

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023:  
Illegal junta blocks aid one month after Cyclone Mocha ravages Burma**

- As of 30 Jun, there were at least 23,659 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,523,700 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continues their violent crimes.
- The junta flip flops on travel authorizations, exacerbates humanitarian crisis.
- Illegal junta’s cyclone recovery management: a man-made disaster affecting aid, health, and education.
- Wearing flowers leads to spree of arrests as illegal junta unable to shut down peaceful protest, at least 165 still detained
- In a historical first, survivors of Rohingya genocide give testimony to Argentinian Court.
- A month-long clash to hold Southern Shan State town of Mobyé displaces thousands.
- US chokes junta’s cash flow with sanctions on Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank.
- Austrian, Indian, Israeli, Italian, and Swedish companies named as links in weapons supply chain to illegal junta.
- Garment sector union members arrested, EU responds with tepid condemnation, Zara parent company announces exit.
- The illegal junta looks to Yuan and Ruble as US Dollar reserves dry up
- Outgoing Thai government engages with illegal junta, widens rift in ASEAN.
- ASEAN allows illegal junta and Russia to host Defense Minister’s Meeting, gives regimes a propaganda platform.

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## Illegal junta's quest to cement control

### The illegal junta unable to break Aung San Suu Kyi.

On 12 Jun, citing a source with close connections to Naypyidaw Prison, it was reported that three junta officials met with Aung San Suu Kyi at least twice, on 27 May and 4 Jun. The source said that the official urged her to help the junta in its peacemaking process but that she did not respond to them. Sources close to Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team said that they were unaware of the meetings.<sup>1</sup>

On 9 Jun, the junta's **Union Supreme Court agreed to hear a special appeal** by Aung San Suu Kyi against her five-year sentence for improperly accepting money and gold, however no date for a hearing was fixed. The junta had rejected an initial appeal to the Supreme Court earlier this year.<sup>2</sup> On 1 Jul, citing legal officials close to the cases filed against Aung San Suu Kyi, it was reported that the junta's **Union Supreme Court will hear her appeals against her convictions**. It was reported that on **5 Jul** the court would hear appeals against her conviction for **election fraud and breaching the National Secrets Act**; that on **12 Jul** the court would hear appeals against her conviction on **five corruption charges**; and that on **18 Jul** the court would hold a hearing to decide whether to **accept a special appeal** against her conviction on **charges of sedition, illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, and violating coronavirus restrictions**. It was also reported that appeals against her conviction on **seven other corruption charges were still being processed**.<sup>3</sup>

### CRPH, NUG & Other Democratic Forces (more at [CRPH, NUG et al tracker](#))

On 1 Jun, the National Unity Government (NUG) authorized its **Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Investment (MFPI) to set up an interim Central Bank** that would conduct international and domestic operations, have oversight of banking and financial institutions, and issue licenses. The ordinance designated the Union Minister as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank. The NUG stated that the formation of the interim Central Bank was intended to "alleviate the losses of the people, to regulate and rectify the banking sector, and to forestall and safeguard the foreign exchange reserves belonging to the people from misuse in terrorist endeavors of the military."<sup>4</sup> However, it was unknown how the NUG or the MFPI would implement this plan.<sup>5</sup> On 13 Jun, the NUG appointed former NLD senior economic advisor, **Sean Turnell as a Special Advisor to its interim Central Bank**.<sup>6</sup> On 20 Jun, **MFPI established the Spring Development Bank** which offers various financial services.<sup>7</sup>

On 9 Jun, spokespersons for the **Sagaing Forum**, a grouping of non-NUG aligned PDFs in Sagaing Region, dismissed allegations that the Forum was intended as an alternative to the NUG. A spokesperson for the NUG president's office reiterated support for the Forum, stating discussions were "in line with the Federal Democratic Charter." Although no NUG-aligned groups attended the inaugural Sagaing Forum meeting on 30-31 May, the NUG expressed hope that the talks would foster progress on local issues "without unwanted external pressures." The National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) attended the 30-31 May meetings. Organizers said they would invite more groups to upcoming meetings.<sup>8</sup> On 10 Jun, it was reported that the NUG-affiliated Sagaing PDF had suspended Ko Nwe Oo from his duties at Myaung PDF for being a spokesperson in the Sagaing Forum and failing to report back to the NUG Ministry of Defense.<sup>9</sup>

On 15 Jun, NUG's Minister for Human Rights Aung Myo Min said that it was vital for NUG leadership to be **inclusive of ethnic groups**, including members of civil society and Ethnic Armed Groups. He acknowledged Aung San Suu Kyi's failure to "adequately address" the Rohingya genocide. He said that the NUG was committed to bringing **justice for the Rohingya** and other ethnic minorities. Aung Myo Min was making his statements while meeting with ethnic representatives doing an advocacy trip in Australia.<sup>10</sup>

On 28 Jun, the NUG urged PDFs to focus only on military targets after a series of PDF **attacks on Chinese mining projects** in Sagaing. NUG spokesperson Kyaw Zaw also reminded businesses to avoid encouraging the Burma Army to commit crimes against people.<sup>11</sup>

On 11 Jun, NUCC condemned **Russia's** political support and arms trade with the junta. NUCC also said "the diplomatic and military support provided by Russia" was in total "disregard [of] the agreements

<sup>1</sup> RFA (12 Jun 2023) Myanmar's junta met jailed NLD chief Suu Kyi twice to discuss peace

<sup>2</sup> Mizzima (9 Jun 2023) Supreme Court will hear special appeal by Aung San Suu Kyi against sentence

<sup>3</sup> AP (1 Jul 2023) Myanmar's Supreme Court to hear appeals of ousted leader Suu Kyi in cases brought by the army

<sup>4</sup> NUG via Facebook (1 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/y3dthnb3>

<sup>5</sup> Mizzima (6 Jun 2023) Myanmar's NUG Calls on Its Finance Ministry to Set Up Interim Central Bank

<sup>6</sup> NUG (15 Jun 2023) Special Adviser Appointment to the Interim Central Bank

<sup>7</sup> NUG Representative Office - Australia, via Facebook (20 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/mrz54p9e>

<sup>8</sup> RFA (9 Jun 2023) Anti-junta groups align at Myanmar's Sagaing Forum, minus shadow government

<sup>9</sup> RFA Burmese (12 Jun 2023) စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းရင်းမှာပါဝင်ခဲ့တဲ့ မြောင်ပကဖအဖွဲ့ဝင် ကိုနွဲ့ဦး တာဝန်က ယာယီရပ်စဲခံရ

<sup>10</sup> Aljazeera (15 Jun 2023) Myanmar's NUG negotiates ethnic differences as crisis deepens

<sup>11</sup> DVB (28 Jun 2023) NUG orders PDF not to target foreign investment projects; Regime meets with five NCA signatories

developed within the ASEAN, and also creat[ed] difficulties for other nations to work on solving Myanmar's political issues."<sup>12</sup>

On 12 Jun, the **Interim Executive Council of Karenni State** (IEC) announced its establishment under the leadership and guidance of the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC), formed on 9 April 2021. The IEC will carry out executive functions, regulate legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and foster cooperation with different revolutionary forces in Karenni State as well as the CRPH, NUCC and NUG, and revolutionary forces in the rest of Burma and abroad.<sup>13</sup>

On 13 Jun, the Chin National Organization (CNO) announced their **judiciary department** had convicted 11 individuals of criminal offences, all serving sentences in a prison run by the CNO police department. The CNO set up its judiciary system in October 2022, and began handing out judgements in 2023.<sup>14</sup>

On 30 Jun, the CRPH appointed **Rohingya activist U Aung Kyaw Moe as its Deputy Human Rights Minister**.<sup>15</sup> It was reported that U Aung Kyaw Moe had served as an adviser for the Ministry of Human Rights for almost two years.<sup>16</sup>

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

#### **Junta continues to weaponize judicial system and more reports surface of torture in prisons**

On 5 Jun, citing the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP), RFA reported that the junta had **sentenced 156 prisoners to death**, 42 of those having been sentenced in absentia. A lawyer said that those convicted were tried in military tribunals and denied a proper defense in court. The lawyer added that there was only one military court of appeal, so cases were often reviewed very quickly. Defendants would have to petition for mercy from Min Aung Hlaing if their appeal was rejected.<sup>17</sup>

On 8 Jun, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report exposing the junta's harassment, surveillance, arrests, and torture of lawyers. HRW called on the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers as well as on foreign bar associations and lawyer's associations to raise concerns over **attacks and harassment against legal professionals**. They also called on the UN, EU, and ASEAN to publicly denounce all misuse of the criminal justice system and apply sanctions and arms embargoes.<sup>18</sup>

During 14-21 Jun, the junta arrested 30 people from Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyarwady regions, Shan, and Karen states for allegedly posting anti-regime content on social media. It was reported that those arrested will be prosecuted for terrorism, sedition, high treason, and using technology to undermine security of the state, which carry a combined maximum sentence of 32 years.<sup>19</sup>

On 29 Jun, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) published a report saying that between 1 Feb 2021 and 30 Apr 2023, the junta had unlawfully arrested and **detained 117 religious leaders and killed at least 25 clerics**, torturing or injuring yet others. The junta raided 63 religious sites and places of worship, and **damaged or destroyed 190 religious sites** (87 were Christian, six Islamic, and 94 Buddhist). It established military camps and detention centers in at least 110 places of worship, with 31% in Sagaing Region alone. The junta **arrested 856 Rohingya** to restrict their freedom of movement and instigated the targeting of religious groups using social media and traditional propaganda. The ICJ also reported "an increasing trend of attack and arrest of ethnic Christian clergy based on their ethnicity" since 2022.<sup>20</sup>

On 5 Jun, the Irrawaddy reported that the junta had been increasing its abuse of prisoners following the high-profile Taungoo Prison (Bago) escape in May. A prison officer from Myingyan Prison (Mandalay Region) said that officers would beat prisoners, even for minor infractions. In May, the junta tortured 29 prisoners in prisons in Bago Region and killed one during interrogation.<sup>21</sup> On 6 Jun, citing a former fellow inmate in Lashio Prison (N-Shan State), Myanmar Now reported that the junta was withholding medical care for injuries inflicted on a woman political prisoner during junta-led interrogation. She was arrested in April 2021.<sup>22</sup> On 13 Jun, citing political prisoners in Myingyan Prison (Mandalay Region), it was reported that jailers had increasingly tortured and denied medical treatment to prisoners since the third week of May. An anti-coup protest committee member said that over 70 prisoners had been beaten since 21 May.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>12</sup> RFA (16 Jun 2023) Opposition group denounces Russia's assistance to Myanmar's junta

<sup>13</sup> Karenni State Interim Executive Council (12 Jun 2023) A Brief account of the establishment of the Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC)

<sup>14</sup> Khonumthung Media Group (16 Jun 2023) ဖလမ်းမြို့နယ်အတွင်း ပြစ်မှုကျူးလွန်သူ ၁၁ ဦးကို CNO က တရားစီရင်

<sup>15</sup> National Unity Government (30 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/ax8r3y5r>

<sup>16</sup> Irrawaddy (1 July 2023) Myanmar's Civilian Government Appoints Rohingya Activist as Deputy Minister

<sup>17</sup> RFA (5 Jun 2023) Myanmar's junta has sentenced 156 civilians to death since coup

<sup>18</sup> HRW (8 Jun 2023) "Our Numbers Are Dwindling" Myanmar's Post-Coup Crackdown on Lawyers

<sup>19</sup> RFA (22 Jun 2023) Myanmar junta arrests 50 social media users for 'anti-regime' posts

<sup>20</sup> International Court of Justice (29 Jun 2023) Violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief since coup d'état in Myanmar

<sup>21</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Jun 2023) Political Prisoners Report Rise in Torture by Myanmar Regime

<sup>22</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Jun 2023) Severely beaten political prisoner deprived of medical attention for two years in Lashio

<sup>23</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Turns Myingyan Prison into Torture Chamber for Political Detainees

## Arrests & violence for flowers in women's hair

The junta arrested at least 165 people throughout the country for allegedly joining the “Flower Strike” to celebrate State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi’s 78<sup>th</sup> birthday (19 Jun).<sup>24</sup>

In **Yangon Region**, junta forces arrested actress Poe Kyar Phyu, reportedly for posting birthday wishes to Aung San Suu Kyi on Tiktok.<sup>25</sup> Regime forces arrested at least two men in **Mingaladon and Tamwe Townships** and **interrogated 13 women in Pabedan Township** and 18 people in **Htauk Kyant Township**, over the Flower Strike.<sup>26</sup> In **Kamaryut and Ahlone Townships**, junta police **arrested 14 people, mostly women**, for wearing, having or selling flowers.<sup>27</sup> On 20 Jun in **Kamaryut**, the junta arrested 19 staff at a beauty salon, later releasing 16. Three were still in custody under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code for allegedly filming junta soldiers arresting two women wearing flowers on 19 Jun.<sup>28</sup>

In **Mandalay Region**, junta troops seriously beat and then arrested four women for allegedly participating in the Flower Strike.<sup>29</sup> In **Mandalay** city the junta arrested a former political prisoner and two family members of political prisoners who were visiting a local prison for wearing flowers.<sup>30</sup> The junta also blocked roads and harassed people wearing flowers in their hair.<sup>31</sup>

In **Mawlamyinegyun Township (Ayeyarwady Region)**, junta forces arrested 50 women and 30 men over the Flower Strike. They were released on bail.<sup>32</sup> In **Kawkareik Township (Karen State)**, the junta arrested 15 people who were buying flowers.<sup>33</sup> In **Kale Township (Sagaing Region)**, junta forces arrested around 40 women who were selling or wearing flowers in their hair. A local said that the **junta released women who were wearing jasmine but had kept those wearing roses for interrogation**.<sup>34</sup> In **Mawlamyine Township (Mon State)** the junta arrested nine people at a flower shop including the owner, staff, and some customers.<sup>35</sup> In **Yebyu Township (Tanintharyi Region)**, junta navy troops arrested the two owners of Yin Kwin Thit (ECCD) Private Preschool in Kan Pauk village. Then, on 20 Jun, **junta navy troops arrested four women** in Hpaung Taw village, reportedly for participating in the previous day's Flower Strike. As of 22 Jun, the junta had not released the four women and had yet to allow their families to visit them.<sup>36</sup>

