

MAJORITY OF MON PEOPLE UNHAPPY WITH POLITICAL LEADERS DECISIONS TO ENGAGE WITH THE MILITARY JUNTA



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June 28, 2022

HURFOM: The New Mon State Party (NMSP) policy requires villagers to have recommendation letters from their village Administrators in order to submit a legal case to the NMSP Judicial Department. Villagers are expressing disappointment with this policy.

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News

MAJORITY OF MON PEOPLE UNHAPPY WITH POLITICAL LEADERS DECISIONS TO ENGAGE WITH THE MILITARY JUNTA



May 26, 2022

HURFOM: According to a former Central Executive Committee (CEC) member of the Mon Unity Party, the majority of Mon people are unhappy with the current political policies and strategies being exercised by their leaders.

The Mon Unity Party (MUP) and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) have both adopted the position to talk with military junta, via the State Administration Council, as part of the peace process.

However many Mon people view this decision with frustration.

"Some said the two Mon parties had chosen a clever way. They want to 'catch fish without making the water dirty' (Mon proverb). But ordinary people or people who understand politics don't like the fact that they've cooperated with the military junta. So both parties are losing the trust of Mon nationals, at the moment," said a former

member of the MUP who had resigned from the party.

The Vice-Chair of the NMSP Nai Aung Min, and his team recently met with the military leader in Naypyidaw. Mon politicians and Mon people have taken to social media to voice their criticism of that decision.

During the Naypyidaw meeting, the NMSP agreed with the military junta to draw up new constitutions for both a Federal Union and Mon State.

"The people don't like discussions or engaging in talks with the military or even cooperating with them. (The two parties) must be brave enough to totally oppose the military junta, I think," said the former MUP member.

Nai Ong Ma Gnay, the CEC member of the NMSP, responded to the media by arguing the party decided to talk with the military junta not only for the sake of their party but also for the benefits of a Federal Union and for the people.

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News

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June 28, 2022

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Villages in Ye Township have lost trust in the judicial system controlled by the

military junta, and in some cases village Administrators have ties to the military or act in a corrupt manner.

"The people have trusted the NMSP and gone to their judicial department. But the department has asked for a recommendation letter from the village Administrator (to accept their legal complaint). It's unreasonable. The judicial department should accept the legal complaint without a recommendation

letter from the village Administrator," said a villager from R Ru Taung village, Ye Township, in Mon State.

Villagers feel the policy does not deliver justice in light of the military influence with Administrators.

"The administrators (of the military junta) are usually accepting bribes (from one side) to decide a (legal) case. If someone is not satisfied with the decision and submits a complaint to the NMSP, it will be difficult or impossible to have the Administrators who accepted the bribe, to then provide a recommendation letter. They've never done it," said a Lamine resident who had to submit a legal complaint to the NMSP Judicial Department in Wel Zin Region, Ye Township.

The NMSP has formed District and Central Judicial Departments to handle legal complaints submitted by villagers. But there is no judicial department at the township level.

POWER CUTS IMPACTING STUDENT'S CAPACITY TO STUDY IN LEAD UP TO MATRICULATION EXAM PERIOD



April 4, 2022

HURFOM: The Ministry of Education, which is controlled by the military junta, is moving forward with plans to hold the 2021-22 academic matriculation exams from March 31 to April 9, 2022.

Students are upset with the decision because the power cuts have been occurring with more frequency and outages last for longer periods of time making

it extremely difficult to prepare for their exams.

Some individuals who assist students to prepare for their exams have had to buy a generator to provide electricity for the students.

"A single power cut lasts for half a day. Power cuts happen day and night. There shouldn't be a power cut during the matriculation exam period. But the power cuts are getting worse. When there is no electricity at night, it is difficult for students to do their studies," said a supporter of students, based in Myine Thar Yar Ward, Mawlamyine.

Without a generator to provide electric lighting students have to do their studies by candle light, often late into the evening.

"The person assisting us, bought a generator but with gasoline prices so high, he has had to limit the use of the generator. So we have to do our studying with a rechargeable battery lamp or even with a candle light. It's annoying. The light source from the battery lamp or a candle is poor. We are upset that power cuts are happening so frequently. It affects our ability to study and prepare," said a student from Mudon Town.

According to the spokesperson of the military junta, the power cuts are due to maintenance of the electrical grid system. The junta advises that people must have an alternative power source until at least May 2022.

In previous years, 30,000 students registered for their matriculation exams in Mon State. This year many students and their parents have opted to boycott the exam period. There are only 10,000 students who have decided to sit for the upcoming matriculation exams.

News

METHAMPHETAMINE TABLETS (WY) TABLETS GET CHEAPER WHILE COMMODITY PRICES RISE



April 6, 2022

HURFOM: As a consequence of the military coup, commodity prices are increasing dramatically every day across Burma. Meanwhile, across Mon State, the prices for WY(methamphetamine) tablets are dropping, and there is easy availability.

