

**BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025:  
Junta sets stage for foreign owned private militaries**

- As of 14 Mar, there were at least 52,388 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021, with at least 3,261,900 displaced people as of 10 Mar. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- Junta increases use of Chinese and Russian thermobaric weapons.
- Junta airstrike on Magway wedding kills 20, injures dozens.
- Junta attacks displace 20,000 in Magway's Pwintbyu; destroys 1/3 of all houses.
- Junta to relocate premier military academies as TNLA gets closer.
- Junta bombs TNLA territory during China-brokered negotiations.
- Junta authorizes establishment of foreign-owned private armies, but closes several private hospitals in Yangon and Mandalay.
- Rohingya inmates moved from Insein to Sittwe, conscripted to fight AA.
- Argentine court issues warrants for Min Aung Hlaing, Aung San Suu Kyi, 23 others for Rohingya genocide.
- ICNCC and Chinland Council to unify.
- ASEAN Special Envoy avoids MAH, meets resistance instead.
- SAC-M and Sean Turnell call for further cuts to junta financial lifelines.
- Border scam centers: Thai power cuts hits civilians, China mounts pressure, Karen BGF rushes raids.
- Trump cuts threaten food for 100,000 refugees, kills two more, closes five Cox's Bazar hospitals.

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## Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

**Junta closes doors for overseas workers:** On 14 Feb, overseas employment agencies said the junta **suspended all agencies from sending workers to Thailand.**<sup>1</sup> On 17 Feb, a member of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency Association (MOEAA) said the junta began preventing workers from departing via Yangon International Airport. On 18 Feb, the junta suspended overseas worker departures to screen them for CDM links and conscription eligibility. The junta's changing policies reportedly caused Japanese employers to reconsider hiring workers from Burma.<sup>2</sup>

**University staff and students conscripted:** On 13 Feb, regime media reported the junta had started training university students and staff from the 2024-2025 academic year. The junta reportedly divided the conscripts into eight University Training Corps (UTC) units with seven weeks of mandatory training. Junta media claimed it had **conscripted 768 university students and staff** of the 2023-2024 academic year.<sup>3</sup>

**KIA engaging in forced recruitment:** On 24 Feb, in Sagaing Region, locals reported that since the start of 2025, the **Kachin Independence Army (KIA) had forcibly recruited at least 100 people** from Maw Lu Town and Nam See Awng village. The KIA's Brigade 8 (Battalion 35) had been forcibly conscripting youth along the Sagaing-Kachin border, and warned young men to enlist or face forced recruitment. Local administrators stated they were unable to help people captured by the KIA and urged residents to close shops and stay home after 7 pm.<sup>4</sup>

## Scam syndicate crackdown continues

### Electricity, internet and fuel cuts

On 5 Feb, **Thailand's Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) cut electricity** to five points along the Thai-Burma border to tackle **scam syndicates**; one in Payathonzu (Mon State), two in Tachileik (Shan State), and two in Myawaddy (Karen State). Deputy PM Anutin Charnvirakul declared that "no one can accuse [Thailand] of being involved in or supporting illegal activities".<sup>5</sup> On the same day, Thailand also cut internet and fuel supplies to border areas.<sup>6</sup> On 14 Feb, it was reported Thailand had also banned the export of mobile phones and devices, batteries, inverters, generators, solar panels, cables, hardware, and software.<sup>7</sup>

On 6 Feb, in Tachileik, Myawaddy, and Payathonzu border towns, **demand for fuel skyrocketed** after Thailand's fuel cuts. The previous closure of the Asia Highway and the junta's restrictions on fuel to EAO-controlled areas had made locals dependent on Thai fuel imports. In Payathonzu and Tachileik towns, fuel prices reportedly **rose 187% and 266%**, respectively. Locals expressed concern that the fuel shortage will impact businesses and hospitals.<sup>8</sup> On 7 Feb, in Myawaddy Township (Karen State), fuel stations limited sales to MMK 30,000 per vehicle.<sup>9</sup> On 10 Feb, the junta reportedly began **blocking the transport of fuel** to Myawaddy and Hpa-An townships (Karen State), and Mawlamyine Township (Mon State) from central Burma.<sup>10</sup> The following day, in Myawaddy Township, the price of fuel on the black market reportedly rose to MMK 40,000/L, or USD 19/L at the junta's official rate of MMK 2100/USD, from the standard Yangon price of MMK 3,200/L (USD 1.50/L). Meanwhile, Chinese-owned businesses in the township could purchase 220L barrels for between USD 2.7 and 4/L. Thailand and the junta also restricted propane cylinders, batteries, and solar panels to Myawaddy. The price of propane cylinders almost doubled to MMK 45,000.<sup>11</sup> As of 18 Feb, the MMK had a market value of around MMK 4,500/USD<sup>12</sup>

On 11 Feb, the Thai National Security Council secretary-general said **Thailand would maintain its bans** on Burma and could add more, such as on solar panels. Thailand's Digital Economy and Society Minister said they had reduced the height of cell towers in border areas and turned their signals to serve only users in Thailand, and that authorities had **confiscated over 200 Starlink devices** (used for satellite internet).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Suspends Migrant Worker Departures to Thailand

<sup>2</sup> Mizzima (22 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta temporarily suspends overseas worker deployment for screening

<sup>3</sup> DVB (13 Feb 2025) Military expands University Training Corps with new intake

<sup>4</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Feb 2025) KIA forcibly conscripting young men across Kachin-Sagaing border

<sup>5</sup> RFA (6 Feb 2025) Thailand cuts power to Myanmar's scam centers in anti-crime push

<sup>6</sup> Reuters (5 Feb 2025) Thailand cuts power, fuel and internet supply to parts of Myanmar

<sup>7</sup> Asia News Network (14 Feb 2025) Thailand bans exports of 11 products to Myanmar, including fuel, citing fraud

<sup>8</sup> Irrawaddy (6 Feb 2025) Fuel Demand Soars as Thailand Cuts Off Power to Myanmar Border Towns; Bangkok Post (6 Feb 2025) PTT unit ready to suspend oil exports to Myanmar

<sup>9</sup> Mizzima (12 Feb 2025) Fuel shortages in Myawaddy lead to more border crossings and black-market sales

<sup>10</sup> RFA (10 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta blocks fuel to eastern border scam center town; Myanmar Now (11 Feb 2025) Thai, Myanmar authorities target scam centres near Myawaddy by cutting off fuel

<sup>11</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Feb 2025) Thai, Myanmar authorities target scam centres near Myawaddy by cutting off fuel

<sup>12</sup> DVB (18 Feb 2025) ဒေါ်လာဈေးကျနေသော်လည်း ရွှေဈေး ပြန်တက်

<sup>13</sup> Bangkok Post (11 Feb 2025) Thailand set to escalate war on scammers in Myanmar

## China prioritizes own interests

On 6 Feb, **Xi Jinping thanked Thai PM** for Thailand's "strong measures" against scam syndicates.<sup>14</sup> On 14 Feb, Liu Zhongyi, China's Assistant Minister of Public Security, and China's ambassador to Burma, met with the junta's Deputy PM and foreign minister, and home affairs minister. The junta pledged cooperation to crack down on scam gangs.<sup>15</sup> On 16 Feb, Liu Zhongyi crossed to Myawaddy (Burma) from Mae Sot (Thailand) to observe the repatriation of around **600 extracted Chinese nationals**.<sup>16</sup>

On 19 Feb, Liu Zhongyi met with Thailand's Deputy PM and Defense Minister: Thailand would host trilateral talks with China and the junta in the last week of February; China would arrange repatriation flights for its 600 nationals rescued from scam centers; and Thailand would **continue to impose electricity, fuel, and internet cuts**. Liu claimed that his proposal to strengthen the trilateral mechanism would respect sovereignty and international and domestic laws. However, the Thai public and opposition parties accused Liu of disrespecting Thai sovereignty and laws by crossing the border without Thai officials present.<sup>17</sup>

On 20 Feb, the junta and Border Guard Force handed over **200 Chinese nationals to Thai authorities** in Mae Sot (Thailand) for repatriation. It was not disclosed if they were members or victims of the scam centers. Additional flights for over 1,000 Chinese nationals would reportedly take off during 21-22 Feb.<sup>18</sup>

## Trafficking victims recount torture

On 12 Feb, in Phop Phra district (Thailand), the junta-aligned Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) handed to Thai authorities 261 foreign nationals who had been trafficked to scam centers in Myawaddy township. It was reported that scam gangs ordered **DKBA soldiers to torture victims** when they failed to meet quotas. DKBA deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Saw Shwe Wa claimed no knowledge of the torture and said the DKBA would "take action" against those involved. Many of the victims showed signs of torture, while others exhibited mental distress. A Pakistani national said he was subjected to electric shocks while others endured worse.<sup>19</sup> Victims from the Philippines and Ethiopia recounted similar torture.<sup>20</sup>

## Junta-aligned militia at center of crackdowns

On 11 Feb, **Thailand's Justice Minister** announced that the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) was seeking an **arrest warrant for Karen Border Guard Force (BGF) leaders Col. Saw Chit Thu, Lt. Col. Mote Thone, and Maj. Tin Win** for transnational human trafficking. He stated that the arrest of the three BGF heads would "depend on how much [regional] leaders want to help" and whether they saw this transnational crime as a threat to their countries.<sup>21</sup> He said the charges were not related to Myawaddy scam centers but concerned old human trafficking charges.<sup>22</sup> On 12 Feb, the Thai deputy PM warned the BGF heads would **face arrest if they entered Thailand**.<sup>23</sup> Saw Chit Thu told the DVB that the BGF was not involved in human trafficking, and warned it would become independent if the junta cooperated with Thailand on the matter.<sup>24</sup>

On 13 Feb, Saw Chit Thu pledged cooperation with Thailand on scam syndicates - the **BGF would arrest scammers and human traffickers** in its territory. On 14 Feb, the Thai Deputy PM and Defense Minister thanked Saw Chit Thu for his pledge but said that "the law should be allowed to take its course" regarding the arrest warrants.<sup>25</sup> On 17 Feb, Thailand's DSI submitted evidence to the Attorney General in pursuit of an arrest warrant against Saw Chit Thu.<sup>26</sup> On 25 Feb, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) urged Thailand to expedite

<sup>14</sup> Bangkok Post (9 Feb 2025) China praises Thai govt, says Anutin

<sup>15</sup> Chinese Embassy un Burma (16 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/3d3yhvzn>

<sup>16</sup> Bangkok Post (17 Feb 2025) China joins scam crusade; Irrawaddy (17 Feb 2025) Chinese Security Chief Meets Rescued Victims in Myanmar Scam Hub; The Nation (18 Feb 2025) Myanmar, China, Thailand discuss repatriation of detainees in Myawaddy, KK Park

<sup>17</sup> Khaosod English (20 Feb 2025) Chinese Minister Apologizes for Overzeal in Thai Anti-Scam Ops; Thai PBS (20 Feb 2025) China's Liu apologises for misunderstanding over his anti-scam efforts; Thai PBS (18 Feb 2025) China urges Thailand to maintain utility bans in Myanmar

<sup>18</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2025) China repatriates 200 citizens from Myanmar scam centers amid crackdown

<sup>19</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2025) Freed Scam Center Victims Tell of Torture by Karen Militia

<sup>20</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2025) Scam centre survivors tell of beatings, abuse in Myanmar ; Bangkok Post (19 Feb 2025) Myanmar scam centre survivors recall torture and coercion

<sup>21</sup> Bangkok Post (12 Feb 2025) DSI seeks leader of junta ally

<sup>22</sup> Bangkok Post (12 Feb 2025) DSI seeks leader of junta ally

<sup>23</sup> Bangkok Post (12 Feb 2025) Myanmar warlord 'would face arrest here'

<sup>24</sup> DVB (14 Feb 2025) A Q&A with Karen State Border Guard Force leader Saw Chit Thu

<sup>25</sup> Bangkok Post (15 Feb 2025) Karen Border Guard Force to help nail scammers; Irrawaddy (15 Feb 2025) Myanmar Militia Says Ready to Deport 10,000 Cyber Scam Workers

<sup>26</sup> The Nation (17 Feb 2025) Saw Chit Thu vows to eradicate Myawaddy call-centre gangs by month's end

the issuance of arrest warrants against the BGF heads and called for warrants to include their families, associates, BGF's junta commanders, and Thai individuals and firms profiting from transnational crime.<sup>27</sup>

### **BGF raids scam centers**

On 14 Feb, in Myawaddy Township, the **BGF began raids on scam centers** in Shwe Kokko, stating that foreigners arrested would face deportation.<sup>28</sup> On 18 Feb, the BGF **arrested 1,000 individuals** suspected of human trafficking and scamming. The suspects would be sent to Myawaddy's immigration office for legal processing.<sup>29</sup> The BGF spokesperson stated they would hand over six Chinese scam syndicate 'criminals' to Chinese authorities for torturing trafficking victims. He added that the BGF would identify gang leaders and hand them over to China. The BGF claimed that since 14 Feb, it had rescued around 2,000 people and was negotiating with Thai authorities to hand them over.<sup>30</sup>

On 26 Feb, the Thai Deputy PM and Defense Minister announced he had instructed the Thai FM to engage with governments of those rescued from scam centers.<sup>31</sup> The BGF was reportedly **ready to repatriate 7,118 foreign nationals** from **29 countries**, including **4,860 from China**.<sup>32</sup> They said the governments concerned were "reluctant to accept them", but had initially pledged to cooperate with repatriation.<sup>33</sup>

### **Illegal junta's quest for control**

- On 5 Feb, in Yangon, the junta **failed to auction off** Aung San Suu Kyi's house for a third time. Regime officials set the minimum price at USD 140 million but failed to attract bids. The junta failed to auction the house in Mar and Aug 2024.<sup>34</sup>
- On 6 Feb, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), and Club de Madrid jointly urged the international community to **deny the junta technical, material, or political support** for their planned sham election; to increase efforts to protect the 2020 election results; and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2669.<sup>35</sup>

On 6 Feb, the **junta embassy** in Washington DC, capitalized on the **Trump administration's** mass deportation plans and urged undocumented Burmese nationals and those facing visa and passport expiration to **"deport" themselves** back to Burma before the US did so.

Source: Eleven News (6 Feb 2025) Myanmar embassy urges undocumented citizens in US to leave voluntarily to avoid deportation.

