

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025:
Junta steps up forced conscription of women**

- As of 14 Feb, there were at least 51,383 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021, with at least 3,246,700 displaced people as of 20 Feb. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Malaysia detains 196 Rohingya refugees, pushes back over 300.
- Sri Lankans protest gov’t efforts to refoul 102 stranded Rohingya.
- ASEAN claims peace as priority, not junta sham election.
- Resistance forces deal devastating blows to junta in Arakan and neighboring Magwe. Head of notorious LID 33 killed.
- Junta airstrikes hit Ayeyarwady for first time as AA pushes into three neighboring regions.
- Singaporean-Chinese firm pumps USD 150 million of crude oil into junta aviation fuel production.
- Junta still feels fuel pinch, adds paramotors to aerial arsenal.
- Junta bars travel, kidnaps youths and targets women to sustain its illegal forced conscription.
- Thailand enables growing cross-border conscript market for junta.
- MNDAA caves to Chinese pressure, agrees to ceasefire and staggered Lashio withdrawal.
- 3.4 million children missing from ed. System, 91% drop in university enrollment.
- Trump aid freeze shuts down Thai-Burma border refugee hospitals, kills one.
- China mounts regional pressure over scam operations after Chinese actor trafficked.

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Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

Naypyidaw local resists conscription: In Pobbathiri Township (Naypyidaw Region), a man selected for the junta's conscription attacked local junta administrators with a sword. A junta chief administrator sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Locals reportedly expressed outrage over claims that children of the local junta administrators have been exempt from the draft.¹ See p.16 re forced conscription of women.

Forced conscription leads to market for substitutes: On 20 Jan, it was reported that in Mandalay, the junta had targeted unhoused people for conscription. A local reported that recently it was becoming rarer to see unhoused people in the streets and claimed that the junta had conscripted them. The junta also targeted so-called "**street kids**" as replacements for the children of wealthy families selected for conscription. Families would bribe junta recruiters MMK 2-5 million to accept substitutes. A local activist reported that junta police and administrators profited off detaining unhoused youths to offer them as conscription substitutes. The activist stated that this practice amounted to human trafficking.²

Urban recruiters target students, extorts families

On 2 Jan, RFA reported that in Dec 2024, the junta **arrested around 260 people for conscription**, including 80 in Mandalay, 90 in Yangon, 70 in Bago Region, and 20 in Naypyidaw. A Mandalay resident reported the **junta targeted an area near the University of Nursing** that young people frequented. A Yangon local said the junta also targeted people as old as 45.³ On 9 Jan, it was reported that since Dec 2024, in Mandalay and Naypyidaw regions, **junta administrators extorted bribes of MMK 50,000 to 150,000** from draft-aged locals and their families to avoid conscription. It was reported that junta recruiters demanded bribes of up to **MMK 8 million to release people already detained** for conscription.⁴ On 10 Jan, it was reported that in mid-Dec 2024, in Yangon, Mandalay, and Naypyidaw regions, the General Administration Department (**GAD**) **demanding that private schools give lists of students over 15 years old**, including their medical information. The junta claimed it was gathering data for conscription deferment eligibility. However, a Yangon resident reported the junta had registered his **high school-aged nephew for conscription**, forcing him into hiding. A retired teacher said that only the Education Ministry had the right to demand student lists, and the **GAD had overstepped its authority**.⁵

Junta bars more youth from leaving Burma

On 17 Jan, the junta made an amendment to its conscription "law" that authorizes regime administrators to **collect lists of draft-aged youths and force them to undergo medical examinations**. The junta would then bar those registered for conscription from travelling abroad.⁶ During 23-24 Jan, in Naypyidaw, at a meeting with the National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), representatives of a political parties working group suggested that the junta **expand the conscription "law" and "encourage" resistance fighters to join the junta**.⁷ On 31 Jan, the junta put into effect a **ban on draft-eligible men from applying for new Overseas Workers Identity Cards (OWIC)** and signing contracts to work abroad. The junta's Migrant Workers Unit stated that it would impose **age restrictions on new OWIC applications** and would only issue cards to those who had already signed a work contract.⁸ A Yangon-based overseas employment agent stated that the **restrictions did not yet apply to women**. Another employment agent said the junta could ban Burmese overseas workers visiting home from returning to their jobs abroad.⁹ It was reported that, at airports, **the junta still subjected OWIC holders to strict inspections**. Junta personnel, police, and brokers charged travelers on PV and PJ passports a so-called "**facilitation fee**" of **around USD 2,300 to pass immigration** at Yangon International Airport.¹⁰ In May 2024, the junta temporarily imposed a similar ban on conscription-aged men traveling overseas for work, a restriction the regime later adjusted to apply to men aged 23-31.¹¹

Chinese actor trafficked to Burma, Beijing pressures region to tackle scam syndicates

On 3 Jan, in Mae Sot (Thailand), traffickers **kidnapped Chinese actor Wang Xing** to a scam center in **Apollo Park in Myawaddy Township** (Karen State) via an unofficial border crossing. The traffickers forcibly trained Wang Xing to scam Chinese netizens. On 7 Jan, Thai police, coordinating with the

¹ Myanmar Now (23 Jan 2025) Sword attack on junta officials highlights growing resentment over conscription in Naypyitaw

² Irrawaddy (20 Jan 2025) Street Kids 'Targeted' in Myanmar Junta's Conscription Drive

³ RFA (2 Jan 2025) 'Snatch and recruit' arrests in Myanmar target youth for military service

⁴ Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2025) Junta administrators soliciting bribes, promising to exempt families from conscription

⁵ Irrawaddy (10 Jan 2025) Conscript-Hungry Myanmar Junta Turns Sights on Students

⁶ Myanmar Now (27 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta enacts foreign travel ban for people of conscription age

⁷ Irrawaddy (25 Jan 2025) Parties Suggest Myanmar Junta Expands Conscription

⁸ DVB (31 Jan 2025) Regime imposes travel restrictions on military conscription age men; Mizzima (3 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta restricts overseas employment for conscription-eligible men

⁹ RFA (31 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta blocks military-aged men from work abroad

¹⁰ Mizzima (3 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta restricts overseas employment for conscription-eligible men

¹¹ Myanmar Now (10 May 2024) Junta lifts suspension of overseas work permits for men, but imposes age restrictions

junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF), extracted Wang Xing and several other Chinese nationals.¹² In the following weeks, **Thai authorities freed three other Chinese nationals** from Myawaddy.¹³

On 15 Jan, in Myawaddy Township, at a meeting between the junta-aligned Karen Border Guard Force (BGF), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), and local Chinese business owners, the **BGF announced a crackdown on scam operations**. BGF head Saw Chit Thu declared that all businesses and partners in Myawaddy must cooperate with the BGF and abide by their rules, which included a **prohibition on child labor, “inhumane torture”, profiting from human trafficking activities, and “scamming or fraudulent operations”**, or they would be expelled from the region.¹⁴

On 16 Jan, in Beijing, during a meeting with representatives from ASEAN's 10 member states, **Chinese FM Wang Yi called on “relevant” countries** to bear the **responsibility of tackling scam operations** on the Thai-Burma border. Wang extended Beijing's offer to cooperate with ASEAN countries in law enforcement and security, highlighting China's urgent concern.¹⁵

On 17 Jan in Bangkok, at the fifth meeting of ASEAN Digital Ministers, the junta's deputy PM Gen. Mya Tun Oo, met with Thailand's Digital Economy and Society (DES) Minister, Prasert Jantararungtong. **Mya Tun Oo promised to bring up the issue of scam operations on the Thai-Burma border with the junta**.¹⁶ On 20 Jan, the junta released a statement on regime media claiming that foreign nationals from Burma's neighbors ran online scam operations. The regime claimed that during Oct 2023 - Jan 2024, it had deported 55,711 foreign nationals, including 53,388 from China. **The junta implicitly blamed Thailand for enabling these operations by providing electricity and internet**. The junta also blamed ethnic armed groups, including National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatories, for cooperating with scam operations. The regime admitted that **it could not administer or enforce the rule of law where the scam centers operated**. However, the regime's statement did not mention the Karen Border Guard Force or its head Saw Chit Thu, despite their well-known involvement.¹⁷ On 21 Jan in Naypyidaw, junta No. 2, **Soe Win, met with the head of the Thai Army's Neighboring Countries Coordination Center**, Gen. Direk Bongkarn. Junta media claimed that the two discussed cooperation to tackle human trafficking and scam operations along the Thai-Burma border.¹⁸

On 20 Jan, the NUG called on Burma's neighbors, including China, Thailand, and India, to open communication channels and share information to tackle online scam operations. The NUG stated that its allied federal democratic forces were ready to cooperate with international efforts to end the operations.¹⁹ Karen National Union (KNU) spokesperson Padoh Saw Taw Nee expressed the KNU's support for the NUG statement. **He blamed the junta's deliberate ignorance for the rise in scam operations**. He echoed the call for neighboring countries to share information on transnational crime.²⁰

On 21 Jan, in Kunming (China), officials from **Cambodia, China, Laos, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam—members of the Lancang-Mekong Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Center (LMLECC)**, a joint law enforcement center to combat crime in the Mekong-Lancang region—reached a consensus to eradicate scam centers in Burma.²¹ During the meeting, the LMLECC also **reviewed the first phase of its “Jingyao” operation**, which reportedly led to the arrest of over 70,000 suspects linked to scam operations.²² In a statement, China's embassy in Burma confirmed that, in 2025, the **LMLECC would advance to a second phase of operations against scam syndicates** but did not provide further details. Additionally, the junta's embassy in China claimed that the regime was “not encouraging online gambling businesses” and was instead cracking down on them.²³

¹² VOA (25 Jan 2025) China's support for Myanmar regime backfires; scam syndicates thrive; 星岛头条 (17 Jan 2025) 王星失聯

| 贖金¥200萬? 傳幕後黑手來自廣東 緬東最大人口販子大起底; TNN (8 Jan 2025) ชิงชิง เปิดปากครั้งแรก! เผยถูกหลอกเป็นแก๊งคอลเซ็นเตอร์

¹³ The Nation (14 Jan 2025) Two Chinese women missing in Thailand found, returned home safely; VN Express (19 Jan 2025) Chinese celebrity rescued after disappearance following trip to Thailand, 2nd case in days

¹⁴ The Nation (16 Jan 2025) Karen Border Guard body enforces rules to tackle human trafficking; Irrawaddy (16 Jan 2025) Myanmar's Karen BGF Launches ‘Scam Crackdown’ After Chinese Celebs Abducted

¹⁵ Reuters (16 Jan 2025) China urges ASEAN states to fight cross-border crimes in show of new urgency

¹⁶ Bangkok Post (18 Jan 2025) Myanmar, Thailand pledge to combat scam gangs

¹⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Blames Thailand, EAOs as China Urges Scam Crackdown; GNLM (21 Jan 2025)

Notice: Combatting Online Gambling in Border Areas

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (22 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta's No.2 Meets Thai Military as Chinese Pressure Rises on Border Scams

¹⁹ NUG (20 Jan 2025) The statement of Federal democratic forces on Cyber Crime in Myanmar: A Growing Crisis

²⁰ Karen News (20 Jan 2025) NUG Cybercrime Statement Supported by KNU

²¹ Reuters (21 Jan 2025) China, Myanmar, Thailand reach consensus to eradicate telecom fraud centres; The Nation (24 Jan 2025) China begins Phase 2 of Jingyao Operation to combat Mekong Region crime

²² The Nation (24 Jan 2025) China begins Phase 2 of Jingyao Operation to combat Mekong Region crime

²³ Reuters (21 Jan 2025) China, Myanmar, Thailand reach consensus to eradicate telecom fraud centres; RFA (22 Jan 2025) China, Mekong countries agree to combat scam centers, arms trafficking

On 22 Jan, the junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF) released a statement attempting to distance itself from scam operations in its territory. They claimed they had only leased land to “legal” businesses such as factories and housing developments and had not engaged in profit-sharing ventures. The BGF claimed it would work with regional partners and international organizations to address human trafficking.²⁴

