

LIB 401 KILLS A MENTALLY ILL VILLAGER FOR NO REASON IN KA LANE AUNG



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COUPLE KILLED BY JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK ON THEIR WAY HOME TO KAW KA RATE



June 2, 2023

HURFOM: In the last week of May, residents of Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State have suffered from constant artillery attacks by the junta.

The number of those killed and injured, as well as houses destroyed has been climbing.

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News

LIB 401 KILLS A MENTALLY ILL VILLAGER FOR NO REASON IN KA LANE AUNG



June 7, 2023

HURFOM: On June 1st, 2023, the 410th Light Infantry Battalion based in Ka Lane Aung Township, Dawei District, killed a male villager with a gun for no reason.

According to local residents, the man shot by the junta military was Ko Naing Oo. He was 35 years old, and suffered from a mental disorder. He recently settled in Ka Lane Aung having come from Ye Township in Mon State.

"He was a Mon ethnic who lived with his family in ward No. 4 of Ka Lane Aung. He was mentally ill, and his family brought him here for traditional treatment," said a local resident.

Perhaps, he didn't know much about the security issue of this area because he was not local and he also suffered from mental health issues. I learned from those who saw the incident that he was shot while riding a motorcycle

and passing through the junta military checkpoint," recounted a 25-year-old man.

On May 30th, two residents from Dawei city who were simply feeding stray dogs were shot and killed by the junta forces. The soldiers burnt the bodies and their motorcycles in an attempt to hide evidence of the murders.

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TWO VILLAGERS SHOT AND INJURED ON YE – THANBYUZAYAT HIGHWAY ROAD

April 16, 2023

HURFOM: At approximately 11 am on April 10, 2023, two villagers were shot and injured on the Ye – Thanbyuzayat Highway Road near Lane Maw Chan village, in Ye Township, Mon State.

The victims were shot while traveling in a vehicle when they were returning home from Three Pagoda Pass.

The bullet penetrated the waist of the man while the woman sustained a bul-

let wound to her leg. Both victims were sent to Ye General Hospital for further treatment.

"Many travelers are getting shot. We frequently hear about this kind of news on the Facebook pages of the local rescue teams. Where the shooting occurred is where the junta's soldiers usually hide (to ambush the PDF). There has been shooting every day there. We've heard gunfire from our house," said a villager from Maw Ka Nin village.

Since the February 2021 coup, at least 10 villagers have been shot and killed on the Ye – Thanbyuzayat Highway Road. The shootings took place near Aung Thar Yar, Aye Kabar, Lane Maw Chan and Ka Nin Ka Maw villages, in Ye Township.



News

COUPLE KILLED BY JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK ON THEIR WAY HOME TO KAW KA RATE



June 2, 2023

HURFOM: In the last week of May, residents of Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State have suffered from constant artillery attacks by the junta.

The number of those killed and injured, as well as houses destroyed has been climbing.



Information-collection teams have experienced challenges gathering data due to the severity of the attacks.

On the afternoon of May 28th, a woman and a man were killed when the junta fired a series of indiscriminate mortar shells at ward No. 7 in Kaw Ka Rate Town.

"In the afternoon, around 2 o'clock, about six heavy weapons fell into the area. The name of the area is Kha Nane Muu extension ward. The deceased were a husband and wife. The following day an on-the-ground news collection team reported the incident via the phone," reported a local resident.

According to a follow-up report, the deceased was 63-year-old U Pho Kyar and his wife, 57-year-old Daw Khin Myat Htwe. Both were from Kha Nane Muu extension ward and were killed while returning home on a motorcycle.

Villagers who witnessed the explosion stated that the motorcycle and the victims were blown away due to the powerful burst of the artillery shell.

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MILITARY EXTRAJUDICIALLY KILLING IN THAN-BYUZAYAT

April 21, 2023

HURFOM: On April 18, 2023, the Burmese military arrested two individuals suspected of plotting a bombing in Pa Nga village, Thanbyuzayat Township, in Mon State. The military did not charge the suspects or bring them to court, instead they killed them.

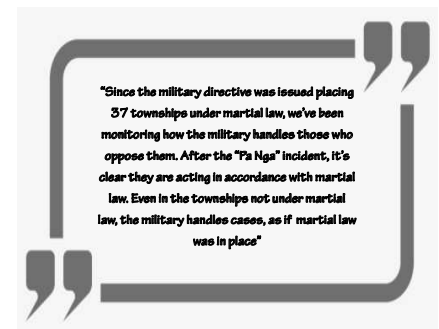
Thanbyuzayat residents criticized the misconduct of the military and questioned if their township is under martial law.

"Since the military directive was issued placing 37 townships under martial law, we've been monitoring how the military handles those who oppose them. After the 'Pa Nga' incident, it's clear they are acting in accordance with martial law. Even in the townships not under martial law, the military handles cases, as if martial law was in place" said a lawyer from Mon State.

The two victims were a 16-year-old and a 21-year-old. After an interrogation, the military did not bring them to the court, rather they shot and killed them at Wae Ka Lee cemetery which is nearby Thanbyuzayat, reported local sources.

