



BURMA NEWS INTERNATIONAL MYANMAR PEACE MONITOR

Bi-Weekly News Review

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Where is the Myanmar issue heading within ASEAN?

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Introduction

ASEAN's five-point consensus undermines its position and capacity. ASEAN should learn from the consequences of engaging with coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Myanmar military. The five-point consensus reached at the ASEAN emergency meeting held on 24 April 2021, has not been practically implemented even after three years. This week's Bi-Weekly News Review highlights the emphasis on the Myanmar issue within ASEAN.

ASEAN Chair's Statement following the Summit

The ASEAN rotating chairperson released a 44-page statement on 13 October, following the ASEAN Summit held in Vientiane, Laos, from 8 to 11 October. Page 42, Paragraph 180 of the statement



includes details about discussions, key emphases, and demands related to the Myanmar issue.¹

The summit reaffirmed the ongoing relevance of the ASEAN leaders' five-point consensus, which has remained unimplemented for over three years. The statement condemned the escalating conflicts in Myanmar and called for creating conditions that would allow for humanitarian aid to be delivered and inclusive dialogue to take place. Notably, the Myanmar military council's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the ASEAN Summit. The junta is forced to accept the decision made at the Emergency Meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 15 October 2021, which stated that the junta leader would not be allowed to attend the ASEAN Summit, but

¹ Chairman's Statement of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits, ASEAN, 13 Oct 2024

OPENING CEREMONY

44TH AND 45TH ASEAN SUMMITS AND RELATED SUMMITS

9 OCTOBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR



The 44 th and 45 th ASEAN Summit

a “civilian representative” from Myanmar would be permitted to attend instead.”²

However, it can be said that the Myanmar military junta, which continues to participate in international meetings led by the Chinese government, is taking steps to gain recognition for the general election they are planning to hold.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, said that the Myanmar issue was very complicated. It needed time and patience, and that a quick fix should not be expected.³ This raises questions about how much time ASEAN needs to effectively resolve the Myanmar issue based on the five-point consensus.

² Although ASEAN's decision not to accept the military leader is welcomed, invitation to civilian representative faces objection, BNI-MPM, 19 October 2021

³ ASEAN plays 'stabilising' role on regional tensions, secretary-general says, Reuters, 10 Oct 2024

Jakarta Talks

The diplomatic talks on the Myanmar issue, held in Jakarta, Indonesia just days before the ASEAN Summit, was particularly noteworthy. It brought together revolutionary forces, including the National Unity Government (NUG), alongside representatives from international bodies such as the United Nations and the European Union (EU), without the junta's involvement.

The talks on Myanmar held from 3 to 5 October, was attended by 18 representatives from the anti-junta groups including the NUG, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Karen National Union (KNU), the Chin National Front (CNF) and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS). The representatives from the UN, EU, UK, US, Norway, Malaysia, and Indonesia also participated in the talks.⁴

There has been no official statement regarding the topics discussed during the Jakarta talks and the future processes. However, it is reported that the "ASEAN Troika" was canceled due to disagreement from the current ASEAN rotating chair, Laos. Nonetheless, the ASEAN Chair's statement following the summit acknowledged the talks that took place in Jakarta.

Review

ASEAN's steps toward addressing the Myanmar issue, based on the five-point consensus, have remained stagnant, with no progress made despite years of change. By focusing on the military junta led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and ignoring the voices and demands of Myanmar's people and revolutionary forces, ASEAN has constrained its own ability to act.

⁴ Why did ASEAN invite ethnic armed resistance forces? Shan News, 11 October 2024



Now is the time for ASEAN to consider the role and importance of the revolutionary forces fighting for liberation from the military dictatorship.



However, this October is significant. It is clear that efforts to implement the five-point consensus from the ASEAN Summit have failed. Nevertheless, the continued emphasis on seeking a peaceful resolution to the Myanmar issue through adherence to this consensus underscores that ASEAN has not learned from its past experiences.

Although the discussions, outcomes, and agreements from the Jakarta talks have not yet been made public, they may reflect the voices, demands and actual conditions on the ground of the revolutionary forces. The participation of the Malaysian representative, who will assume the ASEAN rotating chair in 2025, adds another layer of interest to the ongoing developments.

