



ND-Burma Justice Newsletter

October 2022



Thematic Analysis



Situation Overview



Member Update

CHILDREN TARGETED BY THE JUNTA

The human rights landscape in Myanmar has been rapidly deteriorating as the military junta expands their reign of terror, targeting the most vulnerable and innocent, including children. Across the last month, young children and infants have been killed and seriously wounded in the crossfire of the violence waged by the Myanmar Army. The regime continues to perpetrate widespread and systematic assaults with full fledged impunity.

Heavy firing launched by the military junta in Loikaw Township, Karenni State led to an eight-year old boy seriously injured by shrapnel that struck his thigh. His parents were also hit by the shelling. Witnesses said incidents like this are 'happening all over the country.' Another child was killed in Loikaw township following junta shelling civilian areas, as reported by the Karenni Human Rights Group.

Civilians are being directly targeted as was the case in the aerial strike that took place in Kachin State which killed at least 80 innocent civilians. Among those dead were young people, musicians, families, including children, who were celebrating the founding of the Kachin Independence Organisation on 23 October 2022. Those who survived, many of whom are in critical condition, are being denied medical assistance as soldiers block routes needed to transport civilians to hospitals and nearby facilities. This airstrike was the worst one committed by the Burma Army since they unlawfully attempted their coup on 1 February 2021.

Nearly 200 children have had their lives cruelly taken from them since the assault on democracy nearly two years ago. Hundreds of thousands of children compromise the rising number of internally displaced people (IDPs) across the country as the humanitarian crisis worsens and is plagued by a lack of accessible pathways for food and medicine. At the end of September 2022, horror bombarded a local community in Let Yat Kone Village, Sagaing

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CHILDREN TARGETED BY THE JUNTA

Region following a series of air and ground attacks which claimed the lives of eleven school children. Following the horrific attack, over a dozen of the children were missing. Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, has warned that the attacks on children by the junta risk a 'lost generation'.

The military junta has given no indication of any halt in their attacks. The ongoing assaults against children are in stark violation of international norms, law and treaties which Myanmar is bound by. And yet, these assaults are taking place without enough action from the international community who must go beyond their words of condemnation. The UN Child Rights Committee has urged 'swift action' but also failed to follow up and put pressure on stakeholders with the power to hold the junta to account.

Worryingly, children's rights based groups including Save the Children and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have shared disapproving sentiments of the military's action but once again, have not taken the steps necessary to protect the lives of endangered children in Myanmar.

The dangers that people in Myanmar face must be taken seriously, particularly children who are routinely targeted in conflict by the military junta.

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



CHIN STATE

ND-Burma affiliate member, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), reported that on 12 October 2022, office buildings that house the junta's administrative and municipal departments in Myoma Ward of Tedim Town, northern Chin State, caught fire late in the evening as instability continues throughout the region. Resistance attacks have increased as the junta attempts to squander opposition forces in areas where the military has failed. This includes Chin State where soldiers of the People's Defense Forces have been successful at holding off Myanmar military operations.



KACHIN STATE

Local media is reporting that MPT phone lines in Kachin State have been shut down in Chipwi township since 10 October 2022. Locals are worried that the only operating service at the moment, Telenor, could also be cut. Electricity has been out since the 11th of October and comes at a time when there are fears over more intensified clashes with Kachin armed groups and the military junta. Meanwhile, inflation across the State is having impacts on small towns. In Putao township, the cost of rice has dramatically risen, creating more distress for local villagers.

Civilians were forced to endure significant losses when a concert ended when the junta deployed an airstrike that killed dozens.

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KAREN STATE

On 6 October, the military junta deployed an air attack in Dooplaya District, Karen State which destroyed a monastery and injured a Buddhist monk. ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, reported that the attack forced at least 500 civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly to flee to seek safety.

The Karen Human Rights Group reported ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the junta, including the firing of mortar shells and weapons in Kwin Chaung village, Hpa Hkoh Township on 6 October 2022.



KARENNI STATE

Free Burma Rangers reported on a mortar attack in Demoso Township, Karenni State at the end of September 2022 which claimed the life of a 32 year old civilian who was working in his field at the time of the attack. Ongoing clashes and fighting in Karenni State have led to victories for armed resistance groups who killed a Senior military junta officer while the regime was occupying a local village.

The Karenni Human Rights Group has continued to report on the human rights violations perpetrated by the junta including mortar shelling which killed a 55 year old woman and injured two others.

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MON STATE

According to ND-Burma member the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), On October 2, 2022, the Junta forces IB#31 and the Mon State Defense Force (South) (MSDF-S) engaged in an armed clash in Khaw Zar Town, Ye Township, Mon State. Two soldiers died as a result of the fighting. Soon after, the armed clash, the military fired bombs in the village. This has sparked fear throughout the State as uncertainty looms amid ongoing fighting. The military junta has also issued an order banning locals from going to their plantations, which hinders their prospects for sustaining their livelihoods. Villagers told HURFOM, “No one dares to go outside.”



RAKHINE STATE

Heavy fighting is continuing in Rakhine State where clashes are taking place between the Myanmar military junta and the Arakan Army (AA). On 10 October, the AA reported they secured an outpost in Maungdaw Township following the junta’s offensives against them. The conflict has left civilians paralyzed with fear amid the return of conflict and worsening hostilities. Many have been forced to flee with the UN and other agencies at times being banned from delivering aid.

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SHAN STATE

Ongoing air and ground attacks by the Myanmar military junta are endlessly claiming the lives of civilians, including children. Offensives in Shan state have fueled displacement and contributed to crippling levels of instability and insecurity. According to the latest update from the Shan Human Rights Foundation, military shelling killed eight civilians, including three children, and injured fourteen in Moebye township, southern Shan State.



TANINTHARYI REGION

ND-Burma member the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, has been documenting the perilous human rights situation in Tanintharyi region. Midnight raids and door-to-door searches by the military junta have continued in western Dawei areas. On October 7 2022, at around 10:30 AM, Ma Tharaphu, age 22, was abducted by the joint forces of the military intelligence and pro-junta militia troops after a preliminary investigation, a local witness reported.



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