

Weekly News Review

Issue 97, March 15 - 21, 2023



**Mine operation (or)
the junta's most fearful thing**



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Introduction

The BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor which has constantly monitoring conflicts and the shifts in peace processes in Myanmar till date since 2013 reviewed the matters such as the resistance war, its prospects and directions, the military council's bombardments, the impacts on civilians and the new civilians displaced by the armed resistance following the coup. The BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor will continue to review the new matters and findings through constant monitoring.

The BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news review for this week focuses on the resistance forces' mine attacks on the junta and its cohorts during the coup and the figures related to mine attacks.

Significant mine attacks

On 7 and 9 March, 2023, a military convoy of more than 30 vehicles including two tanks left Kalay of Sagaing Region for Falam of Chin State. From 8:30 am till 4 PM on 11 March, a combined force of Chinland Defense Force (CDF)-Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) Siyin and the Mountain Eagle Defense Force (MEDF) carried out mine attacks 10 times. The mine attacks killed six junta soldiers and wounded 21, according to the statement by the CDF-CDM Siyin. According to our record, this is the highest number of mine attacks in a single day.

On 28 February, 2022, a combined force of Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA), the Chin National Defense Force (CNDF) and Chinland Defense Forces (CDFs) ambused the military council's ration conovy of more than 20 vehicles leaving Falam for Hakha and two tanks. Over 60 junta soldiers were killed in the ambush, according to the CNDF's statement. It is found that the military council suffered heavy losses in the mine attacks according to our record.

A total of 35 junta soldiers were killed in an ambush attack on a military vehicle on Ayardaw-Htisaung road Myinmu Township of Sagaing Region on 29 April, 2022. On 11 March, the Chindwin Yoma Alliance Force and Bo Thurein Battalion ambushed a military convoy which burned 12 civilians to death from Letpantaw village in Yinmarbin Township with the use of 12 mines, on 8 March, 2022 while the junta soldiers were heading to Myauknone village. The mine attack killed 32 junta soldiers, according to the Alliance Force's statement. On 28 April, 2022, Myaung Township (TGR) PDF ambushed the military council's mine clearance team leaving Monywa between ChaungU and Myinmu Townships. Around 30 junta soldiers were killed in the attack.

According to the BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, there were nearly 40 mine attacks which killed more than 10 junta

soldiers till 20 March, 2023. It is found that thousands of junta soldiers were killed and hundreds wounded by the mine attacks.

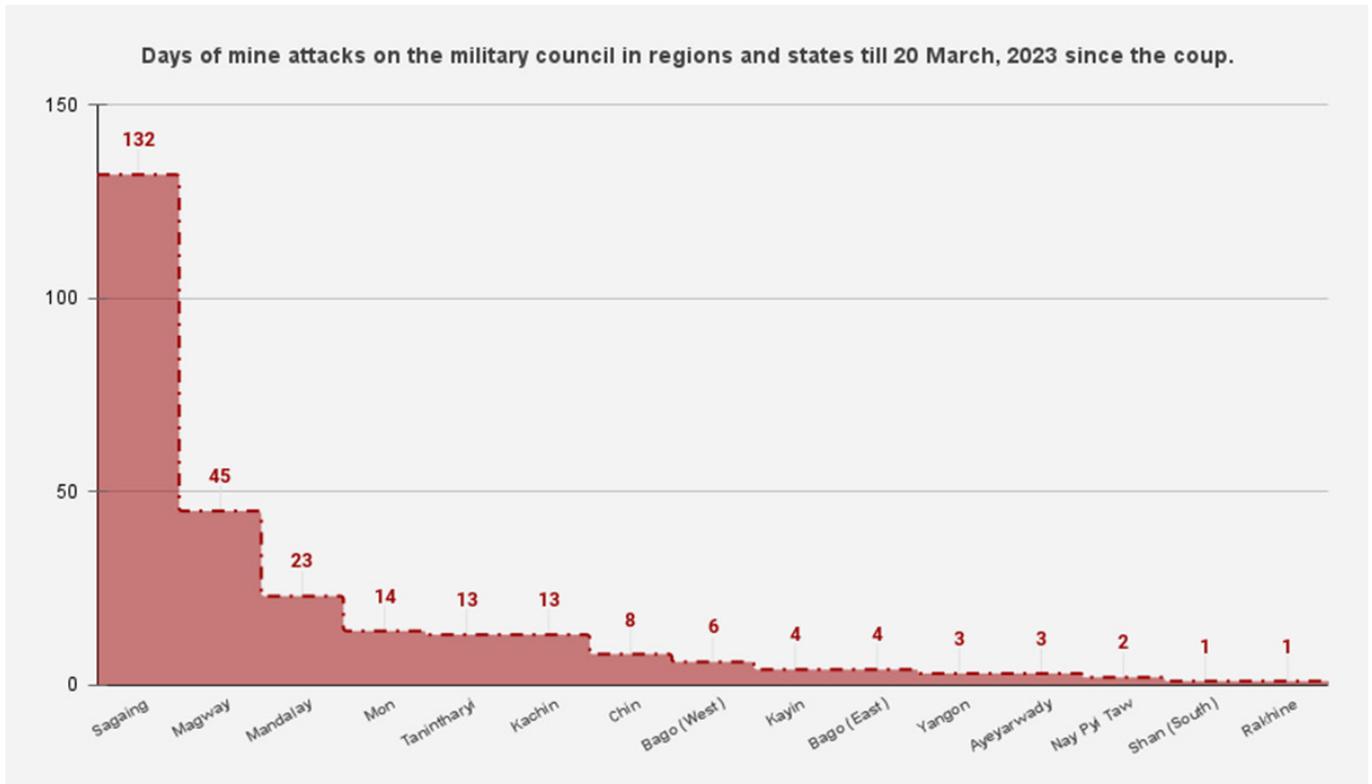
Figures related to mine attacks

According to the BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's report, the resistance forces conducted mine attacks on the military council soldiers for 272 days, till 20 March, 2023 since the coup. The number of mine attacks may be higher than 272 days as at least one to at most 10 mine attacks per day are recorded.



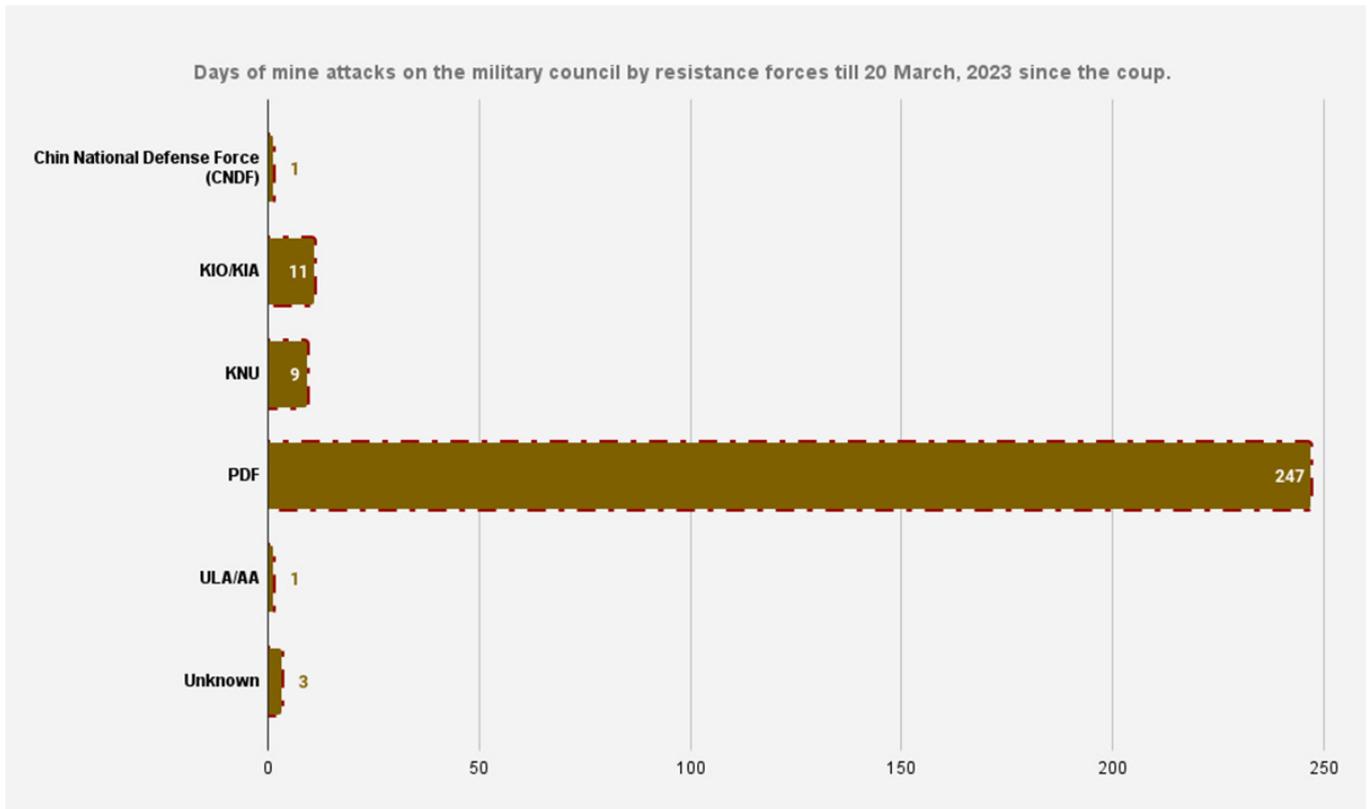
Taking a look at the above-mentioned mine attacks by year and month, December 2021 stood first on the list of mine attacks with 44 days; followed by May, 2022 with 34 days, January, 2022 with 30 days, November 2021 with 29 days and June, 2022 with

27 days. There were 57 days of mine attacks in 2021, 163 days in 2022 and 34 days till 20 March, 2023.



