

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Human Rights Situation in Mon State, Karen State & Tanintharyi Region

JUNE
2024



Women and Children Face Ongoing Risks to their Safety and Security Amid Increasing Attacks by the Military Junta

JUNE 2024

Women & Children Targeted by Junta Attacks

According to the latest estimates from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, nearly 3 million people are displaced across Burma. Local organizations are reporting even higher approximations, including the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP), whose recent data show over one million people displaced in Karen State alone.

These numbers reveal a situation of extreme devastation for local people who have had their lives uprooted by conflict fueled by an illegitimate and corrupt military.

Data collected by the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) also indicates rising levels of distress and uncertainty across target areas of Mon State, Karen State and the Tanintharyi region.

As the armed resistance movement increasingly gains more victories, Burma Army soldiers are scaling up attacks that have targeted local populations, including women and children, who are being killed in their homes, places of worship, hospitals and schools.

At the beginning of June, an explosion at a basic education primary school in the Eain Shwet Pyin ward of Dawei Town resulted in the death of a third-grade student and injuries to 26 others.

Among the injured were eleven male students and fifteen female students. Schools are places of education, and to target them is a war crime.

The explosion, believed to have been caused by a bomb, happened at noon during the lunch break. The cause remains unclear. However, the school's proximity to a nearby inspection gate, where recent military activity occurred, has led locals to speculate that the detonation of leftover military equipment could be responsible.

In mid-2023, a similar incident occurred in a garden near a police station in Pa La Town, Pu Law Township, where three children were injured by an explosion while playing. Children are being deprived of their childhoods in Burma as the junta unleashes ongoing, and unabated attacks against them in places where they have the right to feel safe and protected.

On June 26th, HURFOM released the second issue of the *'Voice Up'* series, which found at least twenty women were injured,

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sixteen were killed, and eighteen were arbitrarily arrested and unlawfully detained. Several of those killed were in their homes at the time of indiscriminate firing by the junta.

The attacks in civilian areas threaten local livelihoods and the survival of communities. The junta fires upon women and children as they are tending to their households, running local businesses and cultivating their fields.

On the morning of June 2nd, the Kyaikto Revolutionary Forces launched an artillery attack on the junta's 310th Artillery Battalion and 207th Infantry Battalion based in Thein Zayat.

In retaliation, the junta forces began shelling villages, including Thon Kone, Wazat Kwin, Sit Kwin, Ah Kine, Mouk Kha Maw, and Khruay, both day and night.

During the shelling, a young woman, 26-year-old Ma Khin Lay Ree, who was six months pregnant, was injured in her left leg by artillery fragments.

Additionally, on June 3rd, a Catholic nun from Thon Kone village and a 20-year-old youth from Wazat Kwin village were also injured by artillery fragments.

“Artillery shelling happens every day. Villagers are forced to take cover in bomb

shelters. Many have already fled,” said a resident from Mouk Kha Maw village.

Due to the artillery shelling, three houses in Thon Kone village and two houses in Sit Kwin village were damaged. Several villagers fled their homes seeking safety.

In Kyaikto Township, artillery shelling by the junta forces in May resulted in the death of one civilian and injuries to at least seven others, according to a statement from the Karen National Union (KNU) Thaton District.

Again, on June 14th, at 1 PM, the 310th Artillery Battalion of the military junta stationed in Thein Za Yat, launched two shells without any ongoing combat. Due to the explosion, a fourteen-year-old girl, Ma Nandar Lin, and a one-and-a-half-year-old, Ma Shwe Zin Lin, were hit by the blast and died.

“Their parents are devastated,” a Kyaik Hto resident said.

On the same day, the 310th Artillery Battalion and the 207th Light Infantry Battalion of the junta fired more than 15 shells randomly around Thon Kwa village without any battle, according to KNU Thaton District officials.

“There is no right to fire artillery into villages where civilians live, regardless of

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whether there is fighting or not. This act violates civilians' freedom of movement and human rights," said Saw Aye Naing, Secretary of KNU Thaton District.

On June 12th, an artillery strike by the Thein Za Yat Artillery Battalion injured 64-year-old U Than Oo and his 31-year-old daughter, Ma Yi Yi Win, from Pain Nae Kone village, who is now receiving treatment at Thein Za Yat Hospital.

In May alone, thirteen civilians were killed, and 41 were injured by artillery strikes by the junta troops in Mon State, according to a report released by the La Gon Eain on June 12th.

In a separate incident, during a clash near Yephyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, a house was destroyed by a rocket launcher from the Mawrawaddy Navy, resulting in the death of three family members and severe injuries to two teenagers.

Fighting had broke out between junta troops and the People's Defense Forces (PDFs) near Yapu village and Phaya-Thone-Zu on June 7th. At 2:30 PM, the junta troops, advancing from Phaya-Thone-Zu to Yapu village, encountered resistance from the PDFs.

A resident stated, *"The Mawrawaddy Navy fired over a hundred rockets. Three people from Yapu-Ywa Thit were killed."*

The victims from Yapu-Ywa Thit were identified as U Aung Aung, Ma Lah Wah Htoo, and their infant daughter. U Aung Aung and his daughter died instantly, while Ma Lah Wah Htoo succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital. The house was also set ablaze by the rocket strike. Additionally, a teenage boy and girl from Yapu-Ywa Thit were injured.

Due to the attack, residents from Yapu, Thayar Mon, Yapu-Ywa Thit, and Mile-60 villages fled their homes for safety. The clash lasted approximately one and a half hours.

Following the skirmish, junta troops entered Mile-60 village and looted various items from abandoned homes. A local woman reported:

"They took phones, batteries, wires, fuel containers, and shoes from two empty houses. Currently, they have occupied the monastery in Mile-60 village."

