

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024:  
Junta celebrations belie dysfunction as troops flee across borders**

- As of 31 Mar, there were at least 32,143 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021. As of 1 Apr, there were at least 2,574,500 displaced people since 1 Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Economy sinks further as youth flee illegal conscription law.
- Hpapun Town under KNU control for first time in 69 years. AA control 8 of 18 townships. KIA control grows.
- Hundreds of defeated junta troops flee to Bangladesh and Thailand.
- Armed Forces Day parade underwhelms as junta stretched thin.
- Desperate junta conscripts Rohingya, forces anti-AA protests.
- 67 more dead at sea after Rohingya boat capsizes off Aceh.
- Despite pressure, Burma's scam world continues unabated.
- India props up junta with defense supplies.
- Junta jet flyover undermines controversial Thai aid effort.
- Junta beats, shoots dead Dawei political prisoners.
- Thai parliament conference welcomes NUG, ERO reps.
- Maw Luu locals protest, secure NUG concessions.
- Buyers a no-show at junta's ASSK house auction.
- Junta leaves Kani in ashes after resistance almost takes town.

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## Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

Despite its official Apr start date, the junta accelerated work to enforce the conscription law. Data for Myanmar reported that, as of 23 Mar, the junta had collected lists, held **draft lotteries, registered conscripts, and set up training venues** for recruits in **172 townships**. This included most townships in Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon, Bago, and Naypyidaw Regions.<sup>1</sup> On 4 Mar, the Chair of the Naypyidaw Council stated that students, civil servants, caretakers of elderly people, and those under medical treatment would be temporarily excluded from conscription.<sup>2</sup> On 10 Mar, the junta also began implementing the ‘**Reserve Force Rule**’, which required **all military veterans** from the last five years to return to service for at least five more years of service.<sup>3</sup>

In Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon, and Mandalay Regions and Mon, and Arakan States, junta officials said they would conscript between **1 and 10 people per ward/village**, depending on population size.<sup>4</sup> On 16 Mar, in Kangyidaunt and Pyapon Townships (Ayeyarwaddy Region), two 20 year olds **committed suicide by drinking poison** after they were selected in the draft lottery.<sup>5</sup> In Ayeyarwaddy, Yangon, and Mandalay Regions, new conscripts had reportedly **already been enrolled** in basic training. In Yamethin Township (Mandalay Region), 300 youths were reportedly being held at a police training center.<sup>6</sup>

In Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, and Mandalay Regions and Mon and Karen States, it was reported that junta officials were **extorting payments** of up to MMK 50,000 from households who refused to participate in the draft or who were not selected in the draft.<sup>7</sup> In Daik-U Township (Bago Region), junta officials **demanding monthly payments** of MMK 200,000 from those who **refused to serve** in the military.<sup>8</sup> On 20 Mar, junta police **beat to death** a man in Kyangin Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region) after he refused to pay for junta number plates used for conscription.<sup>9</sup> On 26 Mar, the junta issued summons to 30 young men in Monywa (Sagaing Region) for pre-conscription medical exams. The following day, the junta **arrested all 30** after none of them showed up.<sup>10</sup>

On 17 Mar, Than Lwin Times reported the junta **planned to forcibly enlist** two people per village into the military and 20-30 people per village into **local militias** in at least two Magway Region townships.<sup>11</sup> On 26 Mar, Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) reported that the junta Ministry of Home Affairs officials had met with junta village heads and authorities in Htantabin Township (Karen State) in Jan and ordered them to recruit at least one local from each village. In areas under junta control, **armed soldiers forced villagers** to participate in a draft lottery on 24 Jan. Junta troops took selected residents directly to junta trucks after the draft. Soldiers **threatened to kill villagers** if they resisted recruitment after the state-wide conscription law announcement.<sup>12</sup>

## Junta send Rohingya conscripts to death at the frontlines

During 7-10 Mar, several videos emerged on social media that showed **junta soldiers training several hundred Rohingya** dressed in military attire. It was reported that the videos were likely shot in Northern Arakan State.<sup>13</sup> On 28 Mar, DVB reported that **more than 1,000 Rohingya had likely already been forcibly conscripted** in Arakan State.<sup>14</sup> On 11 Mar, Rohingya forcibly recruited into military training from Kyauktalone IDP camp in Feb had reportedly finished training and would be forced to enlist as soldiers. At least five of the Rohingya taken from Kyauktalone camp in Feb had been minors.<sup>15</sup> On 28

<sup>1</sup> Data for Myanmar via Facebook (23 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/mwfe8w4u>; Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2024) Myanmar's Junta is Racing Ahead With Military Conscription

<sup>2</sup> DVB (4 Mar 2024) UN Human Rights Chief calls Burma a 'never-ending nightmare'; Military to defer conscription for students

<sup>3</sup> Mizzima (15 Mar 2024) Myanmar Army veterans to be conscripted back into service

<sup>4</sup> RFA (15 Mar 2024) Military conscription poised to start in Myanmar's Yangon; RFA (18 Mar 2024) Irregularities taint military draft lottery in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady; HURFOM (20 Mar 2024) Compulsory conscription law creates chaos in Mon State

<sup>5</sup> Myanmar Peace Monitor (24 Mar 2024) Two draftees commit suicide by drinking poison in Ayeyarwady Region

<sup>6</sup> RFA (6 Mar 2024) Forced recruitment underway in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady region; Myanmar Now (1 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta launches first basic military training for conscripts

<sup>7</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Officials Begin Summoning Draft-Age Residents of Yangon, Naypyitaw; HURFOM (19 Mar 2024) Junta plans to extort villagers to feed families of those in compulsory military service; RFA (6 Mar 2024) Forced recruitment underway in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady region; Myanmar Now (20 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta initiates conscription lotteries to select young people for training, frontline combat

<sup>8</sup> Karen News (15 Mar 2024) Draft Evaders Home Sealed Off

<sup>9</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2024) Civilian jailed, beaten to death after resisting payment to junta officials

<sup>10</sup> Irrawaddy (29 Mar 2024) Myanmar Draft Dodgers Detained in Monywa as Junta Conscription Bid Backfires

<sup>11</sup> Myanmar Peace Monitor (17 Mar 2024) Junta carries out door-to-door recruitments in Pwintphyu and Saytoketayar

<sup>12</sup> KHRG (26 Mar 2024) Taw Oo District Short Update: SAC forced recruitment and extortion of villagers, and resultant displacement in Htaw Ta Htoo Township (January to February 2024)

<sup>13</sup> RFA (11 Mar 2024) Videos appear to show Myanmar military training Rohingyas

<sup>14</sup> DVB via Youtube (28 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/bp7hjuzw>

<sup>15</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2024) 'Nowhere to run' for Muslims forcibly sent to military training in southern Rakhine State

Mar, it was reported the junta sent 50 of the 117 taken from Kyauktalone camp to **frontline bases in Kyaukphyu Township**.<sup>16</sup>

On 15 Mar, at least five Rohingya were killed and 10 injured after the **junta forced them into battle** in Rathedaung Township (Arakan State).<sup>17</sup> A 13 Mar RFA Burmese reported that **70-100 recruited Rohingya** had been killed during fighting in Rathedaung Township, although this number could not be independently confirmed.<sup>18</sup> On 22 Mar, RFA reported the junta returned the bodies of seven conscripted Rohingya to their families in three villages and claimed they had been killed by landmines while fleeing training. Residents in other Rohingya villages also reported similar incidents.<sup>19</sup>

### **Administrators avoid involvement in conscription law, resign en masse**

On 22 Mar, it was reported that at least 27 village-tract administrators from Thandwe Township (Arakan State) had **resigned from their positions** after receiving orders on 16 Mar from junta officials to provide lists of conscription-age men. Administrators stated that they had resigned because they **feared for their lives** if they participated in conscription and that **locals had refused to give information** to the administrators.<sup>20</sup> At a 15 Mar township-wide meeting, village-tract administrators in Munaung Township (Arakan State) **refused to comply** with junta authority orders to forcibly conscript 5 people per village tract.<sup>21</sup> On 18 Mar, in northern Ye Township (Mon State), a number of junta district and ward administrators in areas near to New Mon State Party Anti-Dictatorship (NMSPAD)-controlled territory also resigned from their positions.<sup>22</sup>

### **Resistance groups retaliate against conscription law enforcement**

During 5-19 Mar, the NUG, EROs, PDFs, and local resistance groups around the country, including the NMSPAD, the Karen National Union (KNU), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and many others **threatened to take action** against administrators collecting names for conscription.<sup>23</sup> On 25 Mar, the PDF-Zoland announced that it had arrested five junta-appointed administrators in Tedim Township (Chin State) for enforcing the junta's conscription policy.<sup>24</sup> DVB reported that, as of 28 Mar, resistance groups had **killed 36 junta administrators** and injured 11 in retaliation for involvement in junta conscription drives.<sup>25</sup>

### **The gendered impact of the junta's conscription law**

On 8 Mar, eight women's organizations stated that the junta's forced conscription law would have a gendered impact on women and members of the **LGBTQI community**. Forcibly recruited women would be exposed to rape, sexual slavery, and other forms of **sexual violence**. The law would force even more women to flee, putting them in high danger of **conflict-related sexual violence**, trafficking, and other forms of **exploitation**. Additionally, the threat of conscription increasingly **forced families to arrange marriages for their 17-year-old daughters** via sexually exploitative brokers, as "married women" were exempt. The organizations called on the international community to uphold principles of non-refoulement and provide **direct and flexible support** to ethnic minority and women's organizations. They also called for funding support for affected people **and the establishment of adequate IDP camps**.<sup>26</sup>

On 13 Mar, junta flyers circulated in Yangon Region read that **women would be conscripted** as part of the 5th batch of conscripts, despite previously claiming they wouldn't.<sup>27</sup> On 20 Mar, it was reported that the junta Ministry of Immigration in Sittwe (Arakan State) had compiled a **conscription list** that included between **200 to 300 women** and members of the **LGBTQI community**.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Narinjara (28 Mar 2024) 50 Muslims from Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp armed and sent to Kyaukphyu outposts

<sup>17</sup> Myanmar Now (15 Mar 2024) Five forcibly recruited Rohingya men killed in battle in Rakhine State

<sup>18</sup> RFA (13 Mar 2024) ရိုဟင်ဂျာ ၉၇ ဦး ရုပ်အလောင်းတွေ လာသယ်ဖို့ ဒုက္ခသည်စခန်းတွေကို စစ်ကောင်စီ အကြောင်းကြား

<sup>19</sup> RFA (22 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta returns bodies of Rohingya conscripts to families

<sup>20</sup> Myanmar Now (21 Mar 2024) Nearly 30 junta administrators resign in Rakhine State over conscription effort

<sup>21</sup> Narinjara (23 Mar 2024) Village administrators in Munaung refuse to collect list relating military service

<sup>22</sup> Independent Mon News (18 Mar 2024) Administrators resign rather than participate in conscription process

<sup>23</sup> NUG via Facebook (5 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/7z4tnwzk>; Mizzima (22 Mar 2024) TNLA to take action against junta conscription whilst conscripting civilians itself; Mizzima (22 Mar 2024) TNLA to take action against junta conscription whilst conscripting civilians itself; Irrawaddy (20 Mar 2024) Myanmar Resistance Backs Conscription Warning With Wave of Assassinations

<sup>24</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Mar 2024) Chin State resistance force detains local administrative staff for involvement in junta conscription efforts

<sup>25</sup> DVB (28 Mar 2024) Aid reaches Karen National Union territory; Rohingya form committee to establish consultative council

<sup>26</sup> Women's Peace Network (8 Mar 2024) Public Statement: Women's Organizations condemn junta's forced conscription law in Myanmar

<sup>27</sup> Mizzima (13 Mar 2024) Young people counted and pro-conscription flyers given out in Yangon's Hlaingtharya Township

<sup>28</sup> Narinjara (20 Mar 2024) Increasing Fear Women and LGBT Included in Junta Conscription

## Conscription drains domestic labor market

On 4 Mar, it was reported the mass exodus caused by the conscription law was creating **severe domestic labor shortages**. The director of a Mae Sot-based charity stated that numbers crossing the border **had already grown since the conscription law** announcement and were expected to grow even more in the future. A human rights worker in Mandalay stated the cost to get smuggled from Mandalay to the Thai border was around MMK 2.5 million.<sup>29</sup> On 5 Mar, KNU officials stated that more than 400 draft-eligible individuals had fled to KNU-controlled areas in Thaton District.<sup>30</sup> On 15 Mar, Karen News reported that the junta was sealing off houses of people who had fled military service in Daik-U Township (Bago Region).<sup>31</sup> During 3 Mar - 1 Apr, Thai authorities arrested at least 402 undocumented Burma migrants near the border.<sup>32</sup>

Business owners in the garment, construction, agriculture, import, and service industries said that **3-5 out of every 10 workers had either already left the country** or were preparing to do so. In addition to electricity outages and commodity price surges, a significant decline in manufacturing capacity due to a lack of employees may **force businesses to close**. Economists warned that Burma's **GDP and foreign investment would decline** and worsen the existing economic crisis.<sup>33</sup>

On 1 Mar, the Malaysian government announced it would repatriate undocumented workers if they surrendered themselves and paid a fine of MYR 300-500 per immigration offense. Since Dec 2023, Malaysian authorities had arrested at least 1,000 undocumented workers. **The law concerned undocumented Burma nationals** as they would face **arrest and conscription** if deported from Malaysia. Migrant assistance groups estimated that **300,000 out of 800,000** Burma migrant workers were undocumented. A refugee assistance group stated that over 150,000 Burma nationals **waiting for passport renewals** at the junta-run embassy were at **risk of becoming illegal**.<sup>34</sup>

