

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2023:
Junta Again Denies Genocide on 6-year Anniversary**

- As of 28 Aug 2023, there were at least 25,338 armed clashes and attacks, displacing 1,628,000 people since Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Activists mark six years since Rohingya Genocide, call for end to junta impunity.
- Human cost of mining continues to rise: at least 30 killed in jade mine landslide; illegal junta displaces and murders civilians around Sagaing copper mine.
- Junta resorts to arrests and brute force as foreign banks turn their backs and foreign exchange rates rise.
- Clashes increase in eastern Bago Region as resistance makes inroads.
- Junta flotilla sails up Irrawaddy through Kachin State, kills civilians, takes others hostage.
- Junta cabinet is purged of ten senior members in a move to strengthen grip on key ministries and ensure longevity.
- Foreign aid still banned as junta propagandizes UNOCHA meeting.
- Junta expels Timor-Leste diplomat after NUG meetings.
- US expands junta sanctions to entire jet fuel supply chain.
- Sagaing PDFs display worrying disregard for civilian impact, kill imprisoned CDM doctor during junta convoy ambush.
- Junta once more admits incapacity, withdraws itself from 2025-26 ASEAN chairship.
- H&M announces exit after report reveals expansive labour abuses, more than 42,000 workers left concerned for their livelihoods.
- Regime fires and arrests prison staff accused of aiding political prisoners.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

On 29 Aug, the junta's supreme court rejected special appeals filed by Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers against her convictions in five cases. An anonymous legal official said her legal team would continue with appeals despite the "amnesty" offered to her on 1 Aug. It was reported that her whereabouts were not known.

Junta purges cabinet, states "election" plan

On 2 Aug, it was reported that coup leader Min Aung Hlaing forced 10 senior junta members to resign "on health grounds" in a move to strengthen the junta's grip on all key ministries and ensure its longevity following the extension of its state of emergency.¹ On 3 Aug, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing appointed former Transport and Communications Minister Gen. Tin Aung San as defense minister and former defense minister Gen. Mya Tun Oo as transport and communications minister. A CDM leader said this was because **the coup leader had increasingly relied on this ministry to tackle issues around airplanes and cyber communication.** The CDM leader also said that Lt. Gen Yar Pyae was assigned to lead the Home Affairs Ministry as his predecessor Soe Htut had been in poor health.²

On 7 Aug at the first meeting with his cabinet, the regime leader reiterated that the junta's ultimate goal was to hold "free and fair" elections. He blamed Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and PDFs for "instability" that had delayed the junta's planned election.³ On 22 Aug, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun claimed that the junta would "take serious action" to confirm who could vote in the junta's planned election and repeated the lie that election fraud had occurred during the 2020 election.⁴

CRPH, NUG & other democratic forces (more details at [CRPH, NUG & other democratic forces tracker](#))

On 6 Aug, the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the NUG released a joint statement outlining their **ultimate political goal of ending all forms of dictatorship and establishing a federal democratic union** through the implementation of federal democratic practices and the establishment of a civilian-controlled Federal Union Army. They also pledged to implement transitional justice mechanisms to address past human rights violations.⁵

On 6 Aug, the **Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC)** announced it was establishing departments of Education; Health; Humanitarian and Rehabilitation; Home Affairs; Defense and Security; Women and Children Affairs; and Planning, Finance and Revenue by the end of September. U Banya, secretary of the IEC, said it was working with the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC), the NUG, civil society, and other stakeholders to run the administration effectively.⁶ On 6 Aug, the People's Administration for Mindat Township formed the **Mindat Chin National Council (CNC)**. A spokesperson for the township's People's Administration stated that the body would develop and implement political policies that could guarantee federal democracy, self-determination, equality, and basic human rights for the Chin people.⁷ On 20 Aug, the **Chin State People's Police Force** announced that they had approved the "Chin State People's Police Law and Constitution". Following the approval, a chief and deputy chief of police will be elected to implement the constitution. The Chin State People's Police Force is recognized by the Chin National Consultative Council and is allied with the NUG **Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration's People's Police Force.**⁸

On 4 Aug, the NUG **Ministry of Justice** stated that it had resolved 29 out of 74 civil cases and 173 out of 306 criminal cases that had come to court by Jun 2023. They had also provided legal training to judges, law officers, and lawyers in cooperation with Union Ministries, government departments, parliaments, PDFs, EAOs, and CSOs.⁹ On 7 Aug, in Saw Township (Magway Region), eight suspects from the People's Security Team (PST) were arrested for repeatedly raping a woman under their custody in late April. The PST functions as law enforcement in areas under NUG control. Despite the case being already settled, a new investigation revealed that seven of the accused later became PST members after their arrest. The NUG's Prime Minister's Office spokesperson said they would investigate their appointment.¹⁰

¹ Irrawaddy (3 Aug 2023) Chief Justice, Ministers Among Those Forced to Resign from Myanmar's Military Government

² RFA (9 Aug 2023) Military reshuffling aims to keep Myanmar's ruling junta in place for the long term

³ Irrawaddy (9 Aug 2023) At First Meeting of New Cabinet, Myanmar Junta Boss Repeats Call for 'Law and Order'

⁴ Eleven Media (23 Aug 2023) The rights of those who can vote will be taken seriously in upcoming elections: SAC spokesperson

⁵ NUCC (6 Aug 2023) Joint Statement of the Common Position of Revolutionary Organizations Fighting Together in the Spring Revolution

⁶ Than Lwin Times (11 Aug 2023) Karenni State government to run administrative system

⁷ Khonumthung (10 Aug 2023) Chin National Council Formed in Mindat

⁸ Khit Thit Media (20 Aug 2023) ချင်းပြည်နယ် ပြည်သူ့ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့ကို ဖွဲ့စည်းမည့် ဥပဒေကို တရားဝင်ကြေညာ

⁹ NUG (4 Aug 2023) Ministry of Justice's Public Release

¹⁰ Myanmar Now (7 Aug 2023) Eight members of People's Security Team arrested for rape

On 23 Aug, the Monywa Township Administration, Security, and Defense Committee announced that the **NUG's Monywa Township Security Team** had indicted seven men involved in the murder of a pregnant woman in Monywa town (Sagaing Region) and the case would be tried in a local NUG court.¹¹

On 10 Aug, in the first Central Committee meeting after the 17th Karen National Union Congress, KNU president Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win announced an investigative team will examine if KNU leaders had violated its rules and regulations through their links to the Hyunya Chinese new city project in Myawaddy Township (Karen State) and to a gambling ring called KK Park. A contract linked to the new city project, apparently signed by senior KNU leaders, had appeared in social media in late Apr.¹²

On 29 Aug, it was reported that support for Civil Disobedience Movement participants in India's Mizoram State had dwindled after the NUG shifted its financial support towards armed resistance and crowdfunding support campaigns diminished. Some CDMers in Mizoram said they received USD 12-24 from the NUG every two to three months while others said they had not received any NUG assistance.¹³

On 9 Aug, the Central Work Committee of the NLD expelled Henry Van Thio from the party for collaborating with the junta and failing to follow the party's objectives and policies.¹⁴ This followed his meeting with the regime's National Defence and Security Council on 31 Jul. It was reported that since 1 Feb 2021, the regime had arbitrarily arrested nine members of the NLD's Central Executive Committee.¹⁵

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

On 8 Aug, the **junta arrested 13 amateur actors, including a 12-year-old girl**, and a Swiss film director over a film the regime claimed had insulted the virtue of Buddhist monks. Anti-regime Buddhist monks countered the junta's claims, said that Buddhism encourages critical thinking, and accused the regime and its supporters of misusing Buddhism.¹⁶

On 15 Aug, in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region), resistance forces used landmines to attack a regime convoy, which **killed a CDM doctor** and injured another political prisoner and 23 others.¹⁷ A friend of the deceased said resistance groups involved in the ambush knew the convoy was carrying prisoners and had warned each other to not use explosives. It was reported that the **convoy also carried copper from the Letpadaung mine**.¹⁸ On 19 Aug, the NUG **Ministry of Health** stated it would investigate the attack which caused the death of CDM doctor Zaw Htoi.¹⁹

On 23 Aug, the **regime sentenced rapper Byuhar to 20 years** in prison for criticizing the junta on social media over blackouts in May. A lawyer said that the 20-year sentence was "**deliberately vindictive**".²⁰

Junta continues abuse of prisoners

On 4 Aug, it was reported that in Bago Region, **only 40 of the 500 people the junta gave amnesty on 1 Aug were political prisoners**. It was reported that all freed political prisoners had less than six months left to serve on their sentences.²¹

On 4 Aug, it was reported that in Thayarwaddy prison (Bago Region), **guards beat and placed into solitary confinement 31 prisoners, including 15 women**, for commemorating Martyr's Day on 19 Jul. A spokesperson for the Political Prisoners Network-Myanmar said that four male prisoners were hospitalized and four female prisoners required medical treatment after the beatings.²² On 9 Aug, it was reported that eight political prisoners at Daik-U Prison (Bago Region) had been in solitary confinement since 25 Jul. The prisoners had been beaten and denied care packages from their families.²³

Telegram the new Facebook?

On 25 Aug, it was reported that there were at least 40 active pro-junta channels on the social media platform Telegram with between 10,000 and 90,000 subscribers each. The personal information of critics

¹¹ Mizzima (27 Aug 2023) NUG court charges seven over murder of pregnant woman in Sagaing's Monywa

¹² NMG via BNI (15 Aug 2023) KNU: Investigation into "Investments Linked to Criminal Activities"

¹³ Al Jazeera (29 Aug 2023) Myanmar's striking civil servants: Displaced, forgotten, but holding on

¹⁴ NLD via Facebook (9 Aug 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/29mey8zs>

¹⁵ Mizzima (10 Aug 2023) NLD's former vice president Henry Van Thio dismissed from party

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (23 Aug 2023) Buddhist Monks Condemn Myanmar Junta for Arrests Over 'Blasphemous' Movie

¹⁷ RFA (17 Aug 2023) Landmine kills inmate and driver during Myanmar prison transfer; Irrawaddy (16 Aug 2023) Jailed Myanmar Doctor Killed, Another Critically Injured in Prison Transfer

¹⁸ Myanmar Now (18 Aug 2023) Incarcerated doctor killed in resistance attack on junta prison convoy

¹⁹ NUG MOH via Facebook (19 Aug 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4554hsm5>

²⁰ Mizzima (26 Aug 2023) Rapper Byuhar receives 20-year prison sentence for criticizing blackouts

²¹ Mizzima (4 Aug 2023) 40 out of 500 prisoners released early in Bago Region are political prisoners

²² Irrawaddy (4 Aug 2023) Political Prisoners Tortured for Honoring Myanmar's Martyrs' Day

²³ Myanmar Now (9 Aug 2023) Eight Daik-U prisoners placed in solitary confinement

of the junta was frequently leaked through these channels and would often lead to arrests. A freedom of speech activist said that the regime targeted people who wrote anti-junta or pro-NUG/CRPH messages on Facebook and those who advocated participation in protests or fundraisers. A Burma based media consultant said that Telegram was not doing enough to tackle state-sponsored hate speech.²⁴

On 9 Aug, in Mandalay (Mandalay Region) **junta forces rearrested a charity worker**, Nwe Nwe Win, who was released in May. The arrest came hours after pro-junta Telegram users posted a photo that claimed to show Nwe Nwe Win commemorating the 35th anniversary of the 1988 pro-democracy protest movement.²⁵ On 13 Aug, in Mandalay, regime forces **arrested a 70-year-old woman and her three daughters**, hours after pro-junta Telegram users shared a pro-PDF-comment she had posted on Facebook and demanded the junta arrest her. It was reported that the regime later sealed her home and claimed that they had found uniforms linking them to the NLD.²⁶ On 18 Aug, pro-junta Telegram channels reported that a military tribunal in Indaw Township (Sagaing Region) **sentenced four civilians to death**. Only two of the prisoners were reportedly confirmed to be at the regime base where the tribunal was held. Locals feared regime troops had killed the other two.²⁷

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

On 8 Aug, it was reported that the **junta burned down approximately 74,874 civilians' houses**, 77% of which were in Sagaing Region, since the attempted coup. It was reported that **34.5% of the total houses burned down were destroyed in the first seven months on 2023**.²⁸

Earlier on 4 Aug, citing data gathered from resident testimonies and notices from the junta, it was reported that the regime demolished over 16,500 civilian houses and buildings using the pretext of "encroachment on land owned by the state". In Yangon, nearly 11,700 houses and buildings were demolished.²⁹

On 31 Aug, citing photographic evidence gathered between Jul 2022 - Aug 2023 in Chin, Karenni, and Karen States, the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) reported that the **junta manufactured cluster munitions and deployed them as recently as June**. CMC stated that the bombs consisted of twelve 120mm mortar shells on an internal frame, which met the definition of cluster munitions under the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. Although it was not known where the junta manufactured the bombs, markings on some bomb remnants indicated that the steel used in its construction came from Thailand.³⁰

Junta grows desperate as defections rise

On 15 Aug, it was reported that in the first two weeks of August more than **50 junta officers and their families had deserted** and joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), including two majors and three captains. Sergeant Zey Ya of the People's Goal said that more regime troops had deserted and were hiding on their own. He added that deserters fled before the implementation of a national registration "smart card" which would have made passing through regime checkpoints more difficult.³¹ On 26 Aug, citing a leaked document dated 1 Aug, it was reported that **Light Infantry Battalion 114 had only 132 troops** instead of the 857 required to be considered a battalion.³²

On 9 Aug, the junta ordered all state departments in S. Shan State to submit a list of remaining civil servants by 17 Aug. The document said all civil servants, including healthcare and education staff, would be used as auxiliary forces and formed into militias. A local source said that the regime has resorted to 'recruiting' auxiliary forces because it lacked enough personnel to control S. Shan State.