No place is safe as hundreds continue to flee and seek safety and, as many told HURFOM, **'dare not return'** to their villages.

The situation on the ground in Burma has worsened since the attempted coup, especially for those living in rural areas and where the resistance has made significant gains. These conflict-prone

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areas have led to attacks led by the various Burma Army battalions by land, air and its Naval command.

Families Separated by Indiscriminate Firing by the Military Junta

Families have endured crippling levels of stress as unprovoked attacks threaten the loss of life and displacement.

On the night of June 5th, the Burma Army under the MOMC 19, Southeast Command of Mon, fired artillery shells into Mawkanin Village, explicitly targeting a home in the Karsip neighbourhood.

The shelling resulted in injuries to five family members, including two children, despite the absence of any prior armed conflict in the area.

Residents and sources close to the affected family reported that an artillery shell from the 588th Rapid Deployment Battalion struck the roof of a house, causing it to explode upon impact.

The injured family members have been identified as Nai Aung Nai, 50, his wife, Mi San Aye; their eldest daughter, Mi Sandar Oo, 28; their 17-year-old son, Min Soe Pai, and their 11-year-old son, Min Jalon Htaw.

Emergency response teams from the Lamine Youth Emergency Assistance

Group were quick to mobilize and transported the injured for urgent medical treatment. A close relative of the family recounted the attack, saying:

“The artillery shell exploded while the family was asleep inside their home. The house was severely damaged, and Mi Sandar Oo sustained serious injuries.”

Another witness noted: ***“Throughout the night, the artillery shelling continued without pause, indiscriminately hitting houses in the area.”***

Reports from the night of June 5th to the morning of June 6th indicate that the military junta fired nearly 70 artillery shells into the area despite the lack of any ongoing conflict.

The indiscriminate shelling has caused significant distress and fear among the local population. Authorities and humanitarian organizations assessed the damage and provided the affected families with necessary assistance.

Meanwhile, calls for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian intervention are growing among local and international communities.

Starting at 9 PM on June 22nd, the junta began shelling Dhamma Tha village in Kyaikmayaw Township with artillery

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weapons. Eight shells were fired, exploding near the town, causing significant concern among the residents.

As of the morning of June 24th, a few families fled to escape the escalating situation. Meanwhile, a naval warship from the junta moved towards the Kaw Bein area. Only about a hundred internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned.

Organizations supporting the IDPs stated that after returning and setting up tents, each family would receive 500,000 Myanmar Kyats. Over the past three months, more than 100 displaced families from Dhamma Tha village have been taking refuge in Mawlamyine City and have not received any assistance.

This is primarily due to challenges in accessing and securing long-term and sustainable funds. It costs nearly 1.5 million Myanmar Kyats to return to the village and set up tents.

Approximately 400 conflict-affected families from Dhamma Tha village are still taking refuge in other towns.

Due to the renewed artillery shelling by the military, those forced to flee do not seek to return to their villages.

On June 19th, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, heavy artillery fire was exchanged near

Myauk Chaw village within the Yar Phu village tract, where resistance alliance forces and junta troops were engaged in combat. By the afternoon, a military helicopter and a jet fighter had dropped six bombs.

“Since this morning, we have continuously heard the sounds of artillery until 5 PM. We heard about six loud explosions,” said a resident of Yar Phu.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the extent of casualties and whether there were any civilian injuries or deaths resulting from the fighting and airstrikes.

Since June 3rd, the junta troops have been launching military operations towards the Nat Kyi Sin village tract in Yebyu Township, resulting in ongoing military tension in the area.

During an incursion into Myauk Chaw village under the control of the New Mon State Party in Dawei District, junta forces detained and assaulted five residents, with one person still missing.

Raids, Theft and Arson Fueling Displacement

Ongoing raids by the junta are also undermining civilian safety. More than 100 homes in Maung Mae Shaung village, located in Dawei Township, Tanintharyi

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Region, were raided by the military junta, which occupied the town for two days.

On June 1st, after Colonel Zin Win Aung of the junta was shot dead while driving near Maung Mae Shaung village, nearly 100 Burma Army soldiers from the 302nd Artillery Battalion and the Yebyu area arrived at Maung Mae Shaung village.

Upon entering, the junta troops randomly fired both artillery shells and small weapons, causing most of the villagers to flee to nearby areas. The troops then began occupying Maung Mae Shaung village.

On the morning of June 3rd, the junta troops left Maung Mae Shaung village to return to the 302nd Artillery Battalion in Za Ha village, taking with them three full trucks of goods, including refrigerators, fans, electrical appliances, food, domestic chickens, and other valuable items that they had stolen from local villagers. They released 19 of the 20 men they had detained.

As of June 5th, most villagers could not return to their homes and remained in nearby areas.

Maung Mae Shaung village, located about 7 miles from Dawei, frequently experiences clashes between the junta troops and resistance forces. The junta troops regularly fire artillery weapons.

Due to the frequent ambushes by resistance forces around the village, the junta troops have been conducting searches and raiding homes to seize valuable items.

Offensives at the beginning of June in Dawei District, Yebyu Township, forced over 300 households to flee their homes, which were also subsequently raided.

A resident from 60 Miles village said:

“The junta troops raided Ma Yan Chaung, Thayar Mon, Yar Phu (New Village), Pyar Thone Su, Sein Bone, and Nat Gyi Sin villages. People had to prepare in advance and flee when the troops invaded.”

With the onset of the rainy season, those displaced need additional shelter and medicines. A social worker said:

“They are not fleeing to established refugee camps; they are fleeing to avoid conflict.”