## Illegal junta's quest to cement control

### Junta pushes on with sham election claims

On 6 Mar, the junta's **Union Election Commission (UEC)** again **revised the Political Parties Registration Law**. The junta **lowered qualifications for registration** by reducing the number of members political parties must have from 100,000 to 50,000; extended the period in which parties would be expected to reach the minimum registered membership from "within 90 days" to in "at least 90 days"; and reduced the required number of townships that a party established an office in from one-half to one-third of total townships. The UEC also added a clause stating that party registration would be revoked and party assets seized if a party leader broke the law.<sup>35</sup>

On 18 Mar, **coup monger Min Aung Hlaing** admitted it was **impossible** for the junta to hold its **sham elections** across the whole country and would try to hold them "in relevant sections as much as we can."<sup>36</sup> At the junta's 27 Mar Armed Forces Day parade, Min Aung Hlaing stated the junta's sham elections would be carried out using mixed first-past-the-post and proportional representation.<sup>37</sup>

### Junta's muted celebration shows costs of battlefield losses

On 27 Mar, the junta held its 79th annual Armed Forces Day parade. Unlike in previous years, the parade was **held in the evening**, included **very few mechanized units and fighter jets**, and featured a **large number of female soldiers**. Observers speculated that **recent battlefield casualties** had forced the junta to hold a **significantly reduced parade**.<sup>38</sup>

### Junta auction of Aung San Suu Kyi's house draws little interest

On 20 Mar, the **junta court auction for Aung San Suu Kyi's family home** at 54 University Avenue in Yangon **failed to attract any bidders**. The auction was called in Jan after a junta court ruled that a decades-long dispute between Aung San Suu Kyi and her estranged brother over the house should be

<sup>29</sup> Al Jazeera (10 Mar 2024) Fears of mass migration from Myanmar as military plans to draft thousands

<sup>30</sup> Independent Mon News (5 Mar 2024) Over 400 Youth Arrive in KNU Thaton District Due to Conscription Law

<sup>31</sup> Karen News (15 Mar 2024) Draft Evaders Home Sealed Off

<sup>32</sup> DVB (5 Mar 2024) ASEAN-Australia Summit 2024 to discuss Burma's crisis; Nearly 100 Burma nationals arrested in Thailand

<sup>33</sup> Than Lwin Times (4 Mar 2024) Conscription Law Pushes Myanmar Business to the Brink

<sup>34</sup> Frontier Myanmar (14 Mar 2024) Unwanted in Malaysia, Myanmar migrants live in fear

<sup>35</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2024) Junta-controlled election commission amends political party registration rules

<sup>36</sup> Narinjara via BNI (26 Mar 2024) Coup Leader Vows Elections But regime's loss of control in so many states dims chances of any kind of plebiscite

<sup>37</sup> DVB (29 Mar 2024) Regime touts new electoral system; Nearly 100 Rohingya military conscripts killed

<sup>38</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Mar 2024) Depleted Myanmar Military Holds Scaled-Down Annual Parade

resolved by auctioning the property. The floor price was set at MMK 315 billion. The regime court was expected to reduce the floor price and set a date for a second auction.<sup>39</sup>

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

### **Survey finds widespread support for NUG**

On 29 Feb, USIP published a survey that indicated that, while the **NUG** - and the idea of a Union of Burma - **had widespread support** amongst Bamar and other ethnic nationalities, there remained concerns that the **NUG was too dominated by Bamar figures**. Out of 4,612 survey participants, nearly 72.6% had highly favorable views of the NUG. Only 8% of participants had unfavorable views of the NUG. The survey found nearly 86.4% of people from ethnic groups with armed groups not formally aligned with the NUG felt somewhat or highly favorable towards the NUG. However, the survey also found that, amongst ethnic minorities, **support for the NUG declined** as importance of **individual ethnic identity increased**. USIP urged the NUG to explore **how to better build trust** amongst ethnic minorities and to strengthen coordination with EROs.<sup>40</sup>

### **AA, Chinland Council disagree over Paletwa governance**

On 4 Mar, the Arakan Army's (AA) spokesperson said the group **would cooperate with local leaders and ethnic groups** to manage administrative judicial, and social welfare duties in Paletwa Township (Chin State). Nearly 80% of Paletwa Township are ethnic Chin, according to the 2020 census.<sup>41</sup> On 14 Mar, the Chinland Prime Minister stated that the United League of Arakan's (ULA/AA) approach to Paletwa Township was **not the "right way"** and that the **ULA should engage in dialogue with the Chinland government**.<sup>42</sup> On 23 Mar, it was reported that the Chinland Council would cooperate with Indian authorities to crackdown on drug trafficking.<sup>43</sup>

### **Karenni put new court system to use**

On 15 Mar, the Kantarawaddy Times reported that the **Interim Executive Council (IEC) established** the State Supreme Court, two district courts, and five township courts. The courts would mainly handle cases related to **prisoners of war and drug charges**. Complaints could be filed with village and community committees or directly at Karenni State Police's (KSP) stations.<sup>44</sup>

On 6 Mar, a Karenni resistance-run court announced they sentenced the rector of Loikaw University and four other employees to two years in prison and fined them each MMK 900,000 for **unlawful association with the junta** on 25 Feb. Prosecutors said the officials' **role in charge of the junta-run university** made them collaborators and thus viable to be charged under the section 17(1) for unlawful association. An NGO researcher stated people should have the right to abstain from activities they do not support.<sup>45</sup>

On 24 Mar, the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) stated that they had **sentenced two KNDF soldiers** to 20 years and one month in prison for the **murder** of a member of a humanitarian organization. According to the KNDF, soldiers shot the man dead on 21 Feb while he was detained in Loikaw Township (Karenni State). However, a local said the victim had been **shot during a confrontation with KNDF fighters** and not while in detention. KNDF deputy Commander-in-Chief Maui stated that the organization would take action against any of its fighters who engage in offenses against the public.<sup>46</sup>

### **NUG releases Military Code of Conduct**

On 22 Mar, the NUG released their "Military Code of Conduct for PDFs" which stated that all PDF shall **abide by International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law**. The Code of Conduct states that soldiers should only attack military objectives and **prohibits attacks on civilians**, civilian objects, and cultural monuments. It also prohibits **torture of detainees**, requires PDFs to allow **impartial humanitarian organizations to visit detention centres**, and states that PDFs should respect

<sup>39</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Mar 2024) Myanmar Court-Ordered Auction of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Home Fails to Draw Bids

<sup>40</sup> USIP (29 Feb 2024) Myanmar: New Data Show Wide Support for Unity Government

<sup>41</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Mar 2024) Arakan Army to launch public administration in Paletwa Township, Chin State

<sup>42</sup> Khonumthung (14 Mar 2024) Chinland Government PM: ULA/AA plans for public administration in Paletwa Township "not the right way"

<sup>43</sup> Khonumthung News (23 Mar 2024) Chinland Council will cooperate with Indian authorities to oppress illicit drug trafficking

<sup>44</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (15 Mar 2024) ကရင်နီပြည်အတွင်းမှာ တရားစီရင်ရေး လုပ်ငန်းတွေ စတင်ဆောင်ရွက်နေ၊ စစ်သို့ပုန်းနဲ့

မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးအမှု အများဆုံးဖြစ်

<sup>45</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2024) Karenni resistance court convicts Loikaw University rector, administrators of unlawful association

<sup>46</sup> Myanmar Now (27 Mar 2024) Two KNDF fighters sentenced in killing of Free Burma Rangers member

the bodies of those killed in detention facilities and keep record of their deaths . The Code of Conduct also outlaws **forced labor** from, and **arbitrary detention** of, civilians.<sup>47</sup>

### **Locals protest against logging rules in Maw Luu**

On 22 Mar, it was reported that locals in Maw Luu (Sagaing Region) had **protested against NUG regulations** on logging which allowed trucks of large timber harvesting companies to pass through Maw Luu but **disallowed local people from harvesting timber** themselves. On Mar 17, Maw Luu locals stopped 16 logging trucks driving through the town and turned them over to the local NUG-run People's Administration Team (PAT). However, the PAT allowed the trucks to continue, leading locals to take to the streets and seize another five logging trucks. **Five local administrators** later **resigned** after a PAT official refused to grant them timber harvesting rights in writing. On 20 Mar, a NUG district-level official reportedly **granted locals** the right to harvest timber on a small scale. However, as of 22 Mar, the protestors had yet to release the trucks.<sup>48</sup>

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

On 1 Mar, the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) reported the junta had detained **206 journalists**, including 31 women reporters since Feb 2021. 59 journalists were still detained as of the end of Feb 2024.<sup>49</sup> On 5 Mar, Data for Myanmar reported that there were now **61 townships under Martial Law** in Burma, five of which had been put under martial law in 2024.<sup>50</sup> On the same day, Athan Myanmar reported that the junta had **cut internet or phone lines** in 80 townships.<sup>51</sup>

### **Min Aung Hlaing eats his own as he arrests General, pro-junta editor**

On 11 Mar, the junta reportedly arrested Brigadier-General Min Maung for **withdrawing troops in early Jan from Laukkai**. An anonymous source stated that Min Maung had acted under the orders of deputy military chief Soe Win, but Min Aung Hlaing had not approved the request of the regional commander to withdraw from Laukkai. In late Jan, the **junta sentenced three brigadier-generals involved in the surrender of Laukkai to death and the three to life imprisonment**.<sup>52</sup>

On 19 Mar, the junta **arrested** and later **charged** Kyaw Soe Oo, the **editor-in-chief of the pro-junta news outlet People Media, with defamation**. Earlier on 19 Mar, he criticized the junta Ministry of Home Affairs for failing to send senior police officials to the funeral of an officer killed in Kachin State and asked viewers to send evidence of bribery and junta involvement in the gambling industry.<sup>53</sup>

### **Prison inmates face violence, isolation, murder at hands of junta officials**

On 1 Mar, Irrawaddy reported the junta had **held 345 people** including around 145 women and children at a police station in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region) for several months **without presenting charges or holding court proceedings**. Approximately 250 of the detained were locked in a makeshift corridor cell, including 20 children. An eyewitness stated the station had a capacity of less than 100.<sup>54</sup>

On 18 Mar, RFA reported that at least **15 political prisoners** had **died** while at Daik-U prison (Bago Region) since last May. On 6 Mar, an inmate who was serving a 14-year sentence under the junta's counter-terrorism law passed away after prison officials repeatedly **refused him proper medical care**. Inmates stated that prison conditions had **worsened dramatically** after the attempted coup, that prison officials **refused to allow inmates to receive medicine** from outside the prison, and that inmates suffered from frequent interrogation and were malnourished.<sup>55</sup>

On 17 Mar, Political Prisoners Network Myanmar (PPNM) stated that at least 24 inmates at **Insein Prison** (Yangon Region) who had been **placed in shackles** and sent to solitary confinement on 5 Nov 2023 were still in **solitary confinement**. The Burma jail manual stated that prisoners should under no circumstances be kept in leg shackles for longer than 90 days.<sup>56</sup>

On 22 Mar, Myanmar Now reported that 20 detained individuals including several political prisoners had been **beaten** and placed in solitary confinement at Dawei Prison after prison guards found cellphones in

<sup>47</sup> NUG via Facebook (22 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/4t6au3kb>

<sup>48</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2024) Anti-junta administrators resign in resistance-controlled town, protesting NUG's logging policies

<sup>49</sup> ICNL (1 Mar 2024) Journalist Detentions in Myanmar

<sup>50</sup> Data for Myanmar via Facebook (5 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/3h2huzuh>

<sup>51</sup> Athan (5 Mar 2024) ဂျပန် ခုနစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလအတွင်း အင်တာနက်ဖြတ်တောက်ခံထားရသည့် မြို့နယ်များ

<sup>52</sup> Irrawaddy (11 Mar 2024) Myanmar General Arrested for Retreating as Ethnic Alliance Overran Northern Shan State

<sup>53</sup> RFA (23 Mar 2024) Pro-junta editor charged with defamation after criticizing ministry

<sup>54</sup> Irrawaddy (1 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Police Holding Hundreds of Civilians in Sagaing 'Concentration Camp'

<sup>55</sup> RFA (18 Mar 2024) Myanmar prison gets 'notorious' reputation following deaths

<sup>56</sup> Narinjara (17 Mar 2024) 24 political prisoners placed in solitary confinement inside Insein prison

their possession. Beatings by prison guards reportedly left several individuals with “**fractured legs, head wounds, and severe bruising**”. Prison officials reportedly blindfolded and took two prisoners out of the jail compound after the crackdown.<sup>57</sup> On 23 Mar, Dawei prison officials informed the family of political prisoners Win Thiha and Min Thu that they had **shot both men dead** during a trip out of the compound.<sup>58</sup>

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

On 8 Mar, Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica reported that the junta had committed **210 massacres that killed 2,079 people** between Feb 2021 - Dec 2023. More than half the massacres took place in Sagaing Region. During Sep - Dec 2023, the junta killed **142 civilians** during “**clearance operations**” or during clashes with resistance groups and killed a further **126 via aerial attacks**. A massacre was defined as the killing of five or more unarmed people in a single incident.<sup>59</sup>

