

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023: Illegal junta hit by more sanctions and resistance offensive

- As of 31 Oct, there were at least 27,234 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021. As of 23 Oct, there were at least 1,659,600 displaced people since 1 Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Operation 1027: Resistance Alliance catches junta off guard, takes control of border towns, bases in N. Shan State.
- Junta kills 29 Kachin IDPs in midnight air and artillery strike.
- US adds to sanctions on junta banks by sanctioning Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), but fails to ban its trade with US nationals, freeze US assets.
- ASEAN Chair Indonesia silent after state-owned companies exposed in junta weapons trade.
- China, Russia, and India at junta's NCA anniversary, but key signatories boycott.
- Junta sends delegation to Teknaf to move forward forced repatriation of Rohingya refugees.
- Junta's Digital Coup: 2nd in online repression, 1,300 users arrested, and a looming surveillance data hoard.
- Junta cancels passports in brazen act of transnational repression.
- Friendless Min Aung Hlaing turned away from BRI and BIMSTEC gatherings.
- Chin refugees invoke Filipino universal jurisdiction against junta.
- Joint KNLA-PDF Forces overwhelm junta troops in Kawkaik attack.
- ILO report gathers evidence of junta's forced labor practices and union busting.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

During 1-15 Oct, the junta conducted its pilot census in 20 townships in **Bago and Mandalay Regions and Karen State**. The junta announced this but did not mention the electronic identification (e-ID) system which would register the biographic and biometric data of people aged 10 and up. The census would reportedly occur in 2024 – the junta claimed it needed a complete census prior to elections. Critics said the junta would use it to increase surveillance of civilians, especially opponents of the regime.¹

Junta adds new features to digital coup

On 4 Oct, Freedom House gave **Burma an internet freedom score of 10 out of 100** and ranked Burma as **second most repressive just above China**. During 1 Jun 2022 to 31 May 2023, Burma saw a rarely seen decline in internet penetration. **In the year leading up to Feb 2023, the number of mobile connections dropped by 12%**. Except for 1,500 approved sites, the junta continued to block all websites. The 2022 purchase of Telenor and Ooredoo's Burma operations by crony companies and the junta's Mar 2023 amendments to the anti-terrorism law allowed the junta to implement restrictions and surveillance without due process. The report also highlighted the junta's continued repression of free expression online. On 23 May, the junta arrested rapper Byu Har after he criticized the junta's mismanagement of the power grid. On 23 July 2022 the junta executed 88 Generation activist Kyaw Min Yu, aka Ko Jimmy, and three others. The regime arrested him for social media posts critical of the attempted coup.²

On 5 Oct, it was reported that, in September, **the junta sought China's assistance to implement its e-ID system**, which would **capture biographic and biometric data**, and assist the junta's sham election. However, it was **unclear if China would provide any technical assistance**.³

On 6 Oct, the junta's **National Database System Implementation Leading Committee** met for the first time since its formation in May 2022. Committee chair Soe Win claimed that the regime had **entered the personal data of 52 million people and 13 million households into the e-ID system**. He emphasized heightened cyber security measures upon creating **"network monitoring systems"** and called for growth of the Myanmar Computer Emergency Response Team, both presumably to match the digital surveillance capacity offered by the e-ID system and national database.⁴ The Burma head of Access Now, Wai Phyo Myint said that the regime could **identify a person, their family and networks by matching citizenship IDs, passports, household registration, and immigration data** stored in the national database. She said that mandatory SIM card registration allowed the junta to seize an activist's contacts upon their arrest.⁵

On 9 Oct, **Data for Myanmar** reported that, during Feb 2022 to Sep 2023, the **junta detained more than 1,300 people** for **online criticism of the regime** and their support for pro-democracy forces. During the reporting period, the regime detained on average of 65 people per month.⁶

Junta denies ASSK appeals and visitations

On 6 Oct, the junta's **Supreme Court rejected appeals of all six corruption convictions** against Aung San Suu Kyi. Four of the charges alleged that ousted State Counsellor had embezzled funds from the charitable organization she chaired and the other two alleged that she received USD 550,000 from a tycoon during 2018 and 2020. Sources said other cases against Aung San Suu Kyi were still in the appeal process at the regime's Supreme Court.⁷ On 25 Oct, sources close to Aung San Suu Kyi said they had made five requests to the junta to meet with her after it was reported that prison visits would resume on 24 Aug.⁸ On 31 Oct, Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team filed a new request to meet with her. The junta had not responded to previous requests. It was still unclear where Aung San Suu Kyi was being detained.⁹

¹ Frontier Myanmar (2 Oct 2023) Myanmar junta begins pilot census in 20 townships

² Freedom House (4 Oct 2023) Freedom on the Net 2023

³ RFA (5 Oct 2023) Junta enlists China in changing Myanmar IDs to biometric smart cards

⁴ GNLM (7 Oct 2023) Big data collected in e-ID system, important national database for the State, must be kept in tight security: Vice-Senior General Soe Win

⁵ Irawaddy (13 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta's Digital Database Prompts Monitoring Fears

⁶ Data for Myanmar (9 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/umk8t4dm>; RFA (13 Oct 2023) Myanmar junta arrested more than 1,300 people for online criticism

⁷ RFA (6 Oct 2023) Myanmar Supreme Court rejects Suu Kyi appeals of six graft cases

⁸ Irawaddy (25 Oct 2023) Daw Aung Suu Kyi in Limbo as Myanmar Resumes Prison Visits After Three-Year Ban

⁹ RFA (31 Oct 2023) Suu Kyi legal team files latest appeal for prison meeting

CRPH, NUG & Other Democratic Forces (more at [CRPH, NUG & other Democratic forces tracker](#))

On 3 Oct, the NUG stated that the Ministry of Defense had provided USD 15.7 million to PDFs since Sep 2021. 86% of funding came from donations via the People's Revolutionary Supply Family (PRF).¹⁰

Resistance groups boycott celebration of obsolete NCA

On 15 Oct, the junta marked the **eight-year anniversary of the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)** in Naypyidaw. Out of ten signatories, the Karen National Union (KNU), the Chin National Front (CNF), and the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) **boycotted the event**. They jointly stated that **the junta's attempted coup voided the agreement**.¹¹ The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Arakan Army (AA), and other groups engaged in ceasefire talks with the junta such as the United Wa State Army (UWSA), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), and the Southern Shan Progressive Party (SSPP), also skipped the ceremony.¹²

Meanwhile, China, Russia, India, Thailand and Timor-Leste attended the event.¹³ China's Special Envoy for Asian Affairs "expressed unwavering support" for the NCA and stated that Beijing wouldn't accept acts which "break up the country".¹⁴

On 29 Oct, the KNU, CNF, and ABSDF jointly rebutted claims that the KNU had backed proposals from diplomatic missions and UN agencies for the use of the National Ceasefire Agreement's (NCA) Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) as a "neutral agency for humanitarian support". The groups stated that the **junta's actions had turned the NCA into a vehicle for the junta's weaponization of aid**.¹⁵

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

On 9 Oct, it was reported that the **lack of transparency** from the junta and **lack of access** to detention centers had led to **incomplete data on enforced disappearances**. The director of the UN Human Rights High Commissioner's Office (OHCHR) Myanmar said that it **had no means to provide comprehensive verified statistics**. A Karen Human Rights Group official said that in rural conflict zones, many residents taken as **human shields** or for forced labor had been disappeared. Unlike in urban areas, locals were often too afraid to ask EAOs or about those missing at police stations or prisons.¹⁶

On 29 Oct, in Sittwe Township (Rakhine State), regime forces **raided the offices of Development Media Group, arrested a journalist and a guard**, and took computers, cameras, and documents. They also **interrogated the journalist's family**. The junta did not disclose why it carried out the raid.¹⁷

Prison authorities retaliate against hunger striking inmates

On 18 Oct, the Monywa People's Strike Committee said the **junta extended the sentences of Wai Moe Naing** and eight other political **prisoners who had participated in a hunger strike** in Monywa Prison (Sagaing Region) in September. The junta also brought **rioting charges against 17 other prisoners**, potentially **adding up to two years to their sentences**. The prisoners ended their hunger strike in September after prison authorities met their demands to return confiscated items. **Others in Monywa Prison reportedly intended to demand to be prosecuted with their fellow inmates in a show of unity**. The junta reportedly placed strict **limits on parcel delivery** to prisoners, **prisoner movement inside the prison**, and **prisoner access to books and television**.¹⁸ The Monywa People's Strike Committee reported that the junta fired Monywa Prison's chief, three officers, and a staff member following the hunger strike in early September.¹⁹

¹⁰ NUG via Facebook (3 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/bddrtm53>

¹¹ KNU via Facebook (13 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/yw7dkw4n>

¹² Irrawaddy (16 Oct 2023) Key Myanmar EAOs Shun Junta's Peace Deal Anniversary Celebration

¹³ AFP (16 Oct 2023) Myanmar military marks ceasefire anniversary despite clashes on all fronts

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (17 Oct 2023) China Backs Myanmar's Failed National Ceasefire Agreement on Anniversary

¹⁵ KNU via Facebook (29 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/2z7mun6r>

¹⁶ Frontier Myanmar (9 Oct 2023) Loved ones left waiting or extorted for news of missing detainees

¹⁷ Narinjara (30 Oct 2023) Junta forces raid Sittwe-based DMG office, arrest reporter, night watchman

¹⁸ Myanmar Now (19 Oct 2023) Authorities retaliate against political prisoners after Monywa Prison strike

¹⁹ Irrawaddy (18 Oct 2023) Myanmar Prison Chief and 4 Staff Fired Over Hunger Strike by Political Detainees

Unjust sentencing in junta courts persists

On 18 Oct, in Monywa Prison (Sagaing), **the junta added 11 years to the 10-year sentence of environmental activist Man Zar Myay Mon.** A source said that Monywa Prison authorities also planned to prosecute Man Zar Myay Mon for participating in the hunger strike in early September.²⁰

On 19 Oct, the court in Dawei Prison (Tanintharyi Region) **sentenced a university student to 15 years jail** on terrorism charges. That same week, it was reported that the prison court also **sentenced a woman to an additional 32 years under terrorism charges**, adding to her to 12-year jail sentence in May.²¹

On 23 Oct, in Sagaing Region, a military court **sentenced four men to life** on terrorism charges. A lawyer said a civil court would have imposed a maximum sentence of 10 years. They said the **military court could hand out harsher sentences** because it was in an area under martial law.²² The group sentenced included the **head of the Baumauk Township malaria eradication project**²³ and an **NUG school teacher.** A member of the Basic Education General Strike Committee said that the junta sentenced the teacher to life to intimidate others.²⁴ During 23-24 Oct, the junta gave **13 civilians sentences of four to 15 years.** It was reported those sentenced had **been in custody since last year.**²⁵

During 23-25 Oct, in Monywa and Kale Townships (Sagaing Region), a junta court sentenced **four minors to detention at a training school** in Mandalay. Their exact ages were unknown. Sentencing under Burma's Child Rights Law requires courts to send children to a training school for a minimum of two years, or until they turn 18.²⁶

COVID era prison visits ban lifted with major restrictions

On 24 Oct, the junta lifted a ban on prison visits in an **apparent attempt to gain public and international favor.** Visits had been **suspended since the start of the COVID-19** pandemic in early 2020. The junta **required family members** seeking to visit prisoners **to present ID cards, an original household registration, a letter of recommendation** from their ward administrator and local police, and a **COVID-19 vaccination certificate.**²⁷ It was reported that the junta would deny visits to Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, ministers, and prisoners given a life sentence or the death penalty. The regime was also expected to deny visits to Lt. Gen. Moe Myint Tun and Brig. Gen. Yan Naung Soe.²⁸ The junta limited visits to **20 minutes per month for each inmate and 120 visits a day at each prison.** Insein Prison would reportedly allow visits starting 3 Nov.²⁹

On 28 Oct, in Taungoo Prison (Bago Region), the regime allowed a **family member to visit President Win Myint** for the first time since his arrest. It was reported that he was in good health.³⁰

Junta passport weaponization leaves expats stranded

On 18 Oct, it was reported that junta-controlled passport offices demanded migrant **workers and sailors submit a tax clearance certificate as part of passport renewals.** Failure to comply would result in a **denial of passport renewal**, with further consequences including the potential **revocation of passports, withholding of new passports, foreign travel bans**, and legal action under the Tax Administration Law. A tax expert described the junta's new policy as "robbery". Although Burma signed double tax avoidance agreements with India, Laos, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam, this policy would **force workers** in those countries **to pay two income taxes.**³¹