The military junta’s troops, consisting of around 50 soldiers, began approaching the villages on June 2nd. Along their route, they set up snipers and laid ambushes. Then, on June 4th, resistance forces attacked the junta’s Light Infantry Battalions 408, 409, and 410, based in Kalain Aung.

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Concurrently, a junta force of around 200 soldiers advanced towards the village of Kaw Hlaing in Ye Township, Mon State.

Based on reports from travellers and town residents, the Mawrawaddy Navy has increased security and tightened inspections at the Kalain Aung Bridge gate in Yebyu Township since June 3rd.

Following the arrival of Mawrawaddy Navy troops, nightly patrols have been conducted within Kalain Aung.

Additionally, on the Kalain Aung-Kan Bauk road, there have been increased inspections at three or more locations since June 5th.

Following an attack on a military junta checkpoint at the Kalain Aung Bridge on May 22nd, around 100 junta troops from the Mawrawaddy Navy conducted operations around Mi Kyaung Hlaung village and Kalain Aung. These troops remain in the area and are occupying homes belonging to displaced residents.

As a result, many displaced people from Mi Kyaung Hlaung and Kalain Aung have been unable to return home.

Between April and May, military offensives and battles in Yebyu Township displaced over 2,000 people. Most of them have since returned home.

Increasing Surveillance and Restrictions on Freedom of Movement

Surveillance and violations of privacy are widespread as the Burma Army attempts to violently suppress all forms of freedom of movement and expression.

Travellers are facing increasing restrictions on their mobility as surveillance by the junta extends to those passing through various checkpoints.

In early June, the junta bases on Pain Nal Taw Road, specifically the No. 9 base, Wee Yaw base, and Pain Nal Taw base, were supervising inspections, according to local sources.

A local traveller said, ***“Now they are carrying out detailed inspections, asking for photos to be shown, and questioning us.”***

Much of the rise in interrogation and questioning is due to the ongoing forced conscription being unjustly enforced by the military junta. According to Myeik residents in southern Burma, since June 2nd, personal data of each adult individual has been collected in various wards and quarters in Myeik City for conscription registration.

The Mudon to Three Pagodas Pass highway, a critical route connecting the

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Thai-Burma border, faces increased scrutiny and toll fees imposed by junta forces and some armed groups. This situation has made it difficult for locals and travellers to afford the journey amid the current economic crisis.

Drivers report paying over 10,000 MMK per passenger at multiple checkpoints along the route. These acts of extortion are blatant and are viewed by locals and travellers as a means for the junta and armed groups to exploit the public for financial gain.

Since early 2024, drivers have had to use the ‘Danone village route’ alternative due to restrictions on the Three Pagodas Pass-Mudon forest route. As a result, travel on the Mudon-Three Pagodas Pass highway now involves navigating ten checkpoints, the majority of which were managed by the junta, their alliance armed forces, and some tolls operated by the joint forces of KNLA-led voluntary groups—the toll fees amount to approximately 16,000 MMK per passenger, creating significant financial burdens.

“Checkpoint fees are calculated per passenger, costing around 16,000 MMK each. If there are more passengers, the fees increase. We can’t charge passengers more for the ride, so the rising toll fees are problematic,” explained a driver .das route.

Additionally, the alternative ‘Danone route’ presents challenges, including rough terrain and the risk of conflicts, requiring drivers to exercise caution. The travel time has increased considerably, often requiring overnight stays and posing safety concerns due to potential clashes.

“Previously, travelling to Thanbyuzayat took only five hours. Using the Danone route often requires changing to boats and sometimes staying overnight. The frequent checkpoints and risk of sudden conflicts make it difficult for drivers,” another driver shared.

Since the military coup, nearly 30 checkpoints have been established along the Thai-Burma border routes, including Three Pagodas Pass, Kyaikdon, Thanbyuzayat, and Mudon.

In Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region, junta forces have imposed severe travel restrictions on villagers fleeing the conflict, making it difficult for them to escape to safer areas. The junta’s actions have also resulted in a shortage of food supplies, causing a food crisis in the region.

The food shortages are affecting approximately 2,900 villagers. Over 1,400 people from Maroh Chai, Mi Zeep, Yone Pai, Kyaung Done, and Nagar-Ai remain trapped in conflict zones.

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On June 24th, in the vicinity of Maroh Chai village in the Kalain Aung sub-township, IDPs fleeing from nearby villages were stopped at roadblocks by junta forces.

They were threatened and forced to return to their original villages, with the threat of being shot if they did not comply, according to local aid workers.

“We’ve been trapped in our village since June 3rd, when clashes between the Mawrawaddy Naval Base and resistance forces began. We are in bomb shelters with whatever food we have left. Most of the villagers are children and the elderly. The fighting intensified when around 400 junta troops from Kalain Aung blocked our area. We can’t move to safer places under these restrictions,” said a 50-year-old resident of Kalain Aung.

In the third week of June, the junta deployed four jet fighters to bomb the areas around Maroh Chai and Yarpu villages, dropping at least ten bombs.

“Around 80 houses in our village have been burned down. Only a few villagers who couldn’t escape are left,” reported a 40-year-old woman from Maroh Chai.

The junta and resistance forces have clashed around Maroh Chai village four times, with travel restrictions in place for six days as of June 24th.

Forced Conscription

On May 26th and June 2nd, households in Innlay-Myine were called to provide detailed household population data and guest lists. The Village Administrator informed residents that men and women aged 18 to 35 were being registered for military service.

“The current list will be submitted to the office, and those listed will be called up on election day. Pregnant women and mothers were also registered,” said a female resident from Innlay-Myine.

Similarly, in the Myeik Taung quarter, village administrators collected data from households for the upcoming military conscription from May 28th.

