



WEEKLY UPDATE: 11 July - 17 July 2022



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Situation Overview

2,088+ KILLED
14,695+ ARRESTED
11,629+ DETAINED



Coercion, Cooperation & Silence is Complicity in the Junta's Terrorism

Terrorist-in-Chief, Min Aung Hlaing, who leads an army guilty of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, visited Russia as ties deepen between the two authoritarian countries. Following the coup-leader's trip to Moscow, Russian officials announced that it sought to deepen their defence cooperation with Myanmar. This declaration is extremely worrisome given Russia's own troubling trajectory of suppressing human rights. Though it is also worth noting that Russia is the only country worldwide who has openly embraced Min Aung Hlaing's war on the people of Myanmar. Russia has shown a complete lack of moral conscience and commitment to democracy by showering the junta in praise and gifts, rather than condemning the grave atrocities it has relentlessly committed.

While the junta toured nuclear and space stations in Russia, the military continued to perpetrate human rights violations against innocent people. The Spring Revolution has not lost momentum as resistance continues to take on different forms in firm opposition against the regime. Nonetheless, there must be action taken against the junta by the international community which makes clear to the people of Myanmar that they are not alone; they are seen, and they are heard.

Countries, including Russia, but also China and Thailand, who have been not only silent but complicit during times when leadership and moral ground is needed, must also be held responsible. After Myanmar violated Thai airspace by flying fighter jets into their territory, the Prime Minister of Thailand had an opportunity to condemn the ongoing airstrikes along the border which have targeted civilians. Instead, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Thailand did not want to escalate the incident. Throughout the year, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has also failed to grant conflict-affected refugees seeking asylum protection but has deterred them with threats deployed by the Thai Army, and has refused pathways for aid to be delivered through cross border channels.

Further, China has continued to fund development projects which put the livelihoods of local people at risk. Earlier this month, the Shan Human Rights Foundation reported that civilians in northern Shan State were struggling from electricity shortages after China cut their power over a border demarcation dispute. Further, farmers have been brutally dismembered and killed in Sagaing region near the the Letpadaung mining project, which is jointly operated by China's Wanbao Mining and the military conglomerate Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd (UMEHL). China is also increasingly providing mass surveillance technology which pose serious risks to pro-democracy activists.

Countries in ASEAN in particular have an opportunity to put pressure on the junta to restore democracy in Myanmar. They have a moral and political obligation to do so, and must show that they do not lack the will to act with dignity.



Human Rights Violations

TORTURE

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

RAIDS



Myaing Township, Magwe Region: Six civilians were killed, and approximately 100 oil wells were set on fire. The bodies and faces of the deceased suggested that they had been tortured before they were killed. The bodies were burned afterwards in their houses. At least 3000 homes have been destroyed in Magwe region.

Myaing Township, Magway Region: Four civilians were killed after the military junta tied ropes around the necks of seven men, who were then pulled behind a truck to their deaths. In the same village, homes were scorched and motorcycles confiscated.

Wetlet Township, Sagaing region: One civilian was killed and two others were injured after the military junta shelled a village. The victim was a farmer, age 35 years old, who was killed instantly. The two injured are in critical condition. Homes and livestock were also destroyed.



Conflict in Myanmar

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



CHIN STATE

Civilians in Chin State are carrying the burden of instability, and insecurity about the future as the junta continues to block key supply routes needed to deliver urgently needed humanitarian aid. Alongside dwindling quantities of rice and oil, prices of basic foods such as salt and eggs are also increasing.

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RAKHINE STATE

Tensions are high in Rakhine State. Following a period of relative stability, fighting has resumed in the State where six people were recently killed, and at least 11 injured from landmine explosions during the last two months.

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SAGAING REGION

The military junta is acting without any regard for the law, or the rights and lives of innocent civilians. Villagers who have fled, and attempt to return home have been savagely targeted, and executed by soldiers who remain in the area.

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CHIN STATE

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Constant fighting has meant civilian livelihoods have stalled and subsequently people cannot work and afford to survive. Even in areas where there is no active conflict, the military junta has strived to make life all the more impossible. The isolation of villages in Mindat and Matupi has been all the more crippling amid the increased restrictions on travel and ongoing aerial and ground attacks. Fighting broke out on the border of Chin and Sagaing region as indiscriminate firing threatened the survival of more civilians. Hundreds were forced to flee their homes due to fighting in the area.

Landmines laid by the junta in civilian areas threaten their lives, with over 100 children being killed by unexploded ordnance devices since 1 February 2021. Children are among the most vulnerable in conflict settings and must be protected. ND-Burma affiliate member, the Chin Human Rights Organization, has routinely called for action in Chin State and drawn awareness to how the junta violates international humanitarian laws.





RAKHINE STATE

Tensions are high in Rakhine State. Following a period of relative stability, fighting has resumed in the State where six people were recently killed, and at least 11 injured from landmine explosions during the last two months. Landmines have reportedly been laid in civilian areas which pose a direct threat to their safety, and those of young children. Families have largely been unable to even retrieve the bodies of their loved ones because of more suspected landmines in the same area. Families have been destroyed by the loss of their loved ones and have further called upon the junta to demine areas where locals frequent. Refugees have also been killed, and injured while foraging for food in the forests upon landmines detonating.

ND-Burma member, the All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress, has documented rising numbers of attacks along the border of Chin State and inside Rakhine at the junta targets and abducts young men.





SAGAING REGION

The military junta is acting without any regard for the law, or the rights and lives of innocent civilians. Villagers who have fled, and attempt to return home have been savagely targeted, and executed by soldiers who remain in the area. Among the victims over the last week, a fourteen year old girl was killed along with her mother and three others during a raid. They were innocent, and yet unjustly and unlawfully killed.

In addition, approximately forty civilians were abducted and used as human shields in Kantbalu Township. They were used to guide the junta soldiers while they defused a bomb laid by a local People's Defense Force. The civilians were reportedly forced to kneel close to the bomb while it was defused.

As Sagaing region is hit with more violence and increasing troop advancements, Burmese citizens with registration in northwestern Sagaing have said they are being discriminated against because their homelands are the place of the fiercest opposition to the junta.





Timeline of Events

Second week of July

11 - 17 July

11

Four years is marked commemorating the solemn anniversary of the death of six female Ta'ang National Liberation Army medics who were captured, and executed by the military junta.

12

Terrorist in Chief, Min Aung Hlaing visited Moscow, Russia and has plans to continue his tour by meeting officials from space and nuclear agencies.

13

The Karenni Human Rights Group released the second issue of their quarterly briefer which includes calls for accountability for the crimes committed by the military junta.

14

Nearly 150 Myanmar civil society organizations, including several ND-Burma members, sent an open letter to the U.S. Secretary of Defense to boycott the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Experts' Working Group (ADMM-Plus EWG) on Counter Terrorism co-chaired by the Myanmar and Russian militaries.

15

The unlawful military junta sentenced six people, including an outside NLD member, to life in prison, in yet another series of unlawful, draconian charges.

16

A 10 year old child was struck and killed when a bomb exploded in Hokan Village, MonePaw District, Muse Township, Shan State.

17

The junta declares that the three founding members of Kaung For You Education - a private institute, are arrested in Aungban town of Kalaw township of southern Shan state.





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