

Weekly News Review

Issue 125, 4 - 10 October 2023



Deadly bombing of Munglai Hkyet IDP camp

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Introduction



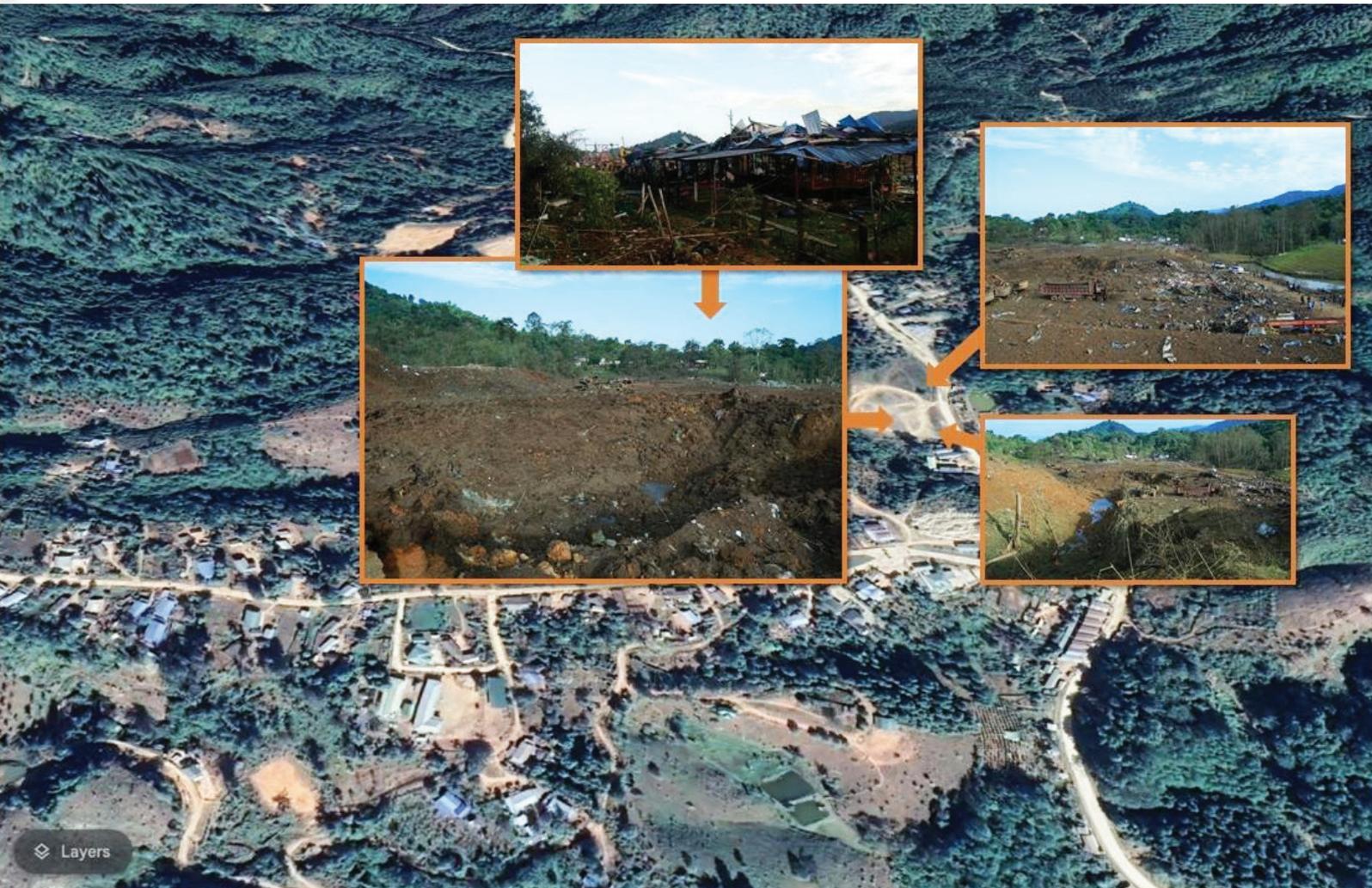
Either dropped by the plane or fired at a distance,
The truth is the lives of the sleeping civilians were lost.
Their lives were destroyed.
The majority of those killed are children and women.



The Weekly News Review by Burma News International (BNI)
– Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) for this week highlights the
huge shell hole and the incident which killed 29 civilians including
children and women in Munglai Hkyet village near Laiza, based
on the ground information.

Incident

The midnight bombing on 9 October 2023 killed 29 civilians—11 underage children, 15 women and three men— and severely wounded 57 others from Munglai Hkyet IDP camp near Laiza. The bodies of those killed in the incident were buried in Inkharwatkaung in Laiza on 10 October. The wounded were admitted to Laiza People's Hospital. Most of the wounded have now been discharged from the hospital. The remaining 20 people including eight children remain in the hospital. The BNI-MPM's ground reporter confirmed these figures on the afternoon of 12 October.



Munglai Hkyet IDP camp is more than an IDP camp. It is a village with 168 households in Laiza Township in the KIO-controlled territory. The Munglai Hkyet IDP camp where 658 IDPs and local residents are taking shelter, is located beside Namhsamyang-Laiza road in the KIO-controlled territory.

“The explosion was so huge that the people thought the bomb was dropped by a plane. But when I asked the local people, they said that no one heard the sound of the plane. They replied that they heard three explosions. Almost all the houses in the village were destroyed,” the BNI-MPM’s ground reporter recounted his experience.

According to his experience of covering the news by living in the KIO-controlled territory of Laiza Township for more than two years, our ground reporter said no explosives were seen in the vicinity of Munglai Hkyet IDP camp located beside Namhsamyang-Laiza road.

Related findings

Colonel Naw Bu, spokesperson of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) reviewed based on the findings on the ground that we could not hear the sound of the plane, but the condition is an airstrike. If not, it is a drone attack. It may also be an attack with a long-range rocket. Colonel Naw Bu said the KIO has formed an investigation committee to collect the detailed information about the incident. ¹

Major General Zaw Min Tun, spokesperson of the military council said the people need to think about whether bombing and heavy shelling is possible at midnight as Munglai Hkyet IDP camp is close to the border area. He also accused that the incident

¹ 29 people were killed, 57 wounded in an attack on Munglai Hkyet IDP camp in Laiza, KIO says. <http://rb.gy/mtj9g>

could only be the explosion of the KIO's arms depot.

"They (military) said that they are not responsible for every attack. Giving various reasons is a common behavior of Myanmar military leaders. In this case, blaming others without taking responsibility is their usual pattern," Tom Andrews, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar said. ²

The military council's spokesperson Major General Zaw Min Tun denied the brutal attack. He said the military has to carefully deal with the situations in the places close to the border area. His denial reminds us of the aerial bombardment of the headquarters of the Chin National Front/ Chin National Army (CNF/CNA) located near the India-Myanmar border, with jet fighters on 10 and 11 January, 2023. The Indian army carried out a field inspection as a bomb fell and exploded on the Indian soil. The world has witnessed the military council's heavy shells and grenades which fell on the soils of neighbouring countries like China and Thailand.

