

Weekly News Review

Issue 91, February 1 - 7, 2023

The background of the cover is a dark blue/black gradient. It is decorated with several light blue geometric shapes, including rectangles and triangles, some of which are tilted at various angles. A large, light blue star-like shape is centered behind the main text.

**Can intergroup conflicts have
impacts on efforts to build up
the federal democratic union?**

Can intergroup conflicts have impacts on efforts to build up the federal democratic union?

Introduction

As a result of the coup attempt on 1 February, 2021, the over-70-year-long civil war became wider and has spread to the whole country. The clashes between the military council troops and more than 20 Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) such as the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA), the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA), the Karenni National Progressive Party/ Karenni Army (KNPP/KA) and the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) were reported only in the territories where the EROs are active. Like the EROs, hundreds of the People's Defense Forces/ Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) which have been making armed resistance against the military council troops have emerged across the country during the period of coup attempt led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The civil war continues to intensify not only in urban areas but also in rural areas every

day. There are frequent battles between the forces of Spring Revolution (EROs and PDFs/LDFs) which are marching with a firm goal of rooting out every dictator including the military dictatorship and building up a federal democratic union and the EROs which are not the subordinates of the military council. In addition, it is noticeable that the EROs-controlled territories see a wider resistance war of the Spring Revolution.

The BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news review for this week highlights the clashes between the EROs, the PDF-LDFs, which are revolutionizing the military council and wider civil war.

Incidents and facts

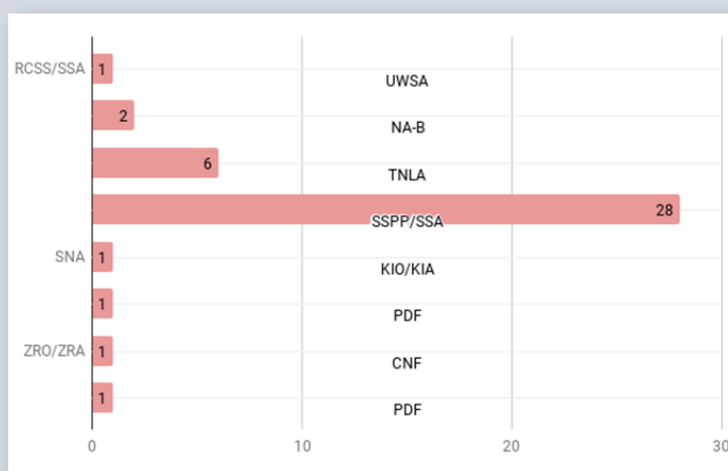
On 1 February this year, there was a clash between the Kawthoolei Army (KTLA) led by Brig-Gen Saw Nedah Mya who left the Karen National Union/Karen National Defense Organization (KNU/KNDO) during the Spring Revolution and the KNU/KNLA-Brigade-4, the Karen Information Center (KIC) reported.

There are frequent clashes between the KNU's Brigade-4 and the KTLA led by Captain Saw Al Khwee from Hteemupwar Special Region in Dawei Township of Tanintharyi Region. They usually make reciprocal accusations of civilian murders and shootings and arrests among members, the KIC reported.

On 27 January, 2023, Khamti District No.1 Battalion and its allied forces which is a combined force of Homalin HPDF 124, the HPDF, the HPDF Moegyo military column attacked and captured the hills and gates of the Shan-ni Nationalities Army (SNA) in Tawsee village in Homalin Township in Sagaing Region, the Mizzima reported quoting the statement released by Khamti District No.1 Battalion-Homalin.

On 18 September, 2022, there were two clashes between the SNA and a combined force of the KIA and PDF in Banmauk Township in Sagaing Region—one near Kyaukse village and one near Naungpark village, the DVB reported quoting locals.

According to the BNI-MPM's record, 41 days of clashes were reported between the EROs and the PDFs/LDFs till 31 January, 2023. The clashes between the RCSS/SSA and the EROs in northern Shan State topped the list. The Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) clashed with the SSPP/SSA, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the United Wa State Party/ United Wa State Army (UWSP/UWSA). Then, the clashes between the SNA and a combined force of the PDF/ LDF and KIO/KIA were reported in Homalin and Banmauk in Sagaing Region. There were clashes between the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) and a combined force of the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) and Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA) in Tedim Township of Chin State.



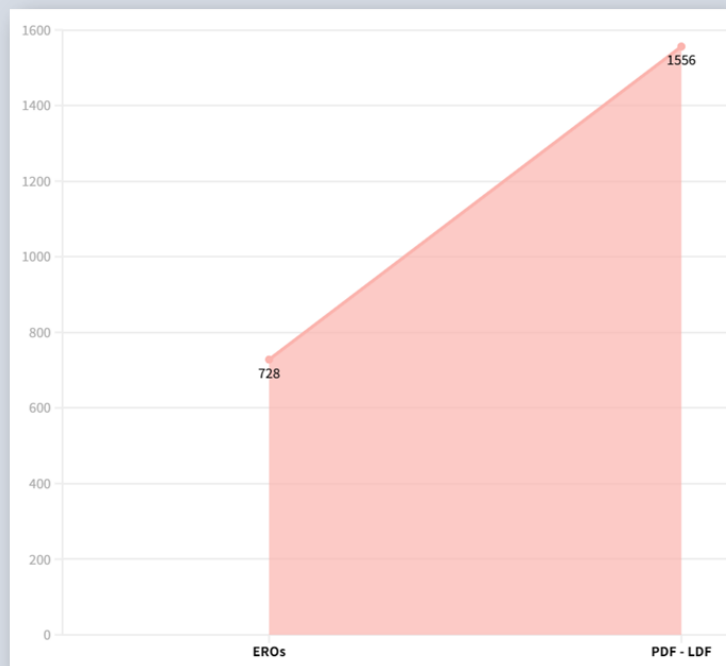
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It is found that fighting is taking place between the military council, the EROs and PDFs/LDFs every day. A total of 1,556 days of clashes were recorded between the military council troops and the PDFs/LDFs which emerged in different names

and forms. It is two times higher than the total number of clashes between the EROs and the military council. Taking a look at the clashes between the military council and the EROs in the ERO-controlled territories, the clash between the KNU/KNLA and the military council topped the list, followed by the clash between the KIO/KIA and the military council. It is found that more than two-digit number of clash days were reported between the military council and other armed groups—the United League of Army/Arakan Army (ULA/AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)-Kokang, the TNLA and the KNPP/KA.

According to the BNI-MPM's record, 1,556 days of clashes were recorded between the military council troops and the PDFs/LDFs till 31 January, 2023. It is two times higher than the total number of clashes between the EROs and the military council.



The military council's days of clashes with the SNA, the RCSS/SSA, the SSPP/SSA and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) is less than two-digit number only, according to the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor's record.

Findings

Looking at the above-mentioned incidents and figures, it is obviously found that the direction of the resistance war by the EROs and the PDFs/LDFs or the target is the military council troops.

The goal of building up a federal democratic union which guarantees equality, self-determination and autonomy is similar to the Spring Revolution's ultimate goal. Integration of the resistance forces is not a difficult task if they no longer adhere to their interests, ego and attachment.

The New Mon State Party (NMSP) issued a statement on 29 January, 2023 about the battles between the military council and the Lion Battalion Commando led by Captain Saw Eh Say Wah near Kamni and nearby villages in Kawkareik Township in Karen State, where the majority of Mon races are living, and arson attacks.

