

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024: **Junta lashes out at civilians as it loses more ground**

- As of 29 Feb, there were at least 37,936 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021. As of 4 Mar, there were at least 2,482,200 displaced people since 1 Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Junta enforces conscription, causes mass panic, and targets Rohingya IDPs.
- AA closes in on total control of Northern Arakan, KIA expands Kachin territory.
- Junta bombs Karenni school during class, maims students.
- Horrifying video of junta burning alive two PDF members surfaces.
- Junta recaptures Kawlin (Sagaing) and burns down 80% of town.
- Burma is now first in the world on the Global Organized Crime Index.
- US charges Yakuza boss who tried to sell Burmese nuclear material to Iran.
- NUG-aligned Launglon PDT admits to summary executions.
- Junta shelling kills two in Bangladesh.
- "Overburdened" Bangladesh closes border to fleeing Rohingya, others.
- UN offices in Arakan paint logo on roof to ward off junta bombings.
- Thailand pushes ahead with controversial humanitarian corridor plans.
- Malaysia closes detention center after 131 mainly Rohingya refugees escape.
- New Mon State Party splinter group rejects NCA, joins resistance.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

Reshuffles ensue after junta declares 5th extension to state of emergency

On 1 Feb, it was reported that the junta extended its state of emergency for another six months. Junta president, Myint Swe, told the National Defense and Security Council (NDSC) that another extension would take place if necessary. This marked the fifth extension of the state of emergency. Min Aung Hlaing again claimed that the junta needed more time to prepare its sham election and that the vote would take place in all states and regions.¹

On the same day, the junta replaced its Union Election Commission chair, Thein Soe, with former Religious Affairs minister Ko Ko. Thein Soe reportedly retired on health grounds.² It was reported that the junta also replaced the Shan State chief minister Lt. Gen. Aung Zaw Aye with Lt. Gen. Aung Aung who held the position of chief of Bureau of Special Operations No. 2. Aung Aung's vacancy was filled by chief of the Northeastern Command Major-General Naing Naing Oo who was promoted to Lt. Gen.³

On 6 Feb, it was reported that in early January the junta replaced Lt. Gen. Yar Pyae with its border affairs minister, Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Aung as the chief of the National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC). The NSPNC oversees dialogue between the junta and the remaining signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Last month it was reported that the junta had also replaced Yar Pyae as national security advisor with navy chief, Moe Aung.⁴

On 12 Feb, it was reported the junta moved its former Home Affairs Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Htut (convicted for corruption in Nov 2023) from Taungoo Prison to house arrest after a colon cancer diagnosis.⁵

Junta announces military draft law

On 10 Feb 2024, 10 days after it had extended its "state of emergency," the junta announced that it would immediately put into force "The People's Military Service Law" (N° 27/2010). The law would force selected men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27 to serve up to two years in the regime's military. Selected professionals such as doctors, engineers, and technicians up to age 45 would be forced to serve three years. The length of the service would be extended to five years given the extended "state of emergency."⁶ Civil servants, students, caregivers for elderly parents, drug users in rehab, and those receiving medical treatment would receive "temporary deferments."⁷

Anyone who refused to serve after being drafted would face a five-year jail term. By-laws for the practical enforcement of the draft had yet to be determined at the time of the announcement.⁸ [See Conscription Briefer](#). The announcement immediately caused economic chaos (*See Business & Economics*)

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

Chinland Council fills Chinland government positions

In an apparent move towards greater autonomy, the Chinland Council announced on 1 Feb that they had **filled leadership positions** for the new Chinland government. The positions were reportedly decided during the Chinland Council's second official meeting, held during 30-31 Jan in Chinlon town (previously Camp Victoria, Chin State). The government would consist of **14 ministries and a supreme court**, to be headed by three judges. The Council announced **Pu Pa Thang**, an NLD MP from Matupi Township, as the **inaugural Prime Minister**. Members of the Chin National Front (CNF) would lead the foreign affairs and defense ministries. A CNF member would be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Elected MPs and township and regional representatives would head other ministries. A Chin political analyst noted that even with representatives from different organizations in government, the new Chin government was **effectively under CNF control**.⁹ The foreign minister said that the Chinland

¹ Irrawaddy (1 Feb 2024) Junta Prepared to Extend Myanmar's State of Emergency Again in August

² Irrawaddy (1 Feb 2024) Myanmar Junta Replaces Election Body Chief; Irrawaddy (4 Aug 2023) Myanmar Junta Leader Reshuffles Cabinet Days After Extending Emergency Rule

³ Irrawaddy (5 Feb 2024) Myanmar General in Charge of Shan State Disaster Handed Surprise Promotion

⁴ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2024) Myanmar Junta Shoots to Revive Peace Talks, Replaces Top Negotiator

⁵ Irrawaddy (12 Feb 2024) Jailed Ex-Junta Minister Soe Htut Moved to House Arrest for Health Reasons

⁶ The Guardian (11 Feb 2024) Myanmar's junta declares it will enforce military service laws for young people; GNLM (11 Feb 2024) Date set for People's Military Service Law to come into force; RFA (12 Feb) Young Burmese dismiss junta military draft order

⁷ Nikkei Asia (14 Feb 2024) 'I'd rather cut off a few fingers': Myanmar's draft fuels popular backlash

⁸ RFA (12 Feb 2024) Young Burmese dismiss junta military draft order

⁹ Myanmar Now (5 Feb 2024) New government forms in Chin State with key ministries controlled by CNF

government held their first cabinet meeting in early Feb, where they formed their first 100-day plan. They would then begin to develop the **three branches of government** and establish the **rule of law**. Afterward, they planned to establish **education and health access** across the state. The minister also noted that they would implement a policy to appoint CDMers in relevant departments.¹⁰ The Chinland government aims to establish a federal union in Burma and defeat the Burmese junta.

Anti-junta New Mon State Party (NMSP) splinter group announced

On 14 Feb, the New Mon State Party (Anti-dictatorship) (NMSPaMD) announced that they had **split from the NCA-signatory NMSP** and joined the **fight against the junta**. They stated that they no longer believed political dialogue would help “ensure national equality and self-determination”.¹¹ The group reportedly decided to split from the NMSP after the majority of NMSP members voted in favor of adhering to the NCA at their Dec 2023 Congress. NMSPaMD said that the junta was murdering Mon people and the NCA had failed to achieve any of its aims. The group said it would collaborate with other resistance forces to carry out attacks on the junta.¹²

Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF) to establish governance structures in seven townships

On 24 Feb, the PSLF/TNLA stated that they would **establish people’s administrations in the seven newly-seized Northern Shan State towns**. They stated they would stop other armed groups from interfering in tax collection and from forcibly recruiting individuals in these areas. The PSLF president Tar Aik Bong urged Ta’ang people to return to PSLF-administered areas and to support the development of the new structures.¹³

Karen communities protect ancestral land with Karen National Union (KNU) land titles

On 26 Feb, Monga Bay reported on the longstanding efforts by indigenous Karen communities to **demarcate and register lands**, in collaboration with the KNU’s **Kawthoolei Agricultural Department (KAD)**. Since 2017, the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN) had worked with the KNU to map, demarcate, and register a total of 326 kaws (customary lands), 107 reserve forests, 18 wildlife sanctuaries, 204 community forests, and four herbal medicine forests. This **demarcated land covered more than 2,719,172 hectares**. The KAD also issued land title certificates to villagers. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, these provided **proof of the title-holders’ ancestral ties to demarcated lands**. A representative from KESAN stated that villagers from other ethnic groups, such as Mon, had also sought to register land under the KNU’s system.¹⁴

NUG to blacklist overseas workers organizations, administrative development continues

On 4 Feb, the NUG Ministry of Labour **dissolved the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Association** and accused them of working with the junta and failing to protect migrant rights. The NUG said they would **blacklist overseas employment agencies** that overcharged workers or forced them to pay junta remittance and tax.¹⁵

On 15 Feb, the **NUG Ministry of Health** announced they were **recruiting healthcare workers** to work in **public clinics** and hospitals in resistance-controlled areas. A CDM doctor stated that people had been heavily relying on private hospitals and that adequately staffing public hospitals was important.¹⁶

On 16 Feb, DVB reported that the **NUG Ministry of Defense** still **lacked a clear chain of command**, particularly in the Anyar region including Sagaing and Magway. The NUG stated that there were 300 PDFs operating under their chain of command and around 400 Local Defense Forces operating outside of the NUG’s structure. A local analyst stated that the **NUG should allow local resistance forces to lead building the chain of command**, as they best understood the situation on the ground. Another stated that leadership needed to better inform local forces on how to build up the chain of command.¹⁷

¹⁰ Khonumthung (9 Feb 2024) Chinland Government Kicks Off 100 Day Plan

¹¹ RFA (14 Feb 2024) Offshoot of ethnic Mon group joins fight against Myanmar’s junta regime

¹² Mizzima (17 Feb 2024) New Mon State Party breakaway formed to fight Myanmar junta

¹³ Irrawaddy (24 Feb 2024) Ta’ang Towns Promised Civilian Administration

¹⁴ Monga Bay (26 Feb 2024) Not waiting for the government, Myanmar’s Karen people register their own lands

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2024) Myanmar Association of Overseas Job Agencies Dissolved by Civilian Government

¹⁶ Mizzima (15 Feb 2024) Myanmar NUG’s health ministry recruiting specialists and healthcare workers

¹⁷ DVB (16 Feb 2024) National Unity Government lacks chain of command, states analysts

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

Violence against political prisoners continues unabated

On 6 Feb, at Kyaikmaraw Prison, Mawlamyine Township (Mon State) 47 political prisoners staged a hunger strike and demanded two inmates be removed from solitary confinement and given medical treatment. They also called for inmate interrogations to be conducted in accordance with basic human rights and that guards return prisoners to their cells after interrogations. It was reported that, on 28 Jan, prison guards carried out severe interrogations of two inmates after finding two mobile phones during a search. On 5 Feb, they placed both inmates in solitary confinement. As of 12 Feb, the junta had not provided medical treatment to any of the striking prisoners, which had caused their health to worsen.¹⁸ On 12 Feb it was reported that prison authorities agreed to meet the prisoners' demands. Thaik Tun Oo from the Political Prisoners Network Myanmar (PPNM) warned that junta wardens would use short term deals to appease prisoners and later carry out crackdowns on strike organizers.¹⁹

On 8 Feb, in Waw Township (Bago Region), the junta killed two political prisoners who allegedly attempted to escape while en-route to the regime's No. 901 Artillery Station Command HQ. The individuals had just appeared in the township's court prior to the killing. It was reported that, on 28 Jan, the junta arrested the pair for alleged weapons possession. One of the political prisoners, Nobel Aye, had protested against police brutality in the 1990s, participated in the Saffron Revolution in 2007, distributed aid during COVID-19, and protested frequently against the attempted coup.²⁰

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

Junta soldiers' confession to killing 7 leads to questions around AA's judicial system

On 12 Feb, it was reported that in Mrauk-U Township (Arakan State), the Arakan Army (AA) discovered the **bodies of seven civilians** that the junta held captive. The captives included journalist Myat Thu Tun a.k.a. Phoe Thiha and popular anti-junta social media commentator Kyaw Zan Wai. AA personnel found the bodies after the **AA had captured Mrauk-U on 8 Feb**. On 24 Dec, the junta reportedly transferred the captured men from Mrauk-U police station to the junta's Battalion 378. Although the dates of death were unconfirmed, the AA stated that **junta soldiers shot the captives** after fighting in Mrauk-U escalated on 31 Jan and **dumped their bodies in a bomb shelter** near Mrauk-U Hospital.²¹

The AA released a video of two captured junta officers **who confessed to killing** the seven captives. Although the video named both officers, their identities could not be confirmed. Sources close to the AA's leadership reported that the **AA held thousands of prisoners of war** and that it was questioning them for involvement in atrocities. The AA would reportedly **charge and try prisoners under its military and civil law** after finding sufficient evidence but would **not give them legal representation**. The sources said that those found guilty of war crimes would face the death penalty.²² Failing to provide prisoners with basic legal rights **could put the AA in violation of international humanitarian law**.