2 The attack on Kachin IDP camp is part of a wider operation by the army, Tom Andrews said. <http://rb.gy/mv45j>



Take a look at the above-mentioned huge shell hole, it can be assumed that the shell hole occurred due to the explosion of a powerful military weapon fired at a distance or dropped from the sky rather than an armoury explosion. In addition, the place where the explosion occurred is next to the main road. So, the military council's accusation is not reasonable.

On 10 October, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield issued a statement denouncing the military regime's attack on Munglai Hkyet IDP camp. This latest attack by the military regime is yet another example of its disregard for human life and underscores the need for the UN Security Council to act beyond Resolution 2669, the statement said.³

Review

The deadly bombing of Munglai Hkyet IDP camp, which killed 29 civilians including children and women reminds the junta's

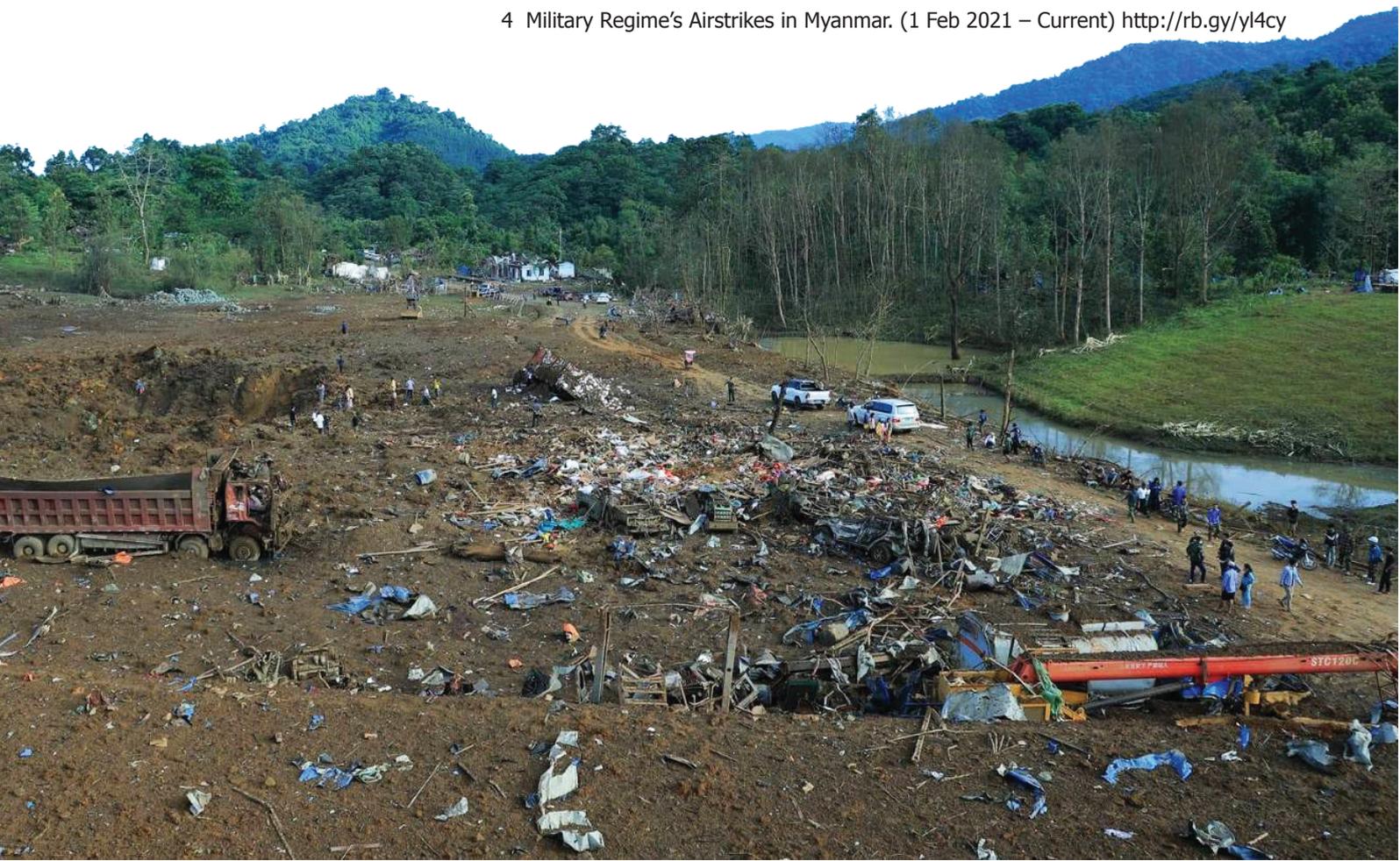
³ Statement by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield on the Burma Military Regime's October 9 Attack on Munglai Hkyet, Kachin State. <http://rb.gy/7yq32>



brutal incidents like the Pazigy incident in Kanbalu Township, the A Nang Pa incident in Hpakant Township and Letyetkone village incident in Depayin Township following the military coup. The incidents of aerial bombardments targeting the villages, schools and IDP camps are reported all over the country, including Karenni (Kayah) State.

With the intensification of the resistance war of Spring Revolution, the military council has stepped up airstrikes. According to the record of the BNI-MPM, 2023 has seen more airstrikes than 2021 and 2022.⁴ The National Unity Government (NUG), the forces of Spring Revolution and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) such as the Karen National Union (KNU), the Arakan Army (AA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and Chin National Front (CNF) condemned the deadly bombing of Munglai Hkyet IDP camp. The Three Brotherhood Alliance issued a statement

4 Military Regime's Airstrikes in Myanmar. (1 Feb 2021 – Current) <http://rb.gy/yl4cy>





...that the military council is blatantly carrying out heavy shelling and aerial attacks on the public which oppose it, all over the country with a grudge.



saying that the military council which is facing losses on all fronts including the military and political fronts, is blatantly carrying out heavy shelling and aerial attacks on the public which oppose it, all over the country with a grudge.⁵

It can be said that the bombing of Munglai Hkyet IDP camp may not be the last act of the military junta. It is worth noting that the EROs including the public which are supporting the forces of Spring Revolution may face the junta's targeted attacks at any time. It is required to document each and every brutal and inhumane act committed by the military council following the military coup. In addition, there is a special need for us to bring justice to children, women and each and every person who lost their lives.

“Either dropped by the plane or fired at a distance,
The truth is the lives of the sleeping civilians were lost.
Their lives were destroyed.
The majority of those killed are children and women.”

⁵ Three Brotherhood Alliance announced that it is deeply saddened for those killed in the attack on Munglai Hkyet IDP camp and synonymous with KIO/KIA.
<http://rb.gy/cismp>

Weekly Highlight Quote



I feel upset hearing about the sexual violence happening in Arakan State. Most of the time perpetrators are adults related to the children - relatives or neighbours. They act this way because they don't know how to deal with their sexual urges when they arise. That's why when it comes to sex education, it's important to teach age-appropriate things to the children in schools. Adults also need to be educated on how to manage and control themselves. Also, there's the legal aspect to it. Victims don't know who to report to or which government authorities to rely on for justice.