On 24 Jan, it was reported that Thai Deputy PM Phumtham Wechayachai **rejected the junta's claim that Thailand was at fault for the rise in scam operations** along the Thai-Burma border. The Deputy PM said that because scam syndicates operated across the border, Thailand did not bear sole responsibility. He also stated that **the junta and Thailand did not discuss the eradication of scam syndicates** during a recent meeting between high-ranking officials from both sides. The Deputy PM was likely referencing the meeting between the junta's Soe Win and Thailand's Gen. Direk Bongkarn.²⁵

On 24 Jan, it was reported that **Thai MPs increased pressure on Thailand's Interior Ministry to cut electricity supply to scam operations** across the border in Burma. People's Party MP Rangsiman Rome said that the **Interior Ministry was "duty-bound"** to ensure Thai electricity sales to Burmese parties did not impact Thai national security. The MP also questioned why the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) could not cut the power supply. The Thai National Security Council claimed that it had worked with the PEA but did not find evidence that criminal groups in Burma had used Thai electricity.²⁶

On 24 Jan, in Bangkok, the Thai police announced it would set up a **coordination center at its national HQ to tackle online scam syndicates**. They added that the center would **collaborate with China** and that **Chinese authorities would set up another center in Mae Sot** (Tak Province, Thailand), at the Thai-Burma border.²⁷ A China-Burma analyst stated that **"China tends to pressure Thailand rather than directly addressing the situation in [Burma]"**. A United States Institute of Peace representative stated that the junta's reliance on Border Guard Force's head Saw Chit Thu to maintain control over Myawaddy, had left the regime without political will or capacity to address the scam syndicates effectively.²⁸

On 29 Jan, the junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF) stated that it would **release over 60 foreign nationals who had been trafficked to Myawaddy**. The BGF's spokesperson added that the militia was waiting for the junta to authorize the release. It was reported that Thai authorities will investigate if any of those released were involved in human trafficking themselves.²⁹

On 27 Jan, in Nonthaburi Province (Thailand), Chinese assistant minister of public security **Liu Zhongyi**, shared information on 36 Chinese scam syndicates **with Thailand's Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau (CCIB)**. **Liu called on the CCIB to arrest the scam syndicate bosses**, apply pressure for the release of Chinese nationals in Burma, and asked Thai authorities to block the scam syndicates' channels used to funnel business and resources. On 29 Jan, Liu Zhongyi visited Mae Sot (Tak Province, Thailand), to observe KK Park and Shwe Kokko and to meet with the provincial police chief and other Thai officials.³⁰

On 31 Jan, Thailand's Deputy PM and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul wrote an urgent letter to the Thai National Security Council to seek details on security at five trading points on the Thai-Burma border used to distribute electricity into Burma.³¹ On 5 Feb, Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) **cut electricity to five connection points**: one in Payathonzu (Mon State), two in Tachileik (Shan State), and two in Myawaddy (Karen State). Deputy PM Anutin declared that **"no one can accuse [Thailand] of being involved in or supporting illegal activities"**. It was reported that, although the power cut went into effect at 9 a.m., **Shwe Kokko Special Economic Zone in Myawaddy remained operational with the use of generators**.³² Aue Mon, the director of Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), said that the electricity shut off will **severely disrupt communication networks and cause major hardship for those unable to afford generators**. Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) director Wahkushee Tenner, said that large scam operations had so far seen minimal impact. Human Rights Watch's Sunai Phasuk stated that the power cut may be a **publicity stunt to please China**, adding that **"all sides in Thailand — including the opposition People's Party — seem to believe that the suffering of people in [Burma] is a fair price to pay"**.³³

²⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta-Allied Border Force Vows to 'Fight' Scam Gangs

²⁵ Bangkok Post (24 Jan 2025) Govt 'not to blame' for Myanmar scam hubs

²⁶ Bangkok Post (24 Jan 2025) Govt 'not to blame' for Myanmar scam hubs

²⁷ Reuters (24 Jan 2025) Thailand and China to set up coordination centre to combat scam call networks

²⁸ VOA (25 Jan 2025) China's support for Myanmar regime backfires; scam syndicates thrive

²⁹ RFA (30 Jan 2025) Myanmar militia 'ready to return' more than 60 trafficked foreigners to Thailand

³⁰ Bangkok Post (28 Jan 2025) China seeks help crushing 36 major scam gangs; Bangkok Post (29 Jan 2025) Chinese officials visit Thai-Myanmar border for anti-scam talks

³¹ Matichon (31 Jan 2025) อุนทิน สั่งหนังสือด่วน ตามสมช. 5 จุดจ่ายไฟฟ้า ที่ไหนมีแก๊งคอล-ค้ายา จะได้ตัดไฟถูก... ย่านข่าวต้นฉบับได้ที่

³² RFA (5 Feb 2025) Thailand cuts power to Myanmar's scam centers in anti-crime push

³³ Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2025) Thailand to shut off electricity to Myanmar's scam hubs

Illegal junta's quest for control

On 31 Jan, the junta's National Defense and Security Council extended its "State of Emergency" for another six months. This marked the seventh extension since the junta initially declared a year-long state of emergency after the 1 Feb 2021 attempted coup. The junta would need to hold an election within six months of the conclusion of the state of emergency, according to the 2008 military-drafted constitution.³⁴

Junta's "elephant diplomacy" to woo Russians: It was reported that the junta sent one male and five female elephants to Russia's Great Moscow State Circus. Junta ambassador to Russia Thit Lin Ohn claimed that coup leader Min Aung Hlaing personally oversaw the selection of the elephants.³⁵

Coup leader spreads blame for failed census:

On 14 Jan, at a cabinet meeting in Naypyidaw, junta boss Min Aung Hlaing blamed declining birthrates, mass emigration, and deaths from various causes for the reduction in population reported in the regime's failed census. He claimed that "population decline" had led to labor shortages and would impact the junta's sham election, likely due to the number of people who had fled abroad. He again vowed to prioritize stability and rule of law to prepare for the sham election.³⁶

BURMA'S MISSING PEOPLE (estimates based on World Bank figures)			
Annual growth rate	0.8% (average ASEAN)	0.7% (average Burma)	0.6% (used by World Bank)
Census 2014	51,400,000	51,400,000	51,400,000
Estimate 2019	53,489,160	53,224,363	52,960,615
Estimate 2024	55,663,235	55,113,479	54,568,614
Junta "census"	51,300,000	51,300,000	51,300,000
Missing	4,363,235	3,813,479	3,268,614
Up to 4.36 million people are missing in junta "census." Rohingya people remained uncounted.			

Junta awards contracts to family of imprisoned general: In early January, the junta's home affairs ministry confirmed the regime had awarded at least tenders for junta prison and police department construction projects to two companies owned by imprisoned Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun's family. In Sep 2023, the junta jailed Moe Myint Tun for 20 years on corruption and treason charges. It was reported that Moe Myint Tun's wife and three daughters run the companies, Phyo Pyae Pyae and Yadanar Moe Htet Aung, which received the tenders. A Yadanar Moe Htet Aung representative claimed that the company won the tenders through "a routine process" of competitive bidding. However, a business source said that the junta typically awards tenders from ministerial departments to companies linked to junta generals.³⁷

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

- On 1 Jan, NUG acting president Duwa Lashi La announced that the NUG would grant a New Year's Day **amnesty to 169 prisoners** out of "humanitarian concern" in areas under its control. The amnesty was only for those who had served more than six months of their two to three-year sentences for minor criminal charges. The NUG also shortened the sentences for other prisoners by one third.³⁸
- On 13 Jan, DVB reported that following a 3-5 Jan meeting, the **Ta'ang National Liberation Army** (TNLA) announced it would **expand its number of armed brigades** from seven to nine, with a total of 35-45 battalions. The TNLA's political wing, the Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF) would continue managing security, law enforcement, education, healthcare, and social development in areas under their control. The TNLA currently administers 12 townships and 18 towns. During Operation 1027, they captured a total of 11 townships. A spokesperson stated that they aimed to ensure "community participation" in their governance structures.³⁹
- On 16 Jan, the NUG representative office in **Seoul** reported that the South Korean government had confirmed they would continue to support migrant workers facing trouble renewing or extending visas at the junta-run Burmese embassy. A pro-democracy activist said the government would allow them to **stay in the country** until it was safe for them to return.⁴⁰

NUG to establish headquarters in Sagaing

In early Jan, the NUG announced it would **establish its headquarters in Sagaing Region** to increase their effectiveness and legitimacy among the population. NUG minister Lwin Ko Latt assured that

³⁴ AP (1 Feb 2025) Myanmar's military government extends its mandate to rule another 6 months

³⁵ Irrawaddy (13 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Sends Six Elephants to Moscow

³⁶ Irrawaddy (20 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Boss Vows to Prioritize Stability for Elections

³⁷ Myanmar Now (21 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta still awarding lucrative contracts to incarcerated general's family

³⁸ Myanmar Now (1 Jan 2025) Myanmar's NUG grants New Year's amnesty to 169 prisoners

³⁹ DVB (13 Jan 2025) Ta'ang National Liberation Army plans to expand its administration to govern 18 towns in five districts

⁴⁰ DVB (20 Jan 2025) Myanmar nationals in South Korea to receive assistance; Human Rights Watch releases its World Report 2025

starting in January there would be direct, **on-the-ground engagement** between the NUG and the public.⁴¹ On 24 Jan, it was reported that Sagaing politician Soe Win Swe expressed concerns that the NUG's seemingly top-down governance structure could hinder the establishment of a bottom-up federalism in Burma. Sagaing is also the region most heavily targeted by junta airstrikes.⁴²

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

Junta cracks down LGBTQ+ books: On 9 Jan, the junta announced it had banned seven LGBTQ+-themed books for “obscene” content and said it would prosecute the books' publishers.⁴³ On 16 Jan, the junta announced it would revoke the business licenses of two publishers in Thaketa Township (Yangon Region) for publishing books with LGBTQ+ themes. It was reported that the junta banned an additional three LGBTQ+-themed books. Since the failed coup, the junta has revoked the publishing licenses of 11 book houses, eight printing services, one magazine, and 15 media outlets.⁴⁴

The junta's annual prison Shamnesty

On 4 Jan (Burma's Independence Day), the junta's spokesperson announced that the regime had released 5,864 prisoners and claimed that 600 political prisoners were among those released. It was reported that the junta had released Khat Aung, the Kachin State Chief Minister under the NLD government.⁴⁵ The junta also claimed that it commuted life sentences for 144 prisoners to 15 years, including documentary filmmaker Shin Daewe.⁴⁶ On 6 Jan, the Political Prisoners Network Myanmar (PPNM) confirmed that the junta had actually only released 344 political prisoners, including 131 women.⁴⁷ PPNM's Thaik Tun Oo noted the large gap between the junta's claimed and actual releases, adding that the junta was trying to “deceive people domestically and internationally for political gain.”⁴⁸ The head of the Women's Organization of Political Prisoners (WOPP) stated that most of those released were near the end of their sentences.⁴⁹ The junta also included 180 foreigners in the release, including 151 Thai nationals. However, four Thai fishing vessel crew members detained in Nov 2024 were not included.⁵⁰

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

MNDAA agrees to gradual withdraw from Lashio in new ceasefire: On 18 Jan, Myanmar Now reported that, as part of a new Chinese-mediated ceasefire, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) had agreed to hand over control of Lashio city (N. Shan State) to the junta. The MNDAA would reportedly gradually withdraw from Lashio by the end of June 2025. The deal also included the reopening of border crossings; the safe return of displaced residents with a promise that junta conscription in the town would remain banned until Jun 2025; and an end to hostilities by both parties, including junta airstrikes in MNDAA-controlled areas. In response to the deal, on 19 Jan, China reopened the Chin Shwe Haw border crossing, and on 20 Jan, the United Wa State Army (UWSA) spokesperson reported that China had approved the reopening of Nam Tit bridge border crossing.⁵¹

In late 2024, China had blocked the supply of fuel, medicine, food, and other necessities to MNDAA-held territories via the Chinese border to pressure the MNDAA to withdraw from Lashio and cease fighting with the junta. Additionally, in Oct 2024, **Chinese authorities detained MNDAA leader Peng Daxun** in Kunming (China), claiming he was undergoing medical treatment, although his status and **whereabouts remain unknown. They barred Peng from attending the new ceasefire negotiations.** Several sources familiar with the deal reported that although an agreement had been reached, it remained “uncertain whether the involved parties will fully implement the agreement”.⁵²

