

Weekly News Review

Issue 116, 2 - 8 August 2023

The background of the entire page is a dramatic sunset or sunrise scene. A large, bright orange sun is positioned in the upper center. A jagged, red lightning bolt strikes down from the top center, splitting the scene. In the foreground, two soldiers are shown in silhouette. The soldier on the left is wearing a helmet and holding a rifle. The soldier on the right is also wearing a helmet and holding a rifle. The overall color palette is dominated by shades of orange, red, and black.

**Urgent Action Is Needed to
Address Frictions Between
Revolutionary Forces**

Urgent Action Is Needed to Address Frictions Between Revolutionary Forces

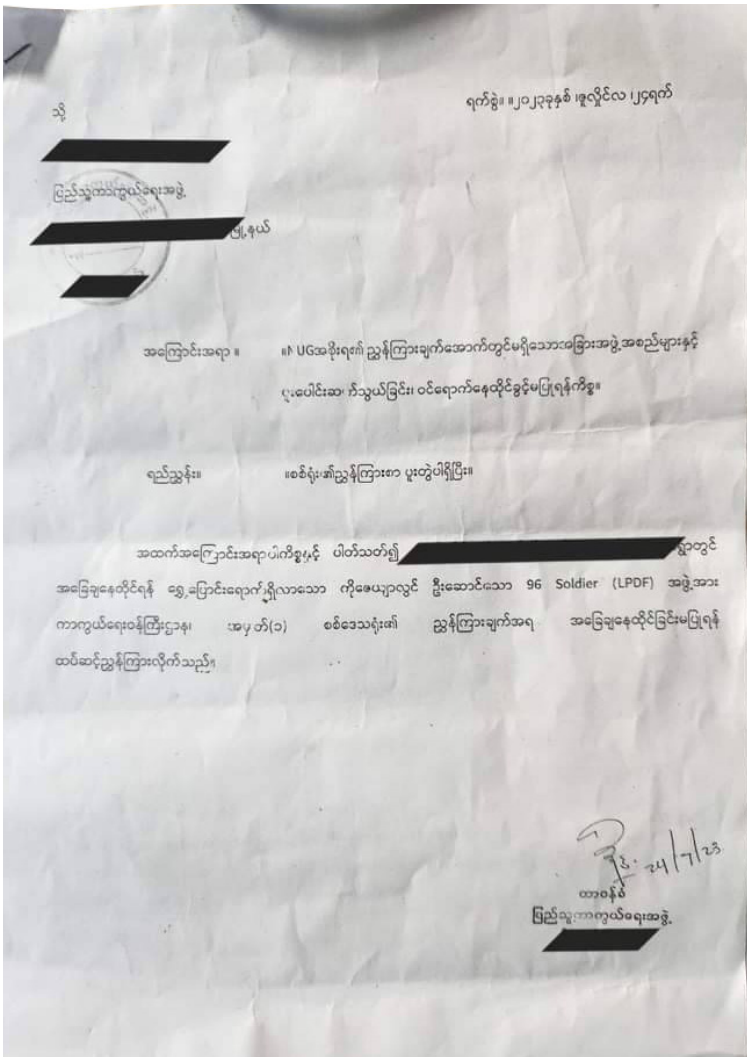
Introduction

"We all have different ways of working on this revolution. We happen to meet here because we are walking the same path. Therefore, we need to move forward together as much as we can in unity and solidarity toward our shared goal, victory."

This is the message that Duwa Lashi La, the acting president of the National Unity Government (NUG), addressed to the people on 31 July 2023.

Spring Revolution forces can be distinguished between the People's Defense Forces (PDFs) established by the NUG's Ministry of Defense, the people's administrative organs and People's Security Forces (PSF) under the NUG's Home Affairs Ministry, the People's Defense Forces-Local Defense Forces (PDFs-LDFs) under various names, and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs).

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review examines the frictions between the Spring Revolution resistance forces and the role of the Central Command and Coordination Committee (C3C).



Incident 1

On 24 July 2023, a township-based People's Defense Force in Sagaing Region sent a letter to the 96 soldiers (LPDF) led by Ko Zeyar Lwin prohibiting them from being based in their township.

The letter with the subject line "Prohibition of coordination and settlement of other groups which are not under the NUG", stated that "the order regarding prohibition of settlement has been disseminated under the directive of the Office of Military Region (1), Defense Ministry."

Ko Zeyar Lwin claimed, "There have been many incidents of local PDFs (LPDFs) oppressing each other."

Incident 2

On the morning of 4 August 2023, combined Yaelelkyun forces attacked Battalion 5's MG6 Guerrilla near Kan-U village school in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region, killing MG6 battalion commander Ko Chan (aka Bo Kyaw Lin Tun).¹

Regarding the incident, a statement released on 8 August said that a joint committee of PDF-Myingyan District, PDF-Myingyan Township, PDF-Taungtha, Battalion 1,2,3-Myingyan District had been formed under the guidance of the NUG Ministry of Defense; the arrested MG6 members, along with their firearms, had been handed over to PDF-Yesagyo and interrogated; their firearms would be confiscated until the investigation with PSF -Myaung Township was complete.

The exact reason for the deadly attack on the battalion commander of the MG6 Guerrilla remains unclear.

Related incidents

On the morning of 31 August 2022, two comrades of Bo Kyar Gyi – a local defense unit – were killed when they were shot by Battalion 2 of PDF Shwebo District under the NUG's somewhere on the road in eastern Wetlet Township, Sagaing Region. Though originally