TNLA announces conscription policy

On 7 Feb, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) released details of their **conscription policy**. The policy required that one man between 16-35 years old from **every Ta'ang family** enlist in the TNLA. **Women from families with more than three siblings** were also expected to enlist, although women working as Ta'ang CSO committee members or those with family members working as CSO committee members were exempted. Monks and people with poor health were also exempt from conscription. The TNLA **did not require people from other ethnic groups** to join the TNLA, but said they remained open to **voluntary non-Ta'ang recruits**.²³ On 1 Mar, Frontier reported that the TNLA had practiced different forms of forced conscription since it was founded in 2009 and that the TNLA had **informally practiced conscription**, as laid out in the Feb 2024 policy, since 2017. Conscripts would usually serve as under the TNLA until death. An anonymous TNLA official stated that forced recruitment remained **unpopular amongst Ta'ang people**, but stated that it was necessary in order to build a strong Ta'ang nation. In

¹⁸ RFA (12 Feb 2024) Political prisoners at Myanmar junta-run prison go on hunger strike

¹⁹ Myitkyina Journal via BNI (12 Feb 2024) Authorities Agree to Meet Three Demands Following Political Prisoners' Hunger Strike at Kyaikmaraw Jail

²⁰ RFA (16 Feb 2024) Two political prisoners killed during junta escort, Myanmar resistance group claims; Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2024) Two Myanmar Political Prisoners 'Killed' in Bago; DVB (16 Feb 2024) Prominent political prisoner Noble Aye dies in Bago Region

²¹ RFA (12 Feb 2024) Seven political prisoners found dead in Myanmar's Rakhine state

²² RFA (29 Feb 2024) Arakan Army says it will investigate and try captured junta soldiers

²³ Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2024) TNLA announces mandatory enlistment law

recent times, a TNLA recruit in Kutkai Township stated that families were sending more accomplished siblings for conscription with hope they were better able to **contribute to the Ta'ang cause**.²⁴

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported 1,140,400 civilians displaced in Sagaing as of 26 Feb 2024.²⁵

Junta retakes Kawlin: During 31 Jan - 1 Feb, in Pale and Kanbalu Township, the junta launched a series of aerial attacks on five villages, killed six civilians, and injured at least 10 others. A Kanbalu PDF spokesperson said that the junta was attempting to **clear the route** to retake Kawlin.²⁶ On 13 Feb, the junta retook Kawlin. Kawlin had been the **first district-level town** seized by resistance forces in Sagaing. The junta deployed **three junta columns** advancing north from Kanbalu Township and **two** advancing south from Wuntho Township. They also deployed **1,000 Pyu Saw Htee** members, and **aerial support**. On 1 Feb, over 25,000 residents from Kawlin and the surrounding villages had fled ahead of the assault.²⁷ By 27 Feb, the junta had torched about 80% of Kawlin. Clashes continued on the outskirts and disrupted transportation along the Mandalay-Shwebo Road.²⁸

Notorious Ogre Column continues raids: During 1-2 Feb, in **Khin-U Township**, the Ogre Column raided Kalon and Thar Wut Hti villages, killed three civilians, and **beheaded** one. It also abducted at least 12 villagers, torched around 175 houses, and displaced 20,000 residents from nearly a dozen villages.²⁹ During 5-6 Feb, the Ogre Column raided and burned down houses in two villages and displaced over 10,000 residents from at least 17 villages.³⁰ On 15 Feb, it was reported that around **50,000 people** had been **displaced** in Sagaing Region's **Shwebo District** since the January ceasefire agreement in N. Shan State. The Ogre Column had raided villages in Shwebo, Ye-U, Khin-U, Taze, and Depayin Townships. Residents said that the column killed 14 civilians during 1 Jan - 12 Feb.³¹

Forced Conscription: On 11 Feb, in Monywa Township, the junta abducted around **40 male civilians** in Tamakone village. Sources said the junta took them to military headquarters, possibly for conscription. There were also reports of **similar abductions** in other townships.³² During 15-16 Feb, in Shwebo Township, the junta arrested around **50 young men** at two checkpoints.³³

Junta continues attempt to retake Maw Luu, gives up on Shwe Pyi Aye: On 2 Feb, in Homalin Township, the junta abandoned its mission to retake Shwe Pyi Aye town after suffering another round of losses in the previous ten days.³⁴ On 20 Feb, in Indaw Township, members of the junta, Pyu Saw Htee, and the Shanni Nationalities Army clashed with the All Burma Students' Democratic Front and the Kachin PDF in Pi Wei village in an **attempt to retake Maw Luu town**.³⁵

Resistance forces rescue students, teachers in Kale: During 21-23 Feb, in Kale Township, resistance forces seized military outposts in Sekkant, Kan Gyi, and Kan Tha villages near Kale town after clashes with the junta killed six civilians. Junta shelling also killed five civilians and injured four others in two villages nearby.³⁶ On 25 Feb, resistance forces evacuated 140 out of 500 students, lecturers, and staff from Kale University after as fighting spread to the campus.³⁷ On 26 Feb, the Kale PDF urged residents to leave ahead of an impending offensive against the junta. As residents of six villages fled, junta road

²⁴ Frontier Myanmar (1 Mar 2024) Sealed fate: The second sons of Ta'ang State

²⁵ UNHCR (26 Feb 2024) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 26 Feb 2024)

²⁶ RFA (2 Feb 2024) Myanmar's junta storms 3 townships in bid for northern town

²⁷ Myanmar Now (15 Feb 2024) Kawlin retaken by junta forces after three months in resistance hands; Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2024) Hundreds of junta troops attempt to retake Kawlin town from resistance

²⁸ Irrawaddy (27 Feb 2024) Town Almost Razed to Ground After Being Retaken by Myanmar Junta Troops

²⁹ Mizzima (14 Feb 2024) Junta abducts Sagaing Region civilians for possible conscription into army

³⁰ DVB (19 Feb 2024) Arakan Army claims military is losing war; CPJ calls for investigation into death of journalist in Arakan State

³¹ Irrawaddy (22 Feb 2024) Food Shortage in Sagaing Rice Basket as Myanmar Junta Raids Force 50,000 to Flee

³² Mizzima (14 Feb 2024) Junta abducts Sagaing Region civilians for possible conscription into army

³³ DVB (19 Feb 2024) Arakan Army claims military is losing war; CPJ calls for investigation into death of journalist in Arakan State

³⁴ Irrawaddy (5 Feb 2024) Myanmar Junta Troops Flee Town in Gold Hub After Failed Mission to Retake It

³⁵ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2024) Myanmar army launches offensive to retake Maw Luu from resistance

³⁶ DVB (27 Feb 2024) NUG Ambassador to receive award; Humanitarian aid into Burma from Thailand to begin in March;

Mizzima (25 Feb 2024) Four women and a man killed by Myanmar junta shelling in Sagaing's Kalay Township

³⁷ Irrawaddy (28 Feb 2024) Myanmar Students in Crossfire as Battle for Sagaing Town Spreads to University

blockages drove up transportation and food prices.³⁸ On 27 Feb, junta troops killed two civilians and injured others in and around Kale town.³⁹

Magway Region

Junta burns Magway PDF fighters alive: On 6 Feb, a **video went viral** on social media showing junta and Pyu Saw Htee members **burning alive two resistance fighters** on 7 Nov 2023 in **Myauk Khin Yan village**, Gangaw Township. They suspended the men from a tree and forced one member of each village household to watch while they set them on fire. Residents feared identifying the culprits. Nearly 200 people fled the village afterward.⁴⁰

On 14 Feb, the junta arrested and **killed ten civilians** while raiding Thin Taw, Shwebo, and Yay Taw villages in Gangaw Township. It also abducted 13 others, including children, and torched at least 26 houses. The villages are located near Myauk Khin Yan village, where the junta burned alive two men.⁴¹

On 25 Feb, in Sidoktaya Township, the junta **torched the entire** Lone Gyi village after clashes with resistance forces nearby.⁴²

Chin State

Junta troops raid villages, steal food from locals: It was reported that a junta column began carrying out raids on villages in southern **Matupi Township** on 1 Feb and forced up to 1,200 people to flee. On 2 Feb, after the column was ambushed by Chin Defense Force-Matupi (CDF-Matupi) troops, the junta torched roughly half the homes in one village, including the local library and rice bank.⁴³ A villager speculated that food shortages in the township had driven junta troops to raid villages to steal rations.⁴⁴

Paletwa still under threat from junta airstrikes: On 9 Feb, the AA stated that displaced villagers from **Paletwa town** should not return due to potential junta attacks in the area.⁴⁵ On 11 Feb, it was reported that the junta carried out a number of airstrikes on AA-controlled Paletwa town and killed two civilians and several prisoners of war held by the AA, and injured four others.⁴⁶

Tensions between Chin resistance groups boils over: On 31 Jan, the Maraland Defense Force (MDF) announced that it was **joining the Chin Brotherhood Alliance**, with the Zomi Federal Union (ZFU), Chin National Organization (CNO), and Chin Defense Force (CDF) - Mindat.⁴⁷ The Chin Brotherhood Alliance is a grouping of Chin resistance forces that does not cooperate with the CNF-led Chinland Council. The MDF, is reportedly allied with the Arakan Army (AA). On 24 Feb, the MDF and the AA attacked joint Chin National Army (CAN) and CDF troops in **Paletwa**.⁴⁸ During 31 Jan-2 Feb, joint CDF and CNA forces carried out a series of drone attacks on an MDF camp in **southern Chin State**.⁴⁹

Arakan State

AA seizes four townships, expands control in others: On 2 Feb, the AA **captured the junta's 376th Light Infantry Battalion (LIB), in Kyauktaw Township**.⁵⁰ On 7 Feb, they stated that they had seized all positions around Kyauktaw Township, including the junta's Military Operational Command-9 (MOC-9) base and the LIB 375's base.⁵¹

On 8 Feb, the AA announced that they had seized the junta's Police Battalion 31, the last remaining junta outpost in **Mrauk-U**. They claimed that they now had established full control of the town. They stated that they had sunk four junta warships during fighting around Mrauk-U.⁵²

³⁸ Khonumtung News Group (6 Feb 2024) Local people flee Kalay town, those remaining face price increases

³⁹ Khonumtung News Group (3 Feb 2024) 52-year-old civilian shot dead by Burma army in Kalay

⁴⁰ RFA (8 Feb 2024) Myanmar resistance fighters burned alive stokes outrage

⁴¹ Myanmar Now (16 Feb 2024) Junta soldiers, militia members kill 10 civilian men in Gangaw Township raids

⁴² Myanmar Now (29 Feb 2024) Myanmar junta forces burn entire village in Magway Region to the ground

⁴³ Myanmar Peace Monitor (9 Feb 2024) Around 1200 IDPs in urgent need of medicine and ration in Matupi

⁴⁴ Khonumthung News (17 Feb 2024) Regime Soldiers Raiding Villages in Matupi Township Amid Food Shortages

