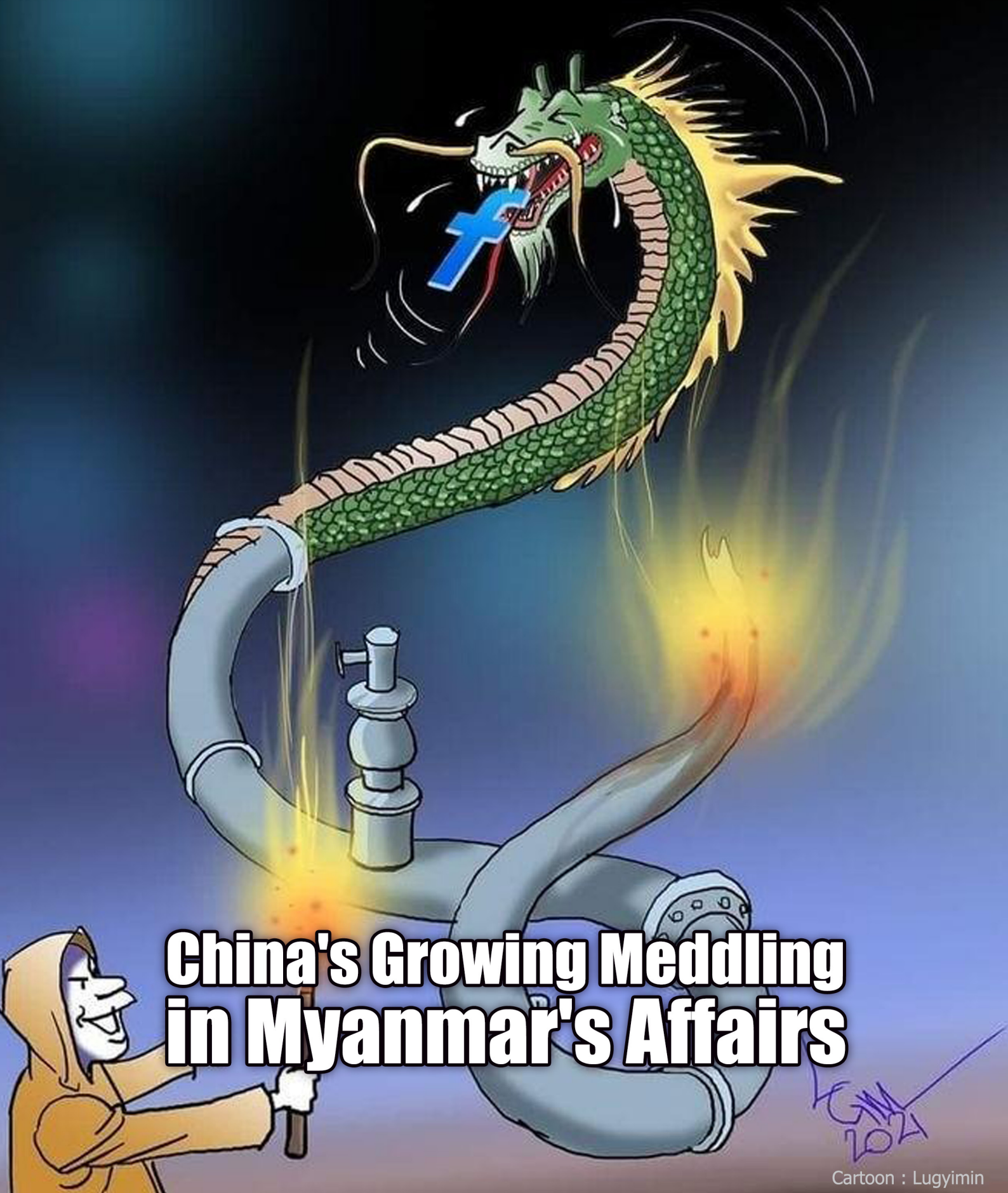


Weekly News Review

Issue 102, April 26 - May 2, 2023



**China's Growing Meddling
in Myanmar's Affairs**

China's Growing Meddling in Myanmar's Affairs

Introduction

The Chinese dragon, which often sways like a bamboo in pursuit of its own self-interest, has once again come into play this May, surprising observers with its unexpected moves. This, however, reveals the initial steps and direction that China's new foreign minister, Mr. Qin Gang, has taken towards addressing the Myanmar issue.

This issue of Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) Weekly News Review explains the unexpected new moves that the government of China has taken towards the issues in Myanmar.

News events

Mr Qin Gang, who had met with Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer on 1 May 2023, began his trip to Myanmar from 2 to 4 May.

"With internal and external factors intertwined, the Myanmar issue is complex and has no "quick fix"," said the new foreign minister of China. ¹



On 2 May, the Chinese foreign minister met with Myanmar's coup-maker Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw. Following the meeting, the military council-controlled newspaper published a propaganda that Mr Qin Gang's visit is the proof that " China "stands with Myanmar on the international stage".

However, a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China states that discussion with Myanmar's military leaders covers China's continuous support for Myanmar's transition process, the importance of the international community to play a positive role in efforts to settle the differences and achieve an all-inclusive reconciliation, and expedition of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor projects.

¹ Qin Gang Meets with Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer <http://rb.gy/dgbfi>

Moreover, Mr Qin Gang also met with the former Senior General and former chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 2 May.

He also said he appreciate Than Shwe "for making important contributions to the development of China-Myanmar relations." ²

The activities of the new Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qin Gang, can be viewed as new and unexpected moves for casual observers, but China's modus operandi towards Myanmar's issues remains within the three expectations for resolving Myanmar issue that China stated on 3 July 2022 following the meeting between former Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi's and ASEAN special envoy.

First, China expects to make joint efforts with ASEAN to push Myanmar in pursuit of continuous political reconciliation within the framework of the constitution and laws, and encourage all political parties in Myanmar to prioritize the big picture and the interests of the people, take rational and pragmatic efforts, accommodate and understand each other, and take into account the reasonable demands of all parties, so as to restore stability and achieve peace at an early date.

Second, China expects to make joint efforts with ASEAN to encourage Myanmar to restart the democratic transition process, realize the vision of returning power to the people, and explore a path of political development with Myanmar's characteristics and in line with Myanmar's national conditions.

Third, China expects ASEAN to uphold the "ASEAN way", stay committed to the basic principles and traditions of non-interference in internal affairs and the consensus-based approach, stay focused, remove distractions, engage in patient coordination,

² Qin Gang Meets with Former Chairman of the Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Than Shwe <http://rb.gy/5fywk>

constructively implement the "five-point consensus" of ASEAN, and safeguard the overall solidarity and leading role of ASEAN.³

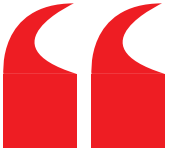
Related news

China's new foreign minister, Mr. Qin Gang, appointed in March 2023, has taken an approach to the Myanmar issue just as Wang Yi did, based on China's interests in the troubled neighbouring country. Deng Xijun in place of Mr. Sun Guoxiang, who was tasked with engaging in the Myanmar peace process and China's re-engagement with former military dictators in Myanmar.

In February and March of this year, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Deng Xijun convened the Northern Alliance



³ The Steps of China, the ASEAN Special Envoy and the Junta. - Issue 61 (29 June - 6 July 2022) <http://rb.gy/v7xhl>



It is crucial for all Spring Revolution forces, including the NUG, to guide the Chinese government away from its misguided steps.



ethnic revolutionary organizations operating along the China-Myanmar border to meet in Yunnan Province. Deng Xijun had two meetings with coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw. Also on 16 April, Mr. Peng Xibin of the Chinese Communist Party's International Liaison Department arrived in Myanmar out of the blue and held a secret meeting with former military dictator Senior General Than Shwe and former President U Thein Sein.⁴

All things considered, China, which gives more weight to its own interests than to the interests of the people of Myanmar who are resisting the military coup, has obviously been beset with concern for its own interests. The Chinese government seems to have weighed that the direction of the Spring Revolution forces, which have announced the abolition of the 2008 constitution and are moving toward the creation of a federal democratic union, would not serve its interests.

