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BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023: Regime steps up preparations for sham 'election' as resistance bites

- As of 27 Jan, there were at least 19,915 armed clashes and attacks. The country now has 1,584,300 internally displaced people. Junta troops continued to slash their way through the country in January, torturing and killing civilians, and torching villages.
- Junta forces have killed at least 2,688 civilians and arrested 17,573 as of 31 Jan. The
 regime continued to target former officials and NLD members, as well as perceived
 opponents and their families. As of late Jan, it had killed at least 84 NLD members
 and arrested a further 1,232.
- The junta suspended issuing and renewing passports, likely to stop anti-coup activists from leaving Burma and cut the funds flowing from migrant workers to the resistance. Activists warned that the move will boost illegal immigration.
- The regime began a nationwide campaign to compile voter lists in preparations for its sham 2023 'election.' Resistance groups attacked census agents in several locations, killing at least 13 junta personnel and detaining four.
- The junta adopted a new Political Parties Registration Law that will effectively allow the military-aligned USDP to run unchallenged at the national level and lead to the dissolution of the NLD.
- UNHCR reported that over 3,500 Rohingya attempted to flee Bangladesh and Burma by sea in 2022, up from 700 in 2021; a 360% increase. At least 348 died or went missing, making it one of the deadliest years since 2014.
- The World Bank estimated Burma's GDP grew by 3% in fiscal 2022 and forecast the same rate for 2023, with per capita GDP expected to remain 13% lower than in 2019. In contrast, the ASEAN-5 economies are expected to expand by an average of 10% during 2019-2023.
- Transparency International ranked Burma as Southeast Asia's most corrupt country; a first in a decade.
- ASEAN Chair Indonesia vowed to engage with all stakeholders and promote national dialogue. Thailand kept legitimizing the regime by sending highlevel delegations to Burma and hosting junta representatives.
- Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US announced new sanctions against the junta ahead of the attempted coup's anniversary. The US stopped short of sanctioning the junta's single largest revenue generating state-owned company despite civil society calls.

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Illegal junta's quest to cement control

On 1-2 Jan, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing awarded honorary titles to 550 people, including ultranationalist monk Wirathu (dubbed the Buddhist bin Laden), former dictators Ne Win and Saw Maung, and Sein Lwin (dubbed the butcher of Rangoon during the 1988 uprising). On 4 Jan, a Min Aung Hlaing in full presidential attire presided over a 'North Korea-esque' Independence Day military parade in Naypyidaw. During the event, he urged the Burma people and the international community to support the regime's 'election' plans.²

Rigging the game

On 5 Jan, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USPD) chair Khin Yi met with and gathered support from 37 pro-junta political parties in Naypyidaw.³ On 5-7 Jan, the regime held talks with the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), United Wa State Party (UWSP), and National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) on staging 'elections' in areas under their control.⁴ On 23 Jan, Min Aung Hlaing stated that all the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)⁵ involved in the junta's peace talks had agreed to 'strengthen the multi-party democratic system,' and added that the regime's 'election' will take place under any circumstances.⁶

On 9 Jan, the regime began a **nationwide campaign to compile voter lists**. On the same day, it was reported that pro-regime militias had forced residents in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions to attend so-called 'election campaign meetings.' Locals said junta officials used racial and religious hate speech to get their messages across, and promised them rice and oil in exchange for their vote. On 19 Jan, it was reported that about 10 political parties, including the USDP, had started campaigning in Mon State.

On 26 Jan, the junta **adopted a new Political Parties Registration Law** requiring all political parties to re-register within 60 days, or face dissolution. The new law requires parties that wish to run at the national level to secure at least 100,000 members within 90 days after being registered, to open offices in at least half of Burma's townships within six months, and to eventually contest in at least half of all constituencies; something only the USDP will be able to achieve. It also states that no political party may have as its members individuals who are serving jail terms or who are affiliated with 'unlawful associations;' thus disqualifying the National League for Democracy (NLD) from registering. The NLD rejected the new law, and therefore faces disbandment. ¹⁰

Feeling the heat

On 1 Jan, the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), National Unity Government (NUG), Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), and 20 other key organizations¹¹ released a

¹ Irrawaddy (3 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Chief Honors His Predecessors; Than Lwin Times (5 Jan 2023) Junta's awarding of honorary titles is merely consolation for not splitting up: Analysts; Irrawaddy (5 Jan 2023) Ethnic Leaders Accept Honors From Regime Chief as EAOs Fight Myanmar Military; Myanmar Now (3 Jan 2023) Wirathu, preacher of hate, receives top honour from Myanmar junta chief

² AP News (4 Jan 2023) Myanmar army leader touts election plan on Independence Day; Irrawaddy (5 Jan 2023) Dispatch from Naypyitaw: Myanmar's North Korea-esque Independence Day
³ Irrawaddy (7 Jan 2023) Junta Watch: Pro-military Parties Line Up for Sham Election; Death Stains Dictator's Military Parade;

³ Irrawaddy (7 Jan 2023) Junta Watch: Pro-military Parties Line Up for Sham Election; Death Stains Dictator's Military Parade; And More; Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta, military proxy party gear up for 2023 election

⁴ Al Jazeera (7 Jan 2023) Myanmar's military holds election talks with armed ethnic groups

⁵ ALTSEAN-Burma uses the term 'Ethnic Resistance Organizations' (ERO) to refer to armed ethnic organizations that openly oppose the regime; and the term 'Ethnic Armed Organizations' (EAO) to refer to armed ethnic organizations that are either neutral, pro-regime, or whose affiliation is uncertain.

⁶ Than Lwin Times (25 Jan 2023) Military leader says election to be held under any circumstances

⁷ Irrawaddy (11 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Begins Compiling Voter Lists for Planned Election

⁸ Irrawaddy (9 Jan 2023) Pro-Junta Militias Forcing Myanmar Voters to Attend Election Propaganda Sessions

⁹ DMG (19 Jan 2023) Political parties including military proxy USDP kick off election campaigns in Mon State

AP News (28 Jan 2023) Myanmar's military government enacts new political party law; Irrawaddy (27 January 2023) Myanmar Junta's New Electoral Law Condemned as Death Knell for Political Parties

¹¹ 1990 Members of Parliament Union, Democratic Party for a New Society, 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, Anti-junta Forces Coordination Committee-Mandalay, General Strike Committee, Technical Teachers Federation, Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability, Myanmar Teachers' Federation, Myanmar Labour Alliance, Monywa People's Strike Executive Committee, General Strike Committee of Nationalities, General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education, General Strike Collaboration Committee, General Strike Coordination Body, Critical Movement, Karenni State Administrative Council, Interim Chin National Consultative Council, Pa-O National Federal Council, Mon State Interim Coordination Committee, and All Burma Students' Democratic Front.

joint statement rejecting the junta's 'election.' ¹² On 2 Jan, it was reported that the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) had chosen not to run either, in line with its policy 'not to cooperate with the military dictators.' ¹³ On 11 Jan, the Chin National Organization (CNO) said it will not allow the 'election' to take place in the areas it controls. ¹⁴ On 12 Jan, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) followed suit, urging all revolutionary forces to oppose 'any action that would prolong the reign of the Military Dictatorship.' ¹⁵ Several Karen National Union (KNU) District authorities, ¹⁶ the Mon State Federal Council, ¹⁷ the Strategic Initiative Forum, ¹⁸ the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force, and the Demoso People's Defense Force (PDF) issued similar statements. ¹⁹

On 18 Jan, leaked minutes from a Dec 2022 high-level regime meeting revealed that none of the 50+ senior officials present was confident in the regime's ability to successfully hold its sham 'election' in August. The meeting reportedly concluded that the resistance had expanded beyond control, and that PDF attacks were expected to intensify in 2023.²⁰ On 22 Jan, it was reported that resistance forces had launched several attacks on regime staff compiling voter lists, killing at least 13 junta personnel and detaining four.²¹ Attacks were reported in Mon,²² Mandalay,²³ Tanintharyi,²⁴ Sagaing,²⁵ Karen,²⁶ Magway,²⁷ and Yangon²⁸ States/Regions.

On 24 Jan, it was speculated that Min Aung Hlaing might hand over power to a puppet civilian government led by Myint Swe, the regime's acting president, at the expiry of the state of emergency on 1 Feb. However, representatives from several Ethnic Resistance Organizations (ERO), including the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), KNU, and Chin National Front (CNF) warned that the junta could invoke the deteriorating security situation to further extend its emergency rule, in violation of the military-drafted 2008 Constitution.²⁹

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

On 31 Jan, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) said regime forces had **arrested at least 17,573 civilians** since 1 Feb 2021. As of that date, the junta had sentenced a total of 143 people to death.³⁰

On 2 Jan, the regime announced the indefinite closure of Burma's 20 passport offices, claiming that their computer systems needed upgrading. ³¹ On 17 Jan, the junta **fully suspended issuing and renewing passports** without any explanation. Observers said the move was part of the regime's push to stop anti-coup activists from leaving the country and cut the funds flowing from migrant workers to the resistance. Employment agencies and labor rights activists warned that the suspension will only boost illegal immigration. ³²

¹² NUCC, via Facebook (1 Jan 2023) https://tinyurl.com/542e5vdu

¹³ Narinjara (2 Jan 2023) ALD will not contest in next general election

¹⁴ Khonumthung (17 Jan 2023) CNO Opposes Polling In Falam And Upper Chindwin

¹⁵ Narinjara News (14 Jan 2023) TNLA Chairman urges all parties to stop the sham election and end the reign of military dictatorship at their national day

¹⁶ Than Lwin Times (1 Jan 2023) KNU Brigade 2 calls for opposition to junta's election, interests; Than Lwin Times (21 Jan 2023) KNU-Thaton District to take action against those attempting to support junta's election campaign

¹⁷ Mon News (25 Jan 2023) Mon State Federal Council urged to Fight Together for Self-Determination to build a Federal Union

¹⁸ Mizzima (19 Jan 2023) Strategic Initiative Forum criticises proposed Myanmar junta elections

¹⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (1 Feb 2023) Karenni resistance groups release statement opposing regime's election plans

²⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Leaked Memo Shows Resistance Growing Beyond Control

²¹ AP Newa (23 Jan 2023) Myanmar opposition attacks military's population survey

²² Eleven Media (15 Jan 2023) Village administrator, clerk shot dead as they gathered population data in Thaton Township; Narinjara News (19 Jan 2023) Killings of village administrators and associates surged as Military Council election approaching

²³ Myanmar Now (18 Jan 2023) Guerrilla forces target military personnel gathering data for Myanmar junta election

²⁴ Myanmar Now (10 Jan 2023) Police officer killed in attack on election officials in southern Myanmar

²⁵ Eleven Media (21 Jan 2023) Immigration and Population office in Myinmu Township attacked with home-made bomb

²⁶ Eleven Media (24 Jan 2023) Departmental buildings burnt down in Kayin's Payathonezu; Mizzima (26 Jan 2023) Four junta offices simultaneously attacked in Karen State

²⁷ Eleven Media (21 Jan 2023) Immigration and Population office in Myinmu Township attacked with home-made bomb

²⁸ Irrawaddy (13 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Voter Registration Sites Bombed by Resistance Forces

²⁹ Irrawaddy (24 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Expected to Install Puppet Civilian Govt at End of January; Than Lwin Times (25 Jan 2023) EROs respond to possible outcome of Defense and Security Council Meeting