⁴⁵ Myanmar Peace Monitor (9 Feb 2024) Most of Paletwa IDPs unable to return home

⁴⁶ Khonumthung News (15 Feb 2024) SAC Airstrikes in Paletwa Result in Deaths of Own Soldiers and Civilians

⁴⁷ Maraland Territorial Council via Facebook (31 Jan 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/yer55966>

⁴⁸ Myanmar Transparency News (26 Feb 2024) AA (Arakan Army) and Chin MDF (Mara Defense Force) attacked the CNA (Chin National Army) which is controlling Palatwa

⁴⁹ Myanmar Peace Monitor (3 Feb 2024) Fighting intensifies between Chin revolutionary forces in Chin's Maraland

⁵⁰ Narinjara (6 Feb 2024) AA captures two more battalions in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U

⁵¹ Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2024) More towns fall to Arakan Army in northern Rakhine State

⁵² Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2024) AA: Historic Mrauk U Seized From Myanmar's Junta

On 5 Feb, the AA **seized control of the last two operational junta battalion bases in Minbya Township**, and began carrying out clearance operations in Minbya town. A local source stated that around **500 junta troops surrendered** to the AA after the seizure.⁵³ The captures came after an extended period of fighting around the town during which the AA had repeatedly ambushed reinforcements sent to Minbya by barge.⁵⁴ Following the seizure, the junta continued to shell and bomb the town from air and by water. On 12 Feb, a junta airstrike injured four civilians in a village outside Minbya.⁵⁵

On 17 Feb, the AA launched an offensive on the junta's **advanced military training school in southern Minbya Township**. On 26 Feb, they announced that they had captured the training school and surrounding bases.⁵⁶ In response, the junta carried out repeated air raids on nearby villages, completely destroyed a school and a hospital, and injured many civilians in at least two villages.⁵⁷

On 12 Feb, the AA announced that they had taken control of **Myebon Township**, just outside of Sittwe.⁵⁸ On 12 and 17 Feb, the junta reportedly moved troops from several locations in Myebon Township to camps in Kyaukphyu and Thandwe townships.⁵⁹

On 9 Feb, the AA seized the Koe Tan Kauk police station in southern **Rathedaung Township** after launching an attack on the station the day prior. Junta troops had bombed and attacked AA positions from air but retreated after the AA took the station.⁶⁰ On 14 Feb, the AA launched an attack on Rathedaung town and targeted junta battalion 536, 537, and 538 bases.⁶¹ **In retaliation, the junta carried out air and artillery strikes on up to nine villages in the town's vicinity.**⁶² On 16 Feb, Irrawaddy stated that Rathedaung was the second most bombed town in Arakan State, following Ramree.⁶³

On 22 Feb, the AA seized the **Ponnagyun Township** police station, 30 km outside of Sittwe.⁶⁴ Afterward, the AA continued to clash with the junta's Light Infantry Battalion 550 throughout the township.⁶⁵ On 23 Feb, Narinjara reported that the AA took control of Ma Ei town in **Taungup Township** after junta troops abandoned the town.⁶⁶ After they left, junta troops destroyed a highway bridge on the edge of the town.⁶⁷

Junta locks down, shells Sittwe in anticipation of AA offensive: In the Arakan state capital of **Sittwe**, the junta shut down travel around the township, tore down bridges, and carried out airstrikes on civilian targets as they prepared for a possible AA offensive on the city. On 10 Feb, junta troops destroyed the Ah Myint Kyun bridge on the main road into **Sittwe** in an attempt to slow AA advances on the city.⁶⁸ On 11 Feb, villagers reported that the Regional Operation Commander had ordered villages around Sittwe be torched if the AA advanced on the city.⁶⁹ On 16 Feb, the junta announced a ban on travel by boat along the Mayu River near Sittwe. On 18 Feb, the junta responded to a bomb explosion at Sittwe's BXT Port by shelling around Sittwe town.⁷⁰ Around two thirds of the city's population had fled, although travel restrictions and the junta's destruction of the only road out of **Sittwe** had made escape difficult.⁷¹ It was also reported that the junta had already begun relocating administrators to **Thandwe Township**, in

⁵³ Narinjara (6 Feb 2024) AA captures Minbya-based all battalions, many soldiers surrender

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (7 Feb 2024) Myanmar's Military Driven Out of Township in Northern Rakhine, Reports Say

⁵⁵ Myanmar Now (15 Feb 2024) AA seizes Kyauktaw township, sinks another junta ship in Rakhine State

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Feb 2024) Arakan Army Claims Control of Last Major Myanmar Junta Base in Minbya

⁵⁷ Narinjara (28 Feb 2024) Junta launches airstrikes on Min Hpu civil hospital of Minbya; Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2024) AA seizes last junta base in Minbya Township, Rakhine State

⁵⁸ Myanmar Now (16 Feb 2024) Arakan Army captures another Rakhine State town, warns locals clashes may continue

⁵⁹ Narinjara (12 Feb 2024) Police and junta soldiers abandoned their Myebon stations; Irrawaddy (19 Feb 2024) Myanmar Military Withdrawing From Northern Rakhine State Township: Arakan Army

⁶⁰ RFA (9 Feb 2024) Arakan Army takes control of another police station in Myanmar's west

⁶¹ RFA (15 Feb 2024) Arakan Army escalates assaults in Myanmar's west

⁶² Narinjara (17 Feb 2024) Junta forces conduct airstrikes by jet fighters on villages near Rathedaung town

⁶³ Irrawaddy (16 Feb 2024) Myanmar's Military on The Defensive in Rakhine State: Brotherhood Alliance

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2024) Arakan Army Seizes Myanmar Junta Police Station Near Rakhine Capital

⁶⁵ Narinjara (24 Feb 2024) AA successfully captures Ponnagyun's Myoma PS

⁶⁶ Narinjara (23 Feb 2024) Ma Ei town Liberated from junta forces, AA conducts landmine clearance operations

⁶⁷ Narinjara (17 Feb 2024) Junta forces abandon Ma Ei town, destroy bridge with mine attack

⁶⁸ Narinjara (13 Feb 2024) Junta forces destroy Min Chaung bridge near Ah Myint Kyun village to prevent AA offensive

⁶⁹ Narinjara (15 Feb 2024) Sittwe commander orders burning of villages if AA attacks battalions

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2024) Blast goes off near 'Korean port' in Rakhine State capital

⁷¹ Narinjara via BNI (28 Feb 2024) Hundreds of Thousands Flee Sittwe, Fearing Imminent AA Offensive

southern Arakan State.⁷² On 28 Feb, the junta shelled the central market in **Sittwe** during morning market, killed 12 people including a two-year old, and injured up to 80 others.⁷³

Junta airstrikes, shelling decimates Ramree Town: The junta carried out a heavy bombing campaign on **Ramree Town** as it struggled to control the town. Ramree is located near the **Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone**. Throughout Feb, the junta bombed all of the town's six wards and destroyed around two-thirds of the town.⁷⁴ On 17 Feb, junta attacks destroyed at least 200 houses in the town and completely razed Ramree's Ward 4. The humanitarian coordination office of the United League of Arakan (ULA/AA) stated that junta shelling on 18 Feb destroyed nearly all standing structures in the town.⁷⁵ On 20 Feb, the junta used several 500 lb bombs to **destroy the town's last functioning hospital, its market, and a Buddhist nunnery**.⁷⁶ On 24 Feb, AA troops ambushed and killed around 60 soldiers from a 120-strong column sent as reinforcements to Ramree.⁷⁷

Junta shells kill civilians across border, junta troops flee to Bangladesh: On 4 Feb, the AA attacked Taung Pyo Let Yar and Taung Pyo Let Wae camps along the Bangladeshi border in northern **Maungdaw Township**.⁷⁸ They captured Taung Pyo Let Yar camp the same day and Taung Pyo Let Wae camp on 6 Feb.⁷⁹ On 5 Feb, during fighting the junta fired around 40 shells onto **Bangladesh soil** and killed two people.⁸⁰ On 6 Feb, in response, the Bangladesh foreign ministry summoned the junta's ambassador and presented them an official letter of protest.⁸¹ On 9 Feb, RFA reported that up to 330 junta troops had fled into Bangladesh to escape AA attacks in **northern Maungdaw**.⁸² On 15 Feb, the junta repatriated all 330 junta personnel via sea.⁸³ The AA stated that Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) had fought alongside the junta during clashes in northern Maungdaw. They also claimed that they found drugs and ARA flags at one of the seized outposts.⁸⁴

Kachin State

KIA and its allies expand their territories: On 2 Feb, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Kachin PDF (KPDF) captured the junta's Namtein camp in **Hpakant Township** and Balawng Dingsa camp in **Mansi Township** in Kachin State.⁸⁵ On 7 Feb, it was reported that the KIA and allied PDFs **seized over 30 junta camps** in Shwegu, Hpakant, Tanai, and Mogaung Townships and Muse, Kutkai, and Mabein Townships (N. Shan State) between Oct 2023 and Jan 2024.⁸⁶ On 19 Feb, KIA, AA, and KPDF troops captured the junta's **Si Hkam Gyi camp** located on the Myitkyina-Mandalay Union Road, 30 miles away from **Mansi town**. The junta launched over **30 airstrikes** during the three-day clash.⁸⁷ On 23 Feb, the KIA and the KPDF seized **Myo Hla town** in Shwegu Township and the junta **LIB 387 base** nearby. The day prior, the battalion had retreated from their base after the KIA had urged them to defect.⁸⁸ On 26-27 Feb, the junta launched artillery and aerial attacks after the KIA and KPDF seized the junta's police station in **Tar Ma Hkan village in Hpakant Township**.⁸⁹ KIA/KPDF took **full control of the village on 27 Feb** when they seized the base of LIB 119.⁹⁰

Junta's never-ending atrocities in Kachin continue: On 7 Feb, junta troops from the Infantry Battalion 297 and affiliated militia **burned all houses in Ma Au Pin village in Bhamo Township**, reportedly in response to the KIA capturing their Nant Tain camp.⁹¹ On 15 Feb, it was reported that the junta launched **eight airstrikes** on Si Au and Kawng Lwin villages in Bhamo Township and Moe Hlaing village in

⁷² Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2024) Sittwe Braced for Street Fighting as Myanmar Junta Retreats

⁷³ Irrawaddy (29 Feb 2024) At Least 12 Civilians Killed, Scores Injured as Myanmar Junta Forces Shell Bazaar in Sittwe

⁷⁴ Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2024) Myanmar junta airstrikes demolish Rakhine State's Ramree town

⁷⁵ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2024) Myanmar military concentrates its firepower on Ramree

⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2024) Rakhine on Fire: Myanmar Junta Hits Hospital With 'Most Devastating Bombs Yet'

⁷⁷ Narinjara (26 Feb 2024) AA attacks junta forces reinforcement column, 60 soldiers killed

⁷⁸ Narinjara (5 Feb 2024) 68 Myanmar border guard police personnel flee to Bangladesh

⁷⁹ Narinjara (8 Feb 2024) AA captures both Taung Pro Let Wae and Let Yar camps

⁸⁰ AFP via Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2024) Two killed in Bangladesh as fighting rages on Myanmar border: police

⁸¹ Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2024) Bangladesh Grills Myanmar Junta Over Cross-Border Shelling

⁸² RFA (9 Feb 2024) Border guards who fled Myanmar tell of losing contact with commanders

⁸³ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2024) Myanmar Regime Evacuates Defeated Troops From Bangladesh

⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2024) More towns fall to Arakan Army in northern Rakhine State