Taking a look at mine attacks on the military council troops in regions and states, Sagaing Region topped the list with 132 days, followed by Magway Region with 45 days, Mandalay Region with 23 days, Mon State with 14 days and Tanintharyi Region and Kachin State with 14 days each.

The mine attacks killed 635 junta soldiers in Sagaing Region, 122 in Magway Region, 69 in Chin State, 33 in Mandalay Region, 32 in Kachin State. As a significant event, 24 junta soldiers were killed by the PDFs' mine attacks even in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area where the junta is living.



It is found that the PDFs/LDFs which emerged following the military coup are the major forces which carry out mine attacks on the military council troops. There were 248 days of mine attacks by the PDFs/LDFs, accounting for 91 per cent of all mine attacks. We put all resistance forces and organizations which emerged following the military coup into the list of urban PDFs/LDFs.

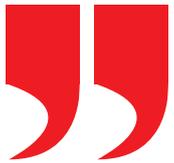
The graph shows the mine attacks by the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs)—the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA), the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) and the United League of Arakan/Arakan Army (ULA/AA).

Review

According to the BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, there were 2,525 days of clashes between the military council



The mine operation remains a symbol of the Spring Revolution in the nationwide revolt.



and the revolutionary forces since 1 February, 2021 till 14 March, 2023. Of them, the mine attacks by the PDFs/LDFs accounted for 272 days. The military council's ground forces suffer heavy casualties due to mine attacks. The junta which is losing the ground has to rely only on bombardments. It is found that the junta increases the tempo of its offensive operations with nearly 300 days of bombardments. Mine is the most dangerous weapon not only for members of both armed groups but also for civilians in the military fronts and battle grounds.

According to our records, there were 94 mine accidents, explosion of war remnants and landmine explosions during the military coup, killing 22 civilians and wounding 47 others. The mine accidents killed 11 members of the PDFs/LDFs and wounded three. During the coup, there were 27 landmine explosions in Arakan State which saw the intense fighting between the ULA/AA and the military council, which made a temporary ceasefire. We need to notice the fact that the Arakan State saw the highest number of civilian casualties.

More than 73 per cent of mine attacks on the military council troops throughout the Spring Revolution are reported in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Regions. So, mine attack strategy (or) mine operation is said to be a major military strategy in the resistance war which has spread to the whole upper Myanmar.

Mine attacks which are under the control of resistance forces or mine operations are said to be the things which can instill fear into the junta and its cohorts. It is viewed that the mine operation remains a symbol of the Spring Revolution in the nationwide revolt. It is observed that mine attacks which can weaken many ground forces may be the most fearful thing for the junta.

Weekly HighLight News



The funeral service of an 11-year-old girl from No.15 Mingan ward

Sittwe women feel insecure as violence against women increases

21 March 2023

Women in Sittwe of Arakan State said they feel insecure as they frequently face murder, sexual harassment and robbery cases.

Daw Win Win Than from Mingan No.15 ward said: "We feel insecure as the girls are raped to death frequently. I have children. I have to go outside to earn a living as I am poor. I feel insecure about going outside by leaving my children at home."

At night on 15 March, an 11-year-old girl from No.15 Mingan ward disappeared. On the morning of March 16, she was found

unconscious and with no clothes near the railroad in Mingan ward. She died on 18 March while receiving medical treatment at Sittwe Hospital.

Currently, the police have detained two suspects at the age of 17 from the same ward and are interrogating them.

It is still unknown whether the victim was raped or not as the medical report is not out yet. The family members of the victim called for effective action against two suspects as both suspects have confessed to the case, Daw Nyo Nyo Win, the mother of victim said.

“They (suspects) have confessed to the crime. They must be sentenced to death as my daughter died,” Daw Nyo Nyo Win said. On 15 August, 2022, an 18-year-old girl who is working at a shop near Arakan State Administration Council Office in Sittwe, was raped. She was found dead with two knife wounds and wounds to her face and chin.

The people in Sittwe feel insecure as Sittwe sees a gradual increase in the number of crimes such as snatching mobile phones and handbags by motorbike, gang robberies and the females raped to death, not only in the daytime but also at night.

Daw Kywat Sein, Chair of Rakhine Tagar Light Association: “We cannot allow the children to play freely. It is like a free-zone which has no security . The police no longer patrol at night. In my view, the lack of security is linked to theft, rape and murder.”

Locals view that the killings of young girls, thefts, robberies are reported in Sittwe daily. This is related to the fact that the people can easily buy drugs with a very small amount of money, and the rule of law is weak.

Daw Nyo Aye, Chair of Rakhine Women’s Network said: “The main cause is the people face livelihood difficulties. They have no opportunities to earn their living. Some people are selling narcotic drugs to children taking advantage of it. The rise in the sale of narcotic drugs pushes for this situation.”

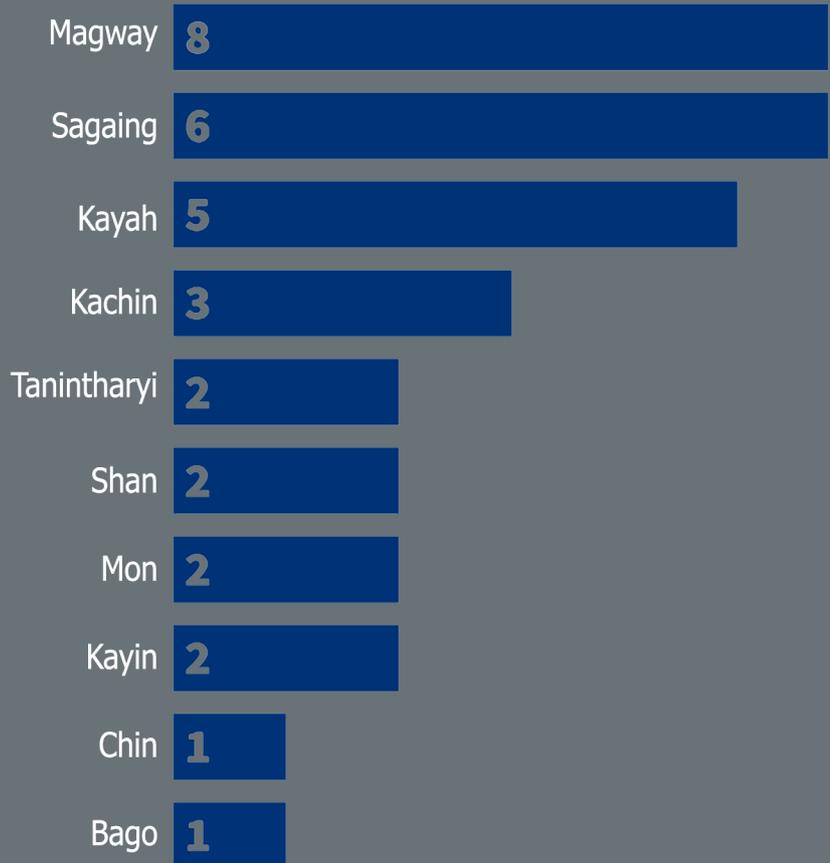
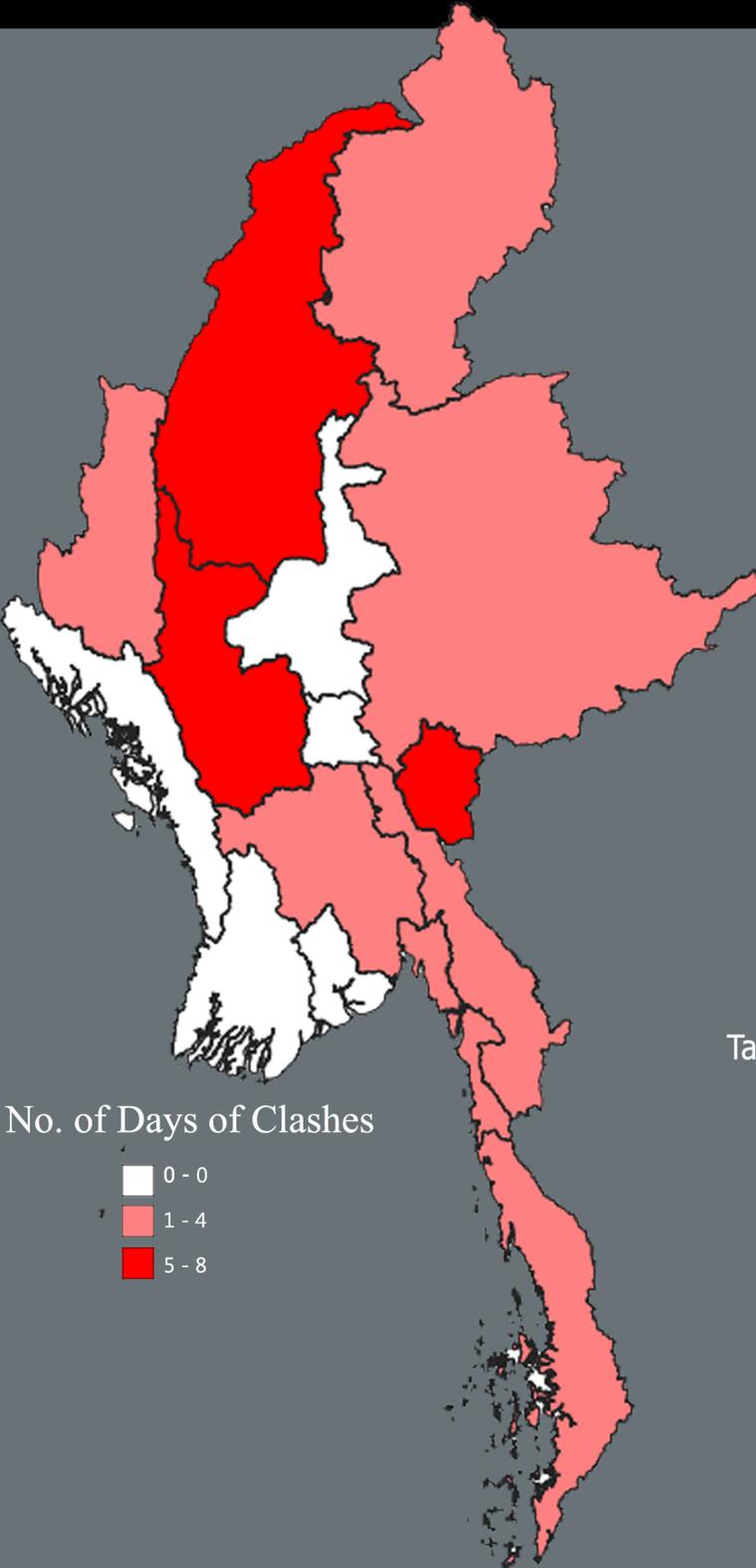
Part II

