

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025: Junta inks nuclear deal with Russia while things fall apart at home

- As of 4 Apr, there were at least 53,010 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021, with at least 3,294,499 displaced people as of 31 Mar. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- 7.7 magnitude earthquake strikes central Burma, at least 4,335 dead as of 7 Apr. Despite devastation, junta continues airstrikes, attacks on civilians.
- Junta blacklists and denies license to 800 graduating CDM doctors.
- Junta upgrades aerial arsenal with night-vision drones.
- Report shows junta-allied PNA militia targeting civilians in S. Shan.
- Junta bombs Magway CDM hospital, kills doctor, family, and 8 patients.
- NUG investigates Thayarwaddy PDF Bn. 3801 leader for murdering civilians, resistance fighters.
- TNLA and AA begin forced conscription.
- MAL and cronies go to Moscow to sell Dawei SEZ, ignite their nuclear fantasies.
- US funding cuts to RFA & VOA a "reward to dictators".
- WFP to cut food aid to 1 million people in Burma, threatens to halve food to Rohingya in Cox's Bazar.
- 290 CSOs call on UN to probe Julie Bishop's business links with China.
- Bangladesh police arrest ARSA leader.
- 2025 matriculation exam registrants at 23% of pre-coup levels.

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Earthquake – [click here](https://bit.ly/eqb2025) for the more detailed Earthquake Briefer or go to <https://bit.ly/eqb2025>

On 28 Mar, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Burma, with its epicenter 16 km from Sagaing town (Sagaing Region) and 17 km from Mandalay city (Mandalay Region). This earthquake was reportedly **the most powerful to hit Burma in over a century**. Tremors rippled through neighboring countries including Thailand, China, and India. Twelve minutes later, a 6.4 magnitude aftershock struck with its epicenter located 18 km south of Sagaing town.¹ Residents of Sagaing town reported that the earthquake had **destroyed 90% of the town**.² The initial earthquake and subsequent aftershocks destroyed infrastructure throughout central Burma, including the Ava bridge which connected Mandalay and Sagaing Regions.³

On 29 Mar, the NUG estimated that the earthquake had damaged around 3,000 buildings.⁴ UNOCHA reported that the earthquake affected **17 million people** across **57 townships**.⁵ UNHCR reported that **1.55 million IDPs** were sheltering in earthquake affected areas.⁶

As of 10 Apr, DVB reported **4,346 fatalities, 7,890 injuries**, and 210 people missing.⁷

While civilians attempted to rescue or recover loved ones the junta conducted **152 air & artillery attacks**, including **90 after calling a so-called “ceasefire”, that killed 113 and injured 154**.⁸

Coup Leader visits fellow dictators Putin, Lukashenko

On 3 Mar, junta chief Min Aung Hlaing arrived in Moscow at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. On 4 Mar, he met with Putin and signed **10 bilateral agreements** in trade, banking, mining, information technology, tourism, and energy sectors.⁹ He also met with Russia’s Security Council Secretary to discuss deepening security cooperation.¹⁰ On the same day, **Russia’s state nuclear agency Rosatom** announced that Russia and the junta had signed a bilateral agreement to **build a 100-megawatt nuclear power plant near Naypyidaw**.¹¹ On 5 Mar, Min Aung Hlaing met Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov to strengthen military ties and technology cooperation.¹²

Later that day, the junta leader attended the Russia-Myanmar Business Forum alongside 20 cronies.¹³ During the forum, he urged Russian business owners to invest in and trade with Burma. In particular, he pushed investment in transport infrastructure along economic corridors in Burma and the facilitation of maritime trade through the **Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ)**. He claimed that fighting, cyber fraud, and other problems in Burma were “just temporary” and encouraged investors to “[not] take them into account”. In reality, the junta has so far lost control of over 90 townships and two out of 14 regional commands across the country.¹⁴ On 11 Mar, junta deputy chief Soe Win called for the dissolution of the **Thai and Japanese-backed Dawei SEZ Development Company** to open the project to **Russian and Belarusian investors**.¹⁵

On 7 Mar, in Minsk (Belarus), coup leader **Min Aung Hlaing met with Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko**. Both sides reportedly discussed strengthening diplomatic relations, trade expansion, and military cooperation. On the same day the junta boss declared that the junta would **hold its sham election during Dec 2025 and Jan 2026** and invited Belarussian observers.¹⁶

Back in Tanintharyi Region, on 10 Mar, a group of 11 CSOs stated their opposition to potential Russian investment in Dawei and warned that the investment would fuel forced evictions, human rights violations, and environmental degradation. Meanwhile, locals said that the junta had sent military land reinforcements

¹ Myanmar Now (28 Mar 2025) Powerful earthquake strikes Myanmar, hitting Sagaing and Mandalay hardest; BBC (2 Apr 2025) Myanmar earthquake: What we know

² DVB (31 Mar 2025) Death toll from Myanmar earthquake nears 3,000; Ninety percent of Sagaing town destroyed, say residents

³ DVB (28 Mar 2025) Regime declares state of emergency in six regions and states after 7.7 magnitude earthquake hits Myanmar

⁴ NUG (29 Mar 2025) tinyurl.com/4c7fhn75

⁵ UNOCHA (3 Apr 2025) Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update #3

⁶ UNHCR (4 Apr 2025) Myanmar earthquake emergency - UNHCR response to urgent needs of displaced people and host communities (April - December 2025)

⁷ DVB (10 Apr 2025) Naypyidaw confirms December election plan; Sagaing residents lack clean drinking water since earthquake

⁸ DVB (11 Apr 2025) Airstrikes kill 30 civilians in Sagaing Region; UN Special Envoy on Myanmar visits Naypyidaw to discuss earthquake

⁹ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2025) Planeload of Cronies Accompany Myanmar Junta Boss on Russia Trip

¹⁰ Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2025) Junta Boss Urges Russian Businesses to Invest in Myanmar

¹¹ DVB (20 Mar 2025) Russia to build nuclear power plant near Myanmar’s capital Naypyidaw

¹² Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2025) Junta Boss Urges Russian Businesses to Invest in Myanmar

¹³ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2025) Planeload of Cronies Accompany Myanmar Junta Boss on Russia Trip

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (6 Mar 2025) Junta Boss Urges Russian Businesses to Invest in Myanmar

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2025) Myanmar Inches Closer to Reviving Dawei Mega-Project with Russian Money

¹⁶ RFA (8 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta chief says election to be held by January 2026

and had begun preparations for military operations via water routes around the SEZ. On 24 Mar, clashes between junta troops and local resistance forces broke out near Nabule Pagoda.¹⁷

At Moscow's Russia-Myanmar Economic Forum, the junta also **invited Russian companies to mine** precious stones and resources in areas controlled by KIA, TNLA, and other resistance forces. Notably, the junta did not propose to invest in Arakan State, where China-backed offshore oil and gas extraction projects were located.¹⁸ On his return flight, Min Aung Hlaing reaffirmed plans to prioritize resource extraction and **framed Russia as Burma's most reliable strategic partner**, saying, "I know that Russia is the country best equipped to assist us in the near term."¹⁹

During 26-27 Mar, the junta received Russian and Belarussian military delegations to mark the 80th Armed Forces Day on 27 Mar. Belarussian Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Viktor Khrenin met junta deputy PM and Defense Minister Maung Maung Aye while Russian Deputy Defense Minister Col. Gen. Aleksandr Fomin met Min Aung Hlaing. Both meeting reportedly centered around enhanced military cooperation.²⁰

Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

Junta blocks workers from leaving while sending others to Russia

On 10 Mar, the junta Ministry of Labour announced that **Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC)** issuance would **resume on 20 Mar**. On 14 Feb, the ministry had suspended OWIC issuance after the junta had restricted conscription-eligible men aged 23-35 from signing overseas contracts on 31 Jan.²¹ On 25 Mar, the Ministry of Labour announced **new monthly recruitment quotas** for overseas employment agencies. Each month, agencies would be permitted to recruit 50 workers for Thailand, 15 for Japan, 10 for South Korea, and 5 for Singapore. Agencies had previously been allowed to recruit as many workers as they wanted. Overseas employment agencies confirmed that **nearly 70,000 workers** with signed employment contracts **were still waiting for OWICs**.²²

Despite the junta's restrictions, it was reported on 3 Mar that Burmese workers employed under **junta-Russia Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** would travel to Russia in April. An initial batch of **10,000 Burmese nationals** would work on construction sites. Russian employers reportedly paid foreign farm workers around USD 500/month and construction workers USD 1300/month. The minimum wage in Burma is around USD 40/month at the junta's exchange rate.²³

Conscription lottery in Mandalay

During 6-24 Mar, in at least **eight Mandalay Region townships**, ward-level junta administrators **conducted draft lotteries** for the **12th conscription batch** and beyond. In Maha Aungmyay Township (Mandalay Region), the junta assigned around 50 soldiers, Pyu Saw Htee members, and firefighters to **secure each ward administrative office** during the lottery. At the lottery, each draftee drew a number. The junta would **immediately conscript** those who drew numbers 1-100. The junta would forcibly conscript those with numbers above 100 as part of a later batch. A township resident stated that most young people relied on relatives to draw lots on their behalf out of fear they would be **conscripted on the spot**. Following the lottery, the junta required the draftees' family members to **sign a pledge** stating they would **face arrest** if draftees **evaded conscription**.²⁴

On 19 Mar, it was reported that Mandalay Region regime township administrators **began to enforce** the results of conscription **lotteries** during the latest drive and had reportedly stopped allowing **people to hire substitute conscripts**. The junta forced parents to sign agreements to draw lots and send their children selected for conscription to ward administration offices. In Pyigyitagon Township, a local stated that junta officials **threatened to imprison her** if she **failed to bring back her son**, who had already fled. It was reported that the junta held **hostage family members** of

On 20 Mar, in Kalaw Township (S. Shan State), junta No.2 Soe Win admitted to junta personnel and their families the forced conscription drive had generated rampant corruption at all levels. Soe Win urged regime personnel to report "irregular behavior" from conscription bodies.

[Source: Irrawaddy \(22 Mar 2025\) Junta No. 2 Admits Draft Extortion Rampant: Dictator Pitches Shoes to Stomp Sanctions: and More](#)

¹⁷ IMNA (26 Mar 2025) Military Junta Reinforces Troops Near Dawei Project Area

¹⁸ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2025) Exclusive: Myanmar junta invites Russia to extract gems, minerals in active conflict areas

¹⁹ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2025) Exclusive: Myanmar junta invites Russia to extract gems, minerals in active conflict areas

²⁰ Myanmar Now (27 Mar 2025) Russia, Belarus send senior military officials to Myanmar to mark Armed Forces Day; BELTA (28 Mar 2025) Belarus, Myanmar intend to strengthen bilateral military cooperation; GNLM (29 Mar 2025) Myanmar and Russia unite on global stage

²¹ DVB (13 Mar 2025) Military launches counteroffensive in Mandalay Region; Overseas employment to resume with stricter rules,

²² DVB (25 Mar 2025) Regime imposes new quotas on overseas employment agencies

²³ Irrawaddy (3 Mar 2025) Myanmar to Send Workers to Russian Construction Sites

²⁴ Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2025) Young people subjected to conscription lottery in Mandalay

conscripts who could not be located. A local lawyer stated that junta conscription disproportionately affected **lower-income families** and that the junta exempted children of generals.²⁵

TNLA and AA conscripts in controlled areas

On 6 Mar, in TNLA-controlled **Mogoke Township** (Mandalay Region), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) discussed with its appointed administrators the **conscription of men aged 18-45** from each household to form a **city defence force**. The TNLA would train recruits for one month and task them with guarding their respective wards or villages.²⁶ On 10 Mar, the administrators informed locals of the conscription plan. **Locals objected** and planned to submit an official letter of complaint to the TNLA. Some administrators had reportedly resigned in protest.²⁷ On 17 Mar, the TNLA stated that it had begun compiling lists of civilians aged 18-45 in **Mogoke Township** (Mandalay Region) and **Kutkai Township** (N. Shan State). Locals said that the town's diverse Bamar, Kachin, and Shan ethnic populations would pose a challenge to implement the TNLA's conscription policy.²⁸ In January, the TNLA had conducted **forced recruitment in villages around Mogok Township**. At the time, villagers reported that the TNLA had boarded up houses of those who did not cooperate with the forced recruitment.²⁹

On 26 Mar, in **Mrauk-U** and **Kyauktaw Townships** (Arakan State), the Arakan Army (AA) reportedly began conscripting locals. The AA told villagers that it would require men between 18-45 and women 18-35 to undergo two months of military training, then serve two years under the AA. The AA would reportedly deploy conscripts to "protect the captured towns and villages." The AA exempted those with disabilities or health issues from the drive. It was reported that the AA would soon implement its "Emergency Military Service Law" to **conscript young people from across areas under their control**.³⁰

