

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022: **With no success in sight, junta digs in with dirty tactics**

- The illegitimate regime continued to escalate violence in its desperate bid to gain control of the country in the 14th month of its attempted coup. During 1–25 Mar, there were at least 670 armed clashes and attacks on civilians (avg. 26.8 per day), as conflict continued to escalate. In the prior twelve months, there had been an average of 25.43 incidents per day.
- Junta airstrikes, artillery strikes, and raids displaced tens of thousands more people. UNHCR said that 591,600 people in Burma had been displaced since 1 Feb 2021, likely a significant underestimate based on local information. These people struggled to survive.
- Junta forces continued to commit grievous atrocity crimes. News emerged in March that junta troops had torched over 6,000 homes and destroyed at least 100 Christian and Buddhist religious buildings. They targeted civilian areas and IDPs, killed civilian women and children, and brutally tortured detainees.
- On 27 Mar, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing vowed to “annihilate the opposition” as junta forces continued to target perceived opponents and their relatives. As of 31 Mar, the junta had arrested at least 13,040 civilians, including politicians, activists, and journalists, and killed at least 2,053 civilians.
- The junta got dirtier in its tactics. It funded paramilitary groups, enacted “legislation” allowing it to conscript police into its war, used social media channels to discredit and hunt down its opposition, and demanded that hospitals turn over patient records to undermine treatment of opponents.
- The regime stripped 10 NUG members of their citizenship and continued to sentence high-profile opponents to prison on bogus charges. As of 18 March, it had arrested 832 NLD members, of whom 16 had died in custody.
- Cities across Burma struggled with power blackouts as electricity production fell to a quarter of the national demand. Outages disrupted water distribution and business operations, while rising fuel prices made the use of generators unsustainable.
- Norwegian company Telenor completed the sale of Telenor Myanmar to M1 Group and a crony company. The deal included the transfer of powerful surveillance technology to the new buyers, raising fears that the junta will use it to further crack down on dissent.
- ASEAN’s Special Envoy to Myanmar, the Cambodian Foreign Minister, visited Burma and met with junta leaders, but not EAOs, the NUG, or other civilian representatives.

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Junta continues its political vendetta

Regime suspends preparations for sham election, pushes fraud narrative

On 10 Mar, it was reported that a junta-controlled court had convicted all the civilian members of the Pyapon Township (Ayeyarwady Region) Election Commission of fraud, and fined each MMK 10,000. A member of the commission said that the regime had told them to confess to avoid arrest and a heavy penalty, and had even paid for the fine. The daughter of a former member said that a military appointee threatened her father, saying that the military would harm him and his family if he refused to confess. After the 2020 election, the commission had initially denied the military's fraud allegations to the press.¹

In the third week of March, the junta-controlled Union Election Commission (UEC) reportedly told its sub-commissions to suspend all preparations for the upcoming 2023 election. An official from the Mon State Election Commission said that the junta invoked the current political situation to justify the move, but gave no specific reason.² The Rakhine State election sub-commission reportedly started checking voter lists against the population on the ground on 10 Mar.³

Junta strips NUG members of citizenship, convicts high-profile opponents

On 8 Mar, a junta-controlled court in Mandalay's Obo Prison charged ousted Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung with five counts of corruption.⁴ Also on 8 Mar, a regime court in Insein Prison charged Moe San Suu Kyi, a member of the NLD central committee for youth affairs and the daughter of ousted Rakhine State Chief Minister Nyi Pu, under Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Associations Act. She faces up to three years in prison and a fine under the new charge. Moe San Suu Kyi, who has been in junta custody since 8 May 2021, also faces a charge of incitement.⁵

On 12 Mar, it was reported that the junta had stripped 10 NUG members and six prominent political activists of their citizenship. It invoked 1982 Citizenship Law Section 16, which states that a citizen who leaves Burma permanently or who acquires another citizenship ceases to be a citizen. A veteran high court lawyer stated that the move was not in line with the law, adding that it was an attempt by the junta to further crack down on opposition. NUG Ministers noted that the NUG members had not taken any other citizenship and were still working inside Burma.⁶

On 15 Mar, the regime sentenced ousted Religious Affairs Minister Aung Ko to 12 years in prison for alleged corruption. A former Brigadier General and top USDP official, Aung Ko joined the NLD government in 2016 and was arrested on 1 Feb 2021. He has not been allowed to see his family since, but his daughter reported that he was in extremely poor health. As Minister, Aung Ko had drawn the ire of ultra-nationalists and the military by supporting constitutional reform, abolishing the extremist Buddhist group Ma Ba Tha, and supporting the move to prosecute its leader, Wirathu.⁷

On 23 Mar, a junta-controlled court in Naypyidaw sentenced Dr. M Kawn La, leader of the Kachin National Congress (KNC), to two years in prison for incitement, following a seven-month pre-trial detention. He had formed the Kachin People's Political Front (KPPF) with other Kachin politicians and activists to oppose the regime.⁸

NLD still under fire as regime set to "make a decision" on disbandment

On 18 Mar, the NLD reported that the junta had arrested 832 party members, 645 of whom remained in custody, and that 16 members, including an MP, had died in custody due to torture or inadequate medical care. It also said that junta forces had made 98 attacks on its party offices and sealed off the homes and other properties of 155 party members, including 93 MPs.⁹ On 23 Mar, a junta-controlled

¹ Network Media Group (10 Mar 2022) Irrawaddy Election Commission Forced To Plead Guilty To Fraud

² BNI (25 Mar 2022) Military Council's Union Election Commission orders suspension of all election processes

³ Development Media Group (DMG) (23 Mar 2022) Arakan State election body checking voter lists for 2023 general election

⁴ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Former Mandalay Region Chief Minister charged with five counts of corruption

⁵ Narinjara News (10 Mar 2022) Former Rakhine PM's daughter Moe San Suu Kyi faces charge in another case; DMG (9 Mar 2022) Junta files fresh charge against daughter of ousted Arakan State chief minister

⁶ Radio Free Asia (12 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta revokes citizenship of NUG members, other activists

⁷ Myanmar Now (16 Mar 2022) NLD's ousted religious affairs minister gets 12-year prison sentence

⁸ Network Media Group (25 Mar 2022) Military Regime Convicts Kachin National Congress Chair

⁹ Mizzima (19 Mar 2022) NLD says junta arrests of their members including Aung San Suu Kyi now reach 645

court in Naypyidaw sentenced NLD MP Maung Maung Swe to two years in prison for allegedly inciting public servants to join the CDM. He had been detained since 28 Mar 2021.¹⁰

On 24 Mar, a UEC member said that the NLD and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy had breached the Political Parties Registration Law by failing to submit their financial accounts for inspection by 9 Mar. The two parties face potential disbandment.¹¹

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

As of 31 Mar, the junta had arrested at least 13,040 civilians, including politicians, activists, and journalists; and killed at least 2,053 civilians.¹² On 21 Mar, it was reported that the junta's brutal crackdowns on protesters had forced activists to largely abandon mass street demonstrations, though a handful of young demonstrators still participate in flash protests, gathering briefly and chanting slogans or holding up signs before quickly dispersing. However, protests have continued in PDF-controlled areas, particularly in Sagaing and Magway Regions, sometimes under PDF protection. Activists have found other means of protesting the regime, including "Silent Strikes" and creative online campaigns.¹³

All-out war on protestors continues as Min Aung Hlaing vows to annihilate opposition

In his 27 Mar Armed Forces Day address, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing rejected any talks with the "terrorist" opposition and vowed to annihilate it. Meanwhile, anti-coup protesters carrying signs saying "uproot the fascist military" took to the streets. In Yangon, about a dozen anti-coup flash mob protesters set off flares and shouted slogans. Others called on social media for residents to switch off their lights at home in a nationwide "power strike" in the evening.¹⁴ The day before, the junta-controlled MRTV news channel had announced that anti-coup demonstrators could "be in danger of getting shot to the head and back," signaling that regime forces were planning to respond with force to 27 Mar protests.¹⁵

On 13 Mar, in Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township (Yangon Region), junta forces beat and arrested three teenage girls demonstrating to mark the 34th anniversary of the death of student activists Phone Maw and Soe Naing, who were shot dead by riot police in 1988. The beating knocked out one of the girls, who only regained consciousness the next morning; another lost four teeth; and the third was badly bruised. Junta forces afterward sent them to the Latha Township police station.¹⁶

On 3 Mar, a junta-controlled court in Thandwe (Rakhine State) sentenced a 30-year-old man to a year and one month in prison under the Natural Disaster Management Law and the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for participating in anti-junta protests.¹⁷ On 13 Mar, in Pyay Township (Bago Region), junta forces arrested a staff member from the Aye Nyein Yar cemetery, after discovering that flowers had repeatedly been laid on the graves of two students killed in a crackdown on demonstrations in 2021.¹⁸ On 18 Mar, it was reported that the junta was planning to deploy at least two plainclothes police officers in every ward of Yangon to crack down on protesters.¹⁹

The junta continued to pull out smokescreen amnesties. On 2 Mar, it released five celebrities jailed for opposing the coup: movie star couple Pyay Ti Oo and Eaindra Kyaw Zin, model and actor Paing Takhon, director Wyne, and prolific film actor Lu Min. The junta said that it pardoned the five so they could "participate in nation building with their art," but reportedly forced them to sign legal documents pledging not to participate in anti-regime activities in the future. The junta kept other celebrities in jail despite dropping charges against them, including actor Ye Taik and beauty blogger Win Min Than.²⁰

The junta relied on social media, online informers to target opposition. On 2 Mar, it was reported that junta forces in Yangon had used information from the phones of detained activists to arrest at least

¹⁰ Mizzima (25 Mar 2022) National League for Democracy's MP sentenced to two years in prison

¹¹ Irrawaddy (24 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta-Appointed UEC to Decide NLD's Fate Later This Month

¹² Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) (31 Mar 2022) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup; ACLED Data Export Tool (updated 30 Mar 2022), available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>

¹³ Frontier Myanmar (21 Mar 2022) Protests continues despite deadly consequences

¹⁴ Al Jazeera (27 Mar 2022) Myanmar will 'annihilate' coup opponents: Military ruler

¹⁵ Human Rights Watch (25 Mar 2022) Myanmar: Armed Forces Day Spotlights Atrocities

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (16 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Forces Badly Injure Female Teenage Protesters in Yangon

¹⁷ DMG (5 Mar 2022) Thandwe man jailed for protesting military dictatorship

¹⁸ Myanmar Now (15 Mar 2022) Myanmar army arrests cemetery worker after flowers are found on graves of student protesters

¹⁹ BNI (18 Mar 2022) The military council to deploy police forces in plain clothes in Yangon

²⁰ Myanmar Now (2 Mar 2022) Junta releases celebrities from prison so they can 'participate in nation building' with their art; DMG (2 Mar 2022) Junta releases celebrities accused of opposing its regime

85 youths in February, although the actual figure is likely much higher. Security forces reportedly used tactics including posing as fellow activists on social media to find information on people's locations. Most remained in police custody; others were taken for military interrogation.²¹

On 3 Mar, it was reported that junta forces were using the Telegram app to disseminate propaganda and get intelligence from military supporters listing the profiles, activities, and locations of activists. Regime troops reportedly used the intelligence to target civilians for arrest, relying heavily on popular pro-military social media personalities Han Nyein Oo, Kyaw Swar, and Thazin Oo. Activist groups said that many detentions of junta opponents in 2022 happened soon after posts on these channels.²² On 26 Mar, in Taunggyi (Southern Shan State), junta forces raided a private school, arresting eight women, including the school's headmaster and her nieces. According to local sources, the arrest was triggered by an accusation from a Telegram channel, which speculated that the arrested women were supporting the PDF.²³

Junta imposes strict travel restrictions to hunt down opponents

On 5 Mar, the regime said that national registration cards (NRC) will be mandatory for travel starting on 1 Apr. It added that certificates of residence issued by ward or village authorities will not constitute a valid travel document anymore. This could severely undermine rural people's ability to travel, as many do not have NRCs.

The regime did not elaborate on the reason behind the decision, saying only that it was introduced out of necessity. Observers believe it is targeted at NLD leaders and members, striking government employees, PDF fighters, student and anti-regime activists, and journalists who are on the run or in hiding to avoid being detained.

Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2022) Regime Imposes New Travel Restrictions on Myanmar Citizens; DMG (7 Mar 2022) Myanmar regime to make NRCs necessary for travel as of April 1

The junta continued to use civil and military courts to crack down on dissent. On 3 Mar, it sentenced six political prisoners from Patheingyi Prison (Ayeyarwady Region), including two local MPs, to two years in prison under Section 25 of the Natural Disaster Management Law.²⁴ On 10 Mar, a junta-controlled court in Yangon sentenced veteran democracy activist and 1988 uprising leader Mya Aye—in custody since 1 Feb 2021—to two years in prison for allegedly inciting hate.²⁵

On 11 Mar, the junta sentenced a police lieutenant colonel to three years in prison for incitement and violating the Myanmar Police Force Maintenance of Discipline Law after he criticized the junta's fatal vehicle-ramming attack on Yangon protesters on 5 Dec.²⁶ On 31 Mar, a regime court sentenced Cherry Htet, a police second lieutenant and former bodyguard of Aung San Suu Kyi, to an additional two years in prison for incitement over alleged social media posts supporting the ousted State Counselor; bringing her total sentence to five years.²⁷

On 22 Mar, it was reported that a military court had **sentenced four youths to death** in Yangon for allegedly killing an administrator and a teacher; and eleven others to life in prison for alleged terrorism.²⁸ On 28 Mar, it was reported that military courts had **sentenced 103 civilians to death** and handed long jail terms to 72 others for allegedly leading anti-junta protest and having ties to terrorist groups. Most of them were aged 23–27.²⁹

The junta stepped up its targeting of properties owned by opponents and their relatives. On 3 Mar, it was reported that security forces had seized at least 267 houses and other properties as of 20 Jan 2022—likely an underestimate. In February 2022 alone, they reportedly sealed off the houses of over 100 civilians, including veteran student leader Min Ko Naing, NLD Central Executive Committee member and lawmaker May Win Myint, NLD lawmaker Thiri Yadanar, and former political prisoner Bo Tauk.³⁰ On 7 March, it was reported that the regime was also seizing homes and properties belonging to opponents' relatives. After failing to find Phyu Phyu Thin, an NLD lawmaker wanted for treason, junta forces reportedly ordered her 80-year-old mother to leave her Yangon house by 18 Mar.³¹

²¹ Radio Free Asia (2 Mar 2022) Authorities in Yangon posing as activists online arrest dozens

²² Radio Free Asia (3 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta using social media to track its opponents

²³ Shan News (28 Mar 2022) DNNA Private School Headmaster and 7 Other Women Arrested in Taunggyi

²⁴ Mizzima (4 Mar 2022) Six political prisoners, including two MPs receive two-year prison sentences

²⁵ Myanmar Now (10 Mar 2022) Democracy activist Mya Aye receives two-year prison sentence on his birthday

²⁶ Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2022) Police Colonel Jailed for Condemning Myanmar Junta's Attack on Protesters

²⁷ Irrawaddy (31 Mar 2022) Ex-Bodyguard of Myanmar's Suu Kyi Given Two More Years in Prison

²⁸ BNI (22 Mar 2022) Fifteen youths in Yangon sentenced to death and life imprisonment

²⁹ Radio Free Asia (28 Mar 2022) Military tribunals hand down harshest sentences to young adults for opposing junta

³⁰ Irrawaddy (3 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Seizes Hundreds of Opponents' Homes

³¹ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Starts Seizing Properties of Activists' Families

The junta continued to target the relatives of people evading arrest. On 23 Mar, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that the regime had held 324 people hostage since the coup, of whom 270 were still detained.³²

On 2 Mar, in Chanayethazan Township (Mandalay Region), junta forces detained the mother of a suspected PDF member who had evaded arrest. She was reportedly transferred to Obo Prison, and remained in detention as of 21 Mar.³³ On 7 Mar, junta forces arrested NLD MP Sai Wunna and his family at their house in Ywangan Township (Shan State), leaving only his elderly mother behind. Sai Wunna reportedly went into hiding after the attempted coup, but recently had to come back to his house to take care of his sick mother.³⁴

On 24 Mar, a regime-controlled court sentenced the mother and grandmother of a three-year-old girl—who have been in Yangon’s Insein Prison since Mar 2021—to three years in prison for incitement. The two were convicted in lieu of the girl’s father, who is wanted for incitement and CDM involvement.³⁵

The junta continued to target student activists and CDM teachers. On 1 Mar, a junta-controlled court sentenced Ko Htet Aung, the former chairman of the Pyay University Students’ Union (PUSU), to four years in prison under Counter-Terrorism Law Section 52(d). He was arrested on 6 Sep 2021 for protesting against the attempted coup. The regime has jailed more than 20 PUSU members for alleged incitement and terrorism.³⁶

On 9 Mar, the regime-controlled Hpa-an District Court sentenced a CDM primary school teacher to 17 years in prison with hard labor for alleged incitement and terrorism.³⁷ On 11 Mar, a junta court in Thayawady District (Bago Region) sentenced the former chairman of the Letpadan Township Students’ Union to eight years and three months under Penal Code Section 124. He had already been sentenced to three years in prison for incitement, on 16 Dec 2021.³⁸ On 28 Mar, the regime handed down the same sentence to an engineering student who was maimed and arrested by soldiers during an anti-junta protest in Magway on 27 Mar 2021.³⁹

On 18 Mar, the regime charged three All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) members with terrorism, including Aung Myo Ko, chair of the student union at the Mandalay Education College; Thiri Yadanar, upper Myanmar secretary of the ABFSU; and Kyaw Zin Latt, a middle school teacher from Singu Township. All three were arrested on 2 Mar 2022 in Amarapura Township (Mandalay Region). They now face a potential sentence of life in prison. ABFSU chair Aung Pyae Sone Phyo said that the three activists had been helping families of detained students send care packages to prisoners.⁴⁰

The junta continued to target and kill people allegedly connected to PDFs. On 5–7 Mar, in Kawa Township (Bago Region), junta forces responded to the killing of two junta informers by arresting four people, including NLD MP Aung Min Tun. One was **tortured to death** in custody.⁴¹

On 5 Mar, in Gwayt Gyi village, Madaya Township (Mandalay Region), junta troops **executed** a local resident in broad daylight. The victim was arrested along with six others, following explosions that targeted two junta-appointed village administrators in the area.⁴² On 20 Mar, junta forces raided a charity in Kawhmu Township (Yangon Region), shooting dead its chairperson and reportedly arresting two of his relatives. Regime troops claimed that some charity members were PDF members.⁴³ On 26 Mar, junta forces arrested and physically abused four people from Myitnge Township (Mandalay Region), including a woman and a 11-year-old boy who were released later that day. The other two are believed to have been sent to the notorious regime interrogation center inside Mandalay Palace.⁴⁴

³² AAPP (23 Mar 2022) Political Prisoners Experience in Interrogation, Judiciary, and Incarceration Since Burma’s Illegitimate Military Coup

³³ Myanmar Now (21 Mar 2022) Police in Mandalay detain mother of man accused of joining armed resistance

³⁴ Shan News (9 Mar 2022) NLD MP And Family Arrested During Early Dawn Raid In Ywar Ngan

³⁵ Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2022) Three-year sentences handed to family of toddler held in Yangon’s Insein Prison

³⁶ DMG (1 Mar 2022) Former Pyay University student union leader jailed for leading anti-coup protest

³⁷ Karen News (9 Mar 2022) Kyarinnseikgyi Teacher Opposed to Coup, Sentenced to 17 Years-in Jail with Hard Labor

³⁸ DMG (11 Mar 2022) Student activist, former reporter in Bago Region get prison sentences on political charges

³⁹ Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2022) Engineering student maimed by military gets three years with hard labour

⁴⁰ Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2022) Military council files terrorism charges against student activists to ‘instil fear’

⁴¹ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Man dies during interrogation after arrest of NLD MP and four others

⁴² Myanmar Now (8 Mar 2022) Myanmar military publicly executes man in Mandalay village

⁴³ Irrawaddy (22 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Forces Kill Charity Worker in Yangon Monastery

⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (30 Mar 2022) Myanmar military abducts, tortures 11-year-old boy in Mandalay

On 9 Mar, the junta-controlled Thandwe Township (Rakhine State) Court charged former Arakan Front Party parliamentary candidate Sein Chit and a local taxi driver with terrorism for allegedly supporting a PDF. They face up to seven years in prison. Sein Chit's wife denied the charges and said his arrest was based on a statement given under duress by a detained student from Ayeyarwady Region.⁴⁵ On 11 Mar, junta forces arrested the NLD administrator of Ywa Thit village, Bogale Township (Ayeyarwady Region). This followed the 9 Mar arrest of three residents from Kyin Chaung Gyi village, in connection with the murder of a police informant earlier in the day by the Bogale PDF. The Bogale PDF stated that the four detainees did not know about the group's operations.⁴⁶ On 31 Mar, the same court sentenced three women to 10 years in prison each for allegedly financing the PDF.⁴⁷

The junta continued to use lethal force against inmates. On 15 Mar, guards at the Kalay Prison (Sagaing Region) opened fire on a group of around 50 inmates with assault rifles, killing seven and injuring at least 12 in what the junta said was a hostage crisis and escape attempt. Locals and a local resistance force rejected this claim and condemned the shootings, which they said occurred in response to a protest over ill-treatment at the facility. The junta claimed that the guards attempted to disable the inmates by aiming below their waists; but photos showed that at least some had been shot in the head and chest.⁴⁸ On 21 Mar, it was reported that nearly 30 prisoners had been injured in the shooting.⁴⁹

More evidence emerged regarding ill-treatment in junta custody. On 23 Mar, AAPP released a report exposing the systematic physical and mental torture of political prisoners inside Burma's prisons. It revealed that regime forces had tortured 103 pro-democracy protesters to deaths at interrogation centers; most within 48 hours of their arrest.⁵⁰

On 4 Mar, it was reported that three women detained in Dawei Prison (Tanintharyi Region) were being denied treatment for life threatening health conditions related to their kidneys, gallbladder, stomach and reproductive systems.⁵¹ On 8 Mar, it was reported that over 300 detainees exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms were being denied medical treatment in Mandalay's Obo Prison. Prison staff were also reportedly infected, but received no medical treatment and were denied leave to isolate themselves. A prison staffer also reported that prisoners were not getting proper food.⁵² On 18 Mar, it was reported that at least nine political prisoners in Dawei Prison had been placed in solitary confinement since Feb 2022 after they raised three-finger salutes on their way to court and allegedly incited others to do so.⁵³

On 14 Mar, the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the group had been unable to visit prisons in Burma since late 2019. He added that the ICRC was "in constant dialogue" with the regime and working to resume those visits.⁵⁴ On 22 Mar, the junta's Minister for International Cooperation received the Resident ICRC Representative in Myanmar.⁵⁵ On 28 March, it was reported that 18 rights groups led by LGBT Alliance Myanmar had called on the ICRC to probe human rights violations against LGBTIQ people and political prisoners in Burma's jails.⁵⁶

The junta continued to target journalists and people collaborating with them. As of 25 Mar, it had arrested 122 journalists and media staff, of whom 46 were still in custody.⁵⁷

On 9 Mar, a junta-controlled court in Naypyidaw charged Mizzima news editor Than Htaik Aung with incitement under Penal Code Section 505(a), after arresting him on 19 Mar 2021 while he was covering the trial of a senior NLD leader.⁵⁸ On 11 Mar, a regime court in Thayawady District (Bago Region)

⁴⁵ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2022) Former MP candidate in southern Rakhine charged under anti-terror law for 'supporting' armed resistance

⁴⁶ Mizzima (14 Mar 2022) Four people including NLD village chairman arrested in Ayeyarwady Region's Bogale Township

⁴⁷ DMG (31 Mar 2022) Three Thandwe women sentenced to 10 years in prison on terrorism charges

⁴⁸ Myanmar Now (16 Mar 2022) Seven inmates shot dead inside northwestern Myanmar prison; Radio Free Asia (15 Mar 2022) Prison guards shoot 7 inmates dead in Myanmar's Sagaing region

⁴⁹ Khonumthung Media Group (21 Mar 2022) Kalay Political Prisoners Killed For Protesting Unfair Conditions

⁵⁰ AAPP (23 Mar 2022) Political Prisoners Experience in Interrogation, Judiciary, and Incarceration Since Burma's Illegitimate Military Coup

⁵¹ Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2022) Women imprisoned by Myanmar junta denied treatment for chronic health issues

⁵² Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Denies Medical Treatment to Prisoners Sick With COVID-19

⁵³ Irrawaddy (18 Mar 2022) Prisoners Held in Solitary Confinement After Raising Three Fingers to Myanmar Junta

⁵⁴ AP (14 Mar 2022) Red Cross say it hasn't visited Myanmar prisons since COVID

⁵⁵ Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) (23 Mar 2022) MoI Union Minister U Ko Hlaing receives Mr Stephan Sakalian, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Myanmar

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (28 Mar 2022) Myanmar Rights Groups Urge Red Cross Probe of Junta Violence Against Political Prisoners

⁵⁷ Reporting ASEAN (accessed 30 Mar 2022) IN NUMBERS: Arrests of Journalists and Media Staff in Myanmar

⁵⁸ Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2022) Junta Court Charges Myanmar Journalist With 'Incitement'

sentenced Ko Nyein Chan Wai, a former reporter for the Bago Weekly Journal, to eight years and three months under Penal Code Section 124. He had already been sentenced to three years in prison for incitement in Dec 2021.⁵⁹ Regime-controlled courts also sentenced Kamayut Media co-founder Hanthar Nyein and former Mizzima correspondent Than Htike Au to two years in prison for incitement on 21 and 22 Mar, respectively. Both have been detained since March 2021, and Hanthar Nyein was brutally tortured and threatened with rape in custody.⁶⁰ On 23 Mar, the junta handed down the same sentence to Myanmar Thandawsint reporter Ye Yint Tun and Mandalay Free Press journalist Aung Zaw Zaw.⁶¹

On 17 Mar, the regime charged a Paletwa Township (Chin State) resident with incitement over a Western News interview where he talked about the surrender of regime soldiers.⁶²