ရက်စွဲ: ၂၀၂၃.၀၈.၀၈

ပြည်သူ့သို့ အသိပေးကြော်ငြာချက်

၄.၈.၂၀၂၃ ရက်နေ့ ရေစကြိုမြို့နယ် ကံဦးရွာအနီးတွင် မြင်းခြံ MG-6 ပျောက်ကွားတပ်ဖွဲ့နှင့် ရေစကြိုမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ ရေလယ်ကျွန်းတပ်ပေါင်းစုတို့ အပြန်အလှန်ပစ်ခတ်မှုဖြစ်စဉ် ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့ပါသည်။ ထိုဖြစ်စဉ်အတွင်း MG-6 ပျောက်ကွားတပ်ဖွဲ့ခေါင်းဆောင်ဖိုးချမ်း(ခ)ကျော်လင်းထွန်းသေဆုံးခဲ့ပါသည်။ ထိုဖြစ်စဉ်နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ NUG အစိုးရကာကွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ လမ်းညွှန်မှုဖြင့် မြင်းခြံခရိုင် ပ.က.ဖ မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ တောင်သာမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ မြင်းခြံခရိုင်တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၁)၊ တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၂)၊ တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၃) တို့သည် ညှိနှိုင်းတိုင်ပင်၍ ကော်မတီတစ်ရပ်ဖွဲ့စည်းခဲ့ပါသည်။ ထိုကော်မတီက ပစ်ခတ်မှုဖြစ်စဉ်တွင် ပါဝင်သော MG-6 ပျောက်ကွားတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင် များအား ဖြစ်စဉ်ပါလက်နက်များနှင့်အတူ ရေစကြိုမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ ထံသို့ ခေတ္တအပ်နှံ၍ အခင်းဖြစ်စဉ်ကို စစ်ဆေးမေးမြန်းစေခြင်း၊ စစ်ဆေးမေးမြန်းပြီး တပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်များနှင့် ကျန်ရှိ MG-6 ပျောက်ကွားတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်များကို ကော်မတီမှ တစ်ဆင့် မြောင်းမြမြို့နယ် ပ.လ.ဖ ထံသို့ အပ်နှံ၍ NUG အစိုးရ ကာကွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ စုံစမ်းစစ်ဆေးမှု ပြီးဆုံးသည်အထိ စနစ်တကျနေထိုင်စေခြင်း၊ MG-6 ပျောက်ကွားတပ်ဖွဲ့ပိုင်လက်နက်ခဲယမ်းများကို ကော်မတီက ခေတ္တထိန်းသိမ်းထားခြင်း စသော လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်များကို အချိန်နှင့် တပြေးညီ ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိကြောင်း အသိပေးတင်ပြအပ်ပါသည်။

မြင်းခြံခရိုင် ပ.က.ဖ
 မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ
 တောင်သာမြို့နယ် ပ.က.ဖ

မြင်းခြံခရိုင်တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၁)
 မြင်းခြံခရိုင်တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၂)
 မြင်းခြံခရိုင်တပ်ရင်းအမှတ်(၃)

1 MG6 Guerrilla battalion commander assassinated in Yesagyo <https://burmese.dvb.no/post/608153>

formed as a village defense force under PDF and the township-based PDF of the NUG, it later established itself as an independent LPDF. ²

In northern Shan State, a shootout between members of the People's Security and Defense Army (PSDA) occurred at around 11 pm on 23 November 2022, killing six and injuring three. ³

On 1 July 2023, PSF -Myaung arrested Ko Moe Zaw, the leader of the ZARMANI Revolution Force – Myinmu/Myaung, and two other members and one civilian near Shwepaukpin village in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, who were reportedly executed 10 days later. They were reportedly arrested for killing Ko Phoe Htaung, the leader of the PDF- Mayoekone. ⁴

These incidents represent only a few deaths resulting from frictions between the forces of the Spring Revolution. In addition to the more than 300 PDF battalions and columns under the NUG Ministry of Defense, more than 250 township-based PDFs have emerged. Hundreds of variously-named PDFs have sprouted throughout the country. Therefore, frictions and disputes between these groups are to be expected.

Review

The defensive war of the Spring Revolution is gathering steam, with increasing counter-offensives and decisive battles against the military council. While coordination, alliance building, and

2 Shootout between district PDF and LDF in Wetlet

<https://myanmar-now.org/mm/news/12475/>

3 Six killed in PDF infighting in Muse

<https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/pdf-muse-gunshot-11252022070943.html>

4 Zarmani PDF leader, two comrades, one civilian killed

<https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/zarmani-pdf-06142023031605.html>



Since we are all in the same boat, move forward together as much as we can in unity and solidarity toward our shared goal, victory.



unity among local resistance forces appears to be improving, it is becoming more urgent than ever to resolve the frictions and disputes between the PDFs, PSFs, and PDFs-LDFs.

This responsibility rests with the Defense Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry of the National Unity Government, while it is also to be shared by the Central Command and Coordination Committee (C3C) - composed of four allied EROs. Along with Defense Minister and Deputy Minister, Home Affairs Minister, and Immigration Minister of the NUG, the C3C includes the leaders and military chiefs of the member organizations, who have the authority to make politico-military decisions.

Since the "Operation – All Roads Lead to Nay Pyi Taw" aims to completely eradicate the military regime, without leaving out any part of the military regions and sub military regions throughout the country, the PDFs-LDFs, the EROs that control their respective areas, and the PDFs and PSFs will inevitably come into direct confrontation.

It would be safe to assume that the reduction and rapid resolution of frictions between the Spring Revolution forces marching toward the end of all forms of tyranny, including military dictatorship, and the creation of a federal democratic union is also part of the Spring Revolution's decisive year. This is where NUG Acting President Duwa Lashi La's message to the people may come into play.

"Since we are all in the same boat, we need to move forward together as much as we can in unity and solidarity toward our shared goal, victory."

Weekly Highlight Quote



We are worried about when and what will happen as the military council troops are present. The army in Namphatkar is important as it has controlled the situation in the surrounding area. Only the people will be hurt if the junta troops get attacked. They want to dismantle the military council, but if it starts going ineffectively like it did in the past, only the people will be hurt. It would be good if the people were informed that they were going to fight and they fought when the people were safe. It is good if they are well-prepared for fighting.



