

Weekly News Review

Issue 86, December 21 - January 3, 2023



The Decisive Year of the Spring Revolution or the Direction of the Spring Revolution

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Introduction

Seconds, minutes, days and months go by without anyone's help. The Spring Revolution of the people of Myanmar has also relied on itself in its own way, fighting from all sides against the military council and its props. The year 2022 has come to an end while they are engaged in this struggle. The Spring Revolution forces, including the National Unity Government (NUG), are chanting in chorus that 2023 will be the decisive year of the Spring Revolution.

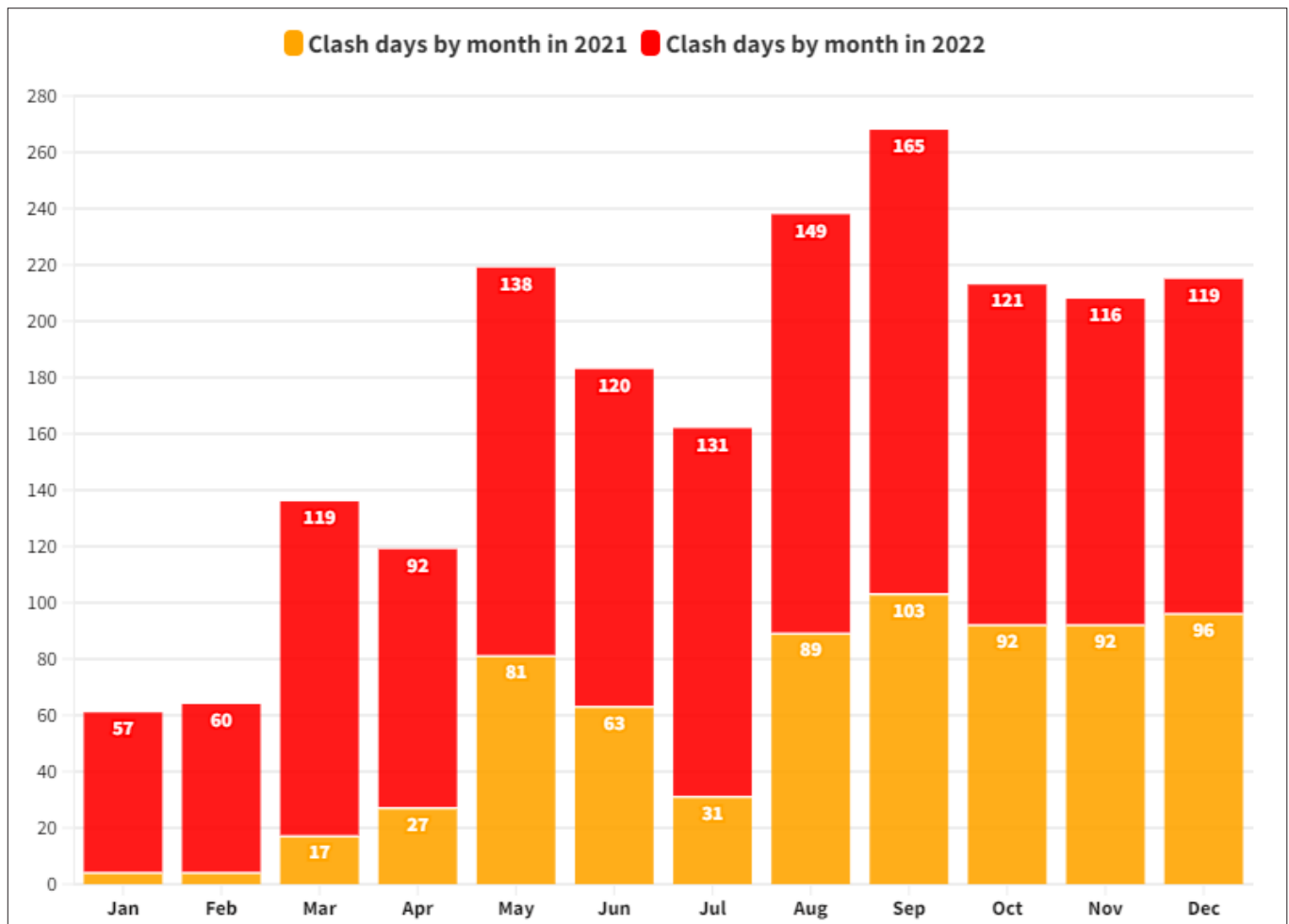
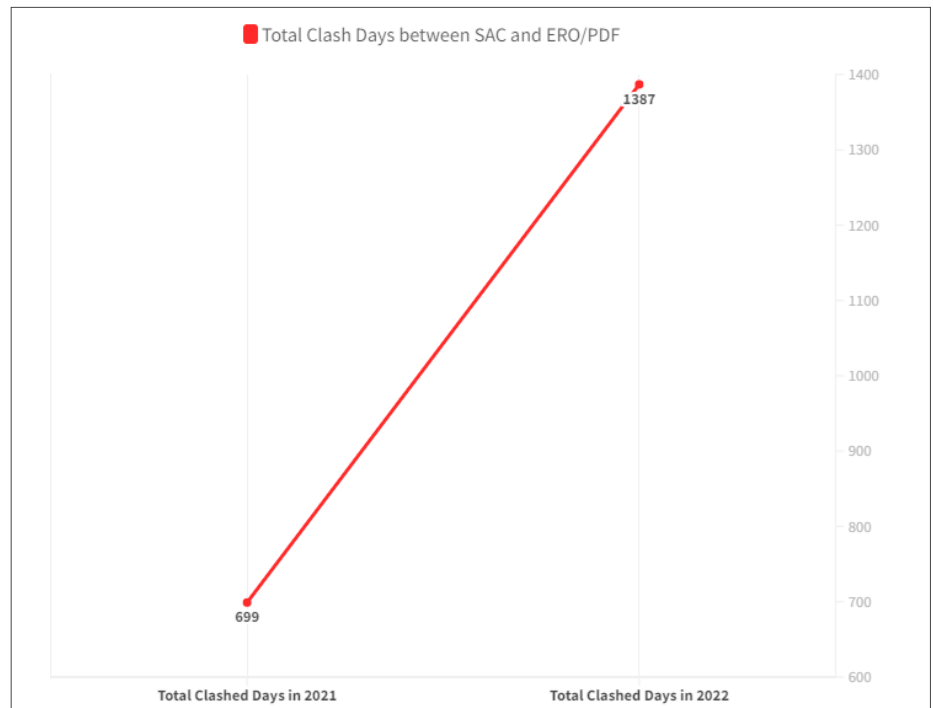
This issue of Burma News International

(BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review explores the direction of the Spring Revolution through information and facts about the resistance struggle against the military council in 2022.

Figures of the Defense War

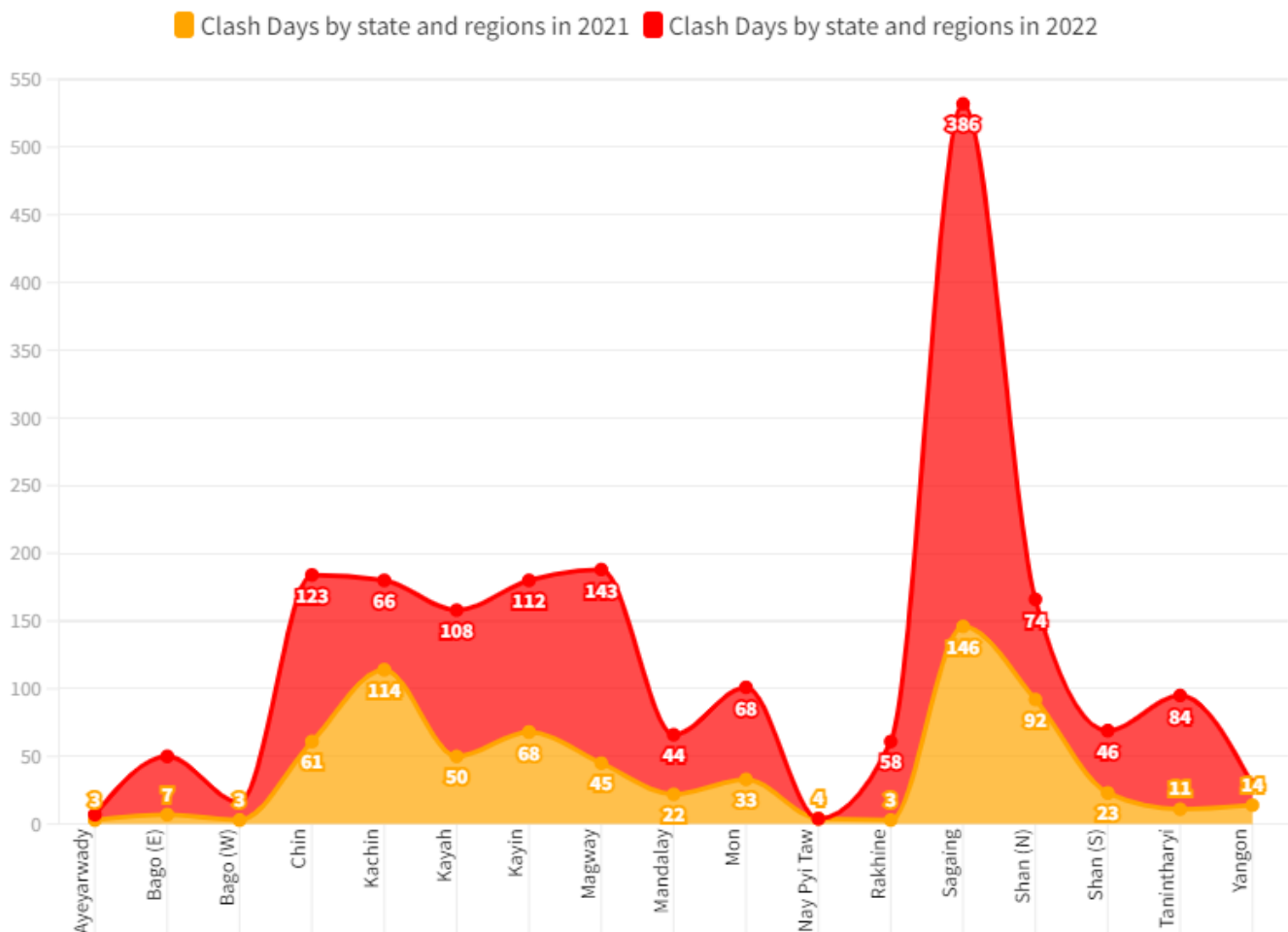
According to data collected by BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 2,086 days of clashes between military council forces, People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and Ethnic Revolutionary