⁸⁵ Myanmar Now (5 Feb 2024) Kachin Independence Army captures two junta camps in one day

⁸⁶ Kachin News Group (7 Feb 2024) KIA နဲ့ PDF ပူးပေါင်းတပ်တွေက ၄ လအတွင်း စစ်တပ်ရဲ့စခန်းကြီးငယ် ၃၀

ကျော်ကိုတိုက်ခိုက်သိမ်းပိုက်ထား

⁸⁷ Kachin News Group (19 Feb 2024) စီခမ်းကြီး ဗျူဟာမြောက် အထိုင်စခန်းကို KIA ပူးပေါင်းတပ်တွေ တိုက်ခိုက်သိမ်းပိုက်

⁸⁸ Kachin News Group (23 Feb 2024) ၃ ရက်အတွင်း လက်နက်ချဖို့ KIA ကစာပို့ခဲ့လို့မြို့လှတပ် စခန်းစွန့်ခွာ

⁸⁹ Kachin News Group (27 Feb 2024) တာမခံ ရဲစခန်း KIA နဲ့ PDF သိမ်းပိုက်နိုင်

⁹⁰ Kachin News Group (27 Feb 2024) တာမခံ တပ်စခန်းကိုအပြီးသတ်သိမ်းပိုက်ပြီး စစ်တပ်ဘက် သေဆုံးမှုများ

⁹¹ Kachin News Group (7 Feb 2024) မအူပင်ကျေးရွာတစ်ခုလုံး မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

Mabein Township (N. Shan State) despite a lack of clashes. Junta troops also **destroyed bridges connecting Kachin and N. Shan State.**⁹²

On 16 Feb, the junta **arrested two civilians** at a checkpoint on the Myitkyina-Hpakant Lido Road in Hpakant Township, **reportedly to forcibly recruit** them. It was reported that after the enforcement of the conscription law, **the junta and affiliated militia had started arbitrarily arresting civilians** traveling from Myitkyina, Mokaung, Mohnyin, and Hopang towns to Hpakant town.⁹³ On 23 Feb, locals reported that the junta had **arrested 14 civilians fleeing to Bhamo town** at a checkpoint near Si He village in Bhamo Township.⁹⁴ On 29 Feb, it was reported that junta and SNA troops had been **arresting civilians at checkpoints in Mogaung and Mohnyin Townships and training them for military service.** The junta detained at least 10 civilians Namtee town and 27 others in Nam Hkwin village.⁹⁵

Northern Shan State

Junta abducts and kills in Mongmit: On 2 Feb, junta troops from Light Infantry Division 99 **abducted and killed five villagers** from Shwe Zarli in Mongmit Township at a nearby pagoda. Later the troops **arrested at least 40 IDPs** who had returned to Shwe Zarli.⁹⁶ On 28 Feb, the junta **declared martial law in KIA-controlled Mongmit and Mabein Townships.** The Shan Human Rights Foundation reported that junta **airstrikes and shelling killed 27 civilians**, injured 12 others, **displaced over 6,000 civilians** and destroyed over 150 houses in Mongmit Township during 1 Jan-2 Feb.⁹⁷

Pang Hseng (Kyu Kote) under the MNDA's Control: On 11 Feb, the MNDA instructed **locals in Pang Hseng (Kyu Kote), Muse Township** to not record and share MNDA activities on social media; to **not let uniformed or armed KIA and SSPP members into the town;** to hand over privately owned firearms; to volunteer at least one person from each household for military service; and to add themselves to the administration office and checkpoint patrol rosters.⁹⁸ On 15 Feb, it was reported that after the MNDA took full control of the town, local administrators began collecting household lists and the **MNDA barred Bamar people from entering the town** to prevent infiltration by junta informants. Locals expressed **concern over the MNDA's forced recruitment** and economic hardship stemming from trade route closures. On 19 Feb, it was reported that the MNDA had **arrested and forcibly conscripted** the executive committee **member of the Tai Students' Union and four other young men** on 24 Nov 2023. In January, one of the men escaped while the rest remained in MNDA custody.⁹⁹

TNLA's attempts to assert control of new territory: On 14 Feb, locals reported **growing tension between the KIA and the TNLA in Kutkai town** after **TNLA troops removed flags the KIA had raised** to commemorate Kachin Revolution Day. The KIA had set up several bases and outposts and a communications office in the town since 2015. After seizing Kutkai in January, the TNLA set up its own administrative system, restored telephone communications, and was trying to procure electricity.¹⁰⁰

Karenni State

Junta troops bomb Demoso schools while class in session: On 4-5 Feb, junta troops took **seven IDPs in Shadaw Township** hostage, including three children and a pregnant woman. They killed six. **One managed to escape.**¹⁰¹ On 5 Feb, the junta **bombed two schools** in Daw Si Ei and Loi Nan Hpa villages in Demoso Township, **killed four children and a man**, and injured 19 others. The bombs also destroyed six school buildings, a church, and five houses. Students were in class when the junta bombed the school. There had been no fighting at the time of the attack.¹⁰² On 7 Feb, **UNICEF** condemned the 5 Feb **airstrikes.** UNICEF stated that attacks on schools were a grave **violation of children's rights** and could constitute a violation of international humanitarian law. It failed to name the regime as the perpetrator.¹⁰³

⁹² Kachin News Group (16 Feb 2024) ကချင်- ရှမ်းအစပ်မှာ တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်တာမရှိပေမယ့် စစ်တပ်ကလေယာဉ်နဲ့ဖုံးကြံ

⁹³ Kachin News Group (17 Feb 2024) ဖားကန့်သားလမ်းမှာ စစ်တပ်က တပ်သားသစ်ဖမ်းဆီးတာတွေစနစ်ပြုလို့ဆို

⁹⁴ Kachin News Group (23 Feb 2024) ဗန်းမော်မြို့အဝင် ၅ မိုင်ဂိတ်မှာ အရပ်သား ၁၄ ယောက်ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

⁹⁵ Kachin News Group (29 Feb 2024) မိုးညှင်းနဲ့ မိုးကောင်းဒေသ စစ်တပ်နဲ့ SNA တပ်က ဖမ်းဆီးမှုပိုမိုလုပ်ဆောင်လာ

⁹⁶ SHAN (9 Feb 2024) SAC Troops Kill 5 Civilians, Abduct 40 People in Mongmit Township

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (29 Feb 2024) Myanmar Junta Announces Martial Law in Town Held by KIA

⁹⁸ SHAN (13 Feb 2024) ဝန်ဆိုင်ခြင်းဖြင့် SSPP နှင့် KIA တပ်သားများ လက်နက်ကိုင်ဆောင်ပြီး ဝင်ခွင့်မပြု

⁹⁹ SHAN (19 Feb 2024) TSU အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်တစ်ဦးနှင့် အခြားလူငယ် ၄ ဦးကို MNDA မှ အဓမ္မ ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

¹⁰⁰ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2024) Tension grows between ethnic Ta'ang, Kachin forces in northern Shan State, locals say

¹⁰¹ Kantarawaddy Times (7 Feb 2024) စစ်ရှောင်နေတဲ့ ကိုယ်ဝန်သည်တစ်ဦးအပါအဝင် အမျိုးသမီး ၃ ဦးနဲ့ ကလေးငယ် ၃ ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ဖမ်းသတ်

¹⁰² Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2024) Four children, one man killed in Myanmar junta airstrikes on Karenni schools

¹⁰³ UN Myanmar (7 Feb 2024) Statement on the deaths of children in air attacks on schools in eastern Myanmar

On 7 Feb, the Karenni IEC's Banyar reported that the **junta's aerial attacks**, including incendiary bombs, destroyed **over forty houses in Shadaw town**.¹⁰⁴ On 15 Feb, camp chairman Khu Pray Reh reported that as **over 200 new IDPs from Shadaw and Ywar Thit** had arrived at a camp near the Thai-Karenni border, there was **urgent need of additional food supplies, materials for shelter, and basic household items**.¹⁰⁵ On 21 Feb, the junta continuously launched **aerial attacks on Loikaw town** and destroyed several houses. The Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) warned **civilians not to return to Loikaw**.¹⁰⁶ On 29 Feb, junta **aerial attacks on Hpasawng town** destroyed a church and several houses.¹⁰⁷

Resistance forces capture Shadaw Town: On 8 Feb, Karenni resistance forces captured the junta's **hilltop camp between Ywathit and Bawlake towns**.¹⁰⁸ On 12 Feb, **the KA and its allied resistance forces seized** the junta's last base and took full control of **Shadaw town**. The Karenni Army's (KA) Col. Phone Naing said that Shadaw was the **second township in the state, after Mese**, to be fully seized by Karenni resistance forces.¹⁰⁹ The junta launched **over 200 airstrikes** during clashes.¹¹⁰ On 14 Feb, joint Karenni resistance forces seized the junta's **Huay Onn and Kyarparat Gyi camps** in Shadaw Township.¹¹¹

Southern Shan State

PNLA yet to retreat from Hsihseng, junta kills scores of civilians: On 30 Jan, regime troops and allied Pa-O National Army (PNA) members regained **control of Infantry Battalion 423 and 424 bases in Hsihseng town**. The head of a group assisting IDPs reported that **resistance forces still had control of about 60%** of the town.¹¹² On 23-24 Feb, after a clash with the junta and the Pa-O People's Militia Force, the **Pa'o National Liberation Army (PNLA) seized a junta camp** near Loi Woe Tok village in Hopong Township.¹¹³

The Pa-O Youth Organization stated that, during 21 Jan-19 Feb, junta **air and artillery strikes** during clashes with the PNLA **killed 32 civilians, including children**, and injured 39 others in Hopong and Hsihseng Townships. The attacks **destroyed 47 houses and 12 religious buildings** and **displaced at least 80,000 locals**.¹¹⁴ On 4 Feb, junta troops **killed 12 youths** who refused to be conscripted and forced locals to bury their bodies in Hsihseng Township.¹¹⁵ On 20 Feb, junta artillery and drone attacks hit a car, killed seven passengers, and injured others.¹¹⁶

Karen State

The Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP) reported that there were **764,555 IDPs** in Karen State in Feb 2024. The number of IDPs increased in **KNU-defined Taw Oo District** by 12,493 and in **Dooplaya District** by 10,000 in Feb 2024.¹¹⁷

KNU control slowly growing in Southeast: On 23 Feb, Karen National Union (KNU) spokesperson Padoh Saw Taw Nee stated that the KNU's territory had been steadily expanding across **Karen, Mon States and Bago Region**. In KNU-defined Dooplaya District, the KNU reportedly had control over **Myawaddy-Kyondoe stretch** of the Asian Highway. In KNU-defined Taw Oo District, the KNU now controlled **more than 60 villages** across **up to six townships** west of the Sittaung River. In KNU-defined Thaton District, the KNU had expanded control, including in **Kyaikto** around the **Kyaiktiyo Pagoda**.¹¹⁸

Kawkareik seizure not expected soon, says KNLA commander: On 8 Feb, it was reported that resistance troops repeatedly denied that the current offensive in **Kawkareik** was focused on seizing control of the

