



## VILLAGERS FLEE AS MILITARY TENSION GROWS IN KYARINNSEIKYI



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### THANBYUZAYAT’S WEALTHY ARE TARGETS FOR ROBBERY



October 6, 2022

HURFOM: A local resource told HURFOM that gold shop owners and business persons from Thanbyuzayat Town, located in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, have become frequent targets for armed robbery.

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## News

## VILLAGERS FLEE AS MILITARY TENSION GROWS IN KYARINNSEIKYI



December 6, 2022

**HURFOM:** The Burmese military is reinforcing and mobilizing their troops to launch an attack on an area controlled by Brigade #6 of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) located in Kyarinnseikyi Township, Karen State.

Villagers are worried about the potential for an armed clash and are fleeing their homes, report local residents.

Burmese military officials informed an Abbot in Kyarinnseikyi that if the KNLA and the People's Defense Forces (PDF) launch another attack, the Burmese troops will enter Karen territory. The military is poised to enter via Thanbyuzayat – Three Pagodas Pass, Kha Lae – Da Gon Die and Eastern Zami River Routes and indications are they will launch a counter attack.

“Now, the Burmese troops are near Thanbyuzayat – Three Pagodas Pass, Kha Lae – Da Gon Die and Eastern Zami River Routes. If the Karen forces pull the trigger, the Burmese army will launch their attack,” said a villager who has

closely monitored the military movement and situation in Kyarinnseikyi Township.

After the KNLA and the PDF attacked and occupied the Taung Kalay Police Station, hundreds of Burmese troops entered Aye Chan Myine and Kha Lae – Da Gon Die area and established their bases.

“Villages in Kha Lae – Da Gon Die are full of Burmese troops. There are no villagers. They already fled from their homes. The Burmese troops have occupied houses and monasteries. The Karen troops are at Nan Tie Tun. They are very close. If the armed clash takes place, all villages will be destroyed. Now, tension is growing,” said a tea shop owner from Kha Lae – Da Gon Die area.

Due to the growing tensions, no one is able to use the Thanbyuzayat – Three Pagodas Pass Road and villagers fear the Burmese military will launch an air assault and artillery attacks at homes and villages if an armed clash breaks out.

“Now, the Burmese troops are near Thanbyuzayat – Three Pagodas Pass, Kha Lae – Da Gon Die and Eastern Zami River Routes. If the Karen forces pull the trigger, the Burmese army will launch their attack.”

News

THANBYUZAYAT'S WEALTHY ARE TARGETS FOR ROBBERY



October 6, 2022

HURFOM: A local resource told HURFOM that gold shop owners and business persons from Thanbyuzayat Town, located in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, have become frequent targets for armed robbery.

egg shop in our ward at about 6 pm. He pretended to be a buyer but suddenly threatened the shop owner with a weapon. The owner lost about 3 million Kyat. The robber also threatened the owners that he would return to kill him if he told others what happened to him," said a Thanbyuzayat resident.

"Recently, a man entered a giant According to multiple local sources,

another incident involved a group of armed persons robbing a giant gold shop in Thanbyuzayat on August 9, 2022.

In addition, a shop selling monk accessories and a shop selling construction tools and a rubber plantation were each robbed by groups of armed persons on August 16 and 17 respectively.

Even though shop owners suffer large losses, they do not file police reports fearing for their lives.

"We've frequently heard about robberies both in downtown wards and villages. It is happening everywhere. Filing a report to the police is not easy as the current situation is bad. We have to worry about our lives," said one resident.

Since the coup, the authorities have demonstrated little interest to investigate or even respond to any police reports filed by residents.

NAI CHAN'S ARMED GROUP CONTINUES TO EXTORT MONEY FROM VILLAGES IN SOUTHERN YE



October 20, 2022

HURFOM: According to local sources, Nai Chan's Ramanya Army sent letters to the Administrators of Ham Gam and Yin Yel villages demanding money by the first week of October, 2022. Nai Chan's armed group has been actively extorting villages in Southern Ye Township, Mon State,

The demand this time is for between 20,000 to 50,000 Myanmar Kyat from each household in the two villages, plus another 15 million Kyat from Yin Yel village.

"If we don't pay the money, we're afraid that they will endanger the village as they have guns. (If we deny their demand,) they will kidnap villagers on their way to the plantations. As we're afraid of being harmed, we have to pay as much as they demand," said a Ham Gam resident.

This is the second time Ham Gam villagers have been extorted. They previously paid up to 50 million Kyat to the armed group.

Nai Chan's Ramanya Army claims to have bought weapons to fight against the military council but are routinely extorting millions Kyat of money from villages in Southern Ye Township, Mon State and Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.

**News**

**MARTIAL LAW AND NEW CARD SYSTEM ADDS UP TO TROUBLE FOR RUBBER PLANTATION WORKERS**



October 24, 2022

HURFOM: The military has imposed martial law in every township of Mon State. The directive is also known as Article 144.

Local people are now prohibited from going outside at night. According to local sources, martial law has disrupted the ability for rubber plantations to get their work places

“It’s impossible to do our work due to martial law. Rubber workers must work at night to tap the trees) If something bad happens, no one will take care of us. We’re powerless daily workers, we dare not resist the military. The village Administrator also won’t protect us,” said a local rubber plantation worker.