In Kyan Taw, Won Dan, Kan Hpyar, and Myit Nge neighbourhoods, data collection occurred on May 30th and 31st. A resident of Myeik Taung expressed concern, sharing:

“We can’t contact those conscripted in the previous batch, and there have been no updates. This makes the current registrants very worried.”

According to village administrators, the women’s data was collected not for the immediate upcoming batch but for the fifth batch of military conscription at the Palaw Military Training Center.

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Since March, names of men aged 23 to 35 have been collected for conscription lotteries by neighbourhood.

According to some conscripted students and their close associates, conscription letters for the third round of military service in Dawei District were received, including those for current university students and individuals abroad.

These letters, dated May 24th, were received and listed names, father's names, and registration numbers, along with invitations to attend a meeting at the Dawei Township office department.

An attendee from Dawei Town reported that almost a hundred guardians attended the meeting, even though the conscripted individuals themselves did not show up.

“They are also calling those who are abroad. The conscripted individuals are not present in the neighbourhood,” said a resident of Dawei.

Although the conscription law allows temporary exemptions for students, during the second round of military service, some states and regions conscripted current students without their consent.

As part of the first and second round of conscription, the military junta is training

over 500 young men at the No. 12 Advanced Training School in Palauk.

In Mon State, migrant workers and impoverished individuals are being paid a few million Myanmar Kyats to fill the quotas for recruits for the junta's weekly military conscription.

The conscription law enforced by the coup military junta mandates weekly conscription batches nationwide, including in Mon State.

Due to a lack of volunteers for military service in the relevant villages and wards, administrators have begun hiring migrant workers and impoverished individuals to join.

An anonymous source reported:

“Once recruited, these individuals are immediately sent to the recruiting units. There is more hiring and replacement activity in places like Ye and Thanbyuzayat. Many of the substitutes are poor people, mostly migrant workers.”

In Mon State, with over 1,100 villages and village tracts, the junta has instructed ward and village administrators to provide one man per village for the weekly conscription.

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Administrators face various pressures because many wards and towns cannot meet the junta's recruitment demands.

Relief Organizations and Activists Targeted

Social workers and relief agencies are also being targeted for their efforts to support displaced communities.

Five members of the Lamine Youth Charity Group (Ye Township, Mon State), including the Chairman, U Win Aung, were detained for over a week, causing significant difficulties for emergency patients.

Later, the military junta conducted a full-force raid on the office of the Lamine Youth Charity Group, detaining three more members and subsequently arresting Chairman U Win Aung. As of June 6th, all five members remain detained at LIB No. 588 and have not been released.

Due to the detention of these five members, all social relief operations have been suspended indefinitely since June 3rd. Since the failed coup, in Mon State, social relief organizations have frequently been detained and interrogated by the junta.

On June 16th, at 9 AM, junta troops arrested 50-year-old Ko Hla Moe, an activist and backhoe driver, and his wife near Kyaik Htee Saung Pagoda.

Ko Hla Moe and his wife supported the National League for Democracy (NLD) during the 2020 election and participated in peaceful protests.

The junta troops took the couple to Bilin Township Police Station for interrogation, but their family has not been able to contact them.

Bilin Township is known for its vigorous resistance movement activity, where junta-appointed administrative officials and members have faced attacks.

Activists and civilians, including those involved in the democracy movement, are frequently arrested for various reasons.

Political Prisoners Protest Denial of Care and Neglect

Life for the people in Burma continues to be increasingly challenging. However, the junta's terror tactics have not silenced or deterred the ongoing movement in the country for peace and democracy.

Even in the junta-run prisons where thousands of political prisoners remain unjustly detained, they continue to demand their rights and freedoms.

On the evening of June 12th, protests erupted inside Kyaikmayaw Central Prison in Mon State due to the denial of care for an injured prisoner who was ordered to

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perform welding work on a two-story building during a rainstorm. The inmate was electrocuted, fell, and lost consciousness.

Political prisoners demanded medical treatment for the individual, but their calls were ignored. The lack of urgency and attention to the seriously wounded individual sparked the protest.

According to a source close to Kyaikmayaw Central Prison, the protest lasted two hours, from 5 to 7 PM. It only subsided after the guards agreed to transfer the inmate to Mawlamyine General Hospital.

Following the incident, on the morning of June 13th, numerous junta troops entered Kyaikmayaw Central Prison and increased security measures, as reported by sources close to the prison.

In the early morning of June 15th, a total of 146 political prisoners, both men and women, were transferred from Kyaikmayaw Central Prison:

“We learned that Mon State Prison Chief Director Zaw Myo Aung directly ordered the transfers. The male political prisoners were moved to Tharyarwaddy Prison, and the female political prisoners were sent to Daik-U Prison (Bago District),” a source close to the prison stated.

Another source added:

“The prisoner who was electrocuted is Aung Chit Htwe. He fell from a height of about 20 feet onto the women’s ward side. The delay in transferring him to an external hospital prompted the female inmates to demand immediate medical treatment and accountability from Director Zaw Myo Aung.”

After about an hour and a half, the inmate was finally taken to Mawlamyine General Hospital and is expected to undergo brain surgery due to his injuries. The denial of care to those detained for their activism is further evidence of a worsening pattern of denied medical care to political prisoners.

Prison authorities have reportedly imposed stricter restrictions on political prisoners and inmates requiring medical treatment at external hospitals than on other inmates, according to a Dawei Prison nurse who participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).

The junta has accused more than 80 female prisoners of having illegal medicine, illicit drugs and mobile phones in the prison.

The women were beaten with rubber and wooden sticks. The prisoners were also subjected to slingshots. At least five female political prisoners have sustained serious

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injuries and more than 30 prisoners have been detained under solitary confinement.