Scam syndicate crackdown

On 6 Mar, **Thailand repatriated 456** Chinese nationals extracted from Thai-Burma border-based scam centers. The Thai Foreign Ministry said it planned to repatriate 1,500 former scam center workers per week. It added that **unsanitary conditions in holding camps** in Burma raised the **risks of disease outbreaks**.³¹

Illegal junta's quest for control

Sham(bolic) election

On 9 Mar, Min Aung Hlaing appealed to anti-junta groups through junta media, saying "[if] you want a multi-party democracy, **don't obstruct us. All we need is cooperation**".³² It was reported that the junta could only conduct **polls in less than half of Burma's 330 townships**.³³

On 26 Mar, the regime's Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services **issued a statement the junta would hold the its sham election** during the **third and fourth week of Dec 2025** and the **first and second week of Jan 2026**. The statement added that the junta would take "**advanced measures**" to hold its sham election but did not provide further details.³⁴ "**Advanced measures**" likely implied an escalation in violence prior to holding polls. On 27 Mar, citing junta media, it was reported that Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) Chairperson Khin Yi declared that **his party was ready for the junta's sham election**. He claimed that "many NLD members" wanted to compete in the sham election and that the regime's Union Election Commission (UEC) would approve their registration under a new party.³⁵

²⁵ Irrawaddy (19 Mar 2025) Myanmar Junta Blackmailing Parents to Enforce Conscription

²⁶ Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) TNLA က မြို့စောင့်တပ် ဖွဲ့ရန် ပြောလာ၍ မိုးကုတ်ဒေသခံများ စိုးရိမ်; Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) TNLA's recruitment plans alarm civilians in Mogok

²⁷ Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) TNLA က မြို့စောင့်တပ် ဖွဲ့ရန် ပြောလာ၍ မိုးကုတ်ဒေသခံများ စိုးရိမ်; Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) TNLA's recruitment plans alarm civilians in Mogok

²⁸ Irrawaddy (13 Mar 2025) TNLA Forcing Conscription in Mandalay Region: Residents; Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) TNLA's recruitment plans alarm civilians in Mogok

²⁹ DVB (17 Mar 2025) Ta'ang National Liberation Army accused of forced recruitment in Mandalay Region and Shan State

³⁰ Myanmar Now (26 Mar 2025) Arakan Army launches conscription drive in Myanmar's Rakhine State; RFA (27 Mar 2025) Arakan Army to begin conscription in Myanmar's west

³¹ AFP via Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2025) Thailand Repatriates Hundreds More Chinese Scam Center Workers

³² Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2025) Myanmar Junta Boss Calls for Opposition Cooperation Ahead of Controversial Election

³³ RFA (8 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta chief says election to be held by January 2026

³⁴ RFA (27 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta announces schedule for December, January election; AP (28 Mar 2025) Myanmar military chief reaffirms election plans and calls for opposition to join politics

³⁵ DVB (27 Mar 2025) Union Solidarity and Development Party states that it is ready to launch campaign in regime elections

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

NUG investigates Bago PDF murders

On 6 Mar, in **Bago Region**, it was reported that the NUG had begun investigating **Maj. Moe Kyoe Gyi**, commander of the **Thayarwaddy PDF Battalion 3801** for allegedly **murdering five civilians** in 2024. He also allegedly murdered the Yangon Western District People's Defence Team (PDT) leader and took 18 members of the PDT captive in Feb 2025. Moe Kyoe Gyi claimed pro-junta sources had spread the accusations. He said the Yangon Western District PDT was not a resistance group and had been involved in illegal timber harvesting. However, Bago Region NLD official Lu Aye stated that, in fact, both groups were more akin to "timber smuggling factions" than resistance groups. Lu Aye added that **35 resistance groups as well local residents had reported the killing** to the NUG defense ministry. The NUG's Military Region 2 head stated that, in Mar 2024, the NUG had prohibited PDFs from logging in the Bago Range.³⁶

Mining surging in ERO-controlled areas

On 5 Mar, in **Kutkai Township** (N. Shan State), locals protested at a **Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA)-run gold mining site** at Namlinhka Creek near Ping Kham village, to call for the mine to be shut down. Locals reported that mining operations had **polluted the creek**, a vital drinking water source for the local community. MNDAA **opened fire on the protestors and shot dead six people**, including a Kachin Independence Army (KIA) member. On 5 and 6 Mar, locals protested at the MNDAA's administrative office in **Mong See**. They demanded an end to mining, the withdrawal of armed groups, local consultation before the project's start, accountability for the shootings, and compensation for the victims' families. After negotiations, the MNDAA agreed to most of the demands and, on 9 Mar, reportedly suspended gold mining operations at the site. KIA officers served as witnesses to the negotiations.³⁷

On 24 Mar, it was reported that since the MNDAA's capture of **Lashio**, Chinese-licensed trucks have **continued transporting coal** from the **Namma coal mine** in **Hsipaw Township** (N. Shan State) to China via the MNDAA-controlled Chinshwehaw border gate. China reopened the gate in Nov 2024, allowing imports of raw materials but restricting exports. The mine is operated by **Ngwe Yi Pearl Company** in partnership with **Hay Hein Company** and **Min Shwe Lwar Company**, both linked to the junta-controlled **Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC)**.³⁸

On 14 Mar, in **Kawnglanghpu Township** (Kachin State), locals reported that Kachin Independence Organization/Army (KIO/KIA)-appointed personnel had **seized thousands of acres of ancestral land** in the **Langse area** for **gold extraction** without proper community consultation or compensation. Some locals traveled to **Laiza** to raise the issue at KIA HQ. The KIA had suspended all mining in the area on 5 Jan and, since then, had destroyed mining equipment and shelters owned by local miners.³⁹ On 15 Mar, in junta-controlled **Myitkyina Township** (Kachin State), locals also called for a stop to **large-scale gold mining with heavy machinery** and submitted a letter to the junta-appointed Kachin State Chief Minister.⁴⁰

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

On 4 Mar, it was reported that **conditions for political detainees** inside junta **prisons** had **worsened**. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) stated that the junta had placed **restrictions on deliveries** to political prisoners and that some prisons had even **banned visits**. The parent of a political prisoner in Thayarwady Prison (Bago Region) confirmed the interference.⁴¹

On 10 Mar, the junta banned **four books** with **LGBTQ+ themes** and stated they would take **legal action** against the books' **authors** and **publishers**. The regime could fine the four authors of the books up to MMK

³⁶ Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2025) NUG investigates alleged murder by PDF fighters in Bago Region

³⁷ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2025) Kokang army agrees to halt gold mining in Kutkai after deadly shooting

³⁸ Shan Herald Agency for News (24 Mar 2025) Chinese-Licensed Trucks Increase Coal Shipments from Hsipaw to China via Chinshwehaw Border

³⁹ DVB (14 Mar 2025) ရွှေမှော်လုပ်ကွက် အငြင်းပွားမှု KIO/KIA အမြန်ဆုံး ဖြေရှင်းပေးစေလို

⁴⁰ Mizzima (15 Mar 2025) Locals call for halt to gold mining operations in Myitkyina due to environmental damage

⁴¹ RFA (4 Mar 2022) Tougher times for Myanmar's political prisoners, a parent and rights group say

3 million under the junta's revised Printing and Publishing Law.⁴² During Jan-Feb 2025, the junta banned a total of **14 LGBTQ+-themed books** and took action against their publishers.⁴³

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

Junta grows Chinese & Russian drone fleet

On 3 Mar, it was reported that the **junta used both Chinese and Russian drones** in its attacks, with greater reliance **on Chinese-made** Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) drones. This included repurposed agricultural drones for reconnaissance and attacks. The junta had also deployed domestically produced drones to 12 out of 14 Regional Military Commands, although they were smaller and less advanced than the Chinese models. The junta had reportedly **bought up to 3,000 drones from China** and weaponized them at Meiktila air base (Mandalay Region) with Chinese assistance. **China denied directly selling drones to the junta** and suggested the junta may have purchased them through intermediaries. Sources reported that **in early 2024, junta soldiers began attending drone training courses in Tianjin (China)**.⁴⁴

On 15 Mar, it was reported that the junta was using **night vision drones from China and Russia**. Since early February, pro-junta Telegram channels reportedly shared footage of junta drones in **Bhamo Township** (Kachin State) equipped with **infrared or thermal cameras**. On 20 Feb, Janes International Defense Review confirmed the junta's use of "forward-looking infrared systems." The **drones were reportedly destructive** and difficult to counter, despite radio frequency jammers. A political scientist said this "**drone arms race**" would likely make night vision drones **more easily available to other groups**.⁴⁵

Resistance targets junta arms factories

It was reported that **since late 2024, resistance forces had been advancing towards the junta's KaPaSa arms factories**. In January, the AA attacked junta positions along the **Ann-Padan** and the **Taungup-Padaung roads**, which connect Arakan State to Magway and Bago regions. KaPaSa 14 (Ngape Township), and KaPaSa 2 and 10 (Minhla Township) are located along the Ann-Padan road in Magway Region. On 13 Jan, after the AA attacked junta positions along the Ann-Padan road, the junta moved weapons from KaPaSa 14 to their Magway air base. A former junta captain who worked in KaPaSa facilities stated that **disabling key buildings and machinery** at KaPaSa factories producing essential materials alone would be **enough to cripple the junta's weapons production**. The junta had reportedly reinforced nearby roads, seized land, and torched villages near important KaPaSa facilities.⁴⁶

Lashio peace talks fail again

During 22-24 Mar, the MNDAA and the junta held negotiation in Kunming (China) regarding the MNDAA's possible return of Lashio to junta control. However, sources reported that the **negotiations ended without an agreement**, with the MNDAA insisted on keeping control of 12 wards in Lashio and two nearby villages. **Locals expressed concern over retaliatory junta airstrikes after the talks** - they were **afraid of forced conscription** and further conflict if the city was returned to the junta.⁴⁷ **On 7 Apr**, the MNDAA announced that they had agreed, **under Chinese pressure**, to withdraw from 12 wards in Lashio while maintaining positions next to junta infrastructure in the town and in surrounding villages.⁴⁸

Sagaing Region

Junta targets sacred Min Kun Hills, displaces over 1,000 monks and nuns: In Sagaing Township, it was reported that since mid-March, junta airstrikes, shelling, raids, torching and clashes around **Min Kun Hills** displaced over **1,000 Buddhist monks and nuns**, along with civilians. A local reported that about 95% of Min Kun's inhabitants had fled due to the threat of junta shootings and airstrikes. Junta troops stationed in the area had also **detained** and **tortured** civilians. Civilians fleeing along the Ayeyarwaddy River faced extortion and potential arrest by the junta at Mandalay's riverport and at the Sagaing Bridge checkpoint. Min Kun is a sacred site known for its monasteries, temples, and historic landmarks.⁴⁹

Junta hijacks public bus to join fight, quickly flees after defeat: On 4 Mar, in Chaung-U Township, resistance forces ambushed two junta armored vehicles carrying around 30 troops on the Monywa-

⁴² DVB (12 Mar 2025) Regime bans four more LGBTQ+ themed books this month

⁴³ Coup Watch January 2025; Coup Watch Feb 2025

⁴⁴ Irrawaddy (3 Mar 2025) 'Made in China': Inside the Myanmar Junta's Intensifying Drone Offensive; DVB (1 Mar 2025) Regime expands arsenal of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in what it calls 'the year of the drone'

⁴⁵ RFA (15 Mar 2025) Myanmar's junta seeks to regain air edge with foreign night vision drones

⁴⁶ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2025) Myanmar's resistance closes in on junta's factories of death; **See our Jan and Feb 2025**

CoupWatch for more information: <https://bit.ly/CWBJan25>; <https://bit.ly/CWBFeb25>

⁴⁷ Mizzima (27 Mar 2025) Talks between the MNDAA and the Myanmar junta in Kunming fail over Lashio control

⁴⁸ Irrawaddy (7 Apr 2025) MNDAA to Surrender Lashio but Hold Surrounding Country

⁴⁹ Myanmar Now (28 Mar 2025) Clashes, bombing displace over 1,000 Buddhist monks, nuns in Sagaing Region

Mandalay Highway. In response, nearby junta troops reportedly **hijacked a passenger bus transporting around 10 people** and forced the driver to take them to the battle. The junta then **used the bus as cover during a shootout before retreating**. Stray bullets **killed a woman and injured two other passengers**. Afterwards, the **junta carried out a paramotor attack and killed a mother and her infant as the bus passengers fled the scene**. On the same day, the junta reportedly shelled and carried out two other paramotor attacks in the area which injured a monk. On 5 Mar, pro-regime media denied junta responsibility in the deaths and claimed that the bus had triggered a landmine on the Monywa-Mandalay Highway which had killed the three passengers.⁵⁰