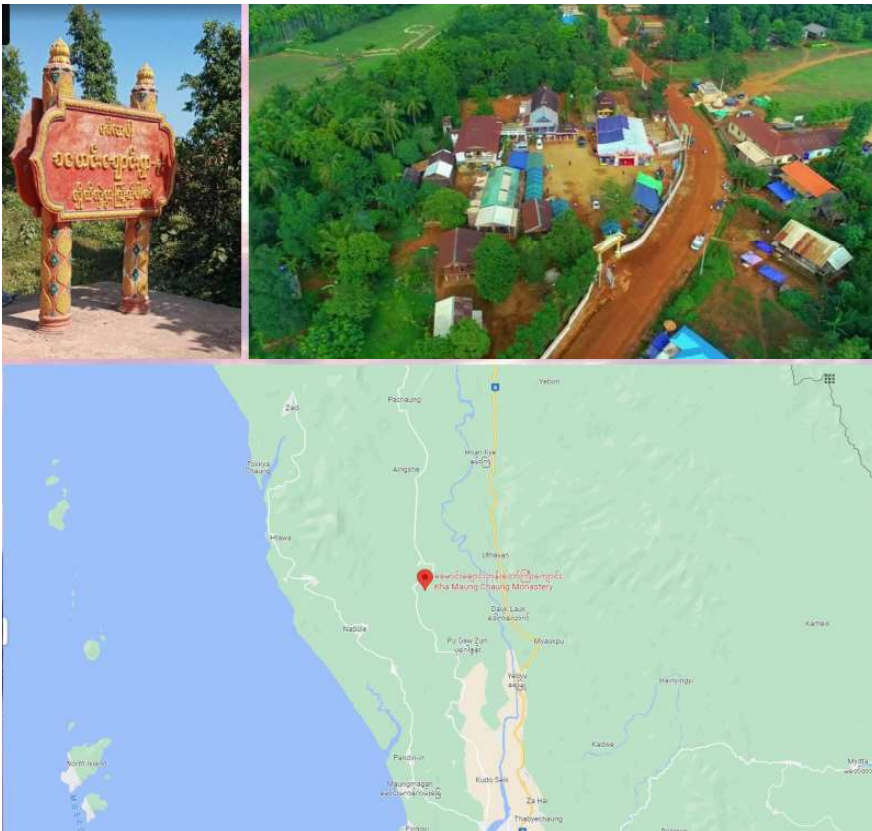
"It's clear that our country doesn't have rule of law. In fact, the military has no authority to shoot and kill anyone in townships, even under martial law, and even if he or she committed a huge crime. Every suspect must be brought to a court of law for a decision. But, the military doesn't abide by the law and handles everything with martial law," continued the lawyer.

Sources within the military claimed the two suspects tried to run away, so the soldiers shot and killed them.



News

JUNTA'S TROOPS COMMIT CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN TENASSERIM DIVISION



May 16, 2023

HURFOM: Dawei residents are reporting that junta's troops are committing crimes against humanity in the Tenasserim Region by arresting local civilians and using them as human shields during armed conflicts.

The use of human shields is forbidden by Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions. It is also a specific intent war crime as codified in the Rome Statute, which was adopted in 1998.

According to a field report from the northern Dawei District, junta forces and their allied militias entered the village with about 50 troops and arrested nearly 30 local workers. They were then used as human shields on the morning of May 8, 2023.

Local sources confirmed that those detained and used as human shields worked in a plantation located near Wet Chaung village, Pagaw-Soon village tract, Yehyu Township.

What we learned is that around 30 innocent villagers who were working on the farms of Wet Chaung Village and the surrounding areas were arrested at gunpoint by junta soldiers. The junta had more than 50 troops," explained a 34-year-old male villager from Pagaw-Soon.

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was informed by residents that of the 30 captured and used as human shields, 6 were women. About 20 people were from Wet Chaung Village in Yebyu Township, and the remaining 10 were confirmed to be from Kha Mout Chaung Village, Yebyu Township #Dawei.

"The local farm workers were arrested in the morning of May 8th when they left for work. After that, the junta forces took 30 villagers to serve as their human shields. The detainees were all taken with hands tied in the back," said an anonymous source from the administrative area of KNU 4th Brigade.

The junta troops also broke into some houses in the village and looted valuables and livestock.

An eyewitness to the events said, "The first junta battalion is a joint unit of Infantry Battalions No.273 and Infantry Battalion No.406. They captured about 20 people from Wet Chaung village and started to use them as human shields. Another junta military column entered the nearby Kha Mout Chaung and seized properties belonging to the locals. They took another 10 villagers from Kha Mout Chaung when they left the village. So about 30 people were forced into being human shields."

Eventually some of those captured were able to escape while they were housed at a school in Kha Mout Chaung village. A spokesman for the People's Defense Forces active in the area condemned the junta's actions.

"The use of innocents as human shields is a war crime. No other armed conflict has done such a despicable act in this age. We will not fight if there is a possibility that the people will be affected by the fighting. The junta military is taking advantage of this and attacking our forces in this area," he continued.

Junta forces have routinely been arresting local residents and using innocents as human shields when they patrol villages in northern Dawei Township.

On April 26, when the military troops marched towards the villages of Ra-nge and Waerik villages in Thayet Chaung Township, Dawei District, nearly 100 local people were arrested and released two days after demanding ransom payments.

"Those who can be redeemed with money are released quickly," said a villager.

News

JUNTA'S INDISCRIMINATE ARTILLERY ATTACKS KILL AND INJURE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN KAW KA RATE, KAREN STATE



May 10, 2023

HURFOM: Despite the absence of armed conflicts, Junta battalions without interruption are launching artillery attacks purposefully targeting local villages. Women and children are being killed or injured.