A WY tablet was priced at just over 1,000 Kyat but now the price is around 800 Kyat.

"I don't know if the price drop is because producers may be reducing the quality (of the tablets). Now a WY tablet costs only 800 or 900 Kyat. Some users say the current tablets even have a stronger effect," said a WY tablet user from Mudon Township.

The tablets are widely available in villages in Mon State even though the military junta has imposed tighter security measures.

"Even though there is tight security, you can buy WY tablets easily. There are secret ways in which WY tablets are distributed. There is a private connection between sellers and users. Every village in Mon State has been impacted by the presence and distribution of these tablets. They are easily available," said a WY tablet user. As festive events including weddings and ordination ceremonies across Mon State begin to come back as public health restrictions are reduced, both WY tablets and Kratom leaf liquor are increasing in availability. Exposure to this drug and liquor is increasingly becoming part of youth culture.

JUNTA CONTROL ON FOREIGN CURRENCY LEADING TO BURMA RUNNING OUT OF GASOLINE



April 20, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta has controlled the trade of US dollars resulting in significant impacts on importation of gasoline. Gasoline imports have currently halted. Critics point out that Burma is running out of gasoline.

In Mon State the fuel shortages have

forced gasoline stations in Mawlamyine to sell only within limited times.

"We can't sell gasoline for the whole day. We'll operate the shop only from 6 am to 11 am. The sale amount will depend on the quota of gasoline available. When we get the usual quota of gasoline, we'll run our shop normally," said an official from one station in Mawlamyine.

The shortage has led to prices going up, and people have to queue up for a long time at the stations.

"Not only is the price high but we also have to wake up early to queue up to get gasoline," said a taxi driver from Mawlamyine.

Many taxi drivers and those employed in the transportation sector have lost their jobs.

"Motorcycle taxi drivers, tri-car taxi drivers and transporters who were already in a hand to mouth situation are now in even more trouble," said a taxi driver.

Photos of a long queue of cars and huge crowds in front of gasoline stations across Burma went viral on social media, leading some of the larger gasoline suppliers to state they would not introduce limitations or restrictions.

News

COVID, THE MILITARY COUP, AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIP SEES RISE IN CHILD LABOUR



April 22, 2022

HURFOM: Due to the global pandemic and the military coup, Burma has had to close schools for nearly two years. The result has been a rise in the drop out rates. Not unrelated, there has also been an increase in the number of cases of child labour.

Economic hardships on families has led to children leaving their homes at an early age to work on rubber plantations, plywood factories, restaurants, tea shops and grocery stores.

"It is more frequent now to find these workplaces having workers under the

age of 18— it is a case of child labor. These individuals do not receive a fair salary but they have to be satisfied with what they get. Some child laborers don't even get a salary and any income they might receive depends on the good will of their employers," said a labor welfare activist.

HURFOM has found that SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) in Mudon Township are using child labor, and in some cases these individuals are working more than 8 hours a day. Advocates against child labour point out that these employers are exploiting children.

"Child literacy rate was getting higher under the democratic/civilian government. But now people's livelihoods are one of hardship and insecurity. The current economic conditions have forced students to leave their classrooms," said Nai Htaw Nai, a schoolteacher.

After the coup, the soldiers occupied schools, and nearby explosions have been frequent. Parents think the schools can not provide enough safety for their children.

In addition, qualified school teachers have left their workplaces in opposition to the military dictatorship. As a result schools are struggling to provide quality education.

"Because children are not going to school, some parents have allowed them to work at the rubber plantations. Most children here are working at the rubber plantations," said a villager from Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.

According to a 2018 report prepared by the Ministry of Labor, children were forced to leave school due to armed conflicts, poverty and socio-economic hardship. 30% of rural children and 20% of urban children were found to be working as child laborers.

According to the report, Burma has 12 million children and 0.6 million were working as child laborers, and 0.4 million toiled in dangerous workplaces.

It is unclear if these numbers have increased since the coup.

THOUSANDS FLEE THEIR HOMES AS MILITARY TARGETS VILLAGES WITH HEAVY WEAPONS



April 26, 2022

HURFOM: Tensions between the Burmese army and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) are growing near Kale Tagon Tie village, Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State.

The Burmese army has been using heavy weapons targeting villages in the area. To date at least one person has

been killed and two injured. Residents from nearby villages have fled the area, report local sources.

"I didn't know where the heavy weapons came from but the explosions were really big. A woman died and her two friends got injured. Villagers are frightened to remain, so they fled to Taung Dee and Phar Pya," said a villager from Kale Tagon Tie.

On April 23, the KNLA attacked the Tagon Tie base of the Burmese army and there was a significant armed clash between the two sides.