³⁰ Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) (31 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

³¹ Frontier Myanmar (26 Jan 2023) Thousands face a nervous wait as junta freezes passport renewals

³² Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Stops Issuing Passports

The junta continued to crack down on the NLD. On 3 Jan, regime forces arrested an NLD member in Mandalay, before killing him in custody.³³ On 8 Jan, they arrested NLD MPs Win Win and Tun Tun, along with the latter's wife and three children, as well as NLD officer Phoe Kyaw in Magway Region.³⁴

On 31 Jan, it was reported that the regime had killed at least 84 NLD members since the coup, including at least three MPs, and arrested a further 1,232.³⁵

The junta pulled out more smokescreen amnesties. On 4 Jan, the regime released 7,012 inmates to mark Independence Day. Only 223 were political prisoners, a mere 3.2%. Among those released were ousted Religious Affairs and Culture Minister Thura Aung Ko; NLD information officer Htin Lin Oo; writer Than Myint Aung; Yangon student activists Aung Phone Maw, Lay Pyay Soe Moe, and Sitt Naing; former All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) leader Aye Aung; and several detained journalists. Regime troops re-arrested Mawkun Magazine chief reporter Kyaw Zay Ya upon his release. ³⁷

The junta continued to torture people in custody. On 5 Jan, Pathein prison (Ayeyarwady Region) guards took away and tortured eight political prisoners who had protested against the planned construction of gallows to hang a striking teacher. On 6 Jan, a riot broke out when only seven were returned to their cells. Junta police fired at the protesters, killing one and injuring others. Guards and common criminals also rounded up and beat over 60 political prisoners; 70 inmates were injured with several admitted to hospital in critical condition.³⁸ On 7 Jan, junta troops reportedly arrested Sandar Aye, wife of political prisoner Win Htun Aung, in apparent retaliation for his role in the protest. On 9 Jan, staff shaved the heads of political prisoners, confiscated their belongings, restricted their meals to one per day, and prohibited care packages.³⁹

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

At a glance: Two years of conflict (Data from ACLED, AAPP)

There were at least 10,559 armed clashes and attacks against civilians during Feb 22-Jan 23, up from 9,356 during Feb 21-Jan 22 and 1,140 during Feb 20-Jan 21.

In other words, conflict figures have increased nearly tenfold since 1 Feb 21.

The resistance now controls 52% of Burma. They are winning the war.

Battlefield defeats made the regime increasingly dependent on airpower. Junta troops launched 449 airstrikes in 2022, up from 91 in 2021; a 493% increase. Only the UK and Canada adopted sanctions on the sale of aviation fuel to the regime despite civil society calls for a global embargo.

By late Jan 23, conflict-related fatalities had reached 31,400, higher than Ukraine's 31,371. Regime troops had:

- Killed 2,940 civilians
- Burned alive 133 people
- Launched 587 airstrikes, killing 476
- Launched 1,370 artillery attacks, killing 605

Their brutality had displaced over 1.3 million people.

³⁷ Irrawaddy (4 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Releases Some Political Prisoners in Independence Day Amnesty; Myanmar Now (6 Jan 2023) Leaders of student unions, journalists among prisoners freed in 'Independence Day amnesty'
 ³⁸ Irrawaddy (9 Jan 2023) Political Inmate Killed as Myanmar Junta Forces Open Fire on Protest; Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2023)

³³ Radio Free Asia (RFA) (11 Jan 2023) မြစ်သားမြို့နယ် NLD ပါတီဝင်တစ်ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီက ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်

³⁴ Myanmar Now (11 Jan 2023) NLD parliamentarians arrested in pre-dawn Myanmar military raid on Magway Township village

³⁵ RFA (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar's junta views opposition party as existential threat that must be eliminated

³⁶ AAPP (6 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

³⁸ Irrawaddy (9 Jan 2023) Political Inmate Killed as Myanmar Junta Forces Open Fire on Protest; Myanmar Now (9 Jan 2023) One political detainee dead, another missing after assault by guards, police in Myanmar prison; RFA (6 Jan 2023) Inmate killed, 8 in critical condition following crackdown at Myanmar Prison

³⁹ Myanmar Now (12 Jan 2023) Pathein Prison inmates face new abuses in wake of recent unrest

National overview

As of 27 Jan, there had been 705 armed clashes and attacks on civilians during the month (19,915 since 1 Feb 2021).⁴⁰ Junta forces had killed at least 2,940 civilians as of 31 Jan, likely an underestimate.⁴¹ On 16 Jan, it was reported that regime forces had burned down some 48,463 houses as of 31 Dec 22, including 36,667 houses in Sagaing Region, 8,575 in Magway Region, and 1,475 in Chin State. 42

On 20 Jan, Fortify Rights and 16 people from Burma filed, under the principle of universal jurisdiction, a criminal complaint with Germany's Federal Public Prosecutor General against senior Burma military generals for acts of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.⁴³

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said there were 1,584,300 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burma as of 30 Jan, including 1,253,900 displaced after 1 Feb 2021, with 50,900 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries;⁴⁴ likely an underestimate.

On 5 Jan, it was reported that the junta had initiated the shutdown of 25 temporary IDP camps near Sittwe (Rakhine State) over the week prior. IDPs had to sign pledges to leave and choose between returning home despite the lack of security guarantees, moving to a place of their own choosing without any support, or resettling in regime-designated areas. On 3 Jan, it was reported that the junta was also planning the permanent closure of over 20 IDP camps in and near **Myitkyina** (Kachin State) in 2023.⁴⁵

Sagaing Region

Junta forces continued their raids in Sagaing Region amid clashes with local resistance forces. UNHCR said there were around 670,800 IDPs in the region as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁴⁶

In Shwebo District's Khin-U Township, junta forces raided and torched Ah Lel Sho village during 28 Dec-2 Jan, killing a total of nine civilians. ⁴⁷ Soldiers also torched Ywathit (29 Jan), ⁴⁸ Byaingkyaing (30 Jan). 49 and Yone Su (31 Jan) 50 villages. In **Tabayin Township**, regime troops torched Taing Lay, Chaung Nar, and Sat Pyar Kyin villages on 9 Jan, burning two elderly residents alive.⁵¹ On 24 Jan, soldiers torched homes in Let Yet Kone and Mu Ka Twin villages, forcing over 7,000 civilians to flee.⁵² In Shwe Bo Township, junta forces detained over 30 residents in two villages on 13 Jan. Indiscriminate regime small arms fire also injured a local monk.⁵³ On 28 Jan, soldiers killed two civilians and destroyed over 300 houses in Maubin village. On 30 Jan, they raided nearby Ingynnpin Village, where they killed a 50-year-old man before burning his body.⁵⁴ In **Ye-U Township**, junta troops torched a 129-year-old church and some 120 houses in Chan Thar village on 14 Jan. 55

⁴⁰ Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (accessed 4 Feb 2023) Data export tool, available at: https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/

⁴¹ AAPP (31 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup

⁴² Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) (16 Jan 2023) Over 48,000 civilian homes burned down in Burma since coup, the NUG reiterates its calls for air defence systems

⁴³ AP (24 Jan 2023) Rights group files suit in Germany against Myanmar military

⁴⁴ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

Myanmar Now (5 Jan 2023) Military plans to force IDPs out of 25 camps in Rakhine State

⁴⁶ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

⁴⁷ RFA (17 Jan 2023) In nightmarish account, villagers describe junta raid that left 9 civilians dead

⁴⁸ Mizzima (29 Jan 2023) Spring Revolution Daily News for 29 Jan 2023

⁴⁹ RFA (1 Feb 2023) ခင်ဦးမြို့ညောင်ပင်ကြီးစုရွာ တစ်ရွာလုံးနီးပါး မီးရှို့ခံရ

⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2023) Three killed as junta troops raid villages east of Muu River; RFA (1 Feb 2023) ခင်ဦးမြို့ ညောင်ပင်ကြီးစုရွာ တစ်ရွာလုံးနီးပါး မီးရှို့ခံရ

⁵¹ Irrawaddy (11 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Troops Burn Elderly Sagaing Men Alive; Myanmar Now (12 Jan 2023) Seven civilians killed in junta raids on central Sagaing villages
⁵² Irrawaddy (24 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Raids Displace Over 7,000 Civilians in Sagaing

⁵³ Network Media Group (16 Jan 2023) ရွှေဘိုမြို့နယ် ကျေးရွာများအတွင်း လက်နက်ကြီး လက်နက်ငယ်များဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်

⁵⁴ Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2023) Three killed as junta troops raid villages east of Muu River

⁵⁵ Myanmar Now (17 Jan 2023) Military destroys historic church, more than 100 houses in Catholic village

In **Yinmabin District's Salingyi Township**, regime troops raided and burned at least 200 houses in five villages around the Chinese-owned Letpadaung copper mine in January. On 23 Jan, junta forces tortured and killed a resident they had previously arrested as porter. ⁵⁶ In **Yinmabin** Township, soldiers tortured and beheaded a 30-year-old resident on 23 Jan. During 23-27 Jan, regime arson attacks targeted some 100 homes in seven villages along the Chindwin River, forcing some 10,000 locals to flee. ⁵⁷ In **Kani Township**, regime forces fired at a small civilian boat on 30 Jan, causing one of the female passengers to die of a heart attack. ⁵⁸

In **Katha District's Indaw Township**, indiscriminate regime artillery fire in response to a resistance attack injured two civilians, including a three-year-old child on 17 Jan.⁵⁹ On 20 Jan, junta forces killed three civilian hostages amid clashes with resistance forces in **Tigyaing Township**. ⁶⁰ In **Katha Township**, junta jets bombed Moe Tarr Lay village on 17 Jan, killing at least seven civilians and injuring dozens more. ⁶¹ Soldiers then torched Alel Kyun (19 Jan) ⁶² and Tike Kone (22 Jan) villages, ⁶³ forcing over 15,000 residents to flee. ⁶⁴ On 26 Jan, indiscriminate regime artillery fire killed a 12-year-old girl and injured her 13-year-old brother. There was no fighting at the time. ⁶⁵

In **Monywa District's Budalin Township**, junta troops burned alive two elderly villagers in Shwe Taung on 3 Jan. Soldiers also tortured to death a civilian who had tried to help others flee the raid. ⁶⁶ In **Ayadaw Township**, landmines planted by regime forces killed seven civilians, including two children during a resistance attack on their junta-occupied village on 27 Jan. ⁶⁷ On 30 Jan, junta troops detained three civilians in Ngwe Twin village, before eventually killing one. ⁶⁸ In **Tamu District's Tamu Township**, regime forces arrested two men and a 14-year-old boy at a military checkpoint on 23 Jan, before beating them to death. ⁶⁹

In **Kanbalu District's Kanbalu Township**, regime forces torched and killed three civilians in Pinttha village on 6 Jan. On the same day, soldiers torched a village and killed two civilians in Kyunhla Township. In **Sagaing District's Myaung Township**, junta artillery fire killed a villager and seriously injured three others on 20 Jan. In **Kawlin District's Wuntho Township** regime forces shot dead a woman and torched four houses in Pein Hne Kone village on 22 Jan. Indiscriminate junta artillery fire also killed a toddler and injured two other civilians. In **Kawlin Township**, junta airstrikes on Kokko Kone village killed a 30-year-old civilian and injured a PDF member on 27 Jan. Soldiers then occupied the village for two days, destroying ten houses and displacing more than 3,500 people. In the village for two days, destroying ten houses and displacing more than 3,500 people.

