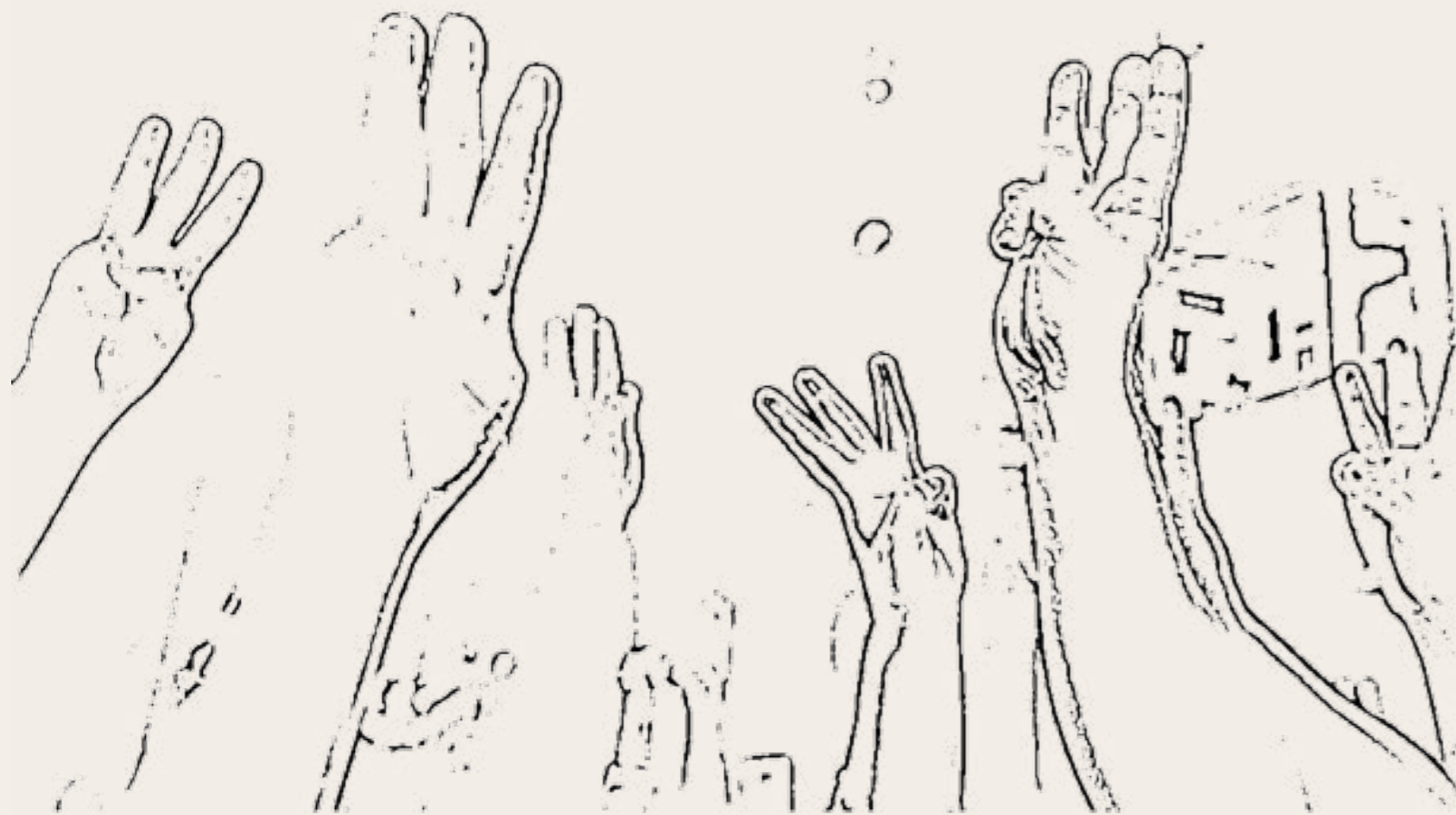


# RESIST

*Women's Courage Tested in Myanmar One Year Since the Failed Coup*





## INTRODUCTION

Women in Myanmar have shown their strength over decades of armed conflict. They have also reshaped a landscape of patriarchal values that have long attempted to shape the country. Advocates have been calling for stronger legislation to protect women from physical and emotional violence, but there has been a disappointing lack of desire to pass laws which would protect survivors and ensure access to justice.