KNU reaffirms NCA's failure, others keep up the facade

On 10 Aug, KNU General Secretary said that the **regime had violated the basic principles** of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and that the **KNU had no more reason to adhere to the NCA**. He added that the KNU would not accept the junta's planned election and that no future elections should be held based on the military drafted 2008 constitution.³³ In an interview, published 10 Aug, Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) spokesperson Lt-Col Oum Khur said that the **RCSS would continue**

²⁴ Mizzima (25 Aug 2023) Despite takedowns, pro-military doxing rampant in Myanmar Telegram channels

²⁵ Myanmar Now (11 Aug 2023) Myanmar junta re-arrests head of Mandalay-based charity group

²⁶ Myanmar Now (15 Aug 2023) Myanmar regime arrests 70-year-old woman, daughters over online comment

²⁷ Irrawaddy (30 Aug 2023) Two Feared Dead After Telegram Death Sentences in Myanmar

²⁸ Irrawaddy (10 Aug 2023) Almost 75,000 Homes Incinerated by Junta Forces in Myanmar Since the Coup

²⁹ RFA (4 Aug 2023) More than 16,500 homes and buildings destroyed by Myanmar junta since coup

³⁰ Cluster Munition Coalition (31 Aug 2023) Cluster Munition Coalition Condemns Myanmar's Use of Cluster Munitions

³¹ RFA (15 Aug 2023) More than 50 officers and family members desert Myanmar military

³² Irrawaddy (26 Aug 2023) Army defector says Myanmar's military has deteriorated rapidly since the coup

³³ RFA (10 Aug 2023) Myanmar's Karen National Union says nationwide cease-fire agreement is dead

dialogue with the regime and that they believed armed conflict would escalate civil war.³⁴ On 22 Aug the junta's spokesperson said the KNU, the Chin National Front (CNF), and the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) had "deviated" from the NCA.³⁵

During 29-30 Aug, delegates from the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC), and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), all members of the **Peace Process Steering Committee (PPST)**, met with the regime's **National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC)**. On 30 Aug, junta media reported that they discussed amendments to the 2008 Constitution but did not state which articles were discussed.

Monsoon rains further Mocha misery

On 15 Aug Narinjara reported that, three months after Cyclone Mocha made landfall, around **70% Rakhine State civilians still lacked proper shelter**.³⁶ Locals continued to report limited delivery of recovery materials. A former lawmaker stated that the **junta didn't have "effective means" to deliver aid** and a local businessman added that junta restrictions had "crippled" the capacities of international NGOs to deliver aid.³⁷ A World Bank report published on 7 Aug estimated that Cyclone Mocha caused **around USD 2.24 billion in damage**.³⁸ On 22 Aug, citing a junta spokesperson, DMG reported that over 90 percent of cyclone-affected schools and healthcare facilities in Rakhine State had been repaired. However, local sources indicated that **many schools were still awaiting repairs** and that some villagers were taking it upon themselves to rebuild their own homes.³⁹

Heavy monsoon rains across Rakhine, Karen, and Mon states and Bago Region **further complicated the post-Mocha recovery**. The rains displaced approximately 40,000 people, and killed at least six people.⁴⁰ In Rakhine State, monsoon rains **forced residents to evacuate several IDP camps** in Kyauktaw, Minbya, and Mrauk-U Townships, destroyed hundreds of camp shelters, flooded at least one hundred drinking water ponds, submerged more than 500,000 acres of rice paddy, and killed at least two people.⁴¹ In Mrauk-U Township flooding affected 12 of the 17 IDP camps.⁴² It was reported that **at least 15% of cyclone victims were still displaced when monsoon rains began** and that flooded roads would further slow humanitarian aid delivery and risk increasing disease in Rakhine State.⁴³ Locals condemned the junta's limited humanitarian response to the floods.⁴⁴ Heavy rains also hit Karen and Mon States and Bago Region. In Bilin Township (Mon State) flooding displaced around 10,000 people and locals condemned the junta for failing to provide any support to flood victims.⁴⁵ In Myawaddy Township (Karen State), landslides destroyed a section of the Asia Highway.⁴⁶

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported 813,20 civilians had been displaced in Sagaing as of 28 Aug 2023.⁴⁷

On 2 Aug, in **Ayadaw Township**, junta troops raided Baw Kone village and torched 10 houses, took six villagers as human shields, and forced nearly 8,000 residents from nine villages to flee.⁴⁸

³⁴ Than Lwin Times (23 Aug 2023) "It cannot be definitely said that NCA has been invalid. Internal conflict is intensifying due to armed resistance," Lt-Col Oum Khur, spokesperson of RCSS

³⁵ DVB (24 Aug 2023) Regime states Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement not 'void'; Over 100 days since Cyclone Mocha destruction

³⁶ Narinjara (15 Aug 2023) 3 months after Mocha, 70% Rakhine people still lack proper shelter

³⁷ RFA (9 Aug 2023) Three months after cyclone, Myanmar's Rakhine state still seeing little aid

³⁸ World Bank (7 Aug 2023) Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Mocha, May 2023, Myanmar: Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) Report

³⁹ DMG (22 Aug 2023) Over 90% of cyclone-hit schools, healthcare facilities repaired in Arakan State: junta spox

⁴⁰ Arakan Army (14 Aug 2023) Statement on the need for emergency assistance due to the torrential rains and flooding in Arakan

⁴¹ DMG (10 Aug 2023) Floods destroy hundreds of IDP shelters in Arakan State; DMG (9 Aug 2023) Scores of drinking water lakes flooded in Minbya and Kyauktaw; DMG (8 Aug 2023) Over 500,000 acres of paddy flooded in northern Arakan State; Narinjara (8 Aug 2023) Mother with minor baby drowned in Laymyo river of Rakhine State

⁴² Irrawaddy (8 Aug 2023) Deadly Floods Displace Thousands in Three Myanmar Border States

⁴³ RFA (16 Aug 2023) Monsoon rains complicate cyclone recovery efforts in Myanmar

⁴⁴ DMG (18 Aug 2023) Flood victims complain of little assistance from junta

⁴⁵ Than Lwin Times (11 Aug 2023) More than 10,000 flood victims in Mon state need emergency assistance; Than Lwin Times (16 Aug 2023) Military council fails to provide flood recovery assistance in Mon State

⁴⁶ Karen News (14 Aug 2023) Damaged Kawkaik-Myawaddy Road Forces Vehicles onto Old Route, Facing Military Council's Exorbitant Charges

⁴⁷ UNHCR (28 Aug 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 28 Aug 2023)

⁴⁸ RFA (3 Aug 2023) Myanmar military arrests Sagaing region villagers, torches homes

On 3 Aug, in **Tabayin Township**, junta soldiers clashed with resistance forces after they raided, shelled, injured two civilians, and torched 27 houses in Ma Ya Kan village. Volunteers said that 1,000 more IDPs had arrived in the township on top of the 10,000 that fled from Shwebo Township after 30 Jul.⁴⁹

On 7 Aug, in **Budalin Township**, local resistance forces including NUG-affiliated groups raided a fire station and arrested 21 department staff and relatives. They accused the arrested of helping the junta seal off dissidents' houses and arrest civilians and failing to put out junta arson attacks quickly. This was the first time a resistance group conducted a raid on a fire station since the attempted coup.⁵⁰

On 9 Aug, in **Khin-U Township**, junta troops shelled Ma Yan Inn village, injured four civilians including a child, and forced 3,000 residents from several villages to flee in retaliation to a resistance force attack on a nearby junta column.⁵¹ On 25 Aug, locals reported that junta troops had been shelling and raiding villages everyday which had killed one civilian and forced over 6,000 residents to flee.⁵²

On 10 Aug, in **Wetlet Township**, Mizzima reported that since the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway line repair works started on 10 Aug, the junta had raided at least eight villages and forced 10,000 residents to flee.⁵³ On 12-14 Aug, junta troops killed four civilians and injured six others over a three-day air and ground assault. On 12 Aug, the junta raided Pae Ta Gyi village, killed a disabled man, and caused another civilian to die from a heart attack. They also raided Htan Gyi village and killed two civilians. A junta column arrived by river and torched around 50 houses in Ngar Bat Chaung village. On 13 Aug, the junta shelled Htone Bo Kone village and injured a child and an elderly woman. On 14 Aug, junta fighter jets strafed Pauk Kan village and injured four residents.⁵⁴ On 25 Aug, junta troops abducted six civilians from Kyi Kan village. Of those abducted, they gang-raped and killed one pregnant woman and killed three.⁵⁵ On 26 Aug, the junta killed two civilians during a raid on Hla Taw village.⁵⁶

On 11 Aug, in **Sagaing Township**, the junta bombed an IDP shelter in a monastery in Ta Laing village, killed four civilians, including a toddler, and injured at least 10 others. Afterwards, junta troops raided the village, arrested around 20 residents, and forced over 6,000 civilians to flee.⁵⁷ During 15-21 Aug, junta forces killed two civilians amid raids and clashes with resistance forces. On Aug 15, the junta shelled Khet Kha village and killed a woman. On 17 Aug, they torched half of the village. On 19 Aug, they clashed with resistance forces in Pauk Kar village, injured three civilians. On 21 Aug, they shelled Mu Mandalay village and killed one civilian. Later, they clashed with resistance fighters in Htan Taw Seik village, killed three, and then torched houses in Kyun U Taw village.⁵⁸

During 15-21 Aug, in **Kale Township**, junta troops shelled and strafed Thar Si village, killed a civilian, and injured two others after a clash with local resistance forces on the strategic Kale-Gangaw road. Locals said that it was likely that the junta had used incendiary weapons during the attacks because shelling victims vomited after coming into contact with the weapons' smoke and houses burned very quickly. Resistance forces reportedly experienced numbness in limbs and difficulty breathing. Junta troops continued shelling nearby villages, forced around 5,000 residents to flee, and continued strategically torching houses in Thar Si village for a week. Residents speculated that the junta carried out the attacks a monk in Magway Region asked for military intervention to assist Pyu Saw Htee strongholds facing food shortages due to resistance blockages.⁵⁹

On 20-21 Aug, in **Shwebo Township**, junta troops raided Chi Par village on 20 Aug and Me Taw village on 21 Aug. During the raids, they killed three people and beheaded one hostage.⁶⁰

On 20-21 Aug, in **Tigyang Township**, the junta launched aerial and ground attacks and kidnapped around 50 civilians in Zee Kone, Kyauk Hmaw, and Nat Inn villages after an attack by joint Arakan Army, Kachin Independence Army, and PDF forces.⁶¹

⁴⁹ Irrawaddy (3 Aug 2023) Myanmar's Depayin Swamped by 25,000 Refugees Amid Junta Onslaught

⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (9 Aug 2023) Resistance groups arrest fire department staff and relatives in Budalin

⁵¹ Myanmar Now (10 Aug 2023) Pyu Saw Htee members freed in raid on resistance jail in Khin-U

⁵² RFA (25 Aug 2023) More than 6,000 people flee junta raids in Myanmar's Sagaing region

⁵³ Mizzima (30 Aug 2023) 10,000 displaced people in Sagaing's Wetlet Township urgently need supplies

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (15 Aug 2023) Terror Campaign Intensifies in Sagaing Region as Myanmar Junta Fights to Hang On

⁵⁵ Myanmar Now (29 Aug 2023) Myanmar army soldiers rape and murder pregnant woman in Sagaing's Wetlet Township

⁵⁶ RFA (28 Aug 2023) Myanmar army kills 2 villagers in Sagaing region raid

⁵⁷ RFA (11 Aug 2023) Junta airstrike kills 4 civilians in Myanmar's Sagaing region

⁵⁸ Myanmar Now (24 Aug 2023) Regime forces kill defence team members, civilians in Sagaing Township

⁵⁹ Myanmar Now (17 Aug 2023) Thousands displaced by fighting, airstrikes near Kalay; Irrawaddy (18 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Firebombing Villages on Key Sagaing-Magwe Route; Myanmar Now (22 Aug 2023) Myanmar army launches week-long arson attack on Sagaing Region village

⁶⁰ Myanmar Now (25 Aug 2023) Military forces kill four hostages in Shwebo Township

⁶¹ NMG (23 Aug 2023) Regime Kidnaps Civilians After Facing Casualties in Sagaing Region

On 22 Aug in **Tamu Township**, locals said that commodity prices had skyrocketed in Tamu town because junta troops and resistance forces had blockaded roads for the past three months amid clashes nearby. The Indian government had also closed borders with Tamu, making it impossible to trade for Indian goods. An airstrike on Boke Kan village on 18 Aug forced locals to flee to India's Manipur State.⁶²

During 23-25 Aug, in **Kanbalu Township**, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia killed six civilians over a week of raids. On 23 Aug, they killed three civilians from two villages and torched five houses in Thayet Gaung village. On 25 Aug, they raided two more villages and killed three residents. Locals reported that the raids forced around 20,000 residents from 20 villages to flee.⁶³

Magway Region

On 1 Aug, in **Gangaw Township**, the junta shelled a village, killed two civilians and injured five others including a child, and forced residents from over 800 homes to flee.⁶⁴ On 8 Aug, a monk sent a letter to the junta requesting clearance operations targeting nearby PDF stronghold areas. The monk claimed that over 7,000 Pyu Saw Htee militia households in around 10 villages were facing food shortages and were at risk of arrest when travelling to buy supplies.⁶⁵

On 4 Aug, in **Yesagyo Township**, a Yesagyo People Defence Team (PDT) spokesperson stated that combined resistance forces had arrested the MG 6 Guerilla Force for crimes including kidnapping, extortion, robbery and murder. On 3 Aug, MG 6 allegedly kidnapped the family of a War Boe NUG village administrator after he instructed them to inform local resistance authorities of their presence. On 4 Aug, 20 local defence groups killed the MG 6 leader in a shootout at their base, arrested the remaining 11 members, and rescued the captives.⁶⁶

On 26 Aug, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia killed two elderly civilians and torched around 80 houses in Kaing Ma Gyi village, Yesagyo Township.⁶⁷

On 20 Aug, in **Ngape Township**, junta troops arrested and beat ethnic Chin men from Myelet village for allegedly supporting the Chinland Defense Force-Asho (CDF-Asho). Before the beatings, CDF-Asho fighters had attacked junta troops guarding a China-backed oil and gas pipeline.⁶⁸

During 20-21 Aug, in **Myaing Township**, junta troops raided Shwe Lin Swea village and arrested 100 civilians. All except four were released on 21 Aug. The junta tortured those held and killed one. The soldiers stole food and torched houses before moving on to Let Htoke Taw and Htan Bone Taw villages where they clashed with resistance forces. The junta torched around 40 houses in the township and forced nearly 1,700 residents to flee.⁶⁹

On 23 Aug, in **Mindon Township**, junta troops raided Ywar Thit village, arrested five villagers and forced over 300 villagers from two villages to flee after a clash with resistance forces. Soldiers from the same column entrapped around 1,000 residents of Yin Kauk village who were not able to flee in time. The majority of inhabitants in the township were reportedly of Asho ethnicity, a sub-tribe of the Chin.⁷⁰

Chin State

In Chin State, the junta sought to step up their offensive in the resistance stronghold and increasingly relied on civilian-targeted airstrikes during attacks. However, they made few inroads over the month.