Reports of rise in crime, illegal trafficking continue

On 2 Mar, it was reported that blood donations at public hospitals and at the state-run National Blood Centre (NBC) in Yangon had dropped dramatically since the attempted coup. Supplies are critically low because of regular blood donors' fear or unwillingness to donate at state-run facilities and the junta's crackdown on charities that collect donations. Many patients and their families now rely on word-of-mouth and online social networks for blood donations, which has resulted in an increase in the number of "blood brokers." These brokers often impersonate members of legitimate donation groups to glean information about those in need, pose as patients to secure blood from donors they find online, and then sell the supply at exorbitant prices. Sources said one unit of common blood types (O, A, B, and AB+) sell for just under MMK 100,000, while rarer types (AB-) can sell for MMK 500,000–700,000. Hospitals are reportedly reluctant to report out of reputational concerns. Some hospital staff are also believed to be working with the blood brokers and taking a cut of the profits.⁶³

On 14 Mar, it was reported that there was a crime wave underway in major cities such as Yangon and Mandalay. Thefts of bicycles and motorbikes were rampant in Yangon, and break-ins, robberies, and muggings were on the rise. Mandalay also saw dozens of mugging cases. Legal experts said the large increase in crime was triggered by job shortages resulting from the current economic downturn, surging food prices, and political turmoil. The junta also compounded the problem by pardoning over 40,000 prisoners, mostly people convicted of robbery and drug-related offenses, and citizens no longer report incidents due to police inaction. A Mandalay police lieutenant reported the inability to carry out crime prevention measures and night patrols because of staff shortages and increased threats to their security.⁶⁴

On 17 Mar, it was reported that reports of counterfeit banknotes circulating in Burma had skyrocketed. Since February 2022, a growing number of posts have appeared on social media, allegedly documenting the use of fake high-denomination bills in public cash transactions. Offers for counterfeit MMK are commonly advertised online or papered on walls at bus terminals nationwide. The regime minimized the problem and dismissed concerns over the counterfeiting reports, but said that it was investigating the matter and trying to find out their source. Economist Zaw Pe Win pointed out that the regime was ill-equipped to tackle this issue because it has no systematic or technical policies to ensure its orders are implemented. He warned the problem would continue if the junta fails to adopt adequate controls.⁶⁵

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

During 1–25 Mar, there were at least 670 armed clashes and attacks on civilians, or an average of 26.8 per day, compared to an average of 25.43 incident per day during the preceding year.⁶⁶

According to UNHCR, as of 28 Mar, 558,000 people had been displaced since 1 Feb 2021 and remained internally displaced, while an additional 33,600 people had been displaced into neighboring countries.⁶⁷ These figures are likely to be dramatic underestimates, based on reporting from the ground.

⁵⁹ DMG (11 Mar 2022) Student activist, former reporter in Bago Region get prison sentences on political charges

⁶⁰ Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta sentences two journalists to two-year prison terms; CNN (28 Jun 2021) Released American journalist says Myanmar military using torture to hunt down opposition leaders

⁶¹ Myanmar Now (28 Mar 2022) Two Myanmar journalists sentenced to prison time for incitement

⁶² Mizzima (18 Mar 2022) Paletwa resident charged for media interview

⁶³ Frontier Myanmar (2 Mar 2022) The junta's war on humanitarian groups is bleeding Myanmar dry

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2022) Crime Wave in Myanmar's Major Cities Sparked by Junta's Coup

⁶⁵ Radio Free Asia (17 Mar 2022) Reports of fake banknotes on the rise amid economic turmoil in Myanmar

⁶⁶ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) (updated 30 Mar 2022) Data Export Tool

⁶⁷ UNHCR (28 Mar 2022) Myanmar emergency overview map (as of 28 March 2022)

On 2 Mar, Data for Myanmar reported that 6,158 houses were set on fire nationwide 1 Feb 2021–1 Mar 2022, including 3,689 in Sagaing Region.⁶⁸ Sagaing residents continued to bear the brunt of the junta's scorched-earth campaign during March:

- Almost completely incinerated Dan Kone village, Khin-U Township, causing almost the entire population to flee.⁶⁹
- Burned down 12 homes in Thakhut Chaung village, Htigyaing Township, reportedly in retaliation for a resistance attack.⁷⁰
- Razed Wabar village, Depayin Township, destroying 63 of 195 houses.⁷¹
- Torched at least 72 houses in three villages near the border with Chin State.⁷²
- Set fire to seven villages in Khin-U Township, destroying over 300 houses and leaving around 2,500 people homeless.⁷³

On 10 Mar, it was reported that junta forces **had killed at least 10 children in less than a week** in March, with the total number of children killed at around 120. Among the recent victims were three siblings killed when the junta indiscriminately fired artillery at their village near Loikaw (Karenni State) on 8 Mar. On the same day, two boys aged five and eight were killed along with around nine others when junta forces shelled a monastery sheltering them in Yinmabin Township (Sagaing Region).⁷⁴

On 28 Mar, it was reported that junta troops had **destroyed over 100 Buddhist and Christian religious buildings**. These buildings are commonly understood to be non-military targets, and civilians in Burma often use them for shelter when displaced or during nearby clashes. In predominantly Christian Chin State, nearly 35 churches and 15 affiliated buildings were destroyed in junta attacks February 2021–January 2022. In mostly Christian Karenni State, about 12 churches were destroyed in the same period. Despite the junta's vow to protect Buddhism, its troops have destroyed and torched at least 50 monasteries in Sagaing and Magway Regions since April 2021. They also used monasteries to hold civilians as human shields, and turned them into torture and interrogation centers.⁷⁵

On 12 Mar, junta officials instructed private hospital owners in Mandalay to submit lists of patients to them every day—a measure presumably aimed at undermining treatment for PDF fighters. Medics said that submitting patient lists would be illegal and would violate doctor-patient confidentiality and the patients' right to privacy. The junta also revoked the licenses of 14 medical professionals and threatened to shut down clinics employing doctors taking part in the CDM. Around 80% of Mandalay's medical personnel have joined the CDM.⁷⁶

On 2 Mar, it was reported that the junta planned to dismantle six police departments and reassign their staff to police battalions fighting the resistance movement. The number of staff affected was believed to be in the low thousands; around 7,000 of Burma's 80,000 police members have joined the CDM. A CDM police officer said the plan could backfire if police abandoned the force instead of transferring.⁷⁷

On 2 Mar, it was reported that leaked documents proved the junta had been supporting paramilitary groups to fight anti-regime forces. Minutes from a meeting between Min Aung Hlaing and junta ministers showed that 77 military-backed Pyu Saw Htee militias had been created in Sagaing Region.⁷⁸

On 25 Mar, the junta adopted the **Police Force Law**, allowing it to force Burma police members to fight against anti-coup resistance forces. The legislation gives the junta greater control over the police, requiring any future reforms proposed by governments to first gain military approval. Only the military commander-in-chief, for example, can sign off on the recruitment, confirmation, transfer, retirement or

⁶⁸ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Fires caused by the military and electrical faults destroying houses across Myanmar

⁶⁹ Myanmar Now (7 Mar 2022) Junta forces torch villages in Myanmar's north amid internet blackout

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2022) Myanmar army accused of burning civilian homes in retaliation for roadside guerrilla attacks

⁷¹ Mizzima (8 Mar 2022) Five dozen houses burnt by Myanmar junta troops in Sagaing's Wabar Village

⁷² Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2022) More villages burn in northern Myanmar as guerrillas try to halt latest military rampage

⁷³ Mizzima (18 Mar 2022) Soldiers burn seven villages in 12 days in Sagaing's Khin-U Township

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Kills 10 Children in a Week

⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (28 Mar 2022) Over 100 Religious Buildings Destroyed by Myanmar Regime Forces

⁷⁶ Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2022) Military demands Mandalay hospitals submit patient lists in 'bid to prevent treatment' of injured resistance fighters

⁷⁷ Myanmar Now (2 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta to abolish six police depts, send officers to war

⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (2 Mar 2022) Leaked document confirms Myanmar junta is arming anti-resistance militias

removal of the national police chief. A criminal section added to the law also allows the junta to arrest—without warrant—and imprison civilians for playing wind instruments or banging pots and pans.⁷⁹

On 14 Mar, it was reported that pro-military social media users were fighting to discredit defectors or have them arrested. Telegram accounts such as Han Nyein Oo have tens of thousands of subscribers and are used to share information about defectors, place bounties on them, and otherwise assist in their detention or worse. In one case, a Facebook account offered around USD 280 to anybody who killed a social media user who had accused someone of being an informant; if a target claimed to have actually killed an informant, the bounty increased to around USD 390.⁸⁰

Karen

On 5 Mar, it was reported that over 20,000 people in Karen State had been displaced since February, and that junta forces had killed at least five civilians and burned down at least four houses.⁸¹ On 5 Mar, it was reported that in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Hlaingbwe Township, over 10,000 newly-arrived IDPs — mainly from Hpapun Township—were straining limited resources.⁸² On 8 Mar, it was reported that, in Lay Pha Htaw village, Dooplaya District, hot weather and rising petrol prices had created water shortages for up to 350 households. The village was established by Japan's Nippon Foundation five years ago, as low-cost housing for returned refugees from Thai-Burma border camps and local IDPs.⁸³

On 7 Mar, junta forces began a new offensive against the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) around Lay Kay Kaw, Myawaddy District, after entering Rathegu village with more than 15 military vehicles.⁸⁴ The same day, the Karen National Union (KNU) called on the junta to withdraw its troops from the area, so that displaced people could return home. On 8–9 Mar, clashes continued, and junta forces attacked the area with two planes and artillery.⁸⁵ More than 20,000 residents from Lay Kay Kaw and areas west of Dawna Mountain have been displaced by fighting and still cannot return.⁸⁶

On 24 Mar, junta forces shelled Htee Mu Hta village, Myawaddy Township, killing a teenage girl and injuring three other villagers. The heavy artillery shelling of the village followed fighting between the KNLA and junta forces in the surrounding area.⁸⁷

On 27 Mar, junta forces marked Armed Forces Day by bombing two villages in Hpapun Township, destroying several houses. One of the villages, Daybunoh, was also struck from the air in an attack on Armed Forces Day in 2021.⁸⁸ In retaliation to the airstrikes near Lay Kay Kaw on 27 Mar, the KNLA ambushed a column of junta forces, killing an estimated 61 junta soldiers.⁸⁹

On 26 Mar, it was reported that fighting had forced over 10,000 civilians to seek shelter along Burma's border with Thailand. Thai officials have refused entry to the refugees, who now face a severe food shortage. Thousands of villagers living along the Myawaddy-Walay road have fled the conflict and set up makeshift camps along the Moei River, which forms the border. On 26 Mar, heavy fighting around Wawlay and Lay Kay Kaw, Myawaddy Township, forced around 1,000 people to cross the Moei River into Thailand, but Thai authorities later sent them back across the border. Renewed fighting in March has resulted in the number of displaced persons along the Moei River increasing from 2,000 to 10,000.⁹⁰

On 17 Mar, it was reported that over 100 local people displaced by fighting near the Mayan Chaung military checkpoint in Kyaikto Township (Mon State) the week prior needed relief aid.⁹¹ On 19 Mar, junta Light Infantry Battalion 9 fired at least 20 artillery shells into Win Pa village, Thaton Township,

⁷⁹ Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2022) Myanmar army chief issues law sending junta police officers to war

⁸⁰ Frontier Myanmar (14 Mar 2022) 'Watermelon suppression': doxing campaign targets pro-democracy soldiers and police

⁸¹ DMG (5 Mar 2022) Over 20,000 civilians displaced by fighting in Hpa-an, parts of Mon State

⁸² Karen News (6 Mar 2022) The Number of Displaced Doubles Since Coup: Myaing Gyi Ngu IDPs Increase to 10,000 As More New Arrival From Hpa-pun Areas Expected

⁸³ Karen News (8 Mar 2022) Water Shortages, Rising Petrol Prices, Summer Heat Adds to Hardships Facing Returning Refugees and Displaced Residents of Lay Pha Htaw Village

⁸⁴ Mizzima (8 Mar 2022) Fighting raging in Karen State's Lay Kay Kaw area after junta troops launch offensive

⁸⁵ Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2022) Regime Reinforcements in Southeastern Myanmar Prompt Clashes With Karen Fighters

⁸⁶ DMG (10 Mar 2022) Junta carries out more airstrikes on Kayin State town

⁸⁷ Karen News (25 Mar 2022) Teenage Girl Killed and Three Others Villagers Seriously Wounded by Burma Army Shelling of Civilian Areas

⁸⁸ Myanmar Now (28 Mar 2022) Myanmar military marks Armed Forces Day

⁸⁹ Irrawaddy (28 Mar 2022) Airstrikes Continue After Myanmar Junta Suffers Heavy Losses

⁹⁰ Radio Free Asia (29 Mar 2022) Fighting in Myanmar's Kayin state drives thousands to Thai border

⁹¹ DMG (17 Mar 2022) Over 100 civilians displaced by recent fighting in Mon State's Kyaikto Twsp

and two other shells landed in a pagoda during a festival in nearby Kyauktaung village. The shelling killed a 50-year-old woman and a 7-year-old child, and injured seven others. Tensions have run high in the area, and locals worried that the incident could spark further fighting.⁹² On 30 Mar, junta troops clashed with KNLA and Thaton PDF forces between Thaton and Bilin Townships; in the crossfire, two children, six and eight years old, were shot dead.⁹³

