

# Bi-Weekly News Review

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# The Chin State's Military-Political Dynamics: Challenges and Opportunities

# **The Chin State's Military-Political Dynamics: Challenges and Opportunities**

## **Introduction**

The military-political dynamics in Chin State over the course of the Spring Revolution have been a mixture of challenges and opportunities. The ethnic and tribal diversity within the Chin State underscores the beauty of the region, while the coordinated resistance actions against the military junta over the past three years by armed resistance groups and political organizations across Chin State to end military dictatorship and build a federal democratic union have posed a formidable threat to the Myanmar's military regime.

However, there remain significant disagreements among the various stakeholder groups in Chin State that oppose the military council, including armed resistance groups, political organizations, civil society organizations and others, as evidenced by the formation of the Chinland Council and Chinland government. Whether these differences will destroy the symbol of beauty and unity of the Chin State depends primarily on the choice and ability to resolve of all forces within the Chin State.

In this issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor Bi-Weekly News Review, we take a look at the military-political

dynamics in the Chin State over the course of the Spring Revolution by examining the various groups in Chin State and their ambitions based on their existence.

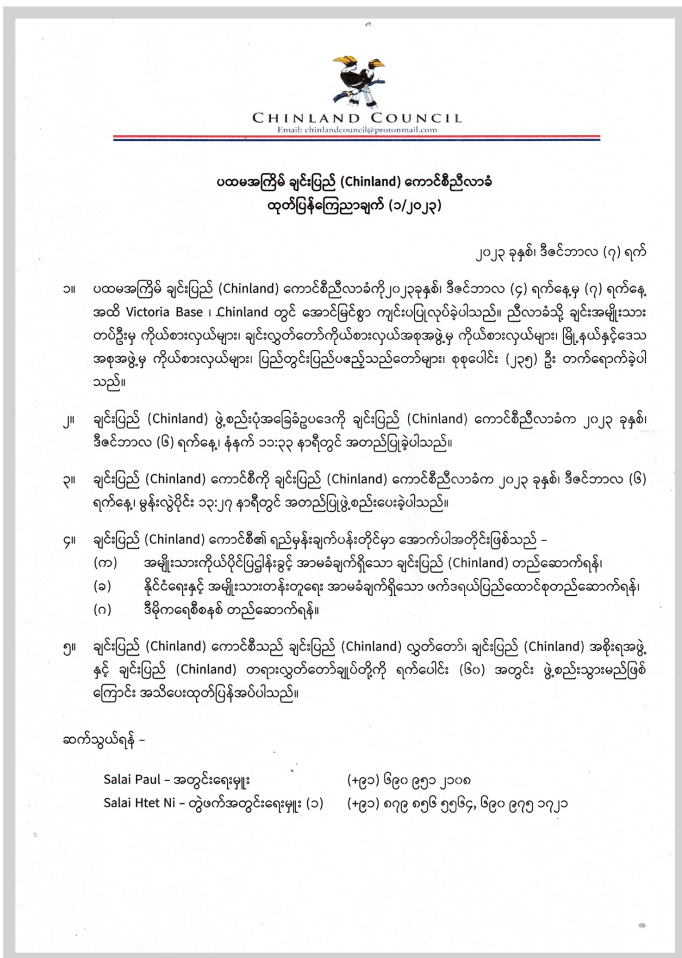
## Understanding the Chinland Council and Chinland government

The first Chinland Council Conference, held at the headquarters of Camp Victoria from 4 to 7 December 2023, was attended by 235 people from three clusters - the Chin National Front (CNF), Chin MPs and township and regional groups – as well as guests from home and abroad.

