

Weekly News Review

Issue 101, April 19 - 25, 2023



**Time for NUG
to approach the
Thai government**

Time for NUG to approach the Thai government

Introduction

Thailand, whose ancient name is 'Siam', shares a long border with Myanmar. Thailand is the main destination country for Myanmar migrants. However, it is questionable whether or not the Myanmar citizens who have arrived in Thailand due to the various reasons, receive sufficient security and protections. In particular, the Thai government is bravely engaging with junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing throughout the junta's attempted coup by turning a blind eye to the Myanmar people's demands. It can be said that the military leaders of the two countries are mocking the Myanmar's Spring Revolution by formulating the principle: "Hand in Hand, Back to Back and Side by Side."

The BNI – Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news review for this week focuses on the Thai government leaders' activities and approaches which are dangerous for the Myanmar citizens including the forces of the Spring Revolution.

Significant incident

On 1 April 2023, the Thai Immigration arrested Ko Thiha, deputy commander of Lion Battalion which is making armed resistance to the military council led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, information officer Ko Htet Nay Win and comrade Ko Saw Phyo Lay, in Mae Sot of Tak Province in Thailand. The Thai authority returned three PDF members of the Lion Battalion who came to Mae Sot for medical treatment, to the military-backed Border Guard Force (BGF) via a jetty in Ingyinmyaing village in the south of Myawaddy on the early morning of 4 April. Of three PDF members in plainclothes during the repatriation, the BGF shot and rearrested Ko Thiha and Ko Saw Phyo Lay as they tried to escape into the middle of Thaung Yin River. Ko Saw Phyo Lay died of gunshot wounds. Till date, it is still known whether the PDF members returned by the Thai authorities to the military-backed BGF are still alive or not. Not only the military council but also the Karen BGF has not released any statement about that yet.

แถลงการณ์พรรค

สามัคยา

รัฐบาลไทยต้องชี้แจงต่อสาธารณชน
กรณีละเมิดกฎหมายป้องกันการทรمانและอุ้มหาย
จากเหตุที่ ตม. จับกุมและส่งกลับทหาร PDF 3 คน
จนเป็นเหตุให้ทหาร PDF ทั้งสามถูกทหารเมียนมาสังหารชีวิต



Thailand's opposition Commonsers' Party issued a statement on 8 April criticizing that the Thai government's the return of three PDF members who entered Thailand in need of medical attention, to the military council via the Karen BGF is an inhumane act. The opposition party condemned it and called on caretaker government's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to publicly solve that problem, according to the statement by the Commonsers' Party.

In addition, the National Unity Government (NUG) issued a statement on 7 April, criticizing that the return of three PDF members is not in conformity with international police procedures. This is the matter which threatens the life and security of the Myanmar citizens who migrated to Thailand due to the various circumstances including the military council's violence and oppressions. The NUG is placing special emphasis on solving the similar cases including that case by coordinating with relevant organizations.

Implication of statement by Chiang Mai consular office

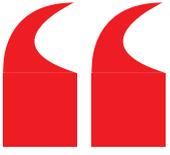
Myanmar consular office in Chiang Mai issued a statement dated 17 April about the documents required for the visa extension for passport for visit (PV) holders and passport for Education (PE) holders. For the visa extension, applicants are required to submit the documents such as the recommendation letter from relevant police station, ward administration, a gazetted officer in Myanmar (along with the copy of ID card of the officer), the parent (along with the copy of NRC cards), the applicant's detailed description of the undertakings in Thailand and evidence for the students.

This is said to be the military council's attempt to show its capacity for targeted control of the Myanmar migrants in Chiang Mai of Thailand. It is a huge challenge for the Myanmar passport holders in Thailand. It is found that the NUG which has entered its second year of existence, remains silent.

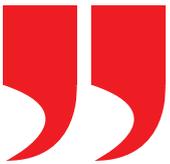
Review

A delegation led by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand met coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 April. Both sides cordially discussed cooperation among Myanmar, Thailand and Laos with each other in the reduction of transboundary haze pollution, peace and stability in the border region of both countries and plans to cooperate in the eradication of human trafficking, drug trafficking and arms smuggling, according to the military council's statement.





The Thai government plays a crucial role in ensuring the availability of humanitarian aid for Myanmar's Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who have fled to the Thai-Myanmar border following the armed conflicts.



The regime leader held a separate meeting with chief of defense forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chalermpol Srisawat at the 8th High-Level Committee Meeting between Myanmar and Thai armed forces hosted by Myanmar in Ngapali in Thandwe Township of Arakan State on 19 January, 2023. Leaders of the incumbent Thai government have strong relations with the Myanmar coup leader. It is doubtful that they are formulating the principle: "Hand in Hand, Back to Back and Side by Side". It can be said that the Thai government's humane approach for the forces of the Spring Revolution and sympathy towards the Myanmar people are especially required.

The NUG is required to make efforts to protect the Myanmar citizens who have arrived in Thailand either legally or illegally. It is observed that the NUG which takes a leading role in the Spring Revolution as a government should place special emphasis on the importance of Thailand. The Thai government plays a crucial role in ensuring the security of Myanmar expats in Thailand and the availability of humanitarian aid for Myanmar's Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who have fled to the Thai-Myanmar border following the armed conflicts.

No one can guarantee that the arrest and return of three PDF members by Thai immigration officers happens again. It is reviewed that as a revolutionary government, the NUG is duty-bound to pay special attention to the matter the Myanmar expats in Thailand may be under the control of the military council citing the passport.

Weekly HighLight News



Armed conflicts kill over 40 children in Karen State

19 April 2023

More than 40 children from Karen State were killed by the conflicts during the military coup, according to the figures compiled by the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG).

The military council's airstrikes and shelling killed 25 children aged under 18 and wounded 19 others in the Karen National Union (KNU)-controlled territories, Saw Nanda Sue, Spokesperson of the KHRG said.

"Especially, it is reported in the KNU's Brigade-5 and Brigade-6. We did not get updates as fighting continued there. The number of casualties is still incomplete," he told the Karen Information Center (KIC).

Unborn babies are taken into account for 25 children killed in the junta's airstrikes. The KHRG plans to scrutinize and compile the detailed list, Saw Nanda Sue added.

The military council's increased airstrikes have killed over 50 civilians and wounded at least 100 others in Karen State. The total number of the IDPs has reached around 600,000, according to the KHRG's statement released on 12 April.