Therefore, disregarding the role of the National Unity Government (NUG), the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), and the Spring Revolution forces, China can be considered to have taken initial steps to interfere in the Myanmar issue by persuading the entire ASEAN community, including the Ethnic Revolutionary Organisations (EROs), toward national reconciliation under the 2008 Constitution and approaching the Myanmar military leaders, including the coup maker.

Review

The Chinese government may sooner or later face a reaction from the Spring Revolution forces that are still actively involved in resisting the junta if it continues to try to resolve the Myanmar

⁴ China's Foreign Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

<http://rb.gy/0uwjy>

issue by keeping the EROs and the military junta alone in its pocket.

The crisis and the (political) landscape in Myanmar and its direction today is no longer a crisis resulting from the civil war between individual EROs and the military regime. Despite the fact that not all EROs and political parties are involved in the ongoing struggle, the predominant influence of NUCC and NUG has become a crucial element for the Chinese government to consider while pursuing its interests in Myanmar.

Recently, the junta in Myanmar, which is in a general crisis, has begun to turn towards Russia, which is currently carrying out an invasion in Ukraine. In view of this, it is imperative for the forces of the Spring Revolution to keep a watchful eye on the new unexpected moves of the Chinese government, which seems to be in danger of losing its chance to keep the junta in its pocket. Given the situation, it is crucial for all Spring Revolution forces, including the NUG, to guide the Chinese government away from its misguided steps.

The Chinese government is unlikely to be interested in agendas such as advocating for justice for the atrocities committed by the junta in Myanmar against civilians after the military coup, including arbitrary arrests, massacres, and aerial bombings, as well as the creation of a future federal democratic union for the people of Myanmar.

Weekly HighLight Quote



As women,
we need to overcome
the barriers that
hold us back and
strive for parity with
men and others.
Never say never.
Just go the extra miles.
Prove those out there
who think we women are
weak-minded wrong.



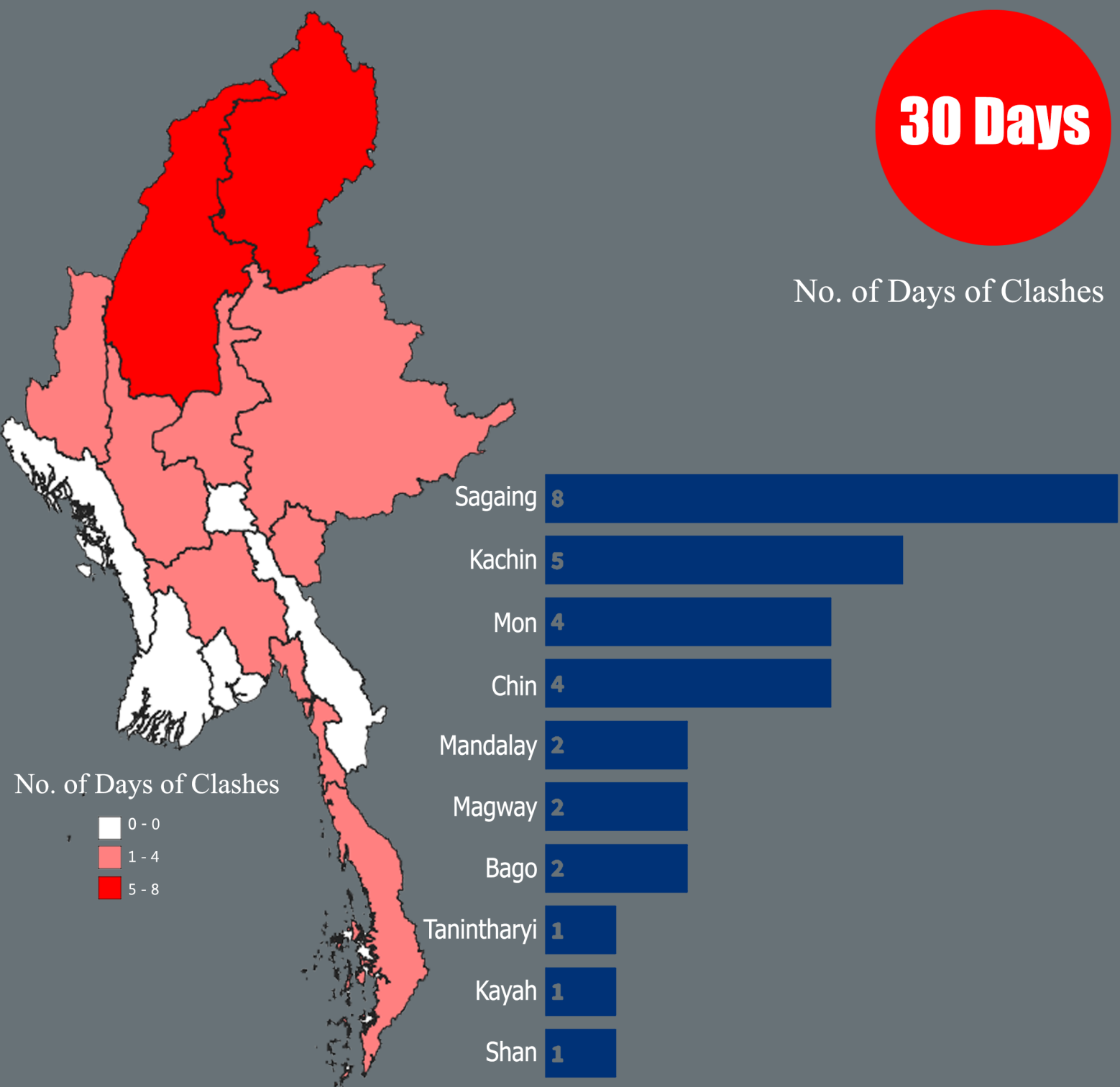
Rachel, Policewoman
- In charge of commando
reconnaissance and
communications
(Royal Peacock Column)



Part II

What Happened this Week

According to data collected by BNI- Myanmar Peace Monitor, there were 30 days of clashes between Myanmar Army troops, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDF/LDF), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 26 April to 2 May. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region topped the list with eight days. MPM records the situation of fighting in days by township, but the actual number of incidents may be higher given the frequency of clashes.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

