



# WEEKLY UPDATE: 28 February 2022 - 6 March 2022



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## Situation Overview

1,603+ KILLED  
12,534+ ARRESTED  
9,507+ DETAINED  
1,973 EVADING ARREST



### Myanmar Human Rights Defenders, Civil Society Extend Support to Ukraine Amid Russian Invasion

As violence and attacks by Russia threaten Ukraine's sovereignty, freedom and independence, Myanmar's civil society and human rights defenders have offered words of encouragement and solidarity in the shared struggle for peace in their respective countries. The National Unity Government (NUG) released a statement on 25 February condemning the attack on Ukraine and its people, and called for the United Nations Charter to be upheld. During a special emergency session on 2 March, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly for a resolution which called for Russian forces to withdraw from Ukraine. Myanmar's representative who the junta has tried to remove, Kyaw Moe Tun, was among those who voted in support.

Meanwhile, the military junta has unsurprisingly offered their support to Russia who said they have 'worked hard to consolidate its sovereignty.' The stance is in stark contrast to the rest of the world, and speaks to the Myanmar military's affinity for dictatorships and authoritarian leaders. In contrast, Russian officials have lauded the military coup in Myanmar and have shown their support by providing weapons which have been used to kill and assault innocent civilians. Airstrikes launched in Sagaing region were fired from Russian made Mi-25 combat helicopters.

*However, the defiance from the people of Myanmar and Ukraine, speak strongly to the fact that civilians are not puppets.*

There are comparisons to be made among the attacks on civilians in both Myanmar and Ukraine, where authoritarian leaders attempt to silence voices for democracy and human rights. However, the defiance from the people of Myanmar and Ukraine, speak strongly to the fact that civilians are not puppets and no amount of bombing, threats and destabilization can change morale, or attitudes on fundamental freedoms and rights - which are meant to be protected, rather than negated. Both individuals have seriously underestimated the will of the people.

While the world reacts with purpose and urgency to the crisis in Ukraine, the people of Myanmar, while cheering for universal human rights and protection, are also frustrated by the slowness at which international actors respond to their plight.



# Human Rights Violations

INDISCRIMINATE FIRING

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

MURDER & TORTURE



**MUTRAW DISTRICT, KAREN STATE:** The military junta based in Hpa-An, Karen State shelled artillery into Klaw Day Village, Mae Klaw village tract, Butho Township, Mutraw District, Kaw Thoo Lei. Four villagers were struck and seven died immediately. One is in critical condition.

**LENTE VILLAGE, FALAM TOWNSHIP:** The Chin Human Rights Organization reported on a 23-year old young man returning to his village, when he was stopped and tortured to death by junta soldiers. His eye and throat were slashed, before the junta cruelly disposed of his body.

**THABYE VILLAGE, SAGAING REGION:** Following an airstrike and homes being torched by the military junta, two villagers were killed in the midst of the attacks.

**YANGON:** Four young people peacefully protesting were sentenced to three years in prison for 'sedition.'

**YINMABIN TOWNSHIP, SAGAING REGION:** Over 80 children between the ages of 3 and 12 years old and 10 teachers were taken hostage by the military junta. The whole village was also destroyed. The National Unity Government Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs and of Human Rights expressed their outrage. Airstrikes have been increasingly used to target innocent civilians across Myanmar, including Karenni (Kayah) State.





## Conflict in Myanmar

As of 31 January, an estimated 441,500 people remained internally displaced across Myanmar



### KARRENI STATE

The Karenni Human Rights Organization (KnHRG) released a situation update from 1 to 28 February 2022 which included the deaths of eight civilians, and nearly 100 homes burned to the ground.

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### SAGAING REGION

As the junta continues to suffer mounting defeat across the country, they are ruthlessly attacking civilians in their homes, villages and have even taken children hostage.

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### SHAN STATE

Fighting in northern Shan State, which escalated on 16 February 2022, has led to increased displacement from the fighting including airstrikes, which predominantly includes women and children.

