

# Weekly News Review

Issue 109, 14 - 20 June 2023



**Flower strike movement  
which alarms the junta**

# Flower strike movement which alarms the junta

## Introduction

By honouring the birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19 June, the people joined the "flower strike" as a revolutionary movement against the junta together with the forces of the Spring Revolution. Starting on 15 June, the slogan of "To reach the goal, dear flower Baydar, make an effort and endeavour," had spread all over the country. Sagaing Region Monywa People's Strike Leading Committee explained that it called for the flower strike movement with many reasons such as honouring State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and forcibly-detained monks, students and the people and showing the dignity of women who have been active in revolutionary history, including the current Spring Revolution. We will put new flowers in the vases and decorate and hang flowers indoors and outdoors and in front of every house in order to reflect the image of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is often seen together with flowers by the people of the

world and the people of Myanmar. We will organize the flower strike campaign online and offline. All the people moving forever on the roads will wear flowers on their heads and chests. We will develop a variety of flower-related activities with their own intelligence and innovation, the committee announced.

Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor's weekly news review for this week highlights the flower strike movement, in which all the people from urban and rural areas participated and the military council's restrictions and arrests.

## Colorful flower strike movements

The Sagaing Region Tanze Anti-Junta Protest Column and locals jointly held a flower strike on 19 June, carrying cotton banners reading: "Flying revolutionary flowers, Women's strength". The Monywa University Students' Union and the Lepandaungtaung Main Strike Column held a flower strike in cooperation with local people from three villages in Salin Township and honour Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by singing famous singer Khin Maung Toe's song titled "Khun Arr Phya Mi Nge". People from various villages in Pale Township also held a flower strike to root out the dictator by praying for the good health of all detained heroes, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Male and female comrades of Magway District No.1 Battalion, Magway Region No.1 military area, who are fighting against the junta, participated in the flower strike by wearing roses on their heads. Male and female comrades of Thabeikkyin People's Defense Force (PDF) from Mandalay Region under the National Unity Government (NUG) participated in the flower strike movement by honouring the people's leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all detained political prisoners. Comrades from Pakokku District Battalion No.10 participated in the flower strike movement by wearing roses on their chests.



*Photo-Magway District-1 Battalion*

In Welet Township, Sagaing Region, local children gathered together to celebrate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday and held a flower strike, which was led by the Welet Township Public Strike Leading Committee. Along with the flower strike by the displaced students in Depayin Township, the S&C Assistance Group for fire and war hazards and education provided nutritional donations with vermicelli soup.

The revolutionary forces in Yangon hung a cotton banner reading "We Miss You" on a pedestrian overpass as a celebration of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday amid tight security.



Mr. Christian Lechervy, Ambassador of France to Myanmar, also participated in the flower strike to commemorate the birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and demanded the unconditional release of all political prisoners detained since the coup. The European Union (EU) took part in the flower strike by replacing its Facebook cover with the photo of various flowers, including roses.

We have seen hundreds of collective movements to honour the 78th Birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in areas like Sagaing and Magway Regions where the junta has lost territorial controls. In the big cities like Yangon and Mandalay, the people participated in the guerrilla flower strikes in their own ways. It was recorded that there were many people participating in the flower strike by uploading the photos with flowers and recorded video files with birthday wishes on social media.

## Flower strike which alarms the junta

It is surprising to see that the flower strike movement across the country on 19 June greatly alarmed the junta. In particular, the junta soldiers chased, arrested, beat and scolded the persons who wore, sold and held the flowers.

Junta soldiers arrested 50 women and nearly 30 men for allegedly organizing a flower strike in Mawlamyinegyun of Ayeyarwady Region. Junta soldiers entered and searched the houses at Ward No.9, 10 and 11 in Mawlamyinegyun.<sup>1</sup>

Police and soldiers arrested around 40 women who wore and sold flowers at the crowded areas of the city, including Myoma market in Kalay of Sagaing Region.<sup>2</sup>



Military council soldiers arrested 28 women and one man for participating in the flower strike in Kamayut, Pabedan and Tamwe Townships in Yangon. Military council soldiers also arrested Daw Sandar Myint and two men who returned from Yamaethin prison

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1 Nearly 80 people who were arrested for allegedly organizing a flower strike released in Mawgyun <http://rb.gy/e5hpk>

2 Around 40 women wearing flowers arrested in Kalay. <http://rb.gy/3ix5h>



The junta has reached a situation where it cannot accept even the flower strike movement in which women wear the flowers.



in Mandalay Region after the prison visit by accusing them of participating in the flower strike.