In **Tonzang Township**, on 1 Aug, combined PDF forces attacked a junta outpost. On 2 Aug, junta troops shelled Tonzang town, clashed again with PDF forces, and injured two children.⁷¹ Afterwards, junta troops shot dead one civilian, injured another, and forced residents in the area to flee.⁷²

In **Falam Township**, resistance forces attacked a junta camp in Falam town, killed at least six junta soldiers, and seized weapons on 12 Aug. Junta forces retaliated by shelling surrounding villages and injured three civilians.⁷³ On the same day, the junta bombed Ramthlo village, injured seven villagers, and

⁶² Irrawaddy (22 Aug 2023) 'We Will Starve to Death': Fighting Cuts Last Lifeline to Myanmar Town

⁶³ Irrawaddy (1 Sep 2023) Myanmar Soldiers, Militia Kill 6 Civilians in Kantbalu Terror Raids

⁶⁴ DVB (14 Aug 2023) Airstrike on Chin community injures seven; Thai MP raises 'safe zone' for refugees

⁶⁵ Than Lwin Times (15 Aug 2023) Pro-military Pyusawhtee villages face commodity shortage

⁶⁶ Myanmar Now (10 Aug 2023) Resistance disarms guerrillas for alleged criminal activity in Magway Region

⁶⁷ Irrawaddy (28 Aug 2023) Elderly Villagers Burned, Tortured to Death by Myanmar Troops in Magwe

⁶⁸ Irrawaddy (20 Aug 2023) Chin Resistance Kills 2 Myanmar Junta Soldiers Guarding Chinese Pipeline

⁶⁹ RFA (22 Aug 2023) Myanmar troops arrest 100 villagers, kill man in Magway region; Irrawaddy (23 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta on Retreat in Magwe: Resistance

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (28 Aug 2023) Conflict displaces hundreds from Asho Chin villages near Magway-Rakhine border

⁷¹ Khonumthung News (4 Aug 2023) One Civilian Killed and Three Wounded During Clash in Tonzang Town

⁷² Myanmar Now (4 Aug 2023) Two killed in northern Chin State as fighting erupts near Indian border

⁷³ Irrawaddy (14 Aug 2023) Chin Resistance Groups Seize Arsenal in Raid on Myanmar Military Base

destroyed a church and a house.⁷⁴ On 13 Aug, in **Hakha Township**, junta troops shelled Loklung village, injured one civilian, destroyed three houses, and forced the entire village to flee.⁷⁵

In **Thantlang Township**, joint resistance forces attacked and captured a junta camp, killed three junta soldiers, took two soldiers as prisoners, and seized weapons on 14 Aug. Junta forces killed three resistance fighters.⁷⁶ Afterwards, the junta jets bombed Khuafu village and destroyed a church and three houses.⁷⁷ A day later, junta troops shelled the largest Baptist church in Hakha.⁷⁸

On 28 Aug, junta forces carried out airstrikes and shelled resistance positions, killed 13 resistance force members, and injured ten others after Chin resistance forces attempted to take four junta bases outside of **Thantlang town**.⁷⁹

Near **Mindat Town**, junta troops shelled and continuously fired at villages on 20 Aug. Locals stated that, on 15 Aug, the junta had dispatched another column to Mindat and that these were the first attacks in the area in 20 days. RFA reported that, on 21 Aug, the junta ordered all public buildings in Mindat closed. A spokesperson for the resistance-run township administration said that the junta likely closed their administrative offices because they felt its forces could no longer occupy the town.⁸⁰

In **Tedim Township**, junta troops shelled Tedim town between 18-19 Aug and damaged at least 4 houses. It was reported that the attack was unprovoked.⁸¹

Rakhine State

On 13 Aug, in **Maungdaw Township**, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) abducted two Rohingya men and torched their car. It was speculated that the abduction was related to the men's business dealings with ARSA.⁸² On 28 Aug, junta personnel and police began inspecting visitor lists and carrying out residential searches in Maungdaw Township as ARSA presence in the township had reportedly increased. No arrests had been made yet as a result of the searches.⁸³

On 1 Sep, the spokesperson for the Arakan Army (AA) alleged that the junta was giving covert support to ARSA and stated that they were watching the situation closely. A Maungdaw resident with ties to the junta claimed that the junta had supplied weapons to ARSA and was allowing them to move freely in the region. Analysts expected that junta support for ARSA could be part of a divide-and-rule strategy designed to weaken the AA and re-ignite ethnic and religious conflict in the region.⁸⁴

Kachin State

On 3 Aug, junta forces clashed with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Ma Li Yang and Jar Pu villages north of Nam Sang Yam in **Waingmaw Township**. The junta had been carrying out assaults near Nam Sang Yang and Laiza since early July.⁸⁵ On 4 Aug, junta launched airstrikes near Ma Li Yang village on the Myitkyina-Bhamo Road.⁸⁶

On 7 Aug, the KIA seized two strategically valuable junta outposts located on Ka Thine Hill and in Nam Hmaw village in **Hpakant Township**. Both outposts were on the Hpakant-Tar Ma Hkan road southwest of **Hpakant city**. The KIA spokesperson claimed that the KIA had also taken control of a base of the Shanni Nationalities Army (SNA) near Sezin village on the Kachin-Sagaing border. Citing a local, it was reported that junta fired heavy artillery during clashes with the KIA and injured villagers, including a child, and damaged houses.⁸⁷ Clashes reportedly forced around 400 villagers near Nam Hmaw village to

⁷⁴ Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (13 Aug 2023) At least 10 soldiers were killed in an attack on a military camp based in Falam Town, and weapons and ammunition were also seized

⁷⁵ CHRO via X (14 Aug 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/aay29eda>

⁷⁶ Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (15 Aug 2023) 3 comrades from the Defense Forces were killed in the battle of Thantlang town, and 6 guns were seized and 2 soldiers were captured

⁷⁷ RFA (15 Aug 2023) Residents say Christian churches attacked by junta in Myanmar's Chin state

⁷⁸ CHRO via X (14 Aug 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4ncfh3yp>

⁷⁹ Irrawaddy (29 Aug 2023) Chin Forces Fail to Retake Strategic Mountain Bases From Myanmar Military

⁸⁰ Irrawaddy (22 Aug 2023) Myanmar Regime Troops Shell Villages and Town in Southern Chin State

⁸¹ Khonumthung (22 Aug 2023) Military Council Shells Tedim

⁸² Narinjara (13 Aug 2023) Muslim father- son duo abducted, set their car on fire by ARSA members in Maungdaw

⁸³ Narinjara (2 Sep 2023) Junta administration starts inspecting visitors' lists in Maungdaw

⁸⁴ Narinjara via BNI (1 Sep 2023) The Arakan Army Alleges the Junta's Covert Support for ARSA

⁸⁵ Myanmar Now (4 Aug 2023) Battles ongoing near KIA headquarters in Kachin State

⁸⁶ Kachin News Group (4 Aug 2023) မလိယန်ရွာနီး စစ်တပ်ကလေယာဉ်နဲ့ ဖုံးကြဲ

⁸⁷ Myanmar Now (8 Aug 2023) KIA captures junta, SNA bases in Hpakant Township

flee.⁸⁸ On 8 Aug, junta forces bombed and carried out ground operations targeting Ka Thine Hill base and clashed with the KIA near Nam Hmaw village.⁸⁹

On 29 Aug, it was reported that a junta convoy carrying troops, weapons, and food arrived at Numlang military camp to support soldiers on top of Hkaya Mountain. This was part of an operation to seize the Nam Sang Yang area near Laiza. It was reported that junta fighter jets bombarded a village where KIA forces were based on 26 and 27 Aug.⁹⁰ On 29 Aug, in **Hpakant Township**, a KIA landmine attack on a junta column killed at least six junta soldiers and injured 10 others. The column had previously abducted 14 villagers from Nam Yar and used them as human shields.⁹¹

On 7 Aug, junta vessels bombarded villages from a flotilla of nine vessels moving up the Irrawaddy River. Simultaneously, junta soldiers congregated in Shwegu town and patrolled **Shwegu Township**.⁹² On 8 Aug, regime forces took over 30 civilians as hostages from three villages along the river.⁹³ On 16 Aug, the flotilla shelled Zin Bon village and killed a woman and a child.⁹⁴ On 18 Aug, in **Bhamo Township**, regime fighter jets bombed villages along the river and forced villagers to flee.⁹⁵ On 19 Aug, locals reported that the junta had tightened restrictions on movement, shot a civilian, and shut down phone services south of the township after the flotilla arrived in **Bhamo City**. The soldiers reportedly searched and stole from civilians in Bhamo City.⁹⁶ On 21 Aug, resistance forces discovered three bodies in Wea Ma Gyi village believed to be those of villagers abducted by the junta on 8 Aug.⁹⁷

Northern Shan State

On 4 Aug, it was reported that the junta had been clashing with the KIA since early July, and with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) since 23 July along Union Road near **Kutkai, Nam Hpat Kar and Muse**. Junta airstrikes and shelling had killed four civilians, including a child, and injured 12. The junta also reportedly arrested two Kachin men and burned them to death. On 28 Aug, citing Lieutenant Colonel Tar Aik Kyaw of the TNLA, it was reported that junta movements in TNLA territory had resulted in 13 clashes in Aug.⁹⁸

On 2 Aug, the TNLA ambushed a junta convoy in **Muse Township** as part of an effort to take control of the road leading to the Jin San Jiao (Golden Triangle) China-Burma border crossing. Afterwards, the TNLA clashed with junta troops and a local People's Militia Force (PMF) and killed two members of the PMF. Junta troops also shelled a nearby village, injured one woman, damaged a house, and forced some villagers to seek refuge in Muse Town.⁹⁹ On the same day, junta troops also clashed with the TNLA near Loi Tay Mueng hill, shelled Sei Lant village tract, and injured a woman and a child.¹⁰⁰ On 19 Aug, the TNLA warned locals that it had placed mines on a village road near Sei Lant.¹⁰¹

On 26 Aug, the TNLA reportedly ambushed a junta convoy of 20 trucks traveling from **Kutkai to Hseni**. On 28 Aug, junta troops clashed with the TNLA at Kho Mone village between **Muse and Kutkai**.¹⁰² On 29 Aug, the junta carried out an airstrike on a TNLA camp, launched artillery attacks on Sei Lant village, damaged a primary school, and forced civilians to flee to **Muse town**.¹⁰³ It was reported that the junta's artillery attacks in Nam Hpat Kar village in Kutkai Township, had destroyed several houses. On 29 Aug, attacks in Sei Lant village, injured two civilians. Clashes between junta troops and the TNLA near the Chinese border had reportedly forced more than 500 civilians from five villages in Muse Township to flee. In Kutkai Township, on 31 Aug, the junta shelled a village near Nam Hpat Kar during clashes with the TNLA, killed a girl, and injured two others.¹⁰⁴

⁸⁸ Kachin News Group (7 Aug 2023) ကသိုဏ်းတောင်စစ်တပ်စခန်းတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီးနောက် နမ့်မော်ရွာက အရပ်သားပြည်သူရာချီ ဘေးလွတ်ရာထွက်ပြေးတိမ်းရှောင်နေ

⁸⁹ Myanmar Now (9 Aug 2023) Military assaults base seized by KIA near Hpakant

⁹⁰ Kachin News Group (31 Aug 2023) Junta Convoy Reaches Numlang Camp

⁹¹ Kachin News Group (30 Aug 2023) KIA Attack Junta Column in Hpakant Township

⁹² Kachin News Group (8 Aug 2023) Junta Water Vessels Shells Village in Kachin State

⁹³ Kachin News Group (8 Aug 2023) သင်္ဘောဆန်တက်ချိန် လူသားဒိုင်းအဖြစ်အသုံးပြုပြီး ရွာသား ၃၀ ကျော်ကို စစ်တပ်ကမ်းသွား

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (23 Aug 2023) Three men found dead after junta attacks villages on Ayeyarwady River in Kachin State

⁹⁵ Kachin News Group (19 Aug 2023) Jet Fighters Bomb Villages Ahead of Flotilla in Kachin State

⁹⁶ Kachin News Group (23 Aug 2023) Military Implements Security Measures in Bhamo Following Arrival of Flotilla

