

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024:  
Junta inducts batch of conscripts with eyes on second**

- As of 30 Apr, there were at least 33,761 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021. As of 6 May, there were at least 2,725,100 displaced people since 1 Feb 2021. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Thousands cross into Mae Sot, junta scrambles to retake border hub.
- UN appoints former Australia FM to Special Envoy role after nearly one year vacancy.
- Arakan Army and junta pose dual threat to Rohingya civilians. War intensifies in Arakan State.
- NUCC pledges to abolish 1982 Citizenship Law.
- Resistance attacks reach heart of junta power - Naypyidaw airbase struck.
- At China's behest, junta arrests deputy Defense Minister and former USDP chief minister over scam ties.
- Heavy handed junta brings bulldozers to Bagan.
- Thingyan prison shamnesty: junta releases only 101 political prisoners, rearrests Chin Christian leader.
- US' Schlumberger still supplying oil & gas equipment to junta MOGE.
- KIA capture Loije & Sezin, closes in on Hpakant.
- MNDA publicly tries own soldiers for kidnapping and murder, summarily executes them.
- Hpasawng hostages brave landmines to escape junta.

**CONTENTS**

- 2 Impacts of illegal conscription law
- 3 Illegal junta's quest to cement control
- 3 Junta moves Aung San Suu Kyi to house arrest
- 3 Junta obeys China, investigates their own
- 4 CRPH, NUG & Other Democratic Forces
- 5 NUG claims 60% of territory under its control
- 5 Karen, Karenni journalism guidelines released
- 6 NUCC People's Assembly pledges to abolish 1982 Citizenship Law
- 4 Civil disobedience, crackdowns
- 5 Thingyan Shamnesty
- 5 Junta continues repression of political prisoners
- 5 Missing junta No2. unfortunately found alive
- 6 Conflict and displacement
- 6 Landmines casualties jump threefold in 2023
- 8 KIA and allies capture Loije
- 12 Myawaddy in the balance
- 15 Rohingya
- 15 AA sharpens anti-Rohingya stance, begins conscripting Rohingya
- 16 Junta conscripts and murders Rohingya, inflames ethnic tensions in Arakan
- 16 Serious mental harm of Rohingya a genocidal act, report argues
- 17 Struggles of Rohingya sea crossings brought to bear
- 17 Women remain defiant
- 17 COVID-19, Health, Education
- 18 Targeted junta airstrikes destroy Chin hospital
- 18 Deadly combo: conflict & climate change
- 18 Business and economics
- 18 Junta loses a third of active trade hubs
- 19 Consumers not Keen on new junta beer brand
- 19 US firms' complicity with MOGE provokes ire
- 19 Evidence exposes KNU involvement in notorious scam park
- 20 Crony daughter at elite French business school, for now
- 20 International responses
- 20 China rewards junta obedience
- 20 UN appoints new Special Envoy for Burma
- 21 Junta attends meetings with ASEAN, partners
- 21 UNSC meets on Burma, Human Rights Council moves towards jet fuel ban
- 22 Thailand in spotlight after Myawaddy tensions

## Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

A junta spokesperson said that the regime soon expected to **forcibly recruit 5,000 youths weekly**.<sup>1</sup> Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, a research coordinator at the International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimated that the junta could **replenish troops lost** since the attempted coup with **30,000 conscripts**.<sup>2</sup>

Regime TV broadcasted **propaganda that claimed recruits joined voluntarily**, were not subjected to abuse, and were not forced to go to the frontlines.<sup>3</sup> Contrary to this and earlier propaganda<sup>4</sup>, for many youths the first batch of the junta's **conscription led to arrest, debt, loss of contact with family, or even death**. On 1 Apr, it was reported that in Hlaing Township (Yangon Region) the junta **held new conscripts at a local interrogation center** under the pretext of "medical exams".<sup>5</sup> On 2 April, it was reported that, during 31 Mar - 1 Apr, in Mingaladon Township (Yangon Region), a **forcibly recruited Muslim man died** at a local military hospital. The junta reportedly gave him glucose and medication for alcoholism treatment despite being in good health.<sup>6</sup>

The junta's draft has led to **continued reports of suicide** among those selected. On 9 Apr, in Taungoo Township (Bago Region), a man selected for conscription committed suicide.<sup>7</sup> In Daik-U Township (Bago Region), it was reported that **a woman took on massive debt to bribe** a junta administrator and get her son out of the draft. **Her son later took his own life** reportedly **due to guilt**. On 15 April it was reported that in March in Ayeyarwady Region, at least five young men aged 17-25 committed suicide after being drafted.<sup>8</sup> **Comprehensive figures of suicides linked to the conscription law have not yet been gathered**.

**Corruption** has become **commonplace** in the wake of the conscription law. **Business owners took advantage** of this new development and **working-class families suffered** at hands of greedy administrators. On, 17 April, it was reported that **Yangon industrial zone heads** allegedly **met with the junta's Yangon chief minister** to ensure exemptions for their employees from the junta's forced recruitment. A Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) said that the **junta had been flexible with companies tied to the regime** and that the conscription law was **negotiable for industrial zone heads**. To prevent the junta from abducting workers for forced recruitment, **business owners reportedly proposed handing over workers' personal information** to the regime. It was reported that the regime had **agreed to exempt employees of some junta linked companies, such as Mytel**. Mytel informed its staff the junta would **not target them for conscription while they remained employed at the company**.<sup>9</sup> On 22 Apr, it was reported that **junta administrators had taken bribes** from people drafted for conscription. The bribes ranged between **USD 240 and 23,830** and some **civilians took on severe debt**. In eastern Bago Region the **junta drafted a 59-year-old man** despite ineligibility due to his age and a local administrator took a **USD 1,190 bribe**.<sup>10</sup>

On 25 Apr, in Pyintphyu and Myothit Townships (Magway Region), it was reported that the junta **arrested at least 24 young people** for conscription under the pretext that the youths had given 'logistical support' to PDFs.<sup>11</sup> It was reported that since 18 Apr, the junta **detained and forcibly conscripted at least 300 youths** in Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyarwady Regions.<sup>12</sup>

Most **families reportedly lost contact** with people forcibly recruited by the junta. They did not know their relatives' location. The regime reportedly **confiscated forced recruits' phones**. Sources who managed to establish contact with new conscripts said that the **junta subjected recruits to indoctrination**. Junta personnel **forced recruits to read and watch junta media** each morning.<sup>13</sup>

By 23 Apr, it was reported that the **junta already reached** its forced recruitment **target of 5,000** and that efforts to take in a **second batch were already underway**.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta launches first basic military training for conscripts

<sup>2</sup> DVB (12 Apr 2024) Thailand prepared to take up to 100,000 refugees; Activists say Chevron withdrawal isn't enough

<sup>3</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Apr 2024) New conscripts forced to hand over phones as training begins

<sup>4</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Mar 2024) Myanmar Junta Begins Conscription Early

<sup>5</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta launches first basic military training for conscripts

<sup>6</sup> Myanmar Now (2 Apr 2024) Yangon resident dies days after being conscripted into Myanmar military

<sup>7</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Apr 2024) Man selected for conscription into Myanmar military kills himself

<sup>8</sup> DVB (15 Apr 2024) ရောဂါတိုင်းတွင် စစ်မှုထမ်းကိစ္စကြောင့် အဆုံးစီရင်သူ ၅ ဦးထက်မနည်းရှိ

<sup>9</sup> Myanmar Now (17 Apr 2024) Employees of military-linked companies to be exempted from conscription, sources say

<sup>10</sup> RFA (22 Apr 2024) In Myanmar, paying bribes to evade the draft

<sup>11</sup> Than Lwin Times via BNI (25 Apr 2024) Junta Rounds Up Magway Youth for Military Service

<sup>12</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Steps Up Conscription With Forced Abductions After Thingyan

<sup>13</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Apr 2024) New conscripts forced to hand over phones as training begins

<sup>14</sup> DVB (23 Apr 2024) Refugees from Burma sheltering in Thailand return to Myawaddy; Military begins second round for conscription; RFA (8 Apr 2024) ရောဂါတိုင်းမှာ စစ်မှုထမ်းဖို့အတွက် ဒုတိယအကြိမ် စာရင်းကောက်

## Illegal junta's quest to cement control

### Junta updates

- On 1 Apr, in Myitkyina Township (Kachin State), **the junta released two NLD ministers** of the Kachin State parliament. The junta **kept imprisoned at least five** other state parliament ministers in Myitkyina Prison.<sup>15</sup>
- On 8 Apr, in Kyaikmaraw Township (Mon State), **the junta arrested former Mon State lawmaker, Dr. Aung Naing Oo**, under suspicion of collaborating with resistance forces. A source close to the lawmaker said **he was on his way to render aid to IDPs** when the junta arrested him. As of 11 Apr, the junta had **yet to disclose his location**. Shortly after the attempted coup, Dr. Aung Naing Oo resigned from his position in the Mon State legislature.<sup>16</sup>
- During 8-9 Apr, the **junta rejected the UN's resolution on Burma**, adopted on 5 Apr at the UN Human Rights Council's 55th session. It also **claimed** that UN made **"no official communication to [Burma]"** prior to the appointment of UN Special Envoy, Julie Bishop.<sup>17</sup>
- 22 Apr: The junta announced that **Henry Van Thio stepped down** from his role **as the junta's 'Vice-President'** due to **"unspecified health reason."** The announcement did not provide details on his health condition at the time and **did not mention his successor**.<sup>18</sup>

On 12 Apr, in the **ancient city of Bagan (Mandalay Region)** it was reported that, the junta had used **heavy machinery to dredge lakes reservoirs** since February. Bagan was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019. An archaeologist said that the use of **heavy machinery was banned at World Heritage sites**. The use of heavy machinery **risked damaging buildings, temples, and the soil bed of the reservoirs**.

Irrawaddy (12 Apr 2024) Magic and Bulldozers Bedevil Myanmar Junta's New Restoration Work in Bagan

### Junta moves Aung San Suu Kyi to house arrest

On 12 Apr, it was reported that a source close to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team believed **the junta held her in solitary confinement** in Naypyidaw Prison. The source had delivered Aung San Suu Kyi's weekly parcel of requested items to the prison.<sup>19</sup> On 16 Apr, the junta reportedly moved Aung San Suu Kyi from Naypyidaw Prison to house arrest under heavy guard. The regime also moved president Win Myint from Taungoo Prison (Bago Region) to house arrest. The junta **did not disclose their final locations**. A political commentator said that the junta likely **moved them due to Chinese pressure** and not health concerns as it claimed.<sup>20</sup> However, **other sources alleged that the state counselor remained in prison**.<sup>21</sup> Aung San Suu Kyi's son Kim Aris said that junta was using her as a 'human shield'.<sup>22</sup>

### Junta obeys China, investigates their own

On 3 Apr, it was reported that the junta arrested and interrogated deputy defense minister, Gen. Aung Lin Tun, for alleged connections to scam operations in Laukkai (N. Shan State). A source close to the regime alleged that China had requested his arrest during negotiations between the junta and the Three Brotherhood Alliance. China reportedly made the accusation based on information obtained from others it had extradited for involvement in scam operations.<sup>23</sup>

On 10 Apr, the **junta arrested Lt. Gen. Myint Hlaing**, former Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) **Chief Minister for Naypyidaw** and former farming and irrigation minister under the Thein Sein regime for **alleged involvement in online scam operations**. Sources said the junta also carried out the

<sup>15</sup> Mizzima (4 Apr 2024) Two former Kachin State Parliament ministers released from prison

<sup>16</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Apr 2024) Myanmar regime arrests former deputy speaker of Mon State parliament

<sup>17</sup> DVB (10 Apr 2024) Naypyidaw rejects UN resolution on Myanmar; Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta slams UN's 'one-sided' human rights claims

<sup>18</sup> Mizzima (25 Apr 2024) Vice President U Henry Van Thio retires

<sup>19</sup> RFA (12 Apr 2024) Myanmar democracy icon Suu Kyi believed held in solitary confinement in Naypyidaw Prison

<sup>20</sup> RFA (16 Apr 2024) Myanmar's junta moves Aung San Suu Kyi to house arrest, report says

<sup>21</sup> Irrawaddy (18 Apr 2024) Myanmar's Suu Kyi Remains in Prison: Informed Sources

<sup>22</sup> DVB (18 Apr 2024) Aung San Suu Kyi's son says she's being used as 'human shield'

<sup>23</sup> Myanmar Now (3 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta detains deputy defence minister over alleged ties to online scam industry;

Irrawaddy (4 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Deputy Defense Minister Interrogated Over Online Scams

arrest at China's request. Myint Hlaing reportedly did business with criminal gangs based in Laukkai and held close ties to leaders in the Kokang region.<sup>24</sup>

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

### **NUG states more than 60% of territory under their control**

The NUG marked the **3rd Anniversary of its founding** on 16 Apr. In a message to the NUG, the NUCC urged the group to “focus on reform to become a **more efficient government**” and remain close to the public. The Karenni National People’s Liberation Front (KNPLF) called on the NUG to better support revolutionary forces in **Sagaing and Magwe Regions**, who were in need of supplies.<sup>25</sup>

On 30 Apr, the NUG released a summary of its achievements over the past three years. Of note, the NUG stated that revolutionary forces and the NUG had taken control of **more than 60% of territory** in Burma, including **five border towns**. They also outlined several of their sources of revenue. They stated that they had raised **USD 23 million in tax revenue** in 2023; earned USD 44 million from issuance of special bonds; and generated over USD 97 million via the End of Dictatorship/Early Partnership Scheme.<sup>26</sup>

### **Karen, Karenni journalism guidelines released**

On 16 Apr, it was reported that the Independent Press Council Myanmar (IPCM) was concerned that new Karenni state ‘guidelines for ethical reporting’ **could threaten press freedom** in Karenni State. In particular the IPCM drew issue with the guideline which “prohibits actions that could disrupt the operational and administrative workings of Karenni State, or endorse the Junta during the ongoing revolution”. The vice president of the IPCM stated that they were concerned that this could **limit freedom of information** and create certain obstacles to reporting for journalists in Karenni State. The IEC has stated that those in violation of the media ethics guidelines would be questioned and potentially banned from reporting in Karenni State.<sup>27</sup>