### **Junta leadership reshuffled yet again**

On 3 Feb, it was reported that the **junta sacked the Hotels and Tourism Minister** Thet Thet Khine, **Labor Minister** Myint Naung, and **Sports and Youth Affairs Minister** Min Thein Zan. Former ambassador to Vietnam Kyaw Soe replaced Thet Thet Khine; former ambassador to Thailand Chit Swe replaced Myint Naung; and Jeng Phang Naw Taung replaced Min Thein Zan. Gen. Ya Pyae, junta Home Affairs Minister, and Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Naung, junta Border Affairs Minister, switched posts. The junta demoted Maj. Gen. Toe Yi to the anti-corruption commission. Maj. Gen. Aung Kyaw Kyaw took his place as deputy military intelligence chief and deputy home affairs minister.<sup>36</sup>

### **Junta opens door for private security firms**

On 18 Feb, the junta announced the adoption of the **"Private Security Service Law"**. The "law" states that foreign companies registered under the Myanmar Companies Law could apply for a license to set up a private security company. It also gives private security companies **authority to arrest "offenders"** in areas where they operate and hand them over to regime police. Private security companies would also have to report any **information affecting "state security"** to regime police. Additionally, the law would require private security companies to acquire technology and equipment to carry out their security roles. The National Defense and Security Council could authorize the security company's use of arms.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Justice for Myanmar (25 Feb 2025) Thai government urged to apply for warrants against Karen BGF leaders

<sup>28</sup> Mizzima (17 Feb 2025) Karen BGF cracks down on online scam centres in Shwe Kokko, arrests foreign nationals

<sup>29</sup> The Nation (19 Feb 2025) Over 1,000 arrested in Border Guard Force crackdown in Shwe Kokko

<sup>30</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Feb 2025) BGF: Myanmar Scam Center Torturers to be Punished

<sup>31</sup> The Nation (25 Feb 2025) Phumtham warns nearly 7,000 foreigners could flee Myanmar into Thailand;

<sup>32</sup> The Nation (26 Feb 2025) BGF detains more than 7,000 citizens of 29 nations following crackdowns on scams

<sup>33</sup> RFA (27 Feb 2025) Thousands freed from Myanmar scam centers are stranded due to official inaction

<sup>34</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2025) Bid to sell Suu Kyi's Myanmar mansion flops for third time

<sup>35</sup> International IDEA (6 Feb 2025) Joint Statement by International Election Experts and Organizations on Myanmar

<sup>36</sup> Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2025) 3 Ministers Purged in Myanmar Junta's Latest Reshuffle

<sup>37</sup> RFA (19 Feb 2025) Myanmar adopts law for foreign firms to provide armed security; Irrawaddy (19 Feb 2025) Junta Passes Law Allowing Chinese Security Firms to Operate in Myanmar

## **CRPH, NUG & Other Democratic Forces (more at [CRPH, NUG & other Democratic forces tracker](#))**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> draft of Sagaing constitution**

On 1 Feb, the **Sagaing Federal Unit Hluttaw (SFUH)** released the second draft of the Sagaing Federal Unit Interim Constitution after including feedback from stakeholders. There will be a month-long period for public input on the new draft.<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Myanmar said that while the draft committed to protection of marginalized groups and was a **significant improvement** over the 2008 military-drafted constitution, it **required strengthened safeguards for human rights**, including bans on the death penalty, inhumane treatment, and torture; and protection of political rights, and judicial independence.<sup>39</sup> The SFUH is the Sagaing administrative Hluttaw, partially elected in 2015.

### **Karenni IEC introduces state passes**

On 12 Feb, the **Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC)** announced they were preparing to issue temporary state **residency and work permits** as well as travel passes to visitors. The IEC would collect data for the permits in March and issue them after that. IEC's Immigration Department was also drafting policies to monitor and regulate foreign nationals in the state.<sup>40</sup>

### **NUG dissolves illegitimate HR commission**

On 13 Feb, the NUG announced it had dissolved the **Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC)** because it was not independent of the illegal junta. This came after the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHR) discredited the MNHRC on 31 Dec 2024 for failing to meet the Paris Principles.<sup>41</sup> The Special Advisory Council - Myanmar (SAC-M) urged the NUG to immediately **establish a new, independent** Human Rights Institution.<sup>42</sup>

### **Resistance groups announce AFTA**

On 15 Feb, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), Karen National Union (KNU), Chin National Front (CNF), New Mon State Party (Anti-Military Dictatorship - NMSP-AD), four ethnic consultative councils, and the Women's League of Burma released a joint statement announcing they were **developing the Articles of Federal Transitional Arrangement (AFTA)**. This **new constitutional document** would be applicable to the transitional period. They declared opposition to any federal model that re-centralizes political power during the interim period.<sup>43</sup>

### **Civil disobedience, crackdowns (more at [protests, CDM, and crackdowns tracker](#))**

On 11 Feb, the junta Ministry of Information announced it **banned four books with LGBTQ+ themes** and took **legal action against four women who owned two publishing houses** for distributing "obscene" content. Under the amended Printing and Publication Law, the junta can fine up to MMK 3 million anyone responsible for content deemed "obscene". In January, the junta banned 10 books with LGBTQ+ themes.<sup>44</sup>

### **Conditions for political prisoners worsen**

On 10 Feb, in Obo Prison (Mandalay Region), **San Yi, a 65-year-old woman political prisoner died**. The Political Prisoners' Network (PPNM) said **inadequate medical care** worsened her pre-existing illnesses.<sup>45</sup>

On 13 Feb, Mizzima reported the accounts of two **male political prisoners who experienced sexual and physical violence** from cell supervisors in Insein prison (Yangon Region). Cell supervisors who enjoyed greater freedom and impunity, were **long-term prisoners on drug or murder charges** appointed by prison authorities. One former political prisoner said he was promised an investigation of the abuse but **his abuser never faced accountability**. Thaik Htun Oo of the PPNM said that victims didn't report abuse because they feared reprisals. Former political prisoners said **"seeking justice often led to further punishment."**<sup>46</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Sagaing Federal Unit Hluttaw via Facebook (1 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/3vfzdbvh>

<sup>39</sup> Human Rights Myanmar (24 Feb 2025) Draft Sagaing constitution missing key rights

<sup>40</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (12 Feb 2025) IEC Plans to Issue Temporary Residency Cards in Karenni State; Mizzima (14 Feb 2025) IEC to implement interstate pass cards for security and oversight in Karenni State

<sup>41</sup> NUG via Facebook (13 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/nha2ee43>

<sup>42</sup> Special Advisory Council - Myanmar (18 Feb 2025) Junta-Controlled Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Dissolved: SAC-M Welcomes NUG Decision

<sup>43</sup> Karenni State Consultative Council (15 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/2zntunze>

<sup>44</sup> DVB (12 Feb 2025) Another four LGBTQ+ themed books banned by regime

<sup>45</sup> MPA (21 Feb 2025) Female Political Prisoner Dies in Oe Bo Prison Due to Lack of Medical Care

<sup>46</sup> Mizzima (13 Feb 2025) Political prisoners expose sexual abuse and power exploitation inside Myanmar's Insein Prison

On 23 Feb, PPNM reported that, in **Pyay Prison (Bago Region)**, junta prison staff and criminal prisoners **severely beat five political prisoners** after they protested the assault of another political prisoner by staff.<sup>47</sup>

On 24 Feb, citing sources connected to Insein Prison (Yangon Region), it was reported that **since January, prison staff routinely beat and tortured** Myanmar Now photojournalist **Sai Zaw Thaïke**, labor rights advocate **Thet Hnin Aung**, and political prisoner **Naing Win**. In January, the three men had reported human rights violations to a visiting representative of the junta's Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. The abuse was **in reprisal for their report**. Prison staff said in the second week of January, after the commission's visit, prison authorities transferred the three men to interrogation rooms, beat them daily for hours, and forced them to perform hard labor. Prison officials also barred them from receiving letters from family. Myanmar Now could not obtain details of the three prisoners' conditions.<sup>48</sup>

## **Conflict and displacement (more details at [conflict & displacement tracker](#))**

### **Junta orders evacuation of elite military academies**

On 28 Jan, in Pyin Oo Lwin Township (Mandalay Region), it was reported that the junta would **evacuate the Defense Service Academy (DSA) and Defense Services Technological Academy (DSTA), the military's premier universities**, to the Agricultural University Campus in **Zay Yar Thi Ri Township (Naypyidaw Territory) within nine months**. The decision came as resistance forces in N. Shan State advanced towards Pyin Oo Lwin. The junta's deputy minister reported that the **three universities currently occupying the new site would be relocated to the Ayeyarwady Region**.<sup>49</sup> The DSA has been located in Pyin Oo Lwin (a.k.a Maymyo) since 1957, while the DSTA was established there in 1994, when civilian universities were shut down by the then military junta.<sup>50</sup>

### **Junta's reliance on paramotor attacks explained**

The Irrawaddy reported that since 25 Jan, the junta had carried out over 12 paramotor attacks in central Burma which killed over 24 civilians, injured many others, and destroyed homes. Naung Yoe, a former military sergeant at the Meiktila air force base (Mandalay Region), reported that paramotors were originally used to patrol air bases due to their short range of 80-100 km, but the junta recently increased reliance on paramotors due to aircraft shortages. Most aircraft were reportedly damaged, or required repairs or parts replacements. He said the junta focused its limited air power on Arakan, N. Shan, and Kachin states, where the resistance had stronger defense capabilities. It used paramotors in Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions where the resistance lacked anti-air weapons.

Naung Yoe noted the **junta primarily used paramotors in central regions** to harass resistance-controlled areas as they were not suited for large-scale battles. Paramotors generally operate at altitudes between 150 and 600 meters, make distinct engine sounds that make them easily detectable, and could only carry light weapons such as an MA-2 submachine gun or BA-64 rifle, along with up to four 120mm bombs. Naung Yoe suggested that resistance forces deploy aerial lookouts and use effective weapons, such as 50 caliber or 20mm anti-aircraft guns, to shoot paramotors down. Since paramotors generally traveled between 60-70 km/h, resistance forces could track their movements to plan counterattacks.<sup>51</sup>

### **Junta uses thermobaric, or vacuum bombs, on civilians and military targets**

On 26 Feb, armed groups and military experts alerted that the junta was indiscriminately using thermobaric bombs against civilians and military targets in **Shan, Chin, and Kachin States and Sagaing Region**. Thermobaric bombs, also known as vacuum or aerosol bombs, consist of a fuel container with two separate explosive charges. The initial charge disperses a cloud of fuel mixture and the second charge then detonates the cloud, producing a **high-temperature explosion, a massive wave blast**, and then a vacuum which **sucks up all surrounding oxygen**. A weapons analyst said the **bomb can also suffocate people outside the blast radius**, as it sucks up oxygen from the surrounding area. Even if the second charge doesn't explode, the **fuel can be poisonous**. A KIA source reported that besides vacuum bombs dropped by aircraft, the junta "also uses thermobaric... rocket-propelled grenades, grenades, recoilless rifles, and multiple rocket launchers". The junta reportedly bought air-dropped **thermobaric bombs from China and used Russian technology** to produce their own **thermobaric rocket-propelled grenades**.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2025) Political prisoners beaten in Pyay Prison, as another dies in Mandalay

<sup>48</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Feb 2025) Myanmar Now photographer, other prisoners subjected to retaliatory torture in Yangon prison

<sup>49</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Jan 2025) Myanmar Junta to Evacuate Elite Military Academies to Naypyitaw

<sup>50</sup> Maung Aung Myoe (2009) Building the Tatmadaw

<sup>51</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Feb 2025) Paramotors: The Myanmar Junta's Latest Terror Weapon

<sup>52</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Using Devastating Thermobaric Bombs Indiscriminately: EAOs, Experts; BBC (10 Mar 2022) What is a thermobaric or vacuum bomb?

## TNLA & junta peace talks fail

On 16 Feb, in Kunming (China), junta and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) representatives met for **Chinese-brokered peace talks**. On 17 Feb, TNLA's second-in-command, Tar Bhone Kyaw, posted on Facebook that the **junta was trying to gain an advantage in negotiations by continuing its offensives** in Nawngkhio (N. Shan State) and Pyin Oo Lwin townships (Mandalay Region).<sup>53</sup> The TNLA also claimed that on 15 Feb, **one day before the peace talks, the junta carried out airstrikes and launched nearly 200 artillery rounds in four TNLA-controlled villages** in Nawngkhio Township (N. Shan State).<sup>54</sup> On 19 Feb, it was reported that Chinese special envoy Deng Xijun ended the **failed talks** and suggested a **follow-up meeting<sup>55</sup>, scheduled for April.**<sup>56</sup>

During 17-19 Feb, during the peace talks, junta airstrikes in southern part of Nawngkhio Township and former TNLA war office HQ (N. Shan State) **killed at least three people, and injured seven others.**<sup>57</sup>

## Junta airstrikes kill at least 53 civilians in 10 days

It was reported that during 10-19 Feb, junta airstrikes killed at least 53 civilians and injured around 80 others in Magway, Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions, and Arakan, Kachin, Shan, Mon and Karenni States. Junta fighter jets, Y-12 aircraft, helicopters, and paramotors carried out at least 35 attacks on schools, IDP camps, hospitals, and religious sites.<sup>58</sup>

## Junta carries out over 2,100 airstrikes in 6 months

On 3 Feb, Airstrikes Report for Myanmar (ARM) reported that during **Jun-Dec 2024**, the junta conducted over **2,100 airstrikes across 12 states and regions**. Mandalay Region had the highest number of airstrikes, with over 500. The **junta bombed 111 townships**, with Nawngkhio (N. Shan State) the hardest hit township with 235 airstrikes. During Jun-Dec, the junta reportedly carried out **at least 111 airstrikes on civilian targets**, including public buildings, refugee camps, schools, hospitals and religious sites. ARM reported that **airstrikes included chemical weapons in four instances, and cluster bombs in two cases**, both of which are **banned by international law**. It added that airstrikes on civilian targets usually took place during night or early morning.<sup>59</sup>

## Sagaing Region

During 9-10 Feb, in Wetlet and Kanbalu townships, **junta raids** reportedly **killed a civilian**, injured another, **torched over 180 houses** in two villages, and **displaced around 10,000 residents** from nearby areas. A local reported that the **junta had burned down most buildings in both villages.**<sup>60</sup>