⁹⁷ Myanmar Now (23 Aug 2023) Three men found dead after junta attacks villages on Ayeyarwady River in Kachin State

⁹⁸ Irrawaddy (28 Aug 2023) TNLA Reports Heavy Fighting Near Myanmar-China Border

⁹⁹ Myanmar Now (3 Aug 2023) Clashes between TNLA and junta forces continue in northern Shan State

¹⁰⁰ SHAN (4 Aug 2023) Three Civilians Injured During Clashes in Muse Township

¹⁰¹ SHAN (19 Aug 2023) TNLA Damages Shan Historic Site in Muse Township

¹⁰² Irrawaddy (28 Aug 2023) TNLA Reports Heavy Fighting Near Myanmar-China Border

¹⁰³ SHAN (31 Aug 2023) Regime Jet Fighter Bombs TNLA Camp in Muse Township

¹⁰⁴ Irrawaddy (31 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Shelling Kills Teenager in Northern Shan State

During 27-29 Aug, junta troops began carrying out attacks on the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)'s Battalion 9 camp on Bakngoi Mountain on 27 Aug. On 29 Aug, the junta engaged in clashes with the KIA and shelled houses in the village.¹⁰⁵

On 4 Aug, an unknown armed group ambushed a junta convoy near Zee Pin village in **Nawngkhio Township** and killed at least 10 junta troops.¹⁰⁶ On 6 Aug, the TNLA attacked a ward administration office in **Kyaukme Township**, killed two staff members, and injured five others.¹⁰⁷ On 9 Aug, it was reported that regime soldiers threatened to burn down Hsumlong village in **Kutkai Township** if villagers reported any information about the junta soldiers' rape of two women in the village. On 30 Jul, junta troops raped two handcuffed local women, including a pregnant woman, in front of their husbands.¹⁰⁸

Southern Shan State

On 6 Aug, clashes between junta forces and the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) near Nam Pok, Khine Hpet Nam and Mark Larng villages in **Laikha Township** killed at least 10 junta troops and one SSPP/SSA soldier. An SSPP/SSA officer said that the group intended to stay in the area due to its strategic importance despite persistent junta attacks.¹⁰⁹ On 16 Aug, junta soldiers at a checkpoint shot at civilians, killed one, and injured another. A local said that the two men were likely IDPs returning to check on their homes.¹¹⁰

On 24 Aug, it was reported that at least eight PDFs had formed in the Danu Self-Administration Zone and that they had regularly clashed with junta-aligned militias.¹¹¹ On 29 Aug, junta troops reportedly had taken control of **Mobyetown's** northern wards since early June and had barred residents from returning home. It was also reported that regime soldiers had shot locals attempting to retrieve belongings, prevented residents from accessing farms, and blocked roads near the highway.¹¹²

Karenni State

On 5 Aug, the Karenni National Defense Force (KNDF) reported that junta shelling and airstrikes in Karenni State in July killed 12 civilians and injured 22 others. A KNDF member said that the junta had targeted villages, evacuation camps, and civilian areas, and had damaged homes, religious buildings, and schools.¹¹³

On 2 Aug, KNDF engaged in fierce combat with junta troops, near the Demoso-Hpruso Union Road in **Demoso Township**. Resistance forces said the junta sought to push from Demoso to Hpruso along the main road.¹¹⁴ During 5-6 Aug, junta troops clashed with joint resistance forces in **Mese Township**, killed two Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KNPLF) members, and injured five others. The junta carried out airstrikes and shelled resistance positions, forcing them to temporarily retreat from the area.¹¹⁵

On 8 Aug, it was reported that the junta had deployed more troops at checkpoints in **Loikaw town** to tighten security.¹¹⁶ On 8 Aug, junta shelling injured an IDP near Htee Paw So village in Hpruso Township.¹¹⁷

On 13 Aug, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) transferred nine former regime-appointed Border Guard Force (BGF) soldiers and six civilian family members to Thai authorities. It was reported that those transferred would be handed over to the junta.¹¹⁸ On 17 Aug, it was reported that, in **Bawlakhe Township**, junta forces occupying Ywar Thit town had been collecting the names of residents to force them to join the Phyu Saw Htee. Three hundred residents had been sheltering in the town's four monasteries since July and some residents had reportedly been detained and tortured.¹¹⁹

¹⁰⁵ Kachin News Group (30 Aug 2023) Junta Attacks KIA in Muse Township

¹⁰⁶ SHAN (4 Aug 2023) နောင်ချို ဂုတ်တွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီယာဉ်တန်း ကြားဖြတ်တိုက်ခံရ ၁၀ ဦးထက်မနည်း သေဆုံး

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Now (8 Aug 2023) Tensions grow in northern Shan State as TNLA attacks junta admin office in Kyaukme

¹⁰⁸ BNI (3 Aug 2023) Two Village Women Raped by Two Soldiers in Kutkai

¹⁰⁹ SHAN (8 Aug 2023) Junta Suffers Heavy Losses During Attack on SSPP/SSA in Laikha

¹¹⁰ SHAN (21 Aug 2023) Soldiers Shoot at Civilians at Checkpoint in Southern Shan State

¹¹¹ Kantarawaddy Times (24 Aug 2023) As Danu Armed Forces Emerge, Escalated Ethnic Conflict is Likely to increase

¹¹² Kantarawaddy Times (29 Aug 2023) Military Council Prevents Mobyet Residents From Returning

¹¹³ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Aug 2023) ဇူလိုင်လ တစ်လအတွင်း အရပ်သား ၁၂ ဦးသေဆုံးခဲ့တယ်လို့ KNDF ထုတ်ပြန်

¹¹⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (9 Aug 2023) ဒီးမော့ဆို - ဖရူဆို ပြည်ထောင်စုလမ်းမကြီးကို စစ်ကောင်စီထိန်းချုပ်နိုင်ဖို့ စစ်ကြောင်းထိုးလာတဲ့အတွက် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေ

¹¹⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (11 Aug 2023) Two Resistance Coalition Members Martyred, Five Injured in Mese Battle

¹¹⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (8 Aug 2023) Military Council Tightens Security in Loikaw

¹¹⁷ Kantarawaddy Times (9 Aug 2023) ထီးပေါ်ဆိုကျေးရွာ အနီး လက်နက်ကြီးကျရောက်ပေါက်ကွဲ၊ နွားကျောင်းနေတဲ့ အမျိုးသားတစ်ဦး ထိမှန်

¹¹⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (21 Aug 2023) KNPP Transfers POWs from BGF to Thai Authorities

¹¹⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (16 Aug 2023) Ywathit Residents Fearful of Being Forced to Join PMF

IDP camps in Hpruso Township had reportedly only received supplies once or twice in 2023 because of conflict and junta-imposed blockages.¹²⁰ A local IDP committee member said that there were checkpoints on certain routes where the Pa-O National Organization demanded motorcycle and petroleum passage fees and prohibited rice transport.¹²¹ On 16 Aug, rumors spread that Thai authorities in Mae Hong Son Province would soon deport refugees who had fled airstrikes in Mese Township in July. The refugee camp's chairperson said she had not received confirmation from Thai authorities. Although food donations could reportedly be delivered, residents could not leave the camp.¹²² On 22 Aug, it was reported that increasing clashes between **Hpruso** and **Demoso Townships** had made supplying IDP camps in the area more difficult.¹²³

On 23 Aug, a junta drone attack injured three children in Kay Hlar village tract of **Hpruso Township** and junta airstrikes near Kwaing Ngan village in **Demoso Township** damaged a bridge and community hall. Junta jets also bombarded residential areas in **western Demoso Township** on 25 Aug, damaged two houses, and a temporary school. On 31 Aug, the junta carried out aerial attacks on IDP camps in **Demoso Township**, killed one man, and injured two others.¹²⁴

Karen State

The Karen National Union (KNU) reported that junta shelling in the **KNU-designated Nyaunglebin District** which covers areas of Bago Region and Karen State had killed five people, injured more than 20, and destroyed nearly 40 homes and one church in the last two weeks of August.¹²⁵

In **Myawaddy Township**, regime forces launched at least ten attacks during 24 Jul-13 Aug to retake Let Khat Taung Base, near Myawaddy town, from joint KNLA/PDF forces. The junta attacks killed one civilian, injured another, and damaged five religious buildings. Resistance forces had taken the base on 21 Jul. On 8 Aug, two junta soldiers involved in the offensive defected to the resistance.¹²⁶ On 13 Aug, joint KNLA/PDF forces also captured the nearby Tarwantai Hill Camp. A PDF spokesperson said that, on 15 Aug, after bombing, shelling, and shooting at Let Khat Taung base, junta forces retreated from their offensive positions. Fighting killed three resistance fighters and injured 13 others. It also killed 32 junta soldiers and injured 55.¹²⁷ Residents from several surrounding villages reported that they had been trapped in their homes during the clashes due to junta roadblocks near the base.¹²⁸

In **Kawkareik Township**, joint KNLA-PDF forces carried out drone strikes on junta troops stationed in a school in Taung Kyar Inn village, killed one junta captain, and injured five others on 18 Aug. The following day, regime soldiers shelled and opened fire on the surrounding village in response and killed one local, destroyed 10 houses, and killed livestock. Local residents had reportedly earlier fled the area due to the presence of junta troops.¹²⁹ On the Myawaddy-Kawkareik Highway, an artillery shell hit a van carrying 15 locals and injured four on 20 Aug. It was unclear who had fired the shell.¹³⁰

In **Thanddaungyi Township**, junta troops torched several houses in Thandaung Town between 5-7 Aug. Mizzima reported that soldiers targeted the homes of a health worker and KNU members.¹³¹

On 8 Aug, the KNLA 5th Brigade warned all junta personnel to tender their resignations and close their offices in **Hpapun Township**. The directive was made as the junta, unable to operate offices in Hpapun Town, sought to open temporary administrative offices in Kamarmaung Town.¹³²

Bago Region

In **eastern Bago Region**, resistance forces expanded their influence west of the Sittaung river with the aim of taking control over the Sittaung Basin. There were at least 6,500 newly displaced people in Bago Region in August.¹³³

¹²⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (12 Aug 2023) Hpruso Villagers Worry About Dwindling Food Rations

¹²¹ SHAN (14 Aug 2023) Fighting Preventing Food Deliveries to IDPs in Shan and Karenni States

¹²² Kantarawaddy Times (16 Aug 2023) Refugees Fear Deportation to Daw Hnoe Ku Displaced Camp in Burma

¹²³ Kantarawaddy Times (22 Aug 2023) Soldiers Block Food from Reaching Hpruso Displaced Camps

¹²⁴ Irrawaddy (31 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Airstrikes Kill Kayah Civilian

¹²⁵ Than Lwin Times (1 Sep 2023) Civilian casualties in KNU's Nyaunglebin District raises concern

¹²⁶ Irrawaddy (15 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Suffers Heavy Casualties, Defections in Battle for Karen Hilltop

¹²⁷ Irrawaddy (17 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Suffers Heavy Losses in Failed Offensive: KNU

¹²⁸ Karen News (15 Aug 2023) Military Council Troops Increases Offensive to Regain Control of Let Khat Taung Base

¹²⁹ Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (19 Aug 2023) SAC troops stationed inside a school in Taung Kyar Inn village were bombed by a PDF joint force with drones, and it was said killing one captain and injuring five

¹³⁰ Than Lwin Times (22 Aug 2023) Four people injured in van attack on Myawaddy-Asian Road

¹³¹ Mizzima (10 Aug 2023) Junta burns down houses in Thandaung Town, Karen State

¹³² Karen News (31 Aug 2023) KNU Reports All the Junta's Administration Stopped in Hpapun Township

¹³³ UNHCR (28 Aug 2023) South East Myanmar UNHCR Displacement Overview 28 Aug 2023

In **Kyauktaga Township**, clashes came within kilometers of the old Yangon-Mandalay road.¹³⁴ The KNU reported that the junta burnt down 68 houses in Nan Za village, more than half of the houses in the village, during the first week of August.¹³⁵ On 2-3 Aug, junta troops shelled Tha Min Inn Kone village and killed a teenager.¹³⁶ On 27 Aug, junta troops shelled Ka Nyin Kyoe village, injured four people, including a child, and destroyed five house.¹³⁷

In **Yedashe and Swar Townships**, junta troops increasingly carried out attacks on villages in response to resistance advances. The junta shelled Na Kyat village and injured a woman on 27 Aug. They also closed river ports connected to the east side of the river, tightened restrictions and began carrying out searches on civilians. Intensified fighting forced villagers from several villages in the area to flee.¹³⁸

On 18 Aug, resistance forces in **Phyu Township** carried out a mine ambush attack on a junta logistics train on the Yangon-Mandalay route. Passenger trains traveling between Mandalay and Yangon were suspended for two days as a result.¹³⁹ On 19 Aug, junta forces shelled and carried out airstrikes on Thit Hpyu Seik village in retaliation for the train ambush. Later that day, junta troops shelled Let Tet Gyi village and injured two women. The attacks forced 4,000 locals from 11 nearby villages to flee.¹⁴⁰ On 25 Aug, junta troops shelled Nga Myit Chin village and damaged a house.¹⁴¹ On 28 Aug, junta troops carried out three airstrikes on villages during further clashes with resistance forces.¹⁴²

Also in **Phyu Township**, joint KNLA/PDF forces reportedly attacked junta troops in Ah Kyat Inn village on 9 Aug. After KNLA/PDF forces withdrew, junta troops slit the throats of five civilians, burned one to death, killed one other, and torched houses in the village.¹⁴³

In **Kyaukkyi Township**, the junta shelled Mway Twin village, killed one woman, and injured three others on 2 Aug.¹⁴⁴ On 13 Aug, junta troops shelled Pe Thaung village, killed two children and injured two others.¹⁴⁵ On 24 Aug, junta troops carried out two airstrikes on a medical clinic in Thal Thaw Mu Thal Thaw Kwar, killed one civilian, and injured a KNLA soldier. Local sources reported that several Karen Education Department schools in the area temporarily closed on 24 Aug out of concerns over further airstrikes.¹⁴⁶