On 23 Jun, Aung San Suu Kyi’s son **Kim Aris** urged the international community to “start lobbying more strongly” for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and to provide “proper aid for the people of Burma”.<sup>37</sup>

## Cyclone Mocha and humanitarian aid

On 6 Jun, the junta deputy chief of mission at the Myanmar embassy in Thailand, Than Htwe, published a commentary defending the junta's response to Cyclone Mocha. He claimed only 145 people had been killed in the cyclone and implied that the junta's cooperation would be contingent on recognition of its authority.<sup>38</sup>

### Aid agencies still restricted and underfunded

On 8 Jun, the UN Humanitarian Affairs Office (**OCHA**) reported that the **junta resuspended existing humanitarian access** in Rakhine State after **initial approval**. UN agencies in Sittwe met junta officials on 13 Jun and 15 Jun for “**extensive discussions**”. Aid agencies provided food to 380,000 people, shelter and relief items to 144,000 people, and healthcare services to 12,500 people in Rakhine and other areas.<sup>39</sup> On 9 Jun, aid agencies had to **suspend most non-food items distribution** and shelter reconstruction activities because of **severe funding shortfalls** and **junta-imposed aid restrictions**. Only 14% of the total USD 886.7M funding for the Cyclone Mocha and Humanitarian Response plan had been received.<sup>40</sup>

On 8 Jun, the UN Development Programme (**UNDP**) reported it responded to the immediate **needs of more than 60,000 people** affected by Cyclone Mocha so far. This included providing jobs to repair

<sup>24</sup> ACLED; Irrawaddy (21 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Targets Beauty Salon in Yangon Over Flower Strike Arrest Video

<sup>25</sup> RFA (20 Jun 2023) သရုပ်ဆောင် ပိုးကြာဖြူခင် ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

<sup>26</sup> VOM (19 Jun 2023) ရန်ကုန်မှာ ပန်းသပိတ်ဆင်နွှဲသူတွေထက် လူ့ ယောက်ဖမ်းခံရပြီး ခေါ်ယူစစ်ဆေးခံရသူ ၃၀ ဦးထက်မနည်းရှိခဲ့”

<sup>27</sup> Myanmar Pressphoto Agency (19 Jun 2023) In Yangon, women who adorn flowers were arrested by the SAC military; No less than 14 people were arrested

<sup>28</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Targets Beauty Salon in Yangon Over Flower Strike Arrest Video

<sup>29</sup> Ayeyarwaddy Times (20 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/yc84w2zu>

<sup>30</sup> RFA (20 Jun 2023) Arrested – or beaten – for wearing flowers to mark Aung San Suu Kyi’s birthday

<sup>31</sup> Mizzima (19 Jun 2023) Myanmar celebrates Aung San Suu Kyi’s 78th birthday with Flower Strike and global activism

<sup>32</sup> RFA (20 Jun 2023) မော်ကွန်းမှာ ပန်းသပိတ်စွပ်စွဲချက်နဲ့ ဖမ်းဆီးခံရသူ ၈၀ နီးပါးပြန်လွှတ်လာ

<sup>33</sup> KIC via BNI Online (23 Jun 2023) Over a dozen Kawkareik residents detained for alleged involvement in ‘Flower Strike’ to honour the 78th birthday of State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

<sup>34</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Jun 2023) Dozens of women arrested in Sagaing for wearing flowers on birthday of detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi

<sup>35</sup> HURFOM (23 Jun 2023) Junta arrests nine Mawlamyine residents accusing them of involvement in “Flower Strike”

<sup>36</sup> NMG via BNI (26 Jun 2023) Mawmyawadi Navy Arrests Four Women for Sharing ‘Flower Strike’ Photos Online

<sup>37</sup> BBC (23 Jun 2023) Kim Aris: Aung San Suu Kyi’s son urges army to free her

<sup>38</sup> Bangkok Post (6 Jun 2023) Mocha’ action shows SAC’s ability

<sup>39</sup> OCHA (9 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha Situation Report No.4 (As of 14:00 8 June 2023); OCHA (19 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha Situation Report No.5 (As of 16:00 15 June 2023)

<sup>40</sup> OCHA (13 Jun 2023) Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 30 | 13 June 2023

infrastructure and cook food for communities, distributing seeds and organic fertilizers, drilling new boreholes, and cleaning wells to supply clean drinking water.<sup>41</sup> On 12 Jun, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) reported that it had provided emergency food aid to 394,400 people in Rakhine State and Magway Region: 206,500 recipients were already IDPs before the cyclone and 187,900 were new beneficiaries. WFP also stated that saltwater intrusion and extensive crop damage posed a significant risk to food security. Prices for food commodities such as rice had decreased in central Rakhine State following WFP's food distributions.<sup>42</sup> On 23 Jun, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) reported that as of 14 Jun, it had reached 147,142 people with shelter, livelihood support, clean water, and essential household items in Rakhine, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago, and Mandalay. MRCS's mobile health clinics in Rakhine provided assistance to 1,616 people.<sup>43</sup>

On 2 Jun, ASEAN's Chair stated that the **AHA Centre** had provided relief items for cyclone-affected communities in four townships in Rakhine State, and the AHA Centre would provide final batches on Jun 16, 20, 22 and 27.<sup>44</sup> On 30 Jun, the ASEAN Chair confirmed that a **total of 10 batches** of various emergency aid supplies **worth USD 1.6 million** had been delivered. The ASEAN Secretary-General will coordinate the transition to recovery phase based on the ASEAN-ERAT needs assessment report.<sup>45</sup>

### **Illegal Junta fails to address education and healthcare needs**

On 2 Jun, the junta-controlled Rakhine State Education Office claimed **more than 300,000 students enrolled** in state schools for the 2023-24 academic year, **60,000 fewer than year before**. Cyclone Mocha **damaged 3,000 schools**, forcing students to stop school temporarily or attend in temporary classrooms.<sup>46</sup>

On 12 Jun, it was reported that **diarrhea cases were rising** in post-Mocha Rakhine State. In Pauktaw, Maungdaw and Ponnagyun Townships, more than 140 residents, including children, were suffering from diarrhea. **Three elderly people died from diarrhea** in Pauktaw Township following the storm.<sup>47</sup> On 15 Jun, the junta claimed that 750 out of 752 healthcare centers destroyed by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State had reopened, with repairs for these facilities 58% complete.<sup>48</sup> On 20 Jun, cyclone-affected locals said that **flu, diarrhea, and skin diseases** were spreading rapidly in Rakhine State, with many communities **lacking adequate healthcare** supplies. They said that aid from the junta-controlled health department had been rare, while costs and poor roads left the existing local health facilities out of reach for many.<sup>49</sup>

### **Cyclone victims see little of junta aid**

On 5 Jun, Cyclone Mocha victims said that **junta-appointed administrators** had been **charging them delivery fees** for junta aid. Local administrators said the regime had not paid for transportation costs, forcing them to charge the villagers.<sup>50</sup>

On 9 Jun, it was reported that the **Arakan Army** provided food supplies and repaired houses for storm-hit Rohingya villages in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Buthidaung Townships (Rakhine State). The United League of Arakan (ULA/AA)-formed **Cyclone Mocha Emergency Rescue and Rehabilitation Committee for Arakan (ERRCA)** said that they were providing aid and healthcare services 'regardless of race and religion'.<sup>51</sup> AA spokesperson U Khaing Thukha, said that on 19 Jun that the AA distributed aid and helped construct temporary shelters in seven townships.<sup>52</sup> On 28 Jun, the Rakhine community in Bangladesh donated MMK 100 million to Mocha-affected families via the ERRCA.<sup>53</sup> The Cyclone Mocha ERRCA announced that by 14 Jun **only 30% of people in Rakhine State had received emergency aid**. They reported that 220,773 households still need emergency food, and 169,206 households still need emergency shelters. The junta claimed that it had already supplied large amounts of aid across many parts of the state but many **locals** said they had **not received aid from the regime**.<sup>54</sup> On 29 Jun, it was reported that an estimated 5% of the total cyclone-affected population had received junta support, with **aid being channeled primarily to those close to the junta**. There was no evidence that the junta had distributed any of the emergency aid received from ASEAN and other

<sup>41</sup> UN (8 Jun 2023) UNDP begins recovery after Cyclone Mocha

<sup>42</sup> WFP (12 Jun 2023) WFP Myanmar Situation Report, Cyclone Mocha (12 June 2023)

<sup>43</sup> IFRC (23 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Cyclone Mocha - Operation update #2, Emergency Appeal No. MDRMM018

<sup>44</sup> ASEAN (6 Jun 2023) ASEAN's Chairman's Statement on ASEAN's Humanitarian Response to Cyclone MOCHA in Myanmar

<sup>45</sup> ASEAN (30 Jun 2023) ASEAN Chairman's Statement: ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Mobilisation Resources to the Affected Communities of Tropical Cyclone MOCHA in Myanmar

<sup>46</sup> DVB (2 Jun 2023) Regime touts student enrolment as school year commences; Another cyclone expected

<sup>47</sup> DMG (12 Jun 2023) Cases of diarrhoea on rise in post-cyclone Arakan State

<sup>48</sup> DMG (16 Jun 2023) Almost all healthcare centres hit by cyclone reopen, says Arakan military govt

<sup>49</sup> Narinjara News (20 Jun 2023) Medicine and Healthcare Services Remain Inadequate in Cyclone-Affected Rakhine State

<sup>50</sup> DMG (6 Jun 2023) Storm Victims Forced to Pay Transportation Cost for Relief Supplies

<sup>51</sup> DMG (9 Jun 2023) Arakan Army provides relief supplies for storm-hit Muslim villages

<sup>52</sup> Narinjara News (19 Jun 2023) Arakan Army is actively doing rehabilitation work in Rakhine

<sup>53</sup> Narinjara (28 Jun 2023) Rakhine community in Bangladesh donates Kyats 100 million to Mocha affected families

<sup>54</sup> Narinjara News (16 Jun 2023) 70 % Mocha affected Rakhine people need emergency aid

neighboring countries.<sup>55</sup> On 30 Jun, it was reported that **despite donations** from an ASEAN+3 program and Thailand, India, and Bangladesh, **junta-run relief efforts** had provided cyclone-affected residents with **little to no relief materials**. Many residents reported receiving barely enough food for one meal while others had yet to receive any building materials.<sup>56</sup>

On 5 Jun, the **Kachin Independence Organization** provided MMK 2 million to the **Chin National Front** in financial aid to help support recovery from Cyclone Mocha. The Interim Chin National Consultative Council said that more than 2,700 homes were destroyed in **Chin State** by Cyclone Mocha.<sup>57</sup>

### **Post-cyclone struggles continue for civilians**

On 19 Jun, it was reported that in Rakhine State, Cyclone Mocha had **killed thousands of plowing cattle**, contaminated farmland with saltwater, destroyed rice seeds, and damaged agricultural equipment. A farmer from Pauktaw Township said that **most farmers could not go back to their farms**. It was reported that the regime had barred most farmers from securing loans to cultivate new crops.<sup>58</sup> On 8 Jun, the Arakan Farmers' Union said that Cyclone Mocha had **destroyed 90% of rice seed and rice stored for consumption** in 6 townships.<sup>59</sup> On 25 Jun, the junta claimed it would provide 73,397 baskets of paddy seed to farmers in Rakhine's cyclone-hit townships. They did not clarify how seeds would be distributed.<sup>60</sup>

On 23 Jun, DMG reported that many people had been **pawning off gold** items to compensate for personal damage caused by Cyclone Mocha. A local gold shop owner in Rathedaung stated that the local market's gold supply had increased and that many shops were running out of money to buy back gold.<sup>61</sup> On 26 Jun, residents in Sittwe Township (Rakhine State) reported having to **cover the costs of electricity lines** destroyed by Cyclone Mocha. They also said electricity had remained very expensive and inconsistent.<sup>62</sup>

On 23 Jun, local aid organizations warned that Cyclone Mocha had shifted the locations of **landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW)** in Rakhine State and that locals in rural areas were at a **high risk of injury**.<sup>63</sup> On 26 Jun, DMG reported that cyclone-damaged housing had **raised the likelihood of sickness** for pregnant women, mothers, and children during the rainy season. There were 385 pregnant women and lactating mothers sheltering in Kyauktaw and Rathedaung Township IDP camps.<sup>64</sup>

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

#### **National Conflict**

**Junta fails to curry favor with EAOs.** During 1-2 Jun, the regime failed to persuade ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to support its sham election in a meeting attended by a Chinese official from Yunnan Province. The meeting produced no agreement except a commitment to meet again, but no other agreement was made. **The Arakan Army (AA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)** demanded the release of detained members and travel authorization for groups to deliver aid in cyclone-affected Rakhine. The AA demanded the junta revoke its designation of the AA as an 'outlaw association'. **A spokesperson for the AA said that the EAOs would not have met the regime without China's sponsorship.**<sup>65</sup>

During 28-29 Jun, **the junta held talks with five signatories of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA):** the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Pao National Liberation Organisation (PNLO), the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), and the Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNLA-PC). The junta claimed that regional stability, humanitarian assistance, and a proposal to amend the 2008 constitution were discussed. Col. Saw Kyaw Nyunt, secretary general of the KNLA-PC said the talks had no real results. NUG presidential spokesman Kyaw Zaw said that the **junta talks were for its own interest**, that they could not have any meaningful results, and that release of all political prisoners and an end to violence would be required before holding meaningful talks.<sup>66</sup>

On 13 Jun, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) reported that between **1 Feb 2021 and Sep 30, 2022, 6,337 civilians were killed and 2,614 were wounded**, which is higher than any number reported by international actors, including the UN. In its report, PRIO included "individuals who are neither

<sup>55</sup> Transnational Institute (29 Jun 2023) Assessing What is Happening in Arakan: One month after Cyclone Mocha

<sup>56</sup> Narinjara News (30 Jun 2023) Despite foreign aid, the Rakhine people go hungry