What Happened this Week

According to the BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, 32 days of clashes were recorded between the military council and the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDF/LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), from 15 to 21 March. Taking a look at the regions and states, Magway Region stood first on the list of clashes, with eight days. The number of clashes may be higher than that as the clashes in townships are recorded by day.

32 Days

No. of Days of Clashes



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

March 15 - 21, 2023



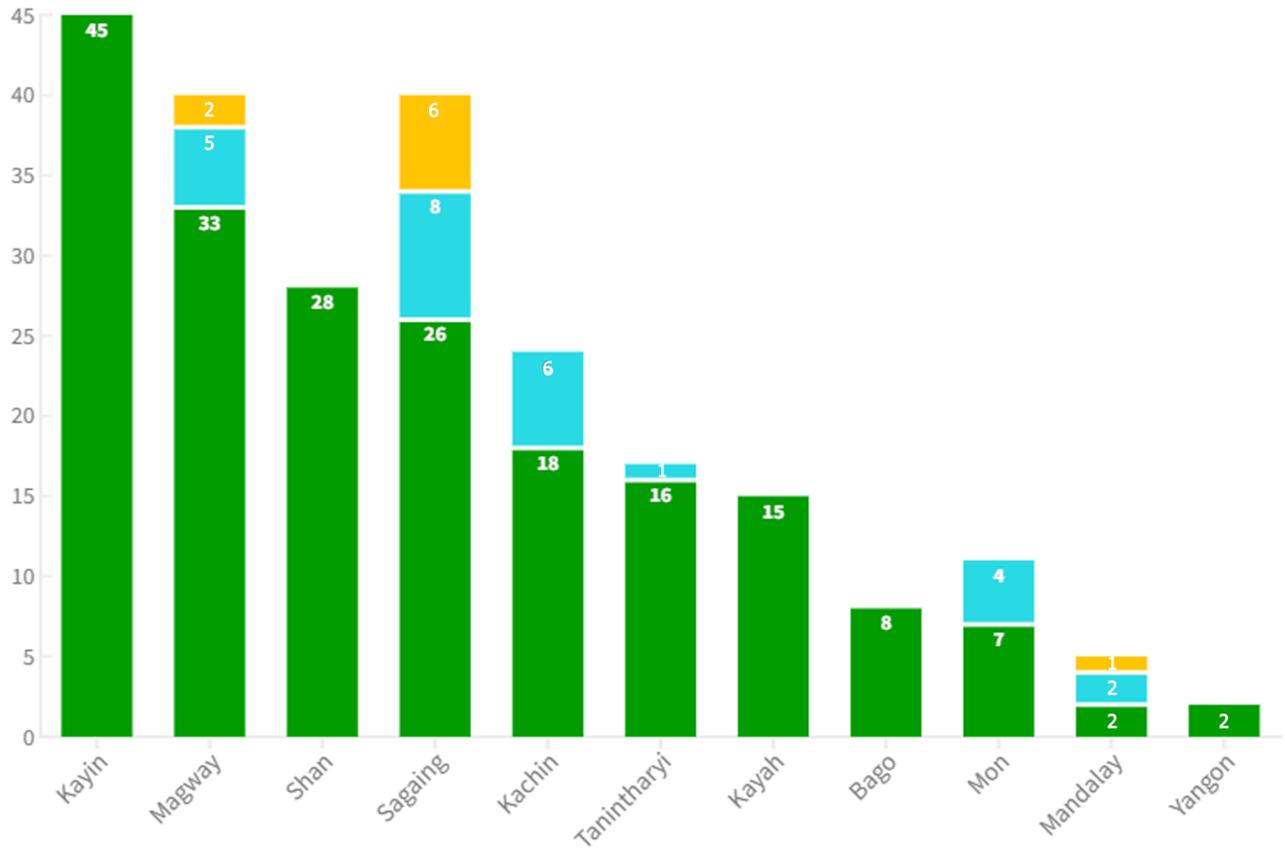
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths

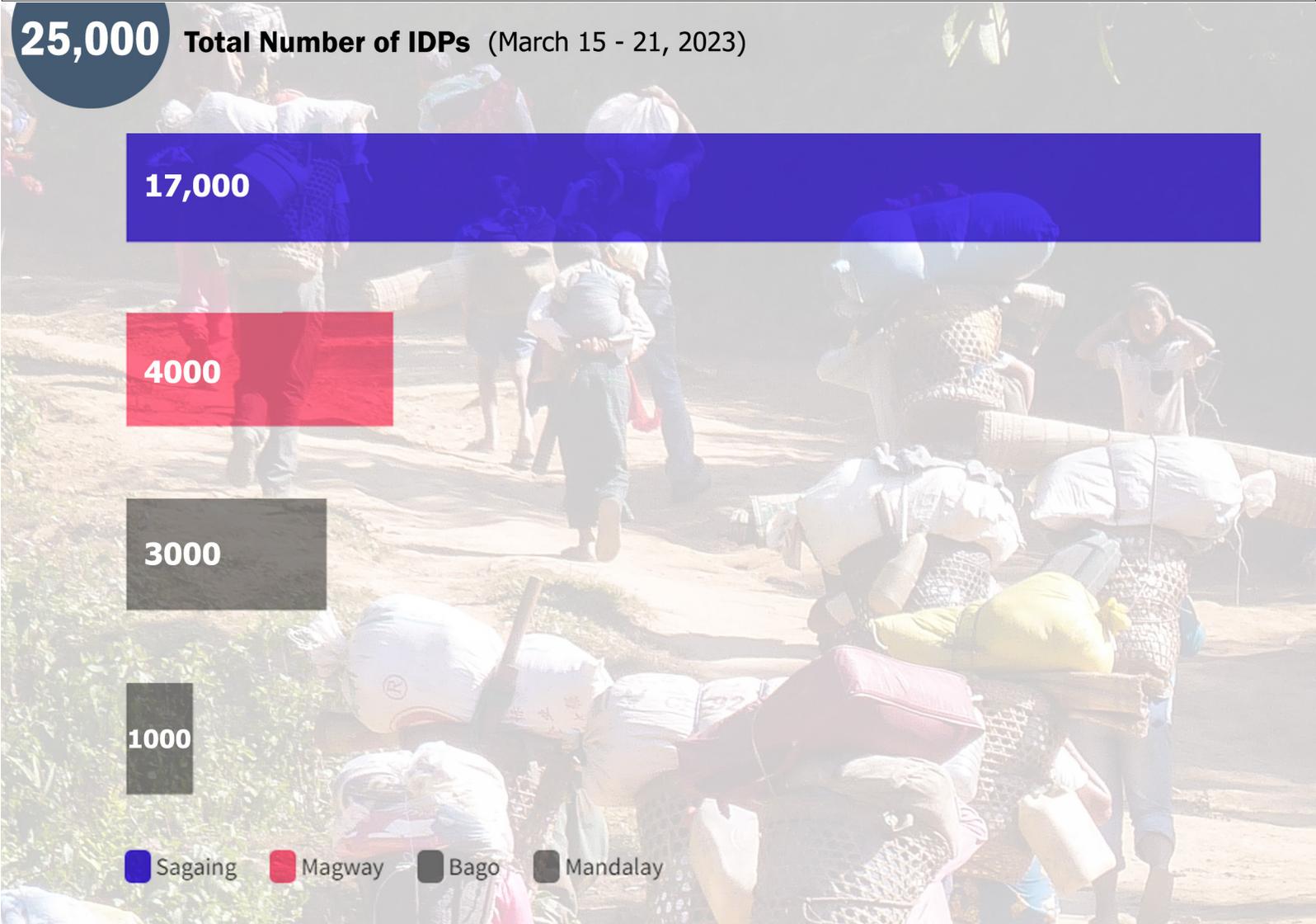


■ Military Deaths ■ Civilian Deaths ■ PDF Member Deaths

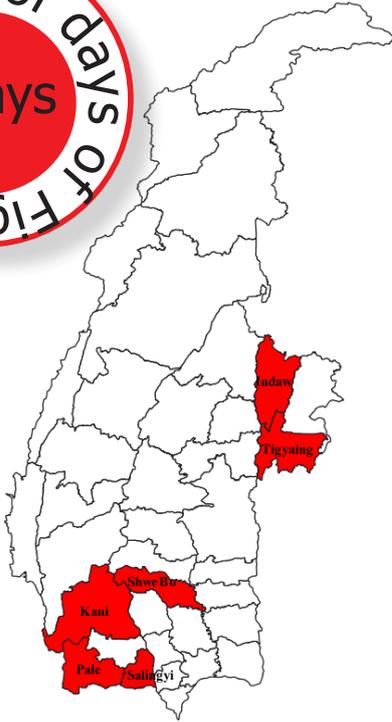
25,000 Total Number of IDPs (March 15 - 21, 2023)



■ Sagaing ■ Magway ■ Bago ■ Mandalay



Total no of days of Fighting
6Days

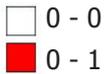


Sagaing Region

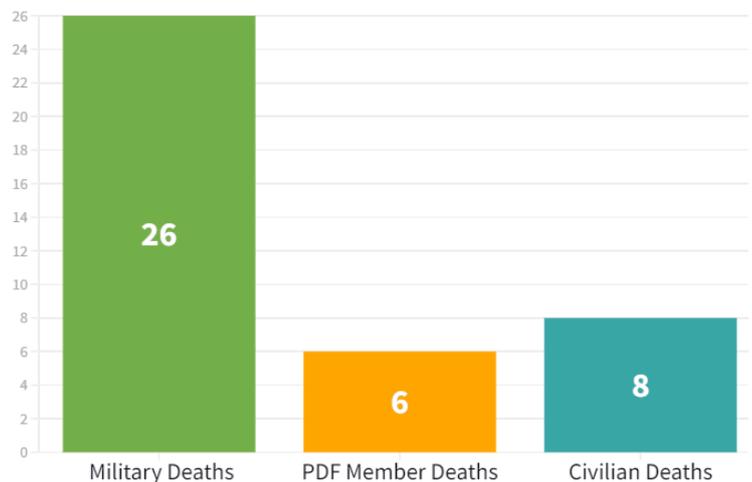
Political prisoner Ko Thit San Oo, alias Thar Ae Nge, who was detained in Tamu police custody in Tamu town for health reasons, died on 16 March without receiving medical treatment. The military council had arrested him on 28 September 2022, for posting anti-military messages on social media. He was charged under Section 52 (a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law and sentenced to four years in prison on 9 Jan.

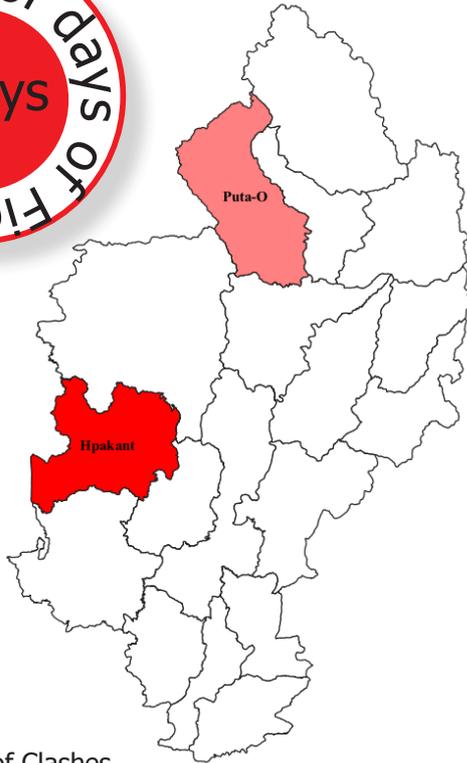
On 15 March, a column of about 50 military council soldiers stormed and set fire to Htanaungtaw (South) village in Monywa Township. The regime's arson attacks destroyed more than 60 homes and forced villagers to flee to safety, but three elderly people in their 70s died in the fire.

No.of Days of Clashes

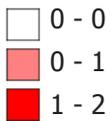


There were clashes between the military council troops and local PDFs in Salingyi, Kani, Htiyaing, Indaw, Shwebo and Pale Townships, killing 23 junta soldiers and four PDF members. On 15 March, the military council abducted and killed two Chindland Defense Force (CDF) members who were travelling on duty in Budalin Township. On 16 March, one junta soldier was killed in an ambush in the east of Taohn village in Shwebo Township. On 17 March, two Pyu Saw Htee members were killed in an attack on an inspection gate by the PDF at the southern exit of Shwebo. Seven locals from Monywa, Wetlet, Shwebo and Sagaing Townships were killed in the military council's shootings. On 16 March, an unhealthy political prisoner from jail in Tamu police station died as he did not obtain medical treatment. Over 17,000 locals from Salingyi and KhinU Townships fled to safer places due to the military council's arsons and military operations.





No.of Days of Clashes

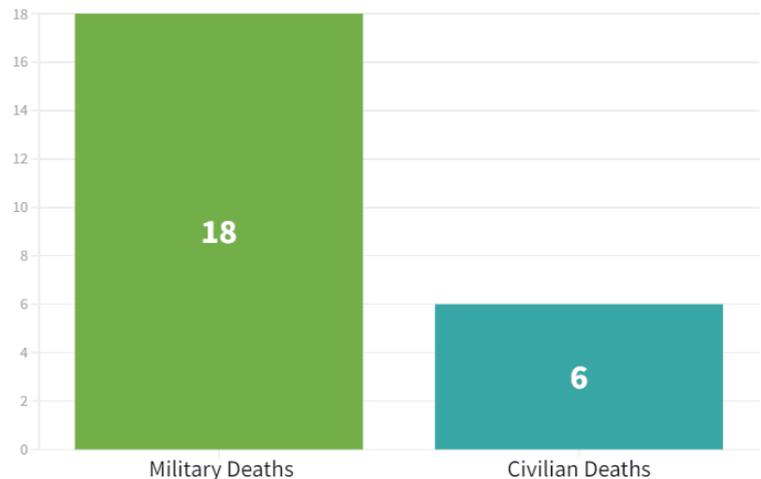


Kachin State

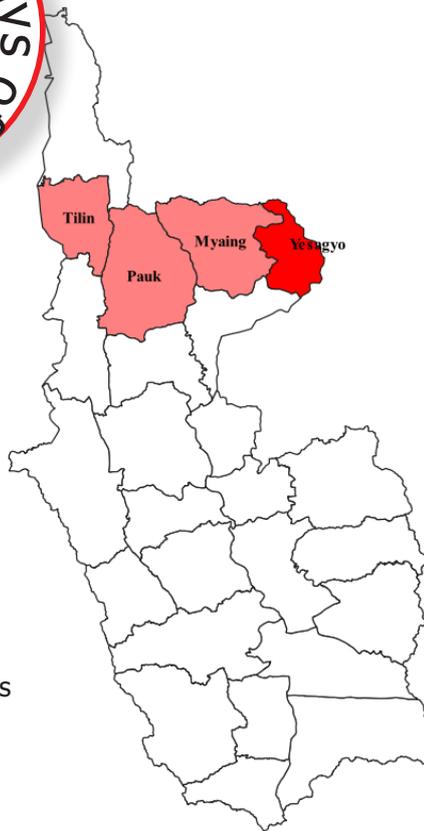
Military council soldiers destroyed the women's empowerment office of the Kachin National Development Foundation office in Phyusingone ward of Hmawsisar village in Hpakant Township on 17 March and arrested one man during the raid.