¹⁰⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (7 Feb 2024) ရှားတောမြို့ကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ဖုံးကြောမှုကြောင့် ဒေသခံနေအိမ် ၄၀ကျော် မီးလောင်ပျက်စီး
¹⁰⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (15 Feb 2024) Over 200 IDPs Newly Arrive at Thai-Karenni Border in Need of Food and Household Items
¹⁰⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (22 Feb 2024) လွိုင်ကော်မြို့ပေါ်ရပ်ကွက်ကို စစ်ကောင်စီမှ မီးလောင်ဖုံးများဖြင့် ကြံချမ်းရွှံ့၊ နေရပ်မပြန်ကြသေးဖို့ KNDF တိုက်တွန်း
¹⁰⁷ Kantarawaddy Times (4 Mar 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီလေယာဉ်ဖုံးကြောမှုကြောင့် ဖားဆောင်းမြို့က နေအိမ်မီးလောင်၊ ပျက်စီးမှု များပြား
¹⁰⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (13 Feb 2024) Karenni Resistance Seize Junta's 12-mile Camp in Bawlakhe Township
¹⁰⁹ Myanmar Now (14 Feb 2024) Resistance fighters seize military's last base in Shadaw Township, Karenni State
¹¹⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (15 Feb 2024) ရှားတောမြို့သိမ်းတိုက်ပွဲအတွင်း KNDF ရဲဘော် ၃ ဦးကျဆုံး၊ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ ဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးအပါအဝင် ၁၆၀ ကျော် သေဆုံး
¹¹¹ Kantarawaddy Times (17 Feb 2024) ရှားတောမြို့နယ်၊ သံလွင်မြစ်အရှေ့ဖက်ခြမ်းရှိ တပ်စခန်း ၂ ခုကို စစ်ကောင်စီဆုတ်ခွာ
¹¹² Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2024) Myanmar military, allies retakes town captured by Pa-O, Karenni forces
¹¹³ SHAN (29 Feb 2024) PNLA seizes military camp from Burma army in Hopong Township
¹¹⁴ SHAN (21 Feb 2024) သျှမ်းတောင်တိုက်ပွဲ ၁ လအတွင်း အရပ်သား ၃၀ ကျော်သေဆုံး၊ ၅၀ ခန့် ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ
¹¹⁵ SHAN (12 Feb 2024) ရှေ့တန်းမသွားသည့် ဆေးဖြတ်ရန်လာသူ ၂ ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီက ပစ်သတ်ပြီး ရှားတောမြို့ကို မြှုပ်နှံခိုင်း
¹¹⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (20 Feb 2024) ဆီဆိုင်မြို့မှာ စစ်ကောင်စီရဲလက်နက်ကြီးပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား ၇ ဦးထိမှန်သေဆုံး
¹¹⁷ Committee for Internally Displaced Karen Peoples (28 Feb 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/2s3hybw3>
¹¹⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Feb 2024) Karen Brigades Take More Territory From Myanmar Junta: KNU

town. Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) Brigade 6 commander stated that fighting in the town had developed organically as an **extension of fighting along the Asian Highway** and that seizure of the town would only be possible once resistance forces were able to cut off junta reinforcements around the town and strengthen their positions in surrounding areas. It was also reported that fighting in **Kawkareik** had been carried out in tandem with the Lion Battalion. Lion Battalion leader Eh Say Wah had previously been under KNU investigation for executing prisoners of war. In Jul 2022, he had cut ties with the KNU and brought the Lion Battalion under the authority of the Kawthoolei Army.¹¹⁹ On 27 Feb, the KNU stated that resistance forces had taken control of up to 60% Kawkareik Town and aimed to set up administration across the township.¹²⁰

Junta attacks destroy houses in Nyaunglebin: During 21-24 Feb, the junta carried out airstrikes, fired more than 100 artillery shells, and used drones to attack several residential areas in KNU-defined **Nyaunglebin District**. In total, they destroyed up to 34 houses during the four-day stretch of attacks.¹²¹

Bago Region

Junta bombs civilians after resistance attacks base: On 8 Feb, in **Htantabin Township**, junta troops strafed and carried out a series of airstrikes on residential areas, including a monastery, in **Za Yat Gyi village**. The attacks came after joint KNLA-PDF forces attacked several junta positions including the junta's Infantry Battalion 73 base near the town. It was reported that the bombing raids trapped at least 500 locals in the town, killed at least 15, injured 50, and displaced more than 20,000 others.¹²²

Junta burns village in Yedashe: On 8 Feb, in **Yedashe Township**, junta troops clashed several times with KNLA troops and killed one man taken as a guide. On 10 Feb, after fighting had slowed, junta troops entered Kan Hla village and burnt down 57 of the 90 houses in the village and burnt to death one woman.¹²³ On 21 Feb, the junta carried out airstrikes on three **Yedashe Township** villages, killed seven people, and injured seven others. Villagers suspected that the junta air force had targeted the town because resistance fighters had recently been sighted in a nearby village.¹²⁴

Mon State

On 4 Feb, junta shelling of a village in northern **Thaton Township** destroyed 12 houses and injured one local.¹²⁵ On 11 Feb, the junta entered another northern Thaton Township village, took two locals as human shields and forced the rest of the town to flee.¹²⁶

On 7 Feb, in **Ye Township**, junta troops shelled Kyon Laung village, injured seven people, destroyed one house, and forced 300 people to flee the area. Kyon Laung is part of an area controlled by the NCA-signatory New Mon State Party (NMSP).¹²⁷

During 10-14 Feb, the junta carried out airstrikes on a village in **Bilin Township** along the Karen State border and destroyed 17 houses in the village. All locals fled the area following the bombings.

On 23 Feb, joint resistance forces attacked a junta checkpoint along the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway in **Kyaikto Township**. Junta troops shot and injured three civilians during the attack.

Tanintharyi Region

Joint resistance troops close in on Dawei Township: On 17 Feb in **Dawei Township**, joint KNLA-PDF forces ambushed a convoy of junta vehicles along the Dawei-Htee Khee Road and seized five trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition.¹²⁸ On 21 Feb, the junta carried out four airstrikes on villages in the area. Junta troops reportedly occupied at least one village and forced around 3,000 villagers from six

¹¹⁹ Frontier Myanmar (8 Feb 2024) To seize or besiege? The battle of Kawkareik

¹²⁰ Karen News (29 Feb 2024) Junta Uses Drone Bombs to Hang-onto strategic Kawkareik Township Already 60% in the hands of KNU Resistance

¹²¹ Karen News (28 Feb 2024) 34 Houses in Nyaunglebin Reduced to Ashes by Junta Shelling

¹²² Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2024) Anti-junta fighters assault regime forces' outposts in Bago Region; Irrawaddy (9 Feb 2024) Heavy Civilian Casualties as Junta Bombs Town in Bago Amid Clashes; Myanmar Peace Monitor (19 Feb 2024) Over 20000 Za Yat Gyi IDPs in Htantabin in need of food, medicine

¹²³ Myanmar Peace Monitor (12 Feb 2024) 57 houses burned down, two civilians killed in Kanhla village in northern Thandaung

¹²⁴ Myanmar Now (23 Feb 2024) Military airstrike in Bago Region kills several civilians, including three children

¹²⁵ HURFOM (9 Feb 2024) Junta's indiscriminate artillery attack injures woman, damages 12 houses in Thaton

¹²⁶ HURFOM (12 Feb 2024) Junta attacks NMSP controlled area and injures seven villagers

¹²⁷ HURFOM (12 Feb 2024) Junta attacks NMSP controlled area and injures seven villagers

¹²⁸ Myanmar Now (23 Feb 2024) Resistance forces capture five army trucks in attack on junta convoy near Dawei

villages to flee.¹²⁹ On 26 Feb, a local PDF spokesperson said resistance forces had taken control of the central police station in **Myitta Town**, 20 km from where the earlier ambush had taken place.¹³⁰

People's Defence Team (PDT) admits to summary executions of civilians: On 20 Feb, it was reported that the **NUG-aligned Launglon PDT** had admitted to **killing 16 civilians, including a nun**, accused of being military informants during Mar-Sep 2023. The confessions were made as part of a mandatory report on operations submitted to the Tanintharyi Region PDT by the Launglon PDT. Victims were arrested, interrogated, and shot or bludgeoned to death. Their remains were buried in mass graves at three different rubber farms in the township. Another local defense force reported finding 10 mass graves at the killing sites. The head of the Tanintharyi Region PDT stated that the NUG had neither directly called for the killings nor had any policy which called for the execution of informants.¹³¹

During 31 Jan-3 Feb, the junta repeatedly shelled **Launglon Town**, injured at least three locals, and forced locals to shelter in monasteries. The shelling followed late January clashes in the town between resistance and junta forces.¹³² On 2 Feb, a column of junta troops entered Ban Law village in **Tanintharyi Township** and clashed with resistance forces. The following day, a junta helicopter bombed Ban Law and drove hundreds of locals from their homes.¹³³

Mandalay Region

On 1 Feb, junta forces raided villages in east **Madaya Township** and torched 19 houses in two villages. Junta shelling injured a man in Oke Taik village.¹³⁴ On 12 Feb, in **Madaya Township**, junta forces raided Seik Thar village, tortured and killed two villagers, and torched three houses. On the same day, the junta's shelling from Hpa Yar Ma Kone village injured four in Daungkyun village. On 13 Feb, junta forces' shelling from Tha Hpan Daunt village forced 8,000 civilians from 10 neighboring villages to flee.¹³⁵

In **Madaya Township**, junta forces raided Sa Kar Pin village at dawn on 19 Feb and killed three teenage boys and five PDF fighters. Another junta column also shelled the village while locals fled.¹³⁶ On 27 Feb, junta forces raided villages in the east of **Madaya Township**, shot dead two men in Myo Din village, and torched ten houses in two other villages.¹³⁷

On 22 Feb, in **Natogyi Township**, the Meiktila-based LID 99 raided Bon Thar village and shot dead three men who were painting the monastery.¹³⁸ On 24 Feb, in **Singu Township**, junta forces entered into Sar Kyet Gyi and Sar Kyet Lay villages and shelled villages in the south of the township. On 25 Feb, junta shelling killed a 14-year boy and injured a 10-year girl and two women in Ywar Taw village. Shelling also injured two villagers from Ywar Thar and Hngat Sar villages.¹³⁹

Yangon Region

On 7-8 Feb, resistance groups bombed a police bunker in **Sanchaung Township**, an administration office in **Hlaing Tharyar (West) Township**, and an administration office in **Insein Township**.¹⁴⁰ During 21-26 Feb, resistance groups attacked the junta security post in **Shwepyithar Township**, a junta courthouse in **Mayangone Township**, the Za Ward Administration Office in **North Okkalapa Township**, and a security post at the No. 1 Defence Service General Hospital in **Mingalardon Township**.¹⁴¹

Rohingya

Rohingya targeted, among worst-hit during clashes in Arakan State

On 12 Feb, the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (ROHRingya) reported that fighting between the AA and the junta since late Jan in four Buthidaung township villages had **destroyed 175 houses, killed 24 Rohingya civilians, and injured more than 117 others**. They reiterated that the AA had used Rohingya

¹²⁹ HURFOM (26 Feb 2024) Six Villages Forced to Flee Amid Dawei Eastern Forest Conflict

¹³⁰ Myanmar Now (27 Feb 2024) Resistance forces close to capturing town between Dawei and Thai border

¹³¹ Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2024) Dawei-based resistance force admits to killing 16 civilians accused of being military informants

¹³² HURFOM (8 Feb 2024) Junta attacks Long Lone City forcing residents to flee home

¹³³ Myanmar Peace Monitor (3 Feb 2024) Junta uses airstrikes during fighting in Tanintharyi's Ban Law village

¹³⁴ DVB (2 Feb 2024) မတ္တရာတွင် စစ်တပ်က ပစ်ခတ် မီးရှို့သဖြင့် အမျိုးသား ၁ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ၊ နေအိမ်များ မီးလောင်