<sup>57</sup> Khonumthung News Group (6 Jun 2023) မိုခါမုန်တိုင်းဘေးဒဏ်သင့် ချင်းပြည်သူများအတွက် KIO က ကျပ်သိန်း ၂၀၀၀ လှူဒါန်း

<sup>58</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Jun 2023) Rice Shortage Beckons in Myanmar's Cyclone-Wrecked Rakhine

<sup>59</sup> DMG (8 Jun 2023) Cattle Price Soar in Arakan State

<sup>60</sup> Development Media Group (25 Jun 2023) Junta pledges to give 73,000 baskets of paddy seeds to storm-hit Arakan farmers

<sup>61</sup> Development Media Group (23 Jun 2023) Cyclone Mocha's victims giving up gold for home rebuilds

<sup>62</sup> Narinjara News (26 Jun 2023) EPC Employees Demanding Money for Home Electricity in Sittwe Township

<sup>63</sup> Development Media Group (23 Jun 2023) Rural Arakan State residents warned about potential shifting of landmines, ERWs

<sup>64</sup> Development Media Group (26 Jun 2023) Pregnant women and new mothers face added vulnerabilities in Arakan IDP camps

<sup>65</sup> VOA (4 Jun 2023) Peace Talks in Myanmar Highlight China's Increasing Influence; Irrawaddy (2 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Meets With Ethnic Armed Alliance in Search of Poll Deal

<sup>66</sup> RFA (30 Jun 2023) Analysts: Junta meetings with ethnic groups was just for show

combatants nor members of armed organizations, and who do not take part directly in hostile actions" as civilians. PRIO combined several datasets to establish an accurate total. PRIO suggested the UN create a system to track the murder of civilians according to Security Council Resolution 2669, which "demands the cessation of violence and encourages restraint and the reduction of tensions."<sup>67</sup>

On 14 Jun, Data for Myanmar reported that, as of 31 May, junta forces had torched 70,324 civilian houses - 53,816 houses in Sagaing Region, 10,451 in Magway Region, and 1,637 in Chin State.<sup>68</sup>

### **Sagaing Region**

Junta forces continued their raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported 765,200 civilians had been displaced in the region as of 19 Jun 2023.<sup>69</sup>

Between 19 May and 15 Jun, in **Sagaing Township**, a junta column raided six villages, torched 579 houses, and forced at least 9,000 residents to flee. The column burned down Pa Du village six times and was reportedly still stationed in the village.<sup>70</sup> On 9 Jun, junta forces injured six residents, including a seven-year-old girl, while raiding Yae Twin Gaung village. Locals reported that since 9 Jun, the junta had raided and used residents as human shields in a dozen villages.<sup>71</sup> On 13 Jun, a junta column burned alive a 60-year-old woman in Thar Zin village. The soldiers also took 40 hostages from Thar Zin and other villages. On 14 and 15 Jun, the column torched Aing Dan Ma and Pauk Ma villages and forced more than 3,000 to flee.<sup>72</sup> On 18 -19 Jun, junta troops killed a civilian and abducted a second in Shwe See Khon village. They took the abductee to Kyauk Kone village in **Wetlet Township** and killed him and two other civilians.<sup>73</sup>

Between 28 May and 5 Jun, in **Kawlin Township**, junta troops captured and killed a group of seven civilian hostages. Sixteen civilian hostages were taken after a week-long series of raids in east Kawlin. The junta bombed Taung Ba Lu village and Chaung Kwayt village, with no casualties.<sup>74</sup> On 5 Jun, the bodies of seven murdered hostages were found. Five other hostages were released and four remain unaccounted for.<sup>75</sup>

On 1 Jun, in **Katha Township**, a junta column torched more than 100 houses in Nyaung Chay Htauk village and injured a woman while shelling an abandoned village. A resistance fighter stated that the column also attacked other villages along the Irrawaddy River searching for PDF supporters, took locals hostage, and forced more than 5,000 residents to flee.<sup>76</sup>

On 1 Jun, in **Khin-U Township**, junta forces raided and torched Ywar Thit village, forcing more than 3,000 residents of nearby villages to flee.<sup>77</sup> On 4 Jun, the junta raided and torched Ma Yan Inn village. Junta troops burned down houses in three other villages, occupied Inn Pat Kwe village, and together with Pyu Saw Htee militia, patrolled the area.<sup>78</sup> On 15 Jun, allegedly junta-set landmines killed one person and injured several others. On 13 Jun, a device exploded and wounded five local PDF members and two civilians near Gway Kone village. Another landmine killed a woman and injured another after they drove over the device. On 24 Jun, regime forces raided Te Su village, killed two civilians and injured 12 others.<sup>79</sup>

In **Wetlet Township**, on 1 Jun, junta soldiers arrested 15 villagers including 12 women while raiding Tha Min Kone village. On 3 Jun, the junta **beheaded** a villager, injured another, and burned 70 houses and a monastery in a raid on Na Be Pin Hla village. On 4 Jun, they killed a civilian in Ta Mar Kan village. On 5 Jun, the junta displaced residents of five villages when they attacked Sint Kaing village.<sup>80</sup> On 22 Jun, junta troops killed two civilians and torched 18 houses in Kaw Min and Kyi Kan villages.<sup>81</sup> On 29 Jun, the junta bombed three villages, damaged a monastery, destroyed several buildings, and injured a person as well as several animals. The bombing was reportedly in retaliation to a resistance force drone attack on a fire station and a police station the previous day.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Peace Research Institute Oslo (13 Jun 2023) Counting Myanmar's Dead: Reported Civilian Casualties since the 2021 Military Coup

<sup>68</sup> Data for Myanmar (14 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4subn6rd>

<sup>69</sup> UNHCR (19 Jun 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 19 Jun 2023)

<sup>70</sup> DMG (9 Jun 2023) Thousands of residents flee junta raids in Sagaing Twsp

<sup>71</sup> Irrawaddy (15 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Incinerate Village in Latest Arson Attack in Sagaing Region

<sup>72</sup> RFA (15 Jun 2023) Myanmar military burns houses, captures villagers in Sagaing region

<sup>73</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2023) Advancing Myanmar junta column executes four civilian hostages in Sagaing Region

<sup>74</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Jun 2023) Myanmar junta continues aerial attacks on Sagaing schools

<sup>75</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Jun 2023) Myanmar military kills seven hostages captured in upper Sagaing region, releases five

<sup>76</sup> Kachin News Group (2 Jun 2023) Regime Attack Villages In Sagaing Region

<sup>77</sup> RFA (1 Jun 2023) Junta raids force more than 3,000 to flee villages in Myanmar's Sagaing region

<sup>78</sup> Kachin News Group (7 Jun 2023) Elderly Woman Dies From Fatigue In Sagaing

<sup>79</sup> Myanmar Now (27 Jun 2023) Junta forces kill two in pre-dawn attack on Khin-U village

<sup>80</sup> Irrawaddy (6 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Soldiers Behead Teenager in Arson Attack on 10 Sagaing Villages

<sup>81</sup> DVB (26 Jun 2023) Aung San Suu Kyi's son calls for her release; UN still waiting on Naypyidaw approval

<sup>82</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Jun 2023) Military airstrikes target villages near Wetlet in retaliation for drone attacks

On 5 Jun, in **Kale Township**, a junta helicopter **fired on a school** and injured four people in Shu Khin Thar village. This was the first ever reported attack on the village. The same day, junta troops fired on Let Pan Chaung village, injured three civilians and forced villagers to flee.<sup>83</sup>

On 7 Jun, in **Monywa Township**, junta forces raided a resistance base in Ye Kan Su village. They executed and burnt two civilians and four PDF members and confiscated a cache of weapons.<sup>84</sup>

During 9-14 Jun, in **Salingyi Township**, the junta carried out an airstrike on Nyaung Pin Gyi village and killed a PDF member and a civilian following a police station raid by resistance forces. After occupying the village, the junta repeatedly set houses on fire, shelled the surrounding area, bulldozed roads, and caused thousands of locals to flee. On 11 Jun, junta soldiers took 10 returning IDPs hostage and, on 14 Jun, they killed one returning IDP and injured two others.<sup>85</sup>

On 15 Jun, in **Myaung Township**, 20 junta soldiers shot at nine young men attending a funeral held at the Buddhist community center, killing one of them. The junta soldiers reportedly took petrol from a generator outside the funeral home and forced two villagers to carry the deceased's body. At the monks' request, the body was later returned and the hostages were released after being badly beaten.<sup>86</sup>

On 19 Jun, in **Kanbalu Township**, it was reported that three junta columns and Pyu Saw Htee militia had been set fire to 13 villages, forcing residents to flee.<sup>87</sup> On 23 Jun, Pyu Saw Htee militia reportedly abducted two men each from five villages to clear landmines and act as human shields.<sup>88</sup>

On 22 Jun, in **Sagaing Township**, the same unit reportedly killed 17 PDF members in a raid on a PDF camp near Kin Taw village, and three civilians in neighboring villages. On 25 Jun, the unit raided and torched nearly 100 houses in Let Pan Taw village. On 27 Jun, it attacked **Monywa Township** and killed four civilians and four PDF members. On 28 Jun, the unit killed 14 resistance members near Ta Laing village. The junta had recently honored Lin Yone commando unit with cash and a formal dinner at Mandalay Palace.<sup>89</sup>

On 27 Jun, in **Pale Township**, the junta launched an airstrike on a monastery in Nyaung Kone village that killed eleven civilians including a monk, and injured six others. The bombs reportedly destroyed the monastery and 13 surrounding houses. There were no armed groups based in the area. Most of the villagers fled following rumors of a second assault.<sup>90</sup> The same day, a second airstrike struck Pi Tauk Kone village and killed a woman and injured another. More air raids were conducted on Chin Pyit and Kyar Si villages.<sup>91</sup>

## **Magway Region**

Between 12 May and 2 Jun, in **Gangaw Township**, junta troops reportedly killed at least five people and detained several others in Taung Khin Yan village in retaliation for the murder of a junta officer on 11 May. A resident said that because less than 10 people joined the Pyu Saw Htee, the militia was "trying to instill fear through violence". On 12 May, the junta decapitated one man and killed another. On 2 Jun, junta soldiers killed three more men. There were also reports that they shot a man and kidnapped a woman. Most of the villagers fled following these incidents.<sup>92</sup>

On 31 May, in **Saw Township**, junta forces set fire to Yint Ye village and burned a man to death. No fighting in the area or other casualties were reported.<sup>93</sup>

On 21 Jun, in **Minbu Township**, a reporter was killed in his home in Shwe Tan Pin village by two unknown gunmen.<sup>94</sup>

On 27-28 Jun, in **Myaing Township**, the regime shelled several villages in retaliation for three resistance force landmine and drone attacks on a major supply route between Pakkoku and Myaing Township.<sup>95</sup>

## **Chin State**

On 8 Jun, the Chin National Front (CNF) announced a **ban on junta forces and non-local civilians from entering Chin State**. The ban was reportedly to prevent additional junta troops from entering the state.

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<sup>83</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Jun 2023) Myanmar junta continues aerial attacks on Sagaing schools

<sup>84</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Jun 2023) Myanmar military attacks resistance base in Monywa, killing six people

<sup>85</sup> Myanmar Now (15 Jun 2023) Military carries out daily arson attacks, kills civilian in Salingyi Township; Myanmar Now (14 Jun 2023) Conflict in Upper Myanmar reaches outskirts of Sagaing capital

<sup>86</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Jun 2023) Military fires on mourners, kills civilian in Myaung Township

<sup>87</sup> NMG (19 Jun 2023) Sit-tat Attacks Villages In Restive Sagaing Region

<sup>88</sup> Mizzima (23 Jun 2023) Pyu Saw Htee forces Sagaing villagers to clear mines and be human shields

<sup>89</sup> RFA (27 Jun 2023) Myanmar military kills 17 People's Defense Force members; Myanmar Now (30 Jun 2023) Junta commando unit linked to several killings of PDF members in Sagaing

<sup>90</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Jun 2023) At least 10 dead in Myanmar junta airstrikes on Sagaing village

<sup>91</sup> RFA (28 Jun 2023) Monk killed in Myanmar junta air raid on Sagaing region monastery; AP News (29 Jun 2023) Buddhist monk and a child reported among almost a dozen civilians killed in Myanmar airstrikes

<sup>92</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Jun 2023) Residents of Gangaw village terrorised after refusing to join Pyu Saw Htee militia

<sup>93</sup> Myanmar Now (2 Jun 2023) Man dies in junta arson attack on Magway village near Chin border

<sup>94</sup> DVB (26 Jun 2023) Aung San Suu Kyi's son calls for her release; UN still waiting on Naypyidaw approval

<sup>95</sup> Irrawaddy (29 Jun 2023) Magwe Resistance Blocks Key Myanmar Junta Supply Route



In **Hakha Township**, junta forces clashed with Chin resistance forces on a near daily basis in Thee Mit Valley during 29 May - 14 Jun. On 29 May, the junta bombed resistance forces in Lungkhar village, killed 11 Chin resistance fighters, and moved 150 troops into Hakha town. It was reported that during 29 May to 1 Jun, Chin National Army (CNA) and Chin Defense Force (CDF) fighters attacked junta positions.<sup>96</sup> On 3 Jun, the junta carried out eight airstrikes on resistance forces. On 14 Jun, junta troops ambushed and shelled a Chin resistance camp. A resistance spokesperson claimed that at least 50 junta soldiers and 17 Chin fighters were killed during fighting.<sup>97</sup> On 19 Jun, junta shelling caused the collapse of the power grid across **Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet Townships**, leading to continuous blackouts in the townships.<sup>98</sup>

In **Mindat Township**, heavy clashes between regime and joint resistance forces were reported. On 26 Jun, junta jets attacked joint resistance forces in retaliation for an earlier ambush. On 27 Jun, regime shelling seriously injured a Mindat town resident. On 28 Jun, regime jets conducted air strikes near Mindat town.<sup>99</sup>

### **Rakhine State**

During 6-8 Jun, in **Minbya Township**, the junta conducted small arms and heavy weapons training at a military school near Kanni village, sparking concern that fighting may resume.<sup>100</sup>