On 21 Apr, the Karen National Union’s (KNU) Public Relations and Information Committee released guidelines for reporting in areas under KNU control. The KNU stated news agencies were not allowed to shoot video in areas restricted by central, district, township, and village administrators. The KNU also included guidelines that required news agencies to show recorded materials to the relevant KNU official, if requested. The secretary of the IPCM stated that the guidelines could help improve communication and various news sources. However, he cautioned against the regulations being used to censor news sources.<sup>28</sup>

### **NUCC People’s Assembly pledges to abolish 1982 Citizenship Law**

During 4-9 Apr, the NUCC held the **Second People’s Assembly**, with a total of 204 delegates present. At the assembly, the NUCC passed three decisions: (1) To review and bring in line with the Federal Democracy Charter **responsibility and accountability mechanisms** for administration, defense, and security mechanisms; (2) To work with people and revolutionary forces to combat the junta’s illegal conscription law; (3) To ensure the **Myanmar Citizenship Law (1982)**, which defines citizenship according to “national races” and which refuses Rohingya citizenship, **would be abolished**.<sup>29</sup> The NUCC also released a list of 21 recommendations that had been presented at the conference.<sup>30</sup> Afterwards, Burma Human Rights Network praised the decision to abolish the 1982 citizenship law and called for **further efforts to ensure “citizenship and status for all** of Burma’s people”.<sup>31</sup> In a 25 Apr op-ed in the Irrawaddy, a political analyst derided the NUCC for its **lack of professionalism** displayed at the post-conference press briefing and its **lack of concrete, deliverable results**.<sup>32</sup>

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

**Mass evictions under shoddy pretexts:** In early April, in Patheingyi Township (Mandalay Region) the junta sent **eviction notices to over 1,000 households in six villages** and claimed that the houses were built on top of high voltage power lines. The junta ordered residents to **vacate their homes by 4 Apr**. In

<sup>24</sup> Irrawaddy (10 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Arrests Former Naypyitaw Chief of Military’s Proxy Party; Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta arrests USDP official for alleged links to online fraud gangs

<sup>25</sup> Myanmar Now (17 Apr 2024) NUG allies urge focus on reform, support for fighting forces, in anniversary messages

<sup>26</sup> NUG via Facebook (30 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/47y46jf4>

<sup>27</sup> Karen News (19 Apr 2024) Some IEC’s Guidelines for Ethical Reporting In Karenni State May be Threat to Press Freedom

<sup>28</sup> Karen News (23 Apr 2024) KNU Releases Guidelines for News Reporting in Controlled Territories

<sup>29</sup> NUCC via Facebook (9 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/2cs9r333>

<sup>30</sup> NUCC via Facebook (9 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/33zt9mhd>

<sup>31</sup> Mizzima (18 Apr 2024) BHRN welcomes pledge by People’s Assembly to revoke 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law

<sup>32</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Apr 2024) Riven by Mistrust, Myanmar NUG’s Advisory Council Needs Reform

one village alone, the junta sent 600 notices. During 5-6 Apr, the junta **destroyed over 100 houses** in another village and left almost **500 people unhoused**.<sup>33</sup>

### Thingyan Shamnesty

On 17 Apr, to commemorate Thingyan, the Buddhist new year, **the junta released 3,303 prisoners** across Burma. The junta announced it had also **released eight foreign prisoners and deported them**.<sup>34</sup>

On 18 Apr, the Political Prisoners Network - Myanmar reported that the junta had **only released 101 political prisoners**, roughly 4% of the total released prisoners. The junta reportedly did not release any political prisoners from Shwebo, Kathar, Monywa, and Kale Prisons (Sagaing Region).<sup>35</sup> In Myitkyina Township (Kachin State) the junta released only three political prisoners out of 42 prisoners released.<sup>36</sup>

In Myitkyina Township (Kachin State) the junta released former Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) president Dr Hkalam Samson as part of the new year's amnesty. Later that day, the junta rearrested Hkalam Samson at his home along with his wife and an official from the Kachin Peace-talk Creation Group. No reason was given for the arrests.<sup>37</sup>

On 30 Apr, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that the **junta kept detained at least 20,375 political prisoners**.<sup>38</sup>

### Junta continues repression of political prisoners

During 31 Mar -1 Apr, At **Pyapon Prison (Ayeyarwady Region)**, junta personnel **shot at, beat, and tortured** around **100 inmates** after they **protested against unwarranted violence by prison staff**. It was reported that **20 prisoners** were **unable to walk** after the beatings. The junta **extended by six months the sentences of 18** of the injured, including **seven political prisoners**. Junta guards also placed them in **solitary confinement**.<sup>39</sup> On 1 Apr, the junta deployed soldiers inside the prison, banned visits and parcel deliveries to inmates, and reportedly closed roads near the prison.<sup>40</sup> On 18 Apr, in **Myitkyina Township (Kachin State)**, junta prison guards **shot at inmates, killed four** and injured eight following a protest inside the prison.<sup>41</sup>

On 3 Apr, it was reported that the regime had **extrajudicially killed seven political prisoners** held in Insein Prison on 14 Feb 2023. Junta personnel had arrested the prisoners only a week before. The junta **withheld information** on the status of the men **from their families for over a year**. Former Insein Prison inmates said that the **junta had not tried the men** and had **not publicized charges** against them. When contacted for details on the case, the **International Committee for the Red Cross would not disclose its findings on the case**.<sup>42</sup> On the same day It was reported that, on 30 Mar, in **Monywa Township (Sagaing Region)** junta soldiers at Monywa's city hall **tortured two political prisoners, killed one** and seriously injured the other.<sup>43</sup> On 9 Apr, it was reported, citing Myanmar Political Prisoners Network (PPN), that in the first quarter of 2024 the junta **killed at least six political prisoners** and **caused the death of seven** others through **denial of medical treatment**. A PPN official said that the junta had **increasingly refused to inform families** after their relatives had died in prison.<sup>44</sup>

### Missing junta No2. unfortunately found alive

On 19 Apr, it was reported that the junta's second in command, **Snr. Gen. Soe Win, had not been seen** since Apr 9 after resistance forces attacked the Southeastern Command in Mawlamyine Township (Mon State) using drones.<sup>45</sup> On 22 Apr, in Naypyidaw, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing held a cabinet meeting, however, his second in command **Soe Win was not present**.<sup>46</sup>

---

<sup>33</sup> Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) Hundreds homeless after junta bulldozes residences in Mandalay Region

<sup>34</sup> RFA (17 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta releases thousands of prisoners in New Year amnesty

<sup>35</sup> PPN via Facebook (18 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/25s2khwr>

<sup>36</sup> RFA (19 Apr 2024) Junta troops kill 4 in post-amnesty Myanmar prison riot

<sup>37</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Apr 2024) Kachin Christian Leader Freed in Myanmar Junta Amnesty; Irrawaddy (18 Apr 2024) Myanmar Christian Leader Rearrested Hours After Release in Amnesty; Irrawaddy (18 Apr 2024) Myanmar military pardons, re-arrests Kachin religious leader within hours

<sup>38</sup> AAPP (30 Apr 2024) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

<sup>39</sup> RFA (1 Apr 2024) Police, soldiers injure 17 following Myanmar prison riot; Irrawaddy (5 Apr 2024) Myanmar Political Prisoners Among Those Left Unable to Walk After Mass Beating; Myanmar Now (5 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta forces beat prisoners over protest at detention centre in Ayeyarwady Region

<sup>40</sup> Mizzima (4 Apr 2024) 17 prisoners injured when junta opens fire in Pyapon Prison

<sup>41</sup> RFA (19 Apr 2024) Junta troops kill 4 in post-amnesty Myanmar prison riot

<sup>42</sup> RFA (3 Apr 2024) After a year of silence, 7 political prisoners confirmed killed in Myanmar's Insein Prison

<sup>43</sup> Mizzima (3 Apr 2024) Junta torture of political prisoners in Monywa kills one and seriously injures another

<sup>44</sup> Irrawaddy (8 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Nixes Plan to Use Thai Airport to Evacuate Fleeing Personnel

<sup>45</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Apr 2024) As Myanmar's Military Stumbles, a Top General's Disappearance Fuels Intrigue

<sup>46</sup> Irrawaddy (23 Apr 2024) In Myanmar, The General Who Vanished Has Grabbed The Spotlight

On 29 Apr, junta media featured Soe Win visiting injured junta soldiers in Mon State. His appearance on junta propaganda put to rest speculation that coup leader Min Aung Hlaing had purged his No.2.<sup>47</sup>

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

**Landmines casualties jump threefold in 2023:** UNICEF reported that in 2023 landmines and explosive ordinances injured or killed at least 1,052 civilians, three times higher than in 2022 (390 confirmed cases). 35% of reported incidents occurred in Sagaing Region. Children constituted 21% of casualties. Landmines have now contaminated all states and regions except Naypyidaw. UNICEF reported a 2024 funding target of USD 208.3 million to provide assistance and services to conflict affected civilians.<sup>48</sup>

### **Sagaing Region**

Although junta forces largely focused on fighting resistance forces and other armed groups elsewhere in Burma, in Sagaing Region the **junta continued to commit atrocities** against civilians.

- During 1 Jan-10 Apr, it was reported that the junta **arrested and killed 86 civilians** across nine townships, **including three women**. This figure excludes fatalities from clashes, airstrikes and shelling. Junta forces reportedly turned **to arson and destroying villages when facing defeat**.<sup>49</sup>
- On 6 Apr, in **Shwebo Township**, junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee militiamen raided Shar Tau village, **burned to death two elderly people**, shot dead four villagers. The junta convoy then **detained three men and executed them**.<sup>50</sup>
- On 7 Apr, in **Homalin and Paungbyin Township**, seven resistance groups captured two bases belonging to the junta's **Light Infantry Battalion 396 and 370** near the Chindwin River and detained 120 junta troops. The junta evacuated a number of soldiers on a Mi-17 helicopter.<sup>51</sup>
- During 17-18 Apr, in **Monywa Township**, junta troops entered the east of the township from Ayadaw Township and **forced over 5,000 civilians to flee**. On 18 Apr, the junta soldiers stationed themselves in Hta Naung Win village.<sup>52</sup> On 20 Apr, nine local resistance groups attacked Tau Pu village with improvised rockets, damaged six houses, and injured 20 junta "supporters." Tau Pu village reportedly housed Pyu Saw Htee militia members.<sup>53</sup>
- During 20-24 Apr, in **Homalin Township**, junta forces attacked, bombed, and shelled Shwe Pyi Aye town **near the Indian border** and clashed with resistance forces. The attacks forced residents to flee. Casualty figures on either side were not reported.<sup>54</sup>
- On 21 Apr, in **Kawlin Township**, Kawlin PDF clashed with junta forces near Tanzue village. The junta later shelled the area, **attacked with drones**, and sent in reinforcements.<sup>55</sup>
- On 22 Apr, in **Tamu Township**, **junta airstrikes** on Khampat town and villages in Kale Township to the south **killed three civilians** and injured nine others. **Locals reported no clashes** between resistance and junta forces.<sup>56</sup>

### **Magway Region**

On 16 Apr, in **Seikphyu Township**, joint resistance forces attacked the junta's No. 21 Defence Industry Factory. The NUG's defense ministry reported that the attack met its objectives but did not disclose extent of the damage caused.<sup>57</sup>

### **Chin State**

**Chin Brotherhood Alliance expands:** On 13 Apr, the **Matupi** Chinland Defense Force Brigade 1 (Matupi CDF-1) announced it had joined the **Chin Brotherhood Alliance**. In Dec 2023, Matupi CDF split into

<sup>47</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Apr 2024) He's Back: Myanmar Junta No. 2 Returns With His Sights Set on Thai Border

<sup>48</sup> UNICEF (3 Apr 2024) Three-fold increase in civilian casualties caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance in Myanmar's escalating conflict; UNICEF (3 Apr 2024) Myanmar Landmine/ERW Incidents Information Factsheet (2023)

<sup>49</sup> RFA (24 Apr 2024) Junta wields fear as a weapon with killing of civilians in Myanmar's Sagaing

<sup>50</sup> RFA (24 Apr 2024) Junta wields fear as a weapon with killing of civilians in Myanmar's Sagaing

<sup>51</sup> RFA (9 Apr 2024) Rebels claim 2 junta bases in central Myanmar, taking 120 surrenders

<sup>52</sup> RFA (19 Apr 2024) 5,000 flee military raids on villages in Myanmar's Sagaing region

<sup>53</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Suffers Further Losses in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>54</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Battling to Retake Town near India Border From Civilian Govt

<sup>55</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Suffers Further Losses in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

<sup>56</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Apr 2024) Three civilians killed in junta airstrikes near Sagaing Region's border with India; Khonumthng (25 Apr 2024) Three civilians killed in junta airstrikes near Sagaing Region's border with India

<sup>57</sup> Narinjara (19 Apr 2024) Attack on Junta's Arms Factory in Magway Region NUG Claims; Mizzima (19 Apr 2024) PDF forces attack junta Defence Industry Factory in Magway Region

two brigades. Matupi CDF-2 itself aligned with the Chinland Council. At time of writing, seven member groups composed the Chinland Brotherhood Alliance.<sup>58</sup>

**Kyindwe Town seized:** On 29 Apr, in **Kanpetlet Township**, PDF and Chin Brotherhood Alliance forces seized **Kyindwe Town**, located between Saw (Magway Region) and the border of northern Arakan State. Nearby is a Defence Equipment Factory. Joint Chin resistance forces initially attacked the town in Dec 2023, later in Mar 2024 a broader coalition of forces, including the Arakan Army (AA) and other members of the Chin Brotherhood Alliance joined the attack. Resistance forces reported that junta bombing had largely destroyed the town.<sup>59</sup>

**Resistance ambush in Hakha:** On Apr 12, in **Hakha Township** resistance forces ambushed a convoy of junta officials in **Hakha** and injured six. On 15 Apr, resistance forces in the township and surrounding areas carried out a drone attack on junta troops at a mountain camp outside Hakha Town.<sup>60</sup>

## Arakan State

On 7 Apr, the United League of Arakan's (ULA) Humanitarian and Development Coordination Office stated that, during 13 Nov 2023 to 21 Mar 2024, junta attacks **killed 179 civilians** and **injured 468** more in Arakan State. The junta had also **arbitrarily arrested at least 471 people** during that same period. Additionally, conflict resumed in Nov 2023 newly internally displaced 358,200 people in Arakan State.<sup>61</sup>