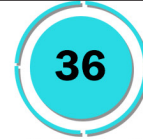
April 26 - May 2, 2023



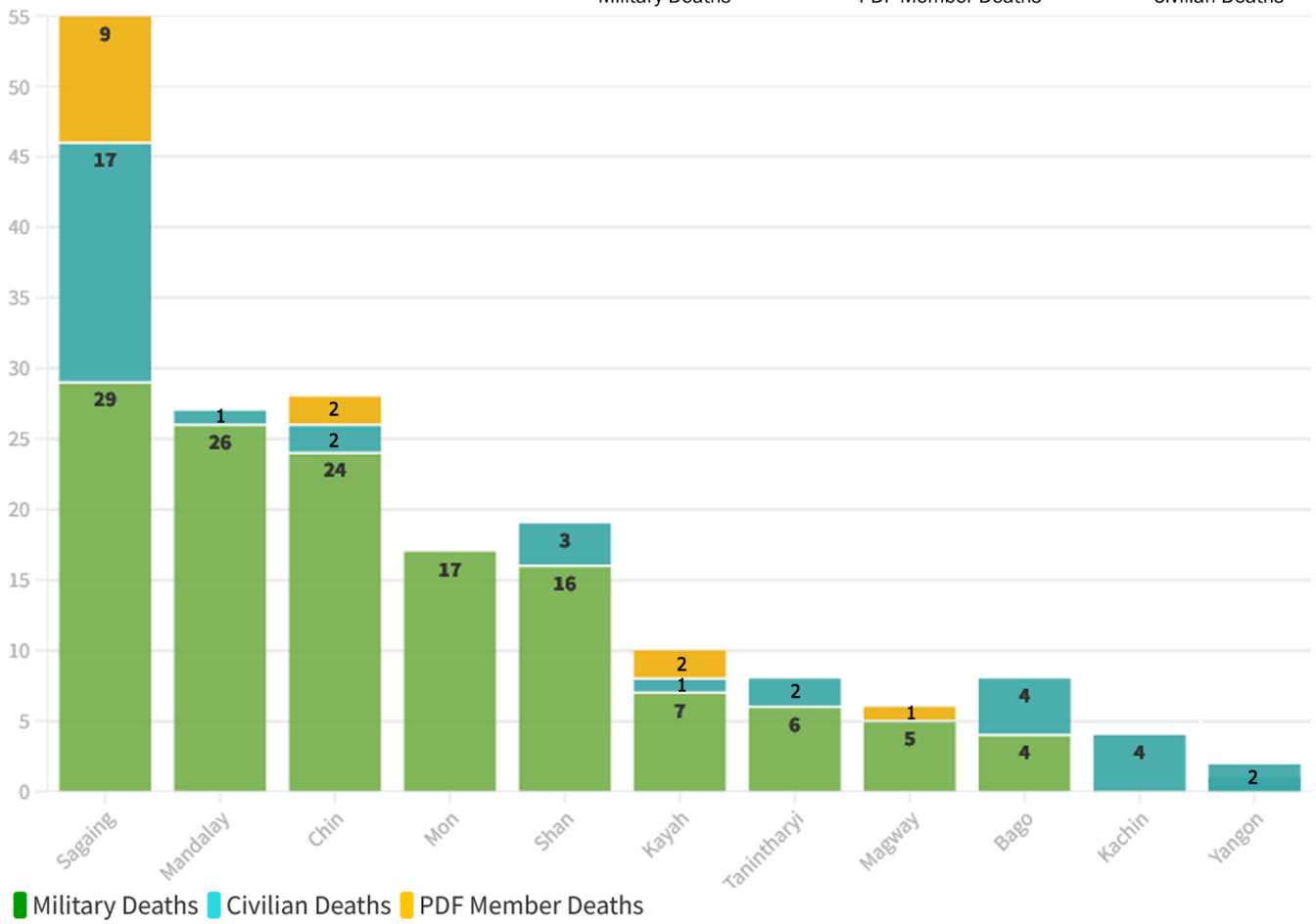
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths

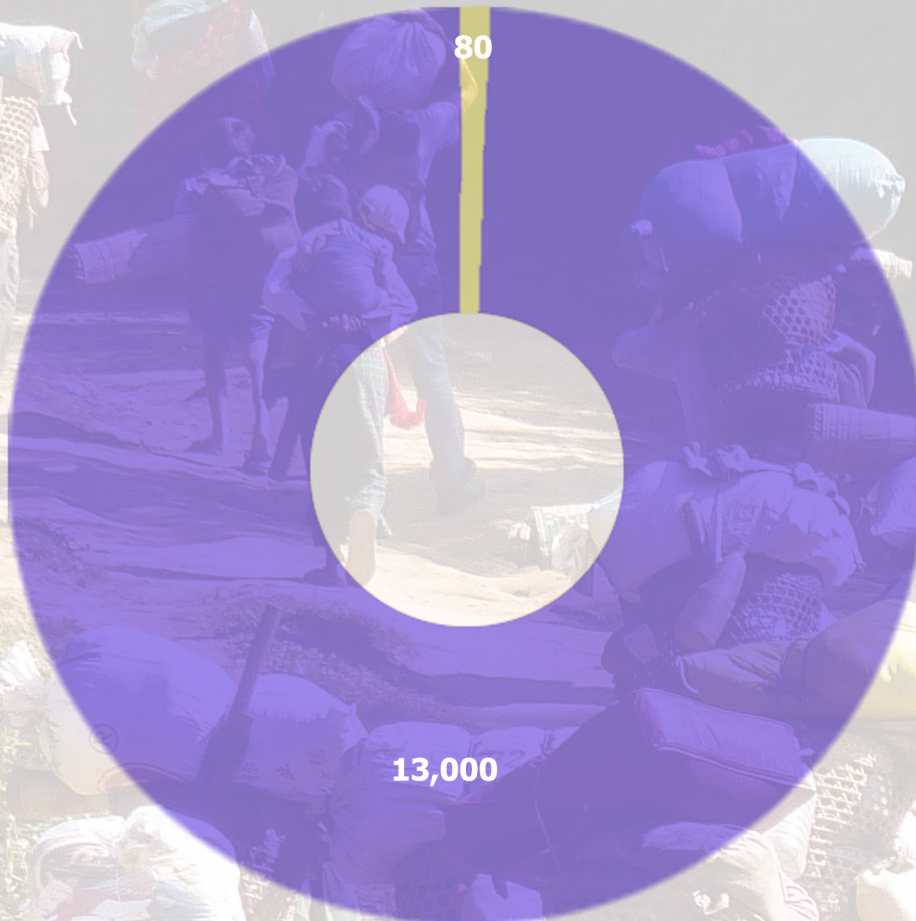


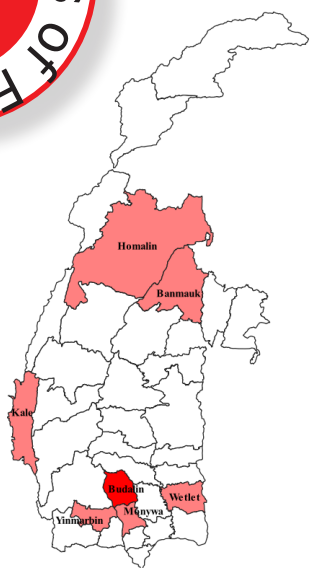
Civilian Deaths



13080

Total Number of IDPs (April 26 - May 2 - 2023)





No. of Days of Clashes



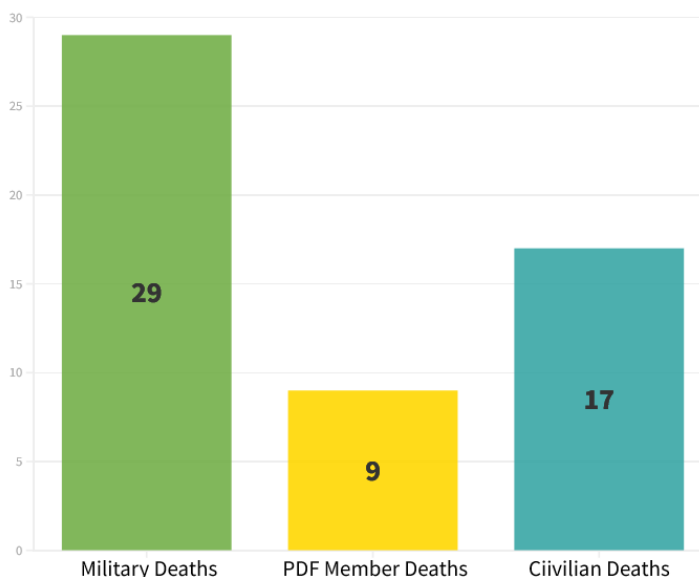
Clashes occurred between junta troops and local PDFs in Kale, Budalin, Banmauk, Homalin, Wetlet, Monywa and Yinmabin Townships, resulting in the death of 26 junta soldiers. In addition, three junta soldiers in attacks in Monywa and Kani Townships. On 26 and 27 April, nine PDF fighters were shot dead by regime troops in eastern Kawlin Township. In Khin-U, Wetlet, and Sagaing Townships, 16 people shot dead regime troops. In addition, a child from Tharyoekone village in Budalin Township was fatally hit by landmine. Arson attacks on houses and artillery fire by Myanmar Army troops led to the displacement of 13,000 residents of Khin-U, Kale and Salingyi Townships.