In villages of Mudon Township, village Administrators have made special “cards” for plantation workers which include their picture, name, ward/village and phone number of the village Administrator. Workers are to carry these cards with them and show them if they are stopped by the military.

Administrators say if something happens to the card holder, they will solve the problem.

The villagers have less confidence in the scheme. “According to the current political situation, I don’t trust the promises of the village Administrator,” said a woman who works at a rubber plantation in Mudon Township.

The Administrators have extorted money from workers who wanted to have one of these cards. In addition, interactions with the military at night can be deadly On September 23, a villager from Ka Log village, Southern Ye Township, Mon State was shot and killed by the military council’s security forces. Soldiers said he breached martial law.

“My rubber plantation is at Thanbyuzayat and we live in Mudon. The village Administrator has granted the “card” but we’re always stopped by the soldiers at the check-point,” said another rubber plantation worker.

**MILITARY RESPONDS VIOLENTLY AFTER SOLDIERS’ DEFECT**



October 20, 2022

HURFOM: On September 14, 2022, 12 soldiers ran away from their Mawrawaddy Navy Battalion in Kan Bauk region, located in Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tenasserim Division. They took their weapons with them when they defected.

Local residents reported to HURFOM, the military has since tightened their security and began searching houses

using extreme force in the Kan Bauk region

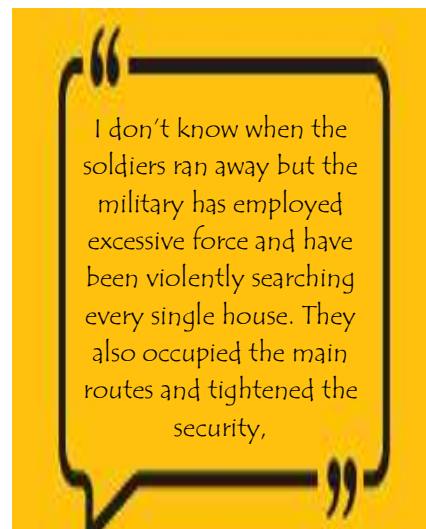
“I don’t know when the soldiers ran away but the military has employed excessive force and have been violently searching every single house. They also occupied the main routes and tightened the security,” said a local resident.

Many persons in the Kan Bauk region have been questioned by the security forces and the military is arresting and destroying empty houses.

“Some local villagers were arrested and empty houses were destroyed. Cars, motorbikes and belongings were stolen by the military,” said a villager from Kan Bauk.

Since the February 2021 coup, the se-

curity forces of the military council have established bases in crowded areas in Kan Bauk and routinely interrogated the local people, seized belongings and extorted money from residents.



News

# MCL CEMENT PLANT BEGINS OPERATIONS AGAIN, AND IMPACTS LOCAL RESIDENTS



October 25, 2022

HURFOM: Mawlamyine Cement Limited (MCL) stopped its operations on June 1, 2020 but in 2022 began operations.

MCL is located nearby Kaw Don and Kaw Pa Naw villages, Kyaikmayaw Township, in Mon State and it first started operations in April, 2017.

Local villagers told HURFOM they witnessed shipping vessels frequently travel along the Ataran river in September and October, 2022.

“Since early 2022, ships rarely traveled on the river but now they are traveling every day. The ships carry limestone,” said a villager from Ka Don Si village, Kyaikmayaw Township.

There has also been stone mining taking place from 8-10 pm in Mount Pyar Taung near Kwan Ngan village, Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State, according to Kyaikmay-

aw residents. The stone is shipped to MCL to be processed for cement production.

“Now, the ships frequently travel on the river. If we encounter these ships, we have to remove our fishing nets quickly. (If not, the ship will destroy our net). The ships also create big waves which can sink our boats,” said a fisherman from Ni Don village, Kyaikmayaw Township.

Due to the frequent travel of these big supply ships in the river, the riverbanks near Kwan Ngan and Ni Don villages have collapsed and the walls of homes close to the river have cracked, according to a Kwan Ngan resident.

When MCLs’ operations ceased, the air quality of nearby villages improved. Villagers report their lives were more comfortable as there was no more noise from the factory. Local villagers worry that with operations beginning again, they will be subjected to negative impacts again.

# MILITARY JUNTA THREATENS TO BURN VILLAGERS’ HOMES AND LAUNCH AIRSTRIKES FOLLOWING LANDMINE ATTACK



November 3, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta continues to launch attacks on villages near mix-controlled areas in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. These villages are controlled by both the KNU – Karen National Union and the military junta.

Burmese soldiers threatened to burn

houses and launch air strikes on area villages.

“On October 25, a column of military vehicles struck landmines placed on the roadway between Wel Kha Mi and Yaw Thar Aye villages. Four soldiers were killed. After this incident, the military occupied villages mostly inhabited by Karen people. They threatened the villagers that they would burn down their houses, launch airstrikes and kill all the people,” said a villager from Wel Kha Mi village track.

Wel Kha Mi village track, Sa Khan Kyi, Ka Lie Pa Doll, Aye Ka Bar, Wel Tok, Kone Myint Thar Yar and U Khway – Daw Yane villages all of which are in mix-controlled areas of Thanbyuzayat Township were occupied and threatened by the military junta.