**Landmines continue to haunt Arakan civilians:** On 23 Apr, it was reported that **landmines and unexploded ordnances** had caused nearly 60 casualties since Nov 2023 in Arakan State.<sup>62</sup> In Apr 2024 alone, landmines and unexploded ordnances injured 11 and killed three Arakan State civilians.<sup>63</sup> On 11 Apr, it was reported that the junta had planted a large number of landmines around **Sittwe**.<sup>64</sup> On 12 Apr, in **Thandwe Township**, it was reported that the junta was planting landmines in areas where villagers frequently foraged.<sup>65</sup>

**AA advances in Buthidaung, Maungdaw:** On 1 Apr, in **Buthidaung Township**, the Arakan Army (AA) reportedly launched an offensive on the junta's LIB 564<sup>66</sup> and on 5 Apr, seized the battalion's base.<sup>67</sup> During 1-7 Apr, junta airstrikes destroyed at least 60 buildings.<sup>68</sup> As of 27 Apr, the AA continued to clash with the junta's LIB 565 and reportedly targeted the junta's 15th Military Operations Command.<sup>69</sup>

**Maungdaw Township:** On 12 Apr, in northern **Maungdaw Township**, the AA completely seized the Kyeinchaung border post. It was reportedly the largest border post in the area. The AA had targeted the post since mid-February.<sup>70</sup> During 14-17 Apr, the AA attacked the Ngar Khu Ya and Ywet Nyo Taung outposts along the Bangladesh border. All nearby villagers reportedly fled the fighting.<sup>71</sup> On 16 Apr, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) reported that at least 80 junta personnel fled clashes in **northern Maungdaw Township** into Bangladesh.<sup>72</sup> On 18 Apr, the AA also launched attacks on two other Border Guard outposts along the **Buthidaung-Maungdaw road**.<sup>73</sup> On 22 Apr, it was reported that the approximately 2,000 villagers in towns surrounding the Kye Kan Pyin border guard HQ had fled in expectation of an AA attack on the base. On 23 Apr, the AA captured the Aung Mingalar border outpost, near to the Kye Kan Pyin HQ.<sup>74</sup>

On 17 Apr, it was reported that a total of **260 junta personnel and civilians had fled to Bangladesh** and been detained by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).<sup>75</sup> On 25 Apr, it was reported that 288 junta

<sup>58</sup> Khonumthung News (13 Apr 2024) Matupi CDF Brigade 1 Joins Chin Brotherhoods Alliance

<sup>59</sup> Myanmar Now (2 May 2024) Chin forces, allies seize strategic town from Myanmar military after long battle

<sup>60</sup> Khonumthung News (20 Apr 2024) CDF Fighting to Capture Hakha

<sup>61</sup> Narinjara (7 Apr 2024) 179 civilian-casualties reported in Rakhine State due to junta's attacks

<sup>62</sup> DMG (23 Apr 2024) Military-AA hostilities in Thandwe Twsp force 1,000 to flee

<sup>63</sup> DMG (23 Apr 2024) Activists stress need to raise awareness on landmines, unexploded ordnance; DMG (20 Apr 2024) Septuagenarian loses leg in landmine explosion in Kyaukphyu Twsp; DMG (18 Apr 2024) IDP returnee loses leg in landmine blast; DMG (9 Apr 2024) Kyaukphyu man loses leg in landmine explosion; DMG (7 Apr 2024) Explosion of war remnant kills man, injures daughter in Minbya Twsp; Narinjara (16 Apr 2024) 7 Rakhine children injured in remnant bomb explosion in Maungdaw

<sup>64</sup> DMG (11 Apr 2024) Junta plants landmines, naval mines around Sittwe

<sup>65</sup> Narinjara (12 Apr 2024) Junta forces plant landmines in areas where residents have to rely for livelihood

<sup>66</sup> DMG (4 Apr 2024) AA continues onslaught against junta battalions in Maungdaw, Buthidaung

<sup>67</sup> DMG (6 Apr 2024) Arakan Army seizes Buthidaung-based junta battalion

<sup>68</sup> DMG (8 Apr 2024) Over one week, junta airstrikes destroy dozens of homes in Arakan State

<sup>69</sup> DMG (27 Apr 2024) AA attempts to seize Buthidaung-based No. 15 Military Operations Command

<sup>70</sup> DMG (12 Apr 2024) Arakan Army seizes Kyeinchaung BGF outpost in Maungdaw Twsp; DMG (12 Apr 2024) Arakan Army seizes Kyeinchaung BGF outpost in Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>71</sup> RFA (17 Apr 2024) Arakan Army attacks another junta border outpost in western Myanmar

<sup>72</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Apr 2024) At Least 80 Myanmar Junta Personnel Flee to Bangladesh

<sup>73</sup> DMG (19 Apr 2024) AA steps up assault on military camps in Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>74</sup> Narinjara (24 Apr 2024) 2,000 residents flee 5 villages in Maungdaw due to potential fighting

<sup>75</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Apr 2024) At Least 80 Myanmar Junta Personnel Flee to Bangladesh

personnel were **disarmed and sent back to Burma** via a junta navy ship. The junta reportedly repatriated 173 Bangladesh nationals, mostly newly released from prison, as part of the exchange.<sup>76</sup>

**AA targets major junta base in Ann:** On 4 Apr, in **Ann Township** it was reported that thousands of locals from at least 24 villages fled intensified fighting between the AA and the junta.<sup>77</sup> During 1-7 Apr, junta airstrikes destroyed more than 40 houses.<sup>78</sup> Two days later, the AA reportedly shelled and attacked the junta's **Western Command headquarters** and the junta's No 8 communications battalion.<sup>79</sup> On 7 Apr, the junta carried out bombing raids on four different villages and injured at least 20 civilians.<sup>80</sup> On 20 Apr, it was reported that the junta had carried out airstrikes on the area around the **Taw Hein Taung tactical command base** and that the AA had come close to seizing the base. The junta aircraft reportedly originated from Magway (Magway Region) and Tada-U Townships (Mandalay Region).<sup>81</sup> On 27 Apr, the AA announced its takeover of the Taw Hein Taung tactical command base.<sup>82</sup>

**Clashes in Thandwe Township shuts down hydropower:** During 14-15 Apr, in **Thandwe township**, the junta shelled and carried out airstrikes near at least two villages **during Thingyan festivities**.<sup>83</sup> On 13 Apr, the AA had clashed with junta troops in the north of the township. On 22 Apr, it was reported that the junta again clashed with the AA approximately 16 km away from the **Thu Htay Chaung Hydropower project** and **displaced 1,000 people**.<sup>84</sup> On the same day, the junta opened fire on a bus along the Taungup-Thandwe highway, killed the driver, and injured two others.<sup>85</sup> On 26 Apr, the junta reportedly clashed with the AA in several other villages, also near the Thu Htay Chaung Hydropower station.<sup>86</sup> On 26 Apr, **all staff at the hydropower station fled and stopped all station operations**.<sup>87</sup> On 27 Apr, it was reported that clashes in the township had displaced more than 10,000 civilians.<sup>88</sup>

## Kachin State

On 29 Apr, it was reported that, in Kachin State the junta had **arbitrarily arrested over 200 civilians**, including religious leaders, in 2024. Most of these arbitrary arrests occurred in Bhamo, Myitkyina, and Mogaung towns.<sup>89</sup>

**KIA and allies capture Loije:** On 1 Apr, in **Momauk Township** the KIA and allied resistance forces captured the **junta's Sinlum Bum camp**, the biggest junta camp on the Bamao-Loije Road and established over 60 years ago.<sup>90</sup> Junta troops launched an airstrike on Janman, west of Loije town, killed five civilians and injured three others.<sup>91</sup> The **KIA disregarded pressure from China** to keep clashes away from Loije, one of five major trade hubs on the China-Burma border. On 2 Apr, the KIA **captured a junta police camp in Loije town**. Locals said that **junta governance had halted** and that junta administrative staff had already moved to Bhamo.<sup>92</sup> On 2-3 Apr, the KIA and allies **seized Hka Wan Bang and Mai Sak Kawng camps** on the Momauk-Loije Road. The KIA claimed that they had captured all junta camps located along the road.<sup>93</sup> On 4 Apr, the **KIA sealed all junta administrative buildings in Loije town, including a hospital** and the General Administration Department (GAD) office.<sup>94</sup> On 8-11 Apr, the KIA captured the junta's **Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 142 camp** in Loije town,

<sup>76</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Apr 2024) Hundreds of Myanmar Junta Personnel Who Fled Rakhine Clashes Repatriated From Bangladesh

<sup>77</sup> DMG (4 Apr 2024) Military-AA hostilities in Ann Twsp force thousands to flee

<sup>78</sup> DMG (8 Apr 2024) Over one week, junta airstrikes destroy dozens of homes in Arakan State

<sup>79</sup> DMG (11 Apr 2024) AA attacks military's Western Command HQ in Ann Twsp

<sup>80</sup> DMG (8 Apr 2024) AA ramps up assault on military camps in Ann Twsp

<sup>81</sup> Narinjara (19 Apr 2024) Intense clashes erupt at Taw Hein Taung tactical operation command in Ann

<sup>82</sup> DMG (27 Apr 2024) AA captures key junta base in Ann Twsp: source

<sup>83</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Apr 2024) Junta expands attacks on Arakan Army and civilians to Thandwe Township

<sup>84</sup> DMG (23 Apr 2024) Military-AA hostilities in Thandwe Twsp force 1,000 to flee

<sup>85</sup> DMG (24 Apr 2024) Driver killed, two injured as junta soldiers open fire on bus in Thandwe Twsp

<sup>86</sup> DMG (26 Apr 2024) Military clashes with AA near hydropower project in Thandwe Twsp

<sup>87</sup> DMG (29 Apr 2024) Fighting halts Tha Htay Chaung hydropower dam construction in Thandwe

<sup>88</sup> DMG (27 Apr 2024) Thousands displaced by military-AA hostilities in Thandwe Twsp

<sup>89</sup> Kachin News Group (29 Apr 2024) ကချင်မှာ ၄ လအတွင်း အရပ်သားပြည်သူ ၂၀၀ ဝန်းကျင် ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

<sup>90</sup> Kachin News Group (1 Apr 2024) နှစ်ပေါင်း ၆၀ ကျော်ရှိတဲ့ စိန်လုံဘွမ်(Sinlum Bum)ဗျူဟာတပ်စခန်းကြီးကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>91</sup> Myanmar Now (2 Apr 2024) KIA takes full control of road from Momauk to Chinese border

<sup>92</sup> Kachin News Group (2 Apr 2024) တရုတ်ဖိအားပေးနေတဲ့ကြား လွယ်ဂျယ်ရီစခန်းကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>93</sup> Kachin News Group (3 Apr 2024) ခပ်ဘန်(ကျောက်စခန်း)စစ်တပ်ဂိတ်နဲ့ မိုင်ဆင်ကောင့် တပ်စခန်း ၂ ခုကို KIA ထပ်မံသိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>94</sup> Kachin News Group (4 Apr 2024) လွယ်ဂျယ်မြို့အစိုးရရုံးအားလုံး KIA ချိတ်ပိတ်



confiscated over MMK 6 billion. The KIA later took full control of Loiye and temporarily suspended trading.<sup>95</sup> On 11 Apr, the KIA reopened the border for trade.<sup>96</sup>

**Nam Ya and Sezin are now under the control of KIA:** During 9-11 Apr, in **Hpakant Township**, around 30 junta troops surrendered during the clashes with the KIA and allies near Nam Ya camp. Junta airstrikes destroyed ten houses in Nam Ya village.<sup>97</sup> The KIA and Kachin PDF captured a **pro-junta militia camp and the junta's Nam Ya camp**, which the junta used to inspect vehicles and people entering and exiting Hpakant town.<sup>98</sup> On 19 Apr, the junta **launched airstrikes** on Sut Chyai Maw village, about 11 km away from Nam Ya, in retaliation to the KIA's capture of Nam Ya camp.<sup>99</sup> On 23 Apr, in **Sezin village** after two weeks of clashes with the junta and allied Shan National Army (SNA) troops, the KIA and its allies and captured the junta's **LIB 116 camp**, located on the **road connecting Sagaing and Hpakant**.<sup>100</sup> Junta and SNA troops burned down 23 houses during the clashes.<sup>101</sup>

**Sinbo now under the KIA:** On 25 Apr, in **Myitkyina Township**, two junta fighter jets bombed three times **Sinbo town**, located along the Myitkyina-Bhamo waterway on the Ayeyarwaddy River. The airstrike killed one civilian, injured two others, and destroyed several houses.<sup>102</sup> On 26 Apr, the KIA and its allies attacked the junta's **Infantry Battalion (IB) 141 base**, 4.8 km away.<sup>103</sup> On 29 Apr, the KIA and allies captured the base and **took full control over Sinbo town**.<sup>104</sup>

**KIA keeps expanding its territorial control:** On 3-5 Apr, in **Mansi Township**, the KIA clashed with junta forces for two days and **captured Han Htet camp** on Bhamo-Mandalay Road. Junta **LIB 319** in Mansi town shelled the camp and injured a man in a nearby village.<sup>105</sup> On 5-7 Apr, in **Waingmaw Township** fighting between junta-aligned Wu Yang People's Militia Force and the KIA destroyed at least 14 houses in Wu Yang and surrounding villages. Junta **Infantry Battalion 58** in Waingmaw shelled villages around the town while KIA forces approached the town.<sup>106</sup> On 11 Apr, in **Hsawlaw Township**, the KIA arrested the junta's **IB 298** commander and **seized a junta-affiliated militia camp** in Myaw Maw village located 8 km away from Hsawlaw town on Hsawlaw-Chipwi road.<sup>107</sup> On 17 Apr, in **Tanai Township** the KIA clashed with junta troops in Noi Je Bum and **captured IB 297 camp**, which controlled the surrounding area. The junta launched airstrikes during the clashes.<sup>108</sup>

<sup>95</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) KIA captures trade hub on China-Myanmar border; Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) လွယ်ဂျယ်မြို့ခေလရ ၁၄၂ တပ်ရင်းထဲက ငွေကျပ်သိန်းပေါင်း ၆ သောင်းကျော် KIA ရရှိ

<sup>96</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Apr 2024) KIO Assumes Administration of Recently Captured Loiye

<sup>97</sup> Kachin News Group (11 Apr 2024) နန့်ယားစခန်းသိမ်းတိုက်ပွဲ အရာရှိတစ်ချို့နဲ့အင်အား ၃၀ ခန့်အလံဖြူထောင်လက်နက်ချ