On 17 Jun, it was reported that in **Sittwe Township**, the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) arrested two men in Settyonesu Ward. The ALP reportedly provided no reasons for the arrests.<sup>101</sup>

### **Kachin State**

On 3 Jun, it was reported that junta troops had confiscated up to 20 vehicles at checkpoints and were only letting ten trucks per day enter **Hpakant city**.<sup>102</sup> On 11 Jun, it was reported that the junta-aligned Wu Yang People's Militia Force (PMF) detained the leader and three members of a **community forest management committee** from **Waingmaw Township**. The four men had urged the PMF to not carry out iron ore mining in their community forest and submitted a complaint to the township forestry department. After arresting them, the PMF accused the detained of having connections with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).<sup>103</sup> On 14 Jun, the junta re-imposed a nighttime curfew indefinitely in **Mohnyin Township**, banned people from gathering in groups of more than four, and began patrolling the streets in civilian clothes.<sup>104</sup>

On 21 Jun, the KIA began blocking all vehicles leaving its headquarters in Laiza town in response to escalating tension with the regime; it forbade regime troops from entering its territory and closed the road to Laiza.<sup>105</sup> On 24 Jun, the **junta carried out at least seven airstrikes** on the Ja Wang gold mining site in **Hpakant Township**. The attack was reportedly a response to recent KIA moves to block harmful activities of a pro-junta militia. The KIA had recently restricted access to nearby areas, banned different extractive industries, and ordered miners to evacuate by 25 Jun.<sup>106</sup>

### **Northern Shan State**

On 2 Jun, junta troops attacked MNDAAs troops in **Hsenwi Township**, bringing a premature end to a meeting scheduled 1-3 Jun between representatives of the junta and the Arakan Army (AA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAAs). On 3 Jun and 4 Jun, the junta and the MNDAAs clashed again in the Ton Shan area of **Laukkai**. It was reported that the clashes killed one MNDAAs member, injured one other, and killed several junta troops. On 4 Jun, they clashed again in Hsenwi Township. During fighting, the junta seized an RPG and military equipment. The MNDAAs and a PDF also set off an IED near a regime checkpoint, with no casualties.<sup>107</sup>

On 5 Jun, MNDAAs and its allies attacked a junta police station and two military bases in **Lashio Township**.<sup>108</sup> On 9 Jun, in **Kutkai Township**, heavy weapons fire from clashes between junta troops and the KIA forced villagers to hide in their bunkers.<sup>109</sup> The Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) abducted at least four civilians from three villages in **Muse Township** as part of their

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<sup>96</sup> Irrawaddy (2 Jun 2023) Heavy Myanmar Junta Losses Reported by Chin Resistance

<sup>97</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Seize Resistance Camp in Ambush in Chin State; Khonumthung News (16 Jun 2023) CNA Soldiers Killed On Lung Hker Hill

<sup>98</sup> Mizzima (Jun 2023) Spring Revolution Daily News for 19 June 2024

<sup>99</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Jun 2023) Myanmar Regime Troops Pinned Down in Mindat

<sup>100</sup> DMG (9 Jun 2023) Weapons discharges from military training school cause scare in Minbya Twsp

<sup>101</sup> DMG (23 Jun 2023) Arakan Liberation Party accused of detaining two Sittwe men

<sup>102</sup> Kachin News Group (9 Jun 2023) Burma Army Confiscates Vehicles In Hpakant Township

<sup>103</sup> Kachin News Group (11 Jun 2023) PMF Detains Villagers For Opposing Mining In Waingmaw

<sup>104</sup> Kachin News Group (14 Jun 2023) Sit-tat Reimposes Curfew In Mohnyin

<sup>105</sup> Kachin News Group (21 Jun 2023) KIA Prevents Vehicles From Leaving Laiza

<sup>106</sup> Myitkyina Journal via BNI (27 Jun 2023) Gold mining site in Hpakant struck by Military Council's targeted airstrikes

<sup>107</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (6 Jun 2023) MNDAAs Clashes With Regime In Hsenwi

<sup>108</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (7 Jun 2023) MNDAAs Launches Coordinated Attack Against Lashio Police Station

<sup>109</sup> Shan Herald News Agency (12 Jun 2023) KIA Clash With Sit-tat In Kutkai Township

conscription drive. They had demanded that two civilians from every ten families serve in the SSPP/SSA. However, many villagers had fled to avoid forcible conscription.<sup>110</sup>The TNLA forcefully closed junta-established schools in **Namtu Township**, affecting up to 300 students because they did not accept the junta's education system.<sup>111</sup> On 11 Jun, during clashes between the junta and the MNDA, a junta RPG killed a woman in **Lashio Township**, injured her son, and destroyed two houses.<sup>112</sup>

### Karenni State

On 2 Jun, it was reported, citing the Progressive Karenni People Force (PKPF), that the regime conducted **100 airstrikes** in Karenni State in May, destroying 62 houses and two religious buildings. The PKPF stated that this was a **new record number of airstrikes**. A local reported that airstrikes had often targeted villages and displacement camps.<sup>113</sup> On 7 Jun, it was reported that, IDPs in **Hpruso Township** were concerned about their access to food and medicine during the upcoming rainy season because heavy rain could make food transportation difficult. There were **up to 6,000 IDPs in western Hpruso Township**.<sup>114</sup> **More than 250,000 people** had been displaced in Karenni and Shan States since the attempted coup.<sup>115</sup>

On 13-14 Jun, joint resistance forces occupied a junta police station and three outposts in **Mese Township**, including one at Milestone 14 on **the Thai-Burma border**. The attacking forces consisted of: the Karenni Army (KA), the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force, and a People's Defence Force. The regime conducted six junta airstrikes in the surrounding areas and forced more than 3,000 civilians to flee.<sup>116</sup> On 23-24 Jun, Karenni resistance forces overran an outpost east of **Mese** and a border post, bringing the total number under their control to five. Khu Nyay Reh, a spokesperson for the Karenni Military Information Center, said that they now controlled all of Mese town.<sup>117</sup> On 23 Jun, it was reported that two KNPLF battalions had participated in the raid on a police station and three military outposts, marking its first confirmed clashes with the junta. It was reported that ongoing clashes between the junta and resistance forces in the area had forced at least 5,000 people to flee.<sup>118</sup> On 28 Jun, it was reported, citing NUG Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, that a battalion commander and deputy commander were among around **100 junta troops who surrendered** to resistance forces following coordinated attacks by resistance forces. Citing local aid workers, it was reported that more than 11,000 people had been displaced by clashes with around half in makeshift camps while around 3,200 had sought refuge in Thailand.<sup>119</sup>

During 14-28 Jun, the junta shelled and launched airstrikes on the eastern side of the Salween River in **Hpasaung Township**, forcing around 400 villagers to flee. On 25 Jun, the junta strafed a village in Hpasaung and killed four civilians. On 28 Jun, junta shelling and airstrikes in Yintale Village killed a man and damaged nine houses.<sup>120</sup> On 22-24 Jun, junta airstrikes on villages to **the west of Hpruso** killed a man and several cattle and destroyed a school and ten houses. It was reported that although many villagers fled into the jungle, elders, people with disabilities, and pregnant women were unable to flee. There had been no fighting in the area prior to the bombings.<sup>121</sup> On 25 Jun, the junta launched airstrikes and shelled near **Ywar Thit town**, causing locals to flee. There had been no fighting in the area prior to the attacks.<sup>122</sup>

On 13 Jun, David Eubank, the founder of the Free Burma Rangers, reported that he had secured Starlink Internet in parts of Karenni State, where junta cuts had limited internet access.<sup>123</sup> However, the Karenni people could reportedly not afford Starlink satellite internet service due to high equipment and associated costs. U Banyar, the founder of the Karenni Human Rights Group, said that in addition to the current instability of the power supply in the region, establishing internet connectivity needed expensive equipment imported from Thailand.<sup>124</sup>

<sup>110</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (9 Jun 2023) SSPP/SSA Abducts Muse Villagers

<sup>111</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (14 Jun 2023) TNLA Shatters Regime Schools In Namtu Villages

<sup>112</sup> Kachin News Group (15 Jun 2023) Mother Killed By RPG In Lashio Township

<sup>113</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (6 Jun 2023) Army Launches 100 Airstrikes In Karenni State In May

<sup>114</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (7 Jun 2023) Karenni IDPs Concerned About Food Insecurity During Wet Season

<sup>115</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (10 Jun 2023) Villagers Forced To Return To Karenni State

<sup>116</sup> Myanmar Now (15 Jun 2023) Resistance forces seize weapons in coordinated attacks on junta targets in eastern Karenni State

<sup>117</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Jun 2023) Two more military outposts fall to Karenni resistance forces near Thai border

<sup>118</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2023) Karenni BGF battalions confirm role in recent raids on junta outposts

<sup>119</sup> Myanmar Now (28 Jun 2023) A lieutenant colonel among dozens of junta soldiers captured in Karenni State, says NUG

<sup>120</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (30 Jun 2023) လေယာဉ်ဖမ်းကြမှုကြောင့် ဖားဆောင်းမြို့နယ် ဝမ်းအောင်း(ယင်းတလဲ)ရွာက အမျိုးသားတစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>121</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (24 Jun 2023) ဖရူဆိုအနောက်ဘက်ခြမ်းမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီက ၃ ရက်ဆက်တိုက် လေယာဉ်နဲ့ ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်နေ၊

ဒေသခံများတိမ်းရှောင်နေရပြီး ဖျားနာနေကြ၊ Kantarawaddy Times (26 Jun 2023) Airstrikes continue in Hpruso Township

<sup>122</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (26 Jun 2023) ရွာသစ်မြို့အနီးကို စစ်ကောင်စီက လေယာဉ်နဲ့ ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်၊ ဒေသခံများ ကြောက်ရွံ့ပြီး တိမ်းရှောင်နေရ

<sup>123</sup> Mizzima (13 Jun 2023) Free Burma Rangers boss thanks Elon Musk for bringing Starlink internet to Myanmar's conflict-ridden Kayah

<sup>124</sup> Kantarawaddy Times via BNI (15 Jun 2023) Karenni communities unable to afford new Starlink internet access due to very high cost.

## Southern Shan State

On 5 Jun, regime shelling in **Pekon Township** injured a child, and damaged at least two houses.<sup>125</sup> On 13 Jun, it was reported that junta gunfire and shelling killed at least 13 civilians in Moebye town between late May and early June. It was reported that clashes around Moebye had **displaced 10,000 people**. On 7 Jun, junta forces occupied the Linkara Teaching Monastery that sheltered 300 IDPs and forced the IDPs and monks to flee. It was also reported that on 11 Jun that four resistance members and 20 junta troops were killed in heavy fighting.<sup>126</sup> The three-week long clashes between resistance forces and junta troops in the region killed at least 35 civilians, including three children. Junta presence in Moebye made it difficult to help injured people and collect the bodies of victims.<sup>127</sup> On 17 Jun, a clash between junta troops and combined resistance forces killed one woman, injured two, and forced around 1000 residents to flee.<sup>128</sup>

## Karen State

Citing an official from the Karen Education and Culture Department (KECD), Karen News reported that the junta air strikes had damaged 17 schools in KNU-controlled areas since the start of the attempted coup. The KECD official said that the majority of the damaged schools were located in KNU-defined Mutraw and Dooplaya Districts. An education officer in Nyaunglebin said that the regime had been **specifically targeting schools** and that there was uncertainty around reopening schools.<sup>129</sup> On 27 Jun, in **Hpapun Township** in KNU-defined Mutraw District, the junta carried out two airstrikes in a single day on a school and training center and damaged four school buildings. No casualties were reported.<sup>130</sup>

In **Kawkareik Township**, it was reported that near daily junta shelling had made it increasingly difficult for locals to survive and had destroyed countless houses.<sup>131</sup> On 7 Jun, the KNU Dooplaya District reported that the junta dropped 11 bombs on San Phalar village, damaging a primary school and four houses.<sup>132</sup> On 9 Jun, the junta fired an artillery shell at civilians in Ywa Tan Shay village and killed a mother and her two children.<sup>133</sup> On 9 Jun, junta shelling injured 3 villagers. The junta bombarded Kamine Khone village during the evening with 120mm mortar shells and other heavy weapons.<sup>134</sup>

On 2 Jun, in **Kyainseikgyi Township**, the junta fired artillery at religious structures and killed two locals and one monk in retaliation for an earlier attack carried out by joint resistance forces.<sup>135</sup> On 16 Jun, regime soldiers fled across the border into Thailand after an ambush by joint resistance forces killed four junta troops and injured 13. A resistance member speculated that the junta soldiers had connections with Thai authorities and that they were receiving medical treatment there.<sup>136</sup> On 19 Jun, junta troops fired artillery into Ta Khun Taing Village and injured three civilians, including two children. There had been no fighting in the area before the junta's attack on the village.<sup>137</sup>

On 17 Jun in **Thandaunggyi Township**, junta forces fired rockets into Chaung Hnitkwa village, killed one woman, and injured two men. The KNLA and the junta had clashed near the village earlier that day.<sup>138</sup>

## Bago Region

In **Kyaukkyi Township**, three junta MI35 helicopters bombed and shelled Nat Than Kwin town on 6 Jun. They killed up to 20 civilians, injured 40 more, and forced 15,000 locals to flee. The regime was retaliating against an attack on a police outpost by KNLA-led anti-regime forces.<sup>139</sup> On 9 Jun, junta troops shelled Petu village, killing one woman. On the same day, junta troops shot dead a man, raped and killed a woman, and dumped their dead bodies into the Sittaung River.<sup>140</sup>

In **Paungde Township**, on 3 Jun, junta troops torched eight farm huts after resistance fighters killed a junta soldier and injured another during an ambush.<sup>141</sup> On 25 Jun, junta troops torched three more farm huts belonging to local farmers after a local resistance group killed a junta soldier and injured one other

<sup>125</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (9 Jun 2023) Sit-tat Fights Resistance Forces In Mongpai

<sup>126</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Jun 2023) Junta forces shoot more than a dozen people dead in southern Shan State

<sup>127</sup> RFA (13 Jun 2023) Three weeks of fighting in eastern Myanmar leaves nearly 3 dozen civilians dead

