

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024: Junta census exposes its own loss of control

- As of 10 Jan, there were at least 50,186 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021, with at least 3,235,500 displaced people (as of 20 Jan). Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Census results show junta only able to access around 44% of townships.
- Junta enacts "Cybersecurity Law".
- Junta chemical weapon use reported near Karenni-Shan border.
- Junta acquires Chinese aircraft, incl. new fighter jets.
- Junta bombs villages, kills 68 for BRI-linked Kyaukphyu-Muse railway.
- Joint junta air, navy, and land assault on Launglon Tsp. displaces 8,000.
- Humanitarian crisis is at all-time high, Burma now 3rd worst in the world after Sudan and Palestine.
- World Bank predicts further economic deterioration under junta.
- AA, CBA gains leave junta in control of only three towns in Arakan, less than 15% of Chin.
- MNDAA summarily executes six after public trial.
- Delhi elections drive anti-Rohingya hate in India.
- Thai-hosted regional meeting platforms junta's sham election.
- Thailand claims "no evidence" found after probe into junta weapons transactions.

Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

- On 5 Dec, in Bago Region, it was reported that junta forces routinely arrested conscription-age youths and demanded ransoms of over USD 3,000 for their release. The junta sent youths whose families could not pay the ransom to military training. In November, the junta arrested around 200 men and sent around 50 to military

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training. It was reported that in some villages, the junta **demanded** between **MMK 30,000 and 100,000** from each household under the **pretense of supporting conscripts**.¹

- On 16 Dec, in Banmawk town (Sagaing Region), the junta-allied **Shanni Nationalities Army (SNA)** struck a deal with the town's ward administrators to conscript residents. On the same day, the SNA conscripted 30 men in a single ward. As a result, residents of other wards fled the town.²
- During 1–15 Dec, in Yangon, the junta **arrested 59 young men, likely for conscription**. Local sources confirmed that in early December, the junta had ramped up arrests in response to conscription evasion. The junta had intensified overnight checks and surveillance at street intersections. Residents, especially young people, had avoided going outside at night.³ The Yangon General Administration Department had reportedly informed its offices at township, village tract, and ward levels to **conscript people aged 18-35 anywhere and at any time**.⁴
- During 1-12 Dec, in **Hkamti town (Sagaing Region)**, it was reported that junta troops and township administration officials had **arrested and abducted at least 10 men** at newly established checkpoints at the town's entrance. A source reported that a clerk from the general administration office **escorted the detainees onto a plane and flew them to an undisclosed location**. It was reported that the junta was **likely forcibly conscripting them** - most of the detainees were **ethnic Naga**, although the junta had not disclosed the identities of the youth or allowed them to contact their families.⁵

Illegal junta's quest for control

On 18 Dec, in Kamaryut Township (Yangon Region), a junta court ruled that a **third auction of Aung San Suu Kyi's home** would take place with a **minimum price of MMK 297 billion**. Previous auctions in Mar and Aug 2024 with reserve prices of MMK 315 and 300 billion respectively, failed to attract bids.⁶

Failed census shows junta's loss of control

On 31 Dec, the junta released a preliminary report of its census conducted in October, later extended to mid-December. Due to active conflict, the junta could only conduct a full survey in **145 out of 330 townships, or 44%**, and conducted **partial counts in 127 townships**. In Chin State alone, the junta could only access approximately 8% of the population.⁷ The regime also acknowledged that they **could not access 58 townships**.⁸ The junta reported that the total population had declined from 51.4 million in 2014 to 51.3 million. However, they **only counted around 32.2 million** people and **failed to count 19.1 million** living in areas it could not access. In both 2014 and 2024, the **census excluded Rohingya**. The junta used remote sensing and satellite imagery acquired from "Russia, China, India, and various European countries" to conduct population estimates. The junta's 2024 population results were **lower than the World Bank's estimate of 54.5 million**.⁹

Sham election contestants made to guard polls

During 5-6 Dec, in Naypyidaw, the junta's National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) met with representatives of 51 political parties.¹⁰ The NSPNC announced that some **members of political parties**, aged 35-65, would carry out **armed security** duties during the planned **sham election**. It was reported that the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the National Interest and Development Party (NIDP) already agreed to carry out security duties. It was unclear which other parties would arm themselves. The NSPNC chair, Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Aung, said that he had already assembled around **10,000 "counterterrorism personnel"** who would secure polling stations; **3,000 would carry firearms**, while the rest would carry tasers and rubber batons. The Open Election Data Initiative stated that the presence of armed political party members would **intimidate voters and lower**

"CENSUS" ACCESS TO STATES/REGIONS

100%: Ayeyarwady, Naypyidaw, & Yangon.
50% - 99%: Karen, Bago, Magway, Mandalay Mon, & Tanintharyi.
0% - 50%: Arakan, Chin, Kachin, Karenni, Shan, & Sagaing. 0% access to 58 townships.

Junta Ministry of Immigration and Population (31 Dec 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/3hsbjz2x>

¹ RFA (5 Dec 2024) Families in Myanmar forced to pay ransoms to spare members from military service

² Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024) Armed group allied with Myanmar military conscripting civilians in Sagaing Region

³ Mizzima (18 Dec 2024) Arrests surge in Yangon following Myanmar's military draft mandate for young men

⁴ Mizzima (18 Dec 2024) Arrests surge in Yangon following Myanmar's military draft mandate for young men

⁵ Network Media Group via BNI (12 Dec 2024) Junta Abducting Young Men in Hkamti Town, Sagaing Region

⁶ Irrawaddy (19 Dec 2024) Aung San Suu Kyi's Myanmar Home Set for Third Auction After No Bidders

⁷ Junta Ministry of Immigration and Population (31 Dec 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/3hsbjz2x>

⁸ Myanmar Now (1 Jan 2025) Census report reveals junta's declining power across Myanmar; Irrawaddy (2 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta's Preliminary Census Report Covers Less Than Half the Country

⁹ AP (31 Dec 2024) Initial results of imprecise census in Myanmar show a slight population drop; Reuters (1 Jan 2025) Myanmar says 2024 census shows population of 51.3 million

¹⁰ Eleven Media (6 Dec 2024) NSPNC and registered political parties discuss proposed amendments to the 2008 Constitution

turnout.¹¹ On 17 Dec, Hla Swe, the Naypyidaw chair of the junta-proxy USDP, urged political parties registered to contest the sham election to "take sides" with the junta. He added that political parties must stand with the junta to retake lost towns and bases.¹² The presence of armed party members would also increase the possibility of **armed clashes at polling stations** and **pose an even greater risk to civilians**. During 7-8 Dec, the chair of the junta's **Union Election Commission (UEC)** met with representatives of registered political parties to outline arrangements for the sham election. The chair said the **junta would be able to hold votes in 161 townships, less than half** of Burma's 330 townships. According to analysts, voting would take place in Mon State, Tanintharyi, Ayeyarwady, Yangon, and Mandalay Regions.¹³ On 19 Dec, in Bangkok, the junta's FM Than Swe held an "informal consultation" with diplomats from **China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand**. According to the Thai foreign ministry spokesman Nikorndej Balankura, the junta FM "broadly outlined" the plan for the regime's sham election.¹⁴ At the meeting, China's vice FM, Sun Weidong, urged neighboring countries to support Burma's "peace and reconciliation", likely as a reference to the planned sham election.¹⁵

New Year, new lackeys at junta top

On 18 Dec, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing **demoted Gen. Tin Aung San** from defense minister to the inactive post of minister for the office of the PM. This came after the junta **lost 12 out of 17 townships** and its Central Command in Arakan State, as well as its N.E Command in Lashio (N. Shan State). The junta boss promoted Gen. Maung Maung Aye to replace him as defense minister. Quartermaster Lt. Gen. Kyaw Swar Lin replaced Maung Maung Aye as Chief of General Staff. Observers stated that Kyaw Swar Lin had no special qualities and that he had won the coup leader's trust through blind obedience.¹⁶

Junta further caters to Russian needs

On 9 Dec, it was reported that the junta would sign an **MoU with Russia** to send Burmese workers to the war-torn country, per Russia's request. The first batch of workers would reportedly leave in 2025 to work in agriculture, livestock, construction, and factories. A Yangon-based overseas employment agency owner said that only two agencies had acquired licenses to send workers to Russia so far. The son of a **junta deputy labor minister** owned one of the agencies, while an executive member of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Association (MOEAA) owned the other. Kyaw Ni, the NUG deputy minister of labor, accused the junta of **human trafficking and modern slavery**, and the co-chairwoman of the New Light Federation of Labor Unions Myanmar said that workers sent to Russia would face worse human rights violations than those sent to China.¹⁷ The motive for the junta agreeing to export workers is unclear, as they continue to forcibly conscript soldiers for their own failing military campaign.¹⁸

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

MNDAA summarily execute six after public trial

On 5 Dec, in **Laukkai Township** (N. Shan State), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) held a public trial and sentenced **six men and a woman to death** for armed robbery, murder and kidnapping. The trial was filmed and attended by over 1,000 students and residents. The MNDAA paraded six of those sentenced through Laukkai town, including the woman, before executing them by firing squad. One of those sentenced received a two-year reprieve. The **public trial** also sentenced 14 others to 10-20 years' imprisonment.¹⁹ A lawyer condemned the executions and said that **denying the accused the chance to appeal** was unacceptable under Burma's legal system.²⁰

NUG announces investigation into militia beheading

On 5 Dec, the NUG announced it had established a tribunal to investigate the **Ye Belu** resistance group commander, Htet Hlaing Win, **accused of beheading** a Pyu Saw Htee member in Magway Region in mid-2024. On 3 Dec, a video circulated on social media which appeared to show him carrying out the beheading. The NUG announced it would take legal action if it concluded that a crime was committed

¹¹ Irrawaddy (17 Dec 2024) Pro-Junta Parties to Be Armed to Teeth in Myanmar Polls

¹² Irrawaddy (18 Dec 2024) 'Bullet' Says All Political Parties Must Back Myanmar Military

¹³ RFA (10 Dec 2024) Myanmar to organize election in fewer than half of townships, parties say

¹⁴ Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta FM briefs neighbours on election plans: Thai FM

¹⁵ VOA (2 Jan 2025) China-backed election raises fears of 'negative peace' in Myanmar

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (19 Dec 2024) Myanmar Junta Boss Promotes Loyalist in Regime Reshuffle

¹⁷ RFA (9 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta prepares to send migrant workers to Russia in 2025

¹⁸ RFA (9 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta prepares to send migrant workers to Russia in 2025

¹⁹ Kokang Information Network (5 Dec 2024) 第一特区举行公捕、公判大会 依法对21名犯罪人员进行判决、逮捕; Myanmar Now (6 Dec 2024) KIO ထိပ်သီးခေါင်းဆောင်များနှင့် တရုတ်အဆင့်မြင့်အရာရှိများအကြား သီးသန့်ဆွေးနွေးပွဲကျင်းပနေ

²⁰ RFA (6 Dec 2024) Kokang rebels execute 6 after public trials in Myanmar's Shan state

but had not provided an update on the investigation. The NUG defense ministry's guidelines on prisoner protection prohibited any threats or physical, psychological, or sexual torture.²¹

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

On 12 Dec, it was reported that at two labor camps in Kin Thar village in **Thatkon Township** (Naypyidaw Union Territory), the treatment of VIP convicts was starkly different to normal prisoners forced to slave away under grim conditions. Three generals sentenced to lengthy jail terms - Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun (bribery); Maj-Gen Aung Lin Tun (online scam operations); and Maj-Gen Win Lwin (embezzlement), were amongst those that enjoyed airconditioned housing, fine food and family visits.²²