On 30 Oct, it was reported that the junta had **cancelled the passports of at least three Burmese permanent residents of Singapore.** The regime did not notify the passport holders of the cancellation and they only found out when leaving or returning to Singapore. **Pro-junta Telegram channels** had reportedly **called for the arrest of Burmese nationals in Singapore** who fund the anti-junta movement. Although one of the passport holders said that she had raised funds for the anti-junta resistance, others

²⁰ Myanmar Now (19 Oct 2023) Chaung-U protest leader gets another 11 years on terror charges

²¹ Myanmar Peace Monitor (21 Oct 2023) Long prison sentence handed down to second-year student in Dawei; RFA (19 Oct 2023) Myanmar activists sentenced to decades in prison

²² RFA (24 Oct 2023) Myanmar junta gives 6 men life sentences under martial law

²³ Myanmar Peace Monitor (26 Oct 2023) In-charge of anti-malaria project gets life sentence in Banmawk

²⁴ Myanmar Now (26 Oct 2023) Military court hands CDM teacher life sentence

²⁵ RFA (26 Oct 2023) Myanmar's junta removes 4 minors from homes to detention center

²⁶ RFA (26 Oct 2023) Myanmar's junta removes 4 minors from homes to detention center

²⁷ AP (24 Oct 2023) Myanmar reinstates family visits to prisoners to end a ban started during the pandemic

²⁸ DVB (26 Oct 2023) Aung San Suu Kyi and Win Myint still being denied visitors

²⁹ Myanmar Now (25 Oct 2023) Death row inmates, lifers continue to be denied prison visits

³⁰ Irrawaddy (31 Oct 2023) Relative Visits Myanmar President in Taungoo Prison

³¹ Myanmar Now (18 Oct 2023) Myanmar regime to require proof of paying taxes for passport renewals

targeted did not.³² A source claimed that the junta was in possession of a list of supporters of the anti-junta movement. The junta reportedly **lodged complaints with the Singapore police against anti-junta activists** based on tips from informants. One of those whose passports was cancelled reported that Singaporean police had interrogated her about anti-junta fundraising.³³

Junta investigates and arrests their own

On 11 Oct, the junta sentenced **Lt. Gen Moe Myint Tun and Brig. Gen. Yan Naung Soe to twenty years in prison for corruption**. The two amassed millions in USD in their dealings with palm oil traders and by exploiting the disparity between the junta's official exchange rate of MMK 2,100 per USD and the market rate. A statement in **junta media said the sentences amounted to life imprisonment**.³⁴

On 18 Oct, it was reported that the **junta detained with plans to prosecute Thein Win Zaw**, the owner of **Shwe Byaing Phyu Co.**, and **Mu Mu Shein**, an executive of **Moon Sun Energy Co.** If convicted under the Anti-Corruption Law the two would face up to seven years in prison and a fine. A Yangon-based business owner said that distributors had limited sales because of the recent detentions.³⁵

On 24 Oct, a **junta court charged 16 executives** from nine edible-oil importers for criminal breach of trust. They were charged under the Essential Supplies and Services Law and penal code Section 409. Convictions under Section 409 could carry a life sentence, or 10 years and a fine. Those charged included an **executive from a subsidiary of Htoo Group of Companies**. A source said the junta did not prosecute major cooking-oil importers with links to coup leader Min Aung Hlaing.³⁶

Also on 24 Oct, it was reported that the **junta interrogated ex-home affairs minister Lt. Gen. Soe Htut**, his wife, and two of their sons. The junta accused Soe Htut of violating procedures for inviting tenders for government projects and taking bribes from business owners. A source disclosed that Soe Htut would **award projects** under the Home Affairs Ministry **to companies owned by his sons**.³⁷ Soe Htut also reportedly misused ministry funds and took millions in MMK in bribes for issuing passports.³⁸

On 28 Oct, the junta **arrested and charged Ye Htut, ex-information minister** under the Thein Sein regime, **for incitement** under Section 505(A). Pro-junta Telegram users had accused Ye Htut of revealing the address of a retired military officer on social media and demanded that the regime arrest him.³⁹

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

UN OCHA & Special Rapporteur deliver grim reports

On 2 Oct, the UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordination Office (OCHA) reported that, for the first time, **casualties due to landmines or explosive remnants of war (ERW) had occurred in every state and region of Burma**, except Naypyidaw and Yangon. **Shan (26.55%), Kachin (21.82%), and Karenni (17.32%) States** had the **highest number of casualties** reported between 2007 and 2022. UNICEF reported **650 casualties in 2023**. OCHA stated that over 63,000 people had been displaced to neighboring countries since the attempted coup. **The junta reportedly pressured an estimated 50,000 IDPs to return to conflict areas prematurely**, without protection, livelihood opportunities, social services, or adequate shelter. In 2023, the junta's IDP camp closure policy had forced 100 out of 500 families in Kyauktaw Township (Rakhine State) to return to their places of origin. The junta's travel restrictions and bureaucratic barriers coupled with armed clashes, flooding, and landslides resulted in prolonged aid delivery delays. OCHA also reported it had only received 27% of the required humanitarian funding.⁴⁰

On 12 Oct, the UN **Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews submitted a report** on the human rights situation in Burma **to the UN General Assembly**. The report stated that the junta employed **wide-ranging torture tactics in prisons, including on child political prisoners**, and **killed at least 181 political prisoners** during detention or interrogation extrajudicially through torture, ill-treatment, or inadequate healthcare. Andrews reported that the regime still held **19,000 political prisoners, including 155 children**, and **gave 155 people the death penalty**, with 43 sentenced in absentia. The junta arrested

³² Myanmar Now (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar regime cancels passports of expatriates in Singapore

³³ RFA (30 Oct 2023) Junta revokes passports of anti-coup activists in Singapore

³⁴ RFA (11 Oct 2023) Myanmar military court sentences 2 generals to 20 years in prison

³⁵ Irrawaddy (18 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Reportedly Set to Prosecute High-Profile Businessmen for Corruption

³⁶ Irrawaddy (25 Oct 2023) Myanmar Crackdown on Business Escalates, 16 More Executives Face Life in Prison

³⁷ Irrawaddy (24 Oct 2023) Myanmar's Ex-Home Affairs Minister, Family 'Charged With Contract-Looting'

³⁸ Myanmar Now (24 Oct 2023) Former junta minister under renewed scrutiny for corruption

³⁹ Myanmar Now (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar regime says it has arrested ex-information minister

⁴⁰ OCHA (2 Oct 2023) Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 33; UNICEF (14 Oct 2023) Myanmar: Landmines / ERW Incidents Information (January - July 2023)

at least 53 lawyers since the attempted coup and 50 humanitarian staff in the first half of 2023. It also **arrested over 1,000 Rohingya traveling in Burma during the first seven months of 2023.**

Moreover, since 1 Feb 2021, the junta and its allies have killed more than 4,000 civilians and resistance groups have killed hundreds of civilians. **The junta conducted eight airstrikes per month on average in 2021, 26 per month in 2022, and 32 per month in 2023.** Junta airstrikes killed at least 352 in the first eight months of 2023, compared to 218 during post-coup 2021 and 2022 combined.

Given the limited reach of the UN and international organizations, Andrews urged donors to adopt a flexible approach that recognizes the constraints and security concerns of local actors. Civil society groups said that partnering with international organizations was difficult because of the bureaucratic hurdles involved, the risk of information being shared with the junta, and the failure of programs to reflect the needs or reality on the ground.

Andrews commended the US' sanctions on Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) and Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and its determination to sanction the entire aviation fuel supply chain. He said that the junta was attempting to gain foreign currency by taxing workers abroad, tightening controls on foreign currency, and imposing an undervalued exchange rate on local businesses.⁴¹

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported 816,500 civilians displaced in Sagaing as of 23 Oct 2023.⁴²

On 21-30 Oct, in **Tabayin Township**, the **Ogre column** raided villages, killed around 11 people, seven of whom they **beheaded and disemboweled**, and detained around 21 villagers.⁴³

On 30 Oct, in **Tigyaing Township**, the Brotherhood Alliance announced that the AA was leading anti-junta battles in the Maw Kun Hills near Tei Taw and Mi Chaung Aik villages as part of **Operation 1027**. The junta conducted daily airstrikes in the area using fighter jets and Mi-35 helicopters.⁴⁴

Junta troops conducted several devastating multi-day raids:⁴⁵ On 4-6 Oct, in **Salingyi, Yinmarbin, and Pale Townships**, the self-proclaimed "Tiger Ogre" column - a group that named itself after the Ogre column - a junta convoy of 300 soldiers, looted villages, and forced around 15,000 residents to flee. On 4 Oct, the junta looted five villages and strafed the area near Baik Tha Yet village after a resistance force attack. On 5 Oct, the column looted Ma Taunt Ta village and **tortured** and killed a civilian. The group took 10 civilians as **human shields** in Let Taung Gyi village suspected of planting landmines that local PDF had left. On 6 Oct, they left for Gangaw Township (Magway Region) to give the stolen supplies to junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee villages.⁴⁶

On 12-17 Oct, in **Pale, Khin-U, Shwebo and Kanbalu Townships**, junta troops displaced nearly 45,000 residents during raids on multiple villages. On 12-13 Oct, they arrested five residents in Kyar Si and Kan Gyi villages, killed one, and trapped nearly 30 residents in Chin Pyit village. On 14 Oct, the convoy continued raiding villages and split into two groups. On 15 Oct, they raided Tha Yet Pin Wun village and arrested 30 civilians as **human shields**. Junta soldiers killed a Nyaung Pin Gyi Su village resident and a junta landmine injured another. Troops killed a Yin Bar village resident and injured two others in Aung Chanthar village. As of 17 Oct, junta troops remained in Pale and Shwebo Townships.⁴⁷

On 14 Oct, in **Yinmarbin Township**, junta troops raided Thea Kone village. On 15 Oct, they arrested 30 returnees and clashed with resistance forces. By 16 Oct, they had **tortured** and killed six civilians, with one **beheaded**, and killed one resistance fighter. On 17 Oct, they continued raids on other villages.⁴⁸

On 19-27 Oct, in **Tabayin Township**, junta troops raided, torched, and laid landmines in Pyawbwe village. They shelled the village when returnees set off landmines on 19 Oct, killed one resident, and injured eight others. After, junta troops continued raiding villages in the township and displaced 10,000

⁴¹ OHCHR (12 Oct 2023) A/78/527: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar - Advance Unedited Version

⁴² UNHCR (23 Oct 2023) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 23 Oct 2023)

⁴³ Irrawaddy (31 Oct 2023) Junta Terror Troops Leave Trail of Decapitated Bodies in Myanmar's Depayin

⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (31 Oct 2023) Operation 1027 expands into Sagaing Region as PDF launches attacks in central Myanmar

⁴⁵ RFA (16 Oct 2023) Five-day raid continues as 45,000 flee Myanmar's Sagaing region

⁴⁶ RFA (5 Oct 2023) Thousands flee Sagaing region townships after Myanmar junta raids; Irrawaddy (6 Oct 2023) One Killed, Thousands Flee as Myanmar Junta Convoy Loots Sagaing Villages; RFA (6 Oct 2023) Body found in Myanmar's Pale township as junta continues on warpath

⁴⁷ RFA (16 Oct 2023) Five-day raid continues as 45,000 flee Myanmar's Sagaing region; Myanmar Now (17 Oct 2023) Two men killed in junta raids in central Sagaing Region, several more people arrested or injured

⁴⁸ RFA (17 Oct 2023) Three Myanmar teens killed in brutal Sagaing beating; Myanmar Now (18 Oct 2023) Military tortures, kills six civilians including three teenagers in Sagaing Region

residents from 10 villages. On 26 Oct, they took 15 locals as **human shields** in Shaw Taw village. As of 27 Oct, the regime soldiers still occupied Boke Htan village.⁴⁹

Operations around the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway: On 6 Oct, in **Kanbalu Township**, junta troops captured and released two men from Inn Lel Gyi village. Later, Pyu Saw Htee militia recaptured, **tortured** and killed the two men. Junta troops from LIB 361 remained in Hngat Pyaw Taing village, carried out operations in the area and displaced nearby residents.⁵⁰ On 9 Oct, local PDFs attacked LIB 361 troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia at three temporary bases, including one at a **hydroelectric power substation** near Hngat Pyaw Taing village. Despite junta airstrikes, PDFs seized two of the three junta bases. The battle lasted **over 10 hours** and was the **longest on record in Sagaing Region's** central townships. The junta set up the bases in an attempt to establish control along the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road. Junta troops occupying the power substation since 5 Oct had **cut electricity** to Kanbalu and Taze Townships.⁵¹ On 10 Oct, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia shelled, occupied, and torched houses in Pay Gyi village.⁵²

On 24 Oct, in **Wetlet Township**, junta forces took 17 civilians, including **two infants and two toddlers**, as **human shields** in Wet Let Ywei village. The regime soldiers released the civilians when they reached their base in Thar Laing village close to the Myitkyina-Mandalay railway.⁵³

