



## Bi-Weekly News Review

Issue 170, 23 April - 6 May 2025

# Schools in Myanmar: The New Targets of Junta Airstrikes



# **Schools in Myanmar: The New Targets of Junta Airstrikes**

## **Introduction**

The bombing of the Oe Htein Twin village school, which claimed more than 20 students and two female teachers, is neither the first since the military coup in Myanmar nor likely the last such incident. As long as the junta airstrikes cannot be stopped, schools, religious sites, displacement camps, hospitals, clinics, villages, and neighborhoods throughout Myanmar remain potential targets of the military's aerial attacks.

This week's BNI-Myanmar Peace Monitor Bi-Weekly News Review focuses on schools in liberated areas, such as the Oe Htein Twin village school, that have become targets of the military junta airstrikes.

## **The Bombing of Oe Htein Twin Village School**

*Photo - Tabayin Township Administration Team's (Facebook Page)*



On 12 May 2025, around 9:30 a.m., the military junta conducted an airstrike on a school in Oe Htein Twin village in Sagaing Region. The attack killed 24 students and two female teachers who were teaching, while injuring as many as 102 local residents. After the attack, about 500 residents from Oe Htein Twin, village a of around 300 households, were forced to flee to safety. On the same day, 12 May 2025, 20 students and

two female teachers were killed. Subsequently, on the night of 13 May, an eight-year-old Grade 2 student, Maung Aung Zeya, also died. On the morning of 14 May, an 11-year-old Grade 3 student, Ma Pyae Pyae, also passed away.<sup>1</sup>

On 12 May, following a morning airstrike, the junta conducted a second bombing that night, using cluster bombs designed to trigger secondary explosions, residents reported.

Speaking to The Irrawaddy in an interview, Daw Yati Ohn, a lecturer from the Government Technical High School (Kale) who participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and provided aid after the Oe Htein Twin village bombing, recounted: “When we asked the surviving children... they said that after the plane went quiet, they went to check and found their friend lying face-down on the desk, lifeless. There were also bodies among the classroom desks, so we had to move the desks outside first. They were hit while studying.”<sup>2</sup>



Photo - DEPEYIN P.D.F

<sup>1</sup> Two more students, aged 8 and 11, who were injured in school bombing have died, BVJ, 14 May 2025

<sup>2</sup> “All we can do is shed tears, nothing else.”, Irrawaddy, 14 May 2025



The airstrike on the Oe Htein Twin (North) village school recalls the bombing of the Let Yet Kone village school on 16 September 2022, highlighting the junta's reprehensible targeting of schools.

In response, the Myaing Township Education Board, under the National Unity Government (NUG), announced on 12 May 2025, the temporary closure of all in-person schools in the township to avoid further airstrikes by the military junta.

## Schools in Liberated Areas Become New Targets of Junta Airstrikes

According to data from the NUG and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), as of 12 May 2025, since the military coup, up to 333 schools have been targeted by the military junta, with schools in Sagaing Region facing the highest number of attacks.<sup>3</sup>

The breakdown by region includes: 84 schools in Sagaing Region, 38 in Magway Region, 28 each in Mandalay Region, Chin State and Arakan State, 25 in Shan State, 21 in Karen State, 20 in Kachin State, 19 in Bago Region, 17 in Karenni (Kayah) State, 10 in Mon State, 6 in Yangon Region, 5 in Ayeyarwady Region, and 4 in Tanintharyi Region. The junta targeted 333 schools across 14 states and regions using various methods.

*Photo - Ah Phyu Yaung D.P.Y's (Facebook Page)*



The NUG's fourth year activity report, released on 16 April 2025, states that between 2022 and 2024, there were up to 15,500 in-person basic education schools across Myanmar. In addition, ethnic regions reportedly have as many as 870 schools.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Over 333 schools targeted by junta attacks, DVB, 14 May 2025

<sup>4</sup> Fourth year activity report, NUG, 16 Apr 2025

The security of ground-based schools under NUG control, as well as those in resistance-controlled or liberated areas, has become a significant concern due to their vulnerability to airstrikes by the military junta.

## Inconsistent Propaganda of the Junta

The military junta's information team claimed that the airstrike on the school in Oe Htein Twin (North) village was merely false reporting by illegal media, asserting that they do not conduct airstrikes on non-military targets. However, pro-junta propagandists claimed that resistance forces were using the school to produce bombs and prepare attacks on junta troops in the town, necessitating the airstrike to “clear” the area.<sup>5</sup>

In the case of the Let Yet Kone village school bombing, the junta previously admitted to conducting the attack, citing intelligence that local People's Defense Force (PDF) and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) members were present.<sup>6</sup>

According to a fact-check by CJ Platform, it was confirmed that the junta conducted an airstrike on Oe Htein Twin village in Depayin Township at around 9:37 a.m. on 12 May 2025. Claims by pro-military channels that the incident at the school was caused by an explosion of PDF-made bombs were found to be false.<sup>7</sup>

## Review

Throughout the more than four-year period since the military coup, reflecting on the junta's actions—ranging from airstrikes to targeted attacks on civilians and the violent suppression of resistance forces—one can ask: Have we ever seen the junta take responsibility or acknowledge its actions?

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<sup>5</sup> Pro-junta supporters say junta responsible for Oe Htein Twin incident, *Ayeyarwaddy Times*, 13 May 2025

<sup>6</sup> The Day of Tragedy in Let Yet Kone Village, *BNI-MPMi Weekly News Reviews*, Issue - 72

<sup>7</sup> Junta bombs Oe Htein Twin village school, spreads false claims of PDF bomb-making explosion, *CJ Platform*, 12 May 2025

From the death of Ma Mya Thwet Thwet Khine, shot in the head with live ammunition during a peaceful protest in Nay Pyi Taw, to incidents such as Pazigy in Kani Township, A Nan Pa in Kachin State, and the Munglai Hkyet IDP Camp, the junta has consistently failed to take responsibility for airstrikes that caused mass civilian casualties.

The junta assumes that all residents in areas controlled or active with resistance groups—from young children to the elderly—are supporters of these groups, a stance openly articulated by junta’s spokesperson Major General Zaw Min Tun.

As evidenced by the above cases, schools, religious buildings, hospitals, clinics, displacement camps, villages, and neighborhoods in areas beyond the junta’s control are potential targets for military airstrikes.

Therefore, calls for a ceasefire by the international community are no longer sufficient to secure the lives and livelihoods of Myanmar’s people; increasing pressure on the junta to halt its airstrikes is now crucial for their survival.

## Highlight News



## Sex workers become more visible in junta-controlled Sittwe

21 April 2025

Residents report that in recent months, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of female sex workers openly visible on the main roads and in popular restaurants in Sittwe, the capital of Arakan State, which remains under the control of the military junta.

Due to security concerns, most of Sittwe's residents, including business owners and the wealthy, have fled to safer areas, leaving behind only manual laborers and the impoverished in the town.

Residents report that due to the prolonged lockdown in the town, locals are facing unemployment, livelihood challenges, and financial hardship, leading to hunger. As a result, some women have turned to sex work as a means of earning an income.



More than 10 local residents from Sittwe reported that female sex workers have been openly seen in various locations around the town, including the Wai Thar Li football ground, the highway bus terminal area, near the Old Age Home, along Strand Road, at the BXT jetty, near the Shwe Pyithar bus station, and at several well-known restaurants in the town.

A local man from Sittwe said, “I didn’t see them before, but now I see many sex workers. At night, I see them here and there. They are women of all ages, some in their 30s and 40s. They even approach people, touching them to offer their services. They call out to people.”



According to local residents, in the past, sex workers were only seen in designated areas, but now they are seen openly in groups.

In addition, a private Telegram channel titled ‘Date Girls Only’ from Sittwe has recently emerged.



A Sittwe resident, Ko Maung Maung (pseudonym), said, “I experienced it myself. She said, Just take me wherever you like and pay only 10,000 kyat.”

Previously, the price per session ranged from 25,000 to 100,000 kyats, but now it is only 10,000 to 15,000 kyats per session.

The primary clients of sex workers are said to be police and soldiers, including junta troops who patrol at night.

A man from Sittwe continued, saying, “In well-known restaurants in Sittwe, it's quite open. The main clients are police officers, soldiers, and even captains. In some cases, these women are taken to abandoned homes.

Currently, in Sittwe, the prices of one liter of fuel are 17,000 kyats, one bag of Paw San Hmwe rice is 250,000 kyats, and one liter of cooking oil is 12,000 kyats.

A woman from Sittwe said that due to the severe impact of hunger caused by rising commodity prices and unemployment, some women in certain wards of Sittwe have turned to sex work as a means of survival.

“A woman from [---] ward has to go outside after beautifying herself. She has two children. She has to do this work because she couldn't bear her children's hunger. When I found out she was doing this, it felt like I was stabbed in the chest. It's so heartbreaking that I don't even dare to blame her,” said a woman from [---] ward in Sittwe.