Sagaing Region

On 30 April, seven locals were killed by the military council's indiscriminate firing of heavy shells and light weapons into Ywama village in Sagaing Township. The military council has detained some locals at the village monastery. ¹

On 28 April, the military council burned Tayawkaing village in Yayshin village-tract in Kanbalu Township. On 27 April, that military column fired heavy shells into Sakyin village in Malae Station and abducted ten locals. ²

On 26 April, a military column of over 100 soldiers raided Myothit village in KhinU Township by firing heavy shells and light weapons and burned the houses. The military council's arsons destroyed 25 houses in Tabinkaung village, five in Kangyikone village and over 450 in Myothit village. ³



1 Military council arrests and kills seven locals from Ywama village.
<https://tinyurl.com/2kq4tobw>

2 Military council burned Tayawkaing village of Kanbalu and arrested ten civilians
<https://tinyurl.com/2ljut5es>

3 Military council torched Alesho village in KhinU Township.
<https://tinyurl.com/2lcy8tlm>



Kachin State

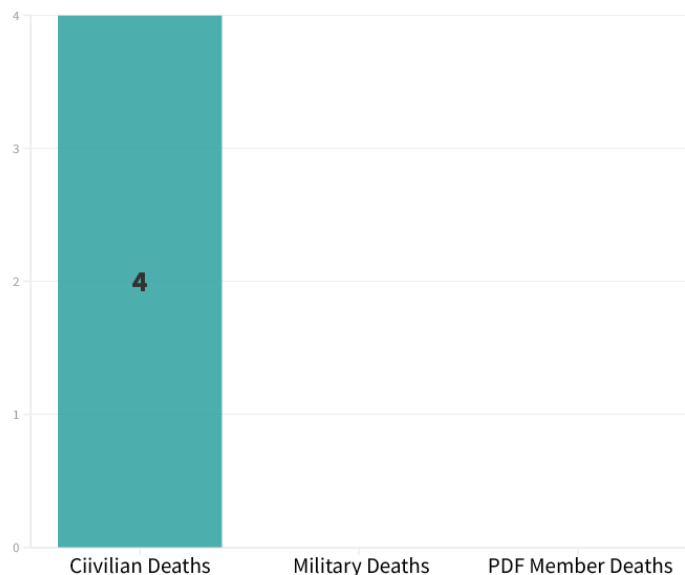
Of around 200 locals from Hmawbone (Madanyan) village in Hpakant Township, who are being detained by the military council soldiers, Ko Htwal Aung, a 30-year-old scavenger, was killed during an interrogation as the military council soldiers beat and tortured him in Maswatyan prison. On 26 April, the military council raided the village and arrested around 200 locals. Then, around 50 detainees were released on bail. The junta soldiers beat and interrogated the detainees including Ko Htwal Aung in Maswatyan prison by tying their hands behind back, in connection with alleged funding of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDFs. ⁴

Since 26 April, fighting has been taking place in Bhamo between the military council troops and the KIA, displacing around 80 locals from Kaemanaing, Namthae and Namugyi in Mansi Township. Most of the IDPs are children and the elderly. They are in urgent need of emergency aid. ⁵

No. of Days of Clashes



Clashes occurred between junta troops and joint KIA-PDF forces in Mansi, Banmaw, and Hpakant Townships. A military informant named Ko Thar Nge was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Nanmar village in Mohnyin Township on 27 April. On 28 April, U Zee Hla Nu, the administrator of Tarhsant village in Sankar village tract, was shot dead by unknown gunmen. A man died after being tortured in Masutyang prison after nearly 200 residents of Hmawbon village in Hpakant Township were abducted and beaten during interrogation. The civilian's death did not become known until 30 April. In addition, regime troops arrested a man named Ko Aung Kyaw Thu, tortured and shot him to death near Kyauk Sein Taung Bridge in Mashikahtaung Ward in Hpakant. About 80 local residents were forced to flee to safety due to the fighting that had been going on since 26 April.



⁴ One Hpakant local was killed at interrogation camp, over 100 people remain in detention. <https://tinyurl.com/2fdr6nm8>

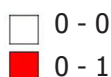
⁵ IDPs from three villages in Bhamo in need of emergency aid. <https://tinyurl.com/2fmskheu>

Magway Region

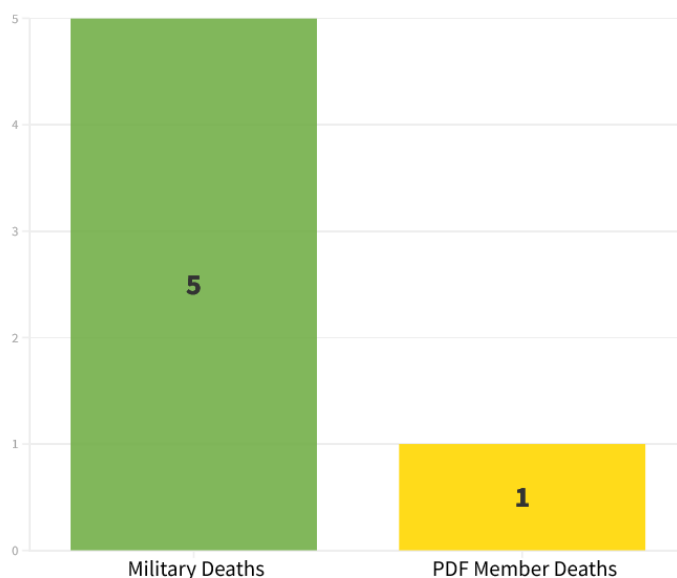
The military council raided the villages on the edge of upper Minhla Township and Mindon Township with three military columns. Then, the military council burned 18 houses in Yayyin Asho Chin village. While nearly 1,000 locals from Parasaing, Taungphilar, Chaungtha, Yayrin, Ngayokekaung (south and north), Thayetchin (upper, middle and lower), Nyaungwaing and Kyauksi villages fled to safer places due to the military council's offensives, junta soldiers looted the abandoned houses in the villages and killed and ate domestic animals. ⁶

Comrades of Southern Yesagyo (YSO) PDF are facing a shortage of rations and are in need of aid. They ask for the help from the public for the first time as they have to mainly spend the funds provided by the public on the purchase of arms and other necessary things for fighting. ⁷

No. of Days of Clashes

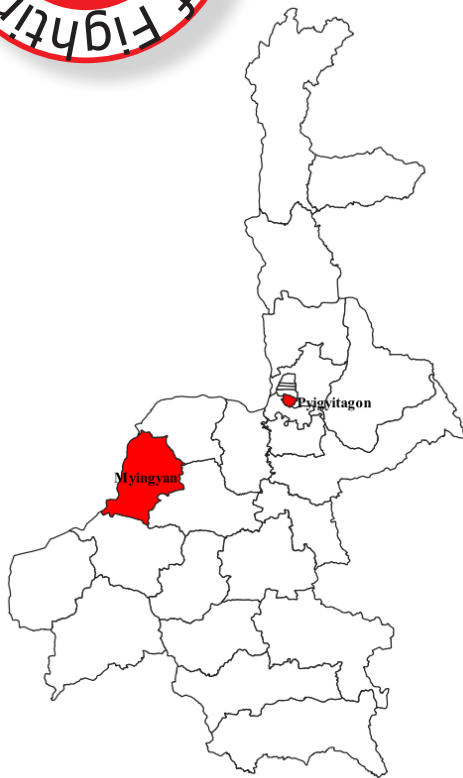


Clashes occurred between junta troops and PDF in Yesagyo and Pauk Townships, resulting in the death of one junta soldier and PDF fighter. In addition, three regime soldiers were killed in mine attacks in Pauk and Yesagyo. On 29 April, PDF members shot dead a policeman named Chin Lay when he came to repair a pump in Kamma in Pakokku Township.

