

Weekly News Review

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IEC : A Unique Feature of the Spring Revolution



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Introduction

The Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC) - led by Khu Oo Reh, the current chairman of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) - has proven to be one of the most unique features of the Spring Revolution. The image of the Karenni people has been held up throughout the country in every movement against the military council and its affiliated groups and individuals since the military seized power in a coup on 1 February 2021.

Members of Parliament from Karenni State who won in the 2020 election have also strengthened the Central Committee

Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) - one of the first forces of the Spring Revolution, composed of MPs who won in the 2020 elections. Then, the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) actively cooperates with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), which can be called the vanguard of the Spring Revolution.

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review takes a closer look at the Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC) and the political shifts in Karenni State.

From KSCC to IEC

The Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) was formed on 9 April 2021, with five groups: armed ethnic groups in Karenni State, representatives of political parties, members of the Karenni State Legislative Committee, youth, civil society organizations and public strikes, and representatives of women's organizations. The council announced its four goals: the abolition of the 2008 constitution; the elimination of all forms of tyranny, including military dictatorship; the emergence of a constitution for Karenni State; and the building of a federal democratic union. With 37 members, the KSCC can be considered the largest group in the history of Karenni State.

The KSCC formulated a political roadmap consisting of nine points, and the formation of the IEC on 6 June 2023 was the implementation of point 6. Its formation is in accordance with Article (33-c) of Chapter 5 of the Karenni State Interim Plan, and the Council must operate under the political guidance of the KSCC. (Note - The Interim Plan of Karenni State was adopted on 18 January 2022 and the measures of the plan will be applied from the current revolutionary period until the end of the military dictatorship)

Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) Roadmap
1. Unity and cooperation with stakeholders in the state
2. Collaboration with National Unity Government (NUCC), National Unity Government (NUG), other armed ethnic organizations, and other forces
3. Development and adoption of state's interim plan by members of the state consultative council
4. Reaffirmation of the state interim plan at a conference involving all revolutionary forces within the KSCC
5. Reorganization of the KSCC
6. Formation of a state interim administrative council
7. Clarification of the state interim measures and processes to the public
8. Formulation of preparatory processes for the transition period
9. Formulation of processes to amend the constitution of Karenni State for the establishment of a federal democratic union

What is IEC?

The Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC) has three objectives: "To carry out the executive functions of the interim state government through collective leadership; To ensure check and balance between legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and to bring about peace and stability within Karenni State; To enhance closer and practical cooperation with the different revolutionary forces located in Karenni State."

Five objectives of Interim Executive Council of Karenni State (IEC)
1. To implement the administration of Karenni State in accordance with the state Interim Plan
2. To protect lives and property of the people and to fulfill fundamental needs of the people
3. To systematically develop measures for the rule of law and the interim period in accordance with the guidelines
4. To become a member of the federal union that guarantees human rights, democracy, national equality and self-determination
5. To initiate and implement an administrative system that corresponds to the right of self-determination of a member state of the Federal Union

The IEC was initially formed with six councilors and is expected to have at least 12 departments of state affairs. It is tasked with protecting the lives and property of the people, providing public services, and meeting the basic needs of the people, including education, health, food, and other basic needs. It will also have to manage existing police stations and prisons to uphold and promote the rule of law. The IEC also announced that it will engage with forces abroad and collaborate with the CRPH, NUCC and NUG, which are working to establish a federal democratic union.

The IEC's core values are national equality, justice and self-determination. After the formation of the new Karenni State government with self-determination, the IEC will then be dissolved within a set period of time, the IEC said in its introductory announcement on 12 June 2023.

Review

The Karenni State Interim Plan was drafted and approved by the KSCC to ensure the implementation of the administration, legislative and judicial branches of the Interim State, as stated in Chapter (8) of the Federal Democratic Charter Part (2), which was approved by the First People's Conference of the NUCC. Moreover, the formation of the IEC with the six steps of the nine-point roadmap is a proof of the unity and strong cooperation of the forces of the Spring Revolution.

Even before the 2021 military coup, Karenni State had a large number of armed groups, although it is small in area. Armed groups that had broken away from the KNPP and concluded ceasefires with the military governments, such as the State Law and Order Restoration Council and the State Peace and Development Council, transformed into either Border Guard Forces (BGF) or people's militias.



The lack of major conflict among the armed groups is also a unique feature of the Spring Revolution forces in Karenni State.



After the 2021 coup, various armed groups such as the People's Defence Forces (PDF), Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) battalions, Karenni Revolution Union (KRU), Karenni Generation Z, and Falcom Wings (drone force) began armed resistance to the military coup in the state.

The lack of major conflict among the armed groups is also a unique feature of the Spring Revolution forces in Karenni State. The KNDF-consisting of 22 battalions-operates in full accord with the KNPP/KA military leadership, while Khun Bi Hto, the chairman of the KNDF, serves as vice chairman in the IEC.

Although Karenni State's roadmap still has three stages, the formation of the IEC clearly demonstrates one of the characteristics of the Spring Revolution. In addition to the IEC's five goals, it can also take responsibility for women and children, humanitarian assistance and internally displaced persons, education and health, civil servants participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), human rights violations and reparations, and people with disabilities and the elderly.

In addition, in the formation of administrative regions and their implementation in Karenni State, there may be coordination with the administrative bodies of ethnic armed groups that have long existed in the state. Since issues such as the reorganisation of regional security and defence and reconciliation are particularly sensitive, the leadership capacity of the KSCC and IEC is critical. Therefore, the formation of the Karenni State Interim Executive Council (IEC) is not only one of the most unique features of the Spring Revolution, but also exemplary for other federal entities in the country.



