water **without proper medical treatment possibilities**. According to residents of Aung Mya Kyaw village in **Ponnagyun Township**, many people including **children were suffering from skin diseases** and were being treated using traditional medicine.⁷⁹ It was also reported that wells and lakes contaminated by Cyclone Mocha had led to continued shortages of clean drinking water. Residents of Sin Inn Gyi village in Ponnagyun Township and IDP camps in Kyauktaw and Rathedaung Townships reportedly had been drinking contaminated or muddy water.⁸⁰

⁶⁵ OCHA (2 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha Situation Report No.3 (As of 14:00 1 June 2023)

⁶⁶ Al Jazeera (13 May 2023) Thousands evacuated as Cyclone Mocha nears Myanmar, Bangladesh

⁶⁷ Than Lwin Times (16 May 2023) 17 townships in Rakhine state declared as disaster-affected areas

⁶⁸ AHA Centre (16 May 2023) Situation Update No. 3 - Tropical Cyclone One (Mocha), Myanmar - Tuesday, 16 May 2023, 2000HRS (UTC+7)

⁶⁹ DVB (20 May 2023) Military visits Rakhine and Chin States for 'relief operations'

⁷⁰ Narinjara (18 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha: Even after 4 days, no aid reaches Rakhine State

⁷¹ DMG (20 May 2023) Arakan State IDPs say few signs of recovery operations so far

⁷² DMG (21 May 2023) Storm destroyed over 18,000 homes in Mrauk-U Twsp: GAD

⁷³ DMG (22 May 2023) More than 100,000 people affected by storm in Pauktaw Twsp

⁷⁴ DMG (22 May 2023) State military council touts water purifier rollout for storm-hit in Arakan

⁷⁵ Narinjara (23 May 2023) Cyclone-affected people in Rakhine State face starvation risk if food supplies delayed

⁷⁶ Myanmar Now (24 May 2023) Northern Rakhine State townships face water shortage in aftermath of Cyclone Mocha

⁷⁷ DMG (24 May 2023) Chin townships need emergency relief supplies in aftermath of Cyclone Mocha

⁷⁸ DMG (30 May 2023) Some storm-hit villages receive few sacks of rice

⁷⁹ DMG (30 May 2023) Storm victims in Arakan State's remote areas in need of healthcare

⁸⁰ DMG (30 May 2023) Storm-ravaged communities in Arakan still lack access to clean drinking water

On 30 May, the AHA Centre reported that USD 221,000 worth of relief items had arrived in Burma, with another batch arriving from Malaysia on 1 Jun. It was also reported that ASEAN-ERAT assessed immediate needs costs (food, shelter, non-food items, and WASH) at around USD 22.8 million for 478,000 affected persons in Sittwe, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, and Kyauktaw Townships. ASEAN-ERAT had reportedly presented their findings and recommendations to the AHA Centre, and the junta's social welfare ministry and DDM on 28 May and had left Burma on 30 May.⁸¹

On 31 May, citing IDPs in **Buthidaung Township**, it was reported that apart from a few food items from the regime, IDPs had received no relief aid even two weeks after the cyclone hit. Soaring prices of construction materials had made repairing or rebuilding houses difficult for IDPs, forcing them to sleep under trees without shelter.⁸²

Mental health crisis looms in aftermath of cyclone

On 20 May, a woman was found dead in an apparent suicide in Pon Sar village in **Sagaing Region's Kyauktaw Township**. A local said that the suicide was understood to be out of desperation following the cyclone, adding that villagers were helpless and in urgent need of food, shelter and drinking water with the impending rainy season. Cyclone Mocha had reportedly rendered many of them homeless, but no emergency aid from any organization or the regime had arrived even ten days after the storm.⁸³ On 27 May, a 14-year-old IDP took her own life at Thayetoak Monastery IDP camp in **Sittwe** while both her parents were not at their shelter. The family of the victim had been displaced and **staying at the IDP camp for over two years** due to fighting between the regime and the AA.⁸⁴

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

National Overview

As of 31 May, there had been **753 armed clashes and attacks on civilians** during the month (26,722 since 1 Feb 2021). Junta forces had killed at least **5,704 civilians as of 31 May**.⁸⁵

Crackdowns on civilians "funding" PDF, rewards and "relaxations" for defecting PDF: During the month of May, the junta reportedly **shut down at least 721 mobile banking accounts** suspected of being used to transfer funds to anti-junta organizations. However, civilians without ties to resistance organizations reported that their accounts had also been closed without prior notice or explanation. An anonymous bank official said that the junta permanently closed accounts suspected of transferring funds to other State or Regions.⁸⁶

Not so big, after all: On 4 May, the US Institute for Peace (USIP) published an analysis by visiting fellow Ye Myo Hein that revealed the total number of junta military personnel was much smaller than previous estimates. Citing interviews with junta defectors and deserters, internal junta documents, primary conflict data, and military hospital records, he concluded that the junta currently had around 150,000 troops rather than the pre-coup estimate of 300,000–400,000. On 9 May, the junta announced that it would pay up to MMK 7.5 million to PDF members who have defected and that anyone "illegally armed for reasons of personal security" would be allowed to keep their arms after applying for a license. The junta said that defectors who have committed crimes such as murder and rape would face trial but that "relaxations will be made according to the law".⁸⁷

Attack on ASEAN aid convoy

On 7 May, an unidentified armed group **attacked a humanitarian convoy** carrying diplomats from the embassies of **Indonesia, Singapore and officials from the ASEAN** Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) near Nang Aw village in **Hsihseng Township (Shan State)**. No casualties were reported. Citing Indonesian president Joko Widodo, the Bangkok Post reported that the convoy was there to hand over humanitarian aid.⁸⁸ An official from the junta-aligned Pao National Organization (PNO) claimed that members of the rival Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) had carried out the attack. PNLO leader, Khun Okkar denied the claim, saying that its own officials were part of the convoy, and suggested that a local militia had carried out the attack but declined to name it.⁸⁹ (*see p. 20 and p. 22 for ASEAN and NUG statements, respectively*)

Junta destroys cultural sites in war strategy

On 24 May, citing locals from all over Burma, RFA reported that apart from terrorizing villages and committing atrocities, the junta had been looting and destroying historical sites and cultural artifacts. The

⁸¹ AHA Centre (30 May 2023) Situation Update No. 9 - Tropical Cyclone Mocha, Myanmar - Tuesday, 30 May 2023, 2000 HRS (UTC+7)

⁸² Narinjara (31 May 2023) Around 1.5 million Cyclone Victims in Desperate Need

⁸³ Narinjara (24 May 2023) Storm-affected Kyauk Taw woman commits suicide

⁸⁴ Narinjara (27 May 2023) IDP girl dies by hanging in Sittwe displacement camp

⁸⁵ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (accessed 9 Jun 2023) Data export tool, available at: <https://acleddata.com/dataexport-tool/>

⁸⁶ RFA (5 Jun 2023) Myanmar shuts 700 mobile bank accounts suspected of funding anti-junta forces

⁸⁷ RFA (10 May 2023) Cash for carbines: Myanmar's junta offers reward to fighters who turn in weapons

⁸⁸ Shan Herald (11 May 2023) Humanitarian Convoy Carrying ASEAN Diplomats Attacked In Hsihseng Township; Bangkok Post (8 May 2023) Convoy carrying Asean diplomats 'attacked' in Myanmar

⁸⁹ RFA (8 May 2023) Indonesia, Singapore condemn Myanmar attack on ASEAN aid convoy

NUG's Interim Board for Heritage Administration spokesperson said that Sagaing Region's Hanlin, a village and archeological site with UNESCO recognition, had been subjected to several types of culture destruction, which he called a war crime under the Geneva Convention. He said "civilians often seek shelter in places that hold cultural and historical significance, believing that they would be safe from attack there. Banyar, director of the Karenni Human Rights Group, pointed out that along with schools and community centers, the junta strategically targeted temples or churches first.⁹⁰

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued their raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported that **765,200 civilians** had been **displaced** in the region as of 5 Jun 2023.⁹¹

During 29 Apr-11 May, in **Kanbalu Township**, junta troops raided and torched villages, forcing approximately 20,000 residents of more than 20 villages to flee their homes. The Kyunhla-Kanbalu Activists Group said on 19 May that as many as 50,000 civilians had been displaced. A local PDF member said that a junta column of more than 200 troops included two Light Infantry Battalions (LIB), local Artillery Battalions, and Pyu Saw Htee militia had split into four groups to raid 5 villages. On 7 May, LIB 368 torched Chin Myit Kyin village and on 8 May, raided Nyaung Pin Seik and Boe Boe villages. Meanwhile, on 7 May, LIB 361 and Pyu Saw Htee militia raided and torched Htauk Shar Aing village, burned down 150 houses, detained 12 male residents, including a 15-year-old boy, and interrogated and tortured them in the monastery.⁹²

On 20 May, it was reported that in **Kanbalu and Kyunhla Townships**, Pyu Saw Htee militia had been forcing villagers to undergo military training. The Kyunhla activist group said that on 15 May, junta personnel forced civilians, who were selected via lottery, to undergo military training or pay a fine of MMK 100,000 if no adult males were present in the household. On 24 May, the head of Lae Hla village in Kyunhla Township selected 30 residents via lottery, including women.⁹³

During 30 Apr-2 May, in **Sagaing Township**, junta troops continued their brutal raids along the Mu River, fighting PDF along the way. The regime troops clashed with resistance forces in Ywar Ma village, killed one PDF member, arrested at least 100 residents, and tortured some of them. On 1 May regime soldiers raided 5 villages, arrested and killed three civilians. In Let Pan Thar village, junta forces shot and killed a mentally disabled civilian. Regime troops then burned down at least 15 houses in Ta Ein Te village, where locals found the beheaded and mutilated remains of a PDF squadron commander.⁹⁴ On 22 May, junta forces launched airstrikes and air dropped reinforcements during a clash with local PDF attempting to seize a police outpost in Pa Du village, forcing villagers to flee. On 24 May, junta forces looted and burned down houses there.⁹⁵

On 4 May, in **Mingin Township**, junta jets dropped three 500-pound bombs at the edge of Peik Ka Yar village, that killed seven civilians including three children, injured 10 other locals, and destroyed 20 houses.⁹⁶