The malice exhibited by the Myanmar junta includes many years of sexual violence perpetrated during internal conflict. Under these harrowing circumstances, women and girls bear the burden. They are targeted by soldiers while trying to escape raids, and flee organized violence. Those who survive are left traumatized and often without adequate access to psycho-social counseling. Their lives, along with their families, are forever marred by the regime's vehemence.

Pathways to justice are filled with roadblocks, including costly trials and protection granted to soldiers. The junta has been able to evade accountability and increase the likelihood of repeat offenses. Years of impunity has reinforced a deeply flawed legal system that denies the dignity, safety and security of victims.

Since the failed Myanmar coup on 1 February 2021, civilians have come under fire as soldiers have attempted to squander resistance movements through any means necessary. Over 1,500 people have been killed and hundreds more injured, according to local documentation groups. Against this backdrop of unyielding violence, women's resistance movements have prevailed under the darkest of circumstances. Pro-democracy campaigns have taken place in spite of the threats and risks to their physical and digital security.

In the presence of the Myanmar military, women have never been safe. Nevertheless, women's voices for change continue to persevere. Against all odds, indeed, they continue to resist.

In this joint briefing paper, the Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma (ND-Burma), the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) and the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand (KWAT) will describe how women and girls in Myanmar have been threatened by the junta’s violence, particularly in Kachin State, northern Shan State, Karen State, Mon State and Tanintharyi region across the last year. The paper will also show how they have overcome the systematic threats and violence they’ve been faced with.

## METHODOLOGY

This briefing paper is produced jointly by the Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland and the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand.

It has become increasingly more challenging to document human rights violations. The military junta has leveraged a barrage of checkpoints across the country. Anyone traveling is subject to interrogations which frequently become violent. In these scenarios, military troops confiscate mobile devices, computers and any other possessions that the regime deems a “threat.” Therefore, the information and data presented are approximates which were available at the time of writing.

The Myanmar junta is known for intimidating and harassing fieldworkers documenting human rights violations. Soldiers often threaten survivors who share their stories with rights groups as well. At the moment, HURFOM is safely able to work in ceasefire areas and armed controlled territories of the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party. Recording of events and testimonies is extremely high-risk outside of these areas.

Similarly, in Kachin State and northern Shan State where KWAT is active, the safety concerns surrounding the increased presence of the military junta have made it more difficult to collect testimonies and cases of human rights violations.

All parties involved in the collection of data and interviewees agreed to share their information and experiences with ND-Burma, HURFOM and KWAT for the purpose of this report. The identities of individuals who requested anonymity for safety and security reasons have been changed accordingly.

All of the authoring organizations of this report recognize the great risks which have been taken to ensure evidence is collected and testimonies are shared to pursue justice for victims and their families at various international judiciaries.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Over the last year, civilians in Myanmar have had their strength and resilience tested in every possible way. The soldiers of the military junta have violated the rights of the people in urban and rural areas by destroying their property, livelihoods, and arbitrarily arresting and abducting civilians. People have been murdered, tortured and forcibly disappeared. The crimes committed undoubtedly amount to grave human rights violations under international law.

Gender based violence in Myanmar is an epidemic that spans the ranks of the military junta. Amid a sincere lack of rule of law, women are among those who have taken appeals for democracy into their own hands by joining campaigns to dismantle the Myanmar junta.

As a result of the unlawful coup, the role of women human rights defenders has changed in comparison to previous eras. Much of the work is now solely focused on advocating for the military junta to be denied power, influence and access to the international community, including to the flow of weapons. The exclusion of women from politics in the past has only propelled young women and girls forward.