Displaced pregnant mothers in need of medical care in Kachin's Shwegu

14 June 2023

Displaced pregnant mothers in southeastern Shwegu Township, Banmaw District, Kachin State, are in need of medical assistance, according to reports.

Among the displaced people from 12 villages in Shwegu Township, including Manwein, Naunglattgyi, Namlang, Sithar and neighbouring villages, there are about 50 pregnant mothers. Some of them have had to give birth in the forests while fleeing and need medical assistance, a midwife from Manwein told Kachin News Group.

“In the past few months, I’ve helped four of them give birth. They had to give birth in the forests under difficult conditions.



Those who had to give birth in the forests fleeing the war are in urgent need of medical supplies, while the pregnant women also need vaccines.



They had no proper shelter in the forest. Those who could afford went to the city to give birth. Those who live in the forests have to do so at the risk of their lives," she said.

The midwife went on to say that those who had to give birth in the forests fleeing the war are in urgent need of medical supplies, while the pregnant women also need vaccines.

The Myanmar army began its advance into southeastern Shwegu after 20 March. The regime's troops were ambushed by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the People's Defence Forces (PDF), after which the regime's troops set fire to 12 villages in the area, forcing residents to flee to safety.

Although displaced pregnant mothers from the 12 villages received vaccinations at the Sithar rural hospital prior to their displacement, they were unable to receive further vaccinations due to a shortage of nurses at the hospital, said one pregnant mother.

"Since March, when our villages were destroyed, we haven't been able to get vaccinated. Mothers with three-month-old babies have to get vaccinated two months in a row. As a reserve midwife, I don't administer the vaccine. Only the nurses do that, but none of them are in the hospital now," she said.

Local residents say they currently have no access to hospitals or clinics, and even those who can afford have difficulty reaching Shwegu town, more than ten miles away.

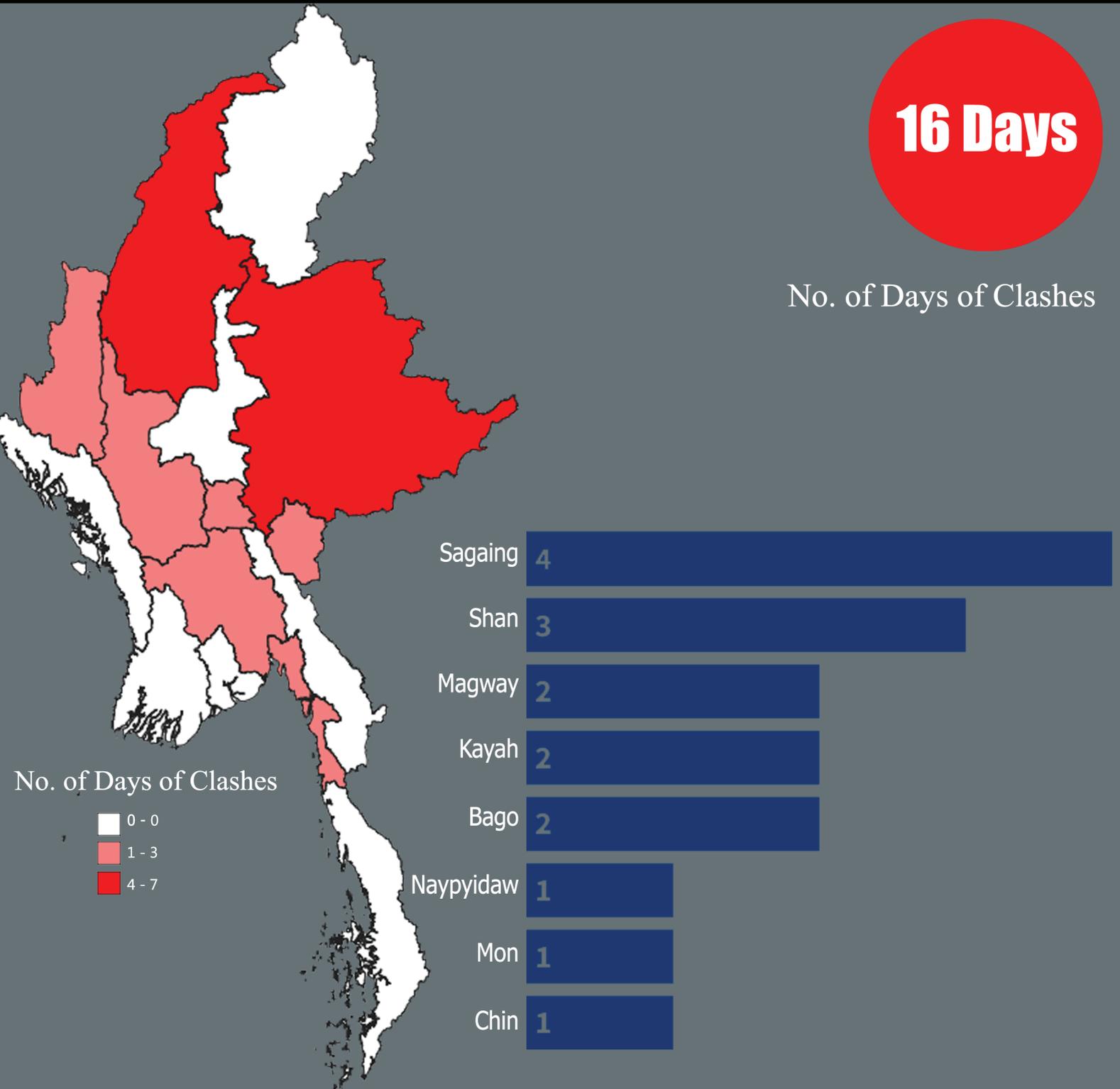
"There are no nurses here. The hospital has been closed for a long time. So we have difficulties. Many pregnant mothers haven't yet given birth. Those who can afford go to the city. Those who can't afford stay here and take the medicines they think are good," said a pregnant mother from Sithar village.

