



August Justice Newsletter

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Thematic Analysis

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THE POWER OF PROTEST IN MYANMAR

For decades, people in Myanmar have come together to protest and call for greater protection and enforcement of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Pivotal moments throughout the country's history took place during moments of frustration from brave citizens who demanded a better future for themselves and the next generation.

The attempted coup in Myanmar is yet another example of the Generals of the Myanmar military trying and failing to exert power over a population who refuses to grant them any form of legitimacy. In response, the regime has not hesitated to brutally crack down on protesters.

The commemoration of the 1988 protests was recognized on 8 August 2022. Thirty-four years have passed since students led demonstrations against General Ne Win's disastrous economic policies. At least three thousand people were killed in a rampage of assaults by the Myanmar Army.

Again, between October and December 2006, protesters were detained again in a series of pro-democracy strikes that aimed to bring awareness to the oppression against students. In 2007, the Saffron Revolution saw monks among the students, and activists, participate in a non-violent protest which was triggered by a national increase in fuel prices. Dozens were once again killed by the regime for peacefully protesting.



Thematic Analysis

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THE POWER OF PROTEST IN MYANMAR CONTINUED

Lway Nhawt Ta'ang, Advocacy Manager, at the Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO), said, *"The reason why there has been protests in Myanmar for more than 70-years is because this entire time the situation has not improved as much as it should."*

"The people of Myanmar do not want the dictatorship that was practiced for so many years before. They prefer the system of democracy," she added. "The protests taking place currently aim to unite the country's citizens in strong rejection of the coup and call for a return for democracy."

Propelled by an insatiable hunger for power, the rights of civilians have been disregarded time and time again by the military generals. After several years of a quasi-civilian democracy, citizens were hopeful. Albeit, many challenges still remained under the National League for Democracy (NLD), yet there was hope.

General Secretary of the All-Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress, Ko Ting Oo, said the coup has revealed the oppression that ethnic people face across Myanmar.

"As a result of the Spring Revolution, the majority of Burmese people began to accept and understand the oppression and human rights abuses that ethnic people face. For decades, we have been ruled unjustly."



Thematic Analysis

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THE POWER OF PROTEST IN MYANMAR CONTINUED

The unity throughout the pro-democracy protests are a reminder of the strength and adversity of people on the ground who are committed to see a federal union, and accountability for the human rights violations that have been perpetrated by the military junta.

“We cannot accept the military’s dictatorship. We have seen only negative consequences and no positive results throughout history,” said Nai Aue Mon, Program Director of the Human Rights Foundation of Monland.

“It is the true desire of the people to see consequences for the Generals. We are fed up, and tired of the military regimes,” he added.

For decades, people in Myanmar have come together to protest and call for greater protection and enforcement of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Pivotal moments throughout the country’s history took place during moments of frustration from brave citizens who demanded a better future for themselves and the next generation.

They must provide financial support to the armed resistance and protesters, and boycott all military products. They must also honour the multiple calls of civil society organizations to refer the Myanmar Army to the International Criminal Court.



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OVER ONE MILLION PEOPLE ARE DISPLACED ACROSS MYANMAR AND IN URGENT NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

CHIN STATE

While the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer, visited Myanmar, the junta was committing human rights violations against minors. Lai Nun Puii, age 17 and her younger brother, Lal Ruat Mawia, age 15, were **found** dead in shallow graves in Haimual village after being abducted by the junta. Chin rights groups denounced the murder.

Artillery fire and shelling led to the death of a Chin woman who was **killed** instantly when mortars landed on her home in Hniarlawn village on the morning of August 10th. A young person was also struck in his upper arms and injured.

KACHIN STATE

At least fifteen civilians were **killed** and **hundreds** of homes were set on fire by the Myanmar junta in northern Kachin State across three days of air strikes, indiscriminate firing and clashes with Kachin armed groups at the beginning of August. Two children were among the victims, and a woman had to have her leg amputated. A family of three trying to flee on a motorcycle were all shot and killed.

According to UNHCR, nearly 8000 people have been forced to flee their homes in Kachin State since 1 February 2021.

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KAREN STATE

The Myanmar Army indiscriminately fired artillery missiles at three villages in Kawkareik Township on August 15th, according to ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM). A two year old child was killed, and a 77 year old man was seriously injured.

HURFOM also reported that at least seven young men were abducted by the junta in Hpa-An Township. The victims were arbitrarily detained and tortured. Flyovers in civilian areas have been happening with increased frequency. The Karen Women's Organization reported that students in Mutraw District recently fled to bunkers as military planes flew overhead.



KARENNI STATE

Military offensives continue to displace civilians and threaten their survival. A 13 year old girl was among the victims when the military junta fired artillery shells into a village in Demawso Township. An additional four internally displaced people were injured. Days after this attack, the regime bombed a clinic and house in Loikaw Township. A man was killed, and two others were injured. The struggles faced by people in Karenni State are worsening as prospects for work are limited and typically safe spaces such as churches and clinics are targeted in air and ground strikes.

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MON STATE

ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, (HURFOM) reported increasing attacks against young people. There has been an increase in deaths, injuries and abductions which have targeted men in particular. HURFOM reported that two men from Aung Myung Ward, Ye Township, were unjustly arrested on 6 August and are still missing. Families of the missing men have requested additional information but have been denied any leads about their whereabouts.

HURFOM also reported that the farm huts of of approximately 50 farmers were ordered to be destroyed by the junta who had suspicions that local People's Defense Forces soldiers were using them to hide and take shelter.



SHAN STATE

In Shan State, the military junta has been **stepping up** arrests. Five young people were detained in Taunggyi and accused of using funds to support the People's Defense Forces. The youths were abducted in the evening. Soldiers in the area have reportedly been targeting local people on suspicions of supporting opposition groups.

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RAKHINE STATE

The Myanmar military and Arakan Army (AA) have recently re-engaged in fierce battles in recent months. On 16 August, clashes took place in the Western part of the State in northern Maungdaw. In response to the intensity and frequency of the fighting, the junta announced orders for the formation of ‘public security forces,’ in Southern Rakhine State. The additional defense wing is an attempt by the junta to secure their offensives.



TANINTHARYI REGION

Dawei has been particularly hit hard by the military junta’s offensives. Increasing cases of arbitrary arrests include abductions of civilians from their homes. On 2 August, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) reported that five people were taken from their homes and murdered. The bodies were buried as the regime attempted to hide evidence of their crimes. Locals who witnessed and oversaw the victims being taken away said they could hear their screams and gunshots.

HURFOM also reported on the death of a young child who died because they were unable to access life-saving medical treatment to combat his epilepsy. Another 44 year old man who had fled hostilities also died from not being able to reach a clinic when he became seriously ill.

Member Updates

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Kachin Women's Association Thailand

The Kachin Women's Association Thailand spoke on a panel hosted by US Campaign for Burma on August 24th addressing the Rohingya Genocide Commemoration.

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland released a monthly summary of human rights violations and key findings in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi Region throughout the month of August 2022.

Chin Human Rights Organization

The Chin Human Rights Organization released a summary of the human rights violations perpetrated in July 2022. CHRO was also featured in a radio program on the battle inside Chin State.

Progressive Voice

Progressive Voice released a new briefing paper on the expansive humanitarian challenges and local responses on the ground in Sagaing, Magwe and Mandalay Regions, since 1 February 2021.



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