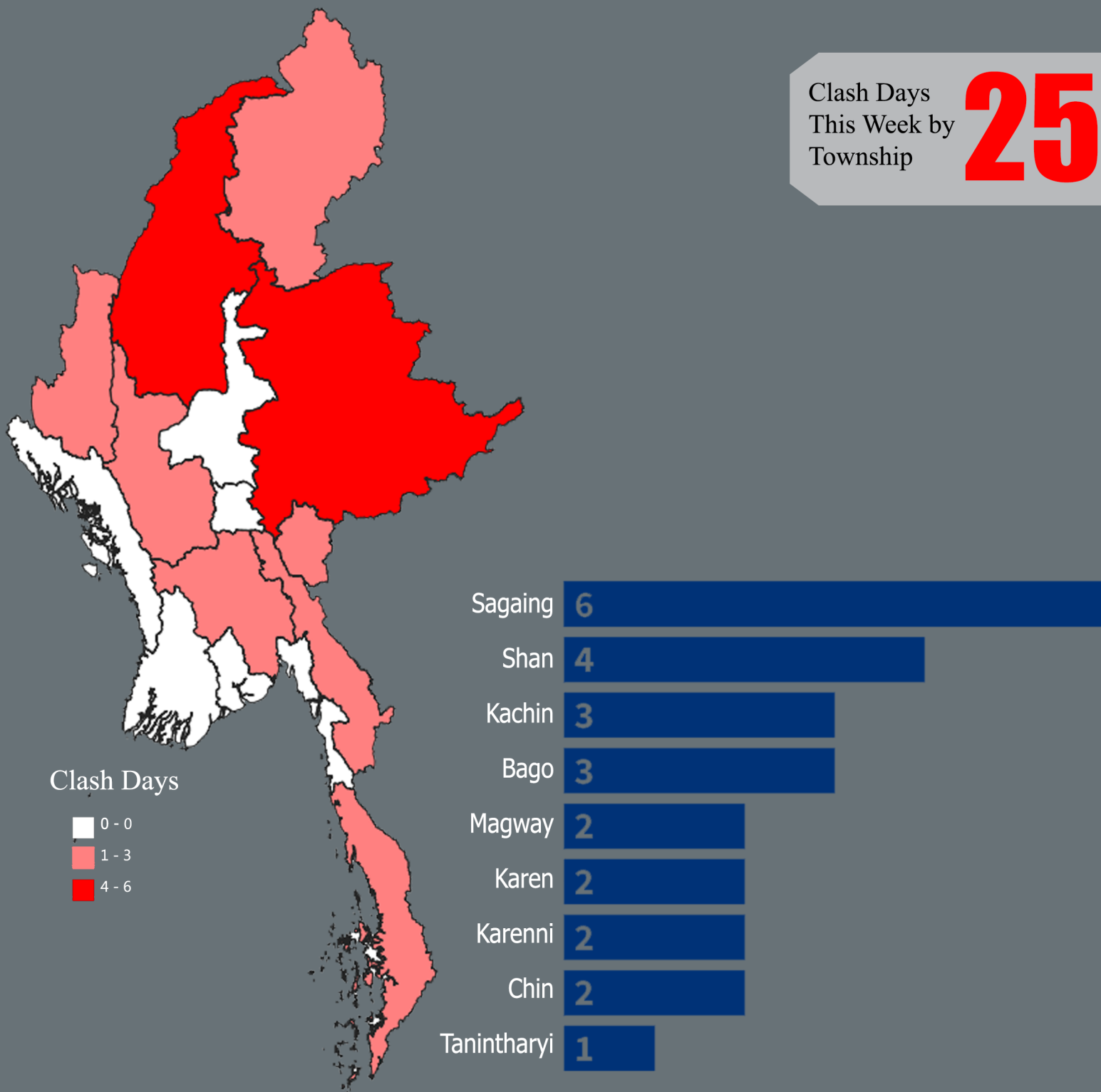
A 50-year-old local from Namphatkar
Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State

*(Excerpt from an interview with a 50-year-old local from
Namphatkar about fighting situations in Namphatkar in Northern Shan State,
which was published in the Burma News International-Myanmar Peace Monitor).*

Part II

What Happened This Week

According to the record of the Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were 25 days of battles between the military council troops, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Force (PDFs/LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 2 to 8 August. Breaking down the regions and states, Sagaing Region topped the list of clashes, with six days. Our BNI – MPM records the fighting situations in townships by date, the number of clashes may be more than now.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

2 - 8 August 2023



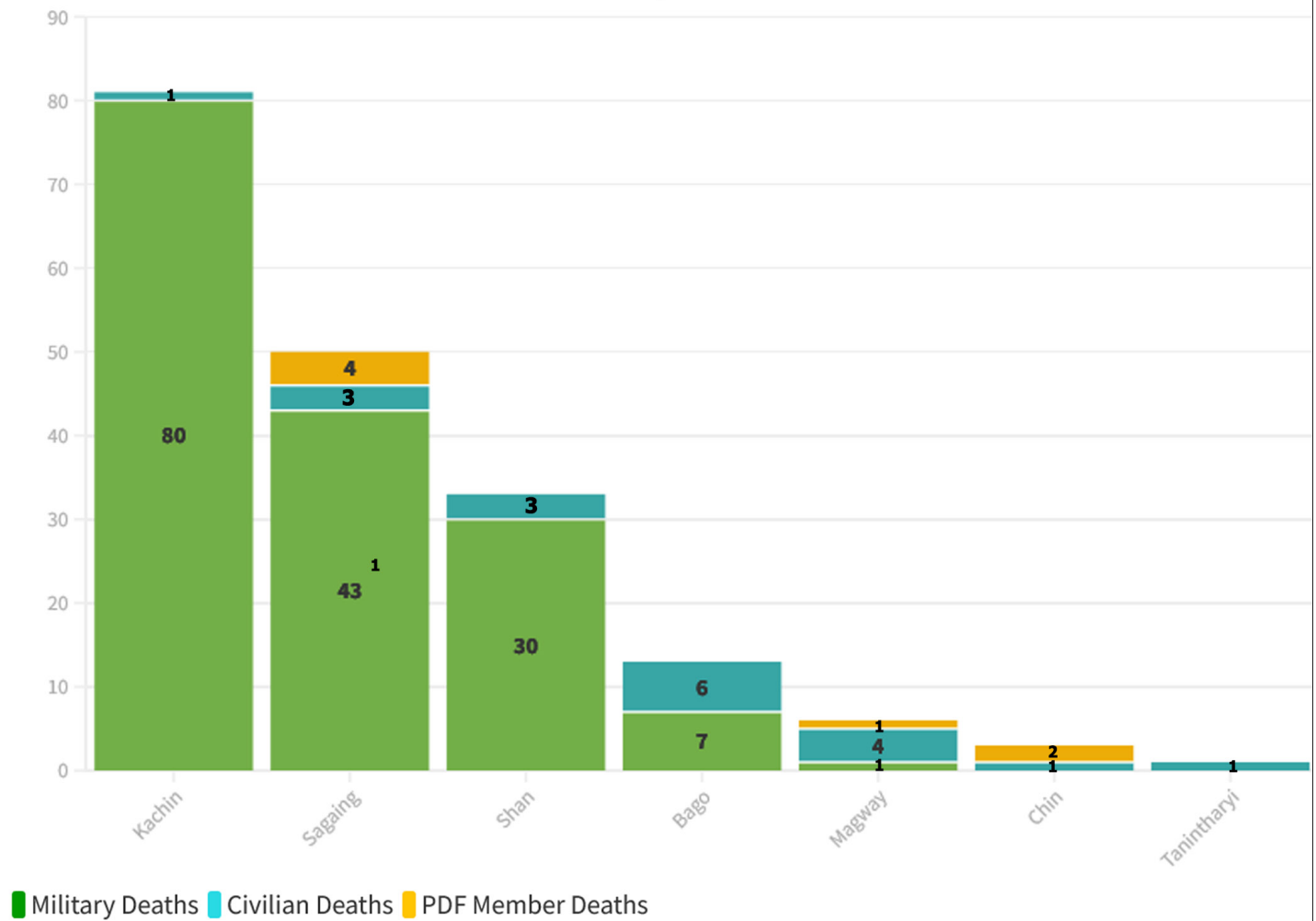
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