**Catholic priest stabbed in NUG-controlled Shwebo:** On 14 Feb, in Shwebo Township, a **group of assailants stabbed a priest to death** in NUG-controlled Kan Gyi Taw village. On 18 Feb, it was reported that Shwebo PDF Battalion 5 had **arrested around 10 suspects** for the killing. Shwebo PDF reported that the **suspects were members of a local defense team** from Ta-Ohn village; a **“rogue force” not under NUG command**. AP News reported that it was the **first targeted killing of a Catholic priest since the failed coup**. Around two months prior, the priest reportedly wrote “NUG education is zero education” on a classroom blackboard, which caused backlash from the NUG-affiliated village People's Defence Organisation (PDO) and Public Administration Organisation (PAO), who petitioned to expel him from the village. The **priest was also accused of being a junta informant**. In early February, a junta airstrike on the PAO chief's house, when talks about expelling the priest were taking place, raised further suspicion.<sup>61</sup>

**Junta violence intensifies in Kale:** On 1 Feb, in Kale Township, junta airstrikes on a village and a school sheltering IDPs killed at least 12 civilians, including four children and a pregnant woman, and injured at least 16 others. A resistance fighter reported that the junta tried to seize the area through air attacks.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Feb 2025) Junta and TNLA meet in China as fighting continues in northern Shan State

<sup>54</sup> DVB (19 Feb 2025) Fighting in northern Shan State during China-brokered peace talks; Arakan Army seizes two more regime outposts

<sup>55</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Feb 2025) TNLA: Peace Talks With Myanmar Junta Have Failed

<sup>56</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2025) Myanmar air force continues bombing Nawngkhio as ceasefire talks stall

<sup>57</sup> Irrawaddy (19 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Bombards TNLA Positions Amid 'Peace' Talks in China; Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2025) Myanmar air force continues bombing Nawngkhio as ceasefire talks stall

<sup>58</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrikes Kill 53 Civilians in 10 Days

<sup>59</sup> Airstrike Report for Myanmar (3 Feb 2025) Operation 1027 2nd wave; DVB (10 Feb 2025) Myanmar military conducted over 2,100 airstrikes in six months

<sup>60</sup> RFA (12 Feb 2025) Myanmar military torches nearly 200 homes in Sagaing region

<sup>61</sup> Irrawaddy (18 Feb 2025) Myanmar's Parallel Gov't Pledges Justice for Murdered Priest; AP News (19 Feb 2025) Leading Myanmar opposition organization blames local resistance group for killing of Catholic priest; Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2025) Resistance members detained for murder of Catholic priest in Sagaing Region

<sup>62</sup> RFA (3 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta kills 12, including internally displaced, in airstrikes

On 11 Feb, resistance forces attacked a junta camp along the **Kale-Gangaw road**, which connects Sagaing to Magway region. In retaliation, during 12-13 Feb, the junta launched **continuous airstrikes** in the area, **forced around 4,000 residents** from at least 10 villages to flee into the jungle, and destroyed buildings. The junta reportedly **dropped over 100 bombs from Y-12 aircraft indiscriminately**.<sup>63</sup> On 14 Feb, the Chin Defense Force Kalay-Kabaw-Gangaw (CDF Kalay-Kabaw-Gangaw) and allies **captured the junta's Kann Parr Ni base** along the **Kale-Gangaw road**. A spokesperson reported that the capture of the base was vital as it had served as the **main defensive position for several pro-junta villages** near the Sagaing-Magway border. Local Pyu Saw Htee and junta troops ran the base. The spokesperson added that during the clashes, the **junta carried out airstrikes around the base and in surrounding villages**.<sup>64</sup>

It was reported that during February, in Sagaing and Magway regions, fighting and junta airstrikes **displaced nearly 30,000 civilians**. In Kale Township, an aid worker reported that around 25,000 IDPs were homeless after fleeing junta airstrikes and shelling. Some of the IDPs reportedly suffered from diarrhea and skin diseases and were in urgent need of food and medicine.<sup>65</sup>

***Junta airstrikes and paramotor attacks kills 23 in Kani Township:*** On 2 Feb, in Kani Township, a junta airstrike by a Y-12 aircraft killed four people and injured seven others. Since January, the junta had launched multiple airstrikes on villages along the Chindwin River. The PDF reported that no fighting had taken place in Kani Township since mid-2024.<sup>66</sup>

In Kani and Monywa townships, the NUG reported that during 12-14 Feb, **“extensive and relentless” junta airstrikes killed 15 people**, including **six children**. The junta had dropped **212 bombs**.<sup>67</sup>

On 18 Feb, in Kani Township, a **junta paramotor attack** on Chaung Ma village **killed at least four civilians**, including an **elderly woman** and a **teenage boy**, **injured seven others**, and displaced many. The attack occurred near the Monywa-Kalewa highway, which appeared to target resistance supply operations after **information was leaked to the junta**. The township produces crude oil, charcoal, and logging, which generates income for the resistance. Since early February, there had been **at least five airstrikes there**.<sup>68</sup>

***Medicine blockade in Wetlet kills four patients:*** On 4 Feb, in Wetlet town, a junta food and medicine blockade killed at least four cancer and heart disease patients. A PDF member reported that in early January, around 150 junta personnel were deployed to cut off the town from nearby resistance-controlled villages. Locals were not allowed to leave the town, and were forced to buy food, medicine, and other necessities directly from the junta at exorbitant prices. Many sick people could not buy medicine. Fuel prices soared to MMK 18,000 per liter, six times more than Yangon market price of around MMK 3,000.<sup>69</sup>

***Junta aerial attacks in southern Sagaing kills at least 27:*** During 12-13 Feb, in Monywa, Chaung-U, and Salingyi townships, junta shelling and airstrikes on at least 10 villages and an IDP camp, killed at least 17 civilians, and injured over 30 others. The death toll was expected to rise, as many victims were critically injured. They used a Y-12 aircraft and at least two paramotors to drop over 100 bombs and fire at least 50 artillery shells. Around 100 junta troops reportedly raided several villages during the attacks and displaced over 10,000 people from at least 10 villages. An aid worker reported that the IDPs urgently needed food and essential supplies, and injured civilians required immediate medical attention. It was reported that since junta Brigadier General Myo Min Htwe took over the Monywa-based Northwestern Command in Dec 2024, it had continuously raided villages in and around Monywa, arbitrarily detaining over 200 people.<sup>70</sup>

On 25 Feb, in **Chaung-U Township**, a junta airstrike and shelling on two villages **killed 10 civilians**, including **two girls**, and **injured eight others**. No fighting took place in the area prior to the attack. On 26 Feb, in nearby Monywa Township, resistance forces captured a key junta camp, about 8 km from Chaung-U. They also captured a junta MRTV broadcasting station. In retaliation, the junta shelled and carried out at least two airstrikes with Mi-35 helicopters in surrounding areas, **killed 10 civilians, displaced around 6,000**, and forced resistance forces to retreat. On 27 Feb, the junta reportedly **arrested 10 civilians and**

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<sup>63</sup> Mizzima (16 Feb 2025) Myanmar military drops 100 bombs on villages in Sagaing's Kalay, prompting exodus

<sup>64</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2025) Chin-Led Resistance Forces Capture Key Myanmar Junta Base in Sagaing's Kale

<sup>65</sup> RFA (28 Feb 2025) Nearly 30,000 civilians displaced by fighting in Myanmar's heartland

<sup>66</sup> DVB (4 Feb 2025) Malaysia discusses Myanmar with former Thai Prime Minister; Bangladesh seeks Japan's help with Rohingya

<sup>67</sup> DVB (1 Mar 2025) Regime airstrikes kill 48 residents of Sagaing and Magway regions

<sup>68</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Feb 2025) Paramotor attack by Myanmar junta forces kills five in Sagaing's Kani Township

<sup>69</sup> Irrawaddy (4 Feb 2025) Sagaing's Wetlet Starves Amid Junta Blockade

<sup>70</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Feb 2025) Nine civilians killed by Myanmar junta attacks south of Monywa; Irrawaddy (14 Feb 2025) Junta Air, Ground Assault on Villages in Myanmar's Sagaing Kills 17; Mizzima (20 Feb 2025) Escalating Myanmar junta airstrikes in Monywa force around 10,000 to flee amid urgent humanitarian crisis.



**forced them to assist in the reconstruction of the camp.** It reportedly **used around 40 vendors** along the Monywa-Mandalay Highway as **human shields to clear landmines** before later releasing them.<sup>71</sup>

## Magway Region

- **Since 1 Feb, the junta began using paramotors to drop bombs on resistance and civilian targets** in Magway Region. A resistance fighter noted that the junta only used paramotors in flat areas.<sup>72</sup>
- During 9-18 Feb, in **Salin Township**, the junta **looted and torched over 100 houses** in Ohn Taw village. On 10 Feb, the junta also launched airstrikes on a nearby PDF office and ammunition depot.<sup>73</sup>
- On 23 Feb, in **Sidoktaya Township**, a nighttime **junta paramotor attack** on Monyin village **killed at least 10 civilians** including **six women and two children**, injured at least five others, destroyed seven houses, and killed 24 farm animals.<sup>74</sup>
- On 28 Feb, in **Gangaw Township**, repeated junta airstrikes killed at least one civilian and displaced over 2,000 residents.<sup>75</sup>

**Over 20 killed in wedding bombing:** On 25 Feb, in Myaing Township, a junta airstrike on a wedding in Shan Kone village killed over 20 people, injured dozens of others, and displaced at least 1,000 residents from nearby villages. The junta had reportedly dropped two 500 lb bombs and targeted nearby oil fields. The junta previously targeted oil fields to force workers to flee and deny resistance access to revenues.<sup>76</sup>

**Junta aerial attacks, raids, and mass displacement:** During **1-3 Feb**, in Pwintbyu Township, resistance forces and junta troops clashed near Me Za Li Bridge and in at least three other villages. The clashes came after the junta's Infantry Battalion (IB) 253, 254, and 255, based in Salin Township, **raided 14 villages and displaced around 20,000 residents near Pwintbyu town.** On 1 Feb, the junta carried out a **paramotor strike** on Yae Yin village. On the same day, the junta conducted **at least five airstrikes** near Me Za Li Bridge and shelled Ma De village, **killed a resident, injured another, and destroyed around 220 houses** and cropland. **The fighting and junta raids destroyed around a third of all houses in the affected areas.**<sup>77</sup>

**Resistance camp seizure brings them closer to Ka Pa Sa 14:** On 9 Feb, in **Ngape Township**, the Arakan Army (AA) captured the junta's **Goke See camp** and a village along the Ann-Padan road. The junta reportedly retreated east toward their Nat Yae Kan camp. The capture of Nat Yae Kan would **allow resistance forces to shell the junta's Ka Pa Sa 14 arms factory** and their Artillery Operations Command No 905 in Padan town.<sup>78</sup>

On 9 Feb, in **Ngape Township**, the Chin Defense Force Asho (CDF-Asho) attacked and destroyed a junta outpost in Zin Pyun village. The next day **at least 100 junta troops raided and arrested at least 17 civilians** from two nearby villages. On 11 Feb, the junta reportedly released four people on bail while the remaining villagers were detained at Padan's police station.<sup>79</sup> Since early January, the AA had advanced into Magway Region along the Ann-Padan road, prompting the junta to reinforce troops in the area. In Ngape Township, there are at least **seven outposts along the Ann-Padan Road** still under junta control.<sup>80</sup>

## Chin State

On 1 Feb, the Institute of Chin Affairs reported that, since Feb 2021, junta shelling and airstrikes killed 491 civilians and displaced 195,000 people, with more than 65,000 fleeing to India. The junta had torched

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<sup>71</sup> RFA (27 Feb 2025) Myanmar insurgents strike in junta-dominated central area: NUG

<sup>72</sup> Than Lwin Times via BNI (6 Feb 2025) Junta Paramotors Dropping Bombs in Magway Region

<sup>73</sup> DVB (18 Feb 2025) Chinese minister meets 300 rescued from cyber scams; Karen National Liberation Army seizes three regime checkpoints

<sup>74</sup> DVB (25 Feb 2025) Airstrikes kill 14 civilians in southern Kachin State; Regime signs special economic zone project with Russia; Myanmar Now (25 Feb 2025) Junta paramotor bombing on Magway farming community leaves multiple dead, including children

<sup>75</sup> RFA (28 Feb 2025) Nearly 30,000 civilians displaced by fighting in Myanmar's heartland

<sup>76</sup> RFA (25 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta bombs rebel wedding, at least 12 killed; Irrawaddy (26 Feb 2025) 14 Killed as Myanmar Junta Bombs Magwe Wedding; DVB (26 Feb 2025) Airstrike on wedding kills over 20 in Magway Region; Calls for Thailand to issue arrest warrants for BGF leaders

<sup>77</sup> RFA (3 Feb 2025) Fighting in Myanmar's Magway region displaces 20,000 civilians; MPM (7 Feb 2025) Around 20,000 locals displaced by ongoing fighting in Pwintbyu

<sup>78</sup> Irrawaddy (3 Feb 2025) Arakan Army Defeats Myanmar Junta Base in Magwe Region Rout; Narinjara (5 Feb 2025) AA Seizes Goke See Tower Outpost Camp on Ann-Padan Road; Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2025) Arakan Army intensifies attacks near air base in Magway Region

<sup>79</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Feb 2025) Myanmar military raids villages on Magway-Rakhine border after attack on junta base

<sup>80</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Feb 2025) Myanmar military raids villages on Magway-Rakhine border after attack on junta base

479 houses, with the highest number recorded in 2024. Landmines killed 77 and injured over 105 others. Chin resistance forces currently control 15 towns in the state.<sup>81</sup>

***Chin Brotherhood declare Mindat safe:*** On 10 Feb, in **Mindat Township**, the People's Administration Organization (PAO) announced that **Mindat town was safe for locals to return**. The Chin Brotherhood seized the town from the junta in Nov 2024, and claimed to have **cleared 95% of landmines there**. The displaced residents had to show proof of their monetary contributions to the PAO to return. The PAO also announced a 7 pm curfew, a ban on gatherings of 10+ people, and restrictions on festivals and events.<sup>82</sup>

