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BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022: All-out war begins in Rakhine State as regime loses grip on Burma

- As of 23 Sep, there had been at least 15,631 armed clashes and attacks, resulting in the displacement of 1,064,600 people since the coup began. Junta troops continued to slash their way through the country in September, torturing and killing civilians, and torching villages. On 16 Sep, a regime helicopter strike on a school killed 14 people, including 12 children in Sagaing Region.
- Fighting between junta and AA forces escalated further and spread to Rakhine State's central townships. The regime used indiscriminate artillery fire against civilian areas, killing at least two children; and blocked the delivery of humanitarian aid to IDPs in six townships. Several shells landed in neighboring Bangladesh, killing a young Rohingya refugee there.
- Junta forces have killed at least 2,327 civilians and arrested 15,691 as of 30 Sep. The regime continued to target former officials and NLD members, as well as perceived opponents and their families. A junta court sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to a further six years in prison, bringing her total sentence to 23 years.
- The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar reported that the junta and its proxy militias were only in control of 93 of Burma's 330 townships. It said the regime was unable to govern and was reduced to being an occupying military force in a diminishing amount of territory.
- The junta was amending the electoral laws to switch to a proportional representation system. The regime replaced the USDP chair with a loyalist ahead of its sham 2023 election, which the NLD pledged to boycott.
- The regime started targeting international remittances to help replenish its depleted forex reserves and ease inflation. Its erratic policies continued to destroy the economy, push firms out of business, and disrupt production cycles.
- Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing met with Vladimir Putin in Russia. He vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and signed a nuclear cooperation roadmap with the country.
- Malaysia further hardened its stance against the regime, repeating calls for ASEAN to engage with the NUG, to urgently provide humanitarian assistance to Burma through local CSOs, and to consider replacing the Five-Point Consensus with a new roadmap.

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## Junta's quest to cement control

#### Gearing up for sham election

On 5 Sep, the junta-appointed Union Election Commission (UEC) confirmed the regime's plan to switch to the proportional representation (PR) electoral system, claiming that it would be more inclusive. On 6 Sep, it was reported that the regime was amending the country's electoral laws and Political Parties Registration Law to accommodate the change to a PR system.<sup>1</sup>

On 6 Sep, it was reported that the junta-affiliated Pa'O National Army (PNA) had been carrying out voter registration activities in Pinlaung and Nyaungshwe Townships (Shan State). PNA soldiers reportedly pressured civilians to vote for the military-affiliated Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) using weapons.<sup>2</sup> On 12 Sep, USDP chair Than Htay, citing medical reasons, announced that he would hand over control of the party to vice chair Khin Yi, a loyalist to junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and the regime's former Immigration and Population Minister. Khin Yi will reportedly be acting chair until his appointment is confirmed at the USDP conference in early October.<sup>3</sup>

On 13 Sep, it was reported that the junta-affiliated Five Columns for Regional Development group, which is led by the regime's Mon State Chief Minister, was urging locals in Mawlamyine and Kyaikmaraw Townships to participate in the junta's 2023 elections.<sup>4</sup> On 27 Sep, the NLD said it would boycott them. Two days later, junta leader Ming Aung Hlaing said his regime was 'paving the way for multiparty democracy in the State by establishing the Union on the basis of democracy and federalism.'<sup>5</sup>

#### New sentences against Suu Kyi, top officials, Australian advisor

Ousted State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi had to undergo a medical check-up in early September. Her physical condition reportedly started to decline after the junta moved her from house arrest to solitary confinement in June.<sup>6</sup> On 2 Sep, the regime sentenced her to three years in prison with hard labor for election fraud. The junta also sentenced ousted President Win Myint and Union Government Office Minister Min Thu to the same penalty.<sup>7</sup>

On 27 Sep, the regime sentenced Suu Kyi to three more years in prison for violating the Official Secrets Act, bringing her total sentence to 23 years. Sean Turnell, her former economic advisor from Australia, was handed down the same sentence, as well as an additional three years in prison for allegedly violating the Immigration Act.<sup>8</sup> On 29 Sep, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong rejected the ruling and called for Turnell's immediate release.<sup>9</sup>

On 17 Sep, the regime charged former Rakhine State lawmaker Pe Than under Penal Code Section 505(a) and Telecommunications Law Article 66(d) over an interview he gave to local news outlet Development Media Group.<sup>10</sup> On 20 Sep, the junta indicted ousted Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan for election fraud.<sup>11</sup> On 22 Sep, it was reported that the regime had filed a new corruption charge against ousted Mandalay Municipal Minister and Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin.<sup>12</sup>

## Attacks against NLD members continue

On 8 Sep, two alleged members of the junta-affiliated Pyu Saw Htee militia shot dead an NLD supporter in Yebyu Township (Tanintharyi Region).<sup>13</sup> On 13 Sep, regime forces arrested NLD secretary for Ottarathiri Township (Naypyidaw) Zaw Myo Win and killed him in custody shortly afterwards.<sup>14</sup> On

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irrawaddy (6 Sep 2022) Myanmar Junta Again Hints at Switch to Proportional Representation Electoral System

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Shan News (15 Sep 2022) Villagers In Southern Shan State Pressured To Vote For USDP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Nikkei Asia (23 Sep 2022) Myanmar's army-backed party to replace chief with general's ally

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Than Lwin TImes (13 Sep 2022) Junta departments mobilize residents in Mon State to cooperate with military regime

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Than Lwin Times (29 Sep 2022) Junta chief says military council to give deserved federal rights

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Sep 2022) Myanmar's Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Reportedly Suffering Health Problems in Prison

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Radio Free Asia (RFA) (2 Sep 2022) Aung San Suu Kyi sentenced to a further three years on election fraud charge

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar junta sentences Suu Kyi and her Australian economic advisor to three years in prison

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Reuters (29 Sep 2022) Australia calls for immediate release of economist jailed by Myanmar

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Development Media Group (DMG) (18 Sep 2022) Veteran Arakanese politician charged with two counts over DMG interview
<sup>11</sup> Than Lwin Times (21 Sep 2022) Mon Chief Minister indicted for electoral case

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Sep 2022) Jailed Popular Mandalay Mayor Faces Fresh Corruption Charges

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Than Lwin Times (10 Sep 2022) NLD supporter aged 60 shot dead in Yebyu Township; Than Lwin Times (9 Sep 2022)

Civilian death toll surpasses 240 in Tanintharyi since coup <sup>14</sup> RFA (16 Sep 2022) NLD official, supporter die in custody of Myanmar authorities

22 Sep, junta troops arrested and tortured two NLD members in Seikphyu Township (Magway Region), and ultimately executed one of them. According to the NLD, the regime had arrested and killed at least 56 party members as of that date.<sup>15</sup> On 23 Sep, it was reported that regime forces had killed NLD Kachin State MP Myo Myo Kyaw in custody. He had been in custody since 24 Aug.<sup>16</sup>

On 13 Sep, it was reported that Pyu Saw Htee members were selling off the possessions of NLD supporters who fled Mingon village (Sagaing Region).<sup>17</sup> Regime forces also sealed off three homes belonging to NLD members or alleged supporters in Bilin Township (Mon State) during 19-20 Sep.<sup>18</sup> On 22 Sep, it was reported that protesters wearing NLD t-shirts had rallied in front of a party office in Chanayethazan Township (Mandalay Region) to condemn 'terrorist activities committed by the NUG [National Unity Government], CRPH [Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw] and PDF [People's Defense Forces].' Residents said the demonstrators were likely pro-junta.<sup>19</sup>

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

On 31 Aug, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) said regime forces had sealed off at least 760 homes of pro-democracy activists since the attempted coup, and arrested at least 15,691 civilians.<sup>20</sup> On 2 Sep, the regime sentenced former UK ambassador to Burma Vicky Bowman and her Burmese husband Htein Lin to one year in prison for allegedly breaching immigration laws.<sup>21</sup>

**The junta continued to target protesters and activists.** On 13 Sep, regime forces arrested 15 civilians after breaking up an anti-junta protest in Yangon. A local said one of them was 'severely beaten, grabbed by the throat, and dragged away.' Soldiers also fired at the demonstrators, injuring at least one.<sup>22</sup> As of 14 Sep, regime forces had detained at least 30 Dawei youth activists over the first two weeks of September. All were charged with incitement. As of that date, the junta had sentenced over 300 political activists to lengthy prison terms in Dawei Township.<sup>23</sup>

On 14 Sep, it was reported that the junta had charged protest leader Wai Moe Naing with high treason. Wai Moe Naing- a.k.a. "Monywa Panda," who was sentenced to ten years in prison on five counts of incitement in August, could face the death penalty under the new charge.<sup>24</sup> On 16 Sep, regime troops in Mrauk-U Township (Rakhine State) fired at a vehicle carrying social activist Ann Thar Gyi and four other civilians in a botched attempt to arrest him.<sup>25</sup> On 25 Sep, the regime opened an incitement case against Ann Thar Gyi.<sup>26</sup> On 26 Sep, junta forces detained the chairman of LGBT Union Mandalay.<sup>27</sup>

**The junta stepped up arbitrary arrests.** On 4 Sep, it was reported that junta officials had been enforcing the overnight guest registration law by carrying out door-to-door inspections almost every day in some townships.<sup>28</sup>

On 2 Sep, junta forces claiming to be searching for unregistered overnight guests in Dawei Township (Tanintharyi Region) arrested a pregnant woman.<sup>29</sup> On 6 Sep, ward administrators and junta forces arrested over 50 people in Tamwe Township (Yangon Region).<sup>30</sup> Regime troops searching for unregistered overnight guests also arrested six civilians on 7 and 11 Sep in Kyaukpyu Township (Rakhine State);<sup>31</sup> and 20 people in Yebyu Township (Tanintharyi Region) on 25 Sep.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> RFA (27 Sep 2022) National League for Democracy member arrested and killed in Magway region

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Irrawaddy (23 Sep 2022) NLD Lawmaker Killed at Myanmar Military Interrogation Center

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Sep 2022) Pro-Myanmar Junta Militia Sells NLD Supporters' Possessions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Than Lwin Times (21 Sep 2022) Three civilian homes sealed off in Belin Township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) (22 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing: Thursday, September 22, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> AAPP (30 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Myanmar Now (2 Sep 2022) Junta hands one-year prison sentence to former British ambassador, Myanmar husband

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> RFA (14 Sep 2022) Junta arrests 15 demanding UN extend term of Myanmar rep

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> DMG (14 Sep 2022) Dozens of youth activists in Tanintharyi Region capital arrested

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Sep 2022) Jailed Myanmar Protest Leader Faces Possible Death Sentence

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> DMG (16 Sep 2022) Shots fired at civilian vehicle as junta tries to arrest prominent social activist in Mrauk-U

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> DMG (27 Sep 2022) Regime charges prominent Arakan social activist with incitement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Sep 2022) LGBT Union Mandalay ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ အပါ လူငယ် ၆ ဦး ဖမ်းခံရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Mizzima (4 Sep 2022) Myanmar junta authorities clamp down on overnight guest registration

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Than Lwin Times (10 Sep 2022) 11 people, including pregnant woman arrested in Dawei

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> DVB (8 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing: Thursday, September 8, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> DMG (9 Sep 2022) Myanmar military detains three local men in Kyaukphyu

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Than Lwin Times (29 Sep 2022) Military council arrests Yebyu residents as human shields

The regime stepped up its surveillance and censorship efforts. On 1 Sep, it announced that it was developing its own Youtube-like live-streaming platform, Mtube. It said the platform would fight "false information" spread by foreign and "unethical" media outlets and bypass the restrictions social media platforms imposed on the junta.<sup>33</sup>

