



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

27 DECEMBER - 2 JANUARY



1393+
KILLED



11,296+
ARRESTED



8254+
DETAINED



1964+
EVADING
ARREST

NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

SUMMARY OVERVIEW



On 1 January, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners reported that since 1 February, 1393 people had been killed, 11, 296 arrested and over 8000 are still being unlawfully detained. In December alone, according to the National Unity Government, over five dozen civilians were murdered and tens of thousands were displaced by the junta's violence. The Women's League of Burma reported that nearly 100 women were among those killed by the regime in 2021.

Prospects for peace for the people of Myanmar appear more distant now, than in recent times. The turmoil and terror spurred by the military junta since the failed February coup have squandered hopes and dreams of young people, and perpetuated a growing feeling of instability. Despite the junta's fear mongering, the spirit of civilians, revolutionary fighters, human rights defenders and people of all ages, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds has not been broken.

The resilience seen over the last 11 months speaks volumes to the strength and courage citizens have embodied and exemplified. Yet, in the midst of the devastating times and harrowing levels of violence, the international community has countless times been too slow to act. Dozens of statements were accompanied by condemnation but no action.

Closed door meetings with the UN Security Council failed to meet the moment of crisis and urgency being made from the ground.

As the year came to an end, the conflict in Myanmar's ethnic areas did not ease. Quite the contrary, airstrikes and ground attacks saw the forced internal displacement of thousands. Women, children, and the elderly were among those without adequate shelter, food or clothing while they were fleeing for their lives to the borders of neighboring countries, including Thailand. In Karen State, on December 23 and 24, the junta launched three airstrikes in surrounding villages of Lay Kay Kaw. The Karen National Union (KNU) has emphasized that there is a 'high possibility that [the attacks] will happen again.' The KNU, in addition to civil society organizations, have urged for collective action to the atrocities in Myanmar which are ongoing, systematic and widespread.

A New Year is a renewed opportunity for action and accountability. The international community must not fail the people of Myanmar who have been more than patient. Time must not be wasted, and true, meaningful steps towards holding the junta accountable for their endless crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

CONFLICT IN ETHNIC AREAS



KAREN

Violence in Karen State has been increasing throughout the year periodically and more so recently since the end of December 2021. According to the Karen Peace Support Network, the number of IDPs and refugees to date has fluctuated as Thai authorities only allow war victims to cross into Thailand when they hear gun fire. After a while, those who had fled were pressured to return to Karen State.

The updated numbers of refugees in Thailand is currently around 5000 who are sheltering in various places in the country. However, ground reports suggest significant pressure from Thai authorities for those fleeing violence to be sent back. It is unlawful, and harmful to send innocent civilians fleeing a war zone back into an environment that is unsafe.

SAGAING

More attacks by the military junta are creating rampant displacement amidst Internet cuts and blocking urgently needed humanitarian aid. On 28 December, more homes were burnt to the ground in Kale Township, Sagaing. Ongoing airstrikes and ground attacks left 20 civilians dead, and displaced thousands more. Civilian defense forces are actively fighting with the Myanmar military who is retaliating against innocent villagers in response.

Residents of Ye-U village were found 'burnt beyond recognition' following airstrikes a few days earlier. Among the seven people killed, two included women. Some of the bodies were half buried near a home that had been destroyed. In the relentless assaults across the country, Sagaing region is among those which have been hit the hardest as civilian casualties continue to grow, adding a horrifying layer of devastation to the current crisis.

SHAN

In Shan State, Pekon Township, two villagers who were abducted by the junta and forced to guide soldiers died in custody. The two men, aged 67 and 49 were among 19 villagers taken hostage at the end of October. The two victims had stayed behind during a raid on their village to take care of the elderly residents. Their bodies have not been returned to their families as clearance operations, including theft and arbitrary arrests, have left the region in shambles.

Reports of more civilians being tortured in military custody included a teacher, and a couple who were members of the National League for Democracy who were killed in military custody. These awful atrocities are being violently committed in areas where resistance forces against the regime are most active.

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" They are acting in the most violent way to frighten the people. But no matter what they do, how brutal they are, they will not see us surrendering in fear or receiving every blow with our heads bowed."

— Spokesman for the Karenni National Defense Force



*Photo: A demonstrator holds a placard in front of a wall with palm prints during a protest against the military coup in Yangon on February 18 (EPA)
Source: Myanmar Now*

TIMELINE OF EVENTS



27 DECEMBER

ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, reports that between 20 and 26 December, nearly 1000 people were forcibly displaced from their homes.

28 DECEMBER

International NGO, Save the Children, confirmed that two of their staff were among those burned alive by the military junta in Kayah State.

29 DECEMBER

The Myanmar junta issued notifications to ignore letters from courts trying to persecute leaders.

30 DECEMBER

The Myanmar junta charged celebrities, including couple Pyay Ti Oo and Eaindra Kyaw Zin, for their pro-democracy activities. They were arrested in April.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS



31 DECEMBER

Clashes in Monko, Kachin State left at least a dozen Myanmar military soldiers dead.

1 JANUARY

The Chin Human Rights Organization reported that over 50 structures were burned by the junta on 30 December. The fires were started from four different blocks and lasted for nearly nine hours.

2 JANUARY

University students and some local activists who took part in the Spring Revolution were sentenced by the junta-backed court, according to family members that the Human Rights Foundation of Monland spoke to.



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