Digital dictatorship

On 3 Dec, Data for Myanmar reported that during Feb 2022-Oct 2024, the **junta arrested 1,840** people for **anti-junta social media posts**, including 657 women. The junta arrested 896 people in Mandalay and Yangon regions alone. During 2024, the junta arrested 351 social media users. In Jan 2022, the junta announced that it would arrest civilians who made anti-junta social media posts or played games that funded PDFs. The junta prosecuted detainees under the Counter-Terrorism Law, the Electronic Communications Act, and for incitement or treason under the penal code.²³

On 1 Jan 2025, the junta enacted its so-called "**Cybersecurity Law**", which had first surfaced in draft version in 2022. The law restricts the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and punishes people for "establishing VPNs" without authorization with up to six months in prison and MMK 10 million in fines. A human rights activist stated there was no clear definition of "VPN establishment" which **left room for junta interpretation** of the term.²⁴ The "Cybersecurity Law" would punish individuals who used "unauthorized" VPNs, and those who accessed, saved, or shared articles from sources it had banned or groups it labeled as "**terrorists**". The junta would also force digital platform service providers to disclose the names and data of users, and blacklist providers facilitating the circulation of material it deemed "disinformation". A lawyer stated that the "law" which primarily targeted users, would allow the junta to abuse it **at whim**.²⁵ The "law" also authorized the junta to punish **Burmese nationals living abroad**.²⁶

Medical neglect spell death for political prisoners

On 31 Dec, the Political Prisoners Network Myanmar (PPNM) reported that in 2024, **insufficient healthcare and medical treatment** in junta custody led to the **death of 22 political prisoners**, including three women and one transgender person. PPNM's Thike Tun Oo said that the cause of death included illnesses such as kidney disease, those linked to malnutrition, and injuries inflicted by torture during interrogation, worsened by negligent care and delays in treatment. Prison guards and others tortured and attacked 148 political prisoners, put 76 in solitary confinement, and jailed 35 women with their children.²⁷

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

On 31 Dec, in Karenni, S. Shan, and Arakan states and Mandalay Region, the junta carried out at **least five airstrikes on New Year's Eve, killed at least 13 civilians, injured at least 20 people**, and damaged at least eight houses, a high school, and a monastery.²⁸

Junta suppresses severity of food insecurity

On 16 Dec, a **Reuters investigation** revealed that over the last two years, the junta had suppressed information about the **severity of food insecurity** in Burma. In order to protect researchers from junta reprisal, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which is described as "the world's leading hunger watchdog", was forced to **withhold the publication** of three detailed analyses showing that Burma faced one of the **worst food crises in the world**. They also removed their assessment of Burma from their online global map of countries facing hunger. A withheld IPC "Special Briefer" dated 5 Nov said that during Sep-Oct 2024, 14.4 million people faced **acute food insecurity**, and projected an increase

On 19 Dec, in Maungdaw Township (Arakan State), it was reported that thousands of World Food Programme (WFP) rice bags had been found in the junta's No. 5 Border Guard Police (BGP) base, and that many had been used as bunkers. The WFP condemned the junta's use of humanitarian aid for military purposes as "intolerable."

Source: The Irrawaddy (19 Dec 2024) UN Slams Aid Abuse After 'Rice Bunkers' Found at Myanmar Junta Base

²¹ Myanmar Now (10 Dec 2024) Resistance investigates own members for beheading prisoners of war

²² Myanmar Now (12 Dec 2024) For Myanmar's VIP prisoners, 'hard labour' means a life of ease

²³ Data for Myanmar (3 Dec 2024) <https://tinyurl.com/34cskxjz>

²⁴ DVB (4 Jan 2024) Regime enacts its long-awaited Cyber Security Law in Myanmar

²⁵ VOA (4 Jan 2024) Myanmar's new cybercrime law will suppress information, say analysts

²⁶ RFA (2 Dec 2024) Myanmar enacts cybersecurity law that aims to restrict use of VPNs

²⁷ Mizzima (2 Jan 2025) 22 political prisoners die in Myanmar prisons in 2024 due to inadequate healthcare

²⁸ Myanmar Now (1 Jan 2025) Children, IDPs among civilians killed by Myanmar junta's New Year's Eve airstrikes

to **15 million by Apr 2025**. The report said during Jan-Oct 2024, food prices in Arakan State had risen 154%. The UN also reported in at least one Arakan township, the **price of rice in Jul 2024 was ten times more than in 2021**. In November, the UN removed data included in the IPC report from one of its websites.²⁹

Aid workers said that the threat of junta attacks meant that they collected most data in secret, and that **aid agencies did not publish or share their findings** on malnutrition and food insecurity. Two recent studies showing the severity of child stunting had also gone unpublished to avoid junta retaliation. One of these studies, conducted in Arakan State, found that the majority of children interviewed were sick and malnourished. The other study found that, in parts of South-East Burma, stunting was evident in 65% of children surveyed. A diplomatic source said that relief organizations being unable to publish their findings severely **limited their ability to secure funding** for humanitarian aid, as donors were not aware of the gravity of the situation.³⁰

Humanitarian need escalates

IRC ranks Burma third in worst humanitarian crisis for 2025: On 11 Dec, the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) 2025 Emergency Watchlist **ranked Burma as having the world's third worst humanitarian crisis**, after Sudan and Palestine. IRC reported that conflict in Burma **displaced nearly 900,000 people in 2024, a 37% increase from 2023**. IRC warned that **without urgent international action**, including rethinking the humanitarian aid system in Burma and establishing safe pathways for refugees and IDPs, the **situation would continue to rapidly deteriorate in 2025**.³¹

On 13 Dec, the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for 2025 reported that in 2024, conflict, natural disasters, and coup-borne economic decline had worsened Burma's humanitarian crisis. UNOCHA estimated that around **19.9 million people were in need**, over 1/3 of Burma's population. UNOCHA reported that the HNRP would require USD 1.1 billion. In 2023 and 2024, the HNRP was funded at 46% and 34%, respectively.³²

China pressures 3BHA, KIO for ceasefires near its border

On 3 Dec, the **MNDAA** announced a **unilateral ceasefire with the junta** and said it would take part in **China-mediated talks** with the regime. It called for the junta to cease its ongoing attacks and airstrikes throughout Burma. The MNDAA will send a high-level delegation to China for the talks, which will include Lashio's governance. The MNDAA reserved its right to military self-defense during the talks.³³

During 9-11 Dec, the Kachin Independence Organization (**KIO**) responded to Beijing's request and sent a delegation to Kunming (China), including KIO Chair General N'Ban La, to meet with Wu Ken, a senior diplomat and member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee. Previously, Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Deng Xijun was the most senior representative to meet with resistance forces.

On 11 Dec, **China reportedly told the KIO to stop fighting in Kachin State** and to hold **dialogue with the junta** after the regime's sham election. The United States Institute of Peace said the KIO's control over rare earth mining gave them leverage to reduce pressure from China. On 13 Dec, border crossings reopened, but China continued to bar the sale of fuel and electronics, such as drone parts.³⁴

On 1 Dec, in Tengchong (China), **Arakan Army/United League Arakan (AA/ULA)** representatives also met with Chinese officials. Details were not released, but analysts said that China would have continued to push ceasefire talks and securing Chinese projects in Arakan State. On 29 Dec, after the AA confirmed it had seized all junta bases in Gwa Township, it stated that it **remained open to "political means** rather than military solutions to resolve the current internal issues".³⁵ In response, the junta continued their bombing campaign against civilians in Arakan.³⁶ Narinjara also reported that on 3, 11, and 16 Dec, the **United Wa State Army (UWSA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and MNDAA**, respectively, held individual meeting with Chinese officials in Kunming and Tengchong.³⁷ The AA, MNDAA and TNLA constitute the 3 Brotherhood Alliance (3BHA).

²⁹ Reuters (16 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta intimidates aid groups in effort to hide hunger crisis

³⁰ Reuters (16 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta intimidates aid groups in effort to hide hunger crisis

³¹ IRC (11 Dec 2024) IRC Emergency Watchlist 2025: Sudan, oPt and Myanmar top list of 20 humanitarian crises set to worsen in year ahead; Mizzima (13 Dec 2024) IRC watchlist 2025 shows Myanmar faces crisis of conflict, displacement, and health system collapse

³² UNOCHA (13 Dec 2024) Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (December 2024)

³³ Irrawaddy (4 Dec 2024) MNDAA Declares Truce With Myanmar Junta After China Detains Leader; Mizzima (5 Dec 2024) Second major Myanmar ethnic group calls for talks with junta

³⁴ AFP via Irrawaddy (10 Dec 2024) Myanmar's KIA Sends Delegation to China for Talks; Irrawaddy (13 Dec 2024) China Urges Kachin Rebels to Stop Fighting Myanmar Junta

³⁵ Myanmar Now (30 Dec 2024) Arakan Army signals openness to dialogue as it takes 14th Rakhine State town

³⁶ Irrawaddy (9 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrike Kills 40 Civilians on Rakhine's Ramree Island

³⁷ Narinjara (16 Dec 2024) AA Reportedly Holds Meeting with China in Tengchong on December 1

Junta targets villages to clear path for China-backed railway

On 20 Dec, the Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) reported that during **9 Oct–10 Dec**, in N. Shan State and Mandalay Region, **junta airstrikes and shelling killed at least 68 civilians and injured 136 others**. The junta **targeted towns and villages** along the route of the Muse (N. Shan State) - Kyaukphyu (Arakan State) railway, a Chinese BRI project part of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, to **clear the area for the railway's construction**. The junta targeted schools, hospitals, clinics, monasteries, churches, stores, and worksites. SHRF added that no fighting took place in the areas prior to the attacks. Among the ten targeted townships, eight were under 3BHA control. The junta also targeted Mongyai Township (N. Shan State), which was not under resistance control and not contested at that time. COVID-19 and the failed coup had halted the railway's construction. However, in November, Min Aung Hlaing met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang to discuss reviving the project.³⁸

Junta focused on central regions: On 20 Dec, citing a PDF official, RFA reported that after Min Aung Hlaing's visit to China in early November, the **junta had shifted its military focus to Burma's central regions** with intensified offensives in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions. The **junta reportedly reduced attacks in N. Shan State due to Chinese pressure for a ceasefire** with armed groups **near its borders**. In Mandalay Region, a PDF official reported that increased junta air and ground attacks had forced resistance troops to abandon several positions between Myingyan and Taungtha townships. During 2-6 Dec, junta airstrikes and shelling in Myingyan district **killed 15 civilians and injured at least 10 others**. The junta also reportedly sent reinforcements to Pinlebu Township (Sagaing Region) and along the Ann-Padan road connecting Arakan State to Magway Region. The PDF official added that the junta was likely preparing to control Burma's central plains "through a defensive war strategy".³⁹

475 junta defections in 2024, total hits 15,000: On 10 Dec, NUG spokesperson reported that during Jan-Nov 2024, a total of 475 junta personnel, including a Lieutenant Colonel, defected from the junta and joined the NUG's People's Embrace program. The defectors included 302 soldiers from infantry units, 33 conscripts, 11 navy personnel, 11 air force personnel, 133 police, and five prison department officials. Since 2021, the program has helped around 15,000 junta defectors, including 3,700 soldiers, 11,000 police officers, and their families.⁴⁰

Sagaing Region

On 25 Dec, in **Budalin Township**, over 100 junta troops from the Northwestern Command **detained over 50 civilians** from Kanthit village and transported them to Budalin town. A source reported that a **majority of the civilians were likely women**, who had been detained on their way to plant onions. Resistance groups reported that the column looked poised to conduct further offensives in the area.⁴¹

Junta arrests youths for ransom: On 6 Dec, the junta raided and **detained at least 10 youths** at a Starlink-connected internet cafe. An elder reported that the junta had not conscripted them but **demanding MMK five million each for their release**. They added that since early December, the junta and its allies—the Shanni Nationalities Army (SNA) and the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim-Aung Mai (NSCM-AM)—had **regularly detained youth to extort money**. Junta troops were reportedly reluctant to release them and demanded more money even after their families paid the MMK 5-6 million ransom.⁴²