Organizations (EROs) during the military coup, and could be higher given the number of clashes. Broken down by year, 699 days of clashes were recorded in 2021, while the number rose to 1,387 days in 2022, nearly doubling the intensity of resistance to the military council.



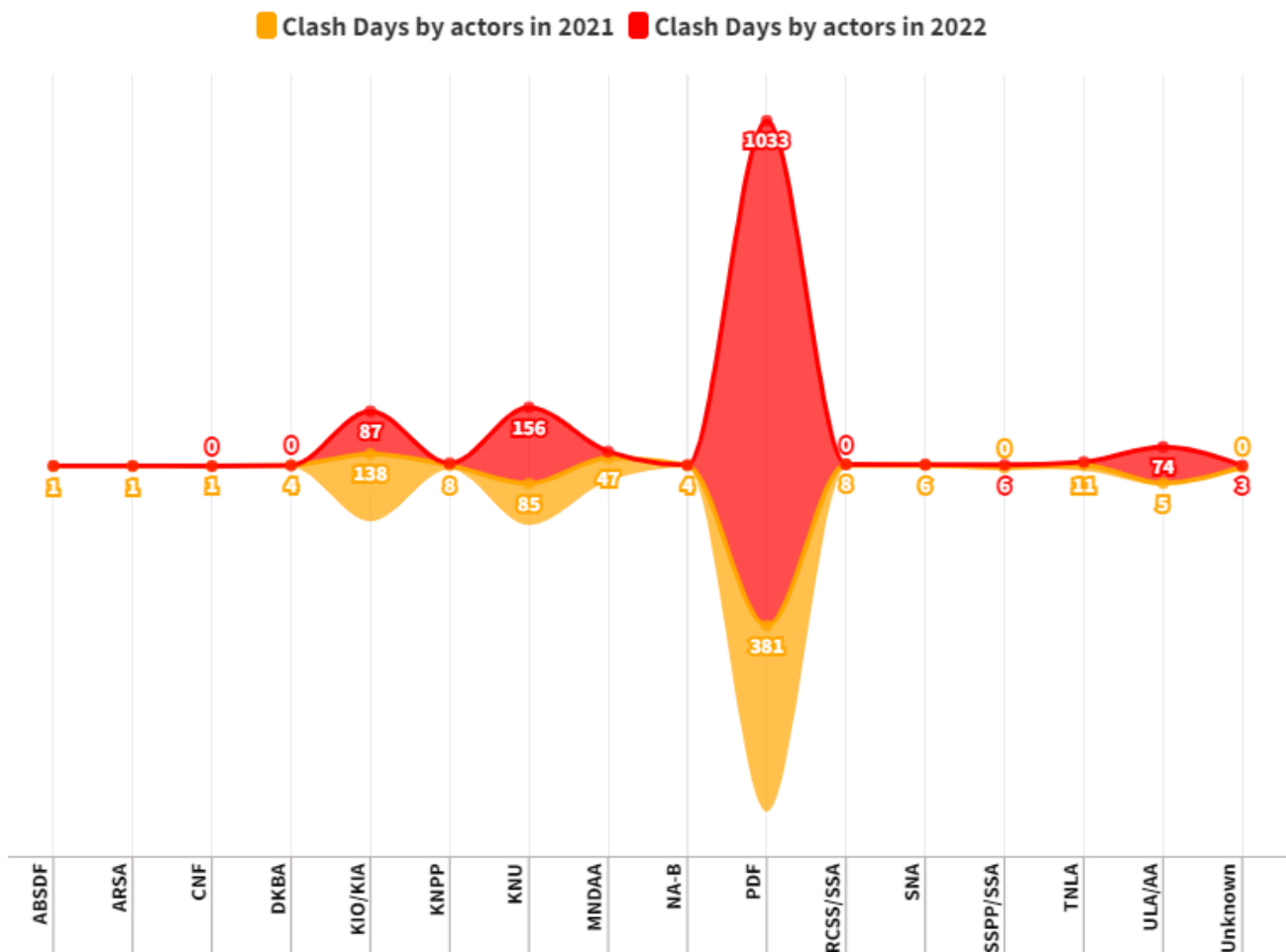
By month, September was the month with the most clashes. In the first year of the military coup, September, December, October, November, August, and May were the months with the highest number of clash days.

However, in 2022, September, August, May, July, October, June, March, December, and November each had hundreds of days of clashes.



In 2021, the defensive war was most intense in the Sagaing Region, Kachin State, northern Shan State, Karen State, Chin State, and Karenni (Kayah) State. In 2022, the war peaked in Sagaing Region with 386 days of clashes, followed by Magway, Chin, Karen, and Karenni (Kayah) with hundreds of days of clashes each.

The number of clashes between PDFs/LDFs and military regime forces nearly tripled during the military coup compared to 2021. Although clashes between the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) and the military council occurred in 2021, armed clashes between the United League of Arakan/Arakan



Army (ULA /AA) and the military council resurged in 2022.

Looking at the numbers of clashes between the EROs, the PDFs/LDFs, and the military council forces, the dynamics of the PDFs/LDFs' defensive war has increased significantly, while the numbers between the EROs and the military council have changed noticeably. Most notably, the intensity of the conflict between the KIO/KIA and the junta decreased slightly in 2022, while the number of days when the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), ULA / AA, and regime forces increased.

This is because BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor found that EROs such as KIO/KIA, KNU/KNLA, Karenni National Progressive Party/Karenni Army (KNPP/KA) and Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA) chose to side with the Spring Revolution forces, which led to cooperation between them to a reasonable extent. Fighting between the EROs and the joint forces of the PDFs/LDFs was particularly intense in Kachin State, northern Shan State, Karen State, Karenni (Kayah) State, Sagaing Region, and Chin State.

According to the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor data, the declining numbers of armed clashes between EROs and regime forces have

therefore had an indirect impact on the PDFs/LDFs' defensive war.

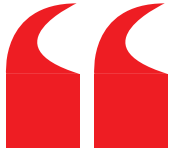
Factors for the defensive war

General Gun Maw, Vice Chairman (1) of the Kachin Independence Council (KIC), said that the KIO/KIA, which is certainly on the side of truth, is working closely with the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and the National Unity Government (NUG).

"Not only the KIO, but the entire Kachin people are cooperating with the CRPH and NUG with full understanding. In terms of military cooperation, the KIA, through the Central Command and Coordination Committee (C3C), is continuously working with the NUG Ministry of Defense to end this military dictatorship," he said via Radio Free Asia.

Peng Dern, the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), which created a 1,000-strong 611 Brigade in early 2022, said in his Jan. 1 New Year's message that he believed Myanmar's revolutionary war would intensify in 2023.

Pu Zing Cung, Chairman of the Chin National Front (CNF), also pledged in his official message that they will fight together with the EROs, Chinland Defense Forces



The military council
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(CLDFs), PDFs/LDFs, anti-dictatorship groups and the international community until the military dictatorship is eradicated. The CNF chairman also said that they have succeeded in preventing the military council from operating in Chin State and that they could dominate and control most of the main roads and areas.

Khu Oo Reh, Chairman of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), urged the people of Myanmar to continue marching until they achieve their goal and form the federal democratic union as soon as possible while keeping the weaknesses of diversity at bay.

The military council can only operate its administrative mechanism in urban areas of Karenni State and has lost control over most rural areas, said Khu Htae Bu, deputy minister of Home Affairs and Immigration of the National Unity Government (NUG).