¹³⁵ RFA (13 Feb 2024) မတ္တရာမြို့နယ် ဆိပ်သာရွာခံ နှစ်ဦး သတ်ဖြတ်ခံရပြီး နေအိမ်တချို့ မီးရှို့ခံရ

¹³⁶ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2024) မတ္တရာမှ စကားပင်ရွာကို စစ်တပ်ဝင်စီး၊ ကလေး ၃ ဦးအပါအဝင် လူငယ် ၈ ဦးကို သတ်ဖြတ်

¹³⁷ Myanmar Now (29 Feb 2024) မတ္တရာတွင် စစ်တပ်က အရပ်သား ၂ နှစ်ဦးကိုသတ်၊ နေအိမ် ၁၀ လုံးကိုမီးရှို့

¹³⁸ Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2024) နွားထိုးကြီးတွင် သိမ်ဆေးသုတ်နေသည့် လူငယ်သုံးဦးကို စစ်တပ်က အနီးကပ်ပစ်သတ်

¹³⁹ Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2024) စဉ့်ကူးနယ်တွင် လက်နက်ကြီးကျပြီး ဆယ်ကျော်သက်တစ်ဦးသေ

¹⁴⁰ DVB (9 Feb 2024) ရန်ကုန်တွင် စစ်တပ်ဘန်ကာနှင့် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံးများ ဖောက်ခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁴¹ DVB (21 Feb 2024) ရွှေပြည်သာ ၅/၂ ရပ်ကွက် လုံခြုံရေးကင်းအနီး ဗုံးပေါက်၊ ၁ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ၊ DVB (27 Feb 2024) မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ် တရားရုံးအနီး ဗုံးပေါက်၊ Mizzima (28 Feb 2024) Attacks on junta targets in Yangon Region

villages as staging sites for attacks and that the junta had **specifically targeted Rohingya communities** in their attacks.¹⁴² In a 9 Feb Human Rights Watch report, several Rohingya locals stated that, while the AA had promised security for Rohingya once fighting finished, they were presently **confiscating food and other support** from Rohingya villagers. Other Rohingya civilians added that they felt **trapped between both sides of the conflict**.¹⁴³

On 28 Feb, a group of 26 Rohingya organizations released a joint statement calling for the UN Security Council (UNSC) to act to prevent further atrocities from being carried out against the Rohingya in Arakan State. Signatories called for the British government, as penholder on Burma, to convene a UNSC meeting on the **junta's non-implementation of the ICJ's provisional measures** and the crisis in Burma.¹⁴⁴

On 9 Feb, Myanmar Now reported that the junta's **strengthened restrictions on movement** for IDP camp residents, recent **cuts in food aid**, and rising commodity prices due to ongoing fighting had made Rohingya and Kaman (another muslim minority in Arakan) IDPs in Kyaukphyu amongst the **hardest hit communities in Arakan State**. One camp resident stated that many residents had gone into **debt** as they had **borrowed money simply to feed their families**. They added that the junta now was only allowing ten people to leave camps at a time in order to seek medical treatment.¹⁴⁵

Conscription order targets Rohingya IDPs as junta tries to sharpen ethnic divisions

The junta abducted **more than 500 Rohingya IDPs** in Feb for conscription and began pressuring Rohingya and Kaman communities in Arakan to form militias. [See Conscription Briefer](#).

During 17-23 Feb, in Kyaukphyu Township (Arakan State), junta administrators entered Kyauk Ta Lone Rohingya IDP camp, **collected a list of at least 160 men** aged 18 - 55 years old, and announced they would begin **conscription there**.¹⁴⁶ Afterwards, at least 21 people of conscription age fled the camp.¹⁴⁷

On 25 Feb, it was reported that more than ten young people who had fled the camp sought refuge in AA-controlled areas.¹⁴⁸ On 27 Feb, junta soldiers returned to the IDP camp and **abducted 107 Rohingya men for conscription**. They reportedly threatened to "beat to death" those who refused to join military training and said they would "drive away like dogs" the families of those who had already fled. On the same day, they arrested at least **40 relatives of IDPs** who had fled conscription in the camps.¹⁴⁹

On 18 Feb, Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) reported that the junta had **taken at least 300 Rohingya** from Baw Du Pha IDP camp in Sittwe for a three-day military training course. The junta reportedly threatened to **stop accepting ration cards** of people who refused conscription and promised money, rice, and National ID cards to those who complied.¹⁵⁰ On 19 and 20 Feb, in Buthidaung township, the junta abducted another **100 young Rohingya men** for military conscription.¹⁵¹ The junta reportedly demanded that larger villages from Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Sittwe Townships hand over 100 people for conscription and that smaller villages give 50. Legal experts commented that the conscription law did not apply to Rohingya people because the junta **did not recognize their citizenship status**.¹⁵² Rohingya civilians added that the junta's efforts to conscript Rohingya were likely **part of the junta's efforts to sow division** between Rohingya and ethnic Arakanese people.¹⁵³

On 9 and 18 Feb, the junta held a meeting with Rohingya community leaders in Maungdaw Township and Kaman IDPs in Kyaukphyu Township (Arakan State) and stated they would **supply them with weapons** if they formed a **pro-junta militia**. Community leaders rejected the proposals. The junta threatened those who did not join the military or pro-junta militias with five-year prison sentences.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴² ROHRingya via Twitter (12 Feb 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/4vjx5ha4>

¹⁴³ HRW (12 Feb 2024) Myanmar: Rohingya at Risk in Rakhine Fighting

¹⁴⁴ Rohingya Today (28 Feb 2024) Joint Statement: UNSC Must Act on Increased Atrocities Against Rohingya – Don't Repeat Past Mistakes

¹⁴⁵ Myanmar Now (9 Feb 2024) Clashes, blockade in southern Rakhine State hit minority IDPs hardest

¹⁴⁶ Narinjara (21 Feb 2024) 150 individuals from Kyaukphyu camp forcefully enrolled into military service

¹⁴⁷ Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2024) Myanmar junta enforces conscription among displaced Rohingya, detains families of those escaping draft law

¹⁴⁸ Narinjara (25 Feb 2024) Muslim youths from IDP camp seek refuge with AA amid pressure to join military service

¹⁴⁹ RFA (1 Mar 2024) Junta troops abduct 40 relatives of Muslim camp residents who fled conscription

¹⁵⁰ BHRN (18 Feb 2024) Burmese Army Forcibly Recruiting Rohingya by Threatening To Cut Food Ration

¹⁵¹ Narinjara (22 Feb 2024) Junta forces abduct 100 young Muslims from Buthidaung to enroll in conscription

¹⁵² RFA (22 Feb 2024) Myanmar's military recruiting Rohingya at displaced camps

¹⁵³ Myanmar Now (28 Feb 2024) Myanmar junta enforces conscription among displaced Rohingya, detains families of those escaping draft law

¹⁵⁴ Narinjara (19 Feb 2024) Junta holds meeting with Muslim leaders in Maungdaw, persuades them to take up arms; Myanmar Now (21 Feb 2024) Kaman IDPs in Rakhine State told to form pro-junta militia

Bangladesh blocks Rohingya from crossing border

On 5 Feb, the Cox's Bazar Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RCCC) stated that hundreds of mainly Rohingya and Chakma civilians were waiting to cross into Bangladesh to escape fighting in Arakan State. He stated that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) had been instructed to **prevent asylum seekers from crossing the border** into Bangladesh.¹⁵⁵ The RCCC later added that Bangladesh was "**overburdened**" by Rohingya and that providing refuge to **Rohingya had become a threat** to Bangladesh "security and law and order". On 7 Feb, the Bangladesh Minister for road transport and bridges restated that Bangladesh "**will not allow any more Rohingya to enter the country**".¹⁵⁶

On 5 Feb, the Border Guard Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Coast Guard began **patrolling the River Naf**, which splits Bangladesh and Arakan State.¹⁵⁷ Later that day, the BGB **pushed back four Rohingya** crossing near Teknaf.¹⁵⁸ On 6 Feb, the BGB **pushed back a boat of 65 Rohingya** crossing the River Naf.¹⁵⁹ On 10 Feb, the Bangladesh government banned civilian vessels on the River Naf.¹⁶⁰

On 14 Feb, the UNHCR's representative informed Bangladesh authorities that there were roughly **900 Rohingya waiting at 19 different Burma-Bangladesh** border points. They asked Bangladesh to accept the asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds but were rebuffed by the Foreign Secretary.¹⁶¹

Frequent fires highlight dismal camp conditions

On 20 Feb, Rohingya activist Kyaw Min Tun stated that **camp fires** had become a **far too frequent issue during the dry season** in Cox's Bazar and that the recent Jan 2024 fires had been among the worst in recent memory. The use of highly flammable makeshift construction materials in the camps by humanitarian agencies, fencing around camps, and growing population density in the camps had raised the likelihood of large scale fires. Additionally, armed groups operating in the camps frequently used **arson as an intimidation tactic**, to the large detriment of innocent civilians. The failure to address fires in the camps would drive young people to **risk their lives to leave camps** via dangerous sea routes. He called on Bangladesh authorities and UN agencies to better **hold perpetrators accountable** and **improve nighttime security** in the camps.¹⁶² On 24 Feb, a gas leak on Bhasan Char led to a **large fire** which **killed five children** and injured four others, two of which received treatment for severe burns.¹⁶³

AFP finds anti-Rohingya online hate campaign likely coordinated

On 1 Feb, a boat carrying **more than 130 Rohingya** refugees arrived in East Aceh.¹⁶⁴ On 8 Feb, Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that **online misinformation** had been the **main driver** of a campaign to push Rohingya back to sea. An AFP Fact Check investigation determined that a several videos viewed millions of times across Facebook and TikTok contained false or misleading information **about new Rohingya arrivals** in Indonesia. A TikTok analyst at the Bandung Fe Institute said **anti-Rohingya** videos had been spreading since late 2023 and had received more than 90 million views on the platform. The wave of hate had started when local media outlets began using **sensationalized headlines** to report on the arrival of Rohingya in Aceh. Later, fake UNHCR accounts bombarded videos on Rohingya with comments, and users began posting videos with misleading, false, and hateful information on Rohingya. Another analyst from Drone Emprit stated that **anti-Rohingya narratives "seemed coordinated"** but were **presented online as "if they were organic"**. The Aceh fishermen community secretary general noted that online hate speech **diverged dramatically from realities** on the ground in Aceh, where he said, "**in our daily lives, things seem normal**".¹⁶⁵

¹⁵⁵ The Business Standard (5 Feb 2024) Hundreds of Myanmar nationals waiting to enter Bangladesh

¹⁵⁶ Reuters (7 Feb 2024) Bangladesh will not let in any more Rohingya refugees - minister

¹⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2024) Myanmar Regime Evacuates Defeated Troops From Bangladesh

¹⁵⁸ The Business Standard (5 Feb 2024) BGB pushes back 4 Rohingyas trying to enter through Teknaf

¹⁵⁹ Dhaka Tribune (6 Feb 2024) BGB pushes back boat carrying 65 Rohingyas

¹⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2024) Myanmar Regime Evacuates Defeated Troops From Bangladesh

¹⁶¹ Nikkei Asia (21 Feb 2024) Bangladesh resists growing calls to accept more Rohingyas from Myanmar

¹⁶² Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2024) Charred hopes: The crisis of fires in the Rohingya refugee camps

¹⁶³ bdnews24 (29 Feb 2024) None of five children burnt in Bhasan Char fire survives