On 16 Mar, three PDFs and the KNLA launched an attack on a Pyu Saw Htee militia in Palaw Kone, Palaw Township (Tanintharyi Region). The Pyu Saw Htee militia was reportedly outfitted with “plenty of ammunition, high-quality guns, and silencers and snipers” and around 20 regime soldiers sent as reinforcements were killed by explosives near Nang Payote village, around 15km away.⁹⁴

Karenni

On 4 Mar, it was reported that junta troops had killed at least 75 civilians, destroyed around 180 houses, carried out 67 air raids, and clashed with the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) 55 times over the prior two months.⁹⁵ On the same day, it was reported that larger numbers of junta troops had been attacking Karenni State since 15 Feb, and that the battle area was expanding. The clashes reached Pu Phar village, Demoso Township, after roughly 500 junta troops traveled there from Shan State, accompanied by armored vehicles, long-range missiles, and a helicopter. During those two weeks, the number of displaced people in the area increased from 170,000 to over 200,000.⁹⁶

On 8 Mar, a junta artillery shell in Le Htwel village, Loikaw Township, killed two brothers, ages seven and ten, and their sister, age 12, and injured their father and another sister.⁹⁷

On 8 Mar, junta troops carried out an air strike near Sawng Du Lar village, Demoso Township, destroying a temple.⁹⁸ The attack wounded two women in the village, where more than 100 displaced civilians were sheltering from junta artillery and aerial attacks. The regime attacked the village repeatedly despite it being 5km away from the conflict zone and having no clear military targets.⁹⁹

On 11 Mar, junta fighter jets killed two people in Daw Rak Khu village, Demoso Township. Local reports claimed that attacks are targeting displaced persons.¹⁰⁰

On 15 Mar, Karenni resistance forces found an undetonated bomb, one of two fired from a junta fighter jet at a Catholic church in Sawng Du Lar village, Demoso Township, on 8 Mar. An air force defector said that FAB bombs could cause both internal bleeding and bleeding from the nose and ears in people near an explosion and are internationally regarded as “cruel weapons.” Documentation suggests that the junta imported weapons from Serbia following the coup in February 2021, including 60,000kg of missiles and highly explosive or FAB bombs. According to a collaborative investigation by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Myanmar Witness, Center for Investigative Journalism in Serbia, and Lighthouse Reports, Serbia sent more than 2,500 unguided rockets valued at EUR 4.75 million to Burma in January–February 2021, which match the rockets used in assaults on Loikaw Township in January.¹⁰¹

On 15 Mar, it was reported that junta forces had retaken sections of the Moebye-Demoso road, following continuous artillery and air strikes that forced local PDFs to retreat. On 13 Mar, resistance fighters had to withdraw from Dawh Ngan Khar Ward, within walking distance of Demoso Town, in the face of superior junta weaponry, including a Multiple Rocket Launcher System (MRLS).¹⁰²

On 23 Mar, it was reported that the junta had mobilized militias against resistance groups in Karenni State, either to fight alongside or to act as guides, according to the KNDF.¹⁰³

⁹² DMG (21 Mar 2022) Two civilians killed, seven wounded in junta shelling of Mon State pagoda festival

⁹³ Network Media Group (31 Mar 2022) Children Killed During Fighting In Mon State

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (17 Mar 2022) Anti-regime groups attack pro-junta militia in Myanmar's south

⁹⁵ DMG (4 Mar 2022) Scores of Kayah civilians killed by junta air, artillery strikes so far in 2022: Karenni group

⁹⁶ Mizzima (5 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta troops attack Karenni State for two weeks in a row

⁹⁷ Myanmar Now (10 Mar 2022) Three children killed in Loikaw shelling incident

⁹⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (8 Mar 2022) Airstrikes hit Song Dula village without fighting

⁹⁹ Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2022) Displaced Civilians Injured in Myanmar Junta Attacks

¹⁰⁰ Kantarawaddy Times (11 Mar 2022) The village of Daw Rok Khu, where most of the refugees are, was bombed. Two were killed

¹⁰¹ Myanmar Now (16 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta uses 'highly destructive' bomb in Karenni State, military insiders say

¹⁰² Irrawaddy (15 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta's Non-Stop Artillery Attacks Force Resistance Groups to Retreat

¹⁰³ Irrawaddy (23 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Deploys Militias in Key Strategic State

On 8 Mar, it was reported that the junta had closed roads, cutting off the flow of goods to over 10,000 IDPs in the jungles of Moebye Township (Shan State) and Nan Mae Khon Township (Karenni State) and placing them at an elevated risk of starvation.¹⁰⁴ On 11 Mar, it was reported that in western Hpruso Township, IDPs were facing food shortages, due to rising commodity prices and people's inability to harvest the crops they grew during the rainy season.¹⁰⁵ On 23 Mar, it was reported food supplies and essential non-food items could be completely cut off within the next two months in the western part of Hpruso Township, where there are around 1,500 IDPs. Donors have not been able to reach the western part of Hpruso for around five months due to clashes and the military junta obstructing road access.¹⁰⁶

Shan

On 3 Mar, over 100 junta troops attacked the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in two parts of Mongkoe, one with artillery fire, leading to two days of clashes.¹⁰⁷ On 13 Mar, a joint force of Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and PDF fighters fought junta troops near Yelel Taung pagoda, near Naungcho Township. Residents said that they saw two junta helicopters arrive and open fire on the villages of Yae Lel Taung, Seik Phu Khwin, and Kyauk Gu.¹⁰⁸

On 3 Mar, it was reported that refugees in southern Shan State were facing food shortages.¹⁰⁹ On 7 Mar, it was reported that the hot weather in mountainous areas had caused water in wells and streams to dry up, causing a water shortage for around 500 IDPs.¹¹⁰ On 7 Mar, it was reported that in Phaikhun, about 6,000 IDPs were in urgent need of food, medical supplies and shelter.¹¹¹

On 9 Mar, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) abducted eight Shan youths from Muse District (Shan State); they released five the same day, but held the other three captive.¹¹²

On 13–14 Mar, after destroying a MyTel tower, a PDF clashed with the junta near Khe Moon village, Nawngkio Township, killing nearly 50 junta soldiers. After suffering many casualties, the junta sent two fighter jets on 14 Mar, dropping 30 bombs and firing its cannons, according to a PDF member.¹¹³

Kachin

On 2 Mar, the regime used fighter jets to launch four airstrikes on resistance-held positions in Putao Township after clashes between junta troops and the alliance of the KIA and local PDFs that lasted most of February. About 1,000 people from Tsum Pi Yang village fled last month's violence and are sheltering in nearby woodlands, and another 600 have fled after the recent clash.¹¹⁴

On 24 Mar, a bomb blast at the Hpakant police station killed three policemen. Afterward, police officers blockaded a bridge near the police station and inspected all motorbikes and cars passing through.¹¹⁵

Chin

On 1 Mar, it was reported that, in Thantlang township, the military junta burned down more than 100 houses for a reported 26th time on 27 Feb. Almost all of Thantlang's 10,000 residents are displaced.¹¹⁶ On 2 Mar, it was reported that, since the attempted coup, 1,557 residents of Paletwa Township had been forced to flee to Mizoram State (India), where there are now over 30,000 refugees from Burma.¹¹⁷ On 2 Mar, it was reported that IDPs and residents in Mindat, Kanpetlet, and Thantlang Townships were facing food shortages and rising prices, after junta forces cut supply routes from Magway Region.¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁴ Radio Free Asia (8 Mar 2022) Junta roadblocks leave 10,000 refugees at risk of starvation in Myanmar

¹⁰⁵ Kantarawaddy Times (11 Mar 2022) Refugees in western Phruso urgently need food

¹⁰⁶ Kantarawaddy Times (23 Mar 2022) Refugees in the western part of Phruso Township could run out of food in a matter of months

¹⁰⁷ Irrawaddy (3 Mar 2022) Fresh Fighting Erupts After Myanmar Junta Attacks at Chinese Border

¹⁰⁸ Mizzima (14 Mar 2022) Two helicopters used in fighting near northern Shan State's Naungcho

¹⁰⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (3 Mar 2022) Refugees in southern Shan State face food crisis

¹¹⁰ Shan News (7 Mar 2022) Water Shortage Problem for the Karenni IDPs in Southern Shan State

¹¹¹ Shan News (7 Mar 2022) Urgent Need of Food and Shelters for 6000 IDPs in Phaikhun

¹¹² SHAN News (16 Mar 2022) KIA Prevents Muse Families From Seeing Youths

¹¹³ SHAN News (16 Mar 2022) PDF Kill 50 Burma Army Soldiers In Nawngkio Township

¹¹⁴ Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2022) Junta jets launch airstrikes after rebel coalition seizes base in Kachin; Irrawaddy (2 March)

Junta Jets Bomb Villages as Fighting in Northern Myanmar Intensifies

¹¹⁵ Mizzima (26 Mar 2022) Three police killed in Hpakant police station bomb blast

¹¹⁶ Irrawaddy (2 March) Another 100 Homes Lost in Myanmar's Thantlang as Regime Forces Torch Town Yet Again

¹¹⁷ Mizzima (2 Mar 2022) More than 1,500 Paletwa residents have fled to India since the coup

¹¹⁸ Irrawaddy (2 March) Food Shortages in Western Myanmar as Regime Forces Block Access to Region

On 2 Mar, it was reported that junta troops had fortified a military outpost in Falam Township, along the Burma-India border, to counter the Chinland Defence Force's (CDF's) control of border trade and the local economy. Junta soldiers displaced residents and dug trenches to install a long-term outpost.¹¹⁹

On 4 Mar, Kanpetlet CDF fighters attacked around 300 junta troops. Despite the attack, around 450 troops are stationed in schools, police stations, and other public buildings in Kanpetlet.¹²⁰ Resistance groups reportedly control 95% of the territory in the township.¹²¹ On 19 Mar, it was reported that around six weeks of clashes in Kanpetlet Township had displaced around 900 people, including the elderly, children, the sick, and pregnant women, and led to severe food shortages.¹²²

Rakhine

Tensions continued between the Arakan Army (AA) and the junta across Rakhine State. On 5 Mar, an AA spokesperson said the group had no plan to hold political talks with the unelected junta, and noted that there was no official ceasefire agreement between the two parties.¹²³ He also praised the courage of PDFs fighting against the junta.¹²⁴ On 2 Mar, the regime extended the nighttime curfew in Ann Township—introduced in April 2019 following clashes between military and AA forces—until 2 May.¹²⁵ On 13 Mar, junta border police shot a man from Mee Taik village, Maungdaw Township while he was looking for one of his cows; he died from the injury.¹²⁶

On 20 Mar, around 50 junta security forces inspected passersby on the main road in Kyay Taw Ywama village, Sittwe Township. A villager said that the junta contingent had been deployed and conducted random checks in the village for some time. On 14 Mar, junta soldiers asked ward administrators and locals in Lay Taung town, Ramree Township, for population and household data in their wards, and inquired as to whether residents had any ties to the AA or the United League of Arakan (ULA).¹²⁷

On 3 Mar, IDPs from Tinma village, Kyauktaw Township sent a seventh letter to Min Aung Hlaing, seeking approval to return to their homes, to no avail.¹²⁸ On 8 Mar, it was reported that the return of IDPs to their homes remained inconsistent. The junta's Rakhine State Administration Council (RSAC) said that IDPs who fled past armed conflict in the region could return to their homes if they wished to do so, with the exceptions of Tinma village (Kyauktaw Township) and Aung Thazi, Htee Swel, and Kyauktan villages (Rathedaung Township), due to the close proximity of junta troops and Arakan Army (AA) forces and continued tensions between the groups.¹²⁹

On 9 Mar, it was reported that RSAC planned to **relocate over 1,000 Muslim IDPs** in Kyauktalone IDP camp, in Kyaukphyu Township to a more remote location. The new site is more flood-prone, would reduce employment opportunities, and would put IDPs closer to junta troops.¹³⁰

Rohingya

On 1 Mar, in Myawaddy Township (Karen State), junta forces arrested at least 65 undocumented 'Muslims' from Rakhine State who were trying to travel to Malaysia, including 38 women, and charged them under Immigration Act Section 63.¹³¹ On 6 Mar, a boat carrying 114 Rohingya refugees, including 21 women and 35 children under 15, landed in Indonesia after reportedly spending 25 days at sea.¹³²

On 5 Mar, Bangladeshi police arrested Moulvi Zokaria, a religious leader linked to ARSA who had allegedly issued an execution edict against Rohingya human rights leader Mohib Ullah, who was assassinated.¹³³ Following the arrest, Bangladesh officials confirmed for the first time that ARSA was

¹¹⁹ Mizzima (4 Mar 2022) Army fortifies its positions on India-Myanmar border

¹²⁰ Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2022) At least 20 Myanmar junta forces killed in fighting along Chin-Magway border

¹²¹ Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2022) Myanmar Regime Intensifies Battle for Control of Southern Chin State

¹²² Mizzima (19 Mar 2022) Fighting in Chin State's Kanpetlet township causes food shortages for villagers