Junta expands aerial capacity with new paramotor fleet: On 7 Jan, it was reported that since late Dec 2024, the junta had started deploying paramotors as part of bombing raids and killed at least 10 civilians. Paramotors are parachute-like gliders propelled by small engines. In Myingyan District (Mandalay Region), a PDF Battalion 3 officer reported that the use of paramotors appeared to be an attempt to

⁴¹ Myanmar Now (15 Jan 2025) National Unity Government to establish union-level office in Sagaing Region

⁴² DVB (24 Jan 2025) Concerns raised over National Unity Government plans to establish its first ministerial offices in Sagaing Region

⁴³ RFA (10 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta bans 7 books with LGBTQ+ themes

⁴⁴ DVB (17 Jan 2025) Regime bans publication of 10 LGBTQ+ themed books

⁴⁵ RFA (6 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta says it releases 600 political prisoners in mass amnesty

⁴⁶ Mizzima (9 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta's amnesty falls short: only 344 political prisoners released on Independence Day; RFA (9 Jan 2025) Myanmar's junta cuts filmmaker's life sentence to 15 years as part of wider amnesty

⁴⁷ PPN-M (7 Jan 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/3dvs43yc>

⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (7 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta's Political Prisoner Releases Exaggerated: Rights Groups

⁴⁹ Mizzima (7 Jan 2025) 181 political prisoners freed in Myanmar's Independence Day pardon

⁵⁰ Irrawaddy (6 Jan 2025) Myanmar Releases 151 Thai Prisoners, but Not Detained Fishing Crew

⁵¹ Myanmar Now (20 Jan 2025) Kokang army to withdraw from Lashio under Chinese-brokered ceasefire with Myanmar junta;

Myanmar Now (30 Jan 2025) Kokang army to withdraw from Lashio in phases

⁵² Myanmar Now (20 Jan 2025) Kokang army to withdraw from Lashio under Chinese-brokered ceasefire with Myanmar junta;

Myanmar Now (30 Jan 2025) Kokang army to withdraw from Lashio in phases

conserve jet fuel and frighten locals. A local added that the resistance forces did not yet know how to defend against paramotors and that the junta dropped “bombs by hand” in areas they suspected of harboring resistance fighters. The first accounts of junta paramotor attacks occurred on 25 and 31 Dec, in Taungtha and Ngazun townships, (Mandalay Region) respectively. During 3-5 Jan, in Taungtha Township (Mandalay Region) and Sagaing Township (Sagaing Region), the junta carried out three more paramotor attacks which killed four civilians.⁵³

KaPaSa Weapon Factories key to junta’s grip on power: On 23 Jan, DVB reported that the junta's continued operation of their **Directorate of Defense Industries (DDI)** weapons factories, commonly known as “**KaPaSa**”, was key to the junta staving off their defeat. Of the junta’s 25 weapons factories, 15 were located in Magway Region, seven in Bago Region, two in Naypyidaw, and one in Yangon. A junta defector stated that **weapons factories were mostly located west of the Ayeyarwaddy River**, and that only 20 out of the 25 were currently operational. A human rights and Burma conflict analyst stated that continued junta control of its weapon factories, ports, and routes connecting Yangon river to Magway, as well as Meiktila and Taungoo airbases, would **allow them to avoid total collapse**. He argued that, while sanctions targeting aviation fuel were vital, those targeting the junta’s weapons production capacities were the most effective. The junta defector stated that **95 to 98 percent of the junta’s bombs were locally made**. A former DDI employee reported that some of the materials used for weapons manufacturing were still being imported from junta-allied countries such as China and Russia.⁵⁴

Junta kills over 1,400 children and youth since failed coup: On 27 Jan, Human Rights Myanmar (HRM) submitted a report to the UN on the **junta’s child rights violations**. The HRM report added that since the failed coup, the junta had **killed over 1,430 children** (aged 14 and under) **and youth** (15-24), maimed thousands, and used many as human shields. They **arbitrarily detained at least 191 children and 3,932 youth**, often without legal representation, and subjected them to psychological abuse and torture. Of the estimated **3.2 million people displaced** since the coup, about **1.4 million are children**. The reports added that the junta had dismantled legal protections for children and basic support for the most vulnerable, and that **children in Burma were among the world’s most malnourished**. HRM urged the international community to support civil society efforts to protect children in conflict areas.⁵⁵

NUG report, junta controls only 32% of Burma: On 4 Jan, the NUG’s Ministry of Defense released their **2024 military progress report**. The report claimed that the **junta only controlled** 107 out of the 330 townships nationwide, or **32% of territory**. Resistance forces controlled, or partially controlled, 144 townships, or **44% of the territory**. Among these, 48 townships were fully liberated with established civilian administrations. The report added that 79 townships were still being fought over, equal to **24% of the country**. Since the attempted coup, the NUG said that nearly 15,000 junta soldiers and police had defected to their People’s Embrace Program.⁵⁶

Junta kills at least 95 civilians in Dec 2024: On 7 Jan, the Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that in Dec 2024, the junta killed at least 95 civilians, including 35 women, 14 children, and one member of the trans community. Junta airstrikes killed 45 civilians, and junta shelling killed 30. Mandalay Region saw the highest death toll with 23, followed by Bago with 17. Observers predicted that airstrikes would increase in 2025.⁵⁷

Sagaing Region

During 16-22 Jan, **junta airstrikes** on Tamu, Indaw, Kalay, and Tigyaing townships **killed at least seven civilians including three children**, injured many others, and destroyed at least 16 buildings, including a monastery.⁵⁸

Junta abducts 200 civilians, kills one after losing key position to PDF: On 1 Jan, in **Budalin Township**, PDF forces seized a junta police station in Kutaw village. The seizure came after a year-long siege during which PDF forces cut off supply routes, eventually forcing the junta to abandon the base. Resistance forces reported that the **junta planted landmines around the station** as they fled. They also reportedly **abducted around 200 civilians** and forced them to carry weapons **as they advanced to Budalin town**. Residents reported that **the junta killed and dumped the body of a young man after he tried to flee**.

⁵³ Myanmar Now (7 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta using paramotors to bomb villages in Mandalay, Sagaing regions

⁵⁴ DVB (23 Jan 2025) Weapons factories keeping regime in power, states analysts

⁵⁵ Human Rights Myanmar (20 Jan 2025) Myanmar’s militarisation of education; Mizzima (27 Jan 2025) Exposing atrocities against children and education in Myanmar

⁵⁶ NUG (4 Jan 2025) Military Development Status Report 2024

⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (8 Jan 2025) AAPP: Myanmar Junta Killed 95 Civilians in December

⁵⁸ Myanmar Now (22 Jan 2025) Civilians, children killed as Myanmar air force conducts daily bombing raids in Sagaing Region; Khonumthung News via BNI (23 Jan 2025) Junta Airstrikes Hit Khampat Town and Nearby Villages

Over the following days, the junta released those detained. Around 200 junta troops, including those who abandoned the police station, remain deployed in two positions near Budalin's General Administration Department, reportedly preparing to conduct more raids.⁵⁹

Junta airstrike and paramotor attack kills three and destroys 20 houses: On 3 Jan, in Sagaing Township, the junta used support aircraft, fighter jets and paramotors to conduct airstrikes on Myin Se village killed three civilians including a woman, injured seven, and destroyed around 20 houses, a monastery, and livestock. A resident reported that no resistance troops operated in the area.⁶⁰

Another NUG official assassinated in Sagaing: On 6 Jan, in **Kanbalu Township**, two unidentified gunmen dressed in resistance uniforms **shot dead the township's NUG-appointed administrator**, Ngwe Thein. A PDF member reported that the bullet casings found at the scene were **produced at a junta arms manufacturing factory**, commonly known as KaPaSa. Ngwe Thein was the **fifth NUG official to be assassinated** in Sagaing Region in the last three months.⁶¹

Recurring junta attacks displace thousands to Manipur: Since the second week of January, in **Tamu Township**, junta and resistance troops had engaged in intense clashes near the border with India. It was reported that **thousands of civilians had fled from Tamu town to Manipur State (India)** in anticipation of clashes spreading into the town itself. On 16 Jan, a **junta airstrike on a monastery** in NUG-controlled **Khampat town killed five civilians including two children**. Residents added that the junta also carried out airstrikes during 20-21 Jan. On 27 Jan, the junta carried out more drone attacks and airstrikes in the township following a resistance attack on junta camps in the area. An aid worker reported that about **one-third of Khampat town residents had fled the town**. On 28 Jan, pro-regime media reported that the junta shelled and carried out drone attacks and airstrikes in Kyun Pin Thar village. Local PDF fighters reported that **junta-allied troops included India-based ethnic Meitei armed groups**.⁶²

Resistance force kills notorious LID 33 Pyu Saw Htee commander: On 7 Jan, in **Sagaing Township**, the resistance 'Unicorn Guerrilla Group' ambushed two junta vehicles on the Sagaing-Min Kun road and **killed nine people**, including **Shwe Kyar, a notorious pro-junta Pyu Saw Htee commander**. Resistance forces reported they briefly detained, then released two children and a man. The **junta later reportedly arrested, tortured, and possibly killed a civilian**. In retaliation, the following day, junta troops shelled Let Pan village and surrounding areas and killed one civilian. On 9 Jan, junta troops torched Let Pan, destroyed five houses, and displaced around 800 residents. A local monitoring group reported that **Shwe Kyar personally oversaw the training of new forcibly conscripted recruits for the Light Infantry Division (LID) 33**.⁶³ The **LID 33 perpetrated the Budalin massacre in Oct 2024**, were part of the Burmese security forces' Feb 2021 systematic crackdown on protestors in Mandalay, and also played a **leading role in the 2017 Rohingya genocide**.⁶⁴

Resistance forces launch "final battle" for Indaw despite hundreds of civilians still trapped: On 20 Jan, in Indaw Township, it was reported that junta troops were holding around 150 junta staff, junta supporters, and elderly people in the town's main monastery as human shields. A PDF officer reported that several civilians had died due to lack of medical care and that those remaining faced food and medical shortages. Another resistance fighter reported that although the junta held Indaw's hilltop base, resistance forces had seized most of the outskirts and surrounding areas. The KIA and its allies continued to shell and launch drone attacks on the base but had yet to launch a full-scale attack.⁶⁵ On 27 Jan, KIA, PDF, and other allied resistance forces resumed their offensive against the junta's last position in the town. The renewed offensive came nearly three months after they halted their assault when junta forces took hundreds of locals as human shields. A local reported that it appeared that resistance forces were "launching the final battle" to capture Indaw. Since resistance forces first launched their offensive in Aug 2024, the junta had used around 800 civilians sheltering at the town's main monastery as human shields to deter resistance attacks. No fighting had taken place in Indaw since Nov 2024.⁶⁶

⁵⁹ Irrawaddy (3 Jan 2025) Junta Fortress in Sagaing Falls After Yearlong Siege

⁶⁰ Myanmar Now (7 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta using paramotors to bomb villages in Mandalay, Sagaing regions

⁶¹ Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2025) Wave of assassinations targets NUG officials in Sagaing Region resistance territories; DVB (9 Jan 2025) Kachin Independence Army seizes three military outposts; Regime carries out airstrikes on Kachin State

⁶² Myanmar Now (31 Jan 2025) Casualties mount near Myanmar-India border as resistance, pro-regime forces deploy drones; Mizzima (19 Jan 2025) Five civilians, including two children, killed in junta airstrike on Sagaing's Khampat town

⁶³ Myanmar Now (13 Jan 2025) Army retaliates with arson, shelling after deadly resistance ambush of militia members near Sagaing

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (25 Mar 2025) Myanmar Military's Notorious Foot Soldiers;

⁶⁵ Kachin News Group via BNI (20 Jan 2025) Junta Using Human Shields in Indaw Town, Sagaing Region

⁶⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Jan 2025) Myanmar Resistance Forces Resume Assault on Junta Holdouts in Indaw

Magway Region

Resistance forces strike junta Weapons Factory 21: On 18 Jan, in **Seikphyu Township**, resistance forces carried out rocket attacks on the **junta's KaPaSa 21**, in the east of the township. Since then, **junta troops had increased security** around its weapons factories, stationing approximately **100 additional troops around KaPaSa 22**, the only other weapons factory in the township. They also intensified their shelling of nearby villages. On 26 Jan, **junta shelling killed five family members** in Kin Mun Taunt village, **including five-year-old twins**, injured their mother, and **displaced over 1,000 residents** from surrounding villages. A Seikphyu People's Defence Organization (PDO) leader stated that, prior to 26 Jan, the junta had previously only used 40mm grenade launchers in attacks, rather than artillery shells. Since 26 Jan, a local resistance fighter stated the **junta had shelled surrounding areas almost daily**.⁶⁷