Villagers confirmed that after they received the threats, aircraft were flying unusually low their villages at midnight. “The villagers are frightened and dug holes near their houses to hide from possible airstrikes. Some villagers have fled to Thanbyuzayat Town,” said a woman who had fled from Wel Kha Mi village track to Thanbyuzayat Town.

Burmese soldiers have tightened security, arrested villagers and extorted money from family members of those they arrested, reported local sources.



**News**

# MOST TOWNSHIP COMMITTEES REFUSE TO HOST 76TH MON NATIONAL DAY (CENTRAL) CEREMONY



November 1, 2022

HURFOM: Due to the ongoing turbulent politics and security concerns, most Township-level Mon National Day Organizing Committees are refusing to host the 76th Mon National Day (Central) ceremony.

“Due to today’s political condition, none of the townships want to host the Mon National Day (Central) this year. So we’re considering holding the ceremony in Yangon,” said a member of the 76th Mon National Day (Central) Organizing Committee.

Mon National Day has always been proudly held every year in villages, townships and even at the central level. However, the political and security conditions are getting worse since the February 2021 coup and now most Township Committee have refused to host the 76th Mon National Day (Central).

“Due to the current unstable political conditions, we’ve appointed three Chairpersons and there Secretaries, just in case of unforeseen difficulties. We have also reduced the numbers (of the members of the organizing committee),” said one member.

The very first meeting for the 76th Mon National Day (Central) was held at the Sar Sa Nar 2500 Monastery in Mawlamyine on October 29, 2022.

## MON STATE WORKFORCE SEEK WORK ABROAD DUE TO NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS



November 1, 2022

HURFOM: The ongoing political crisis in Burma has created less economic opportunities and parts of the Mon State labor force, especially restaurant owners and rubber plantation workers are seeking better job opportunities out of country.

“In previous years, Mon State has many festivals after the end of the rainy season. Restaurants have many customers. But everything is different this year. There are no tourists. Restaurants have no customers. We’re unable to earn our livelihood this year,” said a restaurant owner from Mudon Township.

Other small and medium sized business owners have had to close due to frequent and prolonged power cuts and high prices and shortage of raw materials.

“Previously, businesses were running well. As the dry winter season started, we received many orders. But we have no work this year. No one has placed an order. We can’t do business. I’m thinking of going to Malaysia for work. I’ve been extending my passport validity,” said a welding shop owner from Mawlamyine.

Due to the political and economic crisis, many Burmese workers have fled to Thailand in search of better work opportunities. On October 23, 2022, the Thai Police announced they had arrested 45 Burmese migrant workers who crossed the border without proper documentation.

News

# YE OWNERS WANT TO SELL PLANTATIONS DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS

November 3, 2022

HURFOM: Most people in Ye Township, Mon State earn a living from rubber, betel nut and fruit plantations. However, the increase of armed clashes and killings since the February 2021 coup, has left plantations owners feeling insecure.

Many now want to sell their plantations. "People from Yeh rely on plantations. But because the country has no peace, it's impossible to solely rely on plantations. Plantations can't be a secure workplace in the future. That's why everyone wants to sell," said one owner whose plantation is located between Maw Ka Nin village and Ye Town.

Even though many owners want to sell, there are no buyers at the moment.

Now is harvest season for rubber and lime plantations, but owners are fearful of working their plantations due to security concerns. Plantation owners say the main reason they want to sell their plantations is due to an inability to earn



a peaceful livelihood.

"There are lots of plantations for sale. But I haven't seen any buyers. Most plantations between Maw Ka Nin village and Ye Town are now up for sale," said a plantation broker from Maw Ka Nin village.

The People Defense Forces (PDF) are quite active in the area between Maw Ka Nin village and Ye Town, and there have been frequent armed clashes between the group and the Burmese army.

## PAUK PIN KWIN MON NATIONAL SCHOOL IN NEED OF CURRICULUM BOOKS MORE SPACE FOR STUDENTS



November 4, 2022

HURFOM: The community leaders from Pauk Pin Kwin village, Yebyu Township had built a Mon National Primary School that was first opened in June, 2022.

The Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) provided the school with a limited amount of educational materials. The school committee was forced

to buy additional school materials and books from the local market.

"We've got some curriculum books from the Mon National School in Yaw Thit. But it isn't enough for all students. Some students don't have curriculum books. So teachers have to write down on the blackboard and students have to copy it," said the Headmistress Mi Jam Par Soon.

As the government schools have been closed due to security concerns many students have registered at the Mon National School, so that the school has accommodation problems.

"Even though it is a newly constructed school, there are not enough desks and chairs. Now we're planning to construct

a new two-storey school. The construction will hopefully start in the next three months. The project is supported by the village. A senior monk Monk Aot Jae said he would support the effort with two million Kyat. I think he'll give the money at the start of the construction," said a member of the School Committee.

The Pauk Pin Kwin Mon National Primary School has 449 students and 13 teachers. The salary of schoolteachers has been supported by the MNEC and the School Committee.

The MNEC has about 140 schools and 20,000 students.

## News

## PROLONGED AND FREQUENT POWER CUTS RETURN AFTER RAINY SEASON



November 9, 2022

HURFOM: Mon State had a relatively sufficient supply of electrical power during the four months of the rainy season, due to increased production levels from hydropower plants. However, now that the rainy season has ended, prolonged and frequent power cuts have become commonplace again.