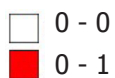


⁶ Military council faced attacks in Yesagyo. The military council burned Asho Chin village in upper Minhla Township. <https://tinyurl.com/2yayuxw8>

⁷ Comrades from Yesagyo South PDF asked for help as they faced a shortage of rations. <https://tinyurl.com/26rogute>



No.of Days of Clashes

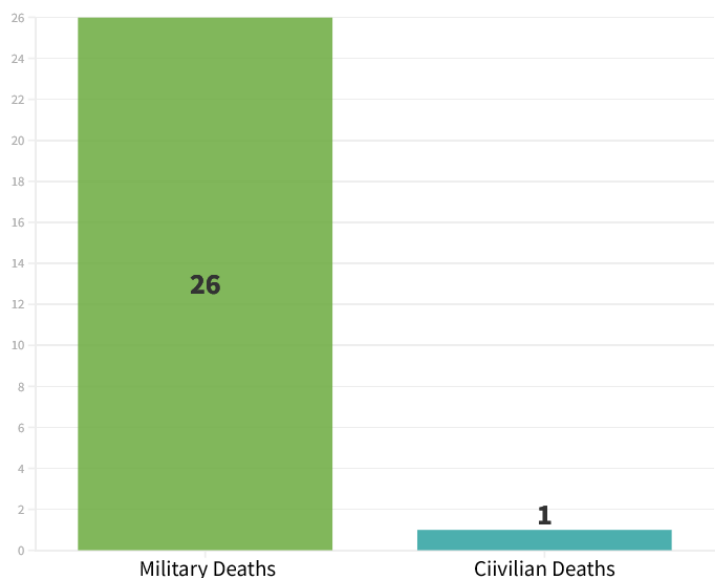


Clashes occurred between regime troops and PDF in Myingyan and Pyigyitagon Townships, resulting in the death of eight regime soldiers. On 2 May, two junta policemen were killed in a PDF raid on the Pwaykyit police station in Kyaukpadaung Township. In addition, 16 junta soldiers were killed in mine attacks in Thabeikkyin and Natogyi Townships. On 1 May, a police quarter in Amarapura Township was hit by 40mm grenade, killing a six-year-old child of a police clerk.

Mandalay Region

On 29 April, the PDFs attacked the military council soldiers stationed at Shwenyaungbin monastery in No.6 Layeaindan village in Myingyan as soldiers asked for money from passengers and beat them. Eight junta soldiers including a military officer were killed in the attack. ⁸

On 1 May, a six-year-old boy was killed and four women wounded as a 40 mm grenade landed and exploded near the house of a female clerk at the staff quarter of Amarapura Myoma police station. ⁹



⁸ Eight junta soldiers including one military officer were killed in an attack on the military council soldiers stationed at a monastery in Myingyan.

<https://tinyurl.com/2ejfk7cr>

⁹ One child was killed and four wounded as a grenade landed and exploded

at police staff quarter of Amarapura police station. <https://tinyurl.com/2r3qapk3>



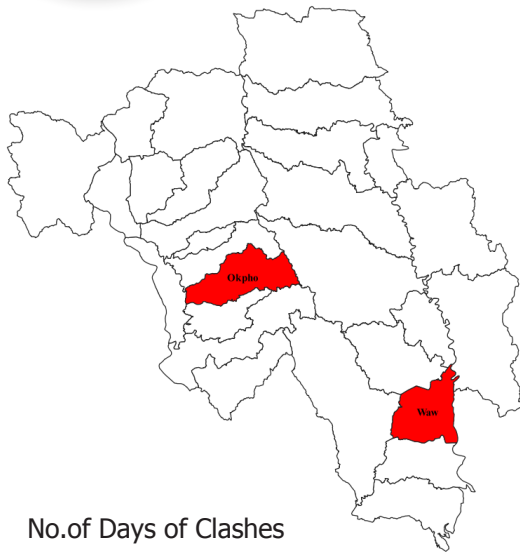
Karen State

On 28 April, the military council constantly fired more than 20 rounds of heavy shells into Kyauktaung area near Maekanal village in Myawaddy Township. Residents and the IDPs are scared due to the military council's artillery shelling on civilian areas.¹⁰

The military council soldiers inspect motorbikes and mobile phones and arrest some locals at the inspection gates on Taungoo-Thandaung road. On 27 April, the soldiers arrested two youths. On 1 May, the military council arrested a youth on a motorbike on Thandaung Hospital road.¹¹

10 Locals are scared due to the military council's artillery shelling on Kyauktaung area in Maekanal. <https://tinyurl.com/2nm65ku8>

11 Military council tightened inspections on Taungoo-Thandaung road and arrested passengers. <https://tinyurl.com/2oax7qzt>

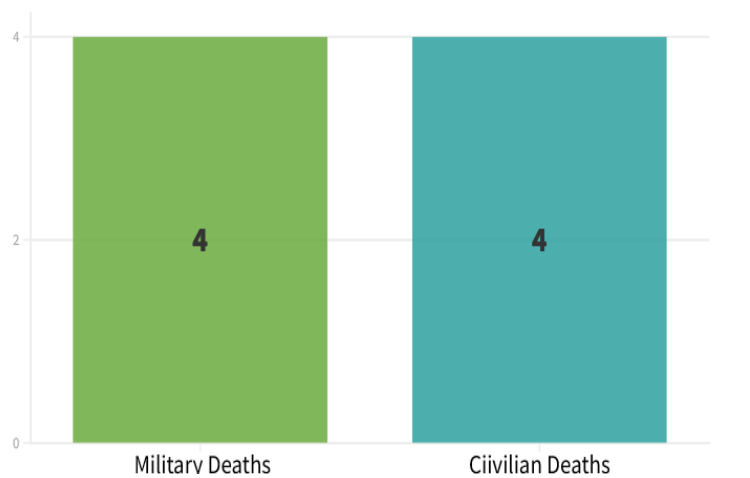


Bago Region

On 2 May, Taungoo Airbase under the military council bombed the area near Bonmatee village in Htantabin Township with two jet fighters and one helicopter. The bombs exploded in Bonmatee, Kywelan and Thayettan villages, killing three locals and wounding five others. Those killed in the bombing are: a couple from Bonmatee village and a 20-year-old girl from Kywelan village. ¹²

On 27 April, local defense forces attacked Nyaung Khar Shey region police station and the village administrator office as a part of Nan Htike Aung Operation. One police member was killed and two others wounded in the attack, according to the statement by Waw Township PDF on 28 April. The military council arrested 20 innocent locals from Winkadat village in Waw Township in connection with the shooting and then sent them to Phayagyi interrogation center. ¹³

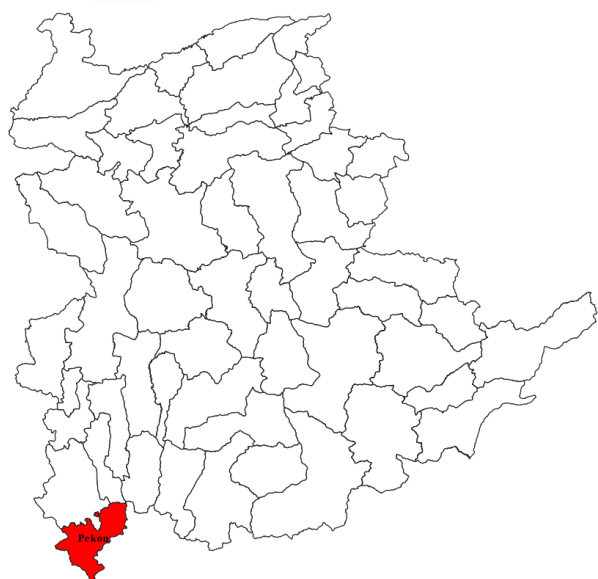
Clashes occurred between junta troops and PDF in Waw and Okpho Townships, killing four regime soldiers. In addition, junta airstrikes near Bonmatee village in Htantabin Township killed three local residents on 2 May. On 27 April, PDF members shot dead Ka Nyut, the chief electrician of Kwin Township, near Gonete(South) village.



