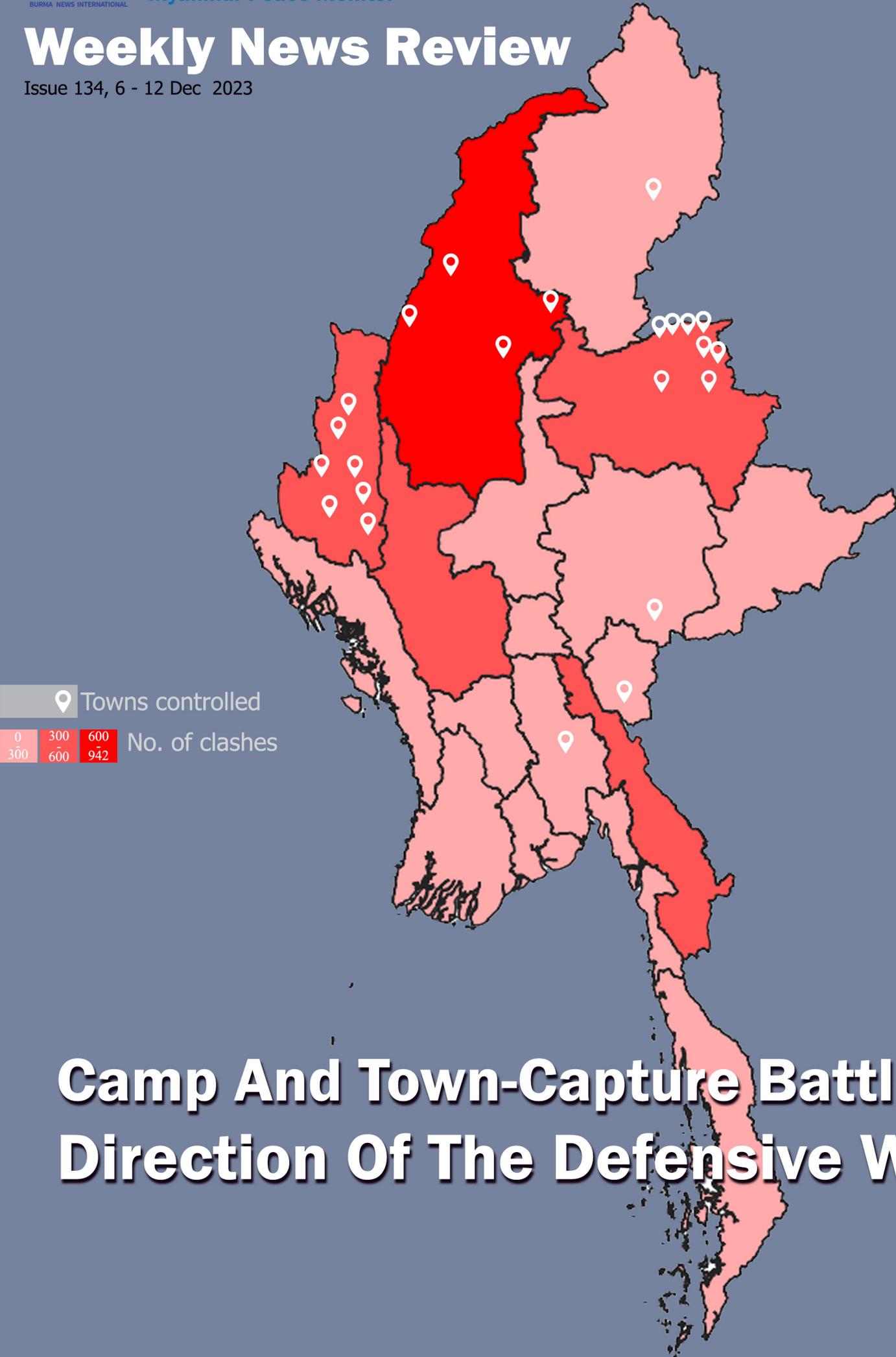


# Weekly News Review

Issue 134, 6 - 12 Dec 2023



## Camp And Town-Capture Battles: Direction Of The Defensive War

# **Camp And Town-Capture Battles: Direction Of The Defensive War**

## **Introduction**

The Myanmar's military junta, which is facing daily camp and town-capture battles, is evidently threatened by the rapid decline in its strength to dominate and control territory and the failure of its illegal coup. Throughout the country, all administrative mechanisms, including the junta's proxies, are facing attacks from resistance forces in all forms at all times and in all places.

The junta has lost control of more than 20 towns and hundreds of Myanmar Army camps to the combined offensives of the Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), the People's Defense Forces (PDF) battalions under the National Unity Government (NUG) and the People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) with diverse formations.

This issue of the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor's Weekly News Review examines the momentum of the Spring Revolution forces' attacks to capture camps and towns.

## Incidents

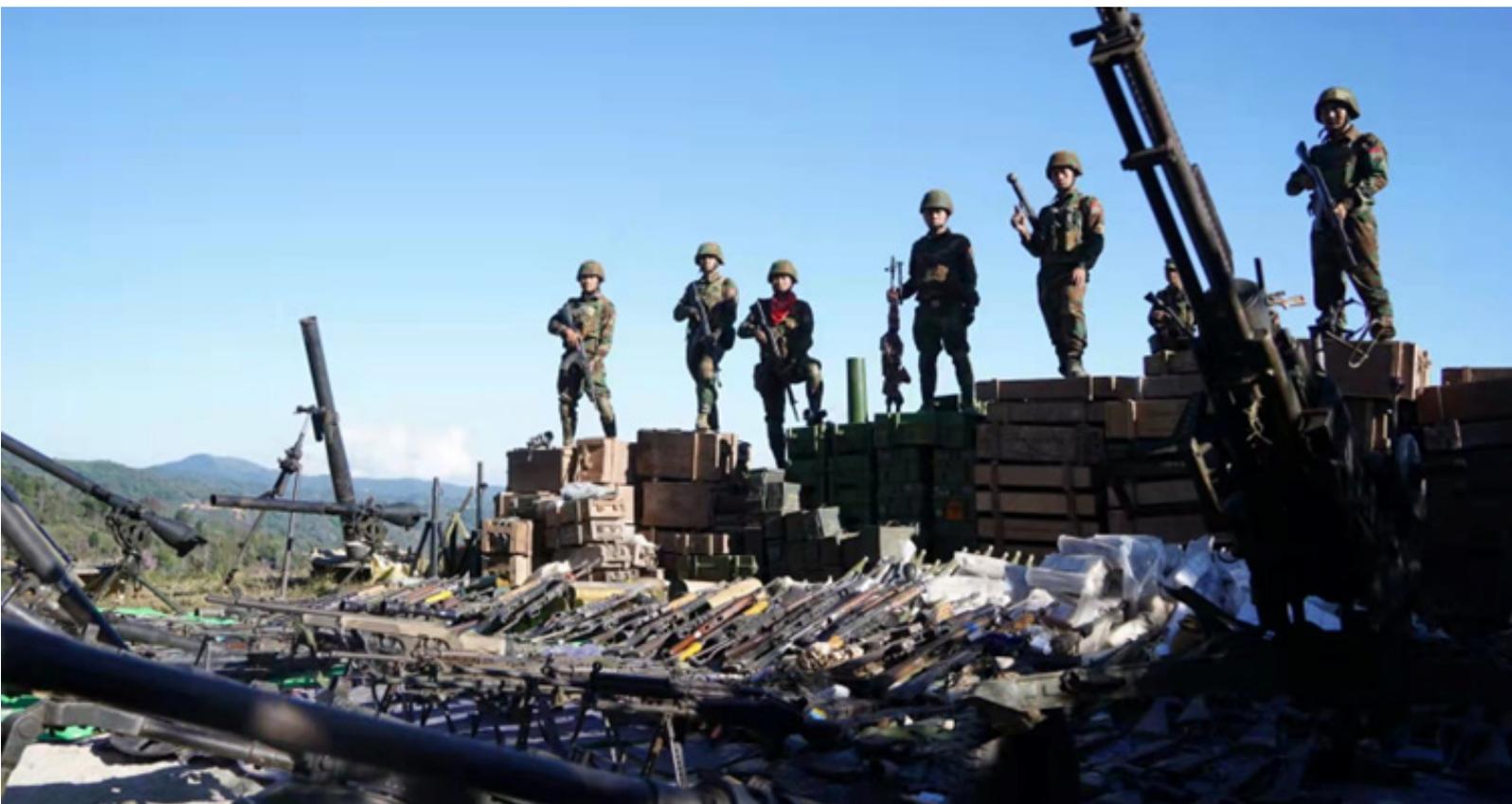
According to the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor data, the Spring Revolution forces, including EROs and NUG-aligned forces, have captured up to 24 towns. These include eight towns in northern Shan State, seven towns in Chin State, four towns in Sagaing Region, two towns in Karenni (Kayah) State, one town each in southern Shan State, Bago Region and Kachin State.