¹²³ DMG (5 Mar 2022) Arakan Army has no plan to hold political talks with Myanmar junta: spokesman

¹²⁴ DMG (5 Mar 2022) AA spokesman lauds PDFs' resistance movement

¹²⁵ DMG (2 Mar 2022) Curfew order extended two months in Ann Twsp; DMG (3 Jan 2022) Curfew order extended for two months in Ann Township

¹²⁶ Narinjara News (14 Mar 2022) Villager shot dead by border police forces in Maungdaw

¹²⁷ DMG (21 Mar 2022) Junta security personnel check passersby in Sittwe Twsp village

¹²⁸ DMG (4 Mar 2022) Displaced Tinma villagers send latest in series of letters to coup leader seeking approval for their return

¹²⁹ DMG (8 Mar 2022) IDP returns remain a patchwork in Arakan State

¹³⁰ DMG (9 Mar 2022) Arakan military council pushes ahead with resettlement of Muslim IDPs in Kyaukphyu camp

¹³¹ Narinjara News (3 Mar 2022) 65 Muslims arrested in Myawaddy for illegally traveling to Malaysia

¹³² Mizzima (7 Mar 2022) Rohingya boat with dozens of children lands in Indonesia's Aceh

¹³³ France 24 (6 Mar 2022) Bangladesh arrests Rohingya cleric over murder of activist

responsible for the murder. They reportedly arrested 15 people, four of whom confessed that ARSA ordered the killing. Bangladeshi officials had previously denied the presence of ARSA in the camps.¹³⁴

On 8 Mar, a blaze swept through a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh), killing a six-year-old boy and leaving about 2,000 people homeless. The blaze followed a massive fire in January, which destroyed 1,200 shelters and left more than 5,000 people homeless, and four smaller fires Jan–Mar.¹³⁵

On 22 Mar, it was reported that Bangladesh officials had rejected a junta proposal to repatriate 700 Rohingya refugees, splitting up families in the process. Bangladesh said it—and refugees—would only accept a list of refugees to be returned by family and village. Following 2017, Burma agreed to return 28,000 refugees, then reduced the number to 11,000, before the latest proposal of 700.¹³⁶

Sagaing

On 1 Mar, junta troops fired on and raided villages in Kyunhla and Wetlet Townships. More than 3,000 people were displaced in Kyunhla; and troops reportedly detained around 60 people in Wetlet.¹³⁷

On 3 Mar, the junta issued an order to cut off mobile internet access 'indefinitely' to all of Sagaing Region. The directive, which cited 'public security' as the reason for the block, did not apply to the cities of Kalay, Monywa, Sagaing and Shwebo. It does not include WiFi services.¹³⁸ On 7 Mar, it was reported that junta leadership had planned a "kill all, torch all" policy in Sagaing Region to crush the PDF groups operating there before the annual Armed Forces Day on 27 Mar.¹³⁹

On 4 Mar, it was reported that junta troops had threatened IDPs from a camp west of Than Pho village, Kale Township, saying any who did not return within four days would face arrest and execution for being a PDF insurgent. Junta troops repeatedly attacked the IDP camp with heavy artillery fire and set it on fire on 24 Feb.¹⁴⁰

On 6 Mar, junta forces and Pyu Saw Htee members shelled an IDP camp in Taze Township and reportedly abducted four men.¹⁴¹

On 8 Mar, a column of over 150 junta troops fired artillery at a monastery in Letpan Taw village, Yinmabin Township, killing six locals including a five-year-old boy and his 90-year-old grandmother. Thousands of locals were displaced from eight nearby villages.¹⁴² On the same day, the junta bombed a monastery in Kale Township where around 1,500 IDPs were sheltering. Four artillery shells badly injured ten people, including three children; after the attack, junta troops reportedly killed a civilian.¹⁴³

On 8 Mar, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members raided Thein Thaw village, Khin-U Township, firing at least 50 rounds from grenade launchers. They killed 11 resistance fighters—some of whose bodies bore signs

Resistance tries to stop rogue PDF

On 14 Mar, the Union Defense & Liberation Alliance (UDLA), a Burma-wide network of resistance groups, alleged that the Yinmabin People's Defense Force (YMB-PDF) and its affiliates had abducted, coerced, robbed, tortured, and killed people in Yinmabin District and adjacent areas, and left 21 people dead.

The YMB-PDF is led by Bo Thanmani, a former abbot who left the monkhood to join the resistance movement, but who was also a leading figure in the 2007 Saffron Revolution, and who has admitted to committing crimes. Sixty-three PDFs from areas around Yinmabin have called on YMB-PDF to surrender and cooperate in an investigation for a public trial.

Also on 14 Mar, the NUG Ministry of Defense said that the War Crimes Investigation Central Commission was investigating war crimes by PDFs. On 17 Mar, this commission submitted an interim report to the NUG concerning its inquiry into possible crimes by the Yinmabin PDF.

Irrawaddy (22 Mar 2022) Resistance Leader and Former Monk Admits Committing War Crimes in Upper Myanmar; NUG (14 Mar 2022) Ministry of Defense, Statement 1/2022 on the War Crimes Investigation Central Commission; NUG (26 Mar 2022) Announcement 7/2022

¹³⁴ Al Jazeera (16 Mar 2022) Armed group behind Rohingya leader's murder: Bangladesh police

¹³⁵ Reuters (9 Mar 2022) Sixth fire at Bangladesh Rohingya camp this year makes about 2,000 homeless

¹³⁶ Benar News (22 Mar 2022) Bangladesh: Myanmar proposes repatriating 700 Rohingya refugees

¹³⁷ Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2022) Junta forces continue ambushes on northwestern Myanmar villages by air

¹³⁸ Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta cuts off internet access 'indefinitely' to resistance stronghold of Sagaing

¹³⁹ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2022) Regime Chiefs Plotting 'Kill All, Torch All' Policy in Upper Myanmar

¹⁴⁰ Mizzima (4 Mar 2022) Junta threatens to treat IDPs as insurgents if they do not return home

¹⁴¹ Myanmar Now (8 Mar 2022) Military fires heavy artillery at northwestern Myanmar IDP camp

¹⁴² Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2022) Children among those killed as Myanmar military shells monastery sheltering civilians; Mizzima (9 Mar 2022) Military kill civilians at Sagaing's Letpantaw Village Monastery; Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Junta artillery fire kills twelve villagers, including the elderly and children

¹⁴³ Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2022) For the second time in one day, Myanmar junta bombs a Buddhist monastery full of civilians

of torture, and some who were shot in the head point blank—and three civilians.¹⁴⁴

On 14 Mar, a resistance group found one of its members dead in Kyauk Aik, Htigyaing Township, 12 days after junta soldiers were seen leading him into a cemetery with a noose around his neck.¹⁴⁵

On 21 Mar, junta forces detained around 25 people, including women and children, who had been sheltering at a monastery in Yinmabin Township.¹⁴⁶

On 22 Mar, junta troops attacked a group of IDPs taking shelter in Htan Be Hla village, Ye-U Township, killing an eight-year-old boy and injuring four others, including a teenage girl. The troops fired light and heavy weapons on the group for around 30 minutes, before detaining and torturing ten men, including by holding their heads under water, and beating and cutting them.¹⁴⁷

Magway

On 1 Mar, junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members conducted a third day of raids on five villages in Gangaw Township, killing nine people and burning over 250 homes.¹⁴⁸

On 2 Mar, around 50 junta troops and Pyu Saw Htee members attacked Laeyar village, Pauk Township, firing heavy artillery and destroying 210 houses, causing all villagers to flee. A day later, the same troops raided nearby Letpanhla village and set fire to more than 60 of its 90 houses.¹⁴⁹ On 3 Mar, two PDFs attacked around 50 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members stationed in Letpan Hla, killing around 20 and causing them to flee to a nearby village. The resistance fighters used artillery shells and machine guns in the attack.¹⁵⁰

On 17 Mar, a resistance group attacked a junta convoy in Saw Township, killing eight soldiers. Afterward, junta soldiers fired at random at shops and houses along the road and looted valuables.¹⁵¹

On 29 Mar, it was reported that junta soldiers and allied Pyu Saw Htee militia fighters had tortured two civilians to death in March in Gangaw Township (Magway Region), according to the Gangaw PDF. On 18 Mar, in Myauk Khin Yan, a Pyu Saw Htee stronghold, a villager was doused with hot water before being chained to a vehicle by his neck and dragged around the village until he died. On 24 Mar, a Mwe Lel villager had his limbs fractured and an eye gouged out before being stabbed to death.¹⁵²

On 23-24 Mar, a combined force of more than 200 junta soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members torched and destroyed around 200 homes in three villages in Gangaw Township, displacing thousands of residents. They set fire to 29 of 200 homes in Chaung Kauk, and 20 of 300 homes in Thazi, before destroying nearly all 150 homes in Moe So. Before they arrived in Chaung Kauk and Thazi, local reports say that they had set fire to some 20 shelters in an IDP camp near Ye Hla village.¹⁵³

Resistance attacks

On 7 Mar, resistance groups attacked the Myoma Police training school in North Dagon Township (Yangon Region) during a pre-graduation ceremony for police trainees.¹⁵⁴ On 9 Mar, unknown attackers bombed the Shwe Pyi Thar Township Hall in Shwepyithar Township (Yangon), where junta forces are stationed and storing illegally confiscated motorcycles.¹⁵⁵

On 11 Mar, it was reported that eight suspected informants, including junta-appointed administrators, had been killed in the first week of March. PDFs said that these informants had slowed down PDF missions and operations and led to arrests on false charges. On 4 Mar, two suspected informants were shot dead in Kawa Township (Bago Region). On 5 Mar, an informant was shot dead in Pintaya

¹⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (11 Mar 2022) Junta Forces Massacre 14 People in Upper Myanmar

¹⁴⁵ Myanmar Now (17 Mar 2022) Junta soldiers 'lead captured guerrilla fighter to cemetery with a noose around his neck' before killing him

¹⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (22 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Holds Women and Children Hostage in Sagaing

¹⁴⁷ Myanmar Now (24 Mar 2022) Boy, 8, killed by junta artillery fire in northern Myanmar

¹⁴⁸ Myanmar Now (1 March) Myanmar army storms villages, murders civilians in northwestern resistance stronghold, locals say

¹⁴⁹ Mizzima (5 Mar 2022) Two villages burnt down by Myanmar junta troops and militia in Magway Region

¹⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (9 Mar 2022) Resistance fighters 'kill 20' in attack on soldiers and militiamen who burned villages in central Myanmar

¹⁵¹ Irrawaddy (21 Mar 2022) Eight Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Magwe Ambush: Resistance

¹⁵² Irrawaddy (29 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Tortures Civilians to Death in Magwe

¹⁵³ Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2022) Hundreds of homes destroyed in two-day military raid in northwestern Myanmar

¹⁵⁴ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Yangon's North Dagon Township Police Training School attacked

¹⁵⁵ Mizzima (11 Mar 2022) Bomb explodes at Yangon's Shwe Pyi Thar Township Hall

Township (Shan State); the Pintaya PDF said it also bombed the Pintaya municipal office as a warning to municipal office staff. On 6 Mar, an administrator in Hlaingthaya Township (Yangon Region) was shot dead; as was an administrator of Aung Chan Ward, Maung Phone (Yangon). On 7 Mar, an administrator in Thanhlyat Mhaw East ward in Maha Aung Myay Township (Mandalay Region) was shot dead; as was an informant in Tha Ye Taung village, Dawei District (Tanintharyi Region). Military supporters were reportedly also killed every day the following week.¹⁵⁶ On 14 Mar, a couple who were USDP members and alleged informants were shot dead in Palaw Township (Tanintharyi Region).¹⁵⁷

On 17 Mar, it was reported that resistance fighters threw grenades at the house of the Kyi Myin Daing Township (Yangon) administrator, and blew up his car with a remote-controlled mine.¹⁵⁸ On 18 Mar, a Yangon Region PDF launched attacks on a police station and a local administration office in Hlaing Tharyar and Insein Townships, respectively.¹⁵⁹ On 19 Mar, resistance fighters bombed three Kanbawza Bank branches in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region).¹⁶⁰

On 14 Mar, it was reported that many resistance fighters had died from their own handmade explosives—used frequently against junta targets—due to inadequate training in handling them.¹⁶¹

On 26 Mar, USDP chairman Than Htay stated that 1,327 party members and supporters had been killed since 1 Feb 2021. He added that 34 party offices had been destroyed; that more than 200 party members' and supporters' houses had been set on fire; and that more than 600 supporters had fled to safer areas.¹⁶²

Women's leadership despite victimization (more details at women [tracker](#))

On 7 Mar, it was reported that women had joined armed resistance groups and assumed key leadership posts within the opposition. Women's reasons for joining the resistance included a sense of duty and leadership, horror at the junta's actions, and the desire to keep women safe from predatory junta troops.¹⁶³ On 11 Mar, it was reported that women in Sagaing Region remained undeterred by junta troops' scorched earth campaign in the Region, and would continue to protest or otherwise resist junta rule. Rather than snuffing out opposition, it said, the junta's actions had hardened people's resolve.¹⁶⁴

