

## MORE THAN 3,000 VILLAGERS FLEE FROM ARMED CLASH IN JONE DOE



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### MILITARY JUNTA INTENTIONALLY ATTACKS VILLAGES IN KNLA CONTROLLED AREA



March 23, 2023

HURFOM: Local sources told HURFOM that the military junta has intentionally and repeatedly attacked and killed innocent villagers in the controlled area of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).

Even though there has been no armed clashes, between the KNLA the junta has launched artillery attacks on the villages and killed innocent civilians including children.

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## News

## MORE THAN 3,000 VILLAGERS FLEE FROM ARMED CLASH IN JONE DOE



January 27, 2023

HURFOM: Armed clashes between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDF) have increased in Kan Ne village, nearby Jone Doe Town, Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State since January 23, 2023.

Houses have been burnt down and more than 3,000 villagers from Kan Ne, Tha Yet Taw, Kaw Kyike and Mi Ga Lone villages have fled their homes.

Military tensions have grown ever since

the Kaw Bane Police Station was attacked on January 16 and on January 24, 2023, the Jane-Doe-based Light Infantry Battalion #545 and #546, in response, launched artillery attacks on Kan Ne and Nyaung Yeik Thar villages located nearby Jone Doe Town and on the Jie river banks.

The military junta also launched air and artillery assaults, and many houses in Kan Ne, Tha Yet Taw and Nyaung Yeik Thar were burnt to the ground.

"The armed clashes continue to increase so most villagers have fled to Mawlamyine and Pa'an. Just a few men

have been left in the villages. Children, women and elderly persons ran away to find safe shelter," said a local resident. The frequency of armed clashes between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the KNLA and the PDF has been increasing every day in Kaw Ka Rate, Jone Doe, Kyarinnseikyi, Phar Pon and Three Pagoda Pass Township in Karen State.

As a result local sources in Karen State anticipate there will be an increase in internally displaced persons seeking shelter.

### JUNTA'S ADMINISTRATORS DISRUPT "16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE"

January 4, 2023

HURFOM: November 25 to December 10 marks the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign organized by women in Mon State.

This is an annual initiative, but an activist involved in the effort told



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## News

# MILITARY JUNTA INTENTIONALLY ATTACKS VILLAGES IN KNLA CONTROLLED AREA



March 23, 2023

HURFOM: Local sources told HURFOM that the military junta has intentionally and repeatedly attacked and killed innocent villagers in the controlled area of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).

Even though there has been no armed clashes, between the KNLA the junta has launched artillery attacks on the villages and killed innocent civilians including children.

An artillery attack launched by the 24th Light Infantry Battalion based in Thaton Township, killed two children and two villagers were injured on March 8, 2023.

On March 18, a five-year-old child from Ah Won Gyi village, Bee Lin Township was also killed by an artillery attack.

Another artillery attack launched by the junta, killed two villagers from Ka Ra Way village on March 20, 2023.

"A five-year-old was asleep at home when the artillery shell hit. He died at the scene. The military junta has launched artillery attacks nearly every day in the KNLA's 1st Brigade controlled area. The number of casualties is rising," said a local source.

The KNLA 1st Brigade is based in Bee Lin Township, Thaton District, Mon State.

The military junta has also launched an airstrike forcing villagers to stop farming.

Since January, 2023, due to the military junta's attacks, at least five villagers have been killed and more than 11 injured.

## News from page (2)

HURFOM that the junta-appointed Administrators in some villages of Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State have been actively disrupting the campaign this year.

"This year, we had chosen three places in Thanbyuzayat (to mark

the event of "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"). One place was at Thanbyuzayat Town and another two were in villages. When we had informed the Administrator about the event, he replied that we needed a recommendation letter from the upper authority to celebrate the event. So we had to give up our plan. I think the rights of

the women in the villages were violated (by the junta)," said one woman activist.

Both COVID-19 and the political crisis in Burma has left women in Mon State experiencing more gender based violence, poor health, in addition to deleterious impacts on their social networks and personal security.