On May 5th, the Junta military's 97th Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) based in Kaw Ka Rate Township in Karen State began firing artillery rounds at around

7:30 am. A 58-year-old local woman from Maung-Ma-Ywa-Thit village located in the southern part of the city was injured by the attack.

"Artillery motors fell into our village and exploded. They continued firing until nightfall, some of which exploded in the courtyard. Naw Ma Latt, 58, from the middle quarter of the village, was hit by artillery on the right side of her head. It's not life-threatening, but it needs a lot of treatment. Currently, there are no medical teams in the village, and it is difficult to provide medical treatment," said a local news source within Maung-Ma-Ywa-Thit Village.

The 97th Light Infantry Battalion and SAC's military troops based in Hlaing Wa

Hill, continuously fired artillery mortars targeting the town. Kaw Ka Rate residents are terrified by the persistent explosions striking their community.

"Their military base is at Hlaing Wa Hill, and no one dares to go out to work and eat because they are shooting randomly from there. There were more than 10 people injured or who have died since they opened fire. Local people are faced with the loss of their homes, property, and livelihoods, including their livestock. Most of the attacks came from the 97th LIB. Although there has been no armed resistance here, they just shoot at us randomly. On the one hand, we are facing the risk of losing our lives, and on the other hand, we all face famine", said a resident.

MILITARY JUNTA DESTROYS ROAD AT BASE OF "KYAIK HTEE YOE" MOUNT



May 29, 2023

HURFOM: On May 19, 2023, the military junta destroyed a village road at the base of "Kyauk Htee Yoe" Mount in Kyauk Hto Township, Mon State. The road connects Kin Moon Chaung and Saung Nine Kyi villages.

Military soldiers launched an artillery attack on Saung Nine Kyi village on May 19th. Then they entered the village and dug a 6-foot canal across the road, making it impassable.

"As the road is destroyed, motorbikes and cars can't use it. There was a huge traffic jam between Kin Moon Chaung and Saung Nine Kyi on May 20. Villagers are also banned from using the main highway route," said a Kyauk Hto resident.

With the roadway now destroyed there will be major transportation and travel problems. As the rainy season approaches, this will make life even more difficult for ten surrounding villages.

The now destroyed main road was frequently used by armed groups.

"As the road is destroyed, motorbikes and cars can't use it. There was a huge traffic jam between Kin Moon Chaung and Saung Nine Kyi on May 20. Villagers are also banned from using the main highway route,"

News

PLANTATION OWNER KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN ARMED GROUP IN LAMINE

April 19, 2023

HURFOM: At approximately 10 am on April 17, 2023, a 40-year-old resident from Gone Paw Yaw Thit village, Lamine Sub-township, Ye Township, in Mon State was kidnapped by an unknown armed group. The victim is the owner of a plantation.

The group is demanding one million Kyat for his release, according to a local source.

"His wife just phoned me. He was kidnapped by an unknown armed group. They threatened that the family must pay one million Kyat within an hour for his release and not tell anyone about the kidnapping. None of the family members dare share the news and they're discussing how to deal with the problem," said a local villager.

The plantation owned by the victim is close to the 317th Artillery Battalion, but there is no indication of the perpetrators being with the Burmese army or another armed group.



SINCE MARTIAL LAW IMPOSED, NEARLY 100 MOTORBIKE STOLEN IN YE



April 26, 2023

HURFOM: Since martial law was imposed in Ye in February, 2023, nearly 100 motorbikes have disappeared in Ye Township, Mon State, local villagers reported to HURFOM.

50 motorbikes alone were stolen in Du Yar, Pa Line Thein, Hnee Hnu, Thar Ga Ram and Ham Gam villages in Southern Ye Township.

"Motorbikes are mostly stolen at night. Even though we kept the bikes in our compound and locked them, they were stolen. Now we know how insecure things are. Villagers are living with the

worry of "when their bikes will be stolen", not if they might be stolen. As of today, about 100 motorbikes have been stolen in Ye Township," said a villager from Ye Township.

Motorbikes were frequently stolen during curfew — between 6 pm and 6 am. The thieves often threaten villagers with knives and guns. Because the thieves are armed, villagers think they are connected with the local army battalion.

"Motorbike thieves are holding guns. Even though we saw them stealing our bikes at night, we dare not shout out for help. We're afraid of being harmed. Mil-

itary trucks are patrolling in our village at night. Motorbikes were lost at night when we heard the sound of a military truck. But it's not 100% sure if they are responsible," said a local villager.

Villagers initially reported their losses to the authorities but no action was taken. Over time, villagers have given up reporting their motorbike losses.

"Our motorbikes were stolen and we reported the incident to the authorities. We had to pay them money but they did nothing. Now, no one files reports and every villager suffers in silence," said a resident from Northern Ye Township.

"Motorbikes are mostly stolen at night. Even though we kept the bikes in our compound and locked them, they were stolen. Now we know how insecure things are. Villagers are living with the worry of "when their bikes will be stolen", not if they might be stolen. As of today, about 100 motorbikes have been stolen in Ye Township,"

News

AIR ASSAULTS IN YE TOWNSHIP INJURES VILLAGERS AND FORCES EVACUATION

May 11, 2023

HURFOM: Although there was no armed conflict in the area, the Junta council launched airstrikes repeatedly bombing a village in Ye Township, Mon State.

The village was bombed twice on the night of May 7th and then again in the morning of May 8th.