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Women have defied traditional roles. As in previous revolutions, they've even taken up arms. They have joined the civilian armed resistance by joining the People's Defense Forces (PDFs). Women are further defying gender norms by participating in the Spring Revolution as medics, lawyers and journalists. At least 60 percent of the protesters demonstrating against the Myanmar junta have been women.<sup>1</sup>

Women human rights defenders are facing burdens across multiple fronts; a lack of human security and a loss of civil liberty which have all been compounded by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The threats to their safety are growing exponentially on a daily basis.

But a sense of solidarity and shared experiences among women for the suffering has drawn a sense of unity. Embracing diversity has only made the renewed democracy movement stronger. Despite the many challenges which lay ahead, the women of Myanmar are steadfast and resilient.

## Part 1: Human Rights Violations Against Women and Girls in Myanmar

The junta's response to the pro-democracy effort in Myanmar has been to further expand militarization and their campaign of terror. Patriarchal attitudes and beliefs have formed the foundation of the regime. It is no surprise that the culture of the military shows little interest in protecting women and girls. The National Unity Government (NUG), formed by elected Members of Parliament and human rights activists, has appealed for the protection and promotion of women's rights, especially within the current situation on the ground.<sup>2</sup>

The first victim to be killed by the military's violence following the failed coup was Mya Thwet Thwet Khaing, a 21-year-old woman who was shot in the head while peacefully protesting in Naypyidaw.<sup>3</sup> Since then, over 100 women and girls have been murdered by the military junta between 1 February 2021 and 30 January 2022.<sup>4</sup>

Their lives have been unjustly claimed by a murderous regime who has no scope of reason, nor compassion. Armed with weapons, and no moral conscience, too many have been senselessly killed. Women who lost their lives for the revolution must be remembered. Their legacies must live on.

Women and children have also been raped and sexually abused by the Myanmar junta. Systematic offensives have been designed to terrorize and subjugate civilians. These actions constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The following are cases of human rights violations perpetrated by the military junta against women and children as reported by KWAT, HURFOM and ND-Burma.

### Arbitrary Arrest

The arbitrary arrest of civilians has been a persistent tactic of the military junta deployed since the beginning of the resistance. Over 1500 women have been unlawfully arrested and detained since 1 February 2021.

On 6 February 2022, eight women political prisoners from Dawei Prison who were arrested on suspicion of associating with local PDFs were sentenced to between two and nine years in prison each by the junta's special court including:<sup>5</sup>

Daw Aye Aye Khine (sentenced to 9 years)  
Daw Mya Mya Lwin (sentenced to 9 years)  
Daw Mya Mya Soe, (sentenced to 9 years)  
Ma Theint Theint Zin Phu, Dawei Tech University Student (sentenced to 2 years and continued trial)  
Ma Lin Myat Moe (sentenced to 2 years)  
Ma Hnin Hnin Yu (sentenced to 2 years)  
Ma Myat Myat (sentenced to 2 years)  
Daw Thet Thet Htwe (sentenced to 2 years)

A family member of one of the women told HURFOM: "It is too much to be sentenced to nine years in prison on terrorism charges. They are not terrorists."<sup>6</sup>

On February 22, a total of 24 teenagers, including 15 boys and 9 girls, were arbitrarily arrested by the junta military forces in Tha-Byar village, Long Lone Township.<sup>7</sup> The soldiers came and surrounded young people while celebrating a birthday. Another truck came and arrested everyone. At present, there are 3 Sin-Ai villagers and 24 detainees from Thabyar village, are being detained at Laung Lone Township Police Station.

Most recently, two young women university students from Dawei Township who were arrested for donating money to war-affected refugees were sentenced to seven years in prison each on 18 February 2022.<sup>8</sup> Ma Ei Chu Chu Maw, age 19, and Ma Lin Let Kyi, age 20, were charged with the Anti-Terrorism Law. They were arrested by the junta at their homes in Hinda Pyin and Hinda villages in Metta Township, Dawei, on 5 November 2021 for donating 5,000 Myanmar kyats each through KBZ pay.