¹⁶⁴ Reuters (1 Feb 2024) More than 130 Rohingya arrive in Indonesia's Aceh

¹⁶⁵ AFP via Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2024) Fake news, online hate swell Indonesia anti-Rohingya sentiment

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

On 8 Feb, the junta arrested a woman in Chanmyathazi Township (Mandalay Region) for posting **comments online about a viral video** showing the junta **burning alive two resistance fighters** in Magway Region last November.¹⁶⁶

On 16 Feb, the junta arrested five Arakan women during a guest-list check at a dorm in Shwe Pyi Thar Township (Yangon Region). The family of one of the women who did not meet the “**height requirements**” **paid a ransom** for her release. Family members of the remaining four speculated that the women **may be conscripted**.¹⁶⁷

On 20 Feb, regime spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said that the junta had **no plans** "at present" to include **women in the mandatory conscription** set to begin in late April. The draft originally covered women aged 18 to 27.¹⁶⁸ On 25 Feb, the junta released nine women out of 14 Arakan youths it had detained at the Aung Mingalar highway bus station in Yangon on 20 Feb for forced conscription.¹⁶⁹

On 27 Feb, the Shan Human Rights Foundation reported that the junta Infantry Division 99 had **gang-raped three women** in Mongmit Township (N. Shan State) during 19-26 Jan. On 19 Jan, three troops gang-raped a woman in her house in Mongmit town while holding her family at gunpoint. On 20 Jan, a group of troops killed a man and raped and killed his wife in the jungle near Ohn Kyaw Mai village. On 21 Jan, junta troops beat a man, possibly to death, after he thwarted their attempt to sexually abuse four women in Tha Yet Daw village. On 26 Jan, five troops gang-raped and heavily injured a woman hiding in the forest near Shwe Jali village.¹⁷⁰ On 3 Mar, the AA released a video showing a junta soldier admitting to participating in the gang-rape and murder of a woman in Nga Tan Pyin village, Minbya Township (Arakan State) and the murder of two others on 17 Jan.¹⁷¹ (For more on AA *judicial system see general conflict section on p. 4*)

On 29 Feb, the IDP management committee in Mindat Township (Chin State) reported that during 2021-2023, at least **20 infants** and **12 mothers died** in IDP camps due to **childbirth-related complications**. The junta's road blockades had caused medicine, food, and maternal health service shortages.¹⁷²

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

Over 1,100 attacks on healthcare providers counted since attempted coup: On 6 Feb, it was reported that 1,127 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care took place in Burma since the attempted coup, including at least 897 arrests. In at least 49 reported incidents, most of which took place in Karenni State, the junta dropped explosives on clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, and rural health centers, and killed or injured health workers. It was reported that these airstrikes have had severe mental health impacts on healthcare workers and that some had stopped providing healthcare.¹⁷³

The junta forcibly recruits students and professors ahead of conscription announcement: On 8 Feb, it was reported that in Patheingyi Township (Ayeyarwady Region), the junta began military auxiliary training for 116 professors and students from three universities and a college. The Patheingyi Special Task Force, a resistance group, said the professors and students underwent training against their will.¹⁷⁴

IDPs returning home lack healthcare in N. Shan State: On 22 Feb, it was reported that **healthcare access was extremely limited** for people who had returned to their homes after conflict had slowed down in N. Shan State. This was because **junta-run hospitals in the region had closed** and **resistance groups had not yet been unable to fill the gap** in healthcare provision in their newly-controlled areas. Humanitarian organizations struggled to deliver health services to resistance-controlled areas because junta officials had **denied them permission to travel** outside of their townships.

Junta checkpoints also made it more difficult for local ethnic-based organizations to transport medicine across township borders. A local in TNLA-controlled Namhsan Township stated that ethnic organizations

¹⁶⁶ Myanmar Now (12 Feb 2024) Mandalay woman arrested for online post about resistance fighters who were burned to death

¹⁶⁷ Narinjara (19 Feb 2024) 5 Rakhine women arrested in Yangon, 1 released, others remain traceless

¹⁶⁸ Nikkei Asia (22 Feb 2024) Myanmar military exempts women from draft for now

¹⁶⁹ Narinjara (1 Mar 2024) 9 women arrested from Yangon's bus station released, 5 still remain in custody

¹⁷⁰ Shan Human Rights Foundation (27 Feb 2024) Over 6,000 flee SAC airstrikes, shelling, arson, extrajudicial killing and gang-rape in Mong Mit, northern Shan State

¹⁷¹ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2024) 'First We Killed Her Mother' – Myanmar Soldier Confesses to Gang Rape

¹⁷² Khonumthung (29 Feb 2024) 20 infants and 12 mothers have died in IDP camps in Mindat Township since 2021, say humanitarian workers

¹⁷³ Mizzima (6 Feb 2024) Over 1,000 attacks on health care in three years since Myanmar coup

¹⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (8 Feb 2024) Myanmar's Depleted Military Takes Aim at Professors, Students to Beef Up

visited their town **once every five days** and were only able to provide basic medical care. Serious cases had to be referred to hospitals in **large cities like Lashio or Mandalay**, which were several hours drive away. **Smaller volunteer-based groups** also provided medical care in resistance areas, but they also faced medical supply shortages and had limited capacity. **Medicine** in Lashio, where most groups source supplies, had gotten **more expensive and remained in short supply** after Operation 1027.¹⁷⁵

Junta ban on work with resistance groups limits vaccination in ethnic areas: On 28 Feb, it was reported that **vaccine access** had been growing over the past year in junta-controlled areas but **remained limited in resistance-controlled areas**. This divergence in outcomes was largely because most international organizations had continued to follow the **junta's ban on working with resistance groups**. The World Health Organization stated that the Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus vaccine fell from 91% coverage in 2019 to 37% in 2021. In 2023, the official rate reportedly recovered to 71%, although these numbers were disputed by ethnic and community-based health organizations. In ethnic areas, there had been sporadic vaccine access since Feb 2021. A member of the Ta'ang Health Organization stated that, while the central government supplied vaccines to Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs) before Feb 2021, the junta had **refused to cooperate with EHOs on vaccine provision since then**. While international organizations such as GAVI and UNICEF only work in junta-controlled areas, some international organizations had provided support for vaccine provision in ethnic areas. A foreign expert stated that the junta's failure to allow for widespread vaccination **threatened herd immunity**, could **allow previously eradicated diseases to reappear** in Myanmar, and could **impact Myanmar's neighboring countries**.¹⁷⁶

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

Conscription chaos: overseas job offers on hold, expedited passport costs soar

On 13 Feb, the junta's Labor Ministry instructed **overseas employment agencies to suspend accepting job offers** from abroad three days after the junta announced enforcement of the conscription law. The ministry did not issue an official suspension notice or specify the duration of the suspension. This **impacted the agencies and documented migrant workers** under the MoU agreement. Typically, these agencies send 500 to 800 migrant workers to Thailand and 200 to 300 to other Asian countries daily.¹⁷⁷ Anusorn Tamajai from Thammasat University, Thailand said that the conscription would likely lead to **labor shortages in Thailand's business sector**.¹⁷⁸ Additionally, anxieties over conscription led to a **surge in passport applications**. Brokers in Yangon Region exploited the situation and charged exorbitant fees of **up to MMK 3 million (USD 900) for expedited services**, compared to the normal fee of around MMK 50,000 (USD 15). Online booking appointments through the QR code system were also full until September.¹⁷⁹

Concern over continued junta crony control of major telecom company

On 26 Feb, it was reported that the opaque ownership structure of **ATOM Myanmar, formerly Telenor Myanmar**, raised concerns about **who controlled the telecom giant and its users' data**. Three days after Canada's sanctions against **Shwe Byain Phyu Group (SBP)**, chaired by **crony Thein Win Zaw**, the then majority owner of ATOM's parent company, SBP promptly **transferred its entire 80% stake** in ATOM's Singapore-based parent company, Investcom, to a newly formed entity, **Myancom Holding Limited**. The leaked documents indicated that **Thein Win Zaw's wife, Tin Latt Min initially wholly owned Myancom Holding** until she **sold her shares to two undisclosed investors**. As a result, **ATOM was able to avoid sanctions**, despite US sanctions against SBP. Financial records from Investcom's date of incorporation on 29 Jul 2021 to 31 Dec 2022 revealed **ATOM's gross profits of USD 206 million**. These rapid changes in ownership showed how easily individual owners can restructure or transfer shares within companies. This exposed the importance of imposing sanctions on both **individual owners and the entities** they control. Additionally, international actors should pressure the Singapore government to ensure greater transparency during ownership transfers so sanctions against the junta and its affiliates can be effectively monitored and enforced. Justice for Myanmar urged international governments to impose sanctions on SBP and called for Singapore to stop hosting junta-linked businesses.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁵ Frontier Myanmar (22 Feb 2024) Healthcare denied as northern Shan communities return home

¹⁷⁶ Frontier Myanmar (28 Feb 2024) Vaccine vacuum afflicts children in Myanmar's conflict zones

¹⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2024) Overseas Employment Suspended as Myanmar Junta Activates Military Conscription

¹⁷⁸ Bangkok Post (19 Feb 2024) PM warns Myanmar nationals over illegal entry

¹⁷⁹ Mizzima (26 Feb 2024) Expedited passport costs soar in Myanmar, fueling anxiety and frustration

¹⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2024) Ownership of ATOM Myanmar shrouded in mystery after sanctions against its parent company

Global ESG investment advisory firms accused of complicity with the junta

On 21 Feb, it was reported that three nongovernmental advocacy organizations **filed complaints against MSCI, FTSE Russell, and S&P Dow Jones Indices** to American, British, and Dutch national contact points for violating OECD guidelines by **facilitating direct investment into the junta-linked companies**. The three firms involved rate companies according to ESG criteria (environmental, social, and governance); companies with high rankings can be marketed as socially responsible investments.

The complainants – Blood Money Campaign of Myanmar, Inclusive Development International and ALTSEAN-Burma – said that these three index providers have provided high rankings to the junta’s weapons dealing firms and tech firms serving the junta’s police force. Notable companies in the complaints were **Bharat Electronics, Wärtsilä, Axiata Group, Alphabet, and Apple**. The complaints also mentioned that ESG-labeled investment funds, managed by Blackrock, Vanguard, State Street, and others, held **shares of at least USD 13 billion in the junta-linked firms**.¹⁸¹

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

The world responds to 3 years of attempted coup

On 1 Feb, two US Congresspeople launched the first **US Congressional Caucus on Burma**. The caucus was expected to start with 30 lawmakers and be supported by advocacy groups. Activists pushed the US administration to support resistance forces in Burma and form an advisory group on what to do with the USD 1 billion in **frozen Burma assets**.¹⁸² US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet said the US had provided nearly **USD 400 million in non-lethal aid** to pro-democracy groups in Burma.¹⁸³

On 1 Feb, **Australia sanctioned** the junta-controlled Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB), and three companies under the Shoon group (formerly Asia Sun). MFTB and MICB had already been sanctioned by the US. Shoon group was the junta’s main jet fuel supply chain partner. The **UK also sanctioned** No. 1 and No. 2 Mining Enterprises (ME1 and ME2) and Light Infantry Divisions 77 and 101.¹⁸⁴ On 2 Feb, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) stated that sanctions were too **slow, uncoordinated**, and left too many **loopholes**. JfM called on Australia to impose regular rounds of sanctions, especially on the **mining sector**, in which Australians have a significant presence.¹⁸⁵