On 18 December 2023, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) attacked and completely captured the military council's Sa Khan Thit Camp in Namhkam in northern Shan State.<sup>1</sup> The TNLA stated that 49 of its soldiers were killed and 145 injured in the attempt to capture the camp.

Similar to the capture of police stations and administrative offices on 5 November during the military operation to capture Namhkam, which began in late November 2023, the TNLA took control of the town on 7 November. On 18 November, the ethnic army completely captured the Myanmar Army's Sa Khan Thit Camp with about 250 soldiers and reportedly forced about 200 of them to surrender.

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1 The military council lost Namhkam despite heavy shelling and the use of Yadaya. <https://bit.ly/483jsmv>



Also on the morning of 13 December 2023, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and the NUG-aligned People's Defense Forces (PDFs), People's Administration Teams (locally known as Pa Ah Pha), People's Security Teams (locally known as Pa La Pha) under the National Unity Government jointly attacked the junta soldiers and police officers positioned at the police station and seized the town on the border between Sagaing Region and Kachin State. During the battle, Myanmar Army Artillery Battalion No. 904 based in Mohnyin fired heavy weapons and dropped two bombs from fighter jets.<sup>2</sup>

According to BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor data, the resistance forces have captured 24 towns - Chin Shwe Haw, Kyu Koke (Pang Hseng), Hpawnghseng, Theinni, Laukkai, Kunlong and Konkyan in northern Shan State, Rikhawdar, Waibula, Surkhua, Hnaring, Rezua, Lalengpi and M'Kuiimnu in Chin State, Shwe Pyi Aye, Kawlin, Khampat and Maw Luu in the Sagaing Region, Nan Mei Khon and Mese in Karen State (Kayah), Moebye on the border between Shan and Karenni, Mone in the Paga Region and N Jang Yang in Kachin State.

## **Battle momentum**

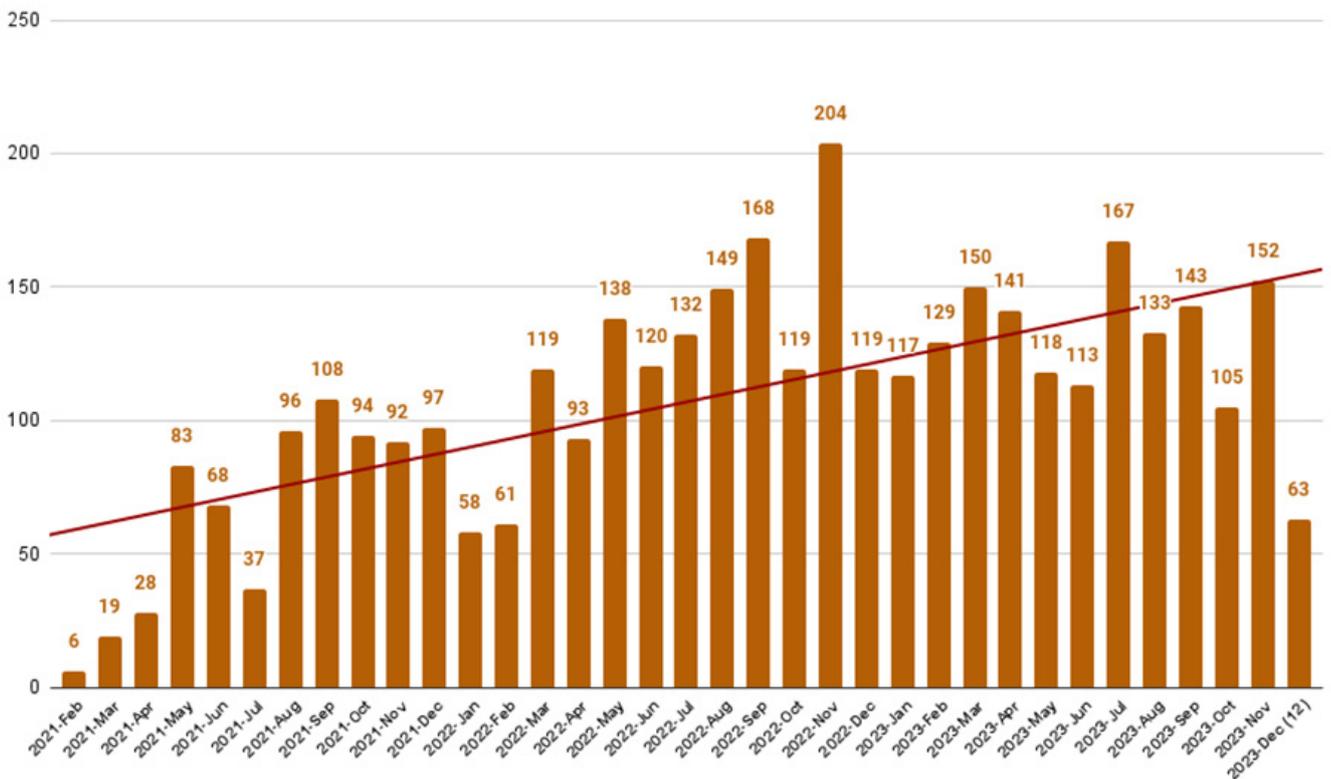
In the early morning of 21 December 2023, combined local defense forces attacked the Central Region Military Command based in Mandalay Nandwin in Aungmyaethazan Township with long-range unguided rockets. The Urban Special Operation (U.S.O) and allied forces such as Mandalay Security and Special Task Force (MDY-SSTF), PDF-Pyin Oo Lwin, No More Dictatorship (NMD-PDF) and Brave Warriors for Myanmar (BWM) claimed responsibility for the joint attack. On 20 December, resistance forces also attacked several

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<sup>2</sup> The revolutionary forces captured Mawlu in Sagaing Region.  
<https://bit.ly/3Rwm2dE>

junta positions, including Mandalay Nandwin and the main guard posts of Oboe Prison, with drone explosives.

According to the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor data, there have been a total of 3,739 clashes nationwide since the military coup until 12 December 2023. The intensity of the armed conflict has shown an upward trend.<sup>3</sup> The data analysis for 2023 shows that most clashes took place in July and November.



In addition, an analysis of the dynamics of resistance against the military junta across the country shows that more than 900 clashes have taken place in the Sagaing Region, making it the area with the most intense fighting. Magway Region, Chin State, Northern Shan State and Karen (Kayah) State each saw more than 300 clashes, qualifying them as the second highest intensity areas. Hundreds of clashes were also recorded in Karen (Kayah) State, Tanintharyi Region, Mon State, Southern Shan State, Eastern Bago Region and Mandalay Region.