Magway Region

In Magway Region, junta soldiers continued to target civilians amid clashes with the resistance. On 1 Jan, regime forces responded to a resistance attack in **Seikphyu Township** with indiscriminate artillery

⁵⁶ Myanmar Now (23 Jan 2023) Man found dead after being forced to porter for soldiers near Letpadaung

⁵⁷ Myanmar Now (27 Jan 2023) Myanmar army column advances through Sagaing Region township, torching seven villages in one day

⁵⁸ DVB (31 Jan 2023) အရာတော်တွင် စစ်အုပ်စုက အမျိုးသား ၁ ဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်၊ ကနီမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီး ၁ ဦး နှလုံးသွေးလန့်သေဆုံး

⁵⁹ Myanmar Now (19 Jan 2023) Man and child injured as soldiers open fire after blast at election office in northern Sagaing

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

⁶¹ Reuters (19 Jan 2023) Myanmar military bombs village, killing seven, sources say, Irrawaddy (19 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Bombs Village of 7,000 People, Killing 7 Civilians

⁶² Myanmar Now (23 Jan 2023) Junta air force repeatedly bombs Sagaing Region village

⁶³ Network Media Group (26 Jan 2023) Resistance Forces Battle Regime in Katha

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Over 15,000 Flee as Myanmar Junta Bombs, Shells and Burns Katha Villages

⁶⁵ Irrawaddy (28 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Shelling Kills Sagaing Child

⁶⁶ Myanmar Now (4 Jan 2023) Soldiers torture and murder man who tried to help villagers flee junta attack

⁶⁷ Myanmar Now (31 Jan 2023) Military, resistance forces trade accusations over civilian deaths in Ayadaw

⁶⁸ DVB (31 Jan 2023) အရာတော်တွင် စစ်အုပ်စုက အမျိုးသား ၁ ဦးကို ဖမ်းဆီးသတ်ဖြတ်၊ ကနီမြို့နယ်၌ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့်

အမျိူးသမီး ၁ ဦး နှလုံးသွေးလန့်သေဆုံး; Mizzima (1 Feb 2023) Spring Revolution Daily News for 1 February 2023

⁶⁹ RFA (27 Jan 2023) Army beats 2 men and a boy to death in Sagaing region

Myanmar Now (12 Jan 2023) Seven civilians killed in junta raids on central Sagaing villages

⁷¹ Myanmar Now (12 Jan 2023) Seven civilians killed in junta raids on central Sagaing villages

⁷² Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

⁷³ Myanmar Now (24 Jan 2023) Myanmar army columns merge in Sagaing to carry out raids following resistance ambush

Myanmar Now (1 Feb 2023) Junta launches simultaneous air and ground attacks in northern Sagaing

and small arms fire, killing a seven-year-old girl and injuring a woman.⁷⁵ In **Myaing Township**, junta jets bombed the Bahin Station Hospital on 21 Jan, killing a 60-year-old woman, injuring two PDF members, and damaging the X-Ray room. There was no fighting at the time.⁷⁶ On the same day, it was reported that regime artillery fire had killed a woman from Kaingdawma village.⁷⁷ UNHCR said there were around 137,400 IDPs in the region as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.⁷⁸

Chin State

On 5 Jan, it was reported that regime troops had abducted three civilians in **Mindat Township**, ultimately killing two.⁷⁹ On 23 Jan, junta aircraft bombed and strafed a makeshift IDP camp inside a local monastery, injuring five civilians and destroying two nearby homes. Regime forces also shelled the Mindat General Hospital.⁸⁰ The junta launched eight airstrikes in the township during 7-23 Jan, injuring at least eight people.⁸¹ On 24 Jan it was reported regime troops had fired at a local village, killing a 17-year-old and injuring her older sister. The exact date of the incident was unclear.⁸²

On 10 Jan, five regime aircraft bombed Camp Victoria, the Chin National Front's headquarters in **Thantlang Township**, killing seven rebel fighters and injuring at least 20. Junta jets reportedly crossed into Indian airspace and dropped two bombs on **Mizoram State's Champhai district in India**, damaging a truck and causing panic among locals. ⁸³ On 11 Jan, regime jets bombed Camp Victoria again, destroying a clinic. ⁸⁴ On 21 Jan, it was reported that regime airstrikes had forced the closure of all schools in the township, depriving over 15,000 students of access to education. ⁸⁵

On 15 Jan, regime forces raided and torched Nga Lai village, **Matupi Township**, and killed at least two residents. Locals found four other badly burned bodies, but could not identify them.⁸⁶ On 18 Jan, a Chin National Army attack on junta troops stationed at a high school killed three soldiers and injured a female student in **Falam Township**. The Chin National Organization/Chin National Defense Force condemned the attack, saying it had violated the Chin Land Joint Defense Committee's rules of engagement.⁸⁷

UNHCR said there were around 53,700 IDPs in Chin State as of 30 Jan, including 47,200 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 88 On 11 Jan, it was reported that regime forces had been forcing IDPs in **Paletwa Township** to transport food rations since 8 Jan. The military reportedly paid them MMK 1,000/bag of rice transported. 89 On 17 Jan, it was reported that regime troops in the township were extorting money and construction materials from residents, passenger boats, and cargo barges to build a new military base near Tarunaing village. Soldiers also forced local vessels to transport bricks, sand, and stones for free. 90

Rakhine State

The situation remained tense in Rakhine State. On 4 Jan, in Sittwe, unknown gunmen shot dead the commander-in-chief and two top officers of the Arakan Liberation Army (ALA), the armed wing of the

⁷⁵ Myanmar Now (5 Jan 2023) Several outgunned resistance fighters killed in Magway Region military ambush

⁷⁶ Than Lwin Times (25 Jan 2023) Woman dead in junta air raid on station hospital in Magway

⁷⁷ Mizzima (21 Jan 2023) Spring Revolution Daily News for 21 January 2023

⁷⁸ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

⁷⁹ Khonumthung Media Group (5 Jan 2023) Regime Kills Civilians In Mindat

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (25 Jan 2023) Myanmar military bombs Chin State monastery sheltering displaced civilians

⁸¹ Irrawaddy (25 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Bombs Displacement Hub at Monastery in Chin State

⁸² Khonumthung Media Group (24 Jan 2023) Regime Kills Mindat Teenager

⁸³ Guardian (11 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta hit Indian territory during strike on rebel camp, say witnesses

⁸⁴ Irrawaddy (12 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Bombs Chin Resistance HQ Twice in Week

⁸⁵ Khonumthung Media Group (21 Jan 2023) Thangtlang Schools Closed Amid Fears Of Airstrikes

⁸⁶ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Soldiers Kill Civilians in Chin State

⁸⁷ Mizzima (21 Jan 2023) Attack on junta outpost in Falam school in Chin State injures student

⁸⁸ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

⁸⁹ DMG (11 Jan 2023) IDPs reportedly forced to work as porters by military in Chin State's Paletwa

⁹⁰ Narinjara News (17 Jan 2023) Army checkpoints run extortion racket to support the building of a new military camp in Paletwa Chin state

regime-allied Arakan Liberation Party (ALP). On 5 Jan, the ALP blamed the Arakan Army (AA), which denied any involvement. 91

On 1 Jan, the junta released four civilians arrested over alleged AA ties in Kyauktaw and Maungdaw Townships. On 3 Jan, the junta and the AA exchanged eight prisoners captured by both sides in Ponnagyun Township. On 4 Jan, the regime released 308 prisoners statewide to mark Independence Day. None were detained over alleged AA links. On 11 Jan, it was reported that junta forces had detained 324 civilians over alleged AA ties during 26 Sep-26 Nov. As of that date, only 85 had been released. On 15 Jan, regime and AA forces exchanged 13 more prisoners.

On 3 Jan, it was reported that 89 village administrators who had recently resigned amid clashes between regime and AA forces in Rathedaung and Ponnagyun Townships had agreed to return to work at the request of the AA's political wing. A political observer speculated that the group wanted to use them for its own ends. ⁹⁶ On 5 Dec, regime officials in Ponnagyun Township met with the 89 administrators, welcomed their reinstatement, and instructed them to collect census data for the 2023 sham 'election.' ⁹⁷ Twenty village administrators in Ponnagyun ultimately opted not to resume their duties. One of them said they could not work under two competing administrations. ⁹⁸

UNHCR said there were around 230,400 IDPs in Rakhine State as of 30 Jan, including 11,400 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 99 In early January, the junta lifted its ban on the importation of medicine into and the distribution of humanitarian aid within Rakhine State, allowing aid distribution to resume in some areas. However, the regime continued to impose restrictions on humanitarian operations and to require aid groups to secure prior approval every month. 100 On 10 Jan, UNHCR resumed aid distribution in Buthidaung Township, reaching 2,800 people. On 13 Jan, it said operations would also resume soon in some areas of Rathedaung Township. 101 On 25 Jan, it was reported that the International Committee of the Red Cross had handed over its food assistance programme for IDPs in Mrauk-U Township to the World Food Programme, raising concerns among camp managers. 102

Kachin and Northern Shan States

On 2 Jan, General Gam Shawng, the commander-in-chief of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), replaced General N' Ban La as chair of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO). Analysts said the leadership change will not affect the organization's anti-regime stance. ¹⁰³ In January, tensions increased over the control of **Kachin State**'s gold mines. On 3 Jan, a junta airstrike on a gold prospecting area of **Myitkyina** Township killed one civilian and injured 32. There was no fighting at the time. It is unclear whether the mining project attacked was connected to the KIO. ¹⁰⁴

On 9 Jan, the regime launched airstrikes on the KIA headquarters in **Tanai Township**, killing three KIA members. Locals said the attack took place after the KIA forced local gold miners to leave the area in a bid to stop a junta-affiliated militia from subjecting them to taxes. Regime airstrike also targeted two KIA bases in **Hpakant Township**, but no casualties were reported. On 11 Jan, it was reported that the KIA had forbidden the storage of fuel around Shaduzup village, one of Hpakant's gold-rich

⁹¹ Irrawaddy (6 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta-Allied Rakhine Group Accuses Arakan Army of Assassinations

⁹² DMG (1 Jan 2023) Junta releases university student, motorcycle taxi driver detained at Maungdaw checkpoint; DMG (2 Jan 2023) Military reportedly releases two detained Kyauktaw men

⁹³ DMG (5 Jan 2023) Military, AA exchange eight prisoners of war

⁹⁴ DMG (11 Jan 2023) Scores of civilians charged over alleged AA ties remain detained; relatives call for release

⁹⁵ Myanmar Now (17 Jan 2023) Myanmar military and Arakan Army exchange prisoners in Rakhine State

⁹⁶ DMG (3 Jan 2023) Village administrators to return to their offices at AA's request

⁹⁷ DMG (5 Jan 2023) Junta welcomes reinstatement of village administrators in Arakan State

⁹⁸ Narinjara News (13 Jan 2023) Resigned 20 Rakhine village administrators prefer to discontinue their duties

⁹⁹ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

¹⁰⁰ DMG (14 Jan 2023) Aid agencies still can't operate freely in Arakan State

Narinjara News (17 Jan 2023) UNHCR aid programs resume in Buthidaung, plans already prepared for Rathedaung

¹⁰² DMG (25 Jan 2023) WFP to take over ICRC's food assistance programme in Mrauk-U Twsp