On 21 Sep, the regime revoked the licenses of publishing houses Nyanalin Sarpay and Thanlwin House for printing materials deemed 'offensive ethnically, religiously, and culturally.' The junta has shut down at least six publishing houses since the coup.<sup>34</sup> On 30 Sep, it was reported that the regime had ordered the entertainment industry to seek approval before airing local and international films.<sup>35</sup>

On 30 Sep, it was reported that the regime had been installing CCTV cameras all over Mawlamyine (Mon State) since the attempted coup. The project, which cost MMK 8,000,000,000 in public money over the last two fiscal years, was implemented by crony firms Naung Yoe Company and FISCA.<sup>36</sup>

The junta continued to torture inmates. On 7 Sep, the Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN) reported that the regime had killed 217 people in custody, including over 80 people in Sagaing Region. BHRN's director said most of the victims were tortured before being killed.<sup>37</sup> On 13 Sep, Human Rights Watch published an investigation into the death of six regime opponents. Five of them died within 24 hours of being arrested, with their bodies showing signs of torture.<sup>38</sup>

On 5 Sep, a resistance leader succumbed to the injuries he sustained in regime custody in Taunggyi (Shan State). He had been in custody since 5 Aug 2021.<sup>39</sup> On 13 Sep, junta forces arrested and tortured a civilian they accused of being a PDF fighter in Kale Township (Sagaing Region).<sup>40</sup> On 22 Sep, it was reported that the prison authorities had been torturing political prisoners in Myingyan Prison (Mandalay Region). At least three senior officials, including an associate warden, were personally involved.<sup>41</sup>

The junta continued to target student activists. On 1 Sep, a regime-controlled court in Mandalay sentenced Mandalay University Students' Union member Aung Naing Thu to three years in prison for terrorism. He had been in custody since 12 May 2021.<sup>42</sup> On 16 Sep, the junta sentenced a psychology student from Dagon University (Yangon Region) to 13 years in prison.<sup>43</sup> On 26 Sep, a regimecontrolled court sentenced All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) vice president Wai Yan Phyo Moe to two years in prison for incitement.<sup>44</sup>

The junta continued to target alleged PDF supporters. On 19 Sep, a regime-controlled court in Naypyidaw sentenced a teacher to 20 years in prison on terrorism charges for allegedly helping PDFs.<sup>45</sup>

On 16 Sep, the regime-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) said it would freeze the accounts of Wave Money and KBZPay users that failed to provide their personal information; a move to cut off funding to the resistance. The CBM will check the users' personal information against official records under the pretense of preventing fraud.<sup>46</sup> On 23 Sep, it was reported that the CBM had already blocked several KBZPay accounts, also affecting users who had uploaded their personal information.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Eleven Media Group (EMG) (2 Sep 2022) Myanmar is developing Mtube live streaming platform that can be used like YouTube: Minister for Information

DVB (22 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing: Thursday, September 22, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Than Lwin Times (30 Sep 2022) Military council instructs entertainment industry to seek censorship approval

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Than Lwin Times (30 Sep 2022) CCTV cameras worth hundreds of thousands of kyats are useless to the people: Mawlamvine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Sep) Myanmar's junta has killed nearly 220 prisoners since coup, says watchdog <sup>38</sup> Mizzima (14 Sep 2022) Details of six out of over 73 deaths in custody

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Sep 2022) ရှမ်းတောင် PDF/UG ဦးဆောင်သူ ထောင်ကျနေစဉ် သေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Than Lwin Times (20 Sep 2022) Junta arrests local villager and accuses him of being PDF; DVB (16 Sep 2022) ကလေးမြို့နယ်၌ ရွာသား ၁ ဦးကို PDF ဟုစွပ်စွဲပြီး စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ဖမ်းဆီးနိုပ်စက်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Sep 2022) Myanmar Regime Torturing Political Prisoners Held in Mandalay Jail

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> DVB (3 Sep 2022) အိုဘိုထောင်တွင်းဆန္ဒပြခဲ့သည့် ဗကသကျောင်းသား ကိုအောင်နိုင်သူ ထောင်ဒဏ် ၃ နှစ်ချမှတ်ခံရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> DVB (17 Sep 2022) Weekend Briefing: Saturday, September 17, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Sep 2022) Two years added to student leader's prison sentence

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> RFA (23 Sep 2022) Naypyidaw teacher sentenced to 20 years by Myanmar junta court

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Sep 2022) CBM plans to freeze mobile wallet accounts with incomplete data

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> DVB (23 Sep 2022) Kpay အကောင့်များ ဆက်တိုက်ပိတ်ခံရသဖြင့် ပြည်သူများ ငွေကြေးဆုံးရှုံးလာ

On 20 Sep, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun stated that people providing as little as one kyat in financial support to anti-regime groups or engaging with anti-junta content on social media would face anywhere from two years in prison to the death penalty for terrorism.<sup>48</sup> On 21 Sep, the junta declared a ban on mobile games that simulate combat against regime forces by PDFs, and said it would take legal action against those who have them on their phones.<sup>49</sup>

**The junta continued to target members of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).** On 16 Sep, it was reported that the junta had begun collecting details on CDM members and their families in Mandalay Region. The regime forces had arrested about 40 local CDM education staff since August.<sup>50</sup>

On 21 Sep, junta troops arrested a CDM teacher in Wundwin Township (Mandalay Region), before killing him in custody on 26 Sep. As of 30 Sep, there were at least 234 teachers in detention centers.<sup>51</sup> On 22 Sep, AAPP said the regime had killed 24 teachers and arrested more than 200 so far.<sup>52</sup>

**The junta continued to target healthcare staff**. On 6 Sep, junta officials arrested a private clinic doctor in Taungup Township (Rakhine State) for undisclosed reasons.<sup>53</sup> On 23 Sep, they charged him with unlawful association.<sup>54</sup> On 25 Sep, the regime arrested another doctor in Myebon Township (Rakhine State) following the seizure of a boat carrying medicines and medical devices bound for the hospital he was working at. Junta troops also briefly detained the boat owner before releasing him.<sup>55</sup>

**The junta continued to target journalists**. On 3 Sep, it announced it had revoked the publication license of the Kantarawaddy Times starting from 29 Aug 2022.<sup>56</sup> The outlet said its license had expired since February 2020, and added that it had not applied for an extension.<sup>57</sup>

On 15 Sep, a junta-controlled court sentenced former BBC reporter Htet Htet Khine to three years in prison with hard labor for incitement. She had been in custody since August 2021.<sup>58</sup> On 25 Sep, the regime sentenced her to an additional three years under Unlawful Associations Act Section 17(1).<sup>59</sup> On 20 Sep, junta forces abducted former reporter Mrat Thu Tun in Mrauk-U (Rakhine State).<sup>60</sup>

On 16 Sep, Frontier Myanmar journalist Ye Mon recounted being tortured and sexually abused by regime soldiers in December 2021 after being detained at Yangon International Airport. Soldiers reportedly questioned him about his work and tried to force him to reveal the identity of his sources.<sup>61</sup>

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

On 9 Sep, it was reported that the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), a negotiating body that used to bring together MPs, political parties, Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), military and government representatives within the framework of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was no longer active. People's Party Chair Ko Ko Gyi noted that the mechanism did not appear in any of the junta's so-called peace plans;<sup>62</sup> highlighting its inability to hold an inclusive peace dialogue.

## Civil society urges EAOs to withdraw from the regime's peace process

The regime held a second round of peace talks with the KNU/KNLA-Peace Council and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) during 16-18 Sep.<sup>63</sup> On 21 Sep, the KNU/KNLA-PC delegate was quoted as saying that he was not able to engage meaningfully with the regime, and that he had to listen

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> RFA (21 Sep 2022) Junta threatens prison, execution for supporting Myanmar opposition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Myanmar Now (23 Sep 2022) Myanmar junta bans online PDF video games

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Sep 2022) မန္တလေးတွင် CDM ပညာရေးဝန်ထမ်း ၄ဝ နီးပါး အဖမ်းခံထားရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Sep 2022) CDM teacher dies after five days in junta custody

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> RFA (23 Sep 2022) Naypyidaw teacher sentenced to 20 years by Myanmar junta court

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> DMG (7 Sep 2022) Myanmar military detains doctor in Taungup

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> DMG (26 Sep 2022) Taungup doctor charged with unlawful association

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> DMG (29 Sep 2022) Myebon Twsp doctor detained by regime in Sittwe, whereabouts still unknown: relatives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Mirror Daily (3 Sep 2022) https://www.moi.gov.mm/km/3-september-22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (3 Sep 2022) ကန္တာရဝတီတိုင်း(မ်)သတင်းထုတ်ဝေမှု လက်မှတ် စစ်ကောင်စီရုတ်သိမ်းကြောင်း ကြေညာ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> International Federation of Journalists (16 Sep 2022) Myanmar: Former BBC journalist imprisoned for incitement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Myanmar Now (28 Sep 2022) Myanmar court adds three years to BBC journalist's sentence

<sup>60</sup> DMG (20 Sep 2022) Junta detains ex-reporter in Mrauk-U

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Frontier Myanmar (23 Sep 2022) The junta's sexual assault victims will not be silent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Mon News Agency (9 Sep 2022) Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee deemed to be inactive due to coup fallout

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> GNLM (17 Sep 2022) SPTT continues its 2nd-day meeting with KNU/KNLA-PC, DKBA delegations

to their presentations the whole time.<sup>64</sup> On 16 Sep, it was reported that analysts and leaders within the Karen community had criticized both groups for participating in the junta's peace talks, pointing out that they amounted to a 'divide and rule' strategy.<sup>65</sup>

On 13 Sep, 91% of more than 730 respondents surveyed by Mon media outlet Lagon Eain News Bulletin said the New Mon State Party (NMSP) should not participate in the regime's peace process.<sup>66</sup> On 17 Sep, it was reported that 10 Mon organizations had sent an open letter urging the NMSP to cease any more dialogues with the junta, as the talks were 'just a sham to gain legitimacy and find a political escape.'67

On 26 Sep, 567 CSOs sent a letter to EAOs urging them not to participate in the junta's peace process.<sup>68</sup> On the same day, representatives of the United Wa State Party (UWSP), the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA/Mong La), and the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) met with Min Aung Hlaing for the second time. While he agreed in principle to recognize the existence of the 'Wa State' and the 'Mong La Autonomous Region,' analysts pointed out that this could not be done without amending the military-drafted 2008 Constitution.<sup>69</sup>

## Regime under water as resistance cements territorial gains

On 5 Sep, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) reported that the junta was only in control of 72 of Burma's 330 townships, and that it depended on local proxy militias to control 21 others. The SAC-M added that the NUG and EAOs had effective control over 52% of Burma. It also noted that the regime was unable to govern and was reduced to being an occupying military force in a diminishing amount of territory.<sup>70</sup>

On 7 Sep, in a speech to mark the one-year anniversary of his declaration of war against the junta, NUG acting president Duwa Lashi La said his administration had set up public administration and judicial systems in 24 townships. He added that resistance forces had killed over 20,150 regime soldiers and injured a further 7,000 since 7 Sep 2021.<sup>71</sup>

On 15 Sep, media outlet Myanmar Now cited a leaked copy of Min Aung Hlaing's speech at a June meeting of military officials, that indicated the junta's armed forces were struggling to cope with the heavy losses caused by clashes with resistance forces. Security and military affairs analyst Anthony Davis said the military had been too thinly spread and undermanned for decades, adding that taking advantage of these vulnerabilities and gaining combat experience is what allowed resistance groups to take control of several areas.<sup>72</sup>

## **Update by State/Region**

As of 23 Sep, there had been 633 armed clashes and attacks on civilians during the month. This brings the total number of incidents so far in 2022 to 7,970 (15,631 since 1 Feb 2021).<sup>73</sup> Junta forces had killed at least 2,327 civilians as of 30 Sep, likely an underestimate.<sup>74</sup> According to UNHCR, there were 1,347,400 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burma as of 26 Sep, including 1,017,000 displaced after 1 Feb 2021, with 47,600 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries.<sup>75</sup>

