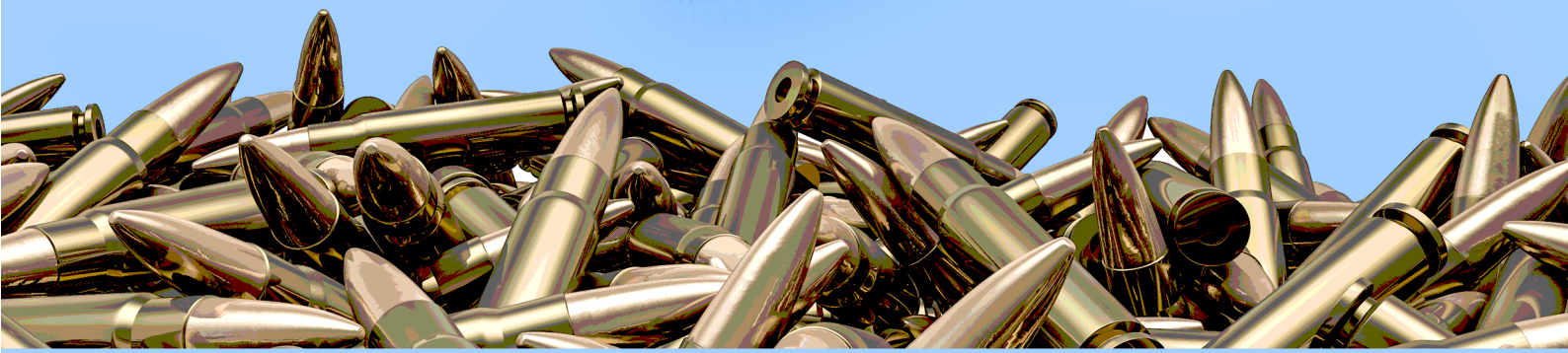


Weekly News Review

Issue 124, 27 September - 3 October 2023



Military Junta's Maneuvers Around the NCA



Military Junta's Maneuvers Around the NCA

Introduction

15 October 2023 marks the 8th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The Myanmar's military junta continues to cling to the peace process that emerged under the landmark agreement, which has been stalled by the recent military coup, while some Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) remain in engagement with the regime.

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review examines the military council's maneuvers to organize the 8th anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement which was initially signed with eight Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).



Making sense of the NCA...

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is a ceasefire agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), on 15 October 2015 by nine representatives of the government led by the President U Thein Sein and 24 representatives of eight EROs. It was also signed by 21 domestic witnesses and delegates from China, India, Japan, Thailand, the European Union, and the United Nations as international witnesses. Ambassadors from over 30 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, France, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, attended the signing ceremony.

The fact that the NCA was signed by only the eight EROs – seven of the 16 EROs of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), one non-NCCT ERO – and the government led to criticism that the NCA was an "8CA." However, on Union Day on 12 February 2018, two additional EAOs signed the NCA with the government, bringing the total number of NCA signatories to 10.

The NCA, which consists of seven chapters and 33 paragraphs, and initiated with the "goal of sustainable peace," includes 35 facts related to politics, 55 military-related facts, and 23 facts pertaining to socio-economic matters. The Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held within the framework of the peace process emerged along the path of the NCA, and as many as three parts of the Union Accord were achieved and ratified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament), leading to efforts to amend the 2008 Constitution.

The direction of the NCA after 2020



During the 21st Century Panglong Conference, held 19-23 August 2020, prior to the coup, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stated the following three major focuses of the peace beyond 2020:

"The first focus in 2020 will be to jointly carry out the two processes of national reconciliation and domestic peace. The second focus will be to jointly carry out the two processes of democratic transition and building a federal union. The third focus will be to implement constitutional reform based on the agreements that emerge from the first two focuses."

The first focus is to have discussions and negotiations with EAOs who have not yet signed the NCA to get bilateral ceasefire deals, strengthen the ceasefires with EAOs who have signed the NCA, promote ethnic rights in line with the basic principles agreed in the Union Accord, and rapidly take



The junta continues to hold talks with some non-NCA signatory EAOs in addition to NCA signatory ones.



administrative measures that value equality and make judicial reforms aimed at federalism.

The second focus is to continue discussing and negotiating the federal democratic union framework principles to find a state constitution that is agreed by all states. It also includes discussing and negotiating the reintegration processes and plans to implement democratic transition and federal union building, the mechanisms and practical steps to implement them.

The third focus is to involve experts in each step of amending and supplementing laws including the Constitution according to the NCA roadmap, through the political agreements reached.

Military junta's maneuvers around the NCA

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and the related peace process stalled following the 1 February 2021 military coup. Even the leaders of the NCA signatory EAOs engaging with the military junta have clearly stated that their meetings with the junta are not part of the NCA process.

However, the military junta has clearly stated in its 5-Point Roadmap that "emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement" and they continue to hold talks with some non-NCA signatory EAOs in addition to NCA signatory ones.

Lieutenant General Yar Pyae has been appointed as chair of the organizing committee for the 8th anniversary of the NCA signing, and the regime has announced that "preparations are underway to meaningfully and solemnly hold the ceremony on 15 October 2023."

On 21-22 September 2023, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) led by Lieutenant General Yar Pyae and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)



met and seriously discussed holding the 8th anniversary of the NCA signing. ¹

Following the 30 August 2023 meeting with five NCA signatory EAOs, the junta also stated that it had discussed “holding the 8th anniversary of the NCA signing in a politically meaningful way”. ² The five NCA signatory EAOs are said to be the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Karen Peace Council (KPC), the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA).

The military junta has sent out three types of invitations for the 8th anniversary of the NCA. They invited individuals who signed the NCA, five representatives per organization that signed the NCA, and three representatives per NCA signatory organization to participate in the post-ceremony workshop. ³

Review

The invitees to the military council-led 8th anniversary of the signing of the NCA include those who signed the NCA under the

1 Meeting held between NSPNC and RCSS representatives <http://rb.gy/9jz8c>

2 NSPNC meet with five EAOs (ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, PNLO) <http://rb.gy/663t4>

3 An interview with PNLA patron Colonel Khun Okkar <http://rb.gy/qiwij>



...met with former KNU chair Saw Mutu Say Poe, portraying this as a meeting with an "ethnic Karen leader" who signed the NCA.



Thein Sein's government such as U Thein Sein himself, government officials, and those from the group of eight EROs which signed the agreement. However, it is unlikely that the government officials who signed the NCA under the National League for Democracy (NLD) government, especially Dr. Tin Myo Win who headed the Peace Commission, will be seen.

When the military junta approaches EROs who oppose their coup, they first try to appeal to the respective organizations first. Failing that, they turn to individuals associated with the organizations. Also on 30 September, the regime chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with former Karen National Union (KNU) chair Saw Mutu Say Poe, portraying this as a meeting with an "ethnic Karen leader" who signed the NCA.