The sudden aerial attack resulted in at least 8 local villagers being seriously injured, 3 were in critical condition. It is estimated that 500 villagers have fled their homes.

War Pa Tae village aka Chaung Hna Khwa village, is a Karen ethnic majority village located in Bay Lamu village tract in the southeast of Ye Township, Mon State.

Naw 35 years old, is one of the villagers fleeing the attack, he said that the Junta council started the aerial attacks at 11:17pm on May 7. "We heard the sound of a jet plane at around 11:00 p.m. We immediately realized it was not a typical plane sound, and we ran down to hide in the ditch next to our houses. As expected, the sound of a bomb explosion began near the school."



There has not been any fighting or conflict around Chaung Hnit Kwa, War Pa Tae, or the Tha Pa Taw villages. "I can't understand why they launched an airstrike," said one member of a local religious association.

As many as eight villagers were injured in the bombings, three were seriously injured. Two villagers from Tha Pa Taw were also injured on the morning of May 8.

Three members of the PDF were killed and at least five were injured. However, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) is still trying to confirm this information.

At least five houses, one school, and other buildings were destroyed. There are approximately 500 people living in the three villages, Chaung Hnit Kwa, Bay Lamu and Tha Pa Taw. According to independent sources all the residents have now fled the area and are hiding in the jungles southeast of Ye Township (west side of the mountain). They are in areas that rescue and social charity groups cannot reach at the moment.

Children, women, and the elderly are the most affected by this latest action of the junta. Food, drinking water, and accommodation are urgently needed, said a member of KNU's 16th Medical Battalion Team.

JUNTA'S ARTILLERY AND AIR ASSAULTS KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN KAW KA RATE



June 2, 2023

HURFOM: The military junta is targeting innocent civilians in the area controlled by the 6th Brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army in Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State. They have launched

artillery and air assaults nearly every day.

In the month of April, 2023, the junta launched 184 artillery attacks and 31 air assaults targeting Kaw Ka Rate. The attacks killed and injured innocent civilians including women and children.

"On May 25, the 13th Military Operation Command (MOC) and the 97th Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) based in Kyaik Don intentionally launched an artillery attack targeting civilians. A 13-year-old child was killed, and an eight-year, and two young men were injured," said a local villager.

On May 28, the junta launched an artillery attack targeting Kyone Doe, injuring a child and two women. Six houses were also destroyed.

According to villagers from Kaw Ka Rate the 97th MOC and the 231st LIB operate under the order of the 12th MOC, which also launched artillery attacks targeting innocent civilians.

The 6th Brigade of the KNLA reported these attacks have resulted in the destruction of 387 religious buildings, schools, public health clinics and houses. Additionally, 12 houses were burnt down by the junta's artillery and air assaults.

Villagers have abandoned their farms and plantations and fled the area.

News

JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK INJURES FIVE RESIDENTS IN BEE LIN



June 5, 2023

HURFOM: On June 1, 2023, the military junta launched an artillery attack on Shwe Yang Pya village, Bee Lin Township, Mon State. Five residents including three children were injured. There was no armed conflict or attack from resistance forces prior to the junta's artillery attack.

"Launching artillery attacks on villages without any armed clashes having taken place, is an intentional attack on civilians. It's a human right violation. The junta must stop this kind of action," said a high ranking official from the Thaton District Karen National Union.

The 314th artillery battalion, based in Bee Lin, launched 120mm artillery

attacks twice targeting the village at approximately 10:30 pm. The artillery shells exploded among houses and a nearby government school.

Two women and three children were injured by the explosions. They all have been sent to the Bee Lin General Hospital and the 54-year-old victim sustained a serious injury.

"Everyone in the village is trembling with fear. Some have started to flee from their homes. Those who stay in the village have to live in fear," said a Shwe Yang Pya resident.

More than 100 villagers have fled from their village.

JUNTA'S INDISCRIMINATE ARTILLERY ATTACKS CONTINUE TO KILL AND CREATE MORE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



June 6, 2023

HURFOM: Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) has a network field reporters that have documented another resident killed as result of the junta's use of artillery weapons on civilians.

The 591st Infantry Battalion (IB) which operates under the 19th Military Operation Management Command MOMC used these weapons in Kyarinseiky, township, Karen State.

Saw Maung San Thwin, 51, a resident of Aung Tha Pyay village, died in his home after being hit by an artillery shell at around 9:30 am on May 30th, 2023.

According to a local news source, "the junta used artillery weapons on the road to clear the way so they could go to Ye from Thanbyzayat".

HURFOM's source has confirmed that the attack which killed Saw Maung San Thwin, came from 591st IB.

On May 28th, at 8pm, 7 homes were also damaged from two heavy weapons explosions in Kung Do Township. In that attack the 546th Light Infantry Battalion fired 120 mm and 105 mm mortars at Kaw Kar village.

In that incident, a 15-year-old, named Saw Htain Lin Aung, was killed and Naw Aye Man Thet, a 21-year-old, and Daw Thein Shwe, 57-years-old were both injured.



News

55 ARRESTED AND TORTURED, DETAINEES RANSOMED, BUT ONLY FOUR RELEASED IN KAW KA RATE



June 1, 2023

HURFOM: As many as 55 local residents from Kaw Ka Rate #Karen were arbitrarily abducted and interrogated by the Junta forces; only four were released by family members paying ransom demands. A total of 54 people were arrested and have been detained from May 7th to the 22nd in a military camp.

Sources close to the released villagers confirmed that those remaining are being tortured on a daily basis, in the army interrogation center.