On the other hand, manual laborers and impoverished locals in the suburbs of Sittwe are facing severe hunger.

Fighting has been ongoing in Arakan State for over a year, and currently, only three towns remain to be captured by the AA: Sittwe, Manaung, and Kyaukphyu.



**we've heard that there's a shortage of HIV and TB medications in Sittwe, which makes the situation quite worrying for these sex workers**



A woman from a local civil society organization, who wished to remain anonymous, said that due to frequent clashes between the military council and the AA in Sittwe, the situation has become unstable in terms of the economy, livelihood, and healthcare, forcing people to struggle and resort to various means to survive.

The emergence of sex workers in such a visible way could have both positive and negative impacts. On one hand, it might help reduce sexual violence against children, as sex workers may serve as outlets for relieving sexual urges. On the other hand, due to the possibility of unprotected sexual activity with sex workers, the risk of HIV transmission could increase through such encounters.

"On the other hand, we've heard that there's a shortage of HIV and TB medications in Sittwe, which makes the situation quite worrying for these sex workers," said a woman from an Arakanese civil society organization, who wished to remain anonymous.

The woman continued, saying, "In situations like this, where people struggle to meet basic needs, there is a growing risk that even underage children could become involved as sex slaves, and health concerns among sex workers could also become increasingly serious, she continued.

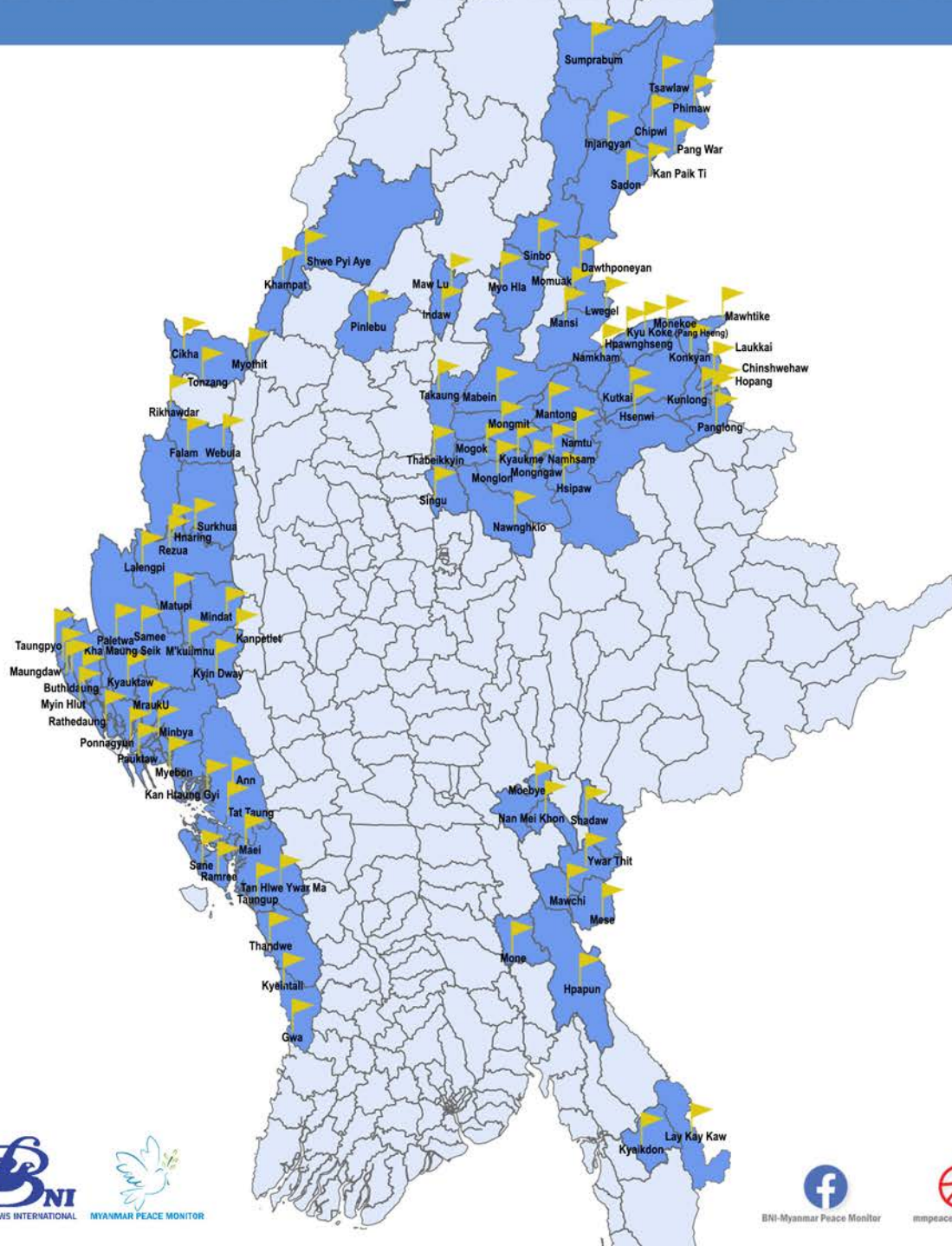
Analysts say that if the current situation continues, manual laborers and the impoverished in Sittwe will be worse off, and sex workers will also face increasingly difficult conditions.

Currently, there are frequent clashes between the military council and the AA in Sittwe Township, with airstrikes and artillery fire.

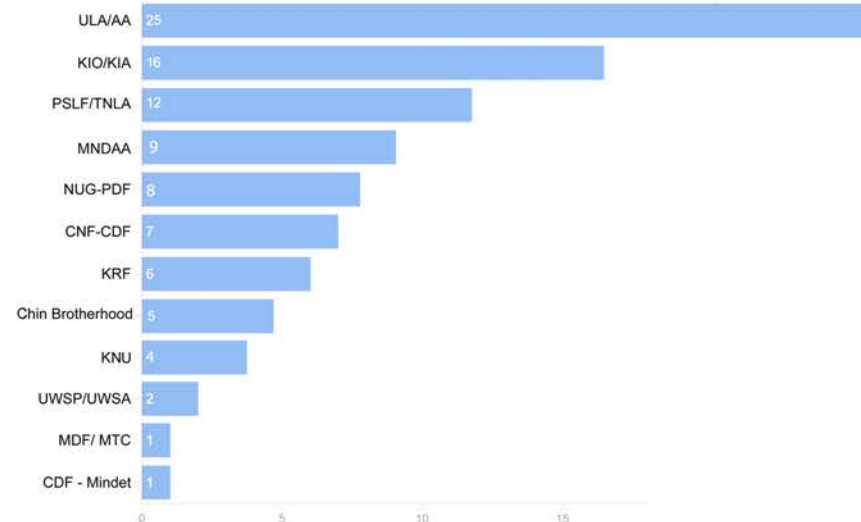
**BNI-MPM**



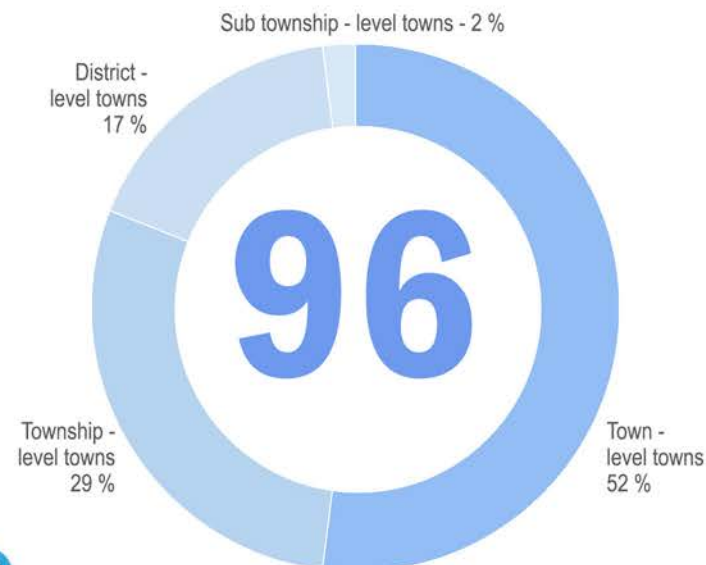
# 96 Towns Captured and Controlled By Resistance Forces