<sup>98</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Apr 2024) Myanmar army camp near Hpakant falls to Kachin forces

<sup>99</sup> Kachin News Group (19 Apr 2024) KIA သိမ်းပိုက်ထားတဲ့ နန့်ယားကျေးရွာအနီးတဝိုက် စစ်တပ်ကပုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>100</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Apr 2024) ဆယ်ဇင်း ခမရ ၁၁၆ တပ်စခန်းကို KIA အပြီးသတ်သိမ်းပိုက်ပြီး ရှင်းလင်းရေးဆောင်ရွက်နေ

<sup>101</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Apr 2024) ဆယ်ဇင်း စခန်းသိမ်းတိုက်ပွဲမှာ အိမ်ခြေ ၂၀ ကျော်ထပ်ပြီး မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

<sup>102</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Apr 2024) လေယာဉ် ပုံးကျတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ဆင်ဘို အရပ်သားတစ်ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး နှစ်ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>103</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Apr 2024) လေယာဉ် ပုံးကျတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ဆင်ဘို အရပ်သားတစ်ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး နှစ်ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>104</sup> Kachin News Group (29 Apr 2024) ဆင်ဘိုမြို့ကို အပြီးသတ်သိမ်းပိုက်လိုက်ပြီလို့ဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးနော်ဘူပြော

<sup>105</sup> Kachin News Group (5 Apr 2024) ဟန်ထက်တပ်စခန်းကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်ထားပေမယ့် စစ်တပ်က လေကြောင်းနဲ့ပုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်နေ

<sup>106</sup> Kachin News Group (8 Apr 2024) ဝိုင်းမော်မှာ KIA နဲ့ ဝူယာန်ပြည်သူ့စစ်ကြားစစ်ရေးတင်းမာနေပြီး ၃ ရက်အတွင်း နေအိမ် ၁၄ အိမ်မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

<sup>107</sup> Kachin News Group (11 Apr 2024) ဆော့လော် ဒု-တပ်ရင်းမှူးကို ဖမ်းဆီးပြီးနောက် ဆော့လော် ပြည်သူ့စစ်စခန်းတစ်ခု KIA တိုက်ခိုက်သိမ်းပိုက်

<sup>108</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Apr 2024) ပယင်းမော်ဒေသကို ထိန်းချုပ်ထားတဲ့ နွယ်ဂျယ်ဘွမ်တပ်စခန်းကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

## Northern Shan State

On 23 Apr, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) **charged three of its soldiers** with kidnapping and murder and summarily **executed** them in public in Laukkai Township. It also sentenced seven others to prison terms ranging from two to 20 years.

RFA (25 Apr 2024) Video shows rebel group sentencing own fighters to death for 'abuse of power'

**Junta continues to break ceasefire agreement with Three Brotherhood Alliance:** On 1 Apr, in **Mongmit Township**, junta troops arbitrarily arrested two civilians from Ywar Taw Lay village and shot them dead.<sup>109</sup> On 2 Apr, in **Mabein Township**, under suspicion of the KIA meeting PDF in Moe Lone village, the junta bombed the village, killed six civilians, **including a monk and two children**<sup>110</sup>, injured seven others and destroyed 10 houses.<sup>111</sup> On 15 Apr, a **junta airstrike on Pwe Za Meik village** killed an unreported number of civilians and destroyed two houses.<sup>112</sup> 21 Apr, in

**Nawngkhio Township** the junta launched airstrikes on villages near the **Pyin Oo Lwin-Nawngkhio border**, killed four civilians, and forced over **3000 villagers from 10 villages to flee**.<sup>113</sup>

**TNLA practices in their controlled areas:** On 19 Apr, citing the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) information department, it was reported that **armed organizations needed approval from the TNLA head office** to open offices in TNLA-controlled areas of Namhsan, Manton, Namtu, Kutkai, Namhkam, Monglon, and Mongngawt. The **TNLA prohibited KIA and PDF members** from wearing uniforms in Kutkai, Namtu, and Mongton towns and from establishing camps nearby.<sup>114</sup>

## Karenni State

**Junta aerial and landmine attacks:** On 1 Apr, the Progressive Karenni People's Force (PKPF) stated that during Feb 2021- Apr 2024, a total of **1,041 clashes** broke out between the junta and resistance forces. PKPF estimated that the junta launched over **1,400 aerial attacks** which killed over 500 resistance members and **over 400 civilians**, destroyed 2,415 houses, **49 religious buildings, 15 hospitals and clinics, and 22 schools**.<sup>115</sup>

On 20 Apr, in **Loikaw Township**, the junta **bombed Kone Thar village**, killed six villagers, including a child, injured 10 others, and destroyed over 20 houses.<sup>116</sup> On 28 Apr, in **Demoso Township**, a 14-year-old boy died after **stepping on a landmine** in Pu Hpar village. U Banyar from Karenni Human Rights Group stated that junta **landmines had injured about 30 IDPs** in Pu Hpar, Thay Su Le, and other villages.<sup>117</sup> On 29 Apr, **18 civilians** held **hostage** by the junta, including pregnant women and children, escaped from **Hpasawng Town**. Junta troops had **held them in the town for three months** and threatened to kill them if they attempted to escape.<sup>118</sup> Regime soldiers reportedly **laid landmines** to prevent their escape and still held captive at least 10 more people, including some with disabilities.<sup>119</sup>

**KNSO joins the revolution:** On 10 Apr, the Karenni National Solidarity Organisation (KNSO), which had signed a ceasefire agreement with the junta in Nov 2002, and later became a junta affiliated militia, announced it would fight the junta. The secretary of the KNSO claimed that the **junta broke the ceasefire agreement** when it launched airstrikes on Khe Ma Hpyu village, where the KNSO was headquartered.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>109</sup> SHAN (5 Apr 2024) မိုးမိတ်မြို့တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးထားသည့် အမျိုးသား ၂ ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီက သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်သတ်

<sup>110</sup> SHAN (5 Apr 2024) မဘိမ်းမြို့နယ်ကို စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲ၊ ကလေးနှစ်ဦး အပါအဝင် အရပ်သား ၆ ဦး သေဆုံး

<sup>111</sup> Kachin News Group (3 Apr 2024) မဘိမ်းမှာ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ဘုန်းကြီးတစ်ပါးနဲ့အရပ်သား ၆ ဦးပွဲချင်းပြီးသေဆုံး ၇ ဦးဒဏ်ရာပြင်းထန်

<sup>112</sup> Kachin News Group (16 Apr 2024) KIA ပူးပေါင်းတပ်သိမ်းပိုက်ထားတဲ့ မဘိမ်းမြို့နယ်ထဲက ရွာတစ်ရွာလေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>113</sup> SHAN (22 Apr 2024) နောင်ချို လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက် အမျိုးသမီး ၂ ဦး အပါအဝင် ၄ ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>114</sup> Kachin News Group (19 Apr 2024) ကွတ်ခိုင်မြို့မှာ KIA အနေနဲ့ ရုံးဖွင့်အခြေချလိုပါက ခွင့်တောင်းရမယ်လို့ဆို

<sup>115</sup> SHAN (4 Apr 2024) ကရင်နီပြည် ၃နှစ်ကျော် တော်လှန်ရေးရဲဘော် ၅၀၀ ကျော်၊ အရပ်သား ၄၀၀ ကျော်သေဆုံး

<sup>116</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (20 Apr 2024) ဒီကနေ့ လွိုင်ကော်မြို့နယ်၊ ကုန်းသာကျေးရွာ ဗုံးကြဲခံရပြီး ကလေးငယ်အပါအဝင် ပြည်သူ(၆)ဦး ပွဲချင်းပြီးသေဆုံး

<sup>117</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (29 Apr 2024) ဒီးမော့ဆို၊ ပူစားကျေးရွာမှာ (၁၄)နှစ်အရွယ် ကလေးတစ်ဦး မိုင်းနင်းမိပြီး သေဆုံး

<sup>118</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (29 Apr 2024) ဖားဆောင်းမြို့တွင်းမှာ ဓားစားခံအဖြစ်ထိန်းသိမ်းခံရတဲ့ ပြည်သူတချို့ ထွက်ပြေးလွတ်မြောက်လာကြ

<sup>119</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (1 May 2024) Civilians Escape from Military Regime in Hpasawng

<sup>120</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (10 Apr 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီကို တော်လှန်တိုက်ခိုက်တော့မယ်လို့ KNSO (ကြယ်ဖြူ) တရားဝင်ကြေညာ

**Resistance forces control 90 percent of the state:** On 25 Apr, a Karenni Nationalities Defence force (KNDF) spokesperson told media that resistance forces had captured **65 junta camps and controlled 90 percent** of the state, including all roads into to the state.<sup>121</sup>

### Southern Shan State

**Junta airstrikes Pekon:** On 2 Apr, in **Pekon Township** the junta **bombed Hseng Hkun village**, injured eight villagers, including children, and destroyed 12 houses.<sup>122</sup> On 11 Apr, junta **airstrikes** on the western part of the township **killed three civilians**, including a **three-year-old child**, and injured five others.<sup>123</sup> On 21-23 Apr, junta troops **killed five IDPs** during their attempt to regain Pekon town.<sup>124</sup>

**Junta militia conscripts locals:** On 4 Apr, in **Taunggyi Township** it was reported that the junta-aligned Pa-O People's Militia Force (PMF) **forced villagers** in Nam See Nawng Lay village to **undergo military training**. Locals said Pa-O PMF pressured village administrators to organize the training and forced residents to partially cover expenses for the training.<sup>125</sup>

**Junta targets Pa-O self-administered zone:** On 3 Apr, in Pinlaung and Nyaung Shwe Townships the junta and its allied Pa-O National Organisation (PNO) massed troops in their bases. Located 137 km from Naypyidaw, Pinlaung holds strategic importance for the junta.<sup>126</sup> On 10 Apr, junta troops clashed with the KNDF and its allied resistance forces along the Karenni-S. Shan border and launched air and artillery strikes on villages.<sup>127</sup> On 8 Apr, the anti-junta Pa-O National Liberation Army (PNLA) claimed that the junta had launched airstrikes on religious buildings and civilian houses in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone. Citing a local, it was reported that junta troops had intentionally attacked Buddhist monasteries in the Pa-O region to instill fear and discourage resistance by the majority Buddhist Pa-O people.<sup>128</sup> On 8 Apr, in Hsingseng Township, junta troops stationed in Hsaikhkawng and Loiput villages indiscriminately shelled Tway Pu village, killed one girl and injured two other children.<sup>129</sup> On 18 Apr, junta troops arbitrarily shot two locals near Pong Law village on Hsingseng-Loikaw Road and one died at the scene.<sup>130</sup> On 20 Apr, the PNO troops burned down seven houses, including the house of PNLO's vice chairperson in Nar Hkaik village.<sup>131</sup>

On 20 Apr, the Pa-O Youth Organization (PYO) reported that **during 21 Jan - 20 Apr**, clashes between the junta and resistance forces in **Hsingseng, Nyaung Shwe, Hopong and Pinlaung townships killed 66 civilians**, injured 79 others, destroyed 606 buildings, and **displaced over 71,150 civilians**. The PYO estimated that the junta dropped **460 bombs** and carried out **2,900 artillery attacks** in these townships during this period.<sup>132</sup> The PYO also reported **60 people missing**.<sup>133</sup>

<sup>121</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (25 Apr 2024) တော်လှန်ရေးတပ်တွေက ပြည်နယ်ဝင်ပေါက်တွေကို ထိန်းချုပ်ထား၊ ကရင်နီပြည်ကို စစ်ကူမလာနိုင်တဲ့ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ပြည်နယ်အတွင်းက နီးစပ်ရာမြို့တွေကနေသာ အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းနေရ

<sup>122</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (3 Apr 2024) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ်၊ ဆိုင်ခွန် (ရှမ်း) ကျေးရွာကို စစ်ကောင်စီ လေယာဉ်ပျံဖြင့် ပြည်သူ့ စဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>123</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (12 Apr 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီရဲ့လေယာဉ်ပျံဖြင့်ကြောင့် ဂုဏ်အရွယ်ကလေးငယ်အပါအဝင် ဂုဦးသေဆုံး၊ ဂုဦးထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>124</sup> SHAN (26 Apr 2024) ဖယ်ခုံတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီ စစ်ကြောင်းထိုးခြင်းကြောင့် တစ်ပတ်အတွင်း အရပ်သား ၅ ဦးသတ်ဖြတ်ခံရ

<sup>125</sup> Network Media Group (4 Apr 2024) PMF Forces Civilians to Join Military Training in Taunggyi Township

<sup>126</sup> SHAN (3 Apr 2024) ပင်လောင်း၊ ညောင်ရွှေမြို့နယ်အတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် အင်အားဖြည့်တင်းနေ

<sup>127</sup> SHAN (10 Apr 2024) သျှမ်း-ကရင်နီ(ကယား) နယ်စပ် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေဆဲ

<sup>128</sup> Network Media Group (8 Apr 2024) Military Council Bombs Buddhist Monasteries in Pinlaung Township

<sup>129</sup> "Kantarawaddy Times (9 Apr 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီရမ်းသမ်းပစ်ခတ်လိုက်တဲ့ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ကျောင်းသူ ဂုဦး ထိမှန်၊ ဝ ဦးပွဲချင်းပြီးသေဆုံး သတင်း"

<sup>130</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (19 Apr 2024) ပအိုဝ်းဒေသခံနှစ်ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီပစ်ခတ်၊ တစ်ဦးလွတ်မြောက်ပြီး တစ်ဦးပွဲချင်းပြီးသေဆုံးဟု PNLA ပြော

<sup>131</sup> SHAN (22 Apr 2024) ဆီဆိုင်တွင် PNLO ခေါင်းဆောင် မိသားစု နေအိမ်အပါအဝင် နေအိမ် ၇ လုံးကို PNO မီးရှို့

<sup>132</sup> SHAN (26 Apr 2024) သျှမ်းပြည် တောင်ပိုင်း ၃ လအတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် အရပ်သား သေဆုံးမှု ၆၆ ဦးထိရှိလာ

<sup>133</sup> Pa-O Youth Organization (8 Apr 2024) ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်းတိုက်ပွဲ (၇၇)ရက်အတွင်း အရပ်သားပြည်သူထိခိုက်မှုနှင့်၂၀၂၄ ခုနှစ် မတ်လ (၃၁)ရက်နေ့မှ ဧပြီလ (၆)ရက်နေ့အထိ ဆီဆိုင်၊ ဟိုပုံး၊ ပင်လောင်း၊ ညောင်ရွှေ စသည့်ဒေသများ၏ တိုက်ပွဲအခြေအနေနှင့် ဖြစ်စဉ်များ