It is said that the junta, which relies on weapons to oppress and restrict the people throughout the country, is afraid of even the flower strike commemorating Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday. Across the country, more than 150 people, mostly women, have been arrested for allegedly participating in the flower strike on 19 June.

## Review

Throughout the Spring Revolution period, this flower strike is the second movement. On 19 June, 2021, on the 76th birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a similar flower strike was held to show opposition to the junta. It can be said that the flower strike movement was able to give some kind of fear to the junta that seized power using weapons just by looking at the use of various methods such as the arrests and threatening of women who wear flowers to commemorate the 78th birthday of State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

This flower strike is to commemorate the birthday of State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to honour all those who were forcibly arrested by the junta. It depicts the dignity of women who have been active in the history of revolution, including the current Spring Revolution. In addition, it is one of the methods of non-violent peaceful demonstrations against the junta that was used throughout the Spring Revolution.

The junta, which is committing inhumane acts such as arsons, mass killings and airstrikes every day, every time and everywhere, has reached a situation where it cannot accept even the flower strike movement in which women wear the flowers. It is considered that the junta is afraid of any movement of the people against its coup attempt.

## Weekly Highlight Quotes



Our children and young people have become less interested in education because we have been staying in the IDP camp for a long time. They don't want to go to the schools opened by the military council. They can't afford to go to the places opened by the church. They face such kinds of difficulties. Bushes are thick as it's been a long time since we returned home. If you go back, you have to start from the beginning. We are doing small-scale plantations for our livelihood. I really want to go back if the politics is good.

