



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

31 JANUARY 2022 - 6 FEBRUARY 2022



1519+
KILLED



11,980+
ARRESTED



8,977+
DETAINED



1974+
EVADING
ARREST

NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

SUMMARY OVERVIEW



On 1 February, a somber anniversary marked 365 days since the unlawful coup. Throughout the year, the regime used dozens of tactics to attempt to silence and squander the resistance movement. No matter the levels of extreme violence deployed, the spirit of the Spring Revolution has continued to persist in defiance of the junta. The freedom to live in peace is not worth giving up, and so people of all ages have shown their commitment to the renewed pro-democracy movement in many shapes and forms.

The junta is deeply unpopular in Myanmar and has been for many years. Since their attempt at seizing power, they have become even more disliked. In studies conducted, confidence in Myanmar's 'leadership' dropped 60 points in 2021 with a record number of people stating they don't feel safe walking alone at night. The Gallup poll found this drop in confidence to be the largest gap of any country in the last 15 years.

The international community has rightfully so been accused of 'sitting and watching' Myanmar's economic, political, and social turmoil. Over 1500 people have been killed, thousands more unlawfully detained and evading arrest. Alongside record numbers of Tatmadaw soldiers defecting, the pro-democracy is alive and well in Myanmar. Yet, rather than willfully intervene to stop the violence and hold the junta leaders responsible, it seems that very often, the global actors have turned the other way.

While those living in Myanmar exhibit exceptional bravery, the international community has still been uncomfortably silent and continues to fail in their obligations to hold the military junta accountable. Sanctions must be enacted on the junta's senior leaders and those complicit in the decisions to kill civilians - including women and children. Sanctions on aviation fuel and a global arms embargo would seriously inhibit the military junta's ability to access weapons used to indiscriminately fire and kill civilian populations.

As Rohingya human rights and democracy activist, Wai Wai Nu, stated so well in her appropriately titled editorial, *The World Has Failed to Stand with Myanmar*, the failure of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to act represents a "historic lack of support." Since 1 February, the UNSC has met only behind closed doors and failed to engage with civil society groups who have been vocal in their calls for action and accountability.

The messaging has been clear from the people. Yet surprisingly the United Nations Special Envoy, Dr Noeleen Heyzer made comments during an interview with Channel News Asia suggesting power sharing with the Myanmar junta. Civil society rejected her comments. She should support solutions by the people who have made clear that their path forward does not include a dialogue with a regime with blood on its hands. A global arms embargo must be supported, alongside sanctions and an immediate referral of the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court.

CONFLICT IN ETHNIC AREAS



KAREN

According to the Karen National Union, the Myanmar military has continued attacking the Karen National Liberation Army in a series of air and ground strikes which have led to the displacement of thousands of villagers. Women, children and the elderly remain extremely vulnerable and at risk. Naw K'nyaw Paw of the Karen Women's Organization (KWO) expressed concern over the attacks, citing the many difficulties displaced people have been forced to contend with. KWO also documented two harrowing cases of a woman and child dying due to indiscriminate fire by the military junta. On 29 January, mortar shelling killed a 3-month old baby and a 20 year old woman. The next day, more firing destroyed a woman and injured an elderly woman who was struck on her head and chest.

KAYAH (KARENNI)

In January of this year alone, at least 45 people were killed by the military junta in Kayah (Karenni) State. Rights organizations including the Karenni Human Rights Groups have documented state-wide atrocities and condemned them in the harshest terms calling these attacks 'inhumane' and expressing commitment to prosecute perpetrators in the future. Among the victims, six died when they were shot at with airstrikes and four died while suffering from heart failure during artillery firing. Several other bodies found had evidence of serious trauma, including head wounds and visible lacerations. Men, women and children killed have been found in the ditches, and on the road. Almost 200 people in Kayah (Karenni) State have been murdered by the junta.

SAGAING

Homes belonging to innocent villagers in Sagaing region are being burned to the ground by the Myanmar junta. On 2 February, more than 400 homes were razed by junta soldiers who accused residents of harboring civilian armed defense forces. One village said his whole village of Mwe Tone is now completely gone as 220 of the 265 homes were scorched. Witnesses recounted what's left as 'a pile of ashes.' When the arson began, residents had no time to grab their belongings or livestock.

This attack is only the latest in a brutal onslaught of offensives which have taken place in Sagaing region over the last year. The displacement and indiscriminate attacks have made villagers more resentful and have garnered stronger support for anti-coup forces.

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" In the past year, we have seen extreme brutality and atrocity against the population. We have also seen clear determination from the younger generation, a new generation who are saying they will not accept the regime"

— NUG Foreign Minister,
Zin Mar Aung



*Photo: A year after the coup, there are growing demands to hold the Myanmar military to account for the crackdown on protesters and attacks on civilians
Source: File: AFP via Al Jazeera*

TIMELINE OF EVENTS



31 JANUARY

The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada issued new sanctions against Myanmar junta 'justice' officials including Attorney General Thida Oo, Supreme Court Chief Justice Tun Tun Oo and Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Tin Oo.

1 FEBRUARY

On the one year anniversary of the failed coup in Myanmar, a silent strike as part of a campaign of Civil Disobedience, took place across the entire country despite threats by the junta against individuals participating.

2 FEBRUARY

ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, released a yearly overview of human rights violations in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region alleging over 1000 atrocities were committed against innocent civilians.

3 FEBRUARY

Cambodia's foreign ministry announced that a 'non-political representative' from Myanmar had been invited to attend an upcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat to take place later this month - rather than the junta's military appointed foreign minister.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

4 FEBRUARY

The National Unity Government of Myanmar received a nomination for a Nobel Peace Prize.

5 FEBRUARY

Airstrikes deployed on civilians in Karen State killed two civilians and injured six.

6 FEBRUARY

The military junta filed an eleventh corruption charges against detained State Counselor, Aung San Suu Kyi.



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