<sup>128</sup> Shan Herald Agency for News (17 Jun 2023) မိုးမြဲ တိုက်ပွဲခက်လက်ပြင်းထန်၊ နှစ်ဖက်တပ်ဖွဲ့ ထိခိုက်သေဆုံးမှုရှိ၊ ဘာသာရေး အဆောက်အအုံ နေအိမ်ပျက်စီးမှုများ

<sup>129</sup> Karen News (15 Jun 2023) Junta Airstrikes damage 17 Schools in KNU-controlled Areas

<sup>130</sup> Karen News (30 Jun 2023) Double Airstrikes by the Junta Hit KNU-Controlled Mutraw District same day

<sup>131</sup> Than Lwin Times (20 Jun 2023) Mounting risks for Kawkareik residents to make a living amid junta shelling

<sup>132</sup> Independent Mon News Agency (8 Jun 2023) School and Homes Destroyed by Air Strikes in Kawkareik Township

<sup>133</sup> Independent Mon News Agency (8 Jun 2023) One Child Killed, Two Others Injured by SAC Military Council's Artillery Attack

<sup>134</sup> Independent Mon News Agency (14 Jun 2023) A Military Council Heavy Weapon bullet fell and injured 3 local people In Kawkareik

<sup>135</sup> Karen News (12 Jun 2023) KNLA and SOF joint forces raid government offices Kill 10 soldiers

<sup>136</sup> Karen News (16 Jun 2023) Entire column of Military Council flees to Thailand following attack, claims SOF

<sup>137</sup> Than Lwin Times (21 Jun 2023) Two children among three injured in artillery shelling in Kyainseikgyi

<sup>138</sup> Mizzima (20 Jun 2023) Junta missile attack kills elderly woman in Than Daung Gyi Township, Karen State

<sup>139</sup> Mizzima (21 Jun 2023) 20 villagers killed, 40 injured in fighting in Bago Region's Natthankwin Village

<sup>140</sup> Than Lwin Times (13 Jun 2023) Four civilians killed in single day in KNU's Nyaunglaybin

<sup>141</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Jun 2023) Over a Dozen Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

during an ambush.<sup>142</sup> In **Yedashe Township**, on 3 Jun, junta troops injured three civilians and damaged three houses while shelling a village in retaliation to a resistance force ambush.<sup>143</sup>

In **Kyauktaga Township**, junta forces killed two men and two women and injured five others while firing heavy artillery into two villages on 24-27 Jun. There was reportedly no fighting at that time.<sup>144</sup> On 25 Jun, junta forces killed two women and a four-year-old child while shelling Ngaphe Inn village. On 27 Jun, junta troops killed three villagers and injured four others when they fired on Sint Oe La Har and Baw Di Kwin villages. The junta shelling villages on a daily basis forced residents from 13 villages to flee.<sup>145</sup>

### Mon State

On 24 Jun, in **Ye Township**, junta troops clashed with a joint KNLA and PDF force. Then, a junta Mi-35 helicopter killed three civilians.<sup>146</sup> On 25 Jun, junta artillery and airstrikes killed two people and injured at least nine more in Hnit Kayin village in retaliation for a resistance raid on the local police station.<sup>147</sup> On 29 Jun, junta forces fired on Hnit Kayin village, arrested six civilians, confiscated vehicles, destroyed homes, and forced locals to flee.<sup>148</sup> On 26-28 Jun, the junta carried out airstrikes, clashed with joint resistance forces in Aung Thar Yar village, and drove residents from five villages to flee.<sup>149</sup>

In **Kyaikto Township**, junta forces shelled Wintamot village and killed a woman.<sup>150</sup> Later that day, the junta shelled Theinzayet town, killed a villager, and injured four others in Thein Za Yat village. Karen Information Center reported that local junta forces had repeatedly shelled civilian targets in the village.<sup>151</sup>

On 1 Jun, in **Thaton Township**, fighting between junta soldiers and resistance forces killed three tourists. Junta shelling also destroyed a house and a rural hospital in Duyinseik village.<sup>152</sup>

### Tanintharyi Region

On 8-13 Jun in **Thayetchaung Township**, junta forces shelled Ka Net Thi Ri using a warship, raided the village, and torched houses. During the raid, regime soldiers killed two civilians, kidnapped over 30 to use as human shields, and reportedly tortured civilians in a nearby village. A spokesperson for the Thayetchaung Township People's Administration Team said 8,000 locals fled the raid, that this was the first time a warship opened fire on the township, and that there had been hardly any clashes in the area.<sup>153</sup>

On 26 Jun, the junta torched at least three houses in Yange village. It was reported that on 11 and 16 Jun junta soldiers had burned down at least five houses.<sup>154</sup> Citing volunteers who work with IDPs, Than Lwin Times reported on Jun 22 that more than 5,000 villagers who had fled junta raids in Ka Net Thi Ri earlier this month remained displaced and were in urgent need of food and shelter.<sup>155</sup>

In **Tanintharyi Township**, junta troops raided Banlaw and Thamee Hla villages. On 17 Jun, junta shelling injured two civilians. During 18-19 Jun, clashes between regime and resistance forces forced over 3,000 residents from 11 nearby villages to flee.<sup>156</sup> On 26 Jun, junta attacks on Pawa village forced more than 3,000 villagers to flee. The junta fired at least five mortar shells into the village.<sup>157</sup>

On 15 Jun, a column of 100 junta troops entered eastern **Dawei Township**, fired heavy weapons and artillery, and forced residents of seven villages to flee.<sup>158</sup> HURFOM reported that up to 5,000 IDPs who had been displaced from **Yebyu Township** in April were in dire need of food and water. Junta forces had carried out offensives and restricted supplies in their area, limiting their access to support.<sup>159</sup> On 25-27 Jun in **Bokpyin Township**, the junta arrested 30 civilians over three days, reportedly in retaliation for a PDF attack on a junta outpost that killed the head and second in command of the local Pyu Saw Htee.

### Naypyidaw Union Territory

On 12 Jun, a joint Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and Karenni Army seizure of a junta base killed several junta soldiers and injured one resistance fighter in **Pyinmana Township**.<sup>160</sup> On the same

<sup>142</sup> Irawaddy (26 Jun 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Week of Clashes With Resistance

<sup>143</sup> Irawaddy (5 Jun 2023) Over a Dozen Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>144</sup> Mizzima (27 Jun 2023) Junta artillery kills four in Bago Region's Kyauktaga Township

<sup>145</sup> Than Lwin Times (29 Jun 2023) Junta shelling kills 5 civilians, wounds 4 others in Kyauk Takar Township

<sup>146</sup> Irawaddy (28 Jun 2023) Around 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Four Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>147</sup> KIC via BNI (27 Jun 2023) Artillery Shelling and Airstrikes 1 Killed 9 Wounded

<sup>148</sup> Than Lwin Times (30 Jun 2023) Military regime hunts residents in Ye's Hnit Karen villages

<sup>149</sup> Than Lwin Times (28 Jun 2023) Junta use air force amid fierce fighting in Ye

<sup>150</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Jun 2023) Junta shelling kills 2 women, wounds 4 others

<sup>151</sup> Karen Information Centre (20 Jun 2023) Woman fatally hit by artillery shell shrapnel; 4 others injured in Theinzayet

<sup>152</sup> Independent Mon News Agency (3 Jun 2023) Three tourists die in the battle in Thaton Township

<sup>153</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Jun 2023) Ground assaults, shelling from junta warship displaces thousands in southern Myanmar

<sup>154</sup> Than Lwin Times (27 Jun 2023) Junta conducts more arson attacks in Thayetchaung's Yenge village

<sup>155</sup> Than Lwin Times (22 Jun 2023) Over 5,000 displaced people from Thayetchaung dare not return home

<sup>156</sup> Than Lwin Times (20 Jun 2023) Fighting escalates in Tanintharyi

<sup>157</sup> Than Lwin Times (28 Jun 2023) More than 3,000 people flee overnight to escape junta shelling in Tanintharyi

<sup>158</sup> Than Lwin Times (16 Jun 2023) Residents of 7 villages fleeing as junta invades eastern Dawei

<sup>159</sup> Human Rights Foundation of Monland (12 Jun 2023) Weekly Overview: Human Rights Situation in Mon State, Karen State, and Tanintharyi Region

<sup>160</sup> Irawaddy (14 Jun 2023) Myanmar Regime Outpost Near Capital Seized, 14 Junta Soldiers Killed in Resistance Attacks

day, an unknown assailant bombed a police station in **Lewe Township**, killing a police private and injuring two police officers. The junta arrested three male suspects; two had ties to the resistance.<sup>161</sup>

### Ayeyarwady Region

On 9 Jun, in **Bogale Township**, junta forces seized three houses of persons accused of supporting the NUG and the NLD party. One owner had been charged with terrorism.<sup>162</sup> On 13 Jun, NLD stated that the junta seized residences and properties of 625 civilians following the attempted coup, including properties of 171 Members of Parliament (MPs) and 333 NLD party members.<sup>163</sup>

### Mandalay Region

On 5 Jun, two junta columns torched houses in Chaung Thale and Kyaw Lay villages in **Thabeikkyin Township**. The second column moved on to torch houses in Taung Khar Pyat village after a series of resistance-set explosions injured three junta troops in Kyaw Lay village. The exact number of houses that were destroyed was unknown. Raids on 5 Jun were preceded by a resistance fighter ambush that killed three junta troops and injured five others. Both junta columns had been carrying out raids since 2 Jun.<sup>164</sup>

On 13 Jun, hundreds of junta troops entered Ywar Thit, Magyisu, Duwon, and Yon Htoe villages in **Myingyan Township** after a video of PDF members running a security checkpoint on Myingyan-Mandalay Road went viral on Facebook. On 20 Jun, junta troops ambushed PDF members in Yon Htoe village and seized a grenade launcher and some small arms, killing five PDF members and injuring one.<sup>165</sup>

On 17 Jun, in **Sintgaing Township**, junta forces arrested 12 young men working on mango farms as suspects in the murder of a pro-junta doctor.<sup>166</sup> On 24 Jun, in **Mahaangmyay Township**, junta troops shot dead a teenager for unknown reasons. The junta did not return his body to his family.<sup>167</sup>

### Yangon Region

On 6 Jun, it was reported that in **Htantabin Township**, the junta arrested two suspected militia members on suspicion of murdering a singer and prominent ultranationalist Lily Naing Kyaw. Later that day, four junta gunmen reportedly shot dead the mother and sister of one of the arrested.<sup>168</sup>

On 7 Jun, in **Dawbon Township**, junta militia forces reportedly assassinated the elder brother of U Aung Kyaw Moe, a Rohingya human rights advisor of NUG.<sup>169</sup>

Resistance forces continued their operations, targeting a junta-controlled tax office in **Kyauktada Township** (5 Jun),<sup>170</sup> and an electricity office in **Tamwe Township** (12 Jun).<sup>171</sup> On 19 Jun, resistance fighters also killed Yangon International Airport's security chief in **Mingaladon Township**, accusing him of arresting anti-junta activists trying to flee the country and extorting money from civilians.<sup>172</sup>

On 14 Jun, it was reported PDF 5101 began operating under NUG Yangon Region Military Command.<sup>173</sup>

### Rohingya

On 14 Jun, Amnesty International released a statement saying that the **long-standing conditions of apartheid** with systematic segregation and **discriminatory practices imposed on Rohingya**, such as restricting their freedom of movement, had left them **vulnerable to Cyclone Mocha**. Amnesty emphasized that the **regime completely failed to mitigate** the storm's disastrous impact. It also reported that the regime's discriminatory and limited implementation of cyclone preparedness and response, its unwillingness to cooperate with aid organizations and communities, as well as its continued restrictions on delivery of humanitarian aid had led to "a significant but preventable loss of life among the Rohingya population".<sup>174</sup> (For more information please see "*Cyclone Mocha and humanitarian aid*")

### Genocide witnesses testify in Buenos Aires

On 7 June, In Buenos Aires, Argentina, witnesses of the Rohingya genocide **testified in person** at a federal court hearing held under the principle of universal jurisdiction. The hearings occurred behind closed doors and witnesses remained anonymous for security reasons.<sup>175</sup> RFA reported that the criminal complaint filed with Argentina detailed the birth of the "**genocidal final plan**" in 2012 by the then-

<sup>161</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Jun 2023) Three arrested for bombing of Naypyitaw police station

<sup>162</sup> RFA (12 Jun 2023) တိုက်လေးမြို့မှာ နေအိမ်သုံးလုံးကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ချီပိတ်

<sup>163</sup> NLD, via Facebook (13 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/mstx4xyy>

<sup>164</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Jun 2023) Clash in northern Mandalay Region leaves three junta soldiers dead

<sup>165</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Jun 2023) မြင်းခြံတွင် PDF များ ချီခိုတိုက်ခံရမှု ၅ ဦး သေဆုံး

<sup>166</sup> RFA (20 Jun 2023) စဉ့်ကိုင်က လူငယ် ၁၂ ဦး လူသတ်မှုစွပ်စွဲချက်နဲ့ ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

<sup>167</sup> Myanmar Now (27 Jun 2023) Teenager, local administrator shot dead in two Mandalay shootings

<sup>168</sup> RFA (7 Jun 2023) Mother, sister killed after militiaman accused of Myanmar singer's murder

<sup>169</sup> Irrawaddy (9 Jun 2023) Brother of Myanmar Civilian Govt Advisor 'Assassinated' in Yangon

<sup>170</sup> Narinjara News (6 Jun 2023) Yangon explosion injures 6 women, all hospitalized

<sup>171</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Jun 2023) Junta sites hit with explosions in Yangon and Naypyitaw

<sup>172</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Jun 2023) Yangon Airport Security Chief Assassinated

<sup>173</sup> RFA (14 Jun 2023) Myanmar's shadow government creates guerrilla militia in Yangon

<sup>174</sup> Amnesty International (14 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Military Authorities Exacerbate the Suffering Caused by Cyclone Mocha