All in all, the military junta is trying to control the EROs who signed the NCA while trying to successfully carry out its coup. At the same time, they are using popular words such as federal democracy and amending the 2008 Constitution to appeal to EROs who did not sign the NCA while consolidating their military rule.

To sum up, the individuals and representatives who are expected to be seen at the military junta's 8th anniversary of the NCA signing on 15 October will likely only reflect the junta's NCA maneuvers. It will have no real impact on the efforts to end the military dictatorship and build a federal democratic union, which is the goal of the Spring Revolution.

Local woman from Ywangan has a miscarriage during the interrogation



4 Oct 2023

A 30-year-old displaced woman from Paeyintaung village in Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State, had a miscarriage due to the military council's arrest and interrogation, according to the persons close to her.

The victim is Ma Poe Ou. She was arrested by the military council on the evening of 29 September while she was taking shelter at the house of her relative in Singaung ward in Pindaya.

The military council soldiers arrested her as they did not find her husband Ko Win Kyaw. She had a miscarriage in the three-month pregnancy.

Regarding the arrest and interrogation of Ma Poe Ou, Ko Tun Tun Naing, information officer of Danu People's Liberation Front (DPLF) which is active in the Danu region said: "The military council arrested and took her to Ywangan police station. She had a miscarriage after bleeding, at the police station. At that time, she was returned to Pindaya. There is no extortion."

She was freed at night on 30 September. Currently, she is receiving medical treatment.

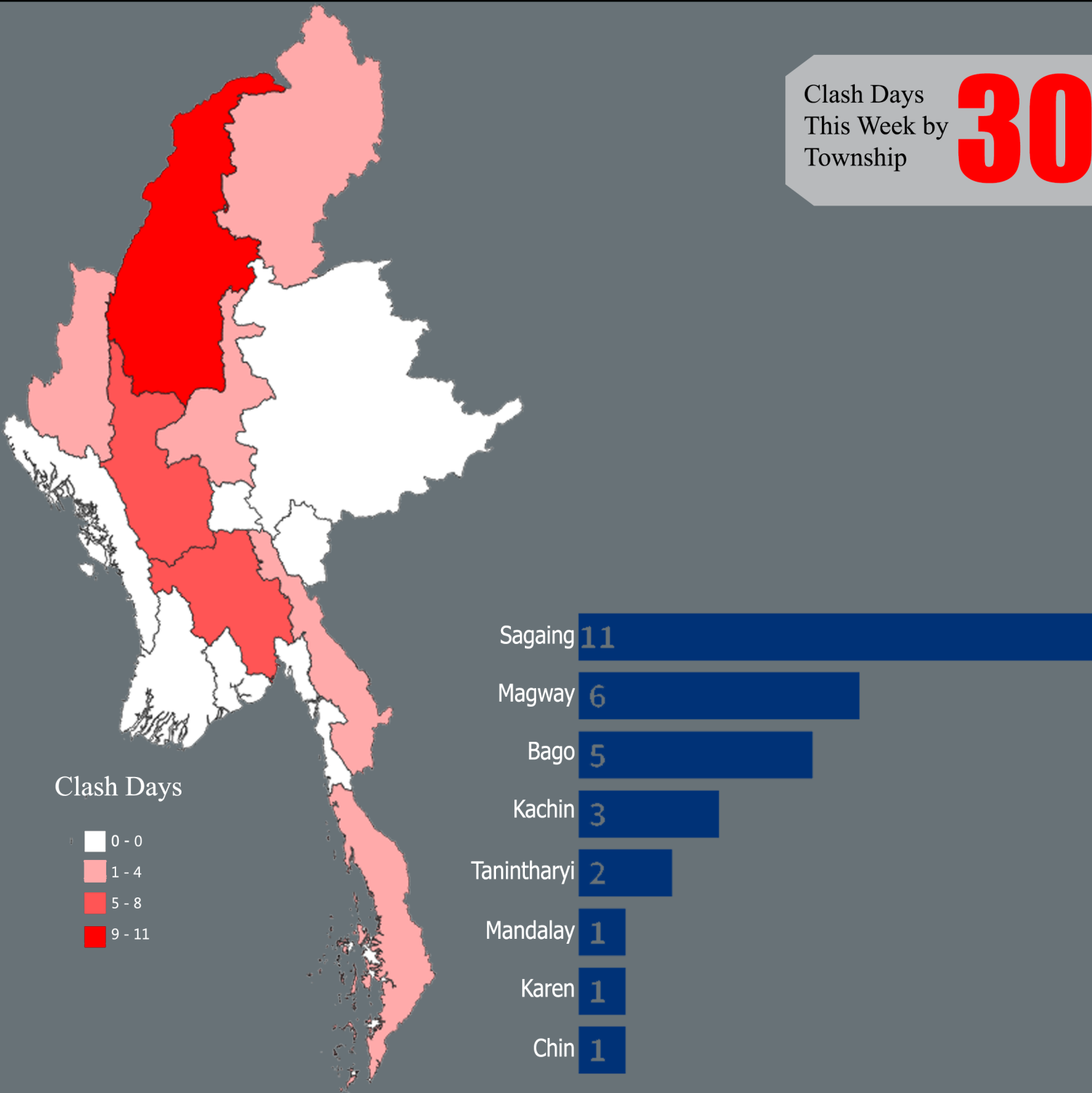
Regarding the reason for the arrest of Ma Poe Ou and her husband, Ko Tun Tun Naing said: "She was arrested citing the couple is involved in the revolution. They have been taking refuge in Pindaya ever since. They (military council) chased and arrested her as they got the news."

On 22 April, 2022, the military council and Pyu Saw Htee arrested and killed nine men from Paeyintaung village in Ywangan Township. After that incident, more than 400 locals from the village have fled to safer places.

Part II

What Happened This Week

According to the record of the Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), 30 days of clashes were recorded between the military council force, People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 27 September to 3 October. Breaking down the regions and states, Sagaing Region topped the list of clashes with 11 days. As we record the clashes in the townships by date, the frequency may be more than that.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