Although expectant mothers are supposed to be vaccinated twice after four months of pregnancy, some displaced pregnant women haven't even been vaccinated at all.

Part II

What Happened This Week

According to the Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 16 days of clashes between the military council troops, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 7 to 13 June. Sagaing Region topped the list of clashes in regions and states, with four days. The number of clashes may be higher than that as our BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor records the clashes in townships by day.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

7 - 13 June 2023



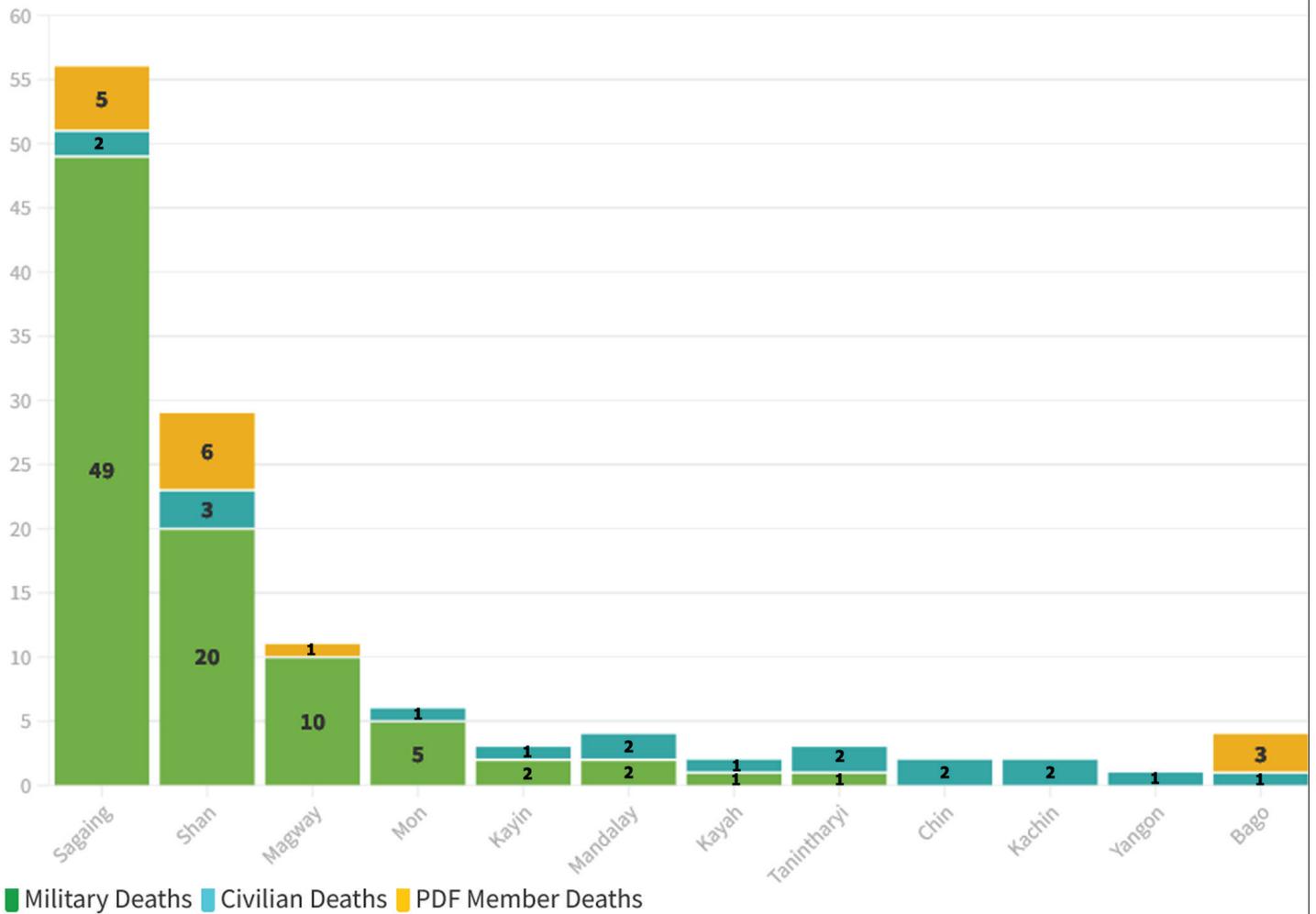
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths

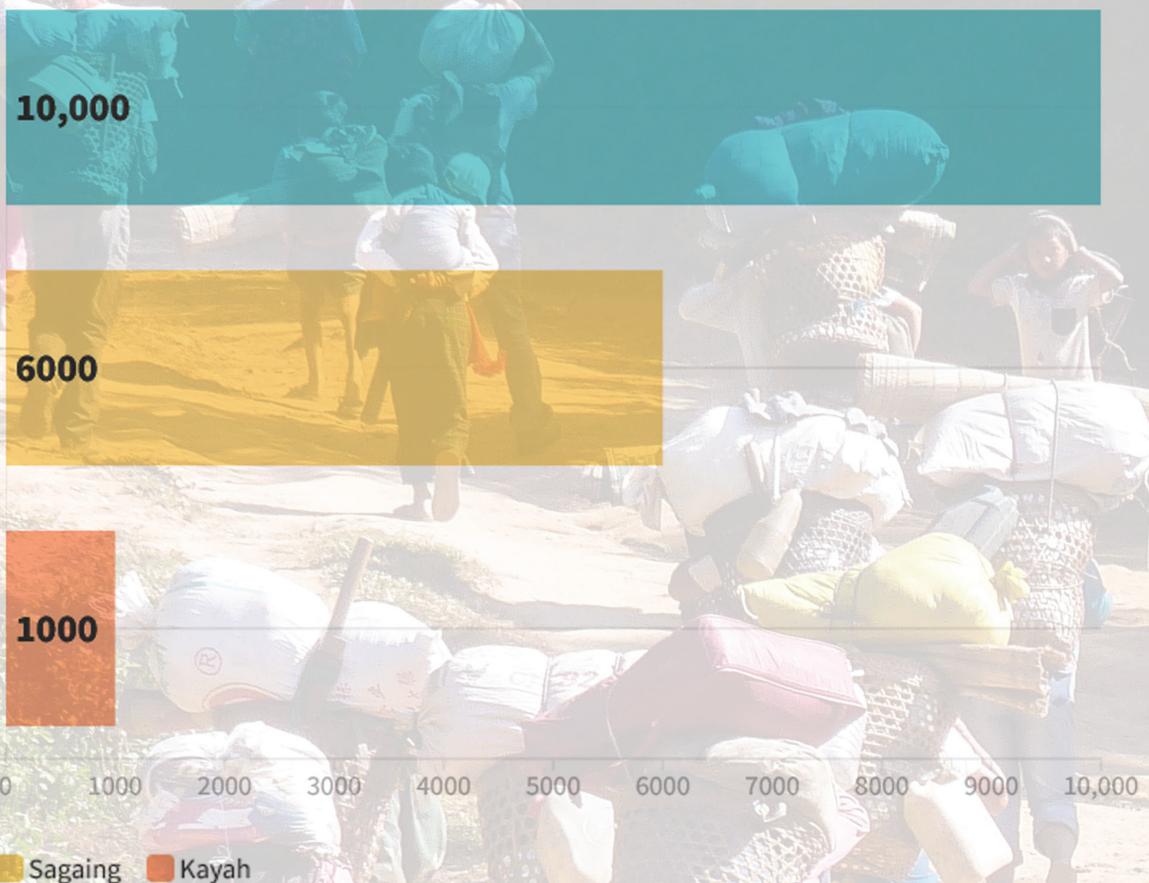


Civilian Deaths



17000

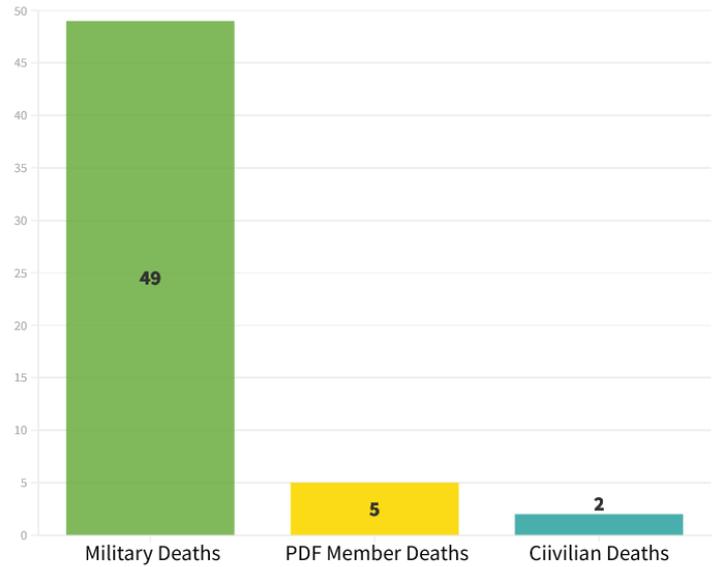
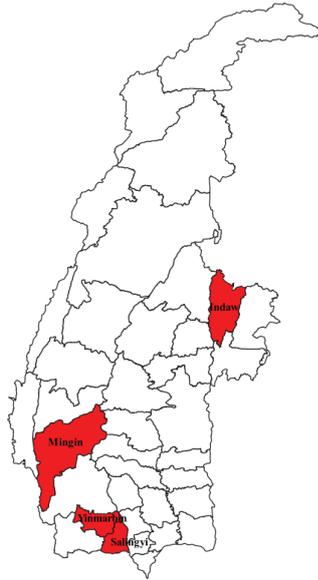
Total Number of IDPs (7 - 13 June 2023)