<sup>3</sup> The Central Command in Mandalay Palace was attacked with rockets. <https://bit.ly/3RAN2bW>

Operation 1027, which began on 27 October 2023, has spread from northern Myanmar to Arakan State in the west of the country. According to the BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor data, of the 330 townships in the country, 219 townships (over 66% of the country) have been the scene of fighting between the military junta and the resistance forces. This indicates that the junta continues to lose territory and abandon camps.

## Review

The year 2023, which has been declared the decisive year of the revolution, is soon coming to an end. The seizures of camps and towns by the resistance forces have increased. Hundreds of junta troops have surrendered and hundreds of military equipment have been captured. However, the resistance forces have not yet gained the ability to completely defeat the entire military junta that has been built up over decades.

As its ground forces dwindle, the junta continues to mobilize military and police deserters to bolster its forces while intensifying airstrikes to recapture lost camps and bases. However, the multi-front offensives by EROs, NUG-aligned PDFs and local PDF-LDFs have put the junta under tremendous pressure nationwide. This forced the junta to ask for Chinese help to stop Operation 1027.

While the capture of camps and towns is an encouraging signal for ending military dictatorship and building a federal democratic union, the indiscriminate bombing by the junta's air force, which threatens civilians – children, the elderly, men, women, religious sites and schools alike - is particularly worrying.



The indiscriminate bombing by the junta’s air force, which threatens civilians – children, the elderly, men, women, religious sites and schools alike - is particularly worrying.



Special attention must be paid in the remaining days of 2023 to achieve a unified and coordinated effort by all resistance forces in line with the announced slogan “All roads lead to Nay Pyi Taw” through military campaigns such as “Operation 1027”, “Operation 1111”, “Operation Shwe Pyi Soe” and “Operation Alpha”. Together with the recent conquests of camps and cities, the nationwide fighting momentum is expected to continue until 2024.

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT QUOTES



“

We have a lot of difficulties. This 16-day campaign is very important. Priority is given to political and military affairs rather than the issues pertaining to women and children. As a women's organization, we are making the 16-day campaign amidst the instability during the wartime. Before the coup, the people from all regions were invited to the towns and villages, and then they were able to engage in public activities openly and joyfully. However, after the coup, human rights and women's rights activists are at a very high risk of being arrested and questioned by the military council. The people who will participate in the 16-day campaign are in a position of being interrogated and arrested.

”

**- The spokesperson of the  
Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO)**

# 24 towns which are captured and controlled by Spring Revolution forces

## Shwepyiaye

On 21 November, the combined PDFs conducted an offensive in Shwepyiaye town in Homalin Township. On 22 November, the combined force captured it and arrested eight military council soldiers.

## Khampat

On 4 November, the joint PDFs conducted an offensive against the military outpost and Myoma police station in Khampat town in Tamu Township. On 7 November, the joint force successfully captured the town.

## Kawlin

On 3 November, the combined force of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDF attacked the military council outpost and Myoma police station in Kawlin town of Kawlin Township. On 6 November, the combined force captured the town.

## Reedkhawdar

On 13 November, the joint force of Chin National Front/Chin National Army (CNF/CNA), CDF- Zanniatram, PDA – Tedim, CDF – Thantlang and CDF – Hualngoram attacked and captured two military outposts based in Reedkhawdar on No.2 Trade Route on the India-Myanmar border. Then, the joint force took complete control of the town.

## Lalengpi

On 20 November, the joint Chinland Defense Forces attacked the military bases in Lalengpi town in Matupi Township. On 24 November, the joint force captured the town.

## Rezua

On 26 November, the joint force of CNA and CDFs conducted an offensive against Rezua in Zoetone in Chin State under the name of “ZZLMS Operation”. On 29 November, the joint force successfully captured the town.

## Mese

Since 13 June, the joint force of the 4K composed of Karenni Army (KA), Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KNPLF), Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA) and PDFs, attacked all military base camps in Mese Township. On 24 June, the joint force captured Mese.

## Mone

From 2 to 4 December, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the joint revolutionary forces attacked the military council's outposts in Mone in Kyaukkyi Township. On 4 December, they captured Mone.

## Injangan

On 20 November, junta soldiers and police members from two military outposts and a police station in Injangan Township withdrew.

## Namkham

Since 5 November, the TNLA and joint forces taking control of almost all areas of Namkham, attacked the last military base camp in the compound of the pagoda where the soldiers and militia were stationed. On 7 November, the joint force took control of the town after the capture.

## Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni

Since 27 October, Three Brotherhood Alliance—Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA)—jointly has launched “Operation 1027”. On 2 November, the Three Brotherhood Alliance took complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyukoke (Pang Hseng) and Theinni.

## Konegyan

The MNDAA-Kokang successfully captured Konegyan town on 28 November as the soldiers from No.125 infantry battalion based in Konegyan on the China-Myanmar border in northern Shan State surrendered with weapons.

## Monekoe

On 5 November, the MNDAA-Kokang and the AA conducted an offensive against Monekoe strategic hill and took control of Monekoe in Muse Township on 7 November.

## Kunlong

On 1 November, the Myanmar Nationalities Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) launched a military operation to capture Kunlong in northern Shan State, attacking Myanmar Army outposts and administrative offices. The ethnic army succeeded in capturing the town on 12 November.

Source : BNI - MPM DATA (7 Dec 2023)



## Additional Townships Controlled and Captured

### Maw Luu

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) seized control of Maw Luu in Indaw Township on 13 December.

### Waibula

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of Waibula in Falam Township.

### Surkhua

On 30 November, local Chin defense forces seized control of Surkhua in Hakha Township.

### Hnaring

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of Hnaring in Thantlang Township.

### M'kuiimnu

On 30 November, Chin defense forces seized control of M'kuiimnu in Mindat Township.

### Moebye

On 11 November, the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) started attacking Moebye in Pekon Township and seized control of the town on 13 November.