Peaceful protests in Kachin State have been met with force by the military junta. Weeks after the failed coup, two women, including a high school teacher were arbitrarily arrested and subsequently charged by the military junta for their participation in a protest in Waimaw.<sup>9</sup> The problematic Section 505 B of the Penal Code has been used unjustly by the junta in their ongoing attempts to silence dissent.<sup>10</sup> Between 1 and 11 March 2021, one woman was arrested for blocking the street with her car as police attempted to seize protesters, and another was arrested for participating.<sup>11</sup>

According to KWAT documentation, between June and October 2021, at least 77 people were arbitrarily arrested in Kachin State and Muse District of northern Shan State.<sup>12</sup>



## Destruction of Women's Property, Confiscation of Possessions

Family members of activists are under constant surveillance and are regularly visited by military intelligence officers. Informers working for the military junta are posted in local townships and villages seeking to report dissidents to the authorities.

The homes and property of Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) members have been destroyed, and confiscated. This has forced many women human rights defenders to flee to border areas for safety or unknown locations. Fleeing takes an emotional toll on women who are forced to make difficult decisions that include leaving their family members. There is a certain invisible strength and sacrifice that comes with making these choices.

At least five civilians, including one of the female striker leaders, Naw Say Paw from Hpa-An, Karen State were accused of supporting the PDFs and the NUG. Their homes and properties have been seized since February 2022.<sup>13</sup> The junta military troops and officials from the General Administration Department (GAD) placed notices indicating the premises were sealed as the owners had allegedly caused 'terrorist acts' and supported the 'illegal' armed forces. An additional two homes and property were sealed, and confiscated by the junta troops outside the Kawkareik town.

The seizing of housing and properties of democratically elected Members of Parliament (MP) is ongoing in Mon State. According to her family members, the junta-controlled GAD seized the home and properties of former Upper House National League for Democracy (NLD) MP, Daw Thiri Yadanar on February 18 2022, in Beelin Township, Mon State. She was accused of allegedly being linked to the NUG since December 2021. Approximately 15 security forces led by the township junta GAD and military forces came to siege the house including all properties.<sup>14</sup>

In addition, the homes of two former NLD MPs, Daw KhinKyaw Phyu, of Mudon Township, Mon State and U Aung Kyaw Thu's house, located in Thaton, Mon, were confiscated by the junta on 20 February 2022.<sup>15</sup> Once again, they were both accused of supporting PDFs and the NUG.

Women who live with their families and have sought to exist peacefully have had their lives forcibly uprooted by the junta. Homes have been indiscriminately targeted, and set on fire. The junta also steals possessions, valuables and livestock.



A woman who spoke to ND-Burma recalled hearing the news of her family home being destroyed by the junta:

“On 25 January 2022, I was informed by my sister that our home had been destroyed by the Myanmar junta. My sister was told by the village chief. The fighting has been taking place regularly in my village. To avoid military shelling and ongoing clashes between the military junta and Karenni defense forces, we fled our home and moved to Loikaw. But, it was also unsafe there, so my mom and dad moved to Taunggyi, the Capital of Shan State. My sister’s family moved to Maw Chee, Pha Saung Township, Karenni State and I moved to Yangon.

According to my friend, the military junta continued to occupy our village. My home is a two-story high structure and located on the mountain. They suspected that resistance fighters were hiding in my home. In order to clear the area, the soldiers fired heavy artillery to demolish where I once lived.

Before they destroyed it, they stole what they wanted and moved everything with a 12-wheeled truck. My mother is a retired teacher and is a pensioner now. My parents worked so hard to have their dream home. We lived in this house for 10 years. Now it is gone. We have nowhere to live if we return, so we do not know where to go.

Before the coup, life was peaceful for my family. We are still alive, but it’s no different from being dead. Our family is living in different places for safety. Karenni state is the smallest state in Myanmar but that has not stopped the junta from launching indiscriminate air attacks and shelling daily.