"Armed groups are urged to abide by the military codes of conduct and avoid battles in villages and wards where the civilians are living," the NMSP says.

Southern Nagar, information officer of the Lion Battalion Commando military column told the Mizzima that the NMSP needs to take accountability and responsibility for the statement. The public has already known which organization committed arson.

"If we love our races, I think we first need to defend our territory against invasion rather than helping when there is fighting. We totally object to the act of trying to build a good reputation by making the accusation of other organizations without sound evidence. We will make a decisive response. Because our stance is clear. Our military column will decisively fight against any organizations which are joining hands with the military council.

The EROs and LDFs/PDFs are formulating the nationwide fights as the Spring Revolution's resistance war aims to topple



Our stance is clear. Our military column will decisively fight against any organizations which are joining hands with the military council.



and crush the junta and its cohorts, who have seized the country's power.

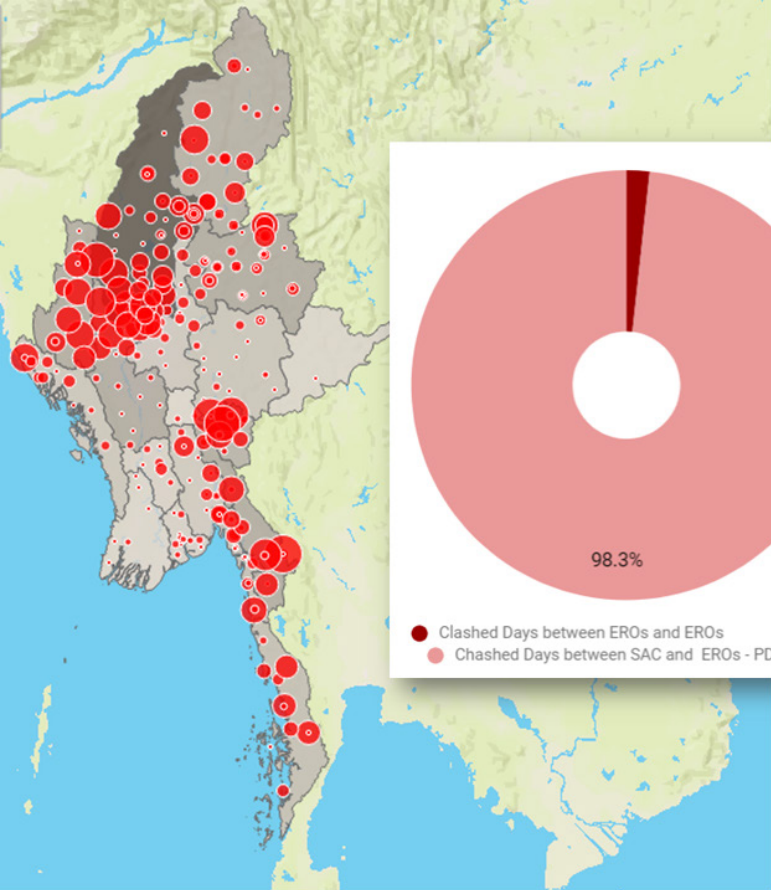
The Defense Ministry of the National Unity Government (NUG) which emerged during the Spring Revolution announced that it has formed more than 300 PDF battalions and established connections with more than 400 PDFs and LDFs across the country. The NUG told the media that it has established military cooperation with the EROs like the KNU/KNLA, the KIO/KIA, the KNPP/KA and the CNF/CNA. It is found that the NUG has invited the EROs like the ULA/AA, the SSPP/SSA and the NMSP to join hands for the future federal affairs.

Review

The Spring Revolution's ultimate goal is to root out any dictatorships including the military dictatorship and to build up a federal democratic union. For that, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) announced the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution. The NUG is working on the political road map step by step after the approval of the federal democracy charter. On 7 September, 2021, the NUG's Acting President announced a nationwide resistance against the military council and its cohorts.

The Spring Revolution forces aim to terminate the junta's efforts for the coup attempt by declaring year 2023 a decisive year for the revolution. The NUG's Prime Minister himself attended the ceremonies to equip battalions and companies with arms so as to step up the resistance war. It is found that the forces of Spring Revolution including the NUG are working more actively to get support from foreign governments.

The Spring Revolution's resistance war is totally different from over-70-year-long civil war. It is different from the grouping of PDF formed by the U Nu Administration. It is not similar to the revolutionary characteristics of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) which was born out of the



According to the BNI-MPM's record,
A total of 2,325 days of clashes were recorded till 31 January, 2023.
There were 41 days of clashes between the EROs and the PDFs/LDFs. So, more than 98 per cent of the resistance war during the Spring Revolution targets the military council alone.



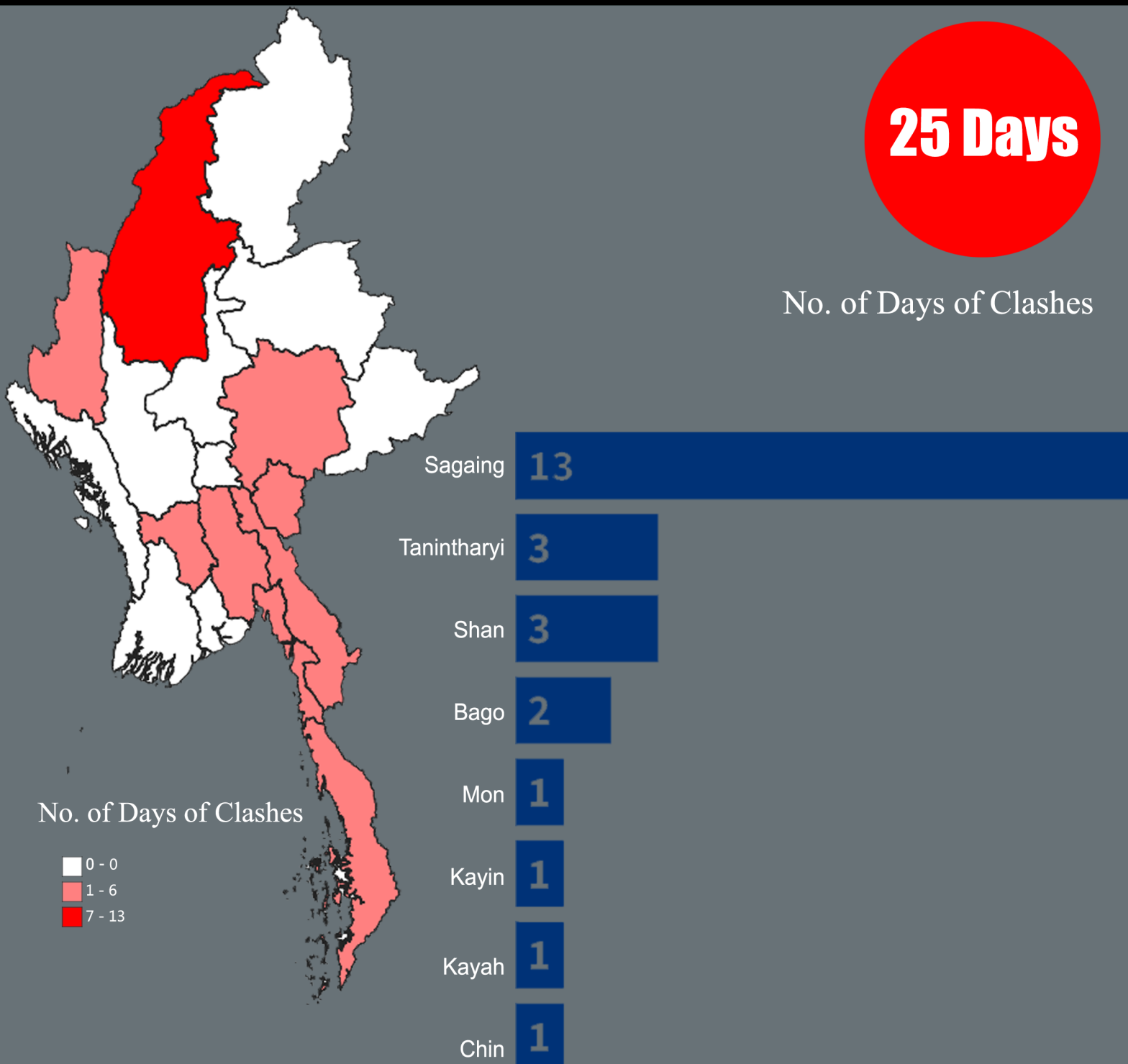
8888 Democracy Uprising. The country sees the step-by-step shifts from the resistance against the junta's violence by taking up arms to the armed resistance war.

