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 perpetrates 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.

Pazigyi 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.

CONTENTS
2 Illegal junta’s quest to cement control
2 The junta continues to target NLD and their associates
2 Civil Disobedience, crackdowns
2 First time death penalty in civilian court
3 Blanket arbitrary execution order in Kachin;
3 Cyclone Mocha
3 Further devastation of livelihoods
4 Junta violence continues during Cyclone
4 No reported casualties in Bangladesh camps, deadly junta negligence in Burma
5 Rohingya amongst worst hit, least aided
5 Junta arrests social workers, delays humanitarian access
7 Junta’s dangerous incompetence
8 Mental health crisis looms
8 Conflict and displacement
8 Attack on ASEAN aid convoy
15 Rohingya
15 Repatriation initiatives ignore Rohingya rights demands
15 Aid cuts worsen vulnerability of Rohingya women and girls in Bangladesh camps
16 Women remain defiant
16 COVID-19, Health, Education
17 Business and economics
17 US firms bust sanctions with blood teak
17 Junta goes for gold, exploits sanctions loophole
18 ASEAN-Japan Centre backing the junta
18 India deepens complicity in junta’s crimes
18 Railroading atrocities: Japanese and Spanish corporations
19 International responses
19 UN scrambles for Cyclone Mocha funding
20 UN report exposes countries complicit in junta’s 1-billion-dollar arms trade
20 ASEAN summit ends with little progress as convoy attack takes attention
21 Thailand’s PM-Elect sets new tone
21 China continues exerting its influence
21 "Enhanced blast" munition used on Pazigyi
21 Civil society rallies behind Rohingya/cyclone victims
22 CRPH & NUG
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 detailed 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 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

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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

2
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 prisoner 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...

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13 Myanmar Now (25 May 2023) Myingyan prison authorities 'torture' political detainees suspected of keeping mobile phones
14 RFA (11 May 2023) Activists burn China’s flag amid growing anger over its support for junta
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
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 Pwninbyu 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. 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.

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. 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. 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. On 29 May, it was reported that Cyclone Mocha had destroyed 11 solar-powered fish drying facilities in Sittwe, Pauktaw, and Ponnagyun Townships.

**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. 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. On 14 May, in Khin-U Township, junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militia raided Inn Pat, Chan Thar Kone, and Khan 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. 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. 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 Kyauktu. 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.

**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 Rohingyas 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 Rohingyas, we have no capacity to evacuate them to cyclone shelters.” 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 Ukhiya, 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’.

On 12 May, the regime-appointed National Disaster Management Committee issued a warning stating that Sittwe, Pauktaw, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Myebon, Kyaukpyu and Maunag Townships had been
categorized as 'red-level' areas with high risk of disaster.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{39} DMG (12 May 2023) Junta to prosecute those who remain in areas designated as red alert for Cyclone Mocha
\textsuperscript{40} RFA (15 May 2023) Cyclone Mocha inflicts heavy damage on Myanmar’s Rakhine state
\textsuperscript{41} Irrawaddy (25 May 2023) Chin State Humanitarian Crisis Deepens as Aid Agencies Fail to Gain Access
\textsuperscript{42} Narinjara (13 May 2023) Evacuation of residents, including IDPs, continues from various Rakhine townships
\textsuperscript{43} Narinjara (15 May 2023) Tain Nyo IDP camp supporting nearly 3000 refugees destroyed by cyclone Mocha
\textsuperscript{44} RFA (16 May 2023) Nearly 400 feared dead after Cyclone Mocha hit Myanmar’s Rakhine state
\textsuperscript{45} NUG (17 May 2023) Number of Mortalities by State and Region (as of 17th May 2023)
\textsuperscript{46} Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (17 May 2023) At Least 400 Rohingya Feared Dead In IDP Camps – Humanitarian Aid Urgently Needed
\textsuperscript{47} RFA (17 May 2023) Death toll seen rising in Myanmar’s Rakhine state in aftermath of Cyclone Mocha
\textsuperscript{48} Mizzima (25 May 2023) UN urges Myanmar junta to open up for Cyclone Mocha relief
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.” 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.

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.' Locals stated they were unable to fetch supplies from neighboring towns due to junta restrictions on the use of air and waterways.

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. 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.

On 23 May, regime forces arrested Rakhine writer and social worker, Wai Hnin 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.

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.

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. Sittwe residents reportedly had not received aid despite relief supplies donated by the international community having arrived in Rakhine State. 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.

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. 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. 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.