"Now, only the elderly remain in the villages. The youth and the middle aged fled. The heavy weapons exploded day

and night — the earth was shaken by the explosions," said the local source.

The Burmese army has reportedly tried to stop innocent villagers who have been fleeing and is forcing them to become porters (unpaid laborers for the military), reported local sources.

As the military tensions grow, the KNLA has prohibited travel from Kale Tagon Tie to Mudon.

To date, approximately 3,000 villagers from Die Lut, Ka Maw Wine, Pu Lane, Nan Tie Tun and Tagon Tie have fled from their homes.

MON NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE ENDS ITS RELIANCE ON THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Those who have applied for the Mon National College must sit for the entrance exam and will be interviewed at one of three locations. These include i) the MNEC Headquarters located in the Nyi Sar region which is controlled by the New Mon State Party(MNSP). ii) The MNEC office in Mawlamyine and iii) the NMSP Liaison Office in Thanbyuzayat and Ye Township on May 20, 2022.

ARMED GROUP EXTORTION EFFORTS LEAVES VILLAGERS FEELING UNSAFE



According to local sources, the Raman-ya Army is led by Nai Chan and has demanded 125 million Kyat from villages in Southern Ye Township, in Mon State and from Yebyu Township, in the Tenasserim Division.

News

MON NATIONAL COLLEGE POPULAR AMONG MON COMMUNITIES: MON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BOYCOTT JUNTA-CONTROLLED UNIVERSITIES

May 19, 2022

HURFOM: Most university students across Burma have opted to not register with the junta-controlled universities to show their opposition to the military council.

As of May 16, 2022, there were approximately 5,000 students attending the Mawlamyine University. The Interim Administrative Council of the university said that number is just 30% of regular attendance.

For those who do not want to pursue an education controlled by the military junta, the Mon National Education Committee (MNEC) announced they would open a "Mon National College" in the Nyi Sar Region which is controlled by the New Mon State Party (NMSP).

"I've passed the matriculation exam. I don't like the education system controlled by the military dictatorship so I won't go to university. So I've chosen Mon National College. I'm also interested in the subjects provided by the college," said one young woman.

University students are choosing State universities only to get a degree approved by the government but the education and skills provided are not relevant to their workplaces.



"I haven't continued my university study. I'll shift to the Mon National College. My mother wanted me to finish my university. I am not interested in the State university. Those who finish the State universities haven't gotten a job. The education and skill obtained from the universities isn't enough to secure a job. We have to do additional training, so we have to spend more money. The Mon National College is run by the Mon community so it's better for me, I think," said a second-year university student.

The "Bop Hatw Education Empowerment Program" run by the MNEC has a good image among the Mon communities. Building on that success the new Mon National College is receiving a favourable impression amongst the Mon youth.

"As soon as I saw the announcement letter regarding the creation of the Mon National College, I was very interested in the subjects they will provide. I was really interested in joining "Bop Htaw" school but missed that chance. This time, I don't want to miss the chance," said a student who has applied for the Mon National College.

Some university students can not apply for the new college because they already registered with the State universities.

"I'm interested in the Mon National College but I've already registered with the State university. So I have to join that university this year but for the next year, I'll reconsider moving to the Mon National College," said a university student.

MILITARY JUNTA SEIZES PLOTS OF LAND FOR AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION



May 20, 2022

HURFOM: Two months ago, the military junta seized plots of land in Nyaung

Gone village, Mudon Township, in Mon State, claiming the land was needed for the construction of an airport.

Now, the junta has ordered the removal of 18 houses, against the wishes of locals.

"We've said we didn't agree with the project but the junta does not care about us. I have to lose half of my land plot. They said they would pay compensation. But we've heard nothing about that," said a local villager who prefers to remain anonymous.

The military junta had marked the boundary of the project area with flags. "If the project really happens, where can we live? They won't pay the compensation. We've lost our house and land plots so we have a huge problem," said another local whose lands were seized by the junta.

Another large land confiscation has also occurred in Kyaik Ywel village, Mudon Township, Mon State.

The local villagers have not organized protests as they are afraid of being arrested and a brutal crackdown by the military junta.

News

LOCALS WORRY MAWLAMYINE CEMENT FACTORY OPERATIONS WILL AGAIN BRING DISASTER TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND LIVELIHOODS



May 19, 2022

HURFOM: The Mawlamyine Cement Factory also known as Mawlamyine Cement Limited (MCL) stopped its operation on June 1, 2020, but according to locals, the company wants to restart its operations.

“We’ve seen their material supply ships traveling in the river since January, 2022. They are present twice per month. If the factory begins operations again, we’re afraid that our homes will be damaged,” said a woman from Ni Ton village, Kyaikmayaw Township.

