



WEEKLY UPDATE: 25 April 2022 - 1 May 2022



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NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

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Situation Overview

1,803+ KILLED

13,496+ ARRESTED

10,449+ DETAINED

1,977 EVADING ARREST



Women & Children Increasingly Targeted in Myanmar

The violence being perpetrated against women and children continues to undermine civilian safety across the country. The military junta has not hesitated to use excessive force against the most vulnerable during the most traumatic moments, including when communities are attempting to flee violence. In an annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, it is stated that over 100 children have been killed in Myanmar. As of 4 April, according to the National Unity Government, at least 150 women have been murdered. The systematic oppression of vulnerable groups exacerbates the gaps in already flawed infrastructure and laws which have long failed to adequately meet the needs of women and children.

Women and children have suffered enormous impacts of the failed coup as the junta continues to try and assert their power through domineering tactics. Women have been forced to porter for the junta and used as human shields where at least 85 incidents have been reported. They were also overwhelmingly impacted by the loss of 1.6 million jobs in 2021 as a direct result of the military's negligence and incompetence. In many households, women are the primary caretaker and yet have been forced to abandon their homes as the junta embarks on a lawless, scorched earth campaign which has already seen thousands of houses burned to the ground. Landmines also remain an ever present threat as the regime strategically lays them in civilian areas. Last year, 33 women and 55 children were among those injured from explosive remnants of war, and landmines.

Gender-based violence is on the rise in Myanmar. In Karenni State, women's rights activists have reported that women are facing increased sexual violence and other forms of abuse. Soldiers who have committed these crimes largely continue to evade consequences due to a long history of impunity in which the junta-run courts protect their own. This means soldiers have been shielded from consequences while victims and their families are left to suffer without reparations or due process. The current situation on the ground has severely limited the ability of survivors to report their cases through formal complaint mechanisms. Much of the gaps have been filled by civil society organizations and women's based groups operating at a local level.

There must be justice for the many victims of the junta's atrocities. The horrors of these ordeals must encourage the international community to respond with true and meaningful action that puts an immediate halt to the crimes being perpetrated.



Human Rights Violations

TORTURE

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

RAIDS



Demawso Township, Karenni (Kayah) State: The Karenni National Defense Forces Battalion 9 reported that they discovered two unidentifiable bodies in a well on 27 April and suspected they were captured, tortured and killed before being thrown in the well.

Hpa-An Township, Karen State: The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners reported on 29 April that two 88 Generation students were arrested by the military junta. Their family members, including an 80-year old woman, were also arrested in Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Magway: Nearly two dozen villagers were threatened with more violence, including religious leaders, children and elders, after being taken hostage by the junta following clashes with the Yaw Defense Force.

Thayet Chaung village, Dawei: Two villagers who went missing after they were arrested on 17 April near Kamyaing village were confirmed killed by the junta and cremated at a rubber plantation near a temporary military base.





Conflict in Myanmar

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



KAREN STATE

The number of those displaced in Karen State is estimated to be approximately 140,000. Intensifying clashes between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the military junta has led to many challenges for civilians caught in the crossfire of violence.

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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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SAGAING REGION

The strength and resilience of civilians in Sagaing region is among the most courageous seen across the country as the military junta continues to suffer mass casualties and defections.

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KAREN STATE

The number of those displaced in Karen State is estimated to be approximately 140,000. Intensifying clashes between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the military junta has led to many challenges for civilians caught in the crossfire of violence. Daily life has indisputably been unfairly interrupted as villagers also suffer an economic blow alongside growing threats to their physical and mental well-being. People are also being increasingly arrested by the military junta. According to ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, residents say businesses are also being targeted where two money transfer owners had their shops raided on 21 and 24 April. Since 19 April, approximately eight people have been arrested, including teachers from the Civil Disobedience Movement. All of them are young, and innocent.

Amid the chaos that the military junta is pursuing, the Karen National Union has fired warning shots at the bases of the Myanmar Army for refusing to retreat from their areas. On 29 April 2022, the Karen Peace Support Network reported a series of airstrikes in Karen state's Mutraw district, which lasted around 3 hours.





SAGAING REGION

The strength and resilience of civilians in Sagaing region is among the most courageous seen across the country as the military junta continues to suffer mass casualties and defections. Over the last week, more villages were torched and a monk was among those killed alongside three civilians. The victims had begged the soldiers to retreat, and not target the villagers. For their bravery, they lost their lives.

Fearful, traumatized and distraught civilians have been deeply impacted by the ongoing violence leading many to abandon their homes for good saying they 'dare not' return. This is a common sentiment shared by many villagers who have been forced to endure the same horrors routinely perpetuated by the junta. Approximately 30,000 people from over 40 villages in Kawlin and Wuntho townships have been displaced this month alone. In addition, between 25 and 27 April, further unprovoked attacks of arson led to the scorching of another 500 homes in Sagaing townships of Mingin, Khin Oo and Shwebo.

Logistical challenges have also presented themselves as challenges as civilians become more limited in their ability to sell items at the market for money. The security situation has made it more difficult for transporting food, medicine and goods.





Timeline of Events

LAST WEEK OF APRIL,
BEGINNING OF MAY

25 APRIL - 1 MAY 2022

25

Ko Bo Gyi of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners penned an editorial in *The Irrawaddy* chronicling the downfall of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 5-Point Consensus which the junta never intended to uphold.

26

Dr. Htar Htar Lin, the former head of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program was sentenced by the military junta to three years.

27

The Myanmar military sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to five more years in prison after finding her guilty of corruption in a court controlled by the junta.

28

A lawyer from the National League for Democracy Party, Daw Ywat Nu Aung, was charged by the military junta under the draconian Counter-Terrorism Law.

29

Oil and gas conglomerate company PTTEP from Thailand and Malaysia's Petronas announced their withdrawal from the Yetagun gas project in Myanmar.

30

Two political prisoners in Dawei were sentenced to life in prison by the junta-backed court. This decision is the first-ever maximum sentence for the political prisoners in Dawei.

1 MAY 2022

1

Malaysia announces plans to submit a proposal to ASEAN to establish an informal engagement mechanism to engage with the National Unity Government.





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