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Junta's Disarmament Offer: A Test Of Resistance's Stance



Junta's Disarmament Offer: A Test Of Resistance's Stance

Introduction

The military junta's invitation to the resistance forces, which are determined to end the military dictatorship, to disarm and enter the path of party politics and elections, clearly demonstrates the junta's wishful thinking. From their call to resolve political issues through political means, the junta still seems to believe that its attempt to maintain power is justified, while viewing the actions of the resistance forces opposing this attempt as misguided.

This week, the Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor's Weekly News Review examines the junta's disarmament offer and the responses from the resistance forces.

The Disarmament Offer

The junta's "invitation to resolve political issues through political means" ¹ issued on 26 September 2024 contains three points, with Point (1) stating that its ongoing attempt to seize power is in accordance with the 2008 Constitution.

The Point (2) states that the junta is working towards holding a general election in accordance with its five-point roadmap and intends to hand over power to the resulting government, armed resistance by the opposition forces has hindered the country's stability and development.

Point (3) mentions that the resistance forces are invited to abandon the armed struggle and resolve the political issues through political means, specifically through party politics and the electoral process.

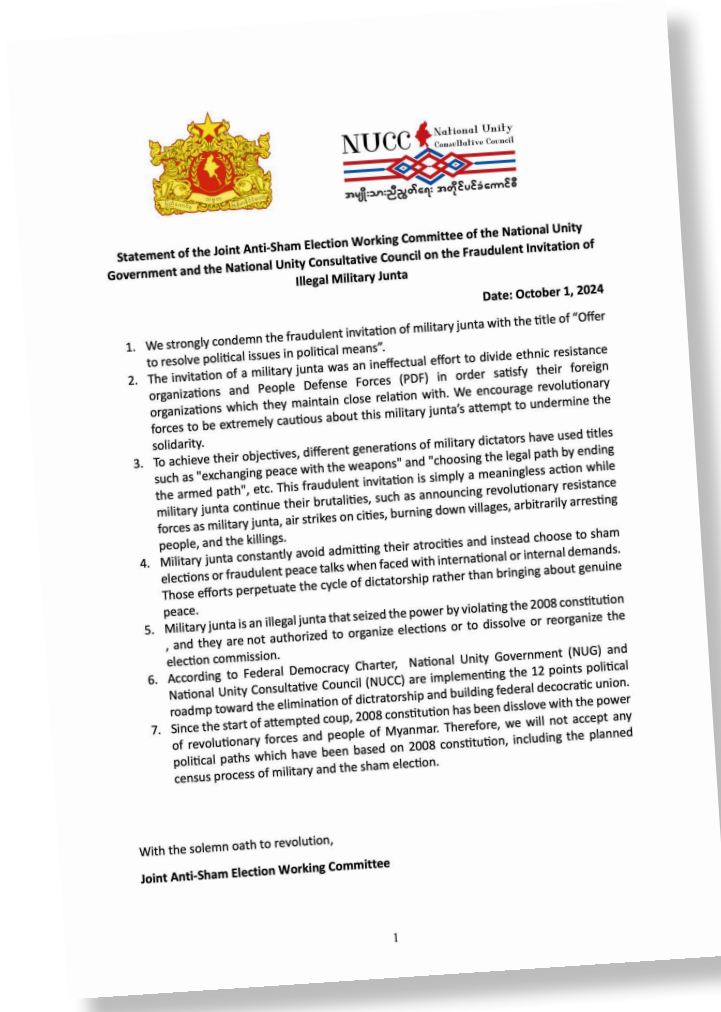
(These three points summarize the key aspects of the junta's announcement, omitting original phrases that are not conducive to peace and avoiding one-sided accusations.)

Over three years since the military coup, the junta has cracked down on opposition civilians with arrests, torture and killings, as well as daily airstrikes across the country and the destruction of civilians' homes by fire. None of these actions are mentioned in the disarmament offer with a single word.

Resistance's Stance On The Sham Offer

The National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the National Unity Government (NUG) were quick to call the military junta's offer as a "sham invitation". They stated on 1 October that it was an attempt by the junta to divide revolutionary groups, including the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) and the People's Defense Forces/

¹ Invitation to resolve political issues through political means, Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, 26 September 2024



Local Defense Forces (PDFs-LDFs), and urged revolutionary forces to be highly vigilant against this divisive tactic of the junta.

The NUCC and the NUG jointly announced that they will completely reject any political path that the military junta attempts to take, including the junta's attempts at census-taking and elections based on the 2008 Constitution, and that they will oppose and dismantle any elections held under such circumstances.²

Padoh Saw Taw Nee, a spokesperson for the Karen National Union (KNU), also said that the junta's invitation was merely an attempt to prolong the military dictatorship itself. He mentioned that the door is open for immediate dialogue if the military council accepts the three positions jointly announced by the resistance forces - "the military must abandon politics and serve under a future civilian government, to accept a constitution for a federal union, and take responsibility for war crimes committed against civilians."³

Lway Yay Oo, spokesperson of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), which was declared a terrorist organization by the junta on 2 September, said that, for any considerations of talks, the junta must

² Anti-Illegal Sham Elections Joint Working Committee's statement on terrorist junta's sham invitation, 1 October 2024

³ Military council's invitation 'not convincing', KIC, 27 September 2024



Houses destroyed by junta airstrikes

Photo- Lashio Reconstruction Group

withdraw its designation of them as a terrorist organization. Furthermore, they must also admit the acts of terrorism and crimes it has committed.⁴

Review

Since 1 October, the military junta has begun conducting a census in towns, villages, and wards under its control. In the meantime, it continues daily airstrikes on territories controlled by the resistance forces, such as Lashio.