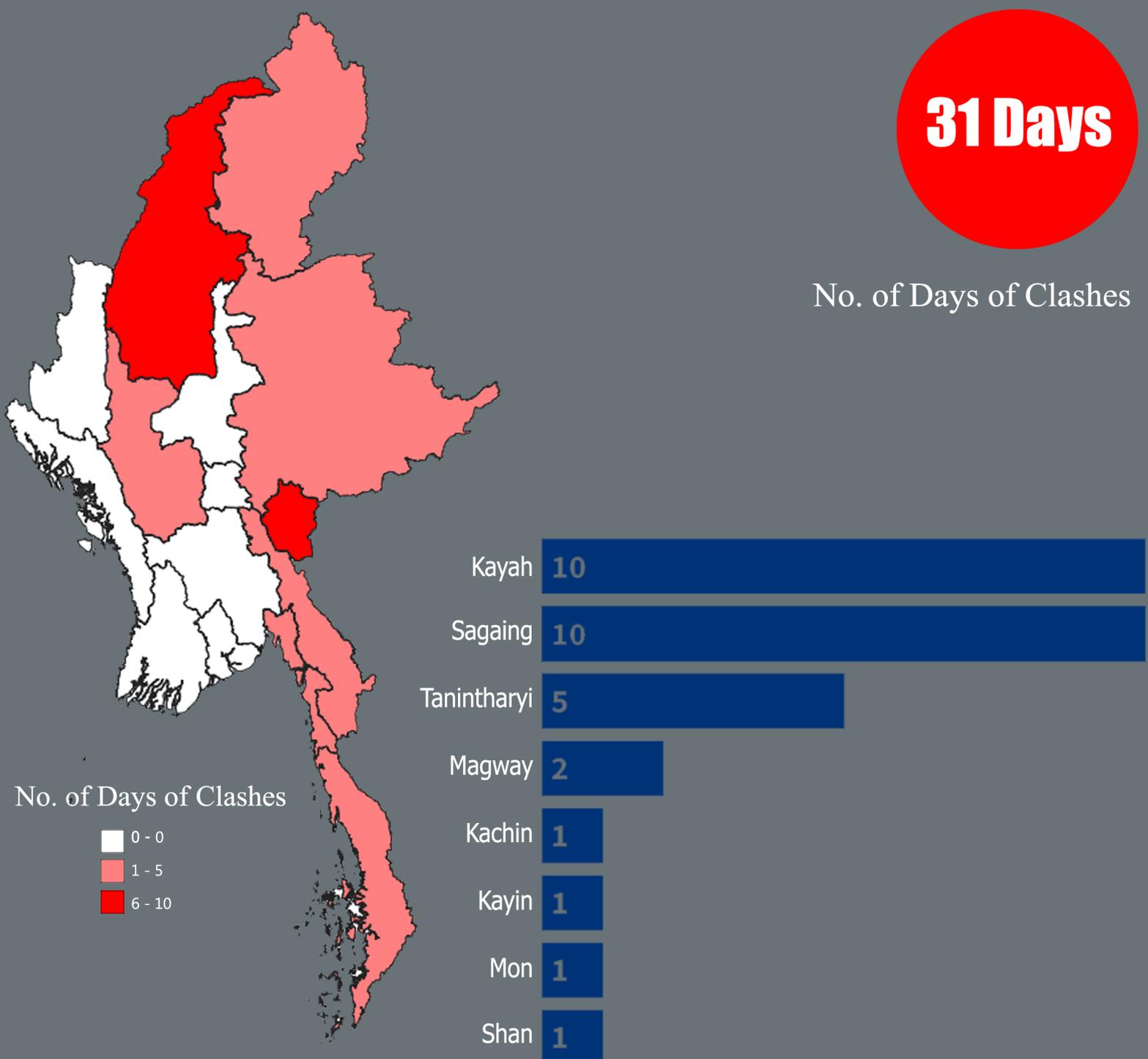


A woman from Namphatkar IDP camp in Kutkai Township.  
*(An excerpt from the different voices of female IDPs in Kachin State, which appeared on the BNI-MPM).*

# Part II

## What Happened This Week

According to data collected by BNI- Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 31 days of clashes between military council forces, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 14 to 20 