¹⁰³ Irrawaddy (4 Jan 2023) Kachin Independence Leader Steps Down

¹⁰⁴ RFA (6 Jan 2023) Junta airstrike kills 1, injures more than 30 in Kachin State

¹⁰⁵ Kachin News Group (11 Jan 2023) KIA Soldiers Killed In Airstrikes In Kachin State

areas, and ordered local mining projects to shut down by 14 Jan. In response, the regime-aligned Warazup militia blocked and mined the roads to the village in preparation for a possible KIA attack. 106

On 21 Jan, resistance forces threw grenades at **Hpakant Township**'s general administration office, reportedly injuring several staff members. Regime forces responded with indiscriminate artillery fire, forcing nearby residents to flee. Explosions were also reported at two local bridges on 22 Jan. On 23 Jan, KIA/PDF forces attacked junta soldiers stationed at the Ever Winner Jade company. The ensuing clash reportedly killed several soldiers. 107 On 27 Jan, regime artillery fire killed a young man and injured his mother in **Hopin Township**. ¹⁰⁸ UNHCR said there were around 103,700 IDPs in Kachin State as of 30 Jan, including 12,200 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 109

The regime tried to strengthen existing alliances in Northern Shan State. On 13 Jan, crony businessman and 24 Hour Group of Companies chair Aung Aung Zaw signed an agreement with the junta-aligned Kokang Border Guard Force (BGF) to operate helicopter passenger flights and build an airport in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone. A political analyst said regime leader Min Aung Hlaing had agreed to the joint venture to give the BGF an incentive to counter the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), which is fighting the junta in Kokang. 110 On 15 Jan, a clash broke out between regime and MNDAA troops in **Hsenwi Township**. 111 UNHCR said there were around 16,100 IDPs in Northern Shan State as of 30 Jan, including 7,100 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021.112

Karenni and Southern Shan States

The Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) said it had clashed 341 times with regime troops in 2022, killing 797 soldiers and injuring 93. The junta reportedly launched over 150 air and artillery strikes on resistance and civilian targets in Karenni State last year, killing at least 13 civilians and injuring 64. The Progressive Karenni People Force said 544 clashes between Karenni armed groups and regime troops had killed 1,692 soldiers and 211 resistance fighters in 2021 and 2022. Junta forces also killed 293 residents over that period, and 126 displaced civilians died fleeing their homes. 113

On 3 Jan, the KNDF bombed Loikaw airport and an adjacent regime base with drones. In response, the regime closed the airport during 4-9 Jan to install drone-jamming hardware. 114 On 25 Jan, an artillery shell targeted a local, junta-sponsored celebration, killing a civilian and injuring eight. The regime blamed the KNPP and PDFs, 115 but the former rejected the accusations. 116 On the same day, a regime shell injured two women and a man in Loilen Lay. 117 On 26 Jan, it was reported that regime air and artillery attacks had displaced over 1,000 residents in **Demoso Township** over the week prior. ¹¹⁸

¹⁰⁶ Myanmar Now (11 Jan 2023) Tension grows between junta-allied militia and KIA in gold-rich area of Hpakant

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Now (24 Jan 2023) Clash and blasts reported in Myanmar jade town of Hpakant

¹⁰⁸ DVB (30 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: 'Silent Strike' to mark anniversary of the military coup; Political Parties Registration Law amended by coup leader

¹⁰⁹ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

Irrawaddy (26 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Crony in New Venture With Regime-Allied Ethnic Armed Group

Shan Herald (16 Jan 2023) Fighting Breaks-out Between Junta and Kokang's Troops

¹¹² UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

İrrawaddy (7 Jan 2023) Kayah Resistance: 797 Myanmar Junta Troops Killed Last Year

¹¹⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (10 Jan 2023) All flights to Loikaw Airport have been temporarily suspended

¹¹⁵ Irrawaddy (16 Jan 2023) One Dead After Myanmar Rebels Attack Kayah State Celebration: Junta; RFA (15 Jan 2023) စစ်ကောင်စီရဲ့ကယားပြည်နယ်နေ့ အခမ်းအနား တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး တစ်ဦးသေ၊ ရှစ်ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

DVB (18 Jan 2023) KNPP denies involvement in Karenni State Day attack in Loikaw

¹¹⁷ RFA (18 Jan 2023) Junta shelling kills 1, injures 3 in Shan state; DVB (18 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing:Street stalls dismantled across Rakhine ahead of visit from junta leader; At least 348 Rohingya died at sea in 2022, states UNHCR ¹¹⁸ Myanmar Now (26 Jan 2023) At least 1,000 displaced by junta attacks in Demoso Township

UNHCR said there were around 86,100 IDPs in Karenni State as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. This is likely a gross underestimate: the Karenni Civil Society Network said there were some 146,115 IDPs statewide as of 15 Jan. 120

Fighting also continued to impact civilians in **Southern Shan State**. On 16 Jan, junta forces shelled an IDP camp in **Moebye Township**. ¹²¹ On 24 Jan, a clash between the regime and PDF forces destroyed several houses in **Pekon Township**. ¹²² On the same day, a regime jet made two low-passes over the Shan State Progress Party's (SSPP) headquarters in Wan Hai, **Kyethi Township**. The SSPP condemned the move as a provocative action. On 26-27 Jan, the regime dispatched reinforcements to three military bases located near the SSPP's headquarters. ¹²³ UNHCR said there were around 60,800 IDPs in Southern Shan State as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. ¹²⁴

Karen State

Fighting continued in **Karen State**. In **KNU-defined Papun District**, regime aircraft bombed Yar Hti Hta village, killing six people on 7 Jan. Jets also dropped four bombs near the local KNU headquarters, injuring a villager and destroying a house. ¹²⁵ On 12 Jan, unprovoked regime airstrikes on two ethnic Karen villages killed five civilians, including a mother and her two-year-old daughter, injured a further two, and destroyed two churches. ¹²⁶ According to UNHCR, there were around 104,300 IDPs in Karen State as of 30 Jan, including 101,100 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. ¹²⁷

In **Kyainseikgyi Township**, resistance forces led by the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) attacked three BGF outposts on 31 Dec. Heavy fighting lasted until 5 Dec, forcing some 3,000 locals to flee. Regime airstrikes and artillery fire injured four residents. On 4 Jan, KNLA and PDF forces attacked three military camps before retreating amid heavy airstrikes. Fighting injured at least four civilians, including two children. On 5 Jan, junta helicopters bombed the KNLA Brigade 6 headquarters in retaliation for the attack. On 12 Jan, a regime artillery shell injured three civilians and destroyed two houses in Tadaoo Village. On 13 Jan, junta forces shot and killed six residents amid clashes with the KNLA in Alae Village. Soldiers used civilians as human shields during the skirmish, forcing resistance troops to retreat.

On 21 Jan, regime jets bombed the home of a top commander in the military-aligned Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) in the township, reportedly injuring a DKBA soldier. The circumstances surrounding the incident were unclear. ¹³¹

For the first time since the attempted coup, fighting between regime and resistance forces expanded to areas under the control of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) in **Kawkareik Township**, with sporadic

¹¹⁹ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

Karenni Civil Society Network (1 Feb 2023) Bi-weekly situation update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, Jan 16 to 29,
 Summary of SAC human rights violations in Karenni State and Pekhon Township
 RFA (18 Jan 2023) Junta shelling kills 1, injures 3 in Shan state; DVB (18 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: Street stalls dismantled

RFA (18 Ján 2023) Junta shelling kills 1, injures 3 in Shan state; DVB (18 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: Street stalls dismantled across Rakhine ahead of visit from junta leader; At least 348 Rohingya died at sea in 2022, states UNHCR
 Shan Herald (27 Jan 2023) Fighting Breaks Out In Moebye

¹²³ Shan Herald (30 Jan 2023) Military Regime Moving Troops To Military Bases Near SSPP's Headquarter In Southern Shan State; BNI (26 Jan 2023) Fighter Jet Passes SSPP's Headquarters

¹²⁴ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

¹²⁵ Karen News (12 Jan 2023) 7 Junta fighter jets attack KNU-held Mutraw (Hpapon) district on Jan 7th; Myanmar Now (13 Jan 2023) လေတပ်ကြောင့် ဖာပွန်တွင် ၅ ဦးသေ၊ ပညာရေးနှင့်ဘာသာရေးပစ်မှတ်များ ထိခိုက်

¹²⁶ AP (14 Jan 2023) Relief groups say 5 die as Myanmar airstrikes hit churches; Irrawaddy (13 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Jets Bomb Church, Killing Child, Mother, and 2 Pastors

¹²⁷ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

¹²⁸ Irrawaddy (3 Jan 2023) Resistance Fighters Capture Myanmar Junta Border Bases in Karen State; Than Lwin Times (3 Jan 2023) KNLA joint force captures BGF's two outposts on Phayar Thone Su road; Irrawaddy (6 Jan 2023) Karen Rebels Announce Victories in Escalating Conflict with Myanmar Junta; DMG (3 Jan 2023) Over 2,000 locals flee as KNLA clashes with junta troops in Kavin State's Kvainnseikovi

junta troops in Kayin State's Kyainnseikgyi

129 RFA (5 Jan 2023) Battle between Karen rebels and junta troops intensifies in Myanmar's Kayin State; Irrawaddy (5 Jan 2023) Three Days of Clashes Leave Six Myanmar Junta Forces, Dozen Resistance Fighters Dead; Eleven Media (6 Jan 2023) Clashes in Kyainseikgyi cause to injure at least four locals

¹³⁰ Irrawaddy (14 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Troops Kill Six Civilians in Karen State Raid

¹³¹ RFA (23 Jan 2023) Junta jets dropped bombs on the home of a Karen ethnic army commander

clashes and arson attacks reported in several villages from 16 Jan onwards. 132 On 16 Jan, KNLA-led resistance forces raided and set fire to a police outpost on 16 Jan. The ensuing clash with BGF troops reportedly injured two civilians. 133 On 20-21 Jan, regime forces shelled two villages in **Kyondoe**, killing a woman and injuring two other civilians, including a child. ¹³⁴ On 23-25 Jan, heavy clashes between KNLA/Kawthoolei Army and regime troops around the town forced over 10,000 locals to flee. Junta forces shelled nearby villages during the skirmish, destroying several homes. 135

Bago Region

During 1-15 Jan, 55 clashes between KNLA/Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO) and regime forces killed at least 47 junta soldiers and injured 19 in Eastern Bago Region. 136 In Kyaukkyi **Township**, regime forces fired 31 artillery shells at eight local villages during 3-17 Jan, injuring a child and forcing 2,566 people to flee. 137 According to UNHCR, there were around 56,100 IDPs in Bago Region as of 30 Jan, including 54,900 who were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 138

On 16 Jan, regime forces burned down seven civilian huts after suffering casualties in a resistance attack in **Paungde Township**. ¹³⁹ On 16 Jan, resistance forces killed a junta-appointed ward administration member in **Kyaukkyi**. Regime troops responded by indiscriminately shelling nearby villages, injuring a resident. 140 On 17 Jan, gunmen shot dead two village administrators travelling in the same car in Htantabin Township. A stray bullet also killed an eight-month-old. No group claimed responsibility. 141

Mon State

Leaked regime figures revealed that junta forces had arrested 216 people for terrorism in Mon State in 2022. Clashes with resistance groups reportedly killed 105 people and injured 282, while bomb attacks destroyed 70 bridges and 116 communication towers. ¹⁴² UNHCR said there were around 26,800 IDPs statewide as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 143