In **Nyaunglebin and Shwegyin Townships**, on 14 Aug, junta troops shelled a school in Inn Kat Pa Leik and injured two students and a teacher.¹⁴⁷ On 16 Aug, junta troops shelled Za Loke Gyi village and killed two civilians.¹⁴⁸ On 25 Aug, junta troops shelled Chon Inn village and damaged a house.¹⁴⁹ On 26 Aug, junta troops shelled Kyun Gyi village, injured four people, and destroyed seven houses.¹⁵⁰ Later that day, junta troops shelled Pyin Yae Gyi village, killed two people including a child, and injured four others.¹⁵¹

Mon State

In August, there were at least 2,900 newly displaced people in Mon State.¹⁵²

In **Ye Township**, an unknown armed group shot dead two neighborhood administrators and injured two civilians and a local militia member in Ah Sin village on 9 Aug.¹⁵³ On 15 Aug, in retaliation to a joint KNLA/PDF drone attack on a police station in Kin Mun Chaung village, junta troops indiscriminately opened fire and injured a local woman.¹⁵⁴ On 28 Aug, junta troops reportedly killed one civilian and

¹³⁴ Irrawaddy (31 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Goes on the Defensive in August, Resistance Gains Ground

¹³⁵ Than Lwin Times (25 Aug 2023) More than 100 houses set ablaze in Nyaunglebin battle

¹³⁶ Irrawaddy (4 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Artillery Bombards Bago Villages, Killing Boy and Woman

¹³⁷ RFA (29 Aug 2023) Myanmar military shells Bago region townships, injuring 8 civilians

¹³⁸ Myanmar Now (2 Sep 2023) Villages east of the Sittaung River come under heavy fire as regime forces attempt to halt resistance advances;

Irrawaddy (28 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Loses Grip on Bago

¹³⁹ Eleven Myanmar (19 Aug 2023) Mine attack on a freight train delays Yangon-Mandalay passenger express train schedules

¹⁴⁰ Myanmar Peace Monitor (21 Aug 2023) Locals from 11 villages in Mone Township flee shelling and drone attacks

¹⁴¹ Than Lwin Times (29 Aug 2023) Four civilians injured in junta shelling in Nyaunglebin

¹⁴² Myanmar Now (31 Aug 2023) Child and mother killed in junta shelling of Bago Region village

¹⁴³ Mizzima (11 Aug 2023) Junta murders seven villagers in Bago Region's Phyu Township

¹⁴⁴ Than Lwin Times (5 Aug 2023) Student among two killed by junta shelling in KNU's Mone Township

¹⁴⁵ Than Lwin Times (18 Aug 2023) Junta artillery shell kills 6 civilians, injures 7 in Nyaunglebin

¹⁴⁶ Karen News (28 Aug 2023) Airstrikes Target Village Clinic in Kyaukkyi Township, Resulting in One Death and Another Injury

¹⁴⁷ Myanmar Now (18 Aug 2023) Two children among four civilians killed by junta shelling in eastern Bago

¹⁴⁸ RFA (21 Aug 2023) Junta airstrikes, shelling kill 5 people in Myanmar's Bago region Total

¹⁴⁹ Than Lwin Times (29 Aug 2023) Four civilians injured in junta shelling in Nyaunglebin

¹⁵⁰ RFA (29 Aug 2023) Myanmar military shells Bago region townships, injuring 8 civilians

¹⁵¹ Myanmar Now (31 Aug 2023) Child and mother killed in junta shelling of Bago Region village

¹⁵² UNHCR (28 Aug 2023) South East Myanmar UNHCR Displacement Overview 28 Aug 2023

¹⁵³ Than Lwin Times (10 Aug 2023) Two 100-household administrators killed, three injured in shooting in Ye Township

¹⁵⁴ Than Lwin Times (15 Aug 2023) Local woman injured in military's indiscriminate firing in retaliation for drone attack on police station in Mon state

injured another during a clash with the KNLA-PDF joint forces near Ka Nin Ka Mawt village and forced nearly 1,000 civilians from nearby villages to flee.¹⁵⁵ On 30 Aug, joint resistance forces carried out an aerial attack on junta bases. Junta troops fired heavy weapons in retaliation.¹⁵⁶

In **Bilin Township**, joint KNLA-PDF forces carried out a drone attack on a junta highway checkpoint near Dauk Yat village on 24 Aug and injured two policemen and one civilian.¹⁵⁷ On 29 Aug, joint KNLA-PDF forces exchanged fire with a junta convoy on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway and injured one junta soldier and one civilian in a passing ambulance.¹⁵⁸

In **Kyaikto Township**, junta troops shelled and invaded Zee Kone village, forcing more than 1,000 residents from nearby villages to flee on 16 Aug. It was reported that by 18 Aug most hadn't returned.¹⁵⁹ On 29 Aug, joint KNLA/PDF forces ambushed a junta convoy along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway and killed a number of junta troops. Junta returned fire and injured three civilians.¹⁶⁰

Tanintharyi Region

In Tanintharyi Region, conflict has continued to heat up as resistance groups sought to assert control over major roadways and the junta mobilized troops around assets such as the Dawei deep sea port. In August, there were at least 2,900 newly displaced peoples in Tanintharyi Region.¹⁶¹

On 4 Aug, junta troops arrested eight locals from Pa Nyit village. On 9 Aug, the junta released four of the detained.¹⁶² On 26 Aug, junta troops attacked four villages, arrested around 20 villagers to use as human shields, and forced around 400 villagers to flee.¹⁶³

On 6 Aug, the Launglon People's Defence Force (LLPDF) accidentally shot dead a civilian when attempting to stop a junta truck. The group publicly apologized for the accidental killing.¹⁶⁴ On 8 Aug, the Launglon People's Defense Force (LLPDF) shot dead a member of the Pyu Saw Htee and injured three others during an ambush on a junta vehicle.¹⁶⁵

In **Yebyu Township**, three junta columns moved north from the Dawei deep sea port, raided several villages, shot 14 civilians including one monk, arrested ten others, torched at least 40 houses, and destroyed nearly 200 homes during 8-18 Aug. Up to 17,000 villagers were forced to flee their homes. Clashes were also reported in Aye Kan Ni and Kha Maung Chaung villages.¹⁶⁶

In **Thayetchaung Township**, on 25 Aug, junta troops clashed with resistance forces in Ya Nge village. On 26 Aug, they continued to Ka Twe village, clashed again with resistance forces, and burned down one house. The clashes forced 1,000 residents from six villages to flee.¹⁶⁷

In **Dawei Township**, on Aug 16, junta troops clashed with resistance forces in Thin Gan Tone village and three junta soldiers were killed. On Aug 17, junta troops moved through two more villages and forced at least 500 locals to flee.¹⁶⁸ On 20 Aug, junta troops arrested three locals to use as porters while conducting operations in the area, and forced residents of six villages to flee.¹⁶⁹

In **Tanintharyi Township**, junta troops continuously shelled three villages on 3 Aug, damaged six houses, and injured two civilians. A local resistance information officer reported that the junta's attacks were unprovoked.¹⁷⁰

In **Palaw Township**, regime troops shot and injured two civilians and damaged ten houses in Pala Town on 17 Aug. On the same day, they arrested a woman entering the town. On 18 Aug, junta troops shot three men sitting near the Pala Town sign. A local resistance office said that the junta was acting in

¹⁵⁵ Independent Mon News (29 Aug 2023) Battle Near Kaninkamawt Village, Ye Township: 7 Casualties on the Military Junta's Side

¹⁵⁶ Than Lwin Times (30 Aug 2023) Resistance allied forces conduct aerial attack on military bases in Mon state

¹⁵⁷ Than Lwin Times (25 Aug 2023) Attack on Belin checkpoint injures three including two policemen

¹⁵⁸ Than Lwin Times (29 Aug 2023) Ambulance shot in crossfire in Belin

¹⁵⁹ HURFOM (23 Aug 2023) Residents flee homes at night as military invades villages

¹⁶⁰ Than Lwin Times (29 Aug 2023) Three civilians injured in indiscriminate firing of junta army in Kyaikto

¹⁶¹ UNHCR (28 Aug 2023) South East Myanmar UNHCR Displacement Overview 28 Aug 2023

¹⁶² HURFOM (22 Aug 2023) Junta arrests eight villagers seeking medical treatment in military hospital

¹⁶³ HURFOM (30 Aug 2023) Junta military operation in Long Lone results in arrest of villagers

¹⁶⁴ HURFOM (10 Aug 2023) Local PDF accidentally kills villager during attack on military truck

¹⁶⁵ Independent Mon News (15 Aug 2023) Military Junta Commander and Pyu Saw Htee militia member, both fatally shot in Launglon Township Clash

¹⁶⁶ Than Lwin Times (16 Aug 2023) Junta torches village, arrests locals in Yebyu

¹⁶⁷ Than Lwin Times (27 Aug 2023) Fighting resumes in Thayet Chaung

¹⁶⁸ Than Lwin Times (18 Aug 2023) Fighting resumes in eastern Dawei

¹⁶⁹ HURFOM (25 Aug 2023) Military unit arrests three villagers in Dawei: Believed to be used as porters

¹⁷⁰ Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (4 Aug 2023) The 561st Infantry Battalion under SAC opened fire on villages in Tanintharyi Township with heavy weapons, causing damage

retaliation for an earlier resistance mine attack and torching of a militia leader's home.¹⁷¹ On 19 Aug, junta troops shelled Let Ku village, killed one elderly resident, and injured three others.¹⁷²

Naypyidaw Union Territory

During 10-14 Aug, resistance forces clashed seven times with junta troops in **Pyinmana Township**, killed 50 junta soldiers, and successfully seized the junta's Boe Ma Thandaung camp. Junta troops killed three resistance fighters during fighting. On 11 Aug, junta conducted airstrikes on Boe Ma Thandaung (upper) village, temporarily closed access to the village, and killed two villagers as part of an effort to regain the camp. On 12 Aug, the junta carried out airstrikes again on the same village, killed a villager, and destroyed at least 40 houses.¹⁷³ As fighting escalated, people from nearby villages fled.¹⁷⁴

During 28-29 Aug, junta officials provided food supplies and medical treatment to civilians in an attempt to rally support after clashing with resistance forces in the township earlier that month. A local said that the officials threatened young people that PDFs would attack them and that regime officials gave donations in order to get information of resistance activities.¹⁷⁵

Ayeyarwady Region

On 25 Aug, two bombs exploded in front of a municipal committee office in **Kyonpyaw Township**, injuring one man. Junta troops arrested the injured man on suspicion of being a PDF member.¹⁷⁶

Mandalay Region

During 6-9 Aug, 100 junta troops entered and shelled Sa Kyin village in **Madaya Township** after a video of PDF members shopping in the village went viral on Facebook. Junta forces killed and dumped by the side of the road the bodies of three villagers on 9 Aug. Junta troops also patrolled the area on land and on water via the Irrawaddy River and forced people from 10 nearby villages to flee.¹⁷⁷

During 8-16 Aug, in **Ngazun Township**, junta forces patrolled villages along the Irrawaddy River for 10 consecutive days and forced 10,000 villagers from 12 nearby villages to flee. During 9-13 Aug, junta forces and resistance fighters clashed several times. On 14 Aug, junta troops entered Ywar Tar Lay village in **Myinmu Township** and killed four civilians who had been displaced from Ngazun Township. On 16 Aug, junta troops raided Aung Thukha village and torched 60 houses.¹⁷⁸

On 4 Aug, junta troops torched Kyauk Aik village in **Thabeikkyin Township** and killed six civilians.¹⁷⁹ Pro-junta Telegram channels spread disinformation that the six men were members of the PDF. A local PDF spokesperson said that the men were not resistance fighters and that their bodies were merely dressed in military uniforms in order to spread disinformation. He added that no other armed groups operated in the area and that the regime used "excessive force" during its attack.¹⁸⁰

On 20 Aug, junta forces shot dead one man on a motorbike in **Pyigyitagon Township** and injured one other when patrolling the township.¹⁸¹ On 28 Aug, a landmine exploded while junta troops were searching vehicles on the Mandalay-Mogoke road in **Singu Township**. A child was killed and three others were injured. A resistance forces spokesperson speculated that the explosion occurred because radio waves emitted from a junta radio set off a resistance-built explosive device that junta troops had confiscated for their own use.¹⁸²

Resistance bombings and attacks targeted an immigration office and a Budget Department Office in Chanmyathazi Township on the 18 and 21 Aug¹⁸³ and a security checkpoint near a military training unit and a police outpost in **Thabeikkyin Township** on 26 Aug.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷¹ Than Lwin Times (19 Aug 2023) Two civilians injured by junta shooting in retaliation for mine attack in Pala Town

¹⁷² Than Lwin Times (22 Aug 2023) One old woman killed, three others injured in junta artillery attack

¹⁷³ Myanmar Pressphoto Agency (14 Aug 2023) Three PDF comrades were killed in the battle to capture Bo Ma Than Daung Camp outside Nay Pyi Taw

¹⁷⁴ Karen News (22 Aug 2023) Northern Thandaung Defense Force Claims Military Advantage in moving Closer To Naypyidaw

¹⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (30 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Rallies Support to Defend Capital as Resistance Gets Closer

¹⁷⁶ DVB (26 Aug 2023) ကျုံ့ချုပ်မြို့နယ် စည်ပင်ရုံးရှေ့ ဗုံး ၂ ကြိမ်ပေါက်၊ ဒဏ်ရာရသူကို စစ်တပ်က ဖမ်းဆီး