A total of 2,325 days of clashes were recorded till 31 January, 2023 since the coup. There were 41 days of clashes between the EROs and the PDFs/LDFs. So, more than 98 per cent of the resistance war during the Spring Revolution targets the military council alone. It should be noted that the intensification of the resistance may continue to accelerate and spread, while it is necessary to cautiously observe how the conflicts between the various parties, due to their interests and prejudices, will affect the goal of eliminating the military dictatorship and building a federal democratic union.

Part II

What Happened this Week

According to the Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor's record from 1 to 7 February, 25 days of clashes were reported between the military council, the People's Defense Forces (PDFs), the Local Defense Forces (LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs). Taking a look at the clashes in regions and states, Sagaing Region topped the list of clashes, with 13 days. The number of clashes may be higher than that as our BNI-MPM records the clashes in townships by day.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

February 1 - 7 , 2023



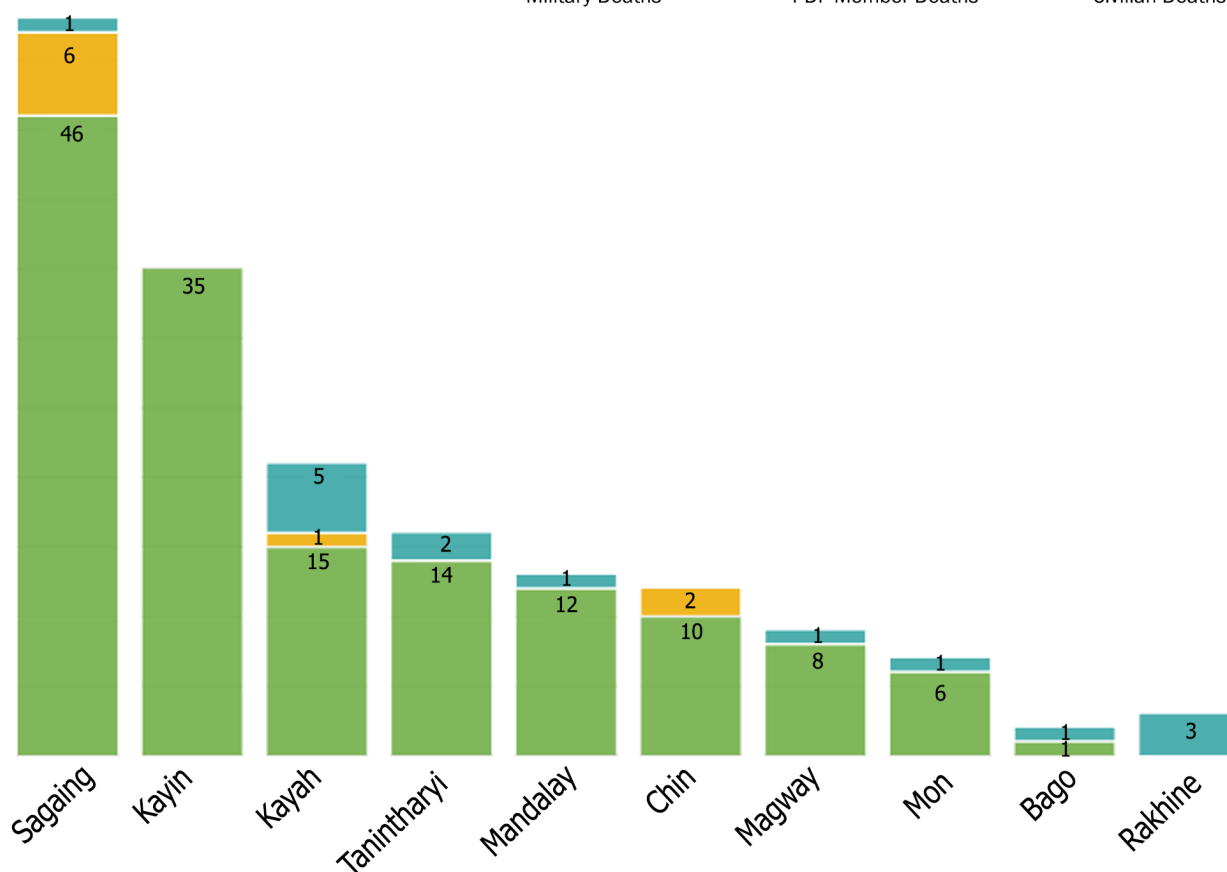
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



■ Military Deaths ■ PDF Member Deaths ■ Civilian Deaths

16,900

Total Number of IDPs (February 1 - 7, 2023)