June. Broken down by state and region, Karenni (Kayah) State and Sagaing Region topped the list each with 10 days. MPM records the situation of fighting in terms of days, by township, but the actual number of incidents may be higher given the frequency of clashes.



# Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

14 - 20 June 2023



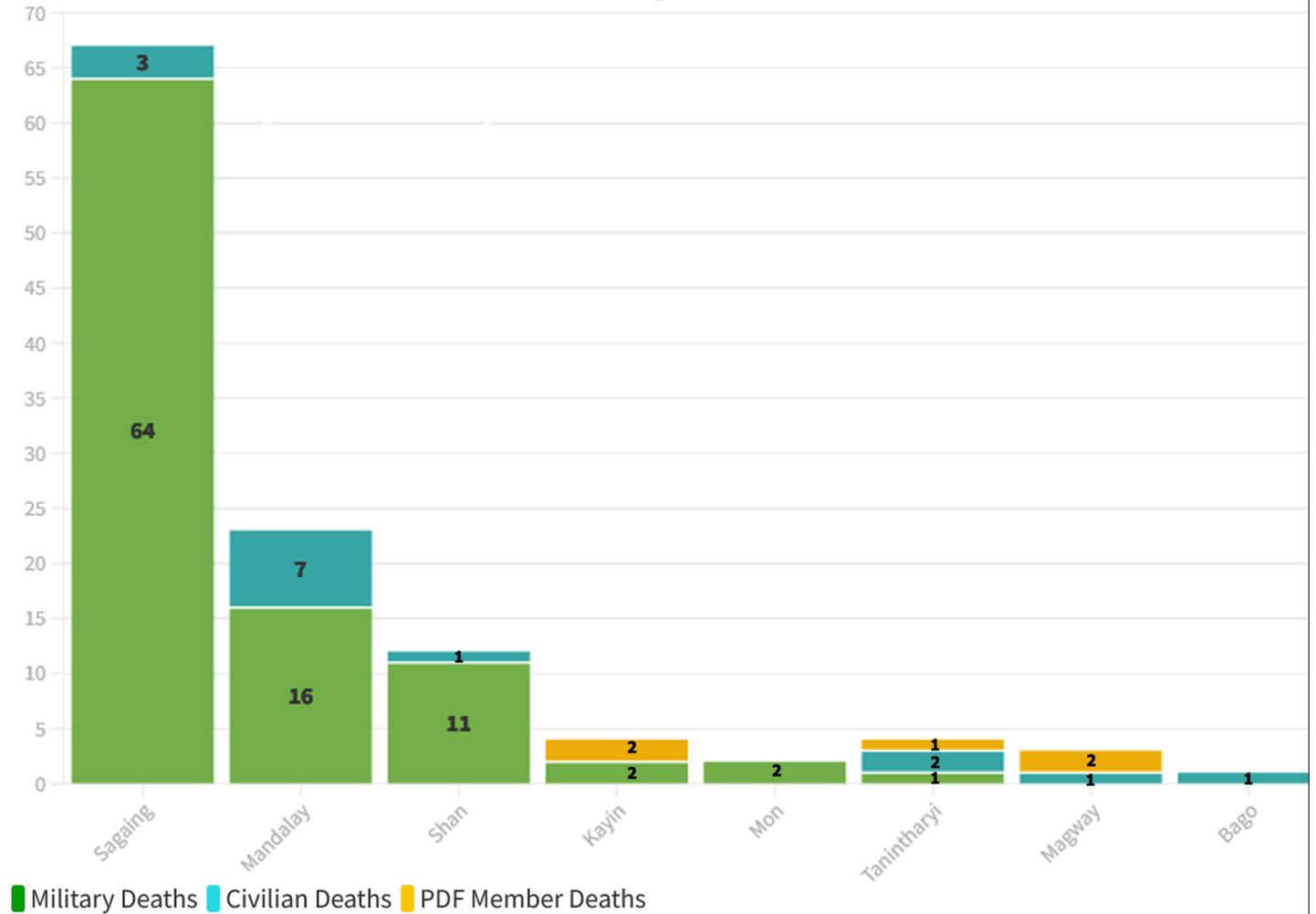
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths



**56100**

**Total Number of IDPs (14 - 20 June 2023)**

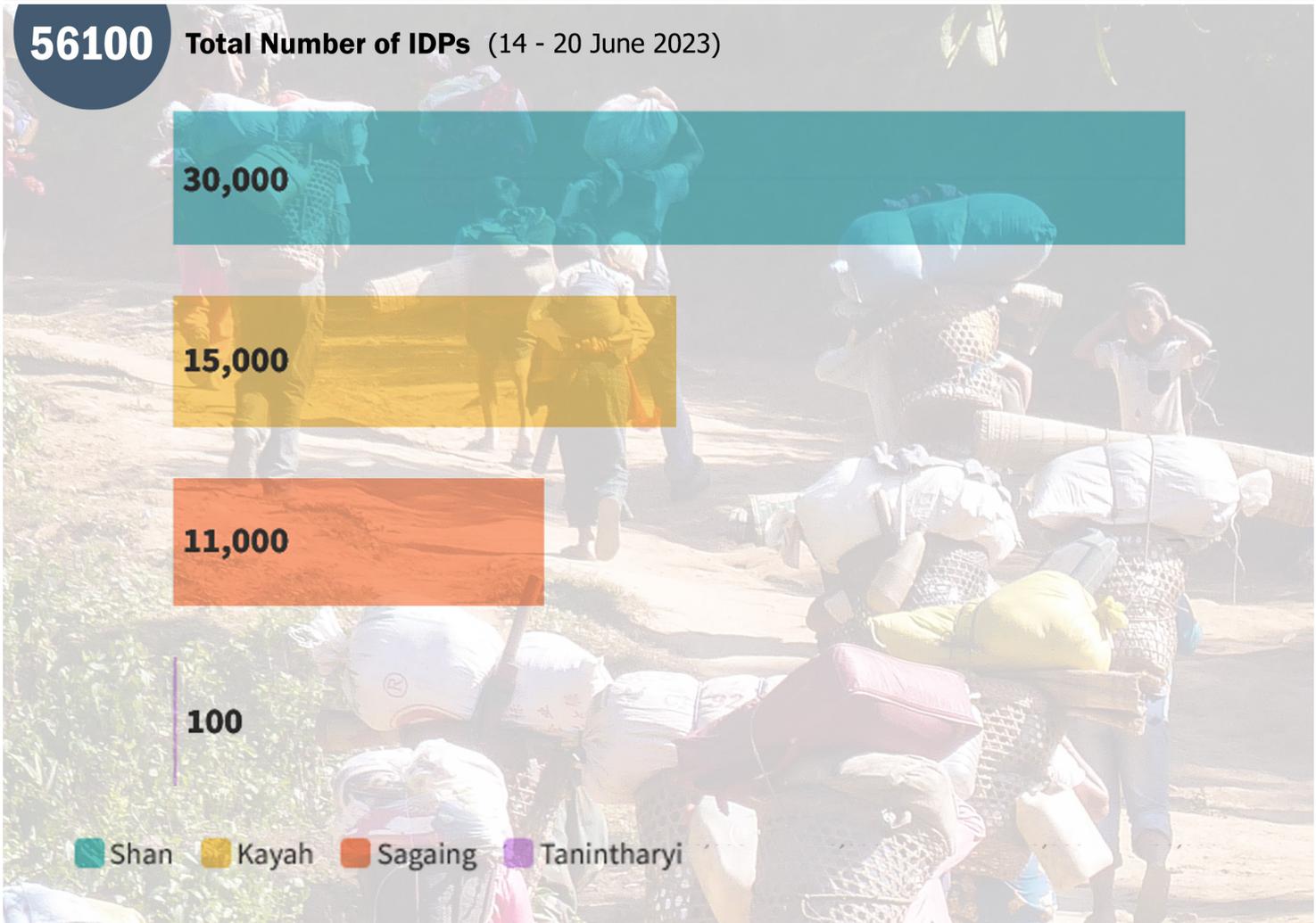
**30,000**

**15,000**

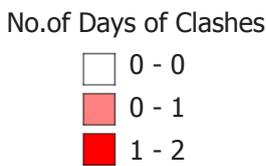
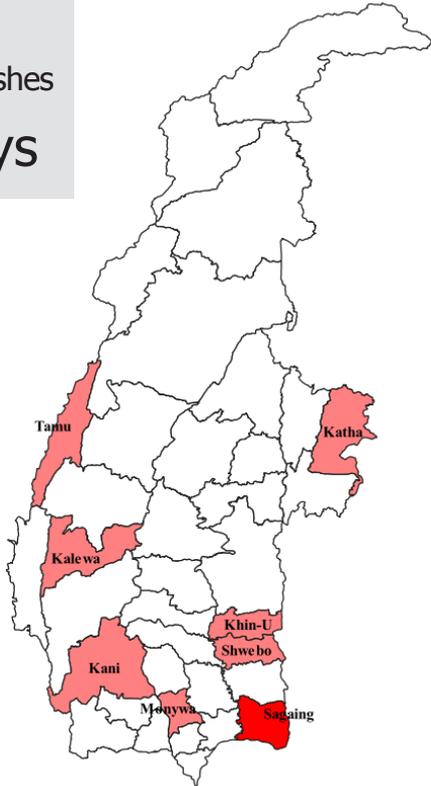
**11,000**

**100**

Shan Kayah Sagaing Tanintharyi

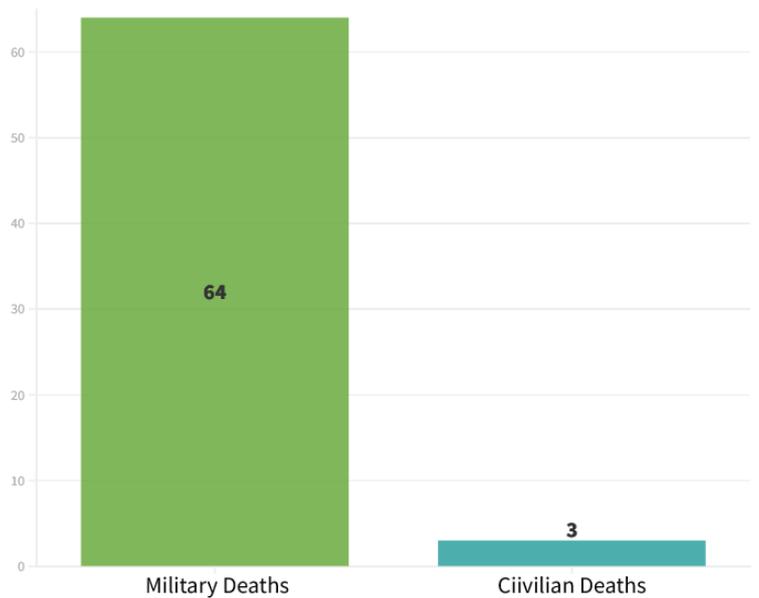


Total no of days of clashes  
**10 Days**

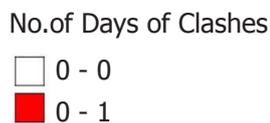


### Sagaing Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and PDFs in Monywa, Tamu, Sagaing, Katha, Kalewa, Kani, and Shwebo Townships, resulting in the death of 54 junta soldiers. Ten regime soldiers were killed in attacks in Monywa, Indaw, and Wuntho Townships. Three residents were shot and killed by junta soldiers in Sagaing, Kale, and Kani. In addition, the Myanmar army's advance in Salingyi and Khin-U Townships forced more than 11,000 residents to flee to safety.



Total no of days of clashes  
**1 Day**



### Kachin State

On 16 June, clashes occurred between advancing Myanmar army troops and the Karen Independence Army (KIA) in Nam San Yang village, Waingmaw Township.