On 27 Oct, it was reported that, since mid-August, the junta had torched around **800 homes** and **displaced 10,000** residents to secure **repairs on the Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina railway**. A PDF member and a regional railway official said that regular **resistance attacks** on the railway would **prevent the junta from linking Shwebo to Myitkyina**.⁵⁴

During 28-29 Oct, a junta column raided villages and displaced thousands of residents in **Sagaing Township**. On 30 Oct, the same column joined another in Thone Sit Kan village in Wetlet Township that had displaced residents from 10 villages to repair the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway.⁵⁵

Magway Region

On 3 Oct, in **Myaing Township**, a junta column shelled six villages after a clash with resistance forces.⁵⁶ On 29 Oct, junta shelling killed three civilians, including a child, and injured another in Kin village.⁵⁷

On 3 Oct, in **Pauk Township**, junta troops stationed in Ohn Taw village shelled and conducted drone strikes in retaliation to a PDF ambush on a junta convoy of 70 vehicles.⁵⁸

On 7 Oct, in **Yesagy Township**, a resistance group shelled the junta's administration office there. Junta troops responded with artillery fire and injured a civilian.⁵⁹ On 12-15 Oct, junta troops raided five villages on an island at the confluence of the Chindwin and Irrawaddy rivers, killed two civilians, torched a free clinic, and forced 10,000 residents from 23 villages to flee.⁶⁰

On 29 Oct, in **Pakokku Township**, junta shelling killed two children and injured five IDPs at a monastery in Kan Yat Gyi village.⁶¹

Chin State

On 10 Oct, the Institute of Chin Affairs (ICA) stated that, since the attempted coup, the junta had **killed 528 Chin citizens**, including **217 Chin civilians**. The ICA estimated the junta had arrested more than 1,000 Chin, burnt down more than 2,100 houses, and **abducted 134 civilians to use as human shields** since the attempted coup. The junta **internally displaced around 10,000 and forced around 150,000 Chin to flee Burma**.⁶²

⁴⁹ RFA (20 Oct 2023) Junta razes village in northern Myanmar, opens fire on residents; RFA (27 Oct 2023) Junta troops capture 15 Myanmar villagers to use as human shields

⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (11 Oct 2023) Junta and resistance both suffer losses in 10-hour battle in Kanbalu Township

⁵¹ Myanmar Now (11 Oct 2023) Junta and resistance both suffer losses in 10-hour battle in Kanbalu Township

⁵² Irrawaddy (12 Oct 2023) Junta Soldiers Torch Village After Cutting Power in Myanmar's Sagaing

⁵³ Myanmar Now (26 Oct 2023) Junta army uses infants as human shields in Wetlet Township

⁵⁴ RFA (27 Oct 2023) Junta troops attack villages along British-era Myanmar railway

⁵⁵ Irrawaddy (31 Oct 2023) Junta Drone Attacks Terrorize Civilians in Myanmar's Sagaing

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (6 Oct 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Five Days of Resistance Attacks

⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Militia Shelling Kills Magwe Villagers

⁵⁸ Irrawaddy (6 Oct 2023) Over 30 Myanmar Junta Forces, Three Resistance Fighters Killed in Four Days of Clashes

⁵⁹ Mizzima (11 Oct 2023) Administration office in Yesagy Township, Magway Region attacked

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Oct 2023) Junta Troops Lay Waste to Clinic and Villages in Myanmar's Magwe

⁶¹ RFA (30 Oct 2023) Junta fires at Myanmar monastery, killing 3 children

⁶² Khonumthung News (13 Oct 2023) SAC Commits Horrific Crimes Against Civilians in Chin State; Institute of Chin Affairs (10 Oct 2023)

စစ်ကောင်စီ၏ နိုင်ငံတော်အာဏာသိမ်းပြီးနောက် ချင်းအမျိုးသားများအပေါ် စစ်ကောင်စီ၏ လူ့အခွင့်အရေးချိုးဖောက်မှုများ

On 7 Oct, it was reported that junta troops detained 60 people in **Mindat Township** in September and that, as of 7 Oct, 10 remained imprisoned.⁶³ The Mindat Chinland Defense Force stated they expected the junta to carry out more airstrikes in Mindat over the coming dry season.⁶⁴

Rakhine State

Junta ratchets up tensions: DMG reported that the junta was carrying out an increasing number of live fire exercises in **Taungup, Kyaukphyu, and Manaung Townships** and had planned exercises in **Minbya and Ponnagyun**.⁶⁵ On 23 Oct, Arakan News reported that in **Buthidaung Township**, junta troops arrested and beat more than 30 civilians. The junta accused civilians of having ties with the AA and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).⁶⁶ On 20 Oct, at a checkpoint outside Sittwe, junta troops stopped a pregnant woman traveling to the hospital for nearly an hour, leading to her death.⁶⁷

Junta worsens IDP suffering: Narinjara reported that many IDPs in Rakhine State faced **starvation** because **humanitarian aid** was **insufficient**. The World Food Programme reportedly provided IDPs around MMK 30,000 (USD10) per person per month.⁶⁸ On 20 Oct, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stated that **junta travel restrictions continued to hamper the delivery of aid** in Rakhine State. Post-Mocha, many locals could not rebuild their homes and had insufficient access to food, despite the junta's declaration in September that the aftermath of the cyclone was over.⁶⁹ On 23 Oct, IDPs in Kyauktaw Township reported that, over the past year, junta officials had forced them to clean and collect garbage at local hospitals and administrative offices, often for no pay.⁷⁰

Unexploded Ordnances: On 4 Oct, in **Kyauktaw Township**, IDP camp residents stated unexploded ordnances found near houses over two months ago hadn't been removed.⁷¹ On 10 Oct, in **Ponnagyun Township**, an unexploded ordnance killed one child and injured two others near an IDP camp.⁷²

Kachin State

Junta arrests, killings, and property destruction: On 3 Oct, in **Hpakant Township**, the junta's indiscriminate shelling of Hsen Taung village during clashes with the joint Kachin Independence Army (KIA)-PDF forces destroyed a house. The junta also arrested civilians they suspected were linked to the KIA.⁷³ On 8 Oct, in **Mogaung Township**, junta troops raided three houses and arrested a family of six, including three children when they could not find their intended target.⁷⁴ On 12 Oct, in **Bhamo Township**, regime troops burned down 11 houses in Long Jon Yang village en-route to Dawphone Yang and forced 46 villagers to flee.⁷⁵ On 13 Oct, in **Momauk Township**, regime troops robbed a house and a church near the 5-mile checkpoint and arrested the owner of the house. They also beat locals passing through the Bhamo golf course road and burned down five motorcycles.⁷⁶

On 16 Oct, in **Hpakant Township**, the **junta's air and artillery strikes on the command office of KIA Brigade 9 in A Nang Pa reportedly killed several KIA officers**. It was reported that the regime **cut mobile phone service** in the area prior to the attack, **except on the junta's Mytel carrier**.⁷⁷

On 17 Oct, in **Bhamo Township**, junta troops arrested former Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) officer Dashi La Doi, his wife, and his niece. **Regime soldiers looted valuables and bombed his house**. Locals said **troops arrested his 13-year-old daughter first and held her separately**. Regime media said he was arrested for illegally harvesting timber and mining gold and jade for the KIA.⁷⁸ On 18 Oct,

⁶³ Khonumthung News (7 Oct 2023) Civilian Detentions Continue in Mindat Amid Deteriorating Conditions

⁶⁴ Khonumthung News (23 Oct 2023) CDF Advises Mindat Civilians to Dig Bunkers

⁶⁵ DMG (6 Oct 2023) Junta live-fire exercises continue in southern Arakan State; DMG (20 Oct 2023) Military training school in Minbya conducts extended series of live-fire drills; DMG (26 Oct 2023) Junta continues live-fire drills in Arakan State

⁶⁶ Arakan News via Twitter (23 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/4532edsh>

⁶⁷ DMG (24 Oct 2023) Junta steps up scrutiny at checkpoints in Arakan State: residents <https://www.dmediag.com/news/chk-p-rk.html>

⁶⁸ DMG (11 Oct 2023) Rakhine IDP refugees are starving because of less supports

⁶⁹ DMG (20 Oct 2023) Travel restrictions continue to limit delivery of humanitarian aid to cyclone victims in Arakan: ICRC

⁷⁰ Narinjara (23 Oct 2023) Kyauk Taw refugees compelled to work in govt offices without payment

⁷¹ Narinjara (4 Oct 2023) Residents demand removal of unexploded ammunition found near Wa Taung IDP camp

⁷² Myanmar Now (10 Oct 2023) Displaced children killed and injured by remnant explosive in Rakhine State

⁷³ SHAN (4 Oct 2023) ဖားကန့်မြို့နယ် ကျေးရွာအတွင်းရှိ နေအိမ်ပေါ်လက်နက်ကြီး ကျပေါက်ကွဲ မီးလောင်

⁷⁴ Kachin News Group (10 Oct 2023) မိုးကောင်းမှာ အသက် ၅ နှစ်အောက်ကလေး ၃ ယောက်အပါအဝင် စုစုပေါင်း အရပ်သား ၇ ယောက်ထပ်ဖမ်းခံရ

⁷⁵ Kachin News Group (14 Oct 2023) လုံခြုံမှုမရှိသည့်အတွက် ကျွတ်တီးဒေသရှိ မိုးရေဇယားအောက်တွင် နေထိုင်နေရ

⁷⁶ Kachin News Group (16 Oct 2023) မိုးမောက် ၅ မိုင်ဝေးကားက ဘုရားကျောင်းနဲ့နေအိမ်တစ်အိမ်ကို စစ်တပ်က မီးမြှင့်တိုက်

⁷⁷ Myanmar Now (18 Oct 2023) KIA local command office in A Nang Pa targeted in military airstrike, shelling

⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (23 Oct 2023) Myanmar military arrests former KIO officer and family in Kachin State, then bomb their house

regime forces target-ed a KIA base with artillery and killed a 13-year-old boy in Tamakhan village, Hpakant Township.⁷⁹

KIA continues seizing junta outposts: On 18 Oct, in **Shwegu Township, the KIA and Kachin PDF with the help of Myo Hla PDF seized a well-established junta base** near Ngabat Gyi village. During the clash, junta shelling killed a villager, injured several people, destroyed houses, and forced villagers to flee.⁸⁰ On 20 Oct, in **Momauk Township, the KIA seized the junta’s Lailum Awng Ja camp.** The junta conducted airstrikes using two jets during the 10-hour clash.⁸¹

On 25 Oct, in **Hpakant Township, joint KIA-PDF forces overran a junta camp at a jade mining site.** In retaliation, the junta based in Hpakant town shelled civilian homes in Nammahpyit village.⁸²

On 31 Oct-1 Nov, the regime conducted **air and artillery strikes on Ja Hta village** (Waingmaw Township) in retaliation for the **KIA and AA seizing Gangdau Yang Mountain camp.**⁸³ It **launched airstrikes on the KIA HQ in Laiza, killed one person and wounded 12.** On 1 Nov, the junta continued their airstrikes and called them an **“appropriate counterattack”.**⁸⁴

Northern Shan State

On 6 Oct, the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) and the Palaung State Liberation Front/Ta'ang National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA) jointly stated that their 23 Sep clash was a misunderstanding and agreed to coordinate revolutionary activities and to promote mutual trust by discussing and resolving arising issues.⁸⁵

On 5 Oct, in **Hseni Township, regime troops clashed with the SSPP/SSA in Kun Kauk village tract** after the regime attempted to stop the KIA’s tax collection in the area.⁸⁶ On 7 Oct, the junta shelled and destroyed a monastery and a house during a clash with the KIA in Kun Kauk.⁸⁷ On 9 Oct, the **KIA reportedly occupied Kun Kauk, Tant Hkan, and Ping Kan villages.** Clashes between junta troops

JUNTA KILLS 18 ADULTS & 11 CHILDREN IN ATTACK ON KACHIN IDP CAMP

On 9 Oct, **the junta bombed the Mung Lai Hkyet village IDP camp** which sheltered around 500 IDPs. By 10 Oct, **the attack had killed at least 29 civilians, including 11 children,** and injured 56 others. Locals emphasized that **Mung Lai Hkyet was a civilian target.** A survivor said **the attack left a six-meter-deep crater** and destroyed everything in the camp.¹

On 10 Oct, junta spokesperson **Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun denied it had carried out the attack.**² Regime media claimed the explosion came from ammonium nitrate stored at a nearby KIA training school.³ KIA spokesperson **Col. Naw Bu dismissed the claim,** saying there was no ware-house at the explosion site. Locals confirmed that **the location was a football field and a market.** Initial investigations by the KIA suggested the junta used drones and 120mm artillery in the attack.⁴