On 8 Jan, it was reported that the regime was using Mawlamyine Airport to send reinforcements, weapons, and rations to its troops fighting in Karen State. 144 On 14 Jan, it was reported that the junta had ordered the demolition of 60+ shops around the airport, presumably to keep civilians away from military aircraft. 145 Fighting centered around the **Yangon-Mawlamyine road**, with resistance forces trying to disrupt the junta's supply lines. On 5 Jan, the KNLA attacked a military convoy in **Kvaikto Township**. Regime forces responded with small arms fire, injuring a civilian. ¹⁴⁶ On 10 Jan, the KNLA attacked another convoy in Bilin Township. The ensuing firefight left hundreds of vehicles trapped. 147 Mine attacks also targeted trains on the Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad on 2, 10, and 25 Jan. 148

In Ye Township, regime forces fired at two women riding a motorcycle on 1 Jan, seriously injuring them. 149 On 2 Jan, soldiers shelled Baelamine village, injuring three residents. There was no fighting

¹³² Than Lwin Times (26 Jan 2023) Battles expands to NMSP-controlled territory

¹³³ Than Lwin Times (17 Jan 2023) KNLA joint forces set fire to Kawbein police outpost

¹³⁴ Than Lwin Times (24 Jan 2023) One woman killed, two injured by junta shelling in KNU's Kyondoe Township

Myanmar Now (26 Jan 2023) Thousands of civilians displaced by Karen State clashes; RFA (26 Jan 2023) Intensified fighting drives 10,000 from their homes in Myanmar's Kayin state

Than Lwin Times (21 Jan 2023) More than 50 clashes erupt in KNU's Nyaunglaybin District

Than Lwin Times (20 Jan 2023) Mortar strike injures one local resident, forcing 2,000 villagers to flee in Kyaukgyi ¹³⁸ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁴⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

Myanmar Now (19 Jan 2023) Infant killed by stray shot during assassination of Bago Region junta administrators

¹⁴² Than Lwin Times (17 Jan 2023) Over 200 people arrested on charges of violence in one year in Mon State

¹⁴³ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

¹⁴⁴ Than Lwin Times (8 Jan 2023) Military council dispatches reinforcements, weapons, food supplies via Mawlamyine Airport

¹⁴⁵ Than Lwin Times (14 Jan 2023) Military council orders shops near Mawlamyine Airport to be demolished within a month

¹⁴⁶ Than Lwin Times (6 Jan 2023) Military convoy strikes landmine in Kyaikto

Than Lwin Times (11 Jan 2023) Hundreds of cars stuck in Belin amid firefight

¹⁴⁸ Eleven Media (12 Jan 2023) Mine hit a freight train in Paung Township causing some carriages derailed; Eleven Media (26 January 2023) Mine hits Khalon River Crossing Bridge on Ygn-Mawlamyaing Railroad

149 Than Lwin Times (3 Jan 2023) Ye Balu resistance group attacks regime forces who came to check Mytel tower

at the time. 150 On 6 Jan, resistance forces killed two regime soldiers in Kyotadar village. Junta troops responded with indiscriminate artillery fire, injuring a resident. ¹⁵¹ On 9 Jan, the Ye Guerilla Force shot dead a regime intelligence officer in Lamaing. The attack also injured a 13-year-old girl. 152

In **Kyaikto Township**, soldiers shelled Hle Lan Ku village on 6 Jan, injuring a 60-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl. ¹⁵³ On 7 Jan, junta artillery fire killed a resident and injured six others, including a 7year-old child in Tone Kwo village. 154 Still on 7 Jan, regime shells injured four residents in Thaton. 155 On 25 Jan, a junta shell hit a passenger truck, killing one civilian and injuring nine others. 156

Tanintharyi Region

Southern Monitor documented 33 clashes between regime and resistance forces in Tanintharyi Region in January. Attacks targeting civilians also killed 25 residents and injured eight. 157 UNHCR said there were around 38,100 IDPs in the region as of 30 Jan. All were displaced after 1 Feb 2021. 158

During 31 Dec-3 Jan, regime troops launched attacks against ten villages in Tanintharyi Township, triggering clashes with local resistance groups and forcing 2,000 residents to flee. 159 On 8 Jan, junta forces raided, looted and burned 15 homes in **Dawei Township**. The attack followed clashes between junta and resistance forces on 7 Jan. 160 On 14 Jan, locals in **Bokepyin Township** found the dead bodies of eight villagers who had been arrested by an unknown armed group on 12 Jan. Pro-regime sources blamed the Kawthoolei Army for the killings. 161

In Palaw Township, regime troops set fire to six houses in two villages following a skirmish with a local PDF on 3 Jan. 162 On 16 Jan, indiscriminate junta small arms and artillery fire amid clashes with resistance forces killed two civilians. After the skirmish, soldiers murdered a resident and stole his belongings worth about three million kyat. 163 On 19-20 Jan, regime forces torched Shatpon village amid clashes with resistance forces, destroying nine houses. 164

In Launglon Township, resistance forces attacked two police officers from the Thakyattaw police station, killing one and injuring the other on 6 Jan. Regime troops responded by indiscriminately firing at nearby homes and burning down a house. 165 On 14 Jan, junta forces abandoned the station; a first in the township since the attempted coup. 166 On 11 Jan, regime forces torched Hinchotaw village, destroying three houses, four motorcycles, and a furniture store. There was no fighting at the time. 167

Mandalay

In Natogyi Township, junta soldiers arrested three villagers from Minywa Sanpya village on 4 Jan, before torturing and killing them in custody. 168 In Ngazun Township, regime troops raided and arrested three civilians in Ma Yoe Kone village on 15 Jan. 169 On 17 Jan, soldiers raided, looted and

¹⁵⁰ Than Lwin Times (4 Jan 2023) 3 locals injured in junta's artillery attack in Ye Township; Than Lwin Times (3 Jan 2023) Ye Balu resistance group attacks regime forces who came to check Mytel tower

Than Lwin Times (8 Jan 2023) Stake mine kills two junta soldiers in Ye

¹⁵² Eleven Media (9 Jan 2023) Police Inspector shot dead in Ye's Lamaing T/S

¹⁵³ Than Lwin Times (8 Jan 2023) Two locals injured by junta's reckless firing in Kyaikto

¹⁵⁴ Mon News (12 Jan 2023) Locals Killed and 8 Injured from Military Council's Heavy Weapons; Than Lwin Times (15 Jan 2023) Junta shelling kills one, wounds 12 others in Thaton District

¹⁵⁵ Than Lwin Times (15 Jan 2023) Junta shelling kills one, wounds 12 others in Thaton District

Than Lwin Times (26 Jan 2023) One killed, 10 others injured in Junta shell on passenger truck

¹⁵⁷ Southern Monitor (5 Feb 2023) Myanmar: Tanintharyi Region Monthly Situation Update (31 January 2023)

¹⁵⁸ UNHCR (31 Jan 2022) Myanmar Emergency Overview Map: Number of people displaced since Feb 2021 and remain displaced (as of 30 Jan 2023)

Than Lwin Times (4 Jan 2023) Tanintharyi seeing the expansion of battlefield

¹⁶⁰ Than Lwin Times (10 Jan 2023) Junta's arson attack forces villagers to flee in Dawei

Than Lwin Times (19 Jan 2023) Eight men found dead in Tanintharyi's Bokepyin

¹⁶² Than Lwin Times (5 Jan 2023) Junta army conducts more arson attacks in Palaw

¹⁶³ Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) At Least Eight Myanmar Regime Forces Killed in Tanintharyi Fighting; Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Mizzima (24 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta soldiers extorting and stealing in southeastern Myanmar

Than Lwin Times (20 Jan 2023) Palaw Township's Shatpon village torched by junta

¹⁶⁵ Than Lwin Times (7 Jan 2023) Police burn down tents, houses after being attacked

¹⁶⁶ Than Lwin Times (15 Jan 2023) Regime troops leave Thakyattaw police station in Launglon

¹⁶⁷ Mizzima (13 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta torches houses for no reason in Tanintharyi's Launglon Township

¹⁶⁸ Mizzima (8 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta forces suspected in dumped bodies in Mandalay's Natogyi Township

¹⁶⁹ Myanmar Now (17 Jan 2023) ငါန်းဇွန်တွင် ကျောင်းဆရာတစ်ဦးအပါအဝင် သုံးဦး အဖမ်းခံထားရ

Township, the junta launched air and artillery strikes against a PDF base on 20 Jan, killing a PDF commander and seriously injuring three resistance fighters. ¹⁷¹ In **Thabeikkyin Township**, junta small arms fire following a resistance attack injured three civilians on 21 Jan. ¹⁷² On 24 Jan, a regime arson attack destroyed at least 13 homes of PDF and Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) members in Kyingyikone village. ¹⁷³ On 24-25 Jan, regime forces detained and tortured a resident they accused of being a PDF member. They then arrested three more locals, before killing all four. ¹⁷⁴

Resistance fighters continued to target civilians, killing regime administrators in **Myittha** (3 Jan), ¹⁷⁵ **Maha Aung Myay** (15 Jan), ¹⁷⁶ and **Pyigyidagun** (27 Jun) ¹⁷⁷ Townships, and an alleged military informant in **Kyaukse Township** (18 Jan). ¹⁷⁸ Resistance fighters also shot dead two police officers in Natogyi Township (14 Jan), ¹⁷⁹ and a military officer and his wife in **Myingyan Township** (26 Jan). ¹⁸⁰

Resistance bombings and attacks also targeted regime troops in **Madaya** (1, 2, 30 Jan)¹⁸¹ and **Pyawbwe Townships** (4 Jan);¹⁸² an administrative office in **Mogoke Township** (4 Jan);¹⁸³ junta vehicles in **Amarapura**, **Ngazun and Myingyan Townships** (10, 30 Jan);¹⁸⁴ a police station in **Pyigyitagon Township** (11 Jan);¹⁸⁵ a community hall hosting a meeting of junta administrators in **Chanmyathazi Township** (12 Jan);¹⁸⁶ an administrative office in **Maha Aung Myay Township** (12 Jan);¹⁸⁷ and a General Administration Department office in **Amarapura Township** (16 Jan).¹⁸⁸

Yangon

On 31 Jan, it was reported that 29 shootings and explosions had killed at least seven people and injured 10 in Yangon Region in January. A total of 916 shootings and bombings occurred in 2022, killing 235 people and injuring 361. Resistance fighters continued to target civilians, killing or injuring regime administrators in **Hlaingthaya** (1 Jan), Thaketa (15 Jan), and **Dagon Seikkan** (30 Jan)

¹⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (19 Jan 2023) Myanmar military torches dozens of homes in Mandalay Region village near resistance stronghold; Myanmar Now (18 Jan 2023) ငါန်းဇွန်မြို့နယ် နေအိမ် ၄၀ နီးပါးကို စစ်တပ်မီးရှို့ ပစ္စည်းများ ခိုးယူသွား

Myanmar Now (25 Jan 2023) Myanmar military uses 'excessive force' to seize resistance base in Mandalay Region

¹⁷² DVB (21 Jan 2023) တကောင်းနှင့်နွားထိုးကြီးမြို့နယ်တို့တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်များ မိုင်းဆွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁷³ DVB (27 Jan 2023) Justice for Myanmar: 60 governments and international organizations supporting the junta