***CC and ICNCC sign promise to merge after more intra-Chin clashes:*** On 6 Feb, in Matupi Township, it was reported that the Chin Brotherhood-aligned **Maraland Defense Force (MDF)** and the Chinland Council-aligned **Chinland Defense Force-Lautu (CDF Lautu)** had **clashed repeatedly in January**, resulting in **multiple deaths**. This stemmed from a territorial dispute which began in 2022. The Chin Brotherhood and the Chinland Council are groups that oppose the junta and control territory in Chin State.<sup>83</sup>

On 27 Feb, the Chinland Council and the Interim Chin Nationalities Consultative Council (ICNCC) announced they had **agreed to merge and form a unified body called the Chin National Council**. This came after both bodies met in the Mizoram state capital of Aizawl for mediated peace talks. They agreed to form a constitutional drafting committee; the Chin Brotherhood and Chin National Army (CNA) were in ongoing discussions on how to build a unified Chin resistance force. There had been several territorial clashes between the two groups which led to the talks. The ICNCC was formed after the Feb 2021 coup, however the Chin National Front split off and, in Dec 2023, formed the Chinland Council. The Chin Brotherhood was formed shortly afterwards from the groups who had decided to remain in the ICNCC.<sup>84</sup>

## Arakan State

- During 4-20 Feb, the junta carried out at least **six airstrikes on AA-controlled territory**, killed **eight civilians, injured 31 others**, and destroyed at least one religious structure.<sup>85</sup>
- During 1-14 Feb, junta landmines and unexploded ordnances in AA-controlled areas killed eight civilians and injured 18 others.<sup>86</sup>
- On 12 Feb, it was reported that **AA-enforced telecommunications blackouts affected over 3 million residents** in all 14 AA-controlled townships and **had lasted nearly 100 days**. A local working in Thailand reported that the blackout made it “nearly impossible” to communicate with family and send money home. The AA claimed the cut-off prevented junta informants from contributing to airstrikes.<sup>87</sup>

***Heavy junta airstrikes in Kyaukphyu as AA targets naval base:*** On 7 Feb, in **Kyaukphyu Township**, junta shelling and drone attacks near **Dhanyawadi** and **Ohn Kyi Kyun naval bases** displaced residents from over 10 villages.<sup>88</sup> On 9 Feb, the junta ambushed civilians on a village road, killed one, and injured two others.<sup>89</sup> On 21 Feb, the AA launched an attack on the Dhanyawadi naval base, reportedly the largest naval facility in the township.<sup>90</sup> On 23 Feb, a local reported that the junta had retaliated with at **least two airstrikes a day** that killed at least one civilian, and displaced more than 1,000 from six villages.<sup>91</sup>

On 25 Feb, in response to the AA's attack on the naval base, the junta deployed **more than 10 naval ships to guard nearby Chinese projects**.<sup>92</sup> The day after, it was reported that the AA once again attacked the naval base as well as a nearby Police Battalion. On 27 Feb, the junta dropped **two 500 lb bombs** on a

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<sup>81</sup> Institute of Chin Affairs (1 Feb 2025) Myanmar military's human rights abuses against Chins during the 4 years since the coup

<sup>82</sup> Myanmar Now (11 Feb 2025) Chin resistance forces declare Mindat safe for civilians to return

<sup>83</sup> Myanmar Now (6 Feb 2025) Chin resistance groups clash in deadly battle

<sup>84</sup> DVB (28 Feb 2025) Two factions of the Chin resistance agree to merge after talks in India's Mizoram State capital Aizawl; Chinland Council (26 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/nk2upy62>

<sup>85</sup> Narinjara (13 Feb 2025) Junta Begins Regular Airstrikes on Kyeintali Town in Gwa Township, Wounding Local Male Resident; Narinjara (9 Feb 2025) Junta Airstrikes on AA-Controlled Gwa and Rathedaung in One Day Result in One Fatality, Six Injured, and Damage to Homes; Narinjara (11 Feb 2025) Junta Airstrike Near Nang Tet Village in Kyauktaw Claims Life of Young Woman, Injures Four Others; Narinjara (13 Feb 2025) Junta Begins Regular Airstrikes on Kyeintali Town in Gwa Township, Wounding Local Male Resident; Myanmar Peace Monitor (13 Feb 2025) Mother and son killed, three injured in junta's Kyeintali aerial bombing; Narinjara (20 Feb 2025) Junta Drops More Than 40 Bombs on Pauktaw, Wounding at Least 20; Deaths Also Noted; Myanmar Now (21 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta bombs villages in three states

<sup>86</sup> Myanmar Peace Monitor (16 Feb 2025) Seven killed, 17 injured in two weeks by explosions of war remnants in Arakan State

<sup>87</sup> RFA (12 Feb 2025) Telecom outages impact livelihoods in Myanmar's Rakhine

<sup>88</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta artillery strikes force Kyaukphyu villagers to flee

<sup>89</sup> Narinjara (11 Feb 2025) Junta Forces on Ambush Patrol in Kyaukphyu Open Fire on Motorcycle, Resulting in One Civilian Death and Injuries to Two Others

<sup>90</sup> Narinjara (25 Feb 2025) Over 10 Junta Naval Vessels Deployed to Secure Chinese Projects Following AA Attack on Kyaukphyu

<sup>91</sup> RFA (26 Feb 2025) Myanmar military bombs insurgents attacking key Chinese investment area

<sup>92</sup> Narinjara (25 Feb 2025) Over 10 Junta Naval Vessels Deployed to Secure Chinese Projects Following AA Attack on Kyaukphyu

nearby village.<sup>93</sup> The base is one of three naval bases in Kyaukphyu and is located along a road used to transport oil for the China-Myanmar oil pipeline. There are also three other army bases in Kyaukphyu.<sup>94</sup>

**AA begins Sittwe attack:** During 7-15 Feb, in Sittwe Township, the AA intensified attacks on junta positions around the regime's **Regional Operations Command (ROC) Headquarters**. Sittwe is one of three townships in Arakan still under junta control. A local reported that the AA fired artillery at up to six junta positions around the HQ, including one naval base.<sup>95</sup> On 11 Feb, it was reported that the AA **launched another coordinated attack on five different junta camps**.<sup>96</sup> On 15 Feb, **the junta shelled Min Hla village and burned down 10 homes**. On 17 Feb, AA shelling targeted the junta's ROC, the junta's Sittwe Naval HQ, the 32nd Police Battalion, the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 344, the Shwe Min Gan Jetty, and two junta camps.<sup>97</sup>

On 19 Feb, it was reported the junta had deployed large numbers of ethnic Rakhine troops to the frontlines while **preventing their families from leaving Sittwe**. The junta had reportedly threatened both **jail and persecution** of family members for those who refused to fight.<sup>98</sup> On 20 Feb, it was reported that the junta had shut down all private and state-owned banks in Sittwe and told workers to leave the town. The junta had reportedly transferred the money from the banks to Yangon.<sup>99</sup> On 26 Feb, the junta bombed **Wah Bo village and destroyed 10 houses**. Fighting in Sittwe had already forced locals to flee the village.<sup>100</sup>

### Kachin State

On 6 Feb, since the attempted coup, it was reported that junta airstrikes, artillery attacks, and clashes with resistance forces had **killed 560 civilians**. Junta attacks killed 171 civilians in 2024. Most of the civilians killed were **children, women, and elders**.<sup>101</sup>

**Junta aerial attacks on seven townships kill at least 17:** On 4-10 Feb, the junta launched airstrikes on KIA headquarters in Laiza and on villages in **Myitkyina, Waingmaw, and Tsawlaw townships**. The attacks killed two civilians, injured five others, and destroyed a school building and several houses.<sup>102</sup> On 17 Feb, the junta **bombed a school** in Wa Ra Zut village in **Hpakant Township**, killed a civilian, and destroyed three houses. After the attack, the junta-affiliated **Min Zay Thant PMF** launched at least four drone attacks in the area.<sup>103</sup> On 19 Feb, the junta bombed Wet Ngin and Hnin Ei villages in Dawthponeyan town of **Momauk Township**, killed 10 civilians, including three children, in Wet Ngin, and injured five civilians in Hnin Ei. Locals said that there had been **no prior clashes**.<sup>104</sup> On 21 Feb, junta airstrikes on Mantar village in **Mansi Township** killed two locals, and injured three others.<sup>105</sup> On 23 Feb, the junta's airstrikes on three villages near **Shwegu town** reportedly injured at least five civilians. There had been no prior clashes.<sup>106</sup> On 23-25 Feb, junta air and drone strikes on the KIA headquarters in **Laiza (Waingmaw Township)**, around the **KIA's Brigade 9 (Hpakant Township)**, around **Brigade 11 (Shwegu Township)**, in **Bhamo Township**, and Mangpan Kaungmu village (Mansi Township), **killed several civilians**.<sup>107</sup>

**Junta relied on airstrikes to defeat KIA in Bhamo:** On 8 Feb, it was reported that clashes between the junta and the KIA and its allies **forced over 1,500 IDPs from Bhamo Township** to seek refuge in Shwegu town and surrounding villages. Bhamo-based Thonnya Thukha, a local organization that supports IDPs,

<sup>93</sup> Narinjara (28 Feb 2025) AA Launches Concurrent Assaults on Dhanyawadi Naval Base Outpost and 32nd Police Battalion in Kyaukphyu; Irrawaddy (1 Mar 2025) Arakan Army Renews Attacks on Kyaukphyu Naval Base

<sup>94</sup> Myanmar Now (24 Feb 2025) AA, Myanmar junta engage in fierce fighting near Rakhine State's largest naval base

<sup>95</sup> Irrawaddy (10 Feb 2025) AA Shelling Signals Imminent Assault on Rakhine Capital as Myanmar Junta Digs In; Narinjara (8 Feb 2025) AA Initiates Intense Artillery Strike on Junta Bases on Fringes of Sittwe

<sup>96</sup> Narinjara (13 Feb 2025) AA initiates a synchronized assault on various junta camps in Sittwe

<sup>97</sup> Narinjara (17 Feb 2025) Junta Artillery Fire Ignites About 10 Homes in Min Hla Village, Sittwe; Narinjara (17 Feb 2025) AA Shells Multiple Major Junta Bases, Including Regional Operations Command in Sittwe, Using Howitzers

<sup>98</sup> Narinjara (19 Feb 2025) Junta Deploys Primarily Arakanese Troops from Sittwe Battalions to Fight Against AA, Limits Mobility of Their Families

<sup>99</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Feb 2025) Banks Close in Sittwe as Myanmar Junta Braces for Attacks

<sup>100</sup> Narinjara (26 Feb 2025) Airstrikes Hit Wah Bo Village in Sittwe, Ruining 10 Houses

<sup>101</sup> Kachin News Group (6 Feb 2025) ကချင်မှာ အာဏာသိမ်း လေးနှစ်တာအတွင်း အရပ်သားသေဆုံးမှု ၅၆၀ ဦး ခန့်အထိ ရှိခဲ့

<sup>102</sup> Kachin News Group (12 Feb 2025) ကချင်မှာ တစ်ပတ်အတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီ ၅ နေရာခန့်ကို ဖုံးကြောက်ခိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>103</sup> Kachin News Group (18 Feb 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီ လေယာဉ်ဖုံးကြောမှုကြောင့် ဝါရာဇွန်ဒေသခံတစ်ဦး သေဆုံး

<sup>104</sup> Kachin News Group (20 Feb 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းပစ်ခတ်မှုကြောင့် မိုးမောက်မြို့နယ်မှာ ကလေးအပါအဝင် အရပ်သားသေဆုံး ထိခိုက်မှု များပြား

<sup>105</sup> SHAN (24 Feb 2025) မန့်ဝိန်းကြီးဒေသကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် လေယာဉ်ဖြင့် ဖုံးကြောက်ခိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>106</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Feb 2025) ရွှေကူ နဲ့ မံစီမြို့နယ် ကျေးရွာတွေကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ဖုံးကြောက်ခိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>107</sup> Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2025) လိုင်ဇာအပါအဝင် KIA ထိန်းချုပ်နယ်မြေများကို စစ်တပ်က ဒရုန်း၊ လေယာဉ်များဖြင့်တိုက်ခိုက်; SHAN (24 Feb 2025) မန့်ဝိန်းကြီးဒေသကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် လေယာဉ်ဖြင့် ဖုံးကြောက်ခိုက်ခိုက်

said the IDPs were sheltering in four monasteries in the town.<sup>108</sup> On 10 Feb, locals reported that the KIA and its allies had captured the junta's Tank Battalion 5014 several days earlier. The junta troops at the battalion reportedly fled to Military Operations Commands (MOC)-21. It was reported the junta had **relied heavily on air and drone strikes** during the clashes.<sup>109</sup> On 18 Feb, the KIA and allies **completely captured** Artillery Battalion (AB) 366 and IB 236. Clashes continued at MOC-21.<sup>110</sup>

### Northern Shan State

**Junta airstrikes and chemical bombs on TNLA-controlled townships:** On 6 Feb, locals said that junta troops had shelled TNLA positions near **Tawng Hkam village** in Nawngkhio Township as fighting intensified. The junta launched an **airstrike on Nawngkhio town**, injured a civilian, and destroyed a nursing home.<sup>111</sup> TNLA Gen. Tar Bhone Kyaw stated that the TNLA and its allies had attacked the junta's AB 206 and 902 in Tawng Hkam. Meanwhile, the junta launched an offensive west in Thabeikkyin Township (Mandalay Region).<sup>112</sup> On 19 Feb, the junta **bombed Nawngkhio town and Lauk Hpan village**, killed four civilians, and injured eight others.<sup>113</sup> On 20 Feb, the junta **bombed** Wea Baung village in **TNLA-controlled Mongmit Township**, killed three civilians including a child, injured seven others, and destroyed five houses.<sup>114</sup> On 22 Feb, the junta **bombed Taung Shey and Shwe Moke Htaw villages** in Nawngkhio Township, killed a civilian, and destroyed several houses.<sup>115</sup> The next day, **junta troops clashed** with the TNLA between the two villages. The TNLA stated that **the junta had used chemical bombs** during the clashes, and its troops had suffered from dizziness, rapid heartbeat, fatigue, and oxygen deficiency.<sup>116</sup> On 25 Feb, clashes broke out between junta troops and the TNLA near the junta's AB 354 in the Tawng Hkam area, and a TNLA shell exploded in the junta battalion, causing a fire.<sup>117</sup>