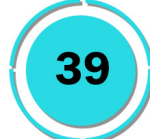
27 September - 3 October 2023



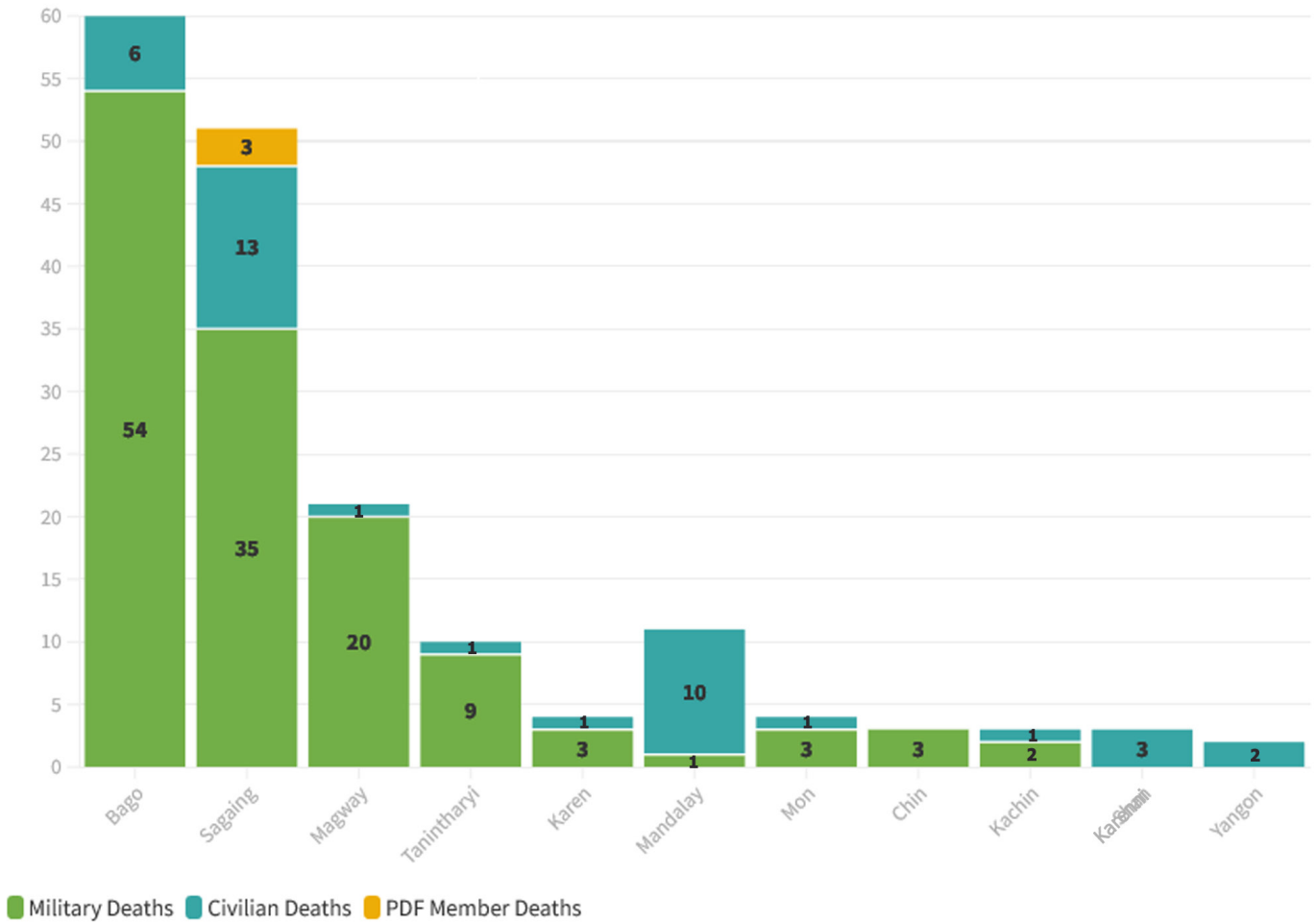
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



25200

Total Number of IDPs (27 September - 3 October 2023)