This situation has led owners of small and medium enterprises (SME) businesses, private clinics and factories to buy their own power generators.

“As the power cuts are too long, we can’t just wait until the power comes back on. If we rely on electricity provided by the State, we’ll die of starvation. Even though the price of petrol is high, we have to run our generator. It’s inevitable,” said a welding shop owner from Mudon Town.

Business owners are now facing additional expenses for power generators and petrol during the economic crisis. These additional costs are hurting their businesses. “Our clinic has had to rely on our own power generator for a long time. We have to

spend too much money on petrol every month. So we have to add the cost of the generator and petrol onto the bills for treatment as a new cost. Now the patients have to pay more money,” said a shareholder from a private clinic from Mawlamyine.

An official from the Department of Electricity Distribution claimed that prolonged and frequent power cuts had happened because the State is unable to provide sufficient electricity.

“It’s due to insufficient production of electrical power. That’s why we have to cut power in various places. The power cut problem can’t be solved in a short time. It takes time,” said the official.

Even though there has been prolonged and frequent power cuts across the Mon State and the whole Burma, officials from the military junta claim they will provide Ye residents with State-sponsored electricity.

To date residents of Ye Township rely on expensive electricity provided by private companies.

“It’s due to insufficient production of electrical power. That’s why we have to cut power in various places. The power cut problem can’t be solved in a short time. It takes time,



## News

## ELECTION COMMISSION COLLECTS VOTERS' LIST; PEOPLE SHOW NO INTEREST



November 10, 2022

HURFOM: During these weeks, the Township Sub-election Commissions have been collecting voters' list in villages in townships of Mon State; however, the local villagers have shown their lack of interest on the election organized by the military junta, according to multiple sources from different townships in Mon State.

"The village administrator informed us the commission would collect voters' list. We didn't care as their election isn't reliable. As the election is organized by the military, they'll do what they want. Everyone knows the military will win the election. If they want to do election, just do it. We aren't interested in it and we have our own work to do," said a villager from Southern Ye Township.

As the villagers did not want to deal with the Township Sub-election Commissions, they intentionally went to their plantations or workplaces when the commission visited them, villagers told HURFOM.

"The commission said (collecting voters' list) is a preparation for the election. But they don't mention when the election is," said a village administrator from Thanbyuzayat Township.

The political analysts said the military junta must organize the general election in 2023 but there are many administrative and security challenges.

"If the military used forces to do election, there must be unrest. Those who want to stop the election will interrupt the election. There will be shooting, explosions and killings. The military junta itself is already aware of the risks. In my opinion, the election will be difficult," said a former member of the New Mon State Party Central Executive Committee.

In the upcoming election, the military junta will replace the First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system with the Proportional Representative (PR) system and the National Unity Government had claimed that they would do everything to stop the election organized by the junta when the United State of America and the international communities have urged to boycott the fake election of the military junta.

## JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK INJURES AN ADULT AND A CHILD IN KHAW ZAR



November 14, 2022

HURFOM: On November 4, 2022, an armed clash between local battalion LIB #31 and an unknown armed group took place at Myo Hong Ward, Khaw Zar Town, Ye Township, Mon State.

The military randomly shot heavy weapons into residential areas and one artillery shell injured a 63-year-old man and a ten-year-old child.

"The adult suffered injuries to his abdomen and the child sustained minor injuries that were treated at home." said a local resident familiar with the incident.

The Khaw Zar Myo Hong Rescue Team sent the injured adult to the Ye General Hospital but he was later transferred to the Mawlamyine General Hospital as he needed surgery.

"Every night from 6 pm to 12 pm, we hear the sounds of small arms gunfire and heavy weapons being used by the battalion. As soon as the villagers hear gunfire, they run and hide under their houses. It looked like those injured people didn't have enough time to get under their house," said a woman from Khaw Zar.

In October, the local battalion LIB #31 also launched bomb attacks twice outside Khaw Zar Town to threaten villagers.

**News**

**JUNTA KILLS INDIVIDUAL FOR FAILURE TO STOP AT CHAUNG HNA KHWA BRIDGE GATE CHECKPOINT**



November 17, 2022

HURFOM: On November 12, 2022, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People’s Defense Forces (PDF) jointly attacked, occupied and destroyed the police station in Chaung Hna Khwa village, located in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

The military junta immediately banned use of the Chaung Hna Bridge leading into the village. However, the next day, November 13, the junta allowed people to use the bridge again.

In the interim the junta had tightened their security at the bridge gate, and

shot someone who failed to stop at the checkpoint.

“Yesterday, (the security guards) at the bridge ordered a villager to stop, but he failed to do so. Then they shot and killed him. A young man coming back to the village saw the incident and tried to turn around. The military also threatened this villager,” said a local resident. After the November-12 attack, the military junta launched 13 air assaults with two military aircraft that injured a monk and another villager. Then, more than 500 villagers fled from their homes.

“Now, four fifths of the village have left. They fled to Kyarinnseiky, Kyauk Kwel, Ngar Pyay Ma and Mudon. Chaung Hna Khwa village is now a black area,” said a local source.

The military junta has threatened they will burn down the village if there is another attack on their military base.