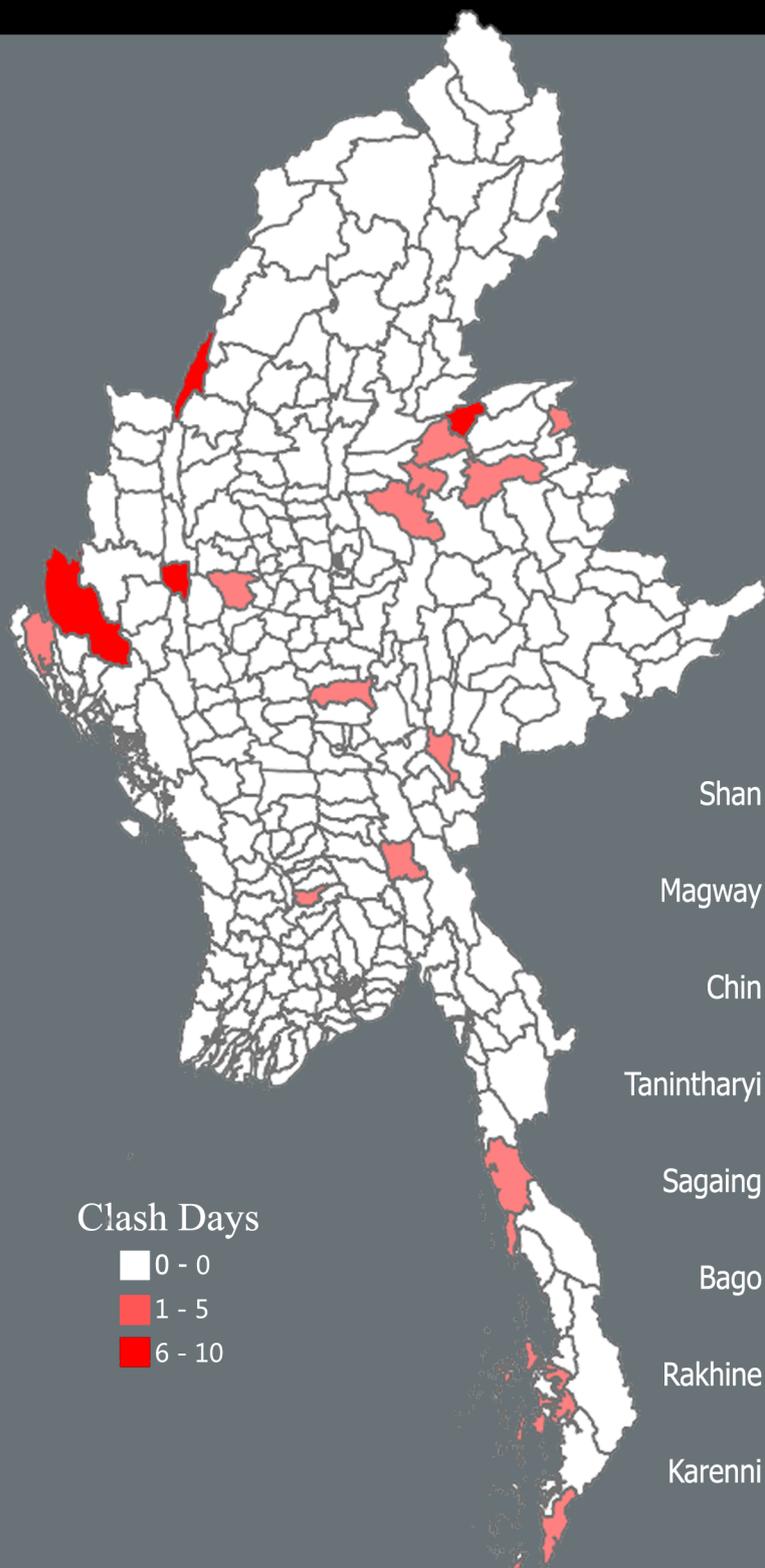
### Nan Mei Khon

The Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) started attacking Moebye in Pekon Township on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.

# Part II

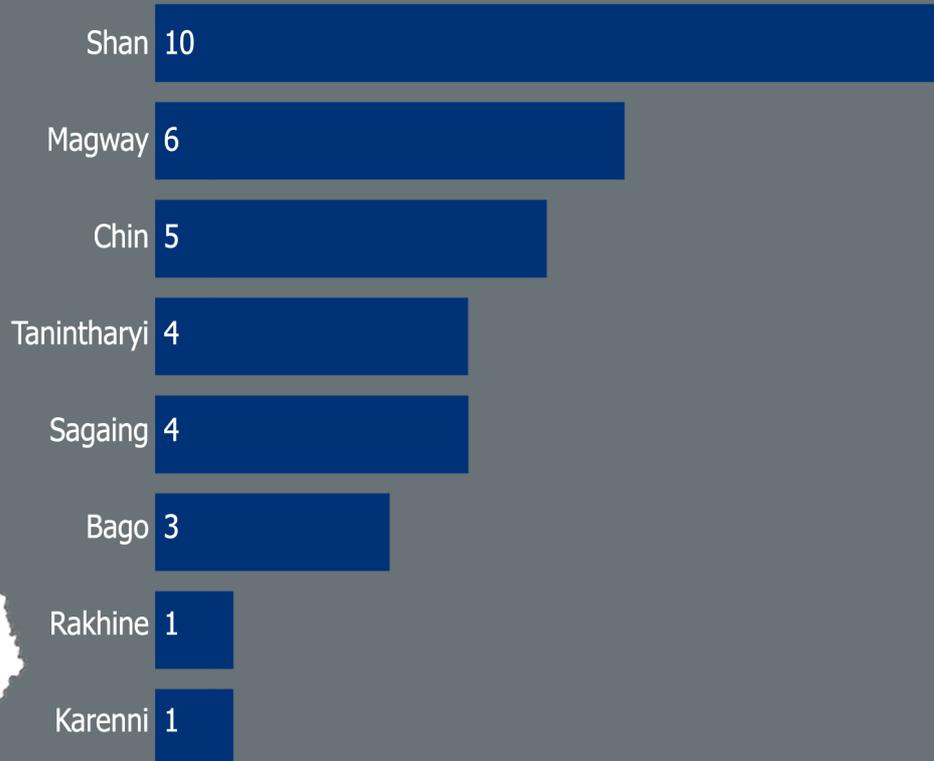
## What Happened This Week

According to the records of the Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor, from 6 to 12 December, there were 34 days of clashes between the military council, People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs). Shan State topped the list of clashes, with 10 days. The total number of clashes may be higher than that as we record the clashes in townships by date.