AA pushes further into Magway Region: On 2 Jan, along the border of Ann Township (Arakan State) and Ngape Township (Magway Region), the AA clashed with the junta along the Ann-Padan road at the junta's Nat Yae Kan camp, roughly 40 km from the Ann Town.⁶⁸ On 8 Jan, **clashes** and frequent **junta blockades** along the **Ann-Padan road** had **trapped thousands of civilians** from over 10 villages near the **Magway-Arakan border**. Residents reported that the junta detained and interrogated several fleeing civilians at checkpoints.⁶⁹ As of 14 Jan, **hundreds of civilians remained trapped** as fighting continued to intensify between the junta and the AA. Fighting on the Ann-Padan road had **displaced over 300 civilians**, who were in **desperate need of food and medical assistance**. An IDP woman reported that the junta was stopping sick patients from passing through their checkpoint.⁷⁰ On 10 Jan, it was reported that the AA continued to target Nat Yae Kan camp and a nearby checkpoint. The junta shelled the areas around the base from Padan (Ngape Township).⁷¹ Ngape Township hosts the junta's KaPaSa 14 weapons factory, while KaPaSa 20 is located just 70km north in Sidoktaya town. Both are among the **junta's 22 weapons factories** located in the path of advancing AA-led forces, in Magway and Bago regions.⁷²

On 19 Jan, in Ngape Township, the People Revolution Army Magway (PRA-Magway) stated they **ambushed a junta reinforcement convoy** of four vehicles near Goke Gyi village, along the Ann-Padan road. The junta had reportedly **deployed nearly all LID-99 battalions** in the area, along with **reinforcements** and **weapons** and **ammunition** supplies.⁷³ On 20 Jan, the AA seized control of the Kyat Yae San and Pein Yae San junta camps. The following day, the AA seized a junta base near Ka Myin Kan village and continued to progress along the road.⁷⁴ On 27 Jan, the AA stated that they clashed with junta LID 99 troops along the Ann-Padan road and forced them to retreat to Goke See Yoe village.⁷⁵ On 31 Jan, the AA attacked the junta in Goke See Yoe village and, on the following day, forced the junta to retreat once more to a hilltop outside the village.⁷⁶

Junta troops continue to raid villages and execute civilians: On 14 Jan, in Chauk Township, around 100 Pyu Saw Htee militiamen raided and torched multiple villages, seized medical supplies from one hospital, and displaced villagers. On 15 Jan, the column raided Htein San village, captured three civilians, and executed two.⁷⁷ It was reported that since Dec 2024, in Minbu Township, junta troops had raided multiple villages near Man Shwe Set Taw Pagoda, about 13 km north of Padan town. In one instance, on 22 Dec, junta troops raided Oe Byin Me village, torched 37 houses, and left a sick man behind to starve to death. The junta said it would "increase security" for the upcoming pagoda festival.⁷⁸

Chin State

On 14 Jan, in **Tedim Township**, the Chinland Council (CC)-aligned Tedim Township Council stated that the associated People's Defence Army-Tedim (PDA-Tedim) would soon **launch an offensive** to take control of Tedim town. In response, the Chin Brotherhood Alliance (CBA)-aligned PDF-Zoland stated they "would not hand over Tedim to anyone" and would respond with force if CC-aligned forces tried to seize the town. The CBA took several junta bases in and around Tedim in a May 2024 offensive, however,

⁶⁷ Myanmar Now (29 Jan 2025) Junta shelling kills five in a single household in Magway village, including children; Mizzima (1 Feb 2025) Civilians flee as Military junta shells villages near weapon factory in Seikphyu Township

⁶⁸ Narinjara (4 Jan 2025) Intense clashes break out between AA and junta troops along the Arakan Mountains road in Ann

⁶⁹ Narinjara (8 Jan 2025) Junta Prevents Entry to Padan Town, Enclosing Residents from More than 10 Villages Amid Ongoing Combat

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (14 Jan 2025) Hundreds trapped as clashes intensify on Myanmar's Magway-Rakhine border

⁷¹ Narinjara (10 Jan 2025) AA and allied forces launch offensive against Kan Myint Kan and Nat Yae Kan camps in Arakan mountains

⁷² Irrawaddy (14 Jan 2025) Arakan Army Attacking Myanmar Junta Outposts at Gateway to Magwe Region

⁷³ Myanmar Now (24 Jan 2025) Anti-junta groups ambush, attack Myanmar military forces near Rakhine-Magway border

⁷⁴ Narinjara (24 Jan 2025) AA captures 2 junta camps in Arakan mountains 40 miles away from Ann

⁷⁵ Narinjara (28 Jan 2025) Arakan Army intensifies border offensives in strategic push

⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2025) Arakan Army Defeats Myanmar Junta Base in Magwe Region Rout

⁷⁷ Mizzima (18 Jan 2025) Two civilians killed, one abducted by Myanmar junta joint military column in Chauk Township

⁷⁸ Irrawaddy (15 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Raids Villages Ahead of Magwe Pagoda Festival

the junta still holds several positions in the town. PDF-Zoland claimed they had their own plans to take full control of Tedim and accused the CC of “interfering with the Zomi people’s right to self-determination”.⁷⁹ In response to the **rising likelihood of clashes**, locals began **evacuating** the town. By 21 Jan, about 60% of the town’s population had fled the town, with many of those remaining planning to leave as soon as clashes began.⁸⁰ The CC and **CBA are competing coalitions of anti-junta Chin groups** that have previously clashed over overlapping territorial claims in Chin State.

Arakan State

On 6 Jan, in Ann Township, it was reported that the AA had **seized a junta camp** guarding a **Chinese gas pipeline substation** near Taung Chauk village.⁸¹

Junta kills dozens in civilian airstrikes in AA areas: In January, the junta **lashed out at civilians** in Arakan State and carried out at least six airstrikes on AA-controlled territories. These attacks **killed at least 85 civilians, injured 115 others**, and destroyed two hospitals, two schools, and many buildings.⁸² Across Arakan, the junta now only controls the urban areas of Sittwe, Kyaukphyu, and Manaung.

In one instance on 8 Jan, in AA-controlled Ramree Township, the junta carried out multiple airstrikes on **Kyauk Ni Maw village - a Rohingya village and IDP camp**. The attacks killed at least 41 people, injured 52 others, including both Rohingya and Rakhine victims, and destroyed more than 600 homes. An emergency responder noted that the junta had likely **targeted crowded civilian areas**. More than 12,000 IDPs had fled to Kyauk Ni Maw since the restart of conflict in Arakan State in 2023.⁸³ On 18 Jan, in AA-controlled Mrauk-U Township, the junta carried out airstrikes on an **AA detention centre holding the families of junta troops**. The attacks killed **19 women and nine children**, and injured 25 other civilians.⁸⁴ The AA said they detained the victims during fighting and had planned to release them soon.⁸⁵

War spills into western Bago Region: On 1 Jan, in Taungup Township, the AA attacked a junta base in Taung Pone Gyi village, near the **Bago Region border along the Taungup-Padaung road**. The road is the main entry point into Arakan from Bago Region. In response to the attacks, the junta carried out airstrikes on three nearby villages. On 27 Jan, the AA announced it had **seized the junta’s Moe Hti base** on the border between Arakan and Bago Region after a five-day long offensive.⁸⁶ **Five of the junta’s seven arms factories in Bago Region are located in Padaung Township.**⁸⁷

AA encircles Sittwe, clashes with junta at city limits: During 16-17 Jan, in **Sittwe Township**, the AA and the junta clashed near War Bo village. During fighting in Sittwe and AA-controlled Ponnagyun Township, the junta’s Police Battalion No. 12 shelled four villages and destroyed nine houses.⁸⁸ On 20 Jan, locals said the junta was preparing for **imminent battles in the township** and had sent an **additional battalion to the Sittwe Airport** following the AA’s attack in nearby War Bo village.⁸⁹ On 27 Jan, the AA reported almost daily clashes with the junta near Wah Bo village and two other nearby villages.⁹⁰

On 31 Jan, it was reported that **more than 1,000 locals** had fled **Sittwe Township in fear of fighting breaking out** between the junta and the AA. A local from Rathedaung Township noted that people were leaving the surrounding townships of Rathedaung, Pauktaw, and Ponnagyun for fear of junta attacks.⁹¹

AA soldiers torture, cut throat of detained junta troops: On 24 Jan, the AA spokesperson, Khaing Thu Kha, confirmed that AA soldiers had **tortured and executed two detained junta troops** on 7 Feb 2024.

⁷⁹ Khonumthung News (21 Jan 2025) As rival Chin resistance groups plan to capture Tedim, majority of town’s population already evacuated

⁸⁰ Khonumthung News (17 Jan 2025) PDA-Tedim officially announces planned offensive to capture Tedim

⁸¹ Narinjara (7 Jan 2025) AA Seizes Taung Sauk Camp Guarding Chinese Gas Pipeline Substation in Ann

⁸² Narinjara (2 Jan 2025) Junta airstrikes on Yoe Ta Yote Village, Ponnagyun, result in the deaths of 5 civilians, including 2 women and a boy, and injure 8 more; Narinjara (4 Jan 2025) Junta’s airstrike on Kan Htaung Gyi kill elderly woman, destroys school & hospital buildings; Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2025) Junta airstrikes kill 41, injure 50 in Rakhine State’s Ramree Township; RFA (9 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta bombs Rohingya Muslim village killing 41, rescuers say; Myanmar Now (13 Jan 2025) Junta airstrikes hit Rakhine State’s Kyauktaw Town, killing at least 10; Narinjara (12 Jan 2025) Junta’s airstrikes kill 9 civilians, injure 30 others in Kyauktaw; Narinjara (14 Jan 2025) Junta conducts 2 airstrikes on Taung Maw Oo village in Pauktaw, several buildings destroyed; Irrawaddy (20 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrike Kills 28 Detained Wives, Children of Regime Troops: AA

⁸³ Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2025) Junta airstrikes kill 41, injure 50 in Rakhine State’s Ramree Township; RFA (9 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta bombs Rohingya Muslim village killing 41, rescuers say

⁸⁴ Irrawaddy (20 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrike Kills 28 Detained Wives, Children of Regime Troops: AA

⁸⁵ Narinjara (20 Jan 2025) Junta Airstrikes on Temporary Detention Site for Prisoners of War, Their Families Result in 28 Deaths and 25 Injuries, Majority are Women, Children

⁸⁶ Myanmar Now (28 Jan 2025) Arakan Army intensifies border offensives in strategic push

⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (3 Jan 2025) Rakhine Rebels Attack Myanmar Junta Checkpoint on Bago Border

⁸⁸ Narinjara (19 Jan 2025) Exchange of shelling erupted between AA and junta forces near Wah Bo village of Sittwe; Narinjara (17 Jan 2025) Junta Artillery Shells Strike Sa Par Htar Village, Destroying Nine Homes by Fire

⁸⁹ Narinjara (20 Jan 2025) Enhanced Security Implemented at Sittwe Airport Following Clashes on Sittwe Outskirts

⁹⁰ Narinjara (29 Jan 2025) Exchange of Gunfire Between AA and Junta Troops Near Sittwe

⁹¹ RFA (31 Jan 2025) Over 1,000 civilians flee Sittwe amid tension between Myanmar junta and ethnic army

In leaked videos of the incident that went viral online, eight AA troops were seen **kicking, taunting, and cutting the throats** of the junta soldiers next to a **shallow grave**. The AA stated that all those involved in the killings had been punished according to AA laws, but did not specify how.⁹²

Kachin State

- On 2 Jan, Kachin Human Rights Watch (KHRW) reported that in 2024, junta shelling, airstrikes, and drone attacks in Hpakant, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mogaung, and Tanai townships **killed 142 civilians**, including infants and elders, and **injured 167 others**. The junta arbitrarily **arrested 219 civilians**.⁹³
- On 11 Jan, in **Tanai Township**, a junta airstrike on a KIA-controlled gold mining site killed at **least 15 civilians**, and injured 10 others.⁹⁴ On 20 Jan, junta shelling in Kyan Hkan village in **Waingmaw Township** killed a **Chinese national** working in a banana plantation and injured several others.⁹⁵