**JUNTA TIGHTENS SECURITY AND EXTORTS WORKERS IN HMIT KAREN AND WEL KHA MI**



November 17, 2022

HURFOM: Since early November, 2022, armed clashes between the Burmese military and the People Defense Forces (PDF) have happened nearly everyday in the Hmit Karen and Wel Kha Mi villages, located in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. The military junta has tightened its security presence in the area and built a police base and a checkpoint in Wel Kha Mi village.

“The security has been tightened more between Wel Ka Mi and Hmit Karen. (The Burmese soldiers) have asked workers to show a recommendation letter authorizing travel, from the village Administrator. Now, every worker has to pay the Admin-

istrator 2,000 Kyat to get a recommendation letter,” said a local villager.

The military ordered the workers to ensure their letters include a photo of themselves, and threatened anyone who does not carry such a letter will be arrested.

“The military junta randomly shoots at nearby villages with small and big weapons. They threatened last month that they would launch air assaults and burn down Karen villages. We are living in fear of multiple groups. Now, villagers are digging holes (to hide from air assaults and heavy weapons attacks),” said a villager from Wel Kha Mi village track.

Wherever the military is attacked by the PDF, the Burmese soldiers usually arrest innocent villagers from nearby villages and extort money for their release. As a result many villagers from Wel Kha Mi village track have had to flee from their homes.

**News**

**BURMESE MILITARY ARRESTED VILLAGERS AND USE THEM TO SERVE AS PORTERS**



November 21, 2022

HURFOM: On November 15, 2022, there was a major armed clash between the Burmese military and the combined units of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People’s Defense Force (PDF) near Lut Shan village, Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State.

After the incident, the military arrested rubber plantation workers and forced them to serve as porters, according to a local source.

“After the armed clash, my nephew returned from the rubber plantation. When he was near Japan Mount, the military arrested him and another person. The two men were riding a motorbike. They abandoned the motorbike beside the road. The father-in-law of my daughter was also arrested at his home,” said a family member of villagers who was also forced to serve as a porter.

The two individuals were released on the same day, October 15, and arrived home at about 10 pm.

“There were about 50 people. They arrested us and forced us to carry their bags. Two men ran away and the military shot at them with guns about five times. I don’t know if they’re dead or alive,” said another villager who was forced to be a porter.

“After hearing the sounds of gunshots, aircraft and air assault, we knew that the armed clash was severe. We also saw soldiers nearby our plantations. We decided to go back but the military had already closed the gate on the way to Three Pagoda Pass – Thanbyuzayat Road. We were also informed that the military arrested villagers to use as porters on our way back. So we took a shortcut to go back home,” confirmed a rubber plantation worker from Lut Shan village.

Lut Shan village is located on the border of Kyarinnseiky and Thanbyuzayat Townships and near Japan Mount in Thanbyuzayat Township.

**TWO KILLED, TEN INJURED, AND 2,000 FLEE DUE TO ARMED CLASH IN TAUNG KALAY**



November 23, 2022

HURFOM: On November 21, 2022, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People’s Defense Forces (PDF) attacked the Taung Kalay Police Station in Taung Kalay village, located in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

The Light Infantry Battalion #208 was based in the police station.

In response to the attack, the military junta launched air assaults targeting the

Taung Kalay village. In addition, the Artillery Battalion in A-Bit village, based in Mudon Township used heavy weapons targeting locations nearby the police station.

As a result two villagers were killed and ten villagers including children were injured due to the artillery attack. More than 2,000 villagers from seven nearby villages have fled their homes.

“The A-Bit Battalion had launched an



attack on the area around the Taung Kalay Police Station. Then, the junta launched air assaults with two military aircraft targeting the village. Houses and the religious buildings were destroyed,” said a villager.