### **New 3BHA-junta deal agreed in N. Shan State**

On 3 Mar, the **Three Brotherhood Alliance (3BHA)** announced an **agreement with the junta** after the 1-3 Mar Chinese-brokered talks in Kunming (China). As part of the agreement, the junta agreed to recognize the Myanmar Nationalities Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP) and the Myanmar Nationalities Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) as official controlling parties of the **Kokang Special Administrative Zone**. Both sides agreed that **30% of customs taxes at Chinshwehaw** (N. Shan State) **would go to the junta** while the MNDAA would receive 70%. Rates for other border crossings would be set at a later date. Both parties also agreed to **protect Chinese investments in Burma**.<sup>60</sup> On 11 Mar, the MNDAA reopened Chinshwehaw and Pang Hseng border trading posts. Border traders expressed concern over the lack of officially announced taxation rules and the impacts of road and bridge damage on the flow of goods.<sup>61</sup>

During 17-19 Mar, the seven signatories to the **Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)** held a conference in Chiang Mai (Thailand) and established the **7 EAO alliance**. The alliance would be led by Yawd Serk of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS). The group aimed to “establish a Federal Democratic Union for [Burma]” through actively engaging in “all-party dialogue”.<sup>62</sup>

### **Junta shuffles commanders after country-wide losses**

On 25 Mar, Irrawaddy reported that the junta **replaced commanders** in Arakan, Mon, and Karen States after **significant losses in all three states**. Brigadier-General Kyaw Lin Maung replaced Major-General Soe Min as chief of the Southeastern Command while Soe Min was appointed commander of the Coastal Region Command, based in Tanintharyi Region. In Arakan State, Brigadier-General Kyaw Kyaw Han was replaced Major-General Htin Latt Oo as head of the Western Command.<sup>63</sup>

### **Sagaing Region**

Junta forces continued raids with scorched-earth tactics in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR reported 1,199,700 civilians displaced in Sagaing as of 25 Mar 2024.<sup>64</sup>

**Junta razes Kani to prevent resistance takeover:** During 2-7 Mar, in Kani Township, the junta carried out airstrikes and displaced at least 10,000 locals. Residents said the junta had **sent reinforcements** and carried out at least **50 airstrikes since 2 Mar**. On 7 Mar, resistance forces said they were close to fully seizing Kani town. Clashes killed at least one civilian.<sup>65</sup> On 10 Mar, junta aerial attacks injured a civilian and destroyed two houses in Muhtaw village despite a lack of fighting. The same day, junta fighter jets bombed Kani town.<sup>66</sup> On 12 Mar, **resistance forces abandoned their attempt to seize Kani town**. Residents said that **Kani was in ashes and full of bodies**.<sup>67</sup> During 18-20 Mar, the junta decapitated two

<sup>57</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2024) Inmates beaten, isolated for allegedly using mobile phones in Dawei Prison

<sup>58</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2024) Junta authorities execute political prisoner outside detention facility in Dawei; RFA (4 Mar 2024) Junta troops kill 2 political prisoners after removing them from jail

<sup>59</sup> Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica (8 Mar 2024) Massacres Carried Out By the Military

<sup>60</sup> Northern Alliance (3 Mar 2024) 景颇大地联军果敢部队与缅方达成共识

<sup>61</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2024) MNDAA reopens two Myanmar-China border trading points

<sup>62</sup> 7 EAO Alliance via Facebook (20 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/3cyrfjh7>

<sup>63</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Mar 2024) Myanmar Military Commanders Replaced in Rakhine, Mon and Karen states: Sources

<sup>64</sup> UNHCR (25 Mar 2024) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 25 Mar 2024)

<sup>65</sup> Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2024) Fighting escalates in Sagaing Region as Myanmar junta struggles to hold, recover ground

<sup>66</sup> Mizzima (13 Mar 2024) Unprovoked junta helicopter attack on Sagaing village

<sup>67</sup> RFA (15 Mar 2024) Junta regains control of still-smoldering city in Myanmar

civilians and a resistance fighter, torched over 180 houses during raids on six villages, conducted airstrikes on several other villages, and injured two civilians.<sup>68</sup>

**Clashes continue in razed Kawlin:** During 2-4 Mar, in Kawlin Township, after having recaptured and torched 80% of Kawlin town, the junta clashed with resistance forces and launched **airstrikes that damaged 30 buildings**, including two schools and a clinic. A People's Defence Team (PDT) member said that junta troops continued **looting and torching houses** in villages and that **fighting persisted**. Residents said that the junta had torched houses in over 25 villages and that three civilians had been found dead after a village raid on 1 Mar. Junta ground, air and artillery strikes had forced over 30,000 residents of urban areas and 30 villages to flee. Over 15,000 drivers and travelers who had been stranded near Kyauktan village on the Shwebo-Myitkyna road since 27 Feb were able to leave after the junta headed towards Kyauk Phato, a gold-mining area, on 6 Mar.<sup>69</sup>

**Ogre and Wathawa columns terrorize Taze:** During 21 Feb - 3 Mar, in Taze Township, the Ogre Column **killed 11 people** including nine civilians and **severely mutilated** nine of them in nine different villages. The attacks forced about 30,000 residents to flee from 40 villages.<sup>70</sup> During 22-25 Mar, the junta's ultranationalist monk-led Wathawa Column killed six people, dismembered one, torched houses in three villages, and forced over 10,000 villagers to flee.<sup>71</sup> On 28 Mar, the Wathawa Column torched around 70 houses and a school housing IDPs in Mon Hla village, the birthplace of **Catholic Cardinal** Charles Maung Bo.<sup>72</sup>

**Junta burns alive the elderly:** On 5 Mar, in Monywa Township, junta troops raided Hkto Than village, torched 100 houses and **burned alive an elderly woman**. On 8 Mar, they torched another 88 houses.<sup>73</sup> On 14 Mar, the junta killed six civilians, arrested 35 others, and torched over 400 houses in That Kal Kyin village.<sup>74</sup> During 18-20 Mar, in Taze Township, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members raided and torched Myauk-Inn village, **burned one elderly woman alive**, occupied two other villages, and forced 5,000 residents to flee.<sup>75</sup>

**Junta continues detaining civilians in razed Tigyaing:** On 12 Mar, it was reported that most of the **60 civilians** the junta had arrested upon returning to Zee Kone and Pa Dau Khla villages on 1 Feb were **still being held in Tigyaing** town. The PDF claimed that the junta had **killed over 120 civilians and destroyed 90% of Tigyaing** since 10 Nov.<sup>76</sup>

**Resistance advances in Kale:** During 14-21 Mar, in Kale Township, it was reported that clashes since 21 Feb had displaced over 50,000 residents. Since the Kale PDT had issued a final warning on 27 Feb, about **65% of residents had fled Kale** town. Regime forces had increased the number of artillery attacks across the township and **killed an estimated 30 civilians**. On 17 Mar, Kale PDF said it had captured the Pyu Saw Htee village of Kyaung Taik. On 21 Mar, Kale PDF said it had seized Aung Myin Thar village.<sup>77</sup>

## Magway Region

On 18 Mar, in Salin Township, Salin PDF **shot dead the junta-appointed administrator** of Pa Khet Taing village while he called on residents to enlist in the military.<sup>78</sup> On 20 Mar, in Yenangyaung Township, local PDF **shot dead the administrator and clerk** of Oke Shit Kone village tract after they compiled draft lists.<sup>79</sup>

During 26-28 Mar, in Ngape Township, the **AA and the junta clashed** in Tone Gyi village on 26 Mar and in Chaung Phyar village on 28 Mar. The AA had blocked access to the road between Ann Township (Arakan State) and Ngape due to fighting. The junta had restricted travel into Ngape since Feb.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2024) Myanmar army beheads two civilians and a resistance fighter during raids in Kani, Sagaing Region

<sup>69</sup> Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2024) Kawlin Firestorm Expands as Myanmar Junta Bombs Civilians in Sagaing

<sup>70</sup> Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2024) 'Ogre Column' Butchers More Civilians in Myanmar's Sagaing Region

<sup>71</sup> Mizzima (29 Mar 2024) Junta sets fire to Sagaing village beheading and mutilating PDF member

<sup>72</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta mounts third attack on Catholic archbishop's home village since coup

<sup>73</sup> Mizzima (8 Mar 2024) Junta sets fire to Monywa Township village twice in five days

<sup>74</sup> DVB (18 Mar 2024) Yangon and Mandalay residents prepare for conscription; Human rights expert calls for free internet

<sup>75</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Mar 2024) Invalid Left to Face Flames as 5,000 Sagaing Civilians Flee Myanmar Junta Raids

<sup>76</sup> DVB (12 Mar 2024) Fighting in Karen State intensifies; Five killed by artillery in Rohingya neighborhood of Sittwe

<sup>77</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2024) Myanmar Resistance's 'Final Warning' to Junta Sparks Civilian Exodus in Kale Warzone; Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2024) Fighting near Kalay leaves at least 10 civilians dead; Irrawaddy (22 Mar 2024) More Than 30 Civilians Killed by Myanmar Junta in Sagaing: Volunteers

<sup>78</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Mar 2024) Two village administrators shot dead for assisting Myanmar regime's conscription effort

<sup>79</sup> RFA (23 Mar 2024) Rebel groups kill officials recruiting for Myanmar's junta

<sup>80</sup> Myanmar Now (2 Mar 2024) Battles with Arakan Army escalate near junta's Western command headquarters



## Chin State

On 10 Mar, a Chin Defence Force (CDF)-owned truck exploded, killed two children, and injured three others playing near the truck in **Hakha Township**.<sup>81</sup> On 25 Mar, the junta shelled downtown **Hakha Town**, killed one person and destroyed a house.<sup>82</sup> On 8 and 15 Mar, the junta carried out two airstrikes in **Mindat Township**, killed two civilians injured six others, and destroyed a church, school, and one house. Four of the casualties were under ten years old.<sup>83</sup>

**Chin infighting continues:** On 6 Mar, the Kanpetlet CDF announced that they had joined the **Chin Brotherhood Alliance (CBA)**. The CBA was formed by several Chin resistance forces at the end of Dec by Chin groups which had not participated in the formation of the CNF-led Chinland Council.<sup>84</sup>

On 9 Mar, the **Maraland Defence Force (MDF)** arrested a village headman and his brother in a small village near Lailengpi town because they were reportedly sharing military information with the Chin National Front (CNF) and the Mara CDF. Another villager called for their release and stated that the headman had been democratically elected by the villagers. A column of MDF troops had reportedly been deployed near the village for two weeks prior to the arrests.<sup>85</sup>

## Arakan State

**Junta kills Arakan civilians in droves:** RFA reported that, during 1-18 Mar, junta airstrikes and shelling killed 73 civilians and injured 103 others across **Arakan State**.<sup>86</sup> DVB reported that during 17-24 Mar, in **Mrauk-U, Myebon, and Minbya townships**, junta airstrikes and shelling killed 31 civilians and injured 60 others.<sup>87</sup>

On 2 Mar, the junta carried out airstrikes and shelled Nyaung Kan village in **Myebon**, killed at least 10 people, and injured 10 others. The attack destroyed a monastery ordination hall, a school, and a number of houses.<sup>88</sup> On 9 Mar, the junta shelled two majority-Rohingya wards in **Sittwe**, killed eight Rohingya, and injured nine others. The junta reportedly enforced travel bans more harshly for Rohingya and had made it impossible for most to escape the threat of fighting.<sup>89</sup>

**Ponnagyun Town Seized:** On 4 Mar, the AA announced that they had taken control of **Ponnagyun Town** after seizing the junta's 550th Light Infantry Battalion base near the town. **Ponnagyun** is just 33 km away from Sittwe.<sup>90</sup> The junta responded by bombing and destroying a bridge connecting Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships. They also repeatedly shelled and carried out airstrikes on several villages surrounding **Ponnagyun Town**.<sup>91</sup> The town's seizure meant the AA had blocked all ground routes into **Sittwe**.<sup>92</sup> A town resident reported that junta shelling had destroyed roughly 70% of the town.<sup>93</sup>

**Ramree Town Seized:** On 12 Mar, the AA announced that it had seized control of the **Ramree Town**, near the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ). **Ramree** was the first town taken by the AA in Southern Arakan state. The AA first launched their offensive on **Ramree** on 8 Dec. Since then, the junta had bombed the town heavily and destroyed more than 200 houses, including a hospital. A former politician stated the AA's presence around the Kyaukphyu SEZ would mean they would influence how the Chinese-backed deep sea port and gas pipeline would develop.<sup>94</sup> The AA warned Ramree residents not to return to their homes because of junta-planted mines and bombs.<sup>95</sup>

**Rathedaung Township Seized:** On 8 Mar, Narinjara reported that the AA had launched an attack on the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 536, 537, and 538 in **Rathedaung Township**.<sup>96</sup> On 17 Mar, the AA confirmed they had taken full control of all three bases after intense clashes with junta troops. The AA reported finding bodies of recently conscripted Rohingya at the camps.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> DVB (13 Mar 2024) Arakan Army claims control of Ramree Island town; More regime troops flee into Bangladesh

<sup>82</sup> CHRO via Twitter (26 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/yc78tr2h>

<sup>83</sup> Khonumthung (20 Mar 2024) Burma army airstrike kills two and injures four in Mindat Township

<sup>84</sup> Khonumthung (12 Mar 2024) Kanpetlet Chinland Defense Force joins Chin Brotherhood Alliance

<sup>85</sup> Khonumthung (14 Mar 2024) MDF arrests village headman and brother near Lailengpi town