35450 Total Number of IDPs (2 - 8 August 2023)

Sagaing **35,000**

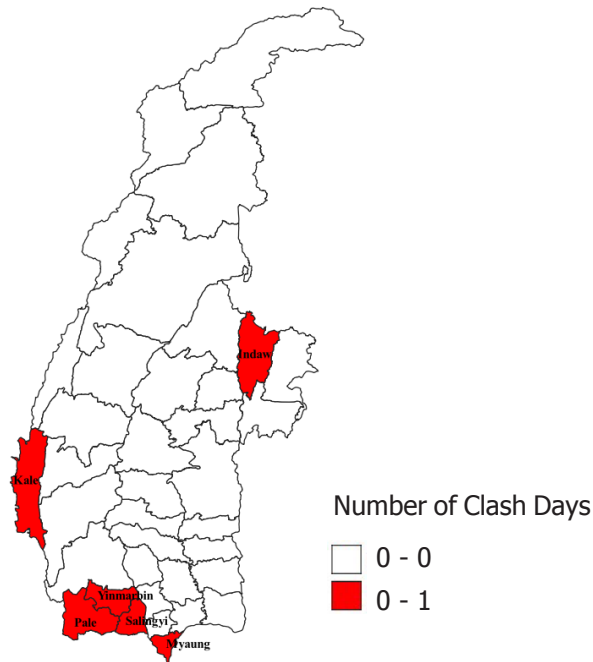
Kachin **400**

Shan **50**



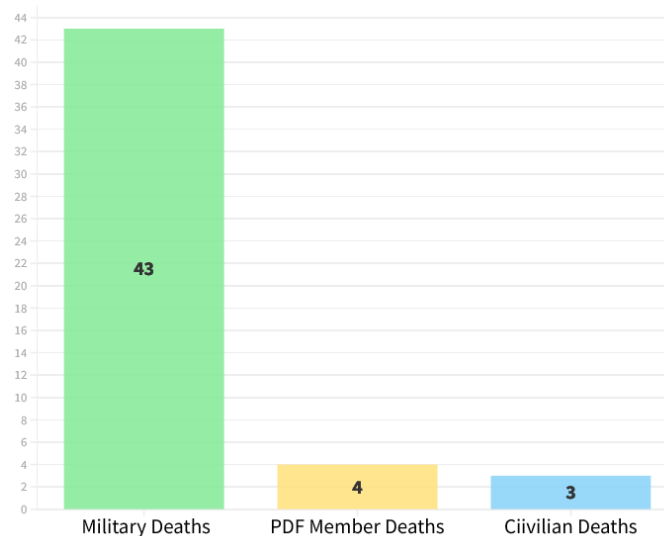
Clash Days
by Township

6 Days



Sagaing Region

Forty-one military council soldiers and three PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Kalay, Indaw, Myaung, Salingyi, Yinmarbin and Pale Townships. On 3 August, police station officer Tun Myint and surveillance officer Hsan Htay were killed in a drone attack on the compound of police station in Kani while the police station officer's birthday was being celebrated.¹ A member of the Chin National Defense Force (CNDF) who was imprisoned in Kale prison, died on 6 August due to lack of adequate healthcare and medical treatment.² The military council's shootings killed three civilians in Katha and Indaw Townships. More than 35,000 locals from Pale, YeU and Yinmarbin Townships have fled for safety due to the military council's offensives.



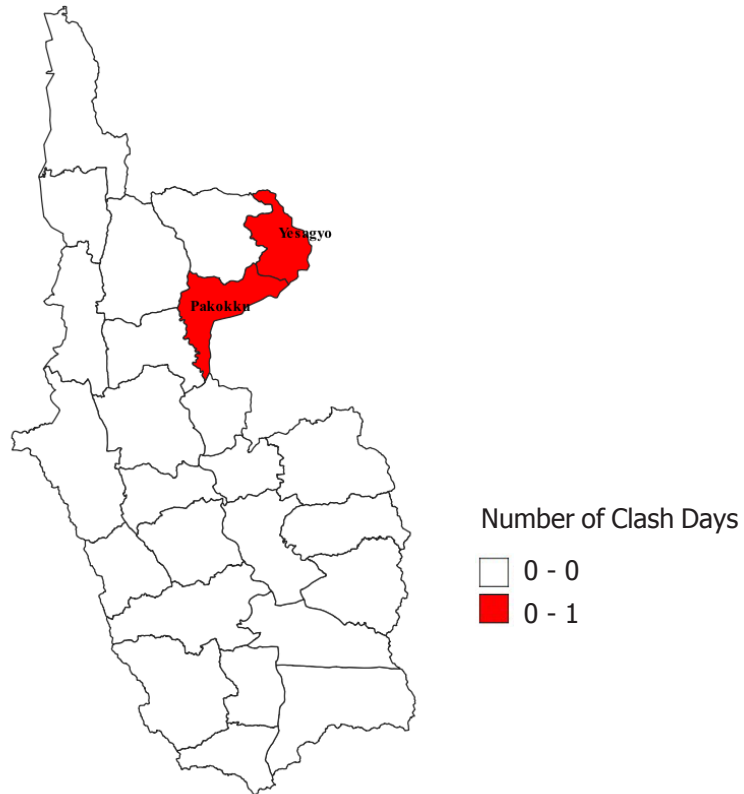
1 Police station officer and the surveillance officer were killed in a drone attack on Kani Myoma police station.