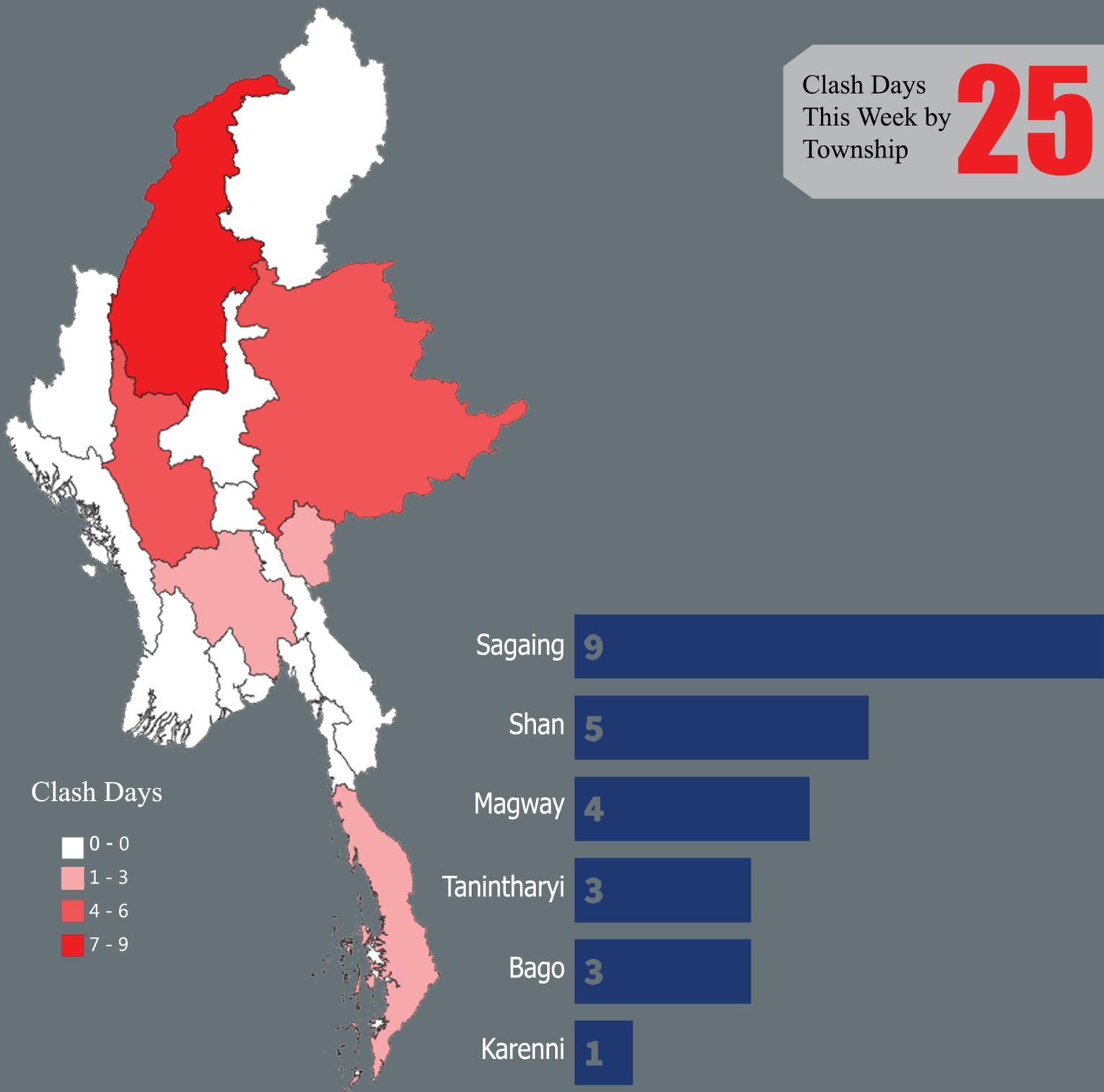
Ma Yoon Nadi Oo
Kyauktaw Youths Association

*(Excerpted from the interview
"Why is child rape increasing in Arakan State?"
published on BNI-MPM website.)*

Part II

What Happened This Week

According to data collected by BNI- Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM), there were 25 days of clashes between Myanmar army troops, the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs), and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs) from 4 to 10 October. Broken down by state and region, Sagaing Region had the highest number of clashes, totaling nine days. MPM records the situation of fighting by township in terms of days, but the actual number of incidents may be higher.



Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

4 - 10 October 2023



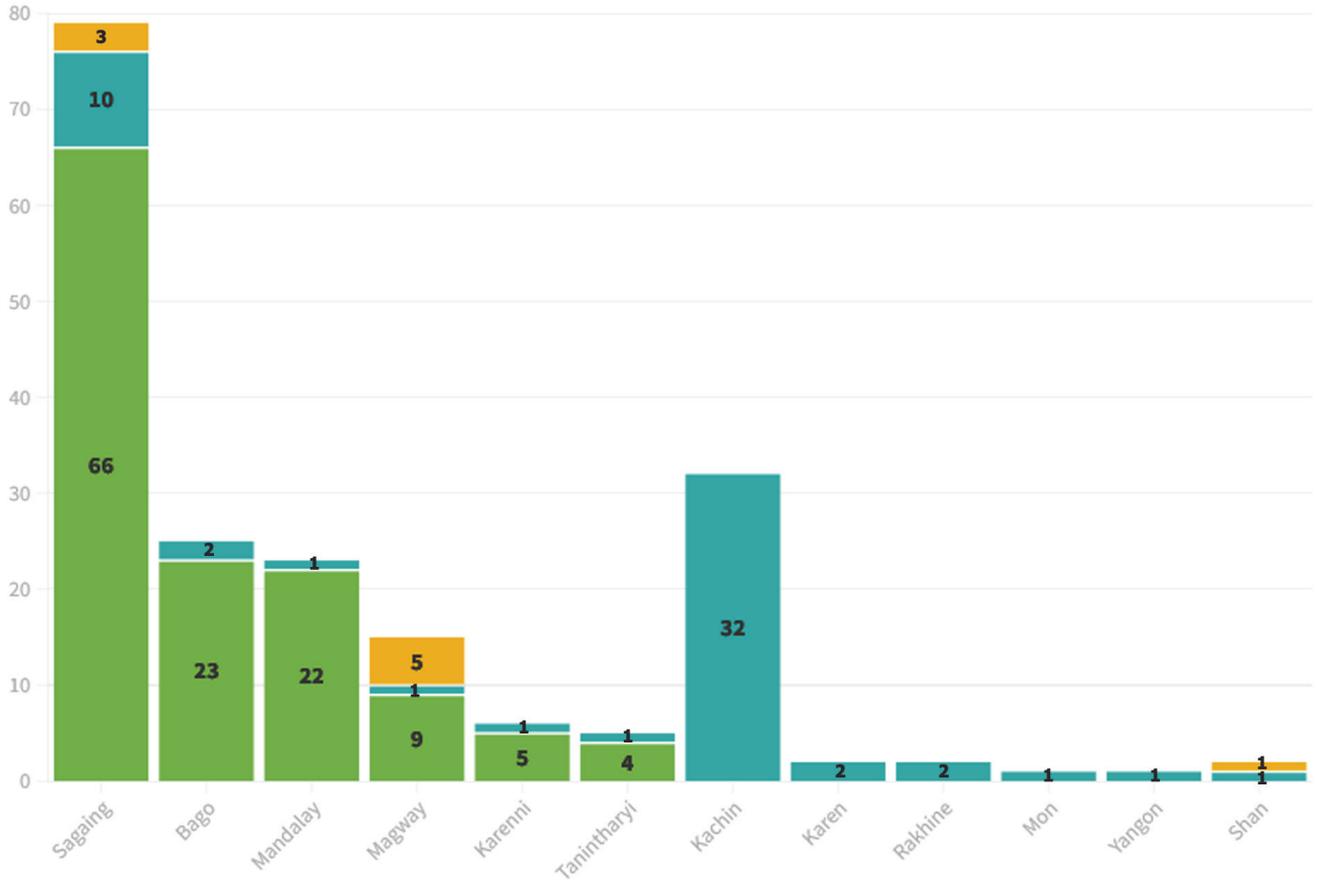
Military Deaths



PDF Member Deaths



Civilian Deaths

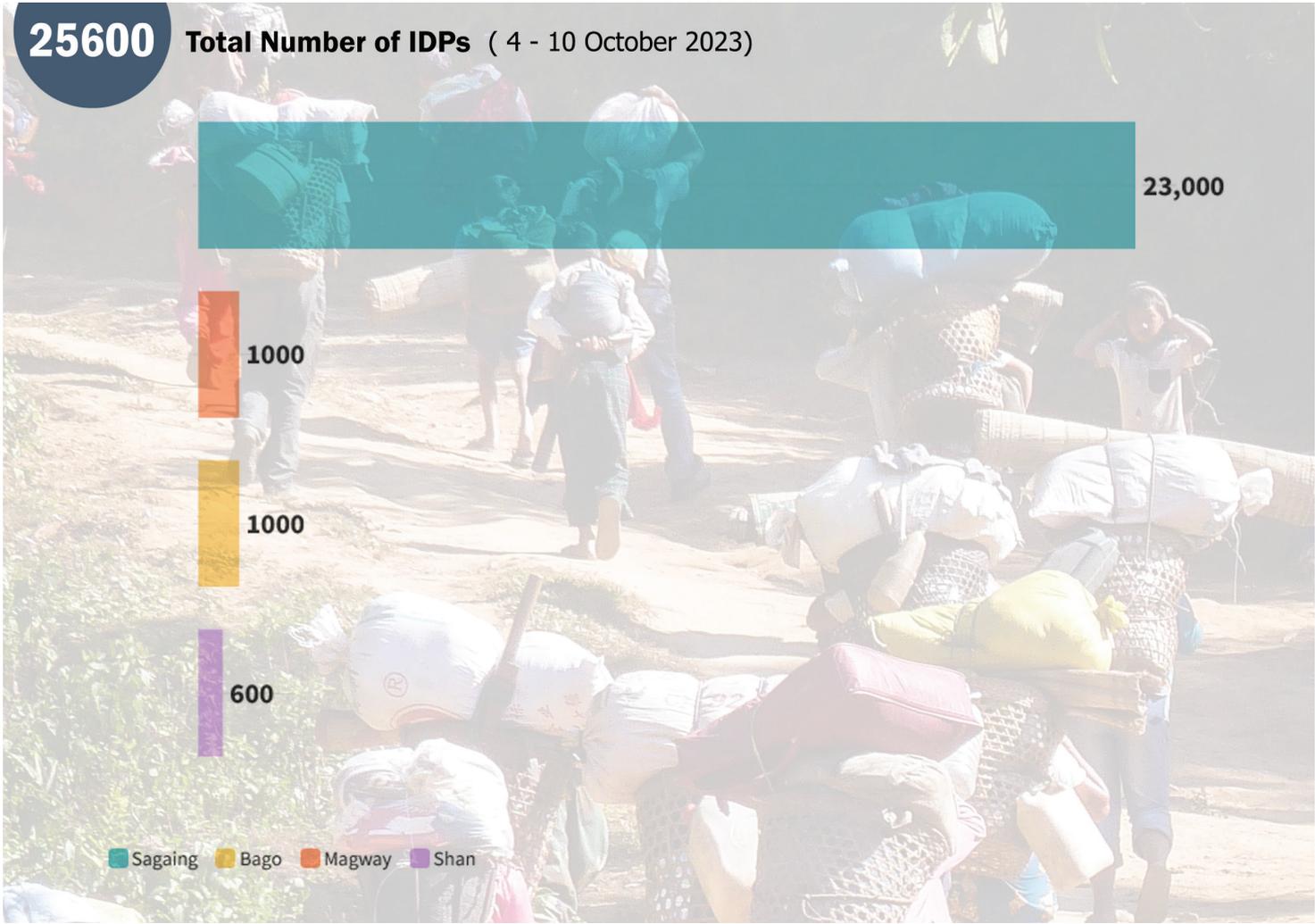


■ Military Deaths ■ Civilian Deaths ■ PDF Member Deaths

25600 Total Number of IDPs (4 - 10 October 2023)

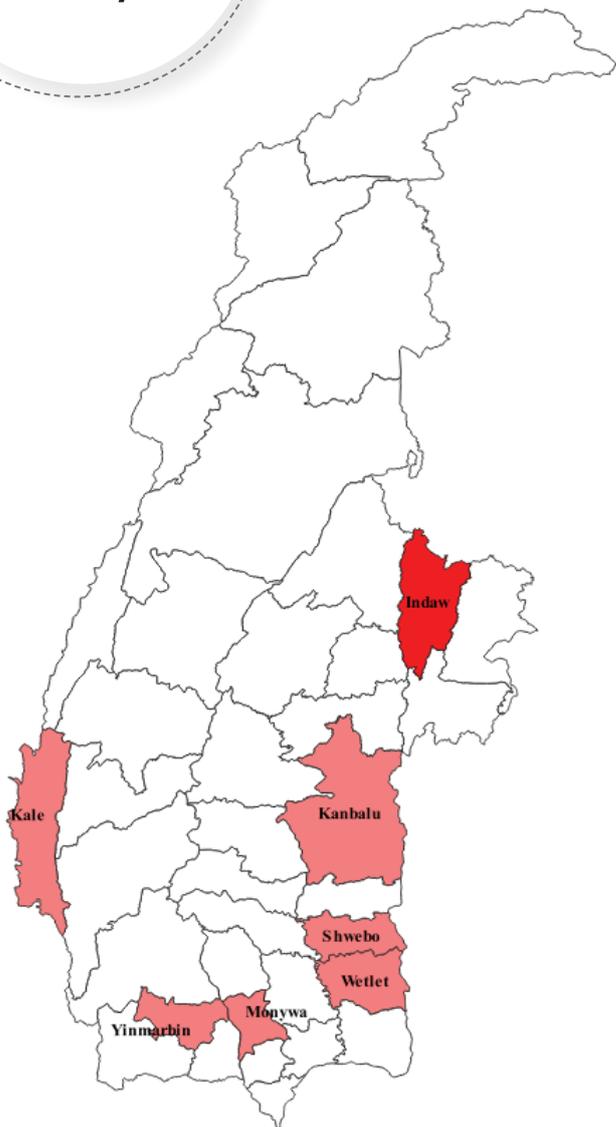


■ Sagaing ■ Bago ■ Magway ■ Shan

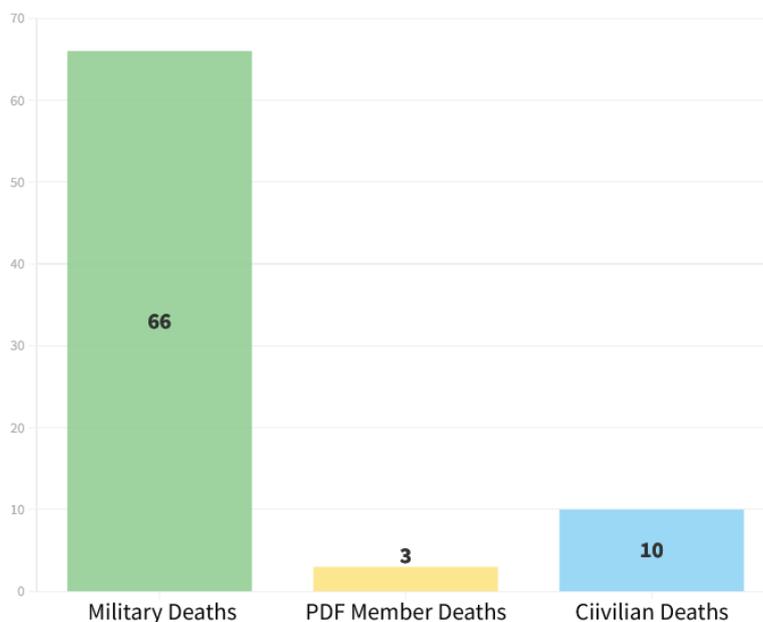
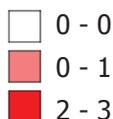


Sagaing Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and local PDFs in Yinmabin, Shwebo, Kanbalu, Indaw, Kalay, and Wetlet Townships, resulting in the deaths of 65 junta soldiers and three PDF members. On 