On 13 Oct, Amnesty International (AI) reported that the damage at Mung Lai Hkyet was consistent with **the regime's largest known aerial-delivered bomb.** AI concluded that the bomb was **unguided and unsuitable for use in civilian areas.** AI called on the UN Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Burma and to refer the Burma to the International Criminal Court.⁵

On 17 Oct, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported **the junta carried out both an aerial bombing and an artillery strike** on Mung Lai Hkyet. The analysis supported AI’s conclusion that the junta used a single large bomb. Villagers said they heard at least four more blasts after the first bomb and they heard the familiar sound of shells hissing through the air. HRW reported **no evidence of armed resistance groups** near the site at the time of the attack. HRW called on concerned states to better coordinate enforcement of sanctions against the regime.⁶

¹ Myanmar Now (10 Oct 2023) Several children among IDPs killed in junta aerial attack in Kachin State; Myanmar Now (10 Oct 2023) 'Everything was destroyed' in junta attack on Kachin State village

² Irrawaddy (10 Oct 2023) Kachin Massacre Attracts Global Condemnations

³ MyanmarTV (11 Oct 2023) Explosion in Laiza: ammonium nitrate (gunpowder) warehouse exploded

⁴ Myanmar Now (12 Oct 2023) KIA rejects Myanmar junta’s claims regarding Laiza tragedy

⁵ Amnesty International (13 Oct 2023) Myanmar: 28 civilians killed in military air strike – new investigation and witness testimony

⁶ Human Rights Watch (17 Oct 2023) Myanmar: Airstrike on Village an Apparent War Crime

⁷⁹ Kachin News Group (18 Oct 2023) ဆယ်ဇင်းတာမခံမှာ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ရဲ့ လက်ချက်ကြောင့် ကလေးငယ်တစ်ယောက် လက်နက်ကျည်ထိမှန်သေဆုံး

⁸⁰ Kachin News Group (23 Oct 2023) Kachin Resistance Seizes Junta Camp in Shwegu Township

⁸¹ Kachin News Group (23 Oct 2023) KIA Seizes Regime Camp Near Namsan Yang

⁸² Myanmar Now (26 Oct 2023) ဖားကန့် ကျောက်စိမ်းလုပ်ကွက်ရှိ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်စခန်း သိမ်းပိုက်ခံရ

⁸³ NMG (1 Nov 2023) KIA and AA Seize SAC's Strategic Mountaintop Camp in Kachin State

⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (2 Nov 2023) Myanmar junta's airstrikes near Laiza continue for a second day

⁸⁵ SHAN (8 Oct 2023) ကွတ်ခိုင်မြို့နယ်အတွင်း ထိတွေ့တိုက်ပွဲ အပြီး SSPP နှင့် TNLA တို့က တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေး

⁸⁶ SHAN (5 Oct 2023) သီပေါမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီ နှင့် SSPP တို့ထိတွေ့တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်

⁸⁷ SHAN (7 Oct 2023) သီပေါမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီ နှင့် KIA တိုက်ပွဲကြောင့် ဘုန်းကြီးကျောင်း လက်နက်ကြီးထိမှန်

and the KIA since 7 Oct forced around **500 villagers to flee**.⁸⁸ On 18 Oct, junta troops **shot dead three KIA members** near Nam Sa Lat village.⁸⁹

On 19 Oct, in **Muse Township**, junta forces suspected the presence of a TNLA base on Loi Taay Mung Hill near Sei Lant village, indiscriminately shelled the hill, and forced a local high school to close.⁹⁰ 19 Oct, KIA and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) **jointly attacked and overran a junta base on Wain La Mountain**.⁹¹ On 20 Oct, in retaliation to the attack, the junta launched airstrikes on the KIA Brigade 6 base near Tee Ma village, killed five KIA officers and injured others.⁹²

3 BROTHERHOOD ALLIANCE'S OPERATION 1027

On 27 Oct, the **Three Brotherhood Alliance**—TNLA, the Arakan Army, and the MNDAA—**launched "Operation 1027"** to block regime reinforcements and air strikes in Shan State. During 27-31 Oct, they reportedly seized over **80 junta outposts in Chin Shwe Haw, Hseni and Hpaung sai**. Over **100 junta soldiers surrendered**, including an entire battalion.¹

On 27 Oct, the MNDAA **closed roads from Lashio to Chin Shwe Haw and Muse** on the Myanmar-China border ahead of a coordinated attack. Regime spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun confirmed fighting there and that **MNDAA occupied the area between Chin Shwe Haw and Kunlong**.²

On 27 Oct, TNLA spokesperson Lt. Col. Tar Aik Kyaw said Alliance forces had captured **5 junta outposts in Lashio Township**. In retaliation, the regime shelled the town, killed three civilians, and forced around 2,000 locals to shelter in a monastery. On 28 Oct, Alliance forces overran junta outposts around Chin Shwe Haw and took control of the town.

On 29, MNDAA spokesperson Li Kyar Win said that **Hseni was under their control** and the junta had lost 40 bases and hundreds of soldiers and militiamen. It was also reported that the **TNLA and Mandalay-PDF seized two junta outposts in Kyauk Kyan village** near Nawngkhio.³ Intense fighting forced more than **25,000 people to flee** to nearby cities and the Wa Self-Administered Division controlled by the United Wa State Army (UWSA).⁴

On 28 Oct, in Namtu Township, **a junta jet bombed Ywarhit Paungsar village, injured three villagers**, and destroyed five houses.⁵ On 29 Oct, indiscriminate junta artillery fire **injured a villager and destroyed over 20 houses** in Taing Yet village in Hseni Township.⁶ On 29 Oct, a junta airstrike killed a villager and injured two others in Kyauk Kyan village, Nawngkhio Township.⁷ On 31 Oct, the Three Brotherhood Alliance **seized the junta's township administration office** in Hseni Township.⁸

¹ SHAN (1 Nov 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီ တပ်ရင်းတစ်ရင်းလုံး လက်နက်ချအလင်းဝင်

² Myanmar Now (27 Oct 2023) Ethnic alliance launches attacks across northern Shan State

³ Myanmar Now (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar junta suffers heavy losses as Brotherhood Alliance captures dozens of bases

⁴ Myanmar Now (2 Nov 2023) More than 25,000 displaced by fighting in northern Shan State

⁵ SHAN (28 Oct 2023) နမ္မတူ မြို့နယ်အတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ ဂျက်ဖိုက်တာဖြင့် ဗုံးကြဲ အရပ်သား (၃)ဦးထိမှန်

⁶ SHAN (29 Oct 2023) သီပေါမြို့လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ပြည်သူ့နေအိမ် ၂၀ ကျော် ပျက်စီး

⁷ SHAN (30 Oct 2023) နောင်ချို စစ်ကောင်စီလေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲမှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား ၁ ဦးသေ၊ စစ်ဘေးရှောင်ဦးရေ ၁၀၀၀ ကျော် ရှိလာ

⁸ SHAN (1 Nov 2023) သီပေါမြို့လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် စစ်ဘေးရှောင် ၁ ဦး ထပ်မံသေဆုံး၊ အမျိုးသမီးအပါအဝင် ၂ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

⁸⁸ SHAN (9 Oct 2023) သီပေါမြို့နယ် ကိုယ်ဝန်သည်တစ်ဦး လက်နက်ကြီး ထိမှန်

⁸⁹ SHAN (24 Oct 2023) သျှမ်းမြောက် စစ်ကောင်စီနှင့် KIA တပ်ဖွဲ့တို့ နှစ်ဖက်တိုက်ပွဲကြား ထိခိုက်သေဆုံးမှုများနေ

⁹⁰ SHAN (20 Oct 2023) စယ်လန်ကျေးရွာ စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်မှုပြုလုပ်၊ ကလေးများကျောင်းပြန်ပိတ်ရ

⁹¹ SHAN (20 Oct 2023) မူဆယ်မြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီစခန်းတစ်ခုကို KIA နှင့် MNDAA ပူးပေါင်းတိုက်ခိုက်သိမ်းပိုက်

⁹² SHAN (24 Oct 2023) သျှမ်းမြောက် စစ်ကောင်စီနှင့် KIA တပ်ဖွဲ့တို့ နှစ်ဖက်တိုက်ပွဲကြား ထိခိုက်သေဆုံးမှုများနေ

Karenni State

Escalating junta offensive to recapture Mese: Between 2-6 Oct in **Hpruso Township**, clashes between resistance forces and junta troops at Htar Le and Pa Yei Taw villages displaced residents from at least eight villages. A growing number of IDPs prevented from returning by ongoing fighting **required flu treatment**.⁹³ From 4-7 Oct, junta forces based at No. 14 Advanced Military Training School shelled villages and injured a woman. On 6 Oct, junta troop movement forced over 800 IDPs to flee Whei Du Hler camp.⁹⁴ On 7 Oct, they shelled a village and killed eight-year-old boy. The attacks forced over 10,000 residents from six villages along the **Hpruso-Bawlakhe road** to flee.⁹⁵

On 20 Oct, junta troops shelled an IDP camp in **Demoso Township**, and **killed an infant**.⁹⁶ On 24 Oct, local defense forces reported that in an attempt to regain control of Mese, the junta had sent a **40-vehicle convoy** along the Demoso-Hpruso-Bawlakhe-Hpasawng route since August. Resistance forces repeatedly clashed with the convoy until they arrived in Bawlakhe on the third week of October.⁹⁷

Food shortages and aid appeals amid roadblocks: On 5 Oct, in **Hpruso Township**, it was reported that **conflict, poor road conditions, and roadblocks** on the Hpruso-Bawlakhe road had worsened food shortages. Low supply and high fuel costs led to an increase in food prices.⁹⁸ In **Bawlakhe Township**, residents running low on rice had to resort to **rice gruel mixed with corn**. Prices for essentials had risen significantly, with a 32-kg bag of rice selling for MMK 300,000 (USD 96.77).⁹⁹

On 10 Oct, the Karenni State Interim Executive Council (IEC) **appealed for aid** to assist over **250,000 IDPs** in Karenni State and Pekon Township (S. Shan State). The IEC said that **USD 1 million** was required to support **all 200 camps** in the state and urged the Thai government to continue accepting Karenni IDPs at the Thai border and providing temporary camps.¹⁰⁰

On 12 Oct, UNOCHA Myanmar reported that junta road blockages between Shan and Karenni States since late September had **hampered humanitarian aid access** to Karenni State.¹⁰¹ The conflict had made it difficult for outside groups to deliver humanitarian aid to the area.¹⁰²

Southern Shan State

On 9 Oct, in **Pekon Township**, resistance forces including the Demoso PDF (DMO-PDF) launched a **coordinated attack** on the base camp of the junta and its allied Karen National Guard (KNG) near Done Du Htan village.¹⁰³ On the same day, the junta **shelled residential areas** in Moby Town despite a lack of active clashes.¹⁰⁴

On 21 Oct, in **Ywangan Township**, the Danu People's Liberation Front (DPLF) **attacked a junta convoy** between Baw Yay Oo and Theim Kon villages. The assault killed seven soldiers including a deputy police commander. On 22 Oct, the junta **retaliated by setting up a roadblock** on the Ywangan-Yay Oo Road and detaining two locals.¹⁰⁵ On 21 Oct, in **Taunggyi Township**, the DPLF **ambushed a**

⁹³ VOA (6 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆိုမြို့နယ်တိုက်ပွဲ ကျေးရွာ ၈ ရွာထက်မနည်း ထွက်ပြေးနေရ

⁹⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (6 Oct 2023) Civilians Flee SAC Troops Patrolling Hpruso Township Ahead of Convoy

⁹⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (6 Oct 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီရဲ့ လက်နက်ကြီးပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ; RFA (10 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆိုမှာ

လေကြောင်းနဲ့ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ဒေသခံတစ်သောင်းခန့် ထွက်ပြေးနေရ; RFA (17 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆို စစ်ရှောင်များ စားနပ်ရိက္ခာနှင့် အမိုးအကာလိုအပ်;

Myanmar Now (10 Oct 2023) Artillery strikes kill young child, displace entire village in Karenni State

⁹⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (6 Oct 2023) Civilians Flee SAC Troops Patrolling Hpruso Township Ahead of Convoy

⁹⁷ Myanmar Now (24 Oct 2023) ၃ လကြာ ချီတက်နေသည့် စစ်ကောင်စီယာဉ်တန်းရှည် ဘောလခဲသို့ ရောက်လာ

⁹⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Oct 2023) Hpruso Township Conflict Escalates Food Shortages

⁹⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Oct 2023) SAC Blockade Aggravates Crisis for Displaced in Karenni State; Kantarawaddy Times (13 Oct 2023) Food Crisis Looms in Bawlakhe as Armed Groups Prevent Rice Deliveries