¹⁷⁴ RFA (26 Jan 2023) Junta troops shoot 4 men in Mandalay region village

Mizzima (6 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta village administrators shot dead in Mandalay's Myittha Township

¹⁷⁶ Myanmar Now (16 Jan 2023) မန္တလေးတွင် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးတစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁷⁷ Eleven Media (28 Jan 2023) Ward administrator in Pyigyi Tagon Township shot dead at his house

¹⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (19 Jan 2023) ကျောက်ဆည်တွင် ရွေးကောက်ပွဲအတွက် စာရင်းကောက်သူတစ်ဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁷⁹ Mizzima (17 Jan 2023) နွားဈေးတွင် ဆက်ကြေးလာကောက်သည့် ရဲ၂ ဦးပစ်ခတ်ခံရ၍ သေဆုံး

¹⁸⁰ DVB (30 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: 'Silent Strike' to mark anniversary of the military coup; Political Parties Registration Law amended by coup leader

¹⁸¹ Irrawaddy (3 Jan 2023) Over 20 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks; Mizzima (2 Jan 2023) မတ္တရာမြို့နယ်တွင် မြနန္ဒာစစ်ဆင်ရေးအဖြစ် စစ်ကောင်စီစစ်ကြောင်းကို မိုင်းဆွဲတိုက်ခိုက်; Irrawaddy (1 Feb 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

 ¹⁸² Irrawaddy (5 Jan 2023) Three Days of Clashes Leave Six Myanmar Junta Forces, Dozen Resistance Fighters Dead
 ¹⁸³ DVB (5 Jan 2023) မိုးကုတ်မြို့တွင် ဗုံးပေါက်ကွဲ၊ ပစ်ခတ်မှုဖြစ်

¹⁸⁴ DVB (12 Jan 2023) မန္တလေးတွင် လူဦးရေစာရင်းကောက်သည့်နေရာများ ဗုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ; Myanmar Now (11 Jan 2023) မန္တလေးတိုင်း မြို့သာမြို့တွင် စစ်တပ်ယာဉ် မိုင်းထိ၊ ၆ ဦးသေဆုံး; Irrawaddy (1 Feb 2023) Over 40 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁸⁵ DVB (12 Jan 2023) မန္တလေးတွင် လူဦးရေစာရင်းကောက်သည့်နေရာများ ဗုံးခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

Myanmar Now (18 Jan 2023) Guerrilla forces target military personnel gathering data for Myanmar junta election

Myanmar Now (18 Jan 2023) Guerrilla forces target military personnel gathering data for Myanmar junta election

¹⁸⁸ Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Nearly 50 Myanmar Junta Forces Killed in Three Days of Resistance Attacks

¹⁸⁹ DVB (31 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: World Bank forecasts Burma's economy to grow by three percent in 2023; Detained Burma nationals at Thai IDC demand repatriation

¹⁹⁰ DVB (3 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: Tuesday, January 2,2023; DVB (1 Jan 2023) လှိုင်သာယာတွင် ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးတဦး ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

¹⁹¹ DVB (15 Jan 2023) သာကေတတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီခန် ရာအိမ်မှူးတဦး သေနတ်ဖြင် ပစ်သတ်ခံရ

Townships; ¹⁹² killing the deputy manager of a military-owned factory in **Hlaing Township** (30 Jan); ¹⁹³ and injuring an alleged military informant in **Shwepyitha Township** (16 Jan)¹⁹⁴ and a retired Defense Ministry assistant director in **North Dagon Township** (20 Jan). ¹⁹⁵ On 25 Jan, gunmen shot dead a retired army major and his wife in **Mayangone** Township. ¹⁹⁶

Resistance bombings and attacks also targeted an Air Force housing unit and a municipal office in **Mingaladon Township** (7, 10 Jan), ¹⁹⁷ a police station in **Thongwa Township** (8 Jan), ¹⁹⁸ a military base in **Hlaing Thar Yar Township** (19 Jan), ¹⁹⁹ and the office of the National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee in **Kamayut Township** (20 Jan). ²⁰⁰ On 17 Jan, regime forces arrested several civilians after suffering casualties in a resistance attack in **Ngazun Township**, ultimately killing one. ²⁰¹ On 20 Jan, two resistance fighters bombed an administrative office in **South Okkalapa Township**. On 21 Jan, one was executed after being arrested at a nearby restaurant owned by an army captain. ²⁰²

Exodus continues as Rohingya flee discrimination, violence, and police abuse

On 2 Jan, regime forces arrested 39 Rohingya who were hiding inside a stone-carrying vehicle in Hinthada Township (**Ayeyarwady Region**). The junta detained over 600 Rohingya in the region in 2022.²⁰³ On 6 Jan, a junta court in Bogale sentenced 116 Rohingya, including 12 children, to prison terms ranging from two to five years for travelling without legal documents. They had been in custody since 20 Dec.²⁰⁴ On 11 Jan, it was reported that regime forces had arrested 136 Rohingya in **Yangon Region** in the first week of January. A Rohingya rights group said the junta had **detained 1,759 Rohingya countrywide in 2022**, including 332 in Yangon.²⁰⁵

On 8 Jan, a wooden boat carrying 184 weak and hungry Rohingya refugees who fled from Bangladesh landed in Aceh Province (Indonesia). Local fishermen reported seeing two more boats suspected to be carrying refugees, although their fate remained unclear. Over 500 Rohingya landed in Aceh in 2022. ²⁰⁶ On 17 Jan, UNHCR said over 3,500 Rohingya attempted to flee Bangladesh and Burma by sea in 2022, up from 700 in 2021; a 360% increase. At least 348 died or went missing at sea, making it one of the deadliest years since 2014. UNHCR said its calls to rescue and disembark refugees in distress were **largely ignored**, with many boats adrift for weeks. It warned that more people will die on the high seas without concrete pledges for regional cooperation. ²⁰⁷

On 17 Jan, Human Rights Watch said it had documented over 16 cases of serious abuses against Rohingya refugees by Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn), including extortion, arbitrary arrests, and harassment. Police officers **routinely frame refugees with drugs and weapons** to extract bribes, and target those who share information about abuses on social media. On 18 Jan, in the noman's land between the borders of Bangladesh and Burma, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army

DVB (1 Feb 2023) Junta NDSC meeting takes place on eve of coup anniversary; NLD states 84 members killed since coup
 DVB (31 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: World Bank forecasts Burma's economy to grow by three percent in 2023; Detained Burma nationals at Thai IDC demand repatriation

¹⁹⁴ DVB (17 Jan 2023) ရွှေပြည်သာတွင် ပစ်ခတ်မှုဖြစ်ပြီး အမျိုးသား ၁ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁹⁵ DVB (20 Jan 2023) မြောက်ဒဂုံတွင် ကာကွယ်ရေးဌာန လက်ထောက်ညွှန်းမှူးဟောင်း ၁ ဦး သေနတ်ဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (25 Jan 2023) Myanmar Resistance Assassinates Junta 'Informant'

¹⁹⁷ Mizzima (7 Jan 2023) Breaking News မင်္ဂလာဒုံလေတပ်လိုင်းခန်းဝင်းအား မြို့ပြပြောက်ကျားများက M -79 ဗုံးပစ်လောင်ချာဖြင့်

ပစ်ခတ်တိုက်ခိုက်; Myanmar Now (13 Jan 2023) Resistance groups bomb, set fire to administrative offices to deter Myanmar junta election preparations

¹⁹⁸ DVB (8 Jan 2023) သုံးခွမြို့နယ်၊ ကတုံးပေါ် ရဲစခန်းကို PDF ဝင်တိုက်၊ ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်အချို့သေဆုံးဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁹⁹ DVB (23 Jan 2023) Junta leader attends Chinese New Year festivities; The NUG unveils 'Spring Valour Condominium Apartments'; DVB (20 Jan 2023) လှိုင်သာယာ ၅၃၂ တပ်ရင်း ပစ်ခတ်တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရပြီး ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရသူရှိ

²⁰⁰ Eleven Media (21 Jan 2023) Explosion occurs at National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Center in Kamayut

²⁰¹ DVB (19 Jan 2023) ငါန်းဇွန်မြို့နယ်တွင် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်နှင့် ပျူစောထီးယာဉ်တန်း မိုင်းဆွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

²⁰² DVB (22 Jan 2023) တောင်ဥက္ကလာ ငွေတောင်စားသောက်ဆိုင်ဝန်ထမ်းများဝိုင်းဖမ်းခဲ့သည့် UG လူငယ် ၁ ဦး သေဆုံး; DVB (23 Jan 2023)

Junta leader attends Chinese New Year festivities; The NUG unveils 'Spring Valour Condominium Apartments'

Junta leader attends Chinese New Year testivities; The NOG unveils Spring Valour Condominium Apa ²⁰³ Mizzima (5 Jan 2023) Group of 39 Rohingya arrested in Hinthada Township, Ayeyarwaddy

RFA (9 Jan 2023) Myanmar court sentences 116 Rohingya refugees for violating immigration laws

Network Media Group (11 Jan 2023) Soldiers Arrest 136 Rohingya During Yangon Raid

²⁰⁶ AP (8 Jan 2023) Over 150 Rohingya refugees reach ashore in Indonesia

²⁰⁷ UN News (17 Jan 2023) Steep increase in deadly boat journeys reflects Rohingyas' desperation: UNHCR

²⁰⁸ Irrawaddy (17 Jan 2023) Bangladesh Police Extorting Rohingya in Camps: HRW

reportedly clashed with the Rohingya Solidarity Organization near a settlement of about 3,000 Rohingya refugees, killing at least one Rohingya, injuring two, and forcing hundreds to flee.²⁰⁹

Women (more details at women tracker)

On 7 Jan, the NUG's Women, Youths and Children Affairs Ministry stated that the junta had killed at least 265 children and 414 women since the attempted coup. ²¹⁰ On 12 Jan, it was reported that, although women were playing a crucial role in the armed resistance, they were under-represented in leadership positions within resistance-linked community policing groups, and rarely given the chance to participate in patrols or arrests. ²¹¹

On 25 Jan, a report by Myanmar Witness revealed that politically motivated abuse against women who expressed anti-regime views on social media had increased at least fivefold in the aftermath of the attempted coup; likely an underestimate, as only public posts could be assessed. These abuses included calls for their arrest and threats of violence, rape, and death by pro-military online users. The prevalence of abusive posts was 500 times higher on Telegram compared with other international social media companies. The study warned those posts featured sexualized language and imagery that mirrored tactics known to have been used by the Burma military to dehumanize the Rohingya. 212

COVID-19, Health, Education (more details at COVID-19, healthcare, and education tracker)

Regime figures showed few daily COVID-19 infections throughout the month: 2 on 1 Jan, ²¹³ 9 on 15 Jan, ²¹⁴ and 1 on 31 Jan. ²¹⁵ Vaccination rates remained low. Only 37,722,160 people had received shots as of 31 Jan, ²¹⁶ from a population of 55.8 million. ²¹⁷ It is unclear how many had been fully vaccinated, or boosted.