Number of towns captured and controlled by resistance forces

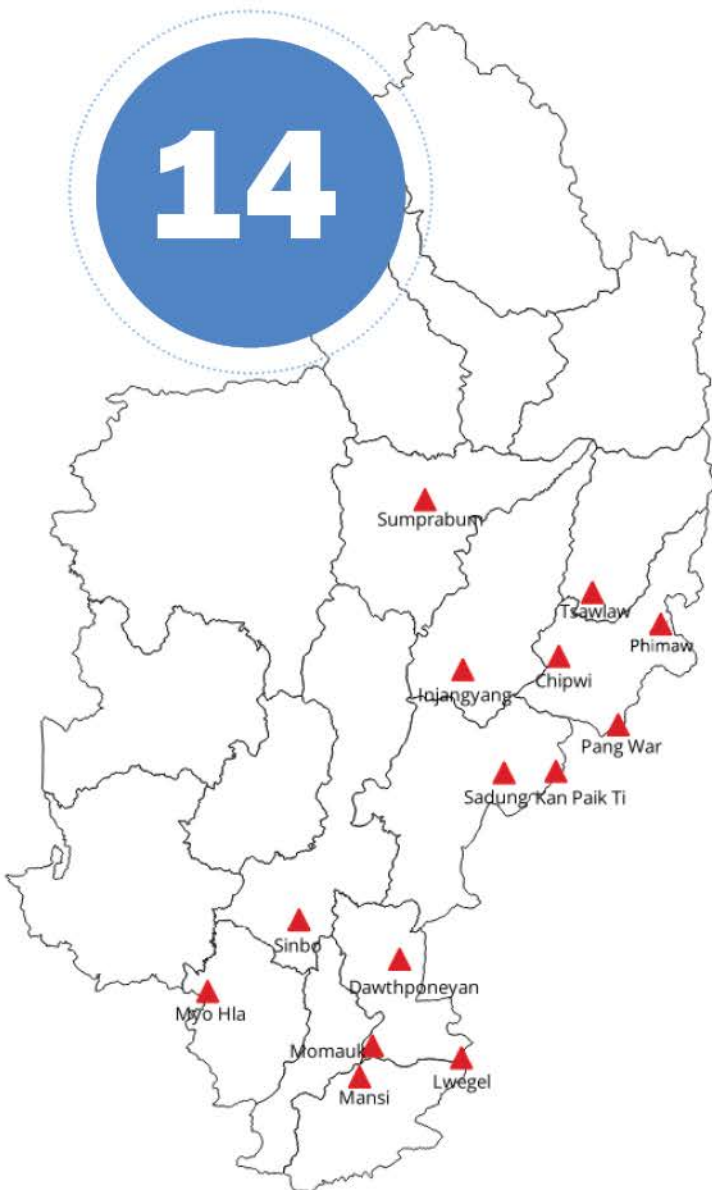


Administrative levels of the towns captured and controlled by resistance forces.



# Captures of Towns in Kachin State

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## **Sinbo** (10 - Feb - 2024)

On 10 February, the KIA seized control of Sinbo town in Myitkyina Township.

## **Myo Hla** (22 - Feb - 2024)

On 22 February 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces captured the town after junta soldiers withdrew from the strategic hill camp in Myo Hla town in Shwegu Township.

## **Dawthponeyan** (8 - Mar - 2023)

On 8 March 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces captured Dawth-poneyan town in Waingmaw Township after the surrender of junta soldiers from Infantry Battalion-142 in the town.

## **Lwegel** (29 - Mar - 2024)

On 29 March 2024, Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied resistance forces seized control of Lwegel town in Kachin State.

## **Sumprabum** (5 - May - 2024)

On 5 May 2024, Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces successfully took control of Sumprabum town.

## **Sadon** (11 - June - 2024)

On 11 June 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces attacked and captured the military council's camps in Sadon.

## **Momauk** (19 - Aug - 2024)

On 19 August 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces seized control of Momauk.

## **Chipwi** (29 - Sep - 2024)

On 29 September 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied forces took control of Chipwi town in Kachin State.

## **Tsawlaw** (2 - Oct - 2024)

On 2 October 2024, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) seized control of Tsawlaw town in Kachin State.

## **Pang War** (18 - Oct - 2024)

On 18 October 2024, the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) took control of Pang War town in Kachin State.

## **Phimaw** (2 - Nov - 2024)

On 2 November 2024, Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/ KIA) seized control of Phimaw town in Kachin State.

## **Kan Paik Ti** (20 - Nov - 2024)

On 20 November 2024, the Kachin Independence Organization/ Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) seized control of Kan Paik Ti town in Kachin State.

## **Injangyan** (20 - Nov - 2023)

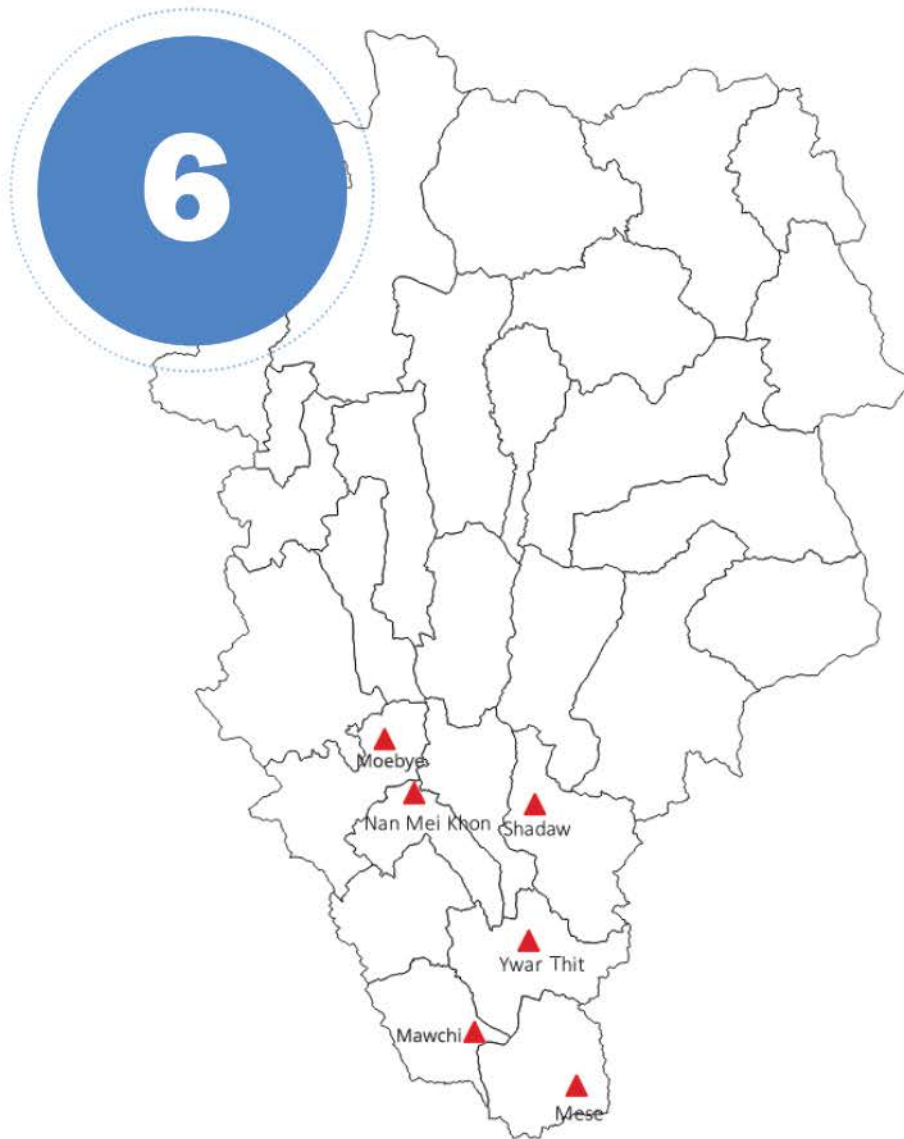
On 20 November, junta soldiers and police members from two military junta camps and a police station in Injangyan Township withdrew from the town.

## **Mansi** (8 - Jan - 2025)

On 8 January 2025, the Kachin Independence Organization/Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) took control of Mansi town in Kachin State.



# Captures of Towns in Karenni and Shan (South)



## **Mese (24 - June - 2023)**

The joint force consisting of the KRF, KNU/ KNLA and PDFs launched attacks on all military junta camps in Mese Township on 13 June and seized control of the town on 24 June.

## **Moebye (13 - Nov - 2023)**

The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) launched attacks on Moebye in Pekon Township, southern Shan State, on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.

## **Nan Mei Khon (13 - Nov - 2023)**

The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) launched attacks on Nan Mei Khon in Demoso Township on 11 November and seized control of the town on 13 November.

## **Ywar Thit (28 - Jan - 2024)**

The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) announced on 28 January that it had seized control of Ywar Thit town in Bawlake Township.

## **Mawchi (28 - Jan - 2024)**

On 28 January, the KRF announced that it had seized control of Mawchi town without having to fight after the military junta abandoned its camps in the town on 26 January 2024.

## **Shadaw (12 - Feb - 2024)**

The Karenni Resistance Forces (KRF) seized control of Shadaw town in Karenni (Kayah) State on 12 February 2024.