<https://tinyurl.com/24xuyq49>

2 The member of the Chin National Defense Force (CNDF) who was imprisoned in Kale prison for 10 years,

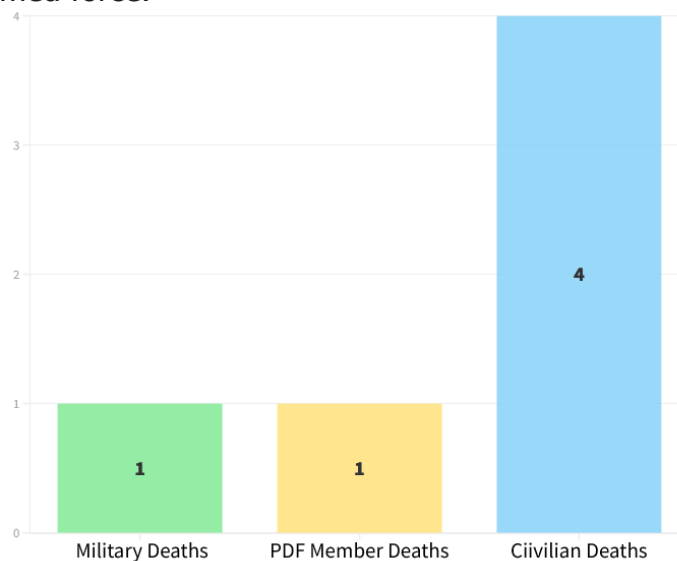
died on 6 August due to lack of adequate healthcare. <https://tinyurl.com/2548cbr7>

Clash Days
by Township
2 Days



Magway Region

One military council soldier and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Yesagyo and Pakokku Townships. In the battle in Pakokku Township on 8 August, a bomb landed on a house of the soldier from the logistics unit under Division-101, killing the soldier’s wife and mother.³ On 3 August, U Daung Tin, Dantthalunpin village administrator in Natmauk Township was assassinated by the PDF.⁴ On 7 August, military informant U Mya Win from Saithaykwin village in Shwepantaw village-tract in Aunglan Township was shot dead by an unknown armed force.⁵



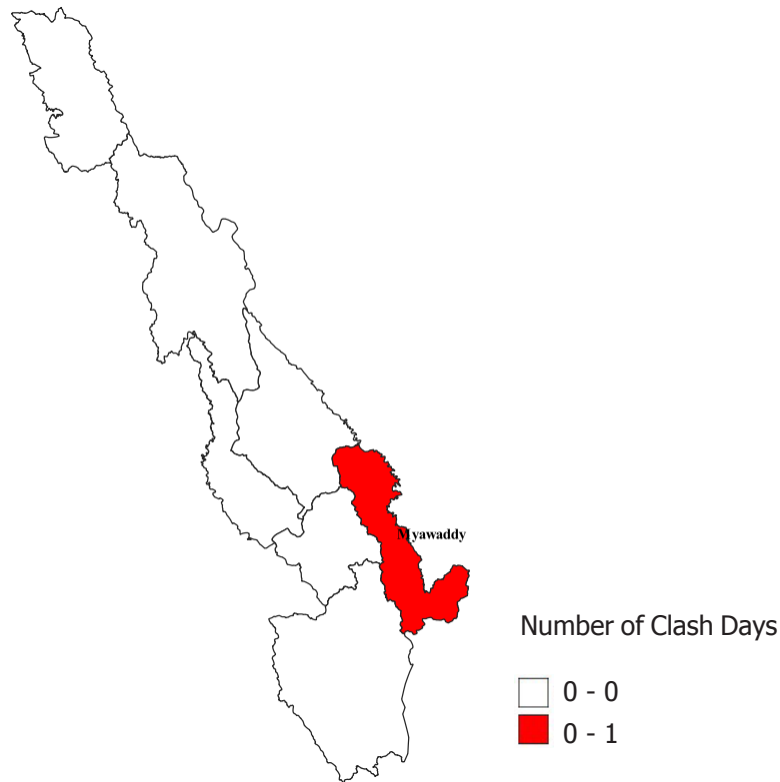
3 Joint PDFs carried out synchronized attacks on three military bases of the military council to commemorate the “8888” Uprising. <https://tinyurl.com/28mdzc6r>

4 The administrator of Dantthalunpin village in Natmauk Township was shot dead. <https://tinyurl.com/2d2598w5>

5 Military informant who is also a USDP member was killed, and his house burned down. <https://tinyurl.com/2c9stlx7>

Clash Days
by Township

2 Days

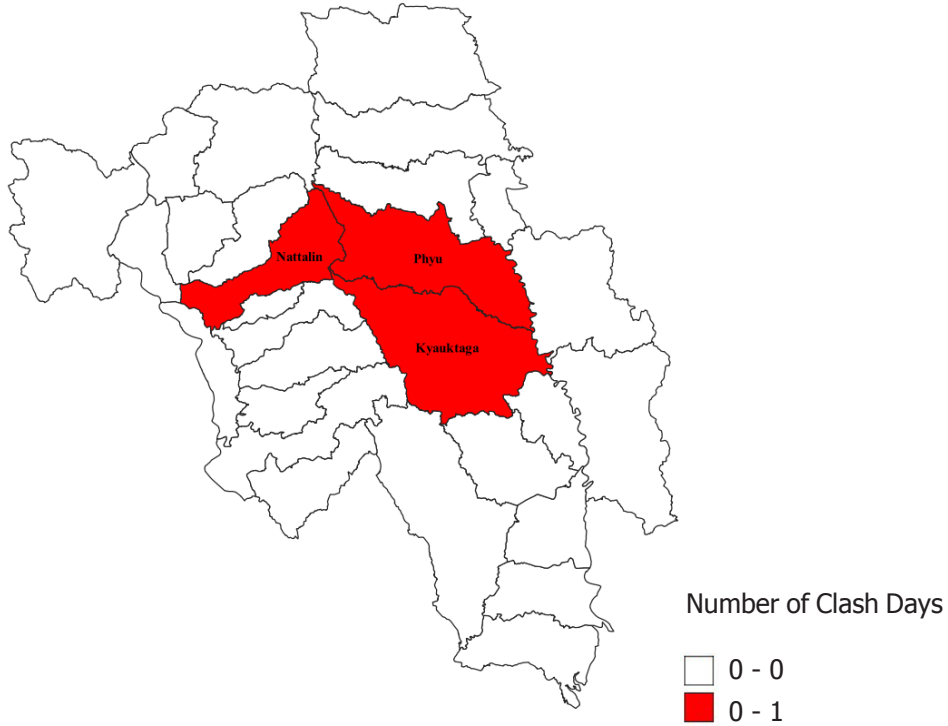


Karen State

On 7 and 8 August, fighting took place between the military council troops, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the combined PDF near Letkhattaung pagoda hill in Myawaddy. ⁶