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## KARENNI (KAYAH) STATE

The Karenni Human Rights Organization (KnHRG) released a situation update from 1 to 28 February 2022 which included the deaths of eight civilians, and nearly 100 homes burned to the ground. At least sixteen civilians were arrested and forcibly disappeared and villagers were targeted in a series of coordinated attacks against innocent people. Up to 15 000 were newly displaced with over 170 000 displaced across Myanmar's smallest state. The worsening situation led KnHRG to some grim predictions including more displacement amid calls for a global arms embargo and a no-fly zone.

On 9 February 2022, ND-Burma and KnHRG released a joint report, "The World Must Know," which documented details of war crimes in Karenni (Kayah) State perpetrated by the military junta.

The Karenni Civil Society Network also released their summary of human rights violations perpetrated by the junta in Karenni (Kayah) State and Pekhön Township, Southern Shan State, where over 200 people have been killed, 283 arrested and 175 injured. Internal displacement is highest in Loikaw Township with over 50 000 displaced and Demoso with nearly 70 000 people forced to flee.

The ruthless junta also continued to target yet another sanctuary for civilians fleeing violence when Lo Bar Kho village was bombed from the sky. There were approximately 300 internally displaced people sheltering there when the airstrikes were launched, damaging a clinic and a few buildings. Last month, civilians were forced to wonder how much longer they could survive.





## SAGAING REGION

As the junta continues to suffer mounting defeat across the country, they are ruthlessly attacking civilians in their homes, villages and have even taken children hostage. Sagaing region continues to be hard hit by raging junta offensives in response to the success of the opposition movement.

Airstrikes fired by the regime claimed the lives of two more civilians during an attack. A witness reported: "a villager riding away on a motorcycle was hit in the head. An elderly person was trapped in the fire." Soldiers also approached the village to torch almost 200 homes. Prior to this attack, the military junta killed nine people in a neighboring village, and also held over 80 primary children hostage as possible human shields for 36 hours.

The onslaught of offensives in Sagaing has devastated civilian livelihoods. The air and ground assaults have destroyed villages in the junta's attempts to stop the opposition forces. Fear mongering tactics are deliberately used by the junta who seek to distract people from the revolution and rather on their survival by depriving them of the bare minimum. Reports of communication shutdowns followed the intensified violence.





## SHAN STATE

Fighting in northern Shan State, which escalated on 16 February 2022, has led to increased displacement from the fighting including airstrikes, which predominantly includes women and children. The clashes led to residents fleeing to neighboring villages. Fighting has been active along the Karenni border, in southern Shan State.

Since clashes escalated, at least ten civilians were killed after being caught in the crossfire near Moebye. Two doctors affiliated with the Civil Disobedience Movement were among those killed. Insecurity and instability from the fighting has made it difficult to escape. According to the Karenni Human Rights Group, in nine days of fighting, more than 20,000 people from Moebye and 10,000 from Nang Mae Khon fled their homes, bringing the total number of war refugees to nearly 200,000.

Approximately 2,000 villagers who fled to southern Shan State returned to Loikaw, Karenni State. According to the latest figures by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees there are 60,500 internally displaced people in Shan State.





## Timeline of Events

END OF FEBRUARY

FIRST WEEK OF MARCH

28 - 6 March

### FEBRUARY

28

On the military junta holding children hostages, the Deputy Asia Director of Human Rights Watch, Phil Robertson, said the junta was acting with 'total impunity.'

### MARCH

1

Rights group, Burma Campaign UK, released an updated 'Dirty List,' of companies with ties to the Myanmar junta including Honeywell and Telegram.

2

Several well-known celebrities in Myanmar who were arrested and detained for their anti-junta views were released from prison in an amnesty. They should have never been arrested to begin with, with many more still unjustly behind bars.

3

During an emergency session, the United Nations General Assembly, Myanmar's representative, Kyaw Moe Tun, voted to 'deplore in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine.'

4

The one year marking of the day the junta killed nearly 40 people peacefully protesting is remembered solemnly on social media, as the numbers of those killed continues to grow.

5

The Chin Human Rights Organization reported that a 48 year old pastor lost his leg after stepping on a landmine planted by the military junta.

6

The economic toll of the coup has taken serious impacts on the people of Myanmar with the Irrawaddy reporting that the price of rice increased by 30%







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