4 October, PDF members shot dead U Aye Myat – the administrator of Nat Lu Hteik Pan ward, and a policeman at the entrance to Monywa on Monywa-Mandalay Road.¹ Seven civilians died from to junta soldiers' gunfire in Salingyi, Kalay, and Kanbalu Townships. In addition, two men were shot and killed by unknown gunmen in Sagaing and Indaw Townships. Myanmar army's advance in Salingyi and Kanbalu forced more than 23,000 locals to flee to safety.



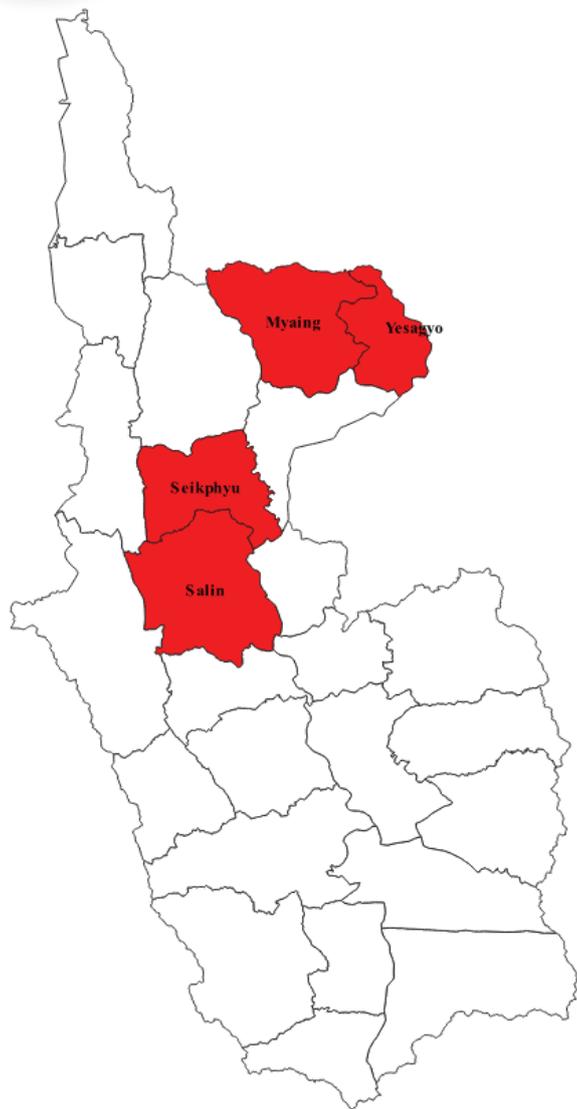
Number of Clash Days



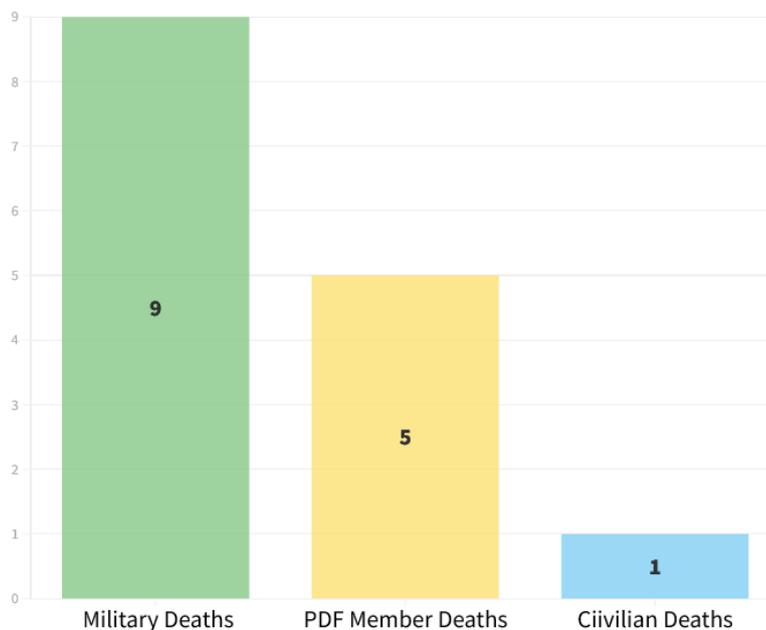
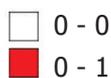
¹ Administrator, policeman shot dead in drive-by shooting in Monywa <https://tinyurl.com/ywmhj6rw>