HURFOM has reported on patterns of systematic and widespread human rights violations inside military-run prisons, including Ko Yar Shin, 43, who was beaten in jail and denied proper and timely health care.

These ongoing incidents of mistreatment in junta custody are indicative of military impunity which extends beyond the battlefields. Civilians are living in fear as the terrorist regime continuously undermines their rights and freedoms.

The rule of law in Burma is not reliable. Those who have been arrested and charged for their pro-democracy activities should have never been detained.

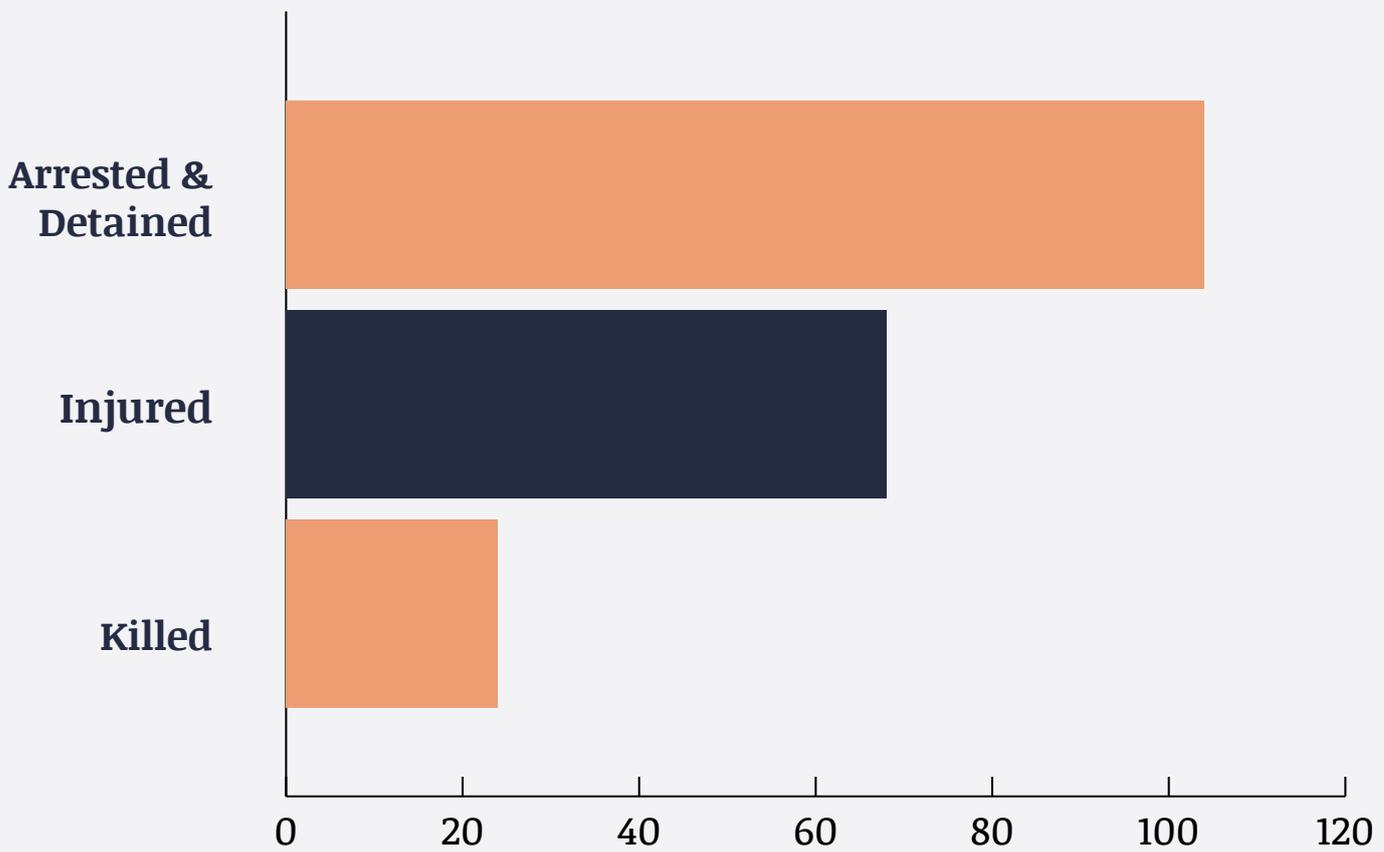
The corrupt courts and judges of the junta-backed regime must be held accountable for their ongoing miscarriage of justice and willful disregard for the law, including human rights.

Without meaningful and localized approaches to the many challenges, the junta will evade consequences. The future of Burma belongs to those who believe in peace, justice and equality for all people.

SCALED UP HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HURFOM fieldworkers continue to take great risks to document the human rights violations being perpetrated in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of **June 2024**, HURFOM recorded at least **65 people arrested**, **39 detained**, **68 injured**, and **24 killed** across all target areas.

Civilians Arrested, Injured & Killed in June 2024 in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region



2+

Pro-Democracy Protesters & Activists
Sentenced by the Junta



**PROTESTS ACROSS TARGET
AREAS IN JUNE 2024**

4

**TANINTHARYI
REGION**

3

MON STATE

1

KAREN STATE



28,500+

CIVILIANS NEWLY DISPLACED ACROSS TARGET AREAS

**CIVILIANS TARGETED IN MON, KAREN STATE
& THE TANINTHARYI REGION**

4+

**SENTENCED FOR
PARTICIPATION
IN THE CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE
MOVEMENT**

3+

**ACTIVISTS
SENTENCED IN
JUNTA COURTS**

14+

**ENFORCED
DISAPPEARANCES
BY THE MILITARY**

23+

**AIRSTRIKES AND OVER 300
INDISCRIMINATE ARTILLERY
SHELLING CASES BY THE JUNTA.**

140+

BURNED HOMES



15+

LOCATIONS

90+

**SMARTPHONES
SEIZED**

2+

**LANDMINES IN
LOCAL AREAS**

20+

**VEHICLES
CONFISCATED**

In the first week of June, artillery and airstrikes by the military junta's troops in Bilin and Thaton townships, Mon State, destroyed **12 houses**, including a monastery.