On 5 May, in **Chaung-U Township**, junta forces raided a local PDF camp and an adjacent monastery in Kyi Kone village, killed three civilians and five PDF members; five of them were beheaded.⁹⁷

On 7 May, in **Khin-U Township**, a regime column torched houses in Kabwet village and fired small arms and artillery in Koke Tet village, at least 3000 locals were forced to flee. A resident of Koke Tet village said that IDPs were hiding in nearby forests and had run out of food.⁹⁸ On 8 May, a junta column and Pyu Saw Htee militia raided three villages and fired heavy artillery in Inn Bauk village - over 4,000 locals from seven different villages fled.⁹⁹ On 17 May, it was reported that more than 20,000 locals had left their villages as the junta's offensive against local PDF had intensified. On 17 May, junta troops raided Myin Daung village and shelled other villages nearby, took five locals as human shields, destroyed a monastery and burned down houses in Aung Thar village. A resident of Myin Daung said that 21 villages nearby were now empty.¹⁰⁰

During 23-24 May, in **Kawlin and Ayadaw Townships**, regime forces killed at least seven civilians and two resistance fighters and abducted four civilians in a series of raids - residents from around a dozen villages fled. Junta troops killed at least five civilians in Taung Hwar village, **Ayadaw Township**. A local said that four of the victims were elderly, one was burned alive.¹⁰¹ Junta troops allegedly detained and tortured eight villagers, including an elderly person, and used them as human shields. On 25 May, junta troops raided and torched Ma Gyi Sauk village, killing a woman. On 28 May, a junta column raided and torched a resistance base near War Yaung village, killing one civilian present at the camp.¹⁰²

⁹⁰ RFA (24 May 2023) Looting and destroying, junta declares war on Myanmar's cultural sites and artifacts

⁹¹ UNHCR (6 Jun 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 5 Jun 2023)

⁹² Mizzima (19 May 2023) Myanmar junta displaces over 50,000 in Sagaing's Kanbalu Township

⁹³ Irrawaddy (24 May 2023) Myanmar Junta-Allied Militia Forcing Sagaing Villagers into Military Training

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (3 May 2023) Myanmar junta troops behead, mutilate PDF squadron commander in Sagaing Township

⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (23 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Forces Suffer 'Heavy Casualties' in Battle for Sagaing Village

⁹⁶ Myanmar Now (8 May 2023) Three children among seven civilians killed by Myanmar junta airstrikes in Mingin

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (9 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Behead 8 Civilians and Resistance Members in Sagaing

⁹⁸ RFA (11 May 2023) Repeated raids force more than 3,500 villagers to flee Sagaing region township

⁹⁹ Mizzima (10 May 2023) Myanmar junta forces displace 7,000 people in Sagaing's Khin U Township

¹⁰⁰ RFA (20 May 2023) Over 20,000 people flee as Myanmar's military raids Sagaing region villages

¹⁰¹ Myanmar Now (25 May 2023) Myanmar Junta raids in Sagaing leave at least seven civilians dead

¹⁰² Irrawaddy (31 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Raid Sagaing Resistance Base

On 12 May, in **Ye-U Township**, regime soldiers burned down two villages, and left behind 27 charred bodies, some with bullet wounds.¹⁰³ On 26 May, junta troops killed a 91-year-old woman with limited mobility while torching Hpein Kar village after an ambush by resistance forces.¹⁰⁴ On 29 May, the junta Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 708 torched 17 homes in Mon Taing Pin village.¹⁰⁵

During 12-22 May, in **Mawlaik Township**, a local said that the regime had carried out more than 20 airstrikes, while ground troops including Pyu Saw Htee militia continued attacks on villages around Taung In, Taung Twin, and Nan Hpyu villages; thousands fled their homes in more than a dozen villages.¹⁰⁶

Magway Region

On 24 May, in **Pakokku Township**, eight members of two resistance groups defected to the junta's Light Infantry Division (LID) 101. It was not known if they received any financial reward.¹⁰⁷

During 26-27 May, in **Yesagy Township**, junta troops killed a woman in Mi Hpar Yar village and injured a child in Me Kone village. Local PDF reported that regime forces killed three others in Hlay Khoke village, including an elderly woman. On 28 May, troops raided an IDP camp of 100 villagers, shot dead a resistance fighter and an IDP, and drowned another IDP. On 29 May, they tortured and killed a resident trying to put out a fire in Me Kone village. Local PDF said that the junta took more than 20 civilians as human shields, looted valuables, and destroyed houses, vehicles, and boats. It was reported that by 29 May, more than 21,000 villagers from around 20 villages in **Yesagy Township** had been displaced by junta raids.¹⁰⁸

Rakhine State

On 3 May, a four-year-old boy died when a grenade he found exploded in Wetkyein village in **Maungdaw Township**. It is believed the unexploded ordnance was left behind during clashes between the regime and the Arakan Army (AA) in Oct 2022.¹⁰⁹

On 5 May, it was reported that over 60 IDP households from Wa Taung refugee camp in **Kyauktaw Township** had moved to a new location without assistance from the junta after the owner of the land where IDPs had sought refuge ended their lease agreement. The IDPs took shelter in temporary tents at the new location while building their houses but were facing challenges such as food shortages.¹¹⁰

On 6 May, it was reported that the junta had barred the construction of a Muslim religious building at Mee Kyaung Zay village in **Buthidaung Township**.¹¹¹

On 7 May, in **Pauktaw Township**, a fire broke out at a Rohingya IDP camp in Kyeinnipyin village, 185 homes were burnt down and over 3,700 Rohingya IDPs made homeless.¹¹²

Chin State

UNHCR reported there were around 54,200 IDPs in Chin State as of 29 May, including 48,700 who were displaced after the attempted coup.¹¹³ On 10 May, the project manager of the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) said that the junta had **dropped over 300 bombs during 160 airstrikes in Chin State in the first four months of 2023 alone**, injuring 71 civilians, compared to 21 airstrikes in the previous two years.¹¹⁴ On 16 May, citing volunteers helping IDPs, it was reported that 2,171 IDPs who fled their villages to **Hakha town** to escape clashes were struggling to survive amid ongoing clashes and soaring commodity prices.¹¹⁵ On 24 May, a civilian died after stepping on a landmine outside **Hakha town**. After the junta refused them access, the victim's family searched for his remains the following morning, leading to the search party detonating another mine and sustaining injuries. On 25 May, an eight-year-old girl lost her right leg and suffered injuries to her face and hand after stepping on a landmine next to Lay Myo River in **Matupi Township**.¹¹⁶

Kachin State

On 8-9 May, seven regime troops and militia forces attacked the KIA (Kachin Independence Army) and raided a checkpoint in Sadung town in **Waingmaw Township**; three civilians were killed and one injured. On 9 May 35 regime and militia troops returned to the waterfall where the attack had occurred and burned down nearby houses.¹¹⁷ On 17-18 May, 200 junta troops abducted forty civilians, including women and children, from three villages in **Hpakant Township** and used them as human shields to prevent ambushes from resistance forces as they entered Kamaing town. The regime troops reportedly did not free the abductees when they arrived in

¹⁰³ RFA (13 May 2023) 27 charred bodies discovered in Sagaing after Myanmar junta's latest arson attack

¹⁰⁴ Myanmar Now (29 May 2023) 91-year-old woman killed in arson attack in Ye-U Township

¹⁰⁵ RFA (31 May 2023) Myanmar troops torch Sagaing region village a second time

¹⁰⁶ Myanmar Now (24 May 2023) Thousands displaced by massive junta offensive in Northwestern Sagaing

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Now (30 May 2023) Eight resistance fighters surrender to Myanmar military in Pakokku

¹⁰⁸ Irrawaddy (30 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Raid Magwe, Kill Three Civilians

¹⁰⁹ DMG (4 May 2023) Maungdaw boy dies in explosion of unexploded ordnance

¹¹⁰ Narinjara (5 May 2023) Kyauk Taw IDP camp moves to new place without government assistance

¹¹¹ DMG (6 May 2023) Junta stops construction of Islamic school in Buthidaung Twsp village

¹¹² DMG (8 May 2023) Fire at Pauktaw Twsp IDP camp leaves thousands homeless

¹¹³ UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 29 May 2023)

¹¹⁴ Khonumthung Media Group (10 May 2023) Regime Airstrikes Kill Many Civilians In Chin State

¹¹⁵ Khonumthung Media Group (16 May 2023) Thousands Flee To Chin State Capital

¹¹⁶ Khonumthung Media Group (31 May 2023) Landmines Pose Hidden Dangers For Civilians In Chin State

¹¹⁷ Kachin News Group (11 May 2023) Regime Kills Civilians During Attack On Waingmaw Checkpoint

Kamaing.¹¹⁸ On 21 May, the KIA ambushed a column of junta soldiers and the Wu Yang People's Militia Force (PMF) in **Waingmaw Township**, reportedly in retaliation to an attack on a KIA checkpoint. The clash lasted for an hour, with an unknown number of casualties.¹¹⁹

Northern Shan State

On 11 May, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) reportedly abducted and forcibly recruited a number of youths, including at least three Shan youths in **Lashio Township**. The TNLA had come to Lashio searching for some Ta'ang youths who had taken shelter there. Also on 11 May, they abducted several Shan youths.¹²⁰ On 31 May, it was reported that the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) had been abducting people in **Kyaukme** to serve as new soldiers. After five people were forcibly recruited, villagers were reportedly scared to leave their house after 6pm and young men had started fleeing town. The TNLA, allies of SSPP/SSA, was also reported to be forcing businesses to pay taxes in Nam Kham Township in Muse District as well.¹²¹

Karenni State

On 5 May, the Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) stated that junta troops had been stopping rice, food, medicine, and tarpaulins at checkpoints and limiting the amount of fuel carried by civilians. KnHRG said that it was struggling to deliver food to IDPs. A member of the Kayan-Region Rescue Committee (KRC) reported that food delivery to IDPs in western **Pekone Township** (S. Shan State) and western **Demoso Township** had become increasingly challenging and that junta soldiers at checkpoints would let civilians keep half a sack of rice at most and even assault civilians carrying more.¹²² On 11 May, it was reported that over 1,000 IDPs in Shisolo camp in **Hpruso Township** had not received food for three months, and were in dire need of food and tarpaulins for the start of rainy season.¹²³