The arrests were based on groundless accusations of providing financial and other support to the joint forces of Karen National Liberation Army and People's Defense Force that are based in Kaw Ka Rate township.

On May 25, 4 people were released after family members decided to pay the junta's ransom demands. Although it could not be confirmed how much was paid, it is thought each person's ransom was more than 20 lakhs Myanmar Kyat.

Sources close to some detainees, indicated that approximately 50 inmates who could not pay any ransom have lost contact with their family members.

"These people were arrested on false accusations that they were helping Captain Kyaw Thet, who is equipping the defensive resilience operations in this area and Kyar Phyu (white tiger) armed troops. The perpetrator troop is the

97th Infantry Battalion, which is based out of the city of Hlaing Baw," said one person close to the families.

On May 22nd, six village Administrators were detained and interrogated and only released after they were told they must report the activities of any local defense groups to the junta and the General Administrative Department. The six villages included Sawhe, Nyaung Kile, Htee Po San, Hlaing Sein, Nyaung Nile and Yan Kok.

Currently, the Junta military is destroying roadways that connect villages and road points that lead to highways in Kaw Ka Rate Township. This is to prevent resistance forces in the area from easily using them.

In addition it is now common to see aircraft and drones in the skies, and for villages to be subjected to artillery fire. Residents are under constant and deadly threat, leading many to flee their homes.

TWO CHILDREN DIED IN AN ARMED CLASH IN BEE LIN

June 1, 2023

HURFOM: On May 27, 2023, an armed clash between the military junta and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDF) occurred in Bee Lin Township, Mon State. According to a local report, two children died as a result of the fighting.

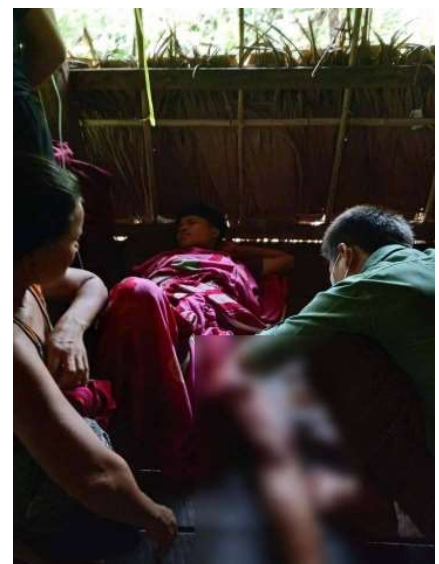
"During the armed clash, a bomb dropped and exploded in a compound in Daung Yaw village and two children in the compound died at the scene," said a local source.

The two victims were 16-year-old Saw Moe Htet and 13-year-old Saw Maw Khar.

After the armed clash, the 314th Artillery Battalion based nearby, launched at least ten artillery attacks at Ah Win Gyi village.

A monk, two novices, a Buddhist student and a villager were injured and there was some damage to the monastery.

Due to the junta's artillery attacks approximately 7,000 Bee Lin residents have fled from their homes.



News

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ESCALATES IN ARMED CONFLICT AREAS



June 2, 2023

HURFOM: Innocent civilians are routinely being injured or killed admits escalating armed conflicts.

Local people are concerned about their personal safety and are increasingly critical of the reckless fighting in their area by armed groups, including the junta forces.

On the night of May 21, a passenger car traveling on the Yangon-Mawlamyine road hit a landmine in Kamar Sai village, Don Won village tract, Thaton Township. Three passengers were injured.

On May 26, around 9:00 pm, a 22-wheeled truck struck a landmine between milepost No. (135/2,3) on the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway. One person, Ko Hein Zin was killed, and two others, U Than Min Theik and Ma Khin Zar Hlaing were injured.

It is not yet known which group is responsible for placing the landmine.

On May 22, around 10:00 pm, a truck loaded with paving stones was driving from Pha An to Nay Pyi Taw and it struck a landmine injuring a 2-year-old child and the mother.

According to local sources, on May 27 at around 8:00 am, 2 young people were killed and 5 others were injured when an armed clash erupted between the junta troops stationed near Daung Ywar village, Belin Township, and a local Karen group.

"We are very concerned because the place where the junta and the revolutionary groups are battling is in the middle of our unarmed civilian population. In the midst of these armed conflicts, there are near daily reports of casualties. Our people are struggling for our livelihoods in the midst of heavy weapons, guns, and drones, so we are worried about when it will be our turn. What we want to request is that you please don't fight here, and our lives are spared. We have families who depend on us," a 45-year-old resident of Daung Ywar village, Belin.

ONE MONK AND THREE CIVILIANS INCLUDING A CHILD, KILLED IN KYARINNSEIKYI ARMED CLASH

June 6, 2023

HURFOM: On June 2, 2023, there was an intense armed clash between the military junta and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army and the People Defense Forces in Kyarinnseikyi Town, Karen State.

One monk and three civilians were killed, according to a report from local rescue teams.

"The armed clash went on for nearly three hours, from 5 am to 8 am. The junta launched both artillery and air assaults," said a Kyarinnseikyi resident.

Three artillery shells were dropped and exploded in the Ma Neat Yad-anar Monastery in Ward #3, where a monk was killed and a novice was injured.

One artillery shell hit a house in Ward #6 and instantly killed two civilians. A child sustained serious injuries, and a local rescue team sent the child to the hospital, but he died enroute.