At the same time, the junta appears determined to hold elections by any means possible during its coup, seeking the support of pro-military political parties, religious organizations and associations. In addition, the junta appears to be hoping for international recognition

⁴ Revolutionary forces reject junta's peace offer, RFA, 27 September 2024



...the junta's disarmament offer can be seen as a test to undermine the collaboration, unity, and shared stance among the resistance forces.



by leveraging the backing of the Chinese government, which supports its five-point agenda⁵, including the holding of elections.

Looking at the junta's disarmament offer, it is evident that it has excluded the National Unity Government (NUG) and only addressed the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) and People's Defense Forces-Local Defense Forces (PDF-LDFs). The junta's invitation thus can be seen as an attempt to drive a wedge between the NUG and the resistance forces, including EROs, which are committed to ending the military dictatorship and building a federal democratic union.

As the revolution drags on, it is increasingly necessary for the resistance forces, including the NUG, to strengthen their political consensus and military alliances. This is crucial for enhancing their collective strength and cooperation.

Therefore, the junta's disarmament offer can be seen as a test to undermine the collaboration, unity, and shared stance among the resistance forces.

⁵ Five-point roadmap of State Administration Council, NPE, 31 August 2024

Bi-Weekly News Review
Highlight Quote



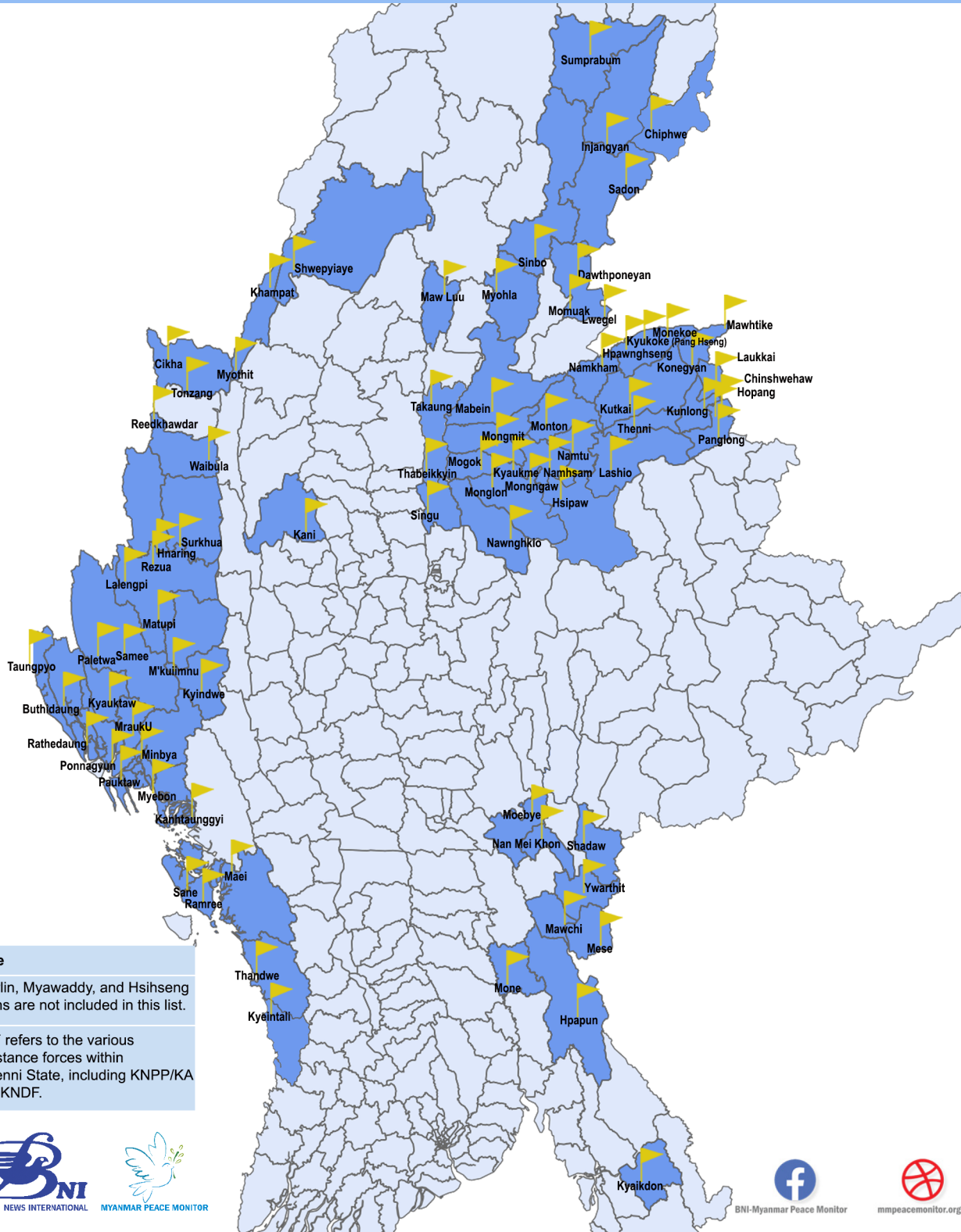
The BWU encourages women who have experienced sexual assault, whether in conflict-affected areas or urban settings, to break their silence and reach out for help, either to the BWU or other trusted organizations. If you're not ready to share your story, that's perfectly fine. You have the choice to keep it private. As a first step, they need to consult with experts for necessary help. There's no need to feel insignificant, as these issues are neither shameful nor repulsive. So, as a first step, instead of feeling alone, we encourage you to reach out to trusted persons for help.