On 8 Mar, women held a strike against the junta in Yangon to mark International Women's Day.¹⁶⁵ Locally and abroad, people recognized Burma women's efforts and initiatives on that day. UN Myanmar reaffirmed its solidarity with women and girls, as well as its commitment to putting women and girls at the center of its development and humanitarian activities in response to the country's ongoing crises.¹⁶⁶ The US State Department presented the International Women of Courage award to NUG Deputy Minister for Women, Youths, and Children affairs Ei Thinzar Maung, for being an inspiring, influential pro-democracy voice.¹⁶⁷ BBC covered the story of Htet Htet Khine, who was a pioneer in Burma's media before the junta detained her in August 2021.¹⁶⁸

On the same day, Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) called for the support and protection of women in Burma, after documenting a notable increase in the junta's targeting of young women in Mon State, Karen State, and Tanintharyi Region over the prior year.¹⁶⁹ The UNDP released a report describing how the attempted coup and the COVID-19 outbreak disproportionately affected women in Burma, jeopardizing prior gains in gender equality. It reported that half of over 2,200 women surveyed felt they were in danger within their neighborhoods, and a third felt insecure in their own

¹⁵⁶ Mizzima (11 Mar 2022) PDFs step up executions of informants

¹⁵⁷ Mizzima (16 Mar 2022) Two USDP members shot dead in Myeik District's Palaw Township

¹⁵⁸ Mizzima (17 Mar 2022) Yangon's Kyi Myin Daing Township administrator's house and car bombed

¹⁵⁹ Mizzima (19 Mar 2022) Yangon PDF group attacks police station and administrator's office

¹⁶⁰ Mizzima (21 Mar 2022) Three branches of Kanbawza Bank in Monywa bombed

¹⁶¹ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2022) As war rages on, many in Myanmar's resistance risk a grisly death from their weapon of choice

¹⁶² Mizzima (28 Mar 2022) Monument to killed military supporters unveiled

¹⁶³ RFA (7 Mar 2022) Women fighters challenge Myanmar's gender roles

¹⁶⁴ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2022) Women vow to rise from ashes to defeat Myanmar regime

¹⁶⁵ Assistance Association for Myanmar-based Independent Journalists (AAMIJ) (8 Mar 2022); AAMIJ (Burma) (via Twitter) (8 Mar 2022) https://twitter.com/aamij_burma/status/1501120400134381568

¹⁶⁶ UN Myanmar (8 Mar 2022) Statement by the United Nations in Myanmar on International Women's Day 2022

¹⁶⁷ Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2022) US Honors Myanmar's NUG Deputy Minister with Women of Courage Award

¹⁶⁸ BBC (8 Mar 2022) She became a pioneer in Myanmar's media - and now is in detention

¹⁶⁹ Rehmonnya.org (8 Mar 2022) On International Women's Day, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland Calls for the Support and Protection of Women in Burma

houses at night. Almost 70% of women also reported a significant loss in their household income, and 10% of pregnant or breastfeeding women reported being unable to contact healthcare professionals.¹⁷⁰

The junta's relentless violence against women continued. On 5 Mar, junta forces raped a 42-year-old mother before killing her and her four-year-old daughter during a raid on Inn Nge Htauk village, Pauk Township (Magway Region). They also detained the 11-year old daughter of the woman—among 29 villagers taken to be used as human shields—whose dead body was found three days later.¹⁷¹ The same day, junta forces fired heavy artillery shells at Klaw Day village, Bu Tho Township (Karen State), killing seven people including a pregnant woman and three girls, ages two, five, and 14.¹⁷² On March 12, junta forces murdered a teenage girl and an elderly woman during a raid in Taze Township (Sagaing Region); the 70-year-old woman was burned to death inside her house, which junta troops set on fire.¹⁷³

The junta continued to mistreat women in detention. On 24 Mar, it was reported that in Insein prison (Yangon), the junta was installing CCTVs inside women's quarters, including in showers, with 24-hour supervision. This increases safety concerns for female political prisoners.¹⁷⁴

COVID-19: Junta plans reopening despite low job rates (more details at COVID-19 [tracker](#))

Junta numbers showed a steady decrease in daily infections throughout the month, with 1,902 new COVID-19 cases and three deaths on 2 Mar and a 8.57% test positivity rate, and 163 cases and a 1.02% positivity rate on 28 Mar. Testing remained low, with 22,204 and 16,011 samples, respectively.¹⁷⁵

On 19 Mar, the regime announced that it would reopen Burma's borders to international commercial flights on 17 Apr. Visitors will have to be fully vaccinated, and will be required to quarantine for a week and undergo two PCR tests. The junta said that the decision was "in order to improve the tourism business sector, and in order to have smooth trip [sic] for visitors who come to visit Myanmar."¹⁷⁶

Vaccination rates remained low. As of 26 Mar, according to the junta, only 21,803,150 people had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 4,670,550 others had received a first shot, from a population of 54.4 million. Only 1,039,636 people had received a booster shot.¹⁷⁷ According to data compiled by Reuters, at least 49,316,486 doses had been administered as of 26 Mar, enough to fully vaccinate just 45.6% of the population. Burma had reportedly administered an average 238,494 doses per day over the prior week. At that rate, it would take around 46 days to vaccinate another 10% of the population.¹⁷⁸

On 23 Mar, the junta officially launched domestic production of the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine, in collaboration with Chinese company Sinopharm. The company transferred vaccine production technology to the regime, and sent two experts to provide training on the manufacturing process. The junta plans to manufacture one million doses/month, targeting 10 million doses for fiscal year 2022–2023. The first doses will reportedly be distributed to the Ministry of Health in April.¹⁷⁹

Conflict fuels outbreaks in Karenni, Karen States

On 8 Mar, it was reported that the KNU health department (KDHW) had strengthened its COVID-19 prevention measures due to the recent rise in Omicron infections. Displaced communities in Lay Kay Kaw, Myawaddy Township (Karen State) have been affected, with more than 50 people testing positive in the prior week. The KDHW director stated that health officials were unable to systematically collect data on infections due to the ongoing fighting between regime troops and Karen armed groups.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁰ UNDP (8 Mar 2022) New UN study says fear, violence, and isolation prevents Myanmar women from accessing income and healthcare

¹⁷¹ Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Forces Rape and Kill Mother, Before Killing Her Two Daughters

¹⁷² Mizzima (8 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta artillery fire kills seven Karen villagers

¹⁷³ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2022) Girl and elderly woman killed as junta raids continue in northern Myanmar

¹⁷⁴ Wai Nin Pwint Thon (via Twitter) (24 Mar 2022) <https://twitter.com/missWHPT/status/1506966551521599494>

¹⁷⁵ Eleven Media Group (EMG) (3 Mar 2022) Myanmar reports 1,902 new patients and three deaths on March 2; EMG (29 Mar 2022) Myanmar reports 163 new patients on Mar 28

¹⁷⁶ ABC News (20 Mar 2022) Myanmar to reopen borders to international tourists in mid April

¹⁷⁷ World Bank (accessed 27 Jan 2022) Population, total - Myanmar; GNLM (28 Mar 2022) 130 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 March, total figure rises to 610,858

¹⁷⁸ Reuters (accessed 30 Mar 2022) COVID-19 tracker – Myanmar

¹⁷⁹ Mizzima (15 Mar 2022) Junta claims Myanmar has developed a COVID-19 vaccine with China's help; EMG (25 Mar 2022) Myanmar, China jointly produce Covid-19 vaccines

¹⁸⁰ Karen News (8 Mar 2022) Omicron Infections Increase – Karen Health Officials Tighten COVID-19 Restrictions and Prevention Guidelines

On 18 Mar, it was reported that Omicron had been spreading fast in Demoso Township (Karenni State), which is home to 68,000 IDPs, since mid-February. A charity worker estimated that half of all people in IDP camps had caught the virus. He said that it was difficult to give an exact case numbers due to the lack of testing, adding that military roadblocks were making it impossible to acquire test kits and medication. Local volunteers have not recorded any deaths, but a health worker expressed concerns over the current lack of medicine. On 25 Mar, it was reported that many of the 4,000 IDPs in Hpruso Township (Karenni State) were believed to have contracted the Omicron variant. Most volunteers attending to the health of IDPs in Hpruso and Demoso Townships are CDM doctors and nurses.¹⁸¹

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

Rising fuel prices further disrupt the economy

On 4 Mar, it was reported that rising global oil prices in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine had pushed up fuel prices in Burma.¹⁸² They reportedly exceeded MMK 2,000/liter, a more than 15% increase from February, prompting many taxi drivers to stop working as they could no longer afford fuel. Before 1 Feb 2021, fuel prices were around MMK 700/liter.¹⁸³ As of 9 Mar, fuel prices had risen to MMK 2,100/liter for 92 octane; MMK 2,165/liter for 95 octane; around MMK 2,275/liter for diesel; around MMK 2,285/liter for premium diesel; and 55/liter for domestic fuel (from around MMK 200).¹⁸⁴

On 4 Mar, deputy junta leader Soe Win told cabinet members that their fuel entitlements would be cut in April.¹⁸⁵ On 11 March, it was reported that high fuel prices were forcing fishing trawlers to suspend their operations in Rakhine State.¹⁸⁶ On 13 Mar, it was reported that state-owned commercial airlines would add fuel surcharges to ticket prices to compensate for rising costs. On 14 Mar, the Myanmar Container Truck Association (MCTA) also started adding fuel fees to freight costs.¹⁸⁷

Electricity production reaches new lows, disrupting water distribution and industrial activity

On 6 Mar, the junta-controlled Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MoEE) predicted temporary 24-hour outages in some parts of Burma due to pipeline repairs at the Shwe offshore gas field. The Ministry said it could only produce 2.2 GW/day and supply 873 MW during 12–18 Mar, a mere quarter of the daytime national demand of 3.4 GW. Burma had produced 4.2 GW/day under the NLD. A gas industry source reported that maintenance issues and staff joining the CDM meant MoEE could not convert gas to electricity. Power outages for up to six hours per day are reportedly common in Yangon; along with the rising cost of fuel for generators, this has pushed some factories to suspend their operations. Electricity is available for only eight hours per day in Amarapura Township (Mandalay Region), and power cuts last around 10 hours per day in Rakhine State. Naypyidaw, where the junta is based, has seen virtually no outages.¹⁸⁸ On 24 Mar, the junta's spokesperson said the blackouts would continue until May.¹⁸⁹

On 11 Mar, it was reported that eight Yangon Regions townships were facing water shortages due to power outages, disrupting the operations of pumping equipment and stations. Some residents reportedly resorted to buying water from hawkers who fetch supplies from lakes and public taps. The price of a 50-gallon barrel reportedly rose from MMK 500–1,000 to 2,000–2,500.¹⁹⁰ On 17 Mar, it was reported that charity organizations in Yangon were distributing water in mobile tanks, but their efforts were hampered by the high fuel prices.¹⁹¹ On 11 Mar, it was reported that frequent power outages and high

¹⁸¹ Kantarawaddy Times (18 Mar 2022) Omicron Overtakes Displaced Camps In Demawso Township; Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2022) Omicron 'spreading rapidly' through southeastern township under assault by junta

¹⁸² DMG (4 Mar 2022) Russia-Ukraine conflict hits Myanmar grassroots as global fuel prices rise

¹⁸³ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2022) In Post-Coup Myanmar, People Face Soaring Food and Fuel Costs

¹⁸⁴ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Rising fuel prices make life difficult for taxi drivers

¹⁸⁵ Irrawaddy (12 Mar 2022) Junta Watch: Ministers Told to Save Fuel, Coup Leader's Mentor Makes Rare Appearance, and More

¹⁸⁶ DMG (11 Mar 2022) Some Arakan-based commercial fishing operations suspended due to rising fuel prices

¹⁸⁷ Mizzima (13 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta struggles with fuel supplies

¹⁸⁸ Radio Free Asia (8 Mar 2022) Public anger grows in Myanmar over junta's power cuts; Irrawaddy (8 Mar 2022) Myanmar Factories to Close Amid Planned Power Cuts; Democratic Voice of Burma (8 Mar 2022) Burma to experience week without power as junta fails to mitigate upstream shock; Mizzima (2 Mar 2022) Daily power outages in Yangon, lasting more than five hours at a time; Narinjara News (5 Mar 2022) Power cuts in Rakhine, nearly 10 hours a day, make life miserable

¹⁸⁹ EMG (25 Mar 2022) Myanmar sees partial blackout till May: SAC's spokesperson

¹⁹⁰ Irrawaddy (11 Mar 2022) Yangon Suffers Water Shortages Amid Rolling Blackouts in Myanmar

¹⁹¹ Irrawaddy (17 Mar 2022) Myanmar's Capital, Home to Junta Leaders, Spared Nationwide Power Outages

fuel prices had resulted in a decrease in overtime hours in most industries.¹⁹² On 18 Mar, it was reported that electricity would be cut off 5pm–9am in several of Yangon’s 29 industrial zones.¹⁹³