"It was very serious that day. No one dares go outside. The situation was getting stable around 9 am but then a monk and three civilians were killed. Many residents were injured," said an official from the local rescue team.



News

JUNTA BURNS LOOTS AND BURNS HOUSES, ARRESTS PEOPLE TO BE USED AS HUMAN SHIELDS IN DAWEI



June 2, 2023

HURFOM: According to local sources, junta forces have attacked villages in Dawei over the course of two days. First at around noon on May 28th, junta forces with about 160 troops raided Yay Wine village, located in the Tenasserim Region, and burned 2 homes. Junta forces also captured at least 8 local people to use as human shields.

"Everyone in the village has been hiding since the junta troops entered. There are no people in the neighboring villages either. Two houses were burned. There are still more than 30 soldiers in the village," said a local.

On May 27, at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, junta troops entered Zahar village from Pha Oak Tora, Dawei Township. There was an exchange of fire with the People's Defense

Forces, and junta forces suffered a number of injuries.

Due to the arrival of the junta military, the residents of nearby villages including Ye Wine, Myin Mak Tak, Khaung Tain Pyin, Pa Khat Inn, Kin Kon and Ye Ai are fleeing to safe places.

"The junta troops continue to commit their crimes, burning houses and arresting people. The excuse for doing so is always baseless accusations that the locals support the PDF and other defense forces. The village around Ye Wine village is now ruined due to frequent raids by junta troops. People had to flee to the jungles to survive," said an internally displaced person.

On May 29, most of the 160 soldiers of the junta troops had left the Yay Wine village, but some stayed behind and were looting the village.

Household valuables, and motorcycles, were taken by the junta after villagers fled.

An in-field reporting team is following-up on the status of the 8 local residents of Ye Wine and Myin Mak Tak villages who were captured. The latest information we have is that the junta troops are temporarily stationed at the Myin Mak Tak monastery, where they are using those captured as human shields.

"We are in a situation where there is nothing we can do except pray that no disaster will happen, and the victims will be released soon. It has been a long time since we have been in a situation where we could not protect our lives anymore. We've not had the chance to find food for our family since a long time ago," said the father of 4 children.

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News

EASTERN DAWEI IDPS FACE FOOD SHORTAGES AND NUMBERS INCREASE

June 8, 2023

HURFOM: Both local residents and internally displaced people living in Dawei's east district are now facing food and water shortages due to strict control of rice and food stuffs by junta forces.

From the end of April until the beginning of June, more than 5,000 refugees from 12 villages have been trapped in Dawei East District, due to a junta council's offensive and continuous targeting of the locals.

"Last May alone, more than 3,000 local residents fled from the fighting in Dawei District. All the roads leading into the area are being blocked and checked by the junta military, — it has been a long time since we have been able to transport rice and other food items," reported a family member of the trapped residents.

The junta is employing artillery weapons and airstrikes in the area.

"... we have to share what we have with each other. The nutritional needs of children and older people are increasing. Sickness rates are high among weak children. The most dangerous thing we are concerned about is dengue fever and malaria in this rainy season," said the person in charge of an IDP support group, who did not want to be named.

The IDPs are formerly Yephyu Township residents, and were the first to be hit by airstrikes in Tenasserim Division. More than 3,000 residents of the villages from Kha Myaung Chaung, Wat Chaung, Ei Ka Ne, Pa Gor Soon, Mu Duu, Ba War, and Na

Pu Lae were forced to evacuate.

Many residents were either killed or arrested. Others had to flee after homes were being burned down.

"... junta troops are cutting off the supply of rice and dry foods. Even anything that is iron-related that could be used to support the revolutionary groups, they check for anything they see related to food or weaponry," said a young resident of Yephyu Township.

An East Dawei refugee support group Administrator said, "For the refugees, we are not yet in a position to help them return. I heard that artillery weapons are being installed in the places where the battalions are stationed. We have had a food shortage for a long time, and now more and more households are relying on fruits and vegetables grown in the forest. It is impossible to reach this area because of the junta military. They have cut everything down."

According to the information obtained by a HURFOM ground field team, 358 people had to flee after the military coup in Dawei Township.

There are also about 5,000 permanent refugees and 5,000 temporary refugees in Long Lon Township. In Pu Law Township, there are more than 2,600 permanent refugees and more than 10,000 temporary refugees. In Tenasserim Township, there are about 5,000 villagers who fled from their homes, including permanent refugees.

Although the military situation is calm in Tha Yat Chaung Township, supplies of food, communication, and traffic are being tightened by the junta military.



News

JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK INJURES SIX IN KYAIK HTO



June 6, 2023

HURFOM: According to local residents, at least 6 people, including a 6-year-old child, were injured when artillery shells exploded after hitting a house in Hle Lan Kuu village, Kyauk Hto township, Mon State.

Local observers noted that the attack was perpetrated by the 402nd artillery unit based in Thaton.

A large shell exploded at U Tun Aye's house in Hle Lan Kuu village at around 1:00 in the afternoon on May 31st.

U Saw Tun, 30, Myint Myat Lin, 13, U Tun Tun Lin, 36, Ma Yoon Yati Tun, 6, Mg Soe San, 15, and Daw Win Sanda Myint, 30, were all injured and some were taken to Kyauk Hto public hospital.

"The junta council's way of fighting has now changed a lot. Because they have fewer soldiers, their strategy is to fire artillery weapons from their base to

clear the area. This is where people are getting hurt. The weapons they fired fell directly on top of the house and children and adults were hit," said a local resident.