<sup>86</sup> RFA (22 Mar 2024) Airstrikes and shelling have killed 70 civilians in Myanmar's Rakhine state

<sup>87</sup> DVB (1 Apr 2024) Military welcomes new conscripts to training camps; US official meets with resistance groups

<sup>88</sup> Narinjara (23 Mar 2024) 10 killed, 10 injured in Myebon after junta's airstrikes

<sup>89</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta shelling kills eight displaced Rohingya people in Sittwe

<sup>90</sup> Narinjara (5 Mar 2024) AA confirms capture of Ponnagyun near Sittwe

<sup>91</sup> Narinjara (5 Mar 2024) Villages engulfed in flames, bridges damaged in Ponnagyun after junta's airstrikes

<sup>92</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Mar 2024) AA Seizes Ponnagyun, Stepping Stone to Capital of Myanmar's Rakhine State

<sup>93</sup> Mizzima (11 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta shell Rakhine's Ponnagyun town captured by Arakan Army

<sup>94</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Mar 2024) AA Seizes Rakhine Town Near Key Chinese Port Project

<sup>95</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Mar 2024) AA Seizes Rakhine Town Near Key Chinese Port Project

<sup>96</sup> Narinjara (8 Mar 2024) Intense clash erupts in Rathedaung, AA may capture the town any moment

<sup>97</sup> Narinjara (18 Mar 2024) AA Confirms Complete Capture of All 3 Battalions in Rathedaung

**AA attacks Maungdaw and Buthidaung:** On 11 Mar, the AA announced that they had seized the Aung Thabyay border outpost in **northern Maungdaw Township**. Shortly afterwards, a group of **179 junta troops who had been stationed at the camp fled across the border into Bangladesh**.<sup>98</sup> It was also reported that gunfire from the Burmese side of the border injured a **Bangladesh** civilian.<sup>99</sup> The AA also accused junta troops of **leaving poisoned food** at the camps.<sup>100</sup>

On 23 Mar, the AA announced it had seized control of the Yan Aung Myin outpost in **Maungdaw Township**, partially seized the nearby Kyein Chaung border guard station, and launched an attack on the junta's LIB 552 base in **Buthidaung Township**.<sup>101</sup> The following day, they took control of the Tamanthar police outpost after around **100 junta troops surrendered** to the them.<sup>102</sup> On 27-28 Mar, the AA announced that it had seized the LIB 552 and Taung Bazaar base in **Buthidaung Township**.<sup>103</sup>

**Ann Township up next:** On 27 Mar, the AA attacked and seized control of a junta supply base, located 1.6 km down road from the junta's LIB 372 base in **Ann Township**. The **junta's Western Command** is based in **Ann Township**. By the end of Mar, the AA had taken junta positions in 12 of 17 total townships in Arakan State and had full control in eight townships.<sup>104</sup>

## Kachin State

**KIA and resistance forces intensify attacks near Laiza:** During 7-11 Mar, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied resistance forces launched attacks on multiple junta camps near Laiza town in Waingmaw Township and along the Myitkyina-Bhamo highway. They seized over 20 junta camps, including Infantry Battalion 142 camp based in **Dawthponeyan, Shwe Min militia's Nlung Kha camp, Shadan Pa camp, and Hka Ya Bum camp** near the KIA's HQ in Laiza. The junta launched aerial attacks and forced over 5,000 civilians from 20 villages to flee.<sup>105</sup> The KIA also captured the Military Operations Command (MOC) 21's Bumre Bum camp near Laiza on 15 Mar, the junta's largest camp in the area.<sup>106</sup> During 16-21 Mar, the KIA and its allies captured **the junta's Narhpawt camp and three others** located near Laiza. The junta launched airstrikes near the Narhpawt camp in response.<sup>107</sup> Kachin resistance forces also seized **six junta camps in the Nahpaw Pajau Bum area** between KIA HQ and Pajau Bum.<sup>108</sup>

**KIA captures junta camps in Sumprabum:** It was reported that during 7-28 Mar, KIA and allied resistance forces clashed with junta troops and captured **over 40 junta camps in Sumprabum Township**. The fighting forced 1,300 locals to flee. It was also reported that KIA and resistance forces had yet to capture the junta's remaining base in the area located on a hill near Sumprabum town and occupied by the junta's Infantry Battalion 46.<sup>109</sup>

**KIA seizes junta camps leading to Laiza:** On 14-23 Mar, the KIA and allied resistance forces seized the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 237 camp in Dasai Dap village in **Momauk Township**. The junta retaliated by launching airstrikes in the area.<sup>110</sup> A week later, they captured Numlang camp, occupied by LIB 438 and LIB 616's artillery branches. This camp functioned as a staging point for junta troops and supplies from Bhamo bound for regime camps near Laiza.<sup>111</sup> They also seized the LIB 438's artillery battalion camp in Nawng Kawn village and four other important camps in the area.<sup>112</sup> Citing a KIA source, it was reported that the **KIA controlled all the junta camps between Momauk and Laiza**.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>98</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2024) Arakan Army Claims Seizure of Myanmar Junta Border Outpost

<sup>99</sup> DVB (13 Mar 2024) Arakan Army claims control of Ramree Island town; More regime troops flee into Bangladesh

<sup>100</sup> Mizzima (15 Mar 2024) AA warns that retreating junta troops are leaving poisoned food

<sup>101</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Mar 2024) AA Steps Up Offensives on Myanmar Junta Border Camps; Narinjara (25 Mar 2024) AA captures Yan Aung Myin outpost in northern Maungdaw

<sup>102</sup> DMG (25 Mar 2024) About 100 regime soldiers surrender in Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>103</sup> Narinjara (27 Mar 2024) AA captures 552nd battalion based in Buthidaung; DMG (29 Mar 2024) Fighting between Arakan Army, military intensifies in Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>104</sup> DMG (28 Mar 2024) Arakan Army seizes key military supply base in Ann Twsp

<sup>105</sup> Kachin News Group (11 Mar 2024) KIO ဌာနချုပ်ကို ပိတ်ဆို့ထားတဲ့ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်အားလုံးကို တိုက်ထုတ်မယ့် စစ်ဆင်ရေး

<sup>106</sup> Kachin News Group (15 Mar 2024) လိုင်ဇာမြို့ကို ခြိမ်းခြောက်တဲ့ ဘွဲ့ခွဲချိတ်တပ်ခန့်ကို KIA ထပ်မံ သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>107</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2024) KIA and allies capture more Myanmar army camps near Laiza

<sup>108</sup> Kachin News Group (21 Mar 2024) နာဟော့ ပါဂျော့ဘွဲ့ခွဲ (Nahpaw Pajau Bum) က စစ်တပ်စခန်း ၆ ခုကို KIA အပြီးသတ်သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>109</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Mar 2024) KIA, allies continue bid to take full control of northern Kachin town; Kachin News Group (28 Mar 2024) ဆွမ်ပရာဘွဲ့ခွဲတိုက်ပွဲ ရက်ပေါင်း ၂၀ ကျော်ကြာလာပေမယ့် စခန်းသိမ်းနိုင်ခြင်းမရှိသေး; Kachin News Group (28 Mar 2024)

ဆွမ်ပရာဘွဲ့ခွဲတိုက်ပွဲ ရက်ပေါင်း ၂၀ ကျော်ကြာလာပေမယ့် စခန်းသိမ်းနိုင်ခြင်းမရှိသေး

<sup>110</sup> Kachin News Group (14 Mar 2024) မိုးမောက်နယ် ဒါဆိုင်(Dasai) တပ်စခန်းကို KIA က သိမ်းပိုက်နိုင်

<sup>111</sup> Kachin News Group (22 Mar 2024) ဒုံးတပ်အပါ ထောက်ပံ့တပ်စခန်းအကြီးဖြစ်တဲ့ နွမ်လန် တပ်စခန်း ၂ ခုကို KIA က တစ်ရက်ထဲ သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>112</sup> Kachin News Group (23 Mar 2024) နောင်ကွန်(Nawng kawn)အမြောက်တပ်ကြီးကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>113</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Mar 2024) လိုင်ဇာသွားလမ်းပေါ်က ကျန်ရှိနေသေးတဲ့ တပ်စခန်း ၄ ခုကို KIA တပ်ဖွဲ့တွေ အပြီးသတ်သိမ်းပိုက်နိုင်

During 27-28 Mar, Kachin resistance forces captured **five junta camps**, including two strategic camps near **Loije**, a trading-focused town on the China-Burma border.<sup>114</sup>

**KIA captured camps in Jade town:** On 14 Mar, it was reported that, KIA and allied resistance forces had captured **five main junta camps**—Nant Tein, Hway Hkar, Tar Ma Hkan, Kasen Bum, and Nam Hmaw—in **Hpakant Township** since January.<sup>115</sup>

**Junta attacks in Bhamo:** On 15 Mar, it was reported that the junta's MOC-21 shelled Moe Sein Kyun, Maing Kar, Kam Ni, and Sin Kin villages in **Bhamo Township** and killed four women and four children.<sup>116</sup>

### Northern Shan State

**Ceasefire deals fail to slow the junta:** On 7 Mar, the junta deployed a large number of **troops from Eastern Central Command** based in **Namsang** in Mongyai Township to the Mongnawng-Mongyai area, where the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) was present and active.<sup>117</sup> On 8 Mar, after the junta and 3BHA agreed to a ceasefire, the junta deployed a large number of **troops in Kyaukme, Hseni, and Lashio**. The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the SSPP separately massed troops in the Kyaukme area. No cooperation between them was reported.<sup>118</sup> On 25 Mar, **the junta also broke the ceasefire agreement** when regime troops from Infantry Battalion 55 advanced into MNDA territory and clashed with MNDA forces between Long Mun and Ping Kaing villages near Lashio Town.<sup>119</sup> On 26-27 Mar, clashes broke out between the MNDA and the SSPP in Hseni town. The SSPP claimed it had acted in self-defense and committed to resolving disagreements through dialogue. Locals reported that SSPP-MNDA clashes in the township were a result of territorial disputes.<sup>120</sup>

**Normalcy returns in TNLA-controlled area:** On 12 Mar, it was reported that the majority of residents from TNLA-controlled Namhsan, Manton, and Namtu Townships had opted to remain despite the concern caused by the junta's martial law declaration in those townships. One Namhsan resident said that **normalcy had returned to the town** and that shops, restaurants, hotels had reopened.<sup>121</sup>

### Karenni State

**Airstrikes and shelling in Hpasawng:** On 3 Mar, the junta dropped 500-lb bombs on a monastery and a hospital in Hpasawng town, killed at least four IDPs sheltering in the monastery, injured several others, and destroyed buildings in the hospital compound. The junta troops also **shelled the town** and destroyed houses and buildings.<sup>122</sup> It was reported that, as of 18 March 2024, junta attacks in Karenni State had killed 43 children since the attempted coup. U Banyar, Second Secretary of the IEC, mentioned that the IEC was building cases on junta crimes committed against civilians to hold the perpetrators accountable.<sup>123</sup>

**Cities come under resistance control:** On 14 Mar, it was reported that after two weeks of clashes, the Karenni Army (KA), the Karenni People's Liberation Front (KPLF), the KNDF, and local PDFs, took **control of the junta's Infantry Battalion 135's base in Hpasawng town and the town itself**.<sup>124</sup> On 25 Mar, it was reported that Karenni resistance forces had captured 65 junta camps in Demoso, Loikaw, Hpasawng, Shardaw, Bawlakhe, Mese, and Hpruso Townships (Karenni State) and Pekon Township (S. Shan State) and **occupied 90 percent of the state**. The resistance forces took control over Moebye, Ywathit, Nam Mae Khong, Demoso, Mawchi, Shardaw, and Mese towns. There were **no junta troops in Mese and Shadaw Townships**.

