



WEEKLY UPDATE: 30 May 2022 - 5 June 2022



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Situation Overview

1,877+ KILLED
13, 959+ ARRESTED
10,903+ DETAINED
1,979 EVADING ARREST



Violence in Eastern Myanmar Escalating

In Karen and Karenni (Kayah) States, civilians have been hit hard by military junta offensives. Within the last week, the Karen Human Rights Group and the Human Rights Foundation of Monland reported on a mother who was killed when artillery shells struck her home while she was cooking, and injured her seven year old daughter in Nah Tha Htoo village. The attack took place while clashes were ongoing between the Myanmar military and the Karen National Liberation Army. Over 200,000 civilians have been displaced across Karen State since 1 February 2021.

Amnesty International released a new report, titled “Bullets Rained from the Sky,” which included interviews and testimonies from victims of human rights violations in eastern Myanmar. Amnesty declared the situation one of great urgency with villagers reporting a life of living in fear, and survival as the main priority. The sounds of airplanes at night make it impossible for civilians to sleep as they worry about being injured or killed in a targeted airstrike.

According to the latest update by the Karenni Civil Society Network, between 9 to 22 May, 2022, ongoing clearance operations are threatening civilian livelihoods and their security. The military junta forces have been carrying out unrelenting attacks which have led to growing numbers of displaced villagers. Survivors of the shelling, and indiscriminate firing are left with limited options as routes to hospitals are blocked and medical supplies are increasingly more difficult to acquire. Ethnic health care providers are struggling to fill gaps in the provision of services, particularly amid a growing malnourished population. Women, children and the elderly are being deprived of their basic needs as fighting shows no indication of easing.

ND-Burma and our network members have also documented mounting atrocities in Karen and Karenni (Kayah) States. In February 2022, “The World Must Know,” a joint report by ND-Burma and the Karenni Human Rights Group was released with evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the military junta. On 3 June 2022, ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), released their latest monthly overview of atrocities perpetrated in May 2022. HURFOM documented rising numbers of displacement in southeastern Myanmar as well as more blanketed impunity shielding soldiers from being accountable for their crimes.



Human Rights Violations

TORTURE

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

RAIDS



Kalay Township, Sagaing Region: A ten year old child was among those injured while sheltering in a monastery in Sagaing region when the military junta opened fire, deliberately seeking to terrorize civilians.

Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State: The military junta set fire to displacement camps in Rakhine State after firing artillery shells which targeted civilians and forced those sheltering to flee, yet again.

Myaing Township, Magwe Region: Six civilians who were captured and forced to porter for the military junta were found dead, with extreme trauma to their bodies, suggesting signs of torture before they were killed.

Yangon: Five teenagers were struck and injured after the military junta drove their vehicles into them intentionally during a flash mob protest. Their location and well-being remains unknown.



Conflict in Myanmar

For the first time, the number of displaced men, women and children in Myanmar has exceeded one million.



KAREN STATE

In Karen State, the military junta is continuing to violate human rights by systematically oppressing civilians. After local villagers had been taken hostage on 5 May 2022, by the junta, pressure mounted for their release.

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CHIN STATE

ND-Burma affiliate member, the Chin Human Rights Organization, (CHRO), reported on increasing military offensives by the Myanmar Army including a scorched earth campaign and airstrikes as the military attempts to transfer more weapons to Chin State.

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RAKHINE STATE

Rakhine State has been the target of recent, heavy offensives and violence deployed by the military junta. Since the beginning of May, clashes have been becoming more frequent amid civilian concerns that the two-year ceasefire was being violated.

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KAREN STATE

In Karen State, the military junta is continuing to violate human rights by systematically oppressing civilians. After local villagers had been taken hostage on 5 May 2022, by the junta, pressure mounted for their release. Over the last week, the Border Guard Forces left Lay Kay Kaw camp and also freed those who had unlawfully been abducted and forced to porter for the junta. When displaced villagers attempted to return to Lay Kay Kaw, many found their homes scorched, looted and destroyed.