6300

5000

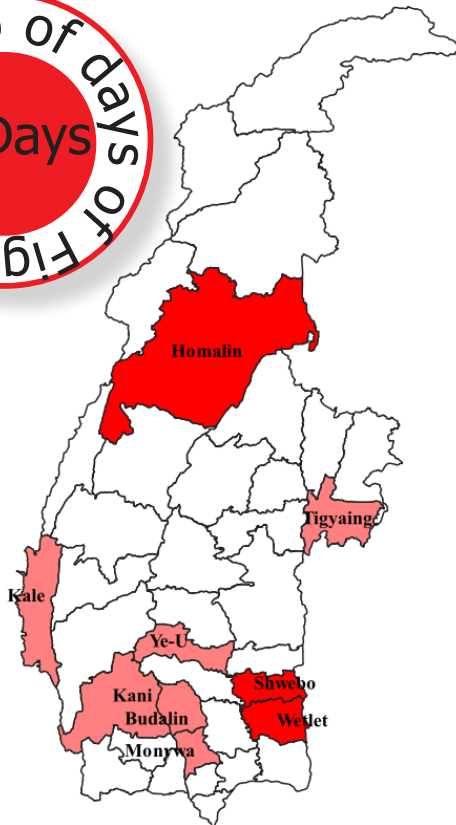
3000

2000

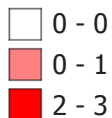
600

■ Sagaing ■ Bago ■ Kayin ■ Kayah ■ Tanintharyi

Total no of days of Fighting
13Days



No.of Days of Clashes

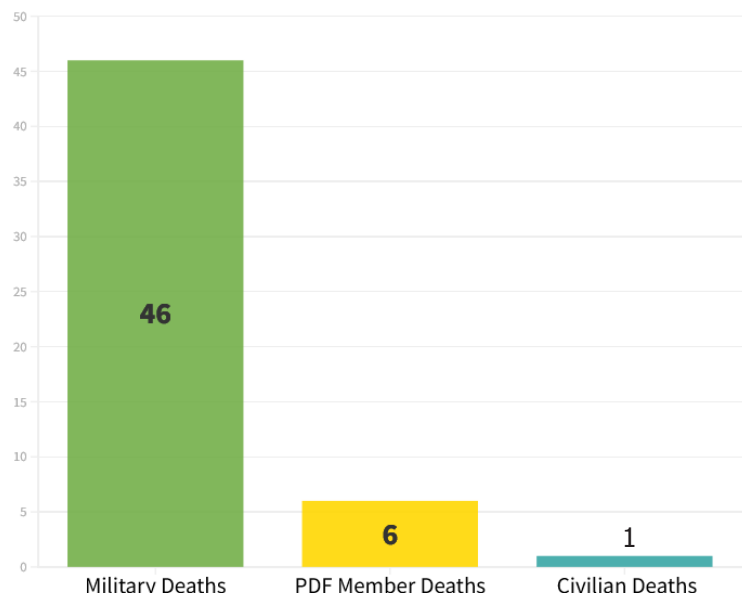


Thirty-eight junta soldiers and six PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council troops and local PDFs in Budalin, Htigyaing, Shwebo, Monywa, Kani, Kalay, Wetlet, YeU and Homalin Townships. Eight military council soldiers were killed in ambush attacks in Pale, Ayardaw and Kalay Townships. Four locals from Kalewa and Katha Townships died due to the military council's artillery shelling and killings. On 5 February, the military council arrested four locals in Shwepyiaye Myothit in Homalin Township and then killed one detainee. More than 6,300 locals from Pale, KhinU and Kanbalu Townships fled for safety due to the military council's advance.

Sagaing Region

On 2 February, two women, 58 and 24, displaced by the war, were bitten by a snake and received medical treatment in Koetaungboet area, Kanbalu Township. In Koetaungboet area, 47 people fleeing the war were bitten by snakes, three of them died, and they are in need of long boots to prevent snake bites and an antidote to receive timely medical treatment.

On 5 February, regime soldiers arrested four civilians and shot and killed one of them in Shwe Pyi Aye Myothit in Homalin Township. The military regime has since attempted to retake the town by land, sea, and air, which is controlled by the PDFs, and fighting between the two sides continues to be fierce.





Kachin State

Residents of Kone Chaung Gyi village in Shwegu Township were concerned that fighting would break out as regime columns of about 300 soldiers patrolled the area. The junta troops had also been firing artillery indiscriminately at night at the surrounding areas of the village.

On 1 February, the day of the people's silent strike, two bombs exploded at Myoma Middle School in Mohnyin, which was followed by continuous gunfire. Following this incident, military council troops stationed at the Mohnyin University campus also fired artillery indiscriminately at Htantabin village.

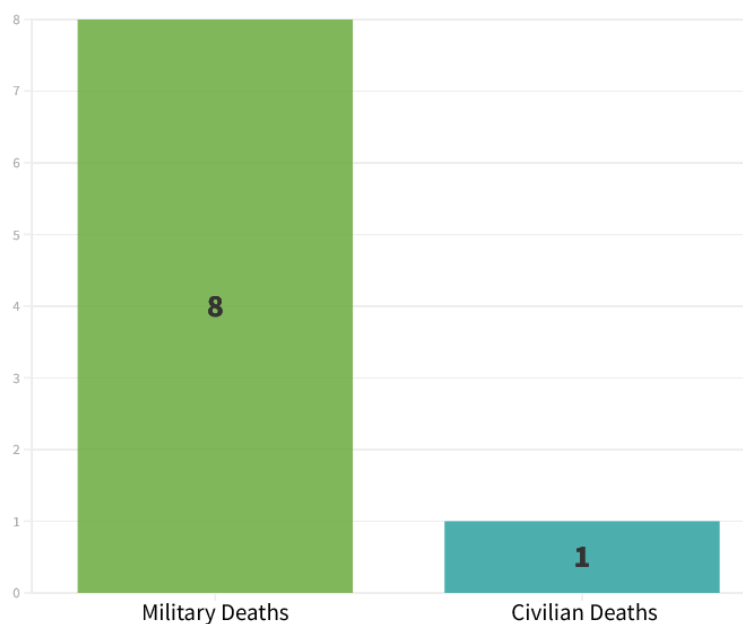


Magway Region

In Pakokku Township, a patrolling junta column burned down 25 houses in Sarkyin village. They also took valuables from the houses and shot dead a 33-year-old man named U Maung Naing.

On 6 February, U Aung Moe Win, a younger brother of the former MP of the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), was abducted by a group of unidentified people.

On 1 February, the PDF attacked the Kam-ma township electricity officer and Pyu Saw Htee members in Pakokku Township. Two Pyu Saw Htee members were killed in the shooting. On 3 February, six junta soldiers were killed in an ambush attack on a military convoy heading to Myaing Township by the PDF between Kataw village and Kam-ma. On 1 February, U Maung Naing, 33, was killed by the military column advancing to Sarkyin village in Myaing Township.



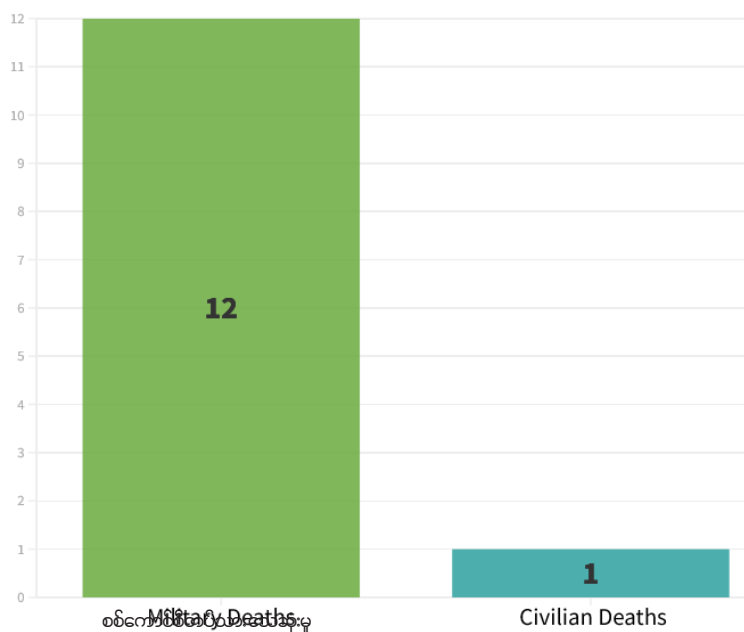


Mandalay Region

In Madaya Township, the Peacock Warriors Force - a local resistance group - arrested six men who were electrofishing for dolphins and fish hatchlings in the Ayeyarwady River. Three motorboats, three electrofishing devices, and associated equipment were seized and all men were released. In the area, local PDFs educate, intervene, and punish anglers to ensure the safety of Irrawaddy dolphins and freshwater fish species.

On 2 February, junta soldiers arrested the owner of the LFC fried chicken shop opened between 68th and 42nd Streets in Mahamyaing Ward (1), Maha Aungmye Township. His arrest came after a screenshot of his social media post urging people to participate in the silent strike was posted on a Telegram channel of a military informant, and he hadn't been in contact with his family until then.