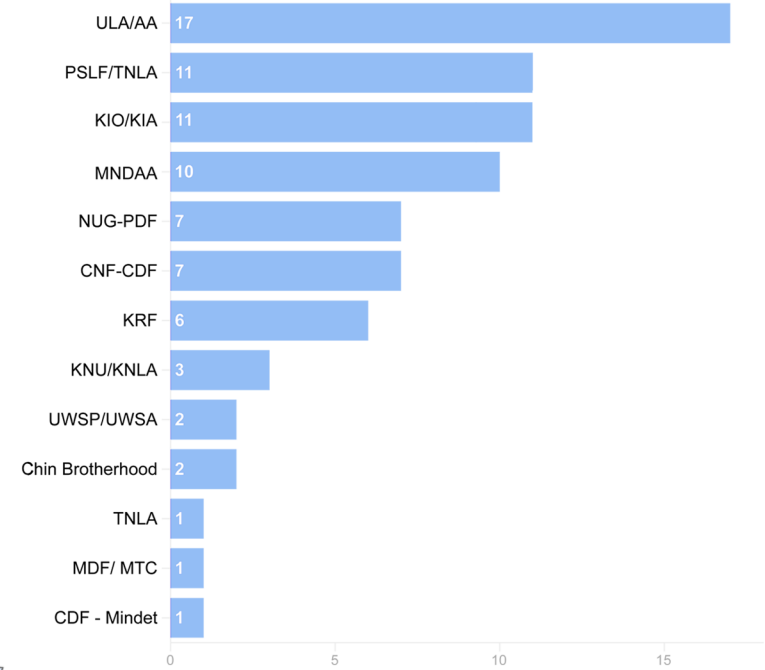
Naw Khin San Htwe (aka) Poe Dah
General Secretary of BWU

(Excerpt from an interview with Naw Khin San Htwe (aka) Poe Dah, General Secretary of BWU about "the BWU's actions for justice for women affected by the conflict," which was published on the website of BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor.)

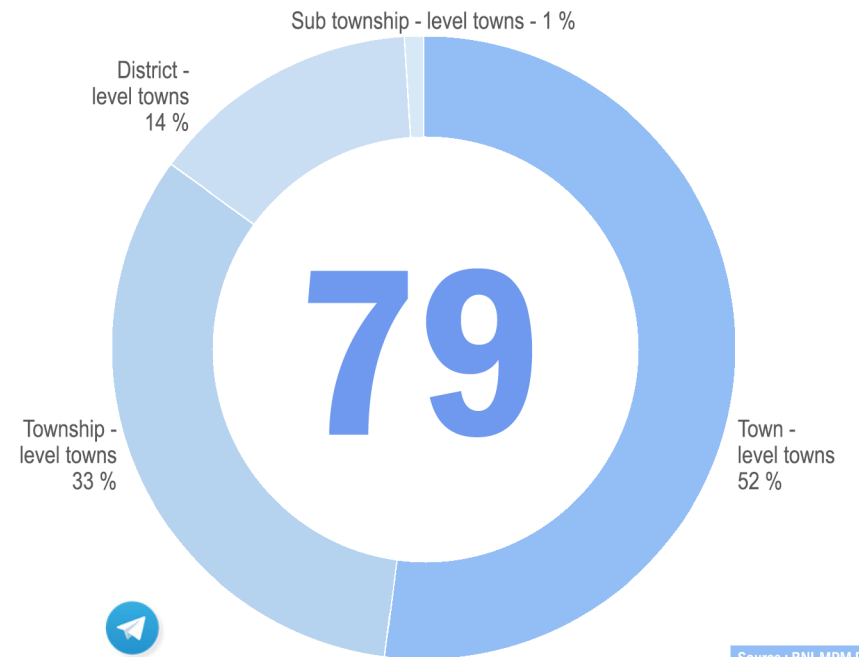
79 Towns Captured and Controlled By Resistance Forces



Number of towns captured and controlled by resistance forces



Administrative levels of the towns captured and controlled by resistance forces.



Note

Kawlin, Myawaddy, and Hsihseng towns are not included in this list.

KRF refers to the various resistance forces within Karenni State, including KNPP/KA and KNDF.