Since 2021, despite four successive rotating ASEAN chairs—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Laos—the bloc's steps toward addressing the Myanmar issue have remained largely inactive. The lesson should be learned that an approach centered on the junta limits ASEAN's ability to act effectively. Now is the time for ASEAN to recognize the role and importance of the revolutionary forces fighting for liberation from the military dictatorship.

In particular, ASEAN's emphasis on the Myanmar issue will be evident only when the bloc adopts a serious approach that ensures all groups have the opportunity to participate in an inclusive dialogue for peace.



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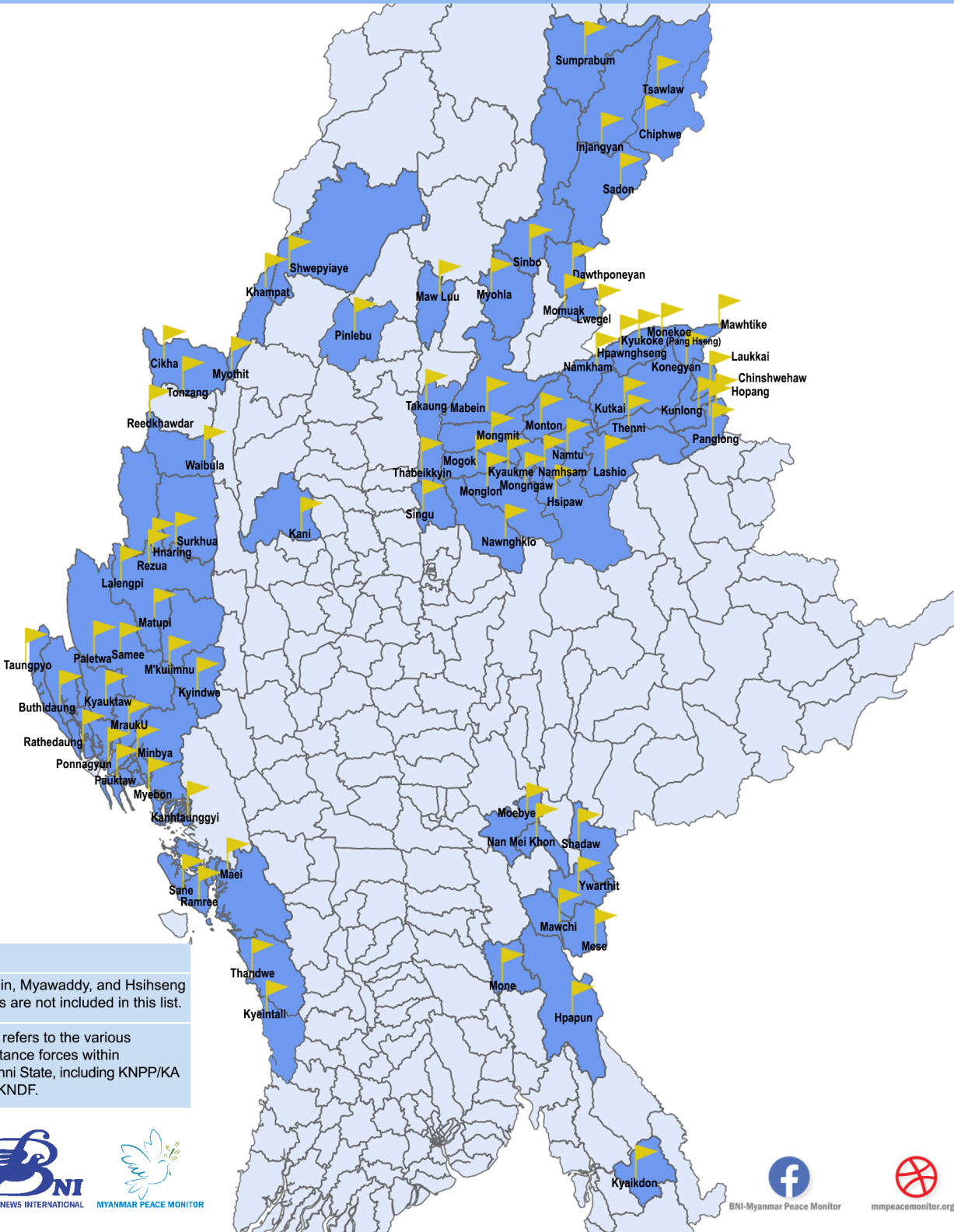
The MSFC views that the military council’s invitation to revolutionary forces for resolving the political problems through political means is dishonest. Because the military council is carrying out targeted airstrikes on civilians while it is inviting the revolutionary forces. The junta will continue to hold talks by activating the 2008 Constitution, which serves as the foundation of their power. So, the MSFC views this discussion as a political trick by the military council and considers it to be dishonest.