Eight junta soldiers were killed in ambush attacks on the military council troops in Madaya and Ngazun Townships. On 5 February, four junta soldiers were killed in an attack on a donation pavilion in Sintgaing Township. On 4 February, ward administrator U Tha Htay who led the compilation of population census in Pyigyidagun Township was shot dead by the PDF.





Karen State

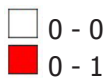
The military regime conducted more airstrikes on villages south of Kawkaeik Township around 12 am on 6 February. Fighting between the two sides continues in the southern part of the township, with the military regime conducting airstrikes on residential areas and indiscriminate shelling with heavy weapons.

On the evening of 4 February, regime troops burned down three houses, including the home of the Karen National Union/ Karen National Liberation Army - Peace Council chairman, three miles outside Thandaung town. Prior to the arson, junta vehicles were attacked with mines near Pyarsakhan and 7-Mile in Thandaung Township, destroying three vehicles and killing more than 20 soldiers.

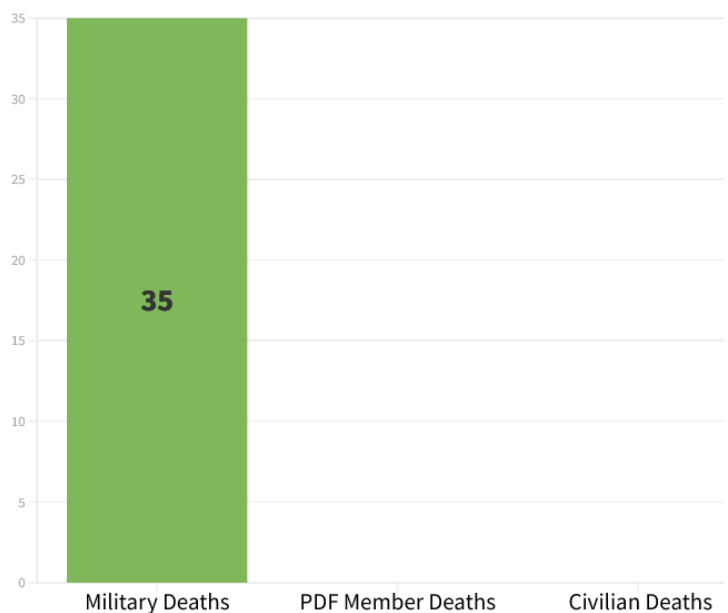
Due to indiscriminate artillery fire by regime troops stationed at 13-Mile in Thandaung Myothit, hardly any people currently live in the town. At the same time, displaced residents are worried that their homes may be targeted by the junta with arson.

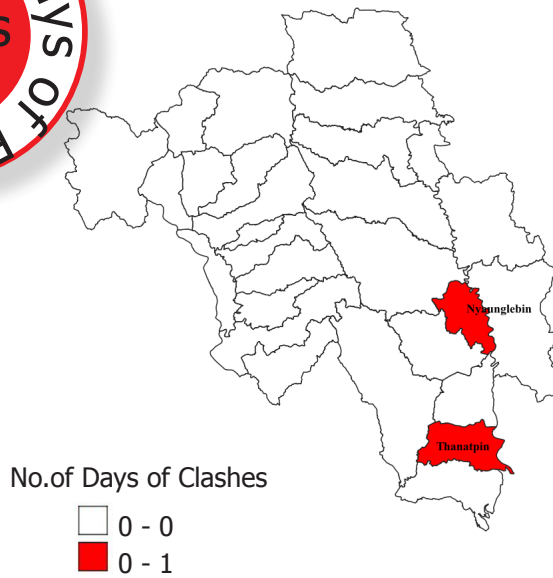
On 2 February, military council troops invited residents of Pyarsakhan village to a meeting and threatened to shoot the entire village if anything happened to their comrades.

No. of Days of Clashes



On 3 February, five military council soldiers were killed in a drone attack on Shwegun police station in Hlaingbwe Township. On 4 February, 30 junta soldiers were killed in a clash between the military council troops and the PDF in Thandaunggyi Township. More than 3,000 locals have fled for safety as the military council is carrying out the burning of civilian houses and the arrests and tortures of locals since 5 February.



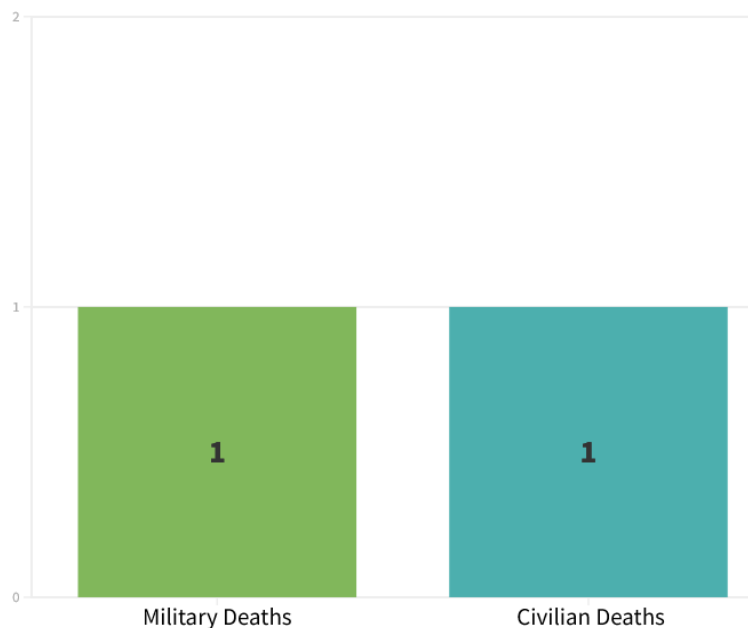


Bago Region

Military council troops who set up camp in the monastery of Wegyi village in Mone Township, Nyaunglebin District, fired heavy weapons into the village and set houses on fire, injuring five women and forcing more than 5,000 residents to flee to neighbouring villages. Reportedly, more than 60 soldiers belong to the military council's infantry battalions 351 and 60, which also took five motorcycles and ten bags of rice from the residents.

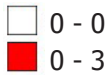
On 1 February, the military council-appointed administrator of Mya Bago village in Phyu Township was shot dead by the People's Defense Force (PDF) - Phyu Township. He was a widely known military informant, a regular companion of regime columns and who suppressed the population with the help of junta soldiers, and was killed by resistance members as part of Operation Nan Htike Aung.

One junta soldier was killed in clashes between the military council troops and a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the PDF in Htantabin and Nyaunglebin Townships. More than 5,000 locals from nearby villages fled to safer places due to the military council's presence in the villages, artillery shelling and arson since 4 February. On 1 February, military-appointed administrator U Nyunt Win was shot dead by the PDF in Pyu Township.