¹⁰⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (10 Oct 2023) Karenni State IEC Requests Aid for Displaced Civilians

¹⁰¹ Kantarawaddy Times (14 Oct 2023) “ရှမ်း-ကရင်နီ နယ်စပ်မှာ လမ်းပိတ်ဆို့ဟန့်တားမှုတွေကြောင့် ကရင်နီပြည်အတွက် လူသားချင်းစာနာမှုဆိုင်ရာ ကူညီခွင့် အဟန့်အတားဖြစ်နေတယ်လို့ UNOCHA ထုတ်ပြန် “

¹⁰² Kantarawaddy Times (14 Oct 2023) “ရှမ်း-ကရင်နီ နယ်စပ်မှာ လမ်းပိတ်ဆို့ဟန့်တားမှုတွေကြောင့် ကရင်နီပြည်အတွက် လူသားချင်းစာနာမှုဆိုင်ရာ ကူညီခွင့် အဟန့်အတားဖြစ်နေတယ်လို့ UNOCHA ထုတ်ပြန် “

¹⁰³ SHAN (10 Oct 2023) မိုးမြဲမြို့ကျေးရွာအနီးရှိ စစ်ကောင်စီစခန်းတစ်ခုကို တော်လှန်ရေးပူးပေါင်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ ဝင်ရောက်တိုက်ခိုက်

¹⁰⁴ SHAN (9 Oct 2023) မိုးမြဲမြို့ပေါ်စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးဖြင့် ရမ်းသမ်းပစ်ခတ်နေ

¹⁰⁵ NMG (25 Oct 2023) DPLF Targets Military Convoy, Killing Deputy Police Commander in Southern Shan State

junta convoy on Ye-U Road, killed three junta soldiers, and injured four others. Junta troops returned fire and established roadblocks along Ye-U Road.¹⁰⁶

Karen State

The KNU said **3,570 clashes** had broken out between the junta and the KNLA during January-September 2023. The junta was reportedly unable to deliver food to bases by land and usually relied on helicopters. In Thaton District, the junta could not carry out offensives and the KNLA was reportedly able to control Highway 8.¹⁰⁷ On 14 Oct, the KNU also reported that the **number of IDPs in KNU-defined Kawthoolei surpassed 717,626 people**.¹⁰⁸ On 7 Oct, Karen News reported that junta had occupied prominent Karen landmark Naw Bu Baw prayer mountain in **Thandaunggyi Township**.¹⁰⁹

Resistance Attacks Kawkaeik Town: Joint KNLA-PDF forces clashed several times with junta troops near Kawkaeik Town in October, culminating in a 27 Oct attack on junta offices in the town. On 10 Oct, resistance forces launched a drone bombing on a monastery in Kawkaeik Town where junta soldiers were stationed and injured a man and student.¹¹⁰ On 13 Oct, junta troops shelled and opened fire near a local high school, killed one student, and injured four others.¹¹¹

On 24 Oct, the junta bombed, shelled and strafed a number of villages outside of Kawkaeik Town in retaliation for earlier resistance attacks. Clashing between regime and resistance forces forced locals to flee and reportedly killed six junta soldiers, including a regiment commander.¹¹²

On 27 Oct, joint KNLA-PDF troops attacked several junta positions in Kawkaeik Town and burnt down three junta-run offices, including the office of the Special Intelligence Department and the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs.¹¹³ After the first wave of attacks, fighting reportedly continued along the Asia Highway and stranded several civilian vehicles. Those unable to leave Kawkaeik took shelter in monasteries and under houses while those in nearby towns and villages fled the area. DVB reported that clashes killed twelve civilians and injured seven others.¹¹⁴

Bago Region

Junta takes elephants hostage: During 15-20 Oct, in **Nattalin Township**, a junta column took 20 elephants, their trainers, and around other 100 people as shields. The column then launched attacks in the township over several days. PDF forces said they were unable to fight back because of the civilians.¹¹⁵

Junta shells, entraps civilians West of the Sittaung River: During 4-10 Oct, in **Phyu Township** the junta carried out artillery strikes on villages west of the Sittaung River and around the old Yangon-Mandalay Highway, killed at least one adult and one child, and injured ten others.¹¹⁶ In Nat Than Kwin village in **Kyaukkyi Township**, junta troops reportedly set up checkpoints following armed clashes in June. The KNU stated that junta police had already detained 10 people in the village.¹¹⁷

On 16-22 Oct, junta troops carried out artillery and air strikes on at least fifteen villages in **Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi Townships**. In total, junta attacks destroyed six houses and one school, injured seven people, and forced IDPs to flee across the Sittaung River for shelter.¹¹⁸

Pyu Saw Htee steps up recruitment in Western Bago: On 24 Oct, it was reported that pro-junta village administrators, USDP members and ex-military personnel were actively recruiting for the Pyu Saw Htee in Western Bago Region.¹¹⁹ On 10 Oct, it was reported that the junta had provided military training for around 40 people from 8 villages in the region. Locals stated that the majority of trainees were either

¹⁰⁶ SHAN (25 Oct 2023) တောင်ကြီးတွင် စစ်ရှောင်များ ဆောက်လုပ်ထားသောစာသင်ဆောင်နှင့် ဆုတောင်းဝတ်ပြုနေရာများကို စစ်ကောင်စီနှင့် PNOမှ အကြောင်းမဲ့ ဖျက်ဆီး

¹⁰⁷ Than Lwin Times (14 Oct 2023) Junta troops no longer launch offensives in Kawthoolei area: KNU

¹⁰⁸ KNU via Facebook (14 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/ysn8a77c>

¹⁰⁹ Karen News (12 Oct 2023) Military Council Deploys Troops at Naw Bu Baw Prayer Mountain

¹¹⁰ HURFOM (10 Oct 2023) Two civilians injured by artillery attack in Kaw Ka Rate

¹¹¹ MPAP (14 Oct 2023) A large-scale explosion near a high school of Kawkaeik town, killed a student and injured 3 people including a first-grader

¹¹² Than Lwin Times (27 Oct 2023) Battalion commander among 11 soldiers killed in Kawkaeik battle

¹¹³ Myanmar Now (28 Oct 2023) KNLA, resistance groups assault junta offices in Kawkaeik

¹¹⁴ DVB (2 Oct 2023) Brotherhood Alliance calls on military forces to surrender; KIA threatened after another outpost seized

¹¹⁵ Myanmar Now (20 Oct 2023) Myanmar military using elephants, civilians as shields in western Bago

¹¹⁶ Than Lwin Times (10 Oct 2023) Junta shelling strikes Nyaunglaybin, killing one civilian, injuring six; RFA (12 Oct 2023) Child killed, 8 civilians injured in shell attack in Myanmar's Bago

¹¹⁷ Karen News (12 Oct 2023) Junta Checkpoints Impose Tolls to Extort Transportation Fees from farmers and step up surveillance

¹¹⁸ Than Lwin Times (19 Oct 2023) Three KNLA Comrades, Civilian Injured in Junta Bombing in Kyaukkyi; Myanmar Peace Monitor (19 Oct 2023) Seven including three KNLA members injured by air and artillery strikes in Nyaunglaybin; Myanmar Peace Monitor (23 Oct 2023) Road closures hinder ration supply to Kyauk Ta Ga IDPs

¹¹⁹ Myanmar Now (24 Oct 2023) Junta pushes to boost Pyu Saw Htee membership in Bago Region

USDP or Pyu Saw Htee militia members. A resident stated that PDF control over villages west of the Sittaung River in **Kyauktaga Township** had prompted the junta to organize into defensive positions.¹²⁰

It was also reported that, in **Western Bago Region**, PDF and resistance groups had threatened retribution against Pyu Saw Htee recruiters.¹²¹ Local media reported that resistance forces shot dead at least three village administrators and militia leaders accused of recruiting locals for Pyu Saw Htee training.¹²²

Mon State

In October, resistance groups in Mon State assassinated at least four pro-junta administrators and militia members.¹²³ Ye Balu, a resistance group in **Ye Township**, claimed responsibility for two of the killings.¹²⁴

Highway 8 Clashes: On 20 Oct, it was reported that in Mon State, resistance groups took control of several parts of Highway 8 and carried out frequent car searches.¹²⁵

During 17-18 Oct, in **Bilin Township**, joint KNLA-PDF forces ambushed junta columns moving along Highway 8 twice. The resistance attacks reportedly killed 12 junta soldiers and injured 13 others. On 18 Oct, resistance troops carried out drone attacks on junta positions near the highway and injured five soldiers. Junta troops retreated following the ambushes.¹²⁶ On 20 Oct, junta troops shelled Khe Mauk village and destroyed a house. During the shelling, junta troops used an excavator to destroy a backroad linking Khe Mauk, Shwe Yaung Pya, and Dauk Yat village tracts.¹²⁷

On 20 Oct, in **Ye Township**, resistance troops attacked a junta checkpoint at Ye bridge along Highway 8. During the fighting, the junta launched around 50 artillery shells, killed one civilian, injured one other and forced 500 civilians to flee the area. The junta then closed the bridge.¹²⁸ On 22 Oct, in **Thaton Township**, a landmine blast in Ka Mar Saing village injured two civilians traveling along Highway 8.¹²⁹

Tanintharyi Region

Resistance and junta forces clashed 50 times in September in Tanintharyi Region. 16 PDF soldiers and 69 junta troops were killed. Local resistance forces stated that the lack of weapons and ammunition as well as poor inter-PDF coordination limited PDF advances.¹³⁰ FE5 Tanintharyi reported that, during Jan-Sep 2023, the junta burned down more than 670 houses in the Region.¹³¹

Junta raids villages in Thayetchaung Township: Throughout October, junta troops repeatedly attacked several villages in **Thayetchaung Township**, including Ya Nge at least three times. They raided at least 70 houses, took several villagers as **human shields**, burnt down at least 12 houses, and forced at least 600 people to flee.¹³² On 26 Oct, locals found the body of one of three abducted men from Ya Nge in a shallow grave with his hands tied and head smashed.¹³³

Junta tortures detained civilians in Kyauk Ni Maw: During 21-22 Oct, in **Launglon Township**, junta troops entered Kyauk Ni Maw village and **arrested seven people, including a monk, a novice, and a child**. A local source said that junta soldiers **tortured** three of the arrested by stabbing them with heated-up screwdrivers and cutting them with knives.¹³⁴ On 4 Oct, joint resistance troops attacked a junta camp in Kyauk Ni Maw.¹³⁵ In retaliation, the junta shelled the area and forced more than 1,000 locals to flee.¹³⁶

¹²⁰ RFA (10 Oct 2023) Junta training civilian militias for security patrols in Bago region

¹²¹ Myanmar Now (24 Oct 2023) Junta pushes to boost Pyu Saw Htee membership in Bago Region

¹²² Myanmar Now (24 Oct 2023) Junta pushes to boost Pyu Saw Htee membership in Bago Region; Than Lwin Times (10 Oct 2023) Pro-militia leader shot dead in Paungde; Myanmar Now (13 Oct 2023) Former MP for military proxy party shot dead in Bago Region

¹²³ Independent Mon News (5 Oct 2023) Retired Captain Fatally Shot in Thaton Township; DVB (17 Oct 2023) Military and ethnic armed groups commemorate NCA; Photojournalist awarded for his coverage of Karenni

¹²⁴ Than Lwin Times (11 Oct 2023) Ward administrator shot dead in Ye; Than Lwin Times (19 Oct 2023) Fishery official assassinated in Ye

¹²⁵ Irrawaddy (20 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Face Ambushes on Mon's Deadly Highways

¹²⁶ Irrawaddy (20 Nov 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Face Ambushes on Mon's Deadly Highways

¹²⁷ HURFOM (26 Oct 2023) Junta destroys two village roads creating problems in 15 villages in Bilin

¹²⁸ HURFOM (20 Oct 2023) Villager killed in armed clash near Kyone Long village; MM Peace Monitor (20 Oct 2023) Fighting displaces more than 500 locals in Ye Township

¹²⁹ DVB (24 Oct 2023) Prison visits resume for first time since 2020; NUG urges Israel to protect Burma nationals

¹³⁰ Than Lwin Times (5 Oct 2023) More than 10 PDF comrades die in Tanintharyi battle in a month

¹³¹ HURFOM (23 Oct 2023) Nearly 700 houses burnt down by the junta: Residents are far from returning home

¹³² HURFOM (12 Oct 2023) Military operations in Ya Ngae village causing residents from four villages to flee; HURFOM (18 Oct 2023) Junta launches military operation again in Ya Ngae village and burns down houses; Than Lwin Times (25 Oct 2023) Junta ransacks houses, steals valuables in Thayetchaung