### Southern Shan State

On 6 Feb, in **Hsihseng Township**, a junta drone attack killed two farmers in Kawng Hto village.<sup>118</sup>

**Fighting escalates around Moe Bye Reservoir:** On 5 Feb, in **Nyaungshwe Township**, junta troops stationed on the west of the Moe Bye Reservoir fired on civilians near Hpa Yar Kone Ywar village on the east side, hit an IDP camp, **killed two civilians** including an IDP, and injured at least seven others. On 17 Jan, the junta shelled the same village and **killed four civilians**.<sup>119</sup> Hundreds of residents of surrounding villages had reportedly fled their homes in fear of attacks. In the Inle area, where waterways are the main form of transport, the junta threatened to **shoot anyone fleeing by boat** after 8 Feb.<sup>120</sup> During 12-13 Feb, junta and Pa'O National Army (PNA) troops based west of the reservoir fired artillery shells into Taung Poet Kwe village in the east, **killed a child and a man**, injured three others, and destroyed many homes.<sup>121</sup>

On 4 Feb, in **Pekon Township**, the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) launched an attack on junta troops advancing on **Moe Bye town**. During 4-5 Feb, in retaliation, the junta used Y-12 transport aircraft in airstrikes on the area. All 30,000 residents of Moe Bye town had fled the area prior to the attacks.<sup>122</sup> During 6-7 Feb, the junta's LIB 422 launched at least 50 heavy artillery strikes on the area. Since

<sup>108</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2025) ဗန်းမော်စစ်ရှောင် ၁၅၀၀ ကျော် ရွှေကျမြို့တွင် သောင်တင်နေ

<sup>109</sup> Myanmar Now (10 Feb 2025) ဗန်းမော်တင့်ကားတပ်ကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်၊ နှစ်ဘက်အကျအဆုံးများ

<sup>110</sup> Kachin News Group (19 Feb 2025) ဗန်းမော် အမတ် ၃၆၆ ၊ ခလရ ၂၃၆ တပ်ရင်းနှစ်ခုကို KIA သိမ်းပိုက်ပြီး စကေ ၂၁ မှာ တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေဆဲ

<sup>111</sup> SHAN (6 Feb 2025) နောင်ချိုမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်မှ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲမှု အပြင်းအထန်ပြုလုပ်နေ

<sup>112</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2025) စစ်တပ်နှင့် TNLA တရုတ်တွင် တွေ့ဆုံ၊ နောင်ချိုတွင် စစ်ဆက်တိုက်

<sup>113</sup> SHAN (21 Feb 2025) နောင်ချိုမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီမှ ဂျက်ဖိုက်တာဖြင့် ထပ်မံဗုံးကြဲ အမျိုးသမီး တစ်ဦးသေဆုံး၊ ကလေးငယ်အပါအဝင် ၄ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>114</sup> SHAN (22 Feb 2025) မိုးမိတ်နှင့် နောင်ချိုကို စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲမှု (၄) ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး (၇) ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>115</sup> SHAN (22 Feb 2025) မိုးမိတ်နှင့် နောင်ချိုကို စစ်ကောင်စီ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲမှု (၄) ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး (၇) ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>116</sup> SHAN (24 Feb 2025) နောင်ချိုမြို့နယ် တောင်းခမ်းတိုက်ပွဲအတွင်း စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် အဆိပ်ငွေဗုံး အသုံးပြုတိုက်ခိုက်ဟု TNLA ပြော

<sup>117</sup> SHAN (25 Feb 2025) တောင်းခမ်းဒေသ (၃၅၄) အမြောက်တပ်ထဲ လက်နက်ကြီး ကျတုံး စစ်ကောင်စီလက်နက်တိုက် မီးလောင်

<sup>118</sup> SHAN (7 Feb 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီ ဒရုန်းဖြင့် တိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား (၂)ဦး သေဆုံး

<sup>119</sup> Kantarawaddy Times via BNI (6 Feb 2025) Two Killed, Including a Loikaw IDP, in Junta Shelling

<sup>120</sup> SHAN (11 Feb 2025) Entire Villages Forced to Flee as Myanmar Military Escalates Artillery Attacks in Nyaung Shwe

<sup>121</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (13 Feb 2025) Two Civilians, Including a 10-Year-Old Child, Killed by Shelling in Taungpotwel Village, Nyaungshwe Township; SHAN (14 Feb 2025) သောင်ချိုမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ဒေသခံ ၁ဦးထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ

နေအိမ်များမီးလောင်ပျက်စီး

<sup>122</sup> SHAN (6 Feb 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီမှ မိုးမြို့ကို ပြည်လည်ထိန်းချုပ်နိုင်ရန် တကျော့ပြန်ထိုးစစ်ဆင်တိုက်ခိုက်နေ

early Dec 2024, the junta and allied PNA troops have attempted to seize Moe Bye town which is located along the road and railway connecting junta-controlled **Loikaw town** (Karenni State) and **Pekon town**.<sup>123</sup>

On 21 Feb, the KNDF announced a restriction on public movement in Moe Bye town during 24 - 28 Feb due to ongoing fighting. On 26 Feb, SHAN News reported the junta was conducting daily artillery attacks and airstrikes on Shan-Karenni border towns, Loikaw, Moe Bye and Pekon.<sup>124</sup> The Karenni IEC reported that in Feb, junta **incendiary ‘firebombs’** had destroyed around 30 civilian houses in Pekon Township, and at least 50 houses in Jan 2025.<sup>125</sup> Local resistance forces reported that the junta had used **poison gas bombs**, which made villagers sick and dizzy.<sup>126</sup>

### Karenni State

During 12-13 Feb, in **Shadaw Township**, the Karenni Army (KA) **seized the hilltop Taung Katone military base** along the Karenni-Thai border, causing 40 junta troops to retreat to Shan State. The base was the last junta position along the Karenni-Thai border, seized from the KA over 30 years ago.<sup>127</sup>

### Karen State

**Junta’s Aung Zeya column renews push towards Myawaddy:** On 26 Feb, in Kawkareik Township, it was reported that the junta had stockpiled around 800 Turkish-made drones for use during Operation Aung Zeya, their ongoing, nearly year-long offensive to retake the Myawaddy-Kawkareik section of the Asia Highway 1. A KNLA member reported clashes in several villages and junta drones were bombing targets daily. The resistance reportedly had counter-drone measures and were trying to disrupt junta movements.<sup>128</sup>

On 1 Feb, in Kawkareik Township, junta Artillery Regiment (AR) under MOC 12 shelled Hpar Kya village, **killed a man, injured a child**, and destroyed a rubber plantation. On 4 Feb, the junta’s LIB 97 and AR under MOC 19 **shelled Kawkareik town and killed a woman. Junta troops** had reportedly **shelled areas surrounding Kawkareik town daily** since Jan 2025.<sup>129</sup> **Troops in plain clothes** also **launched a military operation in Kyondoe town in Jan 2025**, nearly 25 km away. Since 1 Feb, the junta’s AR based in Kyondoe had reportedly shelled nearby areas daily and displaced over 1,500 residents.<sup>130</sup> On 27 Feb, junta troops **raided three villages** near Kawkareik town and **burned about 200 houses** and three monasteries.<sup>131</sup>

**Clashes near Thai border junta base forces locals into Thailand:** During 25-27 Feb, the junta and the KNLA clashed near a junta base across the border from Mae U Su District (Thailand) and **forced about 550 people to flee into Thailand**. The Bangkok Post reported Thai military and border forces took the refugees to two temporary safe areas and provided them with aid. The fighting prompted **the Thai army to conduct aerial surveillance of the Thai-Burma border**. The Thai military warned that the violence threatened lives and property on both sides and raised concerns about possible incursions into Thailand.<sup>132</sup>

### Bago Region

**AA seizes two junta outposts, close on junta arms factory:** On 22 Feb, in Padaung Township, the AA and resistance forces **seized two junta outposts just 19 km from the KaPaSa 6 arms factory**.<sup>133</sup> Later that day, the AA attacked the larger Nyaungkyo outpost, **16 km from KaPaSa 6**. A source close to the AA reported that on 24 Feb, **resistance forces had shot down two junta paramotors** during junta clashes.<sup>134</sup>

**Resistance forces attack seven junta outposts along Yangon-Mandalay Highway:** On 26 Feb, the NUG reported that in Phyu and Kyauktaga townships, joint KNLA and PDF forces attacked seven junta outposts along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, a vital route for junta supplies and troops. In retaliation, the junta

<sup>123</sup> MPA Press (8 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Bombards Moe Bye Town with Over 50 Artillery Shells; Irrawaddy (7 Feb 2025) Karenni Rebels Advance on Key Shan Town

<sup>124</sup> SHAN (26 Feb 2025) သျှမ်း-ကရင်နီ တကြောကို စစ်ကောင်စီက လေကြောင်းလက်နက်ကြီးများဖြင့် နေ့စဉ်ရက်ဆက် ပစ်ခတ်နေ

<sup>125</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (27 Feb 2025) Around 30 Civilian Homes Destroyed by Firebomb Attacks in Moe Bye Within a Month Due to Military Junta’s Assaults

<sup>126</sup> SHAN (25 Feb 2025) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့ စစ်ကောင်စီမှ ပြည်သူ့နေအိမ် မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးပြီး၊ ပစ္စည်းများဝင်ရောက်ခဲ့မှု

<sup>127</sup> Kantarawaddy Times (14 Feb 2025) KA Seizes the Last Remaining Junta Military Camp on the Thai-Karenni Border

<sup>128</sup> KIC via BNI (26 Feb 2025) Junta Stockpiling Drones for Asia Highway Offensive

<sup>129</sup> HURFOM (7 Feb 2025) Junta targets downtown Kaw Ka Rate with artillery attack, killing one woman; HURFOM (5 Feb 2025) Junta’s artillery attack kills local woman and injures child in Kyone Doe

<sup>130</sup> HURFOM (5 Feb 2025) Junta’s artillery attack kills local woman and injures child in Kyone Doe

<sup>131</sup> DVB (3 Feb 2025) Ethnic armed groups to resolve dispute in northern Shan State; Over 500 Karen State residents flee into Thailand

<sup>132</sup> DVB (3 Mar 2025) Ethnic armed groups to resolve dispute in northern Shan State; Over 500 Karen State residents flee into Thailand; Karen News (3 Mar 2025) Paingkyon Township Villagers Flee Junta Airstrikes; Bangkok Post (1 Mar 2025) Over 500 Myanmar refugees fleeing clashes enter Thailand

<sup>133</sup> DVB (25 Feb 2025) Arakan Army seizes two regime outposts near defence equipment factory in Bago Region

<sup>134</sup> DVB (27 Feb 2025) Regime plans to hold elections in 110 out of 330 townships; India to end illegal border trade with Myanmar

shelled resistance-controlled areas and injured four people, including three children. The NUG urged civilians to avoid areas near junta bases and checkpoints as fighting was set to intensify.<sup>135</sup>

**Junta shells and carries out paramotor attacks on civilians:** On 19 Feb, in Paukkaung Township, resistance forces ambushed two junta vehicles transporting food and supplies on the Pyay-Paukkaung road. In retaliation, the junta **carried out paramotor attacks** on at least **three nearby villages, killed a woman, severed her son's arms, and injured another child** in Aing Zauk village. On 20 Feb, the junta **continued to shell** Aing Zauk. Resistance forces also reported that the junta labeled nearby Nat Ta Lin Su village as a military target and **forced all residents to evacuate**. Since the ambush, junta troops have **intensified roadblocks and inspections** along the **Pyay-Paukkaung road**.<sup>136</sup>

### Tanintharyi Region

**Junta attacks along Tanintharyi - Maw Taung border road displace around 20,000:** On 15 Feb, In Tanintharyi Township, resistance forces clashed with junta troops in Thein Kun village along the Tanintharyi - Maw Taung highway. In response, the junta launched airstrikes and destroyed five houses.<sup>137</sup> On 17 Feb, junta troops clashed with resistance forces in Nyaung Pin Kwin village as they tried to advance towards Maw Taung town. The junta then conducted airstrikes on the village and destroyed at least 23 houses, a library, and several farms. A resistance force member reported that the junta had initially tried to advance towards Maw Taung town via Thein Kun village along the Tanintharyi - Maw Taung road, but had switched routes to Nyaung Pin Kwin village due to resistance attacks.<sup>138</sup> During 24-27 Feb, the junta used a Mi-2 helicopter and K8W fighter jets to continuously launch airstrikes near Thein Kun village. A KNU Brigade 4 spokesperson reported that clashes along the highway had been ongoing since mid-Dec 2024 and added that the junta's airstrikes had recently increased.<sup>139</sup> FE5 Tanintharyi reported that the attacks had **forced nearly 20,000 civilians to flee**.<sup>140</sup>

### Mon State

**KNLA joint forces captured strategic base in Bilin:** On 1 Feb, in Bilin Township, the Force for Federal Democracy (FFD) resistance group reported that the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allied resistance forces seized the junta's Me Pa Li base. The capture enabled resistance forces to control the main road between Bilin town and Hpapun town (Karen State), and conduct offensives in Bilin and Kyaikto townships.<sup>141</sup> Locals reported that the junta continuously launched air and artillery strikes after they lost their Me Pa Li base, and forced more than **20,000 civilians from over 50 villages to flee**.<sup>142</sup>

**The Galon Column leaves NUG, joins MLA under Ramanya Joint Column:** On 1 Feb, the 300-member strong Galon Column stated that they had withdrawn from the NUG's Southern Military Region's chain of command and had allied with the anti-junta Mon Liberation Army (MLA), a member of the Ramanya Joint Column Resistance. Sources reported that NUG's order to send members to eastern Bago Region caused the withdrawal. A journalist reported that the Galon Column, who are not Mon, could help the MLA improve their relationship with other anti-junta groups. An analyst stated that the new alliance would strengthen Mon resistance forces and the Ramanya Joint Column, and likely intensify clashes with the junta in Mon State. The Galon Column reportedly has its own drone units and can produce its own weapons.<sup>143</sup> On 29 Jan, the NUG accepted the Galon Column's resignation, submitted in Nov 2024.<sup>144</sup>

### Ayeyarwady Region

**AA shifting Ayeyarwady focus inland:** On 3 Feb, in Thabaung Township, the AA and allied forces **seized a junta outpost** in Kyar Gaung village. A source reported that the AA had shifted its focus from the coastline to towns further inland, such as Thabaung town. On 5 Feb, the AA reportedly clashed with junta