On the third day of the conference, 6 December, the Chinland Council Conference ratified the Chinland Constitution in the morning and established the Chinland Council in the afternoon. The Chinland

Council has set three goals: to build a Chinland that guarantees the right to self-determination, to build a federal union that guarantees political and national equality, and to build a democratic system. The post-conference statement published on 7 December 2023 states that the Chinland Parliament, the Chinland Government and the Chinland Supreme Court must be formed within 60 days of the formation of the Chinland Council.<sup>1</sup>

According to the 2023 Chinland Constitution, the 140-member Chinland Council is to be formed with 27 MPs elected in the 2020 general election who are participating in the revolution against dictatorship, 27 representatives from the Chin National Front (CNF) and 86 representatives from township



1 Statement of first Chinland Council Conference (1/2023) <https://bit.ly/42EmYBA>



and regional groups. The 23-member steering committee of the Chinland Council is to be composed of three representatives from the Chin National Front, three Chin MPs and 17 representatives from township and regional groups, structuring with a chairperson, a vice chairman-1, a vice chairman-2, a secretary, a joint secretary-1, a joint secretary-2, and other council members. <sup>2</sup>

The current Chinland Council includes 27 representatives from the Chin National Front, 15 Chin MPs, and representatives from 14 township and regional groups. The 14 township and regional groups include (1) Kalay, Kabaw, Gangaw-KKG, (2) CDF-CDM-Siyin, (3) CDF- (3) CDF- Hualngoram (4) CDF-Hakha, (5) CDF- Thantlang, (6) CDF- Zophei, (7) CDF-Lautu, (8) CDF-Zotung, (9) CDF-Mara, (10) CDF-Daai, (11) CDF-Paletwa, (12) CDF-Tonzang, (13) CDF-Kanpetlet, and (14) CDF-Matupi, according to Salai Paul, Secretary of the Chinland Council. <sup>3</sup>

## Background

Looking back over the three years of the Spring Revolution against the military coup on political and military fronts, the combined strength

<sup>2</sup> Chinland Constitution (2023), Chapter (3) <https://bit.ly/49gRRyL>

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Salai Paul, Secretary of the Chinland Council on future work processes <https://bit.ly/49zkwyO>

and unity of all stakeholders, including the Chin National Front, elected MPs, the locally formed Chinland Defense Forces (CDFs), participants in the strike movements and the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), greatly shook the military council.

The Chin National Front (CNF) has been consistently cooperating with the with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the National Unity Government (NUG). In addition, it was also a member of Interim Chin National Consultative Council (ICNCC) formed on 13 April 2021. In May 2021, the NUG and the CNF signed a bilateral agreement to resist the military regime and build a federal democratic system.

The CNF also played a leading role in the Chin Joint Defense Committee (CJDC), which was established on 30 September 2021 together with 17 Chinland Defense Forces. In September 2022, a coordination committee was formed between the ICNCC and the CJDC for a Chinland charter/constitution and the establishment of a Chinland government. In April 2023, the CNF withdrew from the ICNCC and in May 2023, some elected MPs within the ICNCC began talks to form a Chin state government.<sup>4</sup> In September 2023, a pre-plenary conference for the Chinland Council was held and the Working Committee for the Chinland Council Conference (W4C) was established. Then, in December 2023, the Chinland Council Conference was held, at which the Chinland Constitution was ratified, the Chinland Council was formed and the Chinland government was established, marking a significant political change in Chin State in a short period of time.

In other words, it appears that the consolidation, leadership, and ability to cooperate among the ICNCC member groups, which were established to resist the military regime and build a Chinland that guarantees the right to self-determination as well as a federal democratic union that guarantees equality, have become questionable and need to be reassessed.

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<sup>4</sup> Statement of exhortation to Chin revolutionary groups and people of Chin State on Spring Revolution's 3rd anniversary <https://bit.ly/3SYD9qa>



The Interim Chin National Consultative Council (ICNCC) issued a statement on 3 February 2024 in which it did not recognize and rejected the formation of the Chinland government formed by the Chinland Council. Some remaining Chin MPs in the ICNCC also issued a statement on 14 February opposing the formation of the Chinland Council and the Chinland government.