24-July-2021	24-Jun-2023	2-Nov-2023	2-Nov-2023	2-Nov-2023	2-Nov-2023	7-Nov-2023	7-Nov-2023	12-Nov-2023	13-Nov-2023	13-Nov-2023	13-Nov-2023	15-Nov-2023	20-Nov-2023	22-Nov-2023
M'kuimnu	Mese	Chinshwehaw	Hpawnghseng	Kyukoke (Pang Hseng)	Theinni	Khampat	Monekoe	Kunlong	Rikhawdar	Nan Mei Khon	Moebye	Mawhtike	Injangan	Shwepyiaye
The CNF/CNA and CDF-Mindat seized control of M'kuimnu town in Mindat Township on 30 November 2023 after the military council troops withdrew from the area.	The joint force of the 4K consisting of KA, KNDF, KNPLF, KNU/KNLA and PDFs launched attacks on all military junta camps in Mese Township on 13 June and seized control of the town on 24 June.	The Three Brotherhood Alliance—MNDAA, TNLA and AA — launched Operation 1027 on 27 October, and seized complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni towns on 2 November.	The Three Brotherhood Alliance—MNDAA, TNLA and AA — launched Operation 1027 on 27 October, and seized complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni towns on 2 November.	The Three Brotherhood Alliance—MNDAA, TNLA and AA — launched Operation 1027 on 27 October, and seized complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni towns on 2 November.	The Three Brotherhood Alliance—MNDAA, TNLA and AA — launched Operation 1027 on 27 October, and seized complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni towns on 2 November.	PDFs launched attacks on junta troops in Khampat in Tamu Township on 4 November and seized complete control of the town on 7 November.	The MNDAA and AA attacked the Monekoe strategic hilltop outpost on 5 November and seized complete control of the town in Muse Township on 7 November.	The MNDAA launched the military operation to capture Kunglong in northern Shan State on 1 November, attacking military junta camps and its administrative offices. The ethnic army seized control of the town on 12 November.	On 13 November, the joint force of CNF/CNA, CDF-Zanniatram, PDA — Tedim, CDF — Thantlang and CDF — Hualngoram attacked and captured two military outposts based in Rikhawdar on Trade Route 2 on the India-Myanmar border and seized complete control of the town.	The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) launched attacks on Nan Mei Khon in Demoso Township, southern Shan State, on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.	The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) launched attacks on Moe Bye in Pekon Township, southern Shan State, on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.	On 15 November 2023, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) captured Mawhtike in Kone Kyan Township in northern Shan State.	On 20 November, junta soldiers and police members from two military junta camps and a police station in Injangan Township withdrew from the town.	Joint PDF forces launched attacks on Shwepyiaye town in Homalin Township on 21 November. The joint forces seized control of the town and captured eight junta soldiers on 22 November.

28-Nov-2023	29-Nov-2023	30-Nov-2023	30-Nov-2023	30-Nov-2023	4-Dec-2023	5-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2023	15-Dec-2023	18-Dec-2023	22-Dec-2023	28-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2023	4-Jan-2024	7-Jan-2024
Konegyan	Rezua	Waibula	Hnaring	Surkhua	Mone	Monglon	Maw Luu	Namhsan	Namkham	Mantong	Nantu	Mongngaw	Laukkai	Kutkai
On 28 November, the MNDAA seized control of Konegyan town on Myanmar-China border in northern Shan State after the entire Infantry Battalion 125 based in the town surrendered by raising a white flag.	The CNF/CNA, CDF-Zotung, CDF- Zotung, CDF-Zophej, CDF-Lautu, CDF-Mara, CDF- Senthang and CDF- Matupi launched "Operation ZZMS" on Rezua town in the Zotung area of Chin State on 26 November and seized control of the town on 29 November.	The CNF/CNA and CDF seized control of Weblu town in Falam Township on 30 November 2023 after the military junta troops withdrew from the area.	The CNF/CNA and the locally-based CDF-Thantlang seized control of the town of Hnaring in Thantlang Township on 30 November 2023 after the military council troops withdrew from the area.	The CNF/CNA and the locally-based CDF-Hakha seized control of the town of Surkhua in Hakha Township on 30 November 2023 after the military council troops withdrew from the area.	The KNLA and allied resistance forces launched attacks on military junta camps in Mone town in Kyaukmyi Township on 2 December and seized control of the town on 4 December.	On 5 December, joint TNLA forces seized control of Monglon town in Kyaukme Township.	Joint forces of KIA, ABSDF, and PDF-Indaw seized control of Maw Luu town on 13 December.	On 15 December, joint TNLA forces seized control of Namhsan town.	The TNLA and allied forces launched attacks on Namkham town on 27 October and seized control of the town on 18 December.	On 22 December, the TNLA and allied forces seized control of Mantong town.	The TNLA launched attacks on Nantu town on 25 December and seized control of the town on 28 December.	The TNLA launched attacks on Mongngaw town in Kyaukme Township on 29 December and seized control of the town on 31 December.	On 4 January, the MNDAA seized control of Laukkai town.	On 7 January, the Three Brotherhood Alliance (MNDAA, TNLA, AA) seized control of Kutkai town.

10-Jan-2024	10-Jan-2024	14-Jan-2024	16-Jan-2024	21-Jan-2024	24-Jan-2024	28-Jan-2024	28-Jan-2024	6-Feb-2024	6-Feb-2024	7-Feb-2024	8-Feb-2024	10-Feb-2024	12-Feb-2024	15-Feb-2024
Hopang	Panglong	Paletwa	Samee	Mabein	Pauktaw	Mawchi	Wabhat	Taungpyo	Kyauktaw	Mrauk-U	Sinbo	Shadaw	Myebon	
The Three Brotherhood Alliance handed over Hopang and Panglong, the towns they seized on 5 January, to the UWSA on 10 January.	The Three Brotherhood Alliance handed over Hopang and Panglong, the towns they seized on 5 January, to the UWSA on 10 January.	The ULA/AA launched attacks on Paletwa town on 13 November and seized control of the town on 14 January.	On 16 January, the AA seized control of Samee town in Paletwa Township.	The KIO and allied PDFs launched attacks on Mabein town on 20 January 2024 and seized control of the town on 21 January.	The AA launched attacks on Pauktaw town on 19 January 2024 and seized control of the town on 24 January.	On 28 January, the KNDF announced that it had seized control of Mawchi town without having to fight after the military junta abandoned its camps in the town on 26 January 2024.	The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) announced on 28 January that it had seized control of Ywar Thit town in Bawlake Township.	On 6 February, the ULA/AA announced that it had seized control of Minbya town.	The AA launched attacks on both Taungpyo (Let Wae) and Taungpyo (Let Yar) camps of the military junta on 4 February 2024, and seized control of the town on 6 February.	On 7 February 2024, the AA seized control of Kyauktaw town.	On 8 February, the AA seized control of Mrauk-U town in Arakan State.	On 10 February, the KIA seized control of Sinbo town in Myitkyina Township.	The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) seized control of Shadaw town in Karenni (Kayah) State on 12 February 2024.	On 15 February 2024, the AA seized control of Myebon town in Arakan State.