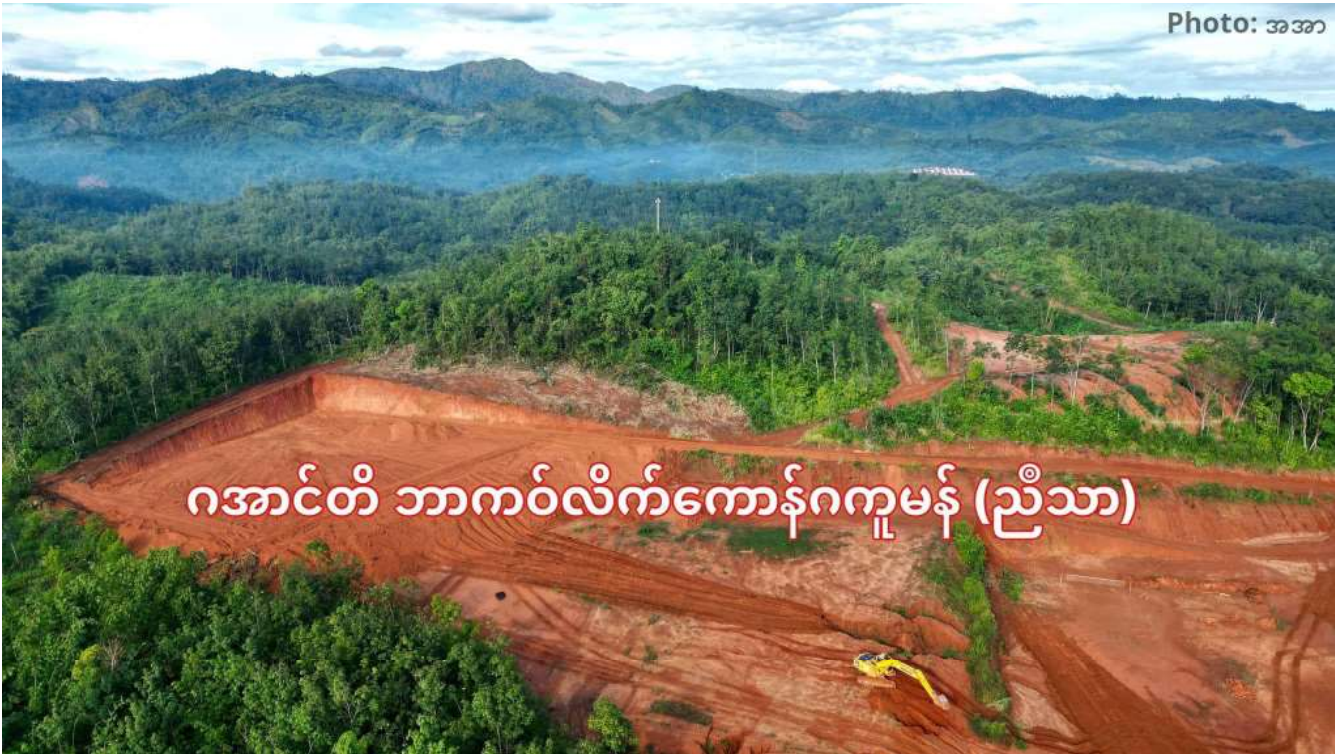
Currently, the Burmese military is occupying Taung Kalay village and villagers who remain have hidden themselves.

The military has closed the Kyarinnseiky-Chaung Hna Kwa, Mudon-Win Yaw and Kyaikmayaw roads and banned rescue teams from entering the Taung Kalay village.

News

# CONSTRUCTION OF MON NATIONAL COLLEGE BEGINS IN DECEMBER

Photo: အာအာ



ဂအင်တိ ဘာကဝ်လိက်ကောန်ဂကူမန် (ညိဿ)

November 28, 2022

HURFOM: December 26, 2022 is the golden jubilee of the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) and the date will coincide with the ground breaking construction of the Mon National College.

The college will be located in the Nyi Sar Region which is controlled by the New Mon State Party (NMSP).

“The learning process must continue. It’s good to finish construction as quick as possible. The upcoming December date will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the MNEC and we’ll start the construction to commemorate the anniversary,” said the Rector of the Mon National College, Dr. Pone Nyar Mon.

The MNEC estimates the construction of the college will cost about 600 million Kyat.

“The construction is dependent upon the support from donors. So we can’t say when it will be finished,” continued the Rector.

The Mon National College opened in June, 2022 and now has 150 first-year students and 150 second-year students. The second-year students were transferred from the Pop Htaw Education Empowerment Program, run by the NMSP.

Most students and their parents have boycotted the educa-

tion system controlled by the military junta. Due to ongoing security concerns and widespread political instability, this National College initiative represents an important alternative for Mon students.



“The learning process must continue. It’s good to finish construction as quick as possible. The upcoming December date will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the MNEC and we’ll start the construction to commemorate the anniversary”

News

# RUMORS OF ANOTHER ATTACK ON POLICE STATION CAUSE WORRY



December 2, 2022

HURFOM: A week after the Taung Kalay Police Station, Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State was attacked, occupied and destroyed by the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People’s Defense Force (PDF), a rumor is now circulating that another attack may occur. This time the target could be the Kyaikmayaw Township Police Station.

“We’ve started hearing the rumor on November 23. After that, we dare not go to our plantation. The rubber plantation workers witnessed aircraft flying in the sky. We don’t even go outside after 8 pm,” said a villager from Mya Gone village which is located near the Kyaikmayaw Township Police Station.

Burmese soldiers have entered villages near the Kyaikmayaw Police Station using military vehicles and are conducting frequent inquiries, reported one villager.

“As the rumor broke out, no one can guarantee that there will be no armed clash. Now, I dare not go to my plantation,” said another villager.

On November 24, 2022, the KNLA and the PDF requested villagers from Kha Lae – Da Gon Die, Nan Tie Tun and the Hpar Ta Lae villages of Kyarinnseiky Township to move out due to the possibility of armed clashes.

“They requested villagers move to Win Yaw Saint Kyi and Lie Ka Ne. They also requested travelers to use the route near Phar Pya village. No one can use the Kyaikmayaw route. Now, the KNLA and the PDF have taken control of Kha Lae – Da Done Die, Taung De and Nan Tie Tun villages, Kyarinnseiky Township,” said a wood trader from Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State.

“As the rumor broke out, no one can guarantee that there will be no armed clash. Now, I dare not go to my plantation”

## News

## FREQUENT ARMED CLASHES WORRY YE RESIDENTS



December 8, 2022

HURFOM: Most villages in Northern Ye Township, Mon State experience the sound of gunshots nearly every night, creating stress and worry for residents.