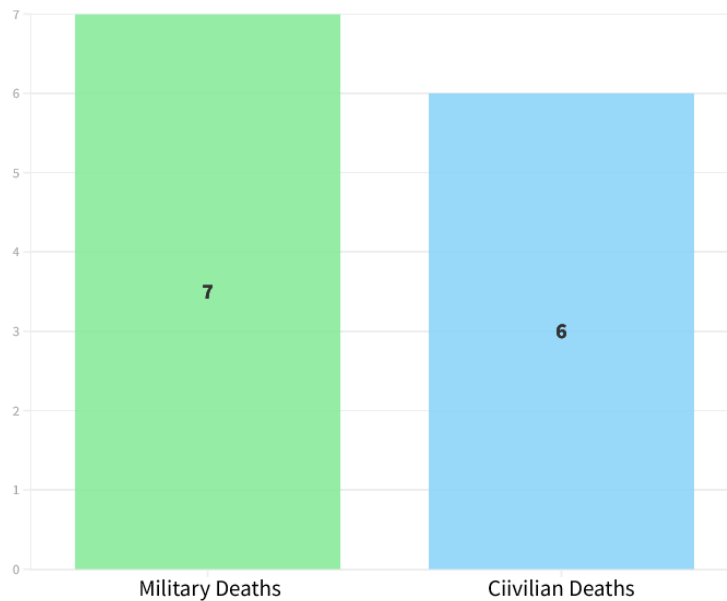
⁶ The military council and BGF are trying to recapture Letkhattaung pagoda hill with the use of heavy weapons.
<https://tinyurl.com/2bdjh2wc>

Clash Days
by Township
3 Days

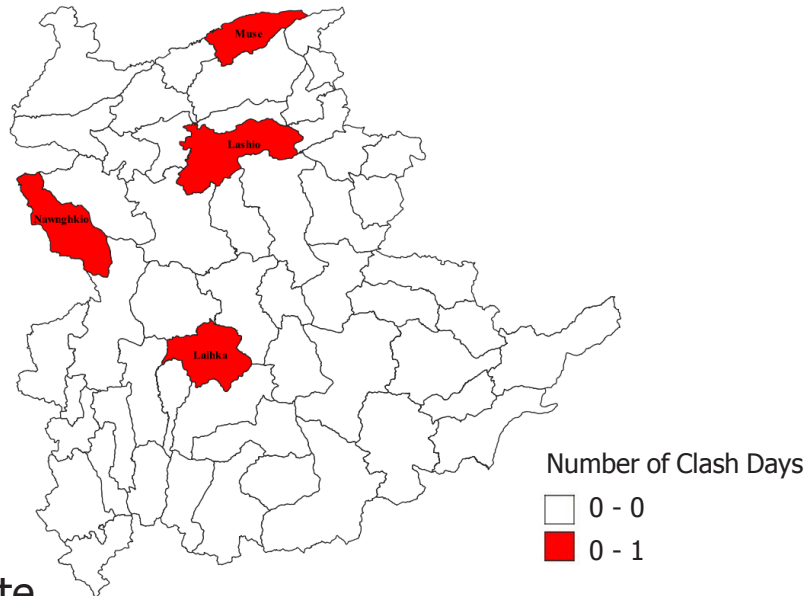


Bago Region

Seven military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council troops, the KNLA and the combined PDF in Kyauktaga, Phyu and Nattalin Townships. The military council’s artillery shelling killed three civilians in Kyauktaga and Nyaunglebin Townships. The PDF assassinated the ward/village chair of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the ward administrator and a 100-household head in Taungoo, Okpho and Yedashe Townships.

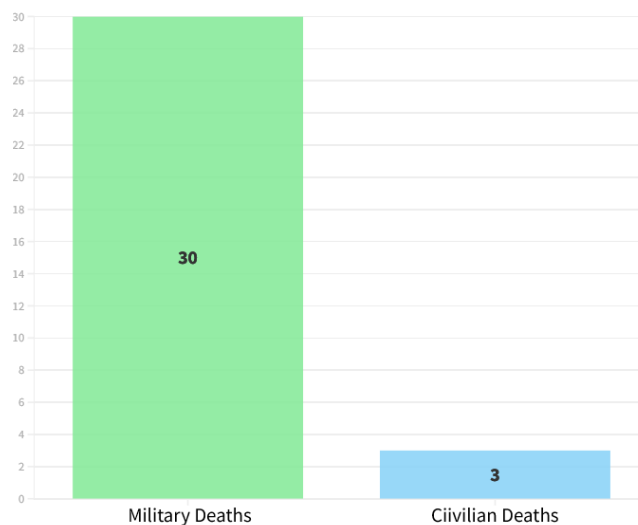


Clash Days
by Township
4 Days



Shan State

Thirty military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council troops, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) and the PDFs in Lashio, Muse, Naungcho and Lechar Townships. On 4 August, a person was killed and five wounded in a bomb blast at a car workshop in the industrial zone in Muse.⁷ On 6 August, the head of Township Development Affairs Committee and the electrical engineer in Kyaukme were shot dead by an unknown armed force while they were at a teashop.⁸ Due to the intense fighting between the military council troops and the TNLA in Sallant village-tract in Muse Township, more than 50 locals from Manhtan village have fled to safety.⁹



⁷ One killed, five wounded in Muse bomb blast. <https://tinyurl.com/26udq26n>

⁸ Head of Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee and electrical engineer shot dead. <https://tinyurl.com/28l8fxyl>