# Captures of Towns in Karen and Bago (East)



## **Mone** (4 - Dec - 2023)

The KNLA and allied resistance forces launched attacks on military junta camps in Mone town in Kyaukkyi Township on 2 December and seized control of the town on 4 December.

## **Kyaikdon** (14 - Mar - 2024)

Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and joint resistance forces launched attacks on military junta camps in Kyaikdon town, Kawka-reik Township on 13-14 March 2024 and seized control of the town on 14 March.

## **Hpapun** (28 - Mar - 2024)

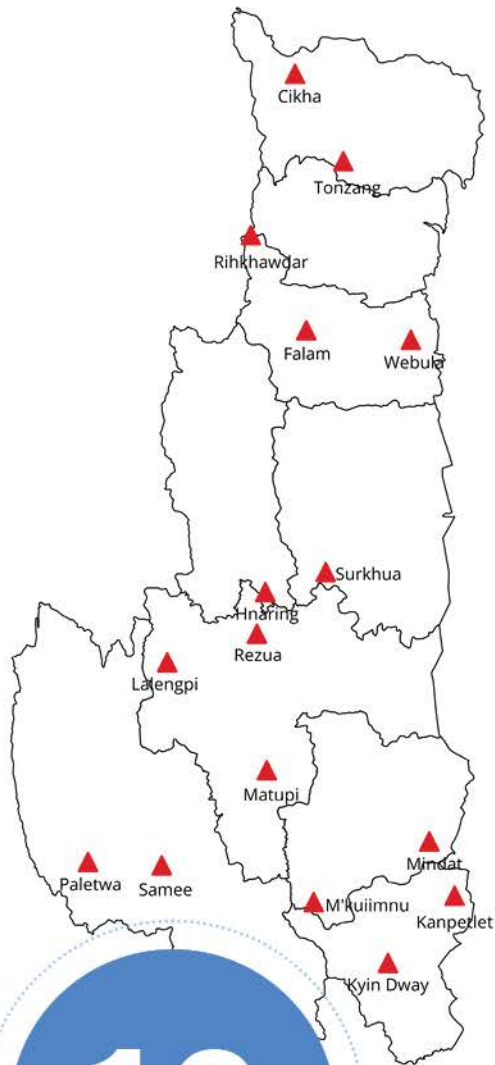
On 28 March 2024, Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allied resistance forces seized control of Hpapun town in Karen State.

## **Lay Kay Kaw** (17 - Oct - 2024)

On 17 October 2024, Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) took control of Lay Kay Kaw in Karen State.



# Captures of Towns in Chin State



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## M'kuiimnu (24 - July - 2021)

The CDF-Mindat successfully seized control of M'kuiimnu in Mindat Township on 24 July 2021.

## Rikshawdar (13 - Nov - 2023)

On 13 November, the joint force of CNF/CNA, CDF-Zanniatram, PDA – Tedim, CDF – Thantlang and CDF – Hualngoram attacked and captured two military outposts based in Rikshawdar on Trade Route 2 on the India-Myanmar border and seized complete control of the town.

## Rezua (29 - Nov - 2023)

The CNF/CNA, CDF- Zotung, CDF- Zotung, CDF- Zophei, CDF-Lautu, CDF-Mara, CDF- Senthang and CDF- Matupi launched “Operation ZZLMS” on Rezua town in the Zotung area of Chin State on 26 November and seized control of the town on 29 November.

## Webula (30 - Nov - 2023)

The CNF/CNA and CNDF seized control of Webula town in Falam Township on 30 November 2023 after the military junta troops withdrew from the area.

## Surkhua (30 - Nov - 2023)

The CNF/CNA and the locally-based CDF-Hakha seized control of the town of Surkhua in Hakha Township on 30 November 2023 after the military council troops withdrew from the area.

## Hnaring (30 - Nov - 2023)

The CNF/CNA and the locally based CDF-Thantlang seized control of the town of Hnaring town in Thantlang Township on 30 November 2023 after the military council troops withdrew from the area.

## Paletwa (14 - Jan - 2024)

The ULA/AA launched attacks on Paletwa town on 13 November and seized control of the town on 14 January.

## Samee (16 - Jan - 2024)

On 16 January, the ULA / AA seized control of Samee town in Paletwa Township.

## Kyin Dway (29 - Apr - 2024)

The Chin Brotherhood Alliance and the ULA / AA jointly seized control of Kyin Dway town in Kanpetlet Township on 29 April 2024.

## Cikha (19 - May - 2024)

The CNF/CNA and allied Chin defense forces seized control of Cikha town in Tonang Township on 19 May 2024.

## Tonzang (21 - May - 2024)

The CNF/CNA, CDF- Tonang, CDF- Thantlang, PDA -Tedim, CDF CDM-Siyin, CDF- Hualngoram, YDF (Yaw), CDF-Asho, CDF-KKG, CDF- Hakha, CDF-Zanniatram, CDF-Matupi and CDF-Paletwa seized control of Tonang town in Tonang Township on 21 May 2024.

## Matupi (29 - June - 2024)

On 29 June 2024, a combined force of Chin Brotherhood, United League of Arakan / Arakha Army (ULA/AA), Yaw Army (YA) and Yaw Defense Force (YDF) successfully took control of Matupi.

## Lalengpi (11 - July - 2024)

The CNF/CNA, CDF-Mara, CDF-Matupi, CDF-Lautu and CDF-Zophei launched a joint attack on military junta camps in Lalengpi town in Matupi Township on 20 November and seized control of the town on 24 November.

On 11 July 2024, Maraland Defense Force/Maraland Territorial Council (MDF/ MTC) retook Lailenpi with the help of the ULA/AA.

## Mindat (21 - Dec - 2024)

On 21 December 2024, the Chin Brotherhood (CB) seized control of Mindat town in Chin State.

## Kanpetlet (22- Dec - 2024)

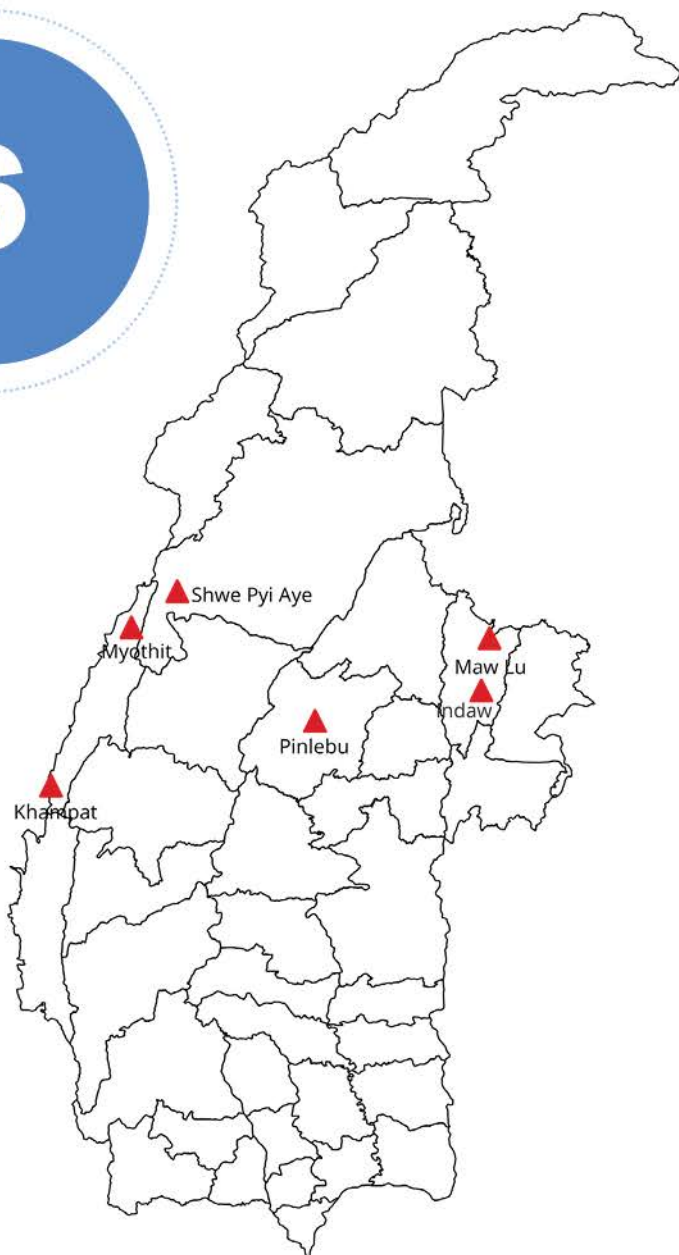
On 22 December 2024, the Chin Brotherhood (CB) seized control of Kanpetlet town in Chin State.

## Falam (9 - April - 2025)

On 9 April 2025, the Chin Brotherhood (CB) seized control of Falam in Chin State.