During 14-25 May, it was reported that the junta had been clashing with the Karenni National Defense Force (KNDF), the Karenni Army (KA), and local PDFs in **Demoso and Bawlake Townships** for ten days, with an estimated four or five civilian casualties. The junta's LIB 425 and 517, as well as Infantry Battalion (IB) 287 based in **Hpruso, Ngwe Taung, and Loikaw Townships** reportedly provided artillery support and conducted at least 60 airstrikes over the period. On 14 May, regime forces assaulted Ta Nee Lar Le village in **Demoso Township** followed by three air strikes on 17 May. Junta jets reportedly dropped 500-pound bombs that destroyed seven homes and damaged an IDP camp. On 17 May, local PDF reported that the junta conducted two airstrikes that killed a 17-year-old girl and injured four elderly persons in Saw Lon village in **Bawlake Township**. The attack destroyed six houses and two buildings at the **village clinic**, damaged a **monastery**, and killed livestock.¹²⁴ Armed clashes continued until 22 May. At least three other **medical clinics in Pekon (Southern Shan State) and Demoso Townships** were aerially attacked during the period as well.¹²⁵ It was reported that the junta had intensified both air and ground attacks in order to secure a supply corridor into neighboring townships.¹²⁶

Southern Shan State

On 5 May, the junta launched airstrikes targeting Moe Bye town and multiple villages in **Pekon and Pinlaung Townships**. A humanitarian volunteer said that fighter jets had flown over the village for two days before the attack, which caused IDPs, already showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), to sleep the jungle at night.¹²⁷ During 27-28 May, the junta launched a total of eight airstrikes on Moe Bye town in **Pekon Township**, with one airstrike killing a child and a man on 27 May. Moe Bye PDF claimed that, on 28 May the junta's shelling had injured four civilians, and that two airstrikes on IDP camps in the western part of Moe Bye had injured four civilians and destroyed three houses.¹²⁸ On 30 May, the Shan Human Rights Foundation reported that, in **Pekon and Pinlaung Townships**, junta airstrikes and shelling during clashes with local PDF forces from late April to late May had killed three civilians including a pregnant woman and a child, injured 18 civilians, and damaged numerous houses.¹²⁹

On 8 May, it was reported that, since 11 Apr, clashes between the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) forced thousands of villagers from seven village tracts in **Laikha Township** to seek refuge in Buddhist temples; they have been unable to return home. Clashes between SSPP and RCSS had also caused 13 Shan language schools to close, affecting at least 360 students.¹³⁰ On 20 May,

¹¹⁸ Kachin News Group (20 May 2023) Regime Abducts More Civilians In Hpakant

¹¹⁹ Kachin News Group (23 May 2023) KIA ambushes regime forces in Waingmaw Township

¹²⁰ Shan Herald Agency for News (18 May 2023) TNLA Abducts Shan Youths In Lashio

¹²¹ Shan Herald (31 May 2023) SSPP/SSA Forcible Recruiting Civilians In Kyaukme

¹²² Kantarawaddy Times (5 May 2023) Regime Stops Rice Intended For Karenni IDPs

¹²³ Kantarawaddy Times (11 May 2023) Hpruso IDPs Struggling For Food

¹²⁴ Myanmar Now (18 May 2023) Pre-dawn airstrikes kill girl, injure four elderly villagers, in Bawlakhe Township

¹²⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (25 May 2023) Airstrikes target hospitals in Pekon and Demoso Township

¹²⁶ Myanmar Now (23 May 2023) Karenni State's eastern Demoso Township under siege by military

¹²⁷ Shan Herald (11 May 2023) Junta Continues Airstrikes In Shan State – Karenni State Border Area

¹²⁸ RFA Burmese (28 May 2023) မိုးမြို့မြို့မှာ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား နှစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

¹²⁹ Shan Human Rights Foundation (30 May 2023) Two women and a toddler killed, eighteen civilians injured by SAC airstrikes and shelling in Pekon and Pinlaung townships

¹³⁰ Shan Herald (8 May 2023) Clashes Prevent Laikha Villagers From Going Home

it was reported that the Pa-O National Liberation Army (PNLA) allegedly attacked the RCSS near Wan Kyawng village in Langkho Township. They accused each other of being the aggressor, despite being signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and being members of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST).¹³¹

Karen State

On 17 May, it was reported that the new leadership of Karen National Union (KNU), elected during the 17th KNU Congress between 24 Apr and 4 May, had rejected the junta's offer for "peace talks", reiterating that the KNU and its armed wing, Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), would fight against the military dictatorship and cooperate with other ethnic armed forces, democratic forces and people working towards the establishment of a federal democratic union.¹³²

The regime continued shelling and targeting civilians amid clashes with resistance forces in Karen State. On 5 May, regime shelling injured two local women in Kamaigone village in **KNU-defined Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District (Southern Karen State)**, and during 6-7 May, junta soldiers fired shells into Tadanku village injuring six residents.¹³³ On 6 May, regime forces closed the Taung Kyar Inn Bridge on the road between **Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi Townships**. After the closure, junta troops stationed there shelled the area around the bridge every night during 6-14 May. On 14 May the regime troops destroyed a section of the road using a bulldozer and shelled Taung Kyar Inn village before leaving. Residents of Kawkareik, Kyondoe, and Notakaw Townships were left with severe food shortages.¹³⁴

During 7-9 May, regime forces bombed Wei Pa Thea village in **KNU-defined Win Yay Township (Ye Township), Dooplaya District (Southern Karen State)** that damaged a school, injured civilians and forced over 500 residents from Wei Pa Thea and nearby villages to flee. Regime aircraft had reportedly conducted daily surveillance in Win Yay Township. The regime's second bombing attack on Be La Mu village on 9 May forced locals to flee again.¹³⁵ On 12 May, locals reported that regime troops had arrested over 40 civilians within a span of three days for unknown reasons in **Kawkareik Township**, including social rescue team members and junta supporters, causing fear among residents.¹³⁶

On 23 May, a junta aircraft dropped two bombs on the village of Khale Lawkye (Panwe Phoe Kaloe) at night in Kawkareik Township, damaging a church and a house.¹³⁷ On 24 May, it was reported that regime troops had been continuously shelling villages in Northern Kawkareik (Karen State) despite the lack of confrontations between the regime and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in the area, causing fear and affecting the socio-economic wellbeing of residents.¹³⁸ On 19 May, it was reported, citing a resident in Thandaung town, that regime forces tied up and arrested seven local men before taking them to an undisclosed location in **Thandaunggyi Township**. Most Thandaung town people had already left and only about 30% of residents had returned but were considering fleeing again due to the regime arresting locals. Some Thandaung residents were facing food shortages and livelihood difficulties from the regime's restriction on transporting essential supplies such as food, rice, and medicine in Thandaung town. Between 4-19 May, regime forces reportedly torched over 20 civilian houses including homes of a Christian religious leader and KNU members.¹³⁹

Bago Region

The junta continued to target civilians by conducting airstrikes and arson attacks. On 2 May, junta forces conducted airstrikes targeting four villages in **Htantabin Township**, which killed three civilians and injured five others. A local woman said that junta used two fighter jets - one strafed the villages while the other dropped bombs.¹⁴⁰ On 3 May, junta forces patrolling in front of Natthangwin Hospital in **Kyaukkyi Township** shot dead a 23-year-old man for unknown reasons. On the same day, junta forces released a detainee from **Kyaukkyi Township** after severely torturing him for more than a week.¹⁴¹

On 10 May, in **Htantabin Township**, junta forces raided Nyaung Pin Thar village, killed and **incinerated** 18 villagers, including five children and a 70-year-old woman. Residents reported that regime soldiers tortured any civilians they found during the raid. They said that troops **beheaded** some victims while others were **burned alive**.¹⁴²

On 18 May, nine out of ten political prisoners escaped from a lock-up room ahead of a hearing in Taungoo prison in **Taungoo Township**. They reportedly snatched the guns of the guards, forced their way out, and

¹³¹ Shan Herald (23 May 2023) Shan And Pa-O Armed Groups Clash In Langkhur District

¹³² RFA (17 May 2023) Myanmar's oldest ethnic armed group rejects junta's offer for peace talks

¹³³ Than Lwin Times (10 May 2023) One man killed, eight others injured by junta artillery fire in KNU territory

¹³⁴ Karen News (16 May 2023) The regime destroys main road linking Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships

¹³⁵ Karen News (9 May 2023) Over 500 residents forced to flee Win Yay Township following airstrike

¹³⁶ Karen News (12 May 2023) Over 40 Civilians Including Social Rescue Members Arrested in Kawkareik Township Karen State

¹³⁷ Than Lwin Times (25 May 2023) Junta aircraft bombs Christian church in Kawkareik

¹³⁸ Karen News (24 May 2023) Shelling by Military inflicts increasing damage on homes in Northern Kawkareik

¹³⁹ Karen News (25 May 2023) Military Council Abducts 7 Residents of Thandaung Township

¹⁴⁰ Myanmar Now (4 May 2023) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill three in Bago's Htantabin Township; Than Lwin Times (4 May 2023) Junta airstrike leaves 3 dead, 5 injured in KNU's Taungoo District amid no fighting

¹⁴¹ Than Lwin Times (6 May 2023) One civilian shot dead, two others tortured in Nyaungglaybin District

¹⁴² Irrawaddy (13 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Massacres 18 Bago Villagers, Including Five Children

killed a guard and injured another during the shootout. Citing a spokesperson for the Bago PDF, it was reported that one prisoner was injured and had to be left behind, the others had been brought to safety in Bago Region with the help of resistance fighters. According to police documents leaked on social media, three escapees, including the woman, had been on death row. Ousted President Win Myint was reportedly being held at Taungoo prison. A local woman with access to the prison said that the prison break would likely result in tougher security measures.¹⁴³

Meanwhile, resistance fighters targeted killing a junta-appointed administrator in **Phyuu** (7 May),¹⁴⁴ and **Paungde** (22 May)¹⁴⁵ **Townships**. Resistance attacks also targeted junta forces in **Paungde Township** (13 and 15 May),¹⁴⁶ and a junta base in **Kyaukkyi Township** (10 May).¹⁴⁷