¹³³ Than Lwin Times (27 Oct 2023) Villager found dead under detention of junta in Thayetchaung

¹³⁴ HURFOM (25 Oct 2023) Junta targets Kyauk Ni Maw: Arrests and tortures villagers

¹³⁵ Than Lwin Times (5 Oct 2023) Three junta soldiers reportedly killed in Launglon attack

¹³⁶ HURFOM (10 Oct 2023) Thousands of residents flee homes following large influx of military in Long Lone

Junta torches houses, threatens civilians in DEZ: On 19 Oct, a column of junta troops attacked villages, torched houses, and forced more than 1,000 villagers in **Yebyu Township** to flee as it marched towards the coast in the Dawei Economic Zone (DEZ).¹³⁷ On 20 Oct, junta troops entered Mu Du village, killed a civilian, arrested three people, and torched 16 houses.¹³⁸ Junta troops then graffitied the remaining buildings with threats to burn down the entire village if they returned.¹³⁹ On 22 Oct, junta troops arrested 11 villagers from two villages and destroyed ten houses in another.¹⁴⁰ On 26 Oct, the junta column moved to Na Bu Lel village, burnt down 24 houses, and killed four more civilians. PDF forces attacked the column as it left the village, killed 16 soldiers, and injured ten others.¹⁴¹

Mandalay Region

On 12 Oct, in **Madaya Township**, **junta officials released excess water from the Se Taw Gyi dam without warning locals**, flooded villages downriver, and displaced over 30,000 people. An aid worker said that villages where annual flooding did not reach were also flooded. A local said that 1.5 meters of water submerged their house overnight. Local aid groups and resistance forces reportedly provided aid.¹⁴²

During 13-25 Oct, in **Thabeikkyin Township**, resistance forces clashed with junta troops near the Tagaung Taung, the largest nickel mine in Burma. A local said that trucks carrying nickel ore could not leave the mine for days. A local PDF representative said that they were fighting with junta troops providing security for mining vehicles. It was reported that Tagaung Taung is a joint venture between the junta's No.1 Mining Enterprise of Myanmar and Chinese state-owned China Nonferrous Metal Mining (CNMC), valued at USD 800 million with an 85,000-ton production capacity.¹⁴³

On 18 Oct, in **Singu Township**, junta troops raided Thea Inn and Kyet Tu Yway villages and torched a total of 70 houses across both villages.¹⁴⁴ On 25 Oct, in **Madaya and Singu Townships**, junta troops raided six villages, beat five civilians to death, and torched at least ten houses, a clinic, and a monastery.¹⁴⁵

On 27 Nov, in **Myingyan Township**, Myingyan PDF attacked a junta outpost as part of **Operation 1027**. They stated that they were acting under the **instruction of the NUG's Ministry of Defense**. In response, the junta sent a convoy of reinforcements and forced the PDF to retreat.¹⁴⁶

Junta advance on Mogoke Township: During 12-15 Oct, in **Mogoke Township** regime troops attacked Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and PDF posts near Nyaung Kone village, killed one PDF member and **displaced 500 locals**. It was reported that the junta was attempting to **retake bases** it had lost to resistance forces in September.¹⁴⁷ During 20-21 Oct, the junta shelled upper Nyaung Kone village, a TNLA Brigade 2 stronghold. On 21 Oct, the junta launched artillery and air strikes during two clashes that broke out after junta forces entered upper Nyaung Kone village and destroyed 10 houses. The junta's advance since the second week of October forced hundreds from both villages to flee.¹⁴⁸

Yangon Region

On 2 Oct, in **Latha Township**, resistance fighters killed a crony, Nyan Lwin Aung, and accused him of importing facial recognition technology for the junta and purchasing military equipment. They claimed he often accompanied junta delegations to Russia and laundered money through a travel company.¹⁴⁹

On 12 Oct, in **Mingaladon Township**, resistance forces attacked a junta-owned Myanmar Beer brewery and injured some people in the brewery's compound.¹⁵⁰

¹³⁷ Than Lwin Times (21 Oct 2023) Thousands flee from junta invasion in Yebyu

¹³⁸ HURFOM (21 Oct 2023) Junta launches operations again in Dawei Economic Zone: Torch houses and arrests villagers

¹³⁹ Myanmar Peace Monitor (24 Oct 2023) One villager shot dead, 17 houses burned down by junta soldiers

¹⁴⁰ HURFOM (21 Oct 2023) Junta launches operations again in Dawei Economic Zone: Torch houses and arrests villagers

¹⁴¹ Than Lwin Times (31 Oct 2023) Military convoy ambushed in Yebyu

¹⁴² RFA (13 Oct 2023) Myanmar officials drain dam without warning, flood Mandalay villages; RFA (13 Oct 2023) ဆည်ရေလွှတ်လို့

မတ္တရာမြို့နယ်က ဒေသခံ သုံးသောင်းကျော် ရေဘေးကြုံ

¹⁴³ Irrawaddy (25 Oct 2023) Junta Suffers 'Heavy Casualties' in Clashes Over Myanmar's Biggest Nickel Mine

¹⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (27 Oct 2023) Myanmar Troops Club Five Civilians to Death in Mandalay Raids

¹⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (27 Oct 2023) Myanmar Troops Club Five Civilians to Death in Mandalay Raids

¹⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (31 Nov 2023) Operation 1027 expands into Sagaing Region as PDF launches attacks in central Myanmar

¹⁴⁷ Myanmar Now (16 Oct 2023) Junta repeatedly tries to retake bases from resistance forces in Mogok

¹⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Oct 2023) Ta'ang Army Strikes Back at Myanmar Junta's Mandalay Offensive

¹⁴⁹ Myanmar Now (3 Oct 2023) Yangon guerrilla group assassinates businessman accused of procuring arms for junta; Irrawaddy (3 Oct 2023)

Myanmar Crony Arms Dealer Gunned Down in Yangon: Guerrilla Group

¹⁵⁰ Than Lwin Times (14 Oct 2023) Myanmar beer factory attacked by short-range rocket

On 22 Oct, in **Hmawbi Township**, resistance forces attacked a junta Air Force base with rockets. The exact number of casualties was unknown. No group claimed responsibility.¹⁵¹

Rohingya

Junta's forced repatriation talks unconvincing to Rohingya refugees

On 31 Oct, a **delegation of junta officials traveled to refugee camps** in Teknaf (Bangladesh) as part of their ongoing efforts to forcibly repatriate 3,000 Rohingya refugees by the end of 2023. Bangladesh's Refugee, Relief, and Repatriation commissioner said junta officials discussed repatriation with 100 Rohingya families and "screened" 80 other families.¹⁵² A Bangladesh government official stated that while the junta wanted to repatriate Rohingya refugees, "[they] are not ready to go". A Rohingya leader stated that Rohingya would want to go back if the junta **"gives [them] dignity and fulfils their rights."**¹⁵³

On the same day, the Burma Human Rights Network stated that **seven of the 15 Rohingya refugees** they interviewed in August and September had been **pressured by junta or Bangladesh authorities to participate in the junta's forced repatriation plan**. One individual stated that camp authorities threatened to withhold food and other aid from camp residents who refused to be added to a repatriation list. Several others stated that Burmese **junta officials had pressured families in Burma to convince relatives in Bangladesh to join repatriation plans**. All interviewees stated they would not return under the current conditions in Rakhine State and that the restoration of basic rights, safety guarantees, and accountability for past crimes were prerequisites for their return to Burma.¹⁵⁴

Despite their repatriation plans, the **junta continued arbitrary arrests of Rohingya civilians**. On 24 Oct, a junta mouthpiece said the junta arrested four Rohingya children and a 25-year-old man living in Cox's Bazar for illegally crossing the Bangladesh border into Maungdaw Township.¹⁵⁵ On 29 Oct, the same outlet claimed the junta arrested 41 Rohingya refugees off the coast of Rathedaung Township.¹⁵⁶

Bangladesh cracks down on ARSA and RSO but camp violence continues

Local administrators stated that there were **66 murders and over 70 arrests** in refugee camps during January – September 2023.¹⁵⁷ On 1 Oct, Bangladesh police arrested 15 Rohingya refugees for traveling outside camps.¹⁵⁸ On 3 Oct, two gunfights between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) killed two people in Cox's Bazar.¹⁵⁹

On 9 Oct, it was reported that Bangladesh police forces were **increasing surveillance** in refugee camps to **reduce the influence of "terrorist outfits"**.¹⁶⁰ On 2 Oct, Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested ARSA commander Noman Chowdhury in connection to the 2022 killing of a Bangladesh intelligence officer.¹⁶¹ On 8 Oct, Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion arrested three RSO members and confiscated several weapons.¹⁶² On 15 Oct, the RAB arrested ARSA member Samiuddin during a raid in Cox's Bazar for reportedly leading the Sep 2021 assassination of community leader Mohib Ullah.¹⁶³

Justice for the Rohingya moves through courts

On 11 Oct, the Indian Supreme Court **issued notice to the Indian government** on a petition seeking the release of illegally detained UN refugee agency-recognized Rohingya refugees in India. The petition alleged that, by indefinitely holding hundreds of Rohingya refugees, **India is in violation of the detainees' right to life and equality before law as enshrined in the Indian Constitution and international refugee law**.¹⁶⁴

¹⁵¹ DVB (23 Oct 2023) မှော်ဘီလေတပ် ရှော့တိုက်ခိုင်းဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁵² The Business Standard (1 Nov 2023) Myanmar delegation discusses repatriation with Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar

¹⁵³ Myanmar Now (1 Nov 2023) Myanmar junta team in Bangladesh for Rohingya repatriation talks

¹⁵⁴ The Business Standard (31 Oct 2023) Bangladesh-Myanmar End Coercive Repatriation of Rohingya Refugees

¹⁵⁵ DMG (24 Oct 2023) Four Muslim children arrested in Maungdaw Twsp for crossing border illegally

¹⁵⁶ The Arakan Express (29 Oct 2023) <https://tinyurl.com/my2d27k>

¹⁵⁷ The Business Standard (9 Oct 2023) Joint operation strengthened at Rohingya camps to curb crimes

¹⁵⁸ Daily Bangladesh (3 Oct 2023) 15 Rohingyas detained in Ukhiya

¹⁵⁹ Dhaka Tribune (4 Oct 2023) 2 dead after gunfights in Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps

¹⁶⁰ The Business Standard (9 Oct 2023) Joint operation strengthened at Rohingya camps to curb crimes

¹⁶¹ Narinjara (4 Oct 2023) ARSA leader Atallah's assistant arrested by Bangladesh security forces

¹⁶² The Business Standard (9 Oct 2023) APBn detains 3 RSO members with weapons in Teknaf Rohingya camp

¹⁶³ The Business Standard (16 Oct 2023) Arrested Samiuddin directly involved in Mohibullah murder: Rab

¹⁶⁴ The Wire (11 Oct 2023) SC Seeks Centre's Response to Petition Seeking Release of Illegally Detained Rohingya Refugees

On 16 Oct, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ) set deadlines** for replies and rejoinders for The Gambia vs Myanmar case on the Rohingya genocide. The deadline for The Gambia's reply was 16 May 2024. Myanmar was to submit a Rejoinder by 16 Dec 2024.¹⁶⁵

Rohingya, UNHCR demand more support

On 17 Oct, UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi stated that the UN's **Rohingya aid was only 42% funded**. He said conditions continued to deteriorate in camps in Bangladesh and urged the international community to increase financial support.¹⁶⁶ On the same day, the UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific announced GBP 4.5 million of humanitarian aid for Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh.¹⁶⁷ On 25 Oct, the European Commissioner for Crisis Management announced EUR 10.5 million in Rohingya assistance.¹⁶⁸ On 17 Oct, Rohingya refugees met with the US Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in Cox's Bazar and said the **WFP's USD 8 food vouchers were starving families**. The Deputy Assistant acknowledged conditions but said the US' role in camps was already "oversized".¹⁶⁹

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

During Sep-Oct, in Rakhine State, weak rule of law and limited measures against sexual violence resulted in a **rise in reported cases of rape of children and other vulnerable** groups. It was reported that girls as young as three years old were raped in three different incidents on 4 Sep, 29 Sep, and 6 Oct. In three other cases, three women with disabilities were raped. The perpetrators were often family members or neighbors. ULA/AA arrested suspects after most of the incidents.¹⁷⁰

On 4 Oct, assisted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the **Iraqi government granted asylum** to three Rakhine women who were **trafficked to the Middle East**. Daw Wyand Thuza, a legal adviser to the Rakhine National Network, said that human traffickers sold the fourth victim in Dubai where the IOM no longer operated, and that they were attempting to help her through the embassy.¹⁷¹