### Southern Shan State

**Junta attacks Hopong and Hsihseng Townships:** On 6 Mar, the Pa'O National Liberation Army (PNLA) stated that the junta's artillery and drone attacks on **Hopong township** destroyed several buildings,

<sup>114</sup> Kachin News Group (28 Mar 2024) သက်တမ်းကြာ လွယ်လျယ် ယော်ယုံ(Yaw Yung)နဲ့ မဒါ(Mada) တပ်စခန်း ၂ခုကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>115</sup> Kachin News Group (14 Mar 2024) ဖားကန်မှာ ၂ လအတွင်း စစ်တပ်စခန်း ၅ ခုအထက် KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>116</sup> Kachin News Group (15 Mar 2024) Burma army shelling in Bhamo Township kills eight people including four children

<sup>117</sup> SHAN (8 Mar 2024) SSPP လှုပ်ရှားနယ်မြေဆီသို့ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ အင်းအား အလုံးအရင်း ဖြန့်ကျက်နေ

<sup>118</sup> SHAN (8 Mar 2024) သျှမ်းမြောက်၌ အပြိုင်အဆိုင် စစ်ပြင်

<sup>119</sup> Myanmar Now (28 Mar 2024) Hostilities resume between Myanmar military and MNDA

<sup>120</sup> Mizzima (30 Mar 2024) SSPP and MNDA clash in Hseni Township, northern Shan State

<sup>121</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Mar 2024) Most civilians choose to stay in TNLA-controlled areas despite worries after martial law declaration

<sup>122</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (7 Mar 2024) Airstrikes hit monastery and hospital in Hpasawng

<sup>123</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (18 Mar 2024) အာဏာသိမ်းပြီးနောက် ကရင်နီပြည်မှာ စစ်ပဋိပက္ခအတွင်း သေဆုံးတဲ့ ကလေး ၄၃ ဦးရှိ

<sup>124</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2024) Karenni resistance fighters occupy Thailand-Myanmar border town of Hpasawng

including hospitals.<sup>125</sup> On 7 Mar, a total of 34 junta trucks carrying troops and rations headed from Taunggyi town to Hopong township.<sup>126</sup> On 8 Mar, the junta **bombed Kyauk Ka Char village** in Hopong Township, killed one man, and destroyed at least six houses.<sup>127</sup> On 16 Mar, a junta jet fighter dropped 500-lbs bombs on the village and destroyed at least four houses.<sup>128</sup>

On 11 Mar, the junta fired around **40 artillery shells on Hsihseng town** and destroyed 75% of the town. There were no clashes at the time of the attack.<sup>129</sup> On 13 Mar, the junta **torched all 100 houses** in Nam Hu village, located 16 km from Hopong town. A local said that the junta troops had already **burned down at least seven villages** in Me Nei Taung village tract, near Hopong.<sup>130</sup> On 22 Mar, it was reported that junta troops and allied PNLO forces clashed with resistance forces for over four days in Hsawpyaw and Namparmu villages in **Pinlaung Township** and forced locals to flee.<sup>131</sup>

On 8 Mar, the PNLA claimed that the **junta had used chemical bombs** and that PNLA members suffered dizziness, rashes, and behaved erratically after inhaling the gas from the bombs.<sup>132</sup> On 11 Mar, the Pa-O Youth Organisation stated that junta airstrikes, shelling, gunfire, and arbitrary arrests in **Hsihseng, Pinlaung, Hopong, and Loilem** during 21 Jan - 9 Mar **killed 49 civilians, including five children**. The junta reportedly dropped over 408 bombs, fired over 1500 shells, and destroyed around 200 buildings.<sup>133</sup>

## Karen State

**KNLA takes bases around Myawaddy Town:** On 7 Mar, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) reportedly attacked the junta's LIB 355 base and a police station near **Thingan Nyi Naung** village, outside of **Myawaddy Town**. On 9 Mar, they seized the camp and police station from the junta. In retaliation, the junta's LIB 356 and 357 bases shelled the seized camp heavily. **Junta shelling destroyed nearly 60 houses during fighting and forced nearly all 7,000 residents to flee**. A large number of locals fled into Thailand.<sup>134</sup> On 8 Mar, the junta shelled nearby Ywar Thit village, killed three people, and injured eleven others.<sup>135</sup> Later that day, shrapnel from a junta bomb killed another two men fleeing Thingan Nyi Naung. It was reported that around 200 people remained trapped in the village as fighting continued.<sup>136</sup> Irrawaddy reported that the junta continued to shell and bomb the area through 13 Mar.<sup>137</sup>

On 11 Mar, KNLA troops also took control of the **Hpa Lu Gyi camp**, located 14 km south of **Myawaddy**. **Most of the junta soldiers stationed at the camp fled across the border into Thailand**.<sup>138</sup> On 19 Mar, a group of **48 junta soldiers fled into Thailand** after the KNLA seized a junta base near Mae Tha Raw Hta village.<sup>139</sup> On 21 Mar, a group of 26 junta soldiers abandoned camp near **Kyaikdon Town** in Kyainseikgyi Township and **fled to Thailand** after the KNLA attacked their camp.<sup>140</sup>

**KNLA takes Hpapun Town:** On 7 Mar, citing a member of a KNLA-aligned drone strike team, Karen News reported that the junta had abandoned three camps in southern **Mutraw District**, since Jan 2024.<sup>141</sup> On 19 Mar, joint KNLA-PDF forces launched an attack on junta troops in **Hpapun Town**, in KNU-defined Mutraw District. On 24 Mar, a junta drone attack killed a woman and a toddler in the town. On 26 Mar, joint resistance troops seized control of the town. Hpapun had been held by the Burmese military since 1955. On 30 Mar, the KNLA captured the nearby Infantry Battalion (IB) 19 and Armory 642 headquarters. KNLA troops reportedly helped evacuate civilians out of the town during fighting. On the

<sup>125</sup> MN (8 Mar 2024) Myanmar military deploys 'kamikaze drones' in southern Shan State

<sup>126</sup> SHAN (8 Mar 2024) SSPP လှုပ်ရှားနယ်မြေဆီသို့ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ အင်းအား အလုံးအရင်း ဖြန့်ကျက်နေ

<sup>127</sup> SHAN (8 Mar 2024) ဟိုပုံးမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက် အရပ်သား ၁ဦးသေ၊နေအိမ် ၆ လုံးထက်မနည်း ပျက်စီး

<sup>128</sup> SHAN (17 Mar 2024) ဟိုပုံးမြို့နယ် ကျောက္ကဆျာကျေးရွာ စစ်ကောင်စီလေတပ် ပေါင် ၅၀၀ ဗုံးကြဲချ ဖျက်ဆီး

<sup>129</sup> SHAN (13 Mar 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီ အကြောင်းမဲ့ ပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် ဆီဆိုင်မြို့ အပျက်အစီးများ

<sup>130</sup> SHAN (14 Mar 2024) ဟိုပုံးမြို့နယ် နမ်ဟူးကျေးရွာ ပြာကျသည့်အထိ စစ်ကောင်စီ မီးရှို့

<sup>131</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (22 Mar 2024) Intensified Fighting in Paing-Laung Township Forces Villager Displacement

<sup>132</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (8 Mar 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီရဲ့ ဓာတုအဆိပ်ငွေ့ဗုံး အသုံးပြုတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ထိခိုက်တဲ့ ရဲဘော်(၈)ဦး ဆေးဝါးကုသမှု

ခံယူနေရကြောင်း PNLA ပြော

<sup>133</sup> "Kantarawaddy Times (12 Mar 2024) ရှမ်းပြည်တောင်ပိုင်းမှာ တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်ပွားပြီး (၄၉)ရက်အတွင်း ကလေးငယ်အပါအဝင် အရပ်သား (၄၉)ဦးသေဆုံး သတင်း"

<sup>134</sup> Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2024) Karen Resistance Hails Victories Over Myanmar Junta Near Thai Border

<sup>135</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2024) Junta airstrike destroys elderly care home in Karen State, killing two people

<sup>136</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Mar 2024) Hundreds of locals trapped as fighting between Karen forces and military continues in Myawaddy Township

<sup>137</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Defends Bases on Thai Border With Shelling

<sup>138</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2024) KNLA retakes camp it lost to Myanmar military more than three decades ago

<sup>139</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Soldiers Flee to Thailand as War Escalates Near Border

<sup>140</sup> RFA (22 Mar 2024) Junta troops flee fighting into Thailand from Myanmar's Kayin state

<sup>141</sup> Karen News (7 Mar 2024) Junta Withdraws From 3 Camps in KNU 5th Brigade Territory

same day, the junta carried out **an airstrike on a school and a monastery** housing around 200 IDPs, killed six people including two women and a monk, and injured at least 15. Junta airstrikes and shelling displaced approximately 1,000 people in the district. At least four junta battalions remained active in **Mutraw District**, despite **Hpapun's seizure**.<sup>142</sup>

**Junta burns down Kawkareik:** On 11 Mar, the junta dropped bombs on two wards in **Kawkareik Town** and burnt down at least 80 houses. The junta had destroyed at least 400 houses since fighting entered **Kawkareik** in Dec 2023.<sup>143</sup> On 24 Mar, Independent Mon News Agency reported that at least 50 IDPs had been forced to return to **Kawkareik**, despite continued instability. Many IDPs faced food and medicine shortages and lacked access to sufficient humanitarian aid.<sup>144</sup>

**New name, who dis:** On 5 Mar, the **Karen Border Guard Force (BGF)** announced that they were rebranding themselves as the '**Karen National Army**' (**KNA**) to further distance themselves from the junta. It was also reported that the group had begun taxing businesses and casinos in Shwe Kokko.<sup>145</sup>

## **Bago Region**

On 6 Mar, it was reported that the junta destroyed two bridges across the Sittaung River in **Yedashe Township** in Feb out of fear that resistance troops were planning an attack across the river. The junta also reportedly imposed tight restrictions on the goods villagers could transport across the river.<sup>146</sup>

During 7-9 Mar, in **Phyu Township**, the junta attacked by drone and shelled two villages, killed six people, injured six others, and burned down at least six houses. Despite there being no recent fighting in Phyu Township, the junta continued to carry out drone and shelling attacks on civilians in the township.<sup>147</sup>

During 8-14 Mar, a junta column from the junta's LIB 20 carried out a number of raids on Pazunmyaung village in **Nyaunglebin Township**, **burned down around 800 houses, planted landmines** around the village, and forced the entire village to flee.<sup>148</sup>

## **Tanintharyi Region**

On 8 Mar, HURFOM reported that up to 3,000 villagers were hiding in forests as clashes between the junta and resistance forces continued in Eastern Dawei Township.<sup>149</sup> During 9-16 Mar, a junta column traveling to **Eastern Dawei Township** clashed with resistance troops, abducted four people, shot dead a child, and injured two other abductees.<sup>150</sup>

On 2 Mar, the junta carried out a number of airstrikes on villages in **Thayetchaung Township**, forced more than seven villages to flee their homes, and destroyed houses in at least two villages. Prior to the attack, resistance forces attacked a Pyu Saw Htee base in Yaung Maw village and clashed with junta troops.<sup>151</sup> On 4 Mar, in **Thayetchaung Township**, junta troops clashed with resistance fighters in Win Wa village, carried out airstrikes on several nearby villages, hit a passenger bus on the highway, killed one passenger, and injured five others.<sup>152</sup>

## **Mon State**

HURFOM reported that in March, in **Mon** and **Karen** states as well as **Tanintharyi Region**, the **junta killed eleven women, injured 23, arbitrarily arrested 17, and forcibly disappeared two**.<sup>153</sup>

On 15 Mar, it was reported that more than 100 troops from the NMSPAD took up positions around Ah Nin village, in **Thanbyuzayat Township**. In response, all local villagers fled the area.<sup>154</sup> On 18 Mar, the junta fired and shelled resistance troops and destroyed one house as they tried to enter the village.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2024) Ethnic Karen-led forces seize Hpapun town from military; Irrawaddy (1 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Loses Armory, Battalion Amid Escalating Attacks in Karen State; Irrawaddy (1 Apr 2024) Myanmar air force bombs monastery in Mutraw District after capture of Hpapun

<sup>143</sup> HURFOM (14 Mar 2024) 80 houses burnt down again in an intense battle in Kaw Ka Rate

<sup>144</sup> Myanmar Peace Monitor (24 Mar 2024) Food and accommodation difficulties force some Kawkareik IDPs to return home

<sup>145</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2024) Karen BGF to rename itself 'Karen National Army'

<sup>146</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2024) Myanmar's military destroys bridges to prevent resistance forces crossing Sittaung River

<sup>147</sup> Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (9 Mar 2024) Four Civilians, including a Child, killed by Junta Artillery Fire in Bago Region;

Myanmar PressPhoto Agency (10 Mar 2024) Bago Region: Two civilians killed in a drone attack by Junta troops

<sup>148</sup> Mizzima (18 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta forces plant landmines and burn homes in a Bago village

<sup>149</sup> HURFOM (8 Mar 2024) 3,000 residents flee homes in Dawei Eastern Forest area due to intense battle

<sup>150</sup> HURFOM (1 Apr 2024) March 2024: Monthly Overview of the Human Rights Situation

<sup>151</sup> HURFOM (1 Apr 2024) March 2024: Monthly Overview of the Human Rights Situation

<sup>152</sup> HURFOM (8 Mar 2024) Air assault kills elderly woman, injures four others in Tha Yet Chaung; RFA (5 Mar 2024) Junta airstrike hits passenger bus in Myanmar, killing woman

<sup>153</sup> HURFOM (1 Apr 2024) March 2024: Monthly Overview of the Human Rights Situation

<sup>154</sup> HURFOM (15 Mar 2024) Ah Nin villagers flee due to military tension

<sup>155</sup> Independent Mon News (19 Mar 2024) Constant Police Fire Forces Ahnin Village Residents to Flee

**Resistance take Kawt Bein:** On 24 Mar, joint resistance forces attacked the **Kawt Bein police station** in Kawkareik Township (Karen State), along the border between Mon and Karen State. On the following day, they took control of the village. The KNLA and NMSPAD were both involved in the offensive.<sup>156</sup> During 24-28 Mar, the junta shelled Kawt Bein and nearby Dhamma Tha and An Ka Sin villages in Kyaikmaraw Township (Mon State) and killed at least four civilians, including two children. In Dhamma Tha, **shelling burned down around 200 homes in the village**. The junta reportedly blocked fire trucks from traveling to Damma Tha after the attack.<sup>157</sup>

**Attacks on Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway:** On 23 Mar, the join **PDF-KNLA forces** clashed with junta troops along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway near Shwe Yaung Pya village, **Bilin Township**. Junta shelling during the fighting killed two civilians and injured four others.<sup>158</sup> On 22 Mar, the junta arrested a local from a village in **Bilin Township**, extorted nearly MMK 3.6 million from him, and shot him dead.<sup>159</sup> On 27 Mar, an **ambulance traveling** along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway **hit a landmine and was shot at** by unknown gunmen. The driver and patient sustained injuries in the attack.<sup>160</sup>