Saw Mutu Say Poe, Chairman of the Karen National Union (KNU), said in his New Year's message that all people, organizations and groups should join together to eliminate not only military dictatorship but all forms of dictatorship, in accordance with the needs of the times and politics. He went on to say that the necessary strategies and tactics must be implemented in accordance with evolving politics and contemporary systems.

General N' Ban La, Chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), proclaimed that the military council will be decisively defeated because it is no longer the enemy of the EROs but the enemy of the entire people.

On January 1, 2023, NUG Acting President Duwa Lashi La said the following in his State of the Nation Address.

"The NUG has succeeded in connecting with all EROs and building strong military and political cooperation with key organizations in 2022. At the same time, in addition to its strategic and practical work with local armed organizations, the NUG has also been able to

strengthen its connection with local and foreign civilian organizations and put the brakes on the military council from all sides."

Review

From the early days of the coup to the end of 2022, there were rapid changes. Although anti-coup movements initiated nationwide in a peaceful and non-violent manner have not ceased to this day, the momentum of the defensive war that has developed against the military regime's violent crackdown and arrests has only intensified.

Currently, the year 2023 is designated as the decisive year of the Spring Revolution. All resistance forces, including EROs, are eagerly working together to champion the cause. The Three Brothers Alliance, consisting of MNDAA, TNLA and AA, is contributing to the revolution in their own way. Only the strengthening of unity among the forces of the Spring Revolution will be able to give a decisive answer for the Spring Revolution.

With the expansion and intensification of the resistance, the welfare of the IDP population should also be considered in

advance. It should be considered that they may be subjected to airstrikes, indiscriminate small and heavy arms fire, and house burning by the military regime. In addition, the military council's moves toward elections should also be monitored. The direction of the Spring Revolution must be the goal that the forces of the spring revolution themselves must bring about.

Consideration should be given to ending to all forms of authoritarianism, including military dictatorship, and creating a federal democratic union that guarantees equality. The decisive answer for the Spring Revolution or the unshakable direction of the Spring Revolution will require factors such as the support of the public, the unity of the resistance forces, and the recognition of the international community.

Time is passing year by year, month by month, day by day. The Spring Revolution is gaining the upper hand over the military council in all aspects. I wonder, even if 2023 were the decisive year of the Spring Revolution, whether it would be able to guarantee hope and safe survival for the people of Myanmar.

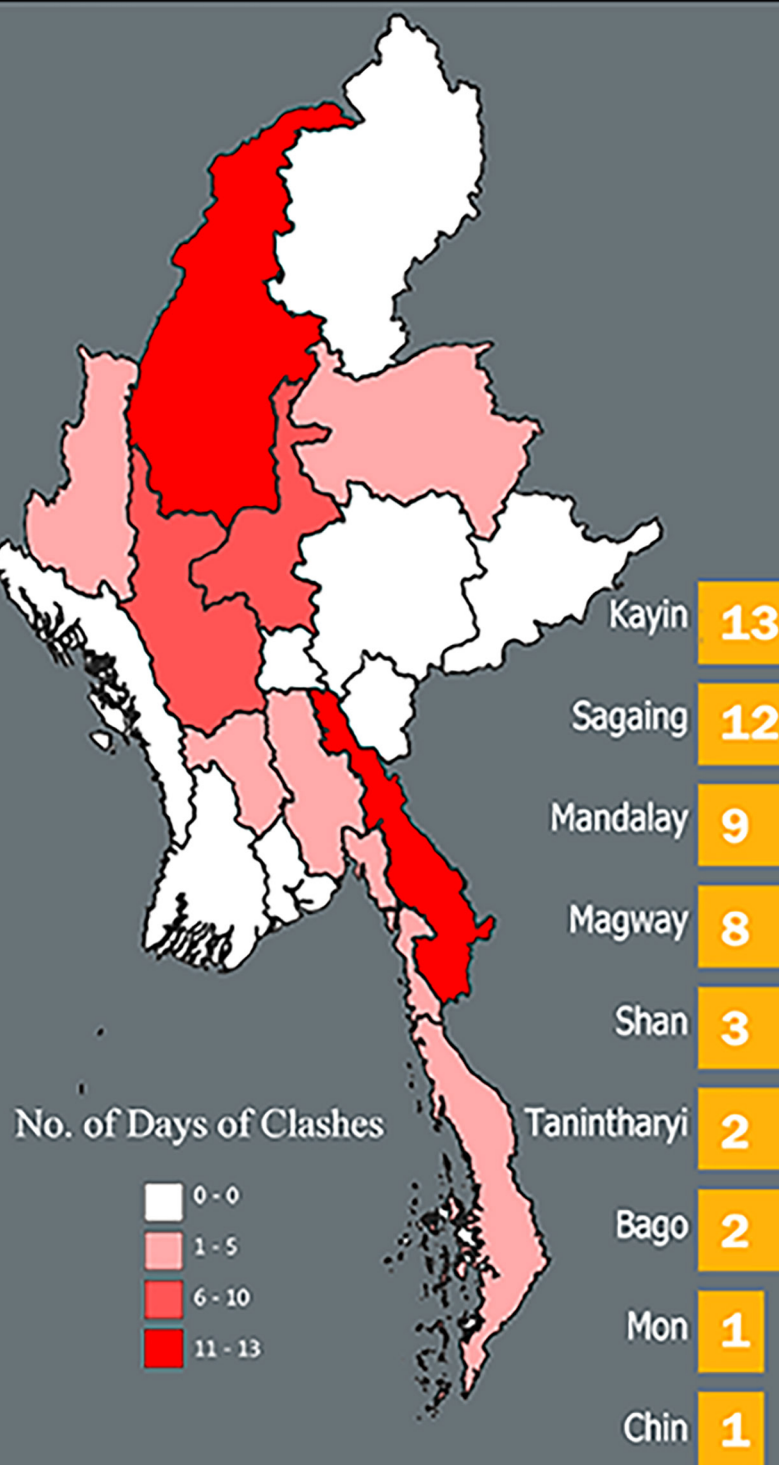
Part II

What Happened this Week

According to data collected by BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were 51 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and ethnic resistance organizations (EROs) from December 21 to January 3. Broken down by state and region, Karen State topped the list with 13 days each. The number of days of fighting was recorded in days by township, but could be higher given the number of clashes.