On 22 Sep, the Armed Conflicts Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) said it had recorded 668 incidents of violence against civilians by the regime during Jan-Jun 2022; the highest figure

https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> BNI (21 Sep 2022) KNLA-PC only listens to junta's narratives during peace talks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Karen News (27 Sep 2022) Karen Armed Groups Accused of Being Opportunists for Meeting with Min Aung Hlaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> BNI (16 Sep 2022) More than 91 % survey respondents disagree with NMSP's decision to attend peace talks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Than Lwin Times (17 Sep 2022) 10 Mon organizations send open letter to NMSP not to discuss with military regime

<sup>68</sup> Mizzima (27 Sep 2022) 567 CSOs call on Ethnic Resistance Organisations to not engage with Myanmar junta

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> BNI (1 Oct 2022) Political analysts say agreement on recognizing "Wa State" and "Mong La Autonomous Region" will lead to ethnic dissension <sup>70</sup> SAC-M (5 Sep 2022) Briefing Paper: Effective Control in Myanmar

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Irrawaddy (7 Sep 2022) NUG: We Control Over Half of Myanmar's Territory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Myanmar Now (15 Sep 2022) Leaked document suggests Myanmar military units are in disarray

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (accessed 3 Oct 2022) Data export tool, available at:

AAPP (30 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

**worldwide**. Most incidents involved direct attacks with small weapons on unarmed people. ACLED documented more than 11,000 fatalities in the first half of 2022, mostly as the result of battles between the military and anti-junta armed groups.<sup>76</sup>

#### Kachin and Northern Shan States

Fighting continued to impact civilians in **Kachin State**. In Shwegu Township, regime forces burnt down houses and a school in Tharyar Kon village on 6 Sep. They also arrested villagers to use as human shields.<sup>77</sup> On 22 Sep, resistance forces attacked a junta ship, killing over 27 soldiers. Regime troops then shelled a nearby village, killing a child and severely injuring four children and a woman.<sup>78</sup>

On 14 Sep, junta soldiers abducted two civilians and burnt down their shop in a raid on a village where resistance fighters were reportedly staying in Hpakant Township. The attack forced half of the residents to flee to neighboring villages.<sup>79</sup> On 18 Sep, regime forces shot dead a resident from Alam village and burnt his body.<sup>80</sup> According to UNHCR, there were around 102,700 IDPs in Kachin State as of 26 Sep, including 11,200 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>81</sup>

Clashes also continued in **Northern Shan State**. In Nawnghkio Township, regime forces shelled Lonkhan village during 3-4 Sep, prompting nearly 140 residents to flee.<sup>82</sup> In Kutkai Township, junta forces launched air and artillery strikes against Maw Hip village on 6 Sep, injuring five residents, including three children.<sup>83</sup> On 17 Sep, regime troops indiscriminately fired guns near a local market in Kyaukme, injuring one woman.<sup>84</sup>

On 6 Sep, it was reported that the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) had abducted nearly 100 people in Hsipaw Township as part of its forced recruitment drive.<sup>85</sup> On 17 Sep, fighting broke out between SSPP and junta forces in Mongmit Township after the former refused a regime's request to withdraw from a local camp. On 23 Sep, it was reported that the junta had sent reinforcements to capture the camp, and that fighting had intensified.<sup>86</sup> According to the UN, there were around 16,900 IDPs in Northern Shan State as of 26 Sep, including 7,900 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>87</sup>

#### Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued their raids and arson attacks amid clashes with local resistance forces, committing scores of war crimes. On 29 Sep, it was reported that regime troops had killed about 643 civilians and burned down almost 20,524 houses in Sagaing Region in the year since 15 Sep 2021.<sup>88</sup> According to the UN, there were around 545,200 IDPs in the region as of 26 Sep, all of whom were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>89</sup>

In Shwebo District's Tabayin Township, junta helicopters fired at a school inside a Buddhist monastery in Let Yet Kone on 16 Sep, killing 14 people, including 12 children. Regime troops then

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> RFA (22 Sep 2022) Myanmar worst for state violence against civilians in first half of 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Kachin News (7 Sep 2022) ရွှေကူနယ်တွင် အရပ်သားပြည်သူ် ၁၀ဦးကျော်ကို လူသားဒိုင်းဖမ်းဆီးခံရပြီး လူနေအိမ်များ မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ; Kachin News (8 Sep 2022) Junta Attacks Village In Kachin State; Kashin News Group (13 Sep 2022) Regime Releases Human Shields In Shwegu Township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Kachin News (26 Sep 2022) Burma Army Shelling Kills 7-Year-Old In Kachin State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Kachin News (17 Sep 2022) Burma Army Detains Civilians During Raid In Hpakant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Kachin News (19 Sep 2022) အာလမ်ကျေးရွာတွင် လီဆူအမျိုးသားတစ်ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်သတ်ပြီး အလောင်းမီးရှိ<sub>း</sub>ခဲ့

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Shan News (5 Sep 2022) နောင်ခိုူမြို့နယ် ကျေးရွာထဲ စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီး ရမ်းသမ်းပစ် ပြည်သူ ၁၄၀ နီးပါး စစ်ရှောင်နေရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Sep 2022) Myanmar army shelling injures five in northern Shan State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Shan News (18 Sep 2022) ကျောက်မဲမြို့တွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီ ပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>85</sup> Shan News (6 Sep 2022) TNLA Abducts Civilians Near Hsipaw

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Shan News (23 Sep 2022) Fighting Escalating In Mongmit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> RFA (29 Sep 2022) Junta troops kill 9 civilians and torch 800 homes in fortnight of raids in Sagaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

raided the school, arresting 20 students and teachers.<sup>90</sup> In Khin-U Township, junta troops responded to a resistance ambush on 19 Sep by torching at least ten houses in a nearby village, where they also killed a 77-year-old civilian. On 22 Sep, soldiers raided villages along the Khin-U-Ye-U highway, prompting 10,000 residents from around 20 villages to flee.<sup>91</sup> On 24 Sep, junta and Pyu Saw Htee troops shelled, raided, and torched 10 houses in Innpat village amid clashes with resistance forces.<sup>92</sup> In Wetlet Township, regime troops killed five civilians in Ywathargyi village on 25 Sep.<sup>93</sup> In Taze Township, soldiers killed nine civilians and torched over 800 houses in raids against 20 villages during 16-28 Sep.

On 2 Sep, regime forces detained at least 15 civilians following a resistance attack in Sagaing District's Myaung Township. Soldiers reportedly tortured one of them. It is unclear whether this person died.<sup>95</sup> On 4 Sep, they abducted 15 locals they ultimately subjected to forced labour.<sup>96</sup> On 22 Sep, junta troops shelled and raided Na Bet, where they killed a resistance fighter and a civilian. As of that date, regime forces had killed a total of seven people in the township since early September.<sup>97</sup>

On 2 Sep, locals found the dead bodies of at least 24 civilians in Kanbalu District's Kyunhla Township. Junta troops had reportedly arrested them during 25-28 Aug.<sup>98</sup> On 5 Sep, regime forces shelled a village in Monywa District's Budalin Township, killing one woman and injuring two others.<sup>99</sup> On 13 Sep, soldiers shot dead four members of a local defense force who were providing assistance to IDPs. They also killed a local civilian, injured four others, and detained six women and several men.<sup>100</sup> On 18 Sep, junta troops shelled and torched buildings in another village, including a monastery.<sup>101</sup>

On 12 Sep, eight resistance fighters and two civilians, including a CDM member were killed in a regime raid in Kawlin District's Kawlin Township.<sup>102</sup> On 19 Sep, the junta shelled a village in Katha District's Indaw Township, injuring a one-year-old child and one elder.<sup>103</sup> On 23 Sep, regime artillery fire injured two civilians in Katha Township.<sup>104</sup>

#### **Magway Region**

Junta soldiers continued to conduct scorched-earth operations, targeting civilians amid clashes with local resistance forces. According to UNHCR, there were around 101,300 IDPs in Magway Region as of 26 Sep, all of whom were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>105</sup> On 1 Sep, regime troops held 20 residents hostage in Gangaw Township hostage. On 3 Sep, soldiers shot two of them dead after torturing them.<sup>106</sup> On 5 Sep, junta forces torched 16 houses in Myaing Township's Obo village.<sup>107</sup> On 13 Sep, regime troops abducted 50 villagers to use as human shields, including many women in Yesagyo Township.<sup>108</sup> On 26 Sep, junta troops torched houses and oil wells in Pauk Township, prompting 2,000 residents to flee.<sup>109</sup> Locals said a soldier and a civilian died in the attack.<sup>110</sup> On 27 Sep, junta forces shelled and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> RFI (22 Sep 2022) Teachers recount carnage of Myanmar school helicopter attack ; Reuters (20 Sep 2022) Myanmar army helicopters fire on school, killing 13, media and residents say

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> Irrawaddy (23 Sep 2022) 77-year-old Villager Killed in Myanmar Junta Raids in Sagaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Mizzima (28 Sep 2022) 19 Myanmar junta personnel killed in Sagaing's Khin-U Township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Sep 2022) Myanmar Regime Forces Kill Five Villagers in Sagaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> RFA (29 Sep 2022) Junta troops kill 9 civilians and torch 800 homes in fortnight of raids in Sagaing

<sup>95</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Sep 2022) Junta forces terrorise villages in Sagaing's Myaung Township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> Irrawaddy, via Facebook (6 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/2p9yavzc

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Sep 2022) Civilian killed and burned during junta raid on Sagaing village <sup>98</sup> Irrawaddy (6 Sep 2022) Myanmar Junta Kills Dozens of Civilians in Sagaing's Kantbalu

<sup>99</sup> DVB, via Facebook (7 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/3axum4vj

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Sep 2022) Sagaing resistance fighters shot by junta forces 'while telling people to run'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Mizzima (21 Sep 2022) Myanmar junta troops burn down Sagaing Village

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> DVB, via Facebook (15 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/y634s8m3
<sup>103</sup> Kachin News (19 Sep 2022) အင်းတော်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီး ကြောင့် တစ်နှစ်ကျော်ကလေးနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုတစ်ဦး ထိမှန်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> Kachin News (23 Sep 2022) စစ်ကောင်စီပစ်ခတ်သည့် လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် စာသင်ကျောင်းနှင့် လူနေအိမ်ပေါ်သို့ ကျရောက်ပေါက်ကွဲ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> UNHCR (30 Aug 2022) Myanmar emergency overview map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 29 Aug 2022)

Than Lwin Times, via Facebook (4 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/y43bxt86

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Mizzima (8 Sep 2022) Junta troops burn down 16 houses in Magwe Region village

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> Mizzima (16 Sep 2022) Junta troops arrest 50 villagers to use as human shields

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> Irrawaddy, via Facebook (26 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/4s5y3up8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> RFA (27 Sep 2022) Nearly 700 residents flee Maygway region's Pauk township as troops burn village

raided a local village in Tilin Township, where they torched four houses. Soldiers also arrested about 30 residents, including children, but later released 21.<sup>111</sup>

## **Chin State**

On 8 Sep, a Chin National Front (CNF) spokesperson said resistance groups controlled over 70% of Chin State's territory. He added that the regime had only managed to retain control of towns and some main roads.<sup>112</sup> On 19 Sep, the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) attacked a military camp in Matupi Township, killing six junta soldiers and injuring eight. The CDF said this junta unit had been threatening locals and extorting money from travelers.<sup>113</sup> CDF attacks killed at least five regime soldiers in Kanpetlet (20 Sep)<sup>114</sup> and a further four in Hakha.<sup>115</sup>