On 21 Mar, in Banmauk Township, junta troops clashed with resistance forces on the **Sagaing-Mingin road** along the Irrawaddy River. During clashes, the junta reportedly shelled surrounding areas, damaged a monastery in Letpan village, arrested several locals, and forced the entire village to flee. Resistance forces reported that the junta also launched drone attacks during the clash. Afterward, around **70 Pyu Saw Htee militiamen and junta troops** from LID 33 **raided Letpan village, arrested all male villagers** who had stayed behind, and **torched at least 20 houses**. In January, the junta reportedly **raided Letpan village three times** after a resistance group killed a local Pyu Saw Htee militia leader and his followers.⁵¹

In Kanbalu Township, it was reported that **since late February, the junta had targeted over 20 villages along the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road** with shelling, airstrikes, and ground raids. During attacks, junta troops **burned alive at least two civilians, including a child, and displaced nearly 20,000 people**. The junta also reportedly **arrested 30 civilians**, including children and elderly, and **used them as human shields**. A PDF reported that dry season water shortages had made it hard for IDPs to flee.⁵²

Junta continues to indiscriminately attack civilians: On 14 Mar, in Monywa Township, junta troops raided Thetkelkyin village, killed four residents, torched over 480 houses, and arrested over 60 people. On 26 Mar, a junta court sentenced over 50 of those arrested to five years in prison on terrorism charges.⁵³

On 16 Mar, in Sagaing Township, a **nighttime junta airstrike** in Sint Kaing village **killed four civilians including an infant**. A local People's Defence Organisation (PDO) officer reported there had been no fighting prior to the attack and that no resistance forces operated in the area. A Sagaing District Battalion 1 commander reported that around 50 junta troops, stationed near a naval ship on the Ayeyarwaddy River, **shot and killed civilians fleeing** from the village.⁵⁴

On 19 Mar, in Myaung town, resistance forces ambushed a junta scout unit. In retaliation, during 19-20 Mar, the **junta deployed at least 300 reinforcement troops** to the town and nearby areas, **shelled and carried out paramotor attacks** in surrounding villages, **killed at least four civilians**, including a child, injured three others, and **displaced at least 10,000 residents**. Locals also reported that since 19 Mar, the junta had **detained around 80 people in urban areas**. Some were reportedly released the following day.⁵⁵

Magway Region

Junta targets civilians near Magway oilfields: During 3-4 Mar, in **oil-rich Pauk and Myaing townships**, the junta carried out a series of attacks on villages near oilfields. On 3 Mar, the junta carried out multiple early morning airstrikes in at least 10 villages near Letpanto and Kyauk Khwet **oilfields**, killed at least 12 people, including a pregnant woman, injured at least 30 others, and displaced many. The airstrikes also damaged several houses, buildings, and equipment used in the oil field. The junta reportedly used fighter jets and Y-12 transport aircraft to carry out the airstrikes overnight.⁵⁶ On 4 Mar, the junta carried out another airstrike on a village monastery in Myaing Township, killed a resident, injured another, and damaged the monastery and a school building. Later that day, the junta shelled a village in Pauk Township, killed a resident, and injured three others. Since February, the junta had increased attacks along the oil-rich Myaing-Pauk border which had killed at least 26 civilians and injured over 40 others.⁵⁷

Junta tortures locals in raid, dumps bodies in toilet pit: In Salin Township, it was reported that since 7 Mar, junta troops had advanced northwards along the **Salin-Seikphyu highway**, clashed with resistance

⁵⁰ Myanmar Now (10 Mar 2025) Small child among civilians killed in clash on Monywa-Mandalay road

⁵¹ Irrawaddy (21 Mar 2025) Thousands Flee Amid Myanmar Junta Raid Near Famous Pilgrimage Site

⁵² RFA (5 Mar 2025) Myanmar army tries to clear fighters from road, 20,000 villagers flee, rebels say; DVB (6 Mar 2025) Chin National Council to unite armed resistance factions; Min Aung Hlaing signs nuclear power deal with Russia

⁵³ DVB (28 Mar 2025) Regime in Naypyidaw marks 80th Armed Forces Day; Changes to military conscription in Mandalay Region

⁵⁴ Myanmar Now (17 Mar 2025) Bombing near Min Kun, Sagaing Region kills four, including infant

⁵⁵ Myanmar Now (21 Mar 2025) At least four killed by Myanmar junta paramotor, artillery attacks in Sagaing's Myaung Township; RFA (20 Mar 2025) Junta offensives leave 4 dead, thousands displaced in northwest Myanmar

⁵⁶ Myanmar Now (3 Mar 2025) Pregnant woman among at least 12 killed by Myanmar junta airstrikes in Magway Region; Mizzima (5 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill 12 civilians near oil field, dozens injured

⁵⁷ Myanmar Now (5 Mar 2025) Another civilian killed as Myanmar junta continues airstrikes on resistance-held oilfields; Mizzima (6 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill 26, injure 40 in Myaing Township since late February

troops, and **displaced at least 17,000 civilians** across at least 24 villages. On 8 Mar, a source reported that the junta advanced towards Kya Pin village with five armored vehicles and an armored tank. Resistance forces reportedly planted landmines along the route and launched drone attacks to prevent the junta's advance. After suffering multiple casualties, a junta Mi-35 combat helicopter carried out numerous airstrikes on the village.⁵⁸ On 10 Mar, the junta entered **Kya Pin village**, captured seven villagers, **tortured** and later **killed** four of them. The dead bodies were found in an **old toilet pit** covered in garbage, with their **hands tied behind their backs** and slash wounds on their necks and bodies. Villagers also discovered **electric shock devices** that the junta had set up, likely to torture the victims before killing them.⁵⁹ On 20 Mar, a junta airstrike in Gway Pin Zin village killed a civilian and injured three others. On 24 Mar, another junta airstrike on the village monastery injured three civilians, including a monk.⁶⁰

Junta burns down villages on Irrawaddy island: During 2-4 Mar, in **Yesagyo Township**, around 200 junta troops raided and torched Myay Sun Taw village on Yay Lel Kyun island, between the Chindwin and Irrawaddy rivers, and killed 11 people, including two women. Most of the victims were elders unable to flee. Some were reportedly **burned to death**. A resident reported that almost all of the village's **300 houses were torched**. He added that the junta torched two other villages after leaving Myay Sun Taw. Another source reported that two more bodies were found in neighboring Ma La Kar Chan village. Locals added that since 26 Feb, junta raids and clashes on Yay Lel Kyun displaced around 20,000 from 12 villages.⁶¹

AA advances further into Ngape Township: During 21 Feb - 2 Mar, in Ngape Township, junta attacked **Lin De village**, killed three, and injured 10 others. On 6 Mar, it was reported that the AA launched attacks on the junta's nearby **Nat Yae Kan air defense base**. Resistance forces were working to intercept reinforcements to the **Nat Yae Kan camp**, and the AA had reportedly seized control of hills around the camp. Nat Yae Kan base is 16 km southwest of the junta weapons factory **KaPaSa 14**.⁶² During 10-12 Mar, it was reported that, in Lin De village junta drones had killed three civilians.⁶³ On 25 Mar, it was reported that fighting around the Nat Yae Kan base had displaced around 3,000 Asho-Chin residents from at least 13 nearby villages. The junta forcibly relocated at least two villages near the base.⁶⁴

Chin State

On 3 Mar, the Institute of Chin Affairs reported that, during Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2025, **249 junta airstrikes killed 281 Chin people and injured 437 others**. In total, the junta dropped over 1,300 bombs, **destroyed 1,384 homes**, and 39 religious buildings.⁶⁵

CNF and CB to continue negotiations over unification: On 6 Mar, a Chin National Front (CNF) spokesperson stated that the Chinland Council and Chin Brotherhood (CB) would draft an **initial constitution** before beginning **cooperation with each other**. He added that they must "**develop a procedure and points of agreement...and establish trust**" prior to working together. In late February, the two resistance groups agreed to form a unified Chin National Council. Previously, both groups had often disputed their respective territorial claims, and had clashed with each other on several occasions.⁶⁶

CB targets junta in Falam: On 12 Mar, in **Falam Township**, the Chin Brotherhood intensified attacks on the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 268 base, the **last remaining junta position** in Falam town.⁶⁷ During 12-18 Mar, in response, the junta reportedly dropped **over 400 bombs** on the town. Since January, the junta had reportedly sent about 130 reinforcements to the town.⁶⁸ The offensive against junta positions in the town began on 9 Nov 2024 and had reportedly killed at least 50 Chin resistance fighters in the first six weeks of fighting alone.⁶⁹

⁵⁸ Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) Thousands displaced as Myanmar junta launches assault in Magway Region's Salin Township

⁵⁹ Than Lwin Times via BNI (25 Mar 2025) Junta Soldiers Torture and Kill Four Villagers in Salin Township

⁶⁰ DVB (26 Mar 2025) Arakan Army begins training residents of northern Rakhine State; Yangon returns to four hours of power per day

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (7 Mar 2025) Civilians Killed, Hundreds of Homes Torched as Myanmar Junta Blitzes Magwe's Yay Lel Kyun Island; Myanmar Now (10 Mar 2025) Myanmar military kills at least 11 civilians in raids along Magway-Sagaing border

⁶² Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2025) Arakan Army battles junta for strategic air base on Rakhine border; Narinjara (12 Mar 2025) AA Secures Crucial Hills Close to Nat Yae Kan Tactical Operations Command

⁶³ DVB (12 Mar 2025) India accuses foreigners of entering Myanmar to train Chin resistance; Arakan Army seizes \$3 million in assets

⁶⁴ Khonumthung News (25 Mar 2025) Displaced population of Asho Chin villages between Ann and Padan need assistance

⁶⁵ Institute of Chin Affairs (3 Mar 2025) ချင်းလူမျိုးများအပေါ် စစ်ကောင်စီမှ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှု ၂၅၀ ကြိမ်ပြုလုပ်၊ ၂၈၀ ကျော်သေဆုံး

(၂၀၂၅ခုနှစ်၊ ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၂၈ ထိ)

⁶⁶ DVB (6 Mar 2025) Chin National Council to unite armed resistance factions; Min Aung Hlaing signs nuclear power deal with Russia; See our Feb 2025 CoupWatch Briefer <https://bit.ly/CWBFeb25>

⁶⁷ Myanmar Peace Monitor (13 Mar 2025) Junta responds to intense fighting in Falam with heavy air support

⁶⁸ Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta bombs Chin State township hundreds of times in one week

⁶⁹ Al Jazeera (15 Mar 2025) 'Inch by inch': Myanmar rebels close in on key military base in Chin State

CDF-Thantlang seizes properties of junta member: On 24 Mar, in Thantlang Township, CDF-Thantlang announced they had **seized the properties** of Dr. Hmuh Thang, a junta member and the **Chin State Chair of the USDP**. CDF-Thantlang would transfer the properties to the state's future government following the establishment of civilian rule. The properties were valued at MMK 600 million (USD 135,000).⁷⁰

Arakan State

- In March, in AA-controlled areas, the junta carried out **at least four airstrikes**, killed four civilians, and injured 17 others.⁷¹ Junta landmines killed one civilian and injured nine others, in six recorded incidents during the month.⁷²
- On 10 Mar, it was reported that **a group of at least 25 Chinese mercenaries** had arrived in Kyaukphyu from Yangon on 27 Feb. Residents reported the mercenaries were **providing technical aid to junta** troops and were not directly engaged in fighting. Reports suggested there were now about 50 such Chinese mercenaries in the area.⁷³

AA targets areas near Kyaukphyu junta bases, thousands displaced: The number of clashes in Kyaukphyu Township continued to rise in March as the AA edged closer to the junta's **strongholds in the township**. Fighting has **displaced around 35,000 civilians**.⁷⁴ During 28 Feb-3 Mar, in Kyaukphyu Township, the junta mobilized troops, carried out aerial attacks, and shelled four villages near the junta's **Thit Poke Taung naval base**, located 8 km northwest of the **Kyaukphyu deep sea port** on Maday Island.

