

BURMA COUP WATCH FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025: Earthquake aftermath: Junta unleashes more airstrikes

- As of 12 May, there were at least 54,328 armed clashes and attacks against civilians since 1 Feb 2021, with at least 3,279,200 displaced people. Junta troops continued their violent crimes.
- ASEAN Chair/Malaysia PM accepts junta quake “ceasefire” at face value. Meanwhile, 378 junta airstrikes kill 211 civilians during sham ceasefires.
- Junta gains over USD 55M in corporate quake donations, rehires cronies to rebuild Naypyidaw.
- Junta prioritizes ministry buildings over staff, moves some departments to Yangon.
- Junta orders students to retake matriculation exam after results destroyed in earthquake.
- Famine, unemployment worsen in Sittwe, leads Rohingya family to attempt suicide.
- Junta agrees to “repatriate” 180,000 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh in talks with junta, AA, for UN-led aid corridor into Arakan State.
- AA illegally evicts Rohingya in N. Arakan, replacing them with other ethnic groups.
- China coerces MNDAA to hand over Lashio back to junta.
- Coup leader attends BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok at Thailand's invite.
- Trump aid cuts pose hurdle for TB patients, rising transmission looms.
- Resistance destroys junta power plant, crippling weapons factories.

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Our Conflict section has been streamlined: it now has statistics to summarize conflict trends and focuses on significant events. Conflict has not gone down, but our resources have. We are still committed to provide a comprehensive overview on Burma so keep reading!

Impacts of illegal forced conscription law

Junta shoots dead three escaped conscripts

On 7 Apr, in Yegyi Township (Ayeyarwady Region), junta Artillery Battalion (AB) **344 soldiers executed three of four forced conscripts** who had fled their patrol. The escapees asked directions from a local, who alerted the regime before leading the young men to a monastery. A local witness said the junta soldiers shot the three men one by one, in the chest and head. It was reported that two of the victims bore badges from LID 22, based in Hpa-An (Karen State). The fourth conscript managed to escape from the monastery.¹

12th conscript batch begins training

On 21 Apr, the junta began training its **12th conscript batch across Burma**. Residents in S. Shan State, and Mandalay and Yangon Regions reported that conscription efforts had slowed, likely due to the earthquake and the Buddhist New Year festival.²

Illegal junta's quest for control

Quake: Junta prioritizes ministry buildings, neglects staff

On 15 Apr, it was reported that in Naypyidaw, the Sagaing earthquake had **damaged multiple ministry buildings** including **ministry of defense, home affairs, foreign affairs, information, industry, energy, and labor**. Junta staff reports and announcements stated that the regime would **resume administrative operations in Naypyidaw by the end of April**. However, two weeks after the earthquake struck, damaged ministerial **staff housing remained uncleared**. Staff whose housing was unaffected were told to return to work in makeshift tent offices on 31 Mar. A General Administration Department member stated that their return to the office was mainly to appease higher-ups and to clear debris. The junta's neglect forced staff whose housing had sustained damage to **shelter in nearby tents**. Naypyidaw residents stated that bodies of government staff and their families were still **trapped under the rubble of destroyed staff homes**. A junta education ministry staff member stated that the junta had started repairs on ministry buildings, but had not inspected housing areas or cleared debris from collapsed homes.³

On 16 Apr, citing regime sources, it was reported that the junta would temporarily **relocate certain administrative departments** from its foreign affairs, agriculture, and commerce ministries from Naypyidaw **to Yangon due to earthquake damage**. Other sources stated that the ministries of tourism and immigration and population, and the Central Bank would also relocate to Yangon. A junta defector estimated that half the buildings in the junta's war office HQ had sustained damage, but the regime has not released details. Other ministries that sustained significant but repairable damage would remain in Naypyidaw.⁴ On 30 Apr, it was reported that the junta had ordered reconstruction of buildings in Naypyidaw using the same crony-linked firms that originally constructed the capital's ministerial buildings. [See BHR for more details]

Aung Suu Kyi's mansion attracts no bidder for 4th time: On 29 Apr, in Kamayut Township (Yangon Region), **the junta failed to auction Aung San Suu Kyi's mansion for a fourth time**. The auction attracted no bidders with a starting price of USD 128 million.⁵

US aid org gives coup boss PR opportunity: On 9 Apr, in Zabuthiri Township (Naypyidaw Region), coup leader, Min Aung Hlaing, visited a field hospital set up by a US-based evangelical organization to thank them for their humanitarian assistance following the earthquake. Critics of the regime highlighted that

¹ Myanmar Now (11 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta kills three fleeing conscripts in Ayeyarwady

² Myanmar Pressphoto Agency (24 Apr 2025) Military Junta Launches Batch 12 Conscription Training Amid Earthquake Emergency

³ Myanmar Now (15 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta aims to resume ministry operations in Naypyitaw by end of month; Myanmar Now (16 Apr 2025) Myanmar regime to temporarily move some ministry offices from Naypyitaw to Yangon

⁴ Myanmar Now (16 Apr 2025) Myanmar regime to temporarily move some ministry offices from Naypyitaw to Yangon; Irrawaddy (18 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Ministries Plan Yangon Relocation After Quake

⁵ Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2025) Auction of Suu Kyi's Myanmar mansion fails for fourth time

placing a mobile hospital in the well-resourced capital made little sense and that foreign medical teams would be more effective in Mandalay or Sagaing regions where the earthquake did more damage.⁶

Junta sends second migrant batch to Russia: On 8 Apr, according to junta media, the junta sent a second group of workers to Russia under a pilot labor migration program. The junta claimed that the initiative aimed to create job opportunities abroad; however, it was clear that the **program was implemented for the regime to gain support from Russia**. In March, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing offered Russian investors preferential access to Burma's mining sector, which operates in active conflict zones.⁷

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

Troops move from NUG to ethnic commands

On 2 Apr, in Karenni State, **106 soldiers** of Southern Pekon People's Defense Force (SPDF) Battalion 1004 **left the NUG's** Ministry of Defense (MOD) and joined the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) Tactical Operations Command (TOC) 8, Battalion 23. An officer in SPDF Battalion 1004 stated that the transfer was intended to **enhance Karenni State unity** and to form a Karenni State army for improved military operations. They added that the NUG had permitted the transfer.⁸ Later that month, on 22 Apr, in Mandalay Region, PDF Battalion 2 requested approval from the NUG to **also withdraw from the NUG's MOD**. The Battalion stated it would now fight alongside the Danu People's Liberation Army (DPLA) in S. Shan State.⁹

IEC judiciary charges Monk murderer

On 27 Apr, in Karenni State, the Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC) court announced they had **charged a member of the Bee Column** for the **murder of a monk and an aid worker** in March.¹⁰ The court charged the man with murder under Section 302 of the newly established Karenni State Penal Code. If convicted, he would face a **sentence ranging from short-term imprisonment to death**. The Karenni State Police stated that the accused had acted alone and that the investigation was ongoing.¹¹

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

Regime's false amnesty releases only 100 political prisoners

On 17 Apr, the junta released almost 5,000 prisoners to mark the Buddhist New Year. The regime also stated it would pardon and deport 13 foreign nationals but did not provide further details. However, the Myanmar Political Prisoners Network-Myanmar (PPNM) reported that **the regime only released around 100 political prisoners and excluded prominent political figures**. A Yangon-based lawyer noted that those freed were already due for release in a few months. The junta also announced it would reduce by one-sixth the sentences of some prisoners but would exclude those the junta charged under terrorism, unlawful assembly, and firearms laws commonly laid down on junta opponents.¹²

The junta released Hanthar Nyein, co-founder of Kamayut Media, as part of a Buddhist New Year amnesty. In Mar 2021, the junta arrested Hanthar Nyein and Kamayut Media's chief editor, Nathan Maung. In Jun 2021, the junta released Nathan Maung, a US citizen, and allowed him to leave Burma.¹³