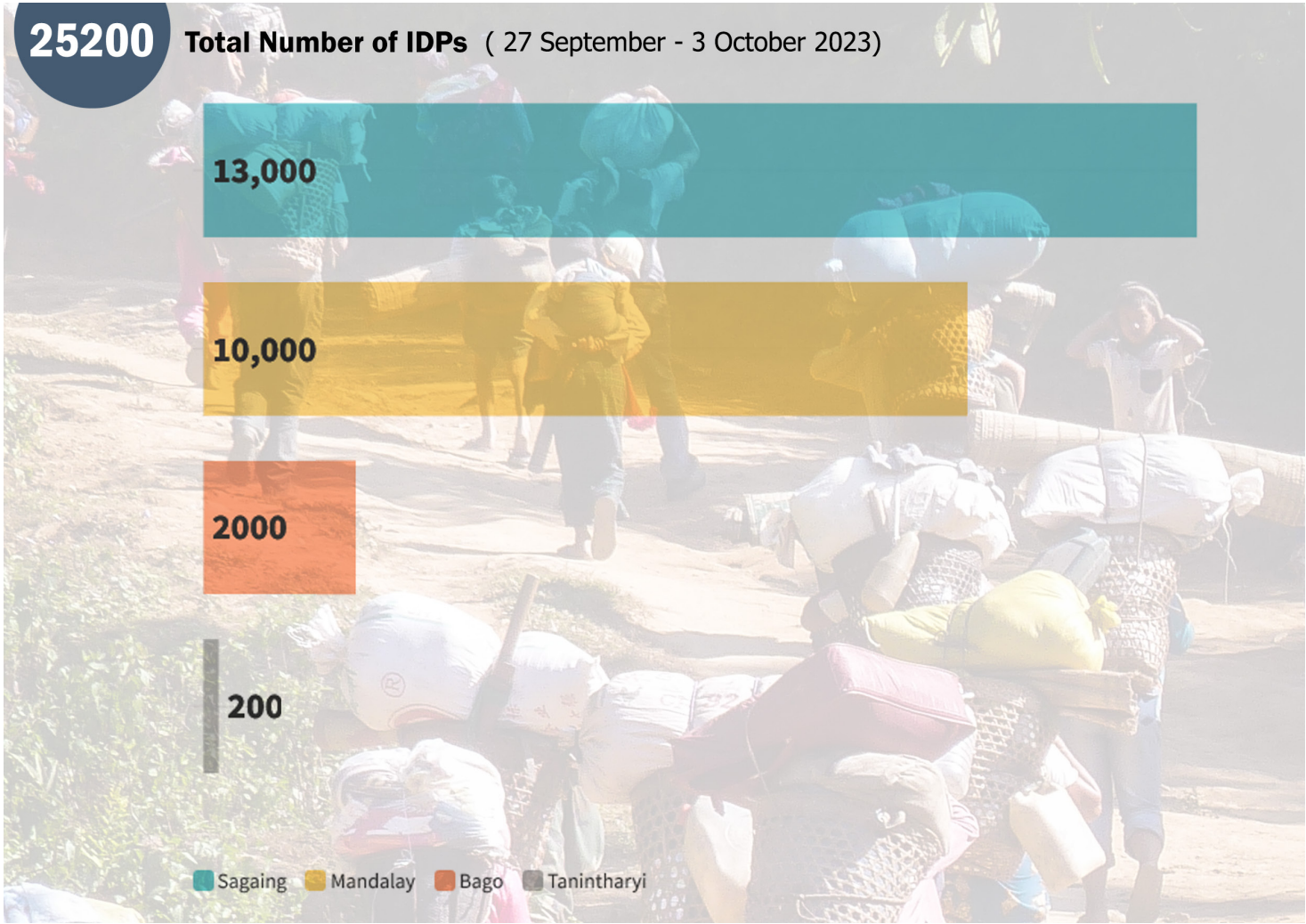
13,000

10,000

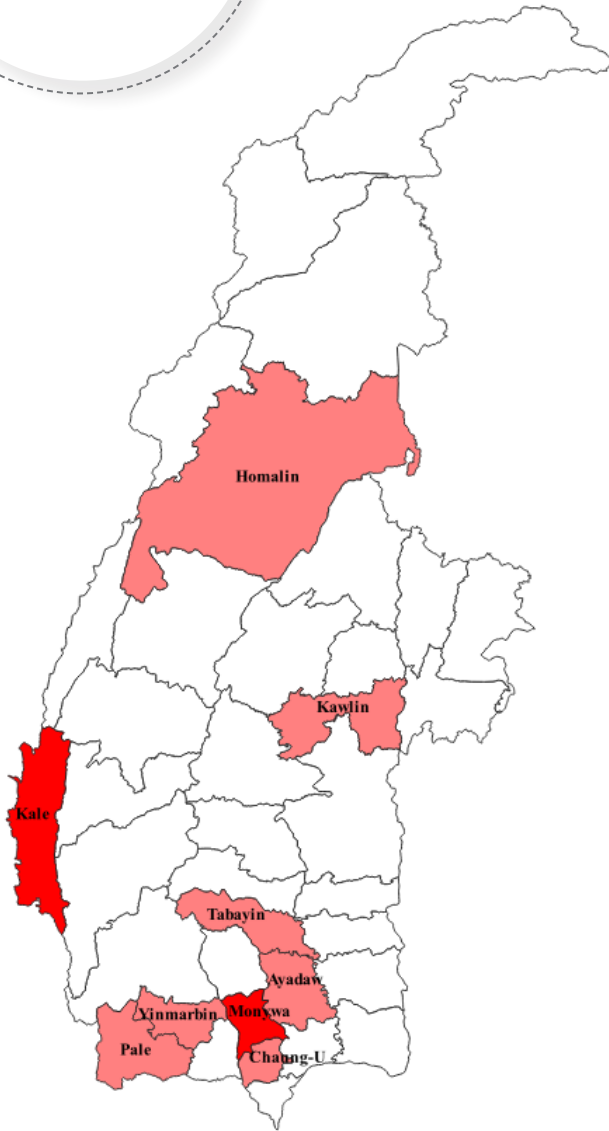
2000

200

Sagaing Mandalay Bago Tanintharyi



11 Days

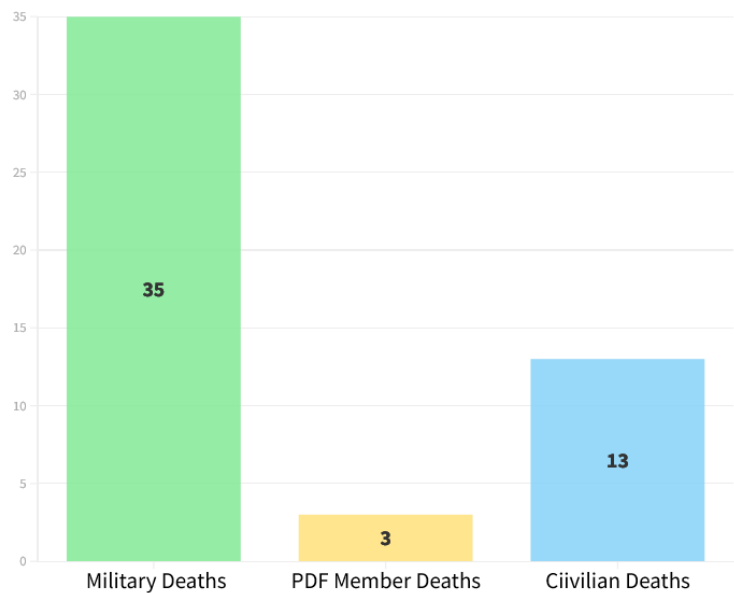


Number of Clash Days



Sagaing Region

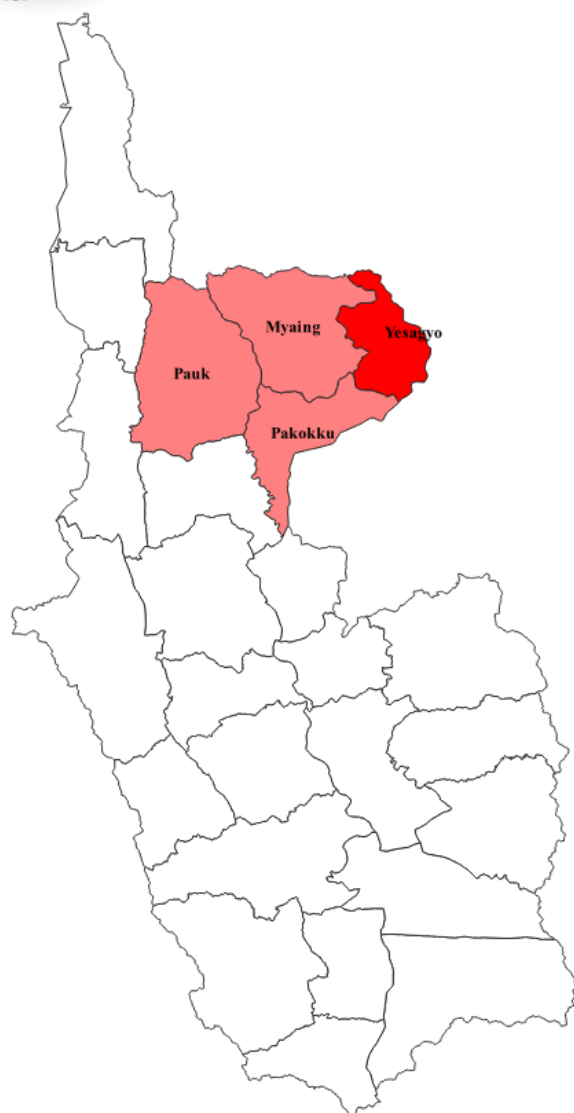
Fighting took place between the military council force, Shanni Nationalities Army (SNA) and the PDFs in Monywa, Yinmarbin, Kalay, Homalin, Depayin, Ayardaw, Monywa, Pale, Kawlin and ChaungU Townships, killing 30 military council soldiers and three PDF members. In addition, five military council soldiers were killed in the attacks in Yinmarbin and Salingyi Townships. Twelve locals were killed in the military council’s shootings in Kalay, Depayin and Pale Townships. On 27 September, abbot Ashin Nyandika from Pinttin village in Indaw Township was killed by an unknown armed force. ¹ In addition, more than 13,000 locals from Homalin and Depayin Townships have fled to safer places due to the military council’s offensives.