Two children were killed by an artillery shell of the military junta's troops in Kyauk Huk Kwin between Ah Khaing and Thon Kwa villages in Kyaik Hto Township, Mon State.



KAREN STATE

8,500+ Newly Displaced

25 Injured, 8 Killed



Mon State



Tanintharyi Region

Due to the placement of landmines in the Chaung Hnit Khwa area, residents are still prohibited from returning home. Despite multiple requests from the villagers of Chaung Hnit Khwa in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State, the military junta has stated that the presence of landmines makes it unsafe for residents to return and resettle.

Locals report that the junta is using the landmine threat as a pretext to steal valuables from abandoned homes and sell them in Paung Township.

Since the morning of November 10th, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDF) have launched coordinated attacks on junta troops stationed at the Chaung Hnit Khwa police station and bridge gate, leading to ongoing clashes.

These conflicts have persisted for over 50 days, forcing the entire village to evacuate.

Approximately 4,000 residents from Chaung Hnit Khwa and nearby villages such as Phat Tey Kone, Ma Yan Kone,

Thayat Kone, Paya Kone, Tadar Oo, and Taung Kalay in Kyaikmayaw Township have been displaced.

During the clashes, more than 10 villages, including Chaung Hnit Khwa, Taung Kalay, and Hla Ka Zine, saw thousands of homes raided by junta troops, resulting in arrests, beatings, and further displacement.

The junta also employed artillery shelling and airstrikes, setting homes on fire and causing civilian casualties.

Although the Burma Army forces regained control of the Chaung Hnit Khwa area in December last year, residents have been barred from returning home for over eight months.

Those attempting to return have faced gunfire. The junta continues to claim that landmines make the area unsafe for resettlement, delaying the return of the villagers.

Despite repeated appeals to the Kyaikmayaw Township General Administration Department and the

township police forces, no action has been taken, according to residents. The displaced population from Chaung Hnit Khwa, including those who fled to Thailand, continues to face severe hardships.

Over time, the number of refugees has decreased from 4,000 as some have found work abroad or resettled elsewhere, leaving around 2,000 people still displaced, according to local assessments.

These remaining displaced individuals are living with friends and relatives, in monastic schools, and at monasteries in Mawlamyine, Mudon, and Kyaikmayaw towns.

Reports indicate that during the Chaung Hnit Khwa battles, more than 10 locals were killed, over 20 were injured, and nearly 100 homes were burned down.



MON STATE

3,700+ Newly Displaced

20 Injured, 12 Killed



Karen State



Tanintharyi Region

In the first week of June, artillery and airstrikes by the military junta's troops in Bilin and Thaton townships, Mon State, destroyed 12 houses, including a monastery.

On June 1st, junta troops conducted an aerial bombing on Shwe Yaung Pya village in Bilin Township without any ground engagement, destroying ten houses.

Additionally, more than five artillery shells were fired by the 310th Artillery Battalion, causing further damage. Although civilians had to flee their homes, no injuries were reported.

On June 3rd, the 9th Light Infantry Battalion, based in Thaton, fired artillery shells into Yay Wai village, destroying two religious buildings within the village monastery.

The villages of Shwe Yaung Pya and Yay Wai, shelled by the junta's artillery, are located in the KNU Brigade 1-controlled area of Thaton District and are primarily inhabited by Karen people.

Earlier, on May 24th, two civilians were killed and five others injured in Bilin Township's Taung Thu Htay Kon village due to an artillery attack by junta troops, which also destroyed ten houses.

Meanwhile, disruptions to the education systems in Mon State are delaying local learning pathways.

Schools in Kaw Bein, Kaw Pauk, and Kaw Palaing villages along the Mon-Karen Gyaing River region remain closed due to ongoing security issues.

Since late March, armed clashes have led to a lack of security, preventing teachers from returning and parents from sending their children to school.

As a result, many schools, including 30 government schools in the area, remain shut. Local children are attending Mon language classes at village monasteries instead.

According to a resident:

“Military-run schools in Kaw Bein, Kaw Pauk, and Kaw Palaing have yet to

open mainly due to security concerns. The region is still a conflict zone, so teachers are not coming, and parents are hesitant to send their children to school.”

Only about 50% of schools in the region are operational. For instance, schools in Kaw That, Kaw Swe and Tarana villages are open.

However, there is a significantly reduced attendance rate, as many students have either stopped attending or moved to schools in urban areas or even to Thailand. One teacher recalled:

“Last year, we had about 1,500 students in high school; this year, there are only about 500.”

Mon national schools in the area also remain closed due to security concerns. Additionally, around 20 military council troops have set up checkpoints, restricting movement and extorting travellers, with indiscriminate firing.

Since the attempted military coup in 2021, conflict-related disruptions have severely impacted education, with 6-million children nationwide requiring humanitarian assistance and approximately 4-million losing access to education.

In Kha Ywal village, Kyike Hto Township, Mon State, four individuals, including two monks, were injured due to artillery shells fired by military junta troops, according to local sources and KNU Thaton District authorities.

On June 21st, the junta’s No. 310 Artillery Battalion, stationed at Thein Zayat, launched two 120 mm artillery shells into Kha Ywal village despite no ongoing battles. The shells exploded within and around the residential areas near the southern monastery in Kha Ywal village.