## Mandalay Region

In **Madaya Township**, junta forces raided villages in the east of the township on 23 Mar and torched 63 houses across five villages.<sup>161</sup> On the same day, junta forces shelled and injured five civilians in Seik Thar village, including an 11-year-old child. On 26 Mar, junta forces raided villages in west Madaya and forced one thousand locals from five villages to flee.<sup>162</sup> On 29 Mar, three junta columns raided Kyauk Sa Yit Kone, Hmaw Ni Kone, and Gyoegyarkan villages, arrested 60 villagers, and killed two men. The junta forces also torched four houses.<sup>163</sup>

In **Myingyan Township**, the junta carried out raids on at least six villages from 11 to 14 Mar, **torched around 220 houses**, killed nine civilians, **two of whom were burned alive**.<sup>164</sup> In **Singu Township**, junta forces shelled and injured four civilians on 31 Mar, including a child and a woman.<sup>165</sup>

## Yangon Region

On 1 Mar, NUG-affiliated resistance forces blew up a junta ship holding military fuel on Yangon river.<sup>166</sup> On the same day, bomb explosions in **Hlaingtharyar** and **Insein Townships** killed four people and injured one other.<sup>167</sup> On 10 Mar, an anti-junta group set off a bomb near Myanmar Economic Corp (MEC) employee housing.<sup>168</sup>

On 28 Mar, a bomb blast on **Sule Pagoda Road** severely injured five teenage boys. The group inadvertently set off the bomb while collecting recycling.<sup>169</sup> On 30 Mar, a homemade explosive went off near an administrator's home in **Taikkyi Township**, killed two young girls, and injured one other.<sup>170</sup>

## Rohingya

### Junta targets Rohingya amidst Arakan State conflict

On 1st Apr, it was reported that junta airstrikes and shelling had **killed at least 79 Rohingya civilians and injured 127 others** since 13 Nov 2023. Junta attacks had killed 27 Rohingya in Minbya Township, 24 in Buthidaung Township, and 17 in Kyauktaw.<sup>171</sup>

On 15 Mar, the junta carried out a **nighttime airstrike** on the majority Rohingya village of Thar Dar, in AA-controlled Minbya Township (Arakan State). The attack **killed 23 people and injured 30 others**. One local stated that **most people were sleeping** when the attack happened and that the bombing left behind "**piles of corpses**" in the town. The village had reportedly been a refuge for Rohingya fleeing

<sup>156</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Mar 2024) Over 30 Myanmar Junta Personnel Surrender at Karen State Police Station

<sup>157</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2024) Military attacks villages as Karen, Mon forces seize police station in Kawkareik Township

<sup>158</sup> HURFOM (28 Mar 2024) Two killed and four injured in a battle on the Yangon – Mawlamyine Highway

<sup>159</sup> HURFOM (28 Mar 2024) Junta recklessly arrests and kills a Bilin resident

<sup>160</sup> HURFOM (27 Mar 2024) Ambulance attacked — Driver and patient sustain injuries in Thaton

<sup>161</sup> DVB (26 Mar 2024) မတ္တရာမြို့နယ်ရှိ ကျေးရွာ ၅ ရွာကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် မီးရှို့

<sup>162</sup> RFA (26 Mar 2024) မတ္တရာမှာ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ကလေးငယ်အပါအဝင် ငါးဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>163</sup> RFA (30 Mar 2024) မတ္တရာမှာ ဒေသခံ ခြောက်ဆယ်ကျော် ဖမ်းဆီးခံရပြီး နှစ်ဦး သတ်ဖြတ်ခံရ

<sup>164</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Mar 2024) Nine Mandalay Civilians Killed in Myanmar Junta Raids

<sup>165</sup> RFA (31 Mar 2024) လက်နက်ကြီးကျည်ထိမှန်ပြီး စဉ့်ကူးဒေသခံလေးဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>166</sup> Nikkei Asia (13 Mar 2024) Bomb attacks in Yangon put Myanmar's biggest city on edge

<sup>167</sup> DVB (4 Mar 2024) UN Human Rights Chief calls Burma a 'never-ending nightmare'; Military to defer conscription for students

<sup>168</sup> Nikkei Asia (13 Mar 2024) Bomb attacks in Yangon put Myanmar's biggest city on edge

<sup>169</sup> RFA (28 Mar 2024) Bomb blast injures 5 teens collecting bottles for recycling in Yangon

<sup>170</sup> DVB (1 Apr 2024) Military welcomes new conscripts to training camps; US official meets with resistance groups

<sup>171</sup> RFA (1 Apr 2024) Dozens of Rohingya killed in 5 months of renewed fighting in western Myanmar

from Sin Gyi Pyin, another Rohingya village that the junta had previously targeted.<sup>172</sup> On 28 Mar, a group of junta soldiers **lobbed two grenades into a crowd of Rohingya**, killed two, and injured 18 others in a Sittwe Township (Arakan State) village. The group had gathered after the junta soldiers attempted to detain two Rohingya women.<sup>173</sup>

### **Junta forces Rohingya to protest, seeks to heighten communal tensions**

During 19-23 Mar, the junta forced a group of around 500 Rohingya to **participate in protests against the AA** in Buthidaung and Sittwe Townships.<sup>174</sup> A Rohingya activist stated that the junta had threatened to **conscript and burn down the houses** of Rohingya who refused to join the protests.<sup>175</sup> Rohingya reportedly held up signs that read “We don’t want NUG and AA that are undermining peace and stability of the country”.<sup>176</sup> On 25 Mar, the AA condemned the protests as orchestrated by the junta.<sup>177</sup>

On 26 Mar, AA Commander in Chief Twan Mrat Naing released a statement in which he defended the use of the **derogatory term ‘Bengali’** to refer to Rohingya. In response, a Rohingya local in Buthidaung called on the Rakhine community and the AA to act with restraint and stated that all civilians wanted to live in peace.<sup>178</sup> On 1 Apr, journalist Shafiur Rahman remarked that Twan Mrat Naing’s comments “**denied the Rohingya’s deep distinct cultural, historical, and social identity**”.<sup>179</sup>

The Arakan Times Rohingya News reported that, on 30 Mar, **AA soldiers abducted two Rohingya women** from Nga Chin Taung village in Buthidaung Township (Arakan State) and beat others after searching and stealing from the houses of locals in the village.<sup>180</sup>

### **Yet more Rohingya dead at sea after Rohingya boat capsizes off West Aceh**

On 4 Mar, a Women’s Peace Network (WPN) report stated that record deaths of Rohingya at sea during the latest crossing season demonstrated that Rohingya are **had little choice but to flee camps in Bangladesh**. They added that the boat crisis was driven by the “**growing risk of recurrence of genocide**” in Arakan State and inadequate physical infrastructure, **abusive security forces**, and limited access to basic services in Bangladesh. They stated that the ongoing crisis had placed Rohingya women at higher risk of rape and sexual violence. As well, new patterns of migration had resulted in **growing online anti-Rohingya hate speech** and raised the risk of Rohingya facing detention and deportation in host countries. In Burma, online hate speech risked rekindling domestic anti-Rohingya sentiment. WPN called on regional governments to **develop and coordinate measures to address the boat crisis**, to prevent the deportation and detention of Rohingya, and to stop anti-Rohingya hate speech. They also stated that regional host countries should ensure Rohingya had reliable access to **domestic justice mechanisms**.<sup>181</sup>

On 21 Mar, an Indonesian search and rescue team and local Acehese fishermen **brought to shore 75 Rohingya** whose wooden boat had **overturned** nearly 16 nautical miles off the West Aceh coast. A man on the ship reported that the boat had **flipped after a bout of heavy rain** on 20 Mar and that the survivors had scrambled onto the hull of the ship in order to survive. Rohingya on the boat reported that the ship had departed from Cox’s Bazar 24 days before the capsizing and had originally carried 142 passengers and nine crew members. This meant that around **67 other passengers had likely died** during the voyage. On 25 Mar, Indonesian search and rescue officials reported that the bodies of at least 11 Rohingya from the boat had been found floating in Aceh coastal waters after the capsizing.<sup>182</sup> The survivors were taken to shore in Meulaboh, the capital city of West Aceh. When they arrived, locals in a nearby village held an **anti-Rohingya protest**.<sup>183</sup> On 26 Mar, a group of locals **stormed the building** where the newly arrived Rohingya were being housed, smashed a window, and demanded their eviction. Authorities later moved the group to tents outside the local government chief’s house.<sup>184</sup> On 21 Mar, the junta **arrested 80 Rohingya** fleeing Burma off the coast of Ye Township (Mon State).<sup>185</sup>

<sup>172</sup> RFA (18 Mar 2024) ‘Piles of corpses’ left after Myanmar junta attacks village

<sup>173</sup> Narinjara (29 Mar 2024) Junta soldiers’ grenade attack kills 2 Muslims including woman and injures 18 in Sittwe

<sup>174</sup> DVB (28 Mar 2024) Aid reaches Karen National Union territory; Rohingya form committee to establish consultative council

<sup>175</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta ‘Orchestrating Rohingya Protests’ Against Arakan Army in Rakhine

<sup>176</sup> DMG (26 Mar 2024) AA tells Arakan State residents to reject junta’s divide-and-conquer antics

<sup>177</sup> Arakan Army (25 Mar 2024) Statement No. (7/2024)

<sup>178</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Apr 2024) As war escalates in northern Rakhine, Rohingya have no allies

<sup>179</sup> DVB (1 Apr 2024) Assessing the Arakan Army’s position on the Rohingya

<sup>180</sup> Arakan Times Rohingya News (31 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/2ajuc53w>

<sup>181</sup> Women’s Peace Network (4 Mar 2024) The Rohingya boat crisis: Recent developments and key contributing factors in South and Southeast Asia

<sup>182</sup> Benar News (25 Mar 2024) Indonesia recovers bodies of 11 Rohingya from capsized boat off Aceh coast; Al Jazeera (24 Mar 2024) Bodies of three Rohingya found as Indonesia ends rescue for capsized boat

<sup>183</sup> AFP via Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2024) Five Rohingya refugees found dead after boat capsizes off Indonesia coast: UN

<sup>184</sup> Benar News (28 Mar 2024) Angry Indonesians in Aceh again storm a shelter, push Rohingya out

<sup>185</sup> RFA (21 Mar 2024) Junta navy arrests around 80 Rohingya off Myanmar coast

## IIMM documents military's anti-Rohingya hate speech campaigns, SGBV

On 27 Mar, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) released two analytical reports. The first report demonstrated how a **network of military-run** facebook pages led a **coordinated hate speech campaign** against the Rohingya prior to, during, and after the 2017 genocide. Hate speech narratives projected the Rohingya as an **existential threat** to the solidity of the Burmese state, to the “racial purity of Myanmar ethnic people”, and to “Buddhist religious sanctity” and attempted to justify violence against Rohingya individuals. 36 of the 43 facebook pages investigated were involved in the direct propagation of hate narratives. All of the pages investigated were **connected to the military**, oftentimes shared the same account administrators, and even were accessed from an IP address block associated with the Myanmar Ministry of Defence. The report concluded that “the **Myanmar military conducted a social media campaign that promoted violence against the Rohingya**”.

The second report laid out the failure of Burmese authorities to investigate **Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes (SGBC)** committed against Rohingya during 2016-17. The report noted that evidence of the **military's long-standing and widespread perpetration of SGBC** against Rohingya women had been repeatedly documented by several international bodies and in international news media leading up to and after the military-led genocide. In response to reports of rape and sexual violence committed against Rohingya, then military Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing stated in 2018 that “no sexual violence had happened in the history of Myanmar Tatmadaw.” The report stated that the Burmese authorities carried out six investigations into the “2016 and 2017 clearance operations in northern Rakhine” and did not produce any charges or accountability actions related to SGBC. Rather, officials **denied the crimes, justified soldiers' actions, and dismissed the victims** as liars.<sup>186</sup>

## Hindu nationalists continue to deny Rohingya rights in India

On 20 Mar, the Modi government presented an affidavit to the Supreme Court in response to a petition before the courts that sought the release of Rohingya from **indefinite detention in jails** across India and the protection of their right to life. The affidavit stated that only Indian citizens have the right to reside in India and claimed that Rohingya were engaged in **large-scale identity document fraud** in order to partake in “subversive activities”.<sup>187</sup> A Supreme Court lawyer criticized the response, stating that the Supreme Court was “clear that **protection of the lives of refugees was a constitutional right**.”<sup>188</sup>

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

On 13 Mar, women's organizations reported that since the attempted coup, there had been an increase in cases of “**sexual deception**”, wherein men convinced women to **cohabit** with them under **false promises of marriage**. Sexual deception, is punishable under Burma's colonial-era penal code as “cheating” by up to three years in jail and a fine. However, social stigma often prevents women from filing complaints. An NUG official believed that offenders assumed there would be no consequences for sexual deception or violence due to **weak law enforcement**. A Ta'ang Women's Organization spokesperson added that the **frequent movement of IDPs** made it difficult to hold men accountable. As well, people **distrusted junta courts** and questioned the effectiveness of NUG courts.<sup>189</sup>

On 25 Mar, it was reported that the post-attempted coup healthcare and economic crisis had worsened access to **reproductive healthcare**. State-run clinics had a **shortage of contraceptives** and free healthcare from (INGOs) was dependent on funding. In 2023, 57.1% of married and 33.5% of all women in Burma used modern contraceptives. Compounded with social stigma and a lack of education, the scarcity or incorrect usage of contraceptives had increased **unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and child abandonment**.<sup>190</sup>

## Junta deliberately targets women

On 4 Mar, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) reported that during 1-28 Feb, the junta killed 30 women.<sup>191</sup> On 8 Mar, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that junta soldiers, police, and prison authorities had exposed women, children, and LGBTQI people to **increasing sexual violence and abuse since the attempted coup**. This physically and mentally impacted survivors and their families. The junta had **detained 3,908 women** for political reasons. **They had also killed 95 women in 2021, 212 in 2022, and 395 in 2023**. As of 1 Mar, AAPP had documented 8 likely and 14

<sup>186</sup> IIMM (27 Mar 2024) Publication of IIMM Analytical Reports

<sup>187</sup> WION (20 Mar 2024) Rohingyas have no fundamental right to reside and settle in India, Centre tells Supreme Court

<sup>188</sup> Al Jazeera (27 Mar 2024) India says new law saves persecuted refugees. Rohingya ask 'Why not us?'