The Chin Brotherhood Alliance consisting of the Zomi Federal Union (ZFU), the Chin National Organization/Chin National Defense Force (CNO/CNDF) and the Chin National Council (Mindat) also rejected the formation of a Chinland government in a joint statement. According to Dr. Sui Khar, Vice chairman-3 of the CNF, spokesperson of the Chinland government and the foreign affairs minister, there is an agreement between the three Chin Brotherhood Alliance and the Chinland Council to meet and discuss in the first week of March.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Interview with Chinland government’s spokesperson and CNF’s vice chair-3 Dr. Sui Khar <https://bit.ly/30JC3wf>



**If only the political disagreements can be resolved in time, the beauty and unity of Chin State will shine even brighter.**



## Review

Although the military momentum in Chin State have posed a formidable threat to the military regime over the three-year Spring Revolution, the political shifts have revealed clear differences among the various groups. It is very important that all stakeholders, who are in the same boat with the determination to end all forms of tyranny, including military dictatorship, and build a federal democratic union, should respect each other, be magnanimous and urgently find a solution through dialogue for the sake of the people of Chin State.

Currently, local Chinland defense forces control up to 80% of Chin State, which has a population of only about 500,000 across nine townships. If the political disagreements can be resolved in time, the beauty and unity of Chin State will shine even brighter. At the same time, it could become a good lesson for potential ethnic conflicts and territorial disputes in other states and regions.



Photo - Kantarawaddy Times

## **Three displaced children, three women including one pregnant woman shot dead in Shadaw**

8 February 2024

Six displaced persons—three women including a pregnant woman and three children— were shot dead by the military council in Shadaw Township in Karenni (Kayah) State, eyewitnesses said.

On the evening of 4 February, the military council troops arrived at the place where the IDPs were taking shelter. Then seven people— one man, three women and three children— were taken hostage.





## **The commander of Battalion-249 ordered to shoot and kill three children and three women.**



Three women and three children were shot dead. Only a man managed to escape.

“They got arrested together with me. They were separately arrested. Among the detainees are a pregnant woman and her children, my eldest sister’s mother-in-law and her grandchildren. The total number of detainees including me are seven. I managed to escape. Six others died,” said the man who managed to escape.

The on-the-ground ground reporter who went to the incident at around 9 am on 5 February said: “Among those killed are children aged under five. Three adults were also killed. When I arrived there, one of the children was still alive. But the children got severe gunshot wounds on his back. The paramedic tried to save him. But his wounds were severe. He died from severe wounds there.”

On the morning of 5 February, the group dispersed and only one man escaped, said a resident of Shadaw who was close to the escapee.

The remaining victims were shot dead by junta soldiers under the order of the commander of Battalion-249.

“Seven people were abducted. The man whose hands were tied behind his back managed to escape. The commander of Battalion-249 ordered to shoot and kill three children and three women. All the victims are the IDPs from Shadaw Township.

# 46 Towns Captured and Controlled By Revolutionary Forces

## Shwepyiyae

On 21 November, the combined PDFs conducted an offensive in Shwepyiyae town in Homalin Township. On 22 November, the combined force captured it and arrested eight military council soldiers.

## Khampat

On 4 November, the joint PDFs conducted an offensive against the military outpost and Myoma police station in Khampat town in Tamu Township. On 7 November, the joint force successfully captured the town.

## Maw Luu

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) seized control of Maw Luu in Indaw Township on 13 December.

## Kawlin

On 3 November, the combined force of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDF attacked the military council outpost and Myoma police station in Kawlin town of Kawlin Township. On 6 November, the combined force captured the town.

(Fighting continues in Kawlin. Effort is being made to hold on to the town, using military strategy. The news that the military council has controlled the town is false, an official of the President Office of National Unity Government (NUG) said.)

## Reedkhawdar

On 13 November, the joint force of Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA), CDF-Zanniatram, PDA-Tedim, CDF-Thantlang and CDF-Hualngoram attacked and captured two military outposts based in Reedkhawdar on No.2 Trade Route on the India-Myanmar border. Then, the joint force took complete control of the town.