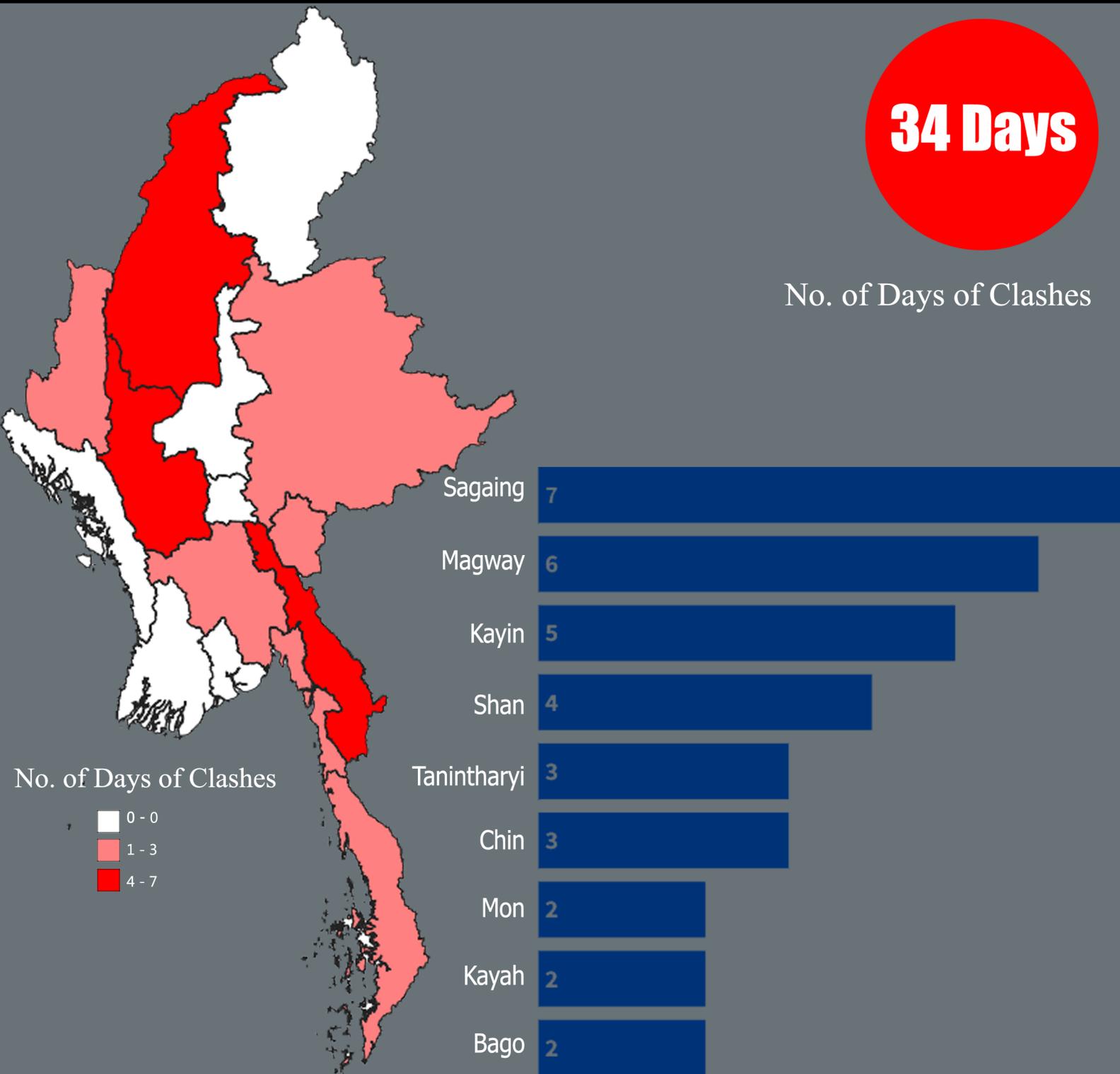
Till date since the 2021 coup, the total number of children killed in the armed conflicts has reached 396. The junta imprisoned 355 children aged under 18, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs under the National Unity Government (NUG) on 18 April.

BNI - MPM

Part II

What Happened this Week

According to the BNI - Myanmar Peace Monitor's record, 34 days of clashes were recorded between the military council, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), from 19 to 25 April. Breaking down the list of clashes in regions and states, Sagaing Region topped the list with seven days. The total number of clashes may be higher than that as the clashes in townships are recorded by day.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

April 19 - 25, 2023



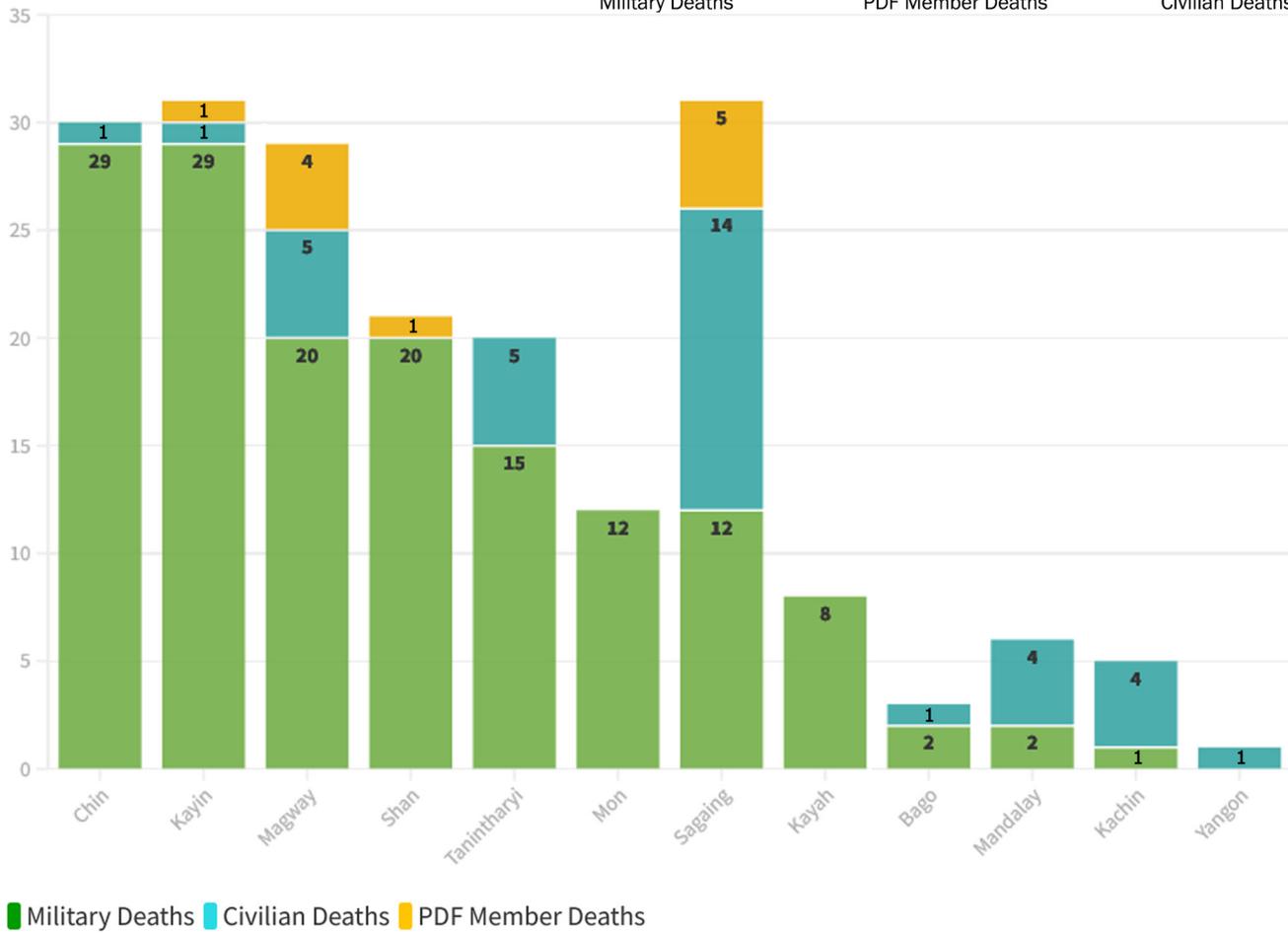
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths

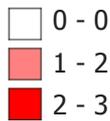


27000 Total Number of IDPs (April 19 - 25 - 2023)





No.of Days of Clashes

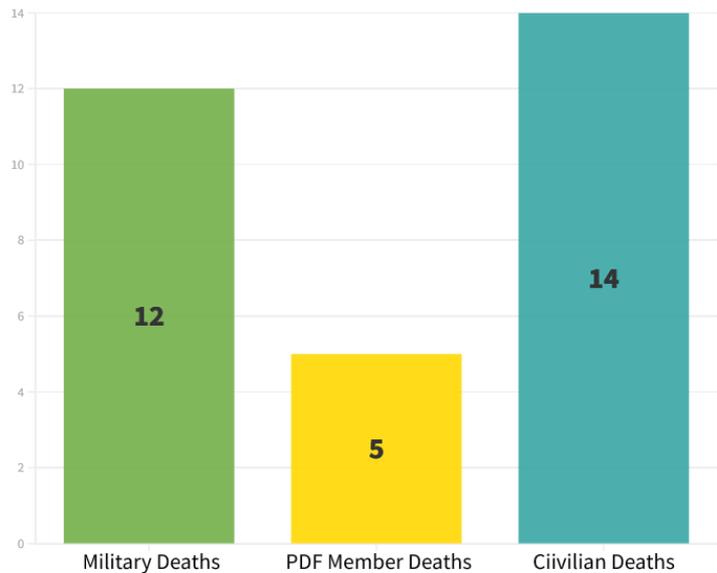


Eleven military council soldiers and five PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDFs in KhinU, Htigyaing, Wetlet, Monywa and Sagaing Townships. On 24 April, a soldier was killed in the PDF's sniper attack on the soldiers stationed in Chipar village near Shwebo. A total of 13 civilians were killed in the military council's shooting in Kanbalu, Kalay, Salinyi and Indaw Townships. On 20 April, ward administrator U Kyaw Soe was shot dead by an unknown armed group at a tea shop near Light Infantry Battalion-13 under Battalion-33 in Sagaing. Over 21,000 locals have fled to safer places due to the military council's arson and airstrikes in KhinU and Htigyaing Townships.

Sagaing Region

Two masons were killed and five others injured when the junta army fired artillery shells at Htomar village in Kale Township on 21 April. The shells, fired by regime troops stationed at the technological university, landed and exploded in the school compound of the village, killing U Min Min Thant and U Myo Htwe, who were painting the wall.

The bodies of five civilians who were murdered by junta soldiers were found more than a month later in Indaw Township. The military council troops had abducted the five men as human shields during their advance into Manhe village on 24 March, and their bodies were only found on 25 April, more than one month after their abduction. The victims were identified as Ko Nyi Nyi, 25, Ko Law Shote, 25, Ko Aung Min Thike, 37, Ko Lay Lin Htwet, 38 and U Phoe Shan, 48. ¹



¹ Five civilian bodies murdered by junta soldiers found in Indaw
<https://tinyurl.com/2anqfdbg>

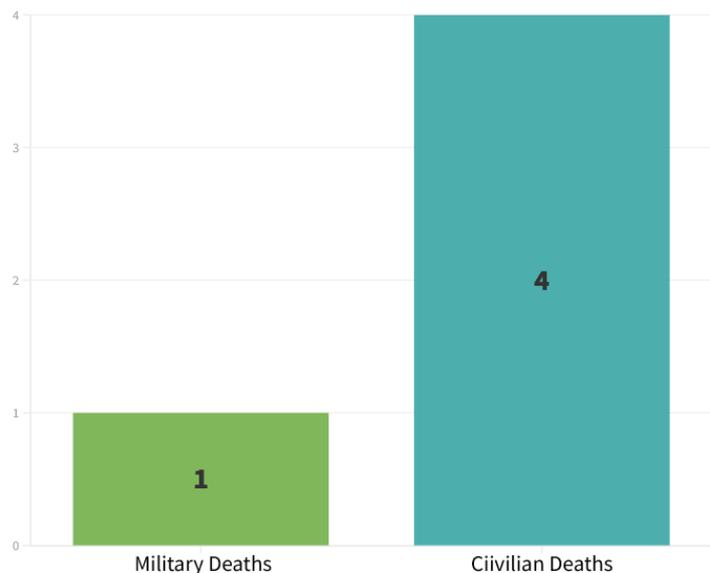


Kachin State

The military council troops violently raided Hmaw Bone (Maden Yang) village, abducting approximately 100 civilians as human shields and burning down a house and an office building. The majority of those arrested were young and middle-aged individuals who were taken with their hands tied and subjected to violent assault. ²

On 23 April, six residents, including children and women, were injured when junta army-fired artillery shells exploded near Yogyi U Bein Bridge. Among the injured were two men, three women, and a 10-year-old child, who were receiving treatment at Banmaw General Hospital. ³

On 23 April, a major and two entrepreneurs died on the spot in a shooting at Happy KTV in Mashikahtaung ward in Hpakant Township. Two youths who were detained during the patrol were shot dead by junta soldiers in front of Happy KTV in retaliation for the incident.



² Regime abducts 100 civilians as human shields, assault them
<https://tinyurl.com/2yp2whkh>

³ Six injured due to junta artillery shelling in Banmaw
<https://tinyurl.com/23jgpljb>

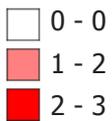
Magway Region

On 23 April, the junta army advanced into southern Yesagyo Township, forcing more than 1,000 residents from four villages to flee for safety. Regime troops entered Kanbe, Pauku, Taungoh, and another village, ransacking houses and stealing valuables. The displaced people are now in urgent need of shelter, food, clothing, medicine, and healthcare. ⁴