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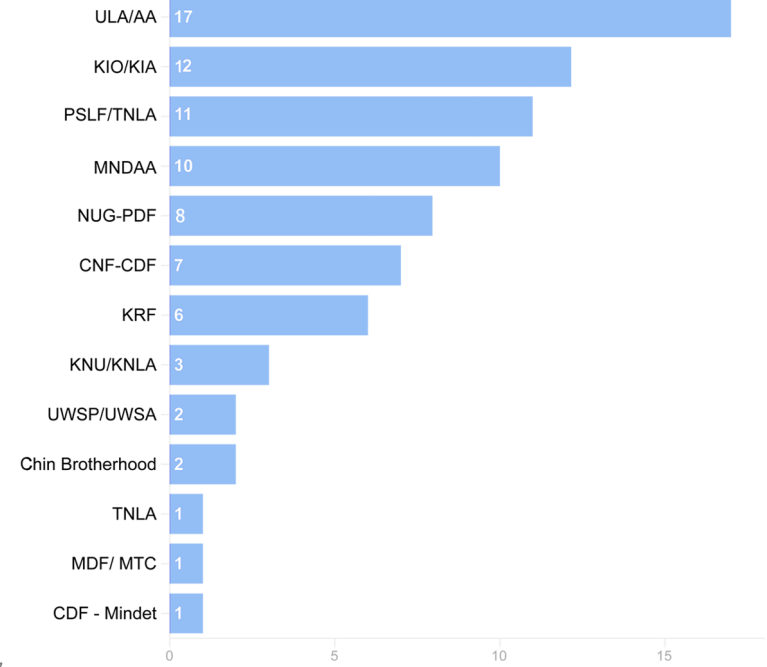
Mi Kun Chan Non (Council member)
Mon State Federal Council (MSFC)

(Excerpt from “An interview with Mi Kun Chan Non, a member of the MSFC, about the MSFC’s position rejecting the military council’s invitation to resolve the political problems through political means” published on BNI-MPM website.)

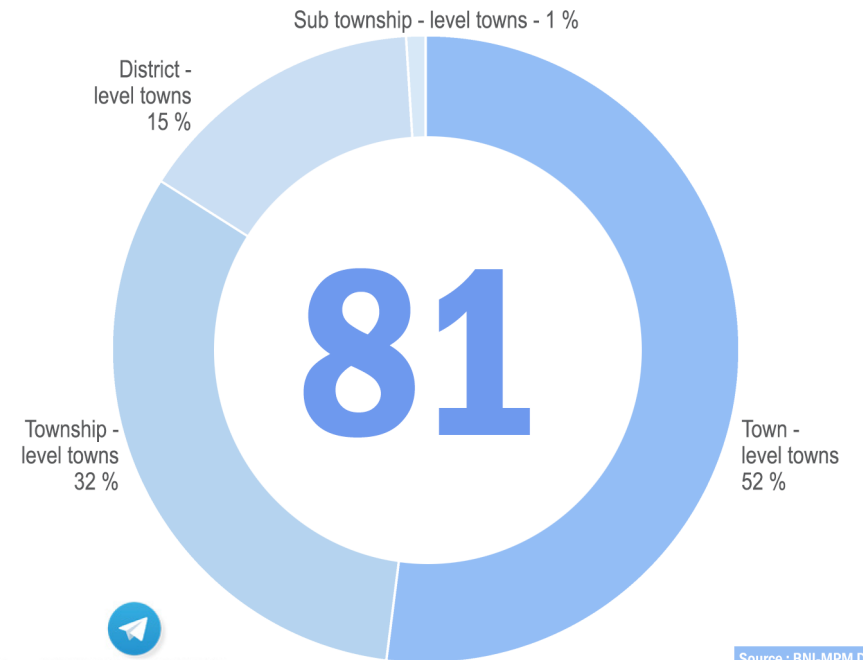
81 Towns Captured and Controlled By Resistance Forces