Mon State

UNHCR reported that there were around 30,900 IDPs statewide as of 29 May. All were displaced after the attempted coup.¹⁴⁸

On 6 May, junta forces shelled Alu village in **Bilin Township**, which destroyed three houses and injured two civilians. It was reported that near-daily shelling into the village had forced residents to flee and that in April, at least 11 residents were injured and at least eight homes were damaged by regime shells.¹⁴⁹ On 14 May, regime forces shelled Pein Hne Taw village-tract in **KNU-defined Thaton Township, Thaton district (Northern Mon State)**, that killed a civilian and injured a woman and a five-year-old child. This was in retaliation to two Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) drone attacks on a junta camp in Pein Hne Taw.¹⁵⁰

On 21 May, a landmine explosion injured three people in a passenger bus on the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway near Ka Mar Saing village in **Thaton Township**. Pro-junta telegram accounts accused the KNU and PDFs of the attack, but a PDF official from Thaton District said that they were not responsible.¹⁵¹

On 26 May, it was reported that junta troops had been continuously destroying inter-village roads in **Bilin** and **Kyaikto Townships** using bulldozers: inter-district road in Zee Wun village and Kin Mun Chaung - Saung Naing Gyi inter-village road on 19 May, Win Ka Law inter-village road on 20 May, Me Yone Ka Lay inter-village road on 21 May, Pyin Ka Doe Kone - Ma Yan Chaung inter-village road on 22 May, and Hlegu inter-city road on 24 May. A PDF-Thaton District member said that the road destructions were intended to harm residents by implementing **the four-cuts strategy**, and to prepare defenses against resistance forces. They had made it difficult for locals to travel, trade, and seek hospitals in case of emergency.¹⁵² KNU News sources reported a regime surveillance helicopter had been hovering over PDF-controlled areas in Kyaikto Township. Kyaikto residents expressed concerns over the restriction of rice transport and potential food shortages.¹⁵³

Tanintharyi Region

According to UNHCR, there were around 52,700 IDPs in the region as of 29 May. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.

On 2 May, regime shelling into Kadun Shaung village injured three children in **Dawei Township**. There was no fighting at the time.¹⁵⁴ On 3 May, it was reported that regime troops had been extorting travelers at checkpoints along Pyidaungsu Road between Ma Hlwe Taung gate in **Yebyu Township** and **Myeik Township**, charging between MMK 5,000 and 20,000 per vehicle and would confiscate items or beat drivers if there was a dispute.¹⁵⁵

On 5 May, regime forces sealed off a gas station, home, grocery store, and land owned by a local businessman in **Bokpyin Township** after arresting him in early April and charging him under Section 50 (j) of the Anti-Terrorism Act for allegedly funding PDFs.¹⁵⁶

On 8 May, junta forces raided Wet Chaung village in **Yebyu Township** and arrested 20 residents before they stationed at the village school and detained about 10 more locals. Locals reported regime troops kept the tied-up civilians as human shields in the school.¹⁵⁷

On 8 May, junta troops raided Weyit village in **Thayetchaung Township** and arrested two residents. On 9 May, regime forces raided Yange village and arrested six locals. The troops tortured and interrogated the

¹⁴³ Myanmar Now (19 May 2023) Nine PDF members make dramatic escape from Taungoo Prison

¹⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (8 May 2023) Over a Dozen Myanmar Junta Forces, Five Resistance Members Killed in Three Days of Clashes

¹⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (24 May 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Five Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (17 May 2023) Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Five Days of Resistance Attacks; Irrawaddy (17 May 2023) Dozens of Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Five Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁴⁷ DVB (12 May 2023) Evacuations underway ahead of Cyclone Mocha; An inclusive dialogue on aid delivery

¹⁴⁸ UNHCR (2 May 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 29 May 2023)

¹⁴⁹ Mon News (8 May 2023) Two Civilians Injured, Three Houses Destroyed by Military Council Attack on Bilin

¹⁵⁰ Karen News (18 May 2023) Civilians Attacked by Artillery Shells in Thaton Township

¹⁵¹ Than Lwin Times (23 May 2023) Three injured as passenger bus hits landmine in Thaton

¹⁵² Than Lwin Times (26 May 2023) Junta troops destroy more roads in Belin, Kyaikto

¹⁵³ Karen News (26 May 2023) Revolutionary Forces Say Military Activating Four Cuts Strategy in Kyaikto Township

¹⁵⁴ Than Lwin Times (4 May 2023) Three children injured by junta shells in Dawei

¹⁵⁵ Than Lwin Times (3 May 2023) Junta troops extort money from travelers at Tanintharyi's checkpoints

¹⁵⁶ Than Lwin Times (7 May 2023) Building, assets worth millions of kyats of businessman seized in Bokepyin

¹⁵⁷ Than Lwin Times (9 May 2023) Nearly 30 residents of Yebyu Township arrested as human shields

detainees after stationing at Ka Myaing village temporarily. The regime's raids forced all residents from five villages including Weyit and Yange, to flee.¹⁵⁸

On 13 May, regime forces raided Na Bu Lal village in **Yebyu Township**, which forced residents to flee. On 14 Mar, the junta launched an airstrike near Na Bu Lal village close to Dawei Special Economic Zone amid clashes with local resistance forces.¹⁵⁹ On 25 May, it was reported that the regime arrested over 40 civilians within a week over alleged links to resistance groups in Tanintharyi Region.

On 19 May, the junta arrested seven Kyauk Kar villagers after the assassination of a junta-appointed administrator in **Palaw Township** using a bomb. Between 20-21 May, regime forces arrested 10 grocery store and tea shop owners in Yae Hpyu village in **Tanintharyi Township** after junta informants reported resistance groups buying food from them. On 20 May, regime troops arrested 12 civilians as human shields in Dawei after resistance forces ambushed them on their way back from burning down houses in U Yin Gyi village. On 21 May, regime troops detained two youths including a 15-year-old girl at a checkpoint in **Thayetchaung Township**. On 23 May, junta troops detained four civilians including two women after a local PDF raid on the police station, military intelligence and immigration offices in **Launglon Township**. On 24 May, regime forces raided Kyauk Ka Nyar village in **Yebyu Township** and arrested 20 residents after a junta convoy suffered a bomb attack near the village on 23 May.¹⁶⁰

Naypyidaw Union Territory

On 3 May, resistance fighters attacked a police outpost in Oke Ta Ra Thi Ri Township where retired junta officers live. The ensuing fighting killed two junta police, and injured two junta soldiers and one resistance fighter.¹⁶¹

Ayeyarwady Region

Resistance fighters killed a junta sergeant in **Bogale** (4 May)¹⁶² and another one in **Hinthada** (5 May)¹⁶³ **Townships**. Bomb attacks also targeted a police station in **Bogale Township** (6 May),¹⁶⁴ and an administration office in **Kyonpyaw Township** (7 May), which injured a township police chief and a managing director.¹⁶⁵

Mandalay Region

In **Madaya Township**, junta troops entered the western part of the township and arrested six residents from two villages on 10 and 11 May. On 16 May, residents found the bodies of two of the detainees, who were presumably shot dead. The remaining four civilians were still missing.¹⁶⁶ This attack forced over 7,000 locals from seven villages to flee.¹⁶⁷ On 24 May, in **Myingyan Township**, junta forces raided Magyisu village and torched the houses, killed a 65-year-old woman and damaged 59 houses.¹⁶⁸

In **Ngazun Township**, junta forces raided a PDF camp and seized weapons on 26 May.¹⁶⁹ In **Singu Township**, junta troops fired heavy artillery in Htone Gyi village on 15 May, that killed two civilians. Clashes between junta forces and resistance fighters intensified when PDF groups attacked junta vehicles carrying rations on 24 May. On 25 May, regime forces conducted four airstrikes against three villages, while on 26 May, on-the-ground junta soldiers torched an unknown number of houses in the villages. Residents of at least six villages were forced to flee.¹⁷⁰ On 10 May, resistance fighters raided a junta base in the western part of **Mogoke Township**. The ensuing fighting reportedly killed a 10-year-old child.¹⁷¹

Yangon Region

On 7 May, three suspected Pyu Saw Htee militia members shot dead a NLD central executive committee member's younger sister and her 10-year-old daughter in their shop in Kone Tala Baung village in **Mingaladon Township**.¹⁷² Resistance forces continued their operations, and killed junta-appointed administrators in **Hlaingtharyar** (1 May),¹⁷³ and **Dagon Myothit Seikkan** (22 May)¹⁷⁴ **Townships**, and a chairman of Myanmar National Organization (MNO) in **North Dagon Township** (26 May).¹⁷⁵ On 30 May, resistance fighters shot and critically injured singer and prominent ultranationalist Lily Naing Kyaw in **Yankin Township**. She was reported to have close ties with junta generals and regularly appeared at junta-organized

¹⁵⁸ Than Lwin Times (10 May 2023) Eight residents of Thayetchaung Township arrested, tortured

¹⁵⁹ Network Media Group (15 May 2023) ထားဝယ်အထူးစီးပွားရေးဇုန် အနီး စစ်ကောင်စီ ဗုံးကြဲ

¹⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) More Than 40 Tanintharyi Civilians Detained by Myanmar Junta in Week

¹⁶¹ Myanmar Now (4 May 2023) စစ်တပ်အရာရှိဟောင်းများ နေထိုင်ရာ နေပြည်တော် ဥတ္တရသီရိတွင် ပေါက်ကွဲမှုဖြစ်

¹⁶² Network Media Group (8 May 2023) ကင်းစောင်နေသည့် တပ်ကြပ်ကြီး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁶³ DVB (6 May 2023) ဟင်္သာတမြို့နယ်၌ စရဖတပ်ကြပ်ကြီး ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (8 May 2023) Over a Dozen Myanmar Junta Forces, Five Resistance Members Killed in Three Days of Clashes

¹⁶⁵ DVB (7 May 2023) ကျုံပျော်မြို့နယ်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံး ဗုံးသုံးကြိမ်ပေါက်၊ မြို့နယ်ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူး ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁶⁶ RFA Burmese (17 May 2023) မတ္တရာမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ဖမ်းသွားတဲ့ အရပ်သားနှစ်ဦး အသတ်ခံရ