In addition, U Tin Htay, a man in his 50s and chairman of the Khanti Monastery Board of Trustees in Kyaukthwaytaung village of Hsaingtaung district in Hpakant Township, was arrested by plainclothes gunmen on 18 March.

A total of 18 junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and a combined force of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDFs in Hpakant and Putao Townships. On 18 March, an exchange of gunfire between the military council and the PDF killed six civilians near Lonekhin village in Hpakant Township.



Total no of days of Fighting
8Days



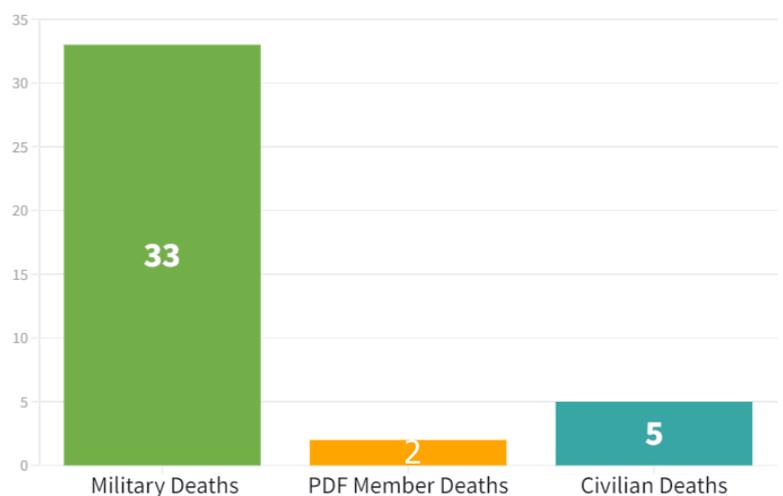
Magway Region

Junta soldiers arrested visitors of the Islamic faith who had arrived to attend a Jalsa (graduation ceremony) in Chauk on 18 March, as well as their hosts. Among those arrested are seven women and seven men who are being held incommunicado.

On 19 March, regime troops entered Meelaungkyun village in Yaelelkyun area of Yaesagyo Township, arrested 15 villagers, and burned down the village.

A column of military council troops shot dead four residents, including two mentally ill people, in Htilin Township. On 16 March, a column of more than 200 soldiers entered Hteintaing village and shot dead U Kar Kyaw, 70, and U Than Htwe, a 53-year-old mentally ill man. On 18 March, junta soldiers also tied up and shot Ko Than Min Aung, a 40-year-old mentally ill man, and another local man named U Ko Tin.

Thirty-two junta soldiers and two PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Pauk, Yesagyo, Hteelin and Myaing Townships. On 18 March, a Pyu Saw Htee member was killed in an attack on the Pyu Saw Htee which stood guard near Light Infantry Battalion-256 in Yesagyo Township. Five locals from Gangaw and Hteelin Townships were killed in the military council's shootings. On 16 and 17 March, over 4,000 locals fled to safer places due to the military council's operation in Yesagyo Township.



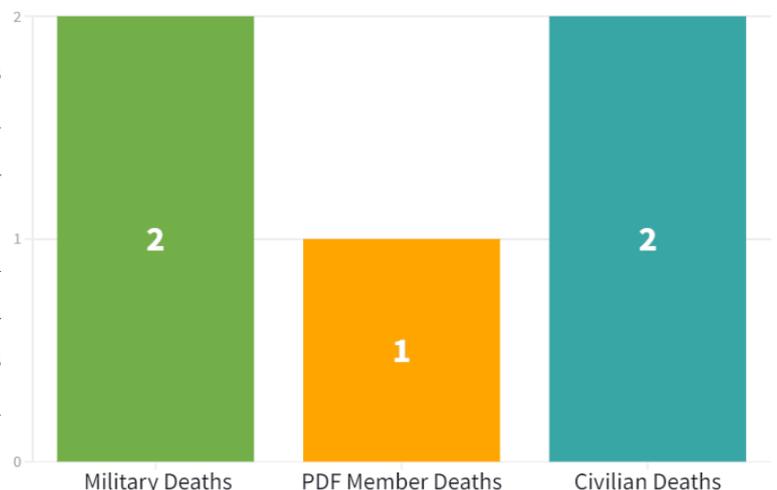
Mandalay Region

Military council troops burned to death a PDF member and two other locals as they advanced into Theainn village in Singu Township. On 10 March, more than 50 regime soldiers took up positions in Theainn village, arrested 10 local residents on 12 March, tortured the resistance member and the other two, and burned them to death. Their bodies were found on 15 March.

On 16 March, two municipal policemen under the military council shot and killed two men near the entrance to the Swetawgyi truck terminal near 62nd Street in Pyigyidagun Township. The victims were arrested by junta soldiers, taken to the hospital and a case was filed against them.



On 12 March, a PDF member and two locals were burned to death by the military column which advanced to Thaein village in Singu Township. Since 17 March, thousands of locals fled to safer places as the military council burned Aidaing village in the west of Madaya Township. On 18 March, two junta soldiers were killed in an ambush on a military column which advanced to the east of Madaya Township from Kyauktada village.

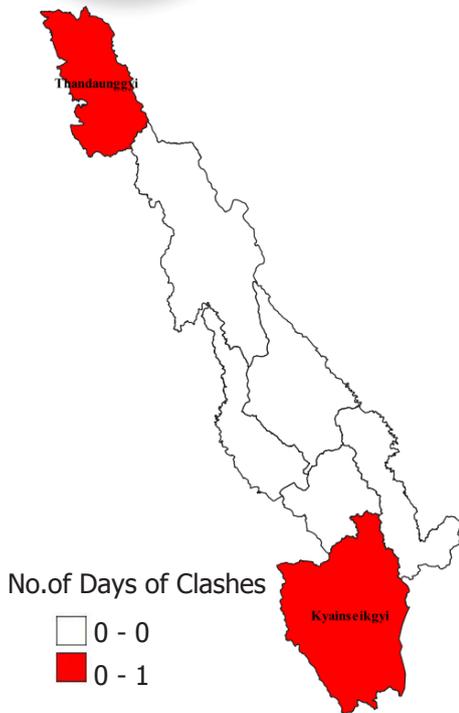




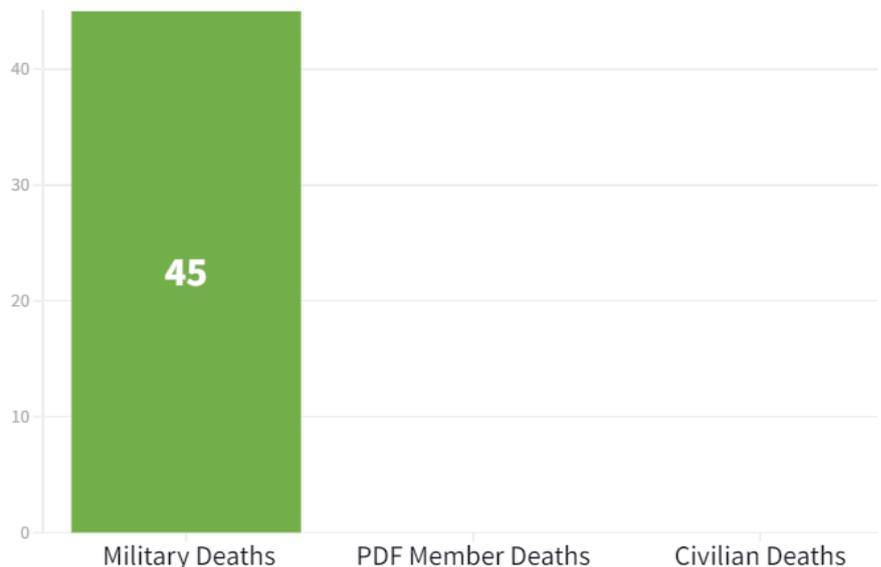
Karen State

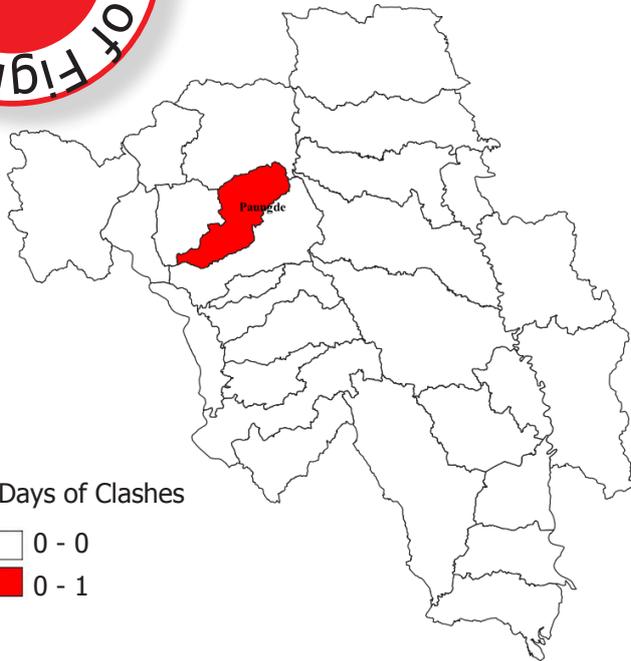
Military council troops entered villages adjacent to Kyondoe Township in Kawkareik Township on 15 March, forcing residents to flee to safety. Due to the regime army's area clearance operations, artillery shelling, and arrests under martial law in Kyondoe, people do not go out after 6 pm and vendors from other villages do not dare to come and sell goods,

On 17 March, KNLA's Brigade 2 attacked the garrison town of Bayintnaung, 13 miles from Thandaung town, in Thandaunggyi Township, with unguided rockets. After the resistance attack, regime troops fired artillery indiscriminately, with shells falling and exploding on tea plantations.



