



# WEEKLY UPDATE: 18 April - 24 April 2022



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## Situation Overview

1,782+ KILLED

13,334+ ARRESTED

10,290+ DETAINED

1,977 EVADING ARREST



### All Political Prisoners Must Be Released

Across Myanmar's turbulent history, thousands have been arbitrarily detained and unlawfully arrested for exercising their democratic rights and freedoms. Since the attempted coup one year ago, over 13 000 people have been arrested. According to the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP), there are currently at least 10,290 political prisoners, 996 of whom have been sentenced whilst 9,275 await trial, remain detained. The reality is that none of these civilians should have ever faced any repercussions to begin with. While political prisoners await unjust sentencing, the Myanmar junta continues to evade accountability and responsibility for their truly evil actions.

As AAPP made clear in a statement released on 21 April to commemorate the Blue Shirt Campaign and the eighth anniversary of the death of U Win Tin, the world must not forget the suffering of political prisoners in Myanmar. AAPP also urged the international community to act with intention and respond to the increasingly dire crisis in the country.

The Blue Shirt Campaign was inspired by journalist, activist and founding member of the National League for Democracy, U Win Tin. He suffered decades as a political prisoner where he was subjected to physical and mental torture. Upon his release, he vowed to wear his prison uniform (a blue shirt and longyi) every day until his death to spearhead awareness about remaining political prisoners. His efforts and commitment to the struggle for democracy in Myanmar speak to his courage. The campaign is a testament to his legacy and his fight for freedom.

As long as there are political prisoners in Myanmar, there cannot be a flourishing democracy. The military junta has tortured and killed innocent people alongside scorching villages. They have refused to adhere to principles of non-violence and have instead disregarded rule of law while making a mockery of the justice system. The Myanmar junta are the ones who should be behind bars. International condemnation has failed to stop the junta. Their course of action taken must be met with the most serious of consequences including an urgent and immediate referral of the Myanmar military and the situation on the ground to the International Criminal Court.



# Human Rights Violations

TORTURE

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

RAIDS



*Chanayetharzan Township, Mandalay:* A renowned land-rights lawyer was brutally beaten by military junta soldiers in front of his family and was then subsequently abducted. The beating stopped when his wife and children began begging the soldiers to stop their assault.

*Maharnwe ward, Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay:* A 50 year old woman who was abducted by the military junta is being held in an unknown location. The regime was targeting her husband who is the Vice Chair of the National League for Democracy party in Mandalay. The woman has been denied contact with her family.

*Yangon:* The military junta drove into a crowd of protesters. The military vehicle failed to strike the marches but instead hit a car carrying three women who joined the demonstration. They were held and detained at gun-point.





## Conflict in Myanmar

Approximately 889,900 people remain internally displaced across Myanmar due to clashes and instability.



### KAREN STATE

As an ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), made clear in an editorial published in the Diplomat this week, the crisis in southeastern Myanmar is worsening on a daily basis.

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### KARENNI (KAYAH) STATE

Karenni civil society organizations have continued to document the atrocities committed by the military junta in Karenni State where over 200 people have been killed since 1 February 2021.

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### SHAN STATE

Myanmar military advancements in Shan State are increasing. Weeks ago, the Shan State Progress Party rejected a request from the junta to withdraw their troops from the Southern part of the State.

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## KAREN STATE

As an ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), made clear in an editorial published in the Diplomat this week, the crisis in southeastern Myanmar is worsening on a daily basis. “The rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in southeastern Myanmar requires urgent and immediate attention as more lives are caught in the crossfire everyday. Innocent people are being deliberately targeted by the military junta,” wrote HURFOM. The ongoing atrocities speak to long-held military impunity and the lack of consequences the junta has faced for the oppression of local people.

With thousands displaced across the State, the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG), also warned of food shortages among internally displaced people. Many innocent villagers have been forced to flee numerous times. Despite the growing need for assistance, humanitarian assistance largely remains blocked. Those attempting to deliver materials face serious risks by the junta, including its interception and subsequent arrest of aid workers.

Since 1 February 2021, it is estimated that over 150 000 people have been displaced in Karen State. Those unable to return home include farmers who have lost money on their yields because they’ve been unable to harvest. Children too have been forced to put their education on hold. Traumatized villagers are fearful of the unknown as the military junta increases their presence in civilian areas.





### KARENNI (KAYAH) STATE

Karenni civil society organizations have continued to document the atrocities committed by the military junta in Karenni State where over 200 people have been killed since 1 February 2021. The number of those who have died at the hands of the junta is not showing any signs of slowing. In the first two weeks of April 2022 alone, five people were shot and killed. Those targeted have been killed indiscriminately, including being fired upon while riding their motorcycles and being struck in ongoing artillery firing and shelling. The Karenni Human Rights Group says the most common cause of death among civilians targeted by the junta is through detainment, torture and artillery strikes.

Karenni people have been displaced at an unprecedented rate and are fearful of a possible return home. The military junta has not shied away from planting landmines in civilian areas, particularly in places where conflict is active. Villager homes, livestock and possessions have largely been looted, confiscated and destroyed by the military. Those displaced and traumatized say they have 'nothing to eat.' The increased presence of the junta soldiers makes it even more worrying to risk a return home.





## SHAN STATE

Myanmar military advancements in Shan State are increasing. Weeks ago, the Shan State Progress Party rejected a request from the junta to withdraw their troops from the Southern part of the State. These demands are part of a string of unlawful acts by the junta who has routinely abducted, arrested, tortured and killed civilians in the State.

During the Burmese New Year celebrations of Thingyan, the military junta kidnapped two youth in Ywa Ngan Township, in addition to setting fire to two houses. One of those taken away by the regime was reportedly only 16 years old. The junta is continuing their unlawful spree of abductions. Youth and affiliates of the People's Defense Forces and the Civil Disobedience Movement are being targeted. On 9 and 10 April, a child was among those abducted by the junta in Nwar Bangyi. According to the Shan Human Rights Foundation, over 100 local villagers in northern Shan State were also unlawfully extorted for labor when they were ordered to build an outpost near a planned coal mine.

Alongside the rampant human rights abuses is humanitarian aid which is urgently needed for the people of Shan State. Over 50,000 have been displaced in southern Shan State and more than 6500 in northern Shan by the end of March 2022.





## Timeline of Events

FOURTH WEEK OF  
APRIL 2022

18 - 24 APRIL

18

The Chin Human Rights Organization reported that Mizoram has registered nearly 30,000 Chin people as the Indian government commits to financial aid to assist those fleeing the junta's violence.

19

The People's Goal announced that since the failed military coup on 1 February 2021, there have been 10 000 defections from the Myanmar Army, according to the National Unity Government.

20

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund reported that 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, are in urgent need of international assistance.

21

The annual #BlueShirt4Burma campaign was marked in solidarity with political prisoners serving unjust sentences in Myanmar.

22

The Irrawaddy reported that almost 350 000 people have been displaced in northwest Myanmar since the failed coup.

23

Explosions were reported along the gate of the Friendship Bridge which connects Thailand and Myanmar.

24

The junta carried out airstrikes and heavy artillery attacks on at least six villages in Kyaing Seiki Township, Karen State, which led to an estimated 500 people forced to flee from their homes.





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