As a result of the artillery assault, the senior monk of the southern monastery and another monk sustained minor injuries. Three houses were also damaged.

In Kyike Hto Township, junta troops have been advancing and shelling daily with artillery for several days, forcing residents from around ten villages to flee their homes.

On June 20th, during a clash between the junta and resistance forces in Pain Nae Kon village, the junta set fire to an independent medical clinic.

On the night of June 25th, at 8 PM, artillery fire from junta troops stationed at the Sit Taung paper factory struck and

exploded in front of a civilian named U Win San's house in Ah Khaing village.

The explosion killed Ma Hla Yamin, a 20-year-old woman, and injured U San Win and his 12-year-old daughter, Ma Phyu Sin Moe. The wounded were treated by the medical team of Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 1, Thaton District.

Ah Khaing village, where the artillery fire occurred, is under the administration of KNU Thaton District and is predominantly inhabited by Karen people. According to locals, since May, military junta troops have been regularly shelling civilian villages in the KNU Thaton District.

On the morning of June 21st, artillery fire from the junta's 310th artillery battalion stationed at Thein Za Yat hit Kha Ywal village in Kyaik Hto Township, injuring a 60-year-old woman and a 30-year-old woman and damaging two houses.

Additionally, on June 21st, around 3 PM, two more shells launched by the 310th artillery battalion fell and exploded near the monastery and houses in Kha Ywal village.

This attack injured two monks, a 75-year-old man, and a woman, and damaged several religious buildings and

a house within the monastery compound.

Similarly, on June 14th, artillery fire from the 310th artillery battalion targeted the area between Ah Khaing and Thon Khwa villages, hitting Kyauk Huk Kwin, resulting in the death of a child and injuring another.

Throughout June, artillery assaults by junta troops in Kyaik Hto Township have resulted in the deaths of two civilians and injuries to 14 others.



Tanintharyi region

16,000+ Newly Displaced

23 Injured, 14 Killed



Karen State



Mon State

Villages around Kalein Aung Town in Yebyu Township, Dawei, are under continuous artillery fire from the Mawrawaddy Naval Base. This relentless shelling has resulted in civilian casualties, injuries, and the burning of homes. Daily, residents must flee to safer areas.

On June 7th, at 9:30 PM, an artillery shell hit Mi Chaung Laung Ywa Thit, injuring a middle-aged woman named Daw Than Sant. She suffered abdominal and leg injuries but was unable to reach a hospital until the following day due to road closures.

Earlier that day, clashes near Ya Phu village resulted in the deaths of three family members, including a child, and left two others injured. Similar attacks in late May caused civilian injuries and damaged religious, educational, and healthcare buildings.

Between May 14th and 20th, intense fighting erupted between the military junta troops and the combined forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and People's Defense Forces (PDF) in Kanet Thiri village. After the junta troops withdrew, further clashes occurred in Kywel Min Kone village.

Following the junta's departure, locals and PDFs conducted clearing operations post-May 27, uncovering eight bodies and 48 burned houses in Kanet Thiri village. On May 16th, during the clashes, one resident died, bringing the total number of deaths in Kanet Thiri to nine. In Kywel Min Kone village, the bodies of two locals were found, and nine houses were burned down.

Identified among the deceased are U Maung Soe (over 60), U Lar Phon Gyi (age 50), U Aung Naing (over 40), U Aung Than Khine (47), all from Kanet Thiri, and Ko Lar Shay (age 28) from Kywel Min Kone.

The identities of other burned bodies remain unconfirmed. Locals report that U Sit Shoup from Kanet Thiri and U Lar Moe Pyar from Kywel Min Kone, aged over 40, are still missing as of June 4th. U Sit Shoup's motorcycle and clothing were found near the coastal forest, leading locals to believe he may have perished. It is suspected that Ko Lar Moe Pyar might be among the burned bodies.

The deceased include individuals trapped during clashes, those caught and killed by the junta while returning home for belongings, and other locals. There were reports of the military advancing and shooting people, with some bodies burned. Eight bodies have been confirmed, with four yet to be identified.

As of June 13th, the junta troops have been active in Yebyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, specifically in Yapu Ywa Thit village and Thayar Mon village, sealing off and seizing homes. The regime began operating in these villages on June 6th and by June 9th, they were camping among the residential houses.

Additionally, in Yapu village, two houses were seized and occupied by the Burma Army on suspicion of connections with the resistance forces, according to a local from Yarpu.

“The junta troops are moving in and out of these villages, splitting into groups and living among the houses. They have also sealed and seized two valuable houses in Yarpu. They took everything inside the houses with trucks and are now staying there,” said a local from Yar Phu.

It is also reported that items from the two confiscated houses were transported away by trucks. Moreover, the residents are being

threatened with arrest if they support, provide aid to, or assist the resistance forces.

“The junta is calling for the displaced people to return; if they do not, their homes will be seized or burned. Some have returned, but others are afraid to come back due to their previous support for the resistance forces and fear of arrest,” said another local from Yar Phu.

In addition to occupying Yarpu Ywa Thit, Yarpu villages and Thayar Mon village, on June 7, the military junta’s naval forces fired artillery weapons, causing residents to flee the area.

The artillery shelling by the junta’s naval forces resulted in the deaths of a couple in their 40s, a toddler, and a child around ten years old from Yarpu village.

On the morning of June 14th, junta troops raided Maung Mae Shaung village near Technological University in Dawei Township, resulting in the arrest of several villagers and the death of an older man.