KIA's expands control in Mansi and Bhamo townships: On 6 Jan, a KIA spokesperson reported that the KIA and allied forces had **captured several junta bases and wards** in Bhamo town. The junta carried out ground and aerial attacks to prevent losing control of the town.⁹⁶ On 8 Jan, the KIA and its allies captured the junta's LIB 319 and 601, and Artillery Battalion (AB) 532 in Mansi Township, **taking full control of Mansi town**, near the China-Burma border.⁹⁷ During 24-25 Jan, the KIA and allied forces attacked junta troops stationed in Bhamo town, **captured an armored battalion** with four tanks, and arrested a junta captain.⁹⁸ In retaliation, the junta **carried out airstrikes and suicide drone attacks** on the KIA's headquarters in **Laiza town** and its former headquarters in **Laisin town**, destroying several buildings.⁹⁹ On 25 Jan, the KIA and allied forces **captured the junta's AB 366** in Bhamo town. On 26 Jan, they **seized Bhamo airport**. In retaliation, the junta continued to carry out airstrikes on the town.¹⁰⁰

Northern Shan State

Junta targets TNLA-controlled territory with airstrikes: During 21-22 Jan, the junta carried out two airstrikes on two administrative offices and a police station in TNLA-controlled Nawngkhio town, killed nine civilians, including two women, injured two others, and destroyed several houses.¹⁰¹ On 26 Jan, junta shelling destroyed around 30 houses in Ohn Ma Thee village.¹⁰²

On 13 Jan, the junta carried out an airstrike on a toll gate in **TNLA-controlled Kyaukme town**, followed by airstrikes on a hospital and police station (25 Jan), and near the city hall (27 Jan).¹⁰³ The airstrikes **killed three civilians** and injured at least 20 others. It was reported that on 28 Jan, the TNLA had **cut off all telecommunications** in the area to **prevent informants from alerting** the junta of large gatherings.¹⁰⁴

Southern Shan State

On 11 Jan, in **Hsihseng Township**, villagers reported that the junta **bombed Hpyi Kyut village**, killed a mother and son, and severely injured one other.¹⁰⁵

Junta-allied PNO abuses highlighted: On 9 Jan, in **Hsihseng Township**, the Karenni Revolution Union (KRU) seized the junta's and pro-junta Pa'O National Organisation's (PNO) camp in Shwe Ti Gu village and captured ten prisoners of war, including **two child soldiers**.¹⁰⁶

On 15 Jan, in **Hsihseng Township**, it was reported that the PNO had captured three resistance **Pa'O National Liberation Army (PNLA)** soldiers on 12 Jan and **killed them the following day**. The PNO

⁹² RFA (24 Jan 2025) Myanmar's Arakan Army confirms torture, execution of POWs in leaked viral video; Fortify Rights (24 Jan 2025) Myanmar: Arakan Army Admits to Executing Prisoners of War

⁹³ Kachin News Group (6 Jan 2025) ဗန်းမော် တိုက်ပွဲ စစ်ကောင်စီ အပြင်းအထန်ဖုံးကြား သံချပ်ကာတပ်နှင့် ဝန်တင်တပ်ရင်းကို KIA

သိမ်းပိုက်ကချင်မှာ တစ်နှစ်တာအတွင်း အရပ်သား သေဆုံး၊ ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာ ရရှိမှုအခြေအနေကို KHRW ထုတ်ပြန်

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (13 Jan 2025) Escalating Myanmar junta airstrikes kill dozens across Kachin, Rakhine, southern Shan states

⁹⁵ Kachin News Group (21 Jan 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီး ပေါက်ကွဲမှုကြောင့် ဝိုင်းမော်မြို့ငှက်ပျောခြံတစ်ခုမှာ အမျိုးသားတစ်ဦး သေဆုံး

⁹⁶ Myanmar Now (6 Jan 2025) ဗန်းမော်မြို့ပေါ်ရပ်ကွက်တချို့ကို KIA ထိန်းချုပ်

⁹⁷ Myanmar Now (8 Jan 2025) KIA captures southern Kachin State town near Chinese border

⁹⁸ Kachin News Group (24 Jan 2025) တစ်ကျော့ပြန်ဖြစ်နေတဲ့ ဗန်းမော်တိုက်ပွဲမှာ သံချပ်ကာ တပ်ရင်းတစ်ခုနဲ့ တင့်ကား ၄ စီး KIA သိမ်းပိုက်

⁹⁹ Kachin News Group (31 Jan 2025) လိုင်ဇာမြို့ကို စစ်တပ်က အသေခံဒရုန်း အသုံးပြု တိုက်ခိုက်လာ

¹⁰⁰ Kachin News Group (27 Jan 2025) ဗန်းမော် လေယာဉ်ကွင်း KIA ထိန်းချုပ်လိုက်ပြီးနောက် စကေ ၂၁ မှာ တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်

¹⁰¹ Myanmar Now (22 Jan 2025) Junta warplanes strike Ta'ang stronghold in northern Shan State

¹⁰² SHAN (27 Jan 2025) နောင်ချို အုမ္မတီးကျေးရွာ နေအိမ် အလုံး ၂၀ ကို စစ်ကောင်စီ မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီး

¹⁰³ SHAN (27 Jan 2025) ကျောက်မဲမြို့နယ် ယခုလအတွင်း တတိယအကြိမ် လေကြောင်းဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁰⁴ SHAN (29 Jan 2025) ကျောက်မဲမြို့ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုများကြောင့် ဖုန်း၊ အင်တာနက်လိုင်းများ ပြန်လည်ပိတ်ထားရ

¹⁰⁵ SHAN (15 Jan 2025) တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်ပွားခြင်းမရှိဘဲ ဆီဆိုင်မြို့နယ်ထဲ စစ်ကောင်စီ ဖုံးကြဲ

¹⁰⁶ SHAN (10 Jan 2025) ဆီဆိုင်နယ်စပ်တိုက်ပွဲတွင် PNO ဘက်မှ ကလေးစစ်သားနှစ်ဦး အပါအဝင် စစ်သုံးပန်း (၁၀)ဦးဖမ်းဆီးရမိ

denied the killing, despite acknowledging they had captured the soldiers. However, on 15 Jan, a PNO official backtracked and said the prisoners were not killed but died in battle. The PNLA stated that the **PNO had not acted in accordance with its responsibilities for prisoners of war under international law** and were fighting for the junta against their own Pa'O communities.¹⁰⁷

Karenni State

Karenni IDPs targeted yet again: On 1 Jan, in **Demoso Township**, the junta bombed an **IDP camp** west of the township and injured several IDPs.¹⁰⁸ On 15 Jan, the junta conducted another airstrike on an **IDP camp** in the township, killed at least **three IDPs**, and injured four others. There had been no fighting prior to the attack. The Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) spokesperson stated that the junta was continuing to **blatantly target IDP camps** and villages.¹⁰⁹

Loikaw villages left battered after junta retaliatory strikes: On 9 Jan, in Loikaw Township, the junta LIB 530 shelled Aing Sant village, **killed two girls**, and severely injured an infant and a woman. The attack was in retaliation for a resistance attack on a junta base in S. Shan State earlier that day.¹¹⁰ On 14 Jan, junta troops carried out airstrikes on **Pa Dar Ngay** and **Hpa Yar Ni** villages. Prior to the airstrikes, the junta shelled areas just outside of Loikaw and killed one IDP in retaliation for a resistance group rocket attack. The attacks occurred during a visit by the junta deputy Commander in Chief, Soe Win, to Loikaw town for Kayah State Day.¹¹¹

Karen State

- On 10 Jan, in Kawkareik Township, junta and resistance forces clashed on the Kawkareik-Kyondoe highway. Afterward, the **junta shot dead a local civilian**. Villagers reported that soon after, the junta's LIB 545 and 546, based in Kyondoe town, **shelled at least three nearby villages**.¹¹²
- On 22 Jan, in Kyainseikgyi Township, a **junta airstrike** on KNU-controlled **Kyaikdon town killed a woman** and damaged the Fire Department office. Residents reported that the junta targeted the building as KNLA troops had previously sheltered there. There was no fighting prior to the attack.¹¹³

Junta imposes "shoot on sight" curfew in Hpa-An: On 7 Jan, in Hpa-An Township, the junta announced a **shoot on sight curfew** and a **ban on gatherings of more than five people** between midnight and 4am on **Bogyoke Road**. The junta set up the curfew and checkpoints around Hpa-An to crack down on gambling rings and to prevent resistance forces from entering the town.¹¹⁴

Junta attacks across Karen State on Revolution Day: On 31 Jan, the junta marked Karen Revolution Day by carrying out **drone and airstrikes** in KNU-defined **Nyaunglebin, Thaton, and Hpa-an Districts**, including the KNU's Hpa-an District Headquarters. In an attack in KNU-defined **Hsaw Htee Township** (Nyaunglebin District), the **junta killed a man and injured two children**.¹¹⁵

Bago Region

KNU seizes strategic junta outpost: On 5 Jan, in Kyaukkyi Township, the KNU reported it **seized the junta's Kuu Tay Soe outpost**. The junta had reportedly occupied the outpost for **nearly 50 years**. Control over the outpost is vital as the township is home to an **important logistics route** for the junta.¹¹⁶

Junta bombs villagers during local bean harvest: During 27-28 Jan, in Nyaunglebin Township, junta drone attacks and airstrikes on Buddhist monasteries in two villages killed at least one woman, injured at least four civilians, and displaced hundreds of villagers. A PDF member reported that the junta attacked the villages during the local bean harvest, as locals would be more likely to be outside during this time. The airstrikes came just days after a 23 Jan PDF attack on a junta outpost in nearby Pu Zun Myaung

¹⁰⁷ SHAN (15 Jan 2025) PNLA စစ်သုံးပုန်း (၅)ဦးကို မသတ်ဖြတ်ကြောင်း PNO ငြင်းဆို

¹⁰⁸ SHAN (2 Jan 2025) ကရင်နီ စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ဆက်တိုက် ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုရှိ

¹⁰⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (16 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Bombs IDP Camp in Dee Mae Hso, Killing 3 Civilians

¹¹⁰ Myanmar Now (10 Jan 2025) Myanmar military's shelling injures civilians, kills two children near Shan-Karenni border

¹¹¹ Kantarawaddy Times (15 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Conducts Airstrikes in Two Areas of Karenni State

¹¹² Hurfom (17 Jan 2025) Junta's regiment wrongly kills villager and does not give body back

¹¹³ Than Lwin Times via BNI (23 Jan 2025) Airstrike Kills Woman in Kawkareik Township, Karen State; Hurfom (28 Jan 2025) Junta's air strike kills local woman in Kaw Ka Rate

¹¹⁴ DVB (10 Jan 2025) Regime orders shoot on sight curfew in Karen State capital

¹¹⁵ KIC (2 Jan 2025) ကရင်တော်လှန်ရေးနေ့တွင် ညောင်လေးပင်ခရိုင်အတွင်း လေယာဉ်နှင့် ဖုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်မှု ဒေသခံတစ်ဦး သေဆုံး၊

နှစ်ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

¹¹⁶ DVB (10 Jan 2025) Karen resistance forces capture key military outpost in Bago Region

village. On 30 Jan, the junta released a statement denying it had carried out airstrikes in Nyaunglebin and blamed resistance forces for the attacks.¹¹⁷

Tanintharyi Region

Infighting amongst anti-junta Karen groups in Tanintharyi: On 15 Jan, in Dawei Township, it was reported that the KNLA Brigade Four had clashed repeatedly with the breakaway Kawthoolei Army (KTLA). The groups fought five times in Dec 2024 along the Dawei-Htee Khee border road. A KNLA representative stated that they raided five KTLA bases in the eastern part of Dawei Township after the KTLA captured a KNLA officer. While the groups cooperated in Feb 2024 to seize junta bases near Myitta town, the groups began fighting each other over control of the nearby border road shortly after. A PDF officer stated that Karen infighting had significantly hampered anti-junta efforts, prevented use of the border road to transport supplies, and made it difficult for people to flee to Thailand.¹¹⁸