Forty-five junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the PDFs in Thandaunggyi and Kyarinseikgyi Townships.



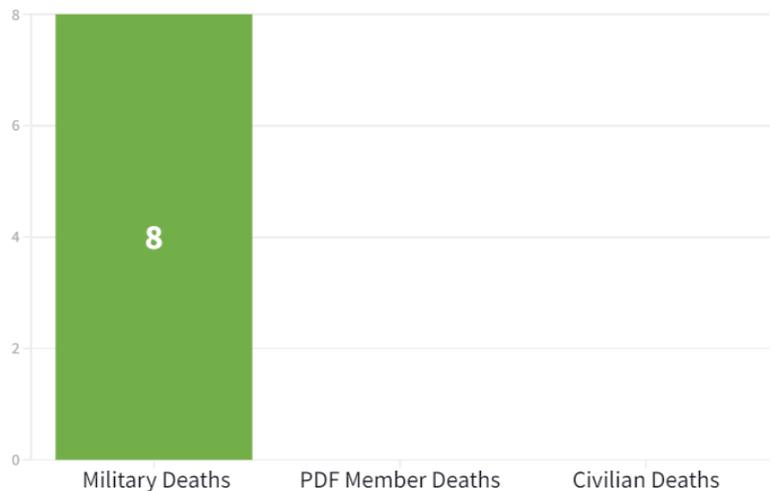


Bago Region

The 21-year-old mentally disabled daughter of a retired army captain was repeatedly raped by Tun Naing, a 55-year-old private of No. 1 Light Infantry Battalion, at Yayset Street in Seinkantlant Village, Latset Village Tract, Minhla Township. The junta soldier was taken into military custody, but the junta army did not allow any case to be filed against him at the police station. In addition, the army reportedly exerted pressure on the administrator of Latset village to appease the victim's family.

On 17 March, a 41-year-old man lost his leg and was severely injured in a mine explosion near the entrance to Natalin village in Kyauktaga Township at around 3 pm. The man was killed in the explosion.

On 17 March, five junta soldiers were killed in the clash between the military council and the PDF on the water route between Htan-kone village and Chaypin village in Paungde Township. On 17 March, the PDF threw two bombs at the gambling event held by Pyu Saw Htee in the west of Yaykin village police station in Moenyo Township. Over 3,000 locals from 21 villages in Kyaukkyi and Shwe-gyin Townships fled to safer places due to the military council's bombardments on 20 March.



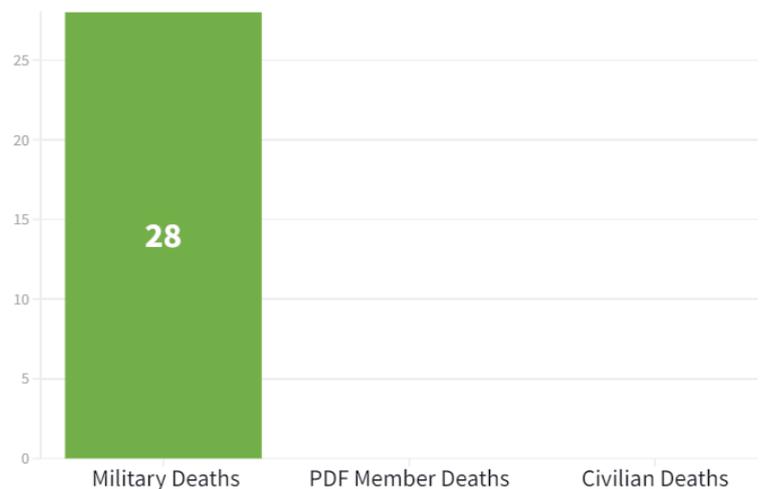
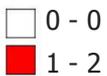


Shan State

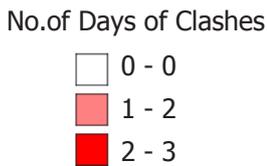
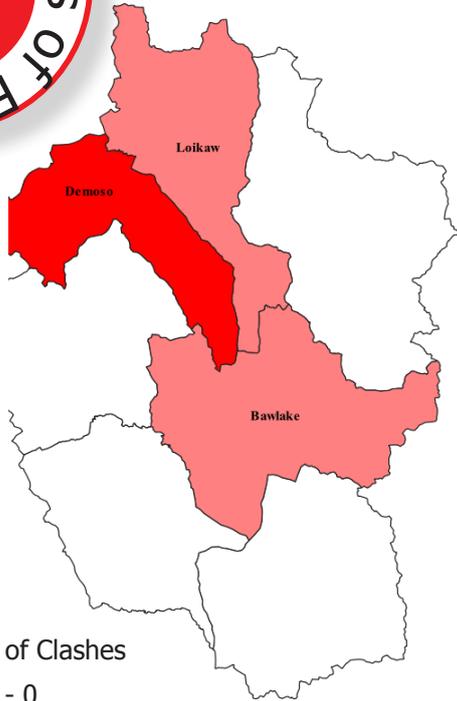
On 16 March, a Mantpang militia vehicle and a civilian vehicle collided head-on near the entrance to Lasio, after which militia members violently assaulted local civilians, inflicting head injuries.

Nawngmun militia members beat to death a man from Area 5 of Nawngmun village in Hsihseng Township, accusing him of stealing mobile phones. The victim was a 38-year-old man named Maung Kyaw Myo Naing, also known as Ant Ku. After being arrested for the alleged theft, he was beaten with sticks and succumbed to his internal wounds four days later.

No.of Days of Clashes



On 16 and 20 March, 28 junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDF in Pinlaung Township.

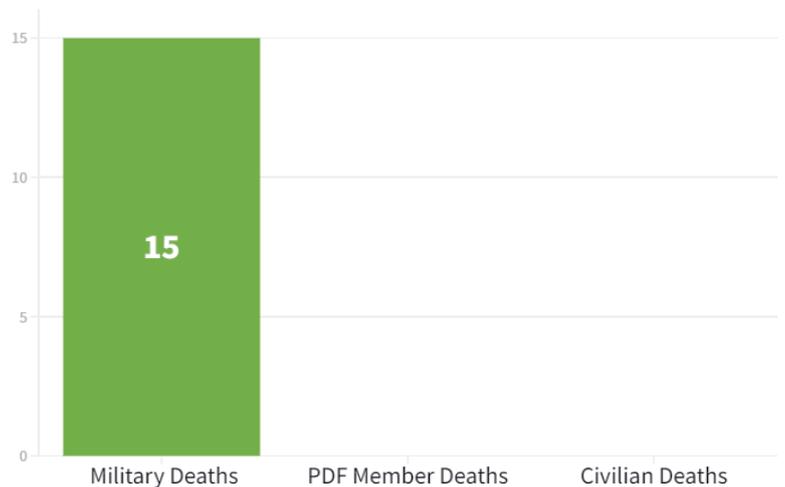


Karenni (Kayah) State

Clashes between military council troops and PDF occurred near Yaenipaukni village in Bawlakhe Township on 16 March. Following the clash, junta soldiers arrested seven people, including a woman and two high school-age children from Yaenipaukni, who were reportedly detained at the Bawlakhe Myoma police station. Regime troops, who had suffered setbacks during clashes with resistance fighters, later fired artillery indiscriminately at Yaenipaukni and Mainghtan villages, injuring four residents.