On 3 Mar, it was reported that the AA was attacking junta outposts and patrols near the Thit Poke Taung naval base and the 32nd Police Battalion, located on the road to the **Shwe onshore gas terminal**, about seven km southwest of Kyaukphyu town.⁷⁵ During 7-10 Mar, the junta launched five drone attacks on at least two villages near Thit Poke Taung naval base, injured two locals, and destroyed at least 70 houses.⁷⁶ On the same day, the junta launched drone strikes on a hospital in Sa Ne town, south of the township.⁷⁷ On 11 Mar, it was reported that the junta was **preventing locals from villages** near the naval base and those still in Kyaukphyu town **from fleeing**. About one-third of Kyaukphyu town's population was trapped in the town.⁷⁸ On 20 Mar, it was reported that the AA had moved within 800 meters of the junta's 32nd Police Battalion. The AA seized Shauk Chaung village, about 7 km from the junta's Kyaukpyu naval base.⁷⁹

Clashes continue in Sittwe: On 4 Mar, in Sittwe Township, the AA reported clashes with the junta around War Bo village, about 10 km north of the town. The AA stated they were attempting to take a naval base near **Shwe Min Gan port**, and two villages along the coast.⁸⁰ On 7 Mar, junta drone attacks in War Bo village burned down **at least 35 houses**.⁸¹ On 12 Mar, it was reported that the AA had advanced to within four km of Shwe Min Gan port.⁸² Around **7,000 locals** were displaced from around **Sittwe town** and were staying in monasteries in the town. IDPs said they had no food sources after WFP suspended aid in late March.⁸³ On 22 Mar, junta troops **arrested a local near his house, tortured and then killed him**.⁸⁴

Kachin State

Junta tightens security in state capital: On 10 Mar, it was reported that the junta troops had started nighttime household inspections in **Myitkyina town**, and had targeted houses by the main roads. Locals said that if junta troops found unregistered overnight guests, they would arrest the guests and fine them 10,000 MMK, or jail them for three months. After the coup, the junta **began using Article 13 (F)** in the

⁷⁰ Myanmar Now (25 Mar 2025) Chin resistance group seizes properties of Myanmar junta member Dr. Hmuh Thang

⁷¹ Narinjara (5 Mar 2025) Residents Report Junta Airstrikes Targeting Battalions, Including Former Western Command in Ann Town Seized by AA; DVB (10 Mar 2025) One killed and two injured by airstrikes on Gwa Township in southern Rakhine State; Narinjara (13 Mar 2025) Junta Launches Airstrikes and MLRS Shelling in Ponnagyun, Devastating Residences; Myanmar Now (27 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta airstrikes kill three civilians sheltering in Rakhine State monastery

⁷² Narinjara (23 Mar 2025) Two Men Critically Hurt After Treading on Landmines in Taungup and Thandwe; Narinjara (20 Mar 2025) Kyauktaw Claims Life of Teen, Wounds Four in Remnant Bomb Blast; Narinjara (16 Mar 2025) Young Man and 55-Year-Old Individual Badly Hurt in Landmine Blast in Maungdaw and Ann; Narinjara (12 Mar 2025) Man in Taungup Loses His Left Leg After Treading on Landmine; Narinjara via BNI (5 Mar 2025) Young Man Wounded in Minbya When Unexploded Bomb Drops from Roof

⁷³ Narinjara (10 Mar 2025) Chinese Mercenaries Arrive in Kyaukphyu as Combat Escalates

⁷⁴ Mizzima (6 Mar 2025) Aid group says 4,000 displaced by battle for key Myanmar port site of Kyaukphyu; DVB (21 Mar 2025) Fighting between regime and Arakan Army displaces 20,000 residents of Kyaukphyu Township in Rakhine State

⁷⁵ Narinjara (5 Mar 2025) Clashes Persist Near Dhanyawadi Naval Base and 32nd Police Battalion in Kyaukphyu

⁷⁶ DMG via BNI (14 Mar 2025) Junta Increasingly Using Drones in Sittwe and Kyaukphyu Townships; Narinjara (12 Mar 2025) Military Drones Release Bombs on Kap Tha Pyay Village in Kyaukphyu, Destroying 20 Homes and Wounding One Inhabitant; Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2025) Fierce fighting continues in Rakhine State as military tries to push back AA advance

⁷⁷ Narinjara (12 Mar 2025) Junta Drone Strike Hits Sane Cottage Hospital in Kyaukphyu, Damaging Operating Room

⁷⁸ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta deploys drones, bombs as fighting nears naval base in Kyaukphyu

⁷⁹ Narinjara (27 Mar 2025) AA Offensive in Kyaukphyu Approaches to Within Half a Mile of 32nd Police Battalion

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2025) AA continues push to take Sittwe, as Myanmar junta presses offensive near Kyaukphyu

⁸¹ Myanmar Now (7 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta destroys villages as intense clashes continue near Sittwe and Kyaukphyu

⁸² Irrawaddy (12 Mar 2025) Arakan Army Threatens Myanmar Junta Naval Base at Sittwe

⁸³ Myanmar Now (18 Mar 2025) Fierce fighting continues in Rakhine State as military tries to push back AA advance

⁸⁴ Narinjara (25 Mar 2025) Junta Forces Detain and Execute Young Man from Mi Zan Ward in Sittwe

Ward and Village Tract Administration Bill to carry out guest registration inspections. The junta have also used **this bill to conscript young people** throughout the country.⁸⁵ Junta troops had also reportedly increased checks on civilian passersby at checkpoints in Myitkyina town since early February.⁸⁶

Junta-aligned Warazut PMF attacks KIA: On 6 Mar, the junta-allied Warazup People's Militia Force (PMF) led by Min Zay Thant attacked and captured **KIA's Wun Rawt base in Hpakant Township** and killed one KIA soldier. On the same day, the junta bombed Battalion 14 of KIA's Brigade 2 in Tanai Township.⁸⁷ On 14 Mar, Warazup PMF burned down 16 houses in **Wa Ra Zut village in Hpakant Township**. The junta also bombed the village. Afterwards, Warazup PMF stated that they had clashed with the KIA and seized some small bases near the village.⁸⁸ On the same day, the junta bombed **Nam Sai village**, close to War a Zut village. Junta troops from **Jahtuzup village also shelled Nam Sai village** after the airstrike.⁸⁹ On 19 Mar, Kachin Human Rights Watch reported that in February, junta airstrikes killed eight civilians and injured five others in Momauk and Hpakant townships.⁹⁰

Clashes between the KIA and the junta ongoing in Bhamo: During 8-11 Mar, the KIA clashed with junta troops near the **junta's Military Operations Command (MOC) 21** in Bhamo Township. During fighting, the **KIA shot down at least six junta drones**.⁹¹ On 18 Mar, the junta bombed KIA-controlled **Hsin Hkan and Hku Li villages**, killed seven civilians, and injured six others.⁹²

Northern Shan State

Junta launches offensive to retake Kyaukme and Nawngkhio: On 3 Mar, the junta bombed TNLA-controlled LIB 501 and 502 bases, located around 3 km from **Kyaukme town**, and destroyed a building.⁹³ On 4 Mar, it was reported the junta had massed its troops near **Tawng Hkam village** in TNLA-controlled **Nawngkhio Township**, launched airstrikes, and retaken Taung Shey, Man Maw, and Nar Sho villages and its Artillery Battalion 206.⁹⁴ It was also reported that the junta had **set up artillery in the villages** they had recaptured and accelerated their attacks to retake Tawng Hkam and other TNLA-controlled villages in the area. The junta offensive followed the failed China-organized talks in February between the junta and the TNLA.⁹⁵

On 16 Mar, the junta **bombed the Sein Yadanar Teaching Monastery** in Nawngkhio town, **killed 14 civilians**, including nine monks, and injured at least 15 others.⁹⁶ Given that that the bombing occurred **shortly after internet was briefly restored** in the area, locals speculated that an informant had shared information with the junta, which had led to the bombing.⁹⁷ On 25 Mar, the **junta recaptured** the TNLA-controlled **Me Poke village** in Nawngkhio Township, located 12.9 km northeast of Tawng Hkam village.⁹⁸ On 26 Mar, the junta **launched airstrikes** on three villages in the township, **killed four villagers**, and injured four others.⁹⁹ On 28 Mar, the junta **launched airstrikes** on **Nawng Len village**, killed seven **Danu People's Liberation Army troops**, injured two others, and destroyed houses.¹⁰⁰

⁸⁵ Kachin News Group (10 Mar 2025) မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့မှာ စစ်ကောင်စီတပ်ဖွဲ့မှ ရှောင်တခင်စစ်ဆေးတာတွေ ခပ်စိပ်စိပ်လုပ်လာ

⁸⁶ Kachin News Group (11 Mar 2025) မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့တွင်း ညဉ့်နက်အချိန် အင်အားသုံး ဧည့်စာရင်းစစ်ဆေးမှုတွေရှိနေ

⁸⁷ Kachin News Group (7 Mar 2025) ရှုဒူးဇွပ်ဒေသက KIA တပ်စခန်းတစ်ခုကို မင်းဇေသန့်အဖွဲ့ တိုက်ခိုက်

⁸⁸ Kachin News Group (14 Mar 2025) ဝါရာဇွပ်ကျေးရွာက လူနေအိမ် ၁၆ လုံးခန့် မီးရှို့ဖျက်ဆီးခံရ

⁸⁹ Kachin News Group (14 Mar 2025) ဝါရာဇွပ်ကျေးရွာ လေကြောင်းနဲ့ ထပ်မံဗုံးကြဲခံရ

⁹⁰ Kachin News Group (19 Mar 2025) ကချင်မှာ စစ်တပ်ရဲ့လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် တစ်လအတွင်း အရပ်သား ၈ ဦးသေဆုံး၊ ၅ ဦး ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရ

⁹¹ Kachin News Group (11 Mar 2025) ဗန်းမော်မှာ စစ်တပ်ဒရုန်း ၇ လုံး KIA ပစ်ချနိုင်ခဲ့ပြီး စကခ ၂၁ မှာ တိုက်ပွဲဆက်ဖြစ်နေ

⁹² Kachin News Group (19 Mar 2025) စင်းခန်းနဲ့ ခူးလီကျေးရွာကို စစ်တပ်က ဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်တဲ့အတွက် အရပ်သား ၇ ဦးသေဆုံး ; Myanmar Now (19 Mar 2025) ဗန်းမော်မြို့အနီး ကျေးရွာများ ဗုံးကြဲခံရပြီး KIA တပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်များအပါအဝင် ၇ ဦးသေဆုံး

⁹³ SHAN (3 Mar 2025) ကျောက်မဲမြို့ကို စစ်ကောင်စီမှ ဂျက်ဖိုက်တာဖြင့် ထပ်မံဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက်

⁹⁴ Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2025) တောင်းခမ်းတိုက်ပွဲဆက်လက်ပြင်းထန်၊ TNLA နေရာအချို့ကို လက်လွှတ်ရ

⁹⁵ Myanmar Now (22 Mar 2025) တောင်းခမ်း ပြန်ရရန် လက်နက်ကြီးနှင့်ဒရုန်း အများအပြားသုံးပြီး စစ်တပ် ထိုးစစ်ဆင်

⁹⁶ SHAN (16 Mar 2025) နောင်ချိုမြို့ဘုန်းကြီးကျောင်းပေါ်လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲခံရ၊ ကိုရင် ၈ ပါး အပါအဝင် ၁၄ ဦးထက်မနည်း သေဆုံး

⁹⁷ SHAN (17 Mar 2025) နောင်ချို စိန်ရတနာ ပရိယတ္တိ စာသင်တိုက် တိုက်ခိုက်ခံရခြင်းသည် စစ်ကောင်စီ သတင်းပေးလက်ချက်ဟုဆို

⁹⁸ Myanmar Now (26 Mar 2025) နောင်ချိုမဲပုတ်ရွာ တိမ်ပင်လယ်စခန်းကို TNLA လက်ထဲမှ စစ်ကောင်စီပြန်သိမ်း

⁹⁹ SHAN (28 Mar 2025) နောင်ချိုမြို့နယ် စစ်ကောင်စီလေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် အရပ်သား ၄ ဦးသေဆုံး၊ ၄ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁰⁰ SHAN (28 Mar 2025) ငလျင်လှုပ်နေစဉ် စစ်ကောင်စီက နောင်ချိုမြို့နယ်ထဲ လေကြောင်းဗုံးကြဲ၊ လူထိခိုက်သေဆုံးမှုရှိနိုင် ; Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2025) ငလျင်လှုပ်ပြီးချိန် လေတပ်က ဗုံးကြဲ၍ နေတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင် ၇ ဦး သေဆုံး

Southern Shan State

- On 1 Mar, in **Pekon Township**, junta shelling on a village near Moe Bye town on the Shan-Karenni border, killed a girl, and injured four others.¹⁰¹
- During 21-22 Mar, in **Hopong and Pekon townships**, landmines killed three civilians and injured eight others, including three children.¹⁰²

Junta-allied PNA targeting civilians in S. Shan: In February, the Burma War Crimes Investigation (BWCI) concluded that the **Pa'o National Army (PNA)** had conducted targeted violence against **ethnic Kayah and Kayan civilians** from Karenni State. In 2024, the PNA killed at least five civilians and arrested at least 22, 18 of whom are still missing. All but two of those killed were ethnic Kayah and Kayan. According to survivors and witnesses, the PNA checked ID cards before their arrest, then detained them due to their ethnicity. Citing witnesses and survivors, BWCI stated that the PNA had targeted ethnic Karenni civilians and spread hate speech in revenge against Karenni resistance attacks.¹⁰³