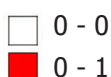
¹² Three locals were killed in airstrike in Htantabin Township.

<https://tinyurl.com/2mm8uvzf>

¹³ Military council arrested at least 20 locals following an attack on Nyaung Khar Shey police station. <https://tinyurl.com/2ojngz68>



No. of Days of Clashes

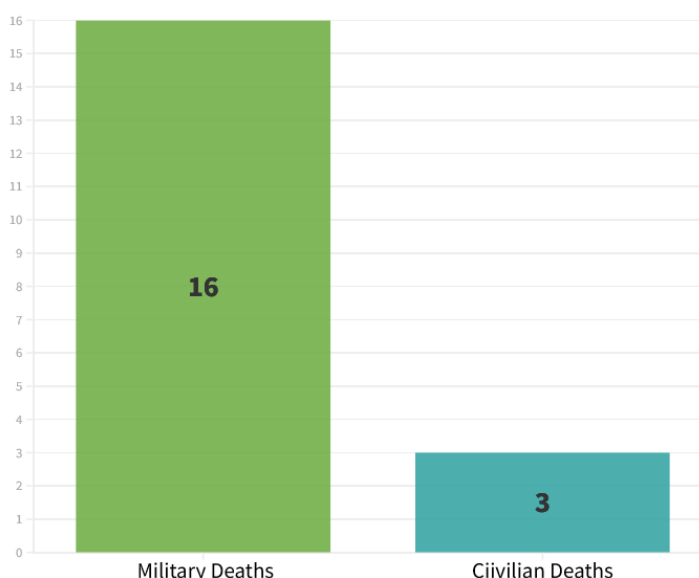


Clashes broke out between regime troops and PDF in Nyaungwine Ward in Pekon Township on 26 April, resulting in the death of 15 regime soldiers. On 27 April, a member of Longhtan militia was shot dead by unknown gunmen while he was dining in Min Htike Khaung teashop. On 26 April, a local resident was killed in a bombardment by regime's air force in Theinni Township in northern Shan State. In addition, two murdered women bodies were found in Pekon and Pinlaung Townships.

Shan State

On the morning of 29 April, five local men were wounded as they stepped on a landmine in a sugarcane plantation in Naungkhae village of Naungcho Township. Of the wounded persons, Sai Su, 43 and Sai Kyaw Tun, 47, got serious wounds to their legs. Sai Pa Sein, 26, Sai Hsan Won, 25 and Sai Hsan Kyaung, 24 got minor wounds.¹⁴

The body of an unnamed man was found dead in a warehouse when a combined force of the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) BO 11 carried out area clearance operation in Lalchar village in Pinlaung Township where soldiers are stationed on 26 April.¹⁵

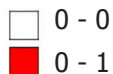


¹⁴ Five locals from Naungcho stepped on landmine.
<https://tinyurl.com/2qfh5ld>

¹⁵ Body of a murdered man was found in Pinlaung Township.
<https://tinyurl.com/2lyakuq6>



No. of Days of Clashes

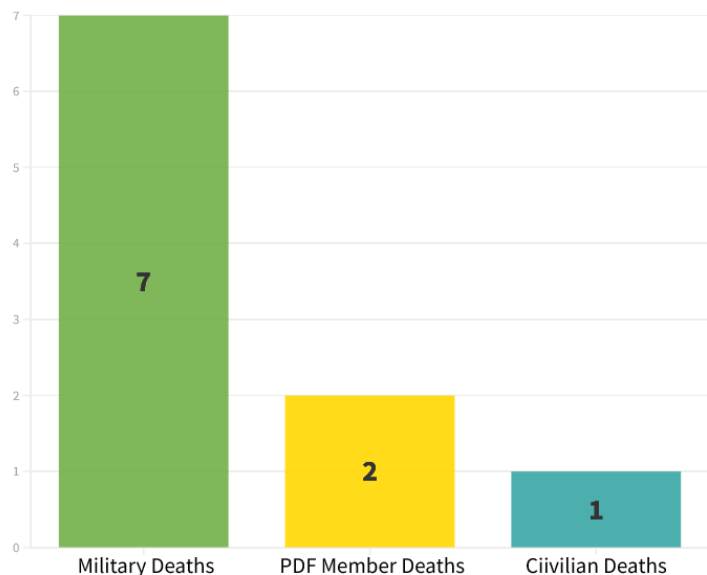


Karenni (Kayah) State

On 27 April, a man was killed and two women wounded in the military council's airstrikes on the western parts of Demoso Township. The military council bombed that region although there was no battle. In addition, the military council constantly fired around 10 rounds of heavy shells. ¹⁶

On 26 April, no passengers were wounded in the shootings on Shwe Kain Nayi, Shwe Yar Zar and Thein Than Kaday passenger buslines plying Loikaw-Yangon, in Konethar village and Warrikaw khu village on the Loikaw-Moebye border. However, the shootings shattered the passenger buses' glasses. The passenger buses got shot as they turned back due to the battles between the military council troops and the PDFs. ¹⁷

Combined forces of PDF raided broadcast department, Myoma police station, immigration office, and veterans office in Bawlakhe Township on 2 May, killing seven military council soldiers and two resistance fighters. On 27 April, a local resident was killed in a regime airstrike in western Demoso Township.



¹⁶ Junta's airstrike in western part of Demoso results in casualties.
<https://tinyurl.com/24fkdxs2>

¹⁷ Three passenger buses face shootings on Loikaw-Moebye border.
<https://tinyurl.com/2d7psz8f>

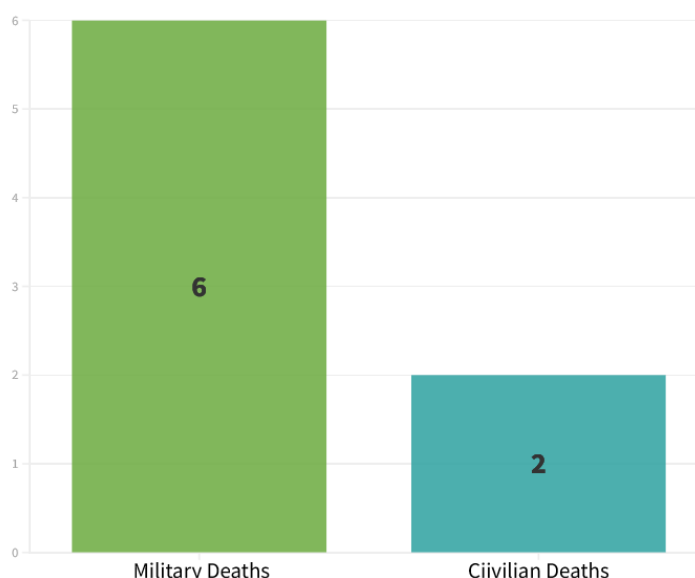


Tanintharyi Region

On the morning of 30 April, a woman and her child were shot dead by an unknown group at a betel nut plantation in No.8 ward in Mawtaung of Tanintharyi Township on the Thai-Myanmar border. That village is located about 15 miles from Mawtaung. There are frequent clashes between the PDFs and the military council on Mawtaung road section. ¹⁸