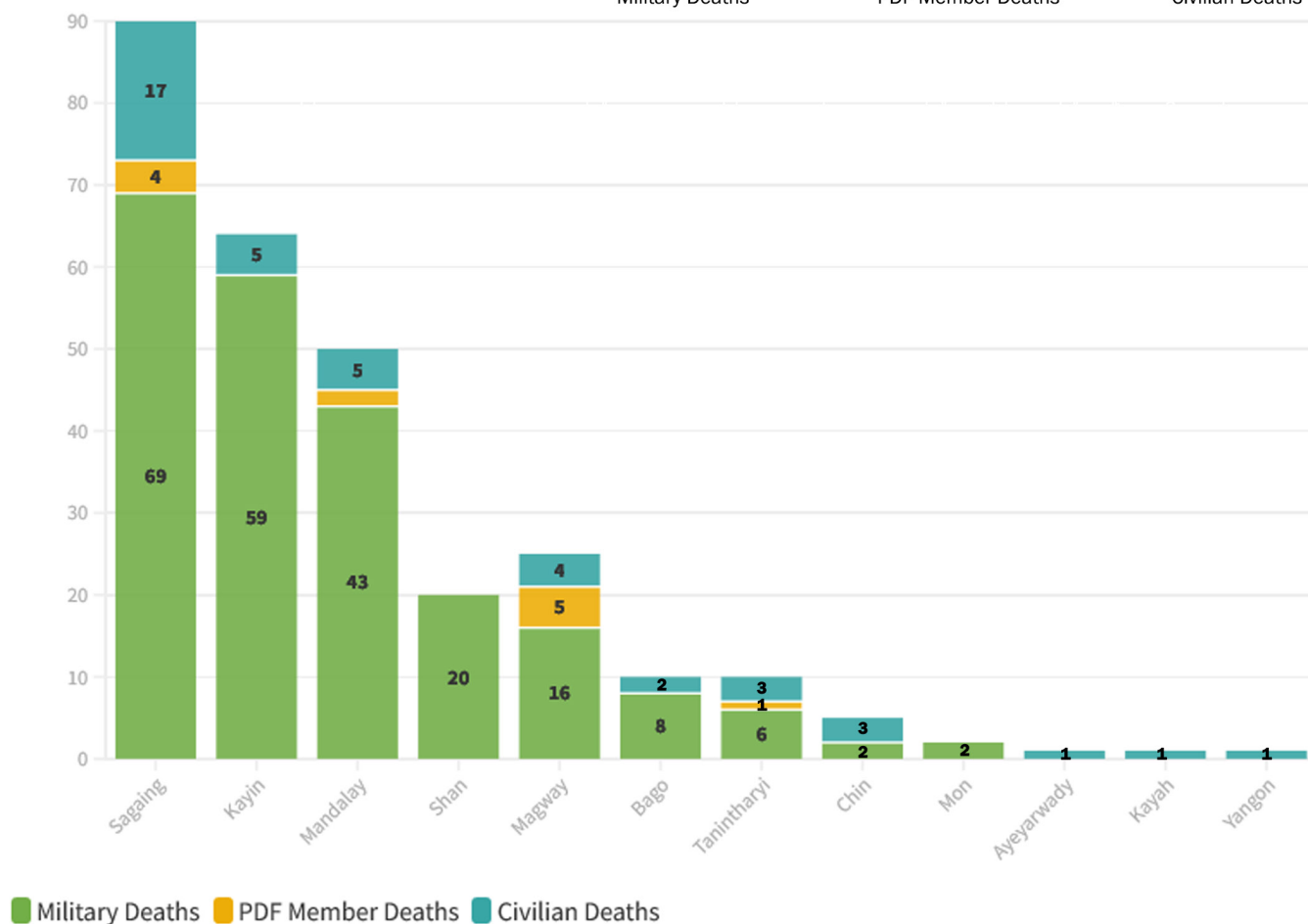
51 Days

No. of Days of Clashes



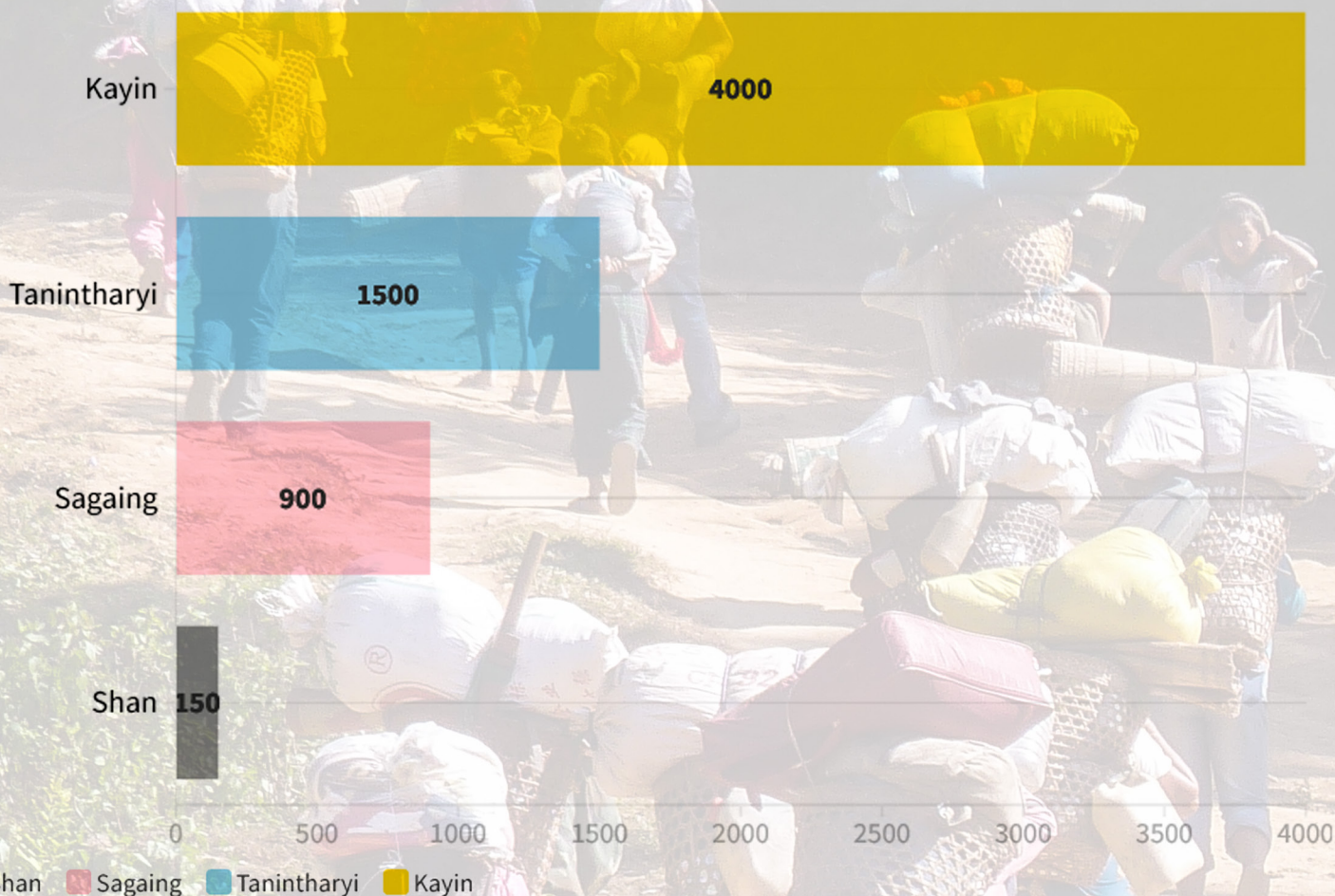
Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

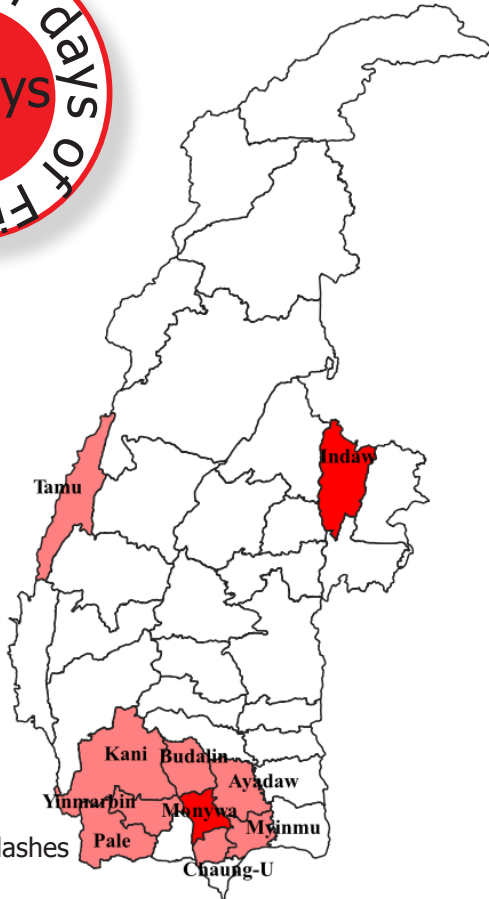
December 21 - January 3 - 2023



6,550

Total Number of IDPs (December 21 - January 3 , 2023)





No. of Days of Clashes



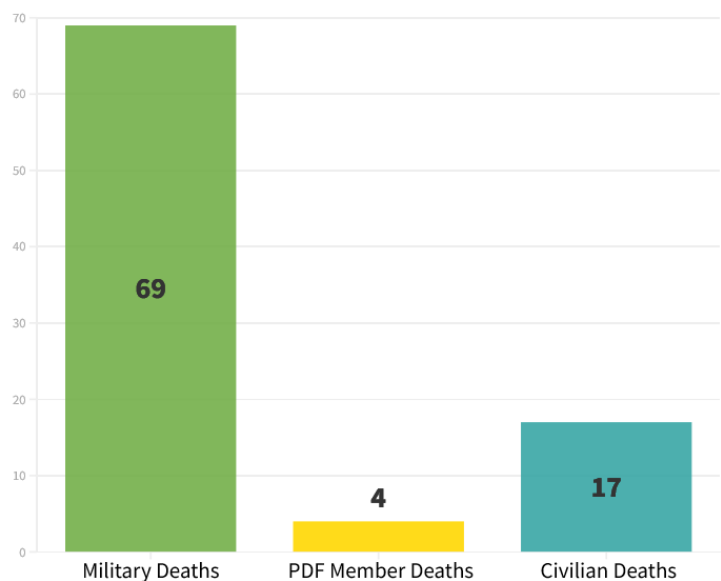
Sagaing Region

On December 25, the bodies of eight civilians who were abducted and brutally killed by the military council from Natmahokema village in Indaw Township on November 18 were found near Kanni village. The victims are: U Min Naing, 50, U Kyaw Than, 60, U Bo Bo Wai, 33, U Kyaw Htay, 50, U Kyaw Tun, 50, U Tun Naing, 38, U Myint Pe, 60 and U Thar Pyu, 68.

On December 28, more than 100 houses from Myinse village and nearby villages in Sagaing Township were burned down. Three elderly persons from Myinse village were killed in the junta's arson. On December 21, a woman aged over 80 was killed as the military council troops and Pyu Saw Htee burned down the villages in Sadaung.

In addition, the military council troops burned down houses in Shwetaung village in Budalin Township. On January 2, the military council soldiers killed two elderly persons in their 70s and a man in his 30s, for no apparent reason.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Kani, Monywa, Chaung-U, Budalin, Yinmarbin, Myinmu, Ayadaw, Tamu, Pale and Indaw Townships, resulting in the death of 68 regime troops and four resistance fighters. In addition, a junta soldier was killed in a landmine attack in Budalin Township. In Mawlaik, Indaw, Sagaing, Tamu and Butalin Townships, 17 people were killed by military council gunfire. Ground troops of military council burned down Weadaunt village in Mawlaik, forcing more than 900 residents to flee to safer places.