Junta torches village and civilians alive: During 7-9 Dec, in **Shwebo Township**, junta troops and allied Pyu Saw Htee militia **looted and torched over 150 out of 180 houses** in Tha Pyay Thar village, about 3 km from Shwebo town. On 9 Dec, **resistance forces found four charred bodies in a torched building**. Shwebo Township People's Defense Organisation (PDO) reported that they were **probably burned alive**. At least two of the bodies were blindfolded, and one had a rope around his neck. A resistance fighter added that the men were likely civilians. The township PDO stated the victims were not from the region and were likely travelers or junta hostages.⁴³

Junta mole helps 30 prisoners escape from NUG detention center: On 12 Dec, in Tamu Township, resistance sources reported that over 34 prisoners had escaped from an NUG detention center to junta-controlled Tamu town. Most of the escapees were junta police officers who had surrendered when resistance forces captured Myo Thit town in May. A local PDF reported that a recently defected junta police officer helped the prisoners escape. The police officer had also disappeared, and several CDM

³⁸ Mizzima (23 Dec 2024) Over 60 locals killed, 130 injured in reported junta army attacks along Chinese railway project in Myanmar

³⁹ RFA (20 Dec 2024) Junta forces are mobilizing in central Myanmar amid Shan state ceasefire, rebel say

⁴⁰ Mizzima (12 Dec 2024) Total of 475 Myanmar junta personnel join NUG's People's Embrace program in 2024

⁴¹ Mizzima (28 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta troops detain civilians in Sagaing Region, face landmine attack

⁴² Network Media Group via BNI (12 Dec 2024) Junta Abducting Young Men in Hkamti Town, Sagaing Region

⁴³ Myanmar Now (13 Dec 2024) Burned bodies found after Myanmar army arson attack on Sagaing Region village

soldiers and police linked to him faced investigation. This police officer reportedly had not undergone the six-month observation period applied to new CDM police or military.⁴⁴

Junta targets Kani Township with airstrikes, kills five: On 16 Dec, in **Kani Township**, junta airstrikes on Kyauk Hlay Kar and Nat Gyi villages **killed five people**, including **two children**, and **injured at least 10 others**. Locals reported that no resistance groups were active in the area but that the junta likely targeted the villages to stop boats using their docks to cross the Chindwin River.⁴⁵ On 18 Dec, another junta airstrike on Kyauk Hlay Kar village destroyed at least 17 houses. A resident reported that the **aircraft conducted about 10 runs and dropped at least 70 bombs**. No casualties were reported as earlier airstrikes had already forced residents to flee.⁴⁶

Magway Region

On 19 Dec, in **Yesagyo Township**, about 50 junta troops looted and **torched 41 houses** from 5 villages.⁴⁷

Junta faces setbacks as resistance forces ambush and capture troops: On 4 Dec, in **Nagpe Township**, two Arakan Army (AA)-allied resistance groups—the People’s Revolution Alliance (PRA) Magway and the Asoh Chin Defense Force (ACDF)—separately **ambushed junta troops on the Ann-Padan road**. They killed at least nine soldiers and captured 12, including a captain. **Since late October, resistance forces have captured at least 40 junta troops** along the Ann-Padan road. The road which links Arakan State to Magway Region is a key supply route to Ann, home of the junta’s Western Command.⁴⁸

Chin State

Resistance control 85% of Chin: On 6 Dec, in **Mindat** and **Falam** townships, the **Chin Brotherhood Alliance (CBA)** and allied forces stated that clashes with the junta, as part of their Operation Chin Brotherhood, occurred almost daily. The CBA launched the operation in early November with the aim of taking control of both towns.⁴⁹ On 20 Dec, in Mindat and Falam Townships, the CBA announced that 168 junta soldiers and police, along with their families, had surrendered as the CBA and its allies continued to attack the junta’s police station and Infantry Battalion (IB) 274 HQ in Mindat town. In Falam, they reported they had taken at least four junta positions.⁵⁰ The CBA stated they would treat prisoners of war according to a military code of conduct in line with international law and prosecute those who had committed crimes.⁵¹ Mindat is located in southern Chin State, and Falam in the state’s north.

On 21 Dec, the CBA reported they seized the junta’s IB 274 HQ, the last junta position in **Mindat town**, and released 13 political prisoners held at the local prison.⁵² After the seizure, the CBA stated **that resistance forces now controlled up to 85% of Chin State**. In Falam town, they had only yet to capture the junta’s IB 268 on the outskirts of the town.⁵³ On the same day, the CBA also seized Kanpetlet town, 22 km north of Mindat, after junta troops abandoned their positions.⁵⁴ On 22 Dec, the junta carried out retaliatory airstrikes around both newly liberated towns. The CBA thanked the AA for providing military support during the offensive. A local Mindat resident reported that most locals had not yet returned to the town after its liberation, as **threats of junta airstrikes** on Mindat and Falam remained high.⁵⁵

Junta pushed back near Hakha: During 4-8 Dec, between **Hakha** and **Thantlang** townships, the **Chinland Council (CC)** stated they seized the junta’s C3 camp, which put them in control of all but one junta position on the Hakha-Thantlang road. The junta maintained a strong presence in **Hakha** and controlled two positions in central **Thantlang**.⁵⁶ On 8 Dec, the CC stated they had seized the last junta position between the two towns,⁵⁷ but some sources claimed they also lost control of another base along the road to junta forces on the same day.⁵⁸ During fighting, the CC captured 20 junta soldiers, most of

⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (17 Dec 2024) Over 30 detained Myanmar regime police officers escape from resistance custody in Sagaing Region

⁴⁵ Myanmar Now (17 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill five in Sagaing’s Kani Township

⁴⁶ DVB (20 Dec 2024) Arakan Army recovers body of military commander in Maungdaw; Fortify Rights on documenting military crimes

⁴⁷ Mizzima (26 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta torches 41 houses in Yesagyo Township amid renewed clashes

⁴⁸ Myanmar Now (6 Dec 2024) More Myanmar junta soldiers killed, captured on road to Rakhine State’s Ann Township

⁴⁹ Khonumthung News (6 Dec 2024) Chin Brotherhood claims control of some areas after month-long fighting for Mindat and Falam

⁵⁰ Mizzima (23 Dec 2024) Approximately 170 Myanmar junta personnel surrender during battle for Mindat and Falam

⁵¹ Mizzima (24 Dec 2024) Chin Brotherhood Alliance captures Mindat, vows to prosecute captured junta troops

⁵² Myanmar Peace Monitor (23 Dec 2024) Mindat now free of junta presence; 13 political prisoners rescued during operation

⁵³ RFA (23 Dec 2024) Ethnic rebels claim to control up to 85% of Myanmar’s Chin state

⁵⁴ Khonumthung News via BNI (23 Dec 2024) Chin Resistance Forces Take Kanpetlet Town

⁵⁵ Myanmar Now (23 Dec 2024) Anti-junta forces say they now control most of southern Chin State

⁵⁶ Mizzima (8 Dec 2024) Chin revolutionary forces secure key junta outposts between Hakha and Thantlang towns

⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (9 Dec 2024) Chin Forces Capture Strategic Myanmar Plain Between Hakha and Thantlang

⁵⁸ Khonumthung News (12 Dec 2024) Chin resistance forces lose control of Kiamtlang camp near Hakha

whom were forced conscripts.⁵⁹ On 10 Dec, junta airstrikes on a village along the Falam-Hakha road, 14 km north of Hakha, killed four family members and injured nine others.⁶⁰

Arakan State

During 17-23 Dec, in AA-controlled **Thandwe town**, the junta carried out at least three airstrikes, killed one civilian, and injured 10 others. It was reported that airstrikes on Thandwe had increased over the past month, despite the AA's stable control of the town.⁶¹

AA takes Taungup: During 1-4 Dec, in **Taungup Township**, junta airstrikes in and around Taungup town killed at least three civilians, including two children, injured 18 others, destroyed a church and over 20 houses.⁶² On 9 Dec, in Taungup town, the AA renewed attacks on the No. 5 Military Operations Command (MOC-5) which prompted the junta to again bomb surrounding areas. On 13 Dec, it was reported that hundreds of junta troops from the base had surrendered to the AA. On 14 Dec, the AA confirmed they had **seized the MOC-5**, the last major junta position in the township.⁶³

AA controls Bangladesh border: On 6 Dec, in **Maungdaw Township**, it was reported that fighting intensified as the AA closed in on the **No. 5 BGP** base, while junta troops continuously bombed the area.⁶⁴ On 8 Dec, after they seized the base,⁶⁵ the AA released videos that showed dozens of junta troops, dressed in rags, limping out as they surrendered. The seizure gave AA **full control of the 270 km-long border with Bangladesh**. Afterwards, the AA announced an indefinite suspension of travel along the Arakan side of the Naf River to prevent junta troops and Rohingya militia fighters from fleeing fighting.⁶⁶ On 10 Dec, it was reported that fighting at the No. 5 BGP base killed over 450 junta soldiers. After fighting, the AA **arrested** junta Brigadier **General Thurein Tun**, several other junta officers, and over 80 forcibly recruited Rohingya who were trying to flee.⁶⁷ The AA stated that members of Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), and Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA) were among those arrested. Thurein Tun is notorious for leading the crackdown on protesters and overseeing their violent torture in Mandalay in 2021. In Maungdaw, Thurein Tun reportedly gave orders to shoot dead any junta soldier caught fleeing combat and played a leading role in forcibly conscripting Rohingya.⁶⁸ The AA stated they would investigate and prosecute Thurein Tun for war crimes.⁶⁹

AA takes Western RMC: On 3 Dec, in Ann Township, residents reported that the AA had seized Ann town proper and now focused on driving junta troops from the nearby **Western Regional Military Command HQ (RMC)**. Junta troops reportedly **torched parts of the town** while retreating.⁷⁰ On 6 Dec, the AA claimed it had seized over 30 junta positions across Ann, including battalion HQs, large outposts, various units, the airport, and the road to Magway Region.⁷¹

During 16-20 Dec, the AA reported that the junta continued to shell and carry out airstrikes in and around the Western RMC HQ.⁷² On 20 Dec, the AA confirmed **they seized the base and detained the Western RMC's deputy commander and chief of staff**.⁷³ On 26 Dec, the AA released a video of the Western RMC's chief of staff, Kyaw Kyaw Than, calling on Min Aung Hlaing to **stop airstrikes and killing civilians**. In the video, he also urged junta troops in Arakan State to surrender to the AA rather than to risk their lives **"for these incompetent leaders."**⁷⁴ The Western RMC was the second RMC the junta had lost out of 14. Its loss cuts the junta off from important road access to Magway and Bago regions.⁷⁵

Southern Arakan under AA control: On 5 Dec, it was reported that the AA's march through **Gwa Township** and constant junta airstrikes had displaced growing numbers of IDPs and left many without food or shelter. On 12 Dec, the AA attacked junta troops on the northern outskirts of **Gwa town**.