The MCL factory was built near Kaw Don and Kaw Pa Naw villages in the Pyar

Taung Region, in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State. Operations began in April, 2017. The factory uses the Ataran River for transportation of materials.

“I don’t know whether the factory will begin operations again or not but I saw ships traveling in the river three days ago,” said a local villager from Kwan Ngan village.

Due to the impact of the ships frequently traveling on the river, houses on the riverbank have suffered damage, including serious cracks in walls. Some houses have collapsed.

The ecosystem of the river has also been seriously affected by the ship traffic. The harvesting tools of local fishermen have also been damaged and a local woman died from a river accident. The company has not taken responsibility for damage to homes, eco-system or livelihood impacts linked to their operations.

Local people reported to HURFOM, during the period when the factory ceased operations, the air quality had improved and the villagers had a peaceful life as there were no noises produced by stone mining.

“The factory is about to restart operations. Things were suspended for two years, so that some machinery needed to be repaired. The company will appoint factory workers very soon. There are too many villagers who want to work at the factory. There has been lots of unemployment in this area since the factory was closed,” said a former factory worker.

During the civilian government era, the MCL had committed many human rights violations and was not satisfactorily held accountable for its operations, or impacts to the community, and local environment. Locals are worried that if the factory reopens under the military dictatorship the results will be even more dire.

UNSETTLED POLITICS DESTROYING TRADE SYSTEM



May 21, 2022

HURFOM: Due to political instability produced by the military coup, the county’s trading system has been destroyed and many have suffered a great loss, reports the Mon State merchant communities..

The price of commodities and electronics has become unstable with merchants sustaining substantial monetary trading losses.

“Let’s say we bought goods with a million Kyat today. After selling them, we go to buy more goods next week. But we can’t get the previous price. We have to pay more money to get the same amount of goods. Because our national politics are unsettled, the price of goods becomes unstable,” said an electronics shop owner from Mudon Township.

Due to high transportation fees, unstable currency exchange rates and national security problems, most merchants are struggling to just maintain their business.

“We can’t talk about profits today. We have to struggle not to close. We’ve tried hard to just maintain our business. I’ve seen some people start new businesses but they can’t run long and soon have to close,” said a shop owner who

sells motor car and motorbike accessories in Mawlamyine.

Due to an unstable trading market, the prices of goods are constantly changing. Merchants have to check the price of their goods carefully before selling them.

“A ball of string was priced at 70,000 Kayt before, but now it’s priced at 150 thousand or nearly 200 thousand. Let’s say we bought a ball of string with 70,000 Kyat and sold it for 100 thousand Kyat. But when we’re going to buy another ball of string, we can’t buy it with 100 thousand Kyat. So we have to pay even more money. This is the situation we’re facing today,” said a shop owner from Mudon.

News

MOST GOVERNMENT STAFF WANT TO QUIT THEIR JOBS



May 24, 2022

HURFOM: Most government staff who did not leave their position after the military coup, have lost their motivation to continue their jobs under the military junta. Many want to quit their jobs.

However, having to make a livelihood and being worried about security concerns have forced some to remain in their positions.

“There are many staff who can’t leave their position. Those who quit their jobs (if they were involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) faced difficulties and we (who remain in our positions) also have challenges. Having to make a livelihood has stopped us from leaving our jobs. We lost our enthusiasm, we just do our job superficially,” said a high school teacher from Mawlamyine.

Now, more challenges and risks await government staff who want to leave their jobs and join the CDM.

“As far as I know, my co-workers aren’t serious about their job. They don’t do

their best in teaching. They just make a superficial effort. Not only school teachers but other government staff are doing the same thing. But they have to do their jobs, because they are concerned about the risks,” continued the schoolteacher.

Soon after the coup, the military junta dismissed some government staff accusing them of supporting the NLD – National League for Democracy Party. While the exact number is not known, many government staff who opposed the military coup left their positions voluntarily.

“My child is a university student and they said the university teachers are just doing superficial teaching. They didn’t make an effort to do their best. According to our child, students are not able to learn anything. They just get recorded for their attendance at the university. Teachers have lost motivation and are doing superficial teaching,” said a parent of a university student in Mawlamyine.

As schools are about to open, the military junta released a statement indicat-

ing that staff of the Basic Education Department who left their positions must report to their schools with appeal letters and begin their duties again. However, most of the staff who left to join the CDM do not plan to comply because they never served the military junta.

The impact of the declining number of government staff has reached a serious point. The military junta amended the government pension law, extending the State pension age by two more years — making the eligible age for pension 62.

“There are many staff who can’t leave their position. Those who quit their jobs (if they were involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) faced difficulties and we (who remain in our positions) also have challenges. Having to make a livelihood has stopped us from leaving our jobs. We lost our enthusiasm, we just do our job superficially,”

News

PARENTS REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN FOR THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR, BUT WORRY ABOUT THEIR SAFETY



\May 31, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta announced that the Basic Education registration for the 2022-23 academic year must start on May 26, 2022 and schools will open across Burma on June 2, 2022.