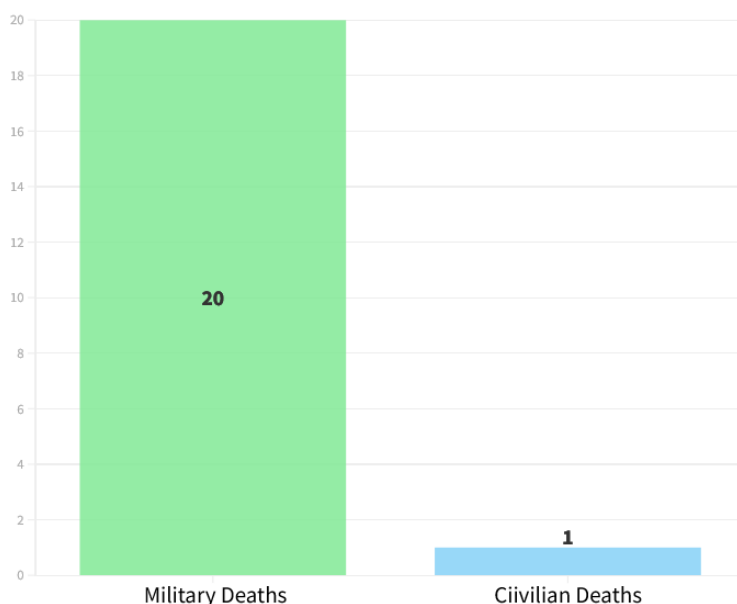
1 An abbot from Pinttin village in Indaw Township, was murdered. <https://tinyurl.com/youu4vqa>

Magway Region

There were battles between the military council force and the PDFs in Yesagyo, Myaing, Pakokku and Pauk Townships, leaving 19 military council soldiers dead. On 1 October, one military council soldier was killed and around 17 others wounded in a drone attack on the military column in Myaing Township. ² On 11 September, the Pyu Saw Htee arrested Ko Yin Gyi (aka) Gaungpyar, 40, who stayed alone at Tawya monastery near Hantharwaddy village in Gangaw Township. However, his bones were found 17 days after being abducted by Pyu Saw Htee members. ³



Number of Clash Days

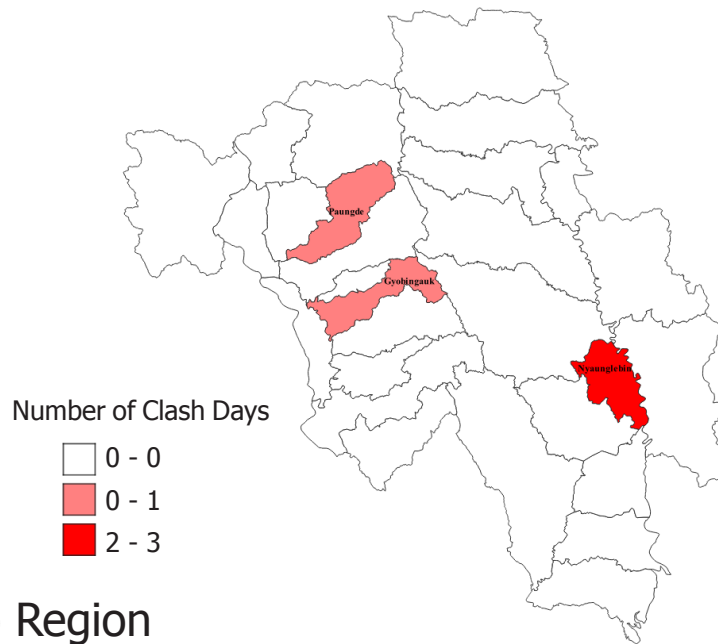


² Military council forces stationed in Myaing and Pakokku Technological University face sniper and drone attacks.

<https://tinyurl.com/yo2lobva>

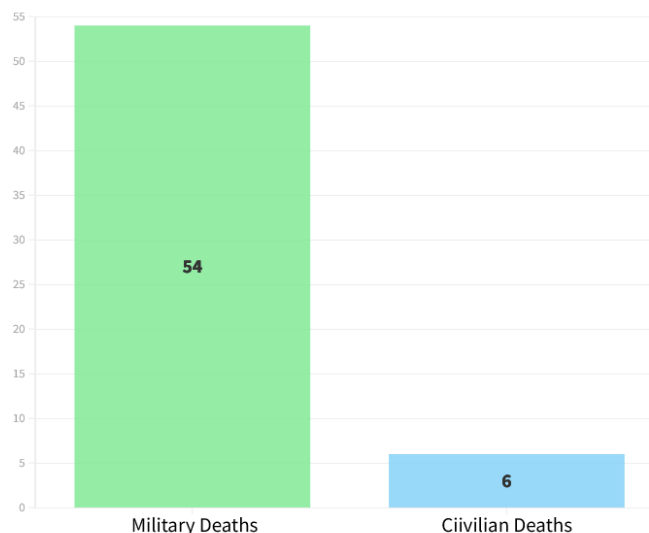
³ The bones of a monk arrested by Pyu Saw Htee in Gangaw, were found more than two weeks after abduction.

<https://tinyurl.com/25lq498h>



Bago Region

Fifty-three military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council force and the PDFs in Nyaunglebin, Paungde and Gyobingauk Townships. On 3 October, one military council soldier was killed and two others wounded in an attack on the main military logistics near 19th street at the corner of Irrigation road and detour junction on Bago detour. ⁴ In addition, four civilians were killed by the military council's shooting in Nyaunglebin and Shwegyin Townships. On 30 September, two men who were doing illegal logging in cooperation with the military council force in Taungoo Township, were killed and one man injured in a shooting in Taungoo Township. ⁵ More than 2,000 locals from Minhla and Nyaunglebin Townships fled to safer places due to the military council's artillery shelling and burning.