On 9 Oct, Beautifier of Diversity Network (BDN) stated that **hate speech on pro-junta Telegram channels was ubiquitous and targeted mostly women**. Women made up more than 50% of those arrested after targeting by pro-junta telegram channels. During Jul-Aug, hate speech via these channels comprised of 39% criticism and denunciation, 27% insults, 15% threats, and 13% incitement to violence. Sisters2Sisters campaigner Thinzar Shunlei Yi said that **pro-democracy supporters also often used hate speech to target the ethnicity and gender of pro-junta individuals**.¹⁷²

On 9 Oct, in **Hseni Township** (N. Shan State), a junta shell **injured a pregnant woman** in Pawng Hkio village.¹⁷³ On 11 Oct, it was reported that in Pindaya Township (S. Shan State) junta troops **arrested and interrogated a woman which caused her to miscarry**.¹⁷⁴

On 12 Oct, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) reported that during 1 Jul - 30 Sep 2023, the junta **killed at least 56 women** and girls and detained 43 others. Junta shelling killed 30 women and junta airstrikes killed six others. Junta soldiers shot dead 13, burned alive three, beat to death two, and gang-raped and killed one. One was killed while in a detention center.¹⁷⁵

Kachin women link China's BRI to surging conflict

On 9 Oct, in a report, the Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) highlighted a link between **escalating human rights violations** by junta troops in Kachin and northern Shan States, and the junta's efforts to secure transport routes to expand **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. The report detailed a surge in conflict and human rights abuses since mid-2022, the number of casualties from aerial bombardment, and the number of villagers used as **human shields**. KWAT called on China to urgently

¹⁶⁵ RFA (25 Oct 2023) Hague-based UN court extends deadlines in Rohingya genocide case; RFA (25 Oct 2023) Hague-based UN court extends deadlines in Rohingya genocide case

¹⁶⁶ Reuters (17 Oct 2023) UN urges more international focus on Rohingya refugees; AFP (18 Oct 2023) UN refugee chief calls attention to shortage in aid for Rohingya

¹⁶⁷ UK Government (17 Oct 2023) UK announces further assistance for Rohingya people in Bangladesh

¹⁶⁸ Dhaka Tribune (27 Oct 2023) PM Hasina's Brussels visit: EU opens new chapter in ties with Bangladesh

¹⁶⁹ BenarNews via RFA (17 Oct 2023) Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh appeal to donors for more food aid

¹⁷⁰ DMG (7 Oct 2023) 3-year-old girl raped in Pauktaw Twsp; alleged perpetrator arrested by AA; DMG (16 Oct 2023) Disabled woman raped in Pauktaw Twsp; DMG (18 Oct 2023) Disabled woman raped in Kyauktaw Twsp; DMG (19 Oct 2023) Disabled teenage girl raped in Myebon Twsp

¹⁷¹ Narinjara (6 Oct 2023) Sold by brokers in the Middle East, 3 Rakhine women granted asylum by Iraqi govt

¹⁷² Irawaddy (9 Oct 2023) Telegram: the Junta's Platform for Amplifying Hate Speech in Myanmar

¹⁷³ SHAN (9 Oct 2023) သိန္နိမြို့နယ် ကိုယ်ဝန်သည်တစ်ဦး လက်နက်ကြီး ထိမှန်

¹⁷⁴ Myanmar Now (11 Oct 2023) Pregnant woman miscarries after arrest by junta in southern Shan State

¹⁷⁵ Burmese Women's Union (12 Oct 2023) Women News Analysis Paper July to September 2023

reconsider its plans for accelerating BRI-related investment in Burma and warned that its involvement could make it complicit in the **growing atrocities** linked to these projects.¹⁷⁶

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

Conflict zones see health crisis unfold

On 3 Oct, it was reported that water scarcity and changing weather caused more than **350 IDPs** in Kanbalu Township (Sagaing Region) to suffer from **seasonal flu, skin diseases**, and other ailments. The IDPs had limited access to essential medicines, basic food items, and menstrual products.¹⁷⁷

On 4 Oct, it was reported that in western Demoso (Karenni State), **3,000 out of 5,000 IDPs** had fallen ill and that the **flu, dengue, and malaria** posed a significant risk for IDPs in Daw Yauk Khu and nearby villages. The junta's roadblocks hindered the delivery of medicine and only one clinic operated in the area.¹⁷⁸ In eastern Hpruso Township, healthcare providers reported a flu outbreak in IDP camps with **COVID-19-like symptoms** that primarily affected children.¹⁷⁹ On 5 Oct, medicine shortages in Hpruso Township (Karenni State) led IDPs in Sothae and Whei Du Hler camps to **use expired drugs**. Transportation challenges and high demand left little supply available to tackle common illnesses like seasonal flu.¹⁸⁰ On 17 Oct, a volunteer aiding IDPs in western Hpruso Township reported a **school closure** due to a surge in seasonal flu among children.¹⁸¹

On 17 Oct, the director of the Civil Health and Development Network (CHDN) said that **security and transportation issues**, such as the fear of airstrikes, had strained healthcare provision in Karenni State, particularly in hospitals. He added that people in IDP camps experienced continued medicine shortages and rising commodity prices, and some clinics were selling expired drugs.¹⁸²

On 19 Oct, it was reported that despite rising medicine prices and travel restrictions, a civil health organization in Mindat Township (Chin State) treated over 200 children for skin diseases since late September.¹⁸³

On 26 Oct, it was reported that children under five from the **Daw Noe Ku** IDP camp who had fled to Thailand suffered from **respiratory diseases**. Over 300 cases had been documented in the camp.¹⁸⁴ On 27 Oct, refugees in Thailand from the Daw Noe Ku IDP Camp reported that they experienced malnutrition. **Expectant mothers and children** were particularly affected. Lack of basic medical equipment in the camp had forced 21 pregnant women to seek help across the border in Karenni Refugee Camp 1.¹⁸⁵

Teacher shortage leaves schools inoperative

On 9 Oct, it was reported that **the primary school** in Shwezigon village, Minbya Township (Rakhine State) had been **closed** since the start of the academic year in June 2023 due to **a lack of teachers**. Villagers raised concerns about the negative impact on local students' education.¹⁸⁶

On 26 Oct, it was reported that a severe **shortage of qualified teachers** affected junta-run schools across Burma. The NUG stated that over **130,000 teachers**, more than **30% of those** who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) in 2021, continued their participation. Some parents moved their children to private or CDM-run community schools. Underprivileged families or those with ties to the regime's ministries, had no alternative but to enroll their children in regime-run schools.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷⁶ KWAT (9 Oct 2023) Bloodstained Gateways: escalating SAC abuses in northern Burma pave the way for BRI expansion; Irrawaddy (10 Oct 2023) China's Belt and Road Initiative is Fueling Atrocities in Myanmar: Report

¹⁷⁷ NMG (3 Oct 2023) ကန့်ဘလူ စစ်ရှောင်များ ရာသီ တုတ်ကွေး ဒဏ်ခံနေရ

¹⁷⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (4 Oct 2023) Sickness Grips Displaced Camps in Western Demoso

¹⁷⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (4 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆို အရှေ့ဘက်ခြမ်း စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းတွေမှာ ကိုဗစ်နဲ့ ဆင်တူတဲ့ တုတ်ကွေးတွေအဖြစ်များ

¹⁸⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆိုက စစ်ရှောင်စခန်း နှစ်ခုမှာ သက်တမ်းလွန်ဆေးတွေ သုံးစွဲနေရ

¹⁸¹ Kantarawaddy Times (17 Oct 2023) ဖရူဆိုစစ်ရှောင်စခန်းမှာ ရာသီတုတ်ကွေးကြောင့် ကလေးတွေ ဖျားနာ၊ ကျောင်းပိတ်ထားရ

¹⁸² Kantarawaddy Times (17 Oct 2023) လုံခြုံရေးနဲ့ လမ်းပန်းဆက်သွယ်ရေးအခက်အခဲကြောင့် ဆေးဝါးပို့ဆောင်နိုင်မှုနဲ့

ကျန်းမာရေးစောင့်ရှောက်မှုအပိုင်းမှာ အားနည်း

¹⁸³ Myanmar Peace Monitor (19 Oct 2023) Children in Chin's Mindat suffer from itching, skin diseases

¹⁸⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (26 Oct 2023) ဒေါ်နိုးကူး စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းမှာ ၅ နှစ်အောက် ကလေးတွေ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါတွေအဖြစ်များ

¹⁸⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (27 Oct 2023) Malnutrition Affects Pregnant Women from Daw Hnoe Ku in Thai Refugee Camp

¹⁸⁶ DMG (9 Oct 2023) No teacher, no classes at Minbya Twsp school for five months

¹⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (26 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Gets an 'F' for Education as Schools Spiral into Chaos

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

Exposed: ASEAN Chair's arms sales to junta

On 2 Oct, a **former Indonesian Attorney General** and two civil society groups, the Chin Human Rights Organization and the Myanmar Accountability Project, **filed a complaint** with Indonesia's Human Rights Commission (**Komnas HAM**). The complaint accused **three state-owned arms manufacturers** – PT Pindad, PT PAL, and PT Dirgantara Indonesia – of supplying arms to the junta over the past decade. The son of the junta's Finance Minister Win Shein, who was sanctioned by the US, the EU, and Canada, allegedly brokered arms and equipment through his company True North Co. Ltd.

While some of the alleged arms sales took place, Indonesia was an **active member of the UN Human Rights Council** and was one of four ASEAN countries that **voted in favor** of a UN General Assembly Resolution that called “on all UN member states to prevent the flow of arms to [Burma].”¹⁸⁸ This was the first time that Indonesia—**current ASEAN chair** and vocal critic of the junta's atrocities—had been **singled out for allegations** of arming the junta.¹⁸⁹ A member of Komnas HAM said that it was studying the complaint. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that “it involves verifications with many parties.”¹⁹⁰

On 4 Oct, the parent company of the three alleged actors, DEFEND ID, stated that PT Pindad had **only exported sports ammunition** products to Burma and that PT Dirgantara Indonesia and PT PAL had **no cooperation or sales agreements** with Burma. DEFEND ID's CEO said that they always **followed Indonesia's foreign policy** and regulations, including the UN resolution to stop the violence in Burma.¹⁹¹

Junta looks to Russia for energy technology

On 6 Oct, in Yangon, the junta Deputy Science and Technology Minister and Russia's **National Research Nuclear University** pro-rector signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).¹⁹² On 11 Oct, Russia's **state-run nuclear corporation Rosatom** and the junta's Ministry of Science and Technology signed an MoU on priority areas for nuclear construction.¹⁹³

On 6 Oct, the junta's new energy minister Ko Ko Lwin met with a Roscongress Investment-RCI delegation to discuss the **construction of an oil refinery and port** in Burma.¹⁹⁴ On 11 Oct, the Russian Ministry of Energy announced that junta and Russian officials discussed the construction of a **gas pipeline to the Yangon Region**.¹⁹⁵ During 11-13 Oct, Ko Ko Lwin attended the Russia Energy Week International Forum and asked Russia-owned geosciences company, ROSGEO, to provide the junta **AI-assisted oil extraction technology**. They discussed advanced methods for **identifying new oil fields** and potential reserves.¹⁹⁶ Ko Ko Lwin also visited Russia-owned Gazprom's Moscow oil refinery and requested technical assistance and investment in oil refinery construction and maintenance in Burma.¹⁹⁷

ILO demands end to forced labor and union-busting

On 4 Oct, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Commission of Inquiry reported that, since the attempted coup, the **regime had violated the ILO's Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No.87) and Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No.29)**.¹⁹⁸ **Burma ratified both conventions.**

The Commission reported that the **junta targeted trade unionists with arbitrary arrests and detention, weaponized courts, torture, surveillance, killings, and disappearances** (para. 541, 546, 549). The junta also severely **restricted freedom of movement, assembly and demonstration, and opinion and expression** (para. 553, 560, 564). It was concluded that the junta's restrictions to basic civil liberties and restrictions of workers' and unions' rights violated Burma's obligations under Convention No.87 (para. 570, 593). The junta **violated worker rights to establish organizations** (Art. 2) by stalling and restricting union registrations, enabling corruption, and allowing union-busting in the private sector (para. 577). The regime also **violated trade union rights to operate and to freely elect their leadership** (Art. 3) by engaging in strike-breaking and surveillance (para. 581, 586). The junta's declaration of 16 trade

¹⁸⁸ CHRO and MAP (2 Oct 2023) Indonesian Arms Producers Accused of Illegal Sales to Myanmar Authorities Urged to Launch Investigation

¹⁸⁹ Myanmar Now (5 Oct 2023) Indonesian arms firms accused of selling weapons to Myanmar junta

¹⁹⁰ RFA (2 Oct 2023) Complaint targets 'illegal' Indonesian arms sales to Burma

¹⁹¹ RFA (4 Oct 2023) Indonesian arms makers deny selling weapons to Burmese military

¹⁹² Irrawaddy (10 Oct 2023) Energy Crisis Deepens Myanmar Regime's Reliance on Russia

¹⁹³ Irrawaddy (12 Oct 2023) Myanmar and Russia Sign Nuclear Power Plant Deal

¹⁹⁴ Irrawaddy (10 Oct 2023) Energy Crisis Deepens Myanmar Regime's Reliance on Russia

¹⁹⁵ DVB (13 Oct 2023) Regime claims 'accidental' explosion killed 29 civilians; Naypyidaw and Moscow discuss new gas pipeline

¹⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (11 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Seeks AI Tech from Russia to Pump More Oil

¹⁹⁷ Eleven Media Group (15 Oct 2023) Myanmar delegation visits Moscow Oil Refinery in Russian Federation

¹⁹⁸ ILO (4 Oct 2023) Towards Freedom and Dignity in Myanmar

unions and civil society organizations as illegal constituted a **violation of organizations' right to protection against dissolution and suspension** (Art. 4) (para. 591).