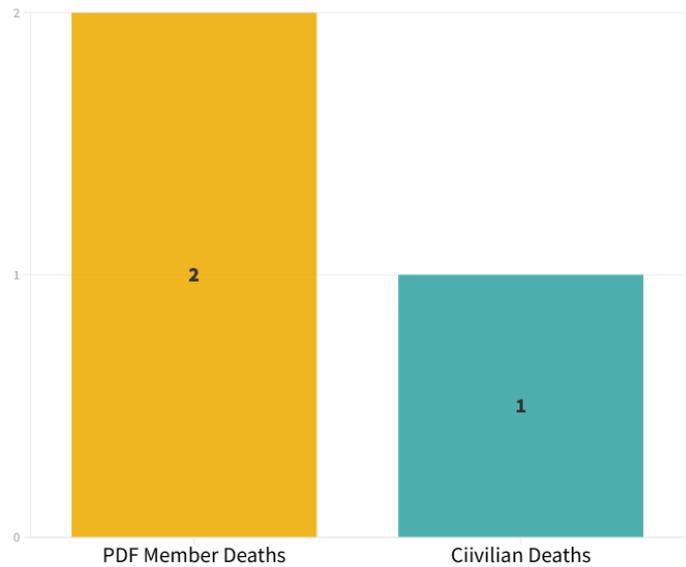
Total no of days of clashes

**2 Days**

No. of Days of Clashes

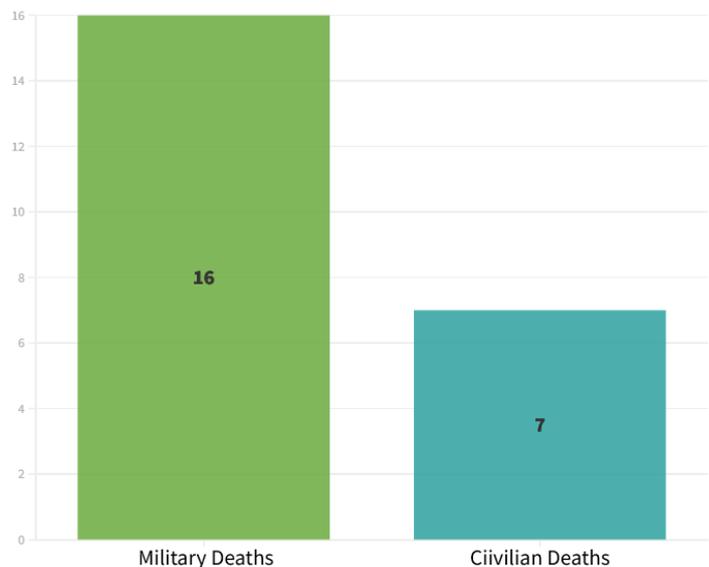
□ 0 - 0

■ 0 - 1



## Magway Region

In Htilin and Pauk Townships, Myanmar army troops clashed with PDFs, resulting in the death of two resistance members. In addition, junta soldiers abducted and a man in his 70s from Chaungmagyi (West) village tract in Seikphyu Township on 15 June.

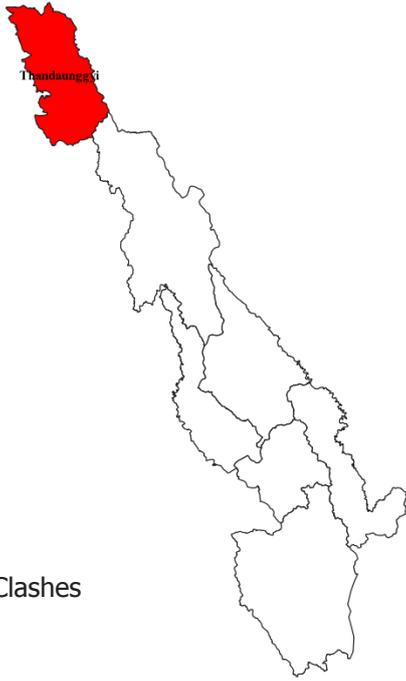


## Mandalay Region

On 15 June, a Myanmar military training aircraft crashed after technical failure during a flight from Nay Pyi Taw to Meiktila Le Dar Gyi, a village in Lewe Township, killing an air force officer and a trainee. On the same day, four junta soldiers were killed in mine attacks as they arrived to clear a fake mine near Gwaypinyoe village in Myingyan Township. Moreover, at least ten junta soldiers were killed when PDF fighters attacked a military council speedboat off Lingyi harbour in Myingyan Township on 18 June. On 14 June, the administrator of Yaenantthar village tract in Madaya Township, U Phoe Kyaw, was shot dead by unknown gunmen. In similar cases, six people were gunned down by unknown gunmen in Thabeikkyin Township on 14 and 15 June.