¹⁶⁷ RFA Burmese (17 May 2023) မတ္တရာမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ဖမ်းသွားတဲ့ အရပ်သားနှစ်ဦး အသတ်ခံရ

¹⁶⁸ RFA Burmese (24 May 2023) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် မကျိုးစရာ မီးရှို့ခံရပြီး သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုတစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

¹⁶⁹ RFA (28 May 2023) ငါးစွန်းမြို့နယ် PDF ယာယီအထိုင်စခန်းတစ်ခု စီးနင်းခံရ

¹⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (27 May 2023) တိုက်ပွဲဆက် စွဲကူးမြို့ကို လေတပ်က တိုက်ခိုက်၊ ဒေသခံများ ထွက်ပြေးနေရ

¹⁷¹ Network Media Group (12 May 2023) မိုးကုတ် တိုက်ပွဲအတွင်း ၁၀ နှစ်အရွယ် ကလေးငယ်တစ်ဦး လက်နက်ကြီး ထိမှန်

¹⁷² Irrawaddy (8 May 2023) NLD Township Chiefs' Relatives Killed in Yangon

¹⁷³ Eleven Media Group (5 May 2023) Ward administrator from Hlaing Tharyar Township (East) shot dead

¹⁷⁴ Mizzima (25 May 2023) Yangon ward administrator shot dead

¹⁷⁵ Than Lwin Times (27 May 2023) Pro-military nationalist shot dead in North Dagon Township

events and pro-military rallies. She had also been accused of being a military informant who spied on anti-coup protesters and resistance members in her neighborhood. No group claimed responsibility.¹⁷⁶

Rohingya

On 12 May, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) extended the deadline for three more months to 24 Aug 2023 for the junta to submit a Counter-Memorial in the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar*. The junta submitted a letter requesting an extension until 24 Feb 2024, arguing that the one-month extension to 24 Apr granted by the ICJ on 6 Apr 2023 was insufficient to submit the arguments and evidence necessary to respond to the claims made against Burma. The Gambia opposed the extension request, arguing that the junta had not offered new justification.¹⁷⁷

Repatriation initiatives ignore Rohingya rights demands

On 4 May, ahead of the planned visit to the junta's 'repatriation' camp by a Bangladesh delegation, a Rohingya leader and member of the delegation said that the Rohingya people wanted to return to their homesteads rather than going to camps. Chairman of the Bangladesh foreign ministry's parliamentary watchdog committee, Faruk Khan said that the junta understood the need to return Rohingya refugees to Burma or face further international pressure. Md. Shahidul Haque, a former Bangladesh foreign secretary, expressed skepticism about the 'repatriation' program, questioning what freedom the forced Rohingya returnees would get in Rakhine. He added that the regime was only active in their repatriation efforts ahead of ICJ hearings and would cut off communication afterward.¹⁷⁸

On 5 May, a Rohingya refugee delegation visited two model villages erected for the 'pilot return project' under a bilateral arrangement between Bangladesh and the regime in Maungdaw Township (Rakhine State). Bangladesh's deputy refugee commissioner, Mohammed Khalid Hossain said the delegation consisted of 20 Rohingya, including three women, and seven officials, including a border guard officer. It was reported, citing Bangladesh officials, that repatriations were expected to begin later in May, before the monsoon season.¹⁷⁹ On 6 May, Rohingya refugees who were part of the delegation that had visited the regime's 'repatriation' camps said that they would not return to Burma to "be confined in camps". One member of the delegation said that they would only return if given citizenship and full rights. Another member of the visiting delegation said that the national verification cards (NVC) offered by the regime would not be accepted by the Rohingya as it would identify them as foreigners. Bangladesh's refugee relief and repatriation commissioner in Cox's Bazar, Mohammed Mizanur Rahman expressed his opinion that 'repatriation' was the only solution, he added that a group from Burma would visit Bangladesh within a week, as a follow-up.¹⁸⁰

On 25 May, a junta delegation team of 14 officials in civilian clothes visited Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh as part of the pilot repatriation project, where they talked to about 200 Rohingya. Mohammad Selim, one of the Rohingya who met the regime delegation, said that the team ignored their demands for citizenship and to return to their own ancestral houses, and insisted on issuing them national verification cards (NVC). Khin Maung, a Rohingya leader, highlighted the lack of permanent representation for Rohingya in the repatriation process, adding that 'the repatriation process is just an eyewash'. One of the Rohingya meant to be repatriated in the pilot project said that he did not want to return to Burma and live at IDP camps 'as non-citizen'. Mainul Kabir, the head of the Myanmar wing in Bangladesh's foreign ministry insisted repatriation was 'the only way to solve the Rohingya issue', reiterating the regime delegation's assurance of gradually resolving 'the confusions that are being created'.¹⁸¹

Aid cuts worsen vulnerability of Rohingya women and girls in Bangladesh camps

On 11 May, it was reported that the World Food Programme (WFP) would further cut the monthly allowance for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, reducing it from USD 10 to USD 8 per person as of June. In March, the agency reduced the allowance from USD 12 to USD 10 per person. A refugee at the Kutupalong camp said that a USD 12 monthly allowance was already causing struggles and the cut would cause refugees to go hungry and pose additional difficulties.¹⁸²

On 9 May, it was reported that Rohingya women and girls in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar were facing worsening living conditions, gender-based discrimination, and that they were increasingly under threat of sexual and gender-based violence amid cuts to funding for aid organizations and restrictions on community-based women's organizations. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Mohammed Mizanur Rahman said that services for women were in crisis and that funding cuts were routine, adding that lack of support from the international community posed difficulties to adequately deliver services such as sanitation, shelter, and food and to tackle high levels of gender-based violence and criminality in the camps.

¹⁷⁶ Irawaddy (31 May 2023) Singer and Myanmar Junta Supporter Lily Naing Kyaw Gunned Down in Yangon

¹⁷⁷ International Court of Justice (12 May 2023) Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*The Gambia v. Myanmar*)

¹⁷⁸ Benar News (4 May 2023) Bangladesh delegation with Rohingya to visit Myanmar, see preparations for repatriation plan

¹⁷⁹ Al Jazeera (5 May 2023) Rohingya delegation visits Myanmar amid latest repatriation plans

¹⁸⁰ Reuters (6 May 2023) Rohingya say will not go home to Myanmar to be stuck in camps

¹⁸¹ Frontier Myanmar (26 May 2023) Myanmar delegation visits Rohingya camps for repatriation scheme

¹⁸² DMG (11 May 2023) WFP to further cut aid to Muslim refugees in Bangladesh

Citing Oxfam, Save the Children, Action contre la faim (Action Against Hunger), and the UN country team in Bangladesh, it was reported that donations have slowed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 in addition to interruptions to services due to the pandemic. As a result, the Joint Response Plan agreed on by organizations involved in the Rohingya response has received less than 16% of its required funding for 2023 so far.

In addition to funding shortfalls, the rise in gang violence contributed to instability in the camps, where 64 killings happened between 2021 and 2022. It was also reported that, in addition to gender-based violence, forced marriage and kidnapping had long been a common occurrence. A member of Shanti Mohila, a Rohingya women's survivor group, said that domestic and gender-based violence was the biggest risk women and girls faced, adding that the persistence of both domestic violence and polygamy had led to many women suffering from abuse and health problems.

When Rohingya women seeking work turned to aid organizations it was reported that superiors would sometimes expect sex in exchange for employment. One international aid worker alleged that there was a sense of entitlement among Bangladeshi aid workers, they knew that they were in a position of power over their victims, and that they would not be held accountable. Bangladesh authorities had restricted organizations seeking to provide education and employment opportunities, allowing only those registered with the RRRC to provide education within camps. Men would often stop women and girls from leaving home, further exacerbating the lack of access to education and employment.

In December 2021, the RRRC ordered all 3000 home-based and private learning centers to close under the pretext of not maintaining 'standards of education' and prohibited new centers from opening. However, Asmida, a teacher for the Rohingya Union for Women Education and Development (RUWED) said that not much learning had been taking place in the government approved learning centers. She added that several local and international aid organizations have called the police to prevent RUWED from holding lessons and filling the education gap.¹⁸³

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

On 2 May, based on data from reliable news sources and AAPP, the BWU concluded that the junta arrested a total of 43 women and killed 55 women in April 2023 alone. Due to the junta's airstrikes in Pazigyi village, Kanbalu Township, the majority of women killed were in Sagaing Region.¹⁸⁴ The Joint Secretary of the Burmese Women's Union, Ma Zu Zu, said that of the 55 women killed by the junta, some were shot dead during raids on their homes, and that women who had posted messages of condolences for the victims of the air strikes in Pazigyi village on social media were among the 43 arrested. She also said that the regime had stripped away the rights of women in prison, deprived them of adequate healthcare, prohibited women from receiving parcels or visits from family members, and that junta personnel sexually assaulted and abused women, both physically and verbally.¹⁸⁵

On 23 May, Karenni Women Organization (KNWO) organized a one-day morale-building training in an IDP camp in Demoso Township, Karenni State designed to provide women with education and an opportunity to openly discuss various topics encompassing physical, mental, sexual, socioeconomic, and traditional forms of violence. A participant reiterated the need for these kind of trainings for IDP women due to the severe psychological distress of having to carry numerous burdens including the sustenance of their families and the education of their children. A youth participant said that the training had a profound impact on their well-being and requested such sessions to be continued in the future.¹⁸⁶

On 30 May, resistance fighters shot and critically injured singer and prominent ultranationalist Lily Naing Kyaw in Yankin Township, Yangon Region (*see p. 14 for more details*).¹⁸⁷

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

Regime figures showed daily COVID-19 infections throughout the month: 155 on 3 May¹⁸⁸, 72 on 15 May¹⁸⁹ and 71 on 31 May¹⁹⁰. Vaccination rates remained low. Only 38,505,755 people had received shots as of 2 May¹⁹¹, from a population of 55.8 million.¹⁹² On 8 May, it was reported, citing officials from the State Department of Public Health and Treatment, that there were 43 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Mon State from 1-3 May, and all of them were local infections.¹⁹³ On 27 May, it was reported that Cambodia donated one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and one million syringes to Burma, which the Cambodian Health

¹⁸³ The New Humanitarian (9 May 2023) Dwindling aid leaves Rohingya women exposed to rising violence in Bangladesh

¹⁸⁴ Burmese Women's Union (2 May 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/5n6ufauj>

¹⁸⁵ Mizzima (5 May 2023) Myanmar Junta kills 55 women in April

¹⁸⁶ BNI (26 May 2023) War-stricken Karenni women seeking trauma support to cope with depression and mental health problems.