15-Feb-2024	16-Feb-2024	22-Feb-2024	4-Mar-2024	6-Mar-2024	8-Mar-2024	11-Mar-2024	14-Mar-2024	17-Mar-2024	28-Mar-2024	29-Mar-2024	29-Apr-2024	5-May-2024	7-May-2024	9-May-2024
Kanhtaunggyi	Maei	Myohla	Ponnagyun	Kani	Dawthponeyan	Ramree	Kyaikdon	Rathedaung	Hpapun	Lwegel	Kyndwe	Sumprabum	Myothit	Sane
On 15 February 2024, the ULA/AA captured Kanhtaunggyi in Arakan State.	On 16 February 2024, the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA) captured Maei in Arakan State after the withdrawal of junta troops from the town.	On 22 February 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces captured the town after junta soldiers withdrew from the strategic hill camp in Myohla town in Shwegu Township.	On 4 March 2024, the AA seized control of Ponnagyun town in Arakan State.	On 6 March 2024, joint resistance forces seized control of Kani town in Sagaing Region.	On 8 March 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces captured Dawthponeyan town in Waingmaw Township after the surrender of junta soldiers from Infantry Battalion-142 in the town.	On 11 March 2024, the AA seized control of Ramree town in Arakan State.	The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and joint resistance forces launched attacks on Kyaikdon town, Kaw-kareik Township on 13-14 March 2024 and seized control of the town on 14 March.	On 17 March 2024, the AA seized control of Rathedaung town in Arakan State.	On 28 March 2024, the KNLA and allied resistance forces seized control of Hpapun town in Karen State.	On 29 March 2024, the KNLA and allied resistance forces seized control of Lwegel town in Kachin State.	The Chin Brotherhood Alliance and the AA jointly seized control of Kyndwe town in Kanpetlet Township on 29 April 2024.	On 5 May 2024, Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces successfully took control of Sumprabum town.	On 7 May 2024, the joint People's Defense Forces (PDFs) launched an offensive against the military council's camps in Myothit town in Tamu Township. The joint PDFs took control of the town on 11 May.	Before 9 May 2024, the ULA/AA captured Sane in Arakan State.

18-May-2024	19-May-2024	21-May-2024	11-June-2024	26-June-2024	29-June-2024	11-July-2024	16-July-2024	16-July-2024	17-July-2024	24-July-2024	25-July-2024	6-Aug-2024	14-Aug-2024	12-Aug-2024
Buthidaung	Cikha	Tonzang	Sadon	Nawngkhio	Matupi	Lailenpi	Thandwe	Mongmit	Singu	Mogok	Lashio	Kyaukme	Kyeintali	Tagaung
The Arakan Army (AA) seized complete control of Buthidaung town in Arakan State on 18 May 2024.	The CNF/CNA and allied Chin defense forces seized control of Cikha town in Tonzang Township on 19 May 2024.	The CNF/CNA, CDF-Tonzang, CDF- Thantlang, PDA -Tedim, CDF CDM-Siyin, CDF- Hualngoram, YDF (Yaw), CDF-Asho, CDF-KKG, CDF-Hakha, CDF-Zanniatram, CDF-Matupi and CDF-Paletwa seized control of Tonzang town in Tonzang Township on 21 May 2024.	On 11 June 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces attacked and captured the military council's camps in Sadon.	On 26 June 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) successfully took control of Nawngkhio.	On 29 June 2024, a combined force of Chin Brotherhood, Arakan Army (AA), Yaw Army (YA) and Yaw Defense Force (YDF) successfully took control of Matupi.	The CNF/CNA, CDF-Mara, CDF-Matupi, CDF-Lautu and CDF-Zophej launched a joint attack on military junta camps in Lailenpi town in Matupi Township on 20 November and seized control of the town on 24 November. On 11 July 2024, Maraland Defense Force/ Maraland Territorial Council (MDF/ MTC) retook Lailenpi with the help of the ULA/AA.	On 16 July 2024, the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA) captured Thandwe in Arakan State.	On 16 July 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied forces captured Mongmit in northern Shan State.	On 17 July 2024, People's Defense Force (PDF) captured Singu in Mandalay Region.	On 24 July 2024, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied forces took control of Mogok in Mandalay Region.	On 25 July 2024, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) took control of Lashio town in northern Shan State.	The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied forces seized control of Kyaukme town on 6 August 2024.	On 14 August 2024, the United League of Arakan/Arakha Army (ULA/AA) took control of Kyeintali in Gwa Township.	On 12 August 2024, the joint People's Defense Forces (PDFs) successfully seized control of Tagaung town in Thabeikkyin Township.

12-Aug-2024	18-Aug-2024	25-Aug-2024	29-Sep-2024
Hsipaw	Momauk	Thabeikkyin	Chiphwe
On 12 August 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) seized control of Hsipaw town in northern Shan State.	On 19 August 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces seized control of Momauk.	On 25 August 2024, the joined People's Defense Forces successfully captured Thabeikkyin.	On 29 September 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces took control of Chiphwe town in Kachin State.