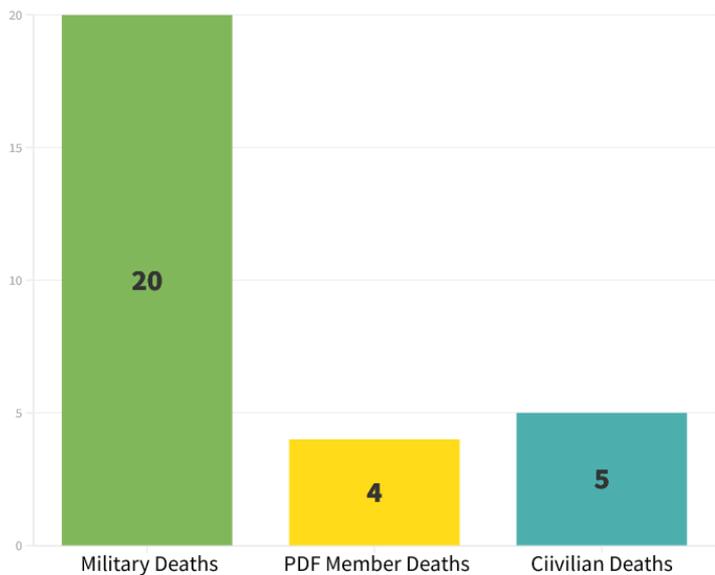
In addition, the regime carried out air attacks on the rural hospital of Magyikan village for two consecutive days on 18 and 19 April. Ground troops also raided the hospital and arrested about 100 locals, including a doctor, a nurse, patients, and caregivers. ⁵



No.of Days of Clashes



Twenty military council soldiers and four PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDFs in Yesgyo, Htilin, Pauk and Saw Townships. The military council killed five civilians in the battle in Pauk Township. Over 1,000 locals have fled to safer places as the military council troops have been conducting an offensive in the southern part of Yesagyo Township since 23 April.



⁴ Junta advance forces over 1000 residents in Yesagyo; junta convoy attacked with mines <https://tinyurl.com/2ym48k6l>

⁵ What happened at Magyikan rural hospital in Myaing Township? <https://tinyurl.com/2bprb7na>

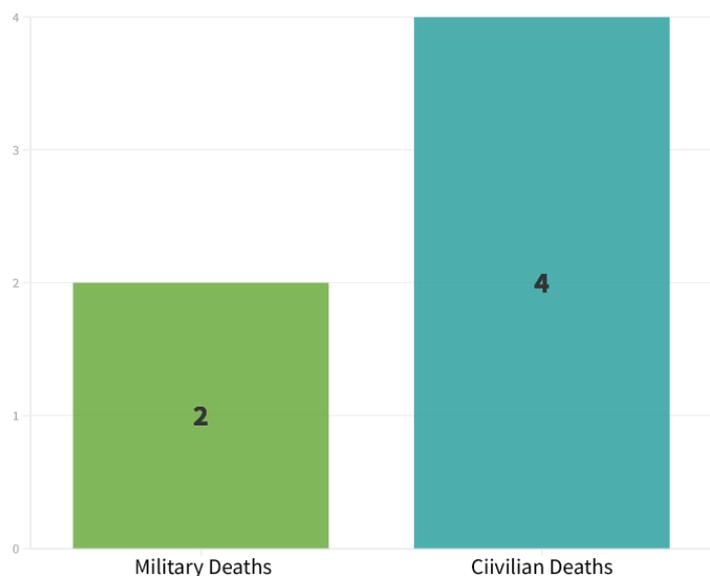


Mandalay Region

Advancing military council troops reportedly burned down more than 250 houses and shot dead a mentally ill person and a woman in villages in western Singu Township. ⁶

On 25 April, an explosion occurred in a car in front of Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (a monastic hospital) on Strand Road in Chanmyathazi Township. The driver was killed, and a man in a passing car was also injured as a result of the blast. ⁷

On 20 April, a military council soldier was killed in a shooting on three soldiers in Myakanthar village in Patheingyi Township. On 22 April, a junta soldier was killed in an ambush on a car loaded with junta soldiers in Natogyi Township. On 20 April, a military column which was conducting an offensive in the western part of villages in Singu Township shot a man living with mental illness and a woman to death and burned over 250 civilian houses. A civilian was found dead with a card reading "Thway Thauk" or "Blood Comrades" about two weeks after being abducted by the military council soldiers in King village in Madaya Township. On 25 April, a driver was killed in a car explosion in front of the Ziwita Darna Sanga Hospital on Mandalay-Sagaing Strand Road in Chanmyathazi Township.



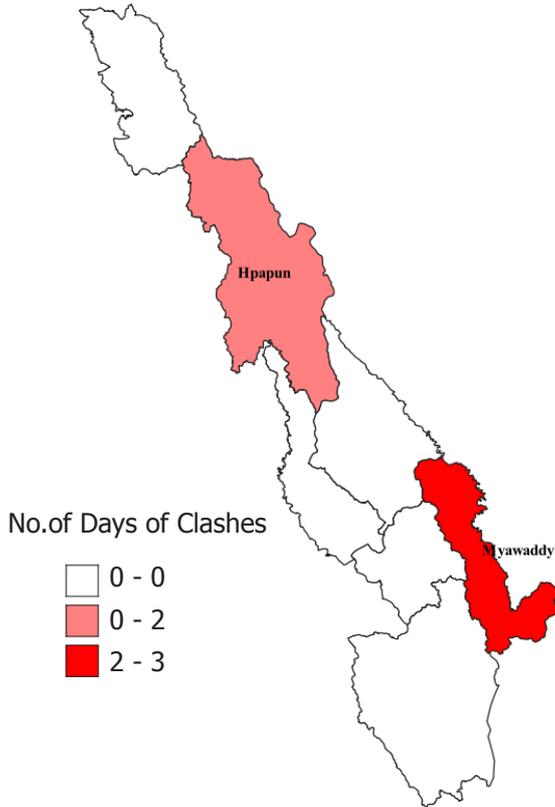
⁶ Junta soldiers shoot dead mentally ill person, woman; burn down over 250 houses
<https://tinyurl.com/22d5smyb>

⁷ One killed, another injured in car blast in Mandalay
<https://tinyurl.com/23lrq3ek>

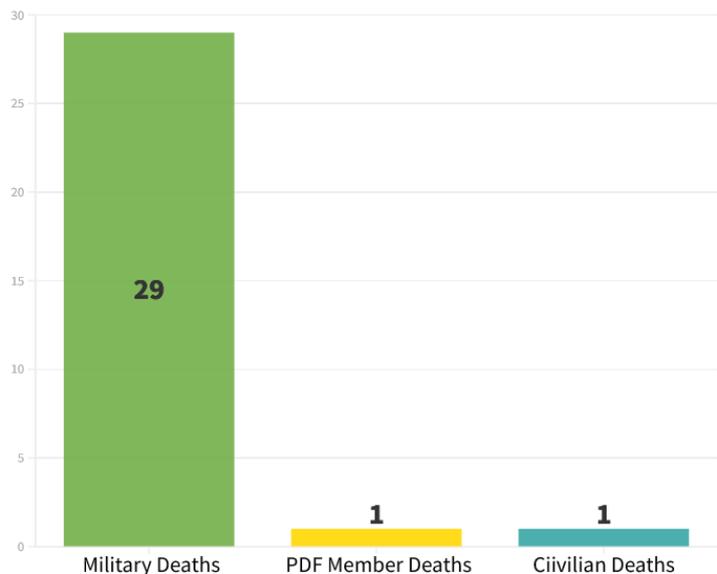
Karen State

On the evening of 25 April, a woman in her sixties was injured by an artillery shell fired by the junta army base at 13 Mile in Thandaung town. The regime army continuously shelled areas surrounding Thandaung without any fighting, with some artillery shells landing and exploding near O Pi Gone and De Mu Law wards. ⁸