Total no of days of clashes

1 Day



No.of Days of Clashes

0 - 0

0 - 1

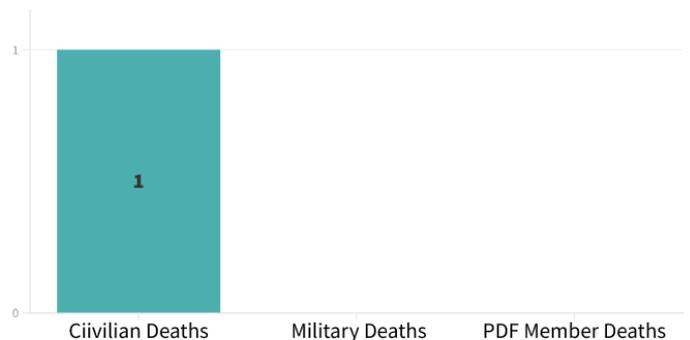
### Karen State

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and PDFs in Than Daung Gyi Township, resulting in the death of two resistance fighters. Also, on 19 June, two junta soldiers were killed in PDF drone attacks on Khanittaing electricity office in Kyondoe town, Than Daung Gyi Township.



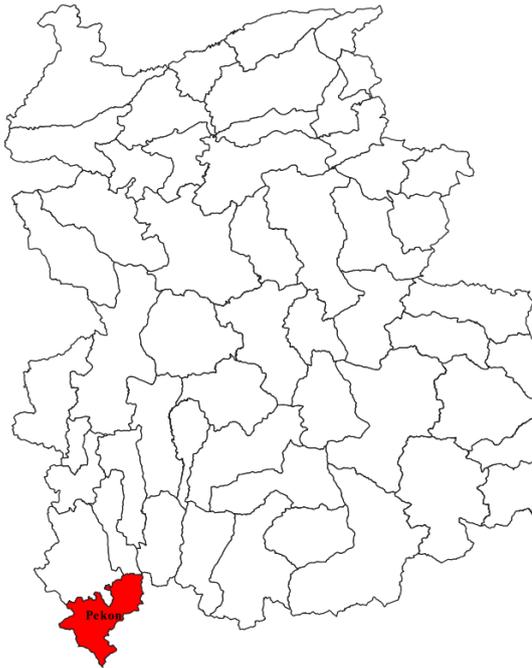
### Bago Region

On 17 June, artillery shells fired by Myanmar army troops struck Chaughnithkwa village in Brigade Area 2 (of the KNU) in Taungoo District, killing a 60-year-old woman Daw Naw Ywar Eh Phaw.



Total no of days of clashes

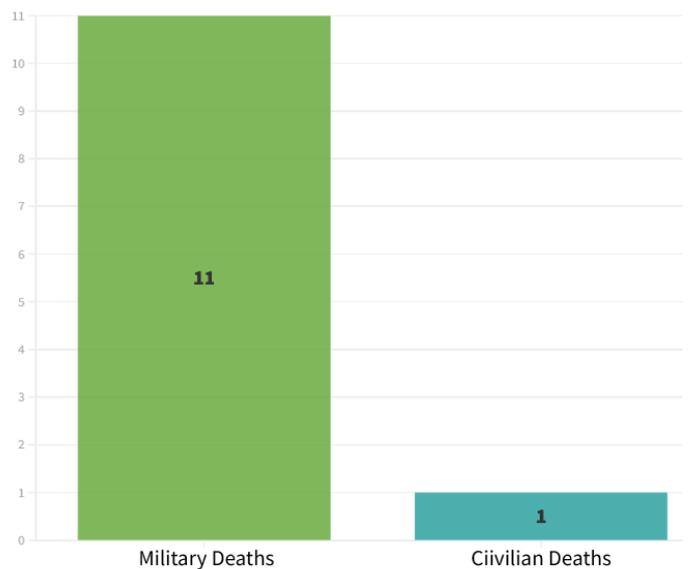
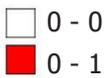
1 Day



### Shan State

On 16 June, a battle erupted between Myanmar army troops and PDFs in Pekon, killing 10 junta soldiers. The fighting forced more than 30,000 residents to flee to safety. Moreover, a militia member was shot dead by unknown gunmen at a noodle shop in Sethmu Ward in Muse Township on 16 June. In a similar case, a woman was shot dead by unknown gunmen while she was crossing a road in downtown Laihka.

No. of Days of Clashes



Total no of days of clashes

10 Days



### Karenni (Kayah) State

Fierce fighting broke out in Mese and Hpasawng Townships between Myanmar army troops and the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), displacing more than 15,000 residents.