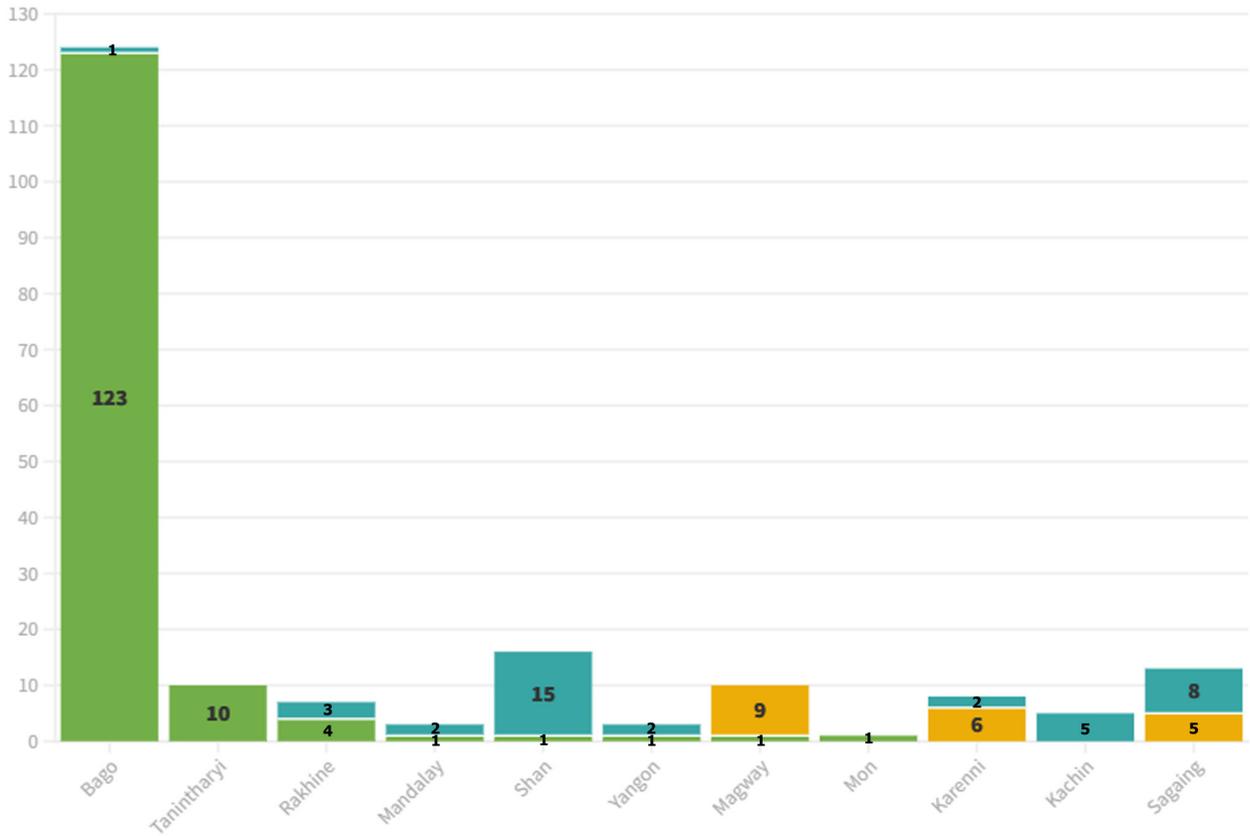
Clash Days  
This Week by  
Township

# 34



# Military, PDF Member and Civilian Deaths

December 6 - 12 2023



■ Military Deaths ■ Civilian Deaths ■ PDF Member Deaths

## 116331 Total Number of IDPs ( December 6 - 12 2023)



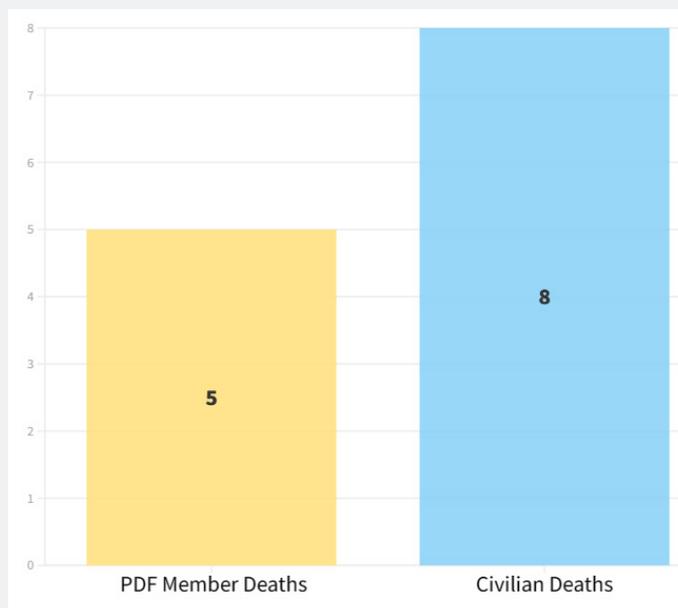
## Sagaing Region



On 10 December, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the PDFs captured the military council's important Aungzeya military strategic hill. Five PDF members were killed in the military council's shootings in Htigyaing and Sagaing Townships. The military council's shootings killed eight civilians in Homalin, Pale and Sagaing Townships. More than 9,000 locals have fled to safer places due to the military council's airstrikes in Wuntho and Kyunhla Townships.

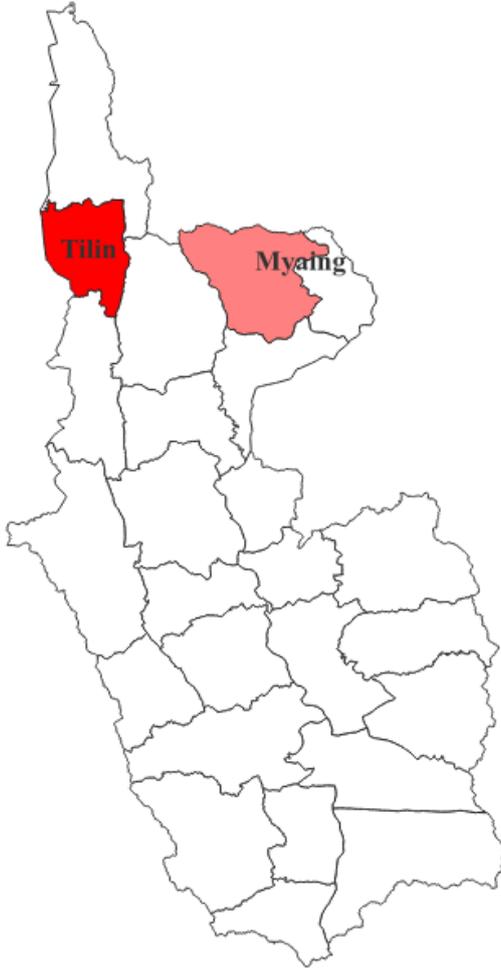
### Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 1 - 4



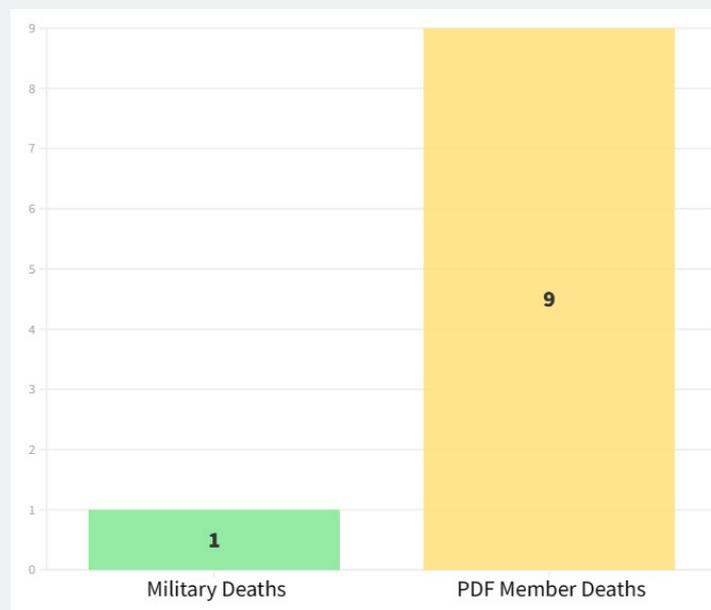
## Magway Region

Fighting took place between the military council force, Arakan Army (AA) and the PDFs in Myaing and Hteelin Townships, killing one military council soldier and nine PDF members. More than 6,500 locals from Hteelin and Myaing Townships due to the military council's airstrikes.



### Number of Clash Days

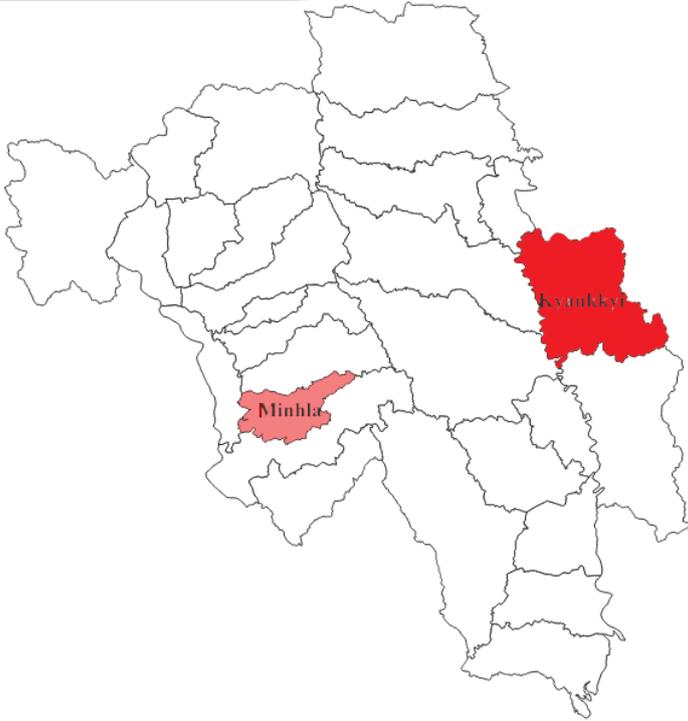
- 0 - 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4