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'kulimnu	Mese	Chinshwehaw	Hpwanghseng	Kyukoke (Pang Hseng)	Theinni	Khampat	Monekoe	Kunlong	Rikhawdar	Nan Mei Khon	Moebye	Mawhtike	Injangyan	Shwepyiay
The CNF/CNA and CDF-Mindat seized control of M'kulimnu 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, Hpwanghseng, 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, Hpwanghseng, 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, Hpwanghseng, 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, Hpwanghseng, 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 Monekone strategic hilltop outpost on 5 November and seized complete control of the town in Mese Township on 7 November.	The MNDAA launched the military operation to capture Kunlong 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 Injangyan Township withdrew from the town.	Joint PDF forces launched attacks on Shwepyiay 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	Namtu	Mongngaw	Laukkai	Kutkai
On 28 November, the MNDAA seized control of Konegyan town on Myanmar-China border after the entire Infantry Battalion 125 based in the town surrendered by raising a white flag.	The CNF/CNA, CDF-Zotung, CDF-Zotung, CDF-Zophei, CDF-Lautu, CDF-Mara, CDF-Senthang and CDF-Matupi launched "Operation ZZLMS" 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 town 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 Kyaukkyi 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 Namtu 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	Ywarhit	Minbya	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	Mael	Myohla	Ponnagyun	Kani	Dawthponeyan	Ramree	Kyalkdon	Rathedaung	Hpapun	Lwegel	Kyindwe	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 Mael 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 military junta camps in Kyalkdon 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 Kyindwe 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-Zophei 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 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	19-Aug-2024	25-Aug-2024	29-Sep-2024	2-Oct-2024	8-Oct-2024
Hsipaw	Momauk	Thabeikkyin	Chiphwe	Tsawlaw	Pinlebu
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.	On 2 October 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) seized control of Tsawlaw town in Kachin State.	On 8 October 2024, joint People's Defense Forces (PDFs) seized control of Pinlebu town in Sagaing Region for the second time. The joint resistance forces initially captured the town in November 2023, but they had to retreat due to airstrikes by the military.

Note

Kawlin – On 3 February 2023, 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.