## Pauktaw

On 19 January 2024, the Arakan Army (AA) launched an attack on Pauktaw. The AA successfully took complete control of the town on 24 January.

## Taungpyo

The Arakan Army (AA) launched attacks on both Taungpyoletwea and Taungpyoletya outposts of the military council in Maungdaw Township on 4 February 2024 and successfully captured Taungpyo on 6 February.

## MraukU

On 8 February 2024, the AA successfully seized control of MraukU in Arakan State.

## Kyauktaw

On 7 February 2024, the AA successfully seized control of Kyauktaw in Arakan State.

## Minbya

The Arakan Army (AA) announced on 6 February 2024 that it had successfully captured Minbya.

## Samee

The Arakan Army (AA) announced on 16 January 2024 that it had successfully captured Samee in Paletwa Township.

## Waibula

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of Waibula in Falam Township.

## Hnaring

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of Hnaring in Thantlang Township.

## Surkhua

On 30 November, local Chin defense forces seized control of Surkhua in Hakha Township.

## M'kuiimnu

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of M'kuiimnu in Mindat Township.

## Lalengpi

On 20 November, the joint Chinland Defense Forces attacked the military bases in Lalengpi town in Matupi Township. On 24 November, the joint force captured the town.

## Rezua

On 26 November, the joint force of CNA and CDFs conducted an offensive against Rezua in Zotung in Chin State under the name of "ZZLMS Operation". On 29 November, the joint force successfully captured the town.

## Paletwa

On 13 November 2023, the Arakan Army (AA) launched an offensive in Paletwa town. The AA successfully seized control of the town on 14 January 2024.

## Namtu

On 25 December, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) started attacking Namtu. On 28 December, the TNLA successfully captured the town.

## Monglon

On 5 December, the joint TNLA force successfully captured the town.

## Mongngaw

On 29 December, the joint TNLA force started attacking Mongngaw in Kyaukme Township and successfully captured and controlled the town on 31 December.

## Mantong

On 22 December, the joint TNLA force successfully captured and controlled Mantong.

## Injangyan

On 20 November, junta soldiers and police members from two military outposts and a police station in Injangyan Township withdrew.

## Sinbo

On 10 February 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) successfully seized control of Sinbo in Myitkyina Township.

## Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni

Since 27 October, Three Brotherhood Alliance—Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA)—jointly has launched "Operation 1027". On 2 November, the Three Brotherhood Alliance took complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni.

## Konegyan

The MNDAA-Kokang successfully captured Konegyan town on 28 November as the soldiers from No.125 infantry battalion based in Konegyan on the China-Myanmar border in northern Shan State surrendered with weapons.

## Namkham

Since 27 October, the joint TNLA force has started attacking Namkham. On 18 December, it successfully captured the town.

## Laukkai

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) successfully captured and controlled Laukkai on 4 January.

## Mabein

On 20 January 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied People's Defense Force (PDF) launched an attack on Mabein. On 21 January, they successfully seized control of the town.

## Monekoe

On 5 November, the MNDAA-Kokang and the AA conducted an offensive against Monekoe strategic hill and took control of Monekoe in Muse Township on 7 November.

## Moebye

The Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) started attacking Moebye in Pekon Township on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.

## Hsihseng

Pa-O National Liberation Army (PNLA) announced on 28 January that it seized control of Infantry Battalion-424 in Hsihseng and the entire town.

## Shadaw

On 12 February 2024, the combined Karenni force successfully seized control of Shadaw in Karenni (Kayah) State.

## Mawchi

Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) announced on 28 January that it could control Mawchi without any fighting as the military council abandoned its camps in Mawchi on 26 January 2024.

## Ywarthit

Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) announced on 28 January that it seized control of Ywarthit in Bawlake Township.

## Nan Mei Khon

The Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) began its offensive on Nan Mei Khon in Demoso Township on 11 November and captured and controlled the town on 13 November.

## Mese

Since 13 June, the joint force of the 4K composed of Karenni Army (KA), Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KNPLF), Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) and PDFs, attacked all military base camps in Mese Township. On 24 June, the joint force captured Mese.