In Apyin Kwin Kalay village, two men and two women were injured when the junta air force carried out aerial bombardments in the Mekaneil area of Myawaddy Township on 25 April. Additionally, on 24 April, the regime reportedly carried out air attacks in Mekaneil with over 30 bombs, including what is believed to be chemical bombs. ⁹

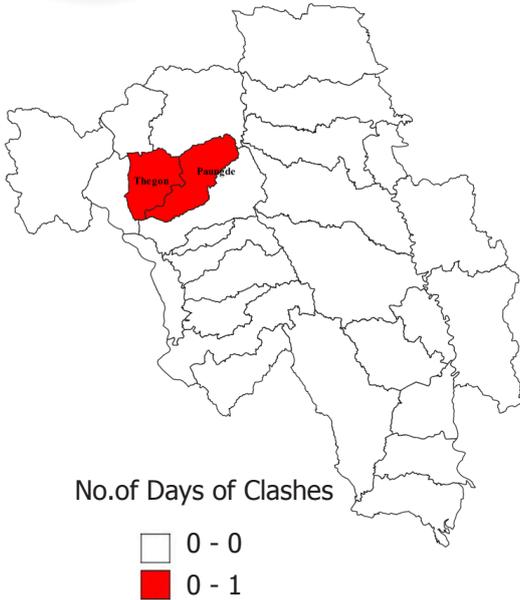


Twenty-nine junta soldiers and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council and a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the PDF in Hpapun and Myawaddy Townships. The military council's airstrikes have displaced over 1,000 locals in Maekanal of Myawaddy Township. On 22 April, a driver died in an explosion of a vehicle driving on Thaton-Hpa-An road in Myaingkalay village in Hpa-An Township.



⁸ Elderly woman injured by artillery shrapnel in Thandaung
<https://tinyurl.com/22f8oanx>

⁹ Four people injured in junta bombing in Mekaneil area
<https://tinyurl.com/28cnjw8c>

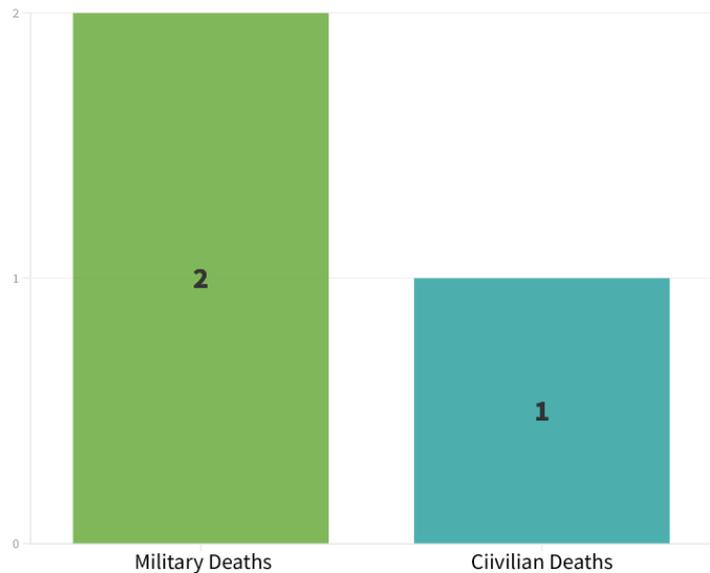


Bago Region

On 24 April, authorities at Pyay prison moved four female political prisoners, Daw Mar Mar Oo, Daw Saw Ou, Ma Hsu Wai Phyo, and Ma Pyae Pyae Win, as well as some other prisoners, to Thayarwaddy prison, citing issues with the warden. ¹⁰

The military council has ordered the villages of Bogyi Sakhan and Thahpan Chaung, which rely on the Bago Mountains for their livelihoods, to move out by 30 April. Approximately 400 people live in the villages, and around 60 junta soldiers are stationed at the Yumagon pagoda hill. In addition, on 21 April, the regime forced the villages of Kayinsinswea, Kyetmanet, and Sinsweaywarma in the upper part of Taung Nyo Dam to move. ¹¹

Two junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDF in Thegon and Paungde Townships. On 21 April, Pyu Saw Htee member U Tin Kyaing was shot dead by the PDF in Taunghnalonepauk village in Gyobingauk Township.

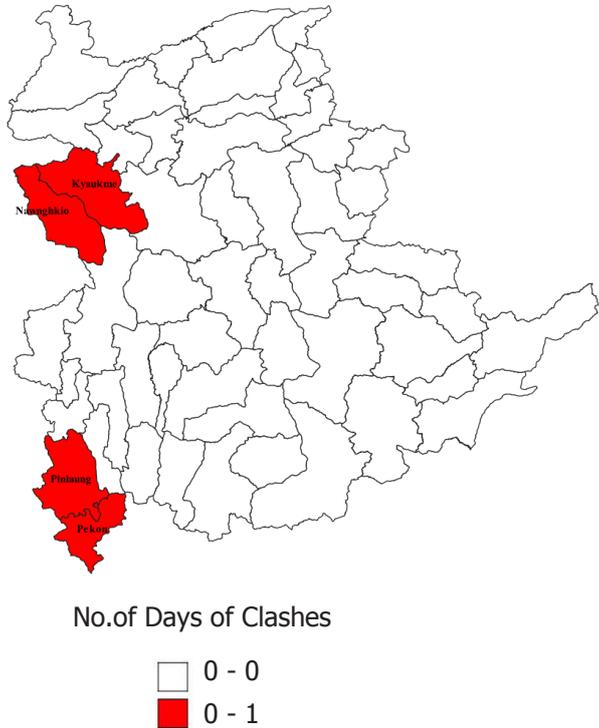


¹⁰ Four female political prisoners moved from Pyi to Thayarwady prison
<https://tinyurl.com/2anu82mj>

¹¹ Regime orders two more villages to move in Nattalin Township
<https://tinyurl.com/2yx45h4j>