<sup>175</sup> RFA (7 Jun 2023) Argentine court hears allegations of genocide against Myanmar leaders

military government and that “the genocidal plan was perfected” following the election of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government. The complaint recounted the **campaign of violence against Rohingya civilians perpetrated by the military and their civilian supporters**, which included mass sexual violence, torture, massacres, arson, and displacement. The complaint named coup leader, **Min Aung Hlaing** and extremist Buddhist monk, **Ashin Wirathu** as perpetrators of the genocide as well as **Aung San Suu Kyi** as being complicit.<sup>176</sup>

### **Rohingya Refugees refuse repatriation without full rights, citizenship, and justice**

AFP reported that the UN deputy high commissioner for refugees, Kelly T. Clements had met with Bangladesh government officials and Rohingya refugees and on 5 Jun, she stated that the **Bangladesh government** made assurances **it would not forcibly repatriate Rohingya refugees**. However, refugees selected for the repatriation program reported that they had been **coerced by camp leaders** to return.<sup>177</sup>

On 8 Jun, tens of thousands Rohingya refugees **protested in Bangladesh** and called for repatriation to Burma “with **all [their] rights**, including **citizenship**, free movement, livelihood, safety, and security”. A protester added that the food aid cut had pushed them to starvation, urging the global community including the U.N. to immediately provide necessary food supplies and other basic needs upon which the refugees depend for survival.<sup>178</sup>

Tom Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, strongly urged the Bangladesh government to “immediately suspend” the pilot Rohingya repatriation project. He emphasized that Bangladeshi authorities were either threatening arrest or confiscation of documents or promising large sums of money to compel Rohingya refugees to return to Burma. Andrews noted that Bangladesh officials planned to send an initial batch of 1,140 Rohingya refugees at an unspecified date and 6,000 by the end of the year. It remained unclear where the funds for repatriated families would come from. Andrews stated that the return under these conditions would expose Rohingya to “**gross human rights violations and, potentially, future atrocity crimes.**” He also urged “the international community to stand with Rohingya refugees in both word and deed,” including “reversing the failure to provide humane support.”<sup>179</sup> In a statement at the end of a visit to Indonesia on 21 Jun, Tom Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, called for international and regional actors to take up greater responsibility for Rohingya refugees fleeing squalid living conditions in refugee camps in Bangladesh and atrocity crimes in Myanmar. He also called on Indonesia to develop a stronger medium-to-long term rights-based approach for handling Rohingya refugees and called for the OIC, ASEAN, for greater financial support for durable solutions.<sup>180</sup>

### **Rohingya persecution and squalid camp conditions persist**

On 6 Jun, the **junta sentenced** 62 stateless Rohingya to **five years in prison** in a local court in Ngaputaw Township (Ayeyarwady Region) for violating **Burma's immigration law**. In early May, the junta arrested them while they were in transit at sea.<sup>181</sup> On 19 Jun, in Kyaikto Township (Mon State), junta police arrested six Rohingya individuals at a roadside checkpoint.<sup>182</sup>

Inter Press Service (IPS) reported that between January 1 to June 6, 1,283 Rohingya refugees **fell ill with dengue**, with 26 dying in Bangladesh. High camp population density and poor sanitary and healthcare infrastructure had driven disease spread, with the monsoon season expected to bring yet more cases.<sup>183</sup>

**IDP camps** across Rakhine State **experienced severe flooding** after several days of strong rainfall on 21-25 Jun, **worsening cyclone-induced** difficulties for residents. A camp resident said that camp bridges had flooded, toilets had become unusable, and flooding attracted mosquitoes.<sup>184</sup> Citing camp officials, DMG reported that, in **Kyaukpyu Township** (Rakhine State), the junta **relocated Rohingya IDPs** from Kyauktalone IDP camp to a **new encampment**. Camp residents reported that the camp was prone to high tides and waterlogging, others adding that finding jobs nearby was difficult, shelters were roughshod, and **muddy water was everywhere**.<sup>185</sup> On 5 Jun, it was reported that thousands of Rohingya IDPs in Sittwe and Pauktaw Townships (Rakhine State) were experiencing **serious livelihood and accommodation difficulties**. The only assistance they had received was rice provided by the World Food Programme (WFP). The head of the Thechaung displacement camp, that housed 13,000 Rohingya IDPs, said that the

<sup>176</sup> RFA (13 Jun 2023) Rapes and massacres detailed in Rohingya genocide case against Myanmar authorities

<sup>177</sup> Mizzima (7 Jun 2023) Bangladesh promises no forced return of Rohingya refugees: UN

<sup>178</sup> Reuters (8 Jun 2023) Rohingya protest in Bangladesh, demand repatriation to Myanmar; Aljazeera (9 Jun 2023) Rohingya in Bangladesh protest to be sent home after UN aid cut

<sup>179</sup> OHCHR (8 Jun 2023) Bangladesh must suspend pilot project to return Rohingya refugees to Myanmar: UN expert

<sup>180</sup> OHCHR (21 Jun 2023) End of Mission Statement: Thomas Andrews, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Jakarta, Indonesia - 21 June 2023)

<sup>181</sup> Network Media Group (6 Jun 2023) Ngaputaw Court Sentences 60 Rohingya To 5 Years

<sup>182</sup> BNI (22 Jun 2023) Six members of the Rohingya community arrested at Mayan Chaung Checkpoint, Kyaikto Township

<sup>183</sup> Inter Press Service (27 Jun 2023) Rohingya Camps Become Dengue Hotspots in Bangladesh

<sup>184</sup> Narinjara via BNI (27 Jun 2023) IDP Camps in Rakhine Flooded Due to Continuous Rainfall

<sup>185</sup> DMG (2 Jun 2023) Muslim IDPs in Kyaukphyu Twp displacement camp relocated

storm had **destroyed almost all shelters** in the camp and that roofing sheets were needed for repairs. A resident of Ngat Chaung IDP camp No.2, which housed over 5,000 IDPs, said the junta collected a list of damaged houses and cattle killed by the storm but had not provided any supplies.<sup>186</sup>

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

On 1 Jun, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) reported that the **junta had arrested 44 women and killed a further 29 during 1-29 May**. Thirteen of the arrested women were from Mandalay Region and 10 were from Tanintharyi Region. It was also reported that the junta troops burnt alive 14 women during raids on civilian houses.<sup>187</sup>

On 2 Jun, BWU also reported that the number of women killed and arrested by the junta had increased following the attempted coup. **The junta arbitrarily arrested 3,517 women, imprisoned 859 women, and killed 542 women during the period of 1 Feb, 2021 to 29 May, 2023.**<sup>188</sup>

On 9 Jun, Kayan Women's Organisation's (KyWo) co-secretary Mu Angela said that the lack of proper healthcare and medicine had resulted in numerous preventable deaths in Karenni and Southern Shan States. She said that **pregnant women, newborns, and children were malnourished** and that IDPs having to constantly move had led to increased miscarriages. KyWO reported a new record of at least five miscarriages or maternal or newborn deaths between January and April.<sup>189</sup>

On 16 Jun, it was reported that pregnant women who fled to the jungle in southeast Shwegu Township, Kachin State had been unable to get prenatal care. **Around 50 women from 12 villages who fled junta attacks urgently needed maternal care and nutritious food.** A local said that there were nurses and clinics before the junta attacks, however they fled after the junta's attacks.<sup>190</sup>

On 19 Jun, the NUG released a report that out of **130 cases of sexual violence in conflict-affected areas**, since the attempted coup, **the junta was responsible for 108 cases**, resistance forces for 13 cases and civilians responsible for nine.<sup>191</sup> On the "International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict", Women's Peace Network urged the UNSC to enforce the UN Charter's Chapter VII to uphold its mandate, as well as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and Women, Peace, and Security agendas. It also called on ASEAN to act beyond the failed Five-Point Consensus. WPN also highlighted the need to consult with all communities that had been affected by conflict-related sexual violence and other atrocities in Burma. The consultations should entail direct financial and material assistance to survivors and to CSOs, especially women's groups and human rights defenders.<sup>192</sup>

On 9-20 Jun, the Women's League of Burma (WLB) held an online discussion on "Ending Sexual Violence against Women in Armed Conflicts". The General Secretary said that **sexual violence against women had worsened since the attempted coup**. In its statement released on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, WLB highlighted that there were many **different perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict** including not only **junta troops and junta-affiliated actors but also political and religious leaders, People's Defense Force and ERO personnel, and civilians.**<sup>193</sup>

On 24 Jun, it was reported, citing NUG's Human Rights Minister, that junta and pro-democracy actors had discriminated against LGBT activists. Saw Han Nway Oo, a trans woman and a LGBT Human Rights activist who was imprisoned and tortured by the junta revealed that junta members had forced her to use male pronouns, registered her as a male inmate, and forced her to wear male prison garb and intern in the male dormitory while she was imprisoned. Saw Han Nway Oo and other LGBT activists also reported that other pro-democracy supporters had discriminated against them.<sup>194</sup>

On 31 Jun, the junta's **military court sentenced a 72-year-old woman** to seven years in prison with hard labor. She was accused of being guardian for a student enrolled in the NUG-affiliated Free Online Education Institution Myanmar (FOEIM). It was reported that the junta had arrested her on 16 Mar and charged her under the Article 52(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Act.<sup>195</sup>

### **Education, Healthcare & COVID-19 (more at [Education, Healthcare & COVID-19 tracker](#))**

On 8 Jun, citing the regime's State Department of Public Health and Treatment, it was reported that there had been **230 cases of hemorrhagic dengue fever and one death in Mon State between January and**

<sup>186</sup> DMG (5 Jun 2023) Cyclone-affected Muslim IDPs yet to receive relief supplies

<sup>187</sup> Burmese Women's Union (1 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4vzbyntm>

<sup>188</sup> Burmese Women's Union (2 Jun 2023) Women's Information Fact Sheet

<sup>189</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (9 Jun 2023) Broken Health System Increases Mortality In Karenni/Southern States

<sup>190</sup> Kachin News Group (16 Jun 2023) Pregnant Women Lack Healthcare In War-torn Shwegu Township

<sup>191</sup> DVB (21 Jun 2023) NUG concerned over Win Myint's health; Documents 130 cases of sexual violence since 2021

<sup>192</sup> Women's Peace Network (19 Jun 2023) Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

<sup>193</sup> Development Media Group (21 Jun 2023) Sexual violence against women reaches new heights: activists

<sup>194</sup> Frontier Myanmar (24 Jun 2023) Myanmar's 'rainbow heroes' demand democracy and acceptance

<sup>195</sup> Tachileik News Agency (1 Jun 2023) NUG က ခွင့်ပြုပေးထားသည့် FOEIM တွင် ကျောင်းအပ်သည်ဟု စွပ်စွဲပြီး အသက်(၇၂)နှစ်ရှိ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုကို စစ်ကောင်စီက ဖမ်းဆီးကာ အလုပ်နှင့်ထောင်ဒဏ် (၇)နှစ် ချ

**May 2023.** An official from the department said that the death rate had already reached 2022's pace, which was a danger sign.<sup>196</sup>

On 22 Jun, it was reported that drug sales and usage in Mon State dramatically increased after the attempted coup. However, the junta had done a poor job addressing the issue. Citing data gathered internally, it was reported that 70% of youth in Mon State used Kratom, and 30% used WY pills, a caffeine-methamphetamine composite. Activists said if the drug usage was not addressed promptly, the situation would deteriorate further, damaging the livelihood and economic production of locals.<sup>197</sup> On 26 Jun, the junta burned USD 446 million worth of narcotic drugs to mark the annual International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Associated Press reported that opium production increased significantly in Burma after the attempted coup, from 440 tons in 2020 to 870 tons in 2022.<sup>198</sup>

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

#### **Austrian, Indian, Israeli, Italian and Swedish companies complicit in junta crimes**

On 8 Jun, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that Israel's CAA Industries had sold small arms manufacturing equipment to Star Sapphire Trading, an arms broker for the junta. Citing industry sources and image analysis of junta-made arms, JfM concluded that the end user for CAA's injection moulds was the regime's Office of the Chief of Defence Industries (OCDI).<sup>199</sup>

On 12 Jun, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that **Swedish-produced arms and components sold to India were being re-exported to the junta in Burma.** An official investigation in 2012 by the Swedish arms control authority, the Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP), had previously concluded that India was taking measures not to re-export Swedish-licensed weapons. However, **Indian firm Sandeep Metalcraft Private Limited (SMPL) had been supplying the junta with time mechanical fuse 447 designed for the 84 mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle** since the investigation and after the attempted coup. Reports were unclear whether SMPL could manufacture the fuses in India without licensable parts and assistance from Sweden's Saab Group. According to Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister, Tobias Billström, since 2022 Sweden had a new system in place to reduce risks of diversion, including post-transfer verification visits in recipient countries. However, it remained unclear whether ISP had undertaken, or intended to undertake an official investigation into Sandeep Metalcraft exporting Carl Gustaf rifles to Burma. JfM urged the ISP to investigate Sandeep Metalcraft and called for the Swedish government to take urgent action to prevent further diversion.<sup>200</sup>

On 12 Jun, JfM reported that **Austria-based Diamond Aircraft Industries (DAI), owned by China's Wanfeng Aviation Industry**, provided components, technical assistance, and training to the junta for DART-450 aircraft production, violating the EU arms embargo. In 2017, Miya Win International, a UK-sanctioned junta arms broker, reportedly facilitated the deal between DAI and the junta. Since 2018, DAI had provided extensive training, and in 2019, the junta began aircraft assembly at the Shante air force base in Meiktila Township (Mandalay Region). JfM reiterated that the technology and intelligence transferred from the project enabled the junta's self-sufficient local production and supported ongoing aerial attacks. JfM also urged that companies from the EU assisting the DART-450 project constituted a breach of EU sanctions.<sup>201</sup>

On 16 Jun, it was reported that the junta chief's visit to Myingyan Township (Mandalay Region) confirmed the long-suspected involvement of **Italian firm Danieli** in the junta's steel manufacturing project in Myingyan. Pictures of Min Aung Hlaing alongside three "foreign experts" in protective gear, backed up the Shan State Frontline Investment Monitor's (SSFIM) February 2023 report that the firm was working with the junta.<sup>202</sup>