In the last 3 months, the death rate of civilians has steadily increased due to increased incidents of armed conflict in Kyauk Hto Township.

According to the field reports from Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) network, there were 2 deaths in February, 6 deaths in March and April, and 4 in May.

MILITARY JUNTA ARRESTS DAUGHTER OF A GOLD SHOP OWNER IN KYIKE HTO



June 20, 2023

On June 15, 2023, the military junta arrested a daughter of U Han Tun, a gold shop owner, in Taung Thu Su Ward, Kyike Hto Town, Mon State. She has been accused of supporting the Karen National Union and the People's Defense Forces.

About 20 members of the Burmese soldiers and staff from the General Administration Department came to the gold shop and arrested the 29-year-old woman. She has been detained and interrogated at Kyike Hto Police Station, according to the local sources.

The military junta has frequently arrested businesspersons in Kyike Hto. Locals report that these arrests are a way to extort money from the wealthy.

Since the coup began on February 1, 2021, more than 100 local people from Kyike Hto Township have been arrested and most were sentenced to imprisonment.

ARTILLERY EXPLOSION KILLS A CHILD AND INJURES TWO RESIDENTS IN KAW KA RATE

June 9, 2023

HURFOM: The military junta launched an artillery attack on Yaw Tan Shay village, Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State in the morning of June 7, 2023.

There had been no resistance or attack on the military by resistance forces.

The attack killed a 12-year-old child and injured a 5-year-old child and his/her mother.

The Hline Wa Artillery Battalion based in Kaw Ka Rate was responsible for launching the 120 mm artillery attack.

"The artillery shells have dropped in the village nearly every day. Most villagers have left fearing these attacks," said a Yaw Tan Shay villager.

On June 6, the junta launched an air assault on San Pha Lan village, Ku Don village track, in Kaw Ka Rate Township and destroyed a school, four houses and a plantation.

According to the Karen National Union, the military junta has launched 243 artillery attacks and 44 air assaults in May, 2023, all of which have targeted civilians and their villages,

News

JUNTA SEALS OFF AND SEIZES HOME OF NUG LABOUR MINISTER



June 19, 2023

On June 13, 2023, the junta sealed off and seized the house of Nai Thu Wunna, the Union Minister of Labour for the National Union Government (NUG).

The Senior Mon politician, Nai Thu Wunna was appointed as Minister of Labour by the NUG government on March 31, 2021.

The incident took place in Ward #7, Tone Eye village, Hpa-An Township, Karen State.

On two previous occasions the junta sealed off the house, but this time, the owner was charged under the Anti-Terrorist Act and the house and property were seized.

"There were more than 20 members from the police and the General Administration Department. Previously, the district and township authorities sealed off the house twice. But this time, the junta sealed off the house door with wax," said a villager from Tone Eye village.

Before sealing off the house, the junta took everything from the home.

"It isn't a surprise to me. The houses of other Ministers were also sealed off. Some houses were burnt down. The junta always does acts of terrorism," said Nai Thu Wunna.

The houses of U Tin Win, the Burmese Affairs Minister with the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party and the home of a member of Karen State CRPH in Tone Eye village were sealed off and seized by the junta.

According to the Assistance Association for the Political Prisoners (AAPP), more than 750 houses and buildings have been sealed off, or seized since the coup took place on Feb 1, 2021.

FIVE VILLAGES FACE PROBLEMS AS JUNTA DESTROYS A BRIDGE IN THATON



June 19, 2023

At about 10 pm on June 9, 2023, Burmese soldiers destroyed a bridge on Thane Saint – Kyike Kaw – Lay K Road in Thaton Township, in Mon State. The soldiers used a backhoe to destroy the bridge and now villagers from five nearby villages are facing travel problems.

"People from five villages relied on this bridge. Now, motorbikes and cars can't use the bridge. Everyone is in trouble. If we have a health emergency at night, there will be a huge problem," said a villager from Lay K village.

On June 7, the Karen National Liberation Army and the People's Defense Forces attacked the 402nd Artillery Battalion and the #2 Light Infantry Battalion. According to locals, in response, a huge number of Burmese soldiers from V-Yaw military base in Thaton Township came to the area and destroyed the bridge,

The Thane Saint – Kyike Kaw – Lay K Bridge is an essential route for villagers from Lay K, Win Tar Bum, Pa Yit Koe, Tone Phoe Gyi and Tone Phoe Lay villages for transporting goods to Thu Wunna Wati Town.

In May, 2023, the military junta destroyed three village roads in Kyike Hto Township. Now people from about 25 villages are having health, economic and livelihood problems.

NLD LAWMAKER'S HOUSE SEIZED IN KYAIKMAYAW



June 23, 2023

HURFOM: On June 20, 2023, the military junta sealed and seized the house of Daw Khin Myo Myint, a Mon State lawmaker with the National League for Democracy (NLD) party in the #2 constituency of Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

"Since 2021, Daw Khin Myo Myint was accused of contributing to "anti-dictatorship strikes" and charged under Act #505(a) of the anti terrorist act. She had to run away and is in hiding," said a Kyaikmayaw resident.

According to the resident, officials from the 208th Light Infantry Battalion, police officers and the Chief of the Kyaukmayaw Township General Administration Department came to Daw Khin Myo Myint's house on Ba Nyar Nwe Street, Shin Saw Pu Ward #3, Kyaukmayaw Town and sealed and seized the house.