Although parents in Ye have registered their children for the new academic year, they are worried about sending them to school.

Soldiers have used schools as military bases, making them unsafe. In addition there have been armed clashes across the country, and bomb explosions which have resulted in many deaths in both urban and rural areas.

“There were lots of explosions last year and we were worried. But we must send our children to school this year. My children will behave badly if they stay in the village without schooling. They are still young so they can easily damage their futures. Regardless of the government, I have to send my children to school for their education,” said one parent.

Parents are in a difficult situation when planning for their children’s education. They are worried about their children’s safety and may also oppose the military junta. At the same time, they want their children to have an education.

“School registration has been done but I don’t send my children to school — I am worried about their safety. We are responsible for the education of our children and also their safety,” said another parent from Ye Township.

The results have been that school registration rates are in decline. For example, the High School in Yar Phu village, located in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division had approximately 500 students registered prior to the coup. Now registration levels are just over half that number.

There is also rumour circulating that the military junta plans to take action against parents who do not send their children to school — although there is no evidence to support the rumour, it worries parents.

“School registration has declined, compared with the previous academic years. Most high school students did not appear for registration. At the moment, some students requested “common transfer files”, said a local source from the Basic Education Department.

This is done often when students or their parents do not want to participate in a military controlled educational system. It is reportedly known that high school students from a Township in Mon State opted to transfer their files to the Mon National High school rather than attend a school operated by the military junta.

News

KHA LAE – DAGON TIE RESIDENTS FLEE AS MILITARY FIRES HEAVY WEAPONS INTO VILLAGES



June 3, 2022

HURFOM: There has been prolonged fighting between the Burmese military and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) at Kha Lae – Dagon Tie region, Kyarinn-seikyi Township, in Karen State,

The Burmese military has been shooting heavy weapons into nearby villages forcing residents to flee their homes..

On May 29, 2022, a heavy weapon exploded near a house in Nan Tie Tun village and a woman was killed, and a youth was injured. The next day, the military continued their use of heavy weapons.

"There are no villagers in Kha Lae, Dagon Tie and Nan Tie Tun villages. All of them

ran away. A heavy weapon exploded (in the village) yesterday and the villagers were frightened. Today, the villagers heard the sounds of heavy weapons fire – they dare not stay in the villages," said a 60-year-old man from Kha Lae village.

The Burmese military is based at the police station in Dagon Tie village and the KNLA has frequently launched attacks on the military. During the armed clashes, nearby No. 308 Artillery Battalion used heavy weapons to help the Burmese soldiers. These exploded in the villages, killing and injuring local villagers.

"Our region is controlled by Karen (KNLA) so the Karen army is active here. They patrol villages with two or three vehicles each full of soldiers. Armed clashes happen frequently. If the Burmese army has decided to invade (and control) this area, there will be a major fight. We, the villagers, will surely be in trouble if the armed clash occurs," said a social activist from Dagon Tie village.

Local Karen residents have fled to nearby Mon villages such as Lie Ka Ni village. As of today, around 10,000 of local residents have had to flee their home, according to a Karen news source.

LANGUAGE BARRIERS LINKED TO SOLDIERS BEATING THANBYUZAYAT TOWNSHIP VILLAGERS



June 6, 2022

HURFOM: Hnet Pyaw Taw residents can not understand nor speak fluently in Burmese, so there are difficulties when being asked questions by the Burmese soldiers. During such exchanges the soldiers often beat villagers.

On May 28, 2022, another villager from Hnet Pyaw Taw village, in the Ah Nin village tract, of Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State was beaten by local soldiers. Recently two trucks filled with Burmese soldiers visited the village Administration office and had a meeting with the Administrator. Villagers have not been informed what was discussed.

According to a villager, "the (Burmese) soldiers enter this village very often. Recently, soldiers and villagers had a knife fight. After that, even the village Administrator had to run away (for his safety). We fear every group here."

Local sources reported to HURFOM, that since the military coup of Feb 2021, residents have frequently been arrested, beaten and intimidated by local soldiers.

News

DRUG ABUSE IN MON STATE HAS RISEN SHARPLY SINCE THE FEBRUARY 2021 COUP

June 7, 2022

HURFOM: A widespread failure with the rule of law coupled with a dysfunctional education system is thought to have contributed to 40% of youth in Ye Township, Mon State and Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division to succumb to drug abuse.

"My son had finished his first-year university exam but he quit his studies after the coup. He doesn't go to university now, and does not have a job. He began to use drugs. He and his three friends were arrested for using drugs at the Kan Pauk Gyi Bridge on May 30," said a mother of a university student from Yebyu Township.