Total no of days of clashes

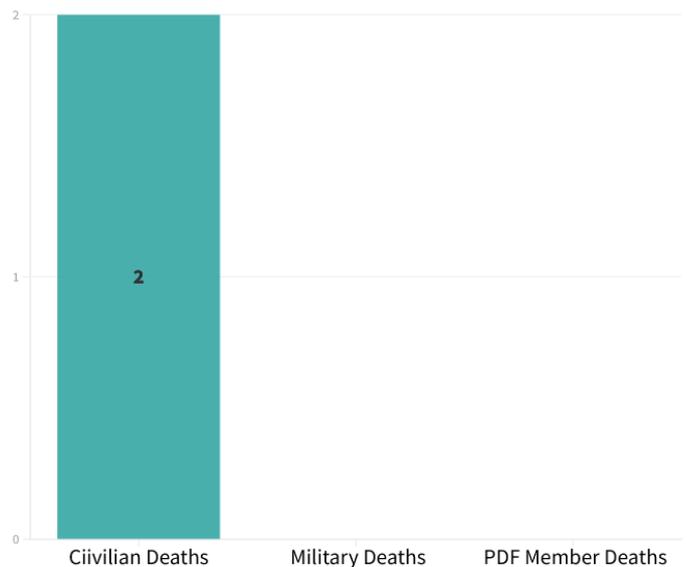
4 Days

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



Sagaing Region

Twenty-two military council soldiers and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs in Indaw, Minkin, Yinmarbin and Salingyi Townships. In addition, 27 military council soldiers were killed in a mine attack in Sagaing and Shwebo Townships. On 7 June, soldiers from No.508 Artillery Force located near Kyauksitpone village in Monywa Township entered Yaykansu village burned four PDF members and two locals to death and destroyed a PDF camp. In addition, more than 6,000 locals from Pale, Salingyi and KhinU Townships have fled for safety due to the military council’s offensive.



Kachin State

On 8 June, one logistics man was killed in the military council’s shooting and two others got arrested in Hpakant. On 9 June, U Kyaw Swe, Lonekhin village-tract administrator was shot dead by an unknown armed force in Hpakant Township.

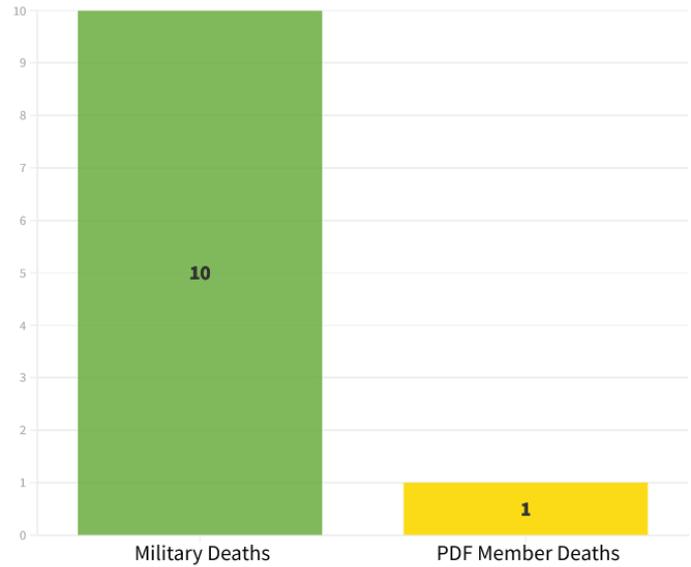
Total no of days of clashes

2 Days

No. of Days of Clashes

□ 0 - 0

■ 0 - 1



Magway Region

Eight military council soldiers and one PDF member were killed in the battles between the military council army and the PDFs in Htilin and Myaing Townships. Two military council soldiers were killed in a mine attack on the military column standing guard over a military ration convoy by the PDF members on 7 June.

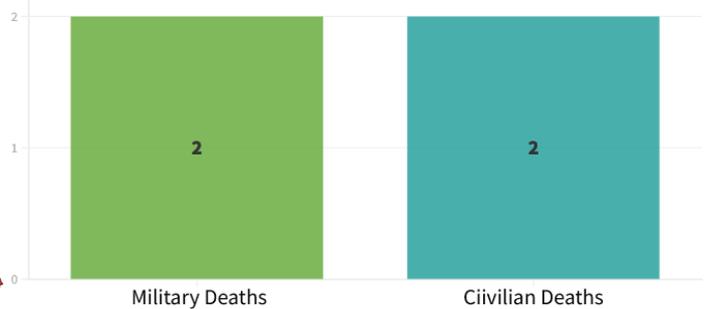
Total no of days of clashes

1 Day

No. of Days of Clashes

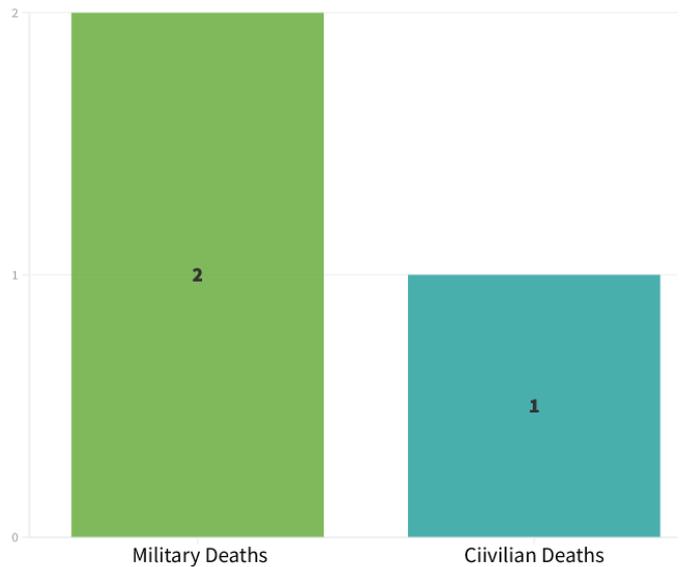
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Mandalay Region