## Karen State

**Myawaddy in the balance:** On 5 Apr, in **Myawaddy Township** in Thin Gan Nyi Nyaung village, located just outside of Myawaddy Town, it was reported that around **477 junta troops** from three battalions based there had **surrendered** to KNU troops and the KNU had taken complete control of all junta bases in the village. The KNU had carried out operations against the junta since 7 March.<sup>134</sup> After the junta's positions at Thin Gan Nyi Nyaung fell, the junta chartered three flights to Yangon from **Mae Sot** (Thailand), across the border from **Myawaddy**, ostensibly to evacuate junta troops. On 8 Apr, the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister stated that the two remaining flights had been canceled, without explanation.<sup>135</sup> On 9 Apr, the Thai Foreign Minister stated that the other plane had been empty, except for "diplomatically sensitive" documents.<sup>136</sup>

By 8 Apr, only the base for the junta's **LIB 275**, located just outside of **Myawaddy Town**, had yet to fall and the KNU had announced that they planned to take full control of the town's administration.<sup>137</sup> On 9 Apr, the KNU launched an attack on the remaining battalion, with the aims of taking the camp. The junta responded with a series of airstrikes on nearby villages. Meanwhile, **Karen Border Guard Force (BGF)** troops took up positions in **Myawaddy**, with the aim of preventing clashes in the town. The BGF split from the junta in January.<sup>138</sup> On 11 Sep, the KNU announced it had taken LIB 275's base.<sup>139</sup> The remaining 200 junta troops retreated to the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge No 2., the main crossing point for trade in **Myawaddy**.<sup>140</sup>

On 20 Apr, the KNU attacked the **LIB 275 troops stranded near the Thai-Burma border**.<sup>141</sup> The junta carried out airstrikes to support the stranded troops during fighting and reportedly dropped more than 150 bombs throughout the **Myawaddy** area. On 22 Apr, two days of clashes and junta bombings killed at least seven civilians and injured four others. Approximately **two-thirds of Myawaddy Town** fled the clashes, many crossed the Moei River into Thailand.<sup>142</sup> Thai officials reported that a Thai border hospital had admitted 38 people injured during fighting, but did not specify the number of civilians treated.<sup>143</sup> They also stated that in Tak Province Thai authorities had opened two temporary camps and that six hospitals made preparations to deal with "emergency situations".<sup>144</sup> In total, **around 3,500 refugees crossed over into Thailand** and took shelter in these temporary camps in the first week of April. By 22 Apr, the Thai military had told roughly 2,000 of these refugees that they could return to Burma. Of those who returned, many remained encamped along the Burma side of the Moei River, out of fear that they would have to flee once more.<sup>145</sup> By 24 Apr, Thai authorities had returned all of the remaining refugees in temporary camps to Burma.<sup>146</sup> In **Myawaddy Township**, 15,000 locals remained displaced and took shelter in temporary camps and in monasteries along the Moei River.<sup>147</sup>

**BGF helps junta retake control:** On the evening of 22 Apr, it was reported that the **junta's LIB 275 had retaken their base** outside of Myawaddy town. On 24 Apr, the head of the KNU's Central Executive Committee stated that the Karen BGF had facilitated the junta's return to the base and that the KNU had withdrawn from Myawaddy to "**avoid falling into a trap**". The KNU stated that it would continue to fight to control the town.<sup>148</sup> A businessman reported that the junta and Karen BGF had since **held negotiations** and taken up positions in the town together. On 26 Apr, it was reported that Karen BGF mainly controlled LIB 275's base. The KNU continued to occupy positions outside the town and the other junta bases it seized before 22 Apr.<sup>149</sup>

**Counter-offensive column crossing the Dawna Hills:** After resistance troops took control of **Myawaddy**, the junta launched **Operation Aung Zeya**, its effort to retake lost territory in **Myawaddy Township**. The operation was spearheaded by a 1,000-strong column of troops from the junta's LID 55

<sup>134</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Apr 2024) Hundreds of Myanmar junta troops surrender as KNU captures base near Myawaddy

<sup>135</sup> Irrawaddy (8 Apr 2024)

<sup>136</sup> The Nation (9 Apr 2024) No officials, weapons or illegal cash on Myanmar plane landing in Mae Sot: Parnpree

<sup>137</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) KNU claims to have captured most of Myawaddy

<sup>138</sup> Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) Battle for Myawaddy Township intensifies as KNLA, allies attack battalion base

<sup>139</sup> AFP via Irrawaddy (11 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Troops Withdraw From Myawaddy Following Clashes

<sup>140</sup> RFA (11 Apr 2024) Allied rebel forces capture last battalion in Myanmar border town

<sup>141</sup> RFA (20 Apr 2024) Karen rebel forces attack stranded Myanmar junta troops on Thai border

<sup>142</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Apr 2024) Civilians killed, injured in clashes on Thailand-Myanmar border; Irrawaddy (22 Apr 2024)

Myanmar Junta Mounts Fresh Airstrikes to Recapture Border Hub

<sup>143</sup> RFA (22 Apr 2024) Injured sent to Thai border hospital following Myanmar clash

<sup>144</sup> Bangkok Post (22 Apr 2024) Myanmar war refugees returning home

<sup>145</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Apr 2024) Myawaddy refugees sent back to Myanmar after fleeing to Thailand; Myanmar Now (25 Apr

2024) Myawaddy refugees sent back to Myanmar after fleeing to Thailand

<sup>146</sup> KIC via BNI (25 Apr 2024) Myawaddy IDPs Return Home-Thai Temporary Refugee Camps Shut Down

<sup>147</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2024) Thousands flee Myawaddy fighting only to be stranded along Myanmar-Thai border

<sup>148</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2024) KNU Blames Border Militia for Myanmar Junta's Myawaddy Return

<sup>149</sup> RFA (24 Apr 2024) Junta recaptures key border base, but Karen rebels say fight isn't over

and was led by Soe Win, the junta's second in command. Throughout the first half of April, the column advanced along the Asia Highway, towards **Myawaddy**, although was repeatedly ambushed near **Kyaikmaraw** (Mon State), and in **Kawkareik**.<sup>150</sup>

On 13 Apr, the column reportedly arrived in **Kawkareik**, where, after six days of fighting, it forced resistance troops to retreat from the town. During fighting, junta troops repeatedly deployed drones and reportedly used **poison-gas bombs** during the clashes.<sup>151</sup> On 22 Apr, the junta reported that it had **retaken Kawkareik**. On 23 Apr, junta bombing killed at least one civilian near Kawkareik Town and destroyed one monastery.<sup>152</sup>

On 3 May, the KNU stated that the junta's counteroffensive had yet to breach Karen defenses in the **Dawna Hills**. While regime troops continued to advance along both the Asian Highway and other routes towards **Myawaddy**, anti-junta troops had prepared defenses outside of the town and throughout the Dawna Hills.<sup>153</sup>

*KNU expands control in Brigade 5:* On 24 Apr, the KNU announced that a coalition of KNU and PDF troops had taken control of the junta's IB 434 base and an equipment and uniform supply station in **Hpapun Township**. The KNU took control of **Hpapun Town** last month.<sup>154</sup>

### Bago Region

- On 17 Apr, in **Yedashe Township's** Yedashe Town, regime soldiers clashed with resistance forces. During 19-21 Apr, junta attacks on villages around Swar town killed eight civilians, **including a child** and a monk, and displaced more than 6,000 others.<sup>155</sup>
- On 22 Apr, in **Shwegyin Township**, junta airstrikes on two villages killed two women and injured eight other civilians, **including an infant**. It was reported that the junta had targeted villages in Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi Townships almost daily.<sup>156</sup>

### Tanintharyi Region

*KNLA & resistance offensive in Dawei Township:* On 15 Apr, in **Dawei Township**, KNLA forces captured a junta base near the **Htee Khee border trade hub** and took into custody 48 junta soldiers. The KNLA Brigade Four's secretary noted that **Htee Khee** itself remained under junta control, but that junta troops appeared to have low morale and had little interest in fighting. In Feb 2023, Dawei Watch reported that Brigade Four commanders jointly owned two resorts in **Htee Khee** with the junta's Tanintharyi Region minister for ethnic affairs.<sup>157</sup>

On 23 Apr, KNLA Brigade Four and Six and joint resistance forces in Dawei Township attacked the junta's **Maw Hta** base along the Thai border. Around **40 junta IB 17 troops** at the base fled into Thailand. On 24 Apr, the joint KNLA and resistance forces took the base.<sup>158</sup>

*Resistance groups call for Launglon PDT investigation:* On 19 Apr, in **Launglon Township** it was reported that the **Launglon People's Defence Team (Launglon PDT)**, under NUG command, carried out a raid on a suspected junta informant's house and shot him dead. At least 16 other local anti-junta groups called on the NUG to **investigate the killing** and stated that there was no evidence indicating the target was an informant. In Mar 2024, Launglon PDT came under fire for its role in at least 16 other extrajudicial killings in Launglon Township.<sup>159</sup>

### Mon State

On 4 Apr, in **Bilin Township**, a mine detonated under a bus on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway. Unidentified gunmen shot at the bus, killed the driver and injured four others.<sup>160</sup>

---

<sup>150</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Apr 2024) Resistance: Myanmar Junta Convoy Trapped in Mon State; RFA (18 Apr 2024) Ethnic army intercepts junta convoy on Thai-Myanmar border

<sup>151</sup> Karen News (21 Apr 2024) Resistance Fighters Affected by Junta's Chemical Bombing in Kawkareik

<sup>152</sup> HURFOM (25 Apr 2024) Junta's air assault injures woman and destroys seven houses in Kaw Ka Rate

<sup>153</sup> Irrawaddy (3 May 2024) Myanmar Junta Counteroffensive Yet to Breach Karen Defenses: KNU

<sup>154</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Apr 2024) Karen Troops Capture Another Myanmar Junta Base Near Thai Border; Myanmar Now (26 Apr 2024) Clashes, shelling, airstrikes continue in Karen State after junta retakes Myawaddy

<sup>155</sup> RFA (23 Apr 2024) Junta attacks in Myanmar's Bago region kill 8, displace 6,000

<sup>156</sup> Mizzima (27 Apr 2024) Two women killed in airstrike on Shwegyin Township, Bago Region

<sup>157</sup> RFA (16 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta soldiers surrender in ethnic army's first Tanintharyi win; Myanmar Now (17 Apr 2024)

Karen fighters seize army base near border trade post in Myanmar's southernmost region

<sup>158</sup> RFA (25 Apr 2024) Myanmar insurgents capture junta base in south

<sup>159</sup> HURFOM (25 Apr 2024) Pyin Htein villager shot and killed by the Long Lone PDF; Myanmar Now (19 Apr 2024) Latest killing of suspected junta informant in Dawei sparks demand for investigation

<sup>160</sup> HURFOM (9 Apr 2024) An express bus attacked in Bilin; one killed and four injured

On 8 Apr, in **Mawlamyine**, a resistance drone force carried out a drone attack on the junta's Southeast Military Command. The attack took place while junta No.2 Soe Win held a meeting at the base.<sup>161</sup>

On 25 Apr, it was reported that in **Kyaikto Township** unknown gunmen killed four people with ties to the junta, including a village administrator.<sup>162</sup>

**Junta retakes Kawt Bein:** On 8 Apr, in **Kyaikmaraw Township**, the junta carried out airstrikes on **Dhamma Tha**, Ta Ra Na, and Kyun Gone villages and injured two children.<sup>163</sup> On 21 Apr, the junta attacked **Dhamma Tha** village and forced resistance troops to withdraw. During 24-25 Apr, the junta shelled **Kawt Bein** and another nearby village, killed two people, and injured two others. On 25 Apr, a column of approximately 300 junta troops arrived by two boats and junta forces retook control of **Kawt Bein**. During the attacks, junta troops **arrested and tortured at least three locals and executed one other**.<sup>164</sup> On 26 Apr, HURFOM reported that junta troops had raided and stolen valuables from Ta Ra Nar village locals and that the junta had shelled the village daily, despite no fighting in the area.<sup>165</sup>

**Taung Nyo Column member confesses killings:** On 9 Apr, HURFOM reported that the **Taung Nyo Column** confessed to murdering four villagers in March. The anti-junta Taung Nyo Column had arrested the four civilians after they found the contact of a junta police chief on one of their phones. A member of the armed group **later killed all four villagers during interrogation while intoxicated**. The armed group expelled and sentenced to five years in prison the man responsible for the killing but did not issue an apology. The victims' family members filed a complaint with the New Mon State Party (NMSP).<sup>166</sup>

### Ayeyarwady Region

On 2 Apr, in **Nyaungdon Township** a young man drafted by the junta stabbed and injured a village administrator.<sup>167</sup>

On 12 Apr, in **Kyonpyaw Township**, Pathain District PDF, and Hinthada Township PDF shot dead an administrator who enforced the conscription law and extorted money from households who refused to relinquish draftees and even those not selected in the draft.<sup>168</sup>

### Mandalay Region

**Resistance forces hit junta academy:** On 8 Apr, in **Pyin Oo Lwin Township**, the Mandalay PDF used five 107mm artillery rounds to attack the **military's Defence Services Academy (DSA)**. Four of the five shells exploded near dormitories on the DSA campus and damaged a wall and part of a nearby road.<sup>169</sup> On 14 Apr, Mandalay PDF used five short-range missiles to attack DSA again. Two of the five missiles hit their target. A Mandalay PDF spokesperson stated that **retaliatory junta shelling** hit a nearby **hospital, monastery, and hotel and injured 12 civilians, including children and two monks**. The attack reportedly occurred while junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and other senior generals were in Pyin Oo Lwin to celebrate Thingyan.<sup>170</sup>

On 8 Apr, in **Myingyan Township**, junta forces raided Ywar Thar village, killed a 60-year-old man, and **torched 230 houses**. On the same day, a larger group of junta forces raided nearby Taw Pu village, took **five civilians as human shields, and torched 800 houses**.<sup>171</sup> On 20 Apr, resistance forces attacked junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee militia stationed in Kyi village. The clash killed multiple junta soldiers, a resistance fighter and injured eight resistance fighters. Resistance forces also attacked the junta's LIB 15 base with short-range projectiles and injured many junta forces.<sup>172</sup> The junta later retaliated for the attacks. During 20-22 Apr, in **Myingyan Township**, a junta column of around 100 stationed in Ta Loke Myo village **raided nine villages** along the Ayeyarwady River, **torched over 700 houses** and at least