Resistance groups kill monk and aid worker: On 4 Mar, in **Pekon Township**, the anti-junta Bee Column **shot dead a monk** and an accompanying **aid worker** travelling to Ohn Taing village. Residents reported the monk had been a “pillar of humanitarian assistance” for IDPs and that the group had acted unlawfully. The Bee Column claimed they had acted after locals informed them that the monk and his companion were junta informers. However, locals reported that there was no evidence they were informers and that the monk “had no enemies”. Some believed the killing aimed to **stoke ethnic tensions** in the area. An aid worker explained that it was necessary for humanitarian actors to communicate with both resistance forces and the junta to continue their work and that this did not make them traitors. The killings had left many humanitarian actors fearing for their safety and had put at risk humanitarian activities in the area. The Bee Column reportedly stated that they would lay down arms if they lost public support.¹⁰⁴

Karenni State

- On 4 Mar, in **Demoso Township**, a junta airstrike on an **IDP camp** injured a woman and damaged a house.¹⁰⁵ On 21 Mar, the junta conducted **another airstrike on an IDP camp** in the township and injured a child. Junta troops stationed in the township then shelled the area and forced students and teachers at a graduation ceremony to flee.¹⁰⁶
- On 11 Mar, it was reported that during clashes with Karenni resistance forces, the **junta fired an artillery shell** from Karenni State that landed in a rice field **across the border in Mueang Mae Hong Son District (Thailand)**. The Mae Hong Son administrator warned villagers to be careful when visiting farms and restricted areas along the border.¹⁰⁷
- During March, in **Loikaw town**, citing locals, SHAN reported that the junta had **increased inspections** at checkpoints and **arrested at least 10 CDMers**.¹⁰⁸

Karen State

KNU captures border bases, as locals flee fighting into Thailand: On 2 Mar, in **Hlaingbwe Township**, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) seized a junta outpost in Lel Paw He village, near the Pulu Tu base. The KNLA first attacked the outpost on 25 Feb. Since 27 Feb, the junta had reportedly **shelled surrounding areas daily** to deter resistance forces, and forced at least **500 residents to flee into Thailand**. As of 3 Mar, Thai authorities said they had assisted 545 Burmese nationals who fled across the border.¹⁰⁹

On 14 Mar, KNLA and allied resistance forces **captured the junta's Pulu Tu base** and **forced 11 soldiers** from Infantry Battalion (IB) 31, including the Division Commander, to **flee into Thailand**. The Thai Army reportedly detained and provided humanitarian assistance to the fleeing junta troops. A Thai army

¹⁰¹ SHAN (4 Mar 2025) Deadly Shelling in Mong Pai Leaves Civilians Killed and Injured

¹⁰² SHAN (24 Mar 2025) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့ကောက်လာသည့် မိုင်းပေါက်ကွဲ တစ်ဦးသေဆုံး၊ ကလေးငယ် ၃ ဦးဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁰³ Burma War Crimes Investigation (14 Mar 2025) They Only Want our Lives

¹⁰⁴ SHAN (12 Mar 2025) Monk and Aid Worker Fatally Shot by “Bee Battalion” in Pai Khun Township, Sparking Outrage and Fear;

SHAN (10 Mar 2025) ဒလန် ဟု စွတ်စွဲ သျှမ်းဘုန်းကြီးနှင့် ဒကာ ကို သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့သည့် ပျားစစ်ကြောင်း လူထုထောက်ခံမှုမရှိရင်

လက်နက်ဖြတ်လေးမည်ဟုပြောဆို; SHAN (6 Mar 2025) Monk and Aid Worker Fatally Shot While Assisting IDPs in Pai Khun Township

¹⁰⁵ SHAN (5 Mar 2025) ဒီးမော့ဆို စစ်ရှောင်စခန်းတစ်ခုကို စစ်ကောင်စီ ဗုံးကြဲတိုက်ခိုက် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရရှိ

¹⁰⁶ Kantarawaddy Times via BNI (24 Mar 2025) Military Junta Airstrikes Hit IDP Camp in DeeMawHso, Injuring a Child

¹⁰⁷ SHAN (12 Mar 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီပစ်ခတ်သည်ဟု ယူဆရသည့် လက်နက်ကြီးကျည် ထိုင်းဘက်ခြမ်း မယ်ဟောင်ဆောင် မုန်လာခြံထဲကျရောက်

¹⁰⁸ SHAN (30 Mar 2025) လွိုင်ကော်မြို့တွင် စစ်ဆေးမှုတင်းကြပ် CDM ဝန်ထမ်းများ ၁၀ ဦးထက်မနည်း ဖမ်းခံရ

¹⁰⁹ DVB (3 Mar 2025) Karen National Union captures regime outpost near Thailand border; DVB (6 Mar 2025) Chin National Council to unite armed resistance factions; Min Aung Hlaing signs nuclear power deal with Russia

commander reported that the junta troops would be sent back to a safe part of the border.¹¹⁰ On 15 Mar, Thai authorities facilitated the return of 437 civilians who had fled across the border.¹¹¹

On 22 Mar, **KNLA Brigade 7 troops ambushed and launched drone attacks on a junta camp** near Kha Lel Day village, about 4 km from the Thai border. In response, the junta used two fighter jets and a Y-12 aircraft to **drop over 30 bombs**. Clashes and junta airstrikes reportedly **displaced hundreds of civilians** — mainly women, children, and elderly individuals — **into Thailand**. This reportedly prompted two Thai military aircraft to patrol the border area. On 25 Mar, the KNLA captured the junta base.¹¹²

Despite losing ground, junta attacks on civilians in Kawkaik continue: On 3 Mar, KNLA-led resistance forces attacked junta troops stationed at a monastery near Ta Tan Ku village. In retaliation, the junta reportedly **torched rubber plantations and around 100 houses** in four nearby villages. A resident reported that since early March, the junta's LIB 545 and 546, based in Kyondoe town, had deployed reinforcements, **increased patrols**, and regularly shelled villages along **the Kawkaik-Kyondoe road** and near Gyaing River bridge.¹¹³ During 4-5 Mar, **junta airstrikes on two villages injured five residents**, including a child, destroyed three houses, and damaged a school.¹¹⁴ On 19 Mar, a junta YAK-130 fighter jet airstrike in Ta Ba Lu Kho Khee village **killed two civilians**, and destroyed a house and a warehouse.¹¹⁵

On 21 Mar, it was reported that troops from the junta's **Operation Aung Zeya** had **retreated** from positions outside **Kawkaik town** and along Asia Highway 1. A resistance member reported that the junta **planted landmines before** retreating and that the KNLA had started demining the area. It was reported that since the retreat, fighting had shifted to Ta Tan Ku village, where the Operation Aung Zeya command center is located. Since 15 Mar, KNLA-led resistance forces had reportedly encircled the command center. A KNLA member reported that the junta shelled, launched drone attacks, and sent reinforcements, but had failed to break through.¹¹⁶ On 23 Mar, junta shelling during clashes near Kawkaik town injured two children.¹¹⁷

Bago Region

Junta carries out bombing in retaliation to resistance attacks: On 6 Mar, on the border between **Htantabin Township** (Bago Region) and **Thandaunggyi Township** (Karen State), resistance forces clashed with the junta. In response, during 6-7 Mar, the junta carried out a **two-day bombing and strafing raid** in several Bago Region townships along the Karen State border, **killed four civilians**, and **injured at least nine others**. Locals reported that during 8-9 Mar, junta troops from Saw Mi Soe village and IB 73 also shelled surrounding villages. On 9 Mar, the junta also reportedly torched Tha Pyay Nyunt village in Thandaunggyi Township (Karen State).¹¹⁸

On 24 Mar, in Kyaukkyi Township, a KNLA-led coalition force attacked a junta camp in Sint Oe La Har village. The next day, the **junta carried out airstrikes on Sint Oe La Har and Thauung Pu villages** in retaliation, on opposite sides of the Sittaung River, and displaced many residents from nearby areas to Kyauktaga town. The junta reportedly **used a Y-12 aircraft to bomb Sint Oe La Har and a helicopter to strafe** both villages. A resident reported that a wedding was taking place in Thang Pu village when the helicopter attacked. After the airstrikes, junta troops reportedly **raided and looted the two villages**.¹¹⁹

AA advances further into Bago Region, captures 30 junta troops and key outposts: On 13 Mar, in Padaung Township, DVB reported that the **AA had advanced along the Taungup-Padaung road** towards Nyaung Chay Htauk village. On the same day, it was confirmed that the **AA had seized at least one junta outpost** near Nyaungkyo village, approximately 18 km west of the junta's weapons factory KaPaSa 6.¹²⁰ The **AA took 30 junta troops and a column commander as prisoners of war**, while others fled.¹²¹ On 17 Mar, the **AA confirmed they had seized most of the checkpoints** around Nyaungkyo village and

¹¹⁰ RFA (14 Mar 2025) Myanmar's Karen fighters capture junta camp, soldiers flee to Thailand; Irrawaddy (14 Mar 2025) KNLA, Allies Capture Junta Military Base Near Myanmar-Thai Border; Mizzima (15 Mar 2025) Myanmar troops under armed attack flee across border: Thai military

¹¹¹ Matichon (15 Mar 2025) ผู้ลี้ภัย ข้ามฝั่งกลับมากู้ภัยแล้ว หลังเสียงปืนสงบ ฝ่ายกะเหรี่ยงยึดค่ายทหารเมียนมาได้

¹¹² DVB (25 Mar 2025) Min Aung Hlaing invited to regional summit in Bangkok; Myanmar crisis discussed at Thailand security seminar

¹¹³ Karen News (7 Mar 2025) About 100 Houses Burned Down in Kawkaik Township

¹¹⁴ HURFOM (7 Mar 2025) Junta's air strike injures five villagers in Kaw Ka Rate

¹¹⁵ HURFOM (25 Mar 2025) Junta's air attack kills two local men in Kaw Ka Rate

¹¹⁶ Karen News (21 Mar 2025) Junta Plants Landmines During Retreat from AH1

¹¹⁷ HURFOM (27 Mar 2025) Two children injured by artillery attack in Kaw Ka Rate

¹¹⁸ Mizzima (9 Mar 2025) Myanmar military airstrikes kill four, injure several in Bago-Kayin border region

¹¹⁹ Karen News (27 Mar 2025) Airstrikes Hit Kyaukkyi Township Villages in Bago Region

¹²⁰ DVB (14 Mar 2025) Arakan Army advances toward regime weapons factory in Bago Region; DVB (14 Mar 2025) Arakan Army seizes key defence outpost for regime weapons factories in Bago Region

¹²¹ Narinjara (17 Mar 2025) AA-Led Resistance Units Seize Nyaung Kyoe Camp on Arakan-Bago Border, Detaining 30 Junta Troops, Including Column Commander

fighting was ongoing. The junta reportedly reinforced troops in nearby Pwintbyu Township in response.¹²² On 27 Mar, it was reported the **junta had forcibly portered at least 10 residents from Oke Shit Pin town** to transport goods to the frontlines.¹²³

Tanintharyi Region

Junta continues attacks on villages along Tanintharyi - Maw Taung border road: During 9-18 Mar, in Tanintharyi Township, the junta shelled five villages in Thein Khun village tract, clashed with resistance forces, and **displaced around 600 locals**.¹²⁴ During 17-18 Mar, around 3 km west of the Tanintharyi - Maw Taung border road, the junta **carried out airstrikes** on Chaung La Mu village using **Mi-2 helicopters and jet fighters**, killed a man, and forced **around 2,000 civilians and IDPs** to flee. A KNLA IB 11 spokesperson said that up until 21 Mar, the junta's attacks had injured over 10 civilians in the area.¹²⁵

On 21 Mar, the junta **shelled** the area outside of Chaung La Mu village and **caused a wildfire**. The fire reportedly spread to plantations nearby and, as of 24 Mar, **was still burning**.¹²⁶ On 24 Mar, the junta **dropped two 500-lb bombs** onto a palm oil plantation in Chaung La Mu village, killed two men and injured seven others.¹²⁷ On 23 Mar, the junta **bombed and destroyed Chaung Na Paut bridge** along the Tanintharyi - Maw Taung border road.¹²⁸ On 26 Mar, it was reported that since Dec 2024, the junta had displaced **over 10,000 civilians** from Ban La Mut, Nyaung Pin Kwin, Thein Khun and Ban Law village tracts.¹²⁹ A humanitarian aid worker reported that **over 4,000 of the IDPs** were suffering from **skin infections, respiratory diseases and diarrhea**, and had no access to medicine or essential supplies.¹³⁰