No. of Days of Clashes

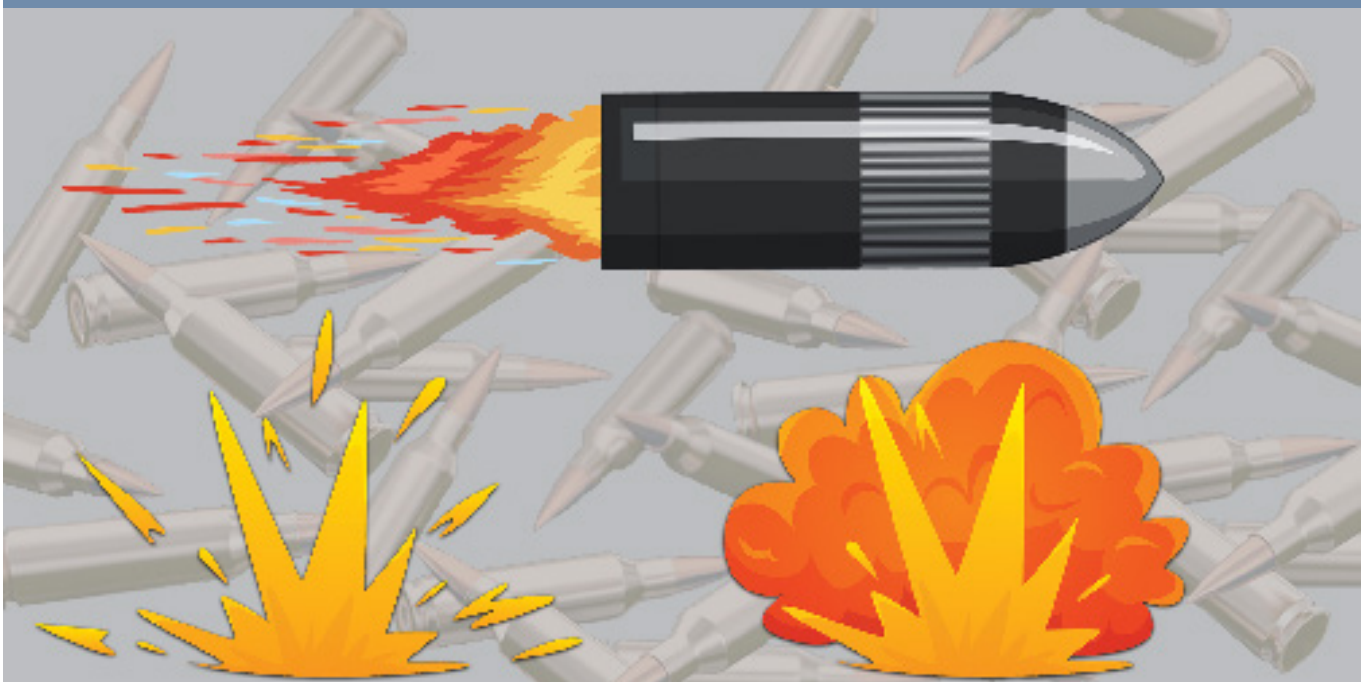


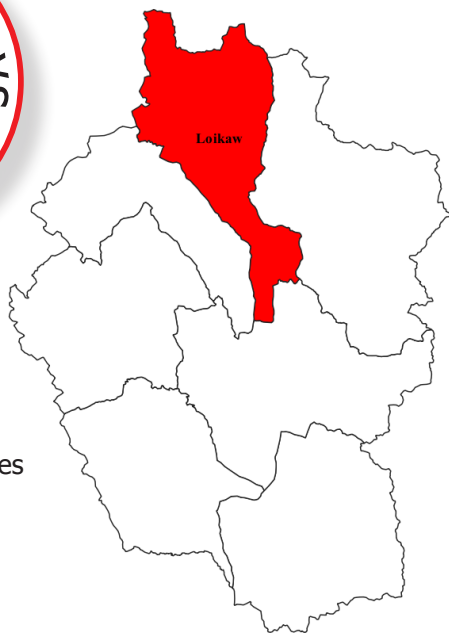
Shan State

On 5 February, clashes broke out between military council troops and PDFs in Pekon and Moebye townships, with residents fleeing to safety overnight. The clashes, which lasted for two days until 6 February, erupted when military council troops failed to make good on their announcement to withdraw from Settawya village.

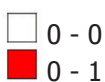
On 4 February, the TNLA raided the Jaryang militia camp in the Mong Yaw area and rescued a total of 127 Ta'ang (Palaung) people who had been forcibly recruited by the junta-backed militia. Among them were 112 men and 15 women, most of them between the ages of 8 and 17.

From 5 to 7 February, there were clashes between the military council troops and the PDF in Pekon Township in southern Shan State.





No. of Days of Clashes

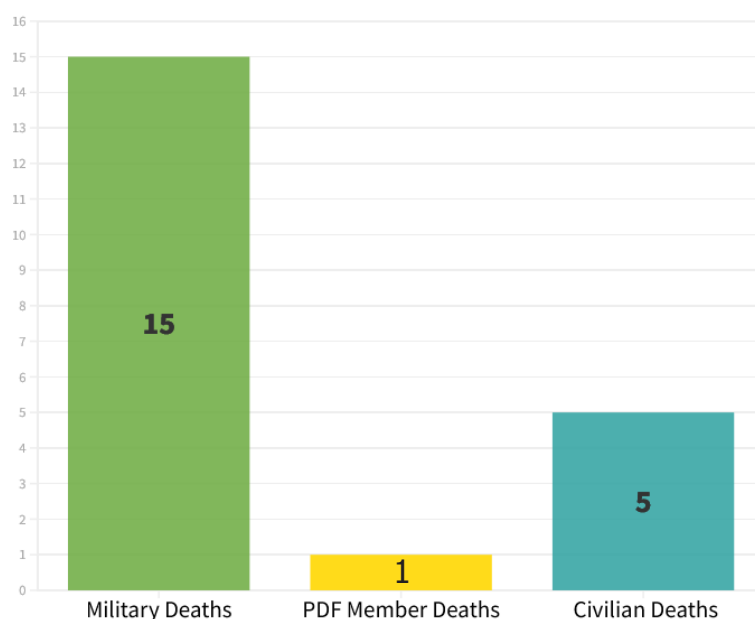


Karenni (Kayah) State

In Demoso Township, the body of a 33-year-old man named U Saybyar Htar, who had been brutally murdered by regime soldiers, was found by the roadside by members of the Karenni Army (KA), Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF), and People's Defense Forces (PDF) while patrolling the area on 1 February. The civilian's body was found with gunshot wounds and cuts to the neck and was buried by members of the resistance.

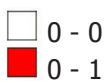
On 6 February, a white Air Wax car in which six civilians were traveling on the road through Zayathpyu village was hit by a landmine, killing four men, including the driver, and seriously injuring two others.

On 4 February, there was intense fighting between the military council troops and a combined force of Karenni defense forces in Loikaw Township, killing 15 junta soldiers and one PDF member. More than 2,000 locals from Loikaw Township have fled to safer places due to the news that the military column will advance. On 1 February, the military council soldiers shot U Say Byar Htar, 33, from TananUky and killed him by cutting her throat in TanangUcoil village in Demoso Township. On 6 February, four people were killed in a mine blast as a vehicle carrying six men stepped on a landmine on the road in Zayatphyu village in Loikaw Township.