“At the moment, we’ve routinely hear gunshots near our village. Villagers are afraid. The local People’s Defense Forces (PDF) announced they would accelerate their attacks on the military junta. So the villagers are worried about an armed clash. We have to be cautious with our daily activities and work,” said a villager from Northern Ye Township.

As the dry winter season comes, PDF representatives have indicated they will accelerate the speed of their revolution and will continue to attack the military. In October the PDF

requested villagers to travel with caution and reduce festive activities.

Villagers hear gunshots nearly every day but do not know who is behind the shooting.

“I have not been able to sleep at night. There are shootings outside the village. I have heard at least 50 times, gunshots and bomb blasts. The sound of the explosions is huge. But I don’t know the cause,” said a villager.

Villagers are afraid to go to their farms and plantations and students are afraid of going to school.

“There are fears among villagers. No one dares to go to the plantation and no one dares to go to school. They all wait and see the situation,” continued the villager.

The armed clashes between the Burmese military and the local PDFs are taking place near Maw Kanin, Kanin Kamaw and Thar Yar Aye villages of Northern Ye. The frequent armed clashes are endangering the lives of the travelers who use the Mawlamyine – Ye Road.

“If you don’t have urgent matters, don’t use the Mawlamyine – Ye Road. I encountered an armed clash on my way back from Mawlamyine. Our car had to stop beside the road and we all had to hide under the car. I feared that I would die at that moment,” said a female passenger.

## ADMINISTRATOR EXTORTS 5,000 KYAT FROM PU LAW VILLAGERS FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION



December 13, 2022

HURFOM: Since the beginning of December, 2022, the Administrator of Pu Law Township, Myeik District, Tenasserim Division has required all passengers or travelers to show their recommendation letter (travel authorization) at check-points. Any one who has failed to show the letter will not be allowed to pass the gate and travel, report local sources.

Previously, villagers had to pay only 1,000 Kyat for a recommendation letter but after releasing the order, the Administrator is extorting 5,000 Kyat per recommendation letter.

“When passing the gate, we must show the recommendation letter. A recommendation letter costs us 5,000 Kyat. It’s too much. In our township, wherever we go, we have to pass the gate/checkpoint. It’s a huge problem for villagers who can’t afford the fee,” said the resident in Pu Law.

The people experience many difficulties in their livelihoods due to the political and economic crisis, but the Administrator has abused his power and is extorting money from villagers.

“The Administrator has abused his power. We can go nowhere without a recommendation letter so we have to pay the amount they asked for,” said one resident.

After the coup, the Administrators appointed by the junta have made extra money by extorting villagers. They must apply for and pay fees for a “visitor report form” and the recommendation letter for travel.

News

# BETEL NUT FARMERS FACE TOUGH TIMES AS PRICES DROP



December 15, 2022

HURFOM: Since October of this year, betel nut buyers in Mon State have been able to buy dry betel nuts from farmers for approximately 3,000 Kyat per Peittha (1.63 kg) but it is difficult to sell the products at that low price. Early this year, there was a huge buy of

juvenile/young betel nut from China, meanwhile local betel nut farmers had harvested a small crop. As a result a Peittha of betel nut was priced at 6,000 Kyat in June, 2022. However by September the price dropped to about 3,300 Kyat per Peittha.

Price fluctuations extended into last year.

“Last year, a Peittha of dry old betel nut was priced at 10,000 Kyat and dry new betel nut was priced at about 7,000 Kyat. We got a good price at the beginning of this year but now money from selling betel nuts just barely covered

the cost to produce the crop,” said one betel nut farmer.

In addition to the price hardship, the price of gasoline and fertilizer has risen sharply, and betel nut farmers had to invest more money in their plantations. Now with the significant price drop after the harvest season, farmers are facing financial difficulties.

“I can’t use fertilizer in my plantation this year. The labor fee is also high. But we are not getting a fair price for the betel nut,” said a plantation owner from Ye Township.

# UEC APPLIES PRESSURE ON SMALL POLITICAL PARTIES



December 20, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta is preparing to hold an election in 2023 and the junta-controlled Union Election Commission (UEC) have put pressure on small or ethnic political parties, according to the political sources.

The UEC recently informed all political parties of an amendment driven by the junta establishing new membership numbers within political parties, and requiring parties to pay a fee to the UEC.

Previously, a union-level (national level) political party had to provide a list of only 1,000 members but now, they must show registration of up to 100,000 members. They also must pay a million Kyat to the UEC as a registration fee.

These changes will have a dramatic impact on small and ethnic political parties.

“The junta wants to eliminate small parties in our country. I’ve accepted that we have too many political parties but this amendment will create a huge disaster for the ethnic political parties,” said one political analyst.

In addition the new amendment requires political parties to form a township-level entity in 165 townships which is the half of all 330 townships across Burma.

The amendment amounts to banning ethnic political parties from competing in union-level elections.

For instance, the Mon political party the Mon Unity Party (NUP) is registered as a union-level political party and they are active in just 17 townships in Mon and Karen States and Tenasserim Division. It is impossible for the MUP to form township-level political parties in 165 townships.

Burma has more than 90 political parties and more than 50 have never won a seat in previous elections.

## News

## JUNTA'S VOTER LIST WILL NOT BE ACCURATE DUE TO CORRUPTION



December 20, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta launched a coup in February 2020 denying the results of the 2020 election, by dubiously claiming there were major mistakes with the voter list.