# Clash days by Township

## 3 Days

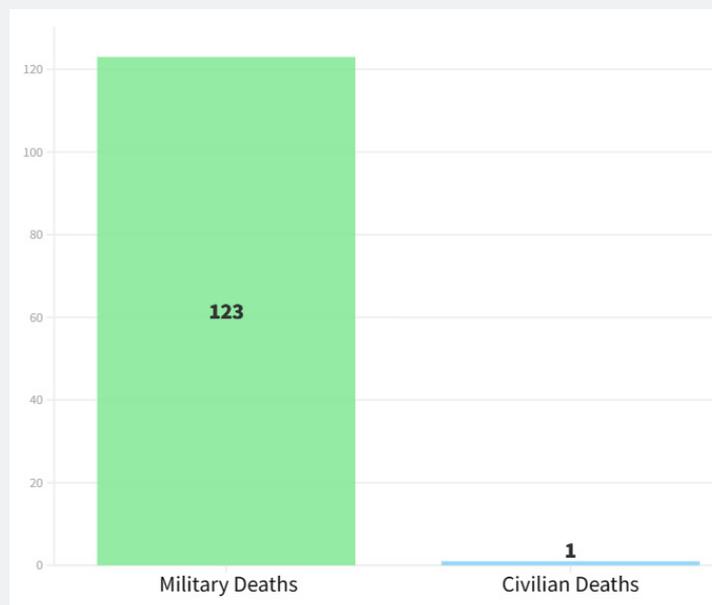
### Bago Region



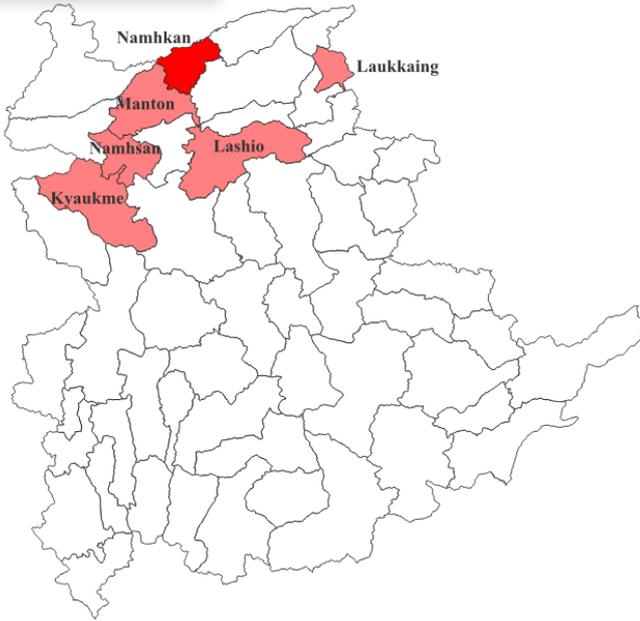
There were clashes between the military council, Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and joint PDFs in Kyaukkyi and Minhla Townships, killing 123 military council soldiers. On 12 December, the military council's airstrikes on the villages on the bank of Sittaung River in Phyu Township, killed a woman and wounded a child. In addition, the military council's heavy shelling and airstrikes displaced around 97,831 locals in Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi Townships.

#### Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 3



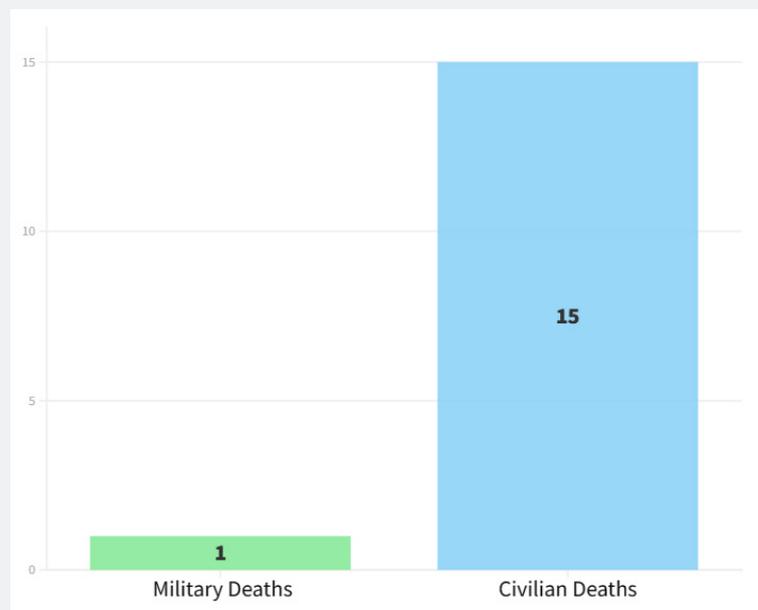
## Shan State



### Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4

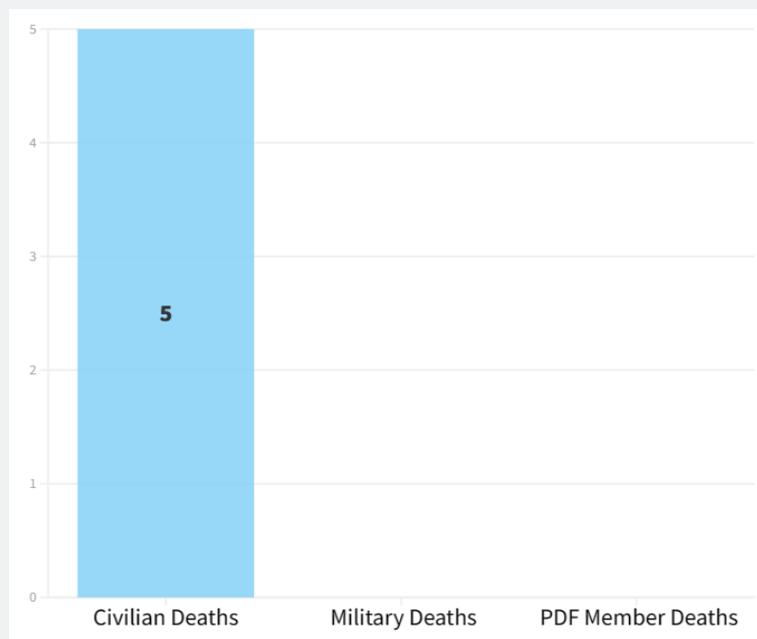
There were clashes between the military council and the combined force of Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)-Kokang, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and PDFs in Namkham, Kyaukme, Mongton, Lashio, Namhsam and Laukkai Township. On 7 December, Brig-Gen Aung Zaw Lin who headed the No.1 Tactical Operations Command, was found dead by the MNDAA-Kokang. In addition, the military council's shootings killed nine civilians in Lashio, Theinni, Namkham and Kyaukme Townships. A total of 15 locals were killed in the military council's shootings in Mabain, Namkham, Kutkai and Muse Townships. More than 1,000 locals have fled to safer places as From 10 to 12 December, the fighting continues to intensify between the military council and the PDF in Namhsam.





## Kachin State

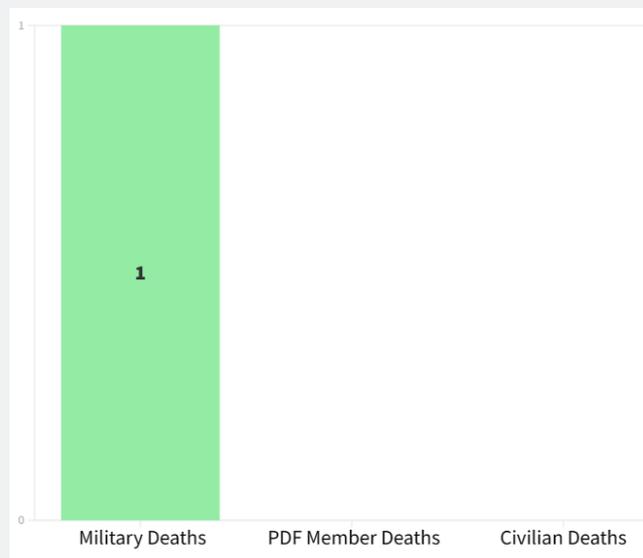
On 6 December, the military council's shelling hit and killed a six-year-old child near the junction of Mohnyin University and Htantabin village junction in Mohnyin Township. On 6 December, one was killed and one wounded in a mine explosion in Ywathitkone village in Mohnyin Township as four family members searched for the missing cows. On 11 December, one civilian was killed in the military council's shooting in Moegaung Township. On 10 December, two brothers who were notorious for drug trafficking in Nammar village were murdered.