Kachin State

Artillery shells fired by the military council troops fell on a church in Sankhar village in Hpakant Township, wounding two children, two female teachers and a man. The military council soldiers are carrying out indiscriminate artillery shelling via Hpakant prison.

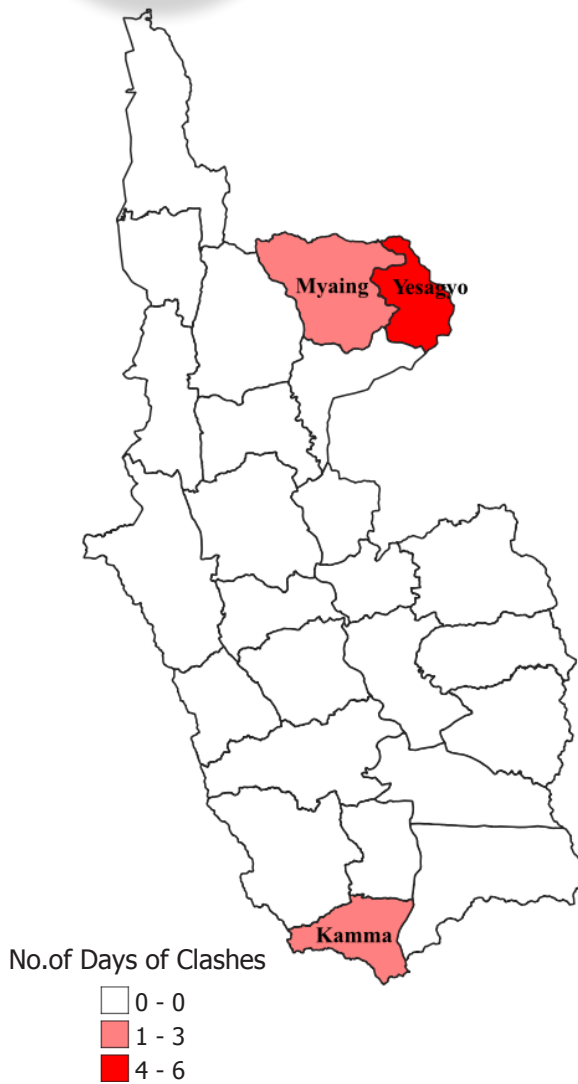
On December 24, the PDF arrested Kai Zar Lyan, the jailor of Dunban labour camp in Hpakant Township, at his house. The detained jailor served as a captain at No.828 Light Infantry Battalion and transformed into the police officer. Then, he becomes a jailor and is a notorious informant.



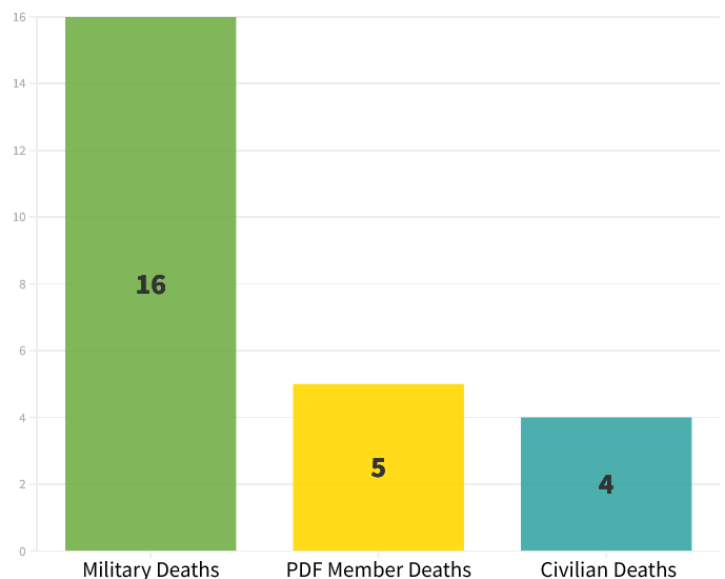
Magway Region

On December 26, four locals were killed and five others wounded in the military council's bombardments. The military council troops fired artillery shells into the villages in Saw Township without any clashes.

On December 22, three PDF members were killed and two others wounded in a clash between the military council troops and the PDFs in Myaing Township. The PDF members killed in the fighting are Comrade Ardan, Comrade Tay Mi and Comrade Tat Pu. The military council force is consecutively carrying out the massive offensive, the recapture of lost territories, the arbitrary arrests and killings and arson attacks as the PDFs are making more territorial gains in Myaing Township.

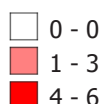


Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Kamma, Myaing, and Yesagyo Townships, resulting in the death of 16 junta soldiers and PDF fighters. On December 26, the regime conducted aerial bombardment on Nyaungkan village in Saw Township, killing four civilians.





No. of Days of Clashes



Mandalay Region

On January 3, the military council force arrested Ashin Arsarya who is a leading member of the Monk Union (Mandalay). Till date since the coup, the Monk Union (Mandalay) has been making anti-coup strikes every day. Due to the strikes, the military council storms some monasteries in Mandalay and brutally arrests monks.

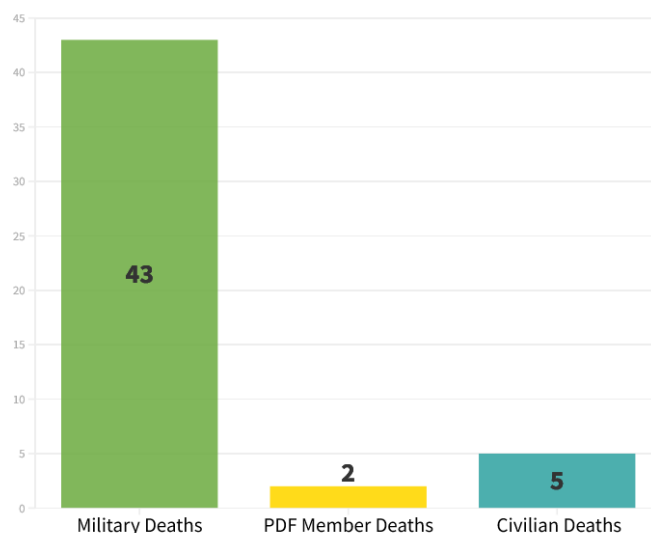
On December 29, the bodies of two PDF members from Powa village in Madaya Township, who were burnt alive by the military council soldiers, were recovered, according to locals.

On December 26, the military council troops stationed in Powa village took 30 villagers as hostages. Two PDF members were arrested when the PDF tried to rescue hostages.

On December 31, the military council troops arrested 16 members of the Mandalay Young Force (MYF) and Wetlet PDF in Mandalay and then sent them to the interrogation center. The detainees aged between 18 and 20 are two females and 14 males.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Pyigyidagun, Nayung-U, and Thabeikkyin Townships, killing 34 regime soldiers. In addition, nine junta soldiers were killed by landmine attacks in Pyin Oo Lwin and Madaya Townships. On December 26, the military council troops stationed in Powa village in Madaya Township took hostage of 30 residents. When PDF members tried to evacuate them, two of them were arrested and burned alive by military council troops. In addition, a body a 20-year-old person was also found to be killed by the regime soldiers near the village on December 27.

A man named Ko Than Lin Aung, also known as Mike Tee, was killed by PDF members, claiming he was involved in killing innocent civilians in downtown Natogyi, Myingyan District. In addition, junta-appointed administrator and his son were assassinated by PDF members in Nyaungto village in Wundwin Township. A jade merchant was shot dead by an unidentified armed group in Pyigy Pyawbwe ward (West) in Chanayethazan Township.



Total no of days of Fighting
13 Days

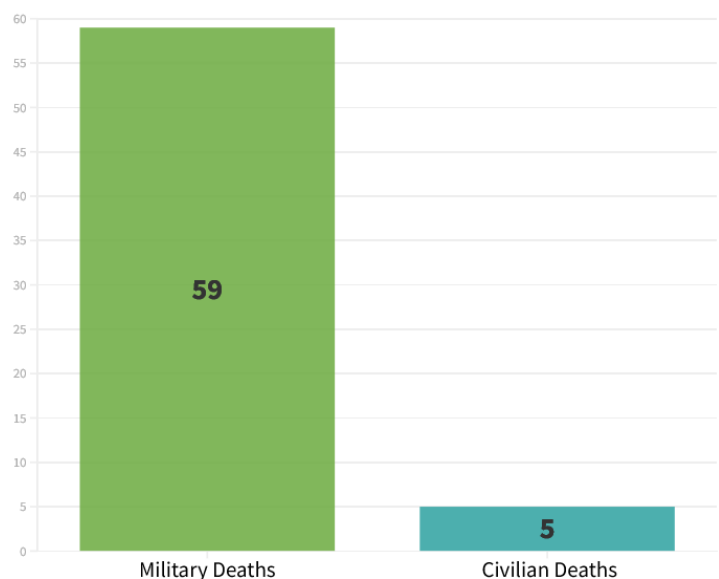


Karen State

On December 26, the artillery shell fired by the military council landed on Shwekyatmin monastery near Kawkareik, killing a monk and wounding four novices, monks and other people. They were sent to Kawkareik hospital and Hpa-An hospital. From December 31 to January 1, fighting has been taking place between the military council troops stationed in the compound of Taungzun village monastery in Kyarinseikgyi Township and Battalion-16 of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). The IDPs stranded in the fighting have fled for safety.