News

# 14 DEAD AND THOUSANDS FLEE ARMED CLASH IN TAUNG ZUN



January 10, 2023

HURFOM: On January 4 and 5, 2023, there was an armed clash between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People Defense Forces (PDF) in Taung Zun village, of Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State.

Local sources told HURFOM, that at least 14 civilians have died and thousands have fled their homes,

During the two-day clash, the military junta launched artillery attacks and air assaults resulting in the death of many innocent villagers.

"The Karens are on the other side of the river bank and the Burmese army is on this side. The artillery attack directly hit the village. So many were injured and dead. The victims included elderly people and women," said one merchant from Taung Zun.

The joint forces first attacked the base of the Border Guard Force near Taung Zun on January 1 and 2 and then continued to attack the military base.

"The villagers didn't know how many Burmese soldiers or revolutionary force fighters had died. They just knew to run away, but they were not expecting this. Now, no one dares to stay in the village. They started to run away just after the first artillery attack hit their village. They didn't know where the artillery attack came from—so many villagers have died," continued the merchant.

The Burmese army routinely launches artillery and air assaults leaving villagers unable to find a safe place to hide.

**"The Karens are on the other side of the river bank and the Burmese army is on this side. The artillery attack directly hit the village. So many were injured and dead. The victims included elderly people and women,"**



## News

## ELECTION COMMISSION DIRECTED TO COMPILE A VOTERS LIST IN MON STATE



Photo from Than Lwin Times

January 11, 2023

**HURFOM:** On January 8, 2023 the military junta issued a verbal order to the Mon State Sub Election Commission directing them to begin the task of compiling a voters list for the state.

The Commission develops the list by having its representatives go door-to-door and match the number of residents to the household list it maintains.

“The upper authority didn’t mention collecting an actual voters list for the upcoming election. They just made the order to match the number of people at each

home with the number of people in the household list. They want to know if there is an increase or decrease in the number of people,” said a staff member who has been involved in the task in Mawlamyine.

The team for this task includes the village/ward Administrator, Office Clerk and appointed staff alongside pro-military supporters.

“We must collect voter lists in every single village or town. It’s okay to do this in the village where there is no armed clash. But in villages where armed clashes frequently happen and areas like Ye Township, it isn’t safe. But this is a “must” order from the upper authority, so it’s difficult for us to manage,” said a ward Administrator from Myine Thar Yar Ward, Mawlamyine.

The military junta stated that from January 9 to the 29, 2023 will be the period for collecting the information for the list, but the National Unity Government (NUG) has announced that those who cooperate in collecting voter lists will be sued under the Terrorist Act.

## BURMESE SOLDIERS RAID THE OLD VILLAGE OF KYONE LONG AFTER A PDF FLAG IS RAISED



January 15, 2023

**HURFOM:** On January 7, 2023, the local People’s Defense Force (PDF), specifically the Ye Balue/Gaint Force raised their flag in the old village of Kyone Long, Ye Township, Mon State.

In response Burmese soldiers raided the village. “The Ye Balue Force raised their flag in Kyone Long and Burmese soldiers searched every house thoroughly,” said a local villager.

Villagers did not stay in their homes and fled, a local source told HURFOM.

Kyone Long old village is located two miles away from Ye Town.

On January 10, 2023, the Ye Balue Force burnt down the telecommunication tower owned by the pro-military Mytel Company.

Since then, the military junta lost control of the village to the Ye Balue Force.

The Ye Balue Force raised their flag in Kyone Long and Burmese soldiers searched every house thoroughly,”



**News**

## NUMBER OF ORPHANS RISES SIGNIFICANTLY UNDER MILITARY JUNTA'S RULE



January 18, 2023

HURFOM: Since the military junta coup the number of orphans in child care centers and orphanages has grown significantly.

According to a senior monk who runs a self-reliant orphanage in Mudon Township, Mon State, "We had 30 children before the coup. But the num-

ber doubled under military rule and now we have 60," said the monk.

Many parents have lost their jobs since the military coup, and the economy has seen a major increase in the cost of basic commodities. As a result parents are unable to feed their children, so they send them to child care centers or orphanages.