<sup>161</sup> Mizzima (11 Apr 2024) Drones target Vice-Senior General Soe Win in Mawlamyine

<sup>162</sup> Independent Mon News (25 Apr 2024) Four Killed in Kyaikto Township, Including Administrator

<sup>163</sup> HURFOM (11 Apr 2024) Two children injured by junta's air assault in Kyikemayaw

<sup>164</sup> HURFOM (26 Apr 2024) Two women killed and other two injured by artillery attacks in Kyikemayaw; HURFOM (29 Apr 2024) Junta's navy raids Kaw Bane village and arrests, tortures and kills villagers; Irrawaddy (26 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Retakes Mon Village

<sup>165</sup> HURFOM (26 Apr 2024) Junta's soldiers steal valuable from houses of displaced villagers

<sup>166</sup> HURFOM (9 Apr 2024) Four villagers who disappeared from Thanbyuzayat killed by armed group

<sup>167</sup> DVB (8 Apr 2024) ညောင်တုန်းတွင် စစ်မှုထမ်းရန်ရွေးချယ်သည့် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူး ဓားထိုးခံရ

<sup>168</sup> Network Media Group (13 Apr 2024) ကျုံပျော်တွင် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးတစ်ဦး အသတ်ခံရ

<sup>169</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) Resistance fires on regime's top military academy in Mandalay Region

<sup>170</sup> Myanmar Now (15 Apr 2024) ပြင်ဦးလွင် DSA ကို တိုက်ခိုက်ခဲ့ကြောင်း MDY-PDF ပြော

<sup>171</sup> RFA (8 Apr 2024) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် ရွာနှစ်ရွာက နေအိမ်တစ်ထောင်ကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ

<sup>172</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Apr 2024) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် ကျေးလက်ဒေသ နေအိမ် ၃၀၀ ကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ

**one school, and killed 3 civilians** including the mother of a resistance fighter. The junta's raids **forced over 2,000 people** from nearby villages to flee.<sup>173</sup>

On 17 Apr, in **Tadu-U Township**, three allied resistance groups attacked **Tada-U Air Base** with five 90mm heavy artillery shells and ten 107mm rockets. They destroyed an aircraft hangar that housed six unidentified military aircraft.<sup>174</sup>

During 24-28 Apr, in **Madaya Township**, junta forces raided villages located between the east of the township and Sagaing Region. Junta air strikes during the raids killed one local and two resistance fighters, injured five locals, **torched 126 houses** in three villages and **displaced 1,000 people**.<sup>175</sup>

### **Naypyidaw Union Territory**

During 4-5 Apr, the Kloud Drone Team and Lethal Prop Weapons Team, under NUG command, carried out **35 kamikaze drone attacks** on the **Aye Lar air force base** and the **junta headquarters**. The group's spokesperson said that 16 of 20 drones aimed at the regime HQ hit their target while 13 of 15 drones aimed at the Aye Lar base hit their target. Casualty figures were not reported. Naypyitaw International Airport near Aye Lar air force base closed temporarily following the attacks. On 5 Apr, the junta claimed that its air force shot down nine of 22 resistance drones.<sup>176</sup>

On 11 Apr, the NUG-aligned Mountain Knights Civilian Defence Force (MKCDF) attacked **Aye Lar airbase** again with seven electric discharge-activated shells. MKCDF claimed the attack **killed five air force officers** and 12 junta troops, injured 12 others, and **destroyed a fighter jet** and three military trucks. A junta spokesperson claimed that there was no damage.<sup>177</sup> After the attack, junta forces arrested two administrators and five civilians from two nearby villages.<sup>178</sup>

### **Yangon Region**

During 3-27 Apr, in **Mingaladon Township**, various Urban Guerilla (UG) groups carried out attacks on junta targets using explosives, including grenades and improvised rockets. On 3 Apr, a UG attack killed a junta administrator, a staff member and a junta soldier.<sup>179</sup>

### **Rohingya**

#### **AA sharpens anti-Rohingya stance, begins conscripting Rohingya**

Throughout April, the **AA denied claims** that it had targeted **Rohingya civilians** during fighting and accused the junta and Muslim armed groups of targeting ethnic Rakhine civilians. On 13 Apr, AA spokesperson Khine Thukha claimed that the junta was training, supplying, and deploying "radical Muslim militants" in and around Buthidaung with the explicit intent of attacking Rakhine people.<sup>180</sup>

On 19 Apr, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said that **Rohingya people faced** particular risk from "two armed factions with a **track record of killing them.**" He added that **misinformation and propaganda** had become commonplace and that similar anti-Rohingya hate narratives had driven communal violence in 2012 and attacks in 2017.<sup>181</sup> He referred to an incident where the AA's leader Twan Mrat Naing shared an article that featured the unsubstantiated claim that "Islamic terrorists" had taken a number of Hindus and Buddhists hostage.<sup>182</sup> On 23 Apr, in response to the statement, AA spokesperson Khine Thukha claimed that emphasizing Rohingya suffering was

<sup>173</sup>RFA (21 Apr 2024) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် စိန်ကျောင်းရွာမှာ နေအိမ် ၄၀၀ ခန့် မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ; Myanmar Now (23 Apr 2024) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် ကျေးလက်ဒေသ နေအိမ် ၃၀၀ ကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ; RFA (23 Apr 2024) မြင်းခြံမှာ စစ်ကြောင်းထိုးချိန် သတ်ဖြတ်ခံရတဲ့အရပ်သား ခြောက်ဦးအထိရှိလာ

<sup>174</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Apr 2024) Anti-junta forces fire on air bases near Myitkyina, Mandalay

<sup>175</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2024) မတ္တရာနှင့်စစ်ကိုင်းကြား စစ်ကြောင်းထိုးမှုတွင် ၃ ဦးသေ၊ ၁၀၀ ကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ

<sup>176</sup> Myanmar Now (4 Apr 2024) PDF drone units launch attacks on military targets in Naypyitaw; Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) Drone attacks on Naypyitaw military targets to continue, sources say

<sup>177</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Apr 2024) Resistance carries out second attack on Naypyitaw airbase in one week

<sup>178</sup> Myanmar Now (22 Apr 2024) နေပြည်တော် လေတပ် အတိုက်ခံရအပြီး အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးများနှင့် ဒေသခံများ အဖမ်းခံရ

<sup>179</sup> RFA (4 Apr 2024) မင်္ဂလာဒုံက စစ်တပ်ဂိုတင်ကင်းစခန်းတစ်ခု တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ; RFA (8 Apr 2024) မင်္ဂလာဒုံက စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ကို

တိုက်ခိုက်ခဲ့ကြောင်း မြို့ပြပြောကကားအဖွဲ့ပြော; DVB (10 Apr 2024) မင်္ဂလာဒုံ ထောက်ပံ့တပ်နှင့် ရဲစခန်း ပြင်းအားမြင့်မိုင်းများဖြင့်

ဖောက်ခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ; Mizzima (21 Apr 2024) Grenade attack targets Mingaladon Air Force's Bachelor Dormitory and USDP office,

Yangon DVB (28 Apr 2024) <https://burmese.dvb.no/post/650081>

<sup>180</sup> Narinjara (19 Apr 2024) Junta trains ARSA, ARA terrorist groups to carry out attacks on AA, fuels ethnic hatred

<sup>181</sup> OHCHR (19 Apr 2024) Myanmar: Türk sounds alarm amid rising tensions in Rakhine

<sup>182</sup> AA via Twitter (17 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/c3xp4pkm>

tantamount to “ignoring other non-Muslim groups’ suffering”. He also claimed that the AA had never intentionally killed Rohingya civilians.<sup>183</sup>

On 28 Apr, the co-founder of the Free Rohingya Coalition reported that, in Maungdaw Township, the AA had **arrested, killed, and dumped the bodies** of five Rohingya men near a river. The AA had reportedly arrested the men on 17 Apr after the group clashed with Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) near a village in the area. The AA denied the killings.<sup>184</sup> On 23 Apr, Myanmar Now reported that the AA had told Rohingya in Buthidaung Township they needed to join the fight against the regime if they wanted to “enjoy the fruits” of the revolution.<sup>185</sup> On 29 Apr, DVB reported that, in Buthidaung Township, the AA **forcibly recruited nearly 100 Rohingya men** in at least three villages. The AA reportedly demanded that each family hand over one person for forced recruitment.<sup>186</sup>

On 25 Apr, the Arakan Rohingya National Alliance warned that the AA and the junta had fueled “**simmering tensions**” between Rakhine and Rohingya communities and called on the AA to dialogue with the Rohingya community.<sup>187</sup> On 29 Apr, documentary filmmaker Shafiur Rahman said in an op-ed that the AA sought to shift attention away from its “**aggressive tactics and questionable alliances**” and position itself as the “protectors of Rakhine interests, against the threat of Rohingya armed groups.”<sup>188</sup>

### **Junta conscripts and murders Rohingya, inflames ethnic tensions in Arakan**

On 19 Apr, DMG reported that Rohingya locals had accused the **junta of sharpening racial tensions** between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities in Arakan State.<sup>189</sup> A Buthidaung local reported that the junta were using **forcibly recruited** Rohingya to carry out **arson attacks** in Buthidaung town. During 12-19 Apr, the junta reportedly burned down over 1,000 houses in Buthidaung.<sup>190</sup> On 22 Apr, the junta reportedly forced around 1,000 Rohingya to participate in **anti-AA protests** in two villages in Rathedaung and Sittwe townships. Participants were also reportedly forced to sign a petition that denounced the AA. The junta reportedly forced villagers to pay 50,000 MMK fines for refusing to participate in protests.<sup>191</sup>

On 11 Apr, DMG reported that, in March, the junta had **forcibly recruited** over 1,000 Rohingya men and had summoned at least 1,000 others.<sup>192</sup> On 4 Apr, it was reported the junta had ordered around 50 conscripted Rohingya to work as security guards and dig ditches around the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone. On 29 Mar the junta took them from Kyauktalone IDP camp, reportedly told camp residents that the men would be returned in two weeks, and that another 50 would be taken at that time.<sup>193</sup> On 21 Apr, the junta **forcibly conscripted** 500 Rohingya from at least four villages in **Sittwe Township**. A local resident said that most people who were conscripted didn’t flee out of fear that the junta would **torture their families**. It was reported that the junta planned to conscript a further 500 Rohingya from IDP camp populations.<sup>194</sup>

During 13-14 Apr, the junta shelled a ship during fighting in **Buthidaung Township** and killed at least 25 Rohingya civilians. They also forced nearly 3,000 others to flee their homes. The junta was fighting alongside ARSA in Buthidaung Township in an effort to slow AA advances in the area.<sup>195</sup> On 21 Apr, it was reported that at least 200 Rohingya had **crossed the Bangladesh border** and reached Cox’s Bazar in recent weeks, despite tight security making it difficult for people fleeing conflict to cross into Bangladesh.<sup>196</sup>

### **Serious mental harm of Rohingya a genocidal act, report argues**

On 24 Apr, the Lowenstein Human Rights Clinic and Fortify Rights published a report that outlined how **serious mental harm** committed by the junta constituted a **genocidal act**, in addition to the typical genocide prosecution based on bodily harm. The report found that **97.8%** of adult respondents in refugee

<sup>183</sup> AA via Twitter (23 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/by3vfc5r>

<sup>184</sup> Ro Nay San Lwin via Twitter (28 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/y9wws6h8>

<sup>185</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Apr 2024) Myanmar regime continues to stoke ethnic tensions as fighting rages on in northern Rakhine

<sup>186</sup> DVB (29 Apr 2024) Are Rohingya facing forced recruitment into Arakan Army?

<sup>187</sup> ARNA (25 Apr 2024) Statement of the Arakan Rohingya National Alliance on the Current Situation in Arakan/Rakhine State, Myanmar

<sup>188</sup> DVB (29 Apr 2024) The Arakan Army – it ain’t freaking genocide

<sup>189</sup> DMG (19 Apr 2024) Muslim communities accuse regime of stoking racial strife

<sup>190</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta Using Rohingya Recruits to Sow Ethnic Hatred: Activists

<sup>191</sup> RFA (22 Apr 2024) Junta forces Rohingyas to protest ethnic rebels in Myanmar’s Rakhine state

<sup>192</sup> DMG (11 Apr 2024) Junta recruits over 1,000 Muslims in Sittwe, summons 1,000 more

<sup>193</sup> Myanmar Now (4 Apr 2024) Myanmar army forces Rohingya, Muslim conscripts to work at Chinese-backed development projects in Rakhine State

<sup>194</sup> DMG (23 Apr 2024) Junta conscripts 500 Muslims in Sittwe

<sup>195</sup> RFA (15 Apr 2024) Junta shelling, airstrikes kill 25 Rohingyas in Myanmar’s Rakhine state

<sup>196</sup> TRT World (21 Apr 2024) Thousands gather at Bangladesh border seeking refuge: Rohingya leader



camps in Bangladesh had **witnessed the burning of villages**; 91.8% had **seen dead bodies**; and 90.4% had **witnessed violence against others**. Respondents reported PTSD symptoms at a rate of 61.2%, depression at 88.7%, and emotional distress at 84%. These rates were significantly higher than those of adults in normal circumstances. The report recommended that the ICC issue arrest warrants for parties responsible for atrocities related to the ongoing ICC investigation into forced deportation. The report called for funding and the expansion of psychosocial support services for Rohingya survivors. It also called for longer-term studies on the ongoing mental health effects of the Rohingya genocide.<sup>197</sup>

### **Struggles of Rohingya boat journeys brought to bear**

On 10 Apr, Frontier Myanmar reported that **poor living conditions** in camps in Bangladesh had driven Rohingya refugees to flee abroad. Funding cuts had led to **increased starvation**. **Criminal gangs** had taken over large parts of the camps. Camp residents said that they felt they had no future and that living in camps was **“like living in a cage”**. In 2023, at least 21% more Rohingya refugees attempted to travel by boat to Indonesia or Malaysia than in 2022. Crossing by boat could cost around USD 2,600 and take around 11 days, in the best-case scenario. However, smugglers would sometimes not provide food along the way and as a result **many died of starvation, exposure, or drowning**. Despite the risk of death at sea, many Rohingya people were willing to go. Rohingya refugees in Malaysia who found work could earn around USD 420 per month.<sup>198</sup>