Many civilian houses and some religious buildings from Taungzun village were burned down by the military council's several airstrikes in two-days of clashes.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and KNLA in Kyainseikgyi, Hpapun, and Kawkareik Townships, resulting in the death of 59 regime soldiers. As a result, more than 4,000 residents were forced to flee to safety. Three people, including a monk, were killed by artillery shells fired by regime troops in the township.



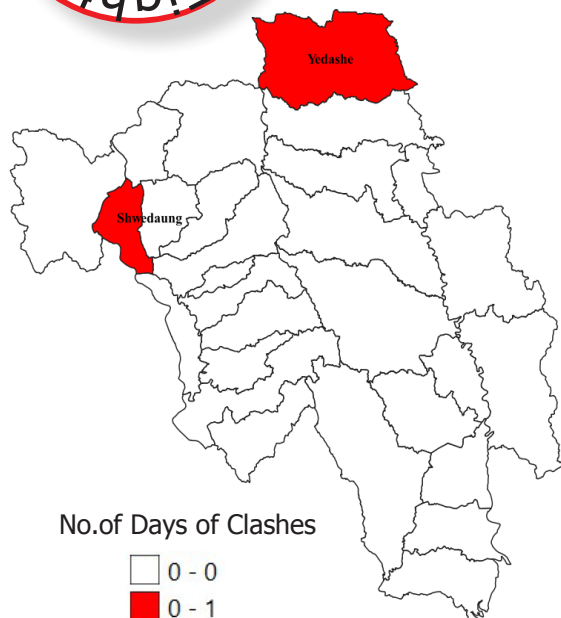


Bago Region

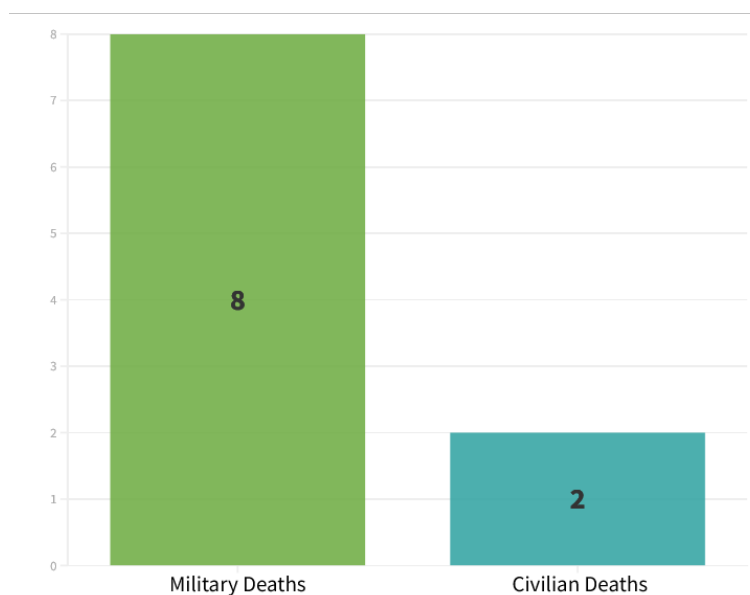
On December 28, the military council soldiers arrested five men including a 100-household head from Goneminmyaung village in Thayawaddy Township along with bombs and guns. The detained 100-household head is U Thein Zaw Win. The military council soldiers searched his home and arrested him.

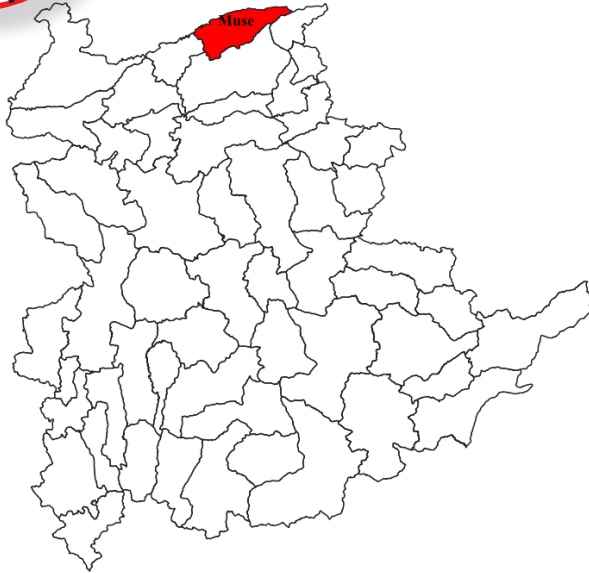
On December 27, the military council soldiers arrested cartoonist Cartoon Tar Tee from Sinsu ward in Pyay. He has a disabled leg and is not in good health. His family has lost contact with him since his detention. It is still unknown where he is being detained.

On December 25, the military council soldiers arrested Ko Kyaw Zaw, chief editor of the Shan State-based Kanbawza Tai News while he was hiding in Gyobingauk Township. Since 2017, he has served as a chief editor of the Kanbawza Tai News. In March, 2021, the military council filed a case against him under unlawful sections including Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code. The military council arrested four staff from the Kanbawza Tai News including the chief editor's wife as it could not arrest Ko Kyaw Zaw.

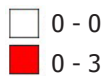


Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF in Yedashe and Shwedaung Townships, resulting in the death of seven regime soldiers. In addition, military council troops were attacked by landmines on the road between Targwa and Pwepyayt villages in Badeegone town, Thegon Township. A member of Pyu Saw Htee militia and an organizer of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) from Htonegyi village, Inn Ta Kaw Township and a member of USDP were shot dead.





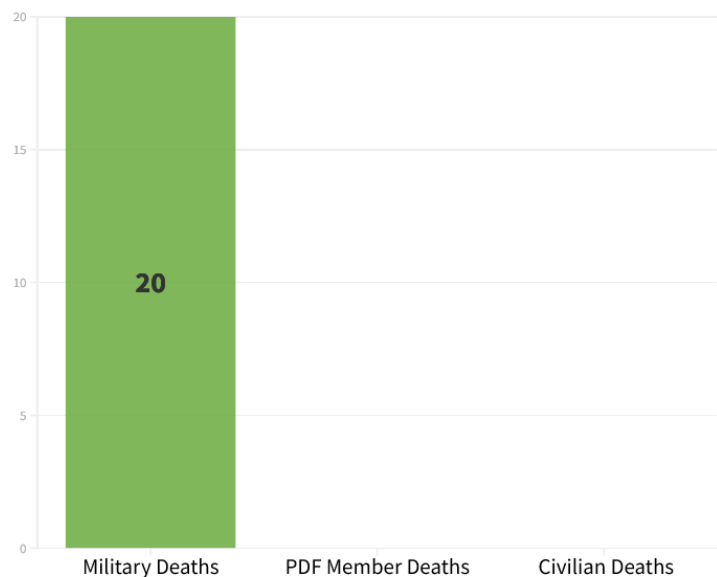
No.of Days of Clashes



Shan State

The military council torched a house in Nwabangyi village in Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone and abducted two innocent women. Two female detainees are a pregnant woman and a woman who delivered a child recently, aged around 35 and 40. On December 24, the military council troops stormed that village and looted the houses. On December 30, a passenger bus was robbed on the Union Road near Mawhan village between Kutkai and Tarmoenye. The robbers shot and killed the driver and his friend from Kutkai.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and MNDAA in Muse Township, northern Shan State, resulting in the death of 20 regime soldiers. The fighting forced more than 150 locals from Hopang, Samar, and Mankan villages to flee to safety.



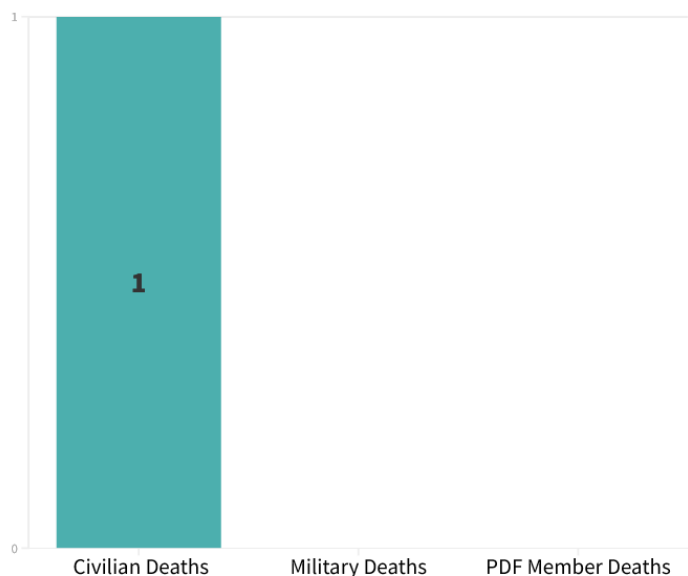


Kayah State (Karenni State)

Two locals were wounded by the military council's indiscriminate artillery shelling in Dawmukalar village in Loikaw Township without any clashes.