<sup>135</sup> Myanmar Now (27 Feb 2025) Resistance targets junta security outposts on key highway in coordinated attacks

<sup>136</sup> Mizzima (23 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta bombs villages in Bago after attack on military column, killing a civilian

<sup>137</sup> DVB (17 Feb 2025) တနင်္သာရီ-မောတောင်လမ်း တိုက်ပွဲတွင် စစ်တပ်က လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်၊ နေအိမ်အချို့ မီးရှို့

<sup>138</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2025) တနင်္သာရီမြို့နယ်တွင် တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်ပြီး လေကြောင်းမှ ပစ်ကူ၊ နေအိမ် ၂၀ ကျော် မီးလောင်

<sup>139</sup> Dawei Watch (27 Feb 2025) တနင်္သာရီ၊ သိန်ခွန်းရွာဝန်းကျင်ကို စစ်ကောင်စီက လေကြောင်းဖြင့် ဆက်တိုက်ပိုးကြဲ

<sup>140</sup> Than Lwin Times via BNI (19 Feb 2025) တနင်္သာရီတိုင်းတွင် စစ်ဘေးရှောင် ခုနစ်သောင်းခွဲကျော်အထိ တိုးလာနေ

<sup>141</sup> Myanmar Now (4 Feb 2025) Karen fighters, allies advance into Mon State

<sup>142</sup> HURFOM (25 Feb 2025) Junta's constant aerial and artillery attacks force more than 20,000 residents in KNU controlled area to flee

<sup>143</sup> Myanmar Now (13 Feb 2025) 300-member resistance organisation splits from Myanmar's National Unity Government, joins Mon group

<sup>144</sup> Burma VJ via Facebook (11 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/5c8sbz8m>

troops further south, near Thea Phyu village.<sup>145</sup> On 25 Feb, clashes between the junta and AA once again broke out near Thea Phyu village. Fighting persisted through the end of the month.<sup>146</sup>

During 14-17 Feb, in Yegyi Township, AA and allied troops carried out **an offensive against the junta's AB 344** in Myauk San village, about 24 km from **Ngachaingchaung town**. The junta carried out artillery and paramotor strikes in the area, and deployed hundreds of troops from Kyonpyaw Township to defend the AB. Many local residents reportedly fled ahead of escalating clashes.<sup>147</sup>

## Mandalay Region

- On 1 Feb, in **Taungtha Township**, a junta fighter jet and Y-12 aircraft dropped 18 bombs on the Taungtha PDF military training graduation ceremony and injured two men.<sup>148</sup>
- On 6 Feb, in **Ngazun Township**, a junta **nighttime paramotor attack** on a monastery killed a monk, and injured a man in Kan Thar village. There was no prior fighting. The same day, the resistance ambushed junta forces who had just raided Ngan Myar village, killed a soldier, and injured others.<sup>149</sup>
- On 10 Feb, in **Mogoke Township**, a junta Y-12 aircraft dropped 20 bombs near a ruby mine, killed five civilians and injured 19 others. It was like because the TNLA seized mining plots in the area.<sup>150</sup>
- On 12 Feb, in **Natogyi Township**, junta jet fighters and MI 35 helicopters attacked Pu Chet village, injured a civilian, and damaged houses. No fighting took place prior to the attack.<sup>151</sup>
- On 18 Feb, in **Singu Township**, a junta airstrike against NUG-controlled Let Pan Hla village hit a house near a school, killed a woman, and injured her husband and two-year-old daughter.<sup>152</sup>

**Junta launches first airstrikes on the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bagan:** On 13 Feb, in **Nyaung-U Township**, the junta launched an airstrike on Gyoe Kan village near the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bagan. On the same day, they raided and fired artillery in nearby villages. Junta troops also arrested five youths from Ma Au Pin village to use as forced laborers.<sup>153</sup> On 16 Feb, NUG Interim Heritage Management Central Committee condemned the junta's airstrike and accused it of committing war crimes.<sup>154</sup>

**Junta airstrikes and shelling in Madaya & Myingyan:** On 5 Feb, in **Madaya Township**, junta troops fired two artillery shells into Taungkan village, hit a monastery sheltering IDPs, and injured three women. On the same day, the junta also shelled Wathondara village and injured five elderly women and a girl. MDY-PDF said that they had captured most of **Madaya Township**, but the junta still held a few positions in the east of the township and regularly conducted drone attacks and shelled in the township's south.<sup>155</sup>

In **Madaya Township**, on 13 Feb, the junta shelled Myaung Thit village, killed one woman, injured three others, and damaged a monastery and buildings. The shelling forced 300 villagers to flee. There was no prior fighting.<sup>156</sup> On the same day, a junta artillery attack injured two women in Seik Thar village. The junta also shelled Kywe Kya and Myaung Thit villages and caused casualties.<sup>157</sup> On 16 Feb, the junta dropped two 500 lb bombs on Bo Kone and Si Taing Kan villages and forced villagers to flee. They conducted artillery attacks from Si Taing Kan village and injured three villagers.<sup>158</sup> On the same day, fighting between MDY-PDF and junta forces intensified in Myaung Thit village, and the junta conducted two airstrikes there. On 17 Feb, the junta launched more airstrikes on Myaung Thit and nearby villages.<sup>159</sup>

<sup>145</sup> DVB (7 Feb 2025) Fighting between Arakan Army and military spreads to Sittwe; AA seizes regime outpost in Ayeyarwady Region

<sup>146</sup> Narinjara (1 Mar 2025) Heavy Combat Breaks Out Between AA and Junta Troops in Thabaung Town, Ayeyarwady Region

<sup>147</sup> DVB (14 Feb 2025) New military conscription law guidelines unclear on wages; Border Guard Force responds to Thailand; Myanmar Peace Monitor (17 Feb 2025) Joint force led by AA launches offensive against 344 Artillery Battalion in Ayeyarwady's Yegyi

<sup>148</sup> DVB (3 Feb 2025) တောင်သာပကဖ စစ်သင်တန်းဆင်းပွဲ ဖုံးကြံခံရ၊ ဆိပ်ဖြူ၌ စက်တပ်လေထီးဖြင့် ဖုံးကြံ၊ ချောင်းဦးတွင် ရှာမီးရှို့

<sup>149</sup> DVB (7 Feb 2025) မန္တလေးတိုင်း၌ စစ်ရေးအရှိန်ပြင်းထန်နေပြီး စစ်တပ်ပစ်ခတ်ဖုံးကြံမှုများကြောင့် ရဟန်းရှင်လူများ ထိခိုက်သေဆုံး

<sup>150</sup> Irrawaddy (11 Feb 2025) Five Killed as Junta Bombs Myanmar's Rebel-Held Ruby Hub

<sup>151</sup> DVB (14 Feb 2025) စစ်ကိုင်း၊ မကွေးနှင့် မန္တလေးတိုင်းအတွင်း ကျေးရွာများကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ဖုံးကြံ

<sup>152</sup> Myanmar Now (19 Feb 2025) စဥ့်ကူးမြို့ လက်ပံလှရွာကိုစစ်တပ် ဖုံးကြံ၊ စစ်ရှောင်အမျိုးသမီး သေဆုံး

<sup>153</sup> DVB (14 Feb 2025) ပုဂံညောင်ဦးမြို့နယ်ထဲကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ပထမဆုံးအကြိမ် လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်

<sup>154</sup> Interim Board for Heritage Administration - NUG (16 Feb 2025) ကြေညာချက်အမှတ် (၁/၂၀၂၅)

<sup>155</sup> Myanmar Now (7 Feb 2025) Child, elderly women injured by junta shelling in Mandalay Region's Madaya Township

<sup>156</sup> DVB (16 Feb 2025) မတ္တရာတွင် လက်နက်ကြီးထိပြီး အမျိုးသမီး ၁ ဦးသေ၊ ၃ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>157</sup> DVB (15 Feb 2025) ဝက်လက်နှင့်မတ္တရာတွင် လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီးငယ် ၁ ဦးသေ၊ ၃ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>158</sup> DVB (17 Feb 2025) မတ္တရာတွင် စစ်တပ်က လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်၊ ပြည်သူများ နေရပ်စွန့်ခွာ

<sup>159</sup> Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2025) မတ္တရာအရှေ့ခြမ်းတွင် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်၊ လေတပ်က ၂ ရက်ဆက် ဖုံးကြံ

In **Myingyan Township**, on 1 Feb, the resistance raided Ta Loke Myo village occupied by the junta. Junta forces retaliated with airstrikes and shelling, damaged 30 houses and **forced 10,000 locals to flee**.<sup>160</sup> On 16 Feb, the junta shot dead a man who returned to Ta Loke Myo village for food, and injured his nephew. On 17 Feb, the junta **torched 100 houses** there. Residents had previously fled the village.<sup>161</sup> On the same day, a junta fighter jet dropped three bombs on Tu Ywin Bo village, killed four civilians and injured eight others.<sup>162</sup> On 26 Feb, junta troops killed a 16-year-old boy and injured his mother in Nga Nan village.<sup>163</sup>

## Yangon Region

**Resistance guerilla attacks target offices:** On 16 Feb, in **Hlaing Township**, joint resistance forces bombed a junta security gate and injured a junta soldier.<sup>164</sup> On 23 Feb, in **Hmawbi Township**, the Operation Flame resistance group attacked the township Police Chief's office and injured several junta policemen.<sup>165</sup> On 25 Feb, in **Dagon Myothit (South) Township**, resistance forces attacked a police station security gate with two remote-controlled mines.<sup>166</sup> On the same day, in **Shwepyithar Township**, an unnamed resistance group launched a grenade attack on the junta's LIB 6.<sup>167</sup> On 27 Feb, in **Dagon Myothit (North) Township**, the Yangon People's Army attacked a junta administration office with remote-controlled mines.<sup>168</sup>

## Rohingya

- On 3 Feb, it was reported the AA informed **Rohingya leaders** from Maungdaw Township (Arakan State) that residents from wards 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as Maung Ni and Kan Nyin Tan wards, **would not be allowed to return** to Maungdaw town. They stated there was a list of Ward 5 residents who would be allowed to return; however, as of 3 Feb, none had been allowed to return.<sup>169</sup>
- On 5 Feb, in Bokeyyin Township (Tanintharyi Region), the junta **shot at, then arrested about 60 Rohingya hiding in a palm plantation** near Htaung Kha Met village. A man died and six others were injured.<sup>170</sup>
- On 12 Feb, in Ye Township (Mon State), the junta intercepted a boat carrying at least 15 Rohingya who landed near Kawt Dut-Thaung Pyin, **shot dead at least five** who fled, and arrested the rest.<sup>171</sup>
- On 16 Feb, Bangladesh police **arrested a group of 20 Rohingya**, including 10 children, who had fled Bhasan Char with the help of smugglers. After their arrest, authorities sent them to Rohingya camps in Ukhiya rather than forcibly returning them to Bhasan Char.<sup>172</sup>
- On 18 Feb, the **Indian Supreme Court dismissed** a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) case **seeking access to school admission** for Rohingya children lodged by the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative. The court stated the children could bring the case before the Delhi High Court only if they are first rejected from government schools where they are eligible.<sup>173</sup>

## US funding freeze threatens Cox's Bazar camps

On 7 Feb, it was reported that the US's 90-day funding freeze had led **five US-funded hospitals** in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh **to suspend operations**. The freeze also stopped **waste management and landfill activities** in the camps. A community worker stated the freeze had led organizations to wind down women-focused programs, landslide risk reduction projects, WASH initiatives, and disability support work. They expected that **crime would increase as a result** of the shuttering of the NGOs. Since the funding freeze, **healthcare services across the camps had scaled down their services by almost 25%**. A Rohingya community volunteer noted that the freeze had come amidst **several years of declining**

<sup>160</sup> RFA (18 Feb 2025) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် တလုပ်မြို့ကျေးရွာမှာ နေအိမ်တစ်ရာကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ

<sup>161</sup> RFA (18 Feb 2025) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် တလုပ်မြို့ကျေးရွာမှာ နေအိမ်တစ်ရာကျော် မီးရှို့ခံရ

<sup>162</sup> RFA (19 Feb 2025) မြင်းခြံမြို့နယ် တူရွင်းဘိုရွာ ဗုံးကြဲခံရပြီး လေးဦး သေ၊ ရှစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>163</sup> DVB (27 Feb 2025) မြင်းခြံတွင် ကလေး ၁ ဦးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ် ပစ်သတ်

<sup>164</sup> DVB (17 Feb 2025) လှိုင်မြို့နယ် တပ်ထိန်းရုံး ဗုံးပစ်ခံရပြီး တပ်ကြပ် ၁ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

<sup>165</sup> DVB (24 Feb 2025) မှော်ဘီရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး ဗုံးခွဲခံရ

<sup>166</sup> DVB (26 Feb 2025) တောင်ဒဂုံရဲစခန်း ရဲကင်းဂိတ် မိုင်းခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

<sup>167</sup> DVB (27 Feb 2025) Regime plans to hold elections in 110 out of 330 townships; India to end illegal border trade with Myanmar

<sup>168</sup> DVB (28 Feb 2025) မြောက်ဒဂုံ ထွေအုပ်ရုံး အဝေးထိန်းမိုင်းဖြင့် ဖောက်ခွဲခံရ

<sup>169</sup> Bay of Bengal Post (5 Feb 2025) Arakan Army Blocks Thousands of Displaced Rohingya from Returning to Maungdaw Township

<sup>170</sup> Dawei Watch (8 Feb 2025) ဘုတ်ပြင်းတွင် ရိုဟင်ဂျာ ၆၀ နီးပါးကို စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်က ပစ်ခတ်ဖမ်းဆီး၊ တစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

<sup>171</sup> Mon News (20 Feb 2025) Military Junta Kills 5 men and arrests 10 others attempting to flee Myanmar near Koh Doot-Thaungpyin Coastal Area

<sup>172</sup> Bhasan Char News (18 Feb 2025) Rohingya Escapees from Bhasan Char Sent to Ukhiya Camps - An Admission of Failure?