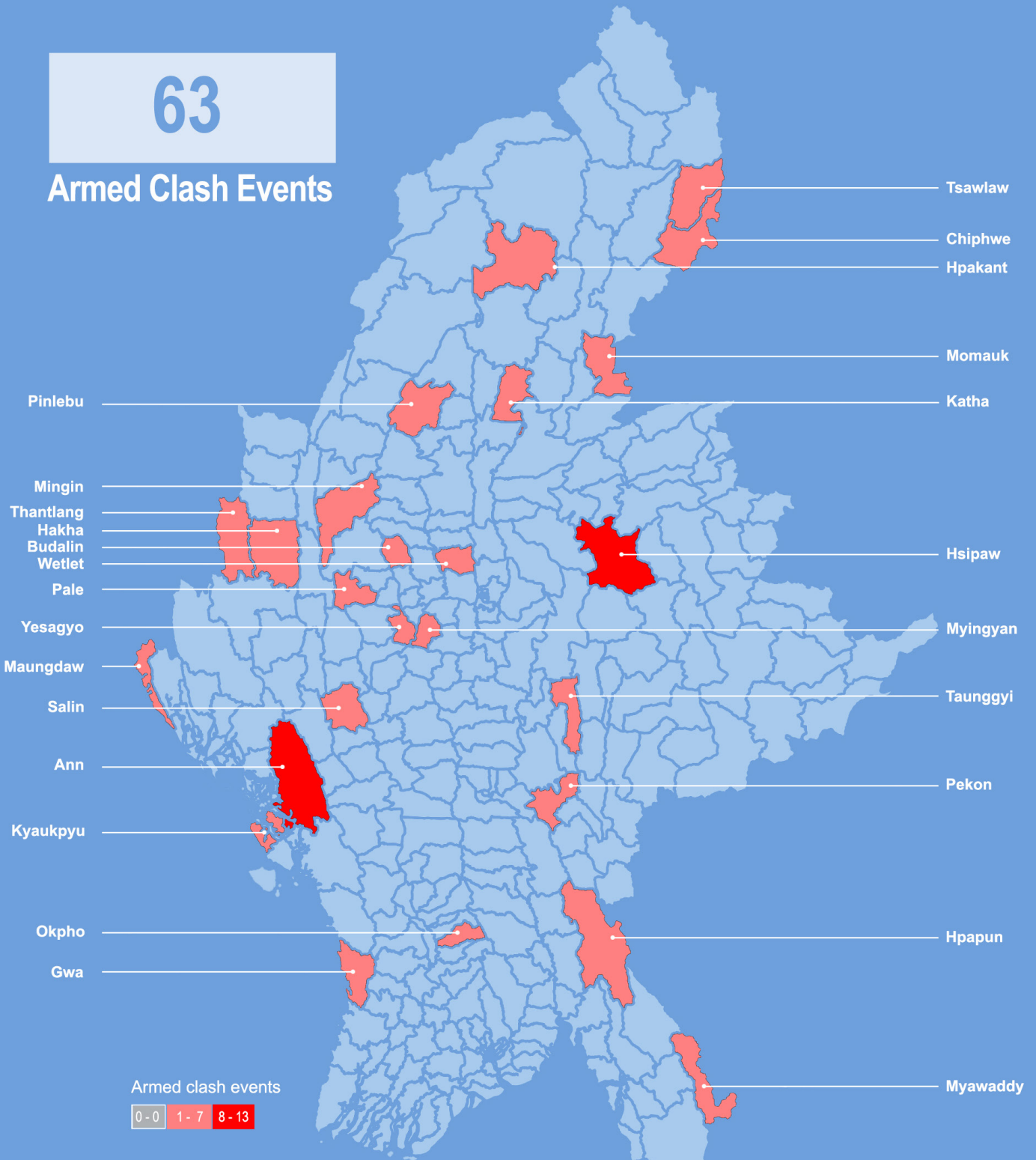
Hsihseng – On 30 March 2024, the military junta announced through its media that it had regained control of Hsihseng town in southern Shan State and started reconstruction work, which had been captured by the joint forces of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), the Karenni Nationalities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



Armed clash events in two weeks (24 Sep - 8 Oct 2024)