On January 3, Daw Su Myar, 55, from the western part of Demoso was wounded by an artillery shell by a Demoso-based military unit. She died from severe bleeding. The shelling also wounded a 77-year-old man from the eastern part of Demoso.

On January 3, military council troops fired artillery at an IDP camp in the west of Demoso Township at around 7 pm, killing a 55-year-old woman.





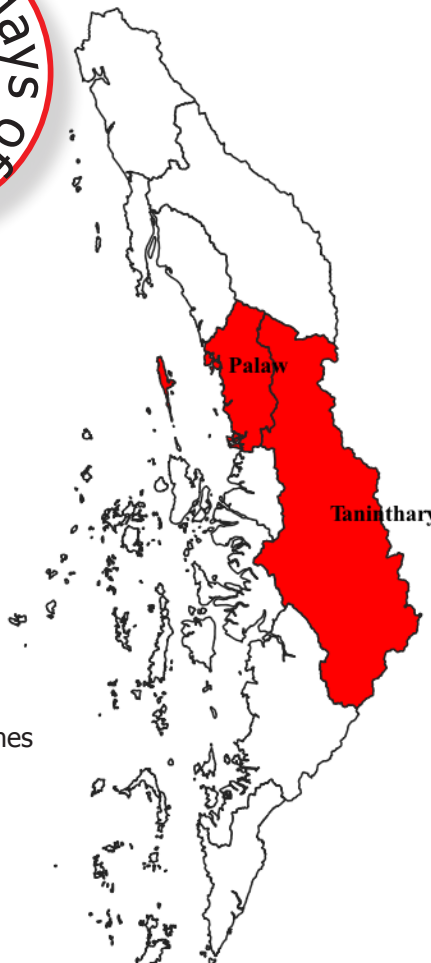
Tanintharyi Region

On December 29, two bomb blasts occurred at a wedding ceremony in Waidai village in Launglon Township, wounding 16 people. Two blasts occurred after two unknown men put a black bag at the wedding ceremony. Among the injured are a 12-year-old child and a woman.

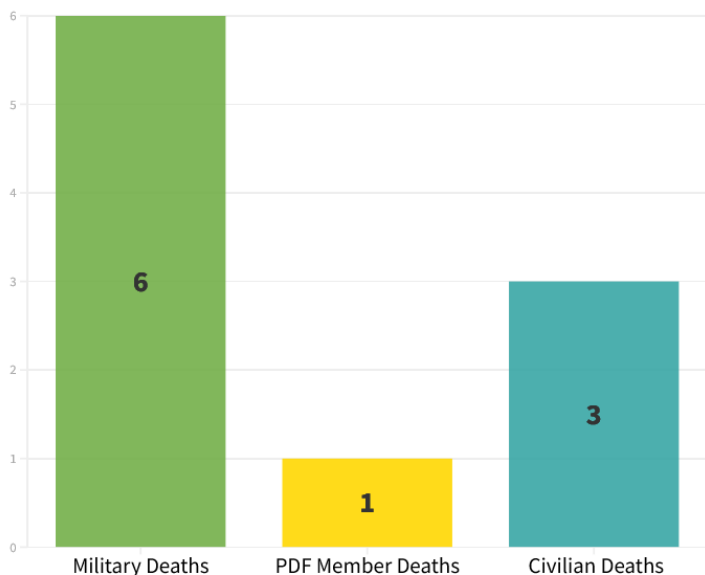
On December 22, the military council troops arrested five women and a man in Launglon Township for no apparent reason. On December 23, the military council soldiers who faced an ambush shot a local cattleman in the palm oil plantation near Hnyinmaw village in Launglon Township.

The military council again restricted the transport of jackets for the IDPs taking shelter in the Ashae Taw village in Dawei Township. The military council previously placed a ban on the supply of rice and dry rations. The military council's ban aims to restrict the inflow of aid to the IDPs and local defense forces. Currently, the IDPs face a shortage of rations and cold weather.

No. of Days of Clashes



Clashes occurred between military council troops and PDF members in Palaw and Tanintharyi Townships, resulting in the death of six regime soldiers and one PDF member. In addition, two local men were killed by heavy weapons fire from Palaw Myoma Police Station. A junta convoy was attacked with landmines near the toll gate near Zee Kya village in Yebyu Township. During the subsequent riot, a local woman driving a motorcycle was hit by a car and killed. During the ongoing armed clashes in Tanintharyi Township, artillery fire from military council troops have so far displaced nearly 1,500 people from villages including Nyaungpinkwin, 5 Mile, 6 Mile, Pyoaing, Bawdikan, Banlaw, 4 Mile, Banlamut, Nyaungpinkone and Yanhpo.



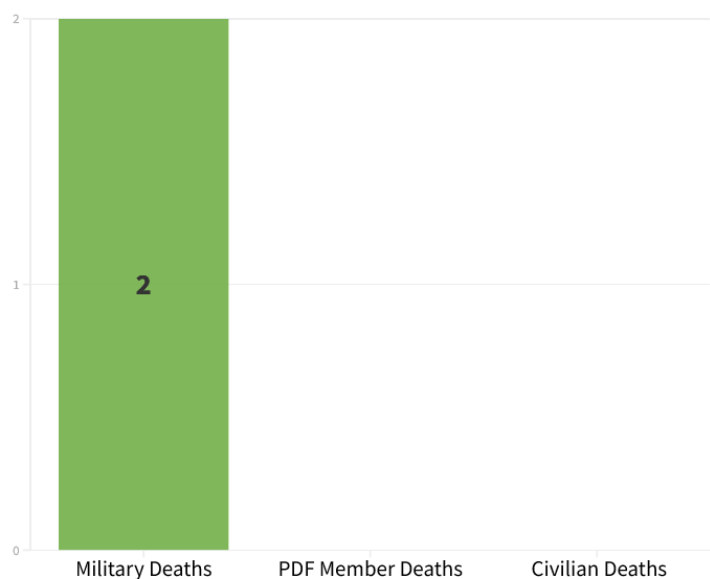


Mon State

At night on January 1, two locals including a female nurse were wounded in the unintentional firing of a shot by a military council soldier who stood guard on the Yaychaungtaung River-crossing Bridge in Ye Township.

On December 25, the military council soldiers arrested 24 Rohingya people—13 males and 11 females—from a five-storeyed building on Okpho Street in Hlaing ward in Mawlamyine. Currently, they are being detained at Mawlamyine Myoma police station.

On December 27, military council troops were ambushed by Ye Balu guerrilla force, killing two regime soldiers.



Ayeyarwady Region

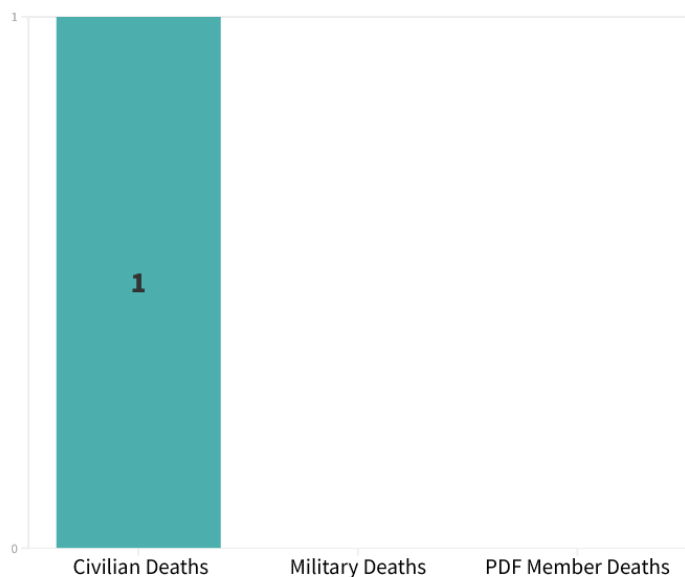


On December 30, CDM teacher U Kaung Khant Kyaw, 27, from Thabyaykone village in Myanaung Township was sentenced to death by Hinthada prison court under Section 50 (j), Section 51 (a) of the Counter Terrorism Law and Section 302 (1) (c) of the Penal Code. The death sentence was handed down to him for his alleged involvement in the murder of military informant U Win Nyunt Aung (Jatgyi) from Thabyaykone village in Myanaung Township. Before the coup, U Kaung Khant Kyaw served as a junior Assistance Teacher (JAT) at Htikepokekone village school in Myanaung Township and participated in the CDM after the coup.

In addition, five members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) from Kyaiklat Township were sentenced to 20-40 years in prison by the court.