<sup>173</sup> The Law Advice (18 Feb 2025) Supreme Court Disposes Petition on Rohingya Children's School Admission



**funding** for Rohingya camps and that this recent drastic drop in funding would have catastrophic impacts. Observers also raised concerns that a US halt in support for the World Health Organization (WHO) and GAVI, the international vaccine alliance, would further decrease access to medical care in the camps.<sup>174</sup>

### **Argentina issues MAL, ASSK arrest warrants**

On 13 Feb, an Argentinian court ordered Argentina to **issue international arrest warrants for Min Aung Hlaing**, junta second-in-command **Soe Win**, **Aung San Suu Kyi**, former president **Htin Kyaw**, and **22 other military officials** for their role in the **Rohingya genocide**. The court's ruling as a result of the universal jurisdiction case filed in 2019, triggered a request to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Prosecutor to officially issue arrest warrants for the accused. Arrest warrants would empower INTERPOL to issue a 'red notice' that requires all 196 member states to detain them for extradition for trial in Argentina.<sup>175</sup> On 18 Feb, the NUG stated that the court had made "a misguided and erroneous legal accusation" by including arrest warrants for Aung San Suu Kyi and Htin Kyaw and demanded their removal from the list.<sup>176</sup> Following the 2017 genocide, Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) opposed independent investigations into the Rohingya genocide, downplayed the extent of crimes committed against the Rohingya, and defended the military's actions before the ICJ.<sup>177</sup>

### **Junta free Rohingya, then conscripts them**

On 17 Feb, the junta released 936 Rohingya, including 267 women and 67 children, from Insein Prison (Yangon Region) and **sent them by boat to Sittwe town** (Arakan State). The junta had arrested them after Feb 2021 and had held them in Ayeyarwady Region before sending them to Insein Prison shortly before their release. The PPNM spokesperson reported that they were suspicious of the release, given it came shortly after Argentina issued arrest warrants for Min Aung Hlaing and others.<sup>178</sup> On 18 Feb, the junta reportedly held discussions with several international organizations regarding plans to **place all of the released Rohingya in Sittwe Township detention camps**. Of the 936 people released, only around 100 were from Sittwe Township.<sup>179</sup> On 23 Feb, it was reported that the junta would hold the recently released women, children, and elderly in Sittwe-area detention camps, while they would **force the young men to undergo 45-day military training** and deploy them to the frontlines. The junta was reportedly **conscripting Rohingya from 10 villages and had trained 5,000-7,000 Rohingya** in Sittwe.<sup>180</sup>

### **Harrowing experiences of new arrivals**

On 7 Feb, a summary of findings from the Burma Task Force's recent survey of Cox's Bazar camps highlighted the difficult conditions faced by new Rohingya arrivals. Nearly all new arrivals interviewed stated they knew someone who had been killed while fleeing from northern Arakan State and many added that they **passed by or had stepped over piles of dead bodies** as they escaped. The report added that "the **AA specifically targets girls for sexual abuse**," and that "some women [interviewees] knew rape victims and most had heard of such incidents." While crossing the Naf River, many stated that they had to bribe both boatmen and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members to enter Bangladesh and that the BGB had refused entry to many people. Upon arrival, authorities continued to refuse access to food or housing for new arrivals. As a result, **new arrivals largely faced severe food and housing insecurity**.<sup>181</sup>

On 6 Feb, BenarNews provided several first-hand accounts of the sexual violence faced by women fleeing AA and junta attacks in Arakan. One woman stated that she was groped and physically assaulted by AA soldiers before they murdered three of her family members. She said that she passed out during the assault and woke up to her village burning. Another woman sheltering in a school reported that she had to flee

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<sup>174</sup> The Daily Star (7 Feb 2025) US fund cuts will worsen the Rohingya crisis; RFA (19 Feb 2025) Rohingya in limbo as some aid groups suspend health services at Bangladesh camps; Devex (13 Feb 2025) USAID freeze deepens Rohingya crisis, exacerbating 'subhuman conditions'; The Diplomat (18 Feb 2025) US Aid Freeze Devastates Some of the World's Most Vulnerable: Rohingya Refugees

<sup>175</sup> BROUK (14 Feb 2025) Argentina court issues international arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing – A historic step towards justice for Rohingya genocide; RFA (14 Feb 2025) Argentina court calls for arrest warrant for Myanmar junta chief

<sup>176</sup> NUG via Facebook (18 Feb 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/5947w3tn>

<sup>177</sup> DVB (19 Feb 2025) A response to the NUG statement on Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest warrant

<sup>178</sup> RFA (17 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta frees nearly 1,000 Rohingya from prison, group says; Mizzima (19 Feb 2025) PPNM raises alarm over removal of 936 Rohingya detainees from Myanmar's Insein Prison; DVB (17 Feb 2025) Rohingya taken from Yangon's Insein Prison; Argentina includes Aung San Suu Kyi and Htin Kyaw in arrest warrants; Myanmar Now (17 Feb 2025) Rohingya taken from Yangon's Insein Prison; Argentina includes Aung San Suu Kyi and Htin Kyaw in arrest warrants; Narinjara (17 Feb 2025) Rohingya taken from Yangon's Insein Prison; Argentina includes Aung San Suu Kyi and Htin Kyaw in arrest warrants

<sup>179</sup> Myanmar Now (20 Feb 2025) Close to 1,000 Rohingya people arrive in Sittwe after prison release

<sup>180</sup> Narinjara (23 Feb 2025) Junta to Offer Military Training to Young and Middle-Aged Muslims Freed from Insein Prison and Arrived in Sittwe

<sup>181</sup> Burma Task Force (4 Feb 2025) Rohingya Refugees Face New Challenges: Exclusive Report from Bangladesh Camps

after AA troops abducted a group of young Rohingya girls from the school's compound, where they had previously forced fleeing Rohingya to stay.<sup>182</sup>

### **Women remain defiant (more details at [women tracker](#))**

#### **MNDAA arrests girl after men fight over her**

On 7 Feb, in **Lashio Township** (N. Shan State), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) **arbitrarily arrested and detained** a 15-year-old girl after two MNDAA soldiers got into a gunfight over her, resulting in one killing the other. The underage girl was not present during the incident. Later that day, MNDAA soldiers based at a monastery in Mong Yaw village tract arrested the girl, despite her playing no role in the soldiers' dispute and death. They refused to allow her father or another girl to accompany her. The soldiers reportedly told her family members not to mention the incident if approached by the media. On 8 Feb, the village headman and elders visited the MNDAA's camp at the Mong Yaw monastery to demand the girl's release, but the soldiers refused. Family members then traveled to the MNDAA liaison office in Lashio town but were again refused. On 23 Feb, the girl remained in detention for "courting" the men, with family members and locals concerned for her safety.<sup>183</sup>

#### **Chinese bride buying expands in Burma**

In early February, in **Dala Township** (Yangon), two videos circulated of two Chinese men trying to lure underage girls into marrying them and offering to pay their family for a wife. On 6 Feb, the two men were arrested at the airport and charged with human trafficking. The BBC stated there had been an **increase in young women and girls being sold as brides** to China and that the trafficking had **spread from border areas into central Burma**.<sup>184</sup> A Dec 2024 report by the Kachin Women's Association Thailand showed that over **one-third of trafficked brides had been taken from IDP camps**, proving how junta violence made women more vulnerable to exploitation.<sup>185</sup>

#### **Girls abused & murdered**

On 22 Feb, in **KIA-controlled Waingmaw Township** (Kachin State), a man kidnapped three girls aged nine to 11 from Je Yang IDP camp as they went to visit their teacher. On 25 Feb, the families received a call from the kidnapper demanding CNY 100,000 (USD 13,700) for each girl. That evening, two of the girls' bodies were found near a lake, with wounds showing they had been **raped, and killed with a stone**. On 26 Feb, the body of the third girl was found hanging from a tree, with evidence of severe torture. Later that day, the KIA arrested a 25-year-old man suspected of murdering them. He was the **husband of the girls' teacher**.<sup>186</sup>

On 25 Feb, in **MNDAA-controlled Hsipaw Township** (N. Shan State), locals found the **bodies of three young girls** dumped near Nar Mak Hkaw village. The girls, believed to be 14-18 years old, were all found in their underwear. They had likely been sexually assaulted before being murdered. Their identities and that of the perpetrator remain unknown. The MNDAA reportedly cremated the bodies immediately.<sup>187</sup>

### **COVID-19, Health, Education (more at [COVID-19, healthcare, and education tracker](#))**

#### **Education**

**Junta forces distance education students to use crony bank:** On 11 Feb, it was reported that university students enrolled in distance education for 2025-2026 could only register through the junta Ministry of Education's website and had to open a bank account with the junta-linked UAB bank to pay for their registration. Students studying abroad would have to return to Burma for this. A student said that this year's registration fee jumped from MMK 40,000 in 2024 to MMK 90,000. Another student reported that the new online registration system was complex and that no students had registered so far. The complicated registration made it challenging for students with poor internet. Parents were reportedly concerned that the junta had implemented the new registration system to aid their forced conscription efforts.<sup>188</sup>

<sup>182</sup> RFA (6 Feb 2025) Rohingya women say sexual violence, killings forced them out of Myanmar

<sup>183</sup> SHAN (23 Feb 2025) လားရှိုး မိန်းကလေးငယ်ကို အပြိုင်လိုက်ကြိုက်သည့် ကိုးကန့်တပ်သားနှစ်ဦး အချင်းချင်းပစ်သတ်၊ မိန်းကလေးကို MNDAA ဖမ်းထားပြီး ပြန်မလွှတ်သေး

<sup>184</sup> BBC (18 Feb 2025) မြန်မာမှာတကျော့ပြန်ခေါင်းထောင်လာတဲ့ တရုတ်ဇနီးမယားဈေးကွက်

<sup>185</sup> Kachin Women's Association (18 Feb 2025) Sold to China

<sup>186</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Feb 2025) Suspect Held After Kachin Child Murders

<sup>187</sup> SHAN (4 Mar 2025) Three Young Girls Found Murdered in Hsipaw Township

<sup>188</sup> HURFOM (11 Feb 2025) New registration system creates problems for university students pursuing distance education; Finance Uncovered (16 Aug 2022) Myanmar: City publisher Euromoney gave 'best bank' award to a lender linked to military regime

## Health

**Severe skin disease spreads among Arakan State IDPs:** On 6 Feb, in Arakan State, Mizzima reported that a junta blockade on medical supplies exacerbated a severe skin disease outbreak that affected tens of thousands of IDPs. Children around age 10 were the most affected. An aid worker said the outbreak began around Sep 2024 and had spread to nearly all IDP camps in both AA and junta-controlled Arakan State.<sup>189</sup>

**Junta orders 1st Mar closure of 4 Yangon and 7 Mandalay hospitals:** On 18 Feb, it was reported the junta had ordered at least four private hospitals in Yangon and seven others in Mandalay to suspend operations for several months, beginning 1 Mar. A healthcare worker said the hospitals were suspected of hiring CDM doctors and treating PDF patients. She noted that they had rehired CDMers due to the scarcity of qualified doctors. The junta would reportedly monitor the situation for a few months and potentially allow some to reopen.<sup>190</sup> A teacher reported that the junta had carried out raids on some of the hospitals.<sup>191</sup>

**NUG health facilities now number hundreds:** On 4 Feb, an NUG spokesperson reported that since the failed coup, **it had set up 106 hospitals, over 800 clinics, and around 100 mobile clinics across 190 townships.** The facilities treated over 937,000 patients. Working with state and region-based health teams, they provided prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation support to anti-junta fighters and around 700 civilians. The NUG stated the junta had deliberately attacked and destroyed at least 340 hospitals and clinics.<sup>192</sup>

## Business and economics (more details at [business & economic responses tracker](#))

### Interra feeling heat for fueling atrocities

On 3 Feb, **Interra Resources suspended trading** on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX), following Justice for Myanmar's (JfM) report exposing its complicity in the junta's war crimes. On 6 Feb, in response to SGX queries, the company said it was seeking legal advice on whether its dealings with junta-controlled **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)** violated foreign laws.<sup>193</sup> Interra confirmed that it has an ongoing **Improved Petroleum Recovery Contract (IPRC)** with MOGE, set to **expire in 2028**, and claimed that, while it is aware that the junta is a military entity, it has **no control over how MOGE distributes or uses the oil its supplies.** JfM noted that **Interra** had yet to release its full IPRC and that, given its responses to SGX queries, was fully aware that it was engaging in business with an EU and US-sanctioned entity. Based on this information, JfM noted that it was reasonable to conclude that **Interra Resources'** continued provision of crude oil to MOGE could be exposing **Interra** to civil liability or criminal sanction for **enabling mass atrocities and war crimes.**<sup>194</sup>

Financial reports also revealed that **Interra's oil production** not only **resumed** but, in 2023, **exceeded pre-coup baseline levels.** Despite the junta's escalating atrocities, **Interra's operations "maintained strong momentum"** in the following years. JfM noted **Interra's** actions contradicted the NUG guidelines, which required companies to stop all activities that enabled the junta's atrocities. JfM urged **SGX** to prevent the company from resuming trading while it supplies oil to the junta, and demanded immediate regulatory intervention to hold **Interra** accountable for helping sustain the junta's fuel supply.<sup>195</sup>

### Gold mining devastates Ayeyarwady River

On 7 Feb, **Myanmar Resource Watch (MRW)** reported that since 2021, **water quality** in the **Ayeyarwady River** and its tributaries had **significantly declined** due to **unregulated gold mining.** Gold mining uses large amounts of mercury and cyanide, and lab tests done on junta and resistance-controlled areas revealed **dangerously high levels of mercury,** lead, cadmium, and magnesium. This has led to skin rashes and other **serious health risks,** especially to children and pregnant women. Contamination is particularly severe in **Kachin State** and **Sagaing Region,** where gold mining is most concentrated.<sup>196</sup>

Gold mining has also led to severe **environmental damage.** In **Homalin Township** (Sagaing Region), mining activities **eroded the riverbank,** which led to its collapse, and ultimately **forced an entire village**

<sup>189</sup> Mizzima (6 Feb 2025) Skin disease outbreak spreads among tens of thousands of IDPs in Rakhine State amid medicine shortages

<sup>190</sup> Myanmar Now (18 Feb 2025) Regime forces four private hospitals to shut down temporarily in Yangon

<sup>191</sup> Myanmar Now (8 Feb 2025) စစ်တပ် ပစ်မှတ်ထားနေသော မန္တလေးတွင် ပုဂ္ဂလိကဆေးရုံ ၇ ခု ယာယီအပိတ်ခံရ