**Clashes between the regime and the Arakan Army (AA) continued in Paletwa Township.** On 1 Sep, the AA attacked a regime camp near the Indian border. The junta responded with airstrikes on 2 Sep, prompting many residents to flee.<sup>116</sup> On 6 Sep, the World Food Programme said locals were facing food shortages and rising commodity prices due to the regime's blockade of transportation routes.<sup>117</sup> As of 15 Sep, the AA had captured eight military camps in the township.<sup>118</sup>

UNHCR states there were around 45,800 IDPs in Chin State as of 26 Sep, including 39,300 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>119</sup> On 27 Sep, it was reported that IDP camps in Chin State were struggling to control malaria outbreaks, with the Chin Health Organization reporting equipment shortages.<sup>120</sup> On 28 Sep, it was reported that over 5,000 IDPs in Kanpetlet Township were in dire need of food.<sup>121</sup>

## **Rakhine State**

**Tensions between the junta and the AA escalated dramatically**. Fighting between the two sides spread from Maungdaw and Paletwa (Chin State) Townships to Rakhine's Buthidaung, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw and Toungup Townships.<sup>122</sup> On 21 Sep, the junta imposed a curfew and traffic restrictions in many townships. OCHA Myanmar reported that regime forces had also increased arrests, searches, and security measures statewide.<sup>123</sup>

On 15 Sep, the AA overran a military base after a 20-minute clash involving airstrikes and shelling in **Maungdaw Township**; making it the third base seized by the group in the township over a two-week period.<sup>124</sup> On 22 Sep, another clash broke out near Kun Thee Pin Village.<sup>125</sup> On 29 Sep, it was reported that the junta had isolated the northern part of Maungdaw Township, blocking all waterways, as well as the roads linking Maungdaw, Rathedaung, and Ponnagyun Townships. The move left Maungdaw residents in the township trapped in their villages without food and medicine.<sup>126</sup>

In September, indiscriminate regime artillery fire seriously wounded four people in Kyauktaw Township on 20 Sep;<sup>127</sup> injured two people in Buthidaung Township on 23 Sep;<sup>128</sup> killed a seven-year-old 'Muslim' child in Buthidaung Township on 24 Sep; killed another seven-year-old child in Kyauktaw

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> RFA (28 Sep 2022) Junta troops arrest residents of Magway region's Tilin township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> Irrawaddy (8 Sep 2022) Around 70% of Western Myanmar's Chin State Controlled by Resistance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> Mizzima (22 sep 2022) Six Myanmar Junta soldiers die in attack on Chin State military base

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> Khonumthung Media Group (26 Sep 2022) CDF Launch Offensive In Southern Chin State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> Zalen (28 Sep 2022) CDF\_Matupi နဲ့ စစ်ကောင်စီကြား တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်ပွားရာ စစ်ကောင်စီ (၄) ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး CDF Matupi (၁) ဦးကျဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Narinjara News (5 Sep 2022) AA attacks military bases near Indian border, authority responds with fighter jet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> EMG (7 Sep 2022) Locals in Paletwa face food shortages and rising commodity prices since the armed conflict escalated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> Narinjara News (16 Sep 2022) AA continues capturing military camps in Maungdaw and Paletwa Townships

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Chin World (27 Sep 2022) မိုးရာသီမှာ ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါကို အလူးအလဲခံစားခဲ့ကြရတဲ့ ချင်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်းက စစ်ဘေးရှောင်တွေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> Zalen (28 Sep 2022) ကန်ပက်လက်မြို့နယ်က စစ်ဘေးရှောင် ငါးထောင်ကျော် အကူအညီများလွန်စွာလိုအပ်နေဟုဆို

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> RFA (21 Sep 2022) Fighting between AA and military spreads southward in Myanmar's Rakhine state

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> EMG (22 Sep 2022) Curfew imposed in many townships due to the renewed fighting between the Tatmadaw and the AA in Rakhine State: OCHA Myanmar

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Sep 2022) Military uses waterways to step up Maungdaw operations as Arakan Army seizes territory
<sup>125</sup> DMG (22 Sep 2022) Junta, AA clash in northern Maungdaw Twsp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> Irrawaddy (29 Sep 2022) Rakhine Residents Trapped and Going Hungry as Myanmar Military Blockades Villages

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> DMG (20 Sep 2022) Four injured by junta shelling in Kyauktaw Twsp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> Narinjara News (23 Sep 2022) ဘူးသီးတောင်မြို့နယ် သပိတ်တောင်ရွာကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က မီးရှို

Township on 25 Sep;<sup>129</sup> and injured six people in Minbya Township on 27 Sep.<sup>130</sup> On 26 Sep, regime helicopters fired at a local village following an AA attack on junta vessels, injuring three people in Minbya Township, including two children.<sup>131</sup> As of 29 Sep, artillery fire had killed six civilians and injured 23 others statewide since August.<sup>132</sup>

**Fighting spread to Bangladesh**. On 3 Sep, the junta launched airstrikes against the AA in Maungdaw Township. At least two rockets landed inside Bangladesh.<sup>133</sup> On 16 Sep, five artillery shells fired from Burma killed a young Rohingya refugee and injured at least six others in Bangladesh. Both the junta and the AA blamed each other. On 18 Sep, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the junta's ambassador to Bangladesh to discuss the repeated landing of mortar shells in the country.<sup>134</sup> On 21 Sep, Bangladesh Army chief General Shafuddin Ahmed said his personnel were ready to respond if regime forces kept firing across the border.<sup>135</sup>

According to UNHCR, there were around 232,400 IDPs in Rakhine State as of 26 Sep, including 13,400 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>136</sup> On 5 Sep, it was reported that thousands of IDPs from Maungdaw, Mrauk-U and Rathedaung Townships were not getting any humanitarian assistance. Most of them were sheltering at temporary camps, including in monasteries.<sup>137</sup> On 15 Sep, the junta banned NGOs and INGOs from providing humanitarian aid to IDPs in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Minbya, Maebon, Rathedaung, and Mrauk-U Townships.<sup>138</sup> In response, the AA said aid agencies could deliver aid through its political wing, the United League of Arakan.<sup>139</sup>

## Karenni and Southern Shan States

On 1 Sep, the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) said clashes between Karenni anti-regime forces and junta troops had killed 1,499 soldiers and 151 resistance fighters in **Karenni State** since May 2021. As of 31 Aug, the regime had carried out 158 airstrikes, killed 261 civilians and 61 IDPs, arrested 261 residents, and destroyed 1180 houses and 25 religious buildings statewide.<sup>140</sup>

In Demoso Township, regime forces shelled the compound of an IDP school on 17 Sep.<sup>141</sup> On 22 Sep, junta artillery fire killed a local woman working at her farm.<sup>142</sup> In Loikaw Township, regime artillery shells killed two civilians and injured four amid clashes with the KNDF on 17 Sep.<sup>143</sup> On 27 Sep, junta forces shelled Kone Thar village, killing one woman and severely injuring two residents.<sup>144</sup> As of 27 Sep, the regime had killed 11 civilians including three children statewide during the month.<sup>145</sup> On 30

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Narinjara News (26 Sep 2022) Minor died in Kyauk Taw following an army shell fired on village

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> Narinjara News (28 Sep 2022) 6 wounded, 9 houses damaged in Min Bya firing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> DMG (26 Sep 2022) Three injured during junta air attack in Minbya Twsp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> DMG (29 Sep 2022) Two girls injured by junta shelling in Mrauk-U Twsp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> Irrawaddy (5 Sep 2022) Myanmar Envoy Summoned Over Regime Airstrikes Along Bangladesh Border; Dhaka Tribune (3 Sep 2022) FM on Myanmar border violation: We are observing the situation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> DVB (19 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing: Monday, September 19, 2022; Irrawaddy (17 Sep 2022) Mortar fired from Myanmar kills Rohingya in Bangladesh ; DMG (18 Sep 2022) Military, AA blame each other in deadly mortar shelling over border with Bangladesh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Sep 2022) Bangladesh Army Chief Says 'Ready to Respond' if Cross-Border Shelling From Myanmar Continues

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> Narinjara News (5 Sep 2022) Urgent aid needed for thousands of Arakanese refugees

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Narinjara News (17 Sep 2022) Junta prohibits NGOs reaching 6 Rakhine townships for delivering aids

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> DMG (19 Sep 2022) AA urges NGOs to deliver relief aid through its networks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> Irrawaddy (2 Sep 2022) Almost 1,500 Myanmar Regime Troops Killed in Kayah State Since May 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (20 Sep 2022) လက်နက်ကြီးရန်ကြောင့် အထက်တန်းစာသင်ကျောင်း နေ့တစ်ပိုင်းသာဖွင့်လှစ်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (22 Sep 2022) လက်နက်ကြီးထိမှန်ပြီး ဒီးမော့ဆိုအရှေ့ဖက်ရှိ ဒေသခံ အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦးသေဆုံး၊ တစ်လအတွင်း အရပ်သား ၁၁ ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (18 Sep 2022) ပဒါးညေးကျေးရွာအနီးတိုက်ပွဲမှာ အရပ်သားနှစ်ဦး လက်နက်ကြီးထိမှန်သေဆုံး၊ ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရသူရှိ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (28 Sep 2022) လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် လွိုင်ကော်၊ကုန်းသာကျေးရွာ ဒေသခံ အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦးပွဲချင်းပြီးဆုံး၊ နှစ်ဦး စိးရိမ်ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (27 Sep 2022) စက်တင်ဘာလအတွင်း တိုက်ပွဲကြောင့် အရပ်သားသေဆုံးမှု ၁၁ဦးရှိပြီး လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် သေဆုံးသူ စဉီးရှိ

Sep, the junta accused the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and PDFs of injuring one person in an attack against a plane that was about to land in Loikaw. The KNPP denied any involvement.<sup>146</sup>

According to UNHCR, there were around 77,700 IDPs in Karenni State as of 26 Sep, all of whom were displaced after 1 Feb 2021; likely a gross underestimate.<sup>147</sup> The Karenni Civil Society Network said there were 146,115 IDPs in Karenni State as of 11 Sep.<sup>148</sup> On 1 Sep, it was reported that an IDP camp sheltering 5,000 people in Hpruso Township was facing food shortages.<sup>149</sup> On 6 Sep, it was reported that most of the children in Hpruso's IDP camps were showing symptoms of malnutrition.<sup>150</sup> On 19 Sep, it was reported that a large number of IDPs from a camp in Demoso Township were suffering from dengue fever amid medicine shortages.<sup>151</sup>

In **Southern Shan State**'s Pekon Township, junta forces shelled Kone Paw and Taung Boh Gyi villages on 4 Sep, injuring three villagers.<sup>152</sup> Regime troops also launched 13 airstrikes against and fired 150 artillery shells into Moebye amid clashes with resistance forces during 8-12 Sep, killing three people, including two children, and injuring several others.<sup>153</sup> Fighting destroyed over 100 houses and forced around 5,000 residents to flee.<sup>154</sup> On 16 Sep, junta forces shelled a local monastery where IDPs were sheltering, killing two adults and two children. Soldiers also abducted 100 people to use as human shields.<sup>155</sup> On 21 Sep, regime troops indiscriminately shelled Saung Kan and Flaing Taungche villages, killing a 60-year-old man.<sup>156</sup>

According to UNHCR, there were around 58,400 IDPs in S. Shan State as of 26 Sep, all of whom were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>157</sup> On 14 Sep, it was reported that the regime had ordered IDPs from Kyaukme, Namtu, Taunggyi, Hopong, Lecha, Hsi Hseng, Pinlong, and Nyaungshwe Townships to return home by the end of October.<sup>158</sup>