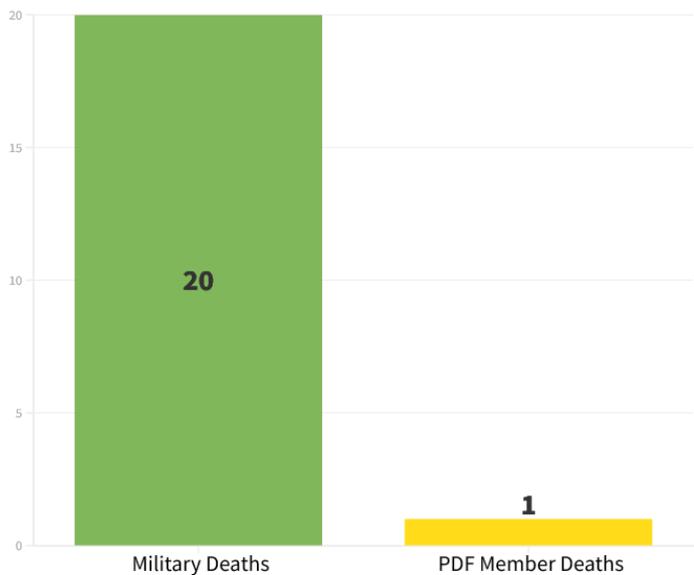
Shan State



More than 1,000 residents from Doepin, Hokho, and Longyone villages were forced to flee their homes due to clashes between junta troops and PDF in Naungcho Township on 22 April. The displaced locals sought shelter in their relatives' houses and monasteries. ¹²

On 19 April, a clash between Light Infantry Battalion 501 and joint forces of TNLA and PDF occurred in northern Kyaukme Township at around 7 pm. During the fighting, the junta army fired at least six artillery shells at Longhkan village in Naungcho Township, Kyaukme District. ¹³

Twenty junta soldiers and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council and a combined force of the The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the PDF in Pekon, Naungcho, Kyaukme and Pinlaung Townships. Over 4,000 locals fled to safer places due to the ongoing battles in Naungcho Township.

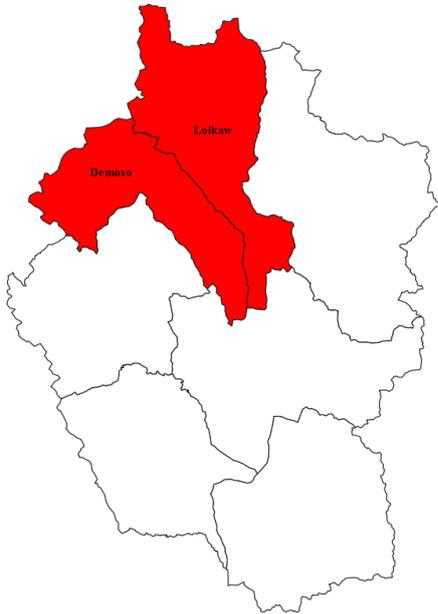


12 Nearly 4,000 people displaced in Naungcho battle
<https://tinyurl.com/2yldv7re>

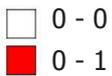
13 Myanmar Army indiscriminately shells with artillery in Kyaukme District
<https://tinyurl.com/2c2utogy>



Karenni (Kayah) State

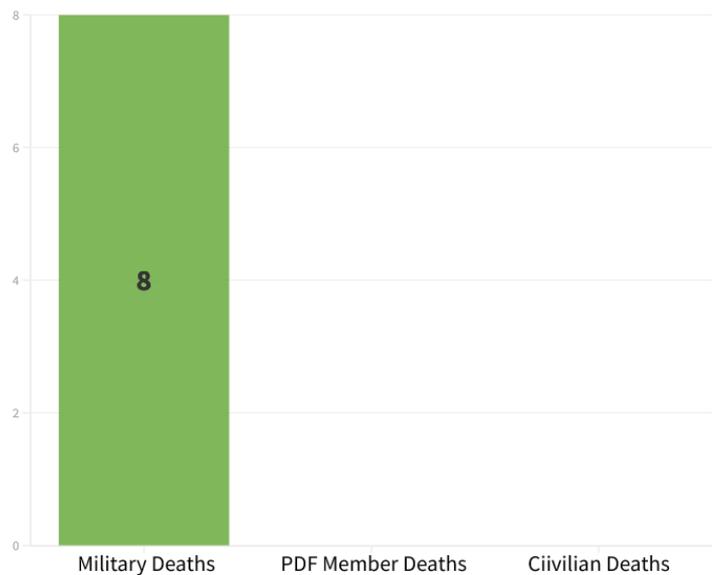


No. of Days of Clashes



Military council troops burned down many items inside houses in eastern Demoso Township while residents were displaced due to intense fighting. ¹⁴

Children, including those under 10 years old, who were displaced in villages in western Demoso Township, are suffering from skin diseases. These children do not receive regular medication for neurocysticercosis, and diarrhea is also occurring among them due to the lack of adequate healthcare. ¹⁵



Eight military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and the Karenni combined force in Loikaw and Demoso Townships.

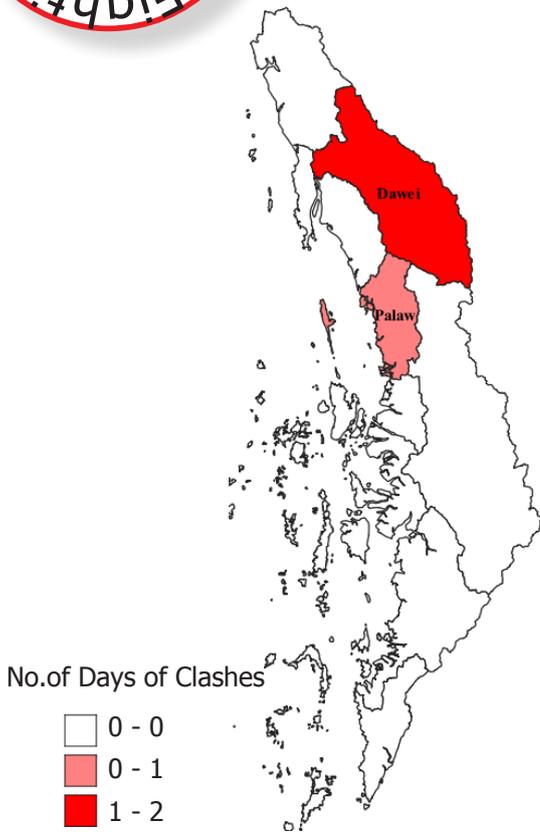
¹⁴ Junta army burns down civilian belongings in eastern Demoso <https://tinyurl.com/223sy3ev>

¹⁵ Displaced children in eastern Demoso suffer skin diseases <https://tinyurl.com/27nns4k9>