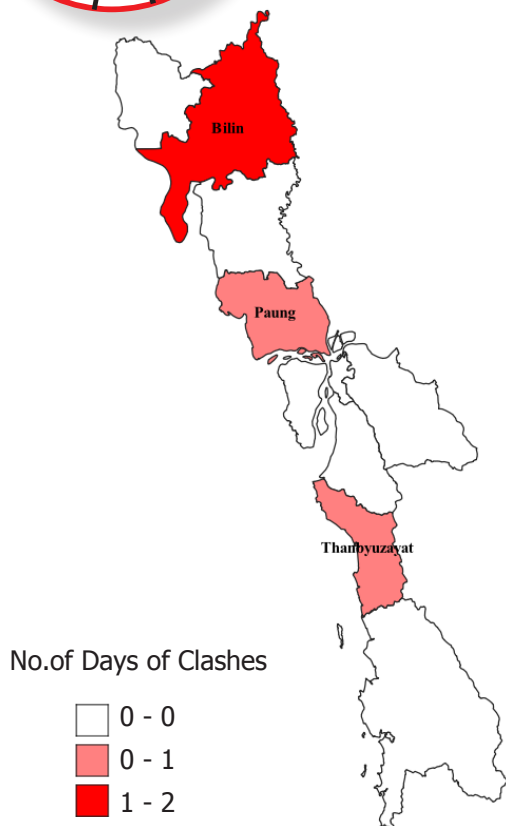
The public find it difficult to transport basic foodstuff including rice and edible oil to the villages due to the restrictions and ban at the military council's inspection camps in Palaw Township. The military council allows the public to carry 10 pyi of rice only with the recommendations of wards and village administrators in Palaw Township. Action will be taken against those who carry more than that amount. ¹⁹

A joint PDF force raided a military security affairs office in Pyi Gyi Man Daing town in Bokepyin Township on 2 May, killing a so-called leader named U Kyaw Than of pro-junta Pyu Saw Htee militia. On 26 April, five regime soldiers, including a captain, were killed in mine attacks near Thebyu village in Tanintharyi Township. On 30 April, a mother and her child were shot dead by unknown gunmen in a betel nut plantation in No.8 village, Mawdaung area, Tanintharyi Region.



¹⁸ a woman and her child were shot dead in Mawtaung of Tanintharyi Township. <https://tinyurl.com/2o8w7ovk>

¹⁹ Villages in Palaw Township face a shortage of rations as the military council restricts transport of rations. <https://tinyurl.com/2jqdxzhl>

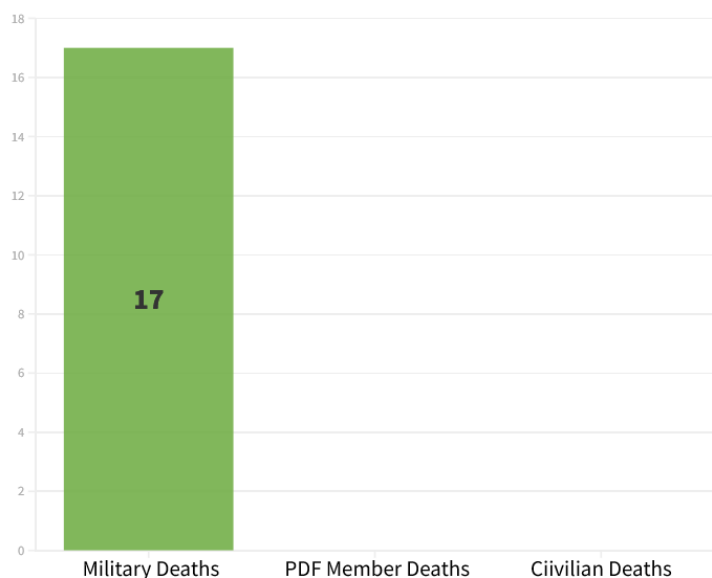


Regime forces clashed with joint KNLA-PDF forces in Bilin, Paung, and Thanbyuzayat Townships, killing 15 junta soldiers. In addition, two regime soldiers were killed when the military checkpoint in Thapyayni village in Bilin Township was attacked by joint PDF forces using drones on 29 April.

Mon State

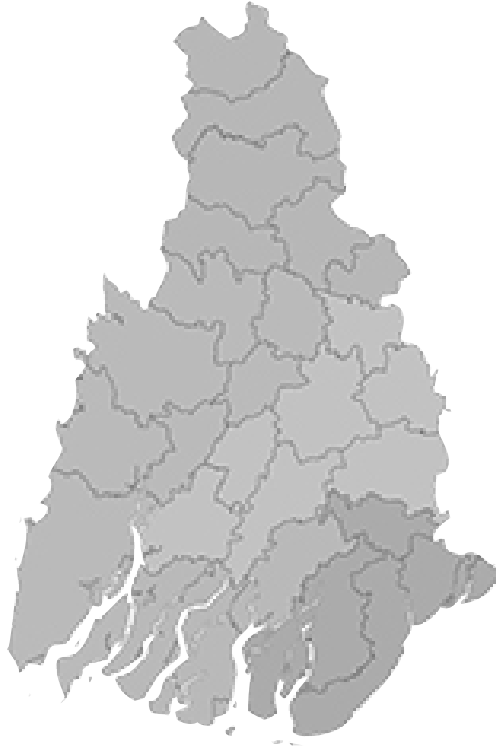
On 1 May, the Kyaikto Revolution Force (KRF) issued a statement warning the public in villages and wards in Kyaikto Township to stay away from armed organizations, the places and departments where junta soldiers are stationed, civil servants and informants. The KRF urged the public to avoid going near guesthouses, hotels and restaurants in 43 wards and village-tracts in Kyaikto Township as the KRF will step up its attacks as of 1 May. The KRF will not take any responsibility for it, according to the statement.²⁰

The IDPs from Lay Kay village in Bilin Township are in need of food and medicine. Nearly 3,000 people from over 500 households are taking shelter in farms and forests due to the military council's artillery shelling into Lay Kay village.²¹



²⁰ KRF warns the public to stay away from military council pillars as it will step up military operation in Kyaikto. <https://tinyurl.com/2lceq4lg>

²¹ Over 7,000 IDPs are in need of food and medicine in Bilin. <https://tinyurl.com/257nxet4>



Ayeyawady Region

On 26 April, eight prisoners from Myoma police station in Kyaungkone Township escaped from the jail. The escapees are: five men from the wards and villages in Kyaungkone and one from Thamin village in Kawhmu Township and two from Maezali village in Nyaungdon Township. Currently, military council soldiers are searching for the escapees at the entrance of Kyaungkone and in the villages. The military council has sent the facts about the escapees to the village and ward administrator offices.²²

On 1 May, the main building of the police station was hit by a heavy shell as a combined force of Irrawaddy Dolphin (Mawgyun), Mawgyun Township PDF and Bogale Dolphin PDF fired a heavy shell into Myattharywama police station in Mawlamyinegun Township.²³

²² Eight prisoners escaped from Kyaungkone Myoma police station.
<https://tinyurl.com/2c8sgahn>

²³ PDFs attacked Myattharywama police station in Mawlamyinegun Township with heavy shells. <https://tinyurl.com/2zbfp76x>

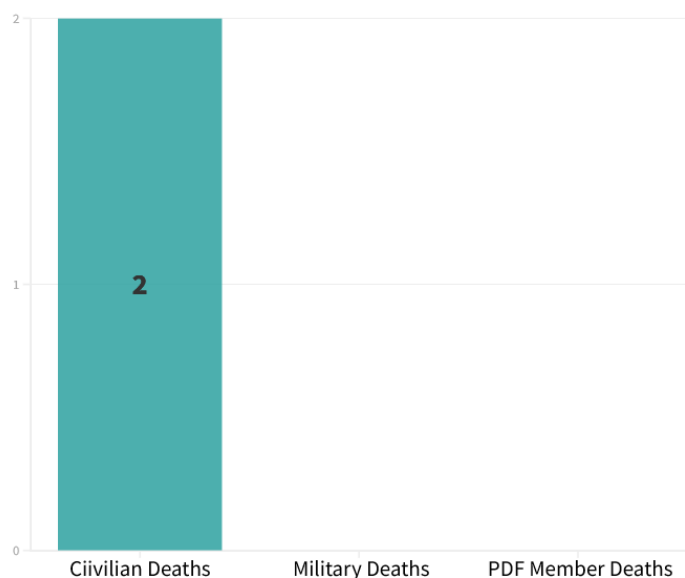
Yangon Region



On 28 April, Ko Banyar Soe Htet, a Physics student from Yangon East University was sentenced to 10 more years in prison under Section 50 (j) of the Counter Terrorism Law special court in Insein prison. Now he has been sentenced to 84 years in prison in total. The military council arrested him for alleged involvement in the assassinations of U Thein Aung, General Manager of military-owned Mytel Headquarters and a couple which owns a grocery store on Oke Kyin Railways Station Road at No.16 ward in Hlaing Township, in November, 2021. ²⁴

The military council arrested eight civilians including two 13-year-old children and two elderly women after retired major U Ye Min Than was shot dead in Kyaikkasan ward in Bahan Township on 29 April. The military council inspected mobile phones and arrested them when soldiers checked the overnight guest list. ²⁵

On 29 April, a retired army major named Ye Min Than was shot dead outside his home by unknown gunmen in Kyaik Ka San Ward in Bahan Township. In addition, U Thet Paing, the administrator of Ward 3 in Hlaing Tharyar Township, was shot dead by unknown gunmen at the corner of Bogyo Aung San Road and Nat Shin Naung Street on 1 May.