⁵⁹ Myanmar Now (10 Dec 2024) Chin resistance forces capture key road to Chin State capital Hakha

⁶⁰ Mizzima (12 Dec 2024) Military airstrikes kill four family members in Chin State, drawing condemnation

⁶¹ Narinjara (24 Dec 2024) Junta's airstrikes on Thandwe kill 1 man, injure 6 others including women

⁶² Myanmar Now (3 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill at least 14 in Shan, Rakhine states; Narinjara (6 Dec 2024) Junta Conducts More Airstrikes on Taungup, Demolishes 20 Homes and a Church

⁶³ Narinjara (14 Dec 2024) Hundreds of junta soldiers, including battalion commanders, surrender by raising white flags during AA offensive against MOC-5 in Taungup; Narinjara (15 Dec 2024) AA completely captures MOC-5, brings Taungup under its control

⁶⁴ Narinjara (6 Dec 2024) AA Assault on NaKhaKha-5 Reaches Its Most Intense Phase, Junta Begins Continuous Airstrikes

⁶⁵ Narinjara (9 Dec 2024) AA declares complete capture of NaKhaKha-5 in Maungdaw

⁶⁶ Myanmar Now (9 Dec 2024) Arakan Army takes last junta outpost on Bangladesh-Myanmar border

⁶⁷ Narinjara (9 Dec 2024) Brig Gen Thurein Tun and military officials, together with more than 80 soldiers, apprehended after fleeing NaKhaKha-5 in Maungdaw

⁶⁸ Irrawaddy (11 Dec 2024) AA Says Notorious Myanmar Junta General Captured in Maungdaw

⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (13 Dec 2024) Junta General Captured in Rakhine Will Be Punished for War Crimes: AA

⁷⁰ RFA (3 Dec 2024) Myanmar's Arakan Army captures Ann town, focus now on army HQ

⁷¹ Irrawaddy (7 Dec 2024) Arakan Army Offensive on Brink Seizing Ann; Narinjara (8 Dec 2024) AA Seizes Almost 30 Battalions and Units, Excluding Western Command, in Ann

⁷² Irrawaddy (20 Dec 2024) Only a Few Positions Left Defending Myanmar Junta's Western Command in Rakhine: AA; RFA (16 Dec 2024) Rebels in Myanmar's Rakhine state seize another stronghold, shun talks

⁷³ Mizzima (23 Dec 2024) Arakan Army arrests three junta Brigadier-Generals; colonel killed in Rakhine State during fighting within two weeks

⁷⁴ Myanmar Now (27 Dec 2024) Captured general calls on Myanmar regime to end 'atrocities' in Rakhine State

⁷⁵ Myanmar Now (21 Dec 2024) Arakan Army fully captures Myanmar junta's western HQ in Rakhine State

Afterwards, the junta carried out a drone attack on a monastery in a nearby village.⁷⁶ On 14 Dec, it was reported that local police had retreated from Gwa, leaving only junta troops in the town.⁷⁷ On 27 Dec, it was reported that the AA attacked the junta's LIB 562 and 563 in Gwa town. The junta retaliated with airstrikes in and around the town and killed five locals.⁷⁸ On 29 Dec, the AA confirmed it had **seized all junta bases in Gwa Township**. However, an AA spokesperson reported that fighting was ongoing as junta troops attempted to re-enter Gwa town and continued airstrikes.⁷⁹

Kachin State

KIA and allies attempt to seize Bhamo, nearby towns: On 4 Dec, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied resistance forces clashed with the junta near **IB 47 base** and in **eastern and southern Bhamo town**. Locals said the junta restricted residents from entering and leaving **Bhamo town** by both road and waterway.⁸⁰ On the same day, the KIA and its allies **captured seven minor bases** on three different fronts. The junta launched aerial and artillery attacks, **reportedly killed three** civilians and injured **three others**.⁸¹ On 6 Dec, the KIA and allies **entered Bhamo town** and continued to attack junta IB 47 base, IB 236, No. 21 Military Operations Command (MOC-21), and artillery bases 304 and 336. The clashes killed around 30 civilians over three days⁸² and forced almost all of Bhamo's **110,000 residents to flee**.⁸³ On 12 Dec, locals reported that the KIA and its allies had **gained control of 70 percent of Bhamo town**. The Banmaw Scout Team reported that clashes had **killed over 500 civilians** and destroyed many buildings, including the police station and General Administration Department Office.⁸⁴ It was reported that the clashes continued until 16 Dec, and the junta had indiscriminately launched airstrikes.⁸⁵

During 22-23 Dec, the junta **airlifted No. 99 Light Infantry Division (LID) troops** from Muse town (N. Shan State) to reinforce troops in Bhamo and Mansi towns.⁸⁶ On 27 Dec, it was reported that the junta **Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 319 commander had deserted** during the clashes in Mansi.⁸⁷

Clashes move closer to the junta's Northern RMC: On 4 Dec, resistance forces fired several short-range missiles on the junta's Nampong Air Force Base in **Myitkyina town**. In retaliation, during 4-5 Dec, the junta's **Northern RMC** shelled San Kar and nearby villages.⁸⁸ The shelling injured a woman and destroyed residential and church buildings.⁸⁹ On 10-12 Dec, locals reported that the junta's **Northern RMC shelled San Kar village in Waingmaw Township**, killed a woman, and injured three others.⁹⁰

Northern Shan State

On 4 Dec, it was reported that during Nov 2024, junta airstrikes in Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA)-controlled **Nawngkhio, Mongngawt, and Kutkai** towns in N. Shan State and Mogok town in Mandalay Region **killed 38 civilians**, injured 70 others, and destroyed 130 houses.⁹¹

⁷⁶ Myanmar Now (13 Dec 2024) Clashes escalate in southern Rakhine State as AA moves to take strategic town

⁷⁷ Myanmar Now (13 Dec 2024) Clashes escalate in southern Rakhine State as AA moves to take strategic town

⁷⁸ Narinjara (27 Dec 2024) Fierce Fighting Breaks Out in Gwa Town; Narinjara (28 Dec 2024) Junta conducts airstrikes on Gwa, kills 5 civilians amid intense fighting

⁷⁹ Narinjara (29 Dec 2024) AA Spokesman U Khaing Thukha Confirms Takeover of All Military Camps in Gwa Town

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (4 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်မြို့ကို KIA နှင့် ပူးပေါင်းတပ်များ ထိုးစစ်ဆင်၊ စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံခဲ့

⁸¹ Kachin News Group (5 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်တိုက်ပွဲ ကာကင်းစခန်း ၇ ခု KIA သိမ်းပိုက်၊ စစ်မျက်နှာ ၃ ခုမှာ တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေဆဲ

⁸² Myanmar Now (6 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်မြို့အတွင်း KIA တပ်များ ဝင်ရောက်လာ

⁸³ Kachin News Group (9 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်မြို့နယ် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေဆဲဖြစ်ပြီး မြို့ခံအားလုံးနီး ထွက်ပြေးတိမ်းရှောင်

⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (12 Dec 2024) ကချင် ဗန်းမော်မြို့နယ်အများစုကို KIA ထိန်းချုပ်

⁸⁵ Myanmar Now (16 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်တွင် တိုက်ပွဲ ၂ ရက် အရှိန်လျှော့ကျပြီးနောက် ပြန်လည် ပြင်းထန်

⁸⁶ SHAN (24 Dec 2024) ဗန်းမော်စစ်မျက်နှာသို့ မူဆယ်မြို့ဘက်မှ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်သားများ အင်အားဖြည့်နေ

⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (27 Dec 2024) Myanmar Junta Commander Abandons Kachin Fighting: KIA

⁸⁸ Kachin News Group (4 Dec 2024) နမ့်ပေါင်လေတပ်စခန်း လက်နက်ကြီးပစ်ခတ်ခံရ၊ စစ်တပ်ဘက်က တန်ပြန်ပစ်တဲ့ လက်နက်ကြီး

မြို့သစ်ကြီးရပ်ကွက် တစ်လုံးကျပေါက်ကွဲ

⁸⁹ Kachin News Group (6 Dec 2024) မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့မှာ နှစ်ရက်ဆက်တိုက်လက်နက်ကြီးကျလို့ အရပ်သားနဲ့အိမ်ထိခိုက်ပျက်ဆီးမှုတွေရှိခဲ့

⁹⁰ Kachin News Group (12 Dec 2024) စန်းကားကျေးရွာမှာ ၃ ရက်အတွင်း လက်နက်ကြီးကျပေါက်ကွဲမှုကြောင့် ထိခိုက်သေဆုံးသူ ၄ ဦးထိရှိလာ

⁹¹ SHAN (4 Dec 2024) TNLA ထိန်းချုပ်နယ်မြေအတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းဖုံးကြံမှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား (၄၀) နီးပါးသေဆုံး

Southern Shan State

- On 2 Dec, in **Hsihseng Township**, junta and allied Pa-O National Organization (PNO) troops conducted a drone attack, **killed a mother and infant**, and severely injured the father.⁹²
- On 6 Dec, in **Nyaungshwe Township**, residents reported that in late Nov 2024, junta-appointed administrators issued orders to **evict all IDPs** sheltering in the township's monasteries by Mar 2025, despite it being unsafe for IDPs to return home.⁹³

Junta terrorizes Pekon: On 3 Dec, in **Pekon Township**, residents reported that a junta fighter jet and a Y-12 transport plane dropped almost **40 bombs** during eight bombing runs on Hseng Hkun village, killing a **boy** and injuring three others. No fighting had occurred in the area.⁹⁴ The next day, a junta **drone attack on an IDP camp** in Moby town **killed three civilians** and injured three others.⁹⁵ On 27 Dec, the junta dropped a 500 lb bomb on Bi Kin village, injured three women, and destroyed several houses.⁹⁶

On 6 Dec, it was reported that the junta looted houses and stole vehicles in **Pu Chei** and **Konhson** villages from residents it had detained on 11 Nov as **human shields** in Pinlaung Township and other villages between Pekon and Pinlaung towns.⁹⁷ After their release in late November, a majority of the over **240 detainees** found that the junta had stolen their belongings, motorbikes, bicycles, and cars left at a Pu Chei monastery. The junta had also drained the fuel from the remaining vehicles and tractors. Residents reported that the junta had **conscribed many of the arrested men** and had sent them to the front lines.⁹⁸

Evidence of junta chemical weapons use: During 7-8 Dec, in Pekon Township, according to the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF), the junta Battalion 422 used drones to deploy **chemical agent S-PHOS 560** during attacks on Moe Bye town and areas along the Karenni-Shan border. Heavy smoke from the gas canisters caused resistance fighters to **experience dizziness, nausea, drowsiness, and physical weakness**. The junta had reportedly used similar chemical weapons earlier this year, including during clashes in Hsisheng in March and in Hpasawng (Karenni State) in July.⁹⁹ On 22 Dec, the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) reported that the S-PHOS 560 canisters visually resembled ones depicted on the website of Yangon based agriculture chemical company Wi Sar Ra Ltd. Wi Sar Ra's website marked S-PHOS 560 as a pesticide. When exposed to moisture, the chemical in the canisters produce phosphine gas, a toxic gas which causes nausea, vomiting, and dizziness.¹⁰⁰

Karenni State

- On 5 Dec, Kantarawaddy Times reported that several LIB 80 junta troops captured during battles in Loikaw **admitted taking methamphetamine and torching houses on orders from their superiors**. Junta defectors reported that the junta had frequently forced them to take the drugs.¹⁰¹
- On 12 Dec, in **Loikaw town**, a landmine exploded and **killed an elderly IDP** man in Daw U Khu Ward after the junta announced residents were able to return to the ward to collect supplies. On the same day, in Nam Baw Wan Ward, junta troops arbitrarily shot and severely injured two civilians.¹⁰²
- On 31 Dec, in **Loikaw Township**, the junta dropped three 200 lb bombs on an **IDP camp**, killed three people, including a child, and injured three others.¹⁰³

Karen State

KNLA recaptures Manerplaw HQ: During 4-11 Dec, in **Hpapun Township**, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and **allied resistance attacked and captured the junta's strategic Taung Tone Lone base**. An NUG commander said the capture of the base was vital as it **allowed resistance forces to control the routes** between Hpapun town and Kamamaung town.¹⁰⁴ On 16 Dec, the **KNLA**