On 25 Apr, UNHCR reported that, in Aceh (Indonesia) many **local Acehnese** continued to show **solidarity and support** Rohingya refugees **despite online anti-Rohingya hate** speech campaigns. Locals brought food and donations to the convention hall where one group of refugees stayed. An Aceh resident stated that they **understood the difficulties Rohingya people** experienced and that many simply wanted to lead a decent life.<sup>199</sup> On 2 Apr, in Aceh (Indonesia), **local police arrested four Indonesian men** for smuggling Rohingya refugees. The four reportedly managed the boat which overturned off the coast of West Aceh. The men had planned to transport the refugees to Malaysia and had received USD 314 from each refugee, via an agent in Malaysia.<sup>200</sup>

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

**Women demand meaningful participation:** On 28-31 Mar, the Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO) organized the first Ta'ang Women Forum in Namtu (N.Shan State). 146 Ta'ang women from Namhsan, Manton, Kutkai, Muse, Namhkam, Kyaukme, Namtu, and Mongmit attended. In a statement, the forum urged EROs, revolutionary forces, and administrative teams to have at least 30% participation by women in decision-making processes and peace dialogue; to draft gender policies and special protection procedures for women; and to take effective actions against perpetrators of sexual violence.<sup>201</sup>

**Vulnerability of women during war:** On 22 Apr, the Kale People's Strike Committee told media that in Kale Township (Sagaing Region) the junta killed 80 civilians from Feb 2024 to the first week of Apr 2024. **The victims comprised 65% women, 20% youths and children, and 15% men.**<sup>202</sup> On 14 Apr, a junta soldier from Light Infantry Battalion 423 threatened a woman IDP in Hsihseng Township (N.Shan State) with a gun and attempted to rape her. The woman managed to escape, but suffered mental trauma.<sup>203</sup> On 25 Apr, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland reported that junta troops had arrested and sexually assaulted women from an undisclosed village. A local reported that a junta soldier forced a Mon woman in Kyikemayaw Township (Mon State) to drink alcohol during the Thingyan festival.<sup>204</sup>

**No accountability for NUG cops who sexually assaulted woman prisoners:** In **Kantbalu Township** (Sagaing Region), it was reported that members of the NUG's police, the People Security Force (PSF), had sexually abused women prisoners and threatened a woman coworker who had filed a complaint against them with the NUG. However, the NUG reportedly failed to effectively investigate and take action against the perpetrators. The perpetrators allegedly covered for each other in their testimony.<sup>205</sup>

<sup>197</sup> Fortify Rights (24 Apr 2024) New Study Finds Mental Harm Inflicted on Myanmar's Rohingya a Form of Genocide

<sup>198</sup> Frontier Myanmar (10 Apr 2024) 'A living death': Camp conditions push Rohingya to the high seas

<sup>199</sup> UNHCR (25 Apr 2024) Rohingya refugees risk dangerous sea route to Indonesia in search of safety and freedom

<sup>200</sup> AFP via Myanmar Now (3 Apr 2024) Four Indonesians arrested over Rohingya refugees smuggling

<sup>201</sup> SHAN (4 Apr 2024) နိုင်ငံရေး ဦးဆောင်မှုနှင့် ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်ချမှု လွှတ်လျှောက်နေရခြင်းကို ကန့်ကွက်ရွတ်ချဟု TWO ပြော

<sup>202</sup> Kachin News Group (22 Apr 2024) ကလေးမြို့နယ်မှာ ၂ လအတွင်းအရပ်သား ၈၀ သေဆုံး၊ အမျိုးသမီးအများဆုံးပါဝင်

<sup>203</sup> SHAN (22 Apr 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီပြန်လည်ထိန်းချုပ်ထားသည့် ဆီဆိုင်မြို့၌ တပ်သားတစ်ဦးက စစ်ရှောင်အမျိုးသမီး ၁

ဦးအားမုဒိမ်းကျင့်ရန်ကြိုးစား

<sup>204</sup> Rehmonnya (25 Apr 2024) Junta's soldiers sexually assault Mon women

<sup>205</sup> Irrawaddy (15 Apr 2024) Abuse of Female Prisoners by Myanmar Resistance Police Covered Up

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

### Targeted junta airstrikes destroy Chin hospital

On 25 Apr, in Mindat Township (Chin State) the **junta bombed the Wammathu 300-bed hospital, killed four civilians, and injured 15**, including **patients and visiting family**. The attack reportedly burnt down the hospital and destroyed all medical equipment. Wammathu was among the few in Chin State hospitals equipped to carry out complex medical procedures. Earlier that day, **junta bombed two other villages** in the township. No fighting was reported prior to the attack on the hospital.<sup>206</sup> On 28 Apr, the junta carried out more airstrikes on the same hospital and another clinic in a nearby village, **killed one villager, and injured two others**.<sup>207</sup>

### Deadly combo: conflict & climate change

On 19 Apr, in Kale Township (Sagaing Region) it was reported that over **500 IDPs had suffered heat exhaustion** and had **limited treatment options**. A local health worker reported that **heat stroke had killed at least five people**. Fear of junta checks and arrests on roads prevented locals from seeking treatment. IDPs reported a **critical drinking water shortage**, that supplies were close to running out and that **natural sources were drying up**.<sup>208</sup>

On 22 Apr, in Sittwe Township (Arakan State), it was reported that at least **76 people in six Rohingya IDP camps died** in April due to **water-borne illnesses** and **lack of medicine or healthcare**. International aid organizations had left the area due to ongoing clashes between the Arakan Army and the junta. Local civil society lacked medicine and could not effectively provide aid. Travel restrictions placed on Rohingya civilians worsened the lack to access to healthcare. **Temperatures** in Arakan State reached over 38°C and likely exacerbated health problems.<sup>209</sup>

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

### Junta loses a third of active trade hubs

On 18 Apr, it was reported at the time that the **junta had lost five out of 14 active major border trade hubs** since Nov 2023, including Loiye and Myawaddy border hubs in early April.<sup>210</sup> Altogether, these border hubs saw **over 52% of all cross-border trade** during the 2023-24 fiscal year **valued at USD 4 billion**.<sup>211</sup> On 8 Apr, the **KIA seized the border town of Loiye** in Kachin State, a major border trade crossing between Burma and China. On 11 Apr, **KIO reopened the border gate** and allowed trucks carrying goods to pass after inspection.<sup>212</sup>

On 11 Apr, **KNLA claimed the capture of Myawaddy Town**, the largest trade hub on the Thai-Burma border. On 22 Apr, it was reported that junta forces had retaken their base outside of **Myawaddy town**.<sup>213</sup> Junta **reopened** the No. 1 Thailand-Burma Friendship Bridge on 27 Apr and the No. 2 Bridge on 30 Apr and **trucks had started operating as usual**.<sup>214</sup> This brought the number of active **trade hubs under junta control to nine**. Trade disruption adversely affected foreign trade partners who were unable to sell their goods to buyers in Burma. In response to these losses, traders reportedly planned to **redirect some border trade through seaports**. The junta's port authority announced that it had 50 cargo ships bypass resistance-controlled border trade hubs.<sup>215</sup> On 1 Apr, it was reported that conflict in border areas and the junta's licensing restrictions on international traders led to a **decline in total foreign trade of over 11% in FY 2023-24**, to **USD 28.8 billion** from USD 32.6 billion in FY 2022-23.<sup>216</sup>

<sup>206</sup> RFA (26 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta attack on hospital kills 4, many injured

<sup>207</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2024) Myanmar military continues airstrikes on hospitals and clinics in Chin State, DVB (30 Apr 2024) Burma nationals arrested for illegal entry into Thailand; Royal Thai Navy on standby to evacuate its nationals

<sup>208</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Apr 2024) Deadly Heatwave Stalks Thousands Fleeing Myanmar Junta Attacks; Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2024) Insufficient water adds to hardship faced by civilians, IDPs throughout Myanmar; DMG (19 Apr 2024) Dozens of Muslims' deaths blamed on diarrhoea in Sittwe Twsp

<sup>209</sup> RFA (22 Apr 2024) Nearly 80 die in 3 weeks at Myanmar refugee camps: aid workers

<sup>210</sup> ISP-Myanmar (25 Apr 2024) Unpacking the Political Economy of Myanmar's Civil War

<sup>211</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2024) Myanmar regime scrambles to deal with loss of border trade hubs

<sup>212</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) KIA captures trade hub on China-Myanmar border; Kachin News Group (12 Apr 2024)

လွယ်လှယ်နယ်စပ်ကိတ်ဖွင့်လိုက်ပြီး KIO အစိုးရ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးယန္တရားစတင်လည်ပတ်

<sup>213</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2024) KNU Blames Border Militia for Myanmar Junta's Myawaddy Return

<sup>214</sup> DVB (29 Apr 2024) Thai-Burma bridge reopens after fighting in Myawaddy subsidies; Regime counterattack kills two; RFA (30 Apr 2024) Thai-Myanmar trade hub reopens after 10 day shutdown for battle

<sup>215</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2024) Myanmar regime scrambles to deal with loss of border trade hubs

<sup>216</sup> Myanmar Now (1 Apr 2024) Foreign commerce falls by more than 11 percent

## Consumers not Keen on new junta beer brand

On 25 Apr, it was reported that the new beer brand “Keen”, launched in early April, had alleged ties to the **sanctioned Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL)**. Although reportedly produced and distributed by Super Six International (SSI), cans showed **production took place** in a factory operated by **MEHL-owned Myanmar Brewery Limited (MBL)**, **producer of the boycotted Myanmar Beer**. Despite SSI’s establishment in October 2022, crucial details about its ownership and management remained undisclosed. An MBL employee denied that Keen Beer was an MBL product.

Notably, the launch of Keen Beer occurred amidst **a significant decline in Myanmar Beer sales by 46%** following the attempted coup. Keen launched at MMK 2,500 per can (USD 1.2), higher than Chang, Yoma, and Myanmar Beer, which range from MMK 1,500 to 2,000 (USD 0.72 to 0.95). Blood Money Campaign has begun investigating a potential connection between Keen Beer and the junta and will plan to add it to the boycott list if confirmed.<sup>217</sup>

## US firms’ complicity with MOGE provokes ire

On 8 Apr, **Chevron** declared it had **exited the Yadana gas project** two years after it initially announced its withdrawal. Chevron redistributed **its 41.1% stake** to the remaining shareholders, **Thailand’s PTTEP** and junta-controlled **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)**. This increased **PTTEP’s stake** in the Yadana project to **62.96%** and **MOGE’s to 37%**.<sup>218</sup> Chevron’s delayed exit effectively funded the junta’s atrocities during this time. Blood Money Campaign (BMC) reported that, during 2021-2023, the **MOGE paid USD 3.82 billion to the junta**. In the same period, the junta spent USD 3.9 billion on military expenditures.<sup>219</sup>

Justice for Myanmar (JfM) said that divestment alone did not absolve Chevron of its human rights responsibilities under OECD Guidelines and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. JfM **called on Chevron** to ensure transparency with people in Burma and conduct **a responsible, orderly, and safe exit**. JfM urged PTTEP to stop funding the junta or responsibly exit. JfM also called on Canada, the UK, and Australia to sanction MOGE.<sup>220</sup>

On 2 Apr, it was reported that **US oilfield services giant Schlumberger** had **continuously supplied equipment** to **MOGE**, despite knowing revenue from MOGE funded the junta’s atrocities. Trade data showed that, in Jun and Nov 2023, Schlumberger Vietnam Services Co. **shipped oil and gas laser alignment equipment to Burma**, even after the US imposed sanctions on MOGE in Oct 2023.

**Schlumberger Logelco**, a Panama-based subsidiary, maintained a branch in Burma that did business with MOGE and other oil and gas companies operating in Burma. In the year ending Sep 2021, it **earned over USD 51.7 million in revenue** and **pre-tax profits of USD 5.4 million**. In the last quarter of 2021, the branch **netted another USD 11.5 million in total revenue**. In 2022, **MOGE made multiple payments to Schlumberger**. JfM called on Schlumberger and all other oilfield services to halt their activities in Burma unless they ceased payments to the junta or withheld them in protected accounts.<sup>221</sup>

## Evidence exposes KNU involvement in notorious scam park

On 3 Apr, it was reported that land lease agreements and original business contracts implicated the **Karen National Union (KNU) in the KK Park project**, a cyber scam hub south of Myawaddy on the Thai-Burma Border. Another crime hub, the Shwe Kokko project is located 24 km to the north. The leaked documents reportedly listed the **KNU as the owner of the Mulaei Alin Co**.

On 17 Feb 2020, **Mulaei Alin Co.** and **Tran-Asia International Holding Group (Thailand)**, a subsidiary of **Chinese firm Huanya Holding Group**, signed a 17-point land lease for the project’s initial operations. Mulaei Alin Co. acted as the lesser while Tran-Asia signed on as the lessee. The current KNU President and the former KNU Defense Department Head signed as witnesses for the lessor’s side and two Chinese nationals signed as witnesses for the lessee’s side. The contract slated **100 acres to be leased for 30 years with an annual rent of THB 3.5 million and an initial monthly fee of THB 500,000 for security provided by the KNU**.

On 8 May 2022, **Tran-Asia** signed a **new contract with Trust Star Co.** which took the place of Mulaei Alin Co. A KNU colonel represented Trust Star. The new contract **covered 76 acres** and stipulated an

<sup>217</sup> Myanmar Now (25 Apr 2024) New beer brand sold in Myanmar is produced by military-owned entity

<sup>218</sup> Nikkei Asia (9 Apr 2024) Chevron hands Myanmar gas field stake to junta and Thailand’s PTTEP

<sup>219</sup> DVB (10 Apr 2024) Chevron ရေနံကုမ္ပဏီထွက်ခွာမှု အမည်ခံသာဖြစ်ပြီး စစ်ကောင်စီကို ဆက်လက်အကျိုးပြုနေ

<sup>220</sup> Justice for Myanmar (7 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/53mbsftr>

<sup>221</sup> Justice for Myanmar (2 Apr 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/38hk94z8>

**annual rent of up to THB 14 million** after increases spread over 15 years.<sup>222</sup> Additionally, on 22 Apr 2024, the **United States Institute of Peace (USIP)** reported that **five key actors from Karen armed groups** participated in providing **space and security for scam criminal activities** in **Myawaddy Township**. The list included Col. Mote Thone, Maj. Tin Win from the BGF; Sai Kyaw Hla from the DKBA; and Roger Khin from the KNLA.<sup>223</sup>

### **Crony daughter at elite French business school, for now**

On 3 Apr, Info Birmanie and JfM called on **French authorities** to **swiftly investigate, freeze assets, and revoke the visa of Theint Win Htet**, the daughter of crony Thein Win Zaw who owns **Shwe Byain Phyu Group (SBP)**. Theint Win Htet had been studying at the elite French business school **HEC Paris** since 2023. On 5 Apr, lawyers acting on behalf of JfM also wrote to HEC Paris to **reconsider Theint Win Htet's admission**. SBP has been sanctioned by both Canada and the US and has partnerships with EU-sanctioned companies, including Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) to import petroleum, Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE), Myanma Gems Enterprise (MGE), and Myanmar Economic Corporation Limited (MEC).