On 21 Jun, JfM reported that, from Nov 2022 to Apr 2023, India's state-controlled firm Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**) **exported over USD 5 million in arms and equipment to the junta**, violating its international human rights obligations. Other institutional shareholders of BEL included Nippon Life India Asset Management, Goldman Sachs, Canada Pension Plan, and Swedish AP-fonden.<sup>203</sup>

<sup>196</sup> Independent Mon News (8 Jun 2023) Mon state has more than 230 cases of hemorrhagic dengue fever and one death

<sup>197</sup> Than Lwin Times vis BNI (22 Jun 2023) Escalation of Drug Use and Sales in Mon State During the Coup Period

<sup>198</sup> Associated Press (26 Jun 2023) Myanmar burns \$446 million worth of seized drugs as illicit trade booms in Southeast Asia

<sup>199</sup> Justice for Myanmar (8 Jun 2023) Israel's CAA Industries LTD Suspected to have Aided and Abetted the Myanmar Military's International Crimes

<sup>200</sup> Justice for Myanmar (20 Jun 2023) Sweden must act to stop Indian arms sales to Myanmar military

<sup>201</sup> Justice for Myanmar (12 Jun 2023) Austria's Diamond Aircraft Industries Likely to Have Breached EU Arms Embargo by Selling Surveillance Planes to Myanmar Military

<sup>202</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Jun 2023) Myanmar junta's steel industry aided by secretive Italian firm Danieli

<sup>203</sup> Justice for Myanmar (21 Jun 2023) India's BEL Continues Support for Myanmar Junta with Exports of over \$5M in Military End-Use Equipment in 6 Months to April '23



## **China and Russia deepen ties with the junta, disregard human rights abuses**

On 1 Jun, it was reported that, barely two weeks after Cyclone Mocha, China had **pushed the junta to proceed with the Kyaukphyu deep sea port** in Rakhine State and special economic zone, key parts of China's Belt and Road Initiative. A resident of Madaya Island said that the deep-sea port would cut residents off from accessing the Madaya Kyun river, where locals earn their livelihoods fishing. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said the **special economic zone would forcibly relocate nearly 20,000 people**. A spokesperson for the Madaya Island District Development Association said that the junta and China gave no answers as to how they would compensate or provide jobs to adversely affected locals.<sup>204</sup>

On 8 Jun, China and the junta marked their 73rd anniversary diplomatic relations by signing several bilateral agreements. China committed to continuing to provide assistance to the junta and agreed to transfer USD 3.8 million to the regime for 14 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation projects.<sup>205</sup>

On 25 Jun, it was reported that in Hpakant township (Kachin State), Chinese jade traders were **purchasing gems illegally at lower cost, driving some local dealers out of business**. Residents said that approximately half of the people traveling to Hpakant to buy gemstones were Chinese nationals. Local jade traders said that buying jade for resale would earn them only enough for a day's worth of meals. They said that despite conflict, Chinese nationals were "freely entering and exiting" Hpakant and shipping jade back to China. Junta Social Affairs Minister said the junta had restricted foreigners from traveling to Hpakant and claimed that the buyers may have been ethnic Chinese Burmese nationals. It was reported that although the illegal sale and export of jade carried a prison sentence of up to 10 years, the regime had held few offenders accountable since the attempted coup.<sup>206</sup>

On 5 Jun, Russian weapons import records revealed **Russia bought back military supplies** previously shipped to Burma and India **to use in Ukraine**. UralVagonZavod, a Russian tank manufacturer, reportedly bought back from the junta military equipment for USD 24 million in December 2022.<sup>207</sup> On 11 Jun, the NUCC condemned Russia's political support and arms trade with the junta. On 15 Jun, the junta signed deals with Russia on wind energy and flight routes at the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg. They agreed to construct a 116-megawatt wind power project in Minhla and Mindon (Magway Region) and Kyaunkpadaung or Nyaung U Township (Mandalay Region). They also agreed to open a weekly direct flight from Yangon and Mandalay to Moscow and Novosibirsk starting in July.<sup>208</sup>

On 18 Jun, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) governor said that CBM and Russia's Central Bank signed a MOU to integrate Mir, a card-payment system for electronic fund transfers between the two countries, and claimed it would be ready to use in Burma by December. She stated that the Mir card would allow direct payments between RUB and MMK, but its use would be limited to foreign tourists or businessmen in Burma. She said that integrating Mir was aimed at increasing tourism.<sup>209</sup>

## **Foreign investment dries up, Japan leaves and Cyclone Mocha disrupts trade with Bangladesh**

On 8 Jun, it was reported, citing junta-controlled Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), that foreign investment in Burma fell by 60% in the first quarter of 2023 to USD 178 million. In the same quarter, foreign investment was USD 402 million in 2022 and USD 908 million in 2021. Economic experts said that the junta's mismanagement of the financial sector, political instability, and the unreliable domestic electricity supply had contributed to weak foreign investment following the attempted coup.<sup>210</sup> On 31 May, Japan withdrew its official development assistance (ODA) for a railway project that was upgrading track between Yangon and Mandalay. After the attempted coup, the junta had used it to deliver troops and weapons to commit atrocities across the country.<sup>211</sup> The project had been ongoing since 2013 and had involved Japanese loans of up to USD 1 billion.<sup>212</sup>

On 21 June, Rakhine State Chamber of Commerce & Industries (RSCCI) secretary U Aung Aung said that border trade between Burma and Bangladesh "significantly decreased" after Cyclone Mocha, with damaged roads making transport difficult.<sup>213</sup>

## **Junta persecutes oil well workers, microlenders, and garment factory workers**

On 5 Jun, the junta reportedly ordered the closure of at least nine private oil fields in Minbu, Thayet, and Minhla Townships (Magway Region), making over 100,000 people jobless. In May, the junta ordered

<sup>204</sup> RFA (1 Jun 2023) China Pressures Myanmar to Proceed on Port Project Amid Community Concerns

<sup>205</sup> DVB (10 Jun 2023) China commits to continue providing assistance to Burma

<sup>206</sup> RFA (25 Jun 2023) Local dealers decry influx of illegal Chinese traders to Myanmar jade town

<sup>207</sup> Nikkei Asia (5 Jun 2023) Russia 'buying back' arms parts exported to Myanmar and India

<sup>208</sup> Irawaddy (19 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Signs Wind Power, Direct Flights and Financial Deals With Russia

<sup>209</sup> Irawaddy (29 Jun 2023) Cash-Strapped Myanmar Junta is Pinning its Hopes on Russian Bank Cards

<sup>210</sup> Irawaddy (8 Jun 2023) Foreign Investment in Myanmar Plunges 60% on-Year in First Quarter

<sup>211</sup> Justice for Myanmar (30 May 2023) Junta's railway projects risk aiding & abetting Myanmar junta's crimes

<sup>212</sup> The Asahi Shimbun (31 May 2023) Japan yanking ODA for key project as part of Myanmar protest

<sup>213</sup> Narinjara News (21 Jun 2023) Post cyclone Mocha, Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreased

the closure of the Tetma oil field, which employed around 200,000 miners, in Nyaung-U township (Mandalay Region). The closure followed social media allegations that tax revenue from the oil field funded PDFs. A member of the Nyaung-U PDF said the junta's closure of the oil field has shut down the local economy.<sup>214</sup> Some oil well owners had entered the industry to avoid increasing costs and irregular weather affecting the agriculture sector, but the closure has placed them in significant debt.<sup>215</sup>

On 27 Jun, it was reported that the junta's demands and restrictions on Pact Global Microfinance Fund (PGMF) had made it increasingly difficult for the microlender to continue its operations. On 26 Jun, PGMF announced that it would cease all operations by 30 Jun.<sup>216</sup> The junta's 2022 registration law banned unregistered NGOs from offering loans and did not allow PGMF to register as a commercial entity. The regime had demanded PGMF hand over a share of its profits, denied visas to PGMF's senior staff, and imposed strict foreign exchange rules restricting PGMF's operations.<sup>217</sup> PGMF's board chair, Ellen Varney, said it had forgiven USD 156 million in outstanding debt held by 890,000 borrowers.<sup>218</sup>

On 12 and 13 Jun, more than 600 workers at Hosheng Myanmar garment factory, a Chinese-owned supplier for Zara, protested after factory management rejected the union's demand for daily wage raises of MMK 800 (about USD 0.38), promptly firing the leaders.<sup>219</sup> Witnesses said junta soldiers went into the factory before the protest and threatened the workers by saying "This is an area under martial law, and your little union doesn't mean anything under it."<sup>220</sup> On 14 Jun, factory management sent junta soldiers to arrest four union leaders and at least ten other workers. Of those, two were reportedly junta-outlawed Action Labor Rights Group members.<sup>221</sup> It was reported that several other union members had gone into hiding.<sup>222</sup> On 20 Jun, **Zara's owner**, Spanish company **Inditex**, announced that **it would stop buying from Hosheng**, stating, "The events that have occurred in this factory in recent days represent a serious breach of our Code of Conduct for manufacturers and suppliers."<sup>223</sup> On 20 Jun, the **EU Delegation to Burma** released a statement in response to the arrests (more details in *International Responses*). On 27 Jun, citing family members and close associates of the arrested workers, it was reported that the junta had charged eight detained workers for incitement and unlawful association under Section 505(a) and Section 17(1) of the Penal Code. The trial was scheduled for 7 Jul.<sup>224</sup>

### **Illegal junta scrambles to find alternatives as USD reserves dwindle**

On 1 Jun, it was reported that price of the **US dollar rose from MMK 2,800 to 2,960** in the third week of May, well **above the junta's rate of MMK 2,100**. **Burma had run a trade deficit of USD 700 million** in the 2022-2023 fiscal year ending in March. The price of domestically produced goods would also rise with the price of the US dollar and fixed income earners would be first impacted.<sup>225</sup>

On 23 Jun, it was reported that the domestic currency exchange market was volatile after the US government sanctioned the junta's Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB). USD price rose to MMK 3,100 and gold price was at MMK 3.1 million for one tical. Sources said that the regime had been questioning and detaining some money changers and gold traders and that these arrests might disrupt the money exchange market.<sup>226</sup>

On 1 Jun, the junta issued an order obliging traders to pay for overland imports from China using only CNY, reportedly to conserve its USD reserves, make Burma less dependent on the USD, and shield the junta from US sanctions. Traders were now required to open a CNY account with their local banks to obtain a trade permit.<sup>227</sup> A Yangon-based business person said that trading would be more efficient if traders had CNY and licenses were issued smoothly. A trader from Muse (N. Shan State) said that exporters could sell their CNY directly to importers and pay taxes directly in CNY instead of first converting to USD. The junta's central bank ruled that only 35% of export earnings could be sold directly to other traders and that the remaining 65% would have to be converted to MMK at the central bank's rates. The junta pegged the value of the MMK against the USD at over 33% of its value on the black market and the CNY at over 35%.

On June 23, the junta announced a new trade policy that would require importers at the Chinese border to pay for goods through a pay-by-bank system using their local bank accounts starting 1 Aug. The new

<sup>214</sup> DMG (12 Jun 2023) Hundreds of thousands left jobless in central Myanmar as junta shuts down oil fields

<sup>215</sup> RFA (12 Jun 2023) Junta Ban on Private Oil Wells Could Affect 300,000 Workers and Workers

<sup>216</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Drives Largest Micro Lender Out of Business

<sup>217</sup> Mizzima (27 Jun 2023) Junta forces largest microfinance lender to leave Myanmar

<sup>218</sup> PGMF (26 Jun 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2x2pwzfd>

<sup>219</sup> Irrawaddy (15 Jun 2023) Union Leader Arrested by Myanmar Junta After Wage Protest at 'Zara' Factory

<sup>220</sup> Myanmar Now (17 Jun 2023) Clothing industry workers sacked, arrested after requesting wage increase

<sup>221</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Jun 2023) More Labor Union Leaders Arrested at Zara Factory in Myanmar

<sup>222</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Jun 2023) Yangon garment factory workers missing after arrest by Myanmar junta

<sup>223</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Jul 2023) More Labor Union Leaders Arrested at Zara Factory in Myanmar

<sup>224</sup> Myanmar Labour News (27 Jun 2023) Workers who have been arrested are said to undergo hearing at military court

<sup>225</sup> Than Lwin Times via BNI (1 Jun 2023) Military Council's Demand for US Dollar Could Lead to Commodity Price Hikes Again

<sup>226</sup> Mizzima (23 Jun 2023) Myanmar money changer market volatile after news of state-owned banks sanctions

<sup>227</sup> Irrawaddy (8 Jun 2023) Myanmar Junta Bans Dollars for Border Trade With China

policy would require traders to disclose their income and sell 65% of their earning in foreign currency to the junta at its central bank's artificially inflated value. Traders expressed concern that the new policy would delay trade and pose challenges due to the scarcity of banks on the Chinese side of the border.<sup>228</sup>

On 14 Jun, at a business event in Kolkata, India, the regime's commerce minister expressed hope that negotiations to enable the use of INR for border trade with India would be complete by July. On 16 Jun, the junta's **Central Bank chair** said that the regime was **considering cooperating with the New Development Bank** established by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (**BRICS**) and that it **supported using a BRICS currency**.<sup>229</sup>

On 30 Jun, it was reported the exchange rate of THB surged from MMK 83 to approximately MMK 90 after the US implemented sanctions on the junta's MFTB and MICB<sup>230</sup>

On 23 Jun, Frontier Myanmar reported that the rise in fuel prices and other overhead costs had severely impacted the fishery sector. An anonymous Myanmar Fisheries Federation source said that there could soon be a domestic shortage of fish and that the price of fish had doubled in 2023. The junta's Ministry of Commerce reported that in 2022–2023, Burma's exports of fishery products had fallen by 13% compared to 2019–2020. A fisherman from Rakhine State said that boats would have stayed out at sea for months to catch fish large enough for export, but due to high fuel costs, most boat owners could not sustain this practice. A business owner from Ngapali (Rakhine State) said the cost to fill a 52-gallon diesel tank had tripled to MMK 600,000, fish prices had not risen much, and he had to shut down his business. Due to the rising cost of fish food, inland fish farmers used alternatives such as animal carcasses or vegetation mixed with food by-products and fishery product waste. A fish farmer from Twante Township (Yangon Region) said that he had to spend MMK 100,000 a day on fish food and that the initial investment for fish farmers had more than tripled to MMK 8 million/acre. Also, frequent power cuts had caused difficulty storing fish, and transportation costs had doubled due to conflict. A broker from Twante Township said that she was selling fish ponds below the market rate, but there were no buyers.<sup>231</sup>