⁹² SHAN (4 Dec 2024) ဆီဆိုင်မြို့ နောင်ရင်းရွာတွင် PNO ဒရုန်းဖြင့် ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက် မိခင်နှင့် ကလေး သေဆုံးပြီး ဖခင်ဖြစ်သူ ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁹³ SHAN (6 Dec 2024) IDPs in Nyaungshwe Township Have to Leave by March 2025

⁹⁴ SHAN (3 Dec 2024) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ် ပြည်သူ့အိမ်မောကျချိန် စစ်ကောင်စီလေကြောင်းဖြင့် ဖုံးများ ကြွချ; Karen News (3 Dec 2024) Pekon Township Airstrike Kills One

⁹⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Dec 2024) Junta Launches Drone Attack on IDP Camp in MoeBye, Resulting in Three Deaths and Three Injuries

⁹⁶ RFA (31 Dec 2024) Air, artillery strikes set grim benchmark for civilian casualties in Myanmar in 2024

⁹⁷ See our Nov 2024 Coup Watch Briefer: <https://bit.ly/CWBNov24>

⁹⁸ SHAN (6 Dec 2024) လူသားဒိုင်း ဖမ်းဆီးထိန်းသိမ်းခံရသော ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ်ရှိ ကျေးရွာတွင်း ကားဆိုင်ကယ်များ ပျောက်ဆုံးနေ; SHAN (12 Dec 2024) Villagers' Vehicles Stolen Whilst They Are Forced to Be Human Shields

⁹⁹ Kantarawaddy Times via BNI (14 Dec 2024) Myanmar Military Uses Chemical Agents in Drone Attacks

¹⁰⁰ Free Burma Rangers (22 Dec 2024) Chemical Weapons Delivered by Burma Army Drone in Shan State

¹⁰¹ Kantarawaddy Times (5 Dec 2024) Soldiers Admit to Burning Civilian Homes and Using Narcotics During Clashes

¹⁰² SHAN (13 Dec 2024) လွိုင်ကော်မြို့တွင် ပစ္စည်းပြန်သယ်သည့် အမျိုးသားတစ်ဦး မိုင်းနင်းမိပြီး သေဆုံး

¹⁰³ Myanmar Now (1 Jan 2025) Children, IDPs among civilians killed by Myanmar junta's New Year's Eve airstrikes; SHAN (2 Jan 2025) သတင်းစစ်ရေးနိုင်ငံရေးလူ့အခွင့်အရေး ကရင်နီ စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ဆက်တိုက် ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက် ထိခိုက်မှုရှိ

¹⁰⁴ Myanmar Now (13 Dec 2024) KNLA and allies destroy junta army base in Karen State

announced it had **recaptured its former headquarters at Manerplaw, nearly 30 years after the Burmese military pushed them out.** The KNLA and its allies launched attacks on the camp and nearby outposts in early December after months of surrounding the area. The KNU reported that the junta carried out retaliatory airstrikes and drone attacks during and after the fighting. Manerplaw was established as the **KNU HQ in 1975** and was once proposed as the **capital of an independent Kawthoolei.**¹⁰⁵

Junta's 2,800 human rights violations: On 10 Dec, the KNU Human Rights Committee (KHRC) reported that during Jan-Nov 2024, the junta had committed 2,835 human rights violations in Karen State. The junta had committed the violations across all seven KNU districts in Kawthoolei Region, which encompasses Karen and parts of Mon States, and Tanintharyi and parts of Bago Regions.¹⁰⁶

Bago Region

Junta abducts and dumps civilian bodies: On 6 Dec, in Okpho Township, junta troops raided Chaung Gwa village and abducted four civilians. On 7 Dec, residents found the abductees' bodies discarded near a road. Pro-junta social media channels blamed the PDF for the murders.¹⁰⁷

Junta targets religious temple in retaliation to resistance attack: On 31 Dec, in Phyu Township, drone attacks on a Hindu temple in Ran Na Gar village killed seven civilians and injured four others. The perpetrators were not confirmed, but resistance sources and the Myanmar Hindu Union blamed the junta for the attack. Earlier that day, resistance forces had launched drone attacks on junta positions between Zeyawaddy town and Ran Na Gar in an attempt to block advancing troops.¹⁰⁸

Tanintharyi Region

Clashes along the Union Highway towards Maw Taung town: During 18-29 Dec, in Tanintharyi Township, around 300 junta troops advanced towards Maw Taung town, clashed with resistance forces **along the Myeik-Bokepyin section of the Union Highway and displaced over 12,000 civilians.** The junta **used K8W fighter jets to drop bombs** on resistance forces.¹⁰⁹ After the fighting, the junta **blocked the highway** for at least five days and carried out clearance operations, **forcing civilians to use waterways** to travel between Myeik and Bokepyin towns.¹¹⁰

Launglon sees longest period of junta attacks since coup: On 23 Dec, in Launglon Township, five local PDFs attacked junta troops stationed in Kyauk Ni Maw village. In retaliation, the junta conducted **naval, ground and air attacks**, torched houses, and displaced about 1,000 residents.¹¹¹ On 24 Dec, a junta K-8W fighter jet **dropped two 500 lb bombs** on Kyauk Ni Maw village. Civilian casualties were unconfirmed **due to mobile network cutoffs.**¹¹² On 25 Dec, junta reinforcements launched drone attacks on the village and torched over 20 houses.¹¹³ On 27 Dec, resistance forces destroyed one of four junta bases in the village, then retreated.¹¹⁴ A local resistance administrator stated the fighting forced **over 8,000 residents** from Kyauk Ni Maw and nearby villages to flee.¹¹⁵

On 28 Dec, the junta **blocked the transport of fuel and food supplies** from entering the township from Dawei at the Ka Myaw Kin bridge checkpoint.¹¹⁶ On 29 Dec, the junta arrested and tortured seven civilians from Auk Kyauk Wut village, 3 km south of Kyauk Ni Maw village. The junta **shot dead three** of the villagers. The other four escaped along with three monks who had been previously detained and tortured.¹¹⁷ On 31 Dec, junta troops **indiscriminately fired at civilians**, then arrested at least 10 residents from Htaunt Nan beach village, near Kyauk Ni Maw village.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁵ Irrawaddy (18 Dec 2024) KNU Seizes Former Headquarters from Myanmar Junta; Myanmar Now (18 Dec 2024) KNU says it has recaptured its former HQ after almost 30 years

¹⁰⁶ Karen Information Center via BNI (11 Dec 2024) Junta Committed 2,835 Human Rights Violations During 2024 in KNU Territory

¹⁰⁷ DVB (9 Dec 2024) Protests in US and Canada against China's role in Myanmar; Spring Development Bank raises \$11 million; DVB (9 Dec 2024) Junta abducts and murders four civilians in Oakpho Township and discards their bodies

¹⁰⁸ Myanmar Now (2 Jan 2024) Seven killed in drone strike on Hindu temple amid escalated New Year attacks

¹⁰⁹ Dawei Watch (19 Dec 2024) တနင်္သာရီ ရေဖြူရွာနှင့် ထုံခါရွာအနီးတွင် နှစ်ဖက်တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်၊ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် တိုက်လေယာဉ်ဖြင့်စိုးကြဲ; Dawei Watch (5 Jan 2025) တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေသည့် တနင်္သာရီမြို့နယ်က စစ်ဘေးရှောင်တစ်သောင်းကျော် အကူအညီလို

¹¹⁰ Mizzima (29 Dec 2024) Travel restrictions in Myanmar's Tanintharyi region disrupt lives amid ongoing clashes

¹¹¹ RFA (28 Dec 2024) လောင်းလုံးက စစ်ဘေးဒုက္ခသည် တစ်ထောင်ကျော် နေရပ်မပြန်နိုင်သေး

¹¹² Mon News (24 Dec 2024) လောင်းလုံးတွင် နှစ်ရက်ဆက်တိုက် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေ

¹¹³ Dawei Watch (30 Dec 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီက လောင်းလုံးမြို့နယ်ကို စက်သုံးဆီနှင့် စားသောက်ကုန်သွယ်ခွင့်ပိတ်

¹¹⁴ Dawei Watch (5 Jan 2025) ထားဝယ်တပ်ပေါင်းစု ပွဲဦးထွက်စစ်ဆင်ရေးတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ရင်းမှူး အပါအဝင် ၄၀ ကျော်သေဆုံးဟု ထုတ်ပြန်

¹¹⁵ Myanmar Now (26 Dec 2024) Thousands displaced after intense fighting in Tanintharyi Region

¹¹⁶ Dawei Watch (30 Dec 2024) စစ်ကောင်စီက လောင်းလုံးမြို့နယ်ကို စက်သုံးဆီနှင့် စားသောက်ကုန်သွယ်ခွင့်ပိတ်

¹¹⁷ Dawei Watch (31 Dec 2024) လောင်းလုံးတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က အရပ်သားသုံးဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်

¹¹⁸ Dawei Watch (1 Jan 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က လောင်းလုံးတွင် ဒေသခံ ၁၀ ဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီး

Mon State

Clashes along the Karen-Mon border: On 5 Dec, HURFOM reported that since 18 Aug, fighting and landmines attacks along the Karen-Mon state border had **killed at least six civilians**, including women and children, and **injured at least 10 others**. However, a villager stated that many casualties went unreported due to telecommunication shutdowns. Fighting had displaced thousands of civilians from at least nine nearby villages, with over 1,000 having sought shelter in plantations and camps near Thanbyuzayat and Mawlamyine townships.¹¹⁹

Ayeyarwady Region

Clashes to escalate in Ayeyarwady: On 19 Dec, it was reported that the junta had tightened security in **Ngathaingchaung, Yekyi, Thabaung, Chaungtha, Kyangin, Myanaung** and other townships due to encroaching conflict between the junta and the AA in **Gwa Township** (Arakan State; see more updates in the Arakan conflict section).¹²⁰ **Gwa Township** borders four of Ayeyarwady Region's townships and the AA-controlled **Thandwe Township** (Arakan State). Locals from several Ayeyarwady townships had relocated to Yangon and Naypyitaw regions in fear of fighting extending into Ayeyarwady.¹²¹

In **Hinthada town**, locals reported that the junta had moved troops and allied militias there to prepare for increased violence. In **Ngathaingchaung Township**, the junta relocated the central police station and forced a local hospital to discharge or transfer patients ahead of a potential evacuation.¹²² The junta also established another base at the Ngathaingchaung bridge. In **Yekyi Township**, the junta reinforced their AB 344 and constructed a helipad. In **Pathein town**, the junta had reportedly set up more checkpoints.¹²³ The AA had also declared parts of Ayeyarwady Region, near Arakan State, as part of its "Nova-3" military operation zone. In addition, on 12 Dec, PDFs operating under the NUG's southern military command announced the establishment of a new Ayeyarwady-based military command involving minority ethnic armed groups, including the AA.¹²⁴

Mandalay Region

- On 5 Dec, in **Ngazun Township**, a junta Y12 transport plane dropped 27 bombs on Thar Kyin village within 2 hours, killed two resistance fighters, and injured two others.¹²⁵
- On 6 Dec, in **Myingyan Township**, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee forces raided Thit Yon village and torched 200 houses. They clashed with resistance forces during their retreat. Junta shelling from a nearby base killed three locals and two resistance fighters, and injured a woman.¹²⁶
- On 25 Dec, in **Taungtha Township**, the junta launched airstrikes on a school in Za Yat Gyi village with a conventional aircraft and a **powered paraglider** - two women were injured.¹²⁷
- On 27 Dec, in **Kyaukpadaung Township**, the Myingyan Black Tiger (MBT) group and local resistance forces raided two junta-controlled national television stations on Mount Popa - Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and Myawaddy TV/MWD broadcasting.¹²⁸ In retaliation, the following day, 100 junta troops raided nearby villages, arrested locals and shot dead a man. On the same day, the junta restricted public access to Mount Popa.¹²⁹