On 5 Feb, **nine out of 15** members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) condemned the junta’s indiscriminate airstrikes on civilians and demanded an end to the violence and the release of all arbitrarily detained prisoners, as set out in **UNSC Resolution 2669**. **ASEAN’s Special Envoy** to Burma Alounkeo Kittikhoun had briefed the UNSC during a closed meeting. He reiterated ASEAN’s commitment to the five-point consensus through “**quiet diplomacy**”. **Burma’s UN ambassador** Kyaw Moe Tun urged the UNSC to adopt a stronger, **enforceable resolution**.¹⁸⁶ On 7 Feb, SAC-M stated that the **toothless UNSC** should not defer to the even **more toothless ASEAN**, but rather refer the situation to the ICC or a special tribunal.¹⁸⁷ On 27 Feb, Ngurah Swajaya, head of Indonesia’s Office of the Special Envoy to Burma, said that Kittikhoun **consulted ASEAN troika partners** Indonesia and Malaysia, whenever he engaged with stakeholders of the Burma situation.¹⁸⁸

On 8 Feb, Amnesty International called for the **junta airstrike on Kanan village** in Tamu Township (Sagaing Region) on 7 Jan that killed 17 civilians, including nine children, to be **investigated as a war crime**. Amnesty pointed out that A-5 fighter jets, which only the junta uses, conducted the airstrikes. They added that A-5 operations around the junta’s Tada-U airbase near Mandalay were consistent with the attack on Kanan. Amnesty urged the UNSC to refer the situation in Burma to the ICC.¹⁸⁹

On 22 Feb, it was reported that hundreds of **Canadians signed a petition** calling on their government to **sanction MOGE** and **block Canadian MTI Energy** from buying **Chevron’s 41.1% stake** in the Yadana gas project. As part of the deal, MTI would also acquire a stake of the same size in the Moattama Gas Pipeline Co., the owner of the Yadana pipeline, via Bermuda-registered Et Martem Holdings Ltd.

¹⁸¹ Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2024) Global ESG Investment Advisory Firms Accused of Aiding Myanmar Junta

¹⁸² Reuters (2 Feb 2024) US lawmakers to press for humanitarian action on Myanmar

¹⁸³ Jakarta Post (1 Feb 2024) Supporting an inclusive and democratic future for Myanmar

¹⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (2 Feb 2024) Australia sanctions Myanmar junta banks, but not its mining enterprises

¹⁸⁵ Justice for Myanmar (2 Feb 2024) JfM welcomes new sanctions on the illegal Myanmar junta and businesses on third anniversary of failed coup attempt

¹⁸⁶ AP News (6 Feb 2024) 9 UN Security Council members urge a halt to airstrikes by Myanmar’s military

¹⁸⁷ SAC-M (7 Feb 2024) Toothless UN Security Council response to Myanmar junta violence not enough

¹⁸⁸ Frontier Myanmar (27 Feb 2024) As ASEAN chair, will Laos play it safe on Myanmar?

¹⁸⁹ Amnesty International (8 Feb 2024) Myanmar: Military air strikes that killed 17 civilians ‘must be investigated as war crimes’

Environmental group Earth Rights International filed a complaint against MTI Energy with Canada's OECD National Contact Point in September.¹⁹⁰

The same day, the UK Minister of State, Lord Tariq Ahmad, refused to respond to queries about UK sanctions on MOGE, saying speculation would reduce the impact of sanctions.¹⁹¹

Thailand continues controversial humanitarian corridor plans

On 6 Feb, Thai Vice Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow said its proposed humanitarian corridor would open at the end of Feb with the intention of first, **reaching 20,000 out of 2.6 million IDPs**. He said he already discussed the humanitarian plans with **US, Chinese, Indian**, and other international diplomats and would be open to meeting with the NUG-aligned **UN ambassador** Kyaw Moe Tun and **EROs** such as the KNU and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP).¹⁹² However, by the end of Feb, it appeared that Thailand had neither met with either ERO nor Kyaw Moe Tun. On 28 Feb, the NUG Press Office reminded Thailand that effective collaboration with EROs and the NUG was "...imperative to aid those fleeing the conflict in Myanmar ... (since) ... NUG and the ethnic revolutionary forces currently control approximately 60% of Myanmar."¹⁹³

The humanitarian corridor proposal faced wide skepticism as it mainly involved cooperation between the Thai Red Cross and the **Myanmar Red Cross**, which operates as **an auxiliary of the junta**. In an op-ed on 13 Feb, former AHA Centre Executive Director Adelina Kamal warned that such cooperation would risk **causing greater harm to local communities impacted by junta violence**, and would **militarize aid**. She called for disengagement from the junta which was the cause of the humanitarian crisis and for greater support for existing community-led cross-border work.¹⁹⁴

On 26 Feb, Phuangketkeow said that Thailand and ASEAN members should form a **strategic partnership with India** to address the Burma crisis. He added that outside players could only do so much and that parties within Burma had to solve the problem.¹⁹⁵

Thailand curbs immigration surge, arrests Burmese fleeing conscription

On 15 Feb, the Thai embassy in Yangon limited the **number of visa applications** to 400 a day in response to a surge of applications after the junta's forced conscription announcement on 10 Feb.¹⁹⁶ By 22 Feb, over **7,000 Burma nationals** had applied for visas at the embassy in Yangon and the embassy had doubled the application limit to 800 a day.¹⁹⁷

On 19 Feb, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said that the government would take action against Burmese who entered the country **illegally**.¹⁹⁸ On 21 Feb, Thai Fair Party MP Kannavee Suebsang called on the government to allow Burma citizens fleeing to Thailand from conflict and conscription to **work temporarily**.¹⁹⁹ By 22 Feb, Thai officials had **arrested 167** Burma nationals fleeing to Thailand since the junta enacted its conscription law.²⁰⁰ During 21 Feb-1 Mar, civil society organizations and the UN Special Rapporteur released a number of statements condemning the junta's forced conscription drive. They called on the UN Security Council to put forward a resolution to impose targeted economic sanctions and a comprehensive arms embargo.²⁰¹ [See Conscription Briefer.](#)

Malaysia closes detention center after refugee escape

On 1 Feb, 131 Burmese refugees including 115 Rohingya fled custody at an immigration detention center in Perak, northern Malaysia, after a riot broke out at the center. One Rohingya man was reported dead

¹⁹⁰ Myanmar Now (22 Feb 2024) Canadians call for sanctions on Myanmar state-owned energy firm MOGE

¹⁹¹ Myanmar Now (1 Mar 2024) UK minister says 'inappropriate to speculate' on possible sanctions for Myanmar military-controlled oil and gas firm MOGE

¹⁹² Nikkei Asia (6 Feb 2024) Thailand to intensify efforts to resolve Myanmar crisis

¹⁹³ 28 Feb 2024 (Benar News) Will Thailand's aid corridor with war-torn Myanmar make a difference?

¹⁹⁴ 13 Feb 2024 (Myanmar Now) Thailand's 'humanitarian corridor' initiative needs a reality check; Treating Myanmar's military as part of the solution to a crisis that it created is nothing short of delusional

¹⁹⁵ Hindustan times (26 Feb 2024) Thailand, India have to work together to address Myanmar crisis: Vice minister

¹⁹⁶ Bangkok Post (17 Feb 2024) Thai embassy curbs visas amid conscription exodus

¹⁹⁷ Bangkok Post (22 Feb 2024) 7,000 Myanmar citizens seeking Thai visas

¹⁹⁸ Bangkok Post (19 Feb 2024) PM warns Myanmar nationals over illegal entry

¹⁹⁹ Bangkok Post (21 Feb 2024) MP says let 'refugees' work

²⁰⁰ RFA (22 Feb 2024) Fleeing conscription, over 160 Myanmar nationals in custody at Thai borders

²⁰¹ APHR (2 Mar 2024) Open Letter: Security Council must act now as Myanmar military junta's forced conscription endangers peace, stability, and human security in Myanmar and the region; SAC-M (20 Feb 2024) Forced conscription: The junta's depraved attack on Myanmar's future; Mizzima (24 Feb 2024) Legal Aid Network raps Myanmar junta's conscription drive; OHCHR (21 Feb 2024) Myanmar: Military junta even greater threat to civilians as it imposes military draft, warns UN expert

after being **hit by a car** on a nearby highway. After the breakout, authorities closed the detention center and transferred the detainees to other centers. On 3 Feb, Malaysian police arrested the final 41 of the escapees. Malaysian authorities stated they would tighten security at all immigration detention centers in response to the breakout. Malaysian authorities had **not allowed UNHCR to verify refugee statuses** at detention centers since 2019.²⁰²

INGOs abandon Arakan

On 9 Feb, residents in Maungdaw Township (Arakan State) reported that UN agencies and INGOs had **painted their logos** on the roofs of their offices in fear of airstrikes.²⁰³ On 10 Feb, most foreign and mainland staff at **UN agencies and INGOs left** Maungdaw Township due to the escalating conflict. Only local staff stayed behind.²⁰⁴ On 12 Feb, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister said that the Bangladesh consulate in Sittwe had been temporarily relocated to Yangon due to safety concerns.²⁰⁵

Burma #1 for organized crime

It was reported that since the attempted coup, Burma went from **third to first in the world** on the **Global Organized Crime Index**. Burma's score increased from 7.59/10 in 2021 to 8.15/10 in 2023 mainly due to a **surge in human trafficking** and illegal resource extraction such as **rare earth mining**. Additionally, Burma's score for **criminal foreign actors** (mainly Chinese) jumped from 7.5/10 in 2021 to 9/10 in 2023. "**State-embedded actors**" also had a score of 9/10 in 2023, indicating that they were active in nearly all criminal markets, including the **very large drug market**. Overall, the biggest shift between 2021 - 2023 came in Burma's ability to resist organized crime, the score of which dropped from 3.42/10 to 1.63/10.²⁰⁶

Yakuza leader attempts to sell Burma-sourced nuclear materials to Iran

On 21 Feb, **US authorities** charged alleged **Yakuza leader** Takeshi Ebisawa and his Thai associate for conspiring to sell nuclear materials from Burma to **Iran**. Ebisawa had attempted to sell weapons-grade **uranium, thorium and plutonium** sourced from an "armed insurgent group" in Burma. He had also sought to buy military weapons on behalf of an armed insurgent group. The two men were arrested in April 2022 on drug trafficking charges.²⁰⁷ The leader of the **Restoration Council of Shan State** (RCSS/SSA) Yawd Serk **denied allegations** of connections to Ebisawa, despite rampant speculation.²⁰⁸

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²⁰² Benar News (2 Feb 2024) Malaysian immigration separates Rohingya after 131 detainees escape from center; Al Jazeera (2 Feb 2024) Dozens of Rohingya refugees flee Malaysian immigration detention centre; Myanmar Now (5 Feb 2024) 41 Rohingya refugees arrested after fleeing Malaysian detention centre

²⁰³ Narinjara (9 Feb 2024) NGO offices in Maungdaw paint rooftop logo to escape junta's airstrikes

²⁰⁴ Narinjara (13 Feb 2024) INGOs/NGOs including the UN leave Maungdaw due to fear of conflicts

²⁰⁵ Narinjara (13 Feb 2024) Bangladesh consulate in Sittwe relocated to Yangon temporarily amid security concern

²⁰⁶ Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (26 Feb 2024) Mind the gap: Organized crime on the rise in Myanmar as resilience wanes

²⁰⁷ RFA (22 Feb 2024) Yakuza leader charged over Myanmar nuclear trafficking

²⁰⁸ DVB (27 Feb 2024) NUG Ambassador to receive award; Humanitarian aid into Burma from Thailand to begin in March