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

#### **Thailand splits ASEAN with Track 1.5 meeting**

On 14 Jun, on behalf of **Thailand's caretaker government**, Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai invited **ASEAN foreign ministers to "fully re-engage" the junta at an informal meeting** on 18 Jun. Referring to the recent ASEAN summit on 9-11 May, he said that a number of members had supported the call, and **proposed back-to-back meetings** in case of substantial positive progress. However, ASEAN chair **Indonesia reportedly declined to attend**, saying it contradicted the agreement reached at the summit.<sup>232</sup> On 17 Jun, the NUG urged the Thai caretaker government to call off the meeting with the illegal junta and instead engage with all relevant stakeholders.<sup>233</sup>

On 16 Jun, following a meeting with US State Secretary Antony Blinken, **Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan** stated that **this was not the time for high-level re-engagement of the junta**. Blinken agreed and added that it would ultimately take negotiations with "everyone" but emphasized the importance of sustaining pressure on the junta while engaging with the opposition.<sup>234</sup>

On 18 Jun, Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai announced that the Thai-organized informal meeting with the Burmese junta had been pushed back to 19 Jun after **key Southeast Asian nations declined to attend**. The junta's Foreign Minister Than Swe was confirmed to attend. Meanwhile, the **NUG, Malaysia, and Burmese civil society condemned the initiative**, with the latter **calling** for invited states not to attend and the meeting to be canceled immediately.<sup>235</sup>

On 19 Jun, Nikkei Asia reported that **Brunei, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam**, as well as China and India **attended Thailand's informal meeting**, but only Laos, Thailand, and the junta sent their FM to Pattaya.<sup>236</sup> **Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore declined to attend**, with Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi saying that there was no ASEAN "consensus to re-engage or develop new approaches".<sup>237</sup> The **initiative split ASEAN** and drew criticism that it was undermining the bloc's already faltering efforts to defuse the crisis.<sup>238</sup> The Thai FM and Prime Minister defended the move, saying that Thailand was not taking sides but was trying solve border, trade, and refugee problems brought on by the

<sup>228</sup> RFA (30 Jun 2023) Myanmar traders at China border worry about junta's new 'pay-by-bank' system

<sup>229</sup> Frontier Myanmar (27 Jun 2023) Dumping the dollar: The junta embraces the Chinese yuan

<sup>230</sup> Than Lwin Times via BNI (30 Jun 2023) Rising Dollar and Gold Prices Propel Thai Baht Exchange Rate

<sup>231</sup> Frontier Myanmar (25 Jun 2023) Myanmar's fishing industry sinks to new depths

<sup>232</sup> Reuters (16 Jun 2023) Exclusive: Thailand seeking to re-engage Myanmar junta with ASEAN meeting

<sup>233</sup> NUG (17 Jun 2023) Statement on the Invitation Extended to Illegitimate Junta to Attend Informal Discussion on Myanmar Issue by Thailand's caretaker government

<sup>234</sup> Reuters (16 Jun 2023) Blinken, Singapore foreign minister share pessimism on situation in Myanmar

<sup>235</sup> Reuters (18 Jun 2023) Key ASEAN members to skip Thai-hosted Myanmar talks amid criticism

<sup>236</sup> Nikkei Asia (19 Jun 2023) Thailand-led regional meeting on Myanmar divides ASEAN

<sup>237</sup> Reuters (19 Jun 2023) Thailand justifies talks with Myanmar as key ASEAN members stay away

<sup>238</sup> Mizzima (20 Jun 2023) Thailand defends divisive Myanmar junta talks

attempted coup. The ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights called the talks a “betrayal of the [Burmese] people and an **affront to ASEAN unity**.”<sup>239</sup>

On 20 Jun, Thailand’s PM-Elect **Pita Limjaroenrat** distanced himself from his predecessor’s track 1.5 meeting on 19 Jun. He reaffirmed his party’s commitment to helping ensure stability in Burma via **ASEAN’s 5PC and “inclusive, multi-layered, and appropriate” engagement with all stakeholders**. He pledged support for the UN and the UN Security Council and emphasized the importance of **ASEAN unity** and upholding the principles of **democracy and human rights**. He also announced plans to establish a “Humanitarian-Economic Nexus” to address both humanitarian and economic needs and to create a [Burma] **Inter-Agency Task Force** to coordinate multi-pronged efforts.<sup>240</sup>

On 21 Jun, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, **Tom Andrews**, met at the end of his visit with ASEAN chair Indonesia. He urged the international community to find an effective, principled, and immediate international response that **holds the junta accountable** for holding Burma hostage. He said he believed **Indonesia and ASEAN had a critical role** in the resolution, but emphasized that the people of Burma **did not have time to wait** for ASEAN officials to proceed with caution. Andrews **criticized the Thailand-hosted Track 1.5** meeting, stating that it could “have the dangerous effect of legitimizing the junta and undermining ASEAN unity” and that the junta should not be invited to attend any ASEAN meeting. Furthermore, he condemned the junta for their weaponization of aid, **urging ASEAN to stop providing humanitarian aid via the junta**. Instead, he recommended working directly with humanitarian and civil society organizations.<sup>241</sup>

### **ASEAN continues military training with the junta**

On 22 Jun, the **junta and Russia** reportedly were set to continue co-hosting ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (**ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism** exercises supported by China and India in August and September. They had been **co-chairs of the working group** since 2021, whereas ADMM as a whole was chaired by Indonesia. The junta was publishing propaganda vilifying the NUG, PDF, and anti-junta EROs as “terrorists” on the working group’s website, in clear breach of ASEAN values. The US, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand had boycotted the meetings since 2022. A spokesperson for the US Defense Department said that Russia and the junta had consistently used their co-chairmanship to justify their violence and disregard of the law and imply support by ADMM-Plus members.<sup>242</sup> Justice for Myanmar (**JfM**) urged ASEAN to immediately **cancel its junta and Russia-led counter-terrorism exercises**. JfM said, “ASEAN’s practical support for the training makes the **bloc further complicit in ongoing war crimes** and crimes against humanity.” JfM spokesperson Yadanar Maung said, “If the world needs any more evidence that the Five Point consensus has failed, ASEAN’s training of junta troops in counter-terrorism should be the nail in the coffin.”<sup>243</sup>

### **International community rallies behind Rohingya**

On 1 Jun, the UN Human Rights Office (**OHCHR**) **condemned the second cut in food rations** for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh due to the funding shortfall to the World Food Programme (WFP). UN experts warned that the consequences of the ration cuts were “devastatingly predictable: spiking rates of acute malnutrition, infant mortality, violence, and even death.” They also warned that Rohingya may decide to risk their lives at sea rather than starve to death, and emphasized that **governments had only offered supportive words but failed to “contribute** a single penny toward humanitarian relief.” They urged member states to immediately contribute to closing the USD 56 million funding shortfall of the Rohingya Humanitarian Joint Response Plan.<sup>244</sup>

On 14 Jun, **Amnesty International** urged the junta to “**lift all restrictions on freedom of movement**” and other discriminatory regulations against the Rohingya, and to allow unimpeded access to aid organizations to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance. It also called on both the junta and the Bangladesh government to **halt any involuntary repatriation** plans, and added that Bangladesh should “ensure Rohingya refugees have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.” Amnesty recommended that the international community “provide sufficient humanitarian funding and allow flexible funding requirements” for the cyclone response by national organizations. Amnesty asked the UN General Assembly to **re-establish the Special Committee against Apartheid** originally formed in

<sup>239</sup> Reuters (19 Jun 2023) Explainer: Why are Thailand’s talks with Myanmar causing a regional stir?

<sup>240</sup> Mizzima (20 Jun 2023) Winning Thai party seeks more active role in seeking solution to Myanmar crisis; Irrawaddy (20 Jun 2023) Thai Election Winner Reaffirms Commitment to Peace in Myanmar

<sup>241</sup> OHCHR (21 Jun 2023) End of Mission Statement: Thomas Andrews, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Jakarta, Indonesia - 21 June 2023)

<sup>242</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Jun 2023) Russia and Myanmar junta to host ASEAN counter-terrorism exercises despite boycott by dialogue partners

<sup>243</sup> Justice for Myanmar (22 Jun 2023) ASEAN’s planned military exercises led by Myanmar junta and Russian regime will deepen its complicity in the junta’s international crimes

<sup>244</sup> OHCHR (1 Jun 2023) Bangladesh: UN Experts Devastating Second Round of Rations Cuts for Rohingya Refugees

1962, whose main task was to exert pressure on those committing apartheid and human rights violations to disestablish the system of oppression.<sup>245</sup>

On 20 Jun, **World Refugee Day**, **Amnesty International** called on Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to establish procedures to prevent the deaths of asylum seekers at sea and ensure their right to seek aid and protection from persecution. Amnesty called for junta members to be held accountable under international law as perpetrators of crimes against humanity.<sup>246</sup>

### **Condemnation of ongoing aid restrictions**

On 12 Jun, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Ramanathan Balakrishnan said that it was "yet another devastating setback" that the **junta had suspended humanitarian access** in Rakhine State. He added that this unnecessarily prolonged the suffering of the cyclone-affected communities and urged the junta to reinstate the initial approval. It was reported that the junta had rescinded travel authorizations for aid groups in Rakhine and that authorizations for Chin State were pending.<sup>247</sup>

On 20 Jun, Human Rights Watch (**HRW**) urged donors, regional bodies, and the UN to **press the junta to lift all restrictions on aid delivery** while holding it accountable for past and ongoing atrocity crimes. HRW said that the junta's obstruction of aid **violated international human rights law** obligations and exacerbated the rate of damage, illness, and death in the country. Citing OCHA, HRW stated that international organizations were within their **legal rights to "conduct temporary humanitarian relief operations"** without junta authorization given both the extreme need and lack of alternatives. HRW emphasized that donors should seek to channel aid through local civil society groups, given the junta's track record of corruption and misuse of disaster assistance funding and material.<sup>248</sup>

On 20 Jun, **World Refugee Day**, eleven Burmese **CSOs** called on the UN, ASEAN and the international community to **recognize the junta as the root cause** of the Burma crisis and to work with **local leadership to effectively deliver humanitarian aid**. The organizations stated that there was a need for cross-border aid to support local humanitarian responders and ethnic and community-based organizations while also hearing and **strengthening the voices of refugees and IDPs**. The statement **criticized aid agencies for their partnerships with the junta**, which had continued to commit war crimes while blocking life-saving aid to cyclone-affected communities, and demanded neighboring countries provide protection and assistance to refugees fleeing the violence.<sup>249</sup>

On 30 Jun, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**) reported that the junta's restrictions on life-saving aid after Cyclone Mocha had further deteriorated the humanitarian and human rights situation in Burma. The OHCHR reported that **aid blockages "may constitute crimes against humanity** such as murder, extermination, torture or persecution, in the context of a widespread, systematic attack against a civilian population". It reported that the junta had internally displaced 1.5 million people, destroyed 60,000 civilian structures, and left 17.6 million people (one-third of the population) in need of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, aid workers were consistently at risk of arrest and murder, with 40 being deliberately targeted and killed.<sup>250</sup>

### **A shred of accountability**

On 20 Jun, the **EU Delegation to Burma** called for the **immediate release of all arrested workers** and labor rights organizers from the **Hosheng Myanmar Garment factory**. They also demanded workers be reinstated at their previous positions in accordance with International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.<sup>251</sup>

On 21 Jun, the **U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions against the junta's Ministry of Defense and two junta-controlled banks**; Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB). The US Treasury stated that the junta's Defense Ministry relied on foreign sources, including Russian entities under sanctions, to import arms, equipment, and raw materials to manufacture weapons to support its "brutal repression". Meanwhile, MFTB and MICB provided the Defense Ministry, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), and other entities with **access to foreign markets using the bank's offshore accounts**. In response to concerns that these sanctions would have financial implications for Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries due to their connections with local banks, the U.S. Embassy assured regular discussions with the Thai government to minimize the

<sup>245</sup> Amnesty International (14 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Military Authorities Exacerbate the Suffering Caused by Cyclone Mocha

<sup>246</sup> Amnesty International (20 Jun 2023) Myanmar: World Refugee Day: Regional Governments Must Scale Up Support

<sup>247</sup> UN (12 Jun 2023) Humanitarian access suspended in cyclone-ravaged Rakhine State

<sup>248</sup> HRW (20 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Junta Blocks Lifesaving Cyclone Aid

<sup>249</sup> Progressive Voice (20 Jun 2023) End military junta's crimes to halt mass displacement: Support local responders for effective humanitarian assistance

<sup>250</sup> OHCHR (30 Jun 2023) Myanmar: Dire humanitarian and human rights situation compounded by military's restrictions on aid

<sup>251</sup> Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar (14 Jun 2023) European Union brings relief to victims of cyclone Mocha in Myanmar

impact of the sanctions.<sup>252</sup> Justice for Myanmar expressed support for the new sanctions and urged the U.S. and its allies to impose sanctions on MOGE as well.<sup>253</sup>

On 29 Jun, the UN **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar** (IIMM) reported that in the past year, it had **collected evidence from over 700 sources**, conducted over 200 interviews and screenings, and made available over 135 packages of information and analysis to judicial authorities. Crimes reported through the IIMM include murder, rape, torture, unlawful imprisonment, and deportation or forcible transfer. The IIMM had been **sharing findings with judicial authorities** working on cases concerning the **Rohingya at the International Criminal Court**, the **International Court of Justice**, and in the **Argentinian Court**.<sup>254</sup>

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<sup>252</sup> Reuters (21 Jun 2023) US places sanctions on Myanmar's defence ministry, banks

<sup>253</sup> Justice for Myanmar (21 Jun 2023) JFM welcomes US sanctions on junta banks and defence ministry

<sup>254</sup> Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (29 Jun 2023) Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar - Bulletin Issue 8, June 2023