²⁴ University student Ko Banyar Soe Htet was sentenced to ten more years in prison and faces 84 years in jail in total. <https://tinyurl.com/2hdddy2n>

²⁵ Military council arrested eight people after the retired major was shot dead in Bahan. <https://tinyurl.com/2hq963ps>



Arakan State

Over 60 households from Wartaung IDP camp in Kyauktaw Township are moving to another place. The Wartaung IDP camp is built on the farmlands owned by two villagers. The IDPs have to move to Taungminkalar IDP camp located about two miles from Wartaung IDP camp as one farmland owner no longer rent out his land. ²⁶

The UNHCR reconstructed 292 shelters in four Muslim IDP camps in Sittwe and Kyaukphyu Townships, Rakhine State, according to the statement on 27 April. A total of 2,600 families now have a safe and dignified space to live. The UNHCR provided shelters and kitchen utensils for the Muslim IDP camps. ²⁷

²⁶ Kyauktaw IDPs face difficulty as land cannot be hired.
<https://tinyurl.com/2erp2v2d>

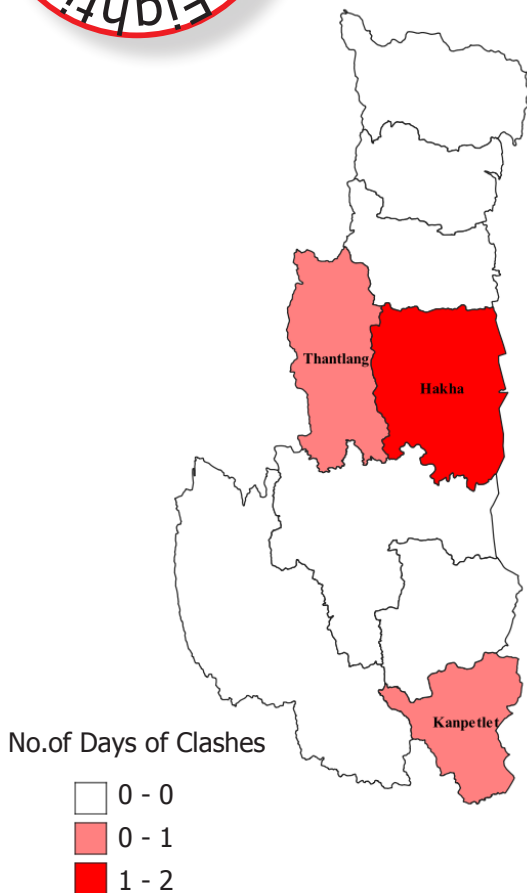
²⁷ Kyauktaw IDPs face difficulty as land cannot be hired.
<https://tinyurl.com/2erp2v2d>



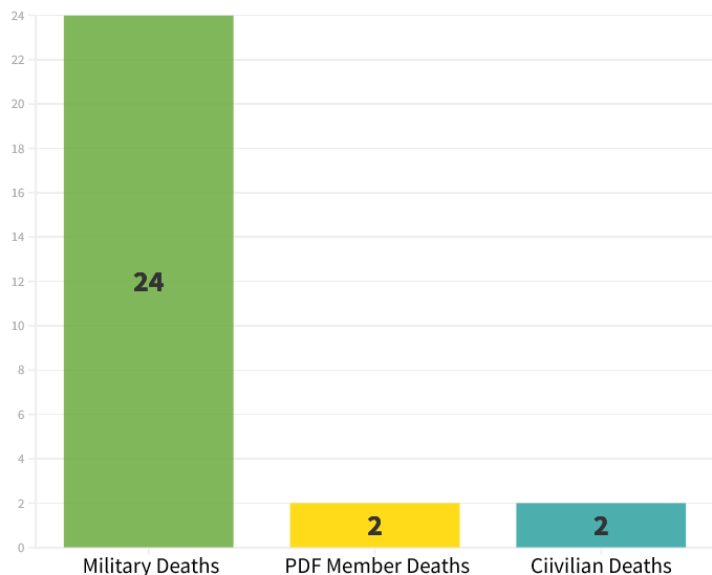
Chin State

Two members of Chinland Defense Force-CDF (Kanpetlet) were killed and three others seriously wounded in a mine accident. On 28 April, the accident occurred when they were installing mines at the Tumi battalion-3 of CDF-Kanpetlet Brigade. The comrades killed in the mine accident are Salai Shwe Law and Maung Aung Ye Lin.²⁸

The Mindat Public Administrative Body announced on 29 May that it banned bird hunting for three months as the period from May to July is the nest-building and breeding season. Currently, locals in Mindat Township have to do more upland-cutting and hunting for the family livelihood than that before the military coup due to the military council's 'four cuts' policy.²⁹



Clashes broke out between regime forces and Chinland Defense Force in Thantlang, Kanpetlet, and Hakha Townships, killing 24 regime soldiers. Two civilians were killed when the regime's air force carried out bombing on Tlanglo village in Thantlang Township on 27 April. In addition, two members of CDF -Kanpetlet were killed and three others seriously wounded in the process of making mines on 28 April.



²⁸ Two comrades from CDF-Kanpetlet were killed in a mine accident.
<https://tinyurl.com/2k6ck2vn>

²⁹ Bird hunting was banned in Mindat Township for three months.
<https://tinyurl.com/2lsc7lcd>

International



Ban Ki-moon, Deputy Chair of The Elders and former Secretary-General of the United Nations who met junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, last week, held an online meeting with U Moe Zaw Oo, Deputy Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the National Unity Government (NUG), on 27 April.

The meeting mainly focused on Ban Ki-moon's tour to Myanmar. Both sides shared views on ways to proceed in Myanmar affairs. Ban Ki-moon said that not only the NUG but also other groups play an important role. Deputy Minister U Moe Zaw Oo expressed his concern that the junta may seek to exploit this visit for their own advantage. The meeting concluded with an agreement to establish a collaborative working relationship to discuss potential pathways towards resolving the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, according to the NUG's statement.



Japan, which will host the G7 summit, should sanction Myanmar, as it has done to Russia over its Ukraine invasion.



On 28 April, Mr. Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar called on the leaders to impose strong sanctions against Myanmar military council at the G 7 summit scheduled to be held in Hiroshima of Japan. Japan should sanction Myanmar as it has done for Russia over its Ukraine invasion, a United Nations expert said.

Thomas Andrews, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, also urged Japan to immediately end a training programme for Myanmar troops, warning it was tarnishing the image of the country's military.

Myanmar is the nine most dangerous countries in Asia according to the Global Peace Index for 2023. The dangerous countries in Asia like Myanmar have oppressed dictators, wars, civil wars, violence, drug trafficking, human trafficking, political instability, kidnapping and arbitrary arrests.

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.