## Mon State

On December 9, U Mae Kyi, a member of the military-backed people's militia was assassinated by the PDFs between Yinsnyein and Kyauktan villages in Paung Township.



# Clash days by Township

## 5 Days



## Chin State

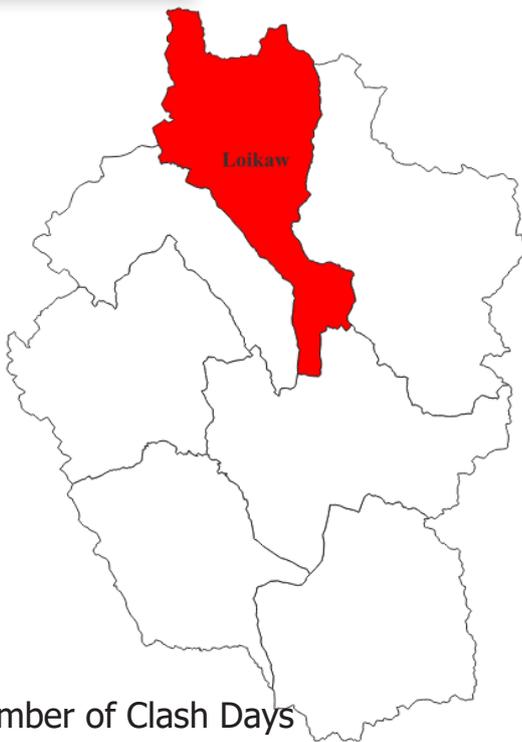
On 10 December, the Arakan Army (AA) captured the military council's Noneybu military strategic hill in Paletwa Township.

### Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 1 - 5

# Clash days by Township

## 1 Day

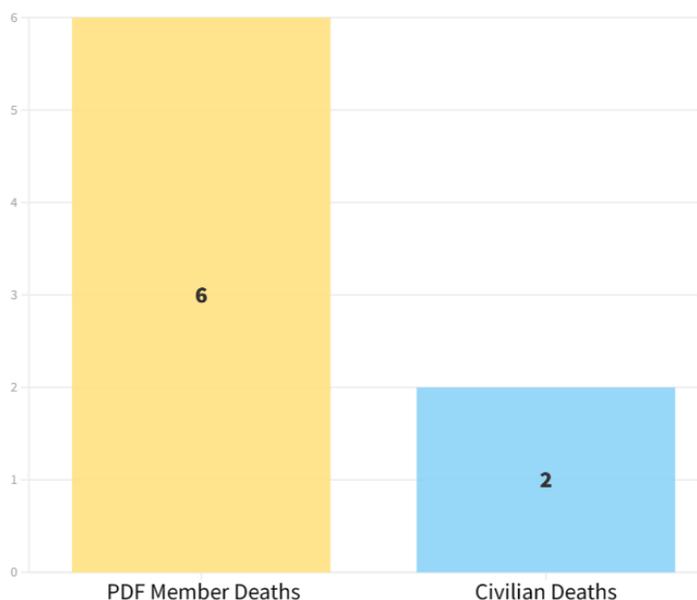


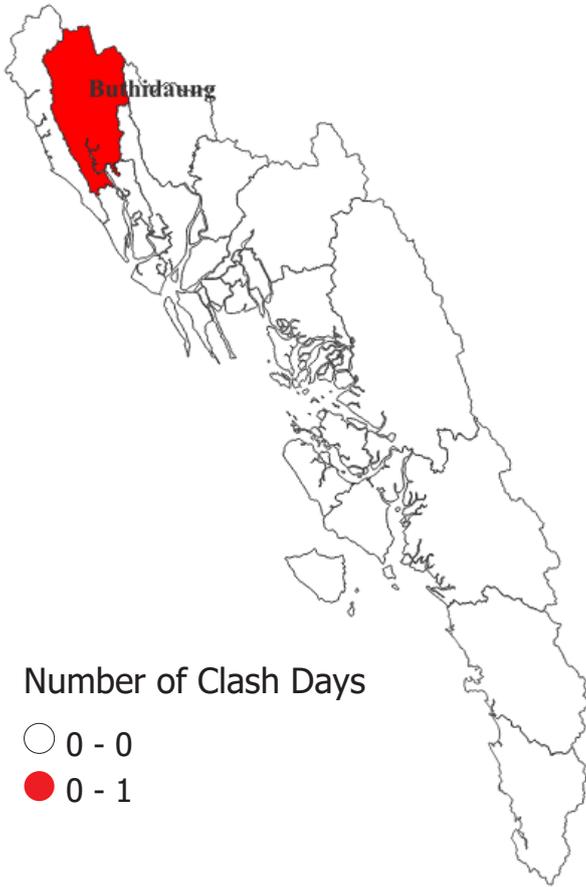
## Karenni State

On 9 December, the Karenni combined force attacked and captured the State police station in DawUkhu ward in Loikaw. Both sides suffered casualties. Six members of the combined force were killed in the fighting. On 7 December, the military council's shelling killed two civilians in Loikaw.

### Number of Clash Days

- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1



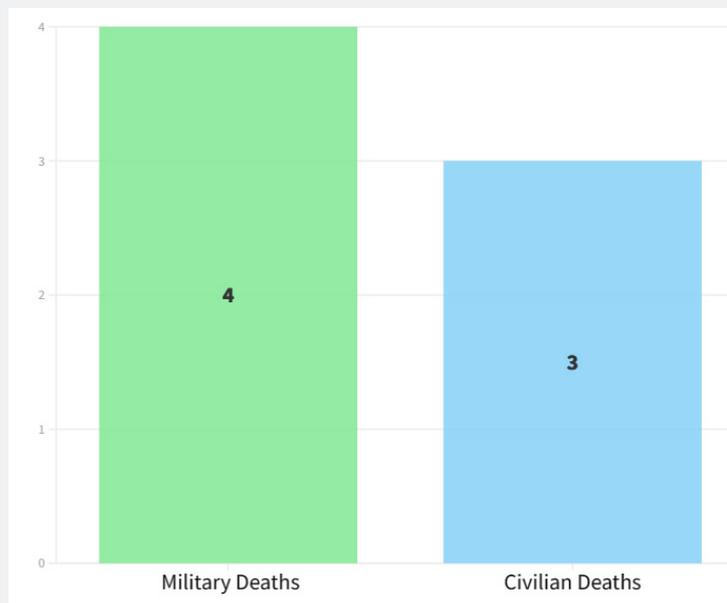


## Arakan State

On 10 December, there was a clash between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military council force near Thittaw village in Buthidaung Township. On 6 December, four military council soldiers were killed and six wounded in an ambush attack on the military council force near Kyaukitkay junction in MraukU. Three residents were killed in the military council's shooting in Minbya and Maungdaw Townships.