## Karen, Bago, and Mon States/Region

In **Karen State**, the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO) clashed with the junta in Kyondoe Township on 4 Sep, killing three junta soldiers. The fighting left two civilians injured.<sup>159</sup> On 7 Sep, the junta-affiliated Border Guard Force (BGF) shot dead a resident in Karen National Union (KNU)-controlled Hpapun District. Fighting between KNLA and regime forces killed 51 soldiers and injured a further 31 in Hpapun over the following two weeks.<sup>160</sup> On 24 Sep, shells fired by the BGF injured an eight-year-old child and two women in Hpa-an Township.<sup>161</sup> On 28 Sep, regime forces responded to a KNLA/resistance attack on a BGF checkpoint with artillery fire, forcing at least 2,000 residents to flee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Myanmar Now (30 Sep 2022) Man injured in alleged airplane shooting in Karenni State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Karenni Civil Society Network (28 Sep 2022) Sep 12-25, 2022 Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (1 Sep 2022) ဖရူဆိုမြို့အနောက်ဖက်ခြမ်းစစ်ရှောင်စခန်းတွေမှာ ရိက္ခာပြတ်လပ်မှုရှိ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (6 Sep 2022) ဖရူဆိုမြို့နယ်က စစ်ရှောင်ကလေးအများစု အာဟာရချိုတဲ့လက္ခဏာပြနေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (19 Sep 2022) ဖရူဆိုမြို့နယ်ရှိ စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းတစ်ခုမှာ အများအပြားဖျားနာကြပြီး ဆေးဝါးအခက်အခဲရှိနေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Shan News (5 Sep 2022) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးပစ်ခတ် ပြည်သူ (၃) ဦးထိမုန်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> RFA (11 Sep 2022) ရှမ်း- ကယား နယ်စပ် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေပြီး အရပ်သားထိခိုက်မှုရှိ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> Kantarawaddy News (12 Sep 2022) မိုးဗြဲတိုက်ပွဲအတွင်း နေအိမ် ၁၀၀ထက်မနည်းပျက်စီး၊ ဒေသခံ ၅ထောင်ကျော် စစ်ဘေးရှောင်နေရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>155</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (26 Sep 2022) Trapped Civilians Escape Monasteries During Mobye Siege; Network Media Group (22 Sep 2022) Regime Abducts Trapped Civilians In Mobye

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Shan News (22 Sep 2022) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ် လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ပြည်သူတစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>158</sup> Mizzima (14 Sep 2022) ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်အတွင်းက စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းများကို ပိတ်သိမ်းရန် စစ်ကောင်စီက စာထုတ်အကြောင်းကြား

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> Than Lwin Times (7 sep 2022) Villagers in Kyondoe flee junta's artillery shells

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Sep 2022) Junta suffers huge loss in two-week battle: Hpapun

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> Than Lwin Times (29 Sep 2022) Three civilians, including a child, injured hit by mortar shell

in Chaungzon Village.<sup>162</sup> According to UNHCR, there were around 89,600 IDPs in Karen State as of 26 Sep, including 86,400 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>163</sup>

On 13 Sep, the regime threatened to kill civilians who did not leave their villages in the KNU-controlled areas of Mone and Kyaukkyi Townships (**Bago Region**). As of that date, the junta had reportedly evicted 945 individuals from 167 homes in KNU-defined Mone Township.<sup>164</sup> On 27 Sep, it was reported that the KNU authorities in Nyaunglebin District (Eastern Bago Region) had condemned the junta's attacks on residential areas. The KNU said the junta had arrested and tortured 94 locals since May, killing 16 and injuring 21.<sup>165</sup> According to UNHCR, there were around 38,900 IDPs in Bago Region as of 26 Sep, including 37,700 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>166</sup>

On 11 Sep, it was reported that the regime had started putting military wives on guard duty in **Mon State**. Sources noted that units had either two women and four male soldiers assigned to a checkpoint, or five women and three male soldiers. The junta reportedly cuts off these women's monthly food supplies if they under-perform.<sup>167</sup> On 29 Sep, it was reported that the local junta authorities were offering money to convince veterans to re-enlist. Veterans were reportedly reluctant to do so because of the dire situation faced by frontline soldiers.<sup>168</sup>

On 8 Sep, two gunmen killed the chairman of the Bilin Veterans' Association.<sup>169</sup> On 21 Sep, resistance forces shot dead a police officer in Ye Township.<sup>170</sup> On 15 Sep, regime forces shelled a village in Theinzayat Township, injuring a woman.<sup>171</sup> On 22 Sep, regime artillery fire killed three civilians and injured another amid clashes with KNLA forces in Kyaikto Township.<sup>172</sup> According to UNHCR, there were around 15,400 IDPs in Mon State as of 26 Sep, all of whom were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>173</sup>

## **Tanintharyi Region**

Junta forces continued to target civilians amid clashes with the resistance. On 1 Sep, regime troops beat up and arrested a 12-year-old and his parents while checking for unregistered overnight guests in Myeik Township.<sup>174</sup> On 4 Sep, resistance forces clashed with junta and Pyu Saw Htee troops in Tanintharyi Township, killing five, injuring one, and prompting thousands to flee.<sup>175</sup> On 11 Sep, junta forces shot dead a local man who refused to open the airbox of his motorcycle in Thayetchaung Township.<sup>176</sup>

In Dawei Township, the Dawei PDF clashed with regime forces near Bawapin village, killing at least 7 soldiers. Junta troops detained more than 130 locals, including women and children, and tortured several to obtain information on local PDFs.<sup>177</sup> They also closed a border trade camp and imposed a travel ban on the Dawei-Htee Khee road amid clashes with KNDO-led anti-regime forces.<sup>178</sup> On 15 Sep, junta forces raided Maungmaeshaung village, where they beat and tortured civilians following a series of mine attacks against military convoys.<sup>179</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> DMG (28 Sep 2022) Thousands of locals flee latest fighting in Kayin State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Than Lwin Times (16 Sep 2022) Villagers in KNU's Nyaunglaybin District forcibly evicted by junta

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>165</sup> Than Lwin Times (27 Sep 2022) KNU condemns Junta airstrike as ultimate terrorist act

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>166</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>167</sup> Than Lwin Times (11 Sep 2022) Soldiers' wives and offspring providing security amid weak strength in battalions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> Than Lwin Times (29 Sep 2022) Military Council plans to pay veterans, send them to front lines

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>169</sup> Than Lwin Times (9 Sep 2022) Retired major, Chairman of Belin Veterans Association assassinated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Than Lwin Times (22 Sep 2022) Police surveillance officer shot dead in Lamaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> Than Lwin Times (16 Sep 2022) Woman seriously injured by artillery shell in Theinzayat

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> Than Lwin Times (24 Sep 2022) Three civilians killed, one injured in Kyaikto clash

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> Mizzima (7 sep 2022) 12-year-old and five others arrested in Tanintharyi's Myeik Town

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> Than Lwin Times (6 Sep 2022) Five military personnel dead, one injured in Tanintharyi's clash

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Than Lwin Times (13 Sep 2022) Man shot dead at checkpoint in Thayatchaung

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>177</sup> Than Lwin Times (8 sep 2022) 12 soldiers including dy-commanding officer killed in clash on Dawei-Htee Khee road; Than Lwin Times (13 Sep 2022) Junta tortures Dawei residents arrested as human shields

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>178</sup> DMG (22 Sep 2022) Regime again closes Dawei-Htee Khee border trade camp due to fighting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>179</sup> Than Lwin Times (16 Sep 2022) Junta raids, inspects in Dawei's Maungmaeshaung village

UNHCR estimated there were around 23,100 IDPs in Tanintharyi Region as of 26 Sep, all were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.<sup>180</sup>

## Naypyidaw Union Territory

On 16 Sep, Myanmar Now reported that the junta had discreetly been arming villagers loyal to the regime in Naypyidaw, presumably to shift the resistance's focus from its forces to these newly-formed militias.<sup>181</sup> On 17 Sep, the regime extended the 12am-4am curfew enacted soon after the attempted coup in six of the capital's eight townships. On 20 Sep, it was reported that the junta had built a network of bunkers and dispatched more security personnel into the city in what resistance sources called 'preparations for the military's final battle.'<sup>182</sup>

## Mandalay

Fighting continued to impact civilians amid escalating clashes between junta and anti-junta forces. On 1 Sep, an explosion targeted the Bawdipin Pagoda compound in Maha Aungmye Township during a meeting of regime-appointed administrators, injuring one participant. No group claimed responsibility.<sup>183</sup> On 2 Sep, a bomb went off at an administration office in Pyigyidagun Township. On the same day, the Myanmar Revolution Rangers Force bombed a building where non-CDM public servants were living in Chanmyathazi Township.<sup>184</sup> Explosions also targeted an internet gaming center on 19 Sep, injuring four people,<sup>185</sup> and a KBZ bank in Maha Aungmye Township on 26 Sep.<sup>186</sup>

On 3 Sep, junta troops opened fire on two men they claimed were carrying weapons in Pyigyidagun Township, injuring one whom they ultimately detained.<sup>187</sup> On 8 Sep, three unknown gunmen shot dead a police officer in Chanmyathazi Township.<sup>188</sup> On 29 Sep, resistance forces shot dead an USDP MP and alleged junta supporter in Nyaung Oo Township.<sup>189</sup> Attacks against junta vehicles killed three soldiers in Thabeikkyin Township (18 Sep);<sup>190</sup> injured seven police officers in Pyigyidagun Township (21 Sep);<sup>191</sup> and killed 34 soldiers and injured a further 17 in Thabeikkyin Township (26 Sep).<sup>192</sup> On 29 Sep, PDF forces ambushed a prison van carrying eight political prisoners, rescuing two of them and killing two policemen in Amarapura Township.<sup>193</sup>

## Yangon

On 1 Sep, it was reported that the junta had stepped up security measures in Yangon Region.<sup>194</sup> Resistance fighters continued their operations, killing or injuring regime administrators, civil servants or alleged junta informants in Hlaingthaya (1 Sep),<sup>195</sup> South Okkalapa (5 Sep),<sup>196</sup> Shwepyitha (6 Sep,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>180</sup> UNHCR (29 Sep 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (As of 26 Sep 2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Myanmar Now (16 Sep 2022) Myanmar military 'discreetly' arming Naypyitaw villagers loyal to regime

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Sep 2022) Newly built bunkers, extended curfews point to tightening security in Myanmar military capital
<sup>183</sup> DVB (1 Sep 2022) မဟာအောင်မြေမြို့နယ် ဗောဓိပင်ဘုရားဝင်းအတွင်း ဗုံးပေါက်၊ ၁ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>184</sup> Mizzima (2 Sep 2022) မန္တလေးမြို့တွင် Non CDM ပညာရေးဝန်ထမ်းများနေထိုင်ရာအနီးတွင် ပေါက်ကွဲမှုဖြစ်ပွား

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>185</sup> Mizzima (22 Sep 2022) Woman critically injured in Mandalay gaming shop blast

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>186</sup> DVB (26 Sep 2022) မန္တလေး၊ သိပ္ပံလမ်းရှိ ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်ခွဲတွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> Mizzima (6 Sep 2022) Man chased, shot and arrested by junta in Mandalay

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>188</sup> Mizzima (9 Sep 2022) ချမ်းမြသာစည်မြို့နယ် ကန်တော်ကြီး မိသားစုရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဆိုင်အနီး နယ်ထိန်းရဲတပ်ကြပ် သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>189</sup> Khit Thit (30 Sep 2022) ညောင်ဦးမြို့နယ်မှ မန္တလေးတိုင်း ကြံ့ဖွတ် လွှတ်တော်အမတ်လောင်း အောင်မင်းထိုက် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရပြီး သေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>190</sup> DVB (20 Sep 2022) သပိတ်ကျင်း၌ စစ်ကားတစီး ကြားဖြတ်တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရသဖြင့် တပ်အရာရှိအပါဝင် ၃ ဦး သေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>191</sup> DVB (22 Sep 2022) မန္တလေးတွင် ရဲကား ၁ စီး မိုင်းခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး ၇ ဦးခန့် ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>192</sup> DVB (27 Sep 2022) သပိတ်ကျင်းတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီစစ်ကြောင်း မိုင်းခွဲခံရပြီး အယောက် ၅၀ ကျော် သေဆုံး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>193</sup> Myanmar Now (29 Sep 2022) မန္တလေးတွင် အချုပ်ကားကို PDF ကြားဖြတ်တိုက်ခိုက်၊ နိုင်ကျဉ်းအချို့လွတ်မြောက်; Myanmar Now (30 Sep 2022) Political prisoners rescued in ambush on police vehicle near Mandalay