"We accept all poor children or orphans. If a child wants to be ordained as a novice monk/nun, we fulfill his/her desires. If he/she doesn't want to be a monk or nun, we enroll them in schools. Everything is free here," continued the monk.

Despite this service, donations to child care centers or orphanages have declined making it a challenge to run these centers.

## ABOUT 1,000 MON RESIDENTS FROM EAST ZAMI RIVER FLEE THEIR HOMES

January 18, 2023

HURFOM: Increasing armed clashes between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDF), has forced roughly 1,000 Mon residents from the East Zami River, Kyarinnseikyi Township, in Karen State, to flee their homes. The internally displaced people took temporary shelter in the Mon villages in the West Zami River.

Kyarinnseikyi Township is mostly inhabited by Mon and Karen nationals. Karen people live mostly in the East Zami River.

"A lot of villagers from the East River ran to our villages. Some of them are staying at the monasteries while others are at relatives' or friends' houses. I think there are about 800 or 1,000 villagers," said a villager from Way Thar Le village, Kyarinnseikyi Township.

Artillery shells were directly dropped onto villages. Reports on injuries or fatalities were not yet reported.

"Armed clashes have happened nearly every day in the East River. In the West, armed clashes have happened in the Ka Lae – Da Gon Die area. The Mawlamyine District of the West Zami River is controlled by the New Mon State Party, and it is peaceful. That's why villagers from the East fled here," said a villager who helped villagers.

Because it is now winter, children and

the elderly are at an increased risk of contracting an illness, raising concerns about the humanitarian impacts from the armed clashes.

There is no sign of an end to the hostilities. Villagers alongside the Zami River are collecting food and digging bomb shelters.

Brigade #6 of the KNLA announced to residents not to use the Kyarinnseikyi – Three Pagoda Pass Road from January 16 – 23, 2023.





## News

## JUNTA TO SET UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT THAT WILL RUN AN AUGUST ELECTION

January 19, 2023

HURFOM: According to a source close to the Minister within the military junta, planning is underway to set up an interim government in February, 2023. This body will be tasked with carrying out a national election in August.

The National Unity Government (NUG) has announced they would do everything to stop such an election, which they believe is being organized by the junta to favour the military.

Skepticism is growing as to how free and fair such an election may be if organized by the junta.

"An interim government will be formed and the government will organize the election. The junta will try their best to (predetermine) the election outcome," said the source.



Speculation is also growing as to what this development may bring.

"They have been preparing for the election, they will test the resistance of the opposition. If the resistance isn't too strong, they will conduct the election. If there is strong resistance from the people and opposition forces, and if there are more and more armed clashes, the military will arrange a coup (abolish the constitution) and rule by martial law," continued the source.

## TIN YU VILLAGERS SUFFER FROM ARMED CLASHES



January 24, 2023

HURFOM: At about 06:30 am on January 18, 2023, the Ye Guerrilla Force (YGF) and other joint forces attacked the police station in Tin Yu village, Thanbyuzayat Township, in Mon State.

During the attack about seven houses were damaged and some villagers, including elderly persons, were injured.

"When working in my rubber plantation in the morning, we heard continuous gunfire so I returned to the village. After reaching home, I'd realized there was a fight at the police station nearby the railway station. We all hid in the house. Then, an artillery shell hit our house. Luckily, just the upper storey was destroyed and we all were safe. I've heard that an old man broke his leg and some villagers were injured," said a villager.

The villagers' attempt to flee from their homes has been difficult because the road and local transportation options are very bad. People are hiding in their houses.

"We can't leave our village easily. It's very far from the city and the main road. So it's difficult to move away,"

said a local woman.

The Artillery Battalion based in Wae Ka Le, Thanbyuzayat Township has launched an artillery attack directly to Tin Yu village so local villagers are worrying about the risk of further damage, injury or casualties.

"We can't leave our village easily. It's very far from the city and the main road. So it's difficult to move away,"



News

## ARTILLERY ATTACK BY #317 BATTALION INJURES TWO VILLAGERS



January 24, 2023

HURFOM: On January 20, 2023, the #317 Artillery Battalion based nearby Kone Paw Yaw Thit and Maw Ka Nin villages, Ye Township, in Mon State launched an artillery attack on a village located to the east of the Mawlamyine – Ye highway. The attack injured two villagers, according to a local social worker.