On 31 Jan 2024, the US imposed sanctions on Thein Win Zaw's family. The sanction targeted Theint Win Htet due to **her involvement as a shareholder of SBP's subsidiaries** and associated companies. In 2023, she **interned as a financial analyst at ATOM Myanmar**. In 2022 SBP purchased an 80% stake in ATOM, formerly Telenor Myanmar, which placed the data of millions of users at risk. JfM argued that **Theint Win Htet's presence in France undermined coordination in sanctions** imposed following the attempted coup. Info Birmanie and JfM called on the EU to urgently impose sanctions on SBP and its owners and directors, including Theint Win Htet.<sup>224</sup>

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

#### **China rewards junta obedience**

On 1 Apr, in Naypyidaw, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing met **China's foreign ministry** special envoy Deng Xijun and discussed the continued **closure of border gates** and **scam operations** along the China-Burma border.<sup>225</sup> On 25 Apr, the Chinese Public Security Minister Wang Xiaohong met with junta Home Affairs Minister Yar Pyae who visited Beijing during 24-29 Apr. Wang Xiaohong stated that China wanted to "**deepen collaboration**" with the junta to **tackle online scams** and the drug trade.<sup>226</sup> On 29 Apr, China presented Yar Pyae with an **award commemorating foreign officials** who contributed to protecting Chinese citizens. He also presented USD 690,000 to the junta's police force.<sup>227</sup>

On 2 Apr, China announced that it was conducting **live-fire drills** in Yunnan Province along its border with Kachin State. The exercises came after the KIA clashed with junta forces near the border.<sup>228</sup> On 3 Apr, China's envoy to the United Nations Geng Shuang stated that China aimed to play a "**constructive role in stabilizing the situation**" in Arakan State. Geng Shuang also reiterated China's participation in the junta's forced repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. A Rakhine politician stated that Beijing was likely motivated by Chinese development projects in Arakan State, including the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone.<sup>229</sup> On 17 Apr, it was reported that China would hold a **second round of air defense and live-fire drills** along its border with Burma. The announcement came shortly after resistance groups took control of Myawaddy Town, at the Thai-Burma border.<sup>230</sup>

#### **UN appoints new Special Envoy for Burma**

On 5 Apr, the UN Secretary-General appointed **former Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop** as the UN's new Special Envoy for Myanmar.<sup>231</sup> Bishop stated she would "help deliver on the mandate of the General Assembly and the Security Council Resolution of December 2022".<sup>232</sup> Civil society actors questioned the **necessity and timing of the appointment** after the failure of past appointments to stop the junta's violence. Former US ambassador to Myanmar Scot Marciel called the envoy's mission

<sup>222</sup> Irrawaddy (3 Apr 2024) Contracts Reveal KNU Involvement in Notorious Myanmar Scam Center

<sup>223</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Apr 2024) US Think-Tank Sounds Alarm as Scam Centers Mushroom on Myanmar-Thai Border

<sup>224</sup> Justice for Myanmar (26 Apr 2024) Info Birmanie and Justice for Myanmar call on French authorities to investigate Myanmar military linked HEC Paris student; bourdon & associés LAWYERS (3 Apr 2024) Continued presence of Theint Win Htet in France and studies at HEC Paris

<sup>225</sup> RFA (2 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta hosts China's envoy for border issue talks

<sup>226</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Apr 2024) China Seeks to Deepen Collaboration With Myanmar Junta on Border Crime Crackdown

<sup>227</sup> Irrawaddy (29 Apr 2024) China Hands Medal and 5m Yuan to Myanmar Junta for Border Crackdown

<sup>228</sup> DVB (2 Apr 2024) Chinese military holds live-fire exercises near Burma border

<sup>229</sup> RFA (5 Apr 2024) Chinese delegation in Myanmar in bid to end conflict in western Rakhine state

<sup>230</sup> Reuters (17 Apr 2024) China's military plans more drills near Myanmar border

<sup>231</sup> AFP via Irrawaddy (6 Apr 2024) Australia's Ex-Foreign Minister Named UN Myanmar Envoy

<sup>232</sup> ANU (6 Apr 2024) ANU Chancellor Julie Bishop appointed UN special envoy

"**virtually impossible**" and said that any visit by the Special Envoy would only lend **legitimacy to the junta**. He added that the anti-junta resistance and public wanted nothing less than the junta's removal from power. The envoy post had been vacant since June 2023.<sup>233</sup>

### **Junta attends meetings with ASEAN, partners**

On 9 Apr, in Wellington, Burmese diaspora members marched on the New Zealand parliament to call on the government to **uninvite junta representatives** from **ASEAN dialogue meeting** scheduled to take place in the city during 18-19 Apr. On 2 Apr, PM Christopher Luxon said that New Zealand would simply play host to ASEAN and that the country could not refuse entry to any junta representatives not already on a travel-ban list. On 18 Apr, New Zealand courts rejected an appeal for an interim order to keep the junta diplomat out of New Zealand.<sup>234</sup>

On 12 May, Myanmar Now reported that the junta had **invitations to two US co-chaired ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) events**: during 29 Apr - 1 May, Hawaii (US), an Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and on 6 May, in Jakarta, an event on maritime security. A US spokesperson stated that ASEAN's inclusivity protocol required that all ARF participants be invited to meetings, including the junta.<sup>235</sup> On 6 May, the junta participation in the first meeting was confirmed.<sup>236</sup>

### **UNSC meets on Burma, Human Rights Council moves towards jet fuel ban**

On 4 Apr, the UN Security Council (UNSC) held its **first open meeting on Burma since Feb 2019**. Speakers called on the council to take "decisive measures to end violence by the [junta]". Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations briefed the council. He stated that any solution to the crisis in Burma required conditions permitting the people of Burma to **exercise their human rights freely**, including a stop to the junta's violence and political repression. Khiari raised concerns over the junta's enforcement of the **conscription law** and its **sham elections**. However, he also reaffirmed ASEAN's centrality by stating that the UN would continue to **support the Five-Point Consensus**. He added that a new UN Special Envoy to Burma would be appointed shortly to engage with stakeholders towards a "[Burma]-led" solution.

Another UN official reported that 18.6 million people in Burma needed humanitarian assistance, a 19-fold increase since Feb 2021, and that **only 44% of the 2023 humanitarian response plan was funded**. In 2023, landmine and unexploded ordnance caused over 1,000 casualties, a 270% increase from 2022. She said that the **2024 humanitarian response plan** had only been **funded at 4%** and urged members states to provide funding. While other UNSC members condemned the junta's attacks on civilians, Russia claimed that Western delegations had politicized Burma's crisis and China called fighting in [Arakan] State an "internal affair".<sup>237</sup> Human Rights Watch later called on the UNSC to **institute an arms embargo**, refer the situation to the **International Criminal Court**, and impose **targeted sanctions** on junta-owned companies.<sup>238</sup> On the same day, the UN Human Rights Council **adopted by consensus** a resolution that called on governments to **avoid the export, sale, or transfer of "jet fuel**, surveillance goods and technologies and less-lethal weapons," including 'dual-use' items, to the junta. China opted out of the consensus, but did not contest the resolution.<sup>239</sup> Amnesty International called the resolution "a step in the right direction to combat the **deadly supply chain** that enables the [junta]."<sup>240</sup>

### **Thailand in spotlight after Myawaddy tensions**

In an interview with Reuters on 9 Apr, Thai PM Srettha Thavisin stated that the **junta was starting to lose strength**, although it continued to hold both power and weapons. He added that he believed it may be time to "reach out [to the junta] and make a deal" for peace.<sup>241</sup> On 9 Apr, the Thai PM also held an emergency meeting with Thai officials following clashes near Myawaddy Town. It was reportedly agreed

<sup>233</sup> Myanmar Now (9 Apr 2024) UN appoints Myanmar special envoy tasked with 'virtually impossible' mission

<sup>234</sup> 1News (2 Apr 2024) Concerns raised about allowing Myanmar representatives to visit Wgtn; RNZ (9 Apr 2024) ASEAN summit: Myanmar community asks Parliament to block junta representatives; RNZ (18 Apr 2024) Attempt to bar diplomat from Myanmar military junta fails

<sup>235</sup> Myanmar Now (12 Apr 2024) Myanmar junta official invited to ASEAN events co-chaired by US

<sup>236</sup> Sunday Times (6 May 2024) Sri Lanka co-chairs the 15th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

<sup>237</sup> UN (4 Apr 2024) As Crisis in Myanmar Worsens, Security Council Must Take Resolute Action to End Violence by Country's Military, Address Humanitarian Situation, Speakers Urge

<sup>238</sup> HRW (4 Apr 2024) UN Shows Conflicting Approaches to Myanmar Crisis

<sup>239</sup> AP (5 Apr 2024) UN human rights body backs measures against Myanmar and investigations in Iran

<sup>240</sup> Amnesty International (4 Apr 2024) UN Human Rights Council: Resolution on Myanmar takes crucial stand against deadly jet fuel supply chain

<sup>241</sup> Irrawaddy (9 Apr 2024) Myanmar Junta's Strength Waning: Thai Prime Minister Srettha

that Thailand would “**coordinate and promote cooperation** to achieve peace and stability as soon as possible”. On the same day, the Thai Foreign Minister stated that Thailand was prepared to temporarily receive around 100,000 refugees on Thai soil.<sup>242</sup>

On 10 Apr, the Thai military **strengthened its presence** along the Thai border, across from Myawaddy Town and, on the following day, the Thai PM assured residents that Thailand wouldn’t allow anyone to “**get in our airspace**”. On 12 Apr, the Thai PM visited Mae Sot and stated that Thailand wanted to see peace in Myawaddy and aimed to “get everyone back on track to the **Five Point Consensus**”. He added that Thailand would allow anyone entry to Thailand “on a **strictly humanitarian basis**”.<sup>243</sup>

On 19 Apr, the Thai Foreign Ministry stated that they would **increase humanitarian aid** to Burmese citizens impacted by fighting, as needed. The Ministry said they would work with international organizations and **civil organizations that work along the border** in order to provide humanitarian assistance.<sup>244</sup> The day following, the ministry stated they had issued a warning to the junta after a stray bullet hit a Thai house along the border.<sup>245</sup>

On 22 Apr, the secretary-general to the Thai PM said that **Thailand** wanted to play a **mediatory role in fighting** between the junta and resistance forces in Karen State. He added that all Thailand can do is “to help resolve the conflict” and that “such a role is also expected by the international community”. He noted that neither resistance forces nor the junta had requested Thai authorities act as mediators.<sup>246</sup>

On 23 Apr, the Thai Foreign Minister added that Thailand believed **ASEAN had an important role** in resolving the crisis during a visit to Mae Sot. He was accompanied by the Defence Minister and Interior Minister. He added that Thai authorities had held **initial discussions** with various armed groups involved in the conflict, however had yet to broach the topic of Thai-led negotiations. In response, a local civil society actor stated that Thailand needed to **look beyond the immediate crisis and dialogue with a broader number of stakeholders**.<sup>247</sup> Later on, 23 Apr, the Thai government committee formed to respond to the situation, chaired by the Thai Foreign Minister, held their first meeting. During the meeting, all participants reported they agreed to (1) **protect** the country’s **sovereignty**, (2) not allow Thailand to be used to **conduct activities against Myanmar’s government**, and (3) **uphold humanitarian principles**, without discrimination.<sup>248</sup> A Thai political analyst stated that they believed the formation of the new committee was “**problematic**” and showed that **already established mechanisms** for addressing the crisis in Burma were **not working**.<sup>249</sup>

On 24 Apr, **Thailand** proposed hosting a series of **ASEAN Troika** and ‘**Troika-Plus**’ meetings focused on the resolution of the crisis in Burma. The Troika refers to a body made up of current (Laos), former (Indonesia), and next (Malaysia) ASEAN chairs. Troika-plus includes other ASEAN countries engaged with the crisis in Myanmar. Thailand stated they could host any such meetings and reiterated that **Thailand was ready to broker negotiations** between different parties in Burma.<sup>250</sup> On 28 Apr, a Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson stated that **Laos had welcomed** Thailand’s proposal.<sup>251</sup>

*To receive the CoupWatch briefer every month,  
and other publications, sign up for our [mailing list!](#)*

*Please scan the QR code ➔*



<sup>242</sup> AFP via Irrawaddy (9 Apr 2024) Thailand Says Prepared to Receive 100,000 People Fleeing Myanmar

<sup>243</sup> RFA (12 Apr 2024) Thailand ready for any scenario on Myanmar border, foreign minister says

<sup>244</sup> Bangkok Post (20 Apr 2024) Govt ready to provide more aid if Myanmar violence worsens

<sup>245</sup> Bangkok Post (21 Apr 2024) About 3,000 Myanmar nationals flee fighting to Tak

<sup>246</sup> Bangkok Post (22 Apr 2024) Thais make peace broker offer to Myanmar junta, rebels in Myawaddy

<sup>247</sup> RFA (23 Apr 2024) Thailand offers to mediate in Myanmar conflict, urges ASEAN involvement amid violence

<sup>248</sup> Bangkok Post (24 Apr 2024) Refugee plan mapped out

<sup>249</sup> RFA (24 Apr 2024) Thailand warns Myanmar's rivals against using its soil for harm: ministers

<sup>250</sup> Bangkok Post (25 Apr 2024) Thailand proposes peace plan

<sup>251</sup> Bangkok Post (28 Apr 2024) Laos backs Thai 'Troika' peace plan