The junta continued to crack down on CDM members, including striking health and education workers. On 26 Jan, it was reported that the regime had **established dedicated investigation teams** to track down CDM members and seal off the structures employing them.²¹⁸ As of 31 Jan, the junta had arrested at least 227 CDM members,²¹⁹ and sentenced some of them to lengthy prison terms and even death, as punishment for defying its illegitimate rule.²²⁰

On 11 Jan, regime forces arrested the owners of and threatened to shut down two well-known private hospitals they accused of hiring CDM health workers in Mandalay, where 80% of medical staff are believed to have joined the CDM. The junta had already closed five Mandalay private hospitals on similar grounds in Dec 2022.²²¹ On 12 Jan, it was reported that the regime had arrested 355 medical workers, killed 83, and revoked 557 medical licenses since the attempted coup.²²² On 22 Jan, junta troops raided a charity clinic in Monywa Township (Sagaing Region) and arrested the Buddhist monk who founded it for employing striking medics. Soldiers also destroyed and seized medical equipment.²²³

²⁰⁹ RFA (18 Jan 2023) Rohingya settlement on Bangladesh-Myanmar border torched amid fighting

²¹⁰ Irrawaddy (10 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Continues to Target Women and Children: NUG; Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs, via Facebook (7 Jan 2023) https://tinyurl.com/2nxjmp77

New Humanitarian (12 Jan 2023) Meet the women fighting Myanmar's junta

²¹² Al Jazeera (27 Jan 2023) Myanmar women target of online abuse by pro-military social media

²¹³ GNLM (2 Jan 2023) 2 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 January, total figure rises to 633,685

²¹⁴ GNLM (16 Jan 2023) 9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 January, total figure rises to 633,750

²¹⁵ GNLM (1 Feb 2023) One new case of COVID-19 reported on 31 January, total figure reaches 633,820

²¹⁶ GNLM (2 Feb 2022) 13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 February, total figure rises to 633,833

²¹⁷ GNLM (4 Oct 2022) Population of Myanmar estimated at 55.8 million on 1 October 2022

²¹⁸ Than Lwin Times (26 Jan 2023) Taking action against CDMers is violation of human rights

²¹⁹ AAPP (accessed 6 Feb 2023) Air Table: Total_Arrested

²²⁰ RFA (30 Jan 2023) Two years after coup, Myanmar's anti-junta teachers face lengthy jail terms

²²¹ Myanmar Now (12 Jan 2023) Junta threatens more Mandalay private hospitals with closure

²²² RFA (12 Jan 2023) Myanmar's junta continues to target anti-junta doctors for arrest

²²³ Irrawaddy (26 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta forces Raid Charity Clinic, Detain Founding Monk

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

Economy remains below pre-coup levels amid increasing corruption

On 25 Jan, it was reported that the junta-controlled Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration (DICA) had delisted 5,200 companies that failed to submit annual returns in 2022; likely because they had to cease operations as a result of the coup-induced economic crisis. Some 400 to 500 businesses were delisted each month, mostly hotels, travel agencies, and construction firms.²²⁴ On 30 Jan, the World Bank warned and conflict, electricity outages, trade and forex restrictions, input shortages, and frequently changing rules and regulations were disrupting business operations.²²⁵

On 30 Jan, the World Bank estimated that Burma's GDP had grown by a modest 3% in fiscal 2022 and forecast the same growth rate for fiscal 2023, with per capita GDP expected to remain around 13% lower than in 2019. In contrast, the ASEAN-5 economies (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) are expected to expand by an average 10% during 2019 to 2023. ²²⁶

The World Bank warned that inflation fueled by a depreciating MMK was exacerbating household budget constraints and negatively affecting the entire economic activity. The World Bank said Burma's economy will likely continue to expand slowly beyond 2023, though at rates well below pre-pandemic levels. It warned that this outlook remained subject to significant volatility and uncertainty.²²⁷

At a glance: Two years of economic devastation

The junta's disastrous management and destructive efforts to gain territorial control destroyed the economy, sending millions into poverty.

World Bank, ADB: Burma's economy shrank by over 15%, compared to an average 9% growth in Southeast Asia.

ILO: At least **1.1 million jobs** had been lost as of mid-2022.

UNOCHA: 17.6 million people (34% of the population) will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, up from 1 million in 2021.

World Bank: Poverty had doubled to 40% of the population as of mid-2022.

ADB: Inflation had risen to 19.4% as of June 2022, up from 7.3% in 2020.

MMK lost 60% in value, compared to 30% for the Ukrainian hryvnia (xe.com)

On 31 Jan, Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Burma 157th out of 180 countries, down 17 places compared to 2021. Burma fell below Cambodia for the first time since 2012, making it Southeast Asia's worst country for graft. The regime is now ahead of only North Korea in Asia for clean government.²²⁸

Regime keeps chasing EV dream as cronies take over economy

On 19 Jan, it was reported that Golden Future Linkage, a company owned by Min Aung Hlaing's son, had sought the regime's approval to build a 40MW solar power plant in Mandalay in partnership with China Energy Engineering Corporation Ltd. It remained unclear whether the project had been approved. The plant would reportedly take nine months to build and sell electricity at USD 8.5 cents/kW·h, higher than the price quoted by the foreign companies that made bids for solar power projects in 2021.²²⁹

On 26 Jan, it was reported that the regime was pressuring filling stations in Naypyidaw and along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway to buy charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) from local-presumably crony-company Grand Sirius, which partnered with Hozon Auto (China) to manufacture EVs and

²²⁴ DVB (25 Jan 2023) Daily Briefing: Junta launches airstrikes on Chin's Mindat Township; Plans to amend Political Parties Registration Law; DICA (accessed 2 Feb 2023) ကြေငြာချက်နှင့်သတင်းအချက်အလက်များ

²²⁵ World Bank (30 Jan 2023) Myanmar Economic Monitor: Navigating uncertainty

World Bank (30 Jan 2023) Myanmar Economic Monitor: Navigating uncertainty; World Bank (Oct 22) World Bank East Asia and Pacific Economic Update, October 2022: Reforms for Recovery

World Bank (30 Jan 2023) Myanmar Economic Monitor: Navigating uncertainty

²²⁸ Transparency International (31 Jan 2023) CPI for Asia Pacific: Basic Freedoms Restricted as Anti-Corruption Efforts Neglected; RFA (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar plunges in latest corruption index, but Vietnam rises

Irrawaddy (19 Jan 2023) Myanmar Regime Chief's son Proposes Mandalay Solar Power Plant

provide services in Burma.²³⁰ On 31 Jan, it was reported that Omni Focus, a company owned by a grandson of ex-dictator Ne Win, and military-owned Bandula Transport were planning to operate 100 Chinese-made electric buses in Yangon. A Yangon Bus Service company manager said the regime had instructed his firm to run electric buses despite the low potential profitability and frequent blackouts.²³¹

On 30 Jan, it was reported that junta leader Min Aung Hlaing was trying to rapidly sell off state-owned firms to private investors, embracing a practice once employed by former dictator Than Shwe. As of four months ago, the regime had reportedly sold 55 out of 107 state-owned factories under the Ministry of Industry, many of which were operating at a loss. A Burma analyst speculated that the junta was trying to capitalize on the value of the land on which these projects are situated, while also shifting potential future profits from these ventures to individuals close to the military.²³²

International firms exposed for abetting the regime's atrocity crimes

On 15 Jan, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) reported that **Israeli** firm Cognyte Software had won a tender to sell intercept spyware to Burma's state-owned Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) in December 2020, with work scheduled for completion by June 2021. Such a system would allow the regime to tap calls in real time, aiding and abetting its atrocity crimes. JfM added that MPT's efforts to deploy interception technology were evidence that **Japanese** multinationals KDDI and Sumitomo Corporation, MPT's business partners, had failed to meet their due diligence obligations. On 2 Jan, high-profile human rights lawyer Eitay Mack filed a complaint demanding Israel revoke Cognyte's marketing and export license, saying the sale violated a 2017 Supreme Court ban on defense transfers to Burma. JfM called on Israel's Attorney General to take urgent action, and urged KDDI and Sumitomo to quit supporting the junta or divest.²³³

On 16 Jan, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) reported that dozens of companies based in **Austria**, **France**, **China**, **Singapore**, **India**, **Israel**, **Ukraine**, **Germany**, **Taiwan**, **Japan**, **Russia**, **South Korea**, and the **US** (full list here) had provided, either indirectly or directly, raw materials, machines, technology, and parts to the stated-owned entity that produces the Burma military's weapons. SAC-M called on these companies to cease their dealings with the junta or investigate how their products had inadvertently ended up being used by the regime; and called on their home countries to investigate the matter or risk being complicit in the junta's atrocities. ²³⁴ On 27 Jan, it was reported that Norway's USD 1.3 trillion sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, had divested from AviChina Industry & Technology (China) and Bharat Electronics (India) over their arm sales to the regime. ²³⁵

Trade rebounds off garment exports & fossil fuels

On 28 Jan, it was reported that Burma's total trade value had reached USD 27.19 billion during Apr 22-20 Jan 23, a 18.47% increase year on year. Exports rose 14.25% to over USD 13.36 billion, while imports rose 22.85% to over USD 13.82 billion. ²³⁶ On 30 Jan, it was reported that Burma had exported USD 1.43 billion worth of natural gas from the Shwe project (Rakhine State) to China in 2022. ²³⁷ The junta-controlled Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) has a 15% stake in the project, as part of a consortium that includes South Korea's POSCO and Indian companies ONGC Videsh and GAIL. ²³⁸

On 31 Jan, it was reported that Burma's garment industry, which has escaped Western sanctions, was moving toward recovery, with global brands like H&M, Adidas, and Uniqlo sourcing products from local subcontractors. Garment exports to the EU, Japan, and the US totaled USD 3.3 billion during Jan-Sep 2022, about 1.6 times more compared to 2021 and a record high. The daily minimum wage for

²³⁰ Irrawaddy (26 Jan 2023) Myanmar Junta Hits EV Accelerator Amid Rolling Power Outages

²³¹ Irrawaddy (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar Ex-dictator Family and Junta-Linked Firm to Use Electric Buses in Yangon

Myanmar Now (30 Jan 2023) Min Aung Hlaing sells Myanmar's state-owned factories, following in Than Shwe's footsteps
 Justice for Myanmar (15 Jan 2023) JFM calls on Israel's Attorney General to take urgent action following application for criminal investigation into Cognyte's business in Myanmar

²³⁴ Irrawaddy (17 Jan 2023) Myanmar Military Manufacturing Weapons With Help From Foreign Companies; Guardian (16 Jan 2023) Western firms facilitating production of Myanmar junta's weapons, says report

²³⁵ Irrawaddy (27 Jan 2023) Norwegian Fund Divests From Chinese, Indian Firms With Junta Ties

²³⁶ Xinhua News (28 Jan 2023) Myanmar's foreign trade up 18.47 pct in nearly 10 months

²³⁷ Narinjara News (30 Jan 2023) Military Council sold \$1.43 billion worth of Rakhine natural gas to China in 2022 while Rakhine remains the 2nd poorest state in Myanmar

²³⁸ Myanmar Now (27 Oct 2021) POSCO continues development of Shwe gas project

factory workers remained at MMK 4,800–the same since 2018–despite rampant inflation and increased staple prices since the attempted coup. ²³⁹

International responses (more details at international responses tracker)

At a glance: Two years of international inaction

In April 2021, **ASEAN** members and junta leader Min Aung Hlaing agreed to a **Five-Point Consensus** (FPC) calling for an **immediate cessation of violence** and a **constructive dialogue among all parties concerned**. The regime did not even try to implement it, prompting the bloc to eventually **exclude the junta from high-level meetings**.