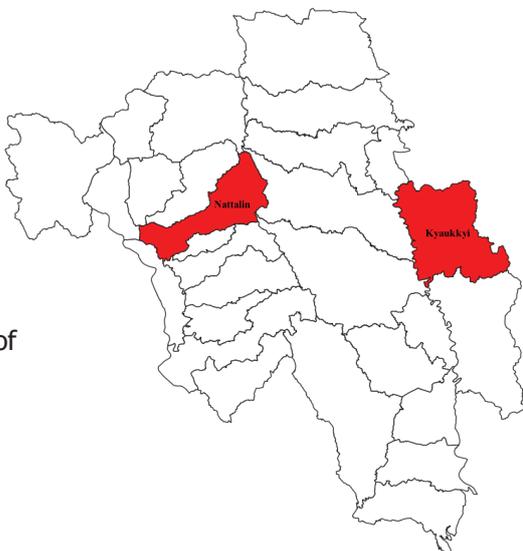
On 9 June, U Soe Win, Bokone village administrator in Madaya Township was shot dead by an unknown armed force. On 9 June, the body of a 60-year-old man hanging a red card reading the path of the extremists, was found beside Mandalay-Madaya railroad between Taungpyone village and Thalunphyu village in Madaya Township. On 10 June, two military council soldiers leaving Kyi village to Simeekhone in Myingyan Township were shot dead by the PDF. On 12 June, the PDF attacked the military council's inspection gate on Mway Hauk Myaung pagoda hill in Pynmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.



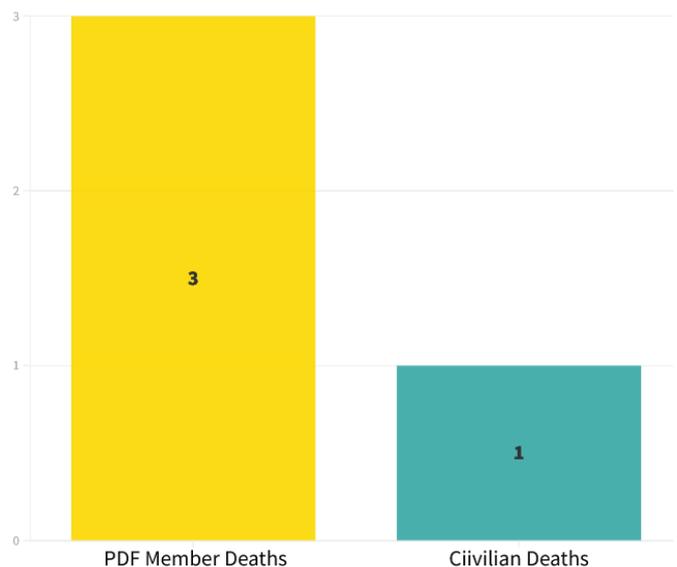
Karen State

On 8 June, two military council soldiers were killed and four others wounded in the drone attacks on Township Hall (aka) Zami Hall in Kyarinseikgyi Township by a combined force of the KNLA, the Special Operation Force (SOF) and the Cloud Wings Drone Force. The military council's shelling killed a 12-year-old child and wounded two family members in Ywardanshae village in the southern part of Kawkareik Township.

Total no of days of clashes
2 Days



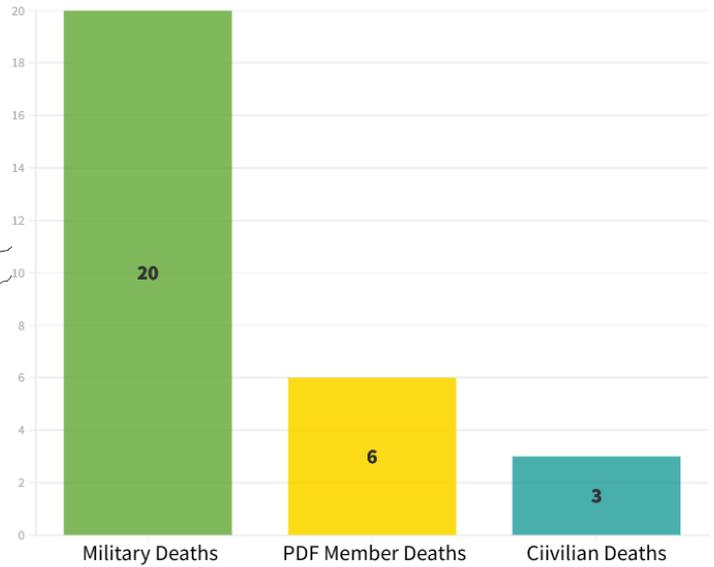
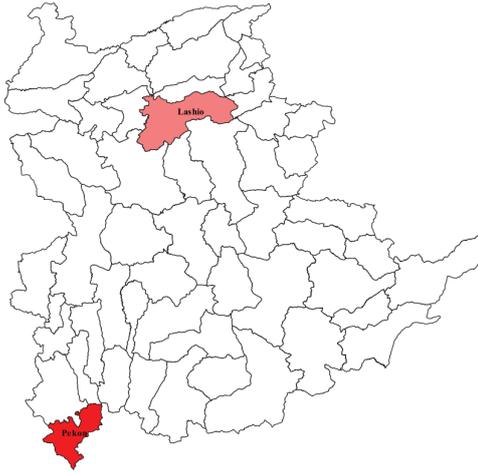
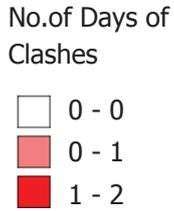
No. of Days of Clashes
 □ 0 - 0
 ■ 0 - 1



Bago Region

Three PDF members were killed in the clashes between the military council army and a combined force of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs) in Kyaukkyi and Nattalin Townships. On 9 June, the head of Kyaukkyi Agriculture Department was killed and four others wounded in a time bomb attack on the Kyaukkyi Township General Administration Department by a combined force of the KNLA and the PDF.