¹⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (31 May 2023) Singer and Myanmar Junta Supporter Lily Naing Kyaw Gunned Down in Yangon

¹⁸⁸ GNLM (4 May 2023) 155 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 May, total figure registers 635,257

¹⁸⁹ GNLM (16 May 2023) 72 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 May, total figure registers 637,321

¹⁹⁰ GNLM (1 June 2023) 71 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 May, total figure registers 638,889

¹⁹¹ GNLM (4 May 2023) 155 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 May, total figure registers 635,257

¹⁹² GNLM (4 Oct 2022) Population of Myanmar estimated at 55.8 million on 1 October 2022

¹⁹³ "Independent Mon News (8 May 2023) Covid-19 Infections back in Mon State"

Ministry secretary gave to the junta's Deputy Health Minister at a handover ceremony held at the Yangon International Airport.¹⁹⁴

On 30 May, the junta-controlled Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) announced that requests to the public, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 May 2023 had been extended until 30 June 2023 for the prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19.¹⁹⁵

On 15 May, it was reported that the junta had permanently revoked the licenses of three private hospitals in Mandalay for appointing individuals who had joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). According to the regime, they failed to comply with Article 19(a) of the licensing rules for private healthcare services, which vaguely stipulates that the licensee shall “comply with the terms and conditions of the license.” It was reported that the closure of the three hospitals could result in the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs.^{196 197}

On 12 May, the junta chief signed the Private Education Law, which reportedly gave the junta's supervisory bodies the authority to set standards for private schools, approve teacher certification, issue certificates for foreign private teacher registration, as well as approve or deny certificate renewals. The law reportedly also prohibited teaching and talking about party politics at schools, and failure to abide this law would be punishable either by fines or by imprisonment. The junta chief highlighted the importance of comprehensive education at the opening of the Myanmar National Education Conference on 18 May.

However, the secretary of the Basic Education Workers' Union emphasized that in reality, the junta was bombing schools, oppressing CDM teachers and education staff, and restricting them from working in the private education sector.¹⁹⁸ On 31 May, citing junta media, it was reported that as of 30 May, a total of 329,129 students had enrolled at public and private schools in Rakhine State for the 2023-2024 academic year. It was reported that 2,410 schools - 75% of schools damaged by Cyclone Mocha - would reopen on 1 Jun and the rest would start by the third week of June.¹⁹⁹

Even though the junta's Rakhine State Education Office was reportedly providing tarpaulin sheets for schools, the headmistress of a post-primary school in Rathedaung Township said that her school and other schools had not received them yet, adding that she would ask villagers to help fix the roof. The Education Office also claimed it would build makeshift classrooms in badly damaged schools, but a teacher from Sittwe stated that repairs would not be finished by 1 Jun, and that the school was planning to alternate middle and high schoolers in morning and noon classes.²⁰⁰

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

US firms bust sanctions with blood teak

On 16 May, the UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) launched a report that identified 12 US-based companies that had defied US sanctions against the junta-controlled Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) by importing 2,760.46 tons of conflict timber from Burma into the US after the attempted coup. The EIA pointed out that teak trade with the junta was indirectly funding the junta and abetting its atrocity crimes against civilians because MTE controls all teak trading and charges fees for containers leaving ports in Yangon.

The companies circumvented laws by claiming that the timber was purchased from stockpiles in Burma prior to the imposition of sanctions in April 2021. The majority of teak shipments entered the US via Singapore, Busan (South Korea), Malaysia, Spain, and Hong Kong, with Taiwanese shipping company Clare Freight International (US) Inc. transporting the largest quantity. The EIA asserted that it was not possible to accurately determine the legality of teak from Burma, even through third-party verification, and urged the US government to enforce its sanctions more effectively and take stronger actions against such violations.²⁰¹

Junta goes for gold, exploits sanctions loophole

On 8 May, it was reported that the junta had appointed 19 military officers at the Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) offices in Naypyidaw on 21 and 28 Apr, including five majors as managers and 14 captains as assistant managers. In Jun 2022, the junta appointed six lieutenant colonels to deputy directorships at the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). Citing an anonymous business person, it was reported that that the appointed officers had no expertise or understanding of banking.²⁰²

On 12 May, it was reported that the junta-controlled Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) had fully occupied the 6,000-acre Moehti Moemi gold mining development project area in Yamethin Township

¹⁹⁴ GNLM (27 May 2023) Handover event held for Cambodia donated Sinovac vaccines, syringes

¹⁹⁵ GNLM (31 May 2023) Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

¹⁹⁶ Narinjara (22 May 2023) Military Council Revoked Licenses of 3 Mandalay Private Hospitals for utilizing CDM medics

¹⁹⁷ RFA (18 May 2023) Myanmar's junta shuts down 3 Mandalay hospitals

¹⁹⁸ Than Lwin Times (26 May 2023) Implementation of education policies by the military council shows that its actions don't match its words; DVB (17 May 2023) နိုင်ငံရေး သင်ကြားပါက ထောင်ချနိုင်သည့် ပုဂ္ဂလိကကျောင်းများဥပဒေကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ပြဋ္ဌာန်း

¹⁹⁹ DMG (31 May 2023) 75 percent of damaged schools open on June 1 in Arakan State

²⁰⁰ DMG (31 May 2023) 75 percent of damaged schools open on June 1 in Arakan State

²⁰¹ Environmental Investigation Agency (16 May 2023) US timber traders help support Myanmar's brutal junta by skirting laws to import illicit teak

²⁰² Myanmar Now (8 May 2023) 19 military officers selected for management roles at Myanmar's largest commercial public bank; Myanmar Now (5 May 2023) စစ်တပ်အရာရှိ ၁၉ ဦးကို မြန်မာ့စီးပွားရေးဘဏ် မန်နေဂျာများအဖြစ် ခန့်အပ်

(Mandalay Region) in February 2023. National Prosperity Gold Production Group (NPGPG), a company owned by the crony Soe Htun Shein, previously held the license but the project had been dormant since tax evasion charges were brought against Soe Htun Shein in 2018. A businessman working on the project said that MEC would resume the project and permit companies that “meet specific conditions” to join the operation.²⁰³

On 22 May, it was reported that Dr. Ohnmar May Tin Hlaing, the wife of junta energy minister Myo Myint Oo, had been benefiting from fossil fuel and mining corporations through her company Environmental Quality Management Ltd (EQM) in a clear **conflict of interest**. While Myo Myint Oo, as former head of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and current junta energy minister had been sanctioned by the US, EU, and Canada but not by Australia, Dr. Ohnmar May Tin Hlaing remains **unsanctioned in any jurisdiction**.²⁰⁴

ASEAN-Japan Centre backing the junta

On 26 May, it was reported that the Tokyo-based ASEAN-Japan Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism had been actively supporting the junta by providing “capacity-building grants” to three of its ministries: investment and foreign economic relations, hotels and tourism, and commerce.

The Centre refused to disclose the amount of the funds provided to the junta’s investment ministry to support reforms required to implement international investment agreements. The Centre’s support for the junta’s tourism ministry includes a website that misleads the Japanese public by promoting Burma as a safe tourist destination despite the ongoing violence. The Centre reportedly also collaborated to enhance the junta’s market access in Japan. Justice for Myanmar (JfM) urged the ASEAN-Japan Centre and all other organizations to immediately remove the junta from its council and end all support.²⁰⁵

India deepens complicity in junta’s crimes

On 4 May, it was reported that three Adani Group companies had been doing business with the junta, raising concerns about their complicity in the junta’s atrocity crimes. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Limited (Adani Ports or APSEZ) announced its withdrawal from Burma in Oct 2021. However, weeks later, Adani Ports sold three reconditioned rail mounted quay cranes with Siemens drive trains to its Burma subsidiary for USD 6.9 million, which were delivered in early 2022. Siemens responded that they were told that the cranes’ final destination was Mundra, India.

Six months after its “withdrawal”, Adani Ports offered shareholder loans worth around USD 24 million for the Ahlone International Port Terminal (2) project, which would ultimately benefit the junta conglomerate Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC).²⁰⁶ On 4 May, Adani Ports announced that they had sold its port in Burma to Solar Energy Ltd for USD 30 million, which was lower than its alleged USD 127 million investment in the project, a loss acknowledged in 30 May.²⁰⁷²⁰⁸ Meanwhile, it was reported that Adani Power Limited expressed interest in importing coal to India from Burma in collaboration with the junta in Oct 2021, but the proposal was rejected. Moreover, Adani Transmission Limited was allegedly in negotiations for cross-border electricity trade with the junta, and despite denying this, the company acknowledged “being approached”.