The junta is now planning to hold an election in 2023 and the Union Election Commission (UEC), which is controlled by the military, has been collecting names for a new voters' list via the General Administration Department (GAD).

According to sources within the GAD, there is little confidence a new voters list

will be accurate, because of corruption within the Immigration Department who have been tasked to make the national registration cards (NRC or ID card) and a household list of voters.

"It has been a long time since they've checked to see if the people in the constituency and the people on the household list are the same. Many have different household lists and many don't live in the township they are registered to vote in. Some names hold two or three different ID cards. If corruption (in making ID cards and household lists) can't be eliminated, the voter list won't be accurate," said a source who is close to the township GAD.

The junta has also said they would use a proportional representation (PR) system in the 2023 election but have not released the exact date of the coming election.

"No one knows if the election will happen or not. But the junta has increased their momentum in preparing voter lists and is discussing issues with various government departments. So they will surely hold an election," commented a politician in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

## JUNTA'S SOLDIERS' RAPE PREGNANT DAUGHTER AND MOTHER IN YE



December 22, 2022

HURFOM: Mid-day on December 11, 2022, a daughter and mother who worked in a rubber plantation located between San Pya and Hnin Zone villages, Ye Township, Mon State were both raped by Burmese soldiers.

The rape victims lived with the daughter's husband at the plantation and the daughter was pregnant.

"The soldiers came to the plantation when the daughter, her mother and her husband were together. The soldiers ordered the husband to go into the village and buy them alcohol. After he left the plantation, the soldiers raped the mother and then raped the pregnant daughter," said a local villager.

The victims have left the plantation and returned to their native village.

Since the coup, it has become commonplace for authorities to neglect such criminal cases, even when they are reported to the police.



## News

Information on HURFOM and  
Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers

Dear Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people, The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- Monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and other areas in southern Burma
- Protecting and promoting internationally recognized human rights in Burma,

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM produces the monthly "Mon Forum" newsletters. If publication is delayed it is because we are waiting to confirm information, and it comes with our heartfelt apologies.

We encourage you to write to us if you have feedback or if you know someone who you think would like to receive the newsletter.

Please email or mail a name and address to:

HURFOM, P.O. Box 35, Sangkhalburi Post Office,  
Kanchanaburi, 71240 Thailand

E-mail: [info@rehmonnya.org](mailto:info@rehmonnya.org)

Website: <http://www.rehmonnya.org>

With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

## MILITARY JUNTA BANS VILLAGERS FROM USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHARE CERTAIN NEWS INCIDENTS

### Right to Information



December 24, 2022

HURFOM: Villagers told HURFOM that the military junta is strongly threatening them not to share news related to armed clashes, bomb explosions or any news related to the revolution against the coup, via their social media accounts.

Those who do share reports of such incidents will be arrested and punished by the military junta.

The junta has also banned the taking photos of armed clashes and bomb explosions and sharing such incidents on social media. The junta ban interferes with the flow of information.

"Even if it happened in our village, we dare not take a photo. We dare not share the news. So villagers can't know what is happening in their own village. Now, we live in silence," said a villager from Taung Kalay village, Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

Before the coup, people could freely share information about their villages or areas on their social media accounts. Since the coup, the military junta routinely arrests reporters and anyone who records incidents with their mobile phones.

"Before, we knew immediately of incidents taking place in our village. Now, the junta arrests people who take photos and record video. They've also targeted those who share the news. So no one dares to take photos and share news (on their social media accounts)," said another youth education activist from Mawlamyine.

The military junta has arrested 166 individuals who have violated the social media ban and sentenced more than 50 with imprisonment. Three reporters have been killed by the junta's security forces.

## News

## MPDF DECLARES THEY WILL OPERATE AS A LOCAL MILITIA GROUP UNDER BURMESE ARMY



October 14, 2022

**HURFOM:** The Mon Peace and Defense Force, an armed splinter group who surrendered to the Burmese military in 2010, has now declared they will serve as a local militia operating under the Burmese army.

October 10, 2022, the same day the group made their announcement, coincides with the 12th anniversary of the day the MPDF surrendered to the Southeast Command of the Burmese military.

“The Burmese military has hoped the MPDF would replace the role of the New Mon State Party among the Mon community, because the NMSP hasn’t agreed to operate under the Burmese military. But the MPDF can’t attract the Mon community and has failed to grow their forces. Eventually, they can do nothing but agree to operate as a local militia group,” said a Mawlamyine resident who is close to the MPDF in Mawlamyine.

The MPDF has been active in the area controlled by the Southeast Command and according to the multiple sources, they have a history of operating as a local militia group in Karen State, Mawlamyine and Thanbyuzayat Townships. “As a local militia group, they have to fulfill the needs of the Burmese army. In exchange, they’ve been granted some economic opportunities. They wanted to grow their forces but they failed. Now they have divisions in their groups and operate as different local militia groups in different areas,” continued the source.

The MPDF was founded by General Nai Shaung, a former member of the NMSP. As of October 10, 2010, the group had 268 active members.

Observers of this development note that ever since the MPDF surrendered to the Burmese military, the group has failed to grow their forces and there is no unity amongst their leaders.

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