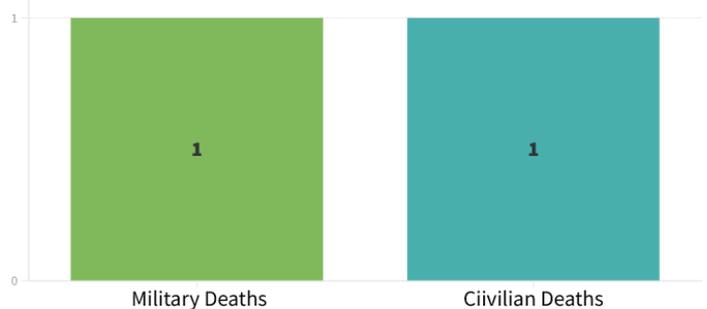
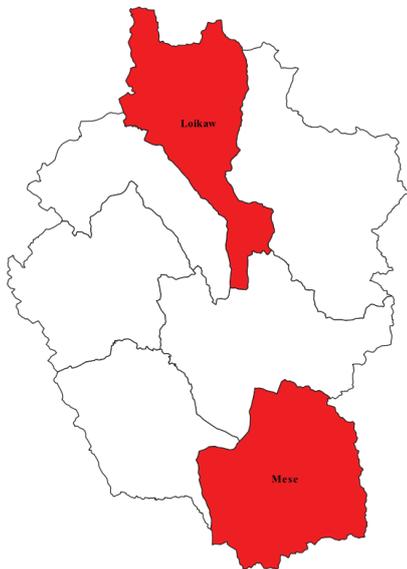
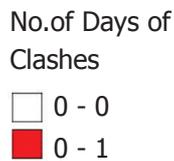
Total no of days of clashes
3 Days



Shan State

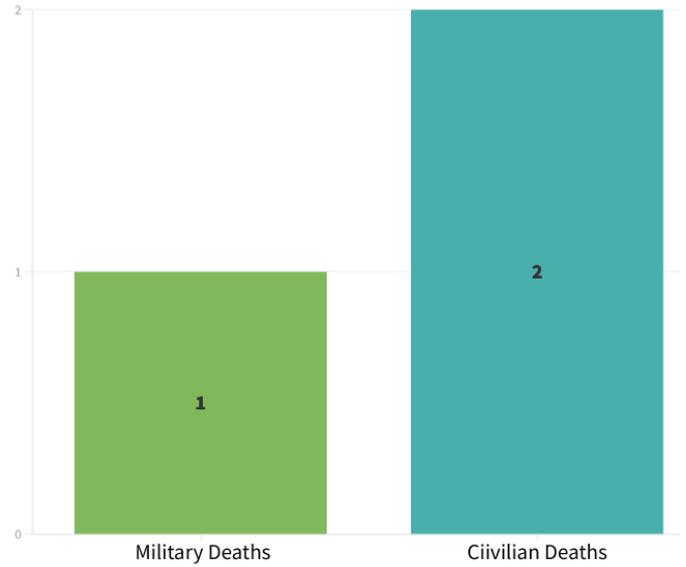
Twenty military council soldiers and six PDF members were killed in the battles between the military council army, the PDFs and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Lashio and Pekon Townships. On 11 June, the heavy shell hit and killed a woman in the battle between the military council army and the MNDAA. On 8 June, two men were shot dead by the military council soldiers in the compound of a house in Sikar ward in Moebye, for no apparent reason.

Total no of days of clashes
2 Days



Kayah (Karenni) State

One junta soldier was killed in the battles between the military council army and the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) in Mese and Loikaw Townships. On 13 June, more than 1,000 locals and IDPs fled to safer places due to the battles near Mese Township. On 8 June, the heavy shell fired by the military council without any battle, landed in Lwalwein village in Bawlakhe Township. This shelling hit and killed a 29-year-old man.



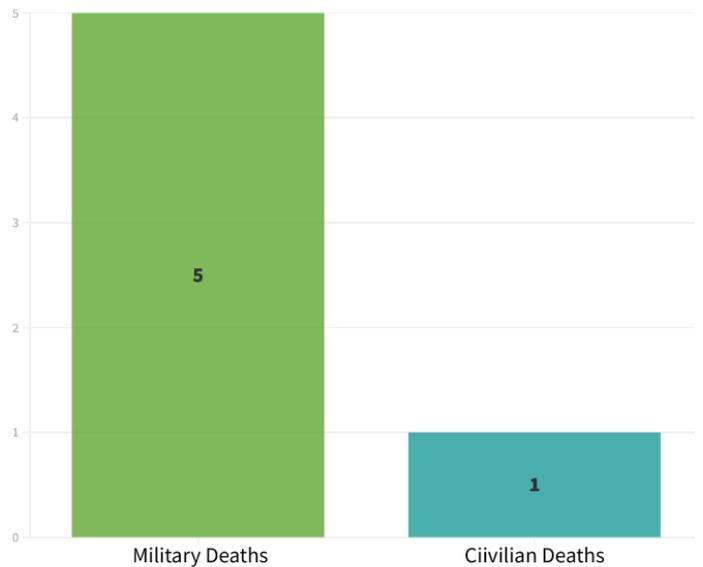
Tanintharyi Region

On 7 June, the military council’s artillery shelling killed a man and seriously wounded a woman in Minhtein village in Palaw Township. More than 10,000 locals have fled for safety as the military council has been conducting an offensive in Thayetchaung Township since 8 June. On 11 June, Ko Wai Yan Hein, a 23-year-old IDP, was killed in the military council’s shooting when he returned to his home in RaNge village in Thayetchaung Township to bring medicine for her mother. On 12 June, one military council soldier was killed and six others seriously wounded in a mine attack near Theindaw village in Tanintharyi Township.