Note

Kawlin – On 3 February 2022, the military junta re-entered Kawlin town with a large number of troops in several columns, which had been taken by the People's Defense Force (PDF) and other resistance forces on 6 November 2023.

Myawaddy – The military junta, with the help of the Karen Border Guard Force (BGF), recaptured the garrison of Infantry Battalion 275, which had been captured by the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) on 11 April 2024, and raised the Myanmar national flag again on 24 April 2024.

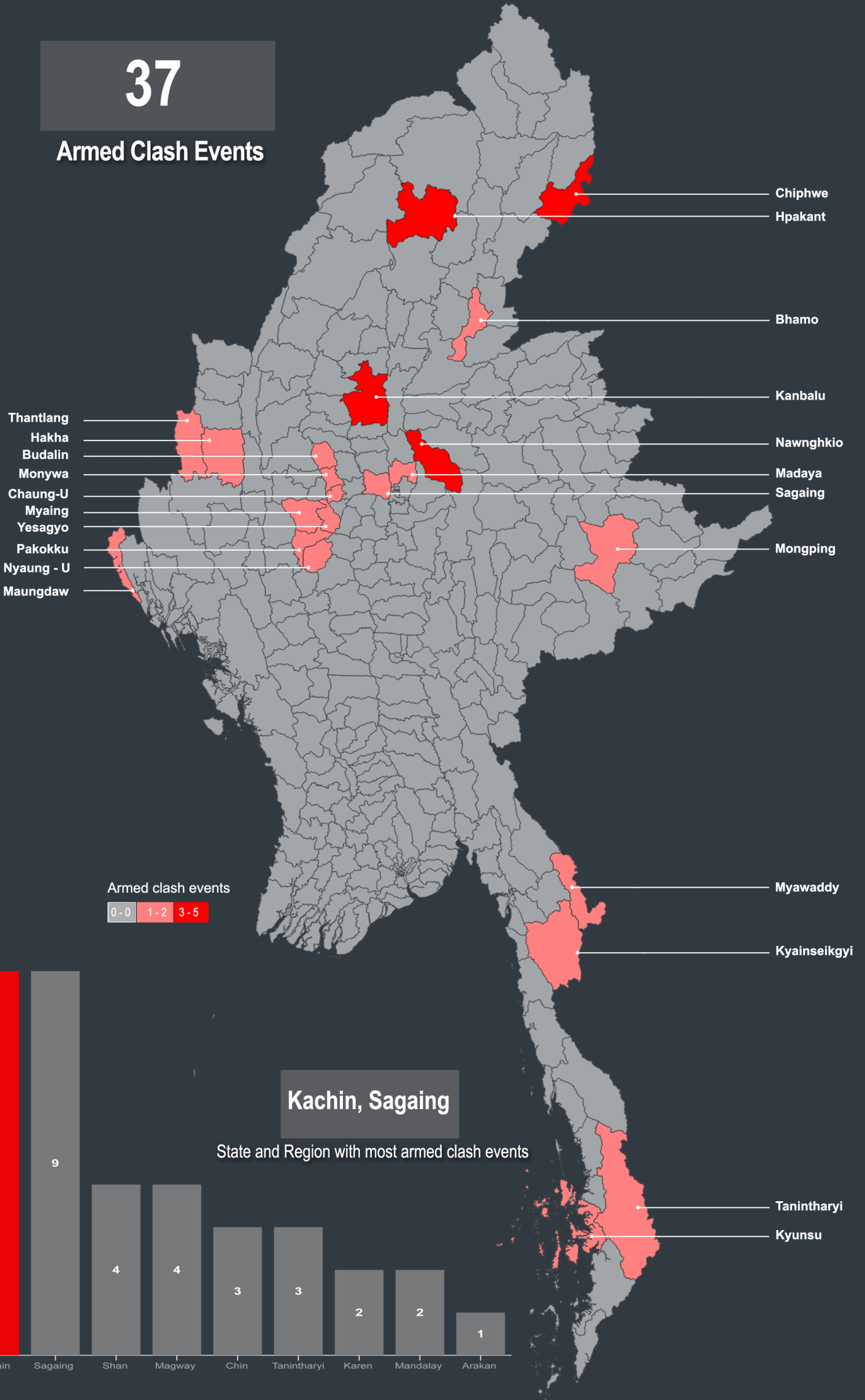
Hsisheng – On 30 March 2024, the military junta announced through its media that it had regained control of Hsisheng town in southern Shan State and started reconstruction work, which had been captured by the joint forces of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs).



Armed clash events in two weeks (11 - 23 September 2024)