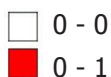
⁹ Military tension continues in Muse Township. <https://tinyurl.com/29anec5y>

Clash Days
by Township

2 Days



Number of Clash Days

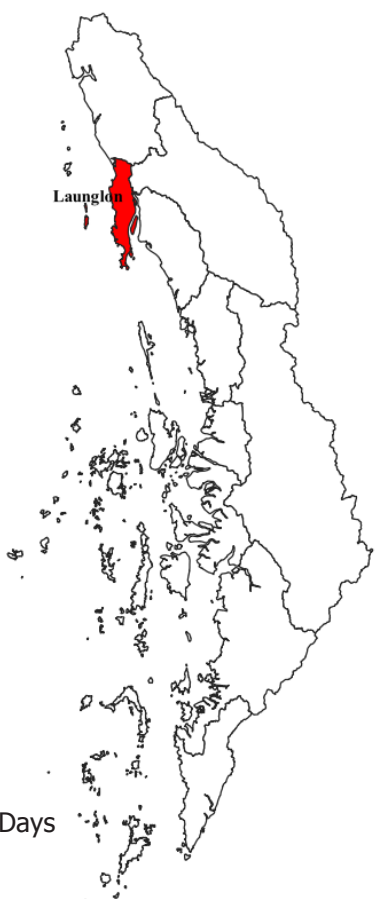


Karenni (Kayah) State

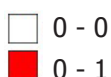
Fighting took place between the military council troops and a combined force of the Karenni Army (KA) and the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) in Demoso and Mese Townships.

Clash Days
by Township

1 Day

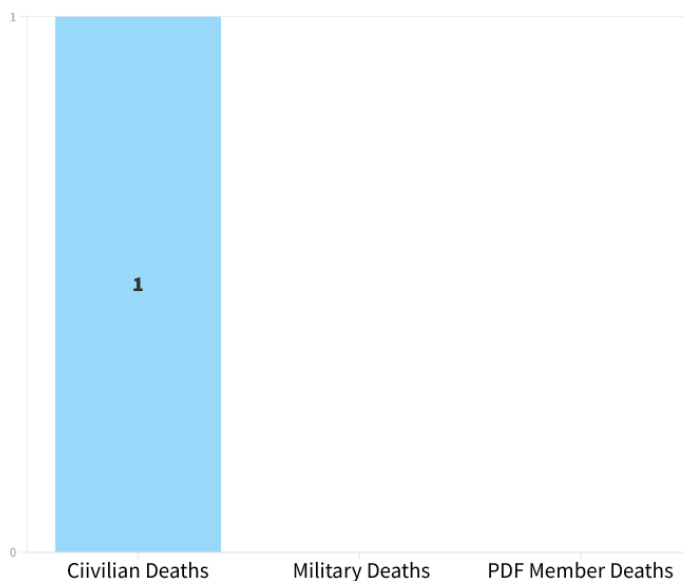


Number of Clash Days



Tanintharyi Region

On 6 August, a local was accidentally hit by a bullet and killed in Launglon Township when the PDF chased and shot a vehicle returning after buying rations for the military council.¹⁰ On 8 August, fighting took place between the military council troops and the PDF near Meteorology and Hydrology Department Office in Launglon.¹¹

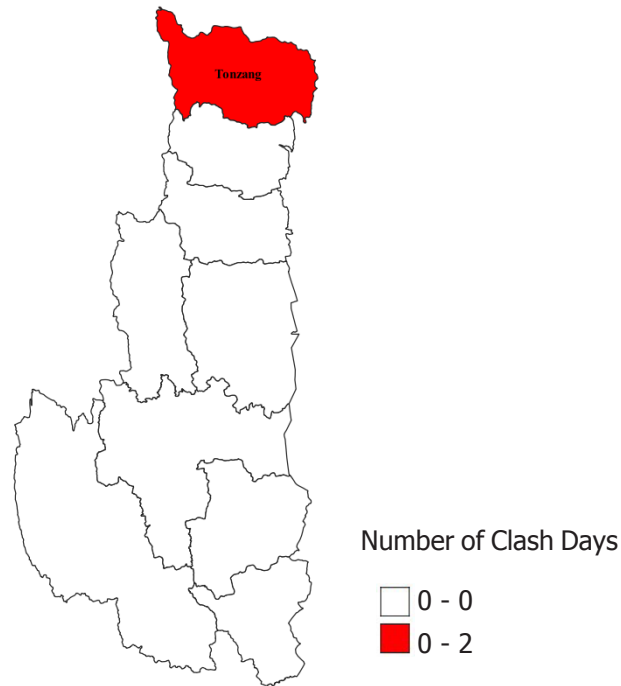


¹⁰ A local was killed in a shooting on a military ration convoy, Launglon PDF says. <https://tinyurl.com/2b3go54b>

¹¹ There was a clash between the military council and Launglon PDF while a ceremony to commemorate the "8888" Uprising was being held. <https://tinyurl.com/2btg996q>