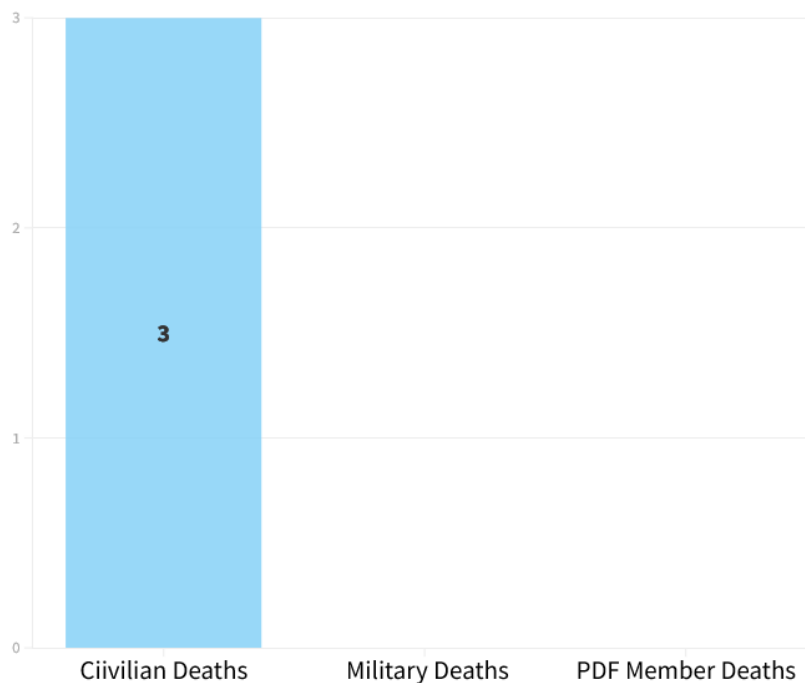
⁴ Attack on the military council's logistics force resulted in casualties on the Bago detour. <https://tinyurl.com/2x5wogrz>

⁵ Two of three persons who are carrying out illegal timber logging in cooperation with the army were killed in a shooting in Taungoo. <https://tinyurl.com/yv9aoj6o>



Shan State

On 27 September, at least two civilians were killed and about 12 others injured in a bomb blast at DENKO fuel filling station in Lashio. ⁶ In addition, a man who sells ice pods near Kaungwein village in Namawan village-tract in Muse Township was shot dead by an unknown armed group on 30 September. ⁷



⁶ At least two people were killed and many others wounded in a bomb blast at DENKO fuel filling station in Lashio. <https://tinyurl.com/25udkzco>

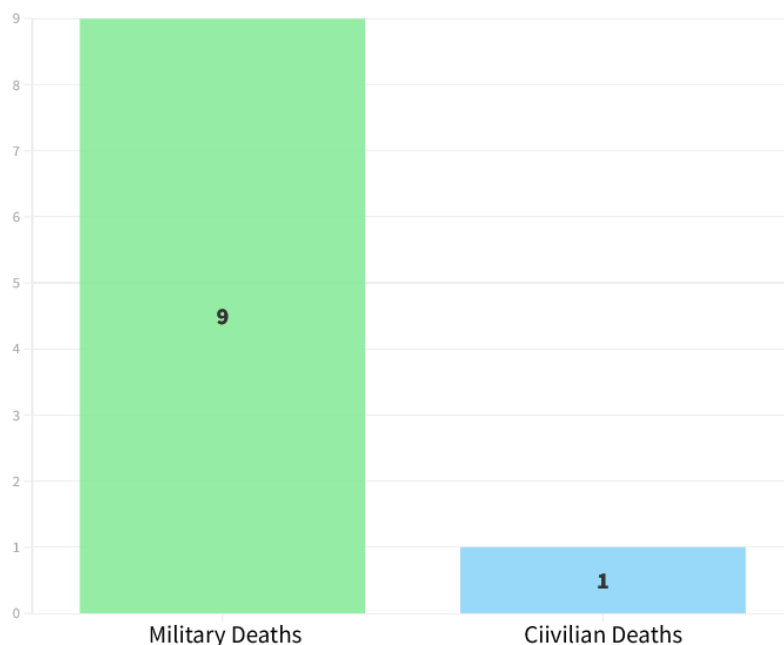
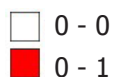
⁷ A man who sells ice pods was shot dead in Muse Township. <https://tinyurl.com/ylzb4hpr>

Tanintharyi Region

Seven military council soldiers were killed in a battle between the military council and the PDFs in Palaw and Tanintharyi Townships. On 30 September, a corporal and a lance corporal who asked five inmates from Dawei prison, to carry rubber firewood in Zeekya village on the border of Dawei Township and Yebyu Township, were shot dead by an unknown armed force. Later, all five inmates escaped. ⁸ On 29 September, a local was shot dead and two locals, arrested by the military council soldiers in Shutpone village in Palaw Township. ⁹ On 29 September, more than 200 villagers from Tanintharyi Township fled to safer places due to the military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling. ¹⁰



Number of Clash Days



⁸ The assassination of two Dawei prison staff and the escape of five inmates is under investigation.

<https://tinyurl.com/yspzketl>

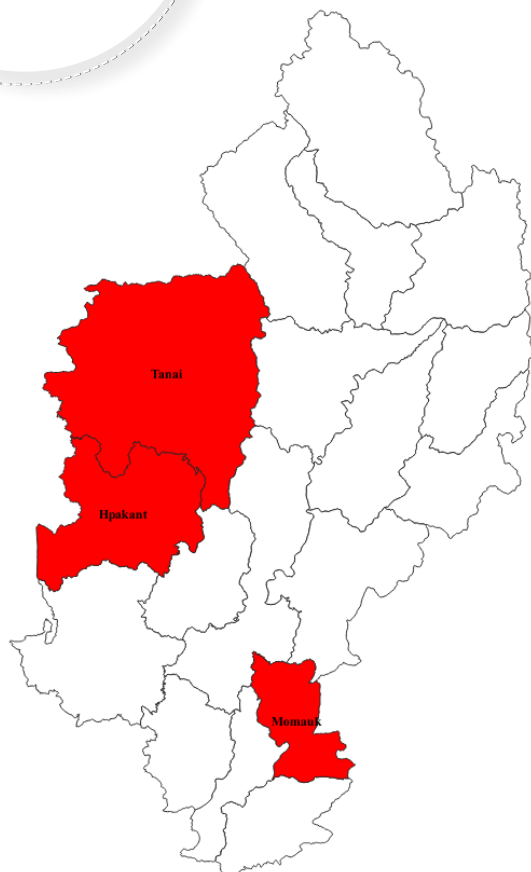
⁹ A local was shot dead and two others abducted by the military council in Palaw. <https://tinyurl.com/yIx53czx>

¹⁰ More than 200 IDPs fled to safety due to the military council's artillery shelling in Tanintharyi Township.