¹⁷⁷ Myanmar Now (10 Aug 2023) မန္တလေးနှင့် နာရီပိုင်းသာ ခရီးရှိသည့် အရပ်တွင် စစ်တပ်မှစဉ် ဒေသခံများ သတ်ခံရ; Myanmar Now (8 Aug 2023)

မန္တလေးမြို့အနီး မတ္တရာနယ်မှ ကျေးရွာများ စစ်ရှောင်နေရ

¹⁷⁸ RFA (17 Aug 2023) ငါးစွန်းမှာ ဆယ်ရက်ဆက်တိုက် စစ်ကြောင်းထိုးနေလို့ ဒေသခံ တစ်သောင်းကျော် နေရပ်စွန့်ခွာထွက်ပြေး

¹⁷⁹ Mizzima (9 Aug 2023) Burma commemorates '8888' Uprising anniversary discreetly; At least 24 roads destroyed by military

¹⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (9 Aug 2023) PDF says six men killed in Mandalay's Thabeikkyin Township were not resistance fighters

¹⁸¹ Myanmar Now (21 Aug 2023) လှည့်ကင်းနှင့် တိုးသည့် မန္တလေးမြို့ခံ ၂ ဦး ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ ဝ ဦး သေဆုံး

¹⁸² Myanmar Now (31 Aug 2023) Child killed, three people injured in blast at junta roadside checkpoint in Mandalay Region

¹⁸³ RFA (19 Aug 2023) မန္တလေး လဝကရုံးမှာ ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲမှုဖြစ်ပြီး ခုနစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ; Mizzima (24 Aug 2023) Mandalay Budget Department Office hit by grenade attack

¹⁸⁴ Than Lwin Times (29 Aug 2023) Military's checkpoint under attack in Mandalay's village; DVB (29 Aug 2023) သပိတ်ကျင်းမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်ဆေးရေးဂိတ် တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး ရဲ ဝ ဦးသေဆုံး

Yangon Region

On 26 Aug, resistance fighters bombed a township-level office of Union Solidarity and Development Party in **North Okkalapa Township** and injured two junta policemen.¹⁸⁵ On 29 Aug, bombs were set off in police stations in **Yankin, East Dagon, and South Okkalapa Townships**. The number of casualties was unknown.¹⁸⁶

Rohingya

Rohingya mark six years since 2017 genocide

Rohingya refugees marked six years since **Burmese military genocide forced over 750,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh** with **protests** across several camps in Cox's Bazar on 25 Aug. Protestors rejected the junta's repatriation efforts and **called for their safe return to Burma with full citizenship rights**. According to the Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion, the largest protest with 10,000 participants took place in Lambashia camp. Bangladesh's refugee relief and repatriation commissioner said all protests were peaceful.¹⁸⁷

Rohingya activists, civil society groups, and international organizations marked the occasion via a number of statements. A group of 356 civil society organizations wrote in a joint letter that **a sustainable return for the Rohingya required an end to junta impunity and immediate full citizenship rights for all**. The groups called for the NUG to take concrete steps to ensure **the active participation** of the **Rohingya community** in the Spring Revolution's **political processes**.¹⁸⁸ In a separate statement, the Women's Peace Network urged all international and Burmese stakeholders to ensure that the voices of the Rohingya, especially women, youth, and other marginalized communities, are consulted.¹⁸⁹

In a statement on 26 Aug, the **NUG recognized with 'great shame' the discriminatory policies, practices, and rhetoric directed against the Rohingya**. They emphasized their commitment to creating the conditions needed to return Rohingya in a 'safe, dignified, and sustainable way', and stated that their Federal Democracy Charter promised a nation of 'peace, justice, equality, and the protection of minorities'.¹⁹⁰ The junta's Foreign Affairs Ministry rejected statements acknowledging the 2017 Rohingya genocide by stating that they were all 'politically motivated'.¹⁹¹

UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews called on the UN Security Council to refer the Burma case to the International Criminal Court, and reminded the international community of their shared responsibility and urged them to **"end the deadly paralysis of indifference."** The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) called for urgent funding to invest in education, vocational training, and weather and fire resistant shelters for Rohingya in Bangladesh.¹⁹² Refugees International released a statement that urged an increase in third country resettlement for Rohingya.¹⁹³ Amnesty called on Meta, Facebook's parent company, to take responsibility for its role in driving the genocide by fixing its business model to prevent recurrence and pay reparations to the Rohingya.¹⁹⁴

Arrests, Harassment, Death of Rohingya Continue

At least 17 Rohingya people died and 33 remained missing after a **boat heading for Malaysia capsized** off the coast of Rakhine State on 7 Aug. The boat was reportedly carrying 58 people when a storm struck.¹⁹⁵ Locals said that junta authorities made no effort to carry out search and rescue operations afterwards.¹⁹⁶

On 11 Aug, the **junta arrested 145 Rohingya** including 18 women in Thanbyuzayat Township (Mon State) who had fled refugee camps in Bangladesh.¹⁹⁷ On 23 Aug, **junta forces arrested 27 Rohingya**

¹⁸⁵ DVB (27 Aug 2023) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာကျွန်းဆွယ်ရေးပါတီရုံးတွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ

¹⁸⁶ DVB (30 Aug 2023) ရန်ကင်း၊ တောင်ဥက္ကလာနှင့် အရှေ့ဒဂုံမြို့မရဲစခန်းများ ဗုံးဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁸⁷ AFP (25 Aug 2023) Bangladesh protests mark six years since Rohingya exodus; Irrawaddy (25 Aug 2023) Rohingya in Bangladesh Mark Six Years Since Myanmar Exodus

¹⁸⁸ Progressive Voice (25 Aug 2023) Ensure justice for Rohingya, end military's impunity for genocide: Restore Rohingya's citizenship and rights, coordinate support for refugees

¹⁸⁹ Mizzima (25 Aug 2023) Women's Peace Network remembers 2017 'genocide against Rohingya' in Myanmar's Rakhine

¹⁹⁰ NUG (26 Aug 2023) Statement on the 6th Anniversary of the atrocities committed against the Rohingya people in 2017

¹⁹¹ Irrawaddy (29 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Slams Global Condemnation on Anniversary of Rohingya Genocide

¹⁹² UN News (24 Aug 2023) Six years on, still no justice for Myanmar's Rohingya

¹⁹³ Refugees International (24 Aug 2023) Refugees International Statement on Sixth Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day

¹⁹⁴ Amnesty International (25 Aug 2023) Myanmar: Time for Meta to pay reparations to Rohingya for role in ethnic cleansing

¹⁹⁵ The Guardian (10 Aug 2023) At least 17 people dead after boat carrying Rohingya refugees capsizes off coast of Myanmar

¹⁹⁶ Myanmar Now (9 Aug 2023) Dozens of Rohingya feared dead after boat capsizes near Sittwe

¹⁹⁷ Than Lwin Times (13 Aug 2023) 145 Rohingya arrested in Thanbyuzayet

travelling by truck at the Oakpon checkpoint in Kyangin Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region). It was reported that the junta was to prosecute them under the Registration Act.¹⁹⁸

On 23 Aug, DMG reported that four Rohingya from Sittwe Township (Rakhine State) were taken for ransom by human traffickers on 1 Jul. The mother of one of the victims stated that the victims were falsely promised jobs in Rathedaung Township.¹⁹⁹

On 16 Aug, junta media reported that 440 Rohingya from Northern Rakhine State and 111 Bangladeshi nationals who were being temporarily held at Buthidaung Prison were freed as part of the junta's 1 Aug prisoner amnesty.²⁰⁰ However, two days earlier, Myanmar Now reported that **80 Rohingya detainees had not yet been released** from Thayet prison in Magway Region. Sources connected to Thayet prison inmates added that several Rohingya prisoners whose sentences had ended in Jun and Jul were also still being held.²⁰¹

Rohingya aid in decline as world prioritizes Ukraine

On 1 Sep, RFA reported that **global aid for Rohingya had declined sharply in 2023** because international agencies had shifted their priority towards the war in Ukraine. According to OCHA, the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis to date **had received less than half the contributions in 2023 compared to 2022 and had only received one third of its USD 876 million goal**. US contributions decreased from USD 336 million in 2022 to USD 100 million this year. A spokesperson for the UNHCR said that the decline was likely because international organizations considered the Rohingya crisis a 'protracted' and not an 'emergency' situation.²⁰²

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

On 1 Aug, it was reported that the junta had shelled Ma-U village in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, **killed a girl, and injured three women**.²⁰³ On 15 Aug, the junta **arrested and charged** Daw Nyo Aye, chairperson of the Rakhine Women's Network, under Section 505(b) after she reportedly **attended a commemorative event** for the 56th anniversary of "Rice Crisis Day in Rakhine State" on 13 Aug.²⁰⁴

On 21 Aug, it was reported that a worker at an orphanage run by the Yellow Generation Wave (YGW) organization **allegedly raped a five-year girl** in Ayeyarwady Region. Additionally, a monk at the orphanage reportedly **masturbated in front of the child** after she reported the incident to him. YGW was accused of attempting to cover up the incident. The case shed light on the broader issues of **child rape in Burma** and the challenges of proving such cases in court. The incident also highlighted the need for better regulation and management of monastic schools and orphanages.²⁰⁵

On 5 Aug, a junta announced that **the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) scheme** would resume in August and September in several states and regions of Myanmar. The scheme would provide cash payments of MMK 15,000 (approx 7 USD) to mothers and pregnant women.²⁰⁶ On 16 Aug, UN Women stated that it had supported 91 local women-led and women's rights organizations in Burma since 2021 by providing training on leadership, advocacy, and humanitarian planning. UN Women emphasized that local partners were crucial in delivering critical services to women and girls impacted by gender-based violence (GBV) and were the source of information for international actors on the needs of women and girls in Burma.²⁰⁷

On 24 Aug, journalists and women's rights activists stated that since the attempted coup, **women's participation in media reports had been low** due to unprecedented and growing safety concerns. A journalist said that there was a lack of diverse viewpoints because women often declined on-the-record interviews. The Women's League of Burma urged media to take better security measures regarding reporting on women, peace and security.²⁰⁸

On 30 Aug, citing data from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), it was reported that **the junta had arrested 4,883 women** as of 23 Aug. Of those, 3,770 remained imprisoned and 15 women faced the death penalty. It was also reported that the **regime had killed 488 women and 114**

¹⁹⁸ Mizzima (28 Aug 2023) Myanmar junta detains 27 Rohingya in Ayeyarwaddy's Kyangin Township

¹⁹⁹ DMG (23 Aug 2023) Four Muslims from Sittwe fall victim to trafficking

²⁰⁰ DMG (17 Aug 2023) Hundreds of Muslims released in junta amnesty sent back home

²⁰¹ Myanmar Now (14 Aug 2023) Despite promised amnesty, Rohingya detainees in Magway Region prison have not been freed

²⁰² RFA (1 Sep 2023) Led by US, Rohingya aid nosedives as donors focus on Ukraine, experts say

²⁰³ Mizzima (1 Aug 2023) Girl killed by junta mortar fire in Sagaing's Monywa Township

²⁰⁴ Narinjara (16 Aug 2023) Women's rights activist Daw Nyo Aye charged under section 505(b), sent to Sittwe prison

²⁰⁵ Frontier Myanmar (21 Aug 2023) Alleged child rape case in Ayeyarwady orphanage sparks outrage

²⁰⁶ DMG (5 Aug 2023) Cash assistance to mothers and young children to resume: military mouthpiece

²⁰⁷ UN Women (16 Aug 2023) Women's organizations remain at the front line of the crisis response in Myanmar

²⁰⁸ DMG (24 Aug 2023) Myanmar women's voices harder to find in post-coup media reports

girls. A former political prisoner said that mass strip searches of women prisoners had occurred more frequently in 2023. She added that regime prison staff **would forcefully penetrate prisoners' genitals during searches of women prisoners** and prisoners who were menstruating were ordered to remove their menstrual pads before searches. Another former political prisoner said that prison staff would encourage non-political prisoners to participate in abuses of political prisoners.²⁰⁹

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

On 8 Aug, Frontier Myanmar reported that under **Burma's crumbling public health system**, a lack of staff and falling junta budget allocations for healthcare had **forced patients to pay bribes** and take on greater amounts of healthcare costs just to receive treatment at public hospitals. Rising medicine prices and the junta's crackdown on volunteer healthcare facilities had also made it difficult for charities to fill the gap left by the collapse of the public healthcare system.²¹⁰

On 30 Aug, Than Lwin Times reported that in Mon State, imported medicines had become more expensive due the weakness of MMK and import difficulties. A **rise in medicine prices of around 35%** in August caused shortages and closed several pharmaceutical businesses. The junta's import restrictions and quota-based sales system also worsened the scarcity.²¹¹ On 19 Aug, citing the junta Health Ministry's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), DMG reported that **fake COVID-19 vaccines** distributed by illegal clinics had flooded the Burmese market. The FDA had taken action against two physical shops but had struggled to stop sales by online shops.²¹²

On 4 Aug, the Kantarawaddy Times reported that in Karenni State, many **IDP infants** were unable to get the **necessary vaccines**. Displaced locals said that transportation difficulties and ongoing clashes made it difficult to travel to urban centers for vaccinations.²¹³ On 21 Aug, in Salin and Gangaw Townships (Magway Region), the **child mortality rate had reached 60%** as pregnant women were reported to be suffering from **malnutrition and lack of water and medicine**.²¹⁴ On 24 Aug, displacement camp officials reported that **women in IDP camps in Rakhine State** were experiencing **vaginal infections** due to poor camp conditions and health knowledge. It was reported that many refused to go to the hospital.²¹⁵