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> Than Lwin Times (1 Sep 2022) Junta steps up security, inspections in Yangon

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>195</sup> DVB (2 Sep 2022) လှိုင်သာယာတွင် ရာအိမ်မှူး ၁ ဦး သေနတ်ပစ်ခံရပြီး သေဆုံး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> DVB (6 Sep 2022) တောင်ဥက္ကလာ ၁၃ ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံးနှင့် Max ဆီဆိုင်တွင် ဗုံးပေါက်၊ နှစ်ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

26 Sep),<sup>197</sup> Thaketa (16 Sep, 20 Sep),<sup>198</sup> Hlaing (24 Sep),<sup>199</sup> Dala (25 Sep),<sup>200</sup> North Dagon (29 Sep),<sup>201</sup> and South Dagon (29 Sep) Townships.<sup>202</sup> They also killed, injured or otherwise attacked members of the regime's security forces in Mingaladon (3 Sep, 28 Sep),<sup>203</sup> Shwepyitha (12 Sep),<sup>204</sup> Insein (12 Sep),<sup>205</sup> Mayangon (23 Sep),<sup>206</sup> and Hlaing (27 Sep) Townships.<sup>207</sup>

Bomb attacks targeted the military-owned Myanmar Brewery factory in Mingaladon Township on 3 Sep;<sup>208</sup> an Electric Power Corporation office in Hlaing Township on 4 Sep,<sup>209</sup> administration offices in Shwepyitha, North Okkalapa, and Thongwa Townships on 11 Sep;<sup>210</sup> another administration office in Sanchaung Township on 14 Sep;<sup>211</sup> and a karaoke bar selling military-backed products in South Dagon Township on 29 Sep.<sup>212</sup> On 28 Sep, an explosion targeted an administration office in Ahlone Township, injuring five civilians. No group claimed responsibility.<sup>213</sup>

On 22 Sep, junta troops tortured two civilians after finding three bombs in front of an administration office in North Okkalapa Township.<sup>214</sup> On 29 Sep, resistance forces shot dead a junta soldier in Pabedan Township. Regime forces retaliated by killing three civilians and injuring a woman.<sup>215</sup>

# Women remain defiant despite persecution (more details at women tracker)

In a submission to the UN Human Rights Council on 12 Sep, Women's Advocacy Coalition Myanmar and Women's League of Burma outlined the deterioration of the situation of women and girls since the attempted coup. They noted that women have been victims of escalating sexual violence crimes, with recent qualitative research presenting a troubling snapshot of security force-perpetrated rape, gang rape, and sexual assault, including in detention. The submission also highlighted that economic hardship and lack of security had pushed women to fall victim to trafficking gangs and to agree to slave-like labor conditions and prostitution. It also praised the brave participation of women in the pro-democracy movement, adding that nine women human rights defenders were now on death row for their activism.216

<sup>201</sup> DVB (29 Sep 2022) မြောက်ဒဂုံ ၃၂ ရပ်ကွက်တွင် ရာအိမ်မှူး ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

<sup>208</sup> Mizzima (4 Sep 2022) မင်္ဂလာဒုံမြို့နယ် အမှတ် (၃) လမ်းမပေါ် ရှိ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ပိုင် မြန်မာဘီယာစက်ရုံ ဖောက်ခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

သတိပေးဖောက်ခွဲမှု ပြုလုပ်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> DVB (7 Sep 2022) ရွှေပြည်သာမြို့နယ်၌ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးရုံး ပစ်ခတ်ခံရပြီး ရာအိမ်မှူး ၁ ဦးသေ; DVB (27 Sep 2022) ရွှေပြည်သာမြို့နယ်တွင် ဗုံးနှစ်ကြိမ်ပေါက်ပြီး ပစ်ခတ်မှုအချို့ဖြစ်

<sup>198</sup> Mizzima (23 Sep 2022) Administrator shot dead in Yangon; DVB (17 Sep 2022) Weekend Briefing: Saturday, September 17, 2022

Than Lwin Times (25 Sep 2022) Retired Major General, son-in-law assassinated by urban guerrilla forces

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>200</sup> DVB (26 Sep 2022) ဒလမြို့နယ်တွင် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရမှုကြောင့် အမျိုးသား ၁ ဦးသေဆုံး၊ ၁ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>202</sup> DVB (29 Sep 2022) တောင်ဒဂုံတွင် ပစ်ခတ်မှုဖြစ်ပြီး ရာအိမ်မှူး ၁ ဦးသေ၊ အမျိုးသမီး ၁ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>203</sup> Mizzima (6 Sep 2022) Yangon's Mingaladon Police Station attacked; Khit Thit (28 Sep 2022) မင်္ဂလာဒုံ လေတပ်ဂိတ်နှင့် အမှတ် ၉၈၁ စစ်တပ်ဂိတ်ကို ဗုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်၊ စစ်သားတချို့ထိခိုက်မှုရှိ

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>204</sup> Mizzima (15 Sep 2022) Defence forces launch north Yangon attacks
<sup>205</sup> Mizzima (15 Sep 2022) Defence forces launch north Yangon attacks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>206</sup> DVB (23 Sep 2022) သမိုင်းလမ်းဆုံမီးပ္ဂိုင့်ရှိ လုံခြုံရေးဘန်ကာအနီး ဗုံးပေါက်ပြီး ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရသူများရှိ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>207</sup> DVB (27 Sep 2022) လှိုင်မြို့နယ် EPC ရုံးရှေ့စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်လုံခြုံရေးဘန်ကာ ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>209</sup> DVB (5 Sep 2022) လှိုင်မြို့နယ်နှင့် ရွှေပြည်သာတွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲမှုများဖြစ်ပွား

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>210</sup> DVB (12 Sep 2022) ရွှေပြည်သာ၊ မြောက်ဉက္ကလာနှင့် သုံးခွ မြို့နယ်တို့၌ ဗုံးပေါက်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>211</sup> Mizzima (17 Sep 2022) Ward administration office in Yangon's Sanchaung Township bombed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>212</sup> Mizzima (29 Sep 2022) ဒဂုံမြို့သစ်တောင်ပိုင်းမြို့နယ် တောင်မြောက်လမ်းဆုံအနီးရှိ GOOD LUCK KTV ကို မြို့ပြပြောက်ကျားတပ်ဖွဲ့

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>213</sup> DVB (28 Sep 2022) အလုံမြို့နယ် စောရန်ပိုင်တောင်ရပ်ကွက်ရုံးအနီး ဗုံးပေါက်ပြီး ၅ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>214</sup> DVB (23 Sep 2022) မြောက်ဥက္ကလာပမြို့နယ်တွင် ဗုံးတွေ့ပြီးနောက် လူငယ်၂ ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ဖမ်းဆီး

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>215</sup> Khit Thit (29 Sep 2022) ရန်ကုန်မြို့လယ်ခေါင် မဟာသိမ်တော်ကြီးအနီးတွင် စစ်သား ၁ ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရပြီးနောက် ဆိုက်ကားသမား ၁ ဦးနှင့် လူငယ် ၂ ဦးကို စစ်တပ်က ပစ်သတ်၊ အမျိုး သမီး ၁ ဦးကျည်ထိမှန်

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>216</sup> Women's Advocacy Coalition Myanmar and Women's League of Burma (12 Sep 2022) The Situation of Human Rights for Women and Girls in Burma/Myanmar

On 6 Sep, the regime aired its frustration about the latest United Nations Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence, which said junta troops were 'credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence.' The regime dismissed the report as 'not credible,' citing a trial related to a rape incident in Kutkai Township (Shan State) as a success story.<sup>217</sup> On the same day, it was reported that junta forces had **raped at least seven women** in Kani Township (Sagaing Region) in late August.<sup>218</sup> On 12 Sep, junta media sources published a notice inviting single women aged 18 to 25 to join the military in combat support roles; likely to make up for the regime's losses on the battlefield.<sup>219</sup>

**The junta continued to target female celebrities who opposed its rule**. On 21 Sep, Thai authorities denied entry to Han Lay, a model who took refuge in Thailand in 2021 after speaking out against the regime. The junta reportedly issued an Interpol notice against her, and she said regime police officials attempted to get to her at Bangkok's airport. She was ultimately granted asylum in Canada with the help of UNHCR. Human Rights Watch said the junta had tried to force Han Lay's return to Burma, where she would have faced immediate arrest, likely abuse in detention, and imprisonment.<sup>220</sup>

On 27 Sep, a military court sentenced detained model Nang Mwe San to six years in prison under the Electronic Communications Act for allegedly posting 'sexually explicit content' deemed 'harmful to Burmese culture' online. She has been in custody since 5 Aug. A human rights activist from the Yangon People's Advocacy Network condemned the ruling for its lack of transparency and said Nang Mwe San was denied access to a proper legal defense.<sup>221</sup> Thinzar Wint Kyaw, another model who was arrested in August under the same law, is to face trial in October.<sup>222</sup>

# **Regime opens up as COVID-19 rebounds** (more details at <u>COVID-19</u>, <u>healthcare</u>, <u>and</u> <u>education tracker</u>)

On 2 Sep, the junta announced it had resumed visa exemptions for the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam, and Brunei.<sup>223</sup> However, regime numbers showed a steady and worrisome increase in COVID-19 infections throughout the month: 94 on 1 Sep,<sup>224</sup> 2 on 15 Sep,<sup>225</sup> and 364 on 30 Sep.<sup>226</sup> Regime media sources reported that a total of 37,219,300 people had received shots as of 1 Oct,<sup>227</sup> from a population of 54.4 million.<sup>228</sup> It is unclear how many had been fully vaccinated, or boosted.