Guards shoot dead two political prisoners

On 13 Apr, in Magway Prison (Magway Region), prison guards **shot dead two political prisoners and injured five inmates** during a riot inside the prison. Outside the prison, a clash had broken out between junta police and resistance forces who were attempting to breach the prison and rescue political prisoners. Prisoners inside the prison reportedly attempted to escape which led to the riot and deaths. Political Prisoners Network Myanmar (PPNM) reported that **prison authorities later interrogated prisoners about the violence on that day**.¹⁴

⁶ Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2025) Junta chief expresses thanks to US government, praises aid group led by controversial Trump ally

⁷ Myanmar Now (10 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta sends more workers to Russia amid growing domestic instability

⁸ Kantarawaddy Times via MPM (8 Apr 2025) 106 NUG-MOD soldiers defect to KNDF's TOC-8

⁹ DVB (29 Apr 2025) A People's Defence Force splits with National Unity Government; UN aid corridor into Rakhine State proposed

¹⁰ See our Mar 2025 Briefer bit.ly/CWBMar25

¹¹ SHAN (23 Apr 2025) ဖယ်ခုံမြို့နယ်နှင့် ကပ္ပိယ ကို သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့သည့် ပျားစစ်ကြောင်းက တပ်သားတစ်ဦးကို တရားရုံး; DVB (1 May 2025)

Myanmar workers fired for unionizing, says trade union; Ground fissures prevent quake recovery in Mandalay

¹² Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2025) Myanmar journalist freed after serving full sentence in Yangon; RFA (17 Apr 2025) Battle outside Magway prison leads to shooting death of two political prisoners

¹³ Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta says to free nearly 5,000 prisoners in amnesty

¹⁴ Myanmar Now (21 Apr 2025) Battle outside Magway prison leads to shooting death of two political prisoners

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

On 2 Apr, the junta declared a 20-day ceasefire to facilitate rescue efforts following the Sagaing Earthquake on 28 Mar. On 22 Apr, the regime extended the ceasefire to 30 Apr.¹⁵ However the junta immediately broke its own ceasefire and launched attacks on civilians throughout the country.

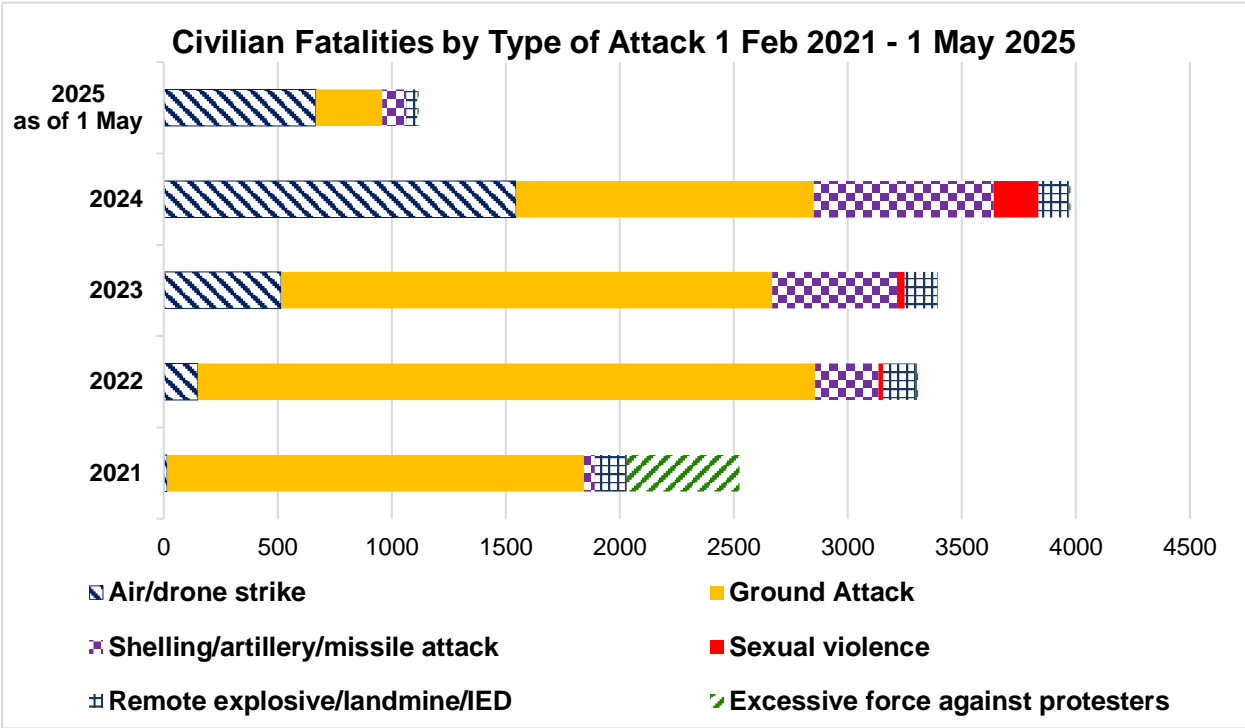
During 28 Mar-30 Apr, the junta launched 378 air/drone strikes that killed at least 211 civilians. Junta air/drone strikes accounted for 70% of civilian fatalities.¹⁶

Key developments

- **During 28 Mar - 1 Apr, (within five days of the earthquake) the junta reportedly carried out 32 airstrikes on 11 locations, killed at least 50 civilians, and injured 49 others.**¹⁷
- On 3 Apr, in Sagaing Region and Kachin State, just hours after declaring a ceasefire for earthquake relief, the junta used Y12 aircraft and a helicopter **to drop at least 105 bombs** on Bhamo town (Kachin State), Indaw town (Sagaing region) and two villages in Homalin Township (Sagaing Region).¹⁸
- During 12-14 Apr, in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, and in Arakan and Chin states, junta airstrikes during Thingyan holidays killed 13 civilians, including four monks, and injured over a dozen others.¹⁹
- On 16 Apr, in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, and Chin state, junta airstrikes on the last day of Thingyan killed seven civilians, including two children, and injured at least 15 others, including at least nine children.²⁰
- During 19-20 Apr, in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Thanintharyi regions, and Mon State, a two-day junta bombing campaign killed over 40 people and injured over 60 others, including children and pregnant women. In Mandalay alone, junta airstrikes killed over 24 civilians, including children.²¹
- During 22-23 Apr, in Sagaing and Bago regions and Karen State, junta airstrikes killed at least five civilians, injured at least 10 others, and destroyed at least a school. In the week prior to the ceasefire extension, junta airstrikes killed at least 20 civilians and injured 40 others in KNU-controlled areas.²²

Junta airstrikes main killer of civilian in 2025

In 2025, according to data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), junta air/drone strikes account for nearly 60% of civilian fatalities.