No. of Days of Clashes

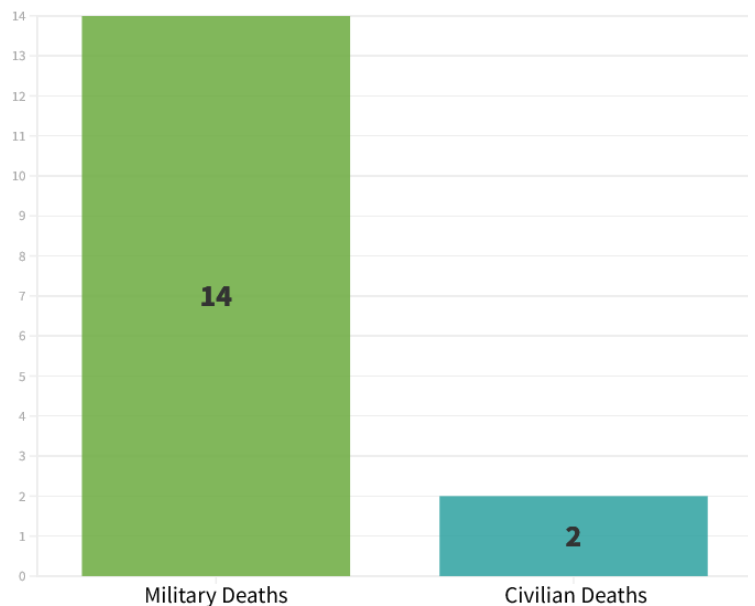


Tanintharyi Region

In Yebyu Township, a Hijet vehicle carrying eight people belonging to the Yaphoo village monastery and travelling on Ye-Dawei Road was attacked by unknown gunmen. A 60-year-old monk and another woman were killed and the others, including the driver, were injured.

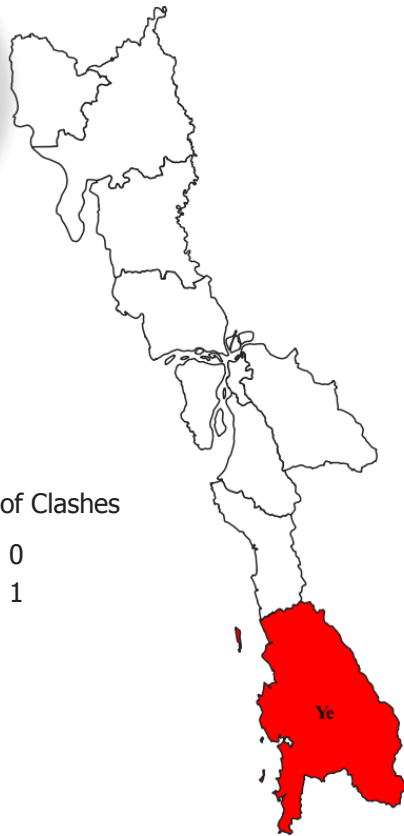
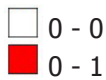
On 7 February, about 20 regime soldiers came and searched three men at a rubber plantation near Yange village and took them away, claiming to have found a Tume rifle in their possession, and later murdered two of them.

Five military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Palaw and Yebyu Townships. On 1 February, the deputy head of Pyu Saw Htee from Maryan village in Kawthaung Township was shot dead by the PDF. Eight junta soldiers were killed in an ambush attack on the military vehicle carrying reinforcement troops. On 7 February, the military council soldiers abducted three men from a rubber plantation in Ya Nge village in Thayetchaung Township and then shot two detainees dead. More than 600 locals fled to safer places due to the battles between the military council troops and the PDF in Tanshin village in Palaw Township. On 1 February, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) clashed with the Kawthoolei Army (KTLA) in Hteemupwar in Myeik-Dawei District in Tanintharyi Region.





No. of Days of Clashes

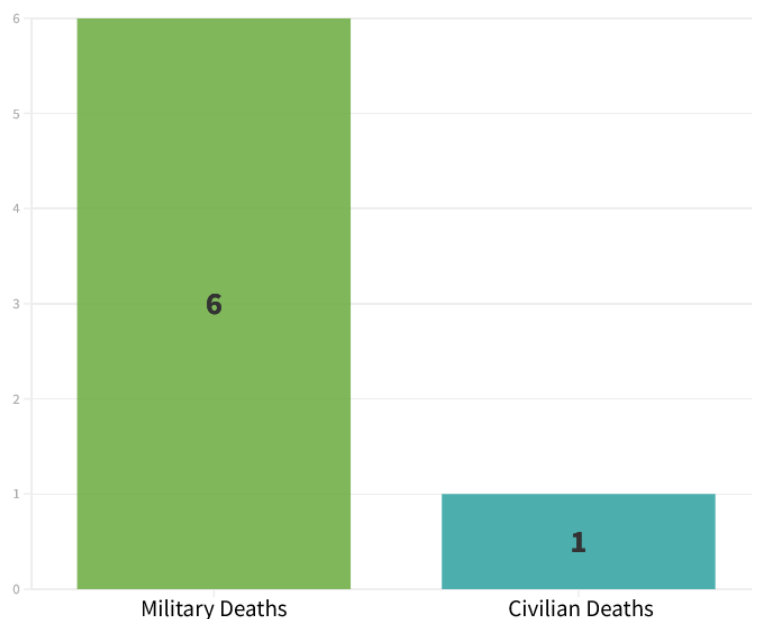


Mon State

In Paung Township, a former USDP MP named U Ko Ko Lay was shot dead at his home on Station Street in Paung Ward at around 6 pm on 1 February. The deceased was known for helping arrest innocent civilians, providing financial support to the pro-military Pyu Saw Htee militia, and assisting in the military council's election campaign activities. He was killed as part of Operation Nan Htike Aung, the Special Operation Force (SOF) said in a statement.

On 6 February, an 80-year-old man was injured when the military regime dropped shells near Takaychaunghpyar village in Bilin Township. On 2 February, a local man from Mawtkanin village in Ye Township was wounded when he was hit by a landmine while riding his motorcycle home from his farm near the suspension bridge.

On 1 February, U Ko Ko Lay, a former Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) candidate from Paung Township was shot dead by an unknown armed group. On 2 February, five junta soldiers were killed in an ambush on the military council soldiers in Ye Township. On 2 February, one junta soldier was killed in a sniper attack by the PDF near Aungthabyay village in Ye Township. On 4 February, there was a clash between the military council troops and the PDF between Kaninmaw village and Aung Tha Yar village in Lamaing Township.





Ayeyarwady Region

In Myaungmya Township, military council soldiers had to intervene when participants in a pro-military rally got into a fight on the morning of 2 February over a dispute about the day's pay. On the second anniversary of the military coup, the military council gathered people from rural villages and organized pro-military rallies to counter the people's silent strike, which led to the disputes allegedly caused by different daily rates.



Yangon Region

Military council soldiers arrested three employees of the Coca Cola company in Hlaingthaya Township (headquarters) at their homes. Among them were two women. Their arrest came after a person widely known as an alleged military informant at the company informed the military council about their posts on social media.

On 2 February, regime soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee members in civilian clothes arrested a youth on his motorcycle near the Theinchaung intersection in South Dagon Township and took him away with his hands tied behind his back.

On 6 February, a bomb exploded at the electricity administration office on Pyi Road in Ward (2), injuring two male and one female employee with shattered window glass. Among the injured were electricity metre readers Myo Zaw and San Ko and junior clerk Ma Htike Htike New. After the explosion, regime soldiers stopped and checked cars, motorcycles and pedestrians near the EPC office.