Whenever I think about our home, I am depressed and hurt. I am so upset but I don’t have tears anymore. Why would they do this to us? There is no place like home. Military soldiers do not know the value of home. They don’t know how hard it is to get a home. The military junta is destroying our life, our dreams and everything we hold dear to us. Their crimes must be met with consequences to ensure they are held accountable.”<sup>16</sup>



Photo Top: A family home standing tall

Photo Bottom: The same home after being violently demolished by the military junta

## Forced Disappearances and Abduction of Women

One of the military junta’s primary ways of targeting civilians in an attempt to stop pro-democracy efforts has through been forced disappearances and abductions.

Five young women, missing since the beginning of the year, still have been unable to reach their families in Long Lone, Yebyu and Thayet Chaung Townships in Dawei.<sup>17</sup> One of the missing women, Ma Sin Kyay Htet, age 22, was arrested on suspicion of having links to the local guerrilla forces. Fearful for their lives and their daughters, the families have not dared to inquire at the military battalions.

On 5 February 2022, the military junta abducted Daw Win Win Soe, the Shwe-Sin-Win gold and jewel shop owner, in Kyaikto Market, Mon State while conducting a guest registration check.<sup>18</sup> The soldiers came in and asked to show the family registration form. They arrested her without an arrest warrant. Sources close to the Ward Admin said she was arrested on charges of supplying weapons to PDF. Her location remains unknown.

## Forced Displacement

All civilians have become a target since 1 February 2021. This has led to increased fears in local communities and brought about difficult discussions to leave their homes.

In an interview with Htoo Htoo, age 38, from a village in Karenni (Kayah) State, she said the decision her family made to flee was filled with fear and uncertainty over whether they would be able to safely reach refuge in Shan State. She told ND-Burma it was her first time fleeing fighting:



*“Thirty of us from six families tried to go at the same time. There were three people over 70 years-old and five children under the age of 10. When we left from Loikaw, near Lin Phon Lay, helicopters were flying over us. We were terrified that they would shoot us.*

*We faced many challenges on the way. Our children didn't have enough food. We left from Loikaw around 1PM and arrived in the village in Southern Shan State around 8PM.*

*At the gate near Htee Ree village, soldiers checked five of our phones. It took two hours. At that time another car arrived so the soldiers allowed us to leave. The Chairman of the ward, with armed soldiers, have taken our names on a list. They took our picture and they know who is here from Kayah State. We are worried. We do not feel safe here.”<sup>19</sup>*

## Indiscriminate Firing in Civilian Areas

Increasing military offensives throughout Myanmar have made women in conflict settings more vulnerable.

### Karen State

Clashes between the military junta and local PDFs in Pawa village tract, Karen State has escalated since 18 February 2022 and led to an estimated 1000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from four villages.<sup>20</sup> The majority of those who fled are women and children. On 19 February 2022, a female villager who had fled was killed when artillery shells were fired from the junta's base of the 97th Infantry Battalion in Kamai-Kone village, Kawkareik Township, Karen State.<sup>21</sup> Approximately 20

homes belonging to villagers in the village were damaged when nearly 30 rounds of artillery shells were fired from the artillery barracks of the 97th Infantry Battalion.

On 22 February 2022, a woman was among three civilians seriously injured by artillery shells fired by the military junta in Nagar-Taung hill, which is 3 kilometers away from western Three-Pagodas-Pass Town.<sup>22</sup> The firing forced 120 households to flee from their villages and to take refuge in the forests under the control of Brigade No.4 of the Karen National Union (KNU).

A similar scenario has been unfolding in Thet Kay Kyaw, Chaung Kauk, Pawa and Tharaphon villages in Tanintharyi Township, southern Dawei. Civilians from these areas, of which the majority are women and children, have been fleeing to the mountains and nearby forests.<sup>23</sup> Due to the incessant rains these days, many IDP families are living in dire conditions and struggling to access basic services and materials needed for their survival.

### Kachin State

Shortly after the failed coup, the military junta began increasing their offensives across the country. Artillery shelling and indiscriminate firing posed serious risks to civilian safety.