Heavy rains in Karen State have only worsened conditions for internally displaced people who have sought refuge in forests. The downpour and early monsoon rains have also made it more difficult for emergency response teams trying to reach IDPs and meet their needs. As local people struggle to survive, the junta continues to target displacement sites. Women, children and the elderly are prone to disease and sickness amid the lack of shelter, food and medicine. According to Karen News, over 15 000 IDPs from Kyout Khat, Lay Day, Walle, K'Nae Lay, Ta U Hta, Ta Naw' Hta, Thay' Baw Boe, K'law Htaw, Su Kali, and Lay Kay Kaw who are in south of Myawaddy require urgent, and immediate assistance.

In a newly released report by Amnesty International, ““Bullets rained from the sky”: War crimes and displacement in eastern Myanmar,” attacks by the junta have directly targeted civilians in Karen State who have felt the burden of civil war for decades.





CHIN STATE

ND-Burma affiliate member, the Chin Human Rights Organization, (CHRO), reported on increasing military offensives by the Myanmar Army. On 1 June, CHRO alerted that military junta forces from Light Infantry Battalions 256, 257, 258, 235, 251, 252, 71, 88, 13 and Infantry Battalions 317, 548, 549 continue to embark on a scorched earth campaign including airstrikes as the military attempts to transfer more weapons to Chin State. This news comes as clearance operations were in full force with more than 100 military truck convoys traveling packed with more ammunition. These are signs which indicate that the Myanmar Army has no interest in easing or halting their attacks in the State.

As northwestern Chin State continues to be ravaged by the worsening offensives, on 30 June, 300 junta soldiers arrived at Kyaukhtu Airport. The Chin Defense Force subsequently warned civilians to prepare for the worst by digging bunkers to shelter in the event of air or ground strikes.





RAKHINE STATE

Rakhine State has been the target of recent, heavy offensives and violence deployed by the military junta. Since the beginning of May, clashes have been becoming more frequent amid civilian concerns that the two-year ceasefire was being violated. People throughout the state are apprehensive of the growing tensions, especially as the junta targets Muslim villages and arbitrarily arrests young people in transit.

In northern Rakhine State, the junta fired heavy artillery at a temple where internally displaced people were sheltering. A few days before, military junta soldiers also fired at another IDP camp causing immense fear in the camps over civilian security. During the first of May 2022, a fire destroyed over 200 shelters. Over the last week, an elderly woman was also killed after stepping on a landmine in Kyauktaw Township.

In addition, a new report by the International Crisis Group, suggested that if a full-fledged conflict were to emerge in Rakhine State between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military, it would result in “the worst violence Rakhine State has seen in years.” The report also found that if civil war were to re-erupt in the State, up to three million Rakhine people, and Rohingya would be impacted. Between December 2018 and November 2020, hostilities in Rakhine State had completely engulfed the population in a series of ongoing, unabated attacks.





Timeline of Events

FIRST WEEK OF JUNE
30 MAY - 5 JUNE

MAY

30

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management - National Unity Government, the Karen National Union, the Chin National Front and the Karenni National Progressive Party issued a statement calling for ASEAN and the UN to consult with local stakeholders in Myanmar.

31

Civil society organizations released a statement which voiced concern over the role of the United Nations and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management in working with the junta while they commit atrocity crimes.

2

Amnesty International released a new report: "Bullets rained from the sky": War crimes and displacement in eastern Myanmar," which finds evidence of harrowing atrocities committed by the military junta.

3

ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, released their May 2022 situation overview which found nearly 30,000 civilians newly displaced in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region.

4

The Myanmar military junta announced it would execute four pro-democracy civilians by hanging in an act of further injustice and tyranny by the Generals.

5

Civil society organizations denounced the decision by the military junta to kill civilians arbitrarily and unlawfully arrested by the junta, and subsequently rejected evidence of a retrial and denied requests for appeals.

JUNE

1

ND-Burma member, the Kachin Women's Association Thailand, released a new report: "New Threats from the Air," on human rights violations perpetrated in Kachin State and northern Shan State.





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