¹⁵ The Diplomat (3 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Announces Ceasefire to Aid Earthquake Recovery Efforts; CNA (22 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta extends post-earthquake truce

¹⁶ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

¹⁷ Irrawaddy (3 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrikes Breach Quake Ceasefire

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (3 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrikes Breach Quake Ceasefire

¹⁹ Myanmar Now (14 Apr 2025) Four monks among 13 civilians killed by junta airstrikes across Myanmar

²⁰ Myanmar Now (17 Apr 2025) Two children among seven killed by junta airstrikes on last day of Myanmar's Thingyan festival

²¹ Myanmar Now (22 Apr 2025) Junta airstrikes kill over 40 civilians across Myanmar in two days, despite ceasefire

²² Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta continues airstrikes despite extending ceasefire

Sagaing Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Sagaing Region, there were 146 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 98 civilians. The junta launched 79 air/drone strikes on 20 townships.²³

Resistance forces capture Indaw town after 8-month-long offensive: On 7 Apr, in Indaw town, Kachin Independence Army (KIA), All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), and local PDF troops seized the junta's last stronghold there - the Japanese Cave Hill - which marked their **complete capture of Indaw**. A junta defector reported that this **now meant junta forces could only supply their troops in Kachin State by air**.²⁴ The groups began their campaign to capture Indaw in Aug 2024. During the eight-month-long operation, the **junta regularly launched "all-day airstrikes using jet fighters and Y-12 aircraft"**.²⁵

Resistance forces seize several junta bases in Sagaing and Magway, prompting junta retaliation: On 15 Apr, the Chinland Defense Force—Kalay Kabaw Gangaw (CDF-KKG) reported that, since beginning major operations in Feb 2025, it had seized four junta bases between the towns of Kale (Sagaing Region) and Gangaw (Magway Region). During the period of the operation, the **junta launched 19 counter-offensives**. Additionally, junta airstrikes using Y12 and Y8 transport planes and fighter jets targeted both battlefields and villages where no clashes had occurred. **Regime aerial attacks killed at least 15 civilians, injured over 40 others, and displaced around 20,000 residents** of over 12 villages. They also damaged 60 buildings, including hospitals, schools, religious sites, and houses.²⁶

Magway Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Magway Region, there were 111 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 18 civilians. The junta launched 29 air/drone strikes in nine townships.²⁷

Resistance forces attack junta power plant, cut supply to regime weapons factories: On 10 Apr, DVB reported that on 31 Mar, in Salin Township, resistance forces attacked the junta's **Tanyaung power plant**, which **supplies electricity to KaPaSa arms factories No. 20, 21, 25**, as well as the **junta's Air Defense Command Centre No.9**. Resistance forces reported they **destroyed around 80%** of the facility and that **power outages left nearby factories non-operational**. The junta stated that 80 transformers relaying electricity to the factories were destroyed. In retaliation, the **junta carried out airstrikes around the power plant** and surrounding villages, and **displaced over 2,000 civilians**. They also sent a convoy of over 100 reinforcement troops to the plant and began military operations in nearby areas.²⁸

Chin State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Chin State, there were 22 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 12 civilians. The junta launched 13 air/drone strikes in five townships.²⁹

Resistance forces capture Falam town, Chin State's second largest town: On 7 Apr, in Falam Township, joint Chin resistance forces, including the Chin Brotherhood and the Arakan Army (AA) **defeated the last remaining junta position in Falam** and **seized the town** after a five-month-long siege. The Chin Brotherhood spokesperson reported that the seizure of Falam, which is Chin State's second largest town, was militarily significant as it is located between the junta's Regional Operations Command (ROC) in Kale (Sagaing Region) and the Operations Command in Hakha (Chin State). This would allow resistance groups to disrupt the junta's overland supply and reinforcement routes. They added that **since the offensive began in Nov 2024, the junta had conducted over 1,000 retaliatory airstrikes**.³⁰

Arakan State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Arakan State, there were 82 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 15 civilians. The junta launched 37 air/drone strikes in seven townships.³¹

Sittwe residents faces famine and fear: On 7 Apr, in junta-controlled Sittwe city, it was reported that many families and elderly people living on the city's outskirts were **facing famine due to a lack of employment opportunities and high food prices due to the junta's blockade** of supplies from Yangon to Sittwe.

²³ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

²⁴ Myanmar Now (16 Apr 2025) Inside the eight-month battle for Indaw

²⁵ Mizzima (10 Apr 2025) Japanese Cave, the final junta stronghold in Indaw, falls after seven-month battle; Myanmar Now (8 Apr 2025) Resistance forces capture Indaw Town after months of fighting

²⁶ Khonumthung (17 Apr 2025) CDF-KKG claims control of 4 junta bases between Kale and Ganga in 2 months

²⁷ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

²⁸ Mizzima (10 Apr 2025) Power plant supplying Myanmar junta's military factories hit by PDF attack

²⁹ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

³⁰ Irrawaddy (8 Apr 2025) Chin Rebels Rout Myanmar Junta From Falam After Five-Month Battle; DVB (10 Apr 2025) Resistance forces seize northern Chinland's Falam Township

³¹ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

Some families had resorted to selling wild vegetables, begging, and **engaging in crime to survive**. Humanitarian groups and monasteries provided aid to IDPs sheltering in Sittwe, but **no substantial support was given to the city's poorer families, leading many to pretend to be IDPs to receive food**. A local reported that his family had been moving to wherever they could find food. Since March 2024, poorer Sittwe residents had reportedly relied on boiled rice to survive, but the situation had worsened, and many could no longer afford even this.³²

On 22 Apr, **junta troops detained over 30 Sittwe residents**, including children and women, who had **attempted to flee to Arakan Army (AA)-controlled territory**. Their whereabouts are currently unknown. A local reported that the residents had fled due to fear of increased conflict, lack of employment opportunities, and food scarcity. The civilians had reportedly paid MMK 1 million in bribes to junta officials, through brokers, to leave the city.³³ On 28 Apr, in Sittwe Township, it was reported that since 20 Jan, the junta had destroyed a cottage hospital and around 200 houses in Warbo village. The junta had also targeted several other villages around Sittwe city with **daily shelling and airstrikes**.³⁴

Junta and AA abduct fishermen in Arakan State: On 5 Apr, in Pauktaw Township, it was reported that the **junta had arrested 23 ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya fishermen**, along with three fishing boats, near Myay Ngu Island and detained them at Kyaukphyu. The **reason for the arrest remained unclear**; however, since Nov 2023, the junta had prohibited fishermen from Arakan State from sea fishing.³⁵

On 8 Apr, near St. Martin's Island (Bangladesh), **AA coast guards** crossed into Bangladesh's territorial waters and **abducted 11 Bangladeshi fishermen at gunpoint**, along with two boats. Two other boats also went missing, but it was not confirmed if the AA took them. Bangladeshi officials were reportedly negotiating with the AA for the fishermen's release.³⁶ On 16 Apr, the **AA handed over 55 Bangladeshi fishermen** to the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after lengthy negotiations with the BGB. The fishermen had been arrested at various times for reportedly illegally fishing in Burmese waters. Despite releasing the fishermen, the **AA had not returned their confiscated boats and fishing nets**.³⁷

80,000 face starvation, thirst and displacement due to junta airstrikes and blockade: On 29 Apr, in Kyaukphyu and Ponnagyun townships, it was reported that over 80,000 people from more than 63 villages and five IDP camps were in critical need of food, water, and shelter. Resistance forces cited junta aid blockades as the reason for the shortages. Additionally, ongoing clashes and junta airstrikes had forced many residents to flee to remote areas, where they now lived in makeshift shelters without any access to healthcare and basic supplies.³⁸

Kachin State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Kachin State, there were 86 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 8 civilians. The junta launched 21 air/drone strikes in five townships.³⁹

On 31 Mar, in **Mohnyin District** (Kachin State), two junta fighter jets conducted an airstrike on a training area at the Kachin Independence Army's (KIA) Brigade 8, Battalion 5. The attack **killed 36 trainees** and injured over 20 others.⁴⁰

Northern Shan State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in N. Shan State, there were 56 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 8 civilians. The junta launched 18 air/drone strikes, all in Nawnghkio Township.⁴¹

On 10 Apr, in **Lashio city**, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) publicly tried and **summarily executed** by firing squad five people, including a Chinese national, for rape, murder, and theft. The MNDAA also handed life sentences to two others and a deferred death sentence to another, also a Chinese national. In Dec 2024, the MNDAA had also executed six people.⁴² These latest executions

³² DMG via BNI (7 Apr 2025) Sittwe's Poor Face Starvation ; Narinjara via BNI (10 Apr 2025) Majority of Sittwe's residents, still under military rule, experiencing famine

³³ Narinjara (24 Apr 2025) Over 30 residents detained as they attempt to depart Sittwe for liberated areas held by AA