On 10 April 2021 in Num Lang village, Momauk Township was shelled by Light Infantry Battalions 370 and 320, and Light Infantry Division 88.<sup>24</sup> As a result, a 50-year-old woman was injured in the back and suffered from psychological trauma. Another woman nearly lost her vision. The next day on 11 April, the military junta shelled Myo Thit, Si Het and Shwe Myaung villages between 10 and 11 PM, killing 4 villagers including Ma Aye Pu (age 19 years old) in Myo Thit; Sai Aik Lin (age 23 years old) in Si Het; Yar Hau Ko (age 83 years old) and Lai Aye Lai (age 84 years old) in Shwe Myaung village.<sup>25</sup> A 10-year-old boy and two monks were also injured in Myo Thit.

*Fighting between April and May 2021 led to the injuries of 7 women and the deaths of 3 women.<sup>26</sup> All of the civilian injuries and casualties documented by KWAT due to indiscriminate firing by the junta took place while entirely unprovoked.*



## Rape and Sexual Violence

The same patterns of military violence and impunity have contributed to the targeting of women and girls for decades. The complete and utter disregard for women's lives and their protection has led to ongoing crimes perpetrated against them without accountability.

KWAT has documented cases of rape and sexual violence for many years. They have also called for justice for the military junta's victims. A climate of impunity is fueling rape and crimes of sexual violence.

On the morning of 14 July 2021, KWAT reported the case of a 58-year-old woman who was raped and stabbed to death by three junta soldiers of Light Infantry Division 88 while on her way to her farm west of Num Lang village, Momauk township. The perpetrators were stationed at the 616 Artillery Battalion base next to Num Lang. The crime was reported to the Myanmar Army 370 artillery battalion base, about five kilometers southwest of the crime scene.<sup>27</sup>

The victim's relatives found her half-naked body in grassland close to her fields the next morning, with stab wounds and clear signs of rape. The body was sent to Bhamo Hospital for an autopsy.<sup>28</sup>

On July 17 2021, there was a short piece of news in Burmese in the state-run New Light of Myanmar, reporting that three junta soldiers had been arrested for the murder of an elderly woman, which had occurred as the result of an "argument" which had made the soldiers angry. There was no mention of rape.<sup>29</sup>

A few days later, the victim's husband was called to the Light Infantry Battalion 438 base at Num Lang and was given 2 million kyat (1,100 USD) from Naypyidaw and 100,000 kyat (55 USD) from the 616 Artillery Battalion. On July 28 2021, military officers called the Num Lang village head and local police to the 616 Battalion camp and handed over evidence of the crime to the police, including the murder

weapon and the victim's phone. They said the soldiers had confessed to the rape and that after the results of DNA testing were known, the case would be transferred to a civilian court. However, since then the relatives have heard nothing.<sup>30</sup>

In yet another case showing the extent to which sexual violence takes place in Myanmar, on 7 November 2021, a soldier from IB 336 raped a 62-year-old woman in her farm hut, only 100 meters from where his unit was camped in the village of Hpahkyip, on the main road from Kutkai to Muse, about 20 kilometers north of Kutkai.<sup>31</sup> Local villagers complained to his commander, who at first refuted the charge (saying the soldier was just trying to stop the woman from using drugs) but agreed to take action after learning there was an eyewitness to the crime. He then arranged compensation of 500,000 kyat (277 USD) for the survivor, carried out an apology ceremony (according to local custom), and informed villagers that the perpetrator had been arrested and would be court-martialed.

The recent rape cases also illustrate how the Myanmar's junta ongoing expansion and offensive operations in ethnic territories are causing increased vulnerability to rape.





## Part 2: Women's Resistance Against the Myanmar Junta

The impacts of the attempted coup on women and girls has been significant. Women human rights defenders in ethnic areas face grievous risk where armed conflicts wreak havoc. They have witnessed an increased curtailment of civil liberty rights, and violence inflicted on them when they attempt to assert them.

Many of those involved in the CDM are women who come from medical and education backgrounds. Their commitment to the Spring Revolution and further ensuring that the pro-democracy movement succeeds has come with significant sacrifices at the expense of their own safety and well-being.

The roles of women cannot be overlooked. They have spearheaded campaigns and organizing in the communication, health and education sectors while offering support directly on the frontlines and equally behind the scenes. This includes preparing food and distributing donations to PDF soldiers, and covering funeral costs for the families of civilians.