# Captures of Towns in Sagaing Region

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## **Khampat** (7 - Nov - 2023)

PDFs launched attacks on junta troops and Myoma police station in Khampat in Tamu Township on 4 November and seized complete control of the town on 7 November.

## **Shwe Pyi Aye** (22 - Nov - 2023)

Joint PDF forces launched attacks on Shwe Pyi Aye town in Homalin Township on 21 November. The joint forces seized control of the town and captured eight junta soldiers on 22 November.

## **Maw Lu** (13 - Dec - 2023)

Joint forces of KIA, ABSDF, and PDF-Indaw seized control of Maw Lu town on 13 December.

## **Myothit** (11 - May - 2024)

On 7 May 2024, the joint People's Defense Forces (PDFs) launched an offensive against the military council's camps in Myothit town in Tamu Township. The joint PDFs took control of the town on 11 May.

## **Pinlebu** (8 - Oct - 2024)

On 8 October 2024, the allied People's Defense Forces (PDFs) recaptured Pinlebu town in Sagaing Region for the second time. They had initially taken control of the town in November 2023 but had to withdraw due to air offensives by the junta.

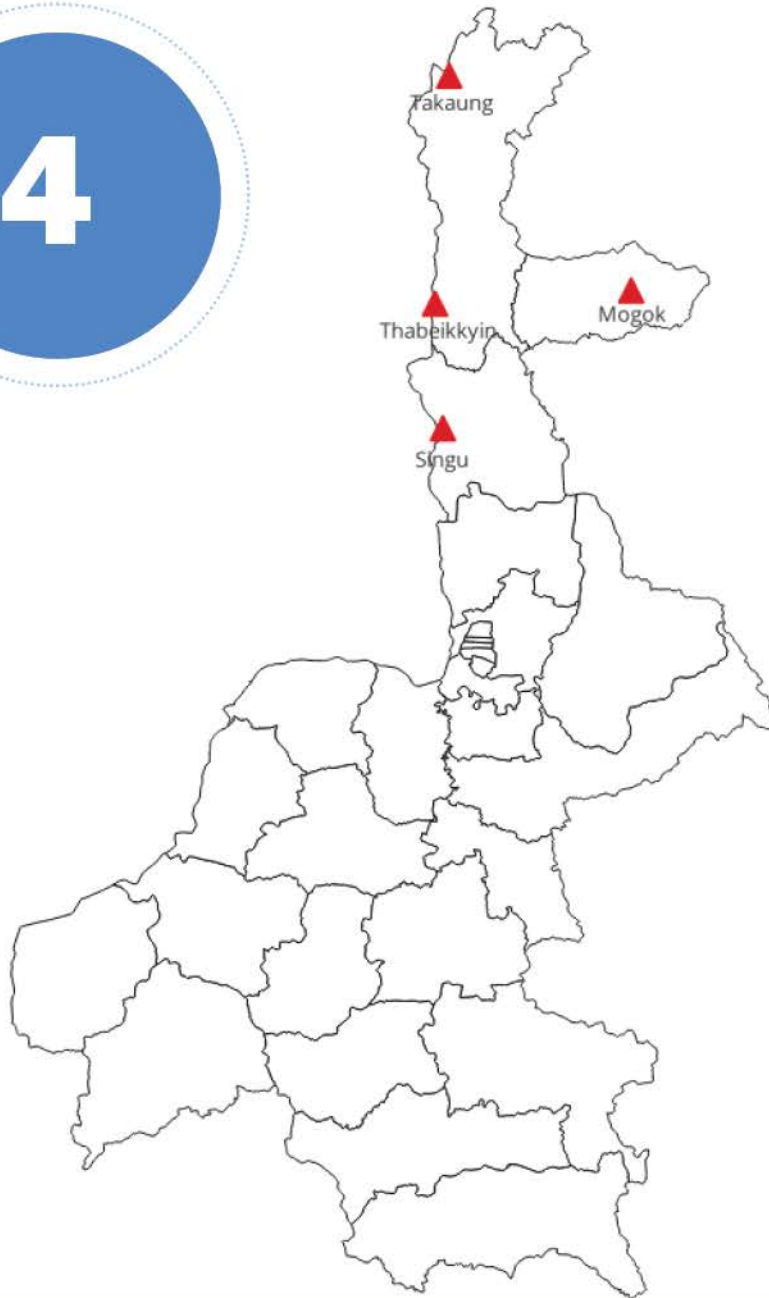
## **Indaw** (7 - April - 2025)

On 7 April 2025, the joint People's Defense Forces seized control of Indaw town in Sagaing Region.



# Captures of Towns in Mandalay Region

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## **Singu** (17 - July - 2024)

On 17 July 2024, People's Defense Force (PDF) captured Singu in Mandalay Region.

## **Mogok** (24 - July - 2024)

On 24 July 2024, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied forces took control of Mogok in Mandalay Region.

## **Takaung** (12 - Aug - 2024)

On 12 August 2024, the joint People's Defense Forces (PDFs) successfully seized control of Takaung town in Thabeikkyin Township.

## **Thabeikkyin** (25 - Aug - 2024)

On 25 August 2024, the joined People's Defense Forces successfully captured Thabeikkyin.

# Captures of Towns in Arakan State

23



## Pauktaw (24 - Jan - 2024)

The ULA / AA launched attacks on Pauktaw town on 19 January 2024 and seized control of the town on 24 January.

## Taungpyo (6 - Feb - 2024)

The ULA / AA launched attacks on both Taungpyo (Let Wae) and Taungpyo (Let Yar) camps of the military junta on 4 February 2024, and seized control of the town on 6 February.

## Minbya (6 - Feb - 2024)

On 6 February, the ULA/AA announced that it had seized control of Minbya town.

## Kyauktaw (7 - Feb - 2024)

On 7 February 2024, the ULA / AA seized control of Kyauktaw town.

## Mrauk-U (8 - Feb - 2024)

On 8 February, the ULA / AA seized control of Mrauk-U town in Arakan State.

## Kan Htaung Gyi (15 - Feb - 2024)

On 15 February 2024, the ULA / AA captured Kan Htaung Gyi in Arakan State.

## Myebon (15 - Feb - 2024)

On 15 February 2024, the ULA / AA seized control of Myebon town in Arakan State.

## Maei (16 - Feb - 2024)

On 16 February 2024, the United League of Arakan/ Arakha Army (ULA/AA) captured Maei in Arakan State after the withdrawal of junta troops from the town.

## Ponnagyun (4 - Mar - 2024)

On 4 March 2024, the ULA / AA seized control of Ponnagyun town in Arakan State.

## Ramree (11 - Mar - 2024)

On 11 March 2024, the ULA / AA seized control of Ramree town in Arakan State.

## Rathedaung (17 - Mar - 2024)

On 17 March 2024, the ULA / AA seized control of Rathedaung town in Arakan State.

## Sane (9 - May - 2024)

Before 9 May 2024, the ULA/AA captured Sane in Arakan State.

## Buthidaung (18 -May - 2024)

The ULA / AA seized complete control of Buthidaung town in Arakan State on 18 May 2024.

## Thandwe (16 - July - 2024)

On 16 July 2024, the United League of Arakan/ Arakha Army (ULA/AA) captured Thandwe in Arakan State.

## Kyeintali (14 - Aug - 2024)

On 14 August 2024, the United League of Arakan / Arakha Army (ULA/AA) took control of Kyeintali in Gwa Township.

## Taungup (24 - Nov - 2024)

On 24 November 2024, United League of Arakan/ Arakha Army (ULA/AA) took control of Taungup town in Arakan State.

## Tan Hlwe Ywar Ma (24 - Nov - 2024)

On 24 November 2024, the ULA/AA took control of Tan Hlwe Ywar Ma town in Arakan State.

## Maungdaw (8 - Dec - 2024)

On 8 December 2024, the United League of Arakan/ Arakha Army (ULA/AA) took complete control of Maungdaw town in Arakan State.

## Kha Maung Seik (8 - Dec - 2024)

On 8 December 2024, the ULA/AA took control of Kha Maung Seik town in Arakan State.

## Myin Hlut (8 - Dec - 2024)

On 8 December 2024, the ULA/AA took control of Myin Hlut town in Arakan State.

## Ann (20 - Dec - 2024)

On 20 December 2024, the United League of Arakan/Arakha Army (ULA/AA) seized control of Ann town in Arakan State.

## Tat Taung (20 - Dec - 2024)

On 20 December 2024, the ULA/AA took control of Tat Taung town in Arakan State.

## Gwa (29 - Dec - 2024)

On 29 December 2024, the ULA/AA took control of Gwa town in Arakan State.



# Captures of Towns in Shan State (North)

## Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyu Koke (Pang Hseng), Hsenwi (2 - Nov - 2023)

The Three Brotherhood Alliance—MNDA, TNLA and ULA / AA — launched Operation 1027 on 27 October, and seized complete control of Chinshwehaw, Hpawnghseng, Kyu Koke (Pang Hseng) and Hsenwi towns on 2 November.