Mon State

Junta increases drone usage in Kyaikto Township: On 15 Mar, in Kyaikto Township, it was reported that junta troops, particularly LIB 207 and Artillery Regiment (AR) 310, had increased their use of drones in attacks on **over seven villages**, injured at least 14 civilians, destroyed more than 20 houses and buildings, and damaged farms. Military analysts stated that the junta had **increased targeted drone attacks since** junta chief Min Aung Hlaing returned from **his trip to Russia** in early March.¹³¹

Ayeyarwady Region

In Ayeyarwady Region, it was reported that the AA was attempting to advance **along roads towards Lemyethna Township, Yegyi Township, and Thabaung town**. They had targeted the junta's Artillery Battalion (AB) 344 base in Thabaung Township and the LIB 308 base in Ngathaingchaung Township.¹³²

During 17-23 Mar, in Lemyethna Township, junta AB 344 troops clashed with the AA near recently gained AA territory, west of the Pathein-Monywa highway. The fighting displaced 2,000 residents from three villages, including IDPs from Gwa Township (Arakan State). The junta reportedly launched **numerous paramotor and drone attacks** during the clashes, which damaged a significant number of religious buildings.¹³³ On 25 Mar, it was reported that the **AA seized control of Tone Taw village** and several other nearby villages in the foothills of the Arakan Mountains.¹³⁴ On 21 Mar, the junta reportedly closed both the Pathein - Monywa and Gwa - Ngathaingchaung roads as fighting pushed further into the region.¹³⁵

Mandalay Region

Junta counteroffensive in Singu & Thabeikkyin: On 4 Mar, in resistance-controlled Singu Township, junta forces launched an airstrike on a police station in Let Pan Hla village and killed a woman. Resistance forces reportedly used the station to detain prisoners of war. The exact number of casualties was

¹²² Myanmar Now (17 Mar 2025) Arakan Army gains ground in Bago Region, seizes key checkpoints from junta

¹²³ Narinjara (27 Mar 2025) Junta Forces Oke Shit Pin Inhabitants to Work as Porters for Transporting Arms and Supplies During Conflicts in Arakan Mountains

¹²⁴ Dawei Watch (18 Mar 2025) စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် နယ်စပ်လမ်းရှိ ရွာငါးရွာက ဒေသခံများထပ်မံထွက်ပြေး၊ စားနပ်ရိက္ခာလို

¹²⁵ Dawei Watch (21 Mar 2025) စစ်ရှောင်များရှိသည့် တနင်္သာရီ ချောင်းလမုရွာကို နှစ်ရက်အတွင်း ဗုံးသုံးကြိမ်ကြိမ် ရွာလုံးကျွတ်ထွက်ပြေးရ

¹²⁶ Dawei Watch (24 Mar 2025) တနင်္သာရီ ချောင်းလမုရွာတွင် စစ်ကောင်စီ လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် တောမီးရက်ဆက်လောင်

¹²⁷ HURFOM (27 Mar 2025) Junta's air strike kills two palm oil plantation workers and injures other seven

¹²⁸ Dawei Watch (23 Mar 2025) တနင်္သာရီ-ထုံခါ-မောတောင်လမ်းတွင် တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်နေပြီး စစ်ကောင်စီက လေယာဉ်ဖြင့် ဗုံးကြဲ၍ တံတားကျိုးကျ

¹²⁹ Dawei Watch (26 Mar 2025) တနင်္သာရီမြို့နယ်တွင် စစ်ဘေးရှောင်တစ်သောင်းကျော် သုံးလကြာအထိ နေရပ်မပြန်နိုင်သေး

¹³⁰ Mon News (6 Mar 2025) Prolonged Conflict in Tanintharyi Leaves Over 4,000 Displaced Facing Severe Health Issues

¹³¹ HURFOM (24 Mar 2025) Weekly Analysis: Increasing Use of Drone Attacks by the Military Junta Raises Alarm in Local Communities

¹³² Myanmar Now (21 Mar 2025) Myanmar air force bombs villages as AA, allies continue pressing into Ayeyarwady Region

¹³³ RFA (18 Mar 2025) Villagers flee as fighting rocks Myanmar's delta; Narinjara (20 Mar 2025) Fighting Intensifies in Ayeyarwady Region, Compelling Residents to Evacuate; Myanmar Now (24 Mar 2025) Fierce clashes reported as AA-led forces continue advance into Ayeyarwady Region

¹³⁴ Irrawaddy (27 Mar 2025) AA and Allied Local Resistance Seize Ayeyarwady Villages

¹³⁵ Irrawaddy (21 Mar 2025) Arakan Army Steps Up Ayeyarwady Attacks

unknown.¹³⁶ On 14 Mar, a **junta airstrike on a crowded market** in Let Pan Hla village **killed 27 civilians**, including six children, and injured 30 others.¹³⁷ Three days later, a junta airstrike again targeted Let Pan Hla, killed three women, and injured five locals.¹³⁸

In **Thabeikkyin Township**, on 11 Mar, it was reported that, since early March, the junta had launched a counteroffensive to retake positions lost to resistance forces. Junta forces launched drone attacks on Twinnge and 7-Mile villages from its three remaining bases in the township. In 7-Mile village, intense clashes occurred daily. Clashes, junta airstrikes, and arson attacks over the previous eight months forced locals from over 10 villages to flee.¹³⁹ On 18 Mar, it was reported that the **junta deployed 1,000 junta troops** to 7 Maing Chan Thar village and near Twinnge village. The troops had previously been stationed in **Mogok town** and **Momeik town** (N. Shan State) before the TNLA and Mandalay PDF seized both towns. While resistance forces controlled Twinnge village, the junta still held positions outside it.¹⁴⁰

Junta bombs Madaya & Taungtha: In **Taungtha Township**, on 4 Mar, a late-night junta airstrike on Nat Saunt village killed six civilians and destroyed 30 houses. The junta had reportedly used **incendiary bombs**. The attack **displaced the entire village of over 350 households**.¹⁴¹ During 10-27 Mar, the junta launched five more attacks, including two paramotor attacks. These attacks killed one civilian, injured another, and destroyed over 15 houses, a monastery, and a school.¹⁴² On 11 Mar, in **Madaya Township**, junta aircraft dropped over 50 bombs. The bombs struck Wa Thon Da Ra and Mya Kan Thar villages located between **Madaya and Patheingyi townships**. They hit a house, killed five civilians, and injured ten other people nearby. It was reported there were daily clashes in the township since mid-Feb.¹⁴³

Yangon Region

Resistance guerilla attacks continue: In **Shwepyithar Township**, Operation Flame Urban Guerrilla group carried out a remote-controlled mine attack on a police station and township police office on 3 Mar. The junta retaliated by arresting two men.¹⁴⁴ In **Insein Township**, on 19 Mar, the Rangoon Urban Column (RUC) attacked the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office with a remote-controlled mine and injured a police officer.¹⁴⁵ In **Thingangyun Township**, on 20 Mar, resistance forces threw two grenades at Pyu Saw Htee members who were abducting locals for conscription.¹⁴⁶

Rohingya

- During 2-9 Mar, in Indian-administered Jammu city and the Shaheen Bagh settlement in Delhi (India), it was reported police had begun collecting **biometric data of Rohingya** and had **arrested at least 168 Rohingya**.¹⁴⁷
- During 4-16 Mar, in Ukhiya and Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh), **targeted attacks on civilians and clashes between armed Rohingya groups** killed three camp residents and injured four others.¹⁴⁸
- On 22 Mar, off the coast of Bangladesh, a boat carrying approximately 40-50 Rohingya capsized. About 11-21 remained missing after a rescue effort led by locals and the Border Guard Bangladesh.¹⁴⁹

¹³⁶ Myanmar Now (4 Mar 2025) NUG ၏ စဉ်ကူးမြို့ကို လေတပ် ဖုံးကြုံ အမျိုးသမီး တစ်ဦးသေဆုံး

¹³⁷ Narinjara (16 Mar 2025) Junta Airstrikes on Village in Mandalay Region Take the Lives of 27 Civilians, Including 6 Children

¹³⁸ Myanmar Now (19 Mar 2025) Ongoing airstrikes in Singu Township kill 35, including women and children

¹³⁹ DVB (11 Mar 2025) သပိတ်ကျင်းမြို့နယ်၌ တိုက်ပွဲပြင်းထန်

¹⁴⁰ DVB (18 Mar 2025) Regime deploys up to 1,000 troops to retake town in northern Mandalay Region under resistance control

¹⁴¹ Myanmar Now (6 Mar 2025) Late-night airstrikes kill six villagers in Mandalay Region's Taungtha Township

¹⁴² DVB (12 Mar 2025) တောင်သာမြို့နယ်၌ လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်မှုကြောင့် အမျိုးသမီး ၁ ဦးသေဆုံး; Mizzima (20 Mar 2025) Myanmar

junta's paramotor bombing damages home and monastery in Taungtha Township; DVB (25 Mar 2025) တောင်သာမြို့နယ် ကျေးရွာများကို စစ်တပ်က လေကြောင်းတိုက်ခိုက်၊ PDF ရဲဘော် ၁ ဦးကျဆုံး; DVB (28 Mar 2025) မန္တလေးနှင့် စစ်ကိုင်းတွင် စစ်တပ်က ဖုံးကြုံ ၁ ဦးသေဆုံးပြီး ဘုန်းကြီးအပါအဝင် ၅ ဦး ဒဏ်ရာရ

¹⁴³ Myanmar Now (13 Mar 2025) Schoolgirl among five civilians killed in junta airstrikes north of Mandalay

¹⁴⁴ DVB (4 Mar 2025) ရွှေပြည်သာမြို့နယ်ရှိစခန်းနှင့် မြို့နယ်ရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့မှူးရုံး မိုင်းခွဲတိုက်ခိုက်ခံရ

¹⁴⁵ Mizzima (22 Mar 2025) Yangon's CID office attacked with remote-controlled mine; police officer injured

¹⁴⁶ DVB (20 Mar 2025) သယံဇာတကုန်ကြမ်းတင်ပို့ရေးတွင် ပျက်စီးမှုများ လက်ပစ်မိုင်းဖြင့် ပစ်ခတ်ခံရ

¹⁴⁷ The Tribune India (8 Mar 2025) 168 Rohingya illegals sent to jail: Officials; Arab News (6 Mar 2025) Rohingya students to enroll in Indian schools after landmark Supreme Court ruling

¹⁴⁸ Narinjara (6 Mar 2025) Community Leader Slain in Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar; DVB (11 Mar 2025) Buddhist monk allegedly killed by People's Defence Force; Russia and Belarus to help regime with elections; The Daily Star (16 Mar 2025) Rohingya man killed in Ukhiya

¹⁴⁹ The Daily Star (23 Mar 2025) Boat capsizes in Bay: 25 Rohingyas rescued after boat capsizes

- On 24 Mar, Rohingya Refugee Response Bangladesh released its 2025-26 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis. The plan called for **USD 934.5 million** in funding to support **1.09 million Rohingya refugees** and **392,000 host community members** in 2025.¹⁵⁰

Child malnutrition rising in camps

On 11 Mar, UNICEF announced that in Cox's Bazar, **27% more children needed treatment for severe acute malnutrition** in Feb 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. During Jan-Feb 2025, they reported **2,083 cases of severe acute malnutrition**, compared with 1,655 a year prior. 15% of Rohingya children in the camps were reported as malnourished in Feb 2025. UNICEF estimated that **14,200 children** would suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2025. Without treatment, children with severe acute malnutrition are **11 times more likely to die** than other children. Prolonged monsoon rains, **growing numbers of families fleeing violence** in Arakan arriving at the camps, and **ration cuts** over the past two years had driven the growing child malnutrition crisis in the camps.¹⁵¹

Funding crisis nearly leads to significant WFP and IOM food cuts

On 5 Mar, the WFP announced that **unless they were able to raise more funds in the interim**, starting 1 Apr, they would **cut monthly food rations** for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps from USD 12.50 per person per month to USD 6. The WFP added that it needed USD 15 million to sustain current food rations for April, and USD 81 million to sustain rations until the end of 2025.¹⁵² The WFP stated that **rations below USD 6 provided refugees with less than the "minimum standard" for energy and nutrition** and put those with higher nutritional needs at risk.¹⁵³ Refugees International noted that cuts in rations from USD 12 to USD 8 per month in 2023 had driven Global Acute Malnutrition rates in the camps to their **highest level since the 2017 genocide** and **above the emergency threshold**.¹⁵⁴ 95% of Rohingya households in the camp rely on humanitarian aid.¹⁵⁵ On 27 Mar, the UN WFP announced that "timely contributions from donors" had allowed them to **avoid reducing food vouchers** to USD 6. They would instead reduce vouchers from **USD 12.50 to USD 12 per person per month**.¹⁵⁶ On the same day, the US State Department announced they had provided the UN WFP with an additional USD 73 million in funding for "food and nutrition assistance".¹⁵⁷