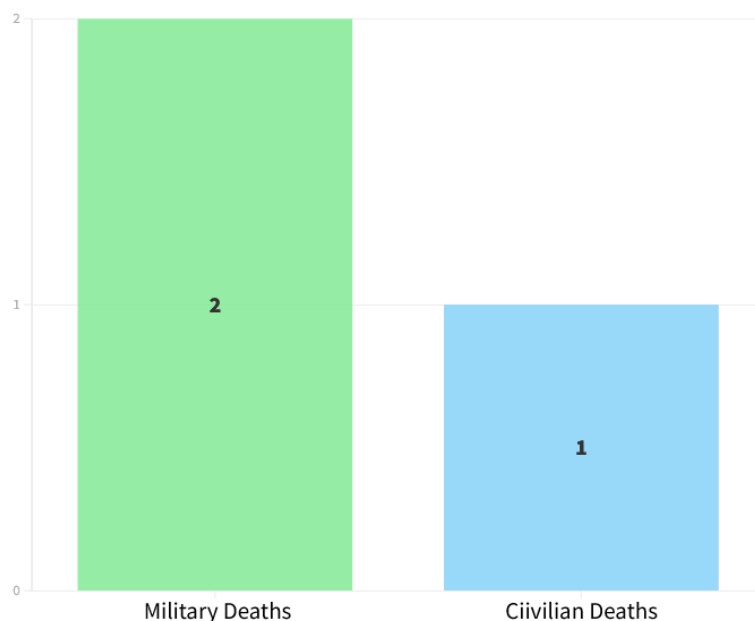
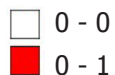
<https://tinyurl.com/ymq3gshb>

Kachin State

Two military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council force and the combined force of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Arakan Army (AA) in Tanai, Moemauk and Hpakant Townships. On 3 October, Ko Than Min Htike who sells preserved fruits by motorbike was shot dead by an unknown armed force in Lonekhin village-tract in Hpakant Township. ¹¹



Number of Clash Days



11 A vendor was shot dead in Hpakant. <https://tinyurl.com/yv3j86bd>

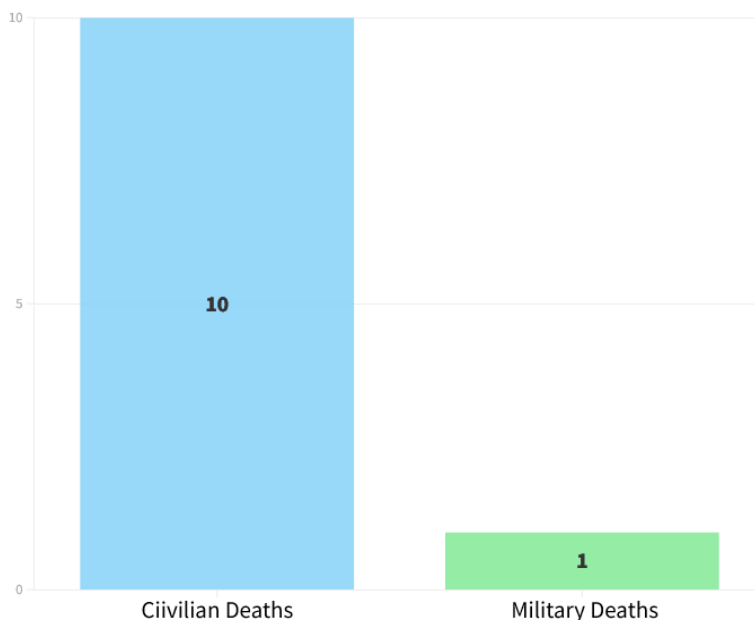
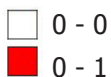
1 Day



Mandalay Region

On 2 October, fighting took place between the military council force and the PDF on Madaya-Mogok road near Nyaungwon village in Singu Township, wounding two Pyu Saw Htee men and killing one Non-CDM female teacher and a motorbike driver.¹² On 27 September, the PDF dropped bombs on Yaynanthar police station in Madaya Township three times with the use of Fixed Wing drone. One police member was killed and four wounded in the drone attacks.¹³ In addition, four military informants and four members of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) were assassinated by the PDFs in Myingyan and Natogyi Townships. Nearly 10,000 locals from Madaya and Singu Townships fled to safer places as the military council force conducted offensive via water route on 27 September.¹⁴

Number of Clash Days



12 PDF attacked a vehicle carrying Pyu Saw Htee members on Madaya-Mogok road. <https://tinyurl.com/yp9mnp2>

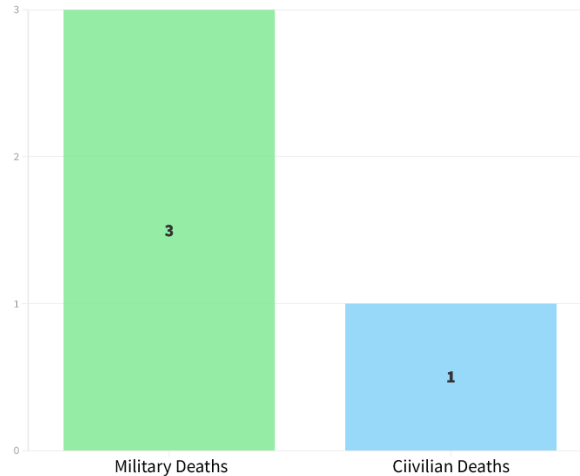
13 Military council faced an attack in Monywa, and the PDF carried out a drone attack on Madaya Yaynanthar police station. <https://tinyurl.com/2des2dh3>

14 The army conducted offensives in Madaya and Singu along Ayeyawaddy River. <https://tinyurl.com/23y76vzo>



Mon State

On 30 September, three military council soldiers including the deputy battalion commander were killed in the attack on the military force led by Light Infantry Battalion-591 near Kanhla village in Ye Township. ¹⁵ In addition, on 3 October, retired captain U Win Naung Ko was shot dead by the PDF in Kyarpan village in Thaton Township. ¹⁶

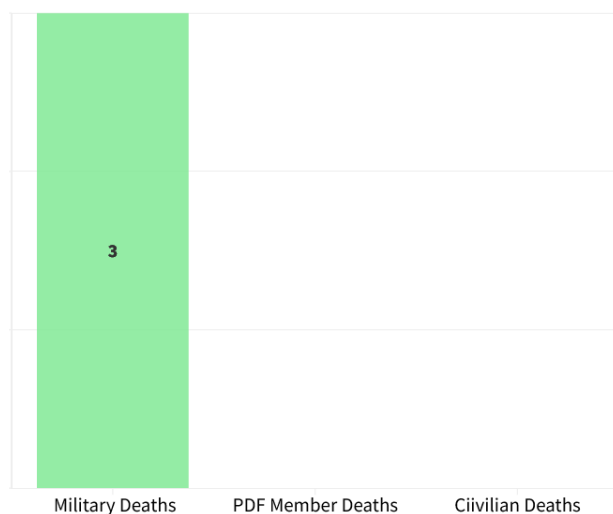


Clash Days
by Township
1 Day



Chin State

On 27 September, the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) attacked the Township General Administration Office and the Education Office where the military council soldiers are stationed, in Kanpetlet Township. Three military council soldiers were killed and many others wounded in a sniper attack. ¹⁷



Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1

¹⁵ Deputy Battalion Commander of Light Infantry Battalion-591 and its members were shot dead in Ye Township.