Total no of days of clashes
1 Day



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



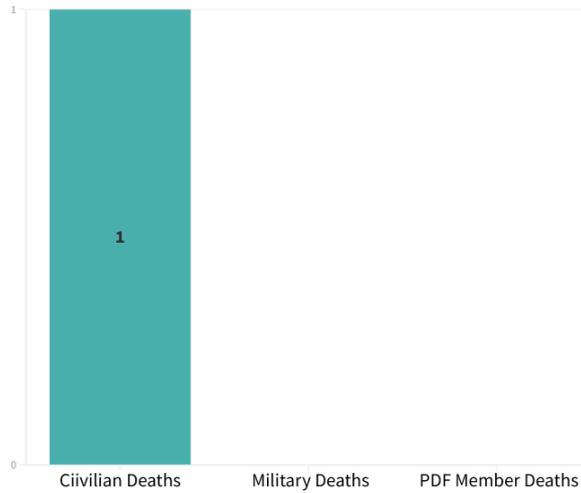
Mon State

On 7 June, fighting took place between the military council army and a combined force of the KNLA and the PDF in Thaton Township, killing five military council soldiers. On 8 June, the shell fired by the military council’s artillery base exploded and killed a woman in Hnitkayin village in Ye Township.



Yangon Region

On 7 June, U Than Myint, the eldest brother of U Aung Kyaw Moe who is an advisor to the Ministry of Human Rights of the National Unity Government (NUG) was killed by an unknown group at around 11 pm on 7 June. U Than Myint, 45, was stabbed to death more than 500 yards away from his home in Dawbon Township.

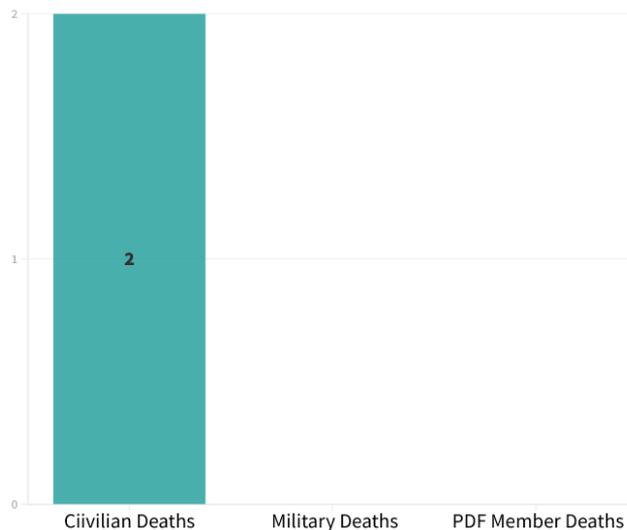


Total no of days of clashes
1 Day



Chin State

On 12 June, there was a clash between the military council army and the combined Chinland Defense Forces (CDF) in Hakha Township. Among the IDPs displaced by the military council's offensive in Matupi Township since early June, a seven-day-old child and a 60-year-old woman died of sickness



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



On 12 June, Myanmar American youth and California lawmakers met at a Burma Day event at the state building in Sacramento, the capital of the state of California, USA. The meeting aims to inform the Americans about the democracy activities in Myanmar. It was attended by California State Senator Dave Cortese and Ben Allen.

Dr. Doug Jackson, President and CEO of Project C.U.R.E, the world's largest provider of medical supplies to developing countries based in the US, vice presidents Kristofer Anderson and Deborah Johns met with Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, Union Minister of Health under the National Unity Government (NUG), at the International Headquarters of Project C.U.R.E. in Denver city, Colorado State in the United States of America, to discuss the donation of medicine and medical supplies to Myanmar.

At the meeting, they expressed their understanding and sympathy for the sufferings of various ethnic groups in Myanmar. The Project C.U.R.E. said that it will help the Myanmar people as much as possible.

In a report released on 12 June by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) based in Norway, over 6,337 civilians were killed and over 2,614 others wounded during 20 months of the military coup in Myanmar till 30 September, 2022. The number described in the statement is significantly higher than the number released by international organizations including the United Nations.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) issued a statement on 10 June, saying that it decided not to allow



The leaders of Malaysia and Indonesia urged Myanmar's military junta to implement the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) plan established by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to end the violence and conflict in Myanmar.



representatives from Myanmar to attend the 111th Conference of ILO to be held in Geneva of Switzerland from 5 and 17 June. The military council's Labour Minister U Pwint Hsan and the NUG's Labour Minister Nai Thuwunna proposed to attend the conference on 9 and 14 May, respectively.

A report released on June 8 by the Justice for Myanmar stated that an Israeli company continues to export military equipment to the Myanmar military, despite the ban from Western countries, including the United States and the European Union.

The weapons are manufactured by the Israeli military equipment company CAA Industries. The intermediary group that bought these items was the Star Sapphire Group, which had previously acted as a broker between Israeli defense contractors and the Myanmar military group, according to the report. In addition, CAA Industries is responsible for respecting international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as for preventing or mitigating negative impacts under international business and human rights standards. The Justice for Myanmar has called for an immediate end to cooperation with the Myanmar military, including the export and sale of military equipment and accessories.

On 8 June, Human Rights Watch (HRW) warned that many lawyers have stopped accepting cases as military council soldiers have harassed and imprisoned the lawyers who are assisting the political prisoners in the military-controlled courts.

The leaders of Malaysia and Indonesia urged Myanmar's military junta to implement the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) plan established by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to end the violence and conflict in Myanmar. The statement came during Indonesian President Joko Widodo's two-day official visit to Malaysia on 7 and 8 June, where he held meetings with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The two sides discussed recent developments in Myanmar and expressed concern over the ongoing violence in 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.