On 18 Aug, the junta ordered **Mingalar Hospital in Mahaangmyay Township** (Mandalay Region) to **suspend operations** on 25 Aug. A CDM participant stated the **hospital's employment of two CDM doctors** in 2022 motivated the temporary closure.²¹⁶ On 28 Aug, RFA reported that, since the attempted coup in Feb 2021, **the junta has killed 89 healthcare workers, injured 110, and arrested 853**. A Yangon-based CDM doctor said that the deaths were a result of the junta's targeted violence.²¹⁷

On 16 Aug, in **Mahaangmyay Township (Mandalay Region)**, junta forces **raided Golden Gate Private High School** and arrested the owner and teacher of the school for allegedly joining the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). It was reported that this was **the first school to be targeted** since the regime began investigating private schools for suspected CDM ties.²¹⁸ It was reported that **the regime's Office of the Director of Education** announced educational staff who had participated in the CDM would be barred from **enrolling in distance learning courses** at the Yangon University of Education and Sagaing University of Education.²¹⁹

On 2 Aug, the **NUG Ministry of Education** announced the recognition of **375** in-person schools as **"Interim Basic Education Public Schools"**.²²⁰ On 25 Aug, RFA reported that communities had collaborated with local PDFs to form **"self-help"** schools in **Chin State** and that **90%** of these self-help schools were operational and had more than 50,000 students enrolled. However, the threat of airstrikes and shelling left students in constant fear.²²¹

²⁰⁹ Irrawaddy (30 Aug 2023) Myanmar's Female Political Prisoners Still Committed to Struggle

²¹⁰ Frontier Myanmar (8 Aug 2023) 'No remedy': A broken public health system fosters neglect and corruption

²¹¹ Than Lwin Times (30 Aug 2023) Mon State faces medicine shortages

²¹² DMG (19 Aug 2023) Fake Covid-19 vaccines flood market: Myanmar drug authority

²¹³ Kantarawaddy Times (4 Aug 2023) ညှစ်အောက် စစ်ရှောင်ကလေးငယ်တွေ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးနှံခွင့် နောက်ကျခြင်းကြောင့် မိဘများ စိုးရိမ်ပူပန်နေ

²¹⁴ DVB (21 Aug 2023) Fourteen arrested for film accused of harming Buddhism; Prison delivery group lacks funds to meet demand

²¹⁵ DMG (24 Aug 2023) Camp conditions, lack of knowledge cited for rising vaginal infections among IDP women

²¹⁶ Myanmar Now (23 Aug 2023) Prominent private hospital shut down by junta order in Mandalay

²¹⁷ RFA (28 Aug 2023) Nearly 90 health care workers killed in post-coup military violence

²¹⁸ Irrawaddy (18 Aug 2023) Purge of Private Schools in Myanmar Continues Hunt for Striking Teachers

²¹⁹ DVB (18 Aug 2023) CDM members prevented from distance learning; Bangladesh bank freezes regime accounts

²²⁰ NUG MOE via Facebook (2 Aug 2023) ကြားကာလအခြေခံပညာပြည့်သူ့ပညာရေးကျောင်းများအဖြစ် အသိအမှတ်ပြုကြောင်း ကြေညာချက်"

²²¹ RFA (25 Aug 2023) 'Self-help' schools thrive in Myanmar's Chin state despite military attacks

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

Junta's foreign currency crisis deepens as foreign banks cut ties

On 9 Aug, it was reported that **Singapore's United Overseas Bank (UOB) would restrict all external incoming and outgoing transactions** to Burmese UOB accounts by 1 Sep. It was reported that UOB would also close foreign currency accounts of Burmese banks at UOB's Hong Kong branch.²²² On 16 Aug, **Bangladesh's state-owned Sonali Bank confirmed that it had frozen the accounts** of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB), which collectively held at least USD 1.1 million.²²³ The junta asked Bangladesh to unfreeze the accounts, but Bangladesh responded that those accounts would be frozen until US sanctions were lifted. It was reported that MFTB and MICB had frozen Sonali Bank's accounts with them in retaliation.²²⁴

On 14 Aug, the junta-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) revoked licenses from 13 additional currency exchange companies. In total, they have **revoked 45 currency exchange licenses** over the last 10 months.²²⁵ An export-import merchant stated that buying foreign currencies from official money change counters had become more challenging in recent months and that merchants increasingly relied on the growing foreign currency black market.²²⁶ On the same day, CBM issued a directive allowing Authorized Dealer (AD) licensed banks to use **Thai Baht (THB) for foreign currency transactions** in order to simplify international payments and enhance account-clearing processes.²²⁷

On 19 Aug, the CBM announced plans to form a task force to investigate businesses manipulating market prices.²²⁸ On 20 Aug, the CBM restated that there was **a ban on people keeping large amounts of foreign currencies without permission**, as laid out in the Foreign Exchange Management Rules. The rules state that individuals could hold up to 10,000 USD for six months, after which it had to be exchanged with a registered foreign exchange dealer.²²⁹ On 22 Aug, a junta spokesperson publicly accused unnamed banks of disloyalty, blaming them for the currency crisis. An economic advisor for the NUG's interim Central Bank, Sean Turnell, said that "calling for loyalty from banks to a regime that is the perpetrator of Myanmar's economic catastrophe is simply perverse". He labeled the junta's economic mismanagement as the "central cancer."²³⁰

Singaporean, Indian firms implicated in junta's atrocities

On 22 Aug, over 200 rights and civil society organizations sent an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Singapore and **called on the Singapore government to block the junta's access to arms**, dual-use goods, technology, and funds. The letter pointed out that Singapore was a major procurer of spare parts and manufacturing equipment for the junta's weapons factories. They added that the junta's extensive use of Singaporean banks by arms dealers undermined the credibility of ASEAN's commitment to their call for an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar.²³¹

On 25 Aug, a director representing **Singaporean firm Hydronav** and a sales manager pleaded guilty to two charges under the Strategic Goods (Control) Act for **fraudulently selling a sonar system** that ended up at the **junta navy's** hydrographic center. They sold a multi-beam echo sounder system for seabed mapping to Burma entity Light of Universe for USD 1.58 million in 2018 by **listing Indonesian company Bina Nusantara Perkasa (BNP) as the end-user** to deceive the Norwegian seller and authorities into approving the export. The Singapore prosecution asked for fines of over USD 1 million from Hydronav and between USD 25,000 and USD 35,000 from each of the two men.²³²

On 24 Aug, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that several official partners of the Delhi-hosted 2023 B20 Business Summit - the business dialogue forum of the G20 - had been implicated in supplying arms and equipment to junta. Among official B20 Summit partners, TATA, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Forge,

²²² Nikkei Asia (9 Aug 2023) Key Singapore bank UOB moves to cut off Myanmar

²²³ Irrawaddy (17 Aug 2023) Financial Noose Tightens on Myanmar Junta as US Sanctions Bite Again

²²⁴ RFA (16 Aug 2023) Bangladesh bank freezes accounts belonging to U.S.-sanctioned Myanmar banks

²²⁵ Irrawaddy (16 Aug 2023) As Myanmar Currency Crisis Deepens, Junta Shuts More Money-Exchange Businesses

²²⁶ Mizzima (21 Aug 2023) Dollar trading difficult in Myanmar after central bank revokes money changer licenses

²²⁷ DMG via BNI (19 Aug 2023) Thai Baht Designated as International Payment by Military Council; DMG (16 Aug 2023) Junta approves Thai baht as official settlement currency; Than Lwin Times (20 Aug 2023) Thai Baht's strength likely to lead financial crisis for Myanmar

²²⁸ Irrawaddy (22 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta to Form Task Force to Tackle Soaring Exchange Rates, Gold Prices

²²⁹ Mizzima (22 Aug 2023) Myanmar central bank reiterates action on illegal possession of foreign currencies amid Kyat depreciation

²³⁰ Irrawaddy (23 Aug 2023) Generals Prepare to Target Cause of Myanmar's Currency Crisis—'Disloyal Banks'

²³¹ Justice for Myanmar (22 Aug 2023) Open Letter Regarding Singapore's Response to Business Linked to Myanmar Junta; Irrawaddy (24 Aug 2023) Singapore Called On to Stop Feeding Myanmar Junta's War Machine

²³² Straits Times (28 Aug 2023) Two S'poreans admit role in illegal \$2m sale of sonar that ended up with Myanmar Navy

and JFW had supplied arms to the junta or supported its infrastructure projects, including a junta-owned port.²³³ On 24 Aug, Burma Campaign UK added seven Indian companies to its “Dirty List”.²³⁴

H&M leaves Burma as fast fashion makes rapid exit

On 16 Aug, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) released a report, highlighting a **surge in labor rights abuses in Burma’s garment sector, with 156 cases during Feb 2022 - Feb 2023 compared to 56 in 2021**. The report tracked abuses across 124 factories, including wage reduction, unfair dismissal, forced overtime, and inhumane work conditions. According to BHRRC’s survey along with the report, Spanish fashion retailer Tendam expressed plans to stop sourcing from Burma, and Adidas believed enhanced human rights due diligence could allow them to continue operations responsibly.²³⁵

Following the BHRRC report, H&M, the second largest global fashion retailer, decided to gradually stop sourcing from Burma, citing increased challenges in meeting their operating standards in Burma. The BHRRC report connected 20 labor rights violations to H&M suppliers.

It was reported that H&M used online platforms to allow workers to address misconduct at factory level, and workers faced intimidation and misinformation from bosses that set up the applications.²³⁶ H&M added its exit would follow a “responsible exit framework” developed by IndustriALL.²³⁷ H&M’s exit raised concerns for the jobs of almost 42,000 workers in 41 factories.²³⁸

ILO survey on employment termination and income security in Burma

Employment terminations increased by 23.5% after the attempted coup, 323% in finance and insurance sector; and 392% in public sector.

80% of terminations were resignations. Service and industry sector terminations due to liquidation or suspension of business rose by 13% and 11%, respectively.

Dismissals due to “non-standard” reasons rose by 690%. One-third of these were due to participation in political activities such as the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) or refusal to come to work due to security concerns.

57% of workers received no, or only a proportion of, compensation during their 30-day notice period. Severance packages for men were 42% higher than those for women.

60% of temporarily suspended workers did not receive any salary at all, and 64% of workers’ work hours or overtime were reduced.

ILO (11 Aug 2023) Survey on employment termination and income security in Myanmar

Drawing blood from stones - the rising human cost of mineral extraction

On 2 Aug, the **Australian government** published a statement in response to a **complaint it had received against Mallee Resources Ltd (MYL)**. In Sep 2021, **MYL divested from the Bawdwin** silver, lead, and zinc mine project in **Shan State** and sold its 51% stake to its partner, **Win Myint Mo Industries Co Ltd (WMM)**. It was reported that **WMM was connected to the US-sanctioned Asia World Corporation**. The report concluded that **MYL was not compliant with OECD Guidelines** because it did not have a human rights policy, did not conduct human rights due diligence, and did not engage with local stakeholders prior to MYL’s divestment from the Bawdwin project.²³⁹

On 8 Aug, citing Chinese customs data, it was reported that the value of **rare earth minerals exported from Burma** in the first six months of **2023 reached nearly USD 773 million**. A resident said that local junta aligned militias had begun mining near Pang War and Chipwi Towns in Chipwi Township (Kachin State) bordering China. A Kachin State based environmental activist said that instability and absence of rule of law had made prevention work against illegal mining difficult and that environmental groups could not access excavation sites.²⁴⁰

During 13-15 Aug, in Hpakant Township (Kachin State) **a landslide at a jade mine** dropped at least 40 miners into an artificial lake at the center of the mine. It was reported that **30 miners were missing** and likely dead.²⁴¹ On 15 Aug, rescue workers recovered the bodies of 25 miners.²⁴²

²³³ Justice for Myanmar (24 Aug 2023) B20 Summit Partners Supplied Arms and Equipment to Myanmar Military, including after coup attempt

²³⁴ Burma Campaign UK (24 Aug 2023) On Eve of Indian Business Summit, 7 Indian Companies Added to ‘Dirty List’

²³⁵ Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (15 Aug 2023) Falling out of fashion: Garment worker abuse under military rule in Myanmar

²³⁶ RFA (21 Aug 2023) H&M latest to call it quits in phased exit from Myanmar

²³⁷ The Guardian (17 Aug 2023) H&M says it will ‘phase out’ sourcing from Myanmar suppliers

²³⁸ Irrawaddy (19 Aug 2023) H&M’s Forced Exit Leaves 42,000 Myanmar Workers Asking How They Will Eat

²³⁹ AusNCP (2 Aug 2023) Complaint 27

²⁴⁰ Illegal mining of rare earth metals surges in northern Myanmar

²⁴¹ Myanmar Now (15 Aug 2023) At least 30 jade miners believed dead in latest Hpakant landslide

²⁴² Myanmar Now (16 Aug 2023) 25 bodies recovered at site of Hpakant landslide

On 14 Aug, in Pinlebu Township (Sagaing Region), **junta soldiers raided a gold mine, killed three men and a pregnant woman**, and detained eight people. A local Buddhist abbot negotiated the release of the detainees. Local PDF found the **burned bodies of the four victims** in a torched hut near the mine.²⁴³

During 3-6 Aug, In Salingyi Township (Sagaing Region), the junta **built a barbed-wire fence surrounding Wet Hmay village**, near the **Letpadaung copper mine**. The mine is jointly operated by the regime's Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, **Wanbao**, and Wanbao's two subsidiaries, Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Ltd and Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Ltd. Wanbao is a **subsidiary of the China state-owned defense firm** China North Industries Corporation (**NORINCO**).