## Monekoe (7 - Nov - 2023)

The MNDA and ULA / AA attacked the Monekoe strategic hilltop outpost on 5 November and seized complete control of the town in Muse Township on 7 November.

## Kunlong (12 - Nov - 2023)

The MNDA launched the military operation to capture Kunlong in northern Shan State on 1 November, attacking military junta camps and its administrative offices. The ethnic army seized control of the town on 12 November.

## Mawhtike (15 - Nov - 2023)

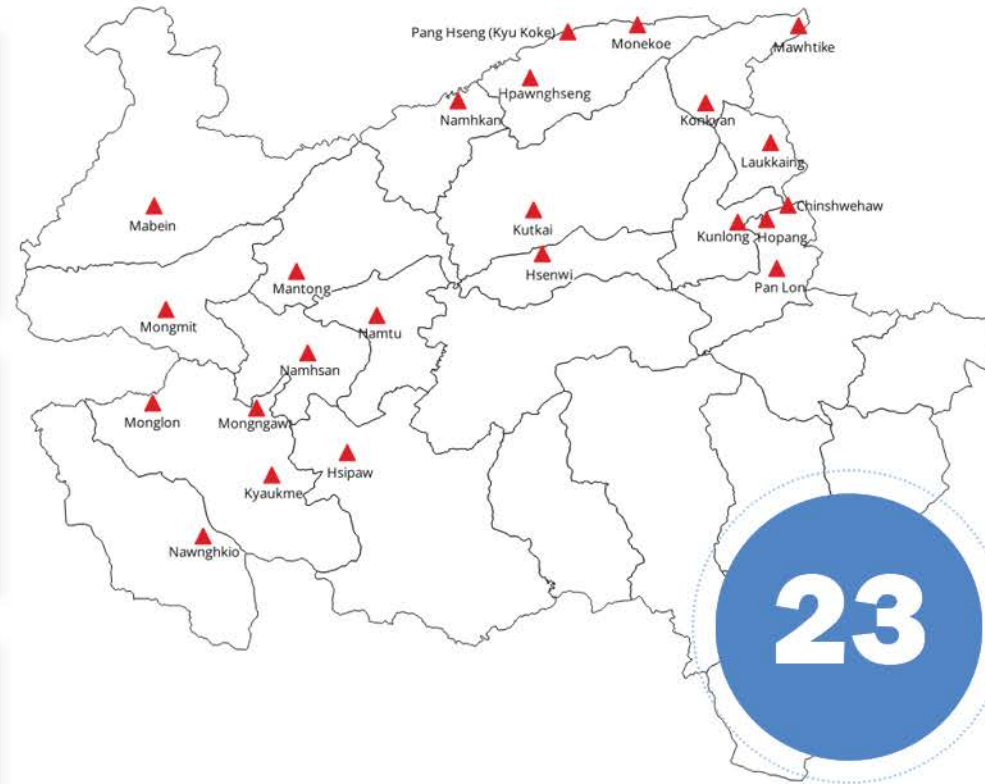
On 15 November 2023, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) captured Mawhtike in Kone Kyan Township in northern Shan State.

## Konkyan (28 - Nov - 2023)

On 28 November, the MNDA seized control of Konkyan town on Myanmar-China border in northern Shan State after the entire Infantry Battalion 125 based in the town surrendered by raising a white flag.

## Monglon (5 - Dec - 2023)

On 5 December, joint TNLA forces seized control of Monglon town in Kyaukme Township.



## Namhsan (15 - Dec - 2023)

On 15 December, joint TNLA forces seized control of Namhsan town.

## Namkham (18 - Dec - 2023)

The TNLA and allied forces launched attacks on Namkham town on 27 October and seized control of the town on 18 December.

## Mantong (22 - Dec - 2023)

On 22 December, the TNLA and allied forces seized control of Mantong town.

## Namtu (28 - Dec - 2023)

The TNLA launched attacks on Namtu town on 25 December and seized control of the town on 28 December.

## Mongngaw (31 - Dec - 2023)

The TNLA launched attacks on Mongngaw town in Kyaukme Township on 29 December and seized control of the town on 31 December.

## Laukkai (4 - Jan - 2024)

On 4 January, the MNDA seized control of Laukkai town.

## Kutkai (7 - Jan - 2024)

On 7 January, the Three Brotherhood Alliance (MNDA, TNLA and ULA /AA) seized control of Kutkai town.

## Hopang, Panglong (10 - Jan - 2024)

The Three Brotherhood Alliance (MNDA, TNLA and ULA/AA) handed over Hopang and Panglong, the towns they seized on 5 January, to the UWSA on 10 January.

## Mabein (21 - Jan - 2024)

The KIA and allied PDFs launched attacks on Mabein town on 20 January 2024 and seized control of the town on 21 January.

## Nawngkhio (26 - June - 2024)

On 26 June 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) successfully took control of Nawngkhio.

## Mongmit (16 - July - 2024)

On 16 July 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied force captured Mongmit in northern Shan State.

## Kyaukme (6 - Aug - 2024)

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and allied forces seized control of Kyaukme town on 6 August 2024.

## Hsipaw (12 - Aug - 2024)

On 12 August 2024, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) seized control of Hsipaw town in northern Shan State.

# Note

## Kawlin

On 3 February 2022, the military junta re-entered Kawlin town with a large number of troops in several columns, which had been taken by the People's Defense Force (PDF) and other resistance forces on 6 November 2023.

## Myawaddy

The military junta, with the help of the Karen Border Guard Force (BGF), recaptured the garrison of Infantry Battalion 275, which had been captured by the Karen National Union (KNU) and People's Defense Forces (PDFs) on 11 April 2024, and raised the Myanmar national flag again on 24 April 2024.



## Hsihseng

On 30 March 2024, the military junta announced through its media that it had regained control of Hsihseng town in southern Shan State and started reconstruction work, which had been captured by the joint forces of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs).

## Kani

In the first week of March 2024, the revolutionary forces controlled most areas of Kani town. However, they were forced to retreat on 12 March due to reinforcements and an airstrike offensive by the junta.

## Lashio

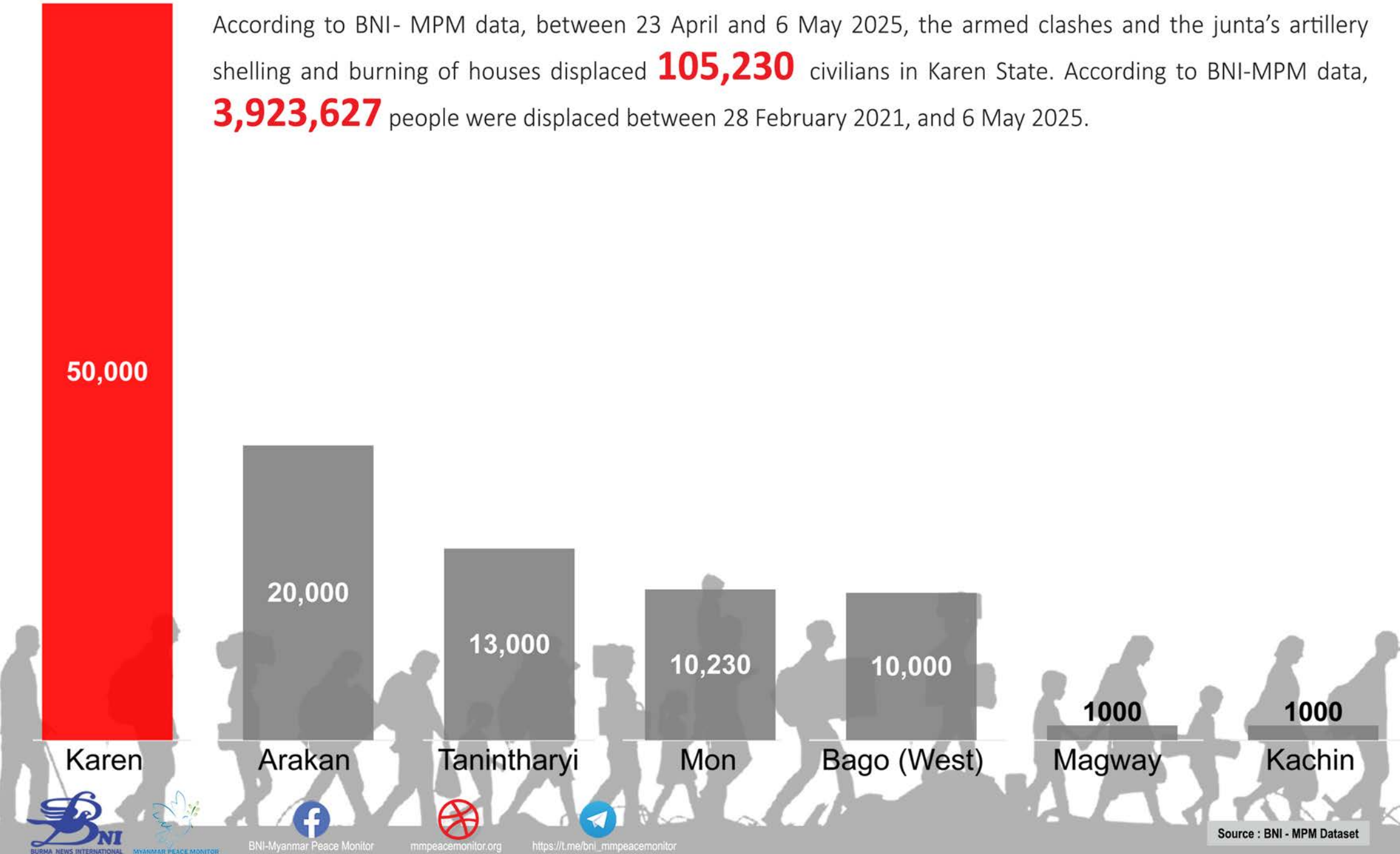
Lashio has been removed from the list of towns held by resistance forces following the re-entry of military council troops as the town, initially seized by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) on 25 July 2024, changed hands after intervention by the Chinese government.