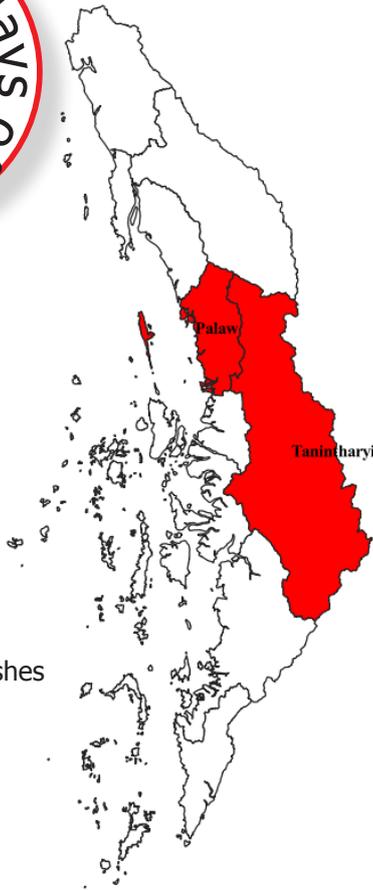
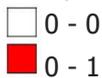
The Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) and the Kyay Lak Myay group donated food to people trapped in the conflict areas in Demoso Township. Clashes between regime troops and the PDF have been occurring daily in the eastern part of the township since late February, displacing some 3,000 people.

A total of 15 junta soldiers were killed in battles between the military council and a combined force of the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) and PDFs in Loikaw, Balakae and Demoso Townships.



Total no of days of Fighting
2Days

No. of Days of Clashes

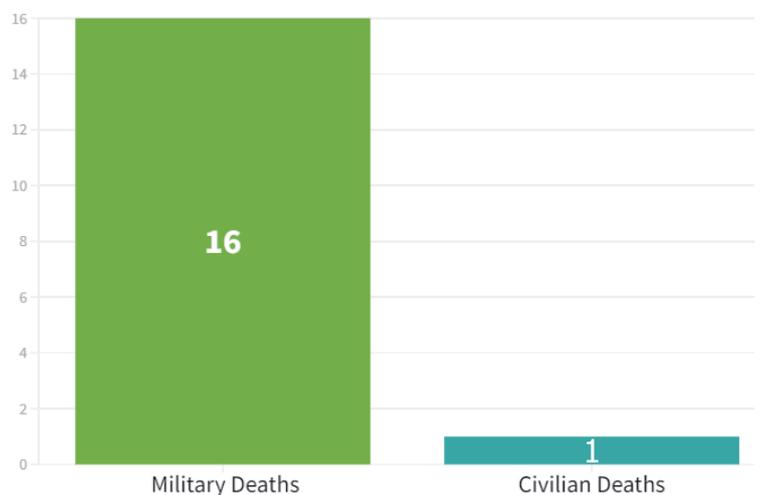


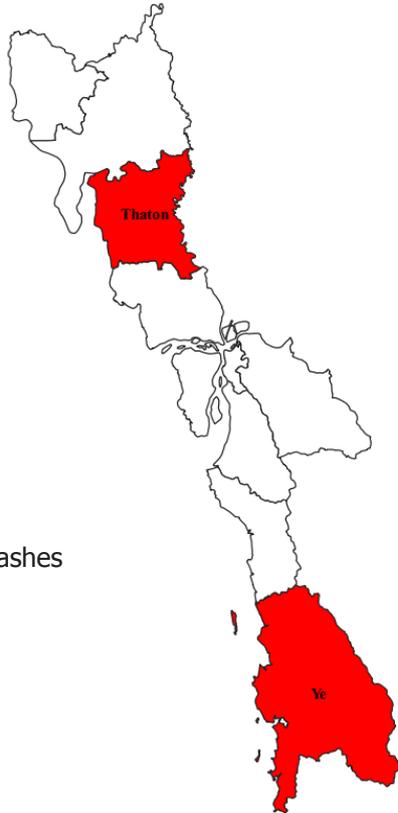
Tanintharyi Region

On 18 March, two people, including a young woman with disabilities, from Tonebyawgyi village in Myeik Township were hit and wounded by indiscriminate gunfire from a military convoy.

Regime troops set fire to more than 150 homes in Nyawpyin and Aukkyaukwut villages for no apparent reason and arrested and murdered a man in his late teens. A combined force of members of the pro-military Pyu Saw Htee and junta soldiers attacked the village unprovoked on 21 March, forcing residents to flee to safety.

There was a clash between the military council and the PDFs in Tanintharyi and Palaw Townships, killing 15 junta soldiers. On 15 March, the PDF assassinated U Kyaw Moe Khaing, a Pyu Saw Htee leader from Taungnauk village in Kawthoung. On 21 March, the junta soldiers burned over 150 houses in Nyawpyin and lower Kyaukwat villages in Launglon Township and shot a 20-year-old man to death.





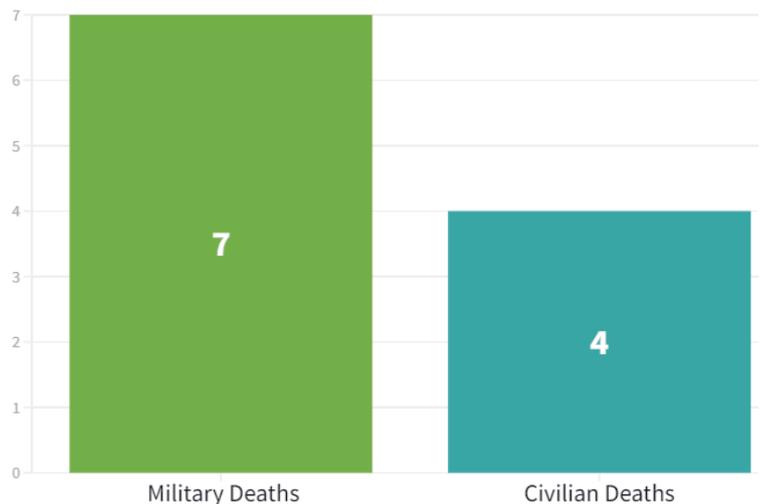
No.of Days of Clashes
 □ 0 - 0
 ■ 0 - 1

Mon State

Two men in Karawayseik (Upper) village in Bilin Township were hit and killed by artillery shells fired by junta troops. Regime troops stationed at the Thantaga checkpoint near the Thephyuchaung Bridge fired artillery shells at the villages around 7 pm on 20 March. One of the shells hit the house of U Kalar in Karawayseik village. U Kalar, 50, and his son, 20, succumbed to their wounds to the head, hands and abdomen.

Ye Balu PDF opened fire on a car driven by U Lwin Moe Aye, a military informant, near Kyaung village in Ye Township on 15 March, killing him on the spot and injuring a woman and child on board.

There were clashes between the military council and a combined force of the KNLA and the PDFs in Thaton and Ye Townships, killing seven junta soldiers. On 15 March, U Lwin Moe Aye, a military informant was shot dead by the PDF near Kyaung village in Ye Township. The military council's artillery shelling killed three locals in Bilin Township.





Ayeyarwady Region

On 15 March, the Setkyarwaday Min Strike Committee in Kyangin Township staged a silent strike against the dictatorship at dawn. During the strike, a banner reading "Dear Ayeyarwady, wake up and rebel" was hung on Pathein-Monywa Road between Kan and Kyoetpinsu villages. The Setkyarwaday Min Strike Committee, founded in January 2023, has continuously carried out strikes in the township against the military dictatorship.

In Ayeyarwady Region, the military council has begun appointing members of the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) as village and ward administrators. Since early March, the military council has replaced most village and ward administrators in all townships with USDP members, except for those who were reappointed after the coup. The regime has also allegedly recruited gambling dealers, loyal military informants, and members of the Patriotic Association of Myanmar, known locally as Ma Ba Tha, to join the USDP and serve as village and ward administrators.

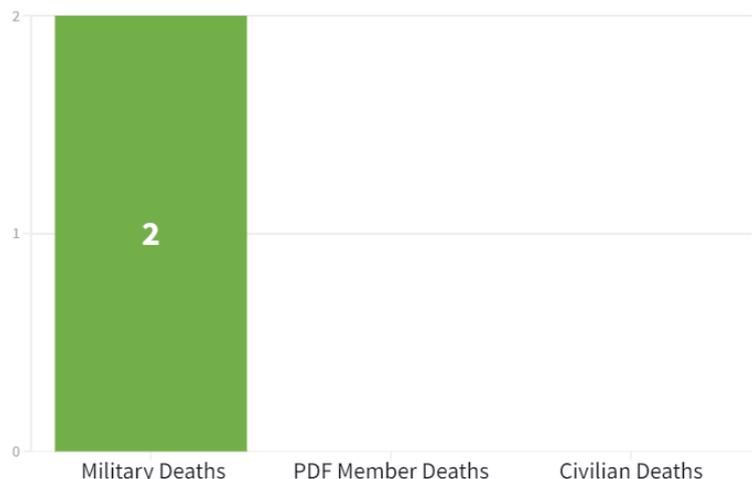


Yangon Region

FITEX (Myanmar) Garment Manufacturing Co. Ltd, a supplier of the international fashion brand AMISU, located in Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone in Hlaing Tharyar Township, laid off more than 400 employees who were forced to resign by signing the contract without their consent. FITEX (Myanmar) allegedly failed to pay the workers the percentages set by the factory for their sewing work, and the factory manager and translator also cut their wages, claiming that the percentage was not met. The factory has more than 700 workers in total, and currently more than 400 workers with less than 3 to 6 months of experience have been forced to sign contracts dismissing them from 13 April before Thingyan.