Junta shells, torches rubber plantations in response to resistance attacks: On 6 Jan, in Palaw Township, allied Karen National Defence Organization (KNDO) and PDF forces launched an artillery and drone attack on the junta's military security office in Set Taw Yar village on Union Highway No 8. The junta **shelled nearby areas** in response.¹¹⁹ On 7 Jan, in Palaw town, the junta **arrested seven locals including two CDM teachers and a woman**. They later released the teachers and the woman, but not the others.¹²⁰

On 9 Jan, joint resistance forces attacked two more junta bases in Set Taw Yar village. In retaliation, the junta **carried out airstrikes**, strafed the area with a **Yak-130 helicopter**, and destroyed a house in Pa Pyin village. Locals reported that after fighting, the junta **blocked the Palaw-Myeik stretch of the Union Highway No 8** and trapped civilians' vehicles.¹²¹ On 11 Jan, junta shelled and carried out drone attacks along the highway between Set Taw Yar and Ta Po villages, arrested at least two men and several women.¹²² The junta also **torched a rubber plantation and over 100 acres of rubber and betel trees**, and at least five houses near Ta Po village. As of 15 Jan, **the fire was still burning**.¹²³

Mon State

Junta raids, traps civilians near Ye town: On 8 Jan, in Ye Township, the junta's Artillery Battalion (AB) 318 shelled the area around Kyon Laung village and occupied the village, just off Union Highway No. 8. Locals reported the troops set up a checkpoint along the nearby, smaller Kyaung Ywar road, blocked civilian access, and beat some villagers who tried to pass. Over 500 locals fled their homes.¹²⁴

During 9-10 Jan, resistance troops clashed with a 200-strong column of junta Infantry Battalion (IB) 61 troops advancing along Kyaung Ywar road towards Kyon Laung village. The junta had reportedly **blockaded the Kyaung Ywar road** and prevented people from fleeing and aid from reaching IDPs.¹²⁵ The junta **shelled heavily and carried out targeted airstrikes** on four villages, including Kyon Laung, and forced more than 600 villagers from the four villages to flee.¹²⁶ On 15 Jan, it was reported that the junta had **killed and dumped the bodies of two civilians** and **arrested one monk** in Kyon Laung.¹²⁷

Ayeyarwady Region

Junta launches first ever airstrikes in Ayeyarwady as AA moves towards Patheingyi: On 8 Jan, in **Patheingyi Township**, the AA seized control of a police station in Ma Gyi Zin village. In response, the junta carried out airstrikes on five villages in the area and **destroyed several schools and monasteries**.¹²⁸ The AA had also reportedly taken control of **four other villages** during their advance.¹²⁹ A resident reported that villagers from six nearby villages had fled their homes. While the lack of local assistance made it difficult to estimate, locals expected the number of IDPs in and around Ma Gyi Zin village tract to be in the

¹¹⁷ Myanmar Now (31 Jan 2025) Elderly woman killed, hundreds flee as junta attacks monasteries in central Myanmar's Bago Region

¹¹⁸ Myanmar Now (15 Jan 2025) Fighting ongoing between Karen armed groups in Myanmar's south

¹¹⁹ Dawei Watch (7 Jan 2025) ပြည်ထောင်စုလမ်းပေါ်ရှိ ပုလော စက်တော်ရာရွာတွင် တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်

¹²⁰ HURFOM (13 Jan 2025) Seven residents arrested after attack on military security office in Pu Law

¹²¹ Dawei Watch (10 Jan 2025) ပုလောတိုက်ပွဲတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် လေကြောင်းဖြင့် ဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်

¹²² Dawei Watch (11 Jan 2025) တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်ခဲ့သည့် ပုလောတွင် ရော်ဘာခြံများနှင့် နေအိမ်များကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မီးရှို့

¹²³ HURFOM (15 Jan 2025) Junta burns down five houses and 50 acres of rubber plantation in Pu Law, Dawei Watch (16 Jan 2025) ပုလောတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မီးရှို့မှု ဥယျာဉ်ခြံက တစ်ရာကျော်မီးလောင်၊ ငါးရက်ဆက် မီးဆက်လောင်နေဆဲ

¹²⁴ HURFOM (9 Jan 2025) Military presence nearby Kyone Long village forces 500 villagers to flee home

¹²⁵ Independent Mon News Agency (13 Jan 2025) Intense Fighting Continues for Two Consecutive Days Near Kyone Laung Village, Ye Township

¹²⁶ Independent Mon News Agency (14 Jan 2025) Fighting Near Kyonlaung Village Displaces Over 600 Residents

¹²⁷ HURFOM (15 Jan 2025) Two villagers killed in Kyone Long (old) village and monk arrested

¹²⁸ RFA (10 Jan 2025) Rakhine rebels seize first police station in Myanmar's heartland

¹²⁹ Narinjara (11 Jan 2025) AA and Allied Forces Capture Ma Gyi Zin Village Near Shwe Thauung Yan, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyarwady Region

thousands.¹³⁰ By 10 Jan, fighting had stopped and the junta had reportedly reinforced their troops in coastal villages south of Ma Gyi Zin village. Citing a source close to the military, the Irrawaddy stated that many of the reinforcements were **new forced conscripts**.¹³¹

On 16 Jan, fighting reportedly restarted outside of Ma Gyi Zin village as the AA advanced. Citing locals, Narinjara reported that the AA was rapidly progressing through the township, both along the coast and inland, and had **seized Baw Mi village**.¹³² On 19 Jan, the junta forcibly evacuated all villages between **Baw Mi village** and **Shwe Thaug Yan town** and began sending trucks to transport supplies into the area.¹³³ They continued to shell the area daily and **cut off electricity** as they retreated.¹³⁴ In response to Baw Mi's seizure, it was reported that junta airstrikes and shelling had **almost completely destroyed all 400 houses in the village**.¹³⁵ During 21-26 Jan, the AA also **seized two more bases** along the Arakan-Ayeyarwady border.¹³⁶ Normally a frequent tourist destination for Yangonites, hotels and beaches along the Ayeyarwady coast had shut down in anticipation of clashes spreading further down the coast.¹³⁷

Mandalay Region

- On 8 Jan, in **Mogoke Township**, a junta Y-12 utility aircraft dropped over 35 bombs on a quarry and a monastery. The exact casualties were unknown.¹³⁸
- On 14 Jan, in **Ngazun Township**, 170 junta troops raided Let Pa Kyin (South) village, fired artillery, killed four civilians, including a pregnant woman, and torched about 400 of the village's 600 houses. The troops clashed with resistance forces, who retreated after junta soldiers received air support.¹³⁹

Junta launch paramotor strikes in Taungtha: On 5 Jan, in **Taungtha Township**, the junta carried out a paramotor attack in Shwe Si Gyi village, killed a man, a child, and two cows, and destroyed buildings. A resident said paramotor attacks in Mandalay came from Shante Air Base in **Meiktila Township**.¹⁴⁰

Yangon Region

On 14 Jan, in **Mingaladon Township**, an urban guerilla group attacked the Htauk Kyant police station and injured two junta policemen.¹⁴¹ On 30 Jan, in **North Okkalapa Township**, an urban guerilla group set off bombs at a junta administration office.¹⁴²

Rohingya

- During 5-25 Jan, the Guardian reported that **Bangladesh** authorities had **detained** at least **124 Rohingya** who had fled across the Burmese border into Bangladesh. Bangladesh police confirmed that at least 94 of those arrested either had already been or would be deported back to Burma.¹⁴³
- During 26 Jan, the US exempted **USAID's nutrition assistance program** for Rohingya in Bangladesh from the Trump administration's 90-day long freeze for all USAID and Department of State-funded work. On 28 Jan, the Secretary of State issued a global waiver for all "core lifesaving medicine, medical services, food, shelter, and subsistence assistance", which likely **covered a number of other US-funded programs run in the camps**.¹⁴⁴

Malaysia detains and expels boatloads of Rohingya, more arrive in neighboring countries

In January, **six separate boats carrying around 884 Rohingya** fleeing camps in Bangladesh, attempted to land in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.¹⁴⁵ Of those fleeing, Malaysian authorities expelled about **300 back to sea and detained 196 others**.¹⁴⁶

¹³⁰ Narinjara (14 Jan 2025) Junta Intensifies Military Readiness in Shwe Thaug Yan, Ayeyarwady Region

¹³¹ Irrawaddy (15 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta Frantically Bolsters Defenses Near Ayeyarwady Beach Town

¹³² Narinjara (19 Jan 2025) Intense Combat Erupts Between AA and Junta Troops in Baw Mi Village, Pathein Township, as Junta Launches Airstrikes

¹³³ Narinjara (20 Jan 2025) Junta Commands Evacuation of Villages Between Baw Mi and Shwe Thaug Yan Town Amid Ongoing Combat

¹³⁴ Irrawaddy (21 Jan 2025) AA Reports Rapid Ayeyarwady Region Advances as Myanmar Junta Retreats

¹³⁵ Myanmar Now (23 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta airstrikes wipe out village in Ayeyarwady Region

¹³⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Jan 2025) AA Reports Seizure of Myanmar Junta Bases on Rakhine State Border

¹³⁷ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2025) Popular Beach Resort Deserted as Fighting Spills Over Into Ayeyarwady

¹³⁸ DVB (8 Jan 2025) မိုးကုတ်မြို့ကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က လေယာဉ်ဖြင့်ထပ်မံ ဖုံးကြ

¹³⁹ DVB (14 Jan 2025) ငါးစွန်တွင် စစ်တပ်က ကိုယ်ဝန်ဆောင်အချိုးသမီး အပါအဝင် ၄ ဦးကို သတ်ဖြတ်ပြီး ရှာမီးရှို့

¹⁴⁰ Myanmar Now (7 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta using paramotors to bomb villages in Mandalay, Sagaing regions

¹⁴¹ DVB (15 Jan 2025) ထောက်ကြံ့ရဲစခန်း မိုင်းခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁴² DVB (31 Jan 2025) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာတွင် ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးနှင့်အဖွဲ့ လက်ပစ်ဗုံးဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁴³ The Guardian (22 Jan 2025) 'We've lost all hope': Rohingya trapped as Bangladesh closes Myanmar border

¹⁴⁴ Dhaka Tribune (26 Jan 2025) US aid for Rohingyas in Bangladesh to continue

¹⁴⁵ Total number of Rohingya fleeing via boat in Feb calculated using cases listed below

¹⁴⁶ Reuters (3 Jan 2025) Malaysia doubles patrols to find Myanmar migrant boats after nearly 200 detained; Mizzima (4 Jan 2025) Malaysia detains 196 Rohingya migrants from Myanmar

On 3 Jan, in Langkawi (Malaysia), Malaysian police detained 196 Rohingya, including **57 women** and **71 children**, after their boat ran aground on the island. In response to the arrests, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) stated that it was increasing its number of patrols. MMEA said it was also aware of two other boats carrying Rohingya but didn't know their exact location.¹⁴⁷ On 5 Jan, Malaysian authorities intercepted the two boats off the coast of Langkawi and **expelled them from its waters**. The boats were carrying nearly **300 Rohingya**. The MMEA stated they gave food and water to the passengers before expelling them. They stated the agency was working closely with Thai authorities to continue tracking incoming boats.¹⁴⁸

On 5 Jan, in East Aceh (Indonesia), two boats holding **264 Rohingya**, including **147 women**, came ashore near the town of West Peureulak. Indonesian officials reported that one of the two boats had sunk off shore, but that all of the passengers had managed to come ashore at low tide. Indonesian officials said they would coordinate with UNHCR to keep the refugees safe.¹⁴⁹ On 21 Jan, in Phuket Province (Thailand), Thai police took in a group of **49 Rohingya** found along a beach. There were **initially 75 passengers** upon departure from Bangladesh. Thai authorities stated they were being held in a temporary shelter and would be sent to a **"third country"**.¹⁵⁰

On 29 Jan, in East Aceh Regency (Indonesia), a boat with **75 Rohingya**, including 32 women and four toddlers, landed in Peureulak town. Initially, a group of locals **prevented the boat from coming to shore**, but eventually allowed the boat to land. Despite this, local officials **prevented the Rohingya** from disembarking, stating they would wait until UNHCR and International Organization on Migration (IOM) staff arrived. Other **locals gave food to the boat passengers** while they waited onboard. Indonesian officials claimed that smugglers had deliberately **damaged the boat's engine** to prevent them from forcing it back to sea. Rohingya on the boat said it left Cox's Bazar with Malaysia as its destination.¹⁵¹