³⁴ DMG via BNI (28 Apr 2025) Junta Attacking Villages Around Sittwe City

³⁵ Narinjara (7 Apr 2025) 23 fishermen from Pauktaw Township, 3 fishing boats kidnapped by junta navy

³⁶ Dhaka Tribune (8 Apr 2025) Arakan Army abducts 11 fishermen, seizes trawlers near St Martin's; Narinjara (10 Apr 2025) AA detains 11 Bangladeshi fishermen for illegal fishing near St. Martin's Island

³⁷ Narinjara (17 Apr 2025) AA transfers 55 fishermen from Bangladesh to BGB

³⁸ Myanmar Now (29 Apr 2025) Thousands of displaced civilians need water, assistance in Rakhine State

³⁹ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁴⁰ Kachin News (1 Apr 2025) Junta Airstrike Kills Nearly 40 Trainees at KIA Camp Amid Crisis

⁴¹ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁴² RFA (11 Apr 2025) Insurgent army executes 5 civilians in northern Myanmar; Kokang Information Network (10 Apr 2025) 严打重大刑事犯罪！缅甸联邦第一特区在腊戍市举行公判大会

highlight the **MNDAA's pattern of summary executions** without providing those accused access to a lawyer or opportunity to appeal the sentence.⁴³ The MNDAA carried out these executions occurred right before the expected handover of Lashio city to the junta.

China coerces MNDAA to hand over Lashio back to junta: During 3-21 Apr, while under **heavy pressure from China**, the MNDAA agreed to cede control of the 12 urban wards of Lashio city - N. Shan State's capital - to the junta. The MNDAA would reportedly maintain control of the surrounding areas. China had coerced the MNDAA by closing border gates, restricting fuel shipments to MNDAA territories, and **detaining the MNDAA's chief** in China. It was reported that the MNDAA's withdrawal from Lashio was a condition of his return to Burma. The MNDAA had seized Lashio in 2024 during the second phase of Operation 1027.⁴⁴

During the week of 14 Apr, junta officials and administrative personnel arrived in the city. On 19 Apr, locals reported that the Chinese Special Envoy, Deng Xijun, had arrived in Lashio along with Chinese diplomats and a "Ceasefire Monitoring Team".⁴⁵ On 20 Apr, it was reported that Chinese military and government officials had entered the city in at least 30 vehicles, highlighting China's direct involvement in the handover and explicit support for the junta.⁴⁶ On 21 Apr, China's foreign ministry spokesperson claimed that Beijing strongly believed in non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.⁴⁷

On 21 Apr, residents said that MNDAA police were still patrolling, although its flags were removed from the city. During their withdrawal, the MNDAA had reportedly **stripped Lashio hospitals of medical equipment**, removed train engines, fuel tankers, and water trucks from the city. On 22 Apr, over 120 junta military trucks and 100 junta vehicles carrying the flag of the junta Northeastern Regional Military Command (RMC) returned, nearly 8 months after their forced retreat during the MNDAA's seizure of Lashio. The forced handover is a **major setback for the resistance** as analysts say the junta's Northeastern RMC will threaten the Ta'ang National Liberation Army's (TNLA) nearby defensive positions.⁴⁸

On 28 Apr, it was reported that **crime had surged in Lashio** since the MNDAA handed over the city to the junta. Locals reported that junta soldiers had prioritized moving back into their old positions and largely neglected law enforcement duties, which dangerously deteriorated the security situation for residents.⁴⁹

Southern Shan State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in S. Shan State, there were 29 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 2 civilians. The junta launched 18 air/drone strikes in Nyaungshwe and Pekon Townships.⁵⁰

Junta targets Danu people as anti-junta resistance grows: On 24 Apr, in **Ywangan and Pindaya** townships (Danu Self-Administered Zone), the Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) reported that since Dec 2024, the junta had intensified human rights abuses against **Danu communities** in retaliation for attacks by Danu resistance forces. As Danu resistance groups gained influence across S. Shan State and Mandalay Region, junta troops increasingly arrested, tortured, and killed residents. SHRF specifically highlighted the prevalence of **conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV) committed by the junta there. During Dec 2024-Jan 2025, in Lawksawk Township, the junta killed three civilians and injured 14 others. Since 2021, the junta has destroyed over 210 houses and arbitrarily arrested over 300 residents, 100 of whom remain in detention.⁵¹

Karenni State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Karenni State, there were 15 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 11 civilians. The junta launched six air/drone strikes in five townships.⁵²

On 1 May, the Progressive Karenni People's Force (PKPF) reported that from 1 Feb 2021 to 30 Apr 2025, junta attacks had **killed 742 civilians** and destroyed 3,031 houses in Karenni State.⁵³

⁴³ RFA (6 Dec 2024) Kokang rebels execute 6 after public trials in Myanmar's Shan state

⁴⁴ Myanmar Now (4 Apr 2025) Under pressure from China, MNDAA agrees to withdraw from Lashio before month's end

⁴⁵ SHAN (20 Apr 2025) လားရှိုးမြို့ပေါ် တရုတ်အလံပါ ပစ်ခတ်ရပ်စဲမှုစောင့်ကြည့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ယာဉ်တန်းရောက်လာ

⁴⁶ KNO via X (20 Apr 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/4wmhcznx>

⁴⁷ Mizzima (23 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta troops re-enter Lashio as MNDAA withdraws; uncertainty grows among locals

⁴⁸ Myanmar Now (21 Apr 2025) Chinese monitors deployed to strategic Lashio as junta slowly retakes town; Mizzima (23 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta troops re-enter Lashio as MNDAA withdraws; uncertainty grows among locals

⁴⁹ SHAN (28 Apr 2025) Crimewave in Lashio City as Junta Takes Back Control

⁵⁰ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁵¹ Shan Human Rights (24 Apr 2025) SAC Escalates Collective Punishment across the Danu Heartlands

⁵² ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁵³ DVB (1 May 2025) At least 742 civilians killed in Karenni State since 2021 coup, says resistance group

Informants force temporary closure of Starlink services: On 28 Apr, in Bawkhake Township, the Lo Pwar Kho District Joint Administration Committee suspended Starlink internet services for one month. They stated that the suspension was due to junta informants reporting resistance and administrative activities to the regime. Locals expressed concern at the announcement, stating that people in Karenni State relied on Starlink services to access information, run businesses, and stay connected. The Committee also announced new curfews, stricter security checkpoints, and a ban on public gatherings during the month.⁵⁴

Karen State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Karen State, there were 107 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 33 civilians. The junta launched 49 air/drone strikes in five townships.⁵⁵

Junta 3-day bombing campaign during Thingyan kills children and monks: On 15 Apr, in Kawkareik Township, a junta Yak-130 bombed a monastery in Kanni village near Kyon Doe town, killed six civilians, including four children, and injured seven civilians and ten monks.⁵⁶ On 16 Apr, the final day of the Thingyan Festival, the junta launched airstrikes on seven nearby villages, killed a pregnant woman, and injured five civilians. On 17 Apr, the junta launched another airstrike on Kanni and Tha Yet Taw villages, killed a man, and injured two children.⁵⁷ The junta's consecutive airstrikes forced over 10,000 people from about 40 villages to flee to Mawlamyine (Mon State) and Hpa An (Karen State) townships. While they fled, the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 545 and 546 stopped at least 80 people at checkpoints and extorted their money and valuables.⁵⁸ A New Mon State Party – Anti-Dictatorship (NMSP-AD) spokesperson reported that the junta deliberately launched such airstrikes during the Thingyan holiday when people were gathering. There had been no clashes in the areas prior to the attack.⁵⁹

Bago Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Bago Region, there were 141 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 15 civilians. The junta launched 49 air/drone strikes in five townships.⁶⁰

AA seizes another junta camp, closes in on KaPaSa arms factories: On 5 Apr, in Padaung Township, the AA reportedly seized the junta's **Nyaung Kyo Strategic camp**. The assault first began on 17 Mar and continued for 16 days. The camp is located close to three junta military factories, KaPaSa 5, 6, and 9, which produce gunpowder, iron raw materials, and rifle rounds, respectively.⁶¹