Magway Region

Clashes occurred between Myanmar army troops and PDFs in Yesagyo, Salin, Myaing, and Seikphyu Townships, resulting in the deaths of six junta soldiers. In addition, three military council soldiers were killed in attacks in Pauk and Gangaw Townships. On 10 October, five resistance members were killed when a local defense camp near Kyaukphoo village in in Pakokku Township was raided by junta troops. The junta column's advance forced nearly 1,000 residents of Kyaukphoo, Htanpinchaung, and Ywartharaye villages to flee to safety. ² On 9 October, a man arrested on suspicion of burglary in Kamma died in junta police custody as a result of torture. ³

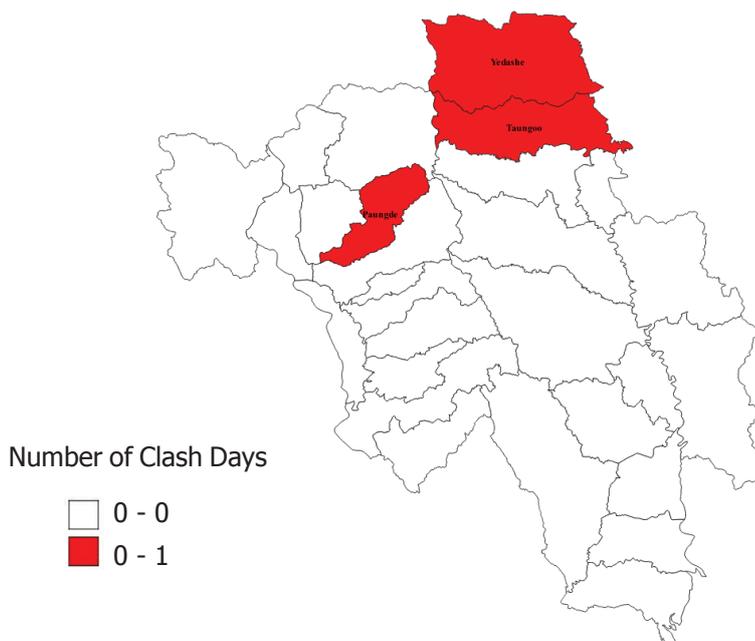


Number of Clash Days



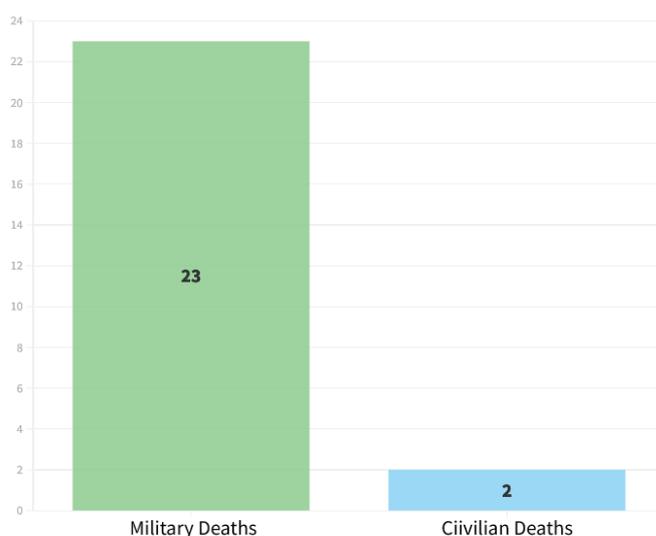
² Five PDF members killed in DPF outpost raid in Pakokku <https://tinyurl.com/yu6xgecd>

³ Man arrested on suspicion of theft died in junta interrogation in Kamma <https://tinyurl.com/yu9vgthn>



Bago Region

Clashes occurred between the Myanmar army and the PDF in Paungde, Taungoo, and Yedashe Townships, resulting in the deaths of 22 junta soldiers. On 7 October, a member of the junta-affiliated Pyu Saw Htee militia from Aungthapyay village, Kyauktaga village tract, Paungde Township, named Ko Phoe Wa was shot and killed by PDF members.⁴ In a similar case, a military-appointed administrator named U Zaw Won was shot dead by PDF members on the Kyawhla village road, Okpho Township.⁵ On 10 October, a 14-year-old girl studying in the ninth grade was killed when junta troops fired artillery on Kyawhla village in Phyu Township.⁶ On 6 October, military council's airstrikes on Najab and Letpanhpyu villages in Yedashe Township forced nearly 1,000 residents to flee.⁷

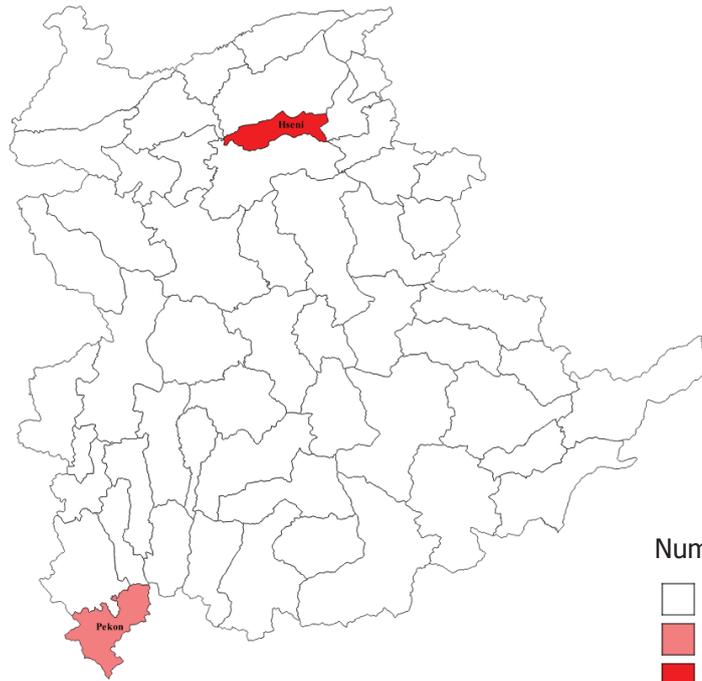


4 Pyu Saw Htee member shot dead in Paungde <https://tinyurl.com/yvqlfmx8>

5 Administrator shot dead in Okpho <https://tinyurl.com/ysqjozw8>

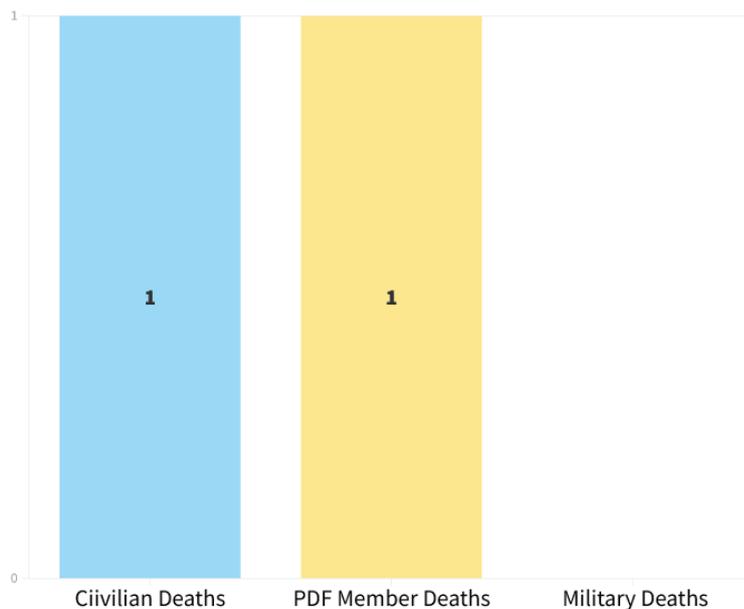
6 Female ninth grader killed, four injured in junta shelling in Phyu <https://tinyurl.com/y1b2gk1x>