Three policemen from No.2 Police Station in Thaketa Township were shot dead. Subsequently, on 18 March, the regime arrested the president and five members of the Moe Set Charity Group for publishing photos of those killed.

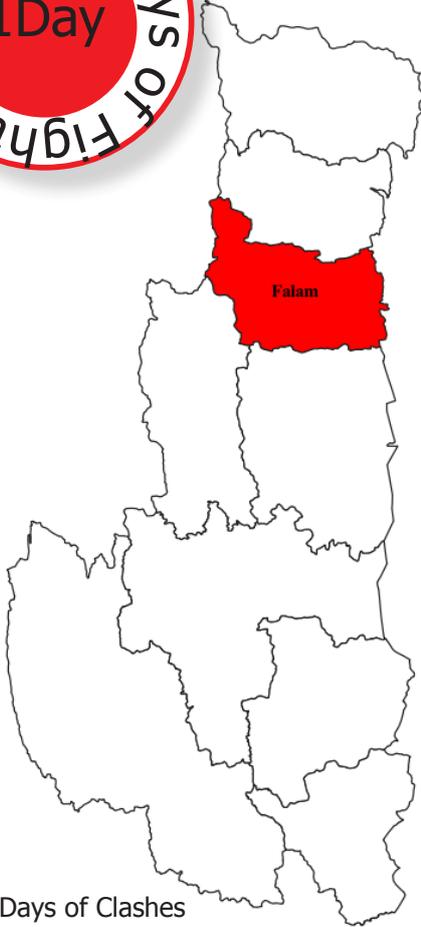
On 17 March, Hmawbi Revolutionary Force attacked military quarters near GE Bus Stop in Tatgyikone ward in Hmawbi Township, with a hand grenade. Two junta soldiers were killed in the attack.





Arakan State

The military council is reportedly planning to demolish three IDP camps - Mahamuni, Shan Ywar and Theinkyaung - in Kyauktaw Township and has begun pressuring more than 600 IDPs to return to their homes. They have been told to demolish the camps by 31 March. Currently, there are 443 households in Mahamuni camp, 26 in Theinkyaung camp and 43 in Shan Ywar camp. On 19 March, two soldiers without weapons from the Myanmar army's border guard force, stationed at Zaydi Taung Pagoda near Zaydipyin village in Rahedaung Township, defected to the Arakan Army (AA).



No.of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1

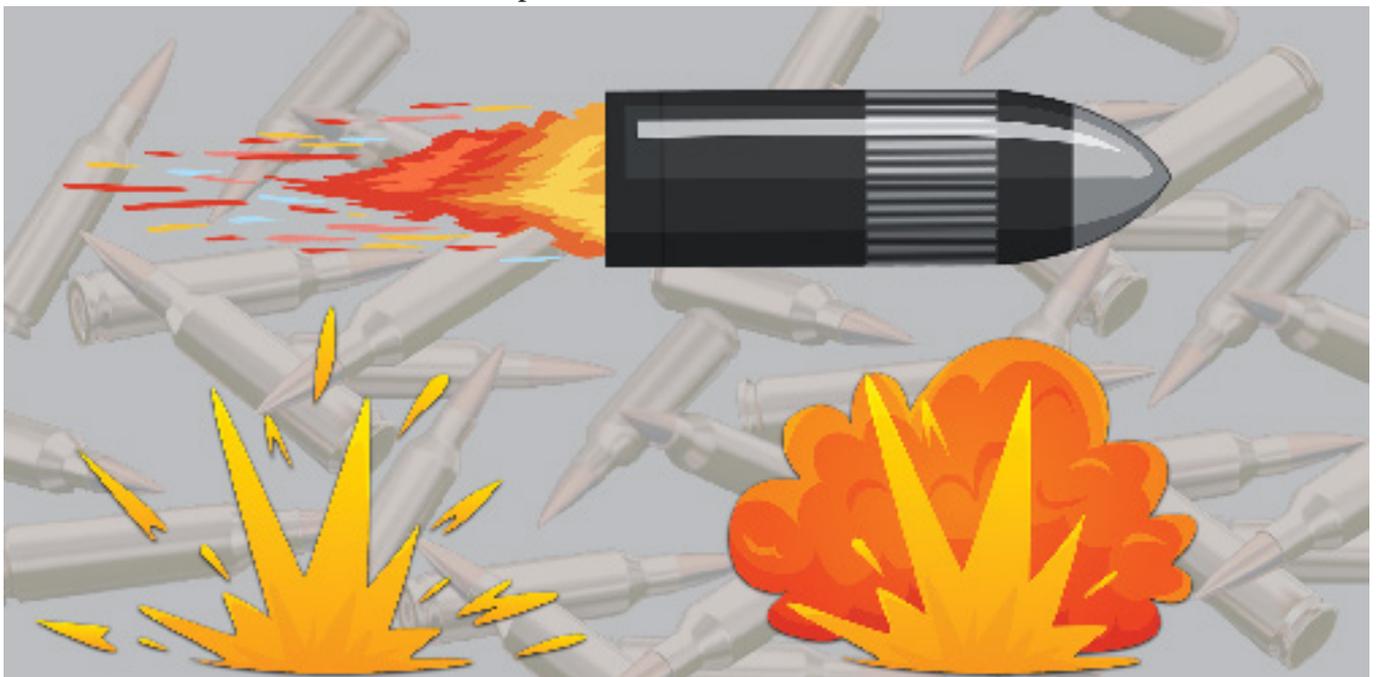
Chin State

About 40 ethnic minority villages inhabited mainly by the Chin, Khumi and Arakanese are facing difficulties as military council checkpoints restrict the supply of food and medicine and extort money from locals in Paletwa Township.

The Network for Chin Community Development (NCCD) distributed rice and other food rations to 18 war-affected villages in Mindat Township, five villages in Matupi Township, five IDP camps in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region, and IDP camps in Mizoram State in India, including Holy Cross Camp, ITI Camp 1, and ITI Camp 2.

With the rainy season approaching, the camps are in need of sturdy tarpaulin roofs, drinking water purifiers and water purification fluid, essential medicines, blankets, mosquito nets, and stationery and other educational materials for children.

On 16 March, there was a clash between the military council troops and Chinland Defense Force (CDF) in Reeskhawdar town in Falam Township.



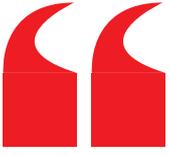
International



The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer, presented her findings to international ambassadors at the UN General Assembly on 16 March, saying that the people of Myanmar have absolutely no confidence in the Myanmar military, which seized power in a coup. She told the UN assembly that the military council extended the state of emergency last February, escalating fighting and increasing human rights violations, including airstrikes and arson attacks on civilians. She added that the people of Myanmar continue to fight non-violently against the military council's oppression.

The official from the President's Office of the National Unity Government (NUG) responded that the Special Envoy's report will serve as an impetus for efforts to take action against the Myanmar military council leaders.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said after his 16 March meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo that he will work with Indonesia and other ASEAN countries, including partners such as the United Nations, to push Myanmar's military council to implement the stalled peace plan.



Malaysia and ASEAN countries will continue to put pressure on the Myanmar military council as long as a comprehensive solution cannot be reached in Myanmar.



Widodo said on 15 March that Indonesia was holding behind-the-scenes talks with various parties in Myanmar to help resolve the political crisis in Myanmar, but that it would take time to resolve the Myanmar issue and that Indonesia, which serves as the rotating chair of ASEAN, would do its best to improve the situation in Myanmar.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir said that the Malaysian Foreign Ministry has reiterated the Malaysian government's position not to recognise the Myanmar military council and will work for a comprehensive solution by strengthening the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. In addition, he stated that Malaysia and ASEAN countries will continue to put pressure on the Myanmar military council as long as a comprehensive solution cannot be reached in Myanmar.

U.S. State Department Advisor Derek Chollet and the delegation met with senior government officials on regional issues, including efforts to resolve the Myanmar crisis. He will travel to Indonesia and Thailand 20-24 March to meet with key stakeholders. He is expected to meet with leaders during his trip to try to find a peaceful way to resolve the deteriorating situation in Myanmar based on the will of the people.

The UN refugee agency assisted military council officials in their trip to Bangladesh to discuss the repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. However, officials from UN have indicated that conditions in Myanmar are not safe enough for the Rohingya to return home. On 15 March, a 17-member team led by a senior official from the Myanmar military council's immigration ministry travelled to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border town of Taknef to interview refugees for possible repatriation to Myanmar.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Thomas H. Andrews, called on the international community to take collective action against the Myanmar military council, which is committing human rights violations, at the 20 March Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

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.