Tanintharyi Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Tanintharyi Region, there were 74 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 9 civilians. The junta launched 25 air/drone strikes in four townships.⁶²

The junta displaces around 6,000 villagers and blocks the highway in Thayetchaung Township: On 18 Apr, in Thayetchaung Township, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and joint PDF forces launched an attack on a junta police station in Win Wa village. The next day, **the junta retaliated with airstrikes** on nearby Yange village and **killed two civilians, including a child**. During 21 to 29 Apr, the junta carried out **seven airstrikes** in Win Wa and five surrounding villages, **killed a man**, injured a woman and child, and forced around 6,000 villagers to flee.⁶³ The clashes had **restricted civilians' access to the Myeik-Dawei section of the highway**, which caused shortages of fuel and essential goods. It was reported that displaced civilians urgently needed food supplies, and medicine for malaria and cholera.⁶⁴

⁵⁴ Kantarawaddy Times (1 May 2025) Due to Informants, Starlink Services Ordered to Be Suspended for One Full Month in Lo Pwar Kho District

⁵⁵ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁵⁶ HURFOM (16 Apr 2025) Junta Airstrike on Monastery in Kanni Village, Kawkareik Township Kills Six, Including Four Children

⁵⁷ KIC via BNI (18 Apr 2025) Airstrikes Hit 10 Kawkareik Township Villages Over New Year

⁵⁸ HURFOM (24 Apr 2025) Junta Troops Extort Fleeing Civilians in Kawkareik Township as Airstrikes and Shelling Intensify

⁵⁹ Myanmar Now (16 Apr 2025) Junta airstrikes kill at least 20 in Karen State, including children

⁶⁰ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁶¹ Narinjara (5 Apr 2025) AA Has Fully Taken Control of Nyaung Kyo Strategic Camp in Bago Region; DVB (23 Jan 2025) Weapons factories keeping regime in power, states analysts

⁶² ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁶³ HURFOM (30 Apr 2025) Junta Launches Three Consecutive Days of Airstrikes on Villages in Thayet Chaung Township, Dawei District – Civilian Casualties Reported

⁶⁴ Myanmar Now (28 Apr 2025) Clashes in Myanmar's southernmost region disrupt traffic on crucial route

Mon State

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Mon State, there were 23 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 6 civilians. The junta launched one air/drone strike in Bilin township.⁶⁵

The junta intensifies airstrikes in Kyaikto and Bilin townships: On 23 Apr, in Kyaikto Township, the junta's Artillery Regiment (AR) Command 310 **shelled and bombed Kha Ywea and four surrounding villages** after clashing with the KNLA in Shwe Kyin Township (Bago Region). The attacks injured two civilians and **displaced around 500 villagers**.⁶⁶ On 24 Apr, the junta shelled Thein Za Yat town and four nearby villages, injuring three civilians. A CDM member reported that the junta soldiers **stationed their bases inside towns** and had **used civilians as human shields**.⁶⁷

On 19 Apr, in Bilin Township, a junta **an airstrike** on a Buddhist monastery in Karen National Union (KNU)-controlled Minn Saw village **killed a monk and two women**, and injured at least eight others.⁶⁸

Ayeyarwady Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Ayeyarwady Region, there were 29 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 7 civilians. The junta launched 12 air/drone strikes in three townships.⁶⁹

- On 15 Apr, in **Lemyethna Township**, AA-led resistance forces clashed with junta troops in Pan Taw Gyi village and surrounding areas.⁷⁰ On 17 Apr, the AA gained control of Pan Taw Gyi village. Since 18 Apr, junta forces retaliated with **30 airstrikes and daily artillery attacks** on the village and its surroundings. The junta artillery fire burned down buildings and displaced locals. The exact number of casualties was unknown.⁷¹ On 18 Apr, it was reported that junta administrative staff from four nearby villages had **abandoned their homes** and sought refuge in Hinthada Township.⁷²
- On 23 Apr, in **Yegyi Township**, junta forces **arrested six young IDPs** from Arakan State at a checkpoint on terrorism allegations.⁷³

Mandalay Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Mandalay Region, there were 102 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed 58 civilians. The junta launched 45 air/drone strikes in 10 townships.⁷⁴

Yangon Region

During 28 Mar-30 Apr, in Yangon Region, there were 13 clashes and attacks on civilians which killed one civilian.⁷⁵

Rohingya

Junta agrees to “repatriate” 180,000 Rohingya refugees

On 4 Apr, the Bangladeshi interim government reported that the **junta had agreed to the repatriation of 180,000 “eligible” Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh**. Bangladeshi officials stated that the 180,000 were part of a larger list of Rohingya individuals they had provided to Burma in six separate submissions, from 2018 to 2020. The **junta had not given any official responses regarding the repatriation plan**. However, they reportedly notified Dhaka that an additional 70,000 names were awaiting final verification, and pledged to expedite the verification process for the remaining 550,000. A Rohingya refugee emphasized that repatriation must include all Rohingya, and that they must be guaranteed a return with full citizenship, safety, and dignity. **It is unclear why the junta has agreed to this repatriation plan and what will happen to the Rohingya when, and if, they return to Burma. Observers and Rohingya remain skeptical** that the junta would provide a safe repatriation for refugees. Repatriation efforts also occurred in 2018 and 2019; however, they largely failed as Rohingya refugees refused to return due to fear

⁶⁵ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁶⁶ HURFOM (30 Apr 2025) Junta Shelling and Airstrikes Escalate in Kyaik Hto and Eastern Bago, Forcing Thousands to Flee

⁶⁷ HURFOM (25 Apr 2025) Junta Forces Intensify Artillery Strikes on Civilian Villages in Kyaikhto Township

⁶⁸ HURFOM (19 Apr 2025) Brutal Airstrike by Junta Forces on Mon State Monastery Leaves Trail of Death and Destruction

⁶⁹ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁷⁰ DVB (19 Apr 2025) လေးမျက်နှာ၊ ပန်းတောကြီးရွာကို လေကြောင်းမှ ဗုံးကြဲ၊ နေအိမ်များ မီးလောင်ပြီး ဒေသခံများ ထွက်ပြေး

⁷¹ DVB (27 Apr 2025) လေးမျက်နှာတွင် စစ်တပ် လက်နက်ကြီးကြောင့် ဘုန်းကြီးကျောင်းနှင့်အိမ်များ မီးလောင်ပျက်စီး

⁷² DVB (25 Apr 2025) တိုက်ပွဲဖြစ်နေသည့် လေးမျက်နှာမြို့နယ်မှ အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးများနှင့် မိသားစုများ တိမ်းရှောင်

⁷³ DVB (24 Apr 2025) ငါးသိုင်းချောင်းတွင် စစ်ဘေးရှောင် ၆ ဦး ဖမ်းဆီးခံရ

⁷⁴ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

⁷⁵ ACLED, data accessed 12 May 2025

of persecution. **During 2024, genocidal violence, ongoing fighting, and deepening food insecurity forced an additional estimated 70,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.**⁷⁶

AA forcibly evicts and replaces N. Arakan Rohingya families

Since 14 Apr, in Buthidaung Township (Arakan State), it was reported that **increased violence by the AA against Rohingya had forced numerous Rohingya families to make the dangerous crossing** over the Mayu mountain range towards northern Maungdaw township, **to seek refuge in Bangladesh**. Fleeing Rohingya described the conditions in Buthidaung as ‘apocalyptic’. AA roadblocks and market closures had caused a shortage of essential goods, and AA threats had forcibly displaced entire Rohingya villages. An elder stated that “if this continues, we’ll die—not from bullets, but from hunger”. Survivors reported that the **AA had increased their control over Rohingya communities** through forced evictions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary taxation, torture, forced labor and conscription. The forcibly displaced residents were now sheltering in makeshift forest camps along the Maungdaw-Bangladesh border, without clean water or medical access. Community leaders and human rights organizations urged for immediate international action and demanded an independent investigation into the AA’s treatment of Rohingya. A Rohingya advocate reported that “the AA cannot claim to represent freedom or equality while persecuting an entire population” and that “**what we are witnessing is not just displacement—it is a slow-motion erasure**”.⁷⁷