<sup>189</sup> Frontier Myanmar (13 Mar 2024) 'Sexual deception' cases rising amid post-coup lawlessness, say women's groups

<sup>190</sup> Frontier Myanmar (25 Mar 2024) Post-coup crisis puts reproductive health out of reach

<sup>191</sup> Burmese Women's Union (4 Mar 2024) Women's Information Factsheet



confirmed **rape and kill** cases.<sup>192</sup> On 18 Mar, speaking at the UN's 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun said that Burma women and youth were at the **forefront of resistance** against the junta's campaign of terror. He said that empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality in Burma required the international community's effective action to eliminate the junta dictatorship.<sup>193</sup>

On 2 Mar, the junta **abducted three Mon women** from Mudon Township - the sister of a **NMSP-AD** leader, and the sister and wife of two **New Mon State Party (NMSP)** members.<sup>194</sup> On 18 Mar, a junta court in Sittwe Township (Arakan State) sentenced **Daw Nyo Aye, Rakhine Women's Network** chairwoman, to **two years in prison** under section 505(b) for attending the Rice Crisis Day ceremony on 13 Aug 2023. She had been detained since 15 Aug and had received little medical attention despite severe health issues.<sup>195</sup> On 27 Mar, it was reported that the junta had **entrapped and extrajudicially executed** well-known activist **Nobel Aye** in Kyaik Hla village, Waw Township (Bago Region).<sup>196</sup>

### **International Women's Day**

On 8 Mar, WPN called for **flexible direct financial, material, and technical support** to women human rights defenders and women-led CSOs/CBOs. WPN also called on host countries to ensure Burma refugee women full and reliable access to **asylum and protection**. They stated the junta had arbitrarily **arrested at least 1,132 Rohingya women**. WPN also urged the international community to **meaningfully engage with women human rights defenders** and pro-democracy activists, ethnic and religious minority women, sexual minorities, youth, and atrocity survivors in solving the crisis in Burma.<sup>197</sup> On 9 Mar, IDP women in Arakan State called for support to halt **gender-based violence and discrimination**, foster **gender equality**, and encourage **women's leadership**. They asked aid organizations to support the security of women amid an absence of **healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and education**.<sup>198</sup>

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

#### **Junta matriculation exam sees lowest attendance yet**

During 11-19 Mar, the junta conducted **nationwide high school matriculation exams** to determine university placement. It was reported that the number of high school students registered to take the exams had **dropped by 87% compared to the 2019-20** school year. Nearly 970,800 students had registered in 2019/20.<sup>199</sup> Out of over 146,500 registered this year, only around **128,000 students took the exams** at 841 locations across Burma.<sup>200</sup> Regime media reported that in Yangon, around 18,900 students sat for the exams, a sharp decrease compared to the 124,900 who took the exam in 2019-20.<sup>201</sup> In Mon State 5,767 students registered to take the exams, **a fivefold decrease since 2021**. In **Karenni State, the junta did not hold matriculation exams** due to clashes, ongoing since the start of Operation 11.11. Last year 921 students took the exams in Karenni State.<sup>202</sup> In Arakan State, the junta held matriculation exams in 69 locations and excluded towns under Arakan Army control.<sup>203</sup> Junta media reported that **less than half of the 18,200** students registered sat for the exams.<sup>204</sup> On 11 Mar, in Sittwe Township (Arakan State), **junta artillery injured two students** sitting for the matriculation exam.<sup>205</sup>

#### **Junta closes Maungdaw hospital without cause, expels doctors**

On 1 Mar, in Maungdaw Township (Arakan State), the junta ordered the **closure of the township's district hospital** and several private clinics. Junta personnel also **discharged all patients and ordered all medical personnel to relocate to Sittwe**. The hospital **no longer accepted new patients**, including **two pregnant women** in need of caesarean sections. The junta later announced that the hospital could

<sup>192</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Mar 2024) Advocates explain how progress in women's rights has reversed in Myanmar

<sup>193</sup> Mizzima (22 Mar 2024) Myanmar Ambassador highlights Women's resilience amidst Military atrocities at UN; Mizzima (17 Mar 2024) Myanmar's UN representative questions how the UN will help those in need

<sup>194</sup> Mon News (5 Mar 2024) Military junta arrests three women, including the sister of an NMSP-AD member

<sup>195</sup> Narinjara (18 Mar 2024) Women's rights activist Daw Nyo Aye sentenced to 2 years in prison

<sup>196</sup> Frontier Myanmar (27 Mar 2024) 'Our lives belong to history': Remembering Nobel Aye

<sup>197</sup> Women's Peace Network (8 Mar 2024) International Women's Day Statement

<sup>198</sup> Narinjara (9 Mar 2024) International Women's Day: Rakhine internally displaced women call for health, safety and support

<sup>199</sup> RFA (18 Mar 2024) Number of students taking key exam has plunged amid war in Myanmar

<sup>200</sup> DVB (14 Mar 2024) Karenni State death toll rises since November offensive; Nationwide matriculation exams underway

<sup>201</sup> DVB (13 Mar 2024) Arakan Army claims control of Ramree Island town; More regime troops flee into Bangladesh; MITV (11 Aug 2020) Outstanding student: the whole Burma first emerges from No.1 B.E.H.S, Dagon

<sup>202</sup> Kantarawaddy Times via BNI (12 Mar 2024) War Prevents Junta-Organized Matriculation Exams from Taking Place in Karenni State

<sup>203</sup> Narinjara (3 Mar 2024) Matriculation examination to be conducted in 69 centres across Rakhine State

<sup>204</sup> Narinjara (13 Mar 2024) Over 10,000 students could not sit for matriculation examination in Rakhine State

<sup>205</sup> Narinjara (13 Mar 2024) 2 matriculation examinees including one female injured in artillery shelling

reopen but staff did not return due to security concerns.<sup>206</sup> On 25 Mar, the **junta issued arrest warrants for two of the hospital's doctors**, including the medical superintendent, for alleged ties to the Arakan Army (AA). Locals denied the two doctors had ties to the AA.<sup>207</sup> On 30 Mar, it was reported that the closure of Maungdaw hospital caused locals to **lose access to critically needed healthcare** such as **prenatal care, birth control, and antiretroviral therapy drugs** for persons living with HIV. Only a few nurses reportedly remained at the hospital.<sup>208</sup>

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

### **Cronies freely violate human & environmental rights**

On 8 Mar, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) called on Italian authorities to **investigate, freeze the assets of, and remove from Italy** Rachel Tayza, a member of the crony family that owns the Htoo Group of Companies. While residing in Italy, the US-sanctioned Rachel Tayza continued to hold shares and act as a director of some Htoo Group companies. As a **key funds and arms supplier** to the junta, Htoo Group is sanctioned by the EU, the US, UK, and Canada. Lawyers acting on behalf of JfM also submitted a dossier to Rachel Tayza's bank, the BNP Paribas-owned **Banca Nazionale del Lavoro**, urging that they take action under EU sanctions.<sup>209</sup>

On 16 Mar, Myanmar Resource Watch reported that **Yup Zau Hkawng**, junta crony and owner of the **Jadeland Company**, had significantly **expanded his illegal gold-mining operations** along the Ayeyarwady River banks in the Myitsone area. After the NLD granted him a four-acre concession near Tanghe village in 2020, he quickly became a regional mining kingpin. Myanmar Resource Watch reported that mining had altered the river's flow and polluted it with toxic materials.<sup>210</sup>

### **Despite pressure, Burma's scam world continues unabated**

On 3 Mar, the Thai PM announced that **Thai authorities had facilitated the repatriation of 997 Chinese nationals** trapped in scam operations in Myawaddy Township (Karen State) via Mae Sot airport. This was reportedly a joint operation involving China, Thailand, and the Karen BGF and was carried out during 29 Feb - 2 Mar. The junta's commerce minister said the **junta was unable to send the nationals directly to China from Burma**.<sup>211</sup> On 13 Mar, Thai authorities facilitated another transfer of over 800 Chinese nationals.<sup>212</sup>

On 7 Mar, it was reported that there were **scam centers in residential complexes** in five townships across **Yangon Region. Global Cyber 8**, a scam center connected to crime groups operating in Shwe Kokko, was even **listed on DICA**, the junta-controlled Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.<sup>213</sup>

On 25 Mar, casino workers reported that due to rumors of a junta-Thai crackdown on casinos along the border, Chinese cybercrime groups were **moving trafficked foreign workers** from Shwe Kokko to the **Kyaukkhet Casino** in Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA)-controlled territory in Myawaddy Township (Karen State) and demanding USD 5,500-8,250 for their release. A DKBA spokesperson claimed the group only leased the land and had no knowledge of the scam operations. He added that the BGF, the junta, and the KNU all had ties to the Chinese casino owners. Residents said that **no clashes, airstrikes or raids** had occurred in the casino's vicinity.<sup>214</sup>

### **Clashes halt border trade**

On 2 Mar, the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) reported that due to the ongoing conflict in Burma, border trade with the country had **decreased by 11.1%** in 2023 and was expected to **drop further** in

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<sup>206</sup> RFA (21 Mar 2024) Myanmar's junta shuts down public hospital in wartorn township; Narinjara (5 Mar 2024) Maungdaw general hospital closed as junta soldiers stationed on campus

<sup>207</sup> DMG (26 Mar 2024) Regime issues arrest warrants for two Maungdaw doctors

<sup>208</sup> Narinjara (30 Apr 2024) Closure of Maungdaw hospital leaves residents including pregnant women with no access to healthcare

<sup>209</sup> Justice for Myanmar (8 Mar 2024) JfM calls on Italy to take swift action against Rachel Tayza, following legal submission

<sup>210</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Mar 2024) Gold mining near Myitsone expanding under junta crony: report

<sup>211</sup> Reuters (3 Mar 2024) Thailand facilitates transfer of 900 scam victims from Myanmar to China; Myanmar Now (1 Mar 2024) Nearly 1,000 people detained from online scam centres in Karen State handed over to Thailand, China

<sup>212</sup> RFA (13 Mar 2024) 800 Chinese deported from Myanmar's Thai border

<sup>213</sup> Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2024) Scam Operations Flourish in Myanmar's Biggest City

<sup>214</sup> Benar News (25 Mar 2024) Chinese scammers in Myanmar move trafficking victims to casino in rebel territory

2024.<sup>215</sup> On 20 Mar, it was reported that commodity prices for Thai goods in Burma had surged again as **THB was selling at an all-time high of MMK 105** on the black market.<sup>216</sup>

On 3 Mar, the General Manager of the Teknaf land port said that **Bangladesh-Burma trade** through the port had come to a **complete halt** since 3 Mar due to the escalating **conflict in Arakan State**. While 15-22 import vessels used to arrive daily, this number had dropped to 5-7 since Nov 2023. A local businessman said that due to the **internet cuts**, banks in Maungdaw and Sittwe could not receive **foreign demand drafts** from **Sonali Bank** and **AB Bank of Bangladesh** for import goods.<sup>217</sup>

On 11 Mar, junta commerce ministry figures showed that trade through Myawaddy (Karen State) to Thailand had **plunged by over 40%** from USD 1.87 billion during Apr 2022-Feb 2023 to 1.08 billion during Apr 2023-Feb 2024. The decline had started in Dec 2023 due to clashes between the junta and resistance forces in Kawkaeik. Almost all junta-licensed trade had stopped, but **unofficial trade continued** through the Myawaddy-Thoekokoe route, which bypasses Kawkaeik.<sup>218</sup>

### **Junta's economic mismanagement**

On 1 Mar, it was reported that the junta's Feb 2021 ban on the import of internal combustion engine vehicles had led to a **shortage of automobiles** in Burma. 4 in 5 vehicle brands had left Burma. The remaining had partnered with local companies, including crony conglomerates. The junta's Chinese EV pilot project starting in 2023 had increased the number of affordable Chinese EVs six-fold, although frequent power cuts made consistent use difficult.<sup>219</sup>

On 4 Mar, the junta-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) again changed the foreign currency earning rules for exporters. Exporters of rice, broken rice, corn, beans, and pulses now had to **sell 70% of their earnings to authorized forex dealers** at the CBM's exchange rate of MMK 3,088-3,155 per USD. The uncertainty caused by the policy change prompted gas stops in Yangon to suspend the sale of Octane 92 petrol.<sup>220</sup>