7 Junta airstrikes force some 1,000 people forced to flee in Yedashe <https://tinyurl.com/ysc5f4sv>



Shan State

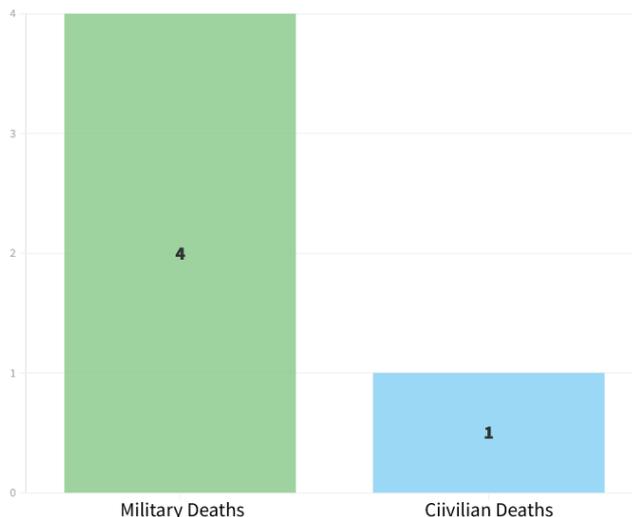
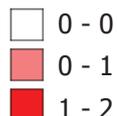
Clashes occurred between the Myanmar army and the combined forces of the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDF in Pekon and Theinni Townships, resulting in the death of one PDF member. The fighting, which broke out in Theinni on 9 October, forced some 600 locals to flee to safety.⁸ Also, on the same day, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) hunted down and shot a group alleged to have kidnapped children in Namhkam Township, resulting in one death and two arrests.⁹



8 Shelling hit village, monastery during Theinni battle; villagers forced to flee <https://tinyurl.com/ylpkwm2y>

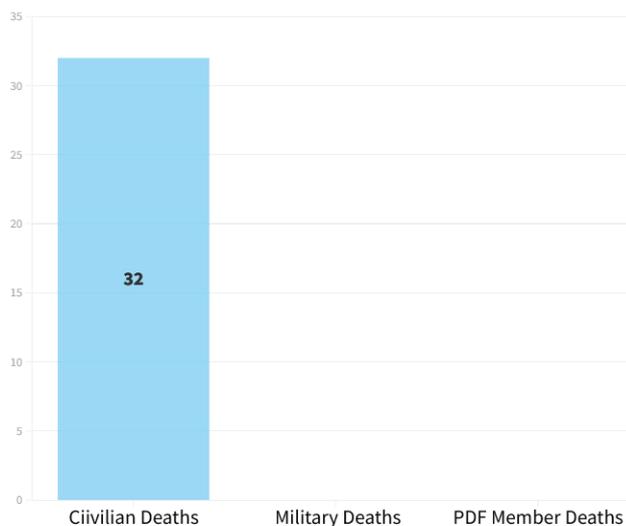
9 TNLA hunt down kidnapping group in Namhkam; one dead, two injured <https://tinyurl.com/ylpkb8dp>

Number of Clash Days



Tanintharyi Region

Clashes occurred between the Myanmar army and the Kawthoolei Army (KTLA) in Launglon and Tanintharyi Townships, resulting in the deaths of four junta soldiers. On 6 October, junta-affiliated Pyu Saw Htee members shot dead a man at Jetty No(1) in Naunglel ward, Myeik, during their patrol. ¹⁰



Kachin State

On 5 October, the administrator of Yaeshin village in Mogaung Township named U Hla Tun was shot dead in front of his house by unknown gunmen. ¹¹ In a similar case, two men were shot dead by unknown gunmen in Hpakant on 5 October. ¹² On 9 October, 29 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were killed and 57 wounded when the military council's air force bombed Mung Lai Hkyet IDP camp, located about three miles north of Laiza where the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) is headquartered. ¹³

¹⁰ Man shot dead by Pyu Saw Htee member in Myeik <https://tinyurl.com/yn5kgy5l>

¹¹ Yaeshin village administrator shot dead <https://tinyurl.com/yu8rk7wv>

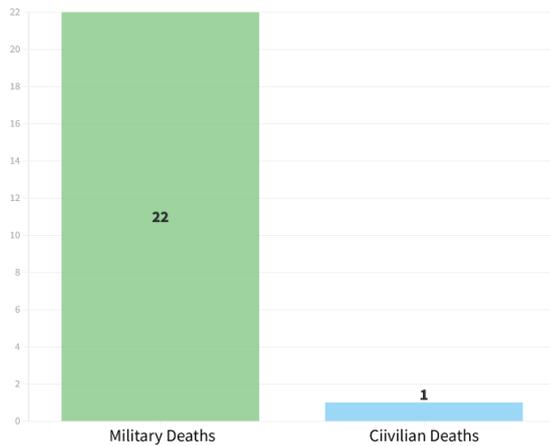
¹² Two men shot dead in Hpakant <https://tinyurl.com/yl99e7dz>

¹³ Some 30 people including children killed as IDP camp near Laiza attacked <https://tinyurl.com/yshk6oq2>



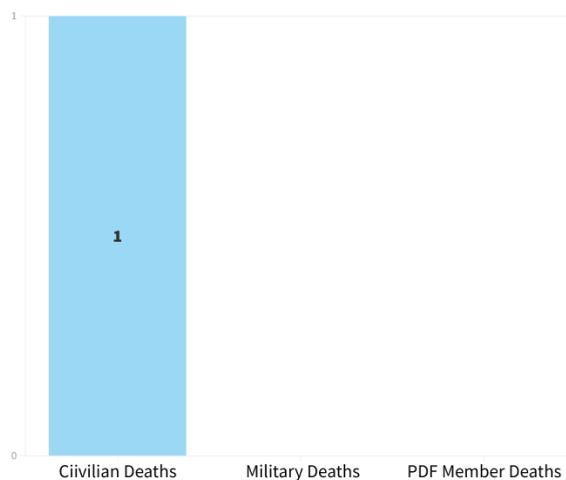
Mandalay Region

Twenty-two military council soldiers were killed in attacks in Aungmyethazan and Madaya Township. In addition, PDF members discovered the body of a man allegedly killed and buried by Myanmar army soldiers who had been stationed near Thahpankaing village in the eastern part of Madaya Township. ¹⁴



Mon State

On 10 October, the Ye Balu PDF shot dead the administrator of Aung Myittar ward and a Pyu Saw Htee militia leader named Ko Latt near Mya Thida Market in Ye. ¹⁵