No. of Days of Clashes

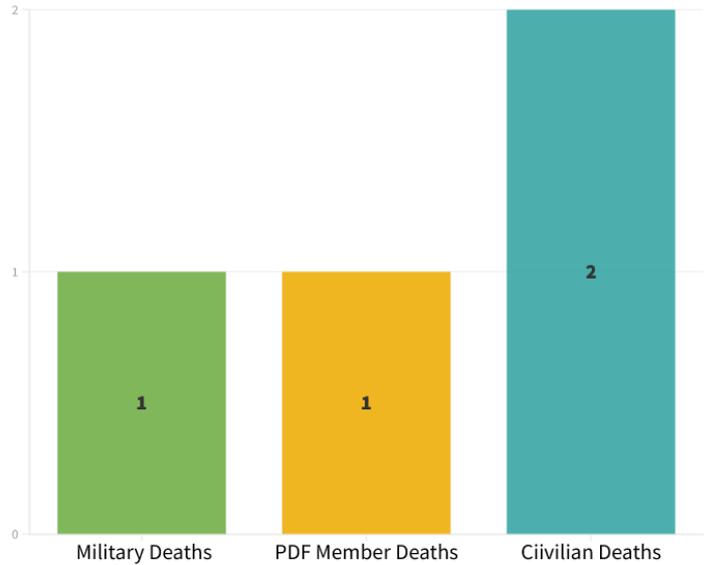


Total no of days of clashes

**5 Days**

No.of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 5



### Tanintharyi Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and PDFs from 16 to 20 June, killing one junta soldier and one resistance fighter. On 14 June, two residents were hit by landmine when they walked into Koepin mountain near Minbyin village, seriously injuring one and killing other. Also, on 14 June, a man his 80s named U Pe Than was shocked by the gunfire of military council troops and died of asphyxiation during displacement at Weayit village monastery, Mindat village tract, Thayetchaung Township. On 19 June, indiscriminate artillery shelling with 120mm shells at Yaepaw village, Banlaw village tract, Tanintharyi Township, wounded a 50-year-old woman and forced more than 100 people to flee to safer locations.

Total no of days of clashes

**1 Day**

No.of Days of Clashes

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1



### Mon State

On 14 June, PDFs attacked a Myanmar army convoy of about six civilian vehicles between Hninson and Sanpya villages in Ye Township, resulting in the death of two junta soldiers.





A report published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on 14 June estimates that nearly 28 percent of Myanmar's total population (about 15.2 million people) will face serious food insecurity this year. The estimate is a 15 percent increase from the high level in 2022 and nearly five times higher than in February 2021. FAO has warned that it is concerned about this and that food insecurity has reached alarming levels in various parts of the country.

Acute food insecurity has reached critical levels in various parts of the country, mainly due to the ongoing political and economic crisis, grain production shortfalls in 2022 and the persistent rise in food prices, the statement said.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), more than 1.8 million people are currently displaced across Myanmar, with 1.5 million of them already displaced due to conflict and insecurity since the military took power in 2021. Following the emergence of local defence forces in armed resistance to the military council, the number of internally displaced people has surged in the resistance strongholds of Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Kachin, Karenni, and Karen States. In this context, on International Refugee Day, 20 June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that the world needs to bring peace to all conflict areas to



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prevent the increase in the number of displaced people around the world.

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Moreover, the Thai foreign minister said that it was not an ASEAN meeting but a forum for the regional bloc's member countries to assess the situation in Myanmar after the military council appointed the new foreign minister.

However, some ASEAN members, including the current ASEAN President, Indonesia, skipped the meeting, while some member countries clearly expressed their displeasure with the meeting. Some other members did not send their foreign ministers, but only lower-level officials.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the opening ceremony of a wastewater treatment plant in Phnom Penh on 19 June that the situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate. This came at a time that coincided with informal talks on the Myanmar issue attended by representatives from seven countries, including senior officials from Cambodia and other regional powerhouses such as China and India.

The Indonesian military announced on 20 June that it had postponed the joint military exercise in which the militaries of 10 ASEAN countries will participate, stating that if military exercises are to be conducted, they will be outside disputed waters with China.

Initially, the joint ASEAN military exercise was to be held in the North Natuna Sea, which Indonesia has designated as a special economic zone. But due to frequent patrols by Chinese vessels in those waters, the ASEAN military exercise will now be held in the South Natuna Sea from 18-25 September, the Indonesian military announced. Military leaders from all 10 ASEAN countries will participate in the exercise, the Indonesian military said in a 20 June statement.

### 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.