



Weekly Update on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar: Post-Coup

9 AUGUST - 15 AUGUST 2021



971+

KILLED



7206+

ARRESTED



5604+

DETAINED



1984+

EVADING
ARREST

NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

SUMMARY OVERVIEW



Choosing the truth over terror, five youth jumped to their deaths from an apartment building in Yangon while fleeing a chase by the Myanmar junta security forces. The junta has cremated the bodies of those who died - despite this going against the wishes of family members. Families were also reportedly not allowed to take their loved ones' ashes. This heartbreaking incident devastated proponents of democracy and peace in Myanmar as uplifting drawings and various art forms commemorated their passing. The incident spoke volumes to the type of legacy the junta is leaving impressed upon the younger generations who are willing to do anything for their freedom. May they rest in power.

The United Nations Special Envoy, Christine Schraner Burgener, expressed further concern for the situation in Myanmar, especially amid rising COVID-19 cases stating: "is still very worrisome." Her concerns are rooted in Min Aung Hlaing's declaration of a 'caretaker government' and concerted attempts to completely dismantle the National League for Democracy. Adding another layer of concern is the appointment by ASEAN's decision to appoint Brunei's Foreign Affairs Minister II Erywan Yusof as its special envoy to Myanmar. Civil

society has expressed disdain and rejection of this appointment, which is rooted in the fact that ASEAN has failed to do any meaningful dialogue with the National Unity Government. Growing sentiment and distrust of Erywan Yusof has only intensified following news of Brunei's business ties with the junta.

However, the resistance and growing momentum of the people in Myanmar has not been silenced. Even in the prisons where the junta thinks they have silenced dissidents, their voices are being heard. On the anniversary of the 1988 democracy uprisings, nationwide protests reinforced calls for democracy. In Mandalay's Obo Prison, prisoners in block three who include mainly young people and students, began chanting pro-democracy cheers. The junta responded with more violence as several were reportedly beaten.

Clashes in ethnic areas are increasing risks faced by the most vulnerable, where for example, according to the Karen Peace Support Network, there are at least 70,000 IDPs in Karen State taking shelter and are afraid to return home. UN figures put displacement at over 200 000 since the military coup.

CONFLICT IN ETHNIC AREAS



CHIN

At least 50, 000 refugees in Chin State are facing high levels of stress after the junta cut all access to supply routes. Anyone entering the town is interrogated and mobiles are confiscated. Refugees say they only have enough food for two weeks, which has exacerbated an already volatile and increasingly desperate situation for civilians.

Displaced populations in Chin State have been denied aid by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees due to the blocking of essential transportation routes by the junta. Indiscriminate firing in shootouts in the town of Mindat have made emergency response and relief efforts much more difficult.

KAYAH

Civilians in Kayah State have been warned of increasing attacks by the Myanmar junta. A civilian resistance fighter urged villagers to 'stock up' on supplies so they could flee to the jungle when forced to escape. Tensions are high between the state-sponsored armed forces and local civilian resistance groups who are defending their territory and communities. During recent clashes, at least 10 junta soldiers were reportedly killed in a shootout between the Karenni Army and the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force, which started as an ambush.

Rainy season and COVID-19 pandemic have made the situation

KACHIN

Soldiers of the Light Infantry Battalion 58 of the Myanmar junta shelled civilians in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State for half an hour. According to reports, some of the shells landed near a COVID-19 clinic which heightened the fears of patients. Bullets and artillery surrounded the village with no daring to even 'open their windows.' Gunfire continued throughout the night and subsequent days which followed.

COVID-19 cases are also on the rise and pose yet another risk to civilian safety. One individual died, and 38 tested positive for the virus in an IDP camp close to Myitkyina, Kachin State. Costs for the test are expensive, and camp leaders cannot afford to purchase mass testing.

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"Our public struggle and resilience over the past six months are the best proof that we will achieve victory"

— Tayzar San, a prominent anti-coup activist from Mandalay



*Photo: Protesters march in Mandalay on August 8 to mark the 33rd anniversary of the 1988 uprising (Supplied to RFA)
Source: Myanmar Now*

TIMELINE OF EVENTS



9 AUGUST

Court hearings for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and President U Win Myint, and Naypyidaw Mayor Dr Myo Aung were rescheduled again for 16 and 17 August.

10 AUGUST

It was reported that over 350 armed conflicts took place across Myanmar in July according to the National Unity government. Nearly 800 military soldiers, allies were killed.

11 AUGUST

The US announced they will provide 50 million US dollars in humanitarian aid to Myanmar citizens.

12 AUGUST

An unidentified gunman shot and killed a villager at COVID-19 checkpoint in Magway region.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS



13 AUGUST

A civilian motorcyclist died after being shot during clashes between the junta and Kale People's Defence Force.

14 AUGUST

A member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party was shot in the head by two unidentified gunmen in Mahar Aung Myay, Mandalay.

15 AUGUST

Junta appointed Ministry of Health and Sport records 199 COVID-19 deaths.



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