At least six people died of COVID-19 and 2,457 got infected during 1-14 Sep amid an outbreak of a new Omicron variant and an acute lack of medical workers and medicine. Charity groups and doctors pointed out that the actual number of new infections was likely to be much higher, and warned that the upward trend will continue if measures to prevent transmission are not put in place.<sup>229</sup>

On 5 Sep, it was reported that charity clinics were struggling to offer free treatment and continue operations due to skyrocketing medicine prices.<sup>230</sup> On 6 Sep, it was reported that Burma was facing shortages of vital medicines, with many pharmaceutical stores shutting down due to the junta's imports

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>217</sup> GNLM (6 Sep 2022) Statement issued by the National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>218</sup> Irrawaddy (6 Sep 2022) Myanmar Junta Troops Rape at Least Seven Women in Sagaing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>219</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Sep 2022) Women Recruits Being Trained for Combat Roles by Myanmar Junta

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>220</sup> Washington Post (28 Sep 2022) Myanmar beauty queen who decried junta seeks asylum in Canada; Reuters (22 Sep

<sup>2022)</sup> Thailand denies entry to model who denounced Myanmar junta in pageant speech

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>221</sup> RFA (28 Sep 2022) Model who posted steamy photos gets 6 years for 'tarnishing Burmese culture'

BBC (28 Sep 2022) Myanmar OnlyFans model sentenced to six years jail

<sup>223</sup> GNLM (1 Sep 2022) MoFA eases entry restrictions on 8 ASEAN countries effective 1 Sept

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>224</sup> GNLM (2 Sep 2022) 94 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 September, total figure rises to 615,315

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>225</sup> GNLM (16 Sep 2022) 259 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 September, total figure rises to 617,998

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>226</sup> GNLM (1 Oct 2022) 364 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 September, total figure rises to 623,166

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>227</sup> GNLM (3 Oct 2022) 275 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 October, total figure rises to 623,914

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>228</sup> World Bank (accessed 27 Jan 2022) Population, total – Myanmar

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>229</sup> RFA (15 Sep 2022) Six dead, thousands infected in Myanmar by new COVID-19 outbreak

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>230</sup> DMG (5 Sep 2022) Free clinics struggle to survive amid skyrocketing medicine prices

red tape and forex restrictions.<sup>231</sup> On 18 Sep, it was reported that the cost of cancer drugs had nearly tripled since the attempted coup, making them unaffordable for patients.<sup>232</sup>

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

## **Regime targets remittances amid increasing economic havoc**

The MMK plunged to 4,000 to USD 1 in the unofficial forex market on 1 Sep.<sup>233</sup> On 7 Sep, it was reported that the Financial Action Task Force, a global finance watchdog, was likely to blacklist the regime for failing to head off money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF is expected to adopt a decision in October. North Korea and Iran are currently the only blacklisted countries.<sup>234</sup>

On 11 Sep, junta media sources reported that the regime's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) had delisted 3,300 companies that failed to submit annual returns this year;<sup>235</sup> likely because they had to cease operations. On 19 Sep, it was reported that the junta's erratic economic policies, notably its artificially low MMK to USD exchange rate, had benefited black market operators whilst leaving other sectors such as importers and local businesses on the verge of collapse.<sup>236</sup> On 28 Sep, it was reported that the regime had restricted access to the DICA database, likely to reduce transparency and protect its business interests.<sup>237</sup>

On 14 Sep, junta media sources reported that the regime-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) had instructed private banks to purchase the foreign wages received by sailors on domestic bank accounts at the artificially low rate of MMK 2,100 to USD 1.<sup>238</sup> On 14 Sep, it was reported that the regime was looking to force expatriates to send remittances to their families through designated banks at the official exchange rate. A banking source said the move would provide the junta with a source of hard currency, help replenish its depleted reserves, ease inflation, and reduce the deficit.<sup>239</sup>

## Inflation keeps biting as economic turmoil, conflict disrupt production

On 3 Sep, it was reported that a weak MMK and declining national stocks had driven up bean prices in Mon State, leading to a decrease in demand.<sup>240</sup> On 18 Sep, it was reported that rice prices in Mon State had surged to record highs due to shortages and increasing commodity prices.<sup>241</sup> On 10 Sep, junta media sources said some shopping centers in Burma had imposed purchase caps on some commodities such as instant noodles (two packs/person), cooking oil (two bottles), and MSG (two 500g packs). Vegetable oil, palm oil, and certain brands of peanut oil were reportedly unavailable in some stores.<sup>242</sup>

On 2 Sep, junta media sources reported that the value of Burma's agricultural exports reached USD 1.51 billion during 1 Apr-2 Sep, down USD 27.28 million compared to the same period last year.<sup>243</sup> On 7 Sep, it was reported that rubber farms in Mon State were struggling to resume production. The regime's movement restrictions disrupted the influx of workers from Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions; and skilled workers also migrated to other countries because of rising commodity prices and food shortages.<sup>244</sup> On 10 Sep, it was reported that rice farmers in Kalay Township (Sagaing Region) were unable to cultivate their fields due to fighting between junta and resistance forces.<sup>245</sup> On 15 Sep, it was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>231</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Sep 2022) Beyond the Headlines: Min Aung Hlaing returns to Russia, UN envoy sees no room for talks, and drug prices climb

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>232</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Sep 2022) Challenges of access to medicine raise concern for cancer patients

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>233</sup> GNLM (1 Sep 2022) Pure gold price hit all-time high of K3.5 mln per tical in domestic markets

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>234</sup> Nikkei Asia (7 Sep 2022) Myanmar faces blacklisting risk by global financial crime watchdog

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>235</sup> GNLM (11 Sep 2022) 3,300 companies struck off register in past 8 months due to AR absence: DICA

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>236</sup> Frontier Myanmar (19 Sep 2022) We are losing while we are selling': junta policies bite businesses
<sup>237</sup> Myanmar Now (28 Sep 2022) Myanmar junta restricts access to corporate registry database

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>238</sup> GNLM (14 Sep 2022) CBM directs local private banks to buy sailor's foreign wages at maximum rate

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>239</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Sep 2022) Myanmar Junta Tightens Controls on Migrant Remittances

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>240</sup> Than Lwin Times (3 Sep 2022) Dollar crisis prompts Bean price hike in Mon State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>241</sup> Than Lwin Times (18 Sep 2022) Rice prices reach new record high in Mon State

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>242</sup> GNLM (10 Sep 2022) Some shopping centres put limit on sales per capita

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>243</sup> GNLM (12 Sep 2022) Agricultural export value tops over \$1.5 bln over five months

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>244</sup> Than Lwin Times (7 Sep 2022) Mon State facing shortage of skilled rubber workers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>245</sup> Chin World, via Facebook (10 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/bdfa34dp

reported that high operating costs had forced over half of the chicken and duck breeding farms in Mon State to stop their operations.<sup>246</sup>

On 13 Sep, junta media sources reported that the garment sector accounted for 26% of Burma's exports during Oct 2021-Mar 2022.<sup>247</sup> On 24 Sep, it was reported that inflation and inconsistent electricity supply had forced garment factories in Yangon Region to temporarily halt production due to a drop in orders.<sup>248</sup> On 19 Sep, the Yi Cai garment factory in Shwepyitha Township (Yangon Region) was forced to close for two months.<sup>249</sup> On 28 Sep, it was reported that 29 workers from the factory were protesting over the company's failure to compensate them for the temporary closure.<sup>250</sup>

## Junta releases forex, driving down fuel prices

On 1 Sep, regime media sources said fuel prices had decreased by over MMK 200/liter from 31 Aug to 1 Sep after the CBM injected more than USD 200 million into the imports sector.<sup>251</sup> On 3 Sep, the CBM said it stood ready to provide the sector with more USD if necessary.<sup>252</sup> On 9 Sep, it was reported that fuel prices had decreased to MMK 2,310/liter for Ron92 and MMK 2,985/liter for diesel.<sup>253</sup> Prices had dropped further as of 17 Sep, reaching MMK 2,180 for Ron92 and MMK 2,580 for diesel.<sup>254</sup>

On 23 Sep, it was reported that the regime had approved the importation of 233,594.60 tons of fuel in September.<sup>255</sup> On 30 Sep, it was reported that over six million gallons of fuel had arrived in Yangon, and that they were being distributed across the country.<sup>256</sup>

On 22 Sep, it was reported that Hong Kong-listed VPower Group International Holdings Ltd. and China National Technical Import and Export Corp, which operate in Burma's electricity generation sector, had asked the regime for assistance in importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia following a supply and cash crunch. The regime's Ministry of Electric Power said discussions on 'all these issues' were underway, but denied that there were direct requests to import LNG from Russia.<sup>257</sup>

## Ooredoo, Kirin to wrap up irresponsible exits

On 8 Sep, Qatari telecom company Ooredoo sold its Burma operations to the Singapore-based Nine Communications firm for USD 576 million. Nine Communications is owned by the conglomerate Link Family Office and U Nyan Win. Established in 2014, Ooredoo was Burma's third-biggest telecom operator with nearly 15 million users in 2020.<sup>258</sup> On 12 Sep, it was reported that Ooredoo Burma was now de facto owned by Zaw Win Shein, a military crony and the adopted son of a general who served as a minister in the military proxy Thein Sein administration.<sup>259</sup>

On 20 Sep, Japanese beverage giant Kirin Holdings withdrew its arbitration request with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre over the termination of Myanmar Brewery, its joint-venture partnership with military conglomerate Myanma Economic Holdings Limited. It also withdrew the liquidation request it had filed with a Burma court. Both sides reportedly agreed to withdraw their respective legal petitions following Kirin's decision, in June, to sell its 51% stake in Myanmar Brewery to the joint venture. The transaction has yet to be completed and is reportedly pending regulatory approval from the regime.<sup>260</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>246</sup> Mon News Agency (15 Sep 2022) More Than half of Mon State's Chicken and Duck Breeding Businesses Close Due to High Operating Costs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>247</sup> GNLM (12 Sep 2022) CMP constitutes 26% of overall export values in H2 of mini-budget period

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>248</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Sep 2022) အော်ဒါမရသဖြင့် ရန်ကုန်က အထည်ချုပ်စက်ရုံတချို့ရပ်နား

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>249</sup> Yokesone (28 Sep 2022) Yi Cai Garment Factory will temporarily close due to a lack of orders

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>250</sup> DVB (28 Sep 2022) Yi Cai အထည်ချုပ်စက်ရုံ အလုပ်သမားအချို့နစ်နာကြေးအပြည့်ရရေး ဆက်လက်တောင်းဆို

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>251</sup> GNLM (2 Sep 2022) Fuel prices down by over K200 per litre after CBM's FX intervention

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>252</sup> GNLM (5 Sep 2022) CBM to provide more US dollars for fuel and cooking oil importers if necessary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>253</sup> EMG (9 Sep 2022) Fuel prices continue to drop for two consecutive days, reaching Ks2,310 per liter for 92 Ron and Ks2,985 per liter for diesel

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>254</sup> EMG (17 Sep 2022) Fuel prices drop for three days in a row

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>255</sup> EMG (23 Sep 2022) Myanmar allows over 230,000 tons of fuel to be imported in this month

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>256</sup> DVB, via Facebook (30 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/ycktapaf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>257</sup> Bloomberg (22 Sep 2022) Chinese Power Firms in Myanmar Lobby Junta to Buy Russia Gas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>258</sup> Irrawaddy (8 Sep 2022) Qatari Telecom Operator Ooredoo Exits Military-Ruled Myanmar

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>259</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Sep 2022) Military Crony Linked to New Ownership of Ooredoo's Myanmar Unit

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>260</sup> Nikkei Asia (21 Sep 2022) Kirin pulls arbitration request in venture with Myanmar military

## Lawlessness, corruption keep fueling unregulated mining

On 14 Sep, it was reported that Locrian Precious Metals, an Australian-led mining company, had carried on searching for gold in Tachileik Township (Shan State) more than a year after its primary investor, Perth-based mining firm Myanmar Metals, withdrew from multiple projects in Burma. The regime also allowed multiple military-linked companies to mine the area, alongside scores of smaller enterprises that are reportedly digging without licenses, instead paying off the military authorities in exchange for access.<sup>261</sup> On 21 Sep, it was reported that a junta-affiliated People's Militia Force was planning to start a lead mining project in Lashio Township.<sup>262</sup> On 27 Sep, it was reported that five companies were preparing to extract coal in Kyethi Township. Residents expressed concerns about the potential environmental impact and suspected that the junta or the SSPP owned some of these companies.<sup>263</sup>

On 6 Sep, it was reported that regime forces in Machanbaw (Kachin State) had allowed businessmen to mine gold in the Mali Kha River in exchange for USD 500/month. There were 50 gold prospectors in early 2022, but their number has reportedly doubled since then.<sup>264</sup> On 27 Sep, it was reported that the number of illegal gold mines along the Uru river, Homalin Township (Sagaing Region) had skyrocketed after the coup, with illegal miners bribing the junta or the Shanni Nationalities Army for the right to mine.<sup>265</sup> Regime forces reportedly beat and detained unlicensed miners who failed to pay. Residents also expressed concern over the environmental degradation caused by the unrestricted mining.266

International responses (more details at international responses tracker)

UN

On 5 Sep, UN Special Envoy to Burma Noeleen Heyzer expressed her concern about Suu Kyi's health, and said she will not visit Burma again unless she is allowed to meet with her. Heyzer also emphasized the need for ASEAN members to develop a regional framework for refugee protection, and to come up with durable solutions for Burma refugees.<sup>267</sup>