# Number of People Displaced In Two Weeks ( 23 April - 6 May 2025)

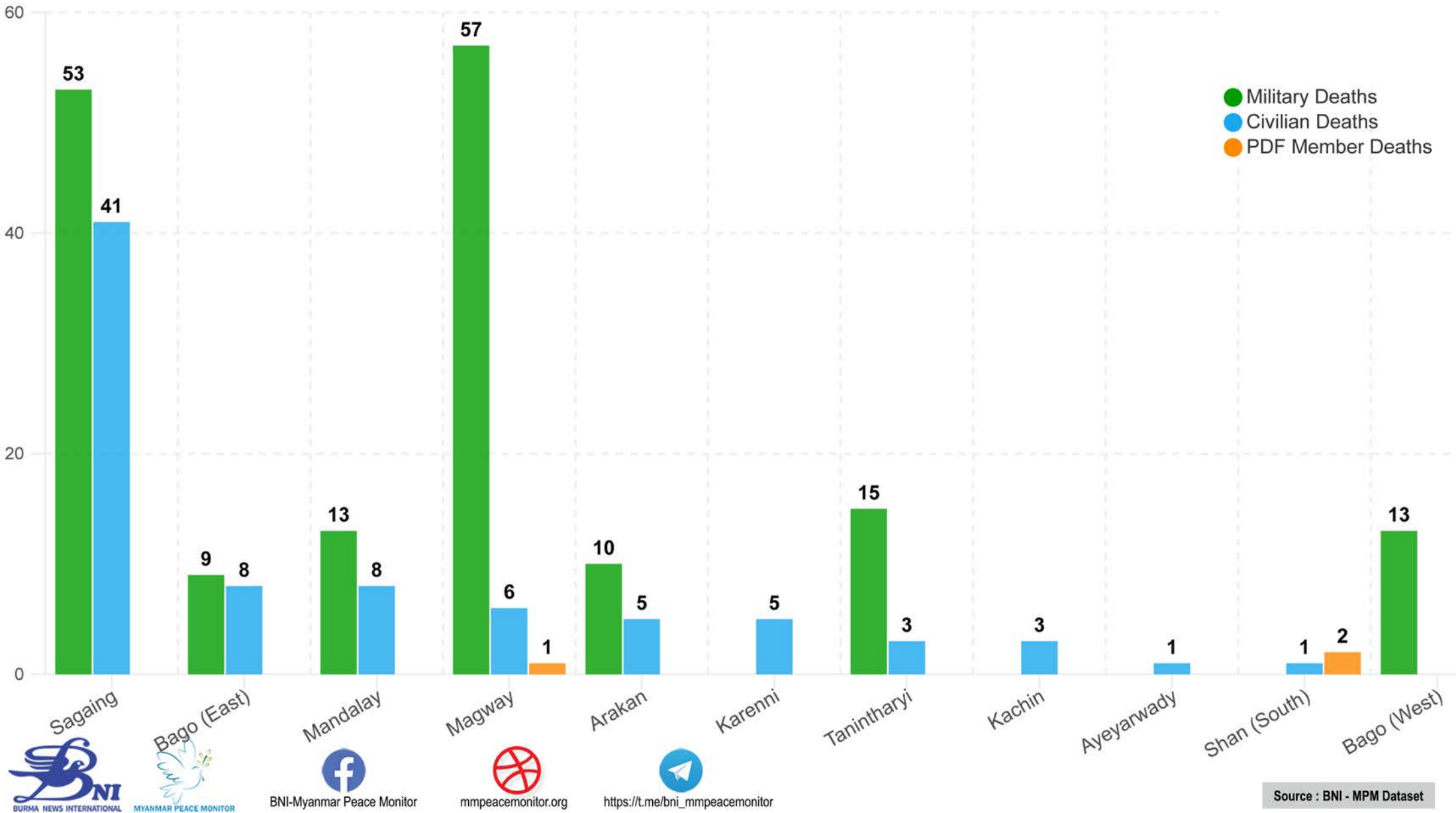
# 105230

According to BNI- MPM data, between 23 April and 6 May 2025, the armed clashes and the junta's artillery shelling and burning of houses displaced **105,230** civilians in Karen State. According to BNI-MPM data, **3,923,627** people were displaced between 28 February 2021, and 6 May 2025.



# No. of junta soldiers, PDF members and civilians killed in two weeks ( 23 Apr - 6 May 2025 )

According to BNI - MPM data, between 23 April and 6 May 2025, **170** junta soldiers and **3** PDF members were killed. In addition, a total of **81** civilians were reportedly killed in Sagaing Region, Bago Region (East), Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Arakan State, Karenni (Kayah) State, Tanintharyi Region, Kachin State, Ayeyarwady Region and Shan State (South).