Telenor hands over surveillance weapon to junta as it completes exit from Burma

On 18 Mar, Telenor announced that the junta had approved the sale of Telenor Myanmar to Lebanese conglomerate M1 Group, which will partner with crony consortium Shwe Byain Phyu pursuant to a junta demand. Shwe Byain Phyu will eventually control 80% of Investcom, the Singapore-based company set up by M1 for the purchase.¹⁹⁴ On 25 Mar, Telenor announced that the sale had been completed and handed over Telenor Myanmar’s operations to Investcom. Justice for Myanmar (JfM) condemned the move as “irresponsible,” adding that Telenor’s management and Norway Trade Minister Jan Christian Vestre should be held accountable for any crimes that result from the “reckless deal.”¹⁹⁵ Also on 25 Mar, it was reported that Khin Thiri Thet Mon, Min Aung Hlaing’s daughter, had invested in Shwe Byain Phyu; no further details on how she would benefit from the sale were disclosed.¹⁹⁶

On 5 Mar, JfM said that Telenor Myanmar had purchased, installed, and maintained a Lawful Interception Gateway (LIG) in violation of sanctions. It warned that, once transferred to Shwe Byain Phyu and activated, the LIG will enable the junta to monitor communications on the Telenor network. Telenor obtained the LIG from German company Utimaco in 2018, and connected it to a state monitoring center with Utimaco support in 2020, but did not activate it.¹⁹⁷ JfM stated that transferring the LIG to Shwe Byain Phyu would breach EU and Norwegian sanctions, and added that Utimaco was also likely to have violated sanctions by providing technical assistance for the LIG after April 2018.¹⁹⁸

On 18 Mar, Telenor’s CEO was quoted as saying that the LIG would be left in place. On 22 Mar, JfM warned that M1 Group was set to violate international EU and UK sanctions through its acquisition, activation, and transfer of the LIG, given that the sale involves M1 group entities in Cyprus and the Cayman Islands. JfM stated that the impending sanctions violations were being aided and abetted by Telenor.¹⁹⁹ Upon completion of the sale, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) stated that it “could amount to complicity in crimes against humanity, by handing the military a potent weapon they can use to track down, arrest, torture and murder civil society activists and journalists.”²⁰⁰

Junta tries to secure foreign currency as COVID further threatens trade with China

On 15 Mar, the regime announced that it would start accepting Thai baht for border trade transactions, and that it was considering plans to accept the Indian rupee. It said the move would help reduce inflation caused by appreciation of the dollar and support economic recovery. A Federation of Thai Industry representative said the move was unlikely to change much since businesses on both sides of the border had been using the Thai baht in trade for decades.²⁰¹ The junta also blamed shortages of hard currency and a collapse in the kyat’s value on “economic sabotage” from opponents and “foreign elements.”²⁰²

On 15 Mar, China suspended the import of rice, broken rice, green pepper, frozen food, seafood, daily necessities, and easy-to-pack meals through Kyin San Kyawt Gate (Shan State), a major gateway to China-Myanmar border trade, due to COVID-19 restrictions. An official from the Myanmar Rice Federation said the suspension would create difficulties for exporters.²⁰³ On 28 Mar, junta media sources reported that cross-border restrictions between Myanmar and China had resulted in an almost 20% decline in agricultural exports; as of 18 March, it shrunk to USD 2.17 billion during October 2021–March 2022, a drop of USD 541.3 million compared a year earlier.²⁰⁴

¹⁹² EMGs (11 Mar 2022) Frequent electricity shortages, high in fuel prices lead to reduce overtime hour in most industries

¹⁹³ EMG (18 Mar 2022) Govt. announces power cut plan in some industrial zones in Yangon

¹⁹⁴ Irrawaddy (19 Mar 2022) Myanmar Junta Approves Sale of Telenor Subsidiary to Lebanon’s M1; Telenor (18 Mar 2022) Sale of Telenor Myanmar approved by Myanmar authorities

¹⁹⁵ Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2022) Telenor Myanmar operations handed over to new owner Investcom

¹⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (25 Mar 2022) Junta Chief’s Daughter Acquires Slice of Telenor’s Myanmar Operation

¹⁹⁷ Nikkei Asia (18 Mar 2022) Myanmar military approves Norwegian Telenor’s exit

¹⁹⁸ Justice for Myanmar (5 Mar 2022) Telenor Group violating sanctions through installation and imminent transfer of German Lawful Intercept Gateway

¹⁹⁹ Justice for Myanmar (22 Mar 2022) Telenor Group is aiding and abetting M1 Group to violate Myanmar sanctions

²⁰⁰ Nikkei Asia (18 Mar 2022) Myanmar military approves Norwegian Telenor’s exit

²⁰¹ Reuters (15 Mar 2022) Myanmar to accept Thai baht for border trade, eyes using rupee

²⁰² AP (15 Mar 2022) Myanmar OKs use of Thai currency in border trade

²⁰³ BNI (18 Mar 2022) China suspends import of seven items, including rice

²⁰⁴ GNLM (28 Mar 2022) Agricultural export value down by nearly 20 per cent as of 18 March

Dirty list expands while “responsible investment” fuels human rights abuses in Burma

On 1 Mar, Burma Campaign UK added 28 firms to its ‘Dirty List’ of companies linked to the Burmese military, human rights violations, or environmental destruction in Burma, bringing the total number to 116. Companies added come from 12 countries: eight each from Japan and Vietnam, three from the US, and one each from Russia, Singapore, Hong Kong, India, China, Canada, UAE, Turkey and Thailand.²⁰⁵

On 3 Mar, Inclusive Development International (IDI) revealed that 344 environmental, social and governance (ESG)-labeled funds hold at least USD 13.4 billion worth of shares in 33 companies enabling atrocity crimes in Burma, including Facebook, Apple, POSCO, TotalEnergies, Chevron, and arms makers Bharat Electronics (India) and Elbit Systems (Israel). ESG funds claim to buy shares in environmentally and socially responsible companies, but the ratings are based on a diverse range of environmental, social and governance issues, and can therefore mask serious human rights abuses.²⁰⁶

IDI stated that firms that translate these ratings into suggested investment portfolios, such as MSCI, FTSE Russell, and S&P Dow Jones Indices were quietly greenwashing and directing capital marked as “ethical” or “sustainable” toward companies that are fueling gross human rights abuses. Of the aforementioned 344 ESG-labeled funds, 69% are guided by ratings and indexes provided by these three firms. In addition, 12 companies enabling the military have seen their ESG ratings improve since the 2017 Rohingya genocide and the attempted coup.²⁰⁷

Austrian, Russian companies singled out for supplying weapons to the junta

On 1 Mar, JfM revealed that Dynasty International had procured military equipment for the regime after its attempted coup. The company is led by Dr. Aung Moe Myint, who is also the Honorary Consul of Belarus to Burma and the representative of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Burma. In March 2021, Dynasty International imported Mi-17 parts from Ural Avia, a Russian company that specializes in the supply of helicopter components. Mi-17s are primarily used for military transportation. JfM said that Dynasty International and its shareholders were complicit in the Myanmar military’s atrocities and called for immediate targeted sanctions against the company, the individuals involved, Ural Avia, and all others that supply and transfer arms and related equipment to the regime.²⁰⁸

On 14 Mar, JfM revealed that Miya Win International Limited, another arms broker for the military, had imported parts and a full-scale training model for Camcopter S-100 surveillance drones following the illegal coup attempt. The items are from Austrian company Schiebel Corporation, and were sent to Burma on 19–20 Feb 2021 via Russian company OAO Gorizont, which manufactures S-100s under license. Some of these items were first exported to Russia by Schiebel on 8 Feb 2021, suggesting an attempt to circumvent EU sanctions. JfM called for immediate sanctions against Miya Win International and its network of arms suppliers and brokers, and urged the Austrian government to investigate Schiebel and act to hold it accountable for any breaches of the EU arms embargo on Burma.²⁰⁹

Cash-strapped regime ransacks population, suspends dividend payments to soldiers

On 16 Mar, in Dawei Township (Tanintharyi Region), junta forces arrested nearly 200 people, most of them vendors at a local market, and confiscated some 300 motorbikes. Soldiers reportedly told people that they would have to pay MMK 200,000 to get their motorbikes back. Residents reported that some vendors were released after their family members paid ransoms.²¹⁰

On 17 Mar, it was reported that the junta had destroyed around 1,392 structures in the slums of East Dagon Township (Yangon Region), Myitnge Township (Mandalay Region), Taungoo Township (Bago Region), and Sittwe (Rakhine State) since Dec 2021; leaving nearly 500 people homeless. Junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun claimed the regime was strengthening the rule of law after previous governments ignored illegal settlements. A political analyst said the destructions were based on the

²⁰⁵ Burma Campaign UK (1 Mar 2022) 28 Companies Added to Burma ‘Dirty List’

²⁰⁶ Inclusive Development International (IDI) (3 Mar 2022) Myanmar ESG Files: How “responsible investment” is enabling a military dictatorship; IDI (3 Mar 2022) “Responsible investment” is fueling human rights abuses in Myanmar

²⁰⁷ IDI (3 Mar 2022) Myanmar ESG Files: How “responsible investment” is enabling a military dictatorship; IDI (3 Mar 2022) “Responsible investment” is fueling human rights abuses in Myanmar

²⁰⁸ Justice for Myanmar (1 Mar 2022) Arms Broker With Links to Belarus, Russia and Germany Supplied Myanmar Junta Since Coup Attempt

²⁰⁹ Justice for Myanmar (14 Mar 2022) Myanmar Military Arms Broker Supplied UAV Parts From Austria Since Coup Attempt

²¹⁰ Mizzima (17 Mar 2022) Nearly 200 arrested and 300 motorcycles confiscated in Dawei Township

assumption that anti-junta elements were operating in the settlements, adding that the move could also be aimed at securing lucrative land development deals for military officers.²¹¹

Declining revenues may have pushed the junta to call in its debts from cronies who owe money to the military. On 21 Mar, junta forces arrested prominent crony business tycoon Khin Shwe, the chair of construction firm Zaykabar Company, and his son after accusations that they demolished historic buildings on land rented from the military. Zaykabar planned to build hotels and serviced apartments on the land, but the military shut down the project in 2018 after the company breached its 2014 contract. It reportedly failed to pay rental fees and three installments worth around USD 24.9 million in total.²¹²

On 25 Mar, it was reported that military conglomerate MEHL was six months late in sharing profits with soldiers, which usually happens in September. Soldiers are required to buy and maintain stakes in the company, and are reportedly unhappy, as this money—MMK 600,000–1,000,000/year—makes up a major part of their family income. The NUG Finance Minister speculated that the MEHL profits typically shared with soldiers were likely being used to buy arms.²¹³

Regime's unregulated mining continues to kill, destroy the environment

On 1 Mar, it was reported that at least 15 people were killed and 35 others missing following a landslide at a jade mine in Hpakant Township (Kachin State) the night before.²¹⁴ The mine is run by private firms Myanmar National Co. and Shan Yoma Co. On 3 Mar, the junta announced that no one had been killed. On 5 Mar, aid workers and miners' family members reported that authorities had recovered and hastily buried 23 bodies. On 11 Mar, a local aid group stated that the companies and regime forces had blocked search and rescue teams from entering the area because the whole operation was illegal and they wanted to cover up the severity of the landslide. About 80 people remain missing and are presumed dead.²¹⁵

On 10 Mar, it was reported that unregulated rare earth mining for export to China was on the rise in Kachin State, irreparably damaging the environment. Burma exported over USD 1 billion worth of rare earths to China May 2017–October 2021; exports have reportedly increased as the junta tries to generate revenue from extractive industries. A source involved in mining operations said that five toxic chemicals, including oxalic acid and ammonium bicarbonate, were used in the mining process; the NUG Minister for Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources warned that they were seeping into waterways and threatening the drinking water supply of local communities.²¹⁶

Thai company set to take over TotalEnergies' operations as Asian energy firms keep junta afloat

On 14 Mar, Thai oil and gas giant PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) announced that it would take over operations of the Yadana gas field following the exit of TotalEnergies, which will distribute its 31.24% stake pro-rata among project partners for free. The transition will conclude on 20 Jul, leaving PTTEP with a 31.7% stake (from 25.5%), junta-controlled Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) with 21.8% (from 15%), and a subsidiary of Chevron with 41.1% (from 28.26%). Chevron stated that it would sell its shares following an “orderly and planned transition,” ostensibly to PTTEP. Yadana produces about 770 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, of which 550 are exported to Thailand, accounting for about 11% of the country's gas demand. An Asia specialist at Consultancy Rystad Energy said that PTTEP could try to squeeze extra production from Yadana to help overcome falling gas production in Thailand, which would provide more money to the junta.²¹⁷

On 17 Mar, it was reported that Asian energy companies' continued presence in Burma would blunt the impact of EU sanctions on MOGE, as the junta expects to earn USD 1.5 billion from oil and gas in fiscal 2022—equivalent to nearly 10% of its overall budget. Burma can only export natural gas through pipelines to Thailand and China, neither of which is considering major curbs on shipments. Thailand relies on Burma for 15% of its natural gas, and its industrial sector could suffer if the supply stops.