Airstrikes in Natogyi Township: On 2-5 Dec, junta airstrikes killed **eight civilians**, including three children, and injured 10. Locals said that junta forces **regularly carried out airstrikes** on nearby villages even though there was **no active fighting** in the area.¹³⁰ On 23 Dec, a junta airstrike on Daunt Boe village **killed two civilians**, injured three, and damaged five houses. On 24 Dec, the junta dropped a 500 lb bomb on Myaing Thar village. The number of casualties was unknown.¹³¹

¹¹⁹ HURFOM (5 Dec 2024) Ongoing battles means prolonged displacement for many villagers along Karen/Mon border;

HURFOM (17 Dec 2024) Many residents suffer catastrophic injuries from recurrent Ah Nan Kwin battles

¹²⁰ DMG (19 Dec 2024) Fighting continues on mountain route linking Gwa and Ayeyarwady; Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024)

Myanmar junta on high alert as AA offensive nears Ayeyarwady Region

¹²¹ Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta on high alert as AA offensive nears Ayeyarwady Region

¹²² Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta on high alert as AA offensive nears Ayeyarwady Region

¹²³ Irrawaddy (24 Dec 2024) Relatively Peaceful Ayeyarwady Faces War as Myanmar Junta Retreats

¹²⁴ Myanmar Now (20 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta on high alert as AA offensive nears Ayeyarwady Region

¹²⁵ DVB (6 Dec 2024) ငါနဲးစွန်မြို့နယ် သားကျင်ရွာကို စစ်တပ်က ဖုံးကြဲ

¹²⁶ DVB (7 Dec 2024) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ်၊ သစ်ရုံရွာကို စစ်တပ်နှင့်ပျူစောထီးများ မီးရှို့ အိမ် ၂၀၀ ခန့် ပျက်စီး

¹²⁷ Myanmar Now (26 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta continues air, arson attacks across Mandalay Region

¹²⁸ Myanmar Now (31 Dec 2024) <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/mount-popa-closed-to-public-following-resistance-raid-on-junta-base/>

¹²⁹ DVB (31 Dec 2024) <https://burmese.dvb.no/post/684223>

¹³⁰ Myanmar Now (5 Dec 2024) Four days of Myanmar junta airstrikes leave eight civilians dead in Mandalay's Natogyi Township

¹³¹ DVB (25 Dec 2024) နွားထိုးကြီးတွင် လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ပြည်သူ ၂ ဦးသေဆုံး

Junta brutally torches western Madaya: On 6 Dec, in western **Madaya Township, MDY-PDF**-led resistance forces **recaptured three villages** the junta had taken in November. On 19 Dec, it was reported that since 7 Dec, in retaliation for the captures, junta forces looted villagers' valuables and **torched about a thousand houses** in at least five other nearby villages that the junta had taken in November. The arson forced **thousands of locals to flee** to Sagaing Region.¹³² As of 17 Dec, junta forces had torched U Dein village seven times, and Sin Kone village five times. On 25 Dec, the junta torched Mway Pu Thein village for the sixth time.¹³³

On 25 Dec, it was reported that, fighting between resistance forces and the junta had forced over **30,000 locals to flee**. Lack of medicine and emergency treatment had led to the **death of 50 IDPs**. Fighting had broken out in **75% of the township**, and IDPs faced food insecurity and a lack of humanitarian support.¹³⁴

Junta retakes Twin Nge village: On 5 Dec, in **Thabeikkyin Township**, junta troops launched a counteroffensive on Twin Nge village and forced the People Liberation's Army (PLA) to withdraw. However, the PLA spokesperson said that junta forces had not captured the whole village.¹³⁵ On 21 Dec, clashes intensified between PLA and junta forces again in Twin Nge village. On 25 Dec, junta forces dropped **six 500 lb bombs** on the village. The exact casualties were unknown.¹³⁶ On 26 Dec, it was reported that during December alone, junta forces **torched hundreds of houses** in Twin Nge village.¹³⁷

Yangon Region

On 6 Dec, in **Hmawbi Township**, joint resistance forces fired five 107 short-range missiles on the junta Hmawbi airbase and damaged a Y8 and a Y12 aircraft.¹³⁸ In response, in **Mingaladon Township**, the junta increased security at the Mingaladon airport and airbase.¹³⁹

Rohingya

- During 4-24 Dec, Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, and Ireland separately filed declarations to intervene in the proceedings of the **'The Gambia v. Myanmar' Rohingya genocide case**.¹⁴⁰
- On 22 Dec, in Sittwe Township (Arakan State), the junta increased their **forced conscription** of Rohingya as the AA threatened to attack the city. Locals estimated that the junta had forcibly conscripted 5,000 to 7,000 Rohingya in Sittwe Township alone.¹⁴¹
- On 24 Dec, in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh), a **fire** broke out in Kutupalong camp, killed two Rohingya, **destroyed over 1,000 houses**, including one learning center, and displaced over 4,000 people.¹⁴²

Reporting shows Rohingya massacred, displaced at the hands of AA

On 5 Dec, Info Bangla compiled a list of the mass atrocity crimes committed by the AA against the Rohingya during Mar-Nov 2024. They concluded that the AA had killed **nearly 6,000 Rohingya, disappeared 118, and displaced over 200,000**. They also noted the AA had raped Rohingya, restricted their movement, forcibly recruited them, and used them as human shields, among other atrocity crimes.¹⁴³

On 17 Dec, using eyewitness interviews, **Kaladan Press Network** provided a detailed breakdown of the timeline surrounding the AA's brutal 5 Aug 2024 massacre of Rohingya outside Maungdaw town. In May 2024, the AA first **forced Rohingya into Maungdaw town** from nearby villages. Then, as they took control of the town, they forced those they had trapped in the town to flee to the riverside. After the civilians gathered on the shoreline, the **AA began an indiscriminate shelling and bombing attack** which lasted several hours and killed hundreds of innocent Rohingya. A former RSO recruit stated that a

¹³² Myanmar Now (19 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta forces torching recaptured villages north of Mandalay; Irrawaddy (12 Dec 2024) မတ္တရာအနောက်ခြမ်းတိုက်ပွဲများ၌ မန္တလေး PDF ပါဝင်လာ

¹³³ Myanmar Now (26 Dec 2024) စစ်တပ်က မတ္တရာအနောက်ခြမ်းကျေးရွာများကို ထပ်မံမီးရှို့နေ

¹³⁴ RFA (25 Dec 2024) မတ္တရာမှာ ဆေးကုသခွင့်မရတဲ့ စစ်ဘေးဒုက္ခသည် ငါးဆယ်ခန့် သေဆုံး

¹³⁵ Myanmar Now (10 Dec 2024) Armed wing of Myanmar's Communist Party pulls back from key village in northern Mandalay Region

¹³⁶ Myanmar Now (26 Dec 2024) သပိတ်ကျင်းရှိ စစ်တပ် ပြန်ရသွားသောရွာကြီးအနီး ၅ ရက်ဆက် တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်

¹³⁷ RFA (27 Dec 2024) မတ္တရာနဲ့ သပိတ်ကျင်းက နေအိမ်ရာချီ မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

¹³⁸ DVB (7 Dec 2024) မှော်ဘီလေတပ်တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး အရာရှိစစ်သည် ၁၅ ဦးသေ၊ လေယာဉ် ၂ စင်း ပျက်စီး

¹³⁹ DVB (8 Dec 2024) ရှေ့တိုက်ခိုင်းဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရပြီးနောက် မင်္ဂလာဒုံ လေတပ်စခန်းနှင့်လေဆိပ်ကို လုံခြုံရေးတိုးမြှင့်

¹⁴⁰ ICJ (16 Dec 2024) Belgium files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute; ICJ (4 Dec 2024) Slovenia files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute; ICJ (12 Dec 2024) The Democratic Republic of the Congo files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute; ICJ (24 Dec 2024) Ireland files a declaration of intervention in the proceedings under Article 63 of the Statute

¹⁴¹ Narinjara (Dec 2024) Junta Reinforces Military Units in Sittwe with Muslim Recruits

¹⁴² VOA (25 Dec 2024) Call for safety in Bangladesh Rohingya refugee camps after fatal fire

¹⁴³ Info Bangla (5 Dec 2024) War Crimes of the Arakan Army: An Account of Rohingya Genocide

nearby gathering of RSO troops who had also fled to the riverside triggered the attack. Rohingya targeted in the attack reported having to climb over dying and dead people in order to board boats to flee. After the attacks, Rohingya armed groups and the AA continued to extort and beat Rohingya who had landed on an island as they crossed the Naf River to Bangladesh. In areas outside Maungdaw, witnesses reported that the AA had **forcibly recruited Rohingya villagers** from temporary detention camps for Rohingya.¹⁴⁴ On 23 Dec, following the AA's 8 Dec seizure of Maungdaw, 28 Rohingya CSOs issued a statement calling the AA to **uphold freedom and rights for all people in Arakan State**, including the Rohingya. They called for the AA to enforce a code of conduct for its fighters, support independent investigations into Rohingya abuse allegations, and establish an inclusive interim consultative committee.¹⁴⁵

Hate speech, abuse of Rohingya peaking before New Delhi elections

Ahead of the 15 Feb **Delhi** legislative elections, politicians stepped up their **anti-Rohingya attacks** to **stir up support**. On 15 Dec, the Delhi chief minister accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government of planning to house and protect Rohingya in New Delhi. The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister denied the claim, called Rohingya "illegal foreigners," and stated they would only stay in temporary settlements until **their deportation**. On 21 Dec, Delhi Police launched a "verification drive" that reportedly found over 1,500 "suspected 'illegal' Bangladeshi immigrants." On 23 Dec, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government told schools to prevent enrolment of "illegal Bangladeshi migrant" children and to alert authorities if they doubted a student's citizenship status.¹⁴⁶

On 16 Dec, the Azadi Project and Refugees International published a report on the conditions of Rohingya in detention facilities across India. It noted that of the **676 UNHCR-registered Rohingya refugees in detention**, a significant number had been **detained for more than a decade**, well beyond their sentence. UNHCR had little to no access to Rohingya in prisons. Children were also forcibly separated from their parents. Rohingya prisoners faced limited access to food and **inhumane living conditions**, which often seriously impacted women's reproductive health and access to menstrual supplies. The report noted that repeated court rulings had found that the deportation and indefinite detention of Rohingya refugees were **fundamentally incompatible with basic tenets of Indian law**. Abhorrent conditions had led to **multiple deaths in detention**, including at least seven since 2021 in Jammu and Kashmir regions alone.¹⁴⁷

More than 64,000 flee to Bangladesh in 2024

On 26 Dec, it was reported that about **64,700 Rohingya** had crossed into Bangladesh during Nov 2023-Dec 2024. The government reportedly planned to **biometrically ID all Rohingya** in the camps including new arrivals, but refused to commit to registering new arrivals with UNHCR.¹⁴⁸ Human rights advocates raised concerns that biometric data would be shared with the junta. On 23 Dec, the Home Advisor stated the government would continue to **prevent fleeing Rohingya from entering Bangladesh**.¹⁴⁹

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

MNDAA soldier rapes toddler, hospital refuses treatment

On 1 Dec, in **Muse Township** (N. Shan State), a MNDAA soldier allegedly lured a **two-year-old girl** away from her home and **raped her** in Pang Hseng town. Despite the child's severe injuries, Pang Hseng Hospital reportedly **refused to admit** her because she was a rape victim. The child's father brought her to Lashio Hospital, 180 km away, to seek treatment. The MNDAA had ordered the mother to remain home and barred her from accompanying her child to the hospital. The child received treatment for three days in Lashio before continuing treatment at Pang Hseng Hospital. The perpetrator was reportedly a family friend and neighbor. Locals concluded that the **MNDAA** had attempted to **cover up the case** and possibly assisted in the perpetrator's escape. On 5 Dec, local women's associations organized a protest of over 200 people in Pang Hseng.¹⁵⁰ In response, the MNDAA arrested the perpetrator and announced they would investigate the case and impose the **death penalty** if a DNA test returned a positive match. The MNDAA did not respond to media inquiries and made no further announcements. As of 13 Dec, the toddler remained hospitalized.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁴ Kaladan Press Network (17 Dec 2024) Unravelling the Maungdaw Exodus: new report sheds light on factors driving large-scale Rohingya displacement in Maungdaw