Women have resisted by not only challenging the status quo, but by breaking stereotypes and advocating for changes for equality in Myanmar, such as through calls for reforms to the justice system which too often denies victims of rights abuses reparations.

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In an interview by ND-Burma, a woman named Florence from Loikaw, Karenni (Kayah) State, describes her experience and rationale for joining the CDM, as well as the contributions she has made to the democracy effort in Myanmar:

*“I was a government employee in Loikaw, in Karenni (Kayah) State. I left for security reasons. I do not accept the Myanmar military coup which happened on 1 February 2021, so I joined the Civil Disobedience Movement. I was fired from my job on 22 April 2021 for doing so.*

*I’m the oldest one in my family. I have three younger brothers. One of my brothers is not healthy. The others have joined the Karenni defense forces. I am involved in the CDM, so I worry about my safety. I also worry for the rest of my family. Informers are everywhere. When they hear someone has joined the People’s Defense Force, the junta soldiers search and arrest those suspected of being against the Myanmar military.*

*I have helped distribute donations to other people who have joined the CDM and the local PDFs. Since December 2021, fighting has taken place often. I didn’t want to leave but now I have been displaced from my home because of the escalation in fighting, which led to more shelling and airstrikes. Our family is staying in different places across southern Shan State.*

*I’ve heard that the junta has made a list of all those involved in CDM and they plan to take action. When the Myanmar military is defeated, our country will finally have peace.”<sup>32</sup>*

A fearlessness among women throughout Myanmar is emboldened by how much there is to gain in the fight for freedom. Protests throughout the country have seen a profound unity to defeat the military dictatorship. Study groups among young women have also been formed as a way to educate and inform one another of successful protest movements throughout history, and how to specifically apply them in Myanmar.<sup>33</sup>

Calls for the withdrawal of the military from civilian areas are continuing to be amplified by local women’s organizations including KWAT and additional members of the Women’s League of Burma (WLB). At the end of the year, WLB stated, “Despite all the risks, women from all corners of the country and of all ethnic backgrounds continue to provide support to their community, raise their voices and partake in activities that will bring about peace and democracy in the country.”<sup>34</sup>

## Conclusion

It cannot be understated that the impacts of the failed coup have been catastrophic for Myanmar civilians. Yet, it has also shown the profound will-power of its citizens who have fearlessly organized and campaigned. The contributions of women have highlighted their bravery, their excellence and their unbreakable spirit even in the midst of the excessive human rights violations which target them and their families.

As women's groups and civil society organizations have dutifully noted, Myanmar will never be fair and fair unless all voices are heard and listened to, regardless of indifference. Women in Myanmar have faced opposition against their status as equals and protection and recognition under the law, yet this has never discouraged their appeals to change history.

Despite the many challenges which lie ahead, the women of Myanmar are committed to the revolution succeeding. As one woman who spoke to ND-Burma said, *“The most important thing is that the revolution must win. My family has faced many challenges, and so have others. I didn't want my home destroyed. But it is ruined, I can rebuild it when we win.”*

## Recommendations

### *To the international community*

1. To immediately disengage with the Myanmar junta in all capacities. International representation and dialogue must be extended to the National Unity Government.
2. For economic sanctions on all businesses giving revenue to the regime, and to urge all foreign companies to suspend operations in Myanmar until the regime is ousted, and there is a new federal democratic constitution in place.
3. To amplify calls by civil society organizations which are clear in how to dismantle and delegitimize the Myanmar junta, including targeted sanctions and for all ties to be cut with military crony companies.
4. To ensure all aid being donated amid Myanmar's crisis reaches the most vulnerable by channeling support, funds, and materials through trusted civil society organizations through cross border aid. and to provide

humanitarian aid through cross-border channels to IDPs in ethnic areas. We ask for direct support of ethnic social service structures, which are the building blocks of a future devolved federal governance system.