The incident began at 5 AM when approximately 100 junta soldiers entered the village. Shortly after their arrival, a brief confrontation ensued with members of the People’s Defense Forces (PDF). By 11 AM, heavy gunfire and artillery shells were reported, with artillery fire coming from the 302nd Artillery Battalion in Zahar village, about two miles away.

During the raid, the junta forces arrested and interrogated numerous villagers and passersby, although the exact number of those detained remains unclear. ***“They searched the phones of people in the village and arrested about ten villagers,”*** reported one local.

The military continued house-to-house searches until around 3 PM. Tragically, U Hla Myint, an 80-year-old resident of the eastern part of Maung Mae Shaung village, was found dead with injuries.

“People say he was found dead with injuries inside his house. He was shot and killed,” confirmed one local source.

In the aftermath of the raid, some villagers fled to nearby areas, while others remained in the village. Many residents of Maung Mae Shaung have relocated to Dawei town and other cities since early this year due to the ongoing military presence and frequent attacks along the Dawei-Yebyu road.

The situation remains tense, with the junta troops often engaging in artillery fire towards Maung Mae Shaung village. On the evening of June 12th, a military checkpoint at the entrance of Dawei town was attacked, resulting in a ten-minute clash.

On June 17th, a battle occurred between junta troops and resistance alliance forces in Mu Du (West) village, Yebyu Township, within the Dawei Special Economic Zone. Following the clash, Burma Army soldiers set fire to Mu Du village.

The conflict erupted at 3 PM on June 19th and reportedly lasted only a few minutes. Shortly after the battle, junta troops began setting fire to homes in Mu Du village. **“We saw black smoke. Houses are burning. Soldiers are in Mu Du village,”** reported one resident.

This incident occurred two months after the junta announced a collaboration with the Russian government to implement the Dawei Special Economic Zone project. In the third week of May, discussions were held between the junta and Russia to jointly develop the project.

Coup-leader, Min Aung Hlaing, mentioned in an interview with Russian news agency ITAR-TASS Media that they are working with Russia to construct a deep-sea port in Dawei capable of accommodating ships over 200,000 tons.

Following these discussions, the junta began conducting area clearance operations in the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

Human rights violations remain rampant as innocent people are routinely deprived of their rights. On June 20th, four men gathering food in Myauk Chaw village were detained and brutally beaten by the junta forces. They were released the following day as the military withdrew its troops from the area.

“The junta troops tied up the four men who came to get food and detained them in the village. They released them on the day they left the village, but no one has seen them since. They were all severely beaten. One was hit with a hoe, and another on the head. They will need significant medical attention,” a Yebyu local reported.

Similarly, on June 20th, junta forces detained and assaulted Nai Bai, a 40-year-old Myauk Chaw resident, who was riding his motorcycle into the village. He remains missing.

“Nai Bai is still missing. He was detained on the 20th when he entered the village, and his motorcycle was set on fire. We saw him being beaten. Many are hiding in the jungle, making it hard to find him. We have no news yet, whether he is dead or alive, or if he was taken or released,” another local said.

The lack of information has raised serious concerns for his safety. After armed clashes with resistance forces, junta troops used aerial bombardments and artillery strikes in Myauk Chaw village, setting fire to and destroying 31 homes, according to locals.

On June 19th, a confrontation between junta forces and allied resistance troops occurred near the Yarpu village group, close to Myauk Chaw village. Following this clash, junta forces reinforced their presence on the eastern side of Pyidaungsu Highway No. 8 in Yebyu Township, as reported by the Mon State Revolutionary Force.

In Dawei District's Yebyu Township, the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has become a conflict zone as junta forces launch attacks on nearby villages, forcing over 700 residents to flee for their lives.

Starting at 7 AM on June 23rd, junta forces began an offensive against the villages of Htain Gyi, Paradat, and Lae Shaung. As a result, at least 700 people have been forced to abandon their homes and seek safety.

The attacking forces comprises approximately 100 junta soldiers who are conducting door-to-door operations and indiscriminately shooting.

“Before the troops arrived, locals fled the villages. The security situation has become extremely dangerous, and people are escaping to places far from the junta’s reach. They had to leave behind all their belongings, fleeing with only the clothes on their backs. Some are already facing food and water shortages,” reported a local man who is among those displaced.

The same day at 9 AM, junta forces also launched indiscriminate artillery strikes in Myauk Chaw, Yone Pai, and Kyaung Done villages.

The situation remains dire as the junta continues its aggressive campaign in the region, displacing hundreds and causing widespread fear and suffering among the local population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A referral of the situation on the ground in Burma is to be made immediately by the United Nations Security Council to the International Criminal Court.
2. Concerted and coordinated action by global actors for an urgently mandated global arms embargo which would prevent the free flow of weapons into the hands of the murderous junta.
3. Aviation fuel sanctions to put an effective end to the airstrikes in Burma, which have contributed to significant loss of life, particularly among innocent civilians.
4. Targeted sanctions on military junta officials and their families and holds on their financial assets and possessions undercut their ability to conduct corrupt business dealings abroad.
5. Strengthened and renewed protection mechanisms grant civilians who are vulnerable and at risk of assault a position where they can access justice referral and accountability pathways.
6. Renewed and continued funding support for local organizations responding to the needs of their communities on the ground. Cross-border aid pathways must be accessed, and all humanitarian aid in the hands of local actors.
7. Foreign investors in Burma must immediately cease their operations and withdraw their involvement from all development projects in the country, including but not limited to airports, seaports, and cement businesses.
8. An abrupt and immediate halt to the use of torture by the military junta, and further, we call for investigations to probe the unlawful deaths of civilians in Burma who have been tortured to death, as well as those who have been forced to endure trauma and long-term injuries as a result.

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Human Rights Situation in Mon State, Karen State & Tanintharyi Region

JUNE 2024