“The Kone Paw Yaw Thit Battalion launched an artillery attack on the plantations.

The plantation workers did not go into the fields and now they can’t go back to the village. They all had to hide, as the battalion randomly shot artillery weapons. Some workers were injured,” said a plantation owner from Maw Ka Nin village, Ye Township, Mon State.

The Lamine Social Welfare Association posted on their social media platform that the two injured villagers were sent to the Lamine General Hospital where they received treatment.

“One villager was surely injured. Others said two got injured. I’m not sure. People from this area have spent most of their time in the plantation. The artillery shell landed in the plantations so there are surely injuries or casualties,” said the plantation owner.

The People’s Defense Force had attacked the Artillery Battalion provoking the battalions response. The battalion launched at least ten artillery attacks, according to the local sources.

## KAW BANE VILLAGERS FLEE AS JUNTA TRIES TO ARREST “CDM ACTIVISTS”



January 25, 2023

HURFOM: After the Karen National Liberation Army and the People’s Defense Force jointly attacked the police station in Kaw Bane village, Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State on January 16, 2023, the Burmese military responded.

The military occupied the nearby areas and tried to arrest individuals thought to

be involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).

Villagers became frightened and fled their homes.

“After the police station was attacked, the Burmese army entered the village and established their base at the police station. Then, they began to arrest villagers. People became frightened and fled from the village,” said a Kaw Bane villager.

Kaw Bane and its surrounding areas are under the control of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) but the NMSP has been unable to protect the villagers.

“There is the NMSP but they can’t provide safety/security for the villagers. The NMSP can’t stop Karen or Burmese military forces from entering the village. The villagers are helpless, so they have to flee,” said a young Mon activist.



## News

## BURMESE MILITARY LAUNCHES ARTILLERY ATTACK ON VILLAGES NEARBY JONE DOE TOWN



January 26, 2023

HURFOM: Since January 24, 2023, the Burmese military has launched artillery attacks on villages nearby Jone Doe Town, Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State.

Many houses have been burnt to the ground and villagers have fled the area.

Nearby villages include Kan Ne, Mi Ga Lone, Kaw Kar, Kaw Kyike and Tha Yet Taw villages all of which are largely inhabited by Mon people.

The military has occupied the area and has intimidated villagers into leaving their homes, local sources told HURFOM.

“We’ve heard gunshots from Kan Ne every day. Some villagers had already fled before the village was burning down. Some villagers and elderly people are still stuck in the village,” said a villager nearby Kan Ne.

The villagers who fled have taken temporary shelter in nearby villages in relatives’ houses. They have many basic needs.

Armed clashes between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People’s Defense Forces (PDF) continue to increase in the area. Observers anticipate that there will be more houses burnt down and there will be an increase in the numbers of internally displaced persons.





News

## JUNTA'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS GREATLY IMPACTS SOCIO ECONOMIC LIFE IN YE



Old Photo: Junta arrested motorbikes in Kha Yan Township (Source: Mizzima)

February 23, 2023

HURFOM: After imposing martial law in Ye Township, Mon State, the General Administration Department has banned local residents from going outside between 6 pm and 6 am.

The military junta has also issued a new restriction on "the time of riding motorbike".

A local villager told HURFOM that the military junta will only allow the riding of motorbikes between 8 am and 4 pm in Ye Township.

"After martial law has been imposed, we're in trouble with going to our plantation. Now, they've limited the time for riding motorbikes so we'll have more and more difficulty. It's not okay to go to work in the morning," said a Ye resident.

CREATOR: gd-jpeg v1.0 (using IJG JPEG v62), quality = 75  
All residents of villages in the Kan Bauk region, Yebyu Township, in Tenasserim Division have been banned from riding motorbikes for six months effective February 6, 2023.

"I run an online shop. It isn't okay to deliver my products. My father and brother have to go to the plantation on foot. Cars and tricycles are allowed but they've totally restricted riding motorbikes," said one Kan Bauk resident.