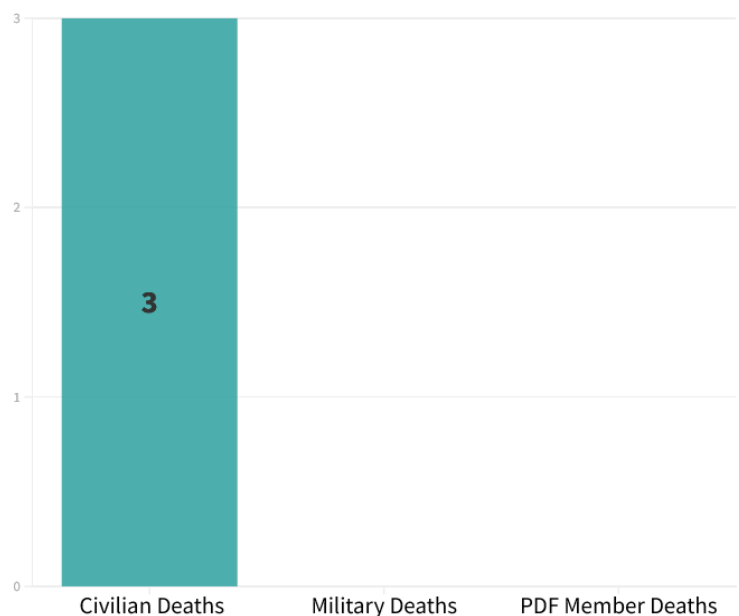
Arakan State

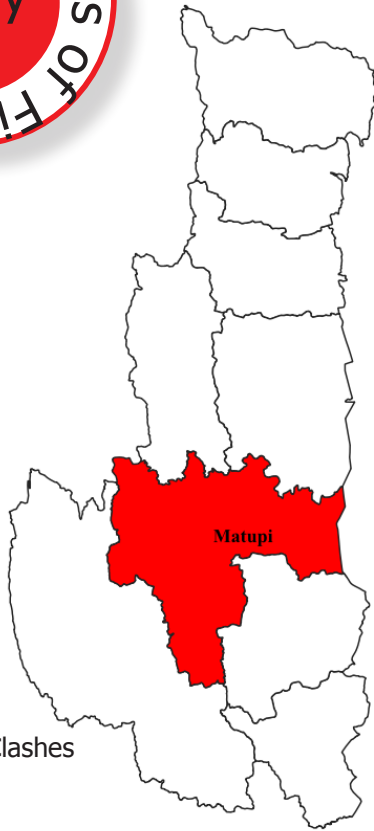
In Sittwe, a child was wounded in the thigh when a junta soldier on duty outside a photocopy shop near the intersection at the entrance to Sittwe Airport accidentally dropped his rifle and discharged a bullet.

On 2 February, a 13-year-old boy named Maung Kyaw Soe from Kha Maung Seik village in northern Maungdaw Township was killed when he was hit by a residual grenade while on his way to set a bird trap.

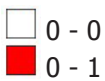
In Ponnagyun Township, two children were killed and four others wounded when a drunk pulled the fuse of a grenade in a shop and it exploded. Those killed were Maung Nay Lin Htay and Maung Tin Maung Soe, both 12 years old.

On 2 February, a young man from Kham-aungseik village in Maungdaw Township, who went to the forest to trap birds died as he stepped on an unexploded bomb burned in the land. On 3 February, two children were killed when a drunken man pulled a grenade pin in a shop in Konetan Kyein-chaung village in Ponnagyun Township.





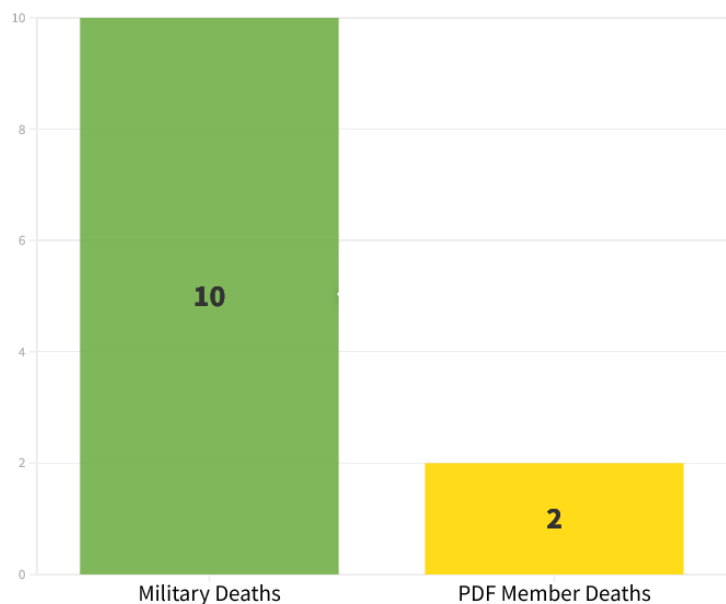
No.of Days of Clashes



Chin State

Military council troops abducted ten civilians from Tansee and Htawlan villages, including two 18-year-old girls, and reportedly used them as human shields. They were arrested by regime troops after they clashed with the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) squad on 4 February. The junta soldiers later released the two girls but continued to detain the eight others. In addition, regime soldiers arrested and killed a member of CDF -Zotung named Salai Harkarlyan, 24, on 5 February, further raising tensions between the ethnic defense force and the military regime.

On 4 February, ten junta soldiers and one CDF member were killed in a clash between the military council troops and the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) between Tansee village and Htawlan village in Matupi Township. On the same day, comrade Htan Auk from CDF-Matupi who was seriously wounded in a mine accident during the frontline operation was killed.



International



The European Union (EU) and more than 20 countries issued a joint statement saying they will continue to support all those working peacefully toward an inclusive democratic future for the people of Myanmar, and that the military regime must end the violence and create space for meaningful and incisive dialogue to enable the resumption of a democratic process.

1 February marks the second anniversary of the Spring Revolution in Myanmar. The statement was issued jointly by senior representatives of the European Commission and the foreign ministers of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the Federated States of Micronesia, Georgia, Ghana, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, New Zealand, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Serbia, South Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said on 1 February that the Myanmar military regime, after taking power from a democratically elected government, has led the country down a path of destruction that has resulted in the killing and displacement of thousands of people.



The unpleasant third anniversary of the coup won't be repeated and Myanmar will return to the path of democracy.



U.S. State Department advisor Derek Chollet said the United States will provide greater support to the Myanmar people's Spring Revolution and the National Unity Government (NUG) this year in hopes that the unpleasant third anniversary of the coup won't be repeated and that Myanmar will return to the path of democracy. He reiterated that the United States is increasing political and economic pressure on the Myanmar military council and trying to reduce the quality and capacity of the regime, and that it supports democracy movements in Myanmar.

At the start of a two-day meeting of regional foreign ministers on 3 February, Indonesia called for unity and progress in the Myanmar conflict and said major powers shouldn't use Southeast Asia as a "proxy" for their rivalries. Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, holds the 2023 chairmanship of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and is the ASEAN country that hosts the group's annual leaders' meeting, which is usually also attended by China and the United States.

On 4 February, ASEAN foreign ministers again called on Myanmar military council to respect and implement the Five-Point ASEAN Consensus agreed two years ago to resolve the political crisis in Myanmar. The call came after the two-day foreign ministers' meeting in Jakarta, which was held for the first time as the host country of ASEAN Chair. The military council's new foreign minister, U Than Swe, was also allowed to attend the regional bloc meeting.

Dr. Sasakawa, chairman of the Nippon Foundation, said that the understanding between the two armies and the current ceasefire should be maintained in order to provide humanitarian assistance in Arakan State. Dr. Sasakawa came to the state for the third time on 4 February. He said this during a meeting with U Oo Hla Saw, the political representative of the Arakan Army (AA). He also said that he'll try to help children from IDP camps in Arakan State to continue their education. During his trip, Dr. Sasakawa also visited Mya Tan Saung, Myothit, Myo Oo Gaung and Taing Nyo IDP camps in Mrauk-U Township.

Remark:

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