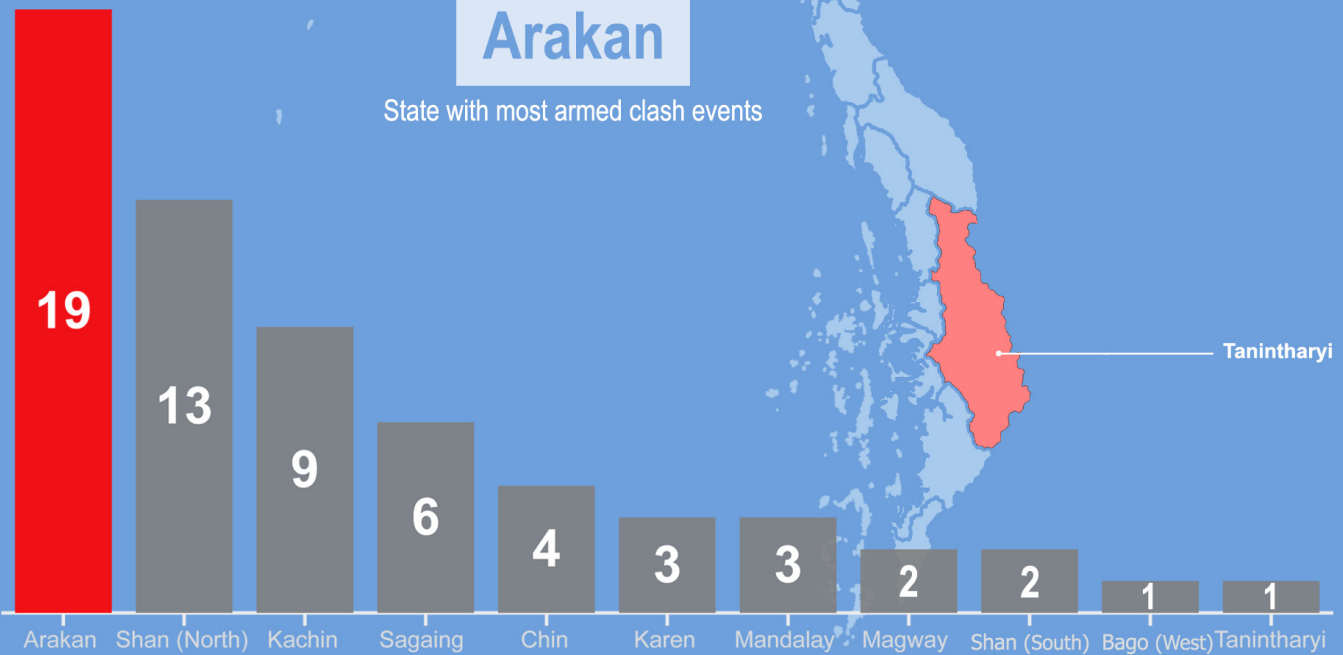
63

Armed Clash Events



Arakan

State with most armed clash events



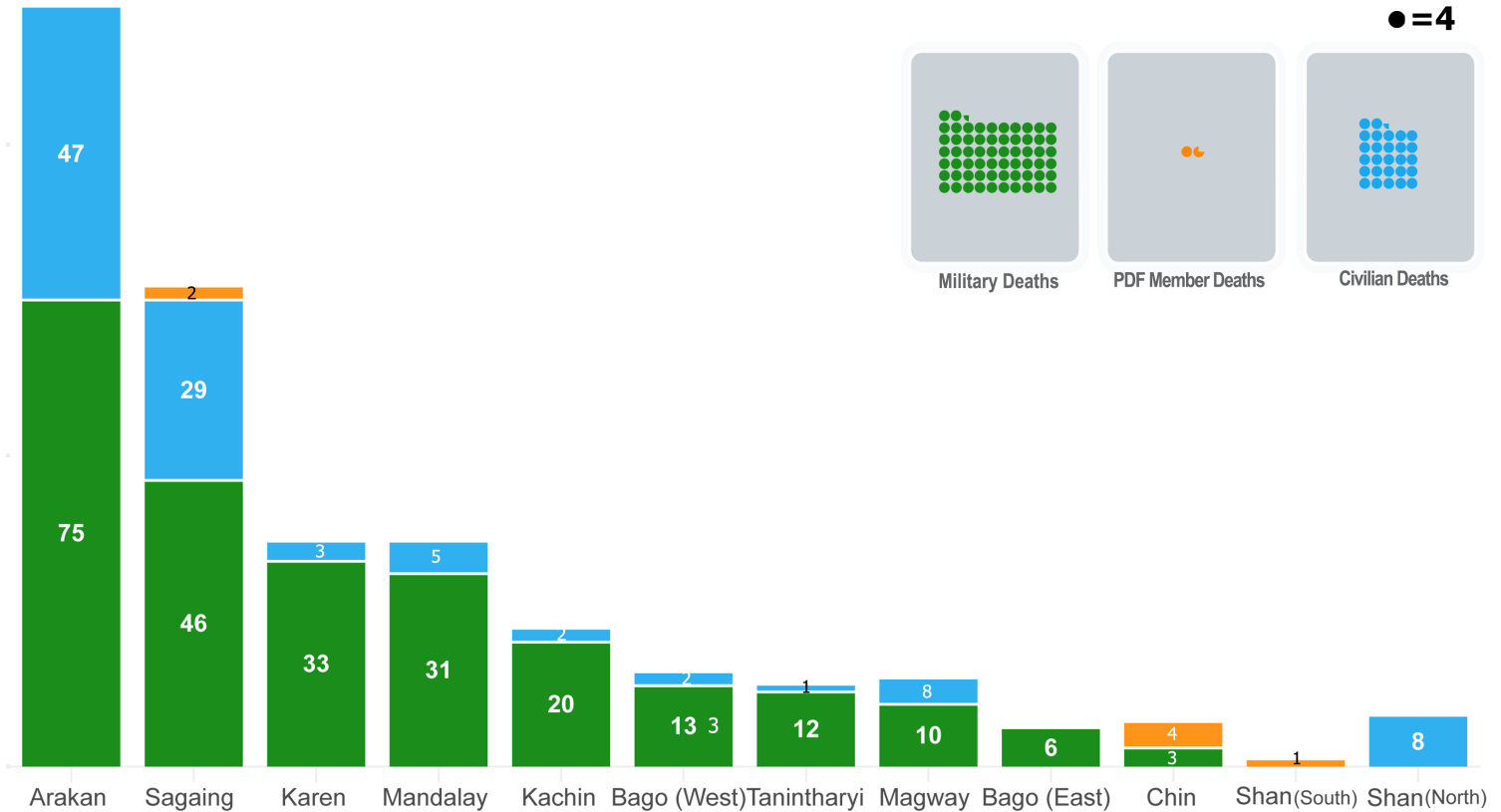
According to Burma News International (BNI) – Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) records, within two weeks from 24 September to 8 October 2024, there were a total of **63** armed clash events between military junta forces and People’s Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs). Broken down by state and region, Arakan State had the most armed clash events, with **19** in total.