## Mone

From 2 to 4 December, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the joint revolutionary forces attacked the military council's outposts in Mone in Kyaukkyi Township. On 4 December, they captured Mone.

## Kunlong

On 1 November, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) launched a military operation to capture Kunlong in northern Shan State, attacking Myanmar Army outposts and administrative offices. The ethnic army succeeded in capturing the town on 12 November.

## Kutkai

On 7 January, the Three Brotherhood Alliance - Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Arakan Army (AA) - succeeded in taking control of the town of Kutkai.

## Namhsan

On 15 December, the joint TNLA force successfully captured and controlled Namhsan.

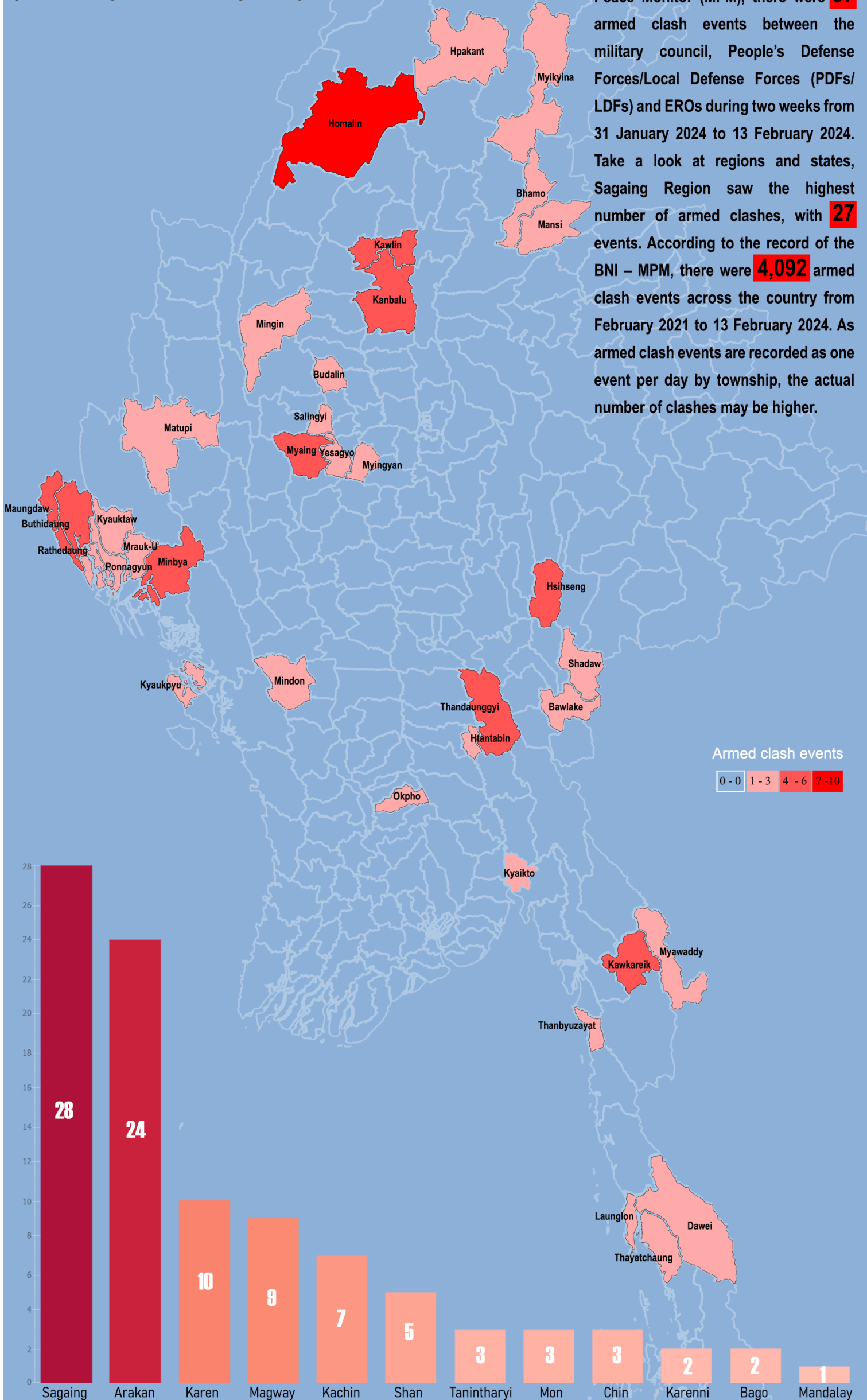
