



WEEKLY UPDATE: 28 March - 3 April 2022



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Situation Overview

1,723+ KILLED
13,047+ ARRESTED
10,007+ DETAINED
1,976 EVADING ARREST

Fundamental Rights Must be Protected & Upheld in Myanmar; Young People are Not a Target

Young people in Myanmar who protested against the junta are facing increasingly unjust punishments in military backed courts including 103 sentenced to death. Daily reports of the growing numbers of arrests and those who have 'disappeared' have only contributed to ongoing worries and concerns in the country. The junta is insistent on 'annihilating' all opposition forces by attempting to spark fear from their violence. The detention of young people has been one channel used to try and stifle dissent. Thousands remain imprisoned across Myanmar, with many of them being young people who are facing some of the harshest sentences. With 175 activists sentenced to death, or being charged with decade long sentences, the majority are between the ages of 23 and 27. This strategy is, of course, deliberate. The junta knows the power of the Spring Revolution and are undoubtedly threatened by it.

ND-Burma member, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, (AAPP) has documented horrible prison conditions amid growing calls to release all political prisoners. In a recent report titled, "*Political Prisoners Experience in Interrogation, Judiciary, and Incarceration Since Burma's Illegitimate Military Coup,*" AAPP provided further evidence that if the consequences of the coup continue so will arbitrary arrest and unlawful imprisonment, with 'violations of human rights everywhere across the country.'

While the military junta attempts to negate the rule of law to punish people who have exercised internationally recognized human rights, new laws are also being enacted to punish their own. In the latest group to be forced to the frontlines of armed conflict and fight opposition forces, members of the police are among those now being deployed to fight, by law. In the last several months, the junta has also forced the wives and children of various ranked soldiers to also take up arms. Their actions speak to the high casualties and injuries sustained by their battalions as opposition forces, particularly in Chin State and Sagaing region, continue to thwart off their attacks.

All political prisoners must be immediately and unconditionally released.





Human Rights Violations

VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

RAIDS



Gangnaw Township, Magway: Three villages were destroyed in a series of assaults by the Myanmar junta. Fire was set to Change Kauk and Thazi villages as well as Moe So. Almost all of the homes were destroyed, civilians were tortured and livestock was taken.

Hakha Township, Chin State: The Chin Human Rights Organization reported that over 45 homes and churches were ransacked and vandalized by the Myanmar junta.

Mandalay & Ayeyarwady region: Two journalists were charged with incitement and sentenced to two-year prison terms in closed-door military courts. Their respective news organizations had been calling for their release.

Myawaddy Township, Karen State: The Myanmar military continued to attack villages along the Thai-Burma border, forcing thousands to flee and seek temporary shelter along the Moei river.

Myitnge Township, Mandalay: An eleven year old boy was among those arbitrarily arrested, detained and abused by the Myanmar junta on accusations of being affiliated with civilian armed defense forces. Fearing repercussions, his family did not go to the hospital for treatment.



Conflict in Myanmar

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



CHIN STATE

The Myanmar military is responsible for destroying thousands of villages and homes across the country. Soldiers have particularly targeted places of worship, knowing it is where people seek refuge and safety and also to weaken morale.

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KAREN STATE

Clashes between the Myanmar junta and the Karen National Liberation Army have forced thousands to flee to Thailand for safety in make-shift camps along the Moei River.

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SAGAING REGION

Offensives in Sagaing region are unrelenting, forcing civilians to flee on a regular basis. The bravery of those who have joined the People's Defense Force is exhibited in their will to protect people in their communities at all costs.

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CHIN STATE

The Myanmar military is responsible for destroying thousands of villages and homes across the country. Soldiers have particularly targeted places of worship, knowing it is where people seek refuge and safety and also to weaken morale. Among the over 100 Buddhist and Christian religious buildings that have been desecrated, 35 churches and 15 affiliated buildings were ruined in Chin State. According to ND-Burma affiliate member, Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), junta troops continue to terrorize innocent civilians. This week alone, on 29 March, 47 homes and a church were ransacked and vandalized as private property and valuables were looted. Livestock are taken and killed at the will of the junta.

Over the last week, CHRO reported that more civilians have been forced to flee their villages. In Vuitu village, residents abandoned their livelihoods after raids by the junta which led to the arrest of four civilians and confiscation of 24 mobile devices. A villager was also injured in a landmine explosion on 28 March. The confiscation and destruction of materials has made civilians feel that nowhere is safe.

As the junta struggles for control of Southern Chin State, there were reports of more fighting in Matupi at 7:15 AM on 30 March. New reinforcements of junta troops are expected to continue their unlawful war against opposition forces.





KAREN STATE

Clashes between the Myanmar junta and the Karen National Liberation Army have forced thousands to flee to Thailand for safety in make-shift camps along the Moei River. The need for food and supplies is being met by local community based organizations but legitimate fears of blocked routes are cause for worry. As thousands seek protection, reports of Thai government officials attempting to push back refugees has sent waves of even more concern.

Those who have fled, with a majority being women and children, are in desperate need of shelter and food. Aid workers expressed concern for the likelihood of the conflict worsening and internally displaced people facing more hardships. In recent weeks, ongoing shelling and artillery fire has killed and injured civilians as well as damaged their homes, livestock and property. The International Karen Organization (IKO) is among the Karen civil society organizations who condemned the series of airstrikes deployed in Mutraw and Dooplaya Districts on Armed Forces day (27 March). According to IKO, in Karen State alone, over 150 000 have been displaced.

In a press release by the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) on their latest report, Intensification of armed conflict, air and ground attacks, and widespread human rights violations, July to December 2021, KHRG noted that the reporting period saw an increase human rights violations, including forced labour, the use of human shields, torture, killings, theft and looting, and the planting of landmines in Karen State.





SAGAING REGION

Offensives in Sagaing region are unrelenting, forcing civilians to flee on a regular basis. The bravery of those who have joined the People's Defense Force is exhibited in their will to protect people in their communities at all costs. Two soldiers affiliated with a local PDF in Yar Taw, Sagaing region, were trying to protect people in the area ahead of an anticipated military raid. The junta was also scoping out the area and saw the two men who were captured and killed. Before being shot to death, they were tortured with rifles. Their legs were also broken.

Internet and telecommunications in Sagaing region have been largely shut off by the military junta who are emboldened by the blackout and likely committing even more unreported human rights violations under the cover of darkness.





Timeline of Events

END OF MARCH 2022,
FIRST WEEK OF
APRIL 2022

28 MARCH - 3 APRIL

28

Over 350 civil society organizations including ND-Burma and several members called on the United States government for urgent action following their genocide determination.

29

In Istanbul, Turkey, a criminal file was opened against the Myanmar military for torture of innocent civilians.

30

The Myanmar military enacted a new law which would force members of the Myanmar Police Force to fight on the frontlines. The junta has also forced the wives and children of soldiers to take up arms.

31

The UN Special Envoy to Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer met with the Cambodian ASEAN Special Envoy in Phnom Penh.

1

The junta sentenced a 19 year old female university student to 10 years in prison. Ma Saung Hnin Phyu, was arrested on August 22 on accusations of funding PDFs.

2

Eight more youths were sentenced to death in military-run courts.

3

The junta troops set fire to more than 11 villagers' homes in Thayet Chaung Township, Dawei. Civilians were arbitrarily arrested and used as 'human shields' according to witnesses.





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