37

Armed Clash Events

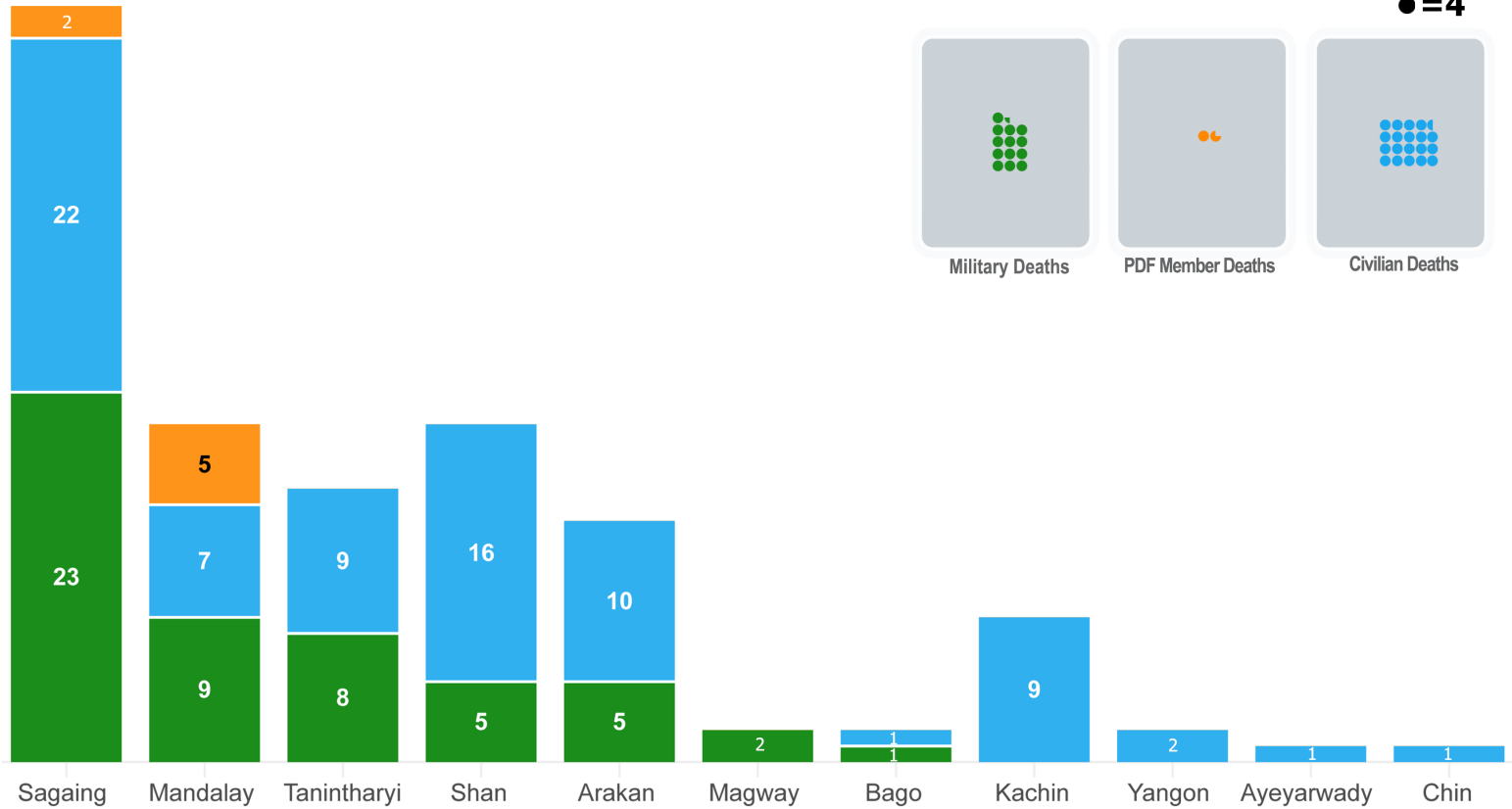


According to BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor records, there were **37** armed clash events between the military council, and People's Defense Forces/ Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) during the two-week period from 11 to 23 September 2024. Looking at regions and states, Kachin State and Sagaing Region had the highest number of armed clashes, with **9** events each.

No. of junta soldiers, PDF members and civilians killed in two weeks

(11 - 23 September 2024)