The ready availability of drugs in villages since the coup has been noticeable.

"Illegal drugs are being sold right under my nose. There is no arrest or punishment from the authorities. The country's (rule of law) is totally destroyed. The village Administrators do not take action against the drug trade, because they are afraid of endangering their own lives," a local resident from Ye Town told HURFOM.

Parents of children who have become addicted are trying to

find help, but these attempts in many cases result in failure, due to many challenges.

"We've sent him to many places to help end his drug addiction. We sent him to the New Mon State Party (NMSP) Rehabilitation Center, but he stayed for just two months before returning home. We've heard that there is a good clinic in Mawlamyine but he didn't take the prescribed medicine offered by the clinic. Again, we've sent him to "Youth Rehabilitation Center" but he ran away back to the village just after a week," said one father whose son is battling his addiction.

Part of the problem includes both ease of access and low cost. "A WY tablet (methamphetamine) is priced at only 1,000 Kayt. If we don't give him pocket money, he can get this relatively small amount of money from his friends. WY tablets are cheap and easily available so the future of youth in Mon State is unthinkable as this condition continues," said one Ye resident.

Individuals are also abusing Kratom leaves. Usage of this drug is the highest in Mon State while abuse of WY tablets stands at second place. According to Mon State Police records, there were 406 drug abuse cases in 2019. In 2020, drug abuse cases more than doubled — with 844 cases recorded.



News

STUDENT REGISTRATION DOUBLES IN MON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AS PARENTS WALK AWAY FROM JUNTA CONTROLLED EDUCATION SYSTEM



June 8, 2022

HURFOM: Parents do not feel secure to let their children join government schools, so they are increasingly registering their children at the Mon National High School in Wang Ha Poe village located in the New Mon State Party (NMSP) controlled area.

The number of high school students in Wang Ha Poe has more than doubled and the school is faced with accommodation problems.

"The number of students in Wang Ha Poe has increased this year. There are too many students, we have a major accommodation problem. The students have to stay in tight groups. Now, we're constructing a dormitory for the students. If the construction finishes, there will be more space," said one representative assisting the school.

In the previous academic year, the Wang Ha Poe High School had approximately 250 high school students but now the population has risen to 600 students. Students are coming from both NMSP controlled areas and government controlled areas.

The reason for the sudden rise in numbers is because students from government controlled areas including Than-byuzayat and Mudon Townships have registered at the high school in the NMSP controlled areas.

"If I send my child to schools in the cities (in government controlled areas), I have to worry about many things. As far as I know, teachers will do just superficial teaching, so my child isn't educated and I have to worry a lot for their safety. That's why I am sending my child to Wang Ha Poe High School," said one parent from Mudon Township.

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News

MOBILE PHONE AND INTERNET NETWORK CUT OFF IN VILLAGES IN KHA LAE – DAGON TIE AREA



June 9, 2022

HURFOM: According to local sources, many villages in the Kha Lae – Dagon Tie area, located in Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State have experienced a shutdown of mobile phone and Internet network services since April 23, 2022.

There have been frequent armed clashes between the KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) and the Burmese military who are based in Dagon Tie Police Station. The telecommunications network blackout is thought to be related to these ongoing armed clashes.

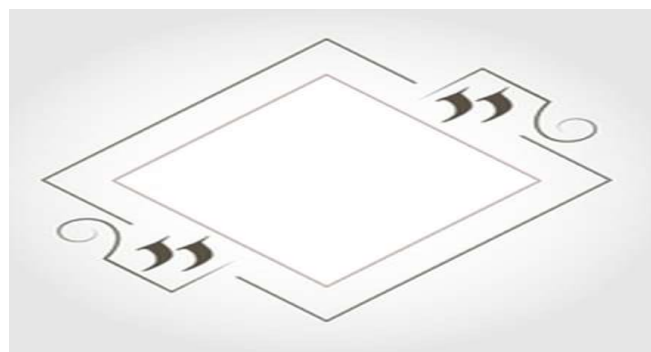
“Since the armed clashes broke out, our mobile network service has been cut off. Now, we, a group of youths in the village, have to go to a public rest house, which is on the way to Taung Bauk village. We go at night to get access to the Internet,” said a villager from Line Ga Ni village, Kyarinnseiky Township.

Residents from Daung De, Kyaung Khun and Line Ga Ni villages can use their mobile phone network service but they do not have access to the Internet (Mobile Data). In Taung Bauk village, the villagers can use only one mobile operator – Mytel.

“Previously, the Telenor service provider had the best Internet connectivity, but after the Kha Lae – Dagon Tie armed clash broke out, their network does not work. Now, only the Mytel mobile network can be accessed,” said a woman from Taung Bauk village.

Since April 23, there have been frequent armed clashes between the Burmese army and the KNLA, and nearly 10,000 villagers have fled from their homes.