## Hopang, Panglong

On 5 January, the Three Brotherhood Alliance - Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Arakan Army (AA) - captured the towns of Hopang and Panglong. On 10 January, the towns were handed over to the United Wa State Army (UWSA).

# Armed clash events in two weeks

(31 January - 13 February 2024)

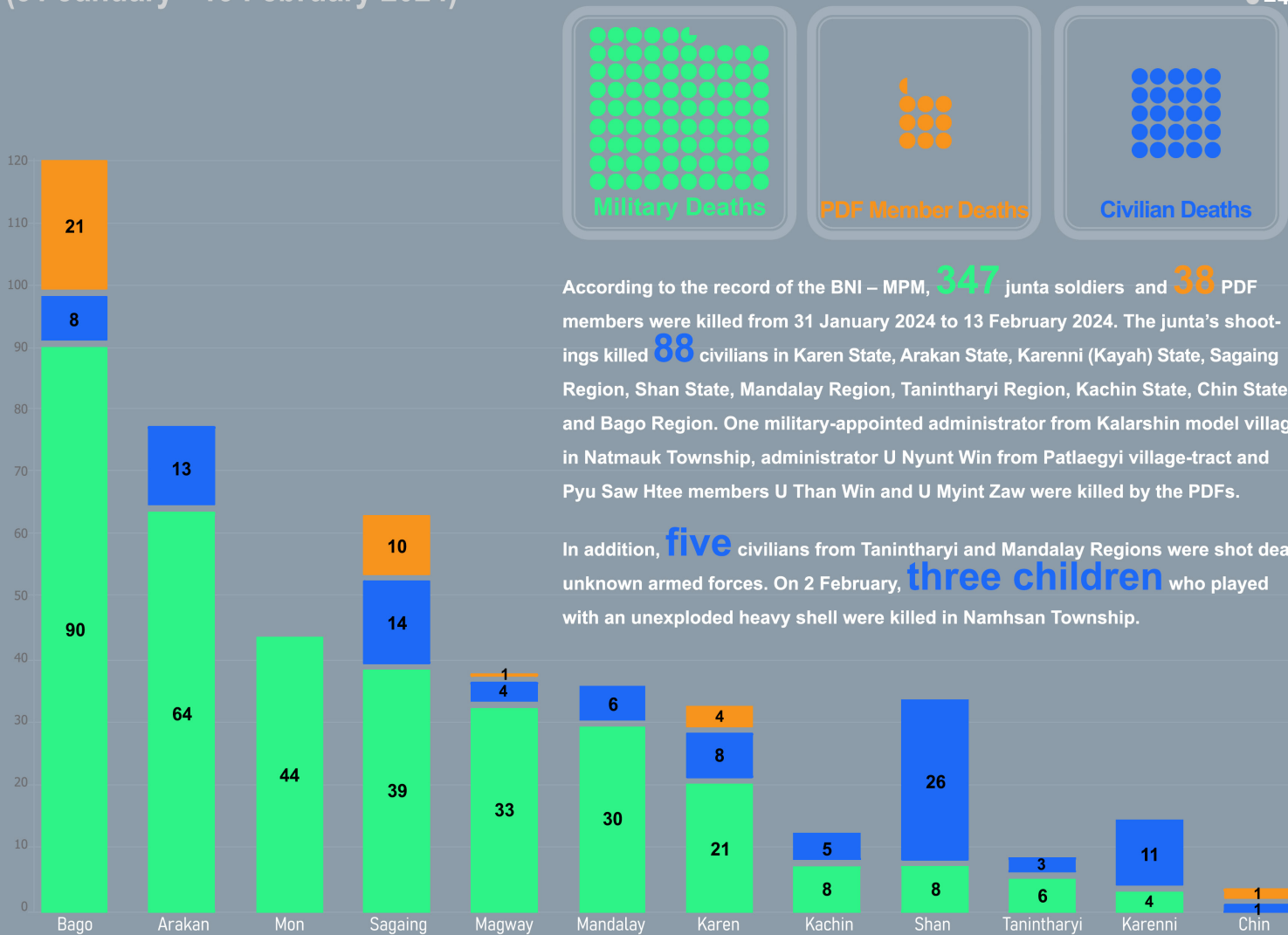
According to the record of the Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were **97** armed clash events between the military council, People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and EROs during two weeks from 31 January 2024 to 13 February 2024. Take a look at regions and states, Sagaing Region saw the highest number of armed clashes, with **27** events. According to the record of the BNI – MPM, there were **4,092** armed clash events across the country from February 2021 to 13 February 2024. As armed clash events are recorded as one event per day by township, the actual number of clashes may be higher.