● Military Deaths ● PDF Member Deaths ● Civilian Deaths

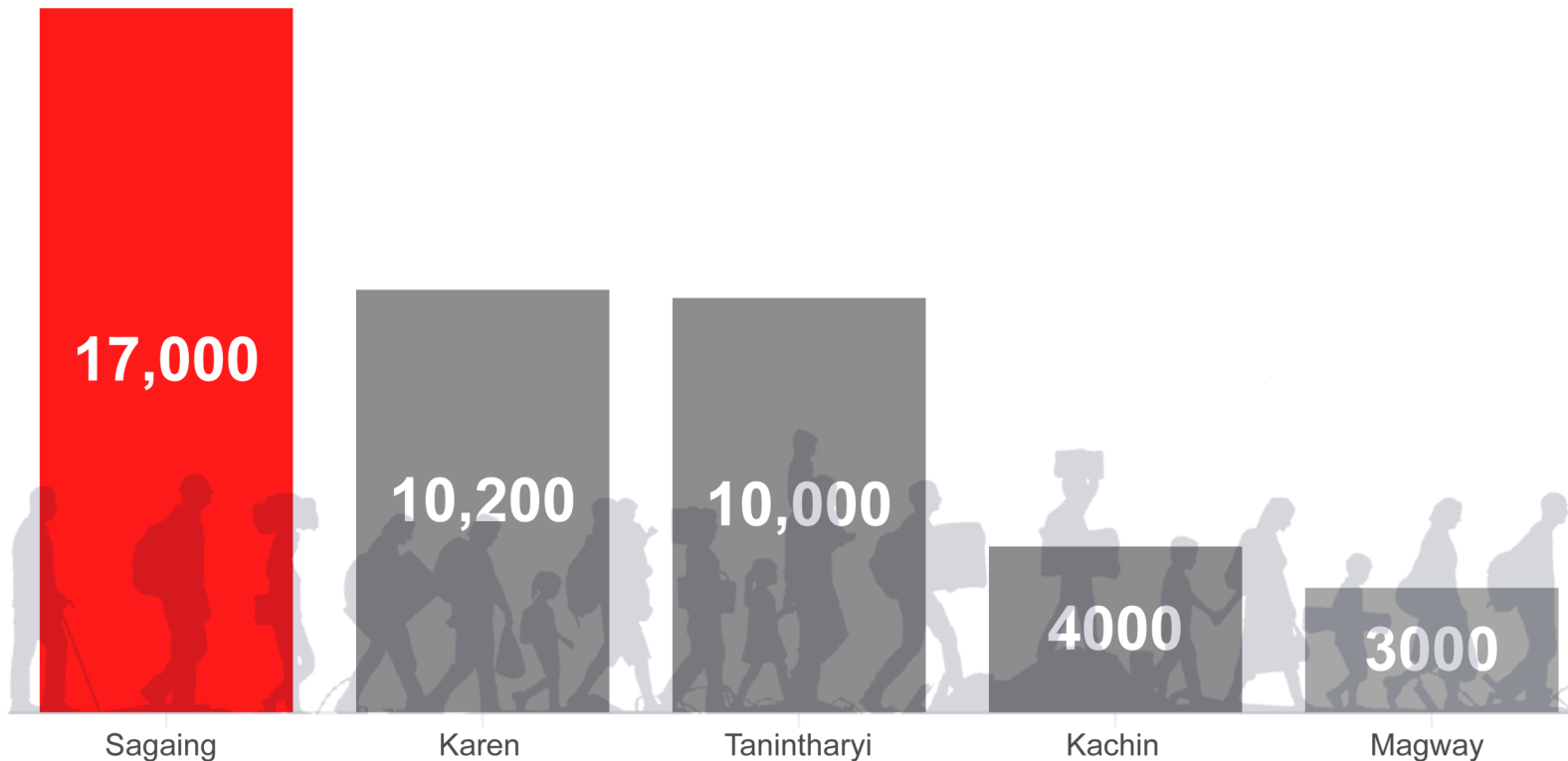


According to BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor records, during the two-week period from 11 to 23 September 2024, **53** junta soldiers and **7** PDF members were killed in the fighting. In addition, **78** civilians were killed in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanitharyi Regions, as well as in Shan, Arakan, Kachin and Chin States.

Number of People Displaced In Two Weeks

44,200

(11- 23 September 2024)



According to BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor records, around **44,200** local residents from Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Tanintharyi Region, Karen State, and Kachin State were displaced during the two-week period from 11 to 23 September 2024. This displacement was driven by the ongoing fighting between the two armed forces, as well as the junta's shelling and burning of civilian houses.



India has invited the Arakha Army (AA), Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Chin National Front (CNF) and National Unity Government (NUG) to the "Constitutionalism and Federalism" seminar, scheduled to take place with the fund of the Indian government. The event would be hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), whose council includes foreign minister S Jaishankar, in New Delhi of India, in November.

Since the military coup, India has maintained its relations with Myanmar military leaders. However, the invitation extended to opposition groups opposing the military council for the seminar is unprecedented.

Furthermore, it is unclear whether the Myanmar military council has been invited to the seminar, and no further details about the seminar have been released at this time.¹

In his message commemorating the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Myanmar, Alexander Lukashenko, the authoritarian president of Belarus—often referred to as Europe’s “last dictatorship”—extended an invitation to Myanmar's military leader, Min Aung Hlaing.

In 2023, the Myanmar military council opened a Consulate-General

¹ India invites opposition groups including AA to the seminar on federalism, Narinjara, 24 September 2024

in Belarus, which invited junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Belarus did not support the UN motion condemning the military coup. On the other hand, Belarus is a country which is exporting weapons to the Myanmar army, observers said.

Belarus is a landlocked country in eastern Europe. Dictator Alexander Lukashenko, has been ruling the country since 1994. The Belarusian government has faced criticism for its repression of civil liberties and a severe crackdown on the media.²

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar released a statement opposing actions that seek to undermine China-Myanmar relations and unjustly blame China. The statement emphasizes China's commitment to non-interference in internal affairs and support for a peace process led by the Myanmar people. China expressed its opposition to instability and conflict in Myanmar.

This month, despite its claim of non-interference in Myanmar's affairs, China sent a threatening letter to the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), urging an immediate halt to their ongoing Operation Shan-Mann. In addition, China has engaged with the military council without criticizing the junta's coup and the arrests and killings of civilians and the aerial bombings. China also blocked the resolutions related to Myanmar at the UN Security Council.³

Over 100 civil society organizations, including the Peace and Human Rights Federation of Korea, issued a letter condemning a recent meeting between the Myanmar ambassador and military attaché with the Gunsan Legislative Council in South Korea. This council had previously condemned the Myanmar military coup three years ago. The meeting, which took place last month, came to light after Korean media reported on it.

As this meeting amounted to recognizing the junta, they have also called on the Gunsan Legislative Council to apologize to the Korean people, including Myanmar migrant workers in Korea.⁴

² Belarusian dictator Lukashenko invites Myanmar military leader, DVB, 24 September 2024

³ China says it opposes interference in Myanmar's internal affairs, DVB, 15 September 2024

⁴ Gunsan City Legislative Council, which met with the ambassador of military council, condemned, DVB, 11 September 2024

Note:

The facts and figures and references in Bi-Weekly News Reviews are taken from the Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor's (MPM) dataset. Peace and conflict-related news covered daily by 15 member media organizations of the BNI and other local and foreign media organizations are recorded in the BNI-MPM's Dataset daily.