The Commission reported that the **junta continued its use of forced labor** as defined by Article 2(1) of Convention No.29 and concluded that **forced labor had worsened following the attempted coup**. (para. 599) The report highlighted that **junta troops would routinely force civilians** in conflict areas **to act as porters** or guides and **use them as human shields**. Other labor exacted from civilians included transportation in private vehicles, construction work, domestic work, and the provision of food and accommodation (para. 600, 602). In Rakhine State, the junta continued to **force members of the Rohingya community, including children, to provide labor** such as cultivation, construction work, camp maintenance, and collection of natural resources (para. 603).

The junta's requirement that businesses operate during "silent strikes" also amounted to forced labor (para.618).

Citing a lack of due process in court proceedings, the report concluded that the junta used forced prison labor and that its usage did not fall under the prison labor exemption defined by Article 2(2)(c) of Convention No.29 (para. 612). The report highlighted that the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105) prohibited the use of forced prison labor as a means of political coercion or as punishment for political opposition or striking. Although Burma did not ratify Convention No.105, the report emphasized that Burma, as an ILO member, had an obligation to uphold and respect the principles of the Convention in accordance with the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (para. 613).

The Commission called on the junta to take action by 1 Oct to end violence against trade unionists and release them from prison, to stop interference with the formation and operations of trade unions, and to stop exacting forced labor from civilians and political prisoners (para. 643, 644). The Commission also recommended that Burma take measures to fully observe Conventions No.87 and No.29 following the return of democratic rule (para. 645-650). Moreover, the **Commission recommended that Burma take specific action to end forced labor amongst members of the Rohingya community and other ethnic or religious minorities** (para. 650(b)).

The ILO's Constitution requires **the junta to accept the recommendations in the report within three months** or, if the junta proposes, refer the case to the International Court of Justice.¹⁹⁹

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

The world reacts to Kachin IDP camp Airstrike and Operation 1027

On 10 Oct, the **UN Secretary-General** condemned all forms of violence, including the junta's attacks which continue to fuel regional instability, and urged neighboring countries to leverage their influence. He **did not explicitly name the junta** responsible for the attack on Mung Lai Hkyet IDP camp in Kachin State on 9 Oct.²⁰⁰ On 12 Oct, the Special Advisory Council - Myanmar (SAC-M) stated the attack could **constitute a war crime** and called out the UN for **refusing to publicly name the junta** as the perpetrator, and the **international community for its indifference** towards decades of the junta's atrocity crimes.²⁰¹

On 12 Oct, the **US, Canada and France** condemned the attack on the IDP camp that killed 29 civilians.²⁰² On 17 Oct, ASEAN also condemned the attack and called for utmost restraint to create an environment conducive to **inclusive dialogue**. ASEAN also reiterated its commitment to assist Burma in implementing the **5PC completely**. The junta stated that the statement was unfounded and misleading and that ASEAN should not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs.²⁰³

On 27 Oct, China's Foreign Ministry stated that China was following the recent conflict at the China-Burma border closely. They called for a **ceasefire** and for all groups to settle disputes peacefully.²⁰⁴ On 29 Oct, **China's highest-ranking military officer**, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission Zhang Youxia, met with the **junta's Defense Minister Tin Aung San** and **discussed the recent conflict in N. Shan State**.²⁰⁵ **China's Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong** met with the junta's Home

¹⁹⁹ ILO (4 Oct 2023) Towards Freedom and Dignity in Myanmar, Appendix III

²⁰⁰ UN Myanmar (10 Oct 2023) Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General – on Myanmar

²⁰¹ Special Advisory Council - Myanmar (12 Oct 2023) UN member states must hold the Myanmar military junta accountable for the massacre of IDPs

²⁰² DVB (12 Oct 2023) Western countries condemn attack that killed 29 civilians; Sacked regime ministers sentenced to prison

²⁰³ ASEAN (18 Oct 2023) ASEAN statement on the reported bombing in Kachin State; Irrawaddy (20 Oct 2023) ASEAN Bombing Criticism Anger Myanmar Junta

²⁰⁴ Xinhua (27 Oct 2023) China calls on relevant parties in Myanmar to cease fire, settle disputes via dialogue, consultation: spokesperson

²⁰⁵ Irrawaddy (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar Junta Defense Minister Meets China's Top Military Officer

Minister Yar Pyae on 30 Oct and with Min Aung Hlaing on 31 Oct in Naypyidaw. The meetings focused on security along the border in N. Shan State and the **Operation 1027** offensive.²⁰⁶

On 30 Oct, the UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordination Office (OCHA) reported that UN agencies, INGOs, and local partners were providing aid supplies to an **estimated 6,200 newly displaced** persons in N. Shan State due to Operation 1027. An additional several hundred people reportedly fled to China.²⁰⁷

Thailand and China now shaky on Min Aung Hlaing

On 2 Oct, Thailand, the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) invited junta chief Min Aung Hlaing to the planned summit in Bangkok on 30 Nov. Apart from Russia, Thailand was reportedly the second country to invite the junta chief after the attempted coup.²⁰⁸ On 5 Oct, Thai MP Kannavee Suebsang said that the Foreign Ministry **postponed the upcoming BIMSTEC summit and the invitation** to the junta chief. He explained that the public did not want the government to officially invite Min Aung Hlaing to Thailand.²⁰⁹ On 9 Oct, a spokesperson for the Thai Foreign Ministry confirmed that it postponed the 6th BIMSTEC summit **until next year** to allow for “better preparation”.²¹⁰

On 17-18 Oct, **China did not invite** Min Aung Hlaing to the third Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum **despite months of lobbying** by senior junta officials. Two junta ministers attended the forum instead.²¹¹

Chin refugees seek junta accountability through Filipino court

On 25 Oct, five Chin refugees represented by two Filipino lawyers filed a **criminal complaint** before the Philippine’s Department of Justice **against ten junta members**, including Min Aung Hlaing, under the Philippine Act 2009 on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes against Humanity. They filed the complaint on the second anniversary of a **mass arson attack** on Thantlang town (Chin State), which was part of a junta offensive that killed at least 250 people, destroyed 2,000 houses, and forced 60,000 civilians to flee to India.

Complainant Salai Ling, deputy head of the Chin Human Rights Organization, said that the junta systematically **persecuted Christians** by murdering pastors and destroying churches. The two Filipino lawyers argued that the 2009 Act allowed Manila to **prosecute foreign nationals** for crimes committed outside the country under the principle of **universal jurisdiction**. Authorities were reported to have 90 days to approve or dismiss the complaint. If approved, the Philippines would be the **first Asian country to invoke universal jurisdiction**. Chris Gunness of the Myanmar Accountability Project, which also petitioned Jakarta to investigate its state-owned companies’ arms trade with the junta, said that **ASEAN should be in the driving seat** in cases like these.²¹²

Sanctions on MOGE fall short of total ban

On 31 Oct, the **US sanctioned MOGE** effective 15 Dec, prohibiting the provision, exportation, or re-exportation of **financial services** such as loans, accounts, insurance, and investments under US control to the MOGE. However, Washington **refrained from** adding MOGE to the Specially Designated Nationals list, which would **freeze their US assets and ban US entities from trading with it**.

In coordination with the UK and Canada, the US also sanctioned five individuals and three entities, which reportedly assisted the junta in importing arms, including from US-sanctioned Russian entities. The UK sanctioned five people and one entity that were involved in the provision of financial services or restricted goods to the regime, including aircraft parts. Canada imposed sanctions against 39 individuals and 22 entities. **Neither UK nor Canada mentioned MOGE**.²¹³

This latest round of sanctions adds to existing measures which include US sanctions on junta-owned Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB), and the

²⁰⁶ AP (31 Oct 2023) Senior Chinese official meets Myanmar leader for security talks as fighting rages in frontier area

²⁰⁷ OCHA (30 Oct 2023) Myanmar: Escalation of clashes in northern Shan and the Southeast

²⁰⁸ Irrawaddy (4 Oct 2023) Thailand to Welcome Myanmar Coup Leader to Bangkok Summit

²⁰⁹ Myanmar Now (6 Oct 2023) Thailand to suspend invitation of Myanmar junta chief to attend BIMSTEC: MP

²¹⁰ Pattaya Mail (9 Oct 2023) Thailand reschedules 6th BIMSTEC meeting to 2024 for better preparation

²¹¹ Irrawaddy (17 Oct 2023) Snubbed Myanmar Junta Leader Must Watch China’s BRI Summit From Home

²¹² Myanmar Accountability Project (25 Oct 2023) War Crimes Case Against Myanmar Junta Brought in the Philippines; Myanmar Now (25 Oct 2023) Chin refugees request criminal investigation of Myanmar junta officials by Philippine authorities; AP (25 Oct 2023) Relatives of victims of alleged war crimes in military-run Myanmar seek justice in Philippines

²¹³ Reuters (2 Nov 2023) US targets Myanmar’s state oil and gas enterprise with form of sanctions; US Department of the Treasury (31 Oct 2023) Treasury Prohibits Financial Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and Imposes Additional Sanctions on Burma Military Regime Officials and Supporters; Government of the UK (31 Nov 2023) UK and international partners target Myanmar arms dealers and military financiers with new sanctions; Government of Canada (31 Dec 2023) Canada announces additional sanctions against individuals and entities supporting Myanmar’s military regime

junta's Ministry of Defense, US sanctions of the entire aviation fuel supply chain, along with EU sanctions on 99 individuals and 19 entities, including the MOGE.²¹⁴

Cybercrime trafficking victims repatriated

On 1 Oct, Chinese authorities **arrested eleven businessmen** from Shan State at a trade fair in Yunnan Province, including local officials from the **Kokang Self-Administered Zone**.²¹⁵ On 2 Oct, Chinese authorities in Yunnan Province arrested the deputy military chief of the United Wa State Army (UWSA) and **nephew of UWSA leader** for his alleged involvement in cyber scams.²¹⁶ On 11 Oct, Chinese authorities **issued arrest warrants** for Wa State's Construction Minister and a County Mayor of Wa State for allegedly being "key leaders" in telecom scam gangs staffed by human trafficking victims.²¹⁷

On 16 Oct, China's Ministry of Public Security (MPS) announced that, on 14 Oct, China had extradited a **total of 4,666 "suspects"** from Burma to Yunnan Province to date. MPS claimed that there was a **24% decrease in cybercrimes** since the crackdown started in August.²¹⁸

On 22 Oct, the Thai Foreign Ministry announced that with the junta's help, the Thai embassy repatriated 120 of **153 rescued Thai nationals** that were trafficked to Laukaing town (Shan State) as part of a cybercrime operation.²¹⁹ On 26 Oct, a spokesperson of Vietnam's Foreign Ministry said that with the junta's assistance, **61 Vietnamese Nationals** were rescued from scam operations in northern Burma.²²⁰

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²¹⁴ European Council (20 Jul 2023) Myanmar/Burma: EU imposes seventh round of sanctions against six individuals and one entity

²¹⁵ RFA (4 Oct 2023) Myanmar company director and regional officials 'arrested in China'

²¹⁶ Irrawaddy (19 Oct 2023) China's Crackdown on Cyber Scams in Myanmar Nets UWSA Deputy Chief

²¹⁷ RFA (12 Oct 2023) China issues warrants for 'key leaders' of Myanmar scam rings

²¹⁸ Xinhua (16 Oct 2023) Myanmar hands China over 2,300 telecom scam suspects

²¹⁹ Bangkok Post (22 Oct 2023) 120 Thai 'scam victims' await repatriation from Myanmar; Bangkok Post (28 Oct 2023) Scam victim rescue effort gets boost

²²⁰ RFA (26 Oct 2023) 61 Vietnamese rescued from Myanmar casinos