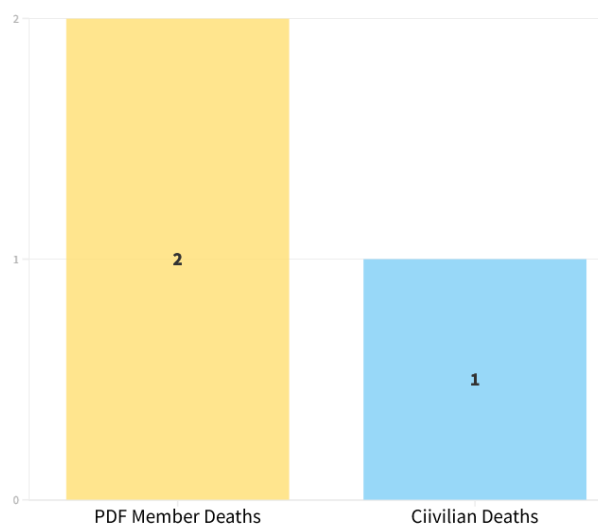
Clash Days
by Township

2 Days



Chin State

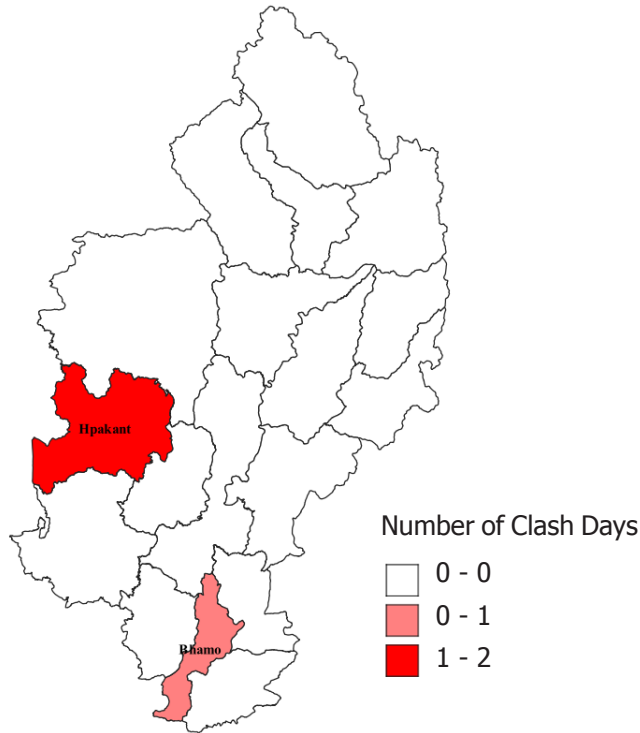
One CDF member was killed in the battle between the military council troops and the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) in Tonzang on 1 and 2 August. After the battle, a couple living near the police station tried to escape by motorbike. Due to the military council's shooting, the husband died on the spot and his wife got wound to her abdomen.¹² On 3 August, comrade Salai Awan Gay, 29, was killed in a mine accident while clearing the landmines planted by the military council on Kyindwe-Laungshay road section in Kanpetlet Township.¹³



¹² CDF members and locals were killed in a two-day battle in Tonzang. <https://www.mizzimaburmese.com/article/131604>

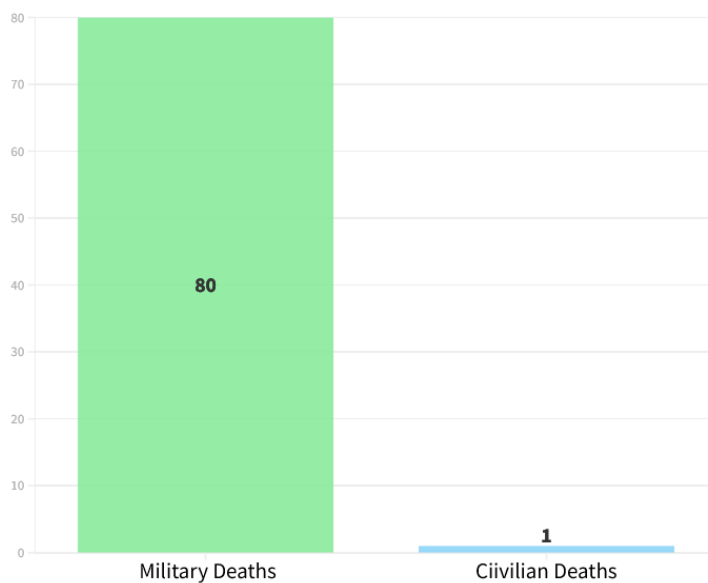
¹³ CDF member was killed in a mine explosion in the area clearance operation. <https://tinyurl.com/2cdeoz9g>

Clash Days
by Township
3 Days



Kachin State

Eighty military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council troops, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the combined PDF in Hpakant and Bhamo Townships. On 7 August, more than 400 civilians living near Nammaw fear that fighting may continue due to the military council’s heavy casualties in the battle near Nanmaw village in Hpakant Township.¹⁴ On 3 August, the head of Namati Development Affairs Department was shot dead by an unknown armed force near the railroad crossing at the entrance of Ayemyathayar ward in Myitkyina.¹⁵



14 Almost all military council soldiers were killed in Kathaingtaung battle, and the squad leader and his family were detained. <https://tinyurl.com/2bo38g93>

15 Head of Namti Development Affairs Department was shot dead. <https://tinyurl.com/2boxqhcg>



Indonesian President Joko Widodo said on 8 August that a resolution to the Myanmar crisis needed “political will” from all sides of the conflict, as divided Southeast Asian nations step up diplomatic efforts. ¹

East Timor Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao said on 7 August that the country would reconsider its goal of joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) if the bloc is unable to find a resolution to the conflict in Myanmar. It continues to follow the democratic path. It will remain unchanged according to the agreement of the United Nations. It will not be joining the ASEAN if ASEAN cannot convince the military junta in Myanmar [to end the conflict]. ²

1 A resolution to the Myanmar crisis needed “political will” from all sides of the conflict, Indonesia says. <https://tinyurl.com/2yyo4bq7>

2 The country would reconsider its goal of joining the ASEAN if the bloc is unable to find a resolution to the conflict in Myanmar, East Timor Prime Minister says. <https://tinyurl.com/27a95hm4>



The Myanmar military is committing increasingly frequent and brazen war crimes.



There is strong evidence that the Myanmar military and its affiliate militias are committing increasingly frequent and brazen war crimes, according to information collected and analysed by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (Mechanism) and outlined in its Annual Report released on 8 August.³

On 3 August, U Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (New York City), spoke about the war crimes committed by the military council. He pointed out that the United Nations Security Council has not yet been able to take action against war crimes, international crimes and human rights violations. He attended the Security Council meeting on "The risk of hunger and conflict-induced global food insecurity". He discussed the military council's denial of humanitarian aid and the starvation of the Myanmar people due to the military council's four cuts strategy.⁴

The German state prosecutor in Augsburg has launched a criminal investigation into MAN Energy Solutions, which supplied key components to the UMS Moattama warship, allegedly in violation of Germany's Foreign Trade Law and European Union Dual Use Regulations.⁵

3 War crimes by the Myanmar military are more frequent and brazen, the UN says. <https://tinyurl.com/28mhv3wp>

4 U Kyaw Moe Tun said that the Security Council has yet to take action against war crimes and human rights violations committed by the military council. <https://tinyurl.com/258hhbjt>

5 Germany launches a criminal probe into a German company which exports military equipment to Myanmar Navy. <https://tinyurl.com/2y4rq5cv>

Remark:

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