Number of Clash Days

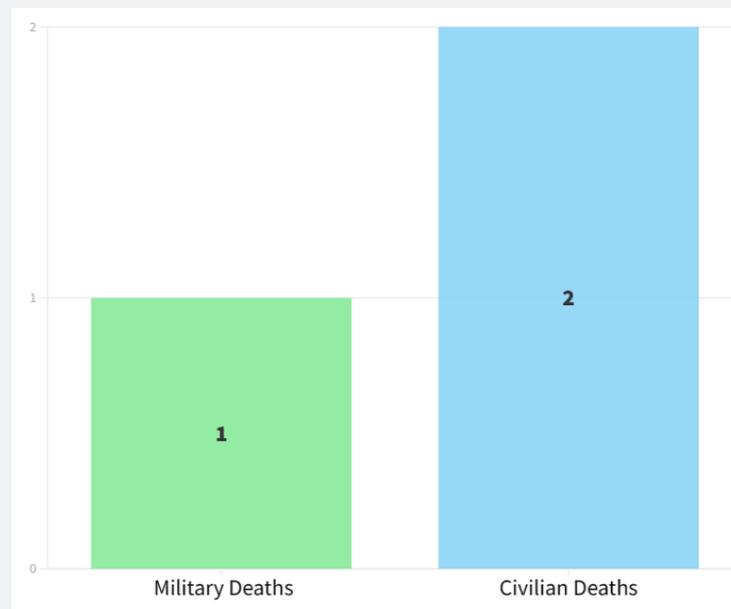
- 0 - 0
- 0 - 1





## Mandalay Region

On 11 December, plaincloth sub-inspector Kyaw San Win from Wetlu police station in Natogyi Township who arrived by motorbike near Paechat village in Natogyi Township, was shot dead as he ran away while the PDF ordering him to stop. In addition, the military council's shooting killed two locals in Nganzun and Thabeikkyin Townships.

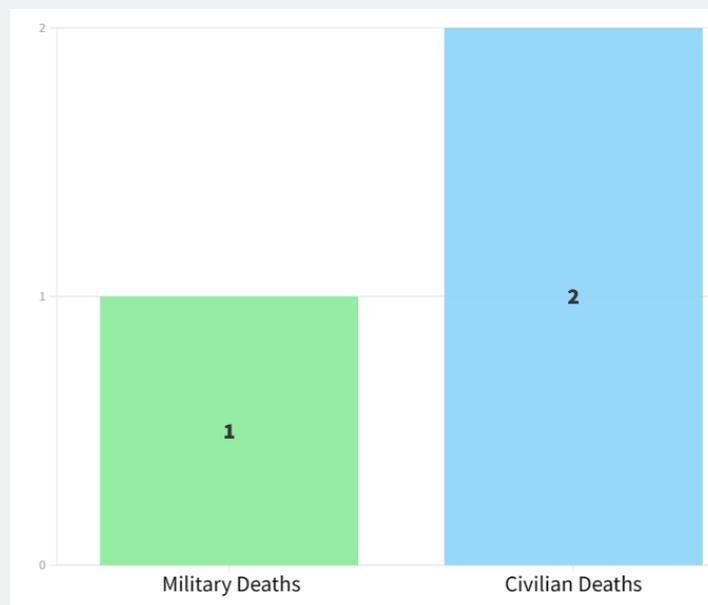






## Yangon Region

On 8 December, Kyaw Sein Win who worked as a leader of military-backed PyuSawHtee was killed by Kyimyindaing PyuSawHtee thugs when he arrived from Shwepyithar to Kyeemyindaing with his colleagues. On 8 December, two youth protestors were killed and some youths arrested in a crackdown by the plain cloth junta members near Thida road in Tamwe Township.





Lalduhoma, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader, who becomes the new Prime Minister of Mizoram State, said that he will soon hold a meeting with the Indian central government to continue to solve the issue of the war refugees from Myanmar who fled to Mizoram State due to the political situation in Myanmar as much as he can.

He discussed with the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of External Affairs about Myanmar refugee affairs issue and India's policy towards Myanmar over the phone. He said that he will go to New Delhi to meet and discuss, and will continue to do his best for the Myanmar refugees.<sup>1</sup>

On 8 December, at the hearing on the Myanmar issue held at the office of the Japanese Parliament, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Asia-Pacific Institute for Security Studies, U.S. Defense Force Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Dr. Miemie Win Byrd talked about Myanmar's conditions, prospect and the US government's policies on Myanmar. She asked the Japanese government to prevent and

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<sup>1</sup> [t.ly/kqMsZ](https://t.ly/kqMsZ)

protect the military council's airstrikes against the Myanmar people and to provide humanitarian aid.<sup>2</sup>

Australia's Sydney-based Macarthur FC and Shan United football team planned to play an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) group match on November 30, but the Australian government denied them entry. The Radio Free Asia (RFA) emailed the Australian Embassy in Yangon to inquire the situation. The Australian government responded by saying that it strongly condemns the Myanmar military regime's continuous repression and terrorist acts. Due to the military coup in Myanmar democracy, which has already been achieved, economy and development have gone backwards. It has plunged the country into a deep political and humanitarian crisis.

The Australian government's action has been welcomed by the Special Advisory Council on Myanmar (SAC-M), composed of former UN human rights representatives. The SAC-M issued a statement on 29 November and called for more serious sanctions against the military council.<sup>3</sup>

East Timor President José Ramos-Horta has sent a video file through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the National Unity Government (NUG) urging the lower-ranking soldiers serving in the Myanmar army to lay down their arms and stand by the people.

"There is a big responsibility on the shoulders of you Myanmar soldiers to make ceasefire, surrender and send the guns back to the barracks. Don't kill your own people again. The importance of regaining democracy and a good new life for the people of Myanmar and Southeast Asia is in your hands. Majors, sergeants and soldiers serving in the Myanmar army will be able to open a new door for the people of Myanmar just by not firing another bullet."

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2 <https://burmese.dvb.no/post/628597>

3 <https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/australia-condemns-military-council-12112023023721.html>

In addition, he again called on the international community to sanction Myanmar's military leaders. International organizations are only interested in the cases of Rohingya's human rights violations, and the Rohingya are even citizens of Myanmar. Myanmar's problem is bigger than the Rohingya problem. The entire country, including Arakan State, has been enslaved by the Myanmar army for 60 years since its independence. Therefore, international organizations should pay attention to the situation in Myanmar and to strategically sanction the Myanmar military, those sanctions are also urged to act in a way that does not harm the people of Myanmar. East Timor President Jose Ramos Hota entered Myanmar illegally in 1994 and went to Karen State. He lived in Manalpalaw and had lectured on democracy and human rights there. Therefore, he also said that he has a thorough understanding of Myanmar's political landscape.<sup>4</sup>

On 8 December, the UK, the United States and Canada imposed sanctions targeting nine individuals and five entities for their involvement in human trafficking connected to online "scam farms" in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. Those included in the list were Col Saw Chit Thu, the leader of Myanmar junta-affiliated Karen Border Guard Force (BGF) managing director of Chit Lin Myaing Co Col. Saw Min Min Oo. He was accompanied by She Zhijiang, the head of the Hong Kong-registered Yatai International Holding Group. They are the developers of the Shwekukko Special Economic Zone near Myawady, which has casinos and online money laundering businesses.

Individuals and entities from Iran, Syria and Belarus are also included in the sanction list.<sup>5</sup>

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4 <https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/timor-president-military-12102023103433.html>

5 <https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/uk-sanction-myanmar-12082023073850.html>

“

Resolving the situation in northern Myanmar is in the interests of all parties involved in the conflict, as well as maintaining stability along the China-Myanmar border.

”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Mao Ning said on 11 December that a meeting was held between the armed forces of the Northern Alliance and the military council regarding the ongoing fighting in northern Shan State. The spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China is happy about the meeting and that the Chinese government will continue to support it.<sup>6</sup>

China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said at a press conference on 11 December that resolving the situation in northern Myanmar is in the interests of all parties involved in the conflict, as well as maintaining stability along the China-Myanmar border. China is glad that the dialogue with the northern ethnic armed group has yielded positive results. China will continue to provide support and assistance for the end of the conflict.<sup>7</sup>

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6 <https://www.rfa.org/burmese/news/tnla-mndaa-aa-and-military-meeting-12112023075625.html>

7 <https://burmese.narinjara.com/local-news/detail/6577d62a82952c082057e710>

### 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.