On 25 Apr, in several townships across **northern Arakan State**, including Buthidaung and Maungdaw, the **AA began systematically evicting Rohingya villagers from their homes and resettling the houses with Rakhine Buddhists, Hindus, and members of other ethnic groups**. Eyewitnesses described a methodical effort to dismantle or repurpose Rohingya homes, occupy crucial agricultural and water resources, and illegally force Rohingya families into already overcrowded neighboring villages without consent, legal documentation or assistance. A Rohingya schoolteacher stated that **residents were threatened and harassed if they refused to vacate**. Human rights observers reported that these actions could represent the start of a **planned demographic change**, aiming to **transform the Rohingya homeland into areas dominated by non-Rohingya populations**.⁷⁸

Famine leads Rohingya family to suicide

On 27 Apr, in Sittwe Township, it was reported that a Rohingya father had died after he and his family attempted to commit collective suicide by ingesting poison. Residents reported that the family had not eaten in several days and had “exhausted all possible means of survival”. Rohingya families in Sittwe camps reportedly faced famine-like conditions due to the junta’s blockade on food and humanitarian aid, and ongoing conflict between the junta and the AA. A camp volunteer reported that “if help doesn’t come now [...] we’ll lose more lives—not just from violence, but from starvation and hopelessness”.⁷⁹

Bangladesh agrees to UN request for humanitarian corridor into Arakan

On 27 Apr, Bangladesh confirmed it had agreed to a request by the UN to **establish a humanitarian corridor** to channel aid into Arakan State, **under certain conditions**. The UN had recently **warned of an impending famine in the state**. It was reported that the UN would lead the humanitarian side of the corridor, while Bangladesh would provide logistical support. Khalilur Rahman, the interim government’s Rohingya advisor, said the initiative would help stabilize Arakan State and “create conditions for the return of the refugees.” Touhid Hossain, Bangladesh’s Foreign Advisor, said Bangladesh needed to maintain some form of communication with the AA as they controlled most of the state. He added, “while we cannot engage in official communications with a non-state actor, it is not possible to remain entirely disconnected either”. On 1 May, the Daily Star reported that **Dhaka was in talks with the AA, via the UN**.⁸⁰

UNHCR urges Bangladesh to provide housing for 113,000 new Rohingya arrivals: On 28 Apr, the **UNHCR** requested the Bangladesh government provide **housing for over 113,000 Rohingya** who had fled the conflict in Burma since Nov 2023. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh’s Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), reported that the new Rohingya arrivals were sheltering in makeshift tents, learning centers, and mosques, due to a lack of space for new housing construction. RRRC

⁷⁶ Reuters (4 Apr 2025) Myanmar confirms 180,000 Rohingya eligible to return, Bangladesh says; Bay of Bengal Post (5 Apr 2025) Myanmar Agrees to Repatriate 180,000 Rohingya Refugees, Says Bangladesh

⁷⁷ Bay of Bengal Post (17 Apr 2025) Rohingya Flee Buthidaung Amid Arakan Army’s Escalating Human Rights Abuses

⁷⁸ Rohingya Khobor (25 Apr 2025) Arakan Army Accused of Replacing Rohingya with Rakhine, Hindu, and Other Ethnic Groups in Buthidaung and Maungdaw

⁷⁹ Rohingya Khobor (27 Apr 2025) Famine Pushes Family to Suicide Attempt in Sittwe IDP Camp; Father Dies

⁸⁰ Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2025) Bangladesh backs UN aid corridor proposal to troubled Myanmar; Anadolu Ajansı (28 Apr 2025) Bangladesh agrees to UN call to open humanitarian corridor for Myanmar citizens; The Daily Star (1 May 2025) Dhaka in touch with Naypyidaw, Arakan Army

officials claimed that providing shelter could hinder future repatriation efforts, potentially encouraging more individuals to cross the border. The Bangladeshi government has yet to respond to the request.⁸¹

Bangladesh Islamist group proposes creation of Rohingya State: On 27 Apr, in Dhaka (Bangladesh), during a meeting with a Chinese delegation, Bangladesh's largest Islamist political party, Jamaat-e-Islami, reportedly **proposed the creation of an independent Rohingya State in Arakan State** to "ensure their [Rohingya] repatriation and rehabilitation". However, Ashfaque Ronnie, a UK-based researcher and regional conflict analyst, commented that "durable outcomes must be rooted in local realities" and that an "ethnically exclusive state ignores the broader context of Myanmar's intricate political landscape [...]".⁸²

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

Gendered impact of earthquake

On 3 Apr, researchers Maw Baw Meh and Maggi Quadrini highlighted the **gendered impact** of the earthquake on women, LGBTIQ+, and girls in Burma. Damage to healthcare facilities and hospitals has exacerbated Burma's medical crisis and further limited women's access to life-saving medical treatment, including **pre/post-natal care**, and reproductive and sexual health services. Earthquake damage has increased displacement and economic insecurity for women and girls. The researchers argued that this **increased their vulnerability** to CRSV and domestic violence by limiting their ability and agency to remove themselves from the situation. They urged aid organizations to prioritize **gender-sensitive support**, such as menstrual and medical support, and safe housing for those in need.⁸³

AA reluctant to investigate alleged rape by its soldiers

On 5 Apr, in AA-controlled Paletwa Township (Chin state), an **AA officer and soldier** reportedly raped then attempted to drown a Khumi ethnic Chin woman in Seint Sin Wa village. The arrival of the woman's relative to the scene interrupted the assailants and saved her life. On 23 Apr, it was reported that the Interim Khumi Affairs Coordination Council (**IKACC**) had publicly called on the AA to investigate the case and ensure justice was served. The **AA had not announced an investigation** or any information on the alleged rapists. The IKACC added that the survivor was undergoing medical treatment. Salai Dokhar from India for Myanmar stated that the AA risked undermining public and international confidence in anti-junta groups if they did not address this case and others with fairness and transparency.⁸⁴ On 24 Apr, seemingly in response to the IKACC's public statement, the AA spokesperson announced that they held the two alleged rapists in custody and claimed they were undergoing questioning. The spokesperson added that they would "enforce strict measures to guarantee justice in this matter".⁸⁵

KIO executes convicted rapist, murderer

On 7 Apr, in Laiza town (Kachin State), the Kachin Independence Organization (**KIO**) **executed a man** found guilty of the torture, rape and murder of **three young girls** at an IDP camp in Feb 2025.⁸⁶ On 29 Mar, a KIO court sentenced to death the perpetrator, who was the husband of the victims' teacher.⁸⁷

Health, Education (more at [Healthcare, and education tracker](#))

Trump aid cuts halt TB support, rising transmission looms

On 22 Apr, Frontier Myanmar reported that the Trump administration's USAID funding cuts had damaged tuberculosis (TB) treatment support in Burma, and left TB patients particularly vulnerable amidst the post-coup healthcare collapse. USAID's TB funding, which **provided monthly financial aid to TB patients through local NGOs**, was shut down at the end of February. A civilian reported that they had relied on the monthly support, and "it will be incredibly difficult to survive without it". After 2021, many healthcare workers joined the CDM, which forced about 110 of 308 government-run TB support centers to close. A TB specialist reported that **with the loss of funding, many patients would now be unable to afford to travel and receive treatment**. Those who could afford to travel **would receive substandard services**, as

⁸¹ Anadolu Ajansı (28 Apr 2025) UN seeks shelter for new Rohingya arrivals in Bangladesh