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. 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

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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 Hnin 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 bans aid agencies from directly helping storm victims in Arakan
59 DMG (25 May 2023) Sittwe residents yet to receive relief supplies
60 Narinjara (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 louts water purifier rollout for storm-hit in Arakan
75 Narinjara (23 May 2023) Cyclone-affect ed 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-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

**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 has been looting and destroying historical sites and cultural artifacts. The

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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
86 RFA (5 Jun 2023) Myanmar shuts down 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 raidied 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

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90 RFA (24 May 2023) Lootng 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 Force 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 towns
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. 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. On 29 May, the junta Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 708 torched 17 homes in Mon Taing Pin village.

During 12-22 May, in Mawlamyine 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.

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.

During 26-27 May, in Yesagyo 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 Yesagyo Township had been displaced by junta raids.

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.

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.

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.

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

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. 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. 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. 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.

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 Waingma 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. 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 protect 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 (5 May 2023) Myanmar troops torch Sagaing region village a second time
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 Waingma Township Checkpoint
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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{121}

**Karenni State**

On 5 May, the Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) stated that junta troops had beenopping 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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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 Bawlakhe 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 Bawlakhe Township. The attack destroyed six houses and two buildings at the village clinic, damaged a monastery, and killed livestock.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{125} It was reported that the junta had intensified both air and ground attacks in order to secure a supply corridor into neighboring townships.\textsuperscript{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 in the jungle at night.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{130} On 20 May, 118 Kachin News Group (20 May 2023) Regime Abducts More Civilians In Hpakan
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) SSP/SSA Forcibly 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) Myanma military targets hospitals in Pekon
129 Shan Human Rights Foundation (30 May 2023) Two women and a toddler killed, eighteen civilians injured by SAC airstrikes and shelling in Pekhon and Pinlaung townships
130 Shan Herald (8 May 2023) Clashes Prevent Laikha Villagers From Going Home

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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 Thandaungyi 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 there. 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 airstrike kills 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 Nyaunglaybin 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.  

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

Mon State  

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

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. 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.  

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.  

On 26 May, it was reported that junta troops had been continuously destroying inter-village roads in Bilin and Kyaihto 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 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. KNU News sources reported a regime surveillance helicopter had been hovering over PDF-controlled areas in Kyaihto Township. Kyaihto residents expressed concerns over the restriction of rice transport and potential food shortages.  

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. 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.  

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.  

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.  

On 8 May, junta troops raid 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) Over a Dozen Myanmar Junta Forces, Five Resistance Members Killed in Three Days of Clashes  
150 Karen News (26 May 2023) Revolutionary Forces Say Military Activating Four Cuts Strategy in Kyaihto Township  
151 Karen News (26 May 2023) Revolutionary Forces Say Military Activating Four Cuts Strategy in Kyaihto Township  
152 Than Lwin Times (2 May 2023) Three children injured as junta shells in Dawei  
153 Than Lwin Times (3 May 2023) Junta troops extort money from travelers at Tanintharyi’s checkpoints  
154 Than Lwin Times (7 May 2023) Building, assets worth millions of kyats of businessman seized in Bokepyin  
155 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 Yangane, 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)
159 Network Media Group (15 May 2023)
160 Irrawaddy (25 May 2023)
161 Myanmar Now (4 May 2023)
162 DVB (6 May 2023)
163 DVB (6 May 2023)
164 DVB (8 May 2023)
165 RFA Burmese (17 May 2023)
166 RFA Burmese (24 May 2023)
167 RFA Burmese (24 May 2023)
168 RFA Burmese (24 May 2023)
169 RFA (28 May 2023)
170 Myanmar Now (27 May 2023)
171 Eleven Media Group (5 May 2023)
172 Eleven Media Group (5 May 2023)
173 Eleven Media Group (5 May 2023)
174 Mizzima (25 May 2023)
175 Than Lwin Times (27 May 2023)
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 Afghanistan.178

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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.

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. 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.

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.

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 May, 72 on 15 May and 71 on 31 May. Vaccination rates remained low. Only 38,505,755 people had received shots as of 2 May, from a population of 55.8 million. 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. 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...
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.

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.

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 by 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. 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.

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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

India’s “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). 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. Meanwhile, it was reported that Adani Power Limited 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.

**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...
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, JM 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. JM 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 greatly 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
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.  

**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.

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. 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. 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.

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.

**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. 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.

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 inclusions with its state-owned companies had been signed by a previous government. Singapore indicated it was reviewing the effectiveness of its export controls.

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**5 countries supply illegal junta with USD 1billion arms**

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

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

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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. 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.

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.

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.”

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.”

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." On 31 May, the UN announced that Heyzer was stepping down from her role on 12 Jun. 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.

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.

“Enhanced blast” munition used on Pazigyi
On 9 May, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that the junta had used a "thermobaric" munition in its airstrike on Pazigyi 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."

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

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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
242 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.  

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.  

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.  

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 Pazigyi village, Kanbalu Township (Sagaing Region), charging them under Section 54 of the Counter-Terrorism Act.  

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.  

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. 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.  

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.  

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