Locals said they were not given any warning or information about the fence from either the regime or Wanbao. Residents of other villages around the mine had refused to leave despite the regime's efforts. It was reported that the **regime had killed 17 civilians near the mine since the attempted coup**.²⁴⁴ On 8 Aug, officials from Wanbao summoned six Wet Hmay village representatives, demanded that they tell other residents to **vacate their village**, and said that **junta police and troops may take action** if villagers didn't comply. Locals said that junta soldiers had already occupied many parts of Wet Hmay and had been threatening to forcibly evict villagers if they did not leave.²⁴⁵

On 7 Aug, **17 local strike groups** in Monywa, Salingyi, and Yinmarbin townships (Sagaing Region) **called on subsidiaries of Wanbao**, Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Ltd and Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Ltd, **to stop providing food, resources, and vehicles to junta troops and to stop allowing junta troops to use their compound to launch artillery strikes**. It was reported that regime soldiers supported by Wanbao killed travelers on a nearby road, planted landmines, burned down nearby houses, and forced locals to leave their villages when the companies transported Chinese nationals or cargo.²⁴⁶

On 10 Aug, in Yinmarbin Township, **junta troops, who were reportedly providing security for Wanbao**, abducted, tortured, and killed four men to use as **human shields** as they moved from Yinmarbin to Salingyi Township.²⁴⁷ On 15 Aug, **regime soldiers shelled Pay Kone village, killed a nine-year-old boy**, and injured five adults. A local PDF commander said that there were no clashes in the area.²⁴⁸

On 24 Aug, In Salingyi Township, resistance forces detained Pyu Saw Htee militia members en route from Thabaung Township (Ayeyarwady Region) to guard the Letpadaung copper mine. It was reported that the militia members were **trained by the Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 308** and that the junta was actively **recruiting Pyu Saw Htee members to serve on Wanbao's security team**.²⁴⁹

Cronies act as junta's blood money sponsors

On 10 Aug, Shwe Byain Phyu Oil and Gas Co Ltd, a subsidiary of SBP Group owned by crony Thein Win Zaw, decided to liquidate and finalize outstanding payments by 9 Sep. The reasons for liquidation was not disclosed. SBP group is one of the junta's largest taxpayers due to their investments in gas stations, gem mining, telecoms, and logging.²⁵⁰ The EU, UK, and US had sanctioned many of the businesses linked with Thein Win Zaw. The NUG has also blacklisted SBP for aiding the junta's violence and war crimes. Some observers said the SBP oil and gas's liquidation was to avoid further sanctions, and that it may resume operations under another name.²⁵¹

On 17 Aug, it was reported that crony-owned domestic private banks, such as Kanbawza Bank, Ayeyarwady Bank, and Yoma Bank, had purchased treasury bonds worth billions of Myanmar kyat (MMK) to support the junta's financial needs. As they struggle to fund their military expenditures, the junta has relied on crony purchases of CBM-issued treasury bonds. According to the junta's treasury department, the junta conducted 46 auctions of treasury bonds and bills between Apr and Jul 2023, totaling 17.8 trillion MMK (USD 8.5bn) in sales. This figure is more than three times larger than the junta's military spending of MMK 5.6 trillion (USD 2.7bn) for the current fiscal year. Economists stated that cronies' investments were likely motivated by junta pressure. The NUG's planning and finance

²⁴³ Myanmar Now (19 Aug 2023) Pregnant woman, her father, and two others executed by junta soldiers at gold mine

²⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (8 Aug 2023) Military fences off village near Letpadaung copper mine; Irrawaddy (8 Aug 2023) Chinese Copper Mine in Myanmar Expands With Land Grab

²⁴⁵ RFA (9 Aug 2023) Myanmar junta troops and police try to evict villagers near Chinese copper project

²⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (10 Aug 2023) Chinese Miner Called on to Stop Aiding Myanmar Junta Atrocities

²⁴⁷ Myanmar Now (18 Aug 2023) Military patrol near Sagaing Region mining project tortures, kills four civilian hostages

²⁴⁸ RFA (16 Aug 2023) Heavy artillery kills child in Myanmar's Sagaing region

²⁴⁹ Myanmar Now (26 Aug 2023) Junta recruiting militia members to guard Letpadaung copper mining project, resistance sources say

²⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (15 Aug 2023) Shwe Byain Phyu announces dissolution of petroleum company

²⁵¹ Irrawaddy (15 Aug 2023) Unit of Crony Conglomerate That Fuels Myanmar Military Liquidated

minister argued that the bank's purchase of treasury bonds was effectively using the public's money to fuel the junta's atrocities against civilians in Burma.²⁵²

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

Junta skips chairship of a divided ASEAN

On 2-4 Aug, **Singapore did not participate** in the junta/Russia co-hosted ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM+) counter-terrorism training exercises in Naypyidaw, the **first ASEAN member to skip** one of such events. China, India, and Russia participated. The US, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea boycotted the exercise. Previously, 551 CSOs urged ASEAN member states to cancel the training exercises and exclude the junta from all ADMM+ events.²⁵³

On 29 Aug, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that the exercise held in Naypyidaw was opened by the EU-sanctioned junta armed forces Chief of General Staff involved in purchasing Russian arms. The junta confirmed that the exercise **supported operations against** the "terrorist" **NUG and PDF**. JfM also condemned ASEAN for proceeding with the **junta/Russia co-chaired ADMM+ military exercises** in Russia planned for 25-30 Sep.²⁵⁴

On 3 Aug, **Prime Minister of Timor-Leste** Xanana Gusmão said that the country would **reconsider joining ASEAN** if the bloc **could not resolve the Burma crisis**. He added that ASEAN's inability to sit together to end the conflict meant that Timor-Leste could not trust ASEAN.²⁵⁵ On 26 Aug, **Timor-Leste condemned the junta's expulsion of their Chargé d'Affaires** from Burma on 25 Aug in retaliation for the Timorese government holding meetings with the NUG during Jul-Aug. It was reported that this was the **first expulsion of a foreign diplomat** since the attempted coup. Timor-Leste reiterated its support for the return of democratic order and expressed its solidarity with the people of Burma.²⁵⁶ The NUG and the CRPH both condemned the expulsion. The CRPH stated that the **illegal junta did not hold any authority** to make decisions regarding Burma's international relations.²⁵⁷

On 11 Aug, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) and a group of lawyers from the Philippines and Indonesia **filed a petition with ASEAN** and urged it to **establish a fact-finding mission** to investigate the junta's crimes; a **regional tribunal** to prosecute the perpetrators of gross human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity; and an effective **individual complaints mechanism** consistent with international human rights law. The authors argued that the petition was in line with the purpose of ASEAN "to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms" as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Terms of Reference of the AICHR, and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.²⁵⁸

On 15 Aug, diplomatic sources in ASEAN said that the **junta would not chair the bloc in 2026** due to the junta's unpreparedness and the refusal of member states to allow its participation in high-level meetings. The junta would plan to chair in 2027 instead, with the Philippines acting as chair in 2026.²⁵⁹

US expands sanctions on jet fuel

On 4 Aug, the US Department of State announced the **window for entities to wind down business** with junta-affiliated and US-sanctioned banks MFTB and MICB would close on 5 Aug. The State Department said it would **ensure compliance with US policy** and will undertake enforcement actions if needed.²⁶⁰

On 23 Aug, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced a decision to allow **sanctions to be imposed on any foreign individual or entity** operating in the jet fuel sector of the Burmese economy. This action targeted Khin Phyu Win and Singaporean companies PEIA, P.E.I Energy, and Shoon Energy which operate under her control, as well as Zaw Min Tun.²⁶¹ Justice for

²⁵² Myanmar Now (17 Aug 2023) Junta fills coffers with private bank magnates' bond purchases

²⁵³ Myanmar Now (10 Aug 2023) Singapore first among ASEAN members to skip Myanmar junta-hosted military exercises; Progressive Voice (25 Aug 2023) 551 civil society organisations urge ASEAN and dialogue partner defence ministers to cancel 'counter-terrorism' training to be hosted by Myanmar military junta and Russia

²⁵⁴ Justice for Myanmar (29 Aug 2023) ASEAN proceeding with military training exercise that aids Myanmar junta atrocities

²⁵⁵ The Jakarta Post (7 Aug 2023) Timor Leste rethinks its accession bid if Asean cannot handle Myanmar issue

²⁵⁶ AP News (27 Aug 2023) Myanmar expels East Timor's diplomat in retaliation for supporting opposition forces

²⁵⁷ NUG via X (28 Aug 2023) NUG Statement on the Terrorist Military Junta's Expulsion of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste from Myanmar; CRPH via X (29 Aug 2023) Statement on the terrorist Military Junta's Expulsion of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste from Myanmar

²⁵⁸ Myanmar Accountability Project (10 Aug 2023) Rights Officials and Lawyers Petition ASEAN to Establish an Individual Complaints Mechanism and Fact-Finding Mission for Myanmar

²⁵⁹ Thai PBS (15 Aug 2023) Myanmar to skip Asean chair of 2026; Nikkei Asia (16 Aug 2023) Myanmar military regime to withdraw from chairing ASEAN in 2026

²⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (7 Aug 2023) US Closes Sanctions Window For Myanmar Junta Banks; US Department of State (4 Aug 2023) Transactions with Sanctioned Burmese Banks Must Be Wound Down by August 5, 2023

²⁶¹ US Department of the Treasury (23 Aug 2023) Treasury Expands Burma-Related Sanctions and Designates Additional Jet Fuel Suppliers in Burma

Myanmar (JfM) stated that this sent a **message that all companies** in the junta's jet fuel supply chain could face sanctions. They called on accounting firm Ernst & Young (EY) to cut ties with PEIA and P.E.I Energy.²⁶² Burma Campaign UK stated that this would render useless **name or ownership changes** by Burmese-linked companies and called on the UK and the EU to follow suit.²⁶³

Thailand tries to reduce refugee influx

On Aug 7, Thai CSOs sent a letter to Thailand's House of Representatives asking for **protective measures against junta airstrikes that trespassed into Thai airspace**, forced thousands of Burmese refugees to flee across the Thai border, and damaged property belonging to Thai citizens. The letter said that since the attempted coup, junta fighter jets forced Thai farmers to seek shelter, live in fear of attacks, and that they did not receive compensation from the junta for damages incurred.²⁶⁴

On 10 Aug, Thai Lower House lawmakers **proposed a safe zone** implemented in areas in Karen and Karenni States **along the Thai border** for civilians repeatedly displaced by junta airstrikes and raids. Thai MP Kanawee Suebsaeng suggested the zone be **established 5 km into Burma** from the Thai border. He added that Thai lawmakers would push humanitarian aid for refugees and for government officials to a comprehensive outline of solutions. KHRG warned that practical factors such as the **duration of the safe zone** and the existing presence of donors for refugee support also needed to be considered. The Institute for Strategy and Policy-Myanmar said that even if the Thai parliament were to approve the safe zone, the Thailand would still have to negotiate with the junta.²⁶⁵

UN visit to Naypyidaw sparks international outrage

During 15-17 Aug, Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Emergency Relief Coordination of the UN Humanitarian Affairs Office (OCHA), visited Burma where he **met with the junta chief** in Naypyidaw to discuss humanitarian aid.²⁶⁶ Observers and civil society warned that the **UN's repeated unsuccessful efforts** to end the junta's international aid ban not only **legitimized the junta**, but also provided an opportunity for the junta to **spread its own narrative**.²⁶⁷ On 16 Aug, Griffiths met with officials from the **junta-aligned Arakan State military council** in Sittwe to discuss cyclone aid, stability in Rakhine, and Rohingya repatriation. He also spoke to a **Rohingya camp manager** who requested the UN's help in obtaining citizenship ID cards.²⁶⁸ On 17 Aug, Griffiths expressed concerns about the risks civilians in conflict areas faced and the bureaucratic constraints to humanitarian aid. He called for increased international aid funding and humanitarian access in Rakhine State.²⁶⁹ On 21 Aug, the **NUG Foreign and Humanitarian Affairs Ministers** held an **online meeting with Griffiths** and urged OCHA to openly engage with EROs, CSOs, and other actors relevant on-the-ground, as opposed to the junta alone.²⁷⁰

On 23 Aug, 13 **UN Security Council (UNSC)** members, excluding China and Russia, stated that "**insufficient progress**" had been made on its expectations set out in the UNSC Resolution 2669 after a closed-door briefing on the Burma crisis including Griffiths. They "remained deeply concerned", particularly over the use of airstrikes, and urged Burma to "address the fundamental causes of the crisis and restore the rights of Rohingya." The US ambassador called for **actions beyond Resolution 2669**.²⁷¹

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²⁶² Justice for Myanmar (24 Aug 2023) JfM welcomes US action to block the Myanmar junta's access to jet fuel

²⁶³ Burma Campaign UK (23 Aug 2023) US Determination on Jet Fuel to Myanmar: UK Insurance Companies Must Now Be Sanctioned By USA

²⁶⁴ Mizzima (8 Aug 2023) Thai NGOs call for protective measure of National Assembly against intrusion of Myanmar jet fighters

²⁶⁵ RFA (17 Aug 2023) Displaced Burmese want Thailand to set up safe zone as sanctuary from fighting

²⁶⁶ DMG (16 Aug 2023) Junta boss, UNOCHA chief talk assistance to storm victims

²⁶⁷ Mizzima (17 Aug 2023) Anger and surprise over UN humanitarian aid rep visit with Myanmar's generals; Justice for Myanmar (22 Aug 2023) Civil society statement on the visit of head of OCHA to Myanmar

²⁶⁸ DMG (18 Aug 2023) UN humanitarian chief visits Sittwe to observe rehabilitation efforts

²⁶⁹ OCHA (17 Aug 2023) Lack of access and funding hampering aid to 18 million people in Myanmar, UN Humanitarian Chief Martin Griffiths says following visit to the country

²⁷⁰ Mizzima (24 Aug 2023) NUG calls on UN bodies to include role of EROs, CSOs in delivering aid to Myanmar

²⁷¹ Al Jazeera (24 Aug 2023) UN Security Council condemns Myanmar military over 'unrelenting violence'