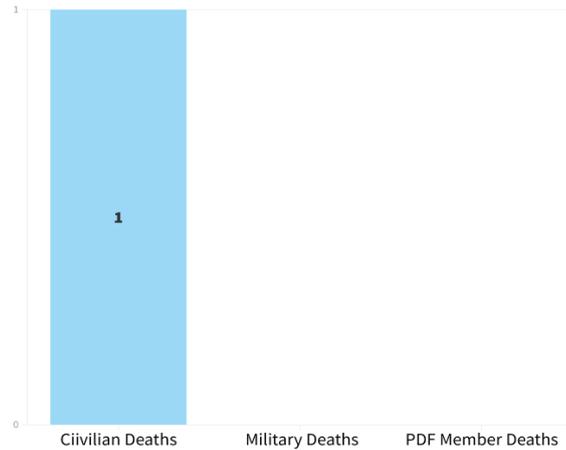


14 Junta soldiers kill and bury man during stay in village <https://tinyurl.com/yrmgdcq7>

15 Aung Myittar ward administrator in Ye shot dead <https://tinyurl.com/ywc86t22>

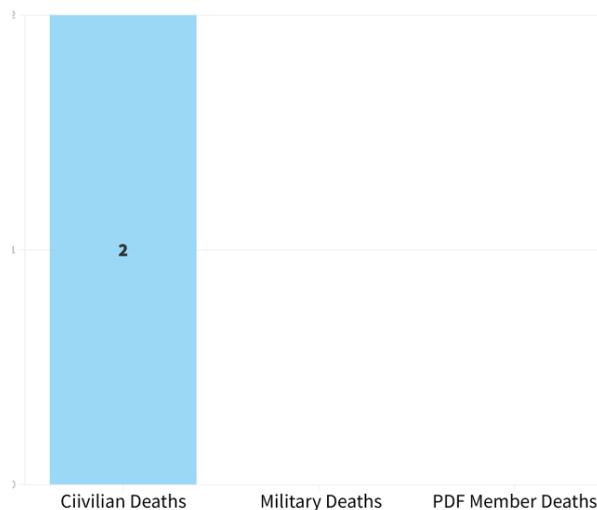
Yangon Region

On 9 October, the body of the owner of Zabu Yit gold shop in Kyeemyindaing Night Market named U Min Zaw Oo, who had been kidnapped by unidentified gunmen, was found at Zero Mile post on Yangon-Bago road near the Htauk Kyant Junction. ¹⁶



Karen State

On 4 October, Saw Than Htike Aung and his wife Ma Hnin Hnin Wai from 3rd Pan Chan Street, Ward (4), were shot dead by unknown gunmen. The slain couple allegedly had ties to the Border Guard Forces (BGF) and had casino business interests in Shwe Kokko New City. ¹⁷



¹⁶ Owner of Zabu Yit gold shop in Kyeemyindaing Night Market arrested and killed <https://tinyurl.com/yu477qsl>

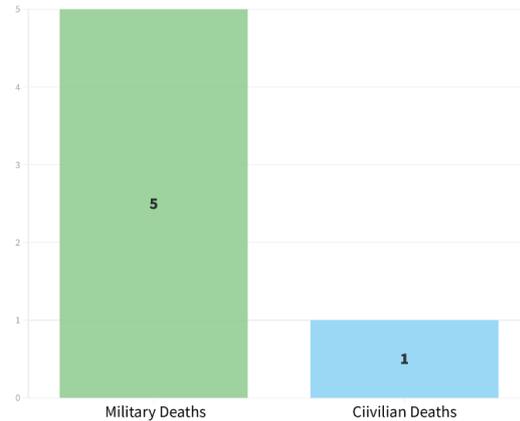
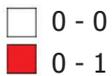
¹⁷ Three people killed in two shootings in Myawaddy <https://tinyurl.com/ylpm34lr>



Karenni (Kayah) State

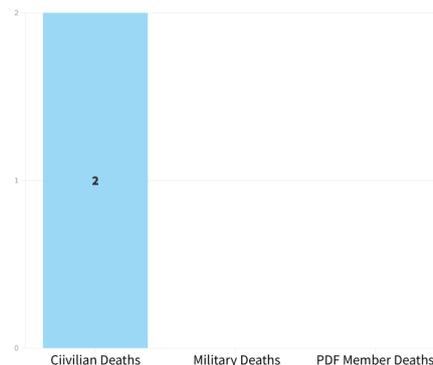
On 4 October, Myanmar army troops approaching Khone Hant village in Hpasawng Township clashed with a combined resistance force, resulting in the deaths of five junta soldiers, including a captain.¹⁸ In addition, on 7 October, an 8-year-old displaced child was killed when artillery shells fired by the Myanmar army struck a house in a village in western Hpruso Township.¹⁹

Number of Clash Days



Arakan State

On 5 October, a man named U Maung Sein Tin from Set Yone Su ward, Sittwe, was killed and a woman was injured by gunfire from an unknown gunman.²⁰ In addition, on 8 October, a 10-year-old child was killed and two others were seriously wounded when a landmine exploded near Ganang Taung IDP camp at Yoe Ta Yoke Train Station in Ponnagyun Township.²¹



18 Five junta soldiers including captain killed during Khone Hant battle; weapons seized <https://tinyurl.com/yqqgegyo>

19 Eight-year-old displaced child fatally hit by artillery shrapnel <https://tinyurl.com/yu5esaco>

20 Increased security in Sittwe after previous night's shooting <https://tinyurl.com/yn4x9wqt>

21 Ten-year-old killed, two seriously injured in mine explosion at Ponnagyun's Yoe Ta Yoke Train Station <https://tinyurl.com/ynn939tr>

International



Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun, emphasized during his General Debate statement at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial) in New York City from 2 to 4 October that the only solution to the crisis in Myanmar is ending the military dictatorship and holding perpetrators accountable.

The ambassador also appealed to the UN and member states that, as an international community, they must listen to the voices of the people of Myanmar and take action not to fail their responsibility towards the people of Myanmar and not neglect them. ¹

¹ Ending military dictatorship only way to resolve Myanmar crisis, says Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun <https://tinyurl.com/yws3z3x7>



...found that the Myanmar military junta is extensively violating conventions on freedom of association and forced labour.



The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Commission of Inquiry on Myanmar found that the Myanmar military junta is extensively violating conventions on freedom of association and forced labour. It stated that such conduct violates Myanmar's obligations under the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).²

The Freedom on the Net report, released on 4 October by the US-based Freedom House named Myanmar as the country with the second worst restrictions Internet freedom in the world. The group conducted surveys in 70 countries and documented that people in 55 countries faced legal repression for online expressions, while in another 41 countries, individuals were physically assaulted or even killed due to their online opinions.³

2 ILO threatens with ICJ referral over Myanmar's widespread forced labour violations
<https://tinyurl.com/2xcxu3hs>

3 Myanmar ranked second worst for internet freedom restrictions
<https://tinyurl.com/ynz6o5lq>

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.