¹⁴⁵ Rohingya Today (23 Dec 2024) Joint Statement: Rohingya's call for justice, equality, peaceful coexistence and inclusive governance in Arakan

¹⁴⁶ The Straits Times (29 Dec 2024) Delhi election campaign heats up issue of 'illegal migrants', worrying Rohingya refugee

¹⁴⁷ Refugees International (16 Dec 2024) A Lifetime in Detention: Rohingya Refugees in India

¹⁴⁸ RFA (27 Dec 2024) Almost 65,000 Rohingya have entered Bangladesh since late 2023, govt says; The Daily Star (31 Dec 2024) Conflict in rakhine: Dhaka in touch with both the Myanmar govt, Arakan Army

¹⁴⁹ BD News 24 (23 Dec 2024) Government won't change its decision on Rohingya entry, says Home Advisor Jahangir Alam

¹⁵⁰ Kachin News Group via BNI (13 Dec 2024) MNDAA Soldier Accused of Raping Two-Year-Old

¹⁵¹ SHAN (9 Dec 2024) မန်ဆိုင်မြို့ MNDAA တပ်သားတစ်ဦးက ကလေးငယ်တစ်ဦးကို မုဒိမ်းကျင့်ဟု သတင်းထုတ်

Women facing sexual harassment and violence at checkpoints

On 15 Dec, Narinjara reported that in **Arakan State**, junta troops were harassing and **sexually assaulting** women at checkpoints. Junta troops inappropriately searched women, claiming that women soldiers connected to the AA would have tattoos on their breasts, and forced them to **remove their shirts** for inspection. In late November, junta soldiers detained and **raped** two young women at a military checkpoint and threatened to kill the girls if they spoke out about the assault.¹⁵² On 6 Dec, in **Muse Township** (N. Shan State), junta soldiers detained and **murdered** a woman at a checkpoint in Muse Town on her way to work on suspicion of links to the AA.¹⁵³

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

On 27 Dec, it was reported that a **diarrhea and cholera outbreak** had spread across Burma and neighboring countries. In Myawaddy Township (Karen State), over **300 cholera** cases, including two deaths, had been reported in Shwe Kokko town on the Thai-Burma border. In Mae Sot (Thailand), four cholera cases were also reported. Unofficial reports stated there were an estimated **7,000 cholera cases** across Burma. **The Thai Public Health Ministry** provided medication for 2,400 patients and nearly 5,000 vaccination doses to Mae Ramat Hospital (Thailand) and tightened border controls. The junta Ministry of Health reported that hospitals and clinics in Yangon, Mandalay, and Ayeyarwady regions, and Karen State were treating patients suffering from severe diarrhea and cholera. Mizzima reported that the symptoms of cholera were similar to the highly contagious norovirus. However, a junta official added that no cases of norovirus had been reported in the country.¹⁵⁴ If there was a norovirus outbreak, it is likely that the junta would conceal it by underreporting or labeling it as severe diarrhea, similar to its actions during the cholera outbreak in July.¹⁵⁵

Conflict and junta neglect fuel mental health crisis in Burma

On 14 Dec, Frontier Myanmar reported that since the attempted coup, conflict, displacement, and economic collapse had exacerbated Burma's existing mental health crisis. The junta had **reduced public health funding**, including mental health services, to fund their military. Post-coup surveys revealed that **over 60% of the population suffered from depression or anxiety**, and **81% felt mentally exhausted**. Burma had **only two mental health hospitals** in Yangon and Mandalay, limited psychiatric care, offered no psychology or counseling university degrees, and provided medical students just two weeks of mental health training. A health worker also stated that since the attempted coup, **callers at a mental health support helpline had doubled**. To address this gap, organizations and healthcare professionals had begun training locals to provide mental health services and to raise awareness, particularly in areas with limited access to professional services. A psychiatrist from Karen State, who was one of nine doctors providing care for 40,000 people, had begun training local health workers to reach more people, many of whom suffered from alcoholism, depression, and PTSD as well.¹⁵⁶

Living conditions for PWDs worsen because of junta

On 16 Dec, Than Lwin Times reported that since the attempted coup, **living conditions** for people with disabilities (**PWD**) had **severely deteriorated**. In **2019**, **PWDs** made up about **13% of Burma's population**. The number will have **risen due to the junta's violence against civilians**. Post-coup economic hardships had forced caregivers to prioritize their own families and livelihoods, which left many PWDs without support. The 2015 Disability Rights Act mandates that the government provide special care for PWDs, including financial support. However, the junta had **cut financial support** for PWDs and **denied them their healthcare rights**. The chairman of Myanmar Coordination Committee for Equal Rights of People with Disabilities (MCERP) added that **some PWDs had died from starvation and lack of access to medical care**, especially in conflict zones and because of the junta's blockade on medicine. In November, in **Chin State**, **five PWDs had died from food and medicine shortages**. On 1 Nov, Burma's Permanent Representative to the UN **accused the junta of targeting PWDs** with attacks, arrests, torture, and killings.¹⁵⁷

Skin diseases spread in overcrowded Patheingyi prison

On 12 Dec, in **Patheingyi Prison** (Ayeyarwady Region), it was reported that inmates regularly suffered from **severe skin conditions** due to **inadequate access to water**. Families of political prisoners reported that conditions had deteriorated in recent months due to **inconsistent water supply** and **deliberate power**

¹⁵² Narinjara (15 Dec 2024) Numerous Arakanese women escaping to mainland encounter sexual violence at military junta checkpoints

¹⁵³ Narinjara (15 Dec 2024) Numerous Arakanese women escaping to mainland encounter sexual violence at military junta checkpoints

¹⁵⁴ Mizzima (27 Dec 2024) Increase in cases of diarrheal disease with symptoms similar to norovirus in Myanmar; Irrawaddy (25 Dec 2024) Thailand Sends Cholera Medicine to Myanmar

¹⁵⁵ See our Jul 2024 CoupWatch Briefer: https://bit.ly/CWBAug_24

¹⁵⁶ Frontier Myanmar (14 Dec 2024) Healing wounds: How communities are tackling trauma in post-coup Myanmar

¹⁵⁷ Than Lwin Times via BNI (16 Dec 2024) Life for Disabled People in Myanmar Worse Since Coup

cuts by prison authorities. Junta restrictions to medical care and overcrowded cells exacerbated their conditions.¹⁵⁸

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

Junta bets big on reviving Chinese BRI projects

On 6 Dec, it was reported that coup leader Min Aung Hlaing pushed to **restart several Chinese BRI projects** after his visit to China in November. During the trip, China proposed starting work on the **Muse-Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway** and resuming **the New Yangon City project**. The New Yangon City project would span over 8,100 hectares of land across the Yangon River and result in a city twice the size of Singapore. The project would also include two bridges, an industrial estate, and residential areas.¹⁵⁹

China proposed the project under the Thein Sein government and the Yangon government-backed **New Yangon Development Company (NYDC)** signed a **USD 1.5 billion agreement** with **China Communications Construction Company Ltd. (CCCC)** to plan the project, despite concerns over its flood-prone location and CCCC's bribery accusations in Africa and Asia. Cronies Kyaw Win, Maung Weik, and Shao San initially won contracts, but the NLD government later restructured the project, and appointed Serge Pun as NYDC chair. In 2020, the NLD reduced the project's budget to **USD 800 million**, opened it to international bids, and received 16 proposals from nine countries, including Japan, Singapore, Italy, Spain, and France. The project stalled after the attempted coup. In Nov 2021, the junta restructured the NYDC board and appointed a new chair.¹⁶⁰

On 23 Dec, junta energy minister, Ko Ko Lwin met with Wang Qiang of the South-East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline (SEAOP) and the Gas Pipeline Company (SEAGP). The discussion between the two and their accompanying delegations resulted in an agreement to **extend the Myanmar-China natural gas pipeline**, between **Kyaukphyu** (Arakan State) and **Kunming** (China), to **Chongqing**. Discussions also focused on upgrading Myanmar's domestic oil refineries to process crude oil.¹⁶¹ The junta announced its **plan to extract Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** for China under the guise of boosting domestic energy production. The regime did not mention the proposed location of the LNG terminal. However, a regime source reported that the project was likely to be in **Kyaukphyu Township** (Arakan State). The source noted China's low interest in the LNG terminal due to high investment costs and conflict in the area.¹⁶²

Junta receives new planes from Airbus's close partner AVIC

On 10 Dec, over 300 international and local civil society organizations **sent an open letter to Airbus** CEO, Guillaume Faury, that urged him to use Airbus' leverage over the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) and its subsidiaries, including AviChina Industry & Technology Company Limited (**AviChina**), to end its business with the junta. The letter urged Airbus **to stop current and future transfers** of military aircraft, arms, and equipment to the junta and end maintenance and repair services. The letter also urged Airbus to heighten and publicize its due diligence to address the risk of Airbus' technology aiding AVIC's military manufacturing. It called on Airbus to responsibly cut ties and divest from AVIC if it refused to end its business with the junta.¹⁶³

It was reported that **Airbus** was the **largest international shareholder** in **AviChina** and that Airbus had invested in multiple **AVIC subsidiaries** through **AviChina**. According to the letter, institutional investors such as the **Norwegian Government Pension Fund** had excluded AviChina from its portfolio over the risk associated with the transfer of arms to the junta. The letter reminded **Airbus** of its independent responsibility to ensure that its business with **AVIC** did not enable atrocity crimes and that its investment in **AviChina** could be in violation of the EU arms embargo on Burma.¹⁶⁴

On 15 Dec, during the anniversary of its Air Force, the junta commissioned one Hongdu K-8 light attack aircraft, up to six FTC-2000G light combat aircraft, and one Shaanxi Y-8 military transport plane. **AVIC** supplied the planes and the delivery highlighted AVIC's **enabling of the junta's war crimes**.¹⁶⁵

Despite evidence that linked the EU's **Airbus** to **AVIC**, **Airbus** denied any wrongdoing. Airbus publicly confirmed its investment in **AviChina**. **Airbus** claimed it only had a **5% stake in AviChina** and that its partnership with **AVIC** was "exclusively focused on civil aviation and services." However, China's

¹⁵⁸ Mizzima (12 Dec 2024) Overcrowding and water shortages worsen skin conditions at Myanmar's Patheingyi Prison

¹⁵⁹ Irrawaddy (6 Dec 2024) Myanmar Regime Set to Resume New Yangon City and Other Chinese Projects

¹⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (6 Dec 2024) Myanmar Regime Set to Resume New Yangon City and Other Chinese Projects

¹⁶¹ Mizzima (27 Dec 2024) Myanmar-China gas pipeline linking Kyaukphyu with Kunming to be extended to Chongqing

¹⁶² Myanmar Now (27 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta partners with Chinese firm to build natural gas terminal despite Rakhine State conflict

¹⁶³ Justice for Myanmar (10 Dec 2024) Open letter to the CEO of Airbus SE from over 300 international and local revolutionary groups and civil society organizations to end all investments in war crimes committed by the criminal Myanmar military junta

¹⁶⁴ Justice for Myanmar (10 Dec 2024) Open letter to the CEO of Airbus SE from over 300 international and local revolutionary groups and civil society organizations to end all investments in war crimes committed by the criminal Myanmar military junta