<https://tinyurl.com/yk73xaa9>

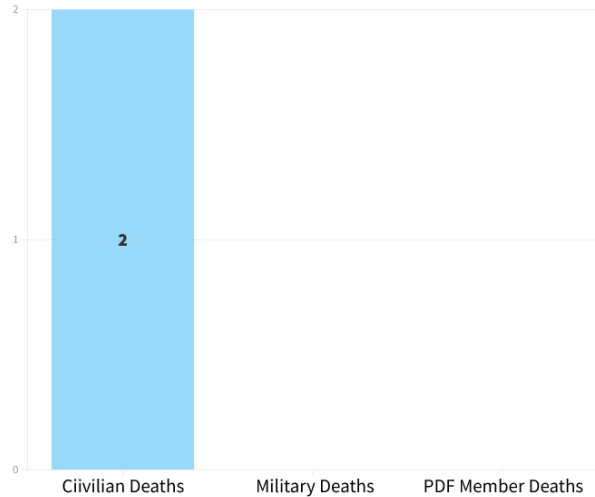
¹⁶ A retired captain was shot dead in Thaton. <https://tinyurl.com/yttljdsg>

¹⁷ CDF attacked two military council-backed offices, CDF-Paletwa will take action against those who carry out the acts that will hinder the revolution. <https://tinyurl.com/2855pcle>



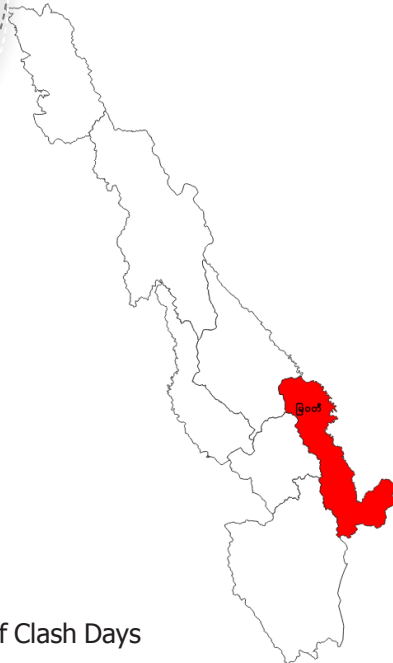
Yangon Region

On 2 October, a man and his son were found dead with knife wounds at a house in Ngwethaungyan in east ward of Kyauktan Township. ¹⁸



Clash Days by Township

1 Day

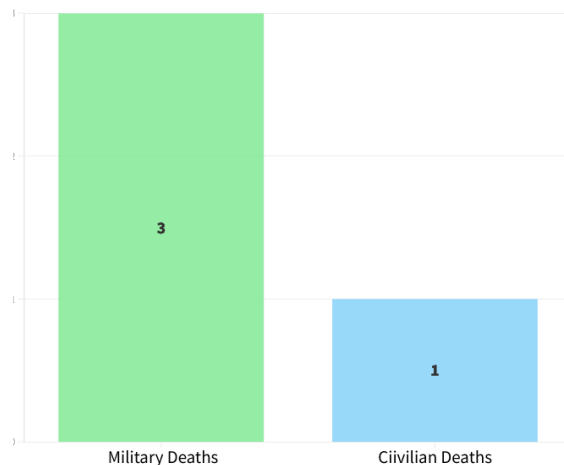


Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1

Karen State

On 1 October, a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), Cobra Column-2, Venom Column and the revolutionary forces carried out a guerrilla attack on the military council forces stationed on Shwe Aye Myaing Pagoda hill in Myawaddy Township, killing three military council soldiers. ¹⁹ In addition, U Tin Maung Aye, manager of Kanbawza Bank (branch) in Myawaddy was shot dead by two unknown gunmen on 2 October. ²⁰



18 A man and his son were murdered in the east ward in Kyauktan. <https://tinyurl.com/yq5s742j>

19 Military council camps on Myawaddy-Wawlay road get attacked. <https://tinyurl.com/yvqqj3m>

20 Manager of KBZ Bank (Branch) was shot dead in Myawaddy. <https://tinyurl.com/yvwzzvcd>

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M), made up of former UN officials, criticized the United Nations in a statement on 3 October that it failed to take action and deal with the issues of Myanmar and its people. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, as the head of the UN, has neglected his responsibility to the people of Myanmar, the SAC-M has pointed out. ¹



In a meeting with reporters in Chiang Mai of Thailand on 2 October, James Rodehaver, head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-Myanmar) said it is obvious that the Myanmar military council forces are attacking the civilians as if they were an enemy. He said that civilians are dying because of the massacres and burning of villages by the military council forces. ²

A forum titled “Advancing Human Rights: Creating an Enabling Environment for CSOs at the Regional Level” was jointly organized by the European Union and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in Brussels of Belgium starting 3 October. It was found that the representatives of the military council were invited to the forum.

Regarding this invitation, the National Unity Government (NUG) has issued a statement saying that it is surprised that the military council, which is killing students and children, was allowed to attend the community forum. ³

1 SAC-M criticizes the UN for failing to deal with the Myanmar issue. <https://tinyurl.com/2xfxyptk>

2 The UN said that the army is attacking civilians like an enemy. <https://tinyurl.com/2xdl5tuo>

3 The NUG said it is deeply concerned to learn of the invitation of the representatives of Myanmar’s military council, which is killing students and children, to the CSOs Forum. <https://tinyurl.com/yw4lhte6>



...issued a statement saying that it is surprised that the military council, which is killing students and children, was allowed to attend the community forum.



Human rights groups filed a complaint with Indonesia's national human rights commission alleging that three state-owned arms makers had been selling equipment to Myanmar since the coup. Indonesian state arms manufacturer PT Pindad, state ship maker PT PAL and aerospace company PT Dirgantara Indonesia had supplied equipment to Myanmar. The group that drew up the complaint includes the Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO) and London-based Myanmar Accountability Project (MAP), and Marzuki Darusman, a former Indonesian attorney general and ex-head of a UN fact-finding mission. Acting like this casts doubt on the Indonesian government's willingness to comply with its obligations under international human rights law and humanitarian law, human rights lawyer Mazuki Darusman, one of the complainants, said in a statement on 1 October.⁴

The Indian central government's Union home ministry had directed to collect the biometric data of Myanmar nationals and refugees from Bangladesh taking refuge in Mizoram State. At a press conference on 27 September, Information & Public Relations Minister Pu Lalruatkima of the Mizoram government said the Mizoram government decided not to collect the biometric data of the Myanmar refugees seeking refuge in the state.⁵

On 1 October, the Chinese police arrested 11 Kokang Businesspeople of 30 Business people from Laukkai and Chinshwehaw in Laukkai who were attending the trade fair on 30 September that was held in Lincang of Yunnan Province of China. Among those arrested were the director of Fully Light Group who is one of the prominent businesspersons in Laukkai, and administrative officials of Kokang region.⁶

4 Some Indonesian arms companies respond to accusations of selling weapons to the military council. <https://tinyurl.com/yvfed648>

5 Mizoram government has announced that it will suspend a plan to collect biometric data of Myanmar IDPs. <https://tinyurl.com/22q42ghn>

6 11 Myanmar businesspersons who attended the Chinese trade fair got arrested. <https://tinyurl.com/ypaadk58>

Remark:

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