On 6 Mar, it was reported that US funding cuts had led the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** to stop **healthcare** and **cash assistance** for around 925 Rohingya refugees in Riau Province (Indonesia).¹⁵⁸ On 11 Mar, the IOM reinstated the program as "necessary resources" remained available.¹⁵⁹

Bangladesh arrests ARSA leader

On 18 Mar, Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion **arrested Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) leader, Ata Ullah**, and nine others in a series of raids in Dhaka. He and five others were charged with illegal entry and terrorism charges. ARSA has been repeatedly accused of **attacks on civilians** in Cox's Bazar, as well as the murder of a Bangladesh military intelligence officer. Ata Ullah reportedly ordered the 2017 attacks on Burmese army camps shortly before the junta's 2017 genocidal attacks on Rohingya.¹⁶⁰

Report highlights threats of violence in camps

On 18 Mar, Fortify Rights released a report entitled 'I May be Killed Any Moment' which detailed attacks on civilians carried out by Rohingya militant groups. Using 116 interviews with camp residents, the report found that many of the **gun attacks, abductions, torture, bodily dismemberment, forced conscription, and acts of intimidation** carried out by Rohingya militant groups in the camps, likely **constitute war crimes** due to their close links to conflict in northern Arakan State. During 2021-2024, there had been **219 killings** in Cox's Bazar camps, with 65 reported in 2024. An unnamed humanitarian organization stated that at least **40 refugees** had been treated for **gunshot wounds** in 2024. In one instance, ARSA members abducted a young man during the night and **cut off his arm and leg** in retaliation for him reporting their activities to NGOs and Bangladesh authorities. Despite Rohingya Solidarity Organization's (RSO)

¹⁵⁰ Rohingya Refugee Response (24 Mar 2025) 2025-26 Joint Response Plan

¹⁵¹ Unicef (11 Mar 2025) 27 per cent surge in number of children admitted for severe acute malnutrition treatment in Rohingya refugee camps

¹⁵² DW (11 Mar 2025) Bangladesh: Rohingya fear crime surge amid food ration cuts

¹⁵³ Reuters (5 Mar 2025) Exclusive: UN plans to halve rations to Rohingya refugees without urgent funding

¹⁵⁴ Refugees International (5 Mar 2025) Amid U.S. Aid Cuts, WFP Cuts Food Rations for Rohingya Refugees by Half

¹⁵⁵ Amnesty (13 Mar 2025) Bangladesh: International community must act to avoid devastating aid cuts for Rohingya refugees

¹⁵⁶ Reuters (27 Mar 2025) UN slightly reduces rations for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

¹⁵⁷ Reuters (27 Mar 2025) US to give \$73 million to aid Rohingya refugees, State Dept. says

¹⁵⁸ Reuters (6 Mar 2025) Exclusive: UN slashes support for Rohingya refugees in Indonesia due to U.S. cuts, sources say

¹⁵⁹ Reuters (11 Mar 2025) UN migration agency says aid to Rohingya in Indonesia reinstated

¹⁶⁰ AFP via Myanmar Now (19 Mar 2025) Bangladesh arrests notorious Rohingya militant leader; BD News (18 Mar 2025) ARSA chief Jununi arrested, remanded for ten days

complicity in carrying out torture, harassment, and forced conscription of camp residents, Bangladesh authorities often worked closely with the organization. In one case, in the ‘No Man’s Land’ area between Burma and Bangladesh, **RSO and Bangladesh authorities** worked together to unlawfully **detain and disappear** Dil Mohammad, a Rohingya community leader. The report called for the Government of Bangladesh to **carry out proper investigations of the killings** and work with **international justice mechanisms** to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.¹⁶¹

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

MNDAA releases unlawfully detained girl

On 7 Mar, in Lashio city, the **MNDAA** released the **15-year-old girl** they had unlawfully held for one month. The MNDAA had detained her after one MNDAA soldier killed another during a fight,¹⁶² as both were trying to court the girl. Her family had repeatedly urged the MNDAA to release her. Civil society groups had also **petitioned ASEAN, the UN, China, and Thailand** to push for her release. The MNDAA reportedly transferred the soldier involved in the shooting to another location.¹⁶³

Thai university honors Dr Cynthia Maung

On 11 Mar, Naresuan University (Thailand) awarded **Dr Cynthia Maung** an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree for her dedication to humanitarian work and its benefits to the ASEAN community. In 1989, Dr Cynthia Maung founded the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot (Thailand), which provides essential health services to refugees and migrant workers on the Thai-Burma border.¹⁶⁴

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

Education

Junta blacklists, withholds degrees from over 800 CDM medical students

On 11 Mar, it was reported that the junta blacklisted and **withheld degree certificates and medical licenses** from around 800 medical graduates who had begun their medical residencies before the failed coup. The junta also **prevented them from applying for passports** or leaving the country. The junta action was in retaliation for the doctors’ refusal to take up government jobs after completing their residencies. Many of the doctors had signed an agreement whereby they would either serve in government positions for three years after graduation, or pay a MMK 1 million fine. However, the junta **violated the contract by refusing to issue certificates** to those who had paid the fine. The affected doctors stated that of the **1,022 medical students** who began their residency in 2019 and who would now rightfully graduate, **only about 200** who are currently employed by the junta would receive certificates and their licenses. One doctor stated that without a medical license, even major private hospitals had refused to hire them.¹⁶⁵

On 10 Mar, the junta announced that it had **arrested seven people**, including three foreign ministry officials, who were allegedly involved in **notarizing a doctor’s NUG-granted medical certificate**. The junta blacklisted the doctor who had applied to study in Dubai with the NUG-issued certificate from the Interim University Council of the University of Medicine (Mandalay). The junta learned of the case when Dubai officials contacted them to verify the credentials.¹⁶⁶

2025 matriculation exam registrants 20% of pre-coup levels: During 17-21 Mar, students across Burma sat the national annual high school matriculation exam. Myanmar Now reported that in 2025, **only 220,843** students registered for the matriculation exam, i.e. **23% of registrations in 2020** (971,266 students). In Sagaing Region and Arakan, Kachin, Karenni, Chin and Northern Shan states, where resistance forces control large areas, the number of students taking the exam **dropped to 21,319** from 75,810 in 2022 (28%). Conflict, junta airstrikes, and forced conscription has caused the decline in exam registration.¹⁶⁷

Health

Hepatitis A spreading in Yangon townships: On 1 Mar, in Yangon Region, it was reported that cases of **Hepatitis A had spread across several townships**. The junta-controlled health department had **failed to provide adequate healthcare or public awareness** regarding the virus. A medical professional reported

¹⁶¹ Fortify Rights (18 Mar 2025) Bangladesh: Hold Rohingya Militants Accountable for War Crimes, Cooperate with International Mechanisms

¹⁶² See our Jan 2025 CoupWatch Briefer <https://bit.ly/CWBJan25>

¹⁶³ SHAN (7 Mar 2025) လားရှိုး MNDAA မှ တစ်လတိတိ ဖမ်းဆီးထားသည့် မိန်းကလေး ပြန်လည်လွတ်မြောက်လာ

¹⁶⁴ Naresuan University (14 Mar 2025) Naresuan University Confers Honorary Doctorate on Dr. Cynthia Maung

¹⁶⁵ Myanmar Now (11 Mar 2025) Myanmar junta blacklists hundreds of doctors for declining to work for them

¹⁶⁶ Myanmar Now (12 Mar 2025) Seven arrested in Myanmar for notarising NUG-issued medical credentials

¹⁶⁷ Myanmar Now (19 Mar 2025) Myanmar records steep fall in number of students taking matriculation exams

that there were “more patients with Hepatitis A than ever before. [...] now, around **seven out of ten patients** we treat are infected”. Hepatitis A spreads through stool, blood, contaminated food, and water. Severe symptoms include yellowing skin and eyes, abdominal pain, and dark urine. The NUG Ministry of Health recommended those in contact with affected patients get vaccinated within two weeks.¹⁶⁸

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

290 CSOs urge probe into UN envoy’s ties to junta-linked Chinese firms

On 9 Mar, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) raised several serious concerns over the **business relationships with junta-linked Chinese state-owned companies** of UN Special Envoy to Burma, **Julie Bishop**. In Jan 2025, Bishop joined **Energy Transition Minerals (ETM)** as a strategic advisor to help restart development on the controversial Kvanefjeld uranium mining project in Greenland. ETM partnered with two Chinese state-owned enterprises on the Kvanefjeld project: **Shenghe Resources** and **China Communications Construction Company (CCCC)**. Shenghe Resources holds a 9% stake in ETM and sits on its board. It is a major player in China’s rare earth industry, valued at **over USD 2.7 billion**. The group’s corporate disclosures indicate that they have sourced rare earth minerals from Burma.¹⁶⁹

CCCC is also involved in China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects. In 2018, it signed a **USD 1.5 billion** deal for the controversial **New Yangon City project**, which the junta now reportedly plans to resume. Its subsidiary, **Myanmar China Harbor Engineering Company**, is part of the **Kyaukphyu deep sea port** consortium (Arakan State). In Jan 2025, the company signed an MoU for the development of port facilities in Yangon. Another CCCC subsidiary, **China Road and Bridge**, also signed a contract for the improvement of the Eindu-Kawkareik road (Karen State). The road was seen as advancing Burmese military interests, faced public opposition, and fueled nearby fighting.¹⁷⁰

Bishop is also registered as a lobbyist for **Twinza Oil Limited**, an Australian company which formerly operated on the **Yetagun East Block project** (Tanintharyi Region) in 2006. Twinza’s founder, Bill Clough, previously invested in the now-defunct **Myanmar Times newspaper**, which held links to Burmese military intelligence. Bishop has also provided services to **Mineral Resources (MinRes)**, an Australian mining company. MinRes is a partner of the Chinese state-owned **Baowu Steel Group**, which is involved in a nickel processing project in Burma that generates revenue for the junta.¹⁷¹

In light of her ties to junta-linked businesses, JfM **raised concerns about her ethical conduct and impartiality**.¹⁷² Irrawaddy noted that Bishop had also **made little to no progress** in efforts to mediate conflict in Burma since her appointment as UN Special Envoy on Burma in Apr 2024.¹⁷³ In line with JfM’s report, on 17 Mar, 290 civil society organizations issued an open letter to the UN Secretary-General and the General Assembly and urged an investigation into Bishop’s potential conflicts of interest.¹⁷⁴

BYD to assemble EVs on MEHL land

On 4 Mar, it was reported that Chinese electric vehicle giant **BYD** was putting in place plans to **assemble Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Burma** through three local authorized distributors — Prime Auto, EV Power, and Essential Motors. The assembly plants would be built on land in **Bago Region** owned by the junta-controlled and internationally-sanctioned **Myanma Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL)**. MEHL was reportedly providing 30-year leases for the land to the manufacturers. The distributors planned to manufacture EVs under a semi-knocked down (SKD) system, under which vehicles are only finished, rather than completely assembled, in Burma.¹⁷⁵

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing’s son, Aung Pyae Sone, reportedly has **financial ties** to two of the authorized EV distributors. Meanwhile, Min Aung Hlaing’s daughter, Khin Thiri Thet Mon, is **already involved in EV assembly** through her stake in **NPK Motor**. NPK Motor is chaired by her business partner Naing Phyo Kyaw (aka Eric Yang) and primarily imports MG cars and operates charging stations. In May 2024, the

¹⁶⁸ Mizzima (1 Mar 2025) Hepatitis A spreading rapidly in Yangon, amid lack of awareness and healthcare response

¹⁶⁹ Justice for Myanmar (9 Mar 2025) UN should investigate conflicts of interest over UN Special Envoy on Myanmar’s business activities and links to China

¹⁷⁰ Justice for Myanmar (9 Mar 2025) UN should investigate conflicts of interest over UN Special Envoy on Myanmar’s business activities and links to China

¹⁷¹ Justice for Myanmar (9 Mar 2025) UN should investigate conflicts of interest over UN Special Envoy on Myanmar’s business activities and links to China

¹⁷² Justice for Myanmar (9 Mar 2025) UN should investigate conflicts of interest over UN Special Envoy on Myanmar’s business activities and links to China

¹⁷³ Irrawaddy (10 Mar 2025) UN Urged to Investigate Myanmar Special Envoy for Conflicts of Interest

¹⁷⁴ Justice for Myanmar (17 Mar 2025) Open letter: Special Envoy’s conflicts of interest signal urgent need for investigation and complete end of mandate