The nearby Burmese Artillery Battalion has fired heavy weapons into villages and two women and one man were killed and a child was injured. It is well known that the Burmese military often arrests villagers to use them as human shields and porters.



News

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS NOT OPERATING IN MIX-CONTROL AREAS DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS



June 11, 2022

HURFOM: Ka Lake Toke, Lake Poke and Min Hla Aye villages of Ye Township, in Mon State are under the mixed control of the New Mon State Party (NMSP), the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Burmese military.

Due to security concerns in these areas, government schools have not begun the new academic year. In addition, each of these villages has not been able

to open their schools in the past year due to Covid-19 and unsettled politics.

"The government (military junta) have always pressured (the village authorities) to open schools but no one can guarantee safety and security. So the village authorities and community leaders had a meeting and decided not to open schools," said a local source.

In response the community is trying to operate "self-reliant schools".

"There are two types of self-reliant schools. The first type are schools operated by the Karen (KNU) Education Department and the second are schools run by community members who have passed their matriculation exam. Karen children have to learn the Karen lan-

guage and Mon children have to learn the Mon language in those schools," said the local source.

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However, Lake Poke village is not offering either a government run or self-reliant school option. Parents have to send their children to schools in Ye Town or other nearby villages.

"We've been planning to open a self-reliant school in Lake Poke. But self-reliant schools have not been acknowledged by the government. Then safety and security concerns are another problem. Parents who have the ability have sent their children to school in nearby cities and villages but there are children who do not have that option," said another local.

FAMILIES FROM AH SIN VILLAGE FLEE HOMES DUE TO MILITARY ACTIVITY



June 15, 2022

HURFOM: According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), the military has made at least 1,1034 arrests across Burma from February 1, 2021 to June 13, 2022.

These actions of the military have led many villagers in Ah Sin San Pya village, located in Ye Township, Mon State, to flee their homes as the military continues to arrest those it perceives to oppose the coup.

According to a local source, among the many villages in Ye Township, the Ah Sin San Pya village has the highest number of deaths, arrests and disappearances.

The village has been a strong supporter of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

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"My friend had earned his livelihood from selling fish. He wasn't strongly involved in anti-coup protests. But the military exaggerated his background and pictured him as a person who seriously opposed the military. So he and his entire family had to run away," said a co-worker of an Ah Sin resident who fled his home.

The local military frequently conducts searches of abandoned houses of villagers who have fled. The military also often destroys any personal property that has been left behind.

"It's already been more than a year since the coup, but the military continues to search our houses at night without a warrant. So many villagers had felt frightened and fled their houses. One of my friends who had to flee from the village has made contact with me just once since fleeing. He is now staying in a "liberated area"," said the co-worker.

News

ALL FORMS OF TORTURE MUST IMMEDIATELY BE PUT TO AN END IN BURMA

“Extrajudicial killings are on the rise in the region”

— 45-year-old local from Wet Chaung village, Yebyu Township, Dawei

-4345

26 June 2022

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture



June 26, 2022

HURFOM: In target areas of the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, including Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region, torture has been perpetrated by the military junta on a regular basis. HURFOM field workers have documented rising levels of fear as the junta increases their presence in civilian areas. Torture is considered a human rights violation under international law. See in full: Burmese | English

Torture in particular is a tactic which is deployed to scare and intimidate villagers. It is a way to force confessions and to exert power over unarmed, innocent populations. These acts have been committed with impunity. Villagers expressed to HURFOM that victims are denied their final death rights before they are killed. There are growing levels of frustration and uncertainty amid the current situation.

Across HURFOM areas, there have been reports of people being detained by the junta, and tortured to death in military

run prisons. All political prisoners are subject to state-sponsored violence in the form of torture. Sexual violence is also considered a form of torture that robs civilians of their dignity. HURFOM has reported incidents of sexual violence against women while being interrogated. Female inmates have also been deprived of food and water. Women in Burma are regularly denied their rights in military custody and are an increased risk of being victims of sexual violence. Prison conditions are unsanitary and also deprive prisoners of their fundamental human rights.

HURFOM condemns the use of torture by any and all parties and calls for investigations to probe the unlawful deaths of civilians across the country who have been tortured to death, as well as those who have been forced to endure trauma and long term injuries as a result.

See in full: Burmese: <https://rehmonnya.org/reports/TVSD-HURFOM-Bur.pdf>

English: <https://rehmonnya.org/reports/TVSD-HURFOM-Eng.pdf>

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

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

With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

MAWLAMYINE RESIDENTS SAY HEIGHTENED SECURITY STRIPS THEM OF THEIR DIGNITY



June 29, 2022

HURFOM: The military junta is deploying numerous security forces as they tighten security measures in Mawlamyine, the capital of the Mon State.