As of 30 September 2024, there have been **5,295** clash events across Myanmar since the military coup. The number of clashes could be even higher.

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

(24 Sep - 8 Oct 2024)

● Military Deaths ● PDF Member Deaths ● Civilian Deaths



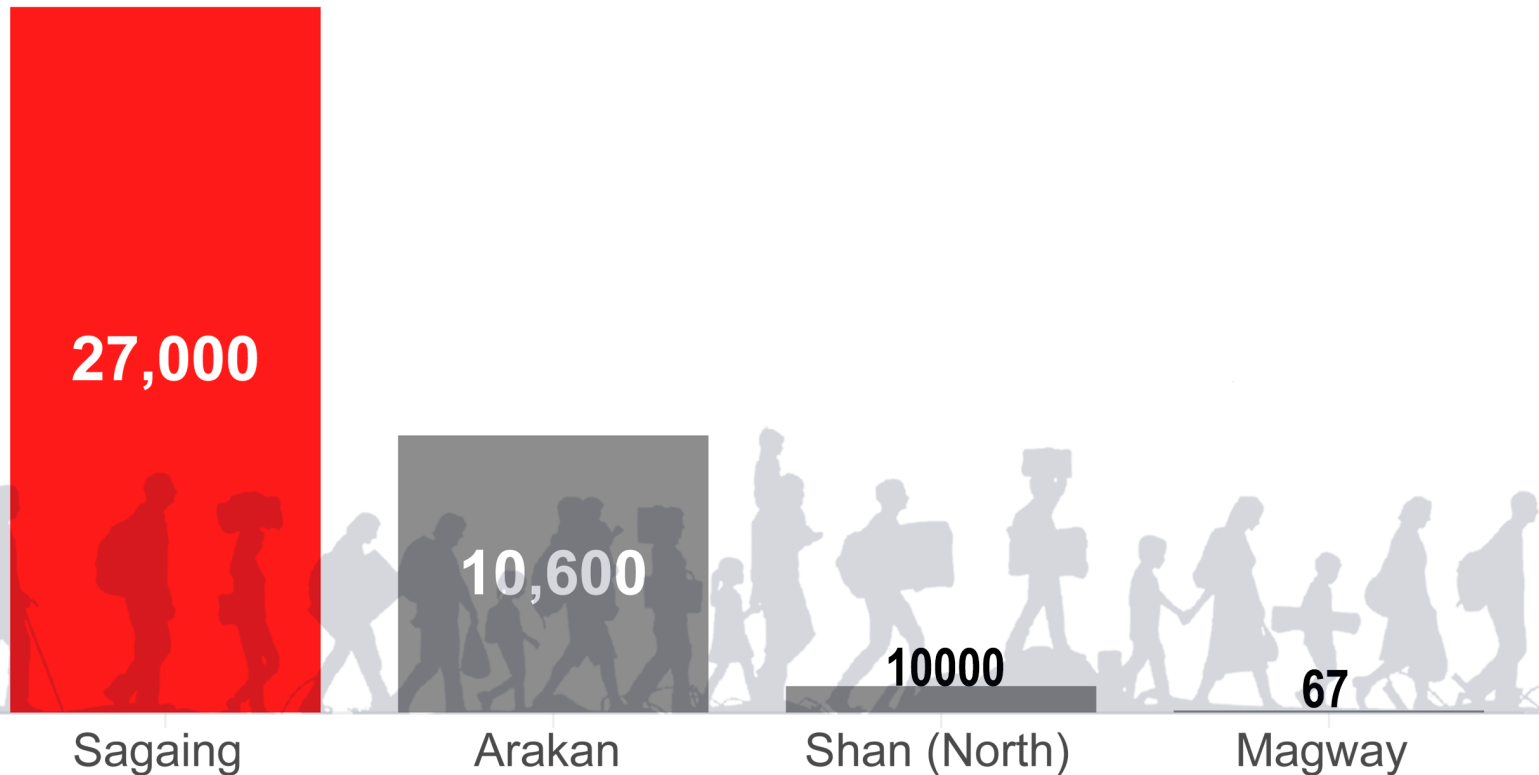
According to BNI-MPM records, within two weeks from 24 September to 8 October 2024, **249** junta soldiers and **7** PDF members were killed. In addition, **101** civilians were killed in Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Northern Shan, Kachin, Chin, Karen, and Arakan.