JfM called on India to impose an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on the junta, and take immediate steps to prevent Adani Group and other Indian companies from providing support to the junta.²⁰⁹

On 5 May, it was reported that India’s state-owned Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) had planned to expand its retail fuel outlets in Sagaing Region. NRL had been exporting oil to Burma using a road connecting Numaligarh (Assam State) to Moreh (Manipur State) which borders with Sagaing Region. The company did not disclose the name of its Burmese partner or provide a timeline for the project. Nay Zin Lat, a member of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and a local PDF group condemned NRL’s expansion plans, citing concerns about funding the junta’s atrocity crimes.²¹⁰

On 9 May, the first cargo vessel from Kolkata (India) arrived at Sittwe port (Rakhine State), marking a major milestone in the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport project. The Kaladan project, valued at USD 484 million, was aimed at establishing connectivity between India’s landlocked northeast, and the rest of the country by bypassing Bangladesh through western Burma’s Rakhine and Chin states. This is in apparent competition with China’s large port and industrial zone project in Kyaukpyu (Rakhine state).²¹¹

Railroading atrocities: Japanese and Spanish corporations

On 30 May, it was reported that the Japanese government and multinational corporations had been continuing improvement projects on a junta-controlled railway. Japanese corporations had received millions in revenue

²⁰³ Myanmar Now (12 May 2023) Junta-owned MEC takes over gold mine formerly run by imprisoned tycoon; Myanmar Now (10 May 2023)

ဒီးစိုးထွန်းရှိန်၏ မိုးထိမိုးမိရွေ့လုပ်ကွက်ကို စစ်တပ်ပိုင် MEC က ဖောင်ပိုင်စီး

²⁰⁴ Justice for Myanmar (22 May 2023) Dirty Secrets #4: Myanmar Junta Energy Minister’s Family Profiting From Fossil Fuel Companies

²⁰⁵ Justice for Myanmar (26 May 2023) ASEAN-Japan Centre supporting Myanmar junta’s trade and tourism plans, as it wages terror campaign

²⁰⁶ Justice for Myanmar (4 May 2023) Adani Group’s Deepening Complicity with the Myanmar Junta

²⁰⁷ Reuters (4 May 2023) India’s Adani Ports sells Myanmar port for a discounted \$30 million

²⁰⁸ Reuters (31 May 2023) Adani Ports fourth-quarter profit takes hit from Myanmar port sale

²⁰⁹ Justice for Myanmar (4 May 2023) ACIJ, JFM and Stop Adani urge Adani Group to responsibly divest from their military-linked businesses in Myanmar

²¹⁰ Irrawaddy (5 May 2023) Indian State-Owned Oil Firm Announces Expansion to Myanmar Resistance Stronghold

²¹¹ Nikkei Asia (11 May 2023) Indian-backed port opens in Myanmar in answer to China’s corridor project

from the railway improvement projects, funded by loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which were awarded before the attempted coup. It was reported that the junta had been using these trains to transport troops, weapons, and supplies across Burma. Citing JICA, JfM reported that the bilateral agreement made prior to the attempted coup, forbids the projects to be used for military purposes, but the Japanese government and the companies had been unable to prevent the junta's misuse.

The Spanish corporation Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles (CAF) and Mitsubishi Corporation were supplying new trains to the junta, while other Japanese corporations were conducting track and station upgrades, bridgework, and working on signaling and communications equipment. JfM called on the Japanese government and the companies involved to immediately suspend their work and the Spanish government to investigate if CAF's business with the junta had breached EU sanctions.²¹²

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

UN scrambles for Cyclone Mocha funding

On 12 May, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it was gravely concerned about the impact of monsoon season, noting that IDPs in Burma were living in camps "located in low-lying coastal areas susceptible to storm surge". Tom Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma said that together with mass displacement driven by junta attacks and a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by world indifference, Cyclone Mocha represented a third threat to those living in shelters in flood prone areas.²¹³

On 14 May, the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reported that 5.6 million children were potentially exposed to Cyclone Mocha, but that the Myanmar 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for USD 169.6 million was only 11.8% funded.²¹⁴

On 1 Jun, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) announced that during 15 May and 1 Jun, Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) had assisted 100,265 people of 19,467 households affected by Cyclone Mocha. Through its 23 warehouses in Burma, MRCS reported to have provided emergency shelter, hygiene parcels, and drinking water to individuals in seven regions. It also provided dignity kits to women in Rakhine, Magway, and Yangon, and dispatched two mobile clinics in Rakhine.²¹⁵

On 16 May OCHA reported that humanitarian partners were working to start rapid needs assessments (RNAs) in the field, placing priority on 6 Townships.²¹⁶ OCHA also stated that it had only received USD 4.6 million out of the USD 333 million flash appeal so far. It further reported that it had provided 95,240 individuals with shelter and other relief items, and 266,500 with food assistance in five regions, but that the work done so far had only met a fraction of overall needs, and with reliance on local partners.²¹⁷

On 17 May, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reported that it had reached over 115,900 people across Rakhine State with emergency food and USD 206,500 in emergency cash. WFP also reported that it was dispatching rice and mobile storage units to Sittwe, and delivering food commodities to Buthidaung via waterway. WFP also emphasized its funding shortage and appealed for USD 60 million.²¹⁸ On 26 May, the WFP announced that due to funding shortages, it would cut food vouchers in Cox's Bazar for a second time to USD 8 a month, less than nine cents per meal, effective on 1 Jun. WFP also reported that even before the ration cut, four in ten families were not consuming enough food and 12% of children were acutely malnourished.²¹⁹ On 29 May, Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights stated that the Rohingya were stuck being entirely dependent on humanitarian support and spending their days in complete idleness due to being prohibited from work. As a result, gender-based violence and gang-controlled drug trafficking across the border with Burma was mounting. De Schutter also urged Bangladesh to give the Rohingya the right to work and create employment amongst themselves.²²⁰

On 22 May, the UN International Office for Migration (IOM) stated that with over 240 staff across Burma and direct presence in Sittwe, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Pauktaw, IOM was mobilizing teams on the ground in Rakhine to fully gauge the impact of Cyclone Mocha.²²¹ On 26 May, the IOM launched a flash appeal requesting USD 11.25 million to provide relief for 75,000 people. IOM also reported that its mobile clinics had assisted 1,094 patients in Rakhine State as of 2 Jun and was coordinating with Township Health Departments (THDs) in Rakhine, with ongoing negotiations for broader access.²²²

²¹² Justice for Myanmar (30 May 2023) Junta's railway projects risk aiding & abetting Myanmar junta's crimes

²¹³ Al Jazeera (13 May 2023) Thousands evacuated as Cyclone Mocha nears Myanmar, Bangladesh

²¹⁴ UNICEF (14 May 2023) UNICEF Myanmar Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1 (Cyclone MOCHA): 14 May 2023

²¹⁵ IFRC (1 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Operation update #1, Emergency Appeal No. MDRMM018

²¹⁶ OCHA (15 May 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Flash Update #4 (as of 15 May 2023)

²¹⁷ OCHA (2 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha Situation Report No.3 (As of 14:00 1 June 2023)

²¹⁸ WFP (26 May 2023) WFP Myanmar and Bangladesh Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha (26 May 2023)

²¹⁹ WFP (26 May 2023) Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh face grim choices as more cuts to food assistance imminent

²²⁰ The Guardian (30 May 2023) Stateless Rohingya could soon be the 'new Palestinians', top UN official warns

²²¹ UN Myanmar (22 May 2023) IOM mobilizes response for communities devastated by Cyclone Mocha

²²² IOM (2 Jun 2023) IOM Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha Response Situation Report 3 (June 2, 2023)

On 26 May, junta media reported that the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Burma, Noriko Takagi, met with the junta's Social Welfare Minister in Nay Pyi Taw.²²³

UN report exposes countries complicit in junta's 1-billion-dollar arms trade

On 17 May, Tom Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, reported that the junta had imported at least USD 1 billion in weapons since the attempted coup in Feb 2021, despite “overwhelming evidence of its responsibility for atrocities, including some that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.” The report documented over 12,500 purchases that were shipped directly to the junta, or known Burmese arms dealers working for the junta from Feb 2021 until Dec 2022.

5 countries supply illegal junta with USD 1 billion arms

Country	Total Trade USD	No. of Unique Suppliers
Russian Federation	405,965,839	28
China (incl. Hong Kong)	267,114,793	41
Singapore	253,908,769	138
India	51,304,557	22
Thailand	27,745,214	25

OHCHR, *The Billion Dollar Death Trade: The International Arms Networks that Enable Human Rights Violations in Myanmar*

The list of military equipment mentioned in the report included fighter jets, attack helicopters, drones, advanced missile systems, tank upgrades, sophisticated communications equipment, radar complexes, and components for naval ships.²²⁴ The report identified Russia (USD 406 million) and China (USD 267 million) as main suppliers of advanced weapons systems to the junta, with most originating from state-owned entities.

It also noted the arms trade from **Singapore** (USD 254 million), **India** (USD 51 million) and **Thailand** (USD 28 million). Andrews highlighted that Thai and Singapore banking and shipping sectors were critical to the junta's Directorate of Defence Industries, commonly referred to as KaPaSa, which controls its weapons manufacturing capabilities.

Andrews pointed to the airstrike on Pa Zi Gyi village on 11 Apr, where the junta used a Russian Yak-130 fighter jet to drop two 250kg bombs, followed by two Russian Mi-35 helicopters to fire on survivors.²²⁵ The report stated that over USD 947 million of arms-related trade identified went directly to entities controlled by the junta, emphasizing that there was no doubt of who the end recipient of the weapons would be. Russia and China responded by accusing Andrews of “vilifying legitimate arms trade”. India said the arms contracts involving its state-owned companies had been signed by a previous government. Singapore indicated it was reviewing the effectiveness of its export controls.²²⁶

Andrews urged UN Member States to enforce existing bans and eliminate loopholes, calling for a complete ban on arms trade with the junta and coordination of sanctions on arms dealers and foreign currency sources. He said that sanctions were not being adequately enforced because arms dealers had been able to create shell companies. Payments were being made in currencies and jurisdictions bypassing sanctions, and no UN Member State had imposed sanctions on MOGE and its affiliated Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), which the junta relies on to purchase arms and should thus be a prime target for international sanctions.²²⁷

ASEAN summit ends with little progress as convoy attack takes attention

On 8 May, Indonesia and Singapore condemned the 7 May attack on a convoy carrying ASEAN diplomats, called for an end to the violence, and Singapore further called for a commitment to dialogue between key stakeholders. President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, the current ASEAN chair, said that the “shootout” would not deter its efforts to push for peace.²²⁸ On 10 May, the ASEAN Leaders issued a statement condemning the convoy attack, calling for accountability of the perpetrators, the cessation of violence in Burma, and emphasized its support of Indonesia's response to the attack and the “efforts” of the ASEAN Chair to continue “engagements with all stakeholders” in Burma.²²⁹

On 9 May, the Bangkok Post reported that despite being banned from the 42nd ASEAN summit on 9-11 May in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, the junta circulated two documents among members. In the first document, regime underscored its perceived efforts to implement the 5PC. In the second letter, the regime reiterated plans to reward “returning” resistance members with up to MMK 50,000 for arms, and amnesty or a lesser punishment for crimes. A 10 May statement said ASEAN leaders “were deeply concerned with ongoing violence in Myanmar and urged the immediate cessation of all forms of violence and the use of force to create a conducive environment for the safe and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogues”.