¹⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2025) Crony Distributors Seek to Manufacture BYD EVs in Myanmar; Myanmar Now (7 Mar 2025) Plans underway to assemble Chinese BYD electric cars on military-owned land in Myanmar

company imported 542 EVs. On 25 Nov 2024, Naing Phyo Kyaw signed an SKD cooperation agreement with **Leapmotor** and, on 7 Feb 2025, had launched the first locally assembled EV. The timing of the agreement coincided with Min Aung Hlaing's visit to BYD headquarters in **Shenzhen** (China).¹⁷⁶

The junta has allowed cronies to carry out the **tax-free import of EVs** despite **halting import licenses for fuel-powered vehicles** due to USD shortages following Feb 2021.¹⁷⁷ Furthermore, the lack of electricity infrastructure meant that many EV owners were trying to resell their cars at losses of up to MMK 30 million. Some have resorted to using fuel-powered generators to charge their vehicles, but rising fuel prices and shortages have only worsened the problem.¹⁷⁸

Canada's HATCH defies sanctions, consults on junta SEZ

On 29 Mar, it was reported that the Canadian company **HATCH** continued to serve as consultants on the **Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) port project** in **Kyaukphyu Township** (Arakan State), despite the Canadian government's sanctions against junta officials and entities. The SEZ project, overseen by junta deputy chief Soe Win, is a **USD 1.3 billion** joint venture between **Chinese state-owned CITIC** (70%) and junta-controlled entities (30%).¹⁷⁹

HATCH first signed a contract with CITIC to conduct topography surveys and an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project in May 2019. HATCH have continued work on the project despite the Feb 2021 coup attempt, with HATCH and CITIC both selecting the crony-linked company **Myanmar Survey Research (MSR)** to conduct the ESIA. A local said that the project would be unlikely to move forward without negotiations with AA, which now controls most of Arakan State and is now fighting to capture **Kyaukphyu Township**.¹⁸⁰

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

- On 3 Mar, the **EU** allocated almost **EUR 70 million in humanitarian aid** to Burma and neighboring countries hosting refugees from Burma. EUR 32.3 million was allocated for food, healthcare, education, and camp maintenance for Rohingya in Bangladesh; EUR 33 million for essential aid, landmine reduction and support, and disaster preparedness in Burma; and EUR 3.5 million allocated to India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand for emergency aid for refugees.¹⁸¹
- On 29 Mar, in Tanintharyi Region, the junta handed over **four Thai fishermen** to Thai authorities. The men were **detained in Nov 2024** after their fishing vessel allegedly entered Burmese waters.¹⁸² The junta pardoned and released the men following Thai diplomatic pressure.¹⁸³
- During 17-27 Mar, the **Indian Ministry of External Affairs hosted 31 junta diplomats** in New Delhi for a diplomatic training course run by the Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service. The course covered India's relations with Myanmar, their shared heritage, and guiding principles for Indian foreign policy. This was the second time India had hosted a training course for junta diplomats.¹⁸⁴

Burmese patient dies in Indian prison

On 10 Mar, in **Manipur State (India)**, a detained **Burmese national died** in Imphal Prison after Indian authorities **denied him healthcare**. He was imprisoned in Jan 2024 on immigration charges after seeking medical treatment in India. Prison authorities transferred him to a hospital days before he died and prevented family members from visiting him. India for Myanmar stated that, in India's Assam and Manipur states, Indian authorities were still holding at least 147 Burmese refugees in detention. They added that India's treatment of refugees **severely violated human rights** and contradicted democratic principles.¹⁸⁵

On 21 Mar, in Manipur State, Indian authorities **released 27 women and children** from Sajiwa Prison in Imphal and handed them over to the junta. They had imprisoned all 27 on immigration charges in 2022. Salai Dokhar of India for Myanmar reported that the release was likely in response to civil society pressure on the Indian Government after the Burmese detainee passed away from health issues in early March.¹⁸⁶

¹⁷⁶ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2025) Crony Distributors Seek to Manufacture BYD EVs in Myanmar

¹⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (4 Mar 2025) Crony Distributors Seek to Manufacture BYD EVs in Myanmar

¹⁷⁸ DVB (6 Mar 2025) လျှပ်စစ်မီးမမှန်သဖြင့် EV ကားများကို သိန်းရာချီအနီးခံ ပြန်လည်ရောင်းချနေ

¹⁷⁹ Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2025) Despite sanctions, Canadians stay on as consultants for Myanmar development project

¹⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (29 Mar 2025) Despite sanctions, Canadians stay on as consultants for Myanmar development project

¹⁸¹ European Commission (3 Mar 2025) EU boosts humanitarian aid in Bangladesh, Myanmar and for the Rohingya refugee crisis

¹⁸² See our Nov 2024 CoupWatch Briefer <https://bit.ly/CWBNov24>

¹⁸³ Bangkok Post (29 Mar 2025) pardon Thai crew members released by Myanmar return home after pardon

¹⁸⁴ Junta Ministry of Foreign Affairs (17 Mar 2025) Myanmar Delegation to attend the Second Special Training Course for Myanmar Diplomats in India (15-3-2025)

¹⁸⁵ India for Myanmar via X (17 Mar 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/2p8wm2je>

¹⁸⁶ Khonumthung (24 Mar 2025) 27 Myanmar women and children jailed in Manipur released; India Today (21 Mar 2025) India deports 27 Myanmar nationals, hands them over at Manipur border checkpoint

US cuts to RFA & VOA a "reward to dictators"

On 15 Mar, the US Trump administration issued an executive order to **freeze grants to media organizations** funded by the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) and ordered the over 1,300 media staff to go on leave for an undisclosed period. The media sources which were shut down included **Radio Free Asia (RFA)** and **Voice of America (VOA)**, both of which provide vital and accurate media coverage of Burma and other countries with limited press freedoms. The RFA President stated that the termination was a **"reward to dictators and despots"**.¹⁸⁷ Pro-junta accounts claimed that the termination "paves the way for stability, cohesion, and stronger domestic media in Myanmar" by undercutting "the so-called democratic terrorist revolution".¹⁸⁸

In response, on 18 Mar, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty **sued USAGM leadership** for violating the US Congress' 1994 International Broadcasting Act. VOA also filed against USAGM leadership. On 25 Mar and 28 Mar, respectively, US district courts temporarily blocked the termination of the outlets' funding for violating congressionally mandated funding flows.¹⁸⁹ On 27 Mar, RFA filed a case against USAGM. RFA was established in 1996 and is also supported via the 1994 International Broadcasting Act.¹⁹⁰

Aid groups forced to cut life-saving support

On 14 Mar, the **WFP** announced that from Apr 2025, they would **cut life-saving food aid to over one million people** in Burma. They acknowledged the cuts would affect people **completely reliant on WFP aid**, such as almost 100,000 people in central Arakan State. Without additional funding, the WFP will only be able to support about 35,000 vulnerable people in Burma. The UNOCHA estimated that about 15.2 million, one third of the population, are facing acute food insecurity.¹⁹¹

On 31 Mar, **The Border Consortium (TBC)** also announced that, during Apr-Jul 2025, severe funding cuts had forced them to **reduce monthly food aid for more than 80%** of households across all nine camps. They would exempt the most vulnerable from the cuts. TBC is the primary provider of food and shelter for the nearly 110,000 refugees in the nine Thai-Burma border camps. They stated they would continue to urge the Thailand to expand employment opportunities for refugees and increase support for refugee self-sufficiency.¹⁹² It was reported that before the cuts, residents with additional income received minimal or no aid, while the most vulnerable received up to **THB 388 (US\$11.50) per month**. They expected that, apart from the most vulnerable, aid cuts would decrease allocations by THB 50-100 per month.¹⁹³

Thailand targets Burmese workers with arrests and disinformation

In March, Thailand continued their crackdowns on Burmese individuals in the country. During 4-28 Mar, in **Kanchanaburi Province**, Thai officials arrested a total of **83 undocumented Burmese migrant workers**. They would likely be charged with illegal entry and forced back to Burma.¹⁹⁴

On 14 Mar, Myanmar Now reported that in **Thailand, disinformation about Burmese migrant workers** had caused a surge of prejudice and racism. Thai netizens, including Nantiwat Samart, ex-deputy director of Thailand's National Intelligence Agency, had circulated a **fabricated claim** that Burmese workers were demanding a daily wage of THB 700, almost twice the Thai minimum wage of THB 400. Agence France-Presse (AFP) found videos used for this were outdated and were taken from protests focused on high visa and work permit fees. Thai historian and security advisor to the Thai government, Lalita Hanwong asserted the posts constituted a **coordinated campaign** to frame Burmese migrants as a **national security threat**.¹⁹⁵

South Korea seeks to resettle refugee families

On 13 Mar, it was reported that the **Yeongyang County office (South Korea)**, was holding talks with the South Korean Ministry of Justice and UNHCR to resettle 10 ethnic Karen refugee families - about 40 individuals - in the county by the end of 2025. The county planned to turn a closed school into a resettlement

¹⁸⁷ DVB (16 Mar 2025) US government-funded news outlets receive federal grants termination notice; Bangkok Post (16 Mar 2025) Trump freezes VOA, Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe

¹⁸⁸ The Diplomat (18 Mar 2025) Cambodia's Hun Sen, Myanmar Junta Celebrate Closure of US-Funded Media Outlets

¹⁸⁹ Reporters Without Borders (28 Mar 2025) USA: RSF and VOA coalition secure first court victory against the Trump administration; Politico (25 Mar 2025) Judge blocks funding freeze for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

¹⁹⁰ RFA (27 Mar 2025) Radio Free Asia files lawsuit against US administration to restore funding

¹⁹¹ World Food Programme (14 Mar 2025) WFP warns one million in Myanmar to be cut off from food aid amid funding shortfall; Reuters (14 Mar 2025) World Food Programme to cut aid for one million people in Myanmar

¹⁹² The Border Consortium (31 Mar 2025) Statement: Reduction in Food Support to Refugees

¹⁹³ Karen News (25 Mar 2025) US Aid Cuts Will Increase Hardships in Thai Refugee Camps

¹⁹⁴ Bangkok Post (4 Mar 2025) Truckload of illegal migrants caught near border; Yangon Khit Thit News Agency (19 Mar 2025)

ထိုင်းနိုင်ငံ၊ ကန်ချာဘူရီတွင် မလေးရှားသို့ သွားရောက် အလုပ်လုပ်ကြမည့် မြန်မာလူငယ် ၁၉ ဦးကို တရားမဝင် ဝင်ရောက်မှုဖြင့် ထိုင်းအာဏာပိုင်များက ဖမ်းဆီး; Bangkok Post (1 Mar 2025) 49 migrants held in Kanchanaburi

¹⁹⁵ Myanmar Now (14 Mar 2025) War of words: Myanmar migrants face disinformation in Thailand

facility. With just over 15,000 residents, Yeongyang county is the least populated region in the country and has a rapidly decreasing population. The county office hoped the refugees would boost the economy and bring in more long-term residents. They said the initial 40 invited would be a **pilot program and the intake would increase**, depending on the results.¹⁹⁶ The resettlement plan received criticism from some South Koreans who called for its cancellation. South Korea has only **granted refugee status to 1,500 people** since adopting measures to receive refugees in 1994. A Seoul-based advocacy group for immigrants stated that embracing new arrivals would help Korea prosper.¹⁹⁷

Switzerland and Canada announce new sanctions

On 7 Mar, Switzerland announced new sanctions on the junta **Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)** following the EU's sanctions on the company in February. Justice for Myanmar urged Canada, the UK, and Australia to follow suit and sanction MOGE.¹⁹⁸ On the same day, **Canada's** Minister of Foreign Affairs announced new sanctions on **14 senior junta ministers and deputy ministers**. Canada also announced sanctions on the junta **Ministry of Defence, the junta's military**, and the junta's **Light Infantry Division (LID) 33**, a perpetrator of the 2017 Rohingya genocide, for their role in the human rights abuses in Burma.¹⁹⁹ Justice for Myanmar welcomed the sanctions and stated it was the **first time** a government had specifically sanctioned the junta's 'military'. They urged Canada and its allies to expand sanctions to stop arms, funding, and aviation fuel from reaching the junta.²⁰⁰

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¹⁹⁶ The Dong-a Ilbo (18 Mar 2025) Local governments facing demographic cliff are willing to accept overseas refugees

¹⁹⁷ Korea Times (18 Mar 2025) Yeongyang County under mounting pressure to scrap plan to host Myanmar refugees

¹⁹⁸ Narinjara (12 Mar 2025) Switzerland Enacts Sanctions Against Junta-Run Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)

¹⁹⁹ Government of Canada (7 Mar 2025) Canada announces new sanctions against Myanmar military regime

²⁰⁰ Justice for Myanmar (8 Mar 2025) JFM Welcomes New Canadian Sanctions on the Terrorist Myanmar Military, First designation of Armed Forces