On 9 Mar, it was reported that the junta's tightening of customs, extra taxes on exports, and overvalued exchange rate had increased **illegal seafood trade** from Tanintharyi Region to Thailand. Junta trade figures at Kawthaung showed exports had dropped by 55% between 2021-2023. The **junta's navy checkpoints** charged legal trade boats fees of MMK 100,000 and **smuggling boats bribes** of MMK 150,000-200,000. While the navy often colluded with traders and junta-appointed local administrators, it also continued to **detain and fine villagers**. Moreover, **traders reaped the benefits of illegal trade** while villagers suffered from decreased margins due to the abundance of smuggled seafood.<sup>221</sup>

### **India consistently supports the junta's air force and navy**

On 27 Mar, it was reported that the **Indian air force and 10 state-owned Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** had **repeatedly provided** the junta with **military equipment, infrastructure, and training** after the attempted coup. On 2 Jan 2024, the Indian Air Force's 31 Movement Control Unit (MCU) **shipped 52 items** to the junta Air Force's maintenance department at the Mingaladon air force base (Yangon Region). All items were labeled as **"defense goods"**. Shipped items included materials that were likely used for **automatic weather stations (AWS)**. AWS are often used **to increase the effectiveness and accuracy of airstrikes**. Among the PSUs, **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** listed Burma as an active client and had **exported spare parts for MiG fighter jets** to the junta. **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BrahMos Aerospace)** engaged with the junta **to supply missiles**. Finally, Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) collaborated with the junta on domestic shipbuilding while Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) shipped several military-end-use items to the junta military's Directorate of Procurement. The **Indian government** also often invited the junta to military events and facilitated high-level meetings. JfM called on India to cease training junta military personnel and immediately ban the transfer of all arms and associated equipment, technology, and fuel to the junta.<sup>222</sup>

<sup>215</sup> Mizzima (2 Mar 2024) Thailand's border trade with Myanmar down, due to conflict

<sup>216</sup> Mizzima (20 Mar 2024) Drop in kyat value and transport problems increase prices of Thai imports

<sup>217</sup> Mizzima (10 Mar 2024) Teknaf port Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade halts due to escalating war in Rakhine

<sup>218</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2024) Trade through Myawaddy plummets amid fighting near Thai-Myanmar border

<sup>219</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Mar 2024) International car companies shut down Yangon showrooms

<sup>220</sup> Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2024) Myanmar's Economic Crisis Likely to Deepen as Latest Dollar Rule Kicks In

<sup>221</sup> Frontier Myanmar (9 Mar 2024) Smugglers' paradise: Illicit seafood trade soars in Tanintharyi

<sup>222</sup> Justice for Myanmar (27 Mar 2024) India aiding and abetting Myanmar junta atrocities through continued transfers of military equipment

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

### Thailand delivers first cross-border aid

On 4 Mar, Thai ambassador to the UN Usana Berananda called on the international community to **support the junta-Thai initiative** to upscale humanitarian aid along the Thai-Burma border.<sup>223</sup> On 8 Mar, the **Japanese** government announced an additional USD 37 million in humanitarian aid for the people of Burma. It was to be distributed both in **Burma and in Thailand** via UN agencies, (I)NGOs and the AHA Center.<sup>224</sup>

On 19 Mar, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) stated that the Thai PM's claim ASEAN had agreed to let it "take the lead on peace talks with Burma" **undermined the credibility** and centrality of ASEAN since Thailand was **not part of ASEAN's Laos-Malaysia-Indonesia troika**. APHR called on the troika to stop engaging with the junta and hold them accountable for their crimes.<sup>225</sup>

On 25 Mar, Thai MP Kannavee Suebsang stated the Thai government's humanitarian corridor was **ineffective in helping refugees**, had **undermined all humanitarian principles**, and could even increase the number of people fleeing to Thailand. He denounced the Myanmar Red Cross as controlled by the junta and accused the Thai government of seeking the easiest and most "**convenient way**" to gain recognition for trying to solve the crisis.<sup>226</sup>

On 25 Mar, in cooperation with the Thai and Myanmar Red Cross, Thai authorities sent the **first aid delivery of 4,000 packages** of food and other essential items meant for 20,000 IDPs in Na Bu Township (Kawkareik District) and Thar Ma Nya and Paingkyon Townships (Hpa-An District). The Thai Vice Foreign Minister said that aid would be handed off to **community leaders and the district authority**. A source said that Thai authorities had reached out to one or two EAOs in this regard. However, Thailand had **ignored the NUG/EAO's alternative, more effective aid delivery proposal** that recommended working with local organizations to reach areas under EAO control.<sup>227</sup>

On 27 Mar, the KNU stated that on 25 Mar, the **Karen BGF** had handed the Thai aid packages to the **Karen community** in Nabu Township. However, in Thar Ma Nya and Paingkyon Townships, the **junta and the Myanmar Red Cross unexpectedly participated** in the aid delivery. On 26 Mar, during aid delivery, a **junta fighter jet flew over** Paingkyon Township and **caused IDPs to flee in fear**. The KNU reiterated that the cause of the humanitarian crisis - the junta - had **politicized humanitarian aid**, and that the Myanmar Red Cross was a **military reserve force**. The KNU emphasized that it had proposed an appropriate aid delivery plan to the Thai government and requested that all aid be provided after all **relevant stakeholders had been consulted**.<sup>228</sup>

On 27 Mar, the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP) pointed out the **absence of Karen CSOs** in the Thai-led aid delivery. A CIDKP leader said that the Myanmar Red Cross **knew nothing about the situation** on the ground and that the CIDKP was **worried** about their next actions.<sup>229</sup>

### Thailand's ambitions beyond the aid corridor

On 4 Mar, the Thai parliament hosted a seminar titled "Three Years after the Coup: Towards a Democratic Myanmar and Its Impact on Security Along the Thai Border" attended by members of the **NUG and EROs**, but **not the junta**. Thai FM Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara was to deliver a keynote address but canceled without explanation. The junta's foreign ministry had **sent him a letter** warning of negative impacts on "existing bilateral relations". The head of the organizing committee, a Move Forward Party MP, said that getting **stakeholders** to talk to each other would pave the way for a sustainable political solution.<sup>230</sup>

On 18 Mar, the Thai House Committee on Foreign Affairs put forth a "**four-point**" plan for the Thai government to help solve the crisis in Burma. It called for (1) a **special panel** of security and foreign

<sup>223</sup> Foreign Ministry of Thailand (4 Mar 2024) Thailand stresses the importance of upscaling humanitarian assistance along the Thai - Myanmar border at the Human Rights Council

<sup>224</sup> Foreign Ministry of Japan (8 Mar 2024) Additional humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar affected by the coup d'état

<sup>225</sup> APHR (19 Mar 2024) ASEAN's continued engagement with Myanmar junta risks legitimizing illegal regime, Southeast Asian MPs say

<sup>226</sup> Kannavee Suebsang via Facebook (25 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/34bs8u4x>

<sup>227</sup> RFA (25 Mar 2024) Thailand's first aid convoy arrives in Myanmar

<sup>228</sup> Nimrod from Burma via Facebook (27 Mar 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/2wbymw5e>

<sup>229</sup> Karen News (27 Mar 2024) First Thai Humanitarian Aid Delivery Will Not Reach the Hungry IDPs Criticism from Karen Aid Workers and UN Human Rights

<sup>230</sup> Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Cries Foul as Thai Parliament Hosts Anti-Regime Figures

affairs officials to monitor the situation and work out a comprehensive response; (2) a **contingency plan** to address a possible escalation of fighting that would lead to an increase in refugees; (3) the expansion of **humanitarian aid** involving ASEAN to reach all affected people; (4) the establishment of an informal consultation mechanism consisting of the ASEAN chair, Thailand, China and India.<sup>231</sup>

### **India and China deport refugees and migrant workers**

During 8-10 Mar, Indian authorities started **deporting refugees** that had fled Burma since the attempted coup. They planned to deport 77 refugees, mostly **women and children**, via border town Moreh by 11 Mar. On 10 Mar, due to the **junta's refusal to accept the refugees**, Indian authorities held 38 women at **military camps** in Moreh and sent others back to Manipur's **Imphal Central Jail**. India for Myanmar urged the Indian government not to hand over the refugees to the junta, but to coordinate with the NUG, CSOs, and UN agencies instead.<sup>232</sup>

On 11 Mar, the Manipur government banned refugees from Burma living in the Kamjong District from engaging in any form of **business, trade, or labour work**. The order also forced them to stay within their designated temporary shelters to **prevent "mixing with the general public."**<sup>233</sup> On 27 Mar, it was reported that India was planning to spend nearly **USD 3.7 billion on a fence** along the Burma border, with parallel and feeder roads connecting to **Indian military bases**.<sup>234</sup>

On 5 Mar, Chinese authorities **tightened access** for Burma migrant workers from Muse town (N. Shan State) to enter Ruili town (Yunnan Province) on **temporary border passes**. They required migrant workers to get **health and drug tests** at China's labour office in Jiegao and a **letter of guarantee** from their employers to allow them to pass through the checkpoint.<sup>235</sup>

On 22 Mar, it was reported that Chinese authorities had been deporting over **200 Burma migrant workers every day**. Many had been **caught without the required documents**. The cost of border passes had increased from USD 1 to USD 28, despite incomes halving.<sup>236</sup> On 17 Mar, around 1,000 Burma migrant workers at a garment factory **protested for better pay and working conditions** in China's Yunnan province. On 25 Mar, it was reported that management and authorities **fired and deported 200** of the protesting workers. The next day, factory officials demanded that some of the protesters undergo a medical exam and **forced those who failed to sign** a document stating they were **returning to Burma voluntarily**.<sup>237</sup>

### **Australia and New Zealand host junta at ASEAN events**

During 4-6 Mar, Australia hosted the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2024 in Melbourne. It was reported that Thet Tun, **Chargé d'Affaires of the junta's embassy** in Canberra, **attended two key events**; the Maritime Cooperation Conference and the Climate and Clean Energy Forum. A spokesperson for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade condemned the junta's attempted coup and emphasized Australia's support for ASEAN's **"efforts and leadership"** seeking a resolution to the situation, including through the Five-Point Consensus (FPC).<sup>238</sup> On 4 Mar, about 200 protestors demonstrated against junta representation at the summit. In the **"Melbourne Declaration"** published on 6 Mar, ASEAN and Australia commended the current Special Envoy for intensifying engagement with "all relevant stakeholders" in Burma toward an **"inclusive national dialogue"**. They also called on the international community to support the implementation of the FPC "in its entirety".<sup>238</sup> On 4 Mar, Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão spoke at the NUG-CSO organized Myanmar People's Summit in Melbourne.<sup>239</sup>

On 25 Mar, it was reported that New Zealand invited the junta to the **31st ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue** during 18-19 Apr in Wellington. As co-chairs, **New Zealand and Laos** also invited the junta to an ASEAN defense personnel dialogue during 8-10 May in Vientiane.<sup>240</sup>

<sup>231</sup> Bangkok Post (18 Mar 2024) Four-point plan for crisis in Myanmar

<sup>232</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2024) Deportation delayed for more than 70 Myanmar nationals detained in India

<sup>233</sup> Mizzima (11 Mar 2024) Myanmar refugees in India's Manipur State banned from working and doing business

<sup>234</sup> Reuters (27 Mar 2024) India to spend \$3.7 bln to fence Myanmar border, source says

<sup>235</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Mar 2024) China Tightens Access For Myanmar Migrant Workers Entering From Shan State

<sup>236</sup> RFA (22 Mar 2024) Chinese town deports 200 Myanmar migrant workers each day

<sup>237</sup> RFA (25 Mar 2024) 200 Myanmar workers fired from garment jobs in China's Yunnan province

<sup>238</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta to be represented in ASEAN-Australia Special Summit events through Canberra embassy; ASEAN (6 Mar 2024) The Melbourne Declaration – A Partnership for the Future

<sup>239</sup> DVB (6 Mar 2024) Regime attends ASEAN Defense Minister Summit in Laos; Martial law declared in TNLA controlled townships

<sup>240</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2024) New Zealand under fire for legitimising Myanmar junta

## ASEAN complicit in junta and Russia atrocity crimes

On 1 Mar, JfM called out ASEAN for appointing the junta as the **Russia Country Coordinator**. For this role, which runs until 2027, the junta would co-chair meetings, enhance relationships, represent ASEAN in negotiations, and promote the bloc's interests internationally. Russia is the junta's largest arms supplier. The junta has also provided arms to Russia used in the war in Ukraine and have established direct payment systems to circumvent sanctions. The appointment **undermined sanctions and restrictions imposed on the junta and Russia** by ASEAN dialogue partners. JfM also said that this decision contributed to the failure of ASEAN's FPC and made the bloc complicit in both the parties' atrocity crimes.<sup>241</sup> On 28 Mar, it was reported that Russia and the junta had planned over **50 joint military activities in 2024**.<sup>242</sup>

On 5 Mar, Zaw Naing Win, the Director General of the **junta Defense Ministry's** International Affairs Department, **attended ASEAN's annual Defense Ministers' Meeting** in Luang Prabang. This was the **second time** a senior junta official attended a high-level ASEAN meeting since the group decided to allow only nonpolitical junta representatives to participate in Oct 2021.<sup>243</sup>

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<sup>241</sup> Justice for Myanmar (1 Mar 2024) ASEAN deepening complicity with illegal and illegitimate Myanmar junta through its appointment as coordinator of Russia-ASEAN relations

<sup>242</sup> Bangkok Post (28 Mar 2024) Russia, Myanmar plan over 50 joint military activities

<sup>243</sup> Kyodo News (5 Mar 2024) Myanmar junta senior official attends ASEAN defense ministers meeting