⁸² The Irrawaddy (28 Apr 2025) Bangladeshi Islamist Party Proposes Independent Rohingya State in Myanmar's Rakhine

⁸³ Myanmar Now (3 Apr 2025) Uncertainty, dangers loom for Myanmar women, girls, and other vulnerable populations after earthquake

⁸⁴ Myanmar Now (23 Apr 2025) ပလက်ဝတွင် မုဒိမ်းမှုကျူးလွန်သည်ဟု စွပ်စွဲခံရထားသော AA တပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင် ၂ ဦးအမှု ဖြေရှင်းပေးရန် ချင်းအဖွဲ့များ တောင်းဆို; Myanmar Now (24 Apr 2025) Chin group seeks answers on alleged rape by Arakan Army members in Paletwa

⁸⁵ Narinjara (25 Apr 2025) AA States Firm Measures Will Be Enforced Against Two AA Soldiers Involved in Rape Case in Paletwa

⁸⁶ See our Feb 2025 Briefer for more details <https://bit.ly/CWBFeb25>

⁸⁷ Kokang Information Network (9 Apr 2025) 绑架勒索未果残忍奸杀三名小女孩 凶手已被克钦独立组织执行死刑

most NGOs working on TB relied on USAID funding. The funding cut also hindered contact tracing programs, and one doctor warned **this could lead to a surge in TB transmission.**

The junta's funding for TB medicine was minimal. They reportedly **provided expired or nearly expired medicine to private clinics and NGOs** due to poor management. The World Health Organization reported that Burma's estimated rate of TB had **risen from 475 to 558 per 100,000 people in 2023**, in contrast to a decreasing trend before 2021. Despite the country's dwindling healthcare situation, the junta had forced some healthcare workers to serve as military medics, and had also forcibly conscripted TB patients despite proof of medical records.⁸⁸

Civilians forced to lie for medical treatment

On 25 Apr, in Myingyan Township (Mandalay Region), it was reported that during 2025, junta checkpoints, arrests, and medicine shortages had led to the **death of at least 20 people with treatable medical conditions.** Over 200 Myingyan villages had limited medical facilities, and most lacked doctors. One small clinic with only a nurse and a health assistant served residents from ten villages. Because of limited medical accessibility, many of the deceased patients had died from easily treatable medical conditions. A villager reported that **even pharmacies scrutinized civilians** and stopped them from buying two months of medication. She also stated that **wounded civilians had to lie and say they were injured by the PDF to get treated, as "if they say it was a junta airstrike or shelling, they're denied care—or worse, detained."** A township administration member reported that civilians had even built their own clinic, but that the junta bombed it within three weeks. Additionally, many civilians feared travelling to access supplies after the junta detained over 200 traders at checkpoints heading to Myingyan town, leading to severe shortages of basic medical supplies.⁸⁹

Students forced to retake matriculation exam after earthquake destroys results

On 22 Apr, the junta announced that over 62,000 students who had sat their matriculation exams in Kachin State, Sagaing and Mandalay regions, and Naypyidaw, would **have to retake the exams** after the papers were destroyed by the 28 Mar Sagaing earthquake. After the earthquake, a fire broke out in Mandalay University's main building, where the March exam papers were stored. The junta stated that students must retake the exam **from 16 to 21 Jun.** The announcement drew severe criticism from the public, as students from disaster zones were expected to study and take the exam amid the challenging and traumatic period of earthquake recovery.⁹⁰

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

Junta gains over USD 55M in corporate quake donations

On 12 Apr, Justice for Myanmar (JfM) revealed that Japanese, Chinese, and junta crony companies had donated at least **USD 55.8 million** in earthquake relief funding through the junta, potentially **fueling the regime's ongoing atrocities** against civilians. On 1 Apr, crony businesses and individuals handed over more than MMK 104 billion (USD 49.7 million according to the junta's exchange rate) in cash and MMK 12.4 billion (USD 5.9 million) worth of supplies directly to junta leaders, including Min Aung Hlaing. On 2 Apr, Japanese retail giant AEON, actively operating in Burma, donated JPY 10 million (USD 70,000) to the junta embassy in Tokyo. On 8 Apr, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), which runs the **controversial Myanmar-China pipelines**, gave USD 50,000 to the junta-controlled Mandalay regional government.⁹¹

Despite widespread destruction and the regime's own declared ceasefire, the junta continues to launch airstrikes and attacks against civilians. Civil society organizations continue to urge the international community to channel aid through trusted **community-led groups**, NUG, and EROs to stop funding the junta. However, many companies continue to donate directly to the junta, enabling it to exploit the disaster and intensify its campaign of violence. JfM urged businesses to follow humanitarian principles and support aid channels that respect the will and dignity of the people from Burma.⁹²

⁸⁸ Frontier Myanmar (22 Apr 2025) US aid cuts kneecap Myanmar in fight against tuberculosis

⁸⁹ Mizzima (25 Apr 2025) Health crisis deepens in Myingyan Township amid junta checkpoints, arrests, and medical shortages

⁹⁰ KNG via BNI (23 Apr 2025) Students Must Retake Matriculation Exam After Papers Destroyed in Earthquake

⁹¹ Justice for Myanmar (12 Apr 2025) At least US\$55.8 million in corporate donations made to Myanmar junta since earthquake, risk funding atrocities

⁹² Justice for Myanmar (12 Apr 2025) At least US\$55.8 million in corporate donations made to Myanmar junta since earthquake, risk funding atrocities

Czech company provides junta with surveillance tech

On 16 Apr, JfM urged the **Czech government** to investigate Prague-based digital forensics company **Compelson s.r.o.** for potentially violating EU laws by supplying surveillance technology to the junta. Compelson has sold multiple licenses of its MOBILedit Forensic Pro software to the junta, which increases the junta's **surveillance capacity** by enabling them to **bypass security features**, access deleted messages, and conduct cloud forensics. Detainees in Burma had reported that the junta confiscated and accessed their phones during interrogations.⁹³

JfM uncovered emails showing Compelson had **actively promoted software updates** to the junta's Cybercrime Division after the attempted coup. In Jul 2021, a Compelson staff member encouraged the junta police to upgrade their software to access Apple Watch data and exploit Linux and Android vulnerabilities. MOBILedit Forensic Pro likely falls under EU Dual Use Category 5A004, which requires export licenses for surveillance tools. Depending on the transfer date, sales to the junta may have **breached EU sanctions** or the Burma arms embargo. JfM filed a complaint with the EU's Sanctions Whistleblower Tool in Feb 2024, but received no response. The group also shared the complaint with Czech public broadcaster Radiožurnál.⁹⁴

Compelson's owner, Dušan Kožušník, claimed the company made the sales before the attempted coup and insisted the software doesn't need an export license. They also claimed the software cannot crack passwords or recover deleted data—claims that contradict the company's own marketing materials. The Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, along with the Financial Analytical Office—bodies responsible for monitoring dual-use exports—refused to comment, citing confidentiality.⁹⁵

Junta rehires cronies to rebuild Naypyidaw

On 30 Apr, in Naypyidaw, it was reported that the quake damaged **over 70% of government buildings**, including the presidential residence, parliamentary complex, War Office, various ministries, and about 610 staff housing units. On 26 Apr, the junta called on **crony companies** involved in the construction of Naypyitaw to replace Yangon as the capital city, which began in 2003, to contact the Naypyitaw City Development Committee. On 29 Apr, one month after the earthquake, the junta announced that these same companies would be responsible for the reconstruction of the buildings, and that future buildings must be able to withstand earthquakes of up to magnitude 8.0.