<sup>192</sup> Mizzima (5 Feb 2025) NUG discloses over 1,000 healthcare facilities established across 190 townships in Myanmar

<sup>193</sup> Interra Resources Limited (6 Feb 2025) Request for suspension

<sup>194</sup> Justice for Myanmar (12 Feb 2025) JFM replies to Interra Resources' response to SGX queries about report into company's complicity in war crimes

<sup>195</sup> Justice for Myanmar (12 Feb 2025) JFM replies to Interra Resources' response to SGX queries about report into company's complicity in war crimes

<sup>196</sup> Myanmar Resource Watch (7 Feb 2025) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားတလျှောက် ရေ အရည်အသွေး ဆန်းစစ်လေ့လာခြင်း; Myanmar Now (26 Feb 2025) Gold mining poses growing threat to Ayeyarwady River's water quality: report

**to relocate.** Experts warned that without intervention, **more villages may disappear** in the coming years. At the source of the **Ayeyarwady River**, 45 km to the north of **Myitkyina** (Kachin State), large-scale gold mining had **reshaped the river's course** and **caused island formation, riverbank erosion, and dangerous navigation conditions.** A local said that the **river had narrowed,** became **muddier,** and made **boat travel increasingly hazardous.** Junta **crony Yup Zaw Hkwang,** an ethnic Kachin jade tycoon, is a key figure behind mining operations in these areas.<sup>197</sup>

On 19 Feb, the junta claimed that **all natural resources in Burma belonged to the state** under the 2008 constitution, and warned it would act against **“illegal resource extraction” in resistance-controlled areas.** In contrast, the NUG established **union and township-level Resource Management Committees** to oversee the proper management of natural resources and reduce waste.<sup>198</sup> On 22 Feb, in **Thabeikkyin Township** (Mandalay Region), junta forces launched an airstrike on gold mines near Chaung Gyi village and injured seven mine workers. There were no prior clashes.<sup>199</sup>

### **SAC-M and Turnell push for sanctions to break military-economy nexus**

On 11 Feb, in a report published by **SAC-M,** economist **Dr. Sean Turnell** called on the international community to impose **expanded and coordinated sanctions** against the **Central Bank of Myanmar, state-owned banks, and private crony banks** to cut off the junta's financial lifelines. Since the attempted coup, those banks – along with other financial institutions, foreign banks, and financial networks – have facilitated the junta's global transactions abetting their atrocities against civilians.<sup>200</sup>

Dr. Turnell also urged states to implement **secondary sanctions** on **individuals and foreign entities** doing business with junta-linked financial institutions and **state-owned enterprises.** Additionally, he urged the **US Government to unfreeze the over USD 1 billion** from **Burma's national reserves** and return it to the **NUG, EROs, and broader civil society** for humanitarian aid and resistance support. Most importantly, he advocated for classifying **all debts incurred by the junta** as **“odious debt”** which would discourage international lenders from funding the junta. He argued that breaking the **military-economy nexus** would weaken the junta's lifeline and create the foundation for future economic justice in Burma.<sup>201</sup>

### **International responses (more details at [international responses tracker](#))**

#### **ASEAN Special Envoy shuns MAH, meets NUG & EROs instead**

During 6-8 Feb, in Naypyidaw, the new **ASEAN special envoy to Burma** Othman Hashim met with junta foreign minister Than Swe. Sources close to the meeting claimed that Hashim told the junta that it would be best for them to initiate an end to fighting.<sup>202</sup> Myanmar Now reported that Hashim was expected to meet with coup-monger Min Aung Hlaing,<sup>203</sup> however, it was later reported that **Hashim had refused to meet with him.** Hashim did not say why he shunned the junta leader.<sup>204</sup> Likely in response to Hashim's snub, regime media did not report on the meeting with Than Swe.<sup>205</sup> On 8 Feb, in Bangkok (Thailand), Hashim met with representatives of the **NUG, KNU, KSCC, CNF, and the NMSP-AD.** Hashim reportedly discussed three of ASEAN's five points consensus.<sup>206</sup>

#### **Trump cuts food supply for 100K refugees, two more die**

On 2 Feb, in the **Thai-Burma border Umpiem Mai Refugee Camp,** a **woman died** four days after losing access to her International Rescue Committee (IRC)-supported oxygen supply. The US-imposed ‘stop-work’ order had forced the IRC to shut medical clinics in seven of the nine border refugee camps.<sup>207</sup> Two weeks later, on 16 Feb, a 30-year-old Burmese refugee from Mae La refugee camp **died** after being **forced to stop her dialysis.**<sup>208</sup> Despite the US' promise of a waiver for life-saving support, as of 11 Feb, they had still not unfrozen the funds. A USAID staff member stated that there was “no staff in DC to answer

<sup>197</sup> Myanmar Resource Watch (7 Feb 2025) ရောဂါတိုက်ခတ်မှုများကြောင့် ရေ အရည်အသွေး ဆန်းစစ်လေ့လာခြင်း; Myanmar Now (26 Feb

2025) Gold mining poses growing threat to Ayeyarwady River's water quality: report

<sup>198</sup> Mizzima (22 Feb 2025) Myanmar junta vows crackdown on illegal natural resource extraction

<sup>199</sup> DVB (24 Feb 2025) သပိတ်ကျင်းတွင် စစ်တပ် လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် ပြည်သူ ၇ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရရှိ

<sup>200</sup> SAC-M (11 Feb 2025) The Military, Money, and Myanmar: Breaking the Nexus

<sup>201</sup> SAC-M (11 Feb 2025) The Military, Money, and Myanmar: Breaking the Nexus

<sup>202</sup> VOA (8 Mar 2025) အာဆီယံအထူးကိုယ်စားလှယ် အဓိကကျတဲ့အဖွဲ့တွေနဲ့ တွေ့ဆုံ

<sup>203</sup> Myanmar Now (3 Feb 2025) Malaysia to send special envoy to Myanmar for talks with junta

<sup>204</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Feb 2025) ASEAN's Myanmar Peace Effort in Limbo After Envoy's Visit

<sup>205</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Feb 2025) Myanmar Junta Gives New ASEAN Envoy Frosty Reception

<sup>206</sup> DVB (10 Feb 2025) New ASEAN Special Envoy on Myanmar meets with resistance in Bangkok after regime in Naypyidaw

<sup>207</sup> DVB (10 Feb 2025) Myanmar refugee dies in Thailand after US clinic closed; Military denies reports it's now conscripting women; Reuters (7 Feb 2025) Burmese refugee dies after discharge from shut US-funded clinic, says family; See our January CoupWatch Briefer <https://bit.ly/CWBJan25>

<sup>208</sup> The Guardian (26 Feb 2025) Along Thai-Myanmar border, Trump's decision to suspend foreign aid is deadly

questions from partners,” regardless of the waiver. An NGO worker in Mae Sot explained that it **cost The Border Consortium (TBC) USD 1.3 million** to feed the 100,000 refugees in the nine border camps per month, which was funded by the US State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. On 11 Feb, aid workers reported there was only 1.5 months’ worth of funds for food and cooking supplies. The TBC director stated there was “no alternative to the US grant”.<sup>209</sup> The Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) reported they had to lay off 56 staff, including 40 healthcare workers.<sup>210</sup>

On 19 Feb, it was reported that the **IRC’s** Thailand director Darren Hertz said they would be able to **resume limited health services** in seven of the nine refugee camps for three months, starting on 20 Feb. On 21 Feb, healthcare, sanitation, and clean water services were restored in Mae La Refugee Camp, and to Umpiem Camp on 24 Feb. While the IRC could provide primary healthcare and medical supplies, all family planning, mental healthcare, and referrals to Thai hospitals would remain suspended. Hertz added the US had not said whether aid funding would continue beyond the 90-day period.<sup>211</sup>

On 6 Feb, Human Rights Myanmar reported that the aid cut halted funding for 34 projects in Burma, including USD 30 million for **education**, USD 22 million for **humanitarian aid**, USD 22 million for **health**, and USD 36 million for **agriculture**. The cut also froze USD 39 million intended for **human rights, democracy, and independent media support** over the next three years; funds vital to effectively resist the military junta.<sup>212</sup> The Guardian reported that many media outlets and journalists were forced to cease operations or continue their work unpaid. An independent press council estimated that 200 exiled Burmese journalists were impacted by the cuts, many of whom were fully US-funded.<sup>213</sup>

### **Thailand discusses refugee camps' future**

On 14 Feb, The Border Consortium (**TBC**) stated they met with the Thai director of the National Security Council’s internal security division to discuss **integrating Thai refugee camps** into the “Thai framework”. TBC reported the Thai government was open to considering refugee employment outside of camps, allowing them to gain legal documentation, thus a **possible closure of the camps**.<sup>214</sup> In response to the US aid freeze, Thai hospitals stepped in to treat critical patients from refugee camps, which the interior minister claimed had increased the burden on the Thai health system.<sup>215</sup> On 15 Feb, the Bangkok Post reported the Thai Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Interior Chettha Mosikrat had met with the director of TBC to discuss establishing **temporary refugee camps** along the border for those fleeing conflict in Burma. Chettha stated that the interior minister was prepared to help TBC “provide assistance according to humanitarian principles”, and they would find long-term solutions with other ministries.<sup>216</sup>

On 27 Feb, in the face of severely unstable funding, TBC released a statement urging the Thai Government to implement policy changes allowing **refugees to work legally in Thailand**, and to develop long-term strategies to integrate refugees into Thai society. TBC stated that a “continued reliance on external aid is no longer a sustainable solution,” and pushed for changes that would allow the refugees, many of whom have been in the Thai camps for almost 50 years, to contribute to Thai society.<sup>217</sup>

### **UK tails US on aid cuts**

On 25 Feb, Burma Campaign UK stated the junta would be celebrating the **UK's plans to reduce British aid** from 0.5% of GNI to 0.3% by 2027, as it would limit vital support in the fight for human rights and democracy in Burma. British PM Starmer stated that the **40% aid cut** would bolster UK defense spending, which would increase to 2.5% of GDP by 2027. The UN target for states’ aid budgets is 0.7% of GNI.<sup>218</sup>

### **Thailand crackdown continues**

On 11 Feb, it was reported the Thai Ministry of Labour’s new rules required employers of Burmese migrant workers under the Thai-Burma Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to have their workers’ documents **“examined and endorsed” by the junta embassy** in Bangkok. The deadline for the junta embassy to accept the documents submitted by Thai employers was 13 Feb, but it was extended by another six months.

<sup>209</sup> CNN (11 Feb 2025) No doctors for sick children. This is the reality of Trump’s aid freeze in remote northern Thailand

<sup>210</sup> Frontier Myanmar (31 Jan 2025) ‘America first’ in action: Trump’s aid freeze erodes an already anemic response to Myanmar crisis

<sup>211</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Feb 2025) Food Running Out for 100,000 Myanmar Refugees After US Aid Freeze; Mizzima (27 Feb 2025) Aid resumes for refugee camps on Thai-Myanmar border, but future remains uncertain

<sup>212</sup> Human Rights Myanmar (6 Feb 2025) Trump freezes \$39 million for rights, democracy, and media in Myanmar

<sup>213</sup> The Guardian (23 Feb 2025) ‘We have nothing now’: Myanmar’s exiled media face existential crisis after Trump severs aid

<sup>214</sup> The Border Consortium (14 Feb 2025) Jan Monthly Report Infographic

<sup>215</sup> Bangkok Post (15 Feb 2025) Plan to set up temporary camps ready 15

<sup>216</sup> Bangkok Post (15 Feb 2025) Plan to set up temporary camps ready 16

<sup>217</sup> The Border Consortium (27 Feb 2025) Advocacy Statement: Promoting Refugee Independence in Thailand

<sup>218</sup> Burma Campaign UK (25 Feb 2025) Starmer’s UK Aid Cuts a Gift to Authoritarian Regimes; The Guardian (25 Feb 2025) Starmer announces big cut to UK aid budget to boost defence spending. NOTE: GNI=Gross National Income.

By 11 Feb, a migrant worker claimed the junta had not yet approved anyone. Workers say the new requirements made pre-MOU registration twice as expensive and **forced them to provide critical information to the junta**. This gave the illegal junta power to deny workers jobs and return people to Burma for forced conscription. Migrant workers were therefore more likely to avoid legal work routes, which would leave many undocumented, unable to access public services, and at risk of deportation. The Young Chi Oo Workers Association stated that, in Mae Sot, they expect around 3,000 Burmese migrant workers to avoid the initial pre-MOU registration.<sup>219</sup>

On 18 Feb, in Samut Sakhon Province, Thai authorities **raided the Aid Alliance Committee (AAC)** office which supported Burmese migrant workers, and confiscated the documents of about 50 Burmese workers. On 20 Feb, Thai officials closed down the office, stating the AAC was not an officially recognized NGO in Thailand. The AAC executive director, U Khaing Gyu, **believed the junta had orchestrated the closure**. Officials stated that continued use of the office would result in fines and imprisonment, and the building would be demolished. About 100 people sheltered at the office when it was closed. The office was established in 2016 and had attempted numerous times to obtain official recognition from the Burmese embassy without success. It had continued operation through an understanding with Thai authorities.<sup>220</sup>

During 18-24 Feb, the Royal Thai Police **arrested 4,879 Burmese nationals** across Thailand. The arrested were likely to be forcibly returned to Burma where they would **face forced conscription** by the junta on arrival.<sup>221</sup> On 24 Feb, in Ranong Province, Thai authorities deported 198 men and two women back to Burma. Thai officials claimed the migrants voluntarily returned.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>219</sup> Thairath Plus (11 Feb 2025) Pre-MOU 2568 การต่ออายุแรงงานข้ามชาติพม่าที่อาจทำให้แรงงานหลุดนอกระบบ; RFA (11 Feb 2025) New Thai rule gives Myanmar junta greater power to block workers: activists

<sup>220</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Feb 2025) Thailand Shuts Myanmar Migrant Aid Office After Junta Halts Worker Scheme

<sup>221</sup> SHAN (27 Feb 2025) ထိုင်းနိုင်ငံတွင် တစ်ပတ်အတွင်း မြန်မာ ၄,၈၀၀ ကျော်ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

<sup>222</sup> Bangkok Post (24 Feb 2025) 200 illegal Myanmar migrants deported to their country