Sri Lankans protest gov't refolement of newly arrived Rohingya

On 17 Jan, in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province, Global Voices reported that officials had **detained** and were **planning to deport** a boat of **102 Rohingya refugees** that had been brought to shore on 20 Dec. Villagers reportedly first saw the boat on 19 Dec. Interviews carried out by local journalists uncovered that **six passengers had died** on the journey to Sri Lanka. The Navy took the passengers to shore on 20 Dec 2024 and provided them with shelter for three days, before detaining them at an Air Force camp. At the camp, the Air Force repeatedly denied CSOs, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and locals visitation rights. On 3 Jan, the Sri Lankan Minister of Public Security claimed that the Rohingya were victims of human trafficking and were not refugees. They said that they had **been in contact with the Burmese junta about forcibly returning the Rohingya**.¹⁵²

During 9-10 Jan, **locals held protests** against the **deportation of the detained Rohingya** and called for them to be moved to a more suitable location.¹⁵³ On 31 Jan, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka issued a report calling on Sri Lankan officials to ensure access to detention facilities for UNHCR officials, journalists, and aid for Rohingya. They also called for refugees to be "appropriately vetted" and, if appropriate, **"formally registered as refugees"** by Sri Lanka.¹⁵⁴

AA abuses & mistreatment leave Rohingya hesitant to return

On 3 Jan, RFA reported that Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar stated they were **unsure if the AA would allow them to return** to their homes following the AA's near-total seizure of Arakan State. Regardless AA's level of commitment to protect Rohingya, ongoing fighting and the risk of junta airstrikes meant that many places remained unsafe. Rohingya refugees stressed that their demands remained the same: to be able to return to their homes with **dignity and citizenship rights**. While the interim Bangladesh government expressed support for the safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingya, it has not yet officially engaged with the AA. Given that the AA controls most areas of Rohingya origin, repatriation without

¹⁴⁷ Reuters (3 Jan 2025) Malaysia doubles patrols to find Myanmar migrant boats after nearly 200 detained; Mizzima (4 Jan 2025) Malaysia detains 196 Rohingya migrants from Myanmar

¹⁴⁸ Reuters (5 Jan 2025) Malaysia turns back boats carrying 300 Myanmar migrants; AFP via Myanmar Now (6 Jan 2025) Malaysia expels two boats ferrying about 300 Rohingya from Myanmar

¹⁴⁹ AFP via Mizzima (7 Jan 2025) More than 260 Rohingya refugees arrive in Indonesia; AP (6 Jan 2025) Two boats with more than 260 Rohingya refugees arrives in Indonesia's coast

¹⁵⁰ AFP via Mizzima (22 Jan 2025) Nearly 50 Rohingya found on popular Thai island: police

¹⁵¹ AFP via Frontier Myanmar (30 Jan 2025) Rohingya refugees blocked from landing on Indonesia beach; Associated Press (30 Jan 2025) Over 100 Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar arrive in Indonesia's Aceh; Reuters (30 Jan 2025) Over 70 Rohingya land in Indonesia's Aceh

¹⁵² Global Voices (17 Jan 2025) Civil war survivors in Sri Lanka come to the rescue of Rohingya asylum seekers

¹⁵³ FT (10 Jan 2025) Mullaitivu protest calls on Govt. to halt Rohingya deportation plans

¹⁵⁴ HRCSL (31 Jan 2025) Report on the Status of Rohingya Asylum Seekers Detained in Mullaitivu, and Related

AA cooperation would be unlikely to succeed.¹⁵⁵ However, on 19 Jan, journalist Shafiur Rahman pointed out that the AA's **historical persecution of Rohingya**, combined with its **failure include them in government initiatives**, made it unlikely that they would engage as good-faith partners in repatriation efforts. Rahman urged Bangladesh to take steps to stop the repetition of the **ongoing cycles of instability** by improving conditions in camps and working to eliminate Rohingya armed groups.¹⁵⁶

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

Junta targets women for forced conscription drive

On 28 Jan, it was reported that the junta had **begun conscripting women** for active military service. Since mid-January, in **Yangon Region**, the junta had begun compiling lists of eligible women, including students, for conscription. Under the Feb 2024 conscription "law", married women were exempt.¹⁵⁷ However, a Kayan Township resident reported that **married women** without children were still included and would be forced to serve. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) reported that since mid-2024, women from **Tanintharyi Region** and **Karen State** had already been conscripted.¹⁵⁸ On 30 Jan, in Taunggyi Township (**S. Shan State**), it was reported that the junta began registering women for conscription for the first time in January. Residents reported that junta troops dressed in civilian clothing had been **abducting youth** in the town for conscription.¹⁵⁹ In **Yangon** and **Bago** regions, and **Mon State**, residents reported that the junta had collected names of women **above the official conscription age** of 27 for women. One family with a daughter studying in Thailand, were reportedly told to provide another family member for conscription in her place.¹⁶⁰ The junta's turn to forcibly conscripting women indicates that they are facing incredibly depleted troop numbers and are growing increasingly desperate.¹⁶¹

Junta troops target displaced women with rape

On 7 Jan, in **Tanintharyi Township** (Tanintharyi Region), it was reported that during 21-24 Dec 2024, junta soldiers **raped at least three young women** from Thein Kun village. Since 17 Dec 2024, the junta had attacked at least four villages along the Tanintharyi-Maw Taung road and forced many to flee. Villagers were worried that those fleeing would be separated from their families and be at risk of rape.¹⁶²

MNDAA hands life sentence to child rapist

On 21 Jan, in Panghseng Township (N. Shan State), the MNDAA's Panghseng Township Justice department sentenced an **MNDAA soldier to life imprisonment** and fined him CNY 30,000 (USD 4,280) for the 1 Dec 2024 **rape of a three-year-old child**. As of 29 Jan, relatives reported that the child remained hospitalized due to her severe injuries.¹⁶³ Locals reported that in early January, the MNDAA had offered to settle the case with money, which the family rejected. SHAN reported that the MNDAA did not publicly release the verdict, instead only reading it out in front of the two relevant parties.¹⁶⁴

Women take leading roles in Mandalay PDF training: On 20 Jan, Myanmar Now reported that eight **Mandalay PDF** (MDY-PDF) instructors for new recruits were women. These **female instructors** played a crucial role in **shifting misogynistic attitudes** within the forces. One instructor reported that initially, recruits were disrespectful towards women, but over time, they realized that "**female instructors can do the same things as men**". Over the past year, the MDY-PDF has captured several junta positions in Mandalay.¹⁶⁵

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

Education

On 26 Jan, in Myingyan Township (Mandalay Region), a **junta carried out an airstrike** on and attacked a **school** in Sin Gut village from a **Mi-35 helicopter**, **killed 17 civilians**, and injured others.¹⁶⁶

¹⁵⁵ RFA (3 Jan 2025) Rohingyas' return to Myanmar uncertain, despite rebel control of Bangladesh border; Myanmar Now (16 Jan 2025) What does the Arakan Army's victory in Rakhine State mean for the Rohingya?

¹⁵⁶ DVB (19 Jan 2025) How Bangladesh is failing the Rohingya

¹⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (12 Feb 2024) Six Key Points About Myanmar's Newly Enforced Conscription Law

¹⁵⁸ RFA (28 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta begins recruiting women for active military service

¹⁵⁹ SHAN (30 Jan 2025) Women Registered for Conscription in Taunggyi

¹⁶⁰ Mizzima (28 Jan 2025) Concerns grow as Myanmar junta expands data collection on women for conscription

¹⁶¹ RFA (28 Jan 2025) Myanmar junta begins recruiting women for active military service

¹⁶² HURFOM (7 Jan 2025) Junta's soldiers rape local women in Tenasserim

¹⁶³ See our December 2024 CoupWatch briefer <https://bit.ly/CWBDec24>

¹⁶⁴ SHAN (29 Jan 2025) ပန်ဆိုင်ခြံမြို့သက်ငယ်မုဒိမ်းကျူးလွန်သည့် MNDAA အရာရှိ ထောင်ဒဏ်တစ်သက်တစ်ကျွန် စီရင်ချက်ချ

¹⁶⁵ Myanmar Now (20 Jan 2025) The young women putting PDF recruits through their paces

¹⁶⁶ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2025) 20 Killed in Myanmar Junta Airstrikes on Hospital and Village

3.4 million children out of education system

On 27 Jan, Human Rights Myanmar (HRM) submitted a report to the UN, highlighting the **junta's militarization of the education system**. The report stated that the junta had used schools as a training ground for soldiers, in violation of both the students' rights and the junta's obligations under international law. The junta had enforced compulsory military training, including combat drills in certain schools; had conscripted students; and had turned schools from places of safety to places of violence. The report stated that the **junta largely attributed public opposition to the coup to the country's lack of education**. However, since the failed coup, **nearly 3.4 million children have gone missing from the education system, and university enrollment has dropped by 91%**. These demonstrate the **total collapse of the junta's education system**. During this time, the **junta has jailed over 500 teachers and killed at least 37**. They **bombed over 150 schools** and used at least 300 for military purposes, including as torture centers. The junta discharged at least 31% of "basic teachers" and 69% of "higher level teachers". HRM urged the UN to support cross-border programs for displaced students and teachers, and for international aid for the NUG and community organizations to provide alternative education services.¹⁶⁷

Bago headmaster sexually assaults 48 boys

On 23 Jan, in Bago Township (Bago Region), a 29-year-old acting school principal at a local middle school admitted to **sexually assaulting 17 students**. He was detained at the local police station. A village official reported that the following day, after further questioning, **another 31 students** came forward testifying that they had **also been sexually assaulted**. This brought the **total number of students to 48**. Locals also reported that the students were **boys aged between seven and 14**. A CDM teacher reported that the acting principal's actions "were **a result of the junta's education department** failing to properly assess the morals of recruits and carelessly making appointments".¹⁶⁸

Health

Junta airstrike on TNLA hospital kills patient and health workers

- On 25 Jan, in Kyaukme Township (N. Shan State), a **junta airstrike** on a TNLA-controlled hospital **killed a patient, two female health workers, and injured at least 20 other patients**. It was reported the airstrike destroyed almost all of the hospital's buildings, suggesting it was a targeted attack.¹⁶⁹
- On 12 Jan, in Matupi and Paletwa townships (Chin State), it was reported that **since late Dec 2024, a diarrhea outbreak had spread in over 30 villages**. In Paletwa Township, locals struggled to access medical care and turned to the CDF-run Kaisi clinic, located on the Matupi-Paletwa border. However, despite having enough medical personnel, the facility lacked money and medical supplies to provide sufficient care for patients. A local CDF commander reported that the clinic was currently treating over 30 diarrhea patients. During **1-4 Jan, the outbreak killed three infants**.¹⁷⁰
- On 28 Jan, in Thandwe Township (Arakan State), it was reported that a **skin disease** had infected around 1,000 IDPs since Dec 2024, and **desperately needed medical aid and medicine**.¹⁷¹

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

Sino-Singaporean firm's crude oil feeds junta's aviation fuel refinement

On 29 Jan, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that since the attempted coup, Singapore-listed **Interra Resources Ltd.** had supplied the junta with over **two million barrels of crude oil**, worth over **USD 150 million**. Interra Resources holds 60% shares in the **Goldpetrol Joint Operating Company Inc.**, which is one of the few companies still extracting oil in Burma. China's state-owned arms supplier **NORINCO**, through its subsidiary **North Petroleum International**, owns the remaining 40%.¹⁷²

The **Mann refinery** in Magway Region refines Goldpetrol's extracted oil into aviation fuel for junta aircraft, trucks, and tanks. Analysis has confirmed the Mann refinery as the junta's key domestic producer of aviation fuel. During 2021-2022, the junta produced **two million gallons of aviation fuel**. Aviation fuel production in the first quarter of FY2022 was **174% more than in the same quarter a year prior**.¹⁷³

The junta has directly paid Goldpetrol through the **Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB)** which is sanctioned by the US, Australia, and Canada. In response to sanctions, the junta has shifted transactions