# Airstrike events in two weeks

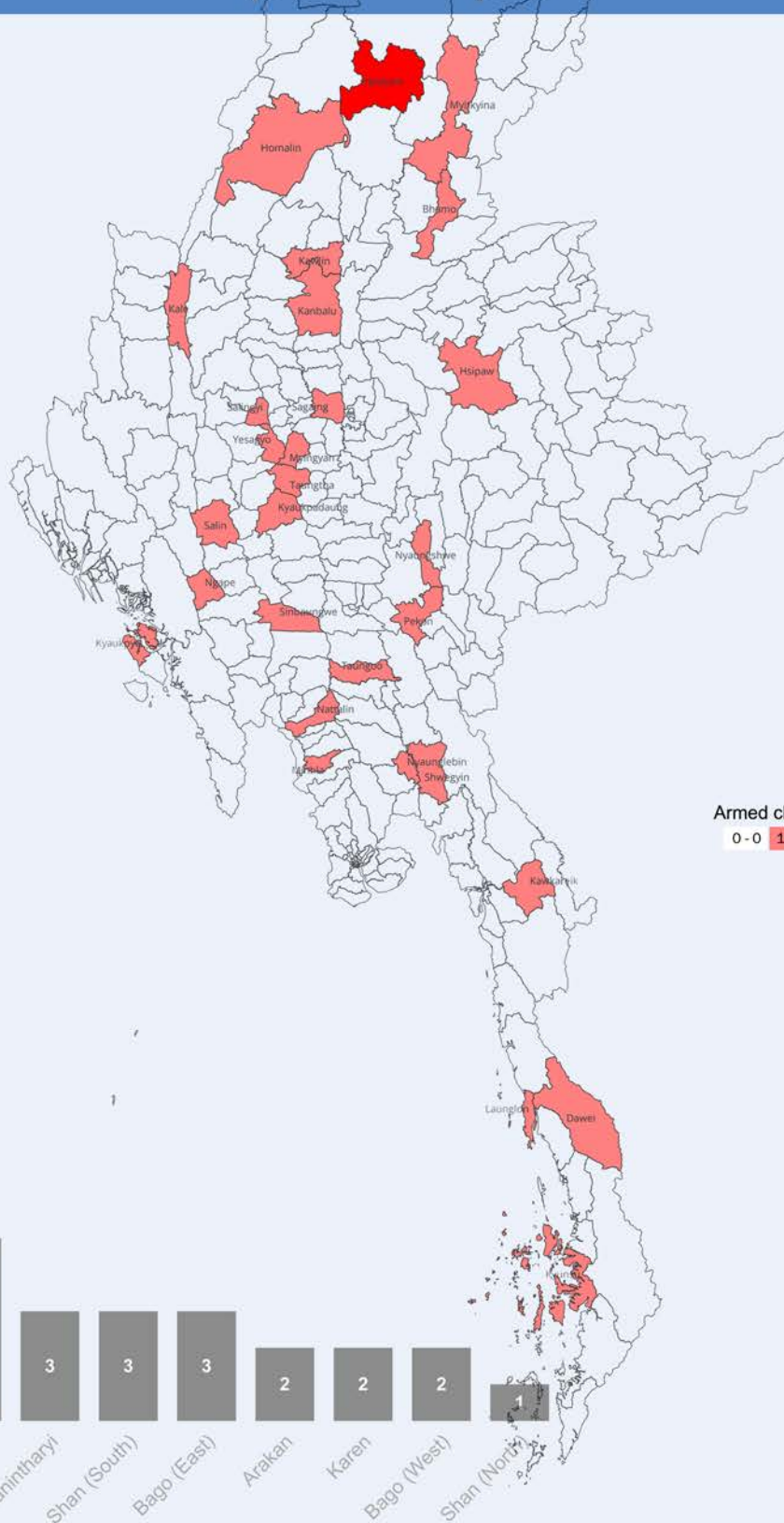
23 April - 6 May 2025

According to BNI-MPM data, **55** junta airstrike were recorded between 23 April and 6 May 2025. Mandalay Region saw the highest number of airstrikes in regions and states with **12** events. According to BNI - MPM data, since 11 March 2021 till 6 May 2025, the junta has conducted **2,152** airstrikes.



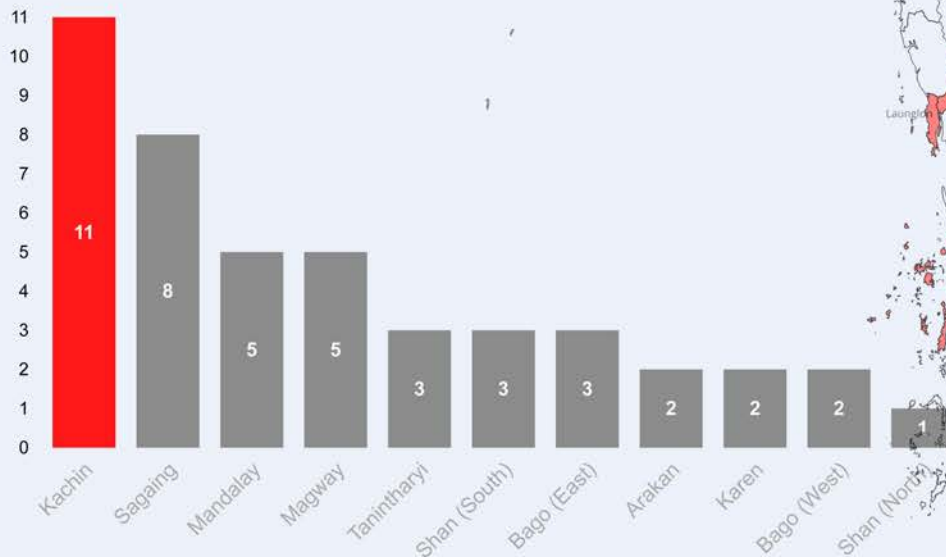
# Armed clash events in two weeks

23 April - 6 May 2025



## Kachin

State with most armed clash events



According to Burma News International (BNI) - Myanmar Peace Monitor (MPM) data, between 23 April and 6 May 2025, a total of **45** armed clash events were recorded between junta troops and People's Defense Forces/Local Defense Forces (PDFs/LDFs) and Ethnic Resistance Organizations (EROs). Kachin State topped the list of armed clashes in regions and states with **11** events. BNI - MPM recorded **6,191** armed clash events between 1 February 2021, and 6 May 2025. As BNI-MPM records armed clash events as one event per day by township, the actual number of clashes may be higher.





Recent powerful earthquakes, ongoing military violence, and political instability have continued to draw international attention to Myanmar. The United Nations, ASEAN, the United States, and regional neighbors such as Bangladesh, among others, have expressed concerns about humanitarian needs and the continued impunity of the Myanmar military junta.

Citing rescue efforts, the junta declared a ceasefire following the powerful earthquake. However, according to a UN statement, it carried out 243 attacks, including 171 airstrikes, resulting in the deaths of over 200 civilians. Regarding this situation, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, commented that, despite crises unfolding worldwide, the suffering of the Myanmar people, who are caught in the midst of violence, cannot be forgotten. <sup>1</sup>

In response to the humanitarian crisis, Marcoluigi Corsi, Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. for Myanmar, called for urgent and extensive international support to meet the emergency needs of earthquake-affected people in Myanmar. He further urged swift action to provide funding and assistance, warning that delays could lead to further loss of life and urging immediate aid in rebuilding earthquake-affected areas. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Over 200 killed in 243 Myanmar military attacks since earthquake, says UN, DVB, 5 May 2025

<sup>2</sup> UN official calls for swift action as earthquake deepens Myanmar's humanitarian crisis, OCHA, 1 May 2025

On the educational front, Amnesty International has called on the United States and other international governments to fund education programs in Myanmar. The funding cuts for these programs amount to over \$70 million, which are critical for students, teachers, and families facing military conflict in Myanmar. The statement emphasized that failure to act urgently could lead to the risk of a “lost generation”.<sup>3</sup>

On the diplomatic stage, the Bangladeshi government initially agreed in principle to a UN proposal to establish a humanitarian corridor through its territory to Arakan State.<sup>4</sup> However, it later clarified that unresolved issues remain, and a final agreement to build the Arakan corridor has not yet been reached.<sup>5</sup>

On the diplomatic stage, regarding the attendance of Myanmar military junta leader Min Aung Hlaing at the 6th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit, the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) sent a letter on 15 April to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to Bangladesh’s interim government. The letter expressed shock that Bangladesh did not formally object to or oppose the attendance of the Myanmar military junta leader, who is subject to an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for human rights violations, at the BIMSTEC summit.<sup>6</sup>

In parallel developments, on 28 April, the Burma Research Institute (BRI) organized a briefing on the situation in Myanmar at the US Congress, attended by US congressional members and Christian religious leaders, held at Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. During the briefing, US congressional members urged the Trump administration to promptly implement the Burma Act, enacted by the US government, to provide assistance to the Myanmar people.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Myanmar: Life-saving education funding must be restored following USAID cuts ?Amnesty Int’l, 8 May 2025

<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh agrees to UN humanitarian corridor proposal to Myanmar’s Arakan State, Narinjara, 27 Apr 2025

<sup>5</sup> Bangladesh says no agreement yet on providing humanitarian aid to Rakhine, DVB, 5 May 2025

<sup>6</sup> SAC-M questions Bangladesh’s failure to oppose Myanmar junta leader’s attendance at BIMSTEC meeting, DVB, 3 May 2025

<sup>7</sup> US lawmakers push for swift activation of Burma Act, DVB, 29 Apr 2025





**... the military junta, which has been weaponizing post-earthquake humanitarian aid, could also use nuclear technology to kill Myanmar citizens...**



Meanwhile, the military junta, which has been weaponizing post-earthquake humanitarian aid, could also use nuclear technology to kill Myanmar citizens, warned U Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the UN. He made this statement during the 3rd Preparatory Committee for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty Review Conference 2026, held at the UN headquarters in New York from 28 April to 9 May.<sup>8</sup>

On the issue of transnational crime, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced on 5 May that it had imposed sanctions on Col. Saw Chit Thu, leader of the Border Guard Force/ Karen National Army (BGF/KNA), and his sons, Saw Htoo El Mu and Saw Chit Chit, for cybercrimes (online scams). The US stated that the KNA-controlled region, located on the Thai-Burmese border, is home to multiple cyber scam syndicates, and the KNA has benefitted from its connection to Myanmar's military in its criminal operations.<sup>9</sup>

In summary, while the United Nations and Amnesty International highlight Myanmar's humanitarian and educational needs, effective support has yet to be realized. The sanctions on the KNA linked to the military junta indicate that the US is focusing on transnational crimes. However, broader actions to hold the Myanmar military accountable for widespread crimes and human rights violations remain absent. Furthermore, as Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the UN U Kyaw Moe Tun has warned, the junta's overt attempts to weaponize international aid and build nuclear facilities pose a significant challenge to the principles of impartial humanitarianism.

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<sup>8</sup> Myanmar military could use nuclear technology as weapon of killing, says ambassador, DVB, 1 May 2025

<sup>9</sup> US imposes sanctions on BGF leader Saw Chit Thu and his two sons for cybercrime, KIC, 6 May 2025

**Note:**

The facts and figures and references in Bi-Weekly News Reviews are taken from the Burma News International (BNI)-Myanmar Peace Monitor's (MPM) dataset. Peace and conflict-related news covered daily by 15 member media organizations of the BNI and other local and foreign media organizations are recorded in the BNI-MPM's Dataset daily.