²¹¹ Radio Free Asia (17 Mar 2022) Hundreds left homeless as junta razes Myanmar's slums

²¹² Myanmar Now (24 Mar 2022) Myanmar military revives years-old case and arrests Yangon business tycoon

²¹³ Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2022) No sign of annual payout from Myanmar military conglomerate to soldiers

²¹⁴ RFI (1 Mar 2022) At least 17 feared dead in Myanmar jade mine landslide; Associated Press (1 Mar 2022) Landslide at Myanmar jade mining site kills at least 15

²¹⁵ Radio Free Asia (11 Mar 2022) Two dozen dead, 80 missing after jade mine landslide in Myanmar's Hpakant

²¹⁶ Radio Free Asia (10 Mar 2022) Illegal rare earth mining harms environment in Myanmar's Kachin state

²¹⁷ Reuters (14 Mar 2022) Thai PTTEP to operate Myanmar gas field after TotalEnergies exit; Energy Voice (14 Mar 2022) Chevron eyes PTTEP for Myanmar stake valued at \$250m

Similarly, Korea's POSCO International has a contract to supply Burma gas to China Petroleum Corp until 2043. POSCO is currently proceeding with an USD 470 million investment in the Shwe gas field (Rakhine State), which accounted for over 30% of the company's USD 472 million profit in 2021.²¹⁸

On 25 Mar, ENEOS Holdings confirmed that it aimed to withdraw from the Yetagun gas project in response to "social issues," but did not elaborate. Nippon Oil Exploration (Myanmar), a joint venture between the Japanese government, ENEOS-affiliated JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration, and Mitsubishi Corp, currently holds a 19.3% stake in Yetagun. The move came after Malaysia's state-run Petronas (40.9%) and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp (1.93%) said last month they were divesting from the project. Other shareholders include MOGE (20.5%) and PTTEP (19.3%). Output at Yetagun has declined in recent years. Natural gas from the site is exported to Thailand, but exports stood at 16 million cubic feet per day in 2021, down 96% from their peak in 2007. ENEOS reportedly appears to have been unable to find a buyer for its interest in Yetagun, and the company will likely incur a loss from its withdrawal.²¹⁹

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

On 10 Mar, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning China, Russia, and Serbia for selling arms to the regime, and saying that the three countries were "directly responsible for the atrocities committed with those arms." It called on EU member states and the European External Action Service to pressure the Security Council to adopt targeted sanctions and asset freezes on military leaders and associates; called on member states to suspend direct and indirect supplies of military equipment; called on the European Commission and members to block any entity benefiting the junta; and called for an investigation at the International Criminal Court (ICC).²²⁰

On 29 Mar, the European Commission announced that it would disburse EUR 48.4 million in humanitarian aid for Rohingya refugees and those affected by the protracted conflict: 24 million for Bangladesh to support the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis; 22.4 million for people affected by the ongoing armed conflict in Burma; and 2 million for refugees in the general Southeast Asia region.²²¹

The US determined that Burma's military committed genocide against the Rohingya in 2017. Secretary of State Antony Blinken added that, since 2021, the junta has continued to commit systematic atrocities that gravely endanger the people of Burma.²²² Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh welcomed the news, saying the determination could be a step towards accountability and justice. Other refugees were less enthusiastic, saying they would wait to see next steps taken by the US and the international community.²²³ The SAC Foreign Minister categorically rejected the determination.²²⁴ The NUG welcomed the determination, acknowledged the discriminatory practices and rhetoric that preceded these atrocity crimes, and reiterated its position in support of Rohingya people and their repatriation.²²⁵

On 29 Mar, USAID announced the disbursement of USD152 million in aid to Burma and Bangladesh. Since August 2017, the US has allocated USD 1.7 billion to support emergency responses and contain conflict in Burma. The new round of funding is meant to deliver emergency nutrition assistance, shelter, drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services, to displaced persons in Burma and in Bangladesh.²²⁶

On 10 Mar, it was reported that UK foreign officials had struggled to make Burma Ambassador Kyaw Zwar Minn leave the diplomatic compound in London, citing pressure from the junta and possible endangerment of UK staff in Burma. The Ambassador refuses to leave the diplomatic compound until Aung San Suu Kyi is released; he said that he will not hand over the property to the illegitimate junta.²²⁷

²¹⁸ Nikkei Asia (17 Mar 2022) Asian majors keep Myanmar gas pumping despite EU sanctions

²¹⁹ Nikkei Asia (25 Mar 2022) Japan's Eneos to pull plug on Myanmar gas business; Reuters (25 Mar 2022) Japan's Eneos plans to withdraw from Myanmar's Yetagun gas project

²²⁰ European Parliament (9 Mar 2022) European Parliament resolution on Myanmar, one year after the coup

²²¹ European Commission (29 Mar 2022) Humanitarian aid: EU releases €48.4 million to support people in Bangladesh, Myanmar and the region

²²² Reuters (21 Mar 2022) U.S. formally declares that Myanmar's army committed genocide against Rohingya minority

²²³ ABC News (22 Mar 2022) Rohingya refugees welcome US calling repression genocide

²²⁴ NHK Japan (23 Mar 2022) Myanmar's military rejects US claims of 'genocide'

²²⁵ NUG (22 Mar 2022) Announcement 5/2022: Statement on the determination by the United States Government of genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya, <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/277924287844135>

²²⁶ USAID (29 Mar 2022) The United States announces more than 152 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the people of Burma and Bangladesh

²²⁷ Reuters (10 Mar 2022) EXCLUSIVE UK urges ex-Myanmar ambassador to leave London home citing junta 'pressure'

On 23 Mar, it was reported that **Australia** had been granting asylum to Burma military defectors since January 2022; other countries have reportedly done so discreetly. The NUG Foreign Minister said that the move, which provides incentive for defectors to escape, was an important win for the resistance.²²⁸ On 24 Mar, it was reported that the NUG was preparing a case against the junta for crimes against humanity, to be brought in an Australian court under the principle of universal jurisdiction.²²⁹

On 19 Mar, **India** and **Japan** called for an end to violence in Burma and for the release of all political detainees, and supported ASEAN leadership in resolving the crisis.²³⁰ On 9 Mar, it was reported that a Japanese envoy had been sent to engage with EAOs, in an attempt to revive the peace process.²³¹

On 7 Mar, Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK) reported that the Argentinian judiciary had requested Facebook to clarify its role in the genocidal violence against the Rohingya in 2017. The court plans to reach out to Facebook to ask for evidence of which accounts and pages have been blocked or deleted since 2016 for spreading anti-Rohingya propaganda. Facebook will also be asked to spell out how its own algorithms might have facilitated the spread of hatred against the Rohingya, and what steps it has taken to prevent the dissemination of hate speech in the future.²³²

ASEAN continues to prop up the junta

Junta-appointed ministers attended at least seven ASEAN events, including one at which Burma Police Colonel Zaw Lin Tun was appointed as Executive Director of the ASEAN Police Secretariat.²³³

ASEAN Special Envoy Prak Sokhonn visited Burma over 20–23 Mar,²³⁴ and met with junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and other SAC Ministers.²³⁵ He reportedly urged the junta to release political prisoners and exercise restraint in the use of violence.²³⁶ By contrast, he canceled a meeting with the Peace Process Steering Team, composed of the ten EAO signatories to Burma's peace agreement, citing lack of time.²³⁷ Civilians demonstrated against the visit,²³⁸ and 36 civil society organizations called it shameful.²³⁹ The NUG reiterated its offer to meet,²⁴⁰ and called on him to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi.²⁴¹ After the visit, he said progress would likely post-date Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship.²⁴²

Documenting junta crimes and UN inaction

On 15 Mar, the UN Human Rights Council released a report verifying systematic human rights abuses committed by the junta.²⁴³ On 18 Mar, the Council held an interactive dialogue on the UN Secretary-General's report on the involvement of the UN in Burma.²⁴⁴ Civil society groups FORUM-ASIA and Progressive Voice criticized the report's stance on the role of the UN in Burma, saying respectively that the body failed to acknowledge the inefficacy of its country team and that the report whitewashed the UN's historical and continued failures in Burma.²⁴⁵

On 24 Mar, Fortify Rights and Yale Law School's Schell Center released 'Nowhere is safe,' an in-depth investigation and analysis of the junta's crimes and abuses, including orders to shoot unarmed

²²⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Mar 2022) Australia's Embrace of Defectors Sends Shockwaves Through Myanmar Military

²²⁹ Sydney Herald (22 Mar 2022) Myanmar junta leaders may face war crimes probe in Australia

²³⁰ First Post (20 Mar 2022) Japan, India urge Myanmar to end violence, go back to democracy

²³¹ Irrawaddy (9 Mar 2022) Japanese Envoy's Talks With Myanmar EAOs Offer Little Hope for Peace, Experts Say

²³² BNI (10 Mar 2022) Argentinian judiciary asks Facebook to clarify role in Rohingya genocide

²³³ Mizzima (10 Mar 2022) Myanmar police colonel appointed Executive Director of ASEAN Police Secretariat

²³⁴ AP (3 Mar 2022) ASEAN special envoy sets Myanmar visit for later this month

²³⁵ Reuters (21 Mar 2022) ASEAN peace envoy meets Myanmar junta on visit opponents deride as 'shameful'; Khmer Times

(23 Mar 2022) Work in progress: Sokhonn makes some headway in Myanmar visit

²³⁶ Reuters (23 Mar 2022) ASEAN envoy says urged restraint from Myanmar military, discussed Suu Kyi access; Jakarta Post (23 Mar 2022) ASEAN envoy defends his visit to Myanmar generals

²³⁷ Irrawaddy (18 Mar 2022) ASEAN Envoy to Myanmar Cancels Meeting with Ethnic Armed Organizations

²³⁸ Reuters (22 Mar 2022) Frustration in Myanmar over ASEAN envoy's peace mission

²³⁹ Reuters (21 Mar 2022) ASEAN peace envoy meets Myanmar junta on visit opponents deride as 'shameful'

²⁴⁰ Khmer Times (23 Mar 2022) Work in progress: Sokhonn makes some headway in Myanmar visit

²⁴¹ Phnom Penh Post (22 Mar 2022) SAC foreign affairs chief: 5PC to be led by Myanmar

²⁴² Jakarta Post (23 Mar 2022) ASEAN envoy defends his visit to Myanmar generals

²⁴³ UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (15 Mar 2022) Myanmar: UN report urges immediate, concerted effort by international community to stem violence, hold military accountable

²⁴⁴ UN Human Rights (19 Mar 2022) Human Rights Council discusses the situation of human rights in Syria and the involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar

²⁴⁵ Mizzima (20 Mar 2022) New UN report 'whitewashes the UN's historical failures in Myanmar'

protesters. The report identifies 61 culpable senior military and police officials, including Min Aung Hlaing.²⁴⁶ It also offers data on how to geo-locate commanders responsible for those crimes.²⁴⁷

CRPH & NUG (more details at CRPH & NUG [tracker](#))

The Ministry of Defense reiterated its commitment to international humanitarian law and encouraged PDFs to comply with it. On 4 Mar, it reiterated that PDFs must mitigate the conflict's physical and moral impacts on children, and provide special protection to vulnerable groups (children, handicapped, women, and elderly). It listed six grave violations that PDFs must be extra-careful not to commit: (1) killing or mutilating children; (2) using children as soldiers or for other labor; (3) rape or sexual violence; (4) forced arrest or detention of children; (5) attacking hospitals or schools; and (6) neglecting or refusing humanitarian assistance programs for children.²⁴⁸

On 12 Mar, the NUG released its 2012/22 Budget. It noted that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management had mobilized MMK 2.03 billion in aid, including for IDPs, vulnerable groups and disaster-affected persons, families of the detained or killed, families affected by natural disasters, and differently-abled people. It noted that it was working to expand energy access through eco-hydro power projects in areas not subject to junta control, and trying to facilitate a transition to sustainable energy. It said that it was working with the Ethnic Health Committee to vaccinate 20% of Burma's population, starting in liberated areas. It said that the NUG and CRPH had received over USD 17 million in donations for training PDFs.²⁴⁹ On 17 Mar, the Ministry said it had provided MMK 186.55 million in February for humanitarian purposes.²⁵⁰

On 18 Mar, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy issued a directive on hand-dug wells. It said that during the interim period, the Ministry would assign the responsibilities for hand-dug oil well production, storage, distribution, refining, selling, testing, and inspection between the states, ethnic revolutionary organizations, people's administrative bodies, and PDFs on a temporary basis.²⁵¹

On 19 Mar, the Ministry of Labor invited cooperation and participation in its labor compensation data collection complaint mechanism, which it said would help to resolve labor disputes, fulfill workers' rights to a safe and healthy environment, and establish strong worker/employer relationships.²⁵²

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²⁴⁶ Radio Free Asia (24 Mar 2022) 'Crimes against humanity' after Myanmar coup warrant ICC referral, new report finds

²⁴⁷ Reuters (24 Mar 2022) Myanmar 'special command' authorised lethal attacks on civilians - report

²⁴⁸ NUG (4 Mar 2022) Ministry of Defense, Statement 3/2022, Directive for PDFs to give protection to children during armed clashes

²⁴⁹ NUG (12 Mar 2022) Budget 2021/22: Protecting the lives and livelihoods of the people of Myanmar

²⁵⁰ NUG (17 Mar 2022) Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, infographic

²⁵¹ NUG (18 Mar 2022) Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Order 3/2022 on oil and petroleum production

²⁵² NUG (19 Mar 2022) Ministry of Labor, Statement 3/2022, inviting cooperation and participation in the labor compensation data collection complaint mechanism