Local residents speaking to HURFOM say these security forces often assault their dignity, particularly when the junta authorities conduct investigations on the movement of local people.

"The (the security forces) mainly stop

and check male residents. They routinely open and search bags or backpacks. They treat residents like criminals and they speak rudely to people. The military junta also employs security forces who are in civilian clothes and this has increased the covert surveillance of people in Mawlamyine," said one local person from Mawlamyine.

The military junta is operating under the unproven belief that anti-coup activists fled from their native places and have taken shelter in Mon State. In response, the junta has tightened their surveillance and security measures, in hopes to arrest suspected or perceived anti-coup activists, members of the People Defense Force (PDF) or even those who appear to support the PDF.

There has been heightened security at junctions and check-points at the entrance and exit of the city. In the sec-

ond week of June, the military junta also ordered the Ward General Administration Offices to check the list of visitors, every day and night and to provide a regular report.

"The "hundred household officer" told us to report to the Ward Administration Office and fill out the visitors' report form. We've been told to do a regular report and renew the form every month. We have to fill out our parents' names, our names and our ID numbers in the visitors' form," said a person who stays in Mawlamyine.

The military junta has also instructed the Ward Administration Office to ensure the number of people staying in a house and the number of people listed as residing in the household, are consistent.

Security forces have even been authorized to arrest anyone who does not comply, or shoot individuals who may attempt to flee from investigations conducted by the security forces.

News

HEAVY WEAPON EXPLODES IN A HOUSE: HUSBAND AND WIFE INJURED



Mon State Revolutionary Organization

မွန်ပြည်နယ် အခြေပြုတော်လှန်ရေး အဖွဲ့အစည်း

ဗျိုင်းဖြူစစ်ဆင်ရေးထုတ်ပြန်ကြေငြာချက်

မေလ ၃၀ ရက်နေ့ ၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ်

စာအမှတ် မအတဖ/ဗစရပ/၃၀/၂၀၂၂

မွန်ပြည်နယ်အခြေပြုတော်လှန်ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း MSRO သည် ၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ် မေလ ၃၀ ရက်နေ့ နံနက် ၁၁ နာရီ ၃၀ မိနစ် အချိန်ခန့်တွင် မွန်ပြည်နယ် ရေးမြို့နယ် ကျောင်းရွာကျေးရွာ (၅၉၁) တပ်ဝင်းအတွင်းရှိ အရာရှိရိပ်သာ နှင့် လက်နက်တိုက်အား ဒရုန်းဖြင့် ဒရော့ချ တိုက်ခိုက်ခဲ့ပါသည်။

ထို့နောက်ကျောင်းရွာ (၅၉၁) တပ်သက်မှ လက်နက်ကြီးဖြင့် ကျောင်းရွာကျေးရွာထဲ သို့ ပြန်လည်ပစ်ခတ်ရာ ရပ်ကွက် ၄ ရှိ လူနေအိမ်တစ်လုံးသို့ ကျရောက်ပြီး ရွာသားတစ်ဦး ထိခိုက်ဒဏ်ရာရကြောင်း စိတ်မကောင်းဖြစ်စွာ ကြားသိရသည်။

ထိုစစ်ဆင်ရေးကြောင့် ၅၉၁ တပ်တွင်းတစ်ခုလုံး ပြာသာခက်သွားပြီး ထိခိုက်မှုများ ကြောင်းသိရသည်။

ထိုစစ်ဆင်ရေးသည် မွန်ပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်း၌ ပထမဦးဆုံးအကြိမ် ဝေဟင်ကနေ တိုက်ခိုက်သော စစ်ဆင်ရေးဖြစ်ကြောင်း ပြည်သူသို့ အသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

ဤစစ်ဆင်ရေးအား အမက်ဖက်မှ ပူးပေါင်းကူညီပေးပါသော နယ်မြေခံ EAO (KNU) နှင့် YSTF အဖွဲ့အား အထူးပင်ကျေးဇူးတင်ရှိပါသည်။

"အရေးတော်ပုံအောင်ရမည်"



June 1, 2022

HURFOM: At approximately 12 pm on May 30, 2022, a heavy weapon shot by the local military base exploded in a house in Kyaung Yaw village, Ye Township, in Mon State.

The home owners, a husband and wife, were injured and received treatment at a local public hospital.

"As far as I know, an armed group (Local People Defense Force) dropped three bombs into the military base with drone. One of the bombs exploded in the base. In response, the military fired their heavy weapons, which hit the house. The husband and wife were injured," said a local source.

According to locals the husband's injuries were deemed serious

"Innocent civilians were injured due to the heavy weapons fired by the military. There should be an apology for this action. But they care about nothing. I don't even mention about medical fees or compensation. It is not okay that innocent civilians are the ones who have to suffer," criticized the local source.

No. 591 Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) is based nearby Kyaung Yaw village.

HURFOM

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