On 12 Sep, the head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) highlighted growing evidence of crimes against humanity in Burma, and denounced the lack of accountability. He also noted that the Mechanism had prepared 67 evidential and analytical packages they will share with judicial authorities, including the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.<sup>268</sup>

On 22 Sep, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma Tom Andrews said the junta's upcoming election will be a fraud and warned other countries against offering assistance that would help legitimize it. He also called on governments and companies to develop a coordinated effort to cut off the junta's sources of revenue and weapons.<sup>269</sup>

## ASEAN

On 5 Sep, Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to urgently provide humanitarian assistance to Burma, adding that the bloc could not afford to wait until its next summit in November.<sup>270</sup> On 6 Sep, Saifuddin Abdullah hosted a virtual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>261</sup> Myanmar Now (14 Sep 2022) International companies implicated in scramble for Shan State's gold under Myanmar junta <sup>262</sup> Shan News (21 Sep 2022) လွိုင်လိန်းတောင်ခြေတွင် သတ္တုတူးဖော်ရန် မန်ပန် ပြည်သူ့စစ်တပ်ဖွဲ့ ကြိုးစားနေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>263</sup> Shan News (27 Sep 2022) ကျေးသီးမြို့နယ်ထဲ ကျောက်မီးသွေးတူးဖော်ရန် ကုမ္ပဏီများက ပြင်ဆင်နေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>264</sup> Kachin News (6 Sep 2022) Gold Mining Accelerates In Putao District

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>265</sup> Myanmar Now (27 Sep 2022) ဥရုချောင်း ပြောင်တလင်းခါသည်အထိ တရားမဝင်ရွှေတူးဖော်မှု ကြီးစိုးနေ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>266</sup> Myanmar Now (28 Sep 2022) Gold-rich area of northern Myanmar 'like a desert' as post-coup mining operations decimate Uru River

Al Jazeera (5 Sep 2022) UN Myanmar envoy 'very concerned' about Aung San Suu Kyi's health; EMG (8 Sep 2022) UN envoy urges Asean to develop regional refugee protection framework amid crisis in Myanmar

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>268</sup> UN News (12 Sep 2022) Myanmar: Increasing evidence of crimes against humanity since coup

<sup>269</sup> Reuters (22 Sep 2022) U.N. rights envoy warns that Myanmar's election will be a 'fraud'; AP News (22 Sep 2022) UNappointed expert says better sanctions on Myanmar needed <sup>270</sup> Reuters (5 Sep 2022) Malaysia urges ASEAN to "buck up" in enforcing Myanmar peace plan

dialogue with representatives from six Burma civil society organizations (CSOs) and acknowledged the need to engage with CSOs delivering aid outside regime-controlled areas.<sup>271</sup>

On 19 Sep, Saifuddin Abdullah said ASEAN must review whether the Five-Point Consensus should be replaced with a new plan before the bloc's next summit. He also met with NUG representatives in New York, and renewed his calls for ASEAN to engage with the NUG and NUCC.<sup>272</sup> On 23 Sep, **Malaysian Prime Minister** Ismail Sabri Yaakob called on ASEAN to be tougher on the junta and to engage with the NUG. He also expressed his disappointment at the UN Security Council's lack of response to the crisis in Burma.<sup>273</sup>

On 10 Sep, the **Indonesian** Foreign Ministry confirmed that no regime representative will attend an upcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting with the UN Secretary-General and UNGA President.<sup>274</sup> However, **junta officials continued to attend other ASEAN meetings**. On 13-15 Sep, the junta's Investment Minister attended the 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting.<sup>275</sup> On 15-16 Sep, the junta's Energy Minister attended the 40<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting.<sup>276</sup> On 21 Sep, regime police chief Zin Min Htet attended the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime.<sup>277</sup> On 29 Sep, the junta's Labor Minister hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network Coordinating Board Meeting online.<sup>278</sup>

## International

On 5 Sep, Min Aung Hlaing arrived in Vladivostok, **Russia** to attend the 7th East Economic Forum (EEF) 2022. The junta delegation also discussed how to strengthen bilateral ties and measures to address Western sanctions with Russian officials. On 6 Sep, the regime also signed a nuclear cooperation roadmap with Russian state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom. On 7 Sep, Min Aung Hlaing met with Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, whom he praised without reserve.<sup>279</sup> On the same day, Min Aung Hlaing invited EEF attendees to invest in Burma. He also encouraged 'small countries' to use RUB, RMB, and INR for trade to counter the influence of the USD.<sup>280</sup> On 11 Sep, he met with the Head of Russia's Republic of Buryatia to discuss bilateral cooperation in the health sector, automotive industry, and natural resource exploration.<sup>281</sup>

On 12 Sep, **Bangladeshi** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the continued stay of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh was cause for concern due to its negative impacts on the country's economy, environment, security, and socio-political stability.<sup>282</sup>

On 21 Sep, **Japan** announced it would discontinue its training program for members of the Burma military in April 2023 in response to the regime's execution of four pro-democracy activists. The country will however allow the 11 cadets currently enrolled to complete their courses.<sup>283</sup>

On 21 Sep, US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet held a meeting with NUG and EAO representatives to discuss ways to support the democracy movement in Burma. On 22 Sep, he said

<sup>282</sup> AP (12 Sep 2022) Bangladesh leader: Prolonged Rohingya stay impacts stability

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>271</sup> Burma Human Rights Network (7 Sep 2022) Representatives of six Myanmar CSOs hold dialogue with Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato Saifuddin Abdullah; Jakarta Post (12 Sep 2022) Malaysia's Myanmar Initiative

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>272</sup> Reuters (19 Sep 2022) As U.N. mulls Myanmar action, Malaysia pushes ASEAN to review peace plan; APHR (19 Sep

<sup>2022)</sup> Malaysian Foreign Minister and international parliamentarians demand stronger action on Myanmar; Bernama (20 Sep 2022) Myanmar Crisis: Malaysia reiterates its position for ASEAN to engage NUG, NUCC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>273</sup> Al Jazeera (24 Sep 2022) Malaysian PM laments lack of UN action on Myanmar crisis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>274</sup> Jakarta Post (15 Sep 2022) RI confirms Myanmar's absence from upcoming New York meeting

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>275</sup> GNLM (15 Sep 2022) 54th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings held

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>276</sup> GNLM (16 Sep 2022) MoE Union Minister joins 40th AMEM and its Associated Meetings

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>277</sup> GNLM (22 Sep 2022) Myanmar participates in 16th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>278</sup> GNLM (30 Sep 2022) Myanmar hosts 23rd ASEAN-Occupational Safety and Health Network Coordinating Board Meeting virtually

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>279</sup> Than Lwin Times (4 Sep 2022) Junta leader's trip to Russia just an effort to find way out of Myanmar's economic crisis; EMG (5 Sep 2022) SAC chairman leaves for Russia to attend the 7th EEF-2020; DVB (8 Sep 2022) Daily Briefing: Thursday, September 8, 2022; TASS (4 Sep 2022) Kremlin reveals names of foreign guests invited to EEF ; Irrawaddy (7 Sep 2022) Myanmar Regime, Russia Sign Nuclear Cooperation 'Roadmap'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>286</sup> EMG (8 Sep 2022) SAC Chair invited investors to invest in Myanmar's oil and natural gas and mining sectors in his speech at the EEF; EMG (8 Sep 2022) If Ruble, Yuan and Rupee can be used instead of US dollars in world trade, the financial bullying of big countries will be overcome: SAC Chair

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>281</sup> EMG (11 Sep 2022) SAC Chairman Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing meets Head of the Govt. of Republic of Buryatia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>283</sup> NHK World Japan (20 Sep 2022) Japan Defense Ministry to stop accepting Myanmar military members for training

several nations had discussed a potential UN Security Council resolution on Burma, and added that the US was committed to enforcing the current economic sanctions against the regime without further harming its people.<sup>284</sup>

## **Civil Society**

On 20 Sep, **43 media organizations** released a joint statement urging Facebook not to introduce a modified version of its *News Feed* in Burma. They argued the measure would limit the spread of political content, and therefore benefit the regime's propaganda and threaten the rights to information and freedom of expression. Veteran journalist Myint Kyaw said it would be detrimental to the public as Facebook is the main source of information in Burma.<sup>285</sup>

On 23 Sep, a group of **638 CSOs** sent a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres calling on the UN to stop engaging with the junta and to support the NUG and EAOs. The letter noted that UNOCHA, UNICEF, FAO and IOM had signed new agreements with the junta over the past two months, granting it the legitimacy it craves.<sup>286</sup>

On 26 Sep, **Justice for Myanmar** called on the **EU** to adopt sanctions against the junta's arms brokers, noting it had so far sanctioned only one of the 31 companies that have been helping the regime commit crimes against humanity.<sup>287</sup>

On 29 Sep, **Amnesty International** issued a statement demanding Facebook's owner, Meta, to be held accountable for allowing hate speech against Rohingya on their platform, which they claimed contributed to on the ground violence against the minority. Amnesty International also called on Meta to offer the Rohingya compensation based on the platform's role in the atrocities committed.<sup>288</sup>

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

On 2 Sep, the NUG designated the Yangon house of Aung San Suu Kyi as a cultural heritage site, adding that it was prohibited for anyone to acquire, sell or demolish it. The NUG threatened to prosecute whoever violates these prohibitions.<sup>289</sup>

On 8-9 Sep, Labor Ministry delegates met with a garment factory owner and Thai Labor Department officials in Nakhon Pathom District (Thailand) to address the dismissal of several Burma workers. The owner ultimately agreed to compensate them.<sup>290</sup> On 13 Sep, the Labor Ministry convinced another factory owner in Pathum Thani Province to compensate dismissed Burma workers.<sup>291</sup>

On 12 Sep, the Ministry of Education and the Kachin Independence Organization's Education Department jointly opened the 'Kachin State Comprehensive University' in Laiza Township (Kachin State). The new university will bring together eight tertiary education institutions from Kachin State, and will be opened to students who graduated from KIO high schools.<sup>292</sup> On 23 Sep, the Ministry of Education said it had opened a free online basic education school in cooperation with the Pa'O National Federation Council.<sup>293</sup>

On 14 Sep, it was reported that the Defense Ministry was investigating the alleged killing of 10 people by the Yinmarbin PDF (Sagaing Region). It stressed the need to establish a unified chain of command as local groups start competing over territorial control and weapons.<sup>294</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>284</sup> Straits Times (23 Sep 2022) US seeks action, possibly UN resolution, on Myanmar junta; Irrawaddy (24 Sep 2022) US 'Exploring Ways to Ramp Up Support' for Myanmar Opposition: State Dept. Official

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>285</sup> DMG (22 Sep 2022) Myanmar media organisations urge Facebook to reconsider plan to reduce 'public affairs content' in News Feeds

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>286</sup> Al Jazeera (23 Sep 2022) Myanmar civil society tells UN to stop giving regime 'legitimacy'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>287</sup> Mizzima (26 Sep 2022) NGO calls on EU to urgently sanction Myanmar military arms brokers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>288</sup> Al Jazeera (29 Sep 2022) Meta owes Rohingya reparations for Myanmar violence, says Amnesty

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>289</sup> BNI (5 Sep 2022) NUG designates Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence as cultural heritage

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>290</sup> NUG Ministry of Labour, via Facebook (12 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/3hn3yz3m

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>291</sup> NUG Ministry of Labour, via Facebook (15 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/nhb5c8rr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>292</sup> NUG Ministry of Education, via Facebook (13 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/5ab2p8ax

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>293</sup> NUG Ministry of Education, via Facebook (23 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/2fzvwd9x

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>294</sup> DVB, via Facebook (14 Sep 2022) https://tinyurl.com/ywsw45h7

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