The companies included major crony-owned conglomerates such as Tay Za's Htoo Trading, Zaw Zaw's Max Myanmar, Htun Myint Naing's Asia World, Chit Khine's Eden Group, Kyaw Win's Shwe Thanlwin, and ACE Construction, owned by former Sports Minister Tint Hsan. A local quality control office staff revealed that these companies had used **substandard materials and ignored basic construction safety standards** during the construction of the Naypyidaw buildings.⁹⁶

Despite these announcements, the junta had not removed hundreds of collapsed housing units and had forced many displaced civil servants to live in tents, makeshift shelters, or inside government buildings. The junta also announced a plan to relocate some ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, back to Yangon due to the damage. Junta boss, Min Aung Hlaing, said Naypyidaw's reconstruction would require the city to be fully replanned. However, an insider reported that the junta was facing a financial crisis in repairing and rebuilding structures in Naypyidaw.⁹⁷

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

Trump aid cuts continue to wreak havoc along the border

On 1 Apr, on the Thai-Burma border, **Karenni Refugee Camp 1's** Chairperson stated that cuts to The Border Consortium's (TBC) funding had reduced food aid in the camp by 80% since 1 Apr. Monthly food support had dropped from **THB 300-400 to THB 80** for residents over five years old and THB 18-280 to THB 40 for children under five. The drop in support raised serious concerns of residents facing food shortages. TBC's Chair also highlighted growing concerns over residents taking up unregulated employment and farming activities outside the camp, increased domestic violence, and weakened law

⁹³ Justice for Myanmar (16 Apr 2025) Justice For Myanmar calls on the Czech government to investigate Compelson for suspected violations of EU Regulations

⁹⁴ Justice for Myanmar (16 Apr 2025) Justice For Myanmar calls on the Czech government to investigate Compelson for suspected violations of EU Regulations

⁹⁵ Justice for Myanmar (16 Apr 2025) Justice For Myanmar calls on the Czech government to investigate Compelson for suspected violations of EU Regulations

⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (30 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Calls for Naypyitaw Construction Firms to Repair Quake Damage; Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta orders quake-damaged capital rebuilt by original contractors

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (30 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Calls for Naypyitaw Construction Firms to Repair Quake Damage; Myanmar Now (30 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta orders quake-damaged capital rebuilt by original contractors

enforcement in the camps. The Karenni Refugee Camp 1 currently shelters about 8,720 people.⁹⁸ The Chair of an IDP camp on the Thai-Burma border stated that USAID cuts left them **without shipments of rice since March**. The shortage of food and necessities had forced some of the camp's 3,000 residents to return to their homes in conflict area.⁹⁹

Thailand hosts junta talks

During 3-4 Apr, coup leader **Min Aung Hlaing** attended the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) summit in Bangkok (Thailand) with leaders from Thailand, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India. This was his **first trip to Thailand** since Feb 2021. Thailand's invitation demonstrated again its willingness to legitimize and engage with the junta. Min Aung Hlaing also attended side meetings on disaster prevention and transnational crime with Indian, Nepalese, and Thai PMs. The Indian foreign ministry spokesperson stated that they still believed in a political resolution to the conflict through "inclusive and credible elections."¹⁰⁰ However, the junta could only access 44% of townships in Burma to conduct its sham census.¹⁰¹ Former Thai PM and informal advisor to the ASEAN Chair, Thaksin Shinawatra, also met with Min Aung Hlaing and said he had agreed to meet for a peace dialogue with resistance groups.¹⁰² During the summit, activists in Bangkok protested the junta leader's attendance. Justice for Myanmar called Min Aung Hlaing's attendance 'deplorable' and a legitimization of the junta which has **disregarded ASEAN's Five Point Consensus (SPC)**.¹⁰³

On 17 Apr, in Bangkok, Min Aung Hlaing met with **ASEAN Chair and Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim**, informal advisor to the ASEAN Chair, Thaksin Shinawatra, and the Thai PM. The meeting was reportedly organized to push for an extension to the junta's **bogus ceasefire**.¹⁰⁴ Anwar claimed he met with Min Aung Hlaing to discuss "humanitarian needs" in Burma and noted that this was the first meeting between the coup leader and the ASEAN Chair. The following day, Anwar held a **virtual meeting with NUG** president Mahn Win Khaing Than. The NUG stated they discussed increased engagement with ASEAN, particularly for humanitarian aid distribution. It was reportedly the first publicized meeting between the NUG and ASEAN.¹⁰⁵ Anwar also announced that both the junta and NUG had agreed to a **humanitarian ceasefire**, but did not provide further details.¹⁰⁶ He reported that **the junta "assured" him that a ceasefire would take place**. However, over the following two days, **the junta conducted at least seven airstrikes** across Mandalay Region, and Bago, Arakan states, that **killed 30 civilians** and injured over 7 others.¹⁰⁷

Civil society groups criticized ASEAN's engagement with the junta that violated its own 20-day ceasefire. On 16 Apr, the **KNO called on INTERPOL's** secretary general to arrest Min Aung Hlaing during his trip to Thailand, citing his Argentinian arrest warrant and Thailand's status as an INTERPOL member. The NUG, KNU, Women's League of Burma (WLB), and other resistance groups also released a joint statement opposing the visit and highlighting the junta's failure to implement any ASEAN directives.¹⁰⁸

Scrutinized UN Special Envoy meets junta officials in Naypyidaw

On 9 Apr, in Naypyidaw, **UN Special Envoy** to Burma, Julie Bishop, **met with the junta's foreign minister**, Than Swe, and other junta officials to reportedly discuss joint UN-junta earthquake relief coordination plans. While the discussions were taking place, the junta continued to conduct airstrikes and attacks on earthquake-affected areas, severely disrupting existing aid efforts. UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres said the visit was to "reinforce the UN's commitment to peace and dialogue". Julie Bishop also visited Malaysia to discuss earthquake relief efforts with the ASEAN chairmanship.¹⁰⁹ In March, civil society groups, including Justice for Myanmar, called on the UN to probe Bishop's links to Chinese state-owned firms which constituted a clear conflict of interests.¹¹⁰

⁹⁸ Kantarawaddy Times (4 Apr 2025) <https://ktnews.org/80-of-food-rations-to-be-cut-for-residents-of-karenni-refugee-camp-1-over-the-next-four-months/>

⁹⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (18 Apr 2025) <https://ktnews.org/thai-karenni-border-displacement-camp-faces-difficulty-due-to-the-lack-of-rice-supplies/>

¹⁰⁰ Reuters (5 Apr 2025) Myanmar junta chief meets foreign leaders, UN says military choking aid

¹⁰¹ See our Dec 2024 CoupWatch briefer bit.ly/CWBDec24

¹⁰² Bangkok Post (13 Apr 2025) Thaksin says Myanmar peace a possibility

¹⁰³ Bangkok Post (4 Apr 2025) Protest as quake-hit Myanmar junta chief joins Bangkok summit

¹⁰⁴ Reuters (17 Apr 2025) Malaysia PM set to meet Myanmar junta chief amid opposition to talks

¹⁰⁵ Anwar Ibrahim via X (18 Apr 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/3nakmzye>; Anwar Ibrahim via Facebook (17 Apr 2025)

<https://tinyurl.com/4djvbxuf>; The Irrawaddy (18 Apr 2025) Malaysian PM Holds Talks With Myanmar NUG Prime Minister

¹⁰⁶ Reuters (17 Apr 2025) Malaysia PM set to meet Myanmar junta chief amid opposition to talks

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Now (18 Apr 2025) ASEAN chair urges Myanmar junta to honour quake truce; The Irrawaddy (19 Apr 2025) Myanmar Junta Airstrikes Defy ASEAN Ceasefire Call

¹⁰⁸ KNO via X (16 Apr 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/h7xzed75>; NUG via X (16 Apr 2025) <https://tinyurl.com/4mz67w3v>

¹⁰⁹ ABC (10 Apr 2025) UN special envoy Julie Bishop visits Myanmar after earthquake;

¹¹⁰ Al Jazeera (11 Mar 2025) UN urged to probe Myanmar envoy Julie Bishop over alleged China firms ties

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