¹⁶⁷ Human Rights Myanmar (Jan 2025) Myanmar's militarisation of education; Mizzima (27 Jan 2025) Exposing atrocities against children and education in Myanmar

¹⁶⁸ Mizzima (26 Jan 2025) Investigation underway after acting principal arrested for sexual abuse of 48 students in Myanmar's Bago

¹⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2025) 20 Killed in Myanmar Junta Airstrikes on Hospital and Village

¹⁷⁰ Mizzima (12 Jan 2025) Diarrhea outbreak claims lives in Myanmar's Chin State, residents urgently seek medical aid

¹⁷¹ Narinjara via BNI (28 Jan 2025) Nearly 1,000 Displaced Individuals in Thandwe Experiencing Skin Disorders

¹⁷² Justice for Myanmar (29 Jan 2025) The Singapore-listed company fuelling war crimes in Myanmar

¹⁷³ Justice for Myanmar (29 Jan 2025) The Singapore-listed company fuelling war crimes in Myanmar

to **Myanma Economic Bank (MEB)**, which remains unsanctioned. As international sanctions tightened to block aviation fuel, the junta's reliance on Goldpetrol for domestic aviation fuel has allowed the junta to continue launching indiscriminate airstrikes against civilians.¹⁷⁴

Interra Resources has had politically connected shareholders, including a **former Indonesian minister**. In 2023, a Singaporean lawyer became its top shareholder, with a 27% stake. Despite clear evidence that its oil kills civilians, Interra Resources **continues its operations**, citing contractual obligations.¹⁷⁵

JfM called for coordinated sanctions on the supply chain of domestic aviation fuel, including the junta-controlled Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), junta-controlled banks MFTB and MEB. They also urged the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) to take regulatory action to cut off the junta's financial and fuel lifelines.¹⁷⁶

Junta & Russia set eyes on wind farms & Dawei's notorious SEZ

On 14 Jan, Executives of the Russian state-run company **Rosatom**, and junta crony-run **Zeya & Associates Co. Ltd**, met with the junta's Mandalay Chief Minister U Myo Aung, and discussed plans for a 200 MW wind farm near **Mount Popa**. Myo Aung stated that Rosatom was involved in **two of seven other MOUs** signed by the junta Electricity Ministry for the development of wind farms across the country. These include a 56 MW farm in **Mindon Township** (Magway Region) and a 116 MW farm in **Minhla Township** (Magway Region). In Jan, the junta admitted they could currently only generate, on average, half of the 4,400 MW needed to meet daily electricity demand across Burma.¹⁷⁷

On 21 Jan, Russia's ambassador to Burma Iskander Azizov, met with the junta's Tanintharyi Region Chief Minister Myat Ko, and the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Management Committee Chair in Dawei. They discussed the **Dawei SEZ** and the potential for **tourism investment** in the region. In Mar 2024, coup monger Min Aung Hlaing had stated the junta would seek help from Russia to restart work on the Dawei SEZ deep-sea port.¹⁷⁸ The project stalled when the Thai firm managing the project's development pulled out after Feb 2021.¹⁷⁹ In May 2024, the Dawei SEZ Committee chair stated that the junta had begun talks with Russia to **restart the project**. A local businessman stated they didn't expect the latest talks to lead anywhere, as even prior to the coup, the Dawei SEZ had faced many difficulties.¹⁸⁰

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

ASEAN claims peace as priority - not junta sham election

During 18-19 Jan, **ASEAN foreign ministers** gathered in Langkawi (Malaysia) for the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat. This was Malaysia's first meeting as Chair of ASEAN. Junta foreign ministry representative Aung Kyaw Moe attended the meeting.¹⁸¹ The Malaysian Foreign Minister stated at a post-meeting press conference they had told the junta representative that "our priority is to stop the violence" and that the **junta's elections were not a priority**.¹⁸² Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Nikordej Balankura, said that several members mentioned that the Five Point Consensus (5PC) has "not yield[ed] satisfactory results" and that it was "**time to revise**" the plan. Nikordej stated it would be more effective to have "open dialogue with all parties concerned in Myanmar".¹⁸³ On the 18 Jan, Malaysia announced former diplomat **Othman Hashim** as the new **ASEAN Special Envoy to Burma** for 2025.¹⁸⁴

On 22 Jan, in Switzerland at the World Economic Forum, Malaysian Prime Minister and ASEAN Chair Anwar Ibrahim said he was "cautiously optimistic" about ASEAN's approach to the "atrocious" situation in Burma. He said ASEAN had agreed for different countries, such as Thailand, to engage with the junta on different levels. He added that ASEAN would not "impose" as long as Burma showed "some sort of a participatory democracy" like in neighboring autocratic states of "Singapore, Vietnam, or Laos".¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁴ Justice for Myanmar (29 Jan 2025) The Singapore-listed company fuelling war crimes in Myanmar

¹⁷⁵ Justice for Myanmar (29 Jan 2025) The Singapore-listed company fuelling war crimes in Myanmar

¹⁷⁶ Justice for Myanmar (29 Jan 2025) The Singapore-listed company fuelling war crimes in Myanmar

¹⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (17 Jan 2025) Russian-Backed Wind-Power Project Takes Shape in Mandalay

¹⁷⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2025) Russia Reaffirms Interest in Troubled Port Project in Southern Myanmar

¹⁷⁹ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2025) Russia Reaffirms Interest in Troubled Port Project in Southern Myanmar

¹⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (23 Jan 2025) Russian ambassador visits Myanmar's south to discuss Dawei SEZ

¹⁸¹ Irrawaddy (20 Jan 2025) ASEAN Tells Myanmar to Prioritize Ceasefire Over Elections

¹⁸² Reuters (19 Jan 2025) ASEAN tells Myanmar junta peace, not election, is priority

¹⁸³ Free Malaysia Today (22 Jan 2025) Key takeaways from Asean foreign ministers' retreat

¹⁸⁴ Reuters (19 Jan 2025) Malaysia names ex-diplomat Othman Hashim ASEAN special envoy on Myanmar crisis

¹⁸⁵ Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia (22 Jan 2025) World Economic Forum 2025: Asean, Even Stronger Together (Asean Plenary) By Yab Prime Minister of Malaysia to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, Switzerland

Trump aid freeze leads to death as Thai-Burma border camp hospitals must discharge patients

On 26 Jan, the **US government** announced a **90-day suspension on most foreign aid** channeled through USAID and the State Department, to assess their compatibility with President Trump's "America First" policy, effective 27 Jan.¹⁸⁶

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), which is the primary healthcare provider for refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, reportedly receives about half of its funding from USAID.¹⁸⁷ On 27 Jan, authorities from Mae La camp, the border's largest refugee camp, announced that **all IRC clinics would be immediately suspended** the following day for an undetermined period. Mae La camp houses over 34,000 people. A health worker reported that during 27-28 Jan, the camp discharged its patients and stopped people, including pregnant women and those dependent on oxygen tanks, from using their equipment and medicine.¹⁸⁸ On 28 Jan, **a man died after staff discharged him from a clinic** in Umpiem Mai refugee camp **because he was unable to access oxygen tanks**.¹⁸⁹

On 31 Jan, Irrawaddy reported that all **seven refugee camps** along the border had closed their medical clinics. The camps shelter over **80,000 refugees** and include the Thai Ban Don Yang camp (Kanchanaburi Province), Mae La, Umpiem Mai and Nu Po camps (Tak Province), Tham Hin camp (Ratchaburi Province); and two Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son Province. The director of the Karenni Human Rights Group said "medicine and equipment were left behind when the clinics closed, but we can't use them", as the US freeze banned the use of already funded equipment.¹⁹⁰ The Karen Refugee Committee said the IRC was also responsible for waste collection in the camps, but had also suspended those operations.¹⁹¹

Many NGOs were also reportedly forced to **lay off staff and close facilities** due to the suspension. Many smaller organizations were uncertain about their future after the 90-day pause. Although the Department of State announced a waiver for "life-saving humanitarian assistance" on 29 Jan, it is unclear if it has been applied to the camps.¹⁹² Given the current state of American leadership, it also remained **unclear if funding would resume** after 90 days or if the suspension would be extended beyond this period.¹⁹³

Additionally, on 29 Jan, the US President **terminated** the USD 45 million **Development and Inclusive Scholarship Program**, designed to allow young people to continue their studies in Southeast Asia. This cut funding to over 400 students from Burma attending or preparing to study at Asian universities. Formerly named the 'Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Program', observers speculated it had been cut primarily because of the similarity to Trump's much-hated 'Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion' (DEI).¹⁹⁴

Thailand enables growing cross-border conscript market for junta

On 27 Jan, citing interviews with three survivors of junta forced conscription, the Irrawaddy reported that the **junta collaborated with Thai authorities** to use the Thai Ranong immigration center as a **"recruitment hub"** for forced conscripts. One interviewee stated that they had personally experienced a junta soldier visiting the detention center in order to hand-pick him and several other detainees for deportation and conscription.¹⁹⁵

The Ranong Immigration Facebook page stated that during Jun-Dec 2024, Thai officials **deported at least 1,556 Burmese nationals** to Kawthoung, a significant increase compared to around 890 during Apr 2023 - Mar 2024. Since Jun 2024, Thai authorities had deported Burmese nationals **two to three times per month**. Those deported also included Burmese who had valid, legal documentation to live and work in Thailand. Since Jul 2024, the Irrawaddy reported the junta had forcibly conscripted **at least 300 men** from the Ranong detention center, although the actual number was likely higher.¹⁹⁶

According to the interviewees, the junta sent all conscription age, able-bodied men deported from Thailand via Kawthoung to their **IB 262 base**. The men said that it used to be possible to pay bribes for their release, but as the junta has become increasingly desperate for recruits, this was no longer possible. An analyst stated Thai officials should immediately end the deportation of Burmese nationals to

¹⁸⁶ US Government (26 Jan 2025) Implementing the President's Executive Order on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid

¹⁸⁷ Karen News (30 Jan 2025) Trump Order Suspends Healthcare in Refugee Camps

¹⁸⁸ Irrawaddy (29 Jan 2025) US Aid Freeze Triggers Healthcare Crisis on Myanmar-Thai Border

¹⁸⁹ Karen News (30 Jan 2025) Trump Order Suspends Healthcare in Refugee Camps

¹⁹⁰ US Department of State (29 Jan 2025) Refugee Patient Dies on Myanmar-Thai Border After Trump Blocks Aid

¹⁹¹ Karen News (30 Jan 2025) Trump Order Suspends Healthcare in Refugee Camps

¹⁹² US Department of State (30 Jan 2025) Emergency Humanitarian Waiver to Foreign Assistance Pause

¹⁹³ Frontier Myanmar (31 Jan 2025) 'America first' in action: Trump's aid freeze erodes an already anemic response to Myanmar crisis

¹⁹⁴ VOA (31 Jan 2025) Trump's funding block hits program for Burmese students, scholars

¹⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2025) Thai Immigration Officials Feed Myanmar Deportees Into Junta's War Machine

¹⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2025) Thai Immigration Officials Feed Myanmar Deportees Into Junta's War Machine

Kawthoung. The NUCC pressed Thailand to develop policies that allowed temporary residence for undocumented Burmese to stay in Thailand on humanitarian grounds.¹⁹⁷

US slaps sanctions on junta's 'Mytel'

On 6 Jan, the **US Bureau of Industry and Security** announced new sanctions on the junta's **Telecom Internal Myanmar Co. Ltd (a.k.a Mytel)** for actions that oppose US national security and interests.¹⁹⁸ The statement said that Mytel enabled the junta's war crimes by providing "surveillance services and financial support" to the junta. Mytel is jointly owned by the junta Star High Co., the **Vietnamese Ministry of National Defence**-owned company, Viettel, and the local consortium Myanmar National Telecom Holding Public Co. Ltd. Burma Campaign UK stated the sanctions were needed but long overdue and urged the UK and EU to also sanction the company.¹⁹⁹

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¹⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2025) Thai Immigration Officials Feed Myanmar Deportees Into Junta's War Machine

¹⁹⁸ Myanmar Now (10 Jan 2025) Myanmar's junta-owned telecoms company Mytel added to US sanctions list

¹⁹⁹ DVB (11 Jan 2025) Burma Campaign UK welcomes US sanctions on Myanmar's Mytel