²²³ GNLM (27 May 2023) MoSWRR Union Minister meets UNHCR Resident Representative

²²⁴ AP News (18 May 2023) UN expert: Myanmar military imported \$1 billion in weapons since 2021 coup

²²⁵ RFA (18 May 2023) Weapons from China and Russia fuel Myanmar's bloody civil war

²²⁶ Al Jazeera (18 May 2023) Myanmar military has imported weaponry worth \$1bn since coup

²²⁷ OCHA (17 May 2023) UN expert exposes \$1 billion “death trade” to Myanmar military

²²⁸ Reuters (8 May 2023) Indonesia, Singapore alarmed as shots fired in Myanmar at diplomats, aid group

²²⁹ ASEAN (10 May 2023) ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Recent Attack on a Convoy of the AHA Centre and ASEAN Monitoring Team in Myanmar

Former Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa echoed the views of many in civil society, stating that it was time for a tougher approach.²³⁰ At the conclusion of the ASEAN summit on 11 May, Indonesia's president Joko Widodo and Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi stated that despite the fact that no progress on the 5PC had been made, ASEAN would not give up in trying to end the violence in Burma. Widodo added that ASEAN "unity" would be required to move forward but underscored that engagement did not mean recognition.²³¹

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim expressed his frustrations, saying that ASEAN had not been able to resolve most problems due to its principle of "non-intervention", suggesting that it needed some flexibility to navigate the way forward. An internal ASEAN report of the summit mentioned that some ASEAN members suggested reengaging with the junta. The report also stated an observation of "Myanmar fatigue", with members stressing that it should not affect ASEAN's progress in building a regional community.²³²

Thailand's PM-Elect sets new tone

On 14 May, shortly after **Thailand's** Move Forward Party (MFP) won the election, Soe Win, the junta chief's second in command, issued a directive to watch the Thai-Burma border. In his message, Soe Win reportedly said that the MFP was pro-West and would assist "terrorists", referring to resistance groups, which is why his commanders were told to "watch the border and get information about them and their activities."²³³

On 17 May, Pita Limjaroenrat, Thailand's PM-Elect, said he recognized Thailand's crucial role in ensuring Burma adhered to ASEAN's 5PC, adding that one of his priorities would be establishing a Thai-Burma humanitarian corridor. On 21 May, he wrote on social media that his policies on Burma would "engage with all stakeholders, focusing on human security considerations, including humanitarian and economic aspects".²³⁴

On 23 May, Fuadi Pitsuwan, the Foreign Affairs Chief for Thailand's MFP, said that instead of "quiet diplomacy" in dealing with the Burma crisis, Thailand could "speak out on the basis of democratic values", adding that Thailand was now in a position to both reprimand the junta and work with the anti-regime groups. He said that Thailand would seek to play a more active role in ASEAN and on the international stage, including in areas such as the environment and climate change.²³⁵

China continues exerting its influence

On 1 May, Noeleen Heyzer, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Burma, met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing. During their meeting Qin said **China** was willing to help Heyzer in her mediation efforts, emphasizing the role of the international community to "restart the political transition process through political dialogue."²³⁶ On 31 May, the UN announced that Heyzer was stepping down from her role on 12 Jun.²³⁷ On 2 May, Qin met with the junta chief in Naypyidaw, the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Burma since the attempted coup in Feb 2021. Prior to the meeting, Qin also stopped by the China-Myanmar border, where he called for stability and a crackdown on cross-border criminal activity in order to move forward with the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.²³⁸ The junta's feigned amnesty of political prisoners announced on 3 May coincided with Qin's visit to the junta leader.²³⁹ After the announcement, Amnesty International said that there were still thousands of individuals facing imprisonment and torture for peacefully opposing the junta, stating that the junta's warning against "reoffending" places a "chilling effect on people wanting to exercise their basic rights and freedoms."²⁴⁰

"Enhanced blast" munition used on Pazigy

On 9 May, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that the junta had used a "thermobaric" munition in its airstrike on Pazigy village on 11 Apr, saying that it was an apparent war crime. HRW concluded, after reviewing photos and video evidence, that the junta used a "vapor-cloud explosive" type munition, adding that the injuries sustained by victims were evidence of an "enhanced blast" weapon that was more powerful than conventional munitions and designed to cause indiscriminate and disproportionate casualties, in violation of international humanitarian law. Elaine Pearson, Asia director at HRW, stated that the junta's "use of a weapon designed to cause maximum deaths in an area crowded with civilians shows flagrant disregard for human life", urging foreign governments to "cut off the junta's funding, arms, and jet fuel to deter further atrocities."²⁴¹

Civil Society rallies behind Rohingya/cyclone victims

On 18 May, Human Rights Watch (HRW) criticized the repatriation plan to return Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Burma, stating that the Bangladeshi authorities had neither consulted the community, nor

²³⁰ Al Jazeera (10 May 2023) Under pressure, ASEAN says 'deeply concerned' at Myanmar violence

²³¹ Reuters (11 May 2023) ASEAN will not give up on Myanmar peace despite no progress - minister

²³² AP News (11 May 2023) ASEAN leader: No progress in ending Myanmar's deadly civil strife

²³³ Irrawaddy (22 May 2023) Myanmar Junta Alerts Troops After Move Forward Party's Statements on Myanmar

²³⁴ Shan Herald (21 May 2023) MFP leader and PM candidate Pita Limjaroenrat on Myanmar's humanitarian corridor

²³⁵ Thai PBS World (24 May 2023) More active ASEAN role, balanced ties with superpowers expected under Pita

²³⁶ Irrawaddy (2 May 2023) China Calls for Dialogue to Restart Political Transition in Myanmar

²³⁷ RFA (1 Jun 2023) UN Myanmar envoy to leave role

²³⁸ Nikkei Asia (3 May 2023) China's foreign minister travels to Myanmar to meet military ruler

²³⁹ RFA (3 May 2023) Myanmar military announces amnesty for more than 2,000 political prisoners

²⁴⁰ Amnesty International (3 May 2023) Myanmar: Follow 'long overdue' pardons by releasing all those unjustly detained

²⁴¹ Human Rights Watch (9 May 2023) Myanmar: Enhanced Blast Strike Likely War Crime

addressed the “grave risks” to their lives and liberty, and should recognize that the circumstances under which Rohingya became refugees in the first place had not changed. Shayna Bauchner, Asia researcher at HRW emphasized that sending the refugees back to the “ruthless” junta would “set the stage for the next devastating exodus.” Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh’s refugee commissioner said that HRW’s claims of coercion were untrue and that the repatriation was voluntary.²⁴²

On 29 May, Progressive Voice (PV) [stated](#) that in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, it had become clear that the actions of the junta had worsened the impact on local populations and that it had weaponized humanitarian aid by blaming the Rohingya for their own predicament, denying access to UN agencies, arresting people attempting to deliver aid, releasing misinformation, and inadequately “attempting” pre-cyclone evacuation of Rohingya.²⁴³

On 29 May, an Open [Letter](#) signed by 239 Myanmar, regional and international organizations was sent to the Prime Minister of Japan, urging Tokyo to assume a greater leadership role at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to address the deteriorating man-made and natural crises in Burma.²⁴⁴

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

On 2 May, it was reported that the NUG Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration had arrested four suspected junta informants in relation to the junta airstrike on Pazigy village, Kanbalu Township (Sagaing Region), charging them under Section 54 of the Counter-Terrorism Act.²⁴⁵

On 3 May, it was reported that the NUG had announced that it would start tax collection in Kalay Township (Sagaing Region) through the Kalay Township People’s Police (KTPP). The NUG Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration launched the taxation program. Citing a KTPP information officer, NMG reported that businesses and individuals were warned against operating in Kalay PDF-controlled areas without paying taxes, and that the NUG would use the tax revenue on security, defense, public administration, government expenses, and administration of the Kalay PDF.

The officer also stated that the taxes levied would differ depending on the type of business. Mining companies, such as coal or petroleum, with an expired license from the former NLD government, would be able to extend it with the NUG at MMK 25,000 per ton of coal. However, companies with a regime-issued license would have to pay MMK 95,000 per ton of coal, in addition to an MMK 50,000 penalty if they exceeded the amount they were contractually allowed to mine. The NUG and the People’s Administration would each receive 30% of the share, and 40% would go to the PDF. This is the first time the People’s Administration had administered municipal taxes under the NUG.²⁴⁶

On 7 May, citing the NUG PM’s Office spokesperson, it was reported that during a meeting with ASEAN, the NUG discussed preventing the junta from participating in politics in the future, and preventing another attempted military coup from being staged..²⁴⁷ On 8 May, the NUG issued a statement condemning the attack on 7 May on a convoy carrying Singaporean and Indonesian embassy personnel delivering humanitarian aid, stating that it is “contrary to the principles of the NUG and to our revolution,” and that they were investigating the incident. The statement also clarified that the attack took place in junta-controlled territory.²⁴⁸

On 9 May, Al Jazeera reported that NUG Foreign Minister Zin Mar Aung was urging ASEAN to recognize the NUG as the true representative of Burma, and that ASEAN should engage with different stakeholders, not just the junta. The NUG FM emphasized that the summit was a chance to amend the 5PC into a plan with “binding and accountable mechanism” and implementation.²⁴⁹

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²⁴² Al Jazeera (19 May 2023) HRW condemns Bangladesh, Myanmar on plan to repatriate Rohingya

²⁴³ Progressive Voice (29 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha adds to junta-created crisis in western Myanmar

²⁴⁴ Progressive Voice (29 May 2023) Open Letter: Japan's leadership urgently needed at the UN Security Council to stop Myanmar military's atrocity crimes as Myanmar faces man-made and natural disasters

²⁴⁵ Than Lwin Times (2 May 2023) NUG says 4 military informants on Pazigy massacre were arrested

²⁴⁶ Network Media Group (3 May 2023) NUG Collects Taxes In Kalay

²⁴⁷ Than Lwin Times (7 May 2023) What were discussed during the engagement between ASEAN and NUG?

²⁴⁸ Mizzima (10 May 2023) NUG statement on Hsi Hseng diplomat convoy attack

²⁴⁹ Al Jazeera (9 Mar 2023) Myanmar aid convoy attack raises stakes for under-fire ASEAN