The homes of other NLD lawmakers in Mudon, Paung, Thaton and Bee Lin Townships were also sealed and seized by the military junta.

JUNTA ARRESTS NINE MAWLAMYINE RESIDENTS ACCUSING THEM OF INVOLVEMENT IN “FLOWER STRIKE”



June 23, 2023

HURFOM: June 19, 2023 is the State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday, and the whole country had organized a "Flower Strike" to celebrate her 78th birthday.

In Mawlamyine, Mon State, the junta arrested nine residents for contributing to the “Flower Strike” and detained them.

In the morning of June 19, the “Orchid Princess (Thit Kwa Min Tha Me)” nursery garden was delivering roses and flowers for free, when the military junta came to the shop and arrested nine people including the owner, the staff and the customers. The junta had temporarily sealed and seized the shop and is detaining the arrested persons at the Zay Yar Thiri Police Station.

“The junta has detained the owner. They warned the other eight people not to do it again and not to contribute to actions like that. If not, they would be punished heavily, the junta threatened. Then, the junta forced them to sign the document and released them,” said a person who is close to a family member of a detainee.

On June 19, more than 140 people were arrested across Burma after being accused of involvement in "Flower Strike".

News

JUNTA FORCES FARMERS FORCED TO PLANT RICE, DESPITE LANDMINES: ONE MAN INJURED IN PU LAW



June 20, 2023

In the middle of the day on June 11, a man who went down to the field west of the police station of Pala Town, Pu Law Township, Tenasserim Division, stepped on a landmine and was severely injured.

Locals also said he was the fifth victim injured by landmines planted behind the police station. The injured person is Ko Kyaw Lin Aung, 30+ years old, from ward No. 4.

"His farm is behind the Pala Police Station. He stepped on a landmine in his paddy field. Local residents are affected by these invisible weapons. I can't imagine who will be the next victim. How can we farm and make a living?" lamented a local resident.

Pala city Administrator U Kyin Shein, who was appointed by the junta, has been pressuring farmers to plant their fields during the rainy season this year. He has told farmers that fields that do not grow rice will be confiscated by the junta, and when farmers plant rice they must also pay a tax, at the rate of one bushel per acre.

JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK INJURIES THREE CHILDREN IN KHA LAE – DA GON DIE VILLAGE

June 22, 2023

HURFOM: At 7 pm on June 19, 2023, the military junta launched an artillery attack on Kha Lae – Da Gon Die village, Kyarinnseikyi Township, Karen State and injured three local villagers. There was no armed resistance in the area that preceded the attack.

The Artillery Battalion responsible is based in Ah Bit village, Mudon Township, Mon State, according to local sources.

"Three villagers were hit by artillery shells and suffered serious injuries. They are receiving emergency treatment now. The remaining villagers run away," said a villager.

The victims are, 18-year-old Maung Lu Pu, 17-year-old Maung Moe Dee from Da Gon Die village, and a 16-year-old boy from Pu Lane village.

The artillery battalion has frequent-

ly launched attacks which have destroyed plantations and homes in villages controlled by the Karen National Union.

Villagers near the military base fled their homes two years ago, and have been unable to return.

The artillery attacks have now killed three and injured more than ten villagers.



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

JUNTA GIVES MONETARY COMPENSATION TO VICTIM OF ARTILLERY ATTACK



June 27, 2023

HURFOM: On June 16, 2023, the 310th artillery battalion based in Thane Za Yet Twon, Kyike Hto Township, Mon State launched artillery attacks targeting the com-

munity. One woman was and four people were injured in Ward #1.

On June 17, officials from the artillery battalion and the Thane Za Yet General Administration Department visited the deceased victim's house and gave a monetary compensation of 300,000 Kyat.

"Mainly, they came to say they didn't launch the attack, instead they blamed the PDF. Then, they gave 300,000 Kyat for the funeral. But the whole town knows they are responsible for the attacks," said a Thane Za Yet resident.

Soldiers from the artillery battalion collected the artillery shells scattered in the ward and returned to their base.

The junta's indiscriminate artillery attacks have targeted civilian populations, resulting in injuries and casualties across Mon State. Farmers and workers have had to abandon their farms and plantations.

News

A CEC MEMBER OF MUP CRITICIZES MILITARY JUNTA FOR MANIPULATING MON POLITICS



June 27, 2023

HURFOM: The Mon Unity Party (MUP) has applied for their registration under the new electoral law approved by the junta. There has been no reply or update from the junta controlled Union Election Commission. There are worries there may be a misunderstanding regarding the registration, according to a central executive committee member of the MUP.

"The MUP isn't a newly formed political party so there is no difficulty. The New Mon State Party (NMSP) had stepped back from the political dialogue with the military junta and the junta wanted to pressure Mon political communities. That's why they haven't approved the registration of the MUP. We have doubts," said the CEC member.

In May, 2023, the Vice Chair of the NMSP, Nai Ong Min had a

peace talk with the military junta in Naypyidaw. In the meeting, the junta pressured the NMSP to sign some agreements that did not match NMSP policy. Then, the NMSP decided to resign their position as the leader of PPST (Peace Process Steering Committee).

"The dictator must pressure you if you don't follow them. I think they've mounted pressure on the MUP as the NMSP stepped back from political dialogue," continued the CEC member.

The MUP applied for their registration to the Union Election Commission on March 15.

However, the UEC announced their approval of only one Mon political party called "The Woman Party(Mon)" on June 23, 2023.

HURFOM

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