Armed clash events  
 0 - 0   1 - 3   4 - 6   7 - 10

# Number of military council soldiers, PDF members and civilians killed in two weeks (31 January - 13 February 2024)

● = 4



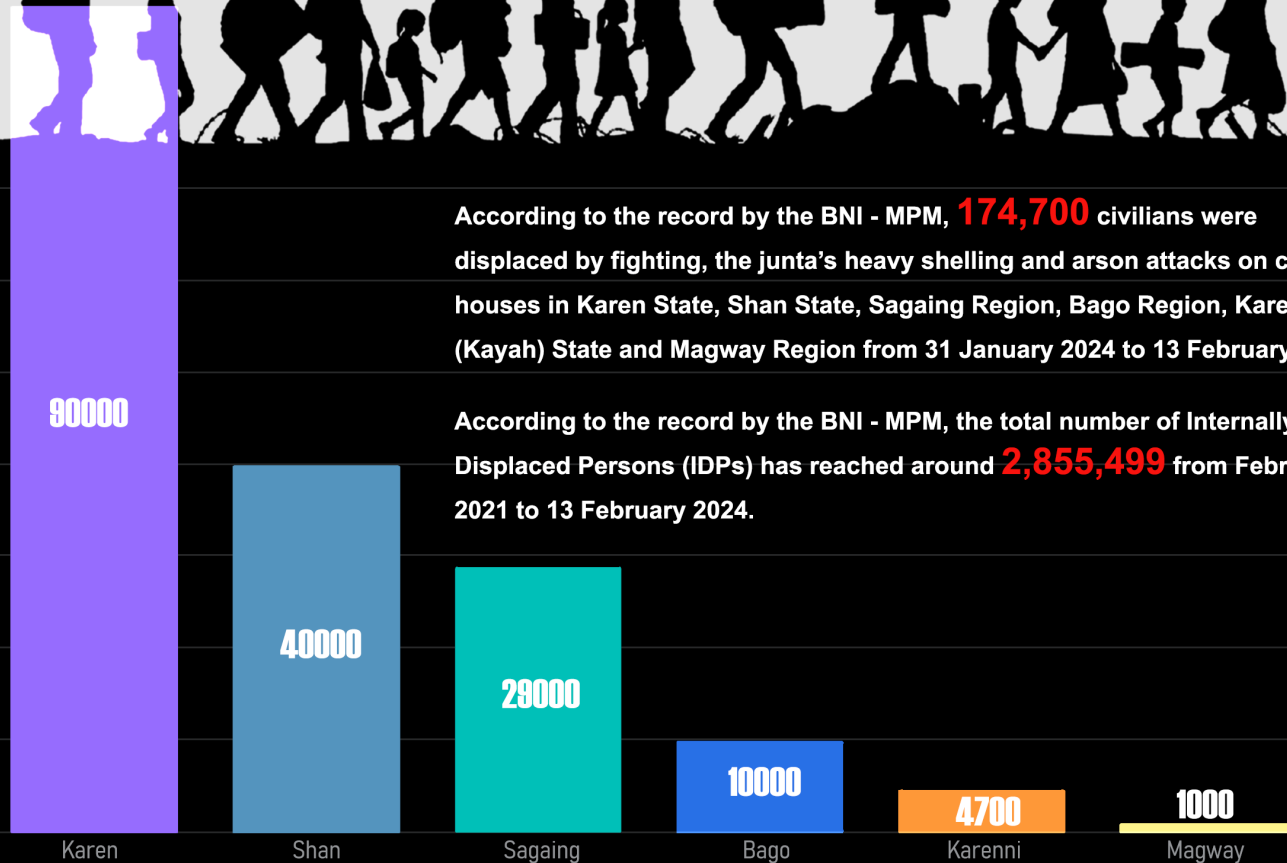
# Number of IDPs in two weeks

(31 January - 13 February 2024)

# 174,700



90,000  
80,000  
70,000  
60,000  
50,000  
40,000  
30,000  
20,000  
10,000  
0



According to the record by the BNI - MPM, **174,700** civilians were displaced by fighting, the junta's heavy shelling and arson attacks on civilian houses in Karen State, Shan State, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Karenni (Kayah) State and Magway Region from 31 January 2024 to 13 February 2024.

According to the record by the BNI - MPM, the total number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has reached around **2,855,499** from February 2021 to 13 February 2024.



Photo - MOFA Thailand

The United States extended the declaration of a national emergency regarding Myanmar for another year. It was issued on 7 February by order of US President Joe Biden, citing an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.<sup>1</sup>

On 12 February, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara in Washington, D.C. and mainly discussed the Myanmar crisis.

The US Secretary of State and his Thai counterpart called on the Myanmar junta to hold talks with all stakeholders, release all those arrested arbitrarily to stop hostilities and return to the path of democratic civilian rule.

In addition, they discussed the urgent need to extend humanitarian assistance to the displaced Myanmar population, including the efforts made by Thailand and ASEAN countries to resolve the worsening Myanmar crisis.<sup>2</sup>

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1 United States extended the declaration of a national emergency regarding Myanmar for another year. <http://tinyurl.com/29sllnwa>