In November 2022, ASEAN leaders agreed to develop an **implementation plan** with specific timelines for the FPC, but **had yet to do so as of February 2023**,

In December 2022, the **UN Security Council adopted its first resolution on Burma in 74 years**, demanding 'an **immediate end to all forms of violence**.' **China** and **Russia** opposed giving the Council coercive powers in case of non-compliance, making the text **toothless**.

The <u>US</u>, <u>EU</u>, <u>UK</u>, <u>Canada</u>, and <u>Australia</u> adopted a wide range of sanctions against the regime. However, none of them followed the EU's lead in sanctioning the **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise**, the regime's main cash cow.

Top UN officials criticize junta's sham 'election'

On 30 Jan, UN Secretary-General António Guterres voiced support for the democratic aspirations of Burma's people, and warned that the regime's planned 'election' amid an all-out crackdown on civilians and political leaders will 'risk exacerbating instability.' ²⁴⁰

On 31 Jan, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma Tom Andrews urged the international community to reject the regime's illegal and 'farcical' election. 'You cannot have a free and fair election when the opposition is arrested, detained, tortured, and executed,' he said. Andrews added that the regime's claim as Burma's government was illegitimate, noting that only a small minority of countries, including China, Russia, India, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka had taken actions tantamount to recognition.²⁴¹

Indonesia vows to engage with all stakeholders, promote national dialogue

On 9 Jan, **Indonesian** President Joko Widodo met with **Malaysian** PM Anwar Ibrahim in Jakarta. Both leaders agreed to keep pressuring the regime to comply with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Five-Point Consensus (FPC). On 12 Jan, **Human Rights Watch** urged Indonesia to 'promote new and stronger action to address widespread abuses' by the regime, and called on ASEAN to consider suspending the junta over its failure to implement the FPC. On 18 Jan, it was reported that former general Luhut Panjaitan, **Indonesia**'s Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment Affairs, had urged Burma's military to consider stepping back and letting 'qualified' leaders govern the country.

On 11 Jan, **Indonesian** Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said she will set up and lead a special envoy's office to deal with the Burma crisis in accordance with the FPC, and pledged to engage 'with all stakeholders.' Marsudi warned that Indonesia's chairing will 'ensure that building the ASEAN community will remain a key focus,' and that she will not allow the Burma issue to hold the bloc and this process hostage. ²⁴⁵ The junta responded by saying it would implement the FPC in line with

²³⁹ Nikkei Asia (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar economy hobbled by military rule despite garment boom

²⁴⁰ AP (31 Jan 2023) UN chief backs democracy for Myanmar 2 years after takeover

²⁴¹ AP (31 Jan 2023) UN expert: Myanmar junta will seek legitimacy in `sham' vote

²⁴² Nikkei Asia (9 Jan 2023) Malaysia's Anwar makes diplomacy debut in 1st Indonesia trip

²⁴³ RFA (12 Jan 2023) Rights watchdog group wants Indonesia, ASEAN to push Myanmar to end violence

²⁴⁴ Bangkok Post (18 jan 2023) Indonesia tells Myanmar to let 'qualified people' take charge

²⁴⁵ RFA (11 Jan 2023) ASEAN chair Indonesia to set up special envoy office on Myanmar

ASEAN's non-interference principle, and warned the bloc not to 'engage with any terrorist groups and unlawful associations.' 246

On 30 Jan, Marsudi said it would be 'impossible' to resolve the Burma crisis during Jakarta's term as ASEAN chair. She added that Indonesia will focus on urging the regime to take steps to allow ASEAN to facilitate a national dialogue. Such steps will include ending the violence and allowing for the delivery of humanitarian aid, Retno said.²⁴⁷

Thailand continues to lend legitimacy to junta

On 5 Jan, the regime's Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Minister received a Thai delegation led by Thailand's ambassador to Burma to discuss bilateral economic cooperation. On 19 Jan, a delegation led by the junta's Ethnic Affairs Minister attended an Ethnic Policy and Culture Exchange Workshop in Bangkok. On 30 Jan, the regime's Education Minister met with Thailand's Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation Minister in Naypyidaw, officially to 'foster goodwill between the two ministries' and identify areas of cooperation.

On 19-21 Jan, **Min Aung Hlaing met with the commander-in-chief of Thailand's armed forces** in Thandwe (Rakhine State) to discuss bilateral military relations and stability issues (in other words, regime airstrikes) along the Thai-Burma border. Burma-based political analyst Than Soe Naing suggested there could also be 'secret talks' regarding Thailand's confiscation of assets owned by Min Aung Hlaing's children during the arrest of Burma arms broker Tun Min Latt in September 2021.²⁵¹

On 30 Jan, the US military said the regime's military had been invited to the five-day ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security. The meeting, which is slated to start on 20 Feb, will be co-chaired by the US and Thailand. The US Department of State said the regime had been invited in accordance with ASEAN protocols, adding that attendance at ASEAN forums was determined by ASEAN member states.²⁵²

Regime slapped with fresh sanctions ahead of coup anniversary

On 23 Jan, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Japanese company Yokogawa Bridge Corp (YBC) had transferred about USD 1.3 million to military conglomerate Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) for a **Japan** government-funded bridge construction project in Yangon. The payments were made through Japan's Mizuho Bank during Jul-Nov 2022. HRW said Japan had effectively helped fund junta atrocities through YBC's dealing with MEC, and called on the country to suspend all ongoing non-humanitarian aid benefitting the regime. ²⁵³ On 27 Jan, a Japanese official said the **US had granted Yokogawa Bridge Corp an exemption from American sanctions on MEC** to allow the payment to go through. ²⁵⁴

On 25 Jan, **Australia** adopted its first round of sanctions against the regime since the attempted coup. Those targeted military conglomerates MEC and Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL), and 16 members of the so-called State Administration Council, including junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and deputy leader Soe Win. ²⁵⁵ On 27 Jan, **Canada** adopted sanctions against six senior military commanders and banned the sale and shipment of aviation fuel to the regime. ²⁵⁶ On 31 Jan, the **UK**

²⁴⁶ RFA (12 Jan 2023) Myanmar junta opposes ASEAN engagement with NUG shadow government

²⁴⁷ RFA (30 Jan 2023) ASEAN chair Indonesia: Won't resort to 'megaphone diplomacy' with Myanmar

²⁴⁸ GNLM (6 Jan 2023) MIFER Union Minister receives Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar

²⁴⁹ GNLM (20 Jan 2023) MoEA Union Minister attends Ethnic Policy and Culture Exchange Workshop in Thailand

²⁵⁰ GNLM (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar, Thai ministers agree to strengthen educational cooperation

²⁵¹ RFA (19 Jan 2023) Myanmar's junta chief meets Thai counterpart at beach resort to discuss military ties

²⁵² Al Jazeera (31 Jan 2023) Myanmar invited to Asian military meeting co-chaired by US

²⁵³ Human Rights Watch (23 Jan 2023) Myanmar: Japan's Construction Aid Benefits Junta

²⁵⁴ Reuters (28 Jan 2023) Japan firm got U.S. sanctions exemption to pay Myanmar military company - Japanese official Australia, Federal Register of Legislation (25 Jan 2023) Autonomous Sanctions (Designated and Declared Persons –

Myanmar) Amendment Instrument 2023; Guardian (31 Jan 2023) Australia imposes sanctions on Iranian officials and Myanmar's military ruler

²⁵⁶ Government of Canada (accessed 1 Feb 2023) Canadian Sanctions Related to Myanmar; Epoch Times (31 Jan 2023) Canada Sanctions More Myanmar Elite, Bans Jet Fuel Sales Two Years After Coup

adopted sanctions against two companies and two individuals it said had supplied the regime with aviation fuel. All were linked to the Asia Sun group. 257

On 31 Jan, the US adopted sanctions against six individuals and three entities connected to the junta. These included the regime's Union Election Commission, two state-owned mining enterprises, Energy Minister Myo Myint Oo, and Air Force chief Htun Aung. 258 Also targeted were the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), the junta's single largest revenue generating state-owned company. However, the Biden administration stopped short of sanctioning MOGE as an entity despite civil society demands, 259 likely to avoid antagonizing **Thailand**, a strategic partner and major buyer of Burmese gas. ²⁶⁰

China snub forces regime to cancel regional summit

On 11 Jan, it was reported that Chinese PM Li Keqiang had not responded to an invitation by the regime to attend a planned Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) summit in Burma in late 2022. The snub forced the junta, who was holding the LMC's rotating chair in 2022, to cancel the event. Analysts pointed out that China had likely recognized that a favorable response would have drawn sharp criticism from key ASEAN members, adding that Beijing was 'not willing to undermine relationships with ASEAN in exchange for propping up a military regime that has thus far proven incapable of delivering with respect to China's strategic economic plans.' ²⁶¹

On 21 Jan, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing personally attended a Chinese New Year celebration in Yangon; likely in a desperate attempt to please China. He said both countries were good neighbors that enjoy fraternal friendship, and called Beijing a 'multi-strategy partner.' ²⁶²

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

On 1 Jan, acting President Duwa Lashi La said the NUG was able to establish 'strong military and political cooperation' with ethnic resistance organizations in 2022. He called 2023 an important year for the fight against the junta, and called on the groups leading the revolution to unite and cooperate on grand strategy. ²⁶³ On 17 Jan, the NUG called on Burma's neighboring countries to close their airspace to junta aircraft 'in the interests of regional peace and security and the protection of civilians,' adding that such a measure would be consistent with the goals of UN Security Council's resolution 2669.²⁶⁴

On 15 Jan, Planning, Finance and Investment Minister Tin Tun Naing announced plans to grant longterm mining licenses in Mogok Township (Mandalay Region) to raise funds for the revolution and 'bring justice after [gem mining] was monopolized by a handful of ruling elites in successive periods.' The mines will be operated under 51/49 public-private partnerships, and start activities once the regime is ousted. The Minister said the NUG will consult with environmental and legal experts and refer to international procedures in granting mining licenses. ²⁶⁵ On 21 Jan, the NUG raised over USD 10 million from the presale of apartments to be built on military-owned land in Yangon. As of that date, the NUG had raised about USD 100 million from similar projects, and planned to raise a further USD 250 million by the end of 2023.²⁶⁶

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²⁵⁷ Reuters (31 Jan 2023) Britain sanctions firms for supplying Myanmar military

²⁵⁸ US Treasury (31 Jan 2023) Treasury Sanctions Officials and Military-Affiliated Cronies in Burma Two Years after Military Coup
²⁵⁹ Reuters (1 Feb 2023) U.S. and allies mark anniversary of Myanmar coup with more sanctions

Guardian (1 Feb 2023) Revealed: how world's biggest fossil fuel firms 'profited in Myanmar after coup'

²⁶¹ Al Jazeera (11 Jan 2023) Did China deliver a snub to Myanmar's military regime?

²⁶² Irrawaddy (24 Jan 2023) Myanmar's Civilian National Unity Govt Thanks China for UN Stance

²⁶³ DMG (1 Jan 2023) NUG's acting president describes 2023 as critical year for anti-junta resistance

²⁶⁴ Mizzima (18 Jan 2023) NUG calls on neighbours to block their airspace to Myanmar junta ²⁶⁵ Irrawaddy (18 Jan 2023) Myanmar's Civilian Govt to Grant Mining Licenses for 'Ruby Land'

²⁶⁶ Irrawaddy (23 Jan 2023) Myanmar's Civilian Govt Raises \$10 Million from Yangon Condo Presales