According to BNI-MPM records, from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2024, **18,799** junta soldiers and **1,234** PDF/LDF members were killed. In addition, **5,473** civilians also lost their lives as a result of armed clashes and related incidents.

Number of People Displaced In Two Weeks

(24 Sep - 8 Oct 2024)

38,667



According to BNI-MPM records, within two weeks from 24 September to 8 October 2024, clashes between the two sides, artillery shelling, and the burning of civilian homes by junta forces caused around **38,667** people in Sagaing, Magway, Arakan, and Shan (North) to flee to safety. As of 30 September 2024, the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Myanmar due to the conflict since the coup has reached **3,350,707**.



Beth Van Schaack, Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Department of State. (Photo : RFA)

The Quad leaders, including the US President and Prime Ministers of Japan, Australia, and India, discussed the Myanmar issue at the fourth summit held in Wilmington, Delaware, United States. Through this discussion, the Quad leaders urged all countries to prevent the flow of arms and dual-use material, including jet fuel, to Myanmar. ¹

The US State Department announced that Beth Van Schaack, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, would visit Thailand in the first week of October to discuss Myanmar affairs.

She will meet with Thai government officials, civil society organizations, experts, and other groups to discuss justice and accountability for those suffering from atrocities in Myanmar. ²

¹ US President, Japan, India, Australia discuss Myanmar issue; urge to prevent flow of arms and jet fuel to Myanmar, Mizzima, 25 September 2024

² US justice ambassador to visit Thailand to discuss Myanmar affairs, RFA Burmese, 2 October 2024

Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, represented the United States at the three-day ASEAN summit held in Laos from 9 to 11 October. At the summit, he was expected to pressure discussions on the human rights situation in Myanmar.

He criticized that despite pushing the military council to reduce violence, release political prisoners, and engage in dialogue with pro-democracy opposition groups, there has been absolutely no progress.

He further expressed concern about the military council's preparations for elections in Myanmar and stated that elections should not be held until there is genuine peace and reconciliation.³

Before the ASEAN summit in Laos, a diplomatic discussion on Myanmar's internal conflict was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 October. Representatives from Indonesia, ASEAN, the European Union, and the United Nations, as well as Myanmar opposition groups, participated in this discussion.⁴

³ US says elections should not be held without genuine peace, RFA Burmese, 8 October 2024

⁴ Myanmar affairs discussion held in Indonesia, DVB, 4 October 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.