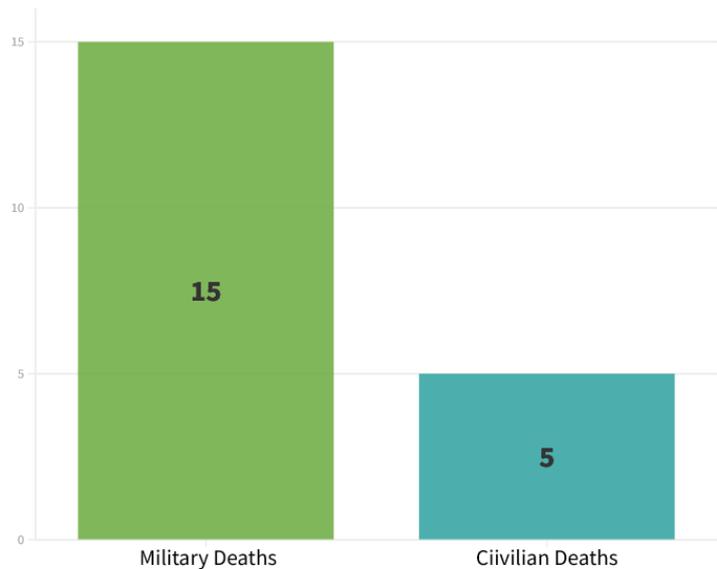
Tanintharyi Region

On 24 April, the regime army abducted more than 20 men from Weayit village in Thayetchaung Township. On 23 April, the army also arrested about 70 locals and assaulted them during interrogation, releasing some but arresting another ten people. ¹⁶

A car bomb explosion occurred near U Myat Lay Park on Kanphyar Road in Myeika on 23 April, killing a woman and a man inside the car. ¹⁷



Fifteen military council soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDFs in Palaw and Dawei Townships. On 22 April, junta soldiers arrested and killed two civilians who will go to Thailand, at Pala gate in Palaw Township. On 23 April, a local was shot dead by the military council soldiers in a rubber plantation near Maryan village in Khamaukgyi Sub-township. On 23 April, a man and a woman were killed in a car bomb explosion near U Myat Lay park on Kanphyar road in Myeik.



¹⁶ Junta army arrests over 20 local men in Thayetchaung
<https://tinyurl.com/2y93glyv>

¹⁷ Two killed in car bomb explosion in Myeik
<https://tinyurl.com/2bgu3om8>



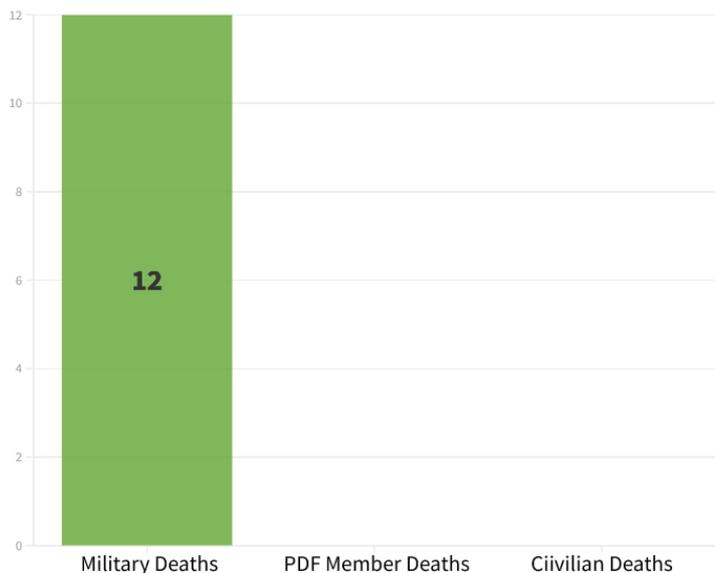
Mon State

Military council troops stationed at Alone Taung in Bilin Township fired artillery shells at Ahlu village on 19 April, causing residents who had returned from displacement to flee again, despite no active fighting in the area. ¹⁸

On 25 April, a bomb was detonated by the PDF in the internal revenue department located in Kantharyar ward on Taungzun-Bilin Road, causing damage to some parts of the building. Following the explosion, junta soldiers conducted searches and inspections in Zokethoke village in the township. ¹⁹



Twelve junta soldiers were killed in the battles between the military council and the PDFs between Thanbyuzayat Township and Ye Township on 23 and 25 April.



¹⁸ Junta shelling forces residents to flee again in Bilin

<https://tinyurl.com/28lnzy56>

¹⁹ Bomb explosion at Bilin revenue office

<https://tinyurl.com/23xtkubl>



Ayeyarwady Region

On 19 April, the junta navy detained 70 Muslims, including 58 men and 12 women who reportedly departed from Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships in Arakan State to work in Malaysia. The navy also detained seven people who brought them, claiming they had entered Ngapudaw Township without documentation. The group was arrested when a travelling motorized boat was inspected on suspicion by the navy.²⁰

On 22 April, the Patheingyi Special Task Force (PSTF) carried out two explosive attacks on the residence of the deputy police chief of the regional police force, located on the corner of Htaung Kone Street and Thitsar Road in Ward 5 of Patheingyi. The attacks prompted regime soldiers to block roads and conduct inspections.²¹

²⁰ 70 Muslims arrested in Ngapudaw
<https://tinyurl.com/2b4ams9u>

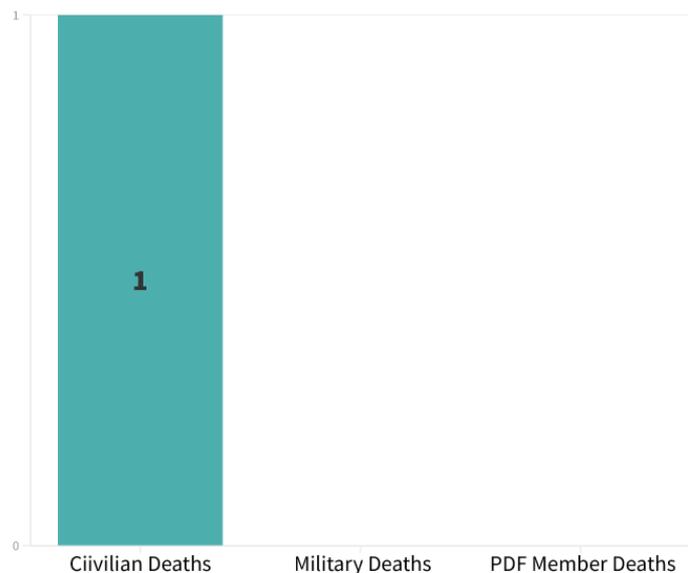
²¹ Deputy Ayeyarwady police chief's house attacked with bombs amid tight security
<https://tinyurl.com/28p2wwjs>

Yangon Region



A 20-year-old mother and two 4-year-old children were injured when an explosion occurred inside the trash cart they were pushing at the corner of Konebaung Road and Hninsi Road in Ward 15, East Dagon Township. The injured individuals, Daw Saw Yu New, Ma Ei Thazin, and Maung Nay Lin Aung, live in a squatter house in Ward 108 and were taken by military council soldiers in an ambulance to No.1 Defense Service General Hospital in Mingaladon.²²

The military regime transferred seven Dagon University students who had been unjustly sentenced to death in Insein Prison to other prisons. These seven students, Ko Thura Maung Maung, Ko Thiha Htet Zaw, Ko Hein Htet, Ko Khant Zin Win, Ko Zaw Lin Naing, Ko Thet Paing Oo, and Ko Khant Lin Maung Maung, were on death row, and four of them were moved to different prisons.²³



On 22 April, retired Lt-Col Sai Kyaw Thu, Deputy Director General of the military-appointed Union Election Commission (UEC) was shot dead by the PDF in South Okkalapa Township in Yangon.