¹⁶⁵ Justice for Myanmar (23 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta receives new planes from Airbus' close partner AVIC, aiding indiscriminate airstrikes

policy to integrate civilian research and military industries made **AVIC's business inseparable from its military applications**. Airbus' defense of its partnership with AVIC raised serious questions about its commitment to mitigating the human rights harms linked to its investments.¹⁶⁶

Economic woes deepen as World Bank flags junta mismanagement

The junta's ham-fisted economic interventions and continued violence spurred on Burma's **ongoing economic collapse** through 2024. The regime's weaponization of aid in the wake of climate disasters such as Typhoon Yagi worsened conditions on the ground. On 11 Dec, The World Bank (WB) projected Burma's **GDP would contract by 1%** in the fiscal year ending in Mar 2025, leaving the **economy 11% smaller than in 2019**. Continued conflict in **half of 330 townships** had devastated livelihoods, disrupted production, and broken supply chains. Conflict-related disruptions to border trade and logistics, compounded by the sharp depreciation of MMK, had caused severe shortages and soaring prices.¹⁶⁷

Severe flooding from **Typhoon Yagi** and monsoon rains in Sep 2024 further **worsened economic challenges**, impacted 2.4 million people, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted agriculture across 192 townships.¹⁶⁸ The junta, instead of supporting flood victims, **blocked aid, threatened to arrest flood relief groups, and launched 94 airstrikes** in flood-hit areas.¹⁶⁹

During the year leading up to March 2024, Consumer Price Index data indicated that prices had **risen 25.4%**. During Apr-Sep 2024, **food prices rose by over 60%** according to the WFP food price index. WB forecasted a continued rise in **inflation** from **26%** in FY 2024/25 to **30%** in FY 2025/26.¹⁷⁰

Ongoing shortages of raw materials, imported goods, and electricity contributed to declines in the manufacturing and services sectors. **Junta restrictions on import licenses** further worsened the situation, with **imports plummeting by 11%** in the six months to Sep 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. **Mass migration** accelerated since the junta's conscription enactment in February, contributed to an escalating **labor shortage**. Workers abroad earned up to 10 times more than in Burma, and remittances now sustained 7.5% of households. The WB called for urgent action to address humanitarian needs and support economic recovery amid ongoing conflict and crises.¹⁷¹

On 3 Dec, the junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, who has repeatedly claimed economic growth during his attempted coup, finally acknowledged discrepancies between junta economic reports and reality. He urged ministries to base decisions on accurate and thorough assessments.¹⁷² On December 14, the junta's Union Minister of Planning and Finance ignored the reality of a spiraling economy and confidently set a target of 3.8% economic growth for FY 2024/25 with less than five months remaining in the fiscal year.¹⁷³

International insurance companies funding junta's atrocity crimes

On 25 Dec, it was revealed that international insurance companies including **Hong Kong-based AIA Group Ltd., Japan's Tokio Marine, and Nippon Life Insurance** had purchased junta treasury bonds. **Tokio Marine and Nippon Life** also owned stakes in joint ventures with **Grand Guardian Insurance (GGI)**, a company owned by junta crony Aik Htun, chair of the Shwe Taung Group. The junta did not publicize details of current purchases. Insurance experts pointed out that Burma's insurance regulations mandated them to buy treasury bonds without providing other investment alternatives. In Sep 2021 alone, the junta pocketed around **USD 24 million** through bond and bill sales.¹⁷⁴

Calculated at the regime's inflated exchange rate of MMK 3,543 per USD, all three insurance companies' purchases of junta bonds would be valued at **USD 14 million**. The junta could potentially net itself several hundred million in USD if all 27 of Burma's domestic and international insurance companies also purchased regime bonds. Such a cash injection would equal 10% of the junta's annual military expenditures. In FY 2023/24 the junta had spent **USD 2.68 billion on military expenditures**, nearly twice as much as it did on education and healthcare combined.¹⁷⁵

A member of the NLD's economic committee said that companies buying the junta bonds were complicit in abetting the junta's war crimes. On 27 Jun, NUG stated the junta's sale of treasury bonds and bills was illegal, and they would not accept responsibility for these nor recognize them as public debt.¹⁷⁶

¹⁶⁶ Justice for Myanmar (23 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta receives new planes from Airbus' close partner AVIC, aiding indiscriminate airstrikes

¹⁶⁷ World Bank (11 Dec 2024) Compounding Crises Special Focus: International Migration from Myanmar

¹⁶⁸ World Bank (11 Dec 2024) Compounding Crises Special Focus: International Migration from Myanmar

¹⁶⁹ See our Sep 2024 CoupWatch Briefer: <https://bit.ly/CWBSEp24>

¹⁷⁰ World Bank (11 Dec 2024) Compounding Crises Special Focus: International Migration from Myanmar

¹⁷¹ World Bank (11 Dec 2024) Compounding Crises Special Focus: International Migration from Myanmar

¹⁷² Myanmar Now (5 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta leader admits to errors in economic data

¹⁷³ Mizzima (17 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta projects economic growth rate at 3.8%

¹⁷⁴ Myanmar Now (25 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta selling bonds to insurance companies to finance its crimes

¹⁷⁵ Myanmar Now (25 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta selling bonds to insurance companies to finance its crimes

¹⁷⁶ Myanmar Now (25 Dec 2024) Myanmar junta selling bonds to insurance companies to finance its crimes

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

Malaysia controversially appoints Thaksin as “informal” ASEAN advisor

On 16 Dec, Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim announced the appointment of **controversial former Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra** as his “informal” advisor during **Malaysia’s ASEAN chairmanship** in 2025. Thai government MP Noppadon Pattama highlighted that Thaksin would grant Anwar strong regional connections to support Malaysia and its policies as ASEAN Chair and ease bilateral issues. As the current Thai PM's father, Thaksin is largely considered the **de facto head** of the Thai government.¹⁷⁷ Thaksin’s friendly relationship with the coup leader Min Aung Hlaing suggests that through this appointment,¹⁷⁸ Anwar may be persuaded to normalize ASEAN relations with the junta despite the rise in junta violence against civilians during 2024. Such a move would violate ASEAN's own Five-Point Consensus (5PC).

Thai-hosted ASEAN meeting again fails to update Burma policy

On 20 Dec, in Bangkok (Thailand), **ASEAN** foreign ministers and senior officials met for another “informal” meeting to discuss the situation in Burma. **Laos invited junta** representatives, but they did not attend. The Malaysian Prime Minister who chairs ASEAN in 2025, announced at a press conference that they intended to **increase the junta’s involvement** in regional discussions, despite the junta committing increasing numbers of mass atrocities against civilians and failing to implement the 5PC.¹⁷⁹ Despite ASEAN’s previous statement on allowing for “Myanmar-owned and led” conflict resolution,¹⁸⁰ there was no indication that NUG, resistance forces, or civil society representatives were invited. This exclusion of the winning resistance further undermines the viability of ASEAN’s half-baked efforts to respond to the crisis in.¹⁸¹

Drug abuse leads to crack down in Thai Mae La refugee camp

On 9 Dec, in Tak Province (Thailand), **Mae La Refugee Camp** officials stated that they would **crack down on drug abuse** in the camp due to a rise in addiction, and increased usage by women. Mae La secretary Saw Sunday said that on orders by Thai authorities, the camp would **randomly urine test** residents wandering at night and those who appeared “abnormal.” Those who failed the tests 1-2 times would receive a THB 1,000 fine. Those who failed a third time would face expulsion from the camp. In addition, those found using “**Ya ba**” amphetamine pills would be handed over to Thai authorities. He also stated that youths, including school-age children, were using a mixture of the opioid pain medication “Tramadol,” cough medicine, and Coca-Cola. Saw Sunday said that young people who had heavily used these drugs showed symptoms of **brain dysfunction**. The grassroots Drug & Alcohol Recovery & Education Network (DARE)-run treatment center in the camp already operated at full capacity.¹⁸²

Junta refuses to release Thai fishermen

On 18 Dec, the Thai Defence Minister reported that the junta would return the four detained Thai nationals to Thailand on **4 Jan 2025** (Burma Independence Day).¹⁸³ On 30 Nov, the junta opened fire on two Thai fishing vessels, caused one Thai crew member to drown and detained the four Thai and 27 Burmese crew members.¹⁸⁴ On 5 Dec, the Thai foreign ministry originally announced that the four **Thai nationals had been returned**,¹⁸⁵ however, the return **did not actually take place**. On 16 Dec, a junta court in Kawthaung Township handed three of the Thai nationals **four-year jail sentences** for illegal fishing and a six-year sentence to the fourth Thai national, who owned the boat. The court also gave the 27 Burmese crew members one-year sentences.¹⁸⁶ A Thai political scientist suggested that the junta was **leveraging the crew members** for more engagement and **legitimacy** from Thailand.¹⁸⁷

Thailand finds “no evidence” of banks’ arms facilitation

On 30 Dec, the **Bank of Thailand (BOT)** and the **Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO)** announced that their investigation had found **no evidence** that Thai banks had facilitated junta arms and military equipment purchases. The BOT and AMLO opened the investigation in response to the UN Special

¹⁷⁷ Bangkok Post (22 Dec 2024) Thaksin's new Asean role sparks debate

¹⁷⁸ Thai PBS (13 Jun 2024) Thaksin's half-baked peace plan for Myanmar unlikely to take off

¹⁷⁹ Bangkok Post (21 Dec 2024) Myanmar reps not present at key meeting of foreign ministers

¹⁸⁰ See our Oct 2024 CoupWatch Briefer: <https://bit.ly/CWBOct24>

¹⁸¹ Bangkok Post (19 Dec 2024) Asean falters on Myanmar crisis; Nikkei Asia (20 Dec 2024) Thailand's multilateral Myanmar initiative sticks with ASEAN consensus

¹⁸² Karen News (9 Dec 2024) Random Drug Testing to Start in Mae La Refugee Camp

¹⁸³ Irrawaddy (18 Dec 2024) Myanmar to Free Arrested Thai Fishermen on Jan. 4, Says Thai Defense Minister

¹⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (6 Dec 2024) Thailand says Myanmar has released detained fishermen; See our Nov 2024 Coup Watch Briefer: <https://bit.ly/CWBNov24>

¹⁸⁵ Irrawaddy (6 Dec 2024) Thailand Says Myanmar Has Released Detained Fishermen

¹⁸⁶ Irrawaddy (17 Dec 2024) 4 Thai Fishermen Given Suspended Sentences by Myanmar Court

¹⁸⁷ VOA (20 Dec 2024) Myanmar military appears to be using Thai fisherman as leverage, experts say

Rapporteur to Burma's report in Jul 2024, which showed that Thai banks had facilitated over **USD 120 million** worth of junta military purchases in FY2023/24, over double the amount in FY 2022/23.¹⁸⁸ The BOT and AMLO joint report claimed that while some banks had **indeed conducted transactions** with the companies implicated in the Special Rapporteur's report, there was no evidence the transactions were connected to arms and aviation fuel acquirement.¹⁸⁹

Civil Society urges Guterres to establish Bangladesh aid corridor

On 17 Dec, the **Burma Campaign UK** sent a letter to the **UN Secretary-General**, urging him to travel immediately to Bangladesh and establish an **aid corridor** to address famine in Arakan State. In November, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that due to conflict and junta restrictions on humanitarian aid, vital agriculture products, and medicine, **two million people faced imminent famine**.¹⁹⁰

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¹⁸⁸ See our Jul 2024 CoupWatch Briefer: https://bit.ly/CWBAug_24

¹⁸⁹ Reuters (30 Dec 2024) Thailand says no evidence of bank transactions for Myanmar weapons

¹⁹⁰ Burma Campaign UK (17 Dec 2024) UN Secretary General: Act Now To Prevent Famine in Rakhine State