2 US Secretary of State and his Thai counterpart call on Myanmar junta to return to path of democratic civilian rule. <http://tinyurl.com/25wgzctx>



Photo - REUTERS / Abubaker Lubowa



**...underscored the urgency of forging a path towards a democratic transition with a return to civilian rule.**



While receiving the Myanmar expats in Japan at the Japanese Foreign Ministry Office in Tokyo on 5 February, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Komura Masahiro said that he will continue to work for the improvement of the situations by listening carefully to the voices of the people of Myanmar for the development of a democratic political system and peace in Myanmar and holding talks with stakeholders.<sup>3</sup>

On the third anniversary of the military coup, Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres underscored the urgency of forging a path towards a democratic transition with a return to civilian rule.<sup>4</sup>

On 5 February, the Security Council convened a private meeting to discuss the situation in Myanmar. Nine members of the Security Council issued a joint statement strongly condemning the ongoing violence harming civilians in Myanmar. Nine council members are United States, United Kingdom, France, Japan, South Korea, Ecuador, Malta, Slovenia and Switzerland.<sup>5</sup>

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3 Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister promises to continue listening to the public for democracy and peace in Myanmar <http://tinyurl.com/26mf98rp>

4 UN Secretary-General calls for return to civilian rule in Myanmar. <http://tinyurl.com/2x2bsnwg>

5 Myanmar issue discussed at the UN Security Council; nine countries call for an end to attacks on civilians. <http://tinyurl.com/24br4rng>

## Remark:

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