²² Garbage collector family injured in explosion in East Dagon Township
<https://tinyurl.com/28ldpzl8>

²³ Dagon University students on death row moved to different prisons
<https://tinyurl.com/2cyww57o>



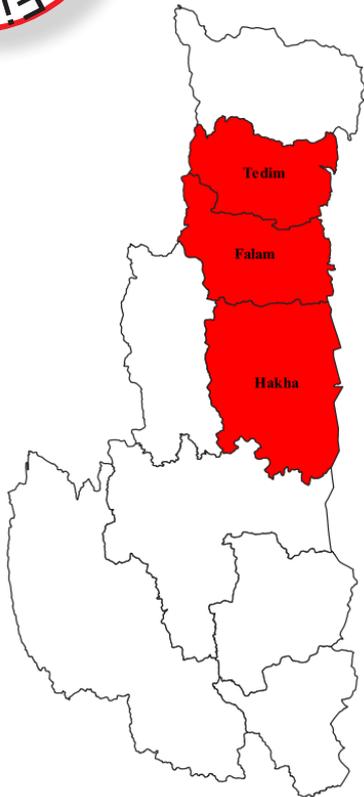
Arakan State

The military council has refused to allow former chief minister of Arakan State, U Nyi Pu, to receive cataract treatment, nearly nine months after he first appealed to the regime. U Nyi Pu had been suffering from a cloudy left eye (even before he was detained), and his family members wrote an appeal to the military council requesting treatment after the eye condition started to become severe in August 2022.²⁴

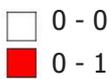
The plaintiff who brought charges against two village administrators from Buthidaung Township under Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Associations Act for alleged ties to the Arakan Army (AA) has not appeared for the court appointment for five months. Captain Nay Lin Oo from the junta army base in Buthidaung initiated the cases against Mee Kyaung Zay village administrator U Armi Hu Hsaung, 59 and Tat Min Chaung village administrator U Kyaw Hla, 62, at Buthidaung Township court.²⁵

²⁴ Former Arakan State chief minister not allowed to receive cataract treatment nine months after request <https://tinyurl.com/28tplosb>

²⁵ Plaintiff failed to appear for five months in cases against two village admins in Buthidaung <https://tinyurl.com/29bwqw5v>



No.of Days of Clashes

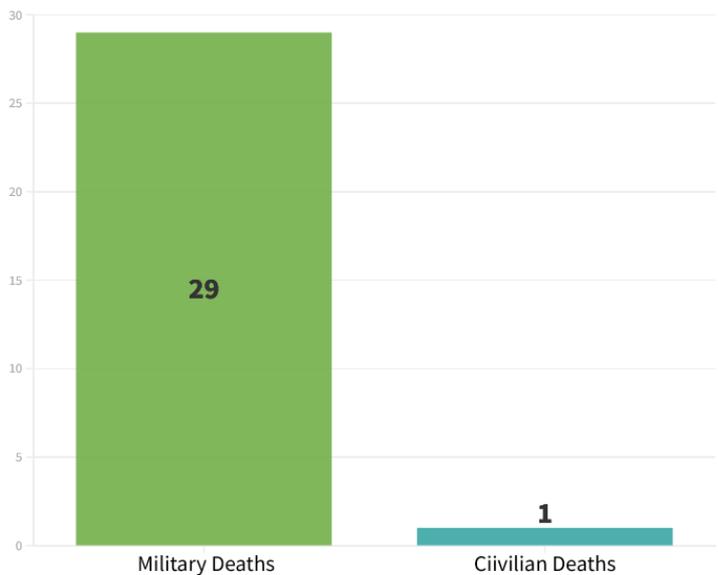


Chin State

On 19 April, a 69-year-old man named Puu Lan Zar Sup was killed on his way to his hillside farm near Rikhawdar town, Falam Township, when he was struck by a landmine. ²⁶

On 22 April, schools and houses were damaged when Infantry Battalion 274, based in Mindat, indiscriminately fired artillery shells at civilian areas. Additionally, on 23 April, the junta army fired artillery shells indiscriminately at the rural administrative unit 2 in Mindat Township with the apparent intention of harming civilians. ²⁷

Twenty-nine military council soldiers were killed between the military council and Chinland Defense Forces (CDFs) in Tedim, Hakha and Falam Townships. On 19 April, a man who went to the farm near Reedkhawdar in Falam Township died as he stepped on a landmine.



26 Two killed, two injured from landmine explosions in five days in Falam <https://tinyurl.com/23qsjn69>

27 Schools, houses damaged in junta's artillery shelling in Mindat <https://tinyurl.com/246wz6hv>

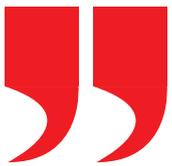
International



Ban Ki-moon, Deputy Chair of The Elders and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, visited Myanmar on 23-24 April 2023, to find a path to an end to violence and establishing a peaceful, democratic, inclusive and legitimate government. The Elders announced on 25 April that Ban Ki-moon met with military leaders in Myanmar and urged to stop violence and implement the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Five-Point Consensus. In addition, he supported the international community's calls for the immediate release by the Myanmar military of all arbitrarily detained prisoners, for constructive dialogue, and for utmost restraint from all parties; and reiterated the strong international condemnation of the recent military air strike in Sagaing Region, which is estimated to have killed more than 160 civilians, including women and children.



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As part of a concerted effort to de-escalate the bloody conflict in Myanmar, expert representatives from countries including Myanmar, which is currently under military rule, India, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and the current ASEAN Chair Indonesia, held a meeting in New Delhi on 25 April. The participants of the meeting expressed a desire for the National Unity Government (NUG) to take part in the dialogue.

The meeting, referred to as "Track 1.5 Dialogue" in diplomatic terms, brought together both formal and informal experts in an attempt to jointly resolve the conflict issues in Myanmar. Organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in response to the increasing number of violent incidents in Myanmar since the military coup, the dialogue was the second round of talks, following the first round held in Bangkok.

The India-hosted meeting prioritized humanitarian aid issues, including the cessation of violence in Myanmar. In addition, the 10 ASEAN member countries unanimously called for an immediate end to the acts of violence by the military council.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, will conduct a visit to Japan from April 19 to 28. The Special Rapporteur will visit Tokyo to meet representatives of the Government of Japan, UN agencies, human rights organisations, Japanese companies, and members of the Myanmar diaspora. He will also visit Kyoto, where he will deliver a lecture at Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

The Special Rapporteur went on to say that Japan is well-placed to provide regional leadership on the crisis in Myanmar and will urge the Government of Japan to leverage this influence to isolate and disempower the brutal military junta.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the number of internally displaced persons in Myanmar has surpassed 1.8 million. Of this number, 1.5 million people were displaced by the conflict and insecurity that arose following the military takeover in February 2021. The statement also notes that heavy fighting, including artillery shelling and repeated airstrikes, continues in various states and regions of the country.

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.