On January 2, the military council force arrested 39 people including ten underage Rohingya children from a gravel-loaded vehicle at the Letikwin checkpoint in Hinthada. The detainees—three females and 36 males—are being detained at Hinthada Myoma Police Station.

On January 1, 2023, a man named U Kyaw Lwin, widely known as a junta informant, was shot dead by an unidentified armed group.





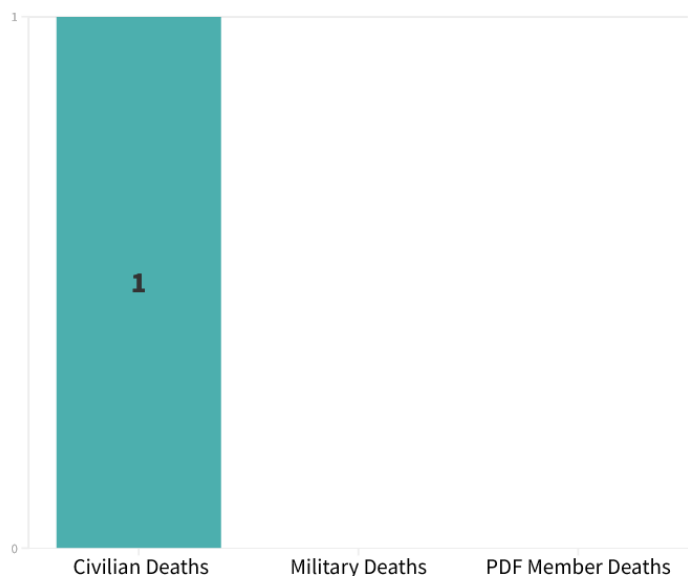
Yangon Region

On January 1 and 2, a female on motorcycle and two other females were injured as the military council soldiers shot the persons who drove motorbikes on the road in front of Thardukan housing and on lanes in Thardukan ward and No.4 ward.

On January 2 and 3, the military council arrested more than 80 Rohingya people in Thanlyin Township and North Dagon Township. On January 2, the military council arrested 25 females, 39 males and eight underage children from a house in Myohaung (East) Ward in Thanlyin Township. In addition, the military council soldiers arrested nine Rohingya people who were leaving for Mawlamyine at Toe Gyaung Kalay Railway station in North Dagon Township, along with two brokers on January 3.

On December 30, reporter U Thurein Kyaw, a founder of Media Top 4 News Agency was sentenced to ten years in prison with hard labour by Mayangone District Court. In February, 2022, the military council arrested U Thurein Kyaw at Aung Zeya Housing and charged him under Section 49 (a) of the Counter Terrorism Law.

On December 22, a military council-appointed ward administrator was gunned down by an unidentified armed group at Super teashop in Thazin Street in Wai Lu Won ward (North), Sanchaung Township.



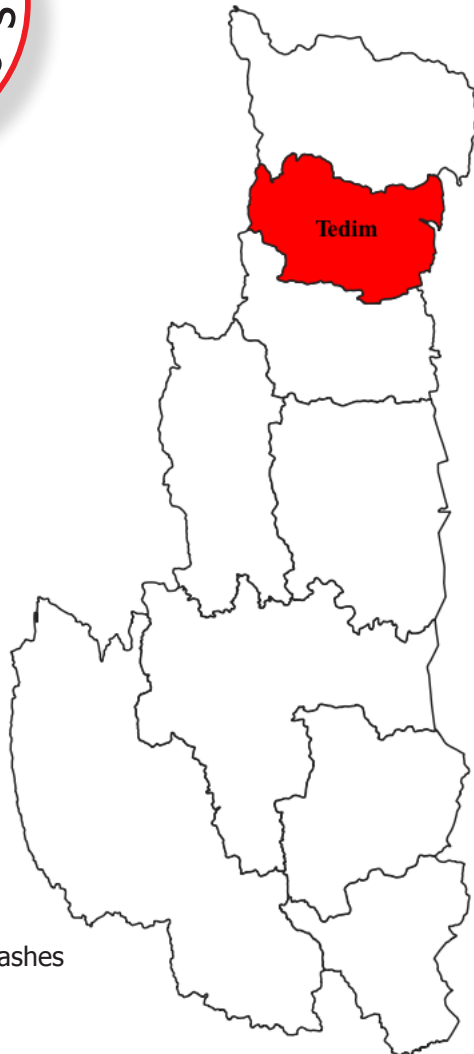


Arakan State

On December 30, female artist Day Day was sentenced to ten years in prison by Thandwe court with hard labour. The military council arrested her on July 27, 2022 for allegedly funding the National Unity Government (NUG) and the PDF and charged her under Section 50 (j) of the Counter Terrorism Law.

U Than Tun, 40, from Hmawhintaw village in Taungup Township, who is charged under Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act is receiving treatment as his left rib is broken during the interrogation.

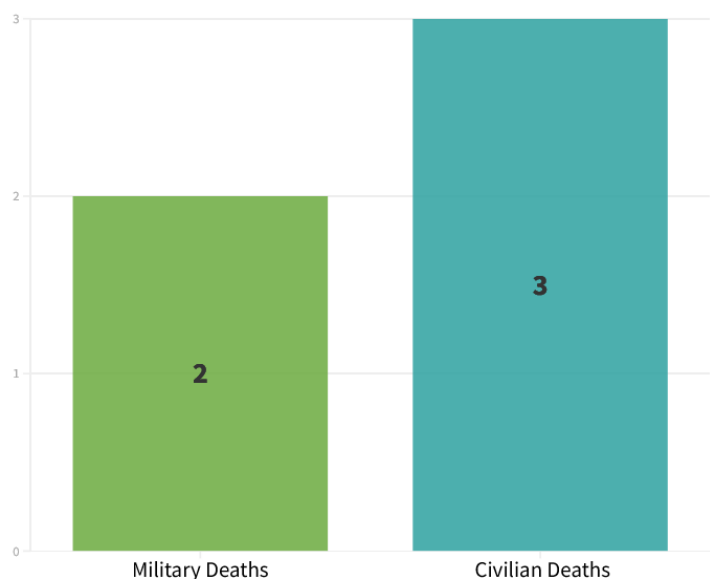
Despite an informal ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military council, some civil servants and locals from Maungdaw Township have gone into hiding due to the spread of the news about the possible arrest. There is news that around 100 people may get arrested.



Chin State

The military council soldiers on patrol near the university campus located about five miles to the west of Mindat, arrested and killed three local men. The bodies of two victims were recovered by their family members and the rest one is still missing. A total of 355 Chin people were killed and 1,505 houses burned down by the military council during two years of coup, according to the Chin Affairs Federation. Among those killed are 132 males, 35 females, 19 underage boys, five underage girls, two infants and four pastors.

Clashes occurred between military council troops and local Chin resistance forces in Tedim Township, killing two regime soldiers. In addition, regime troops from Mindat-based Light Infantry Battalion -274 arrested and murdered three men from Lone Khar, Htan Yoe, and Nang Gee villages.



International



The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 was signed into law by US President Joe Biden on December 29, 2022. The Burma Act under the Consolidated Appropriations Act includes a fund of over \$136 million for humanitarian assistance, fact findings, human rights and the removal of military dictatorship in Myanmar.

More than 5.6 million children are in urgent need of assistance, according to the UNICEF statement on January 2. Conflict and violence have escalated across the country. An estimated 17.6 million people, including 5.6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The U.N. Security Council adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years on December 21 to demand an end to violence and urge the

military junta to immediately release all political prisoners, including State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

This resolution sends a firm message to the Myanmar military, the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations said.

The draft was submitted by the UK. The UNSC members—the UK, the USA, China, Russia, France, India, Brazil, Albania, Gabon, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Mexico, UAE and Ghana—voted for the draft.

The EU issued a statement on December 30, saying that the sentencing of President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a clear attempt to exclude democratically elected leaders from political life and represents



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another blatant violation of human rights in Myanmar. The statement came after the President and the State Counsellor were sentenced to seven years each in prison by Nay Pyi Taw prison court.

UN Secretary General Antoni Guterres expressed his deep concern over the final verdicts and sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is jailed for 33 years, reiterating his calls for her immediate release during a briefing on January 3. The accused shall have the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, with all the guarantees necessary for a person's defense, he said.

On December 21, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called for tougher sanctions against Myanmar's junta and urged the international community to do much more to combat the junta's escalating terror. Myanmar is currently holding at least 62 journalists, which makes it the world's second biggest jailer of media personnel following China.

New Chinese Special Envoy to Myanmar Deng Xijun met seven Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in Yunnan Province of China recently. This is just an introductory meeting. However, the Chinese envoy's meeting aims to have more understanding about the election to be held by the military council and inquiry the stance of EROs, Myanmar affairs observers said.

The meeting was attended by the delegates from the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA)-Mongla, the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP), the Arakan Army (AA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)-Kokang.

Special envoy Deng Xijun arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on December 28. The news emerged that he would continue to meet five signatories to the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) which are in talks with the military council, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Remark:

References and news sources for the 'What Happened This Week' section are from local and foreign news agencies as well as 15 media organizations of Burma News International - BNI.