5. We also urge all foreign donors to ensure that their aid is not legitimizing or subsidizing the regime in any way, and to redirect humanitarian aid through cross-border channels, including for those fleeing the regime's crackdown and sheltering in ethnic-controlled areas.
6. To put pressure on the military coup leaders to immediately end violence against civilians across Myanmar, release all political prisoners, and withdraw troops from ethnic conflict areas.
7. We also appeal to all Myanmar's neighboring countries, including China, to provide safe refuge to those fleeing conflict and persecution, and allow them access to humanitarian aid.

### *To the United Nations Security Council*

1. To immediately refer the situation on the ground in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court.
2. With the escalation of air attacks in Kachin and other ethnic areas, we also call on the UNSC to impose a no-fly zone over Myanmar, and urge neighbouring countries, including China, to stop the regime from using their airspace to launch attacks.
3. To immediately impose a global arms embargo to prevent the sale of weapons to the Myanmar junta.
4. To put pressure on the military junta for the immediate and unconditional release of the over 1000 political prisoners unlawfully arrested and detained.

### *To the Association of Southeast Asian Nations*

1. To immediately end all engagement with the Myanmar military junta and instead engage in an active dialogue with the National Unity Government
2. All ASEAN entities with foreign investment and financial ties to the Myanmar junta's projects must officially end.
3. ASEAN must support a global arms embargo and a much-needed referral of the situation on the ground in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court



## Organizational Profiles

**The Human Rights Foundation of Monland** was founded by pro–democracy students from the 1988 uprising and more recent activists and Mon community leaders and youths, and its main aim is for the restoration of democracy, human rights and genuine peace in Burma. HURFOM is a non–profit organization and all its members are volunteers who have the same opinion for the same aim. By accepting the main aim, we would like to participate in the struggle for the establishment of a democratic Burma doing our part as a local ethnic human rights group, which is monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and other areas in the southern part of Burma.

**The Kachin Women’s Association Thailand** is a non–profit organization which works to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, enhance the living standards of women and enable them to participate in decision–making processes at all levels, and strengthen the quest for social justice, peace and development in the Kachin region.

**The Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma** was formed in 2004 in order to provide a way for Burma human rights organizations to collaborate on the human rights documentation process. The 13 ND–Burma member organizations seek to collectively use the truth of what communities in Burma have endured to advocate for justice for victims. ND–Burma trains local organizations in human rights documentation; coordinates members’ input into a common database using a secure open–source software; and engages in joint–advocacy campaigns.

## Endnotes

- 1 [“The women of Myanmar: ‘Our place is in the revolution’](#) *Al Jazeera*, 25 April 2021
- 2 See [“Ministry of Women, Youths and Children Affairs,”](#) National Unity Government
- 3 [“Women Power in the Spring Revolution,”](#) The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 16 February 2022
- 4 Ibid
- 5 HURFOM Bulletin
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Ibid
- 8 Ibid
- 9 KWAT Bulletin
- 10 Section 505(b), notably, penalizes making, publishing or circulating “any statement, rumor or report, with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offense against the State or against the public tranquility.
- 11 Ibid
- 12 Press Release by the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand: [New KWAT report: climate of impunity fuels military rape in northern Burma](#), 15 December 2021
- 13 HURFOM Bulletin
- 14 Ibid
- 15 Ibid
- 16 ND–Burma Interview conducted 24 February 2022
- 17 HURFOM Bulletin
- 18 Ibid
- 19 ND–Burma Interview conducted 11 January 2022
- 20 Ibid
- 21 Ibid
- 22 Ibid
- 23 Ibid
- 24 KWAT Bulletin
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- 26 Ibid
- 27 Ibid
- 28 Ibid
- 29 Ibid
- 30 Ibid
- 31 Ibid
- 32 ND-Burma Interview, January 24 2022
- 33 [“In the borderlands, women lead the charge,”](#) Frontier Myanmar, 3 April 2022
- 34 [“October and November Situation Update,”](#) The Women’s League for Burma, 24 December 2021

# RESIST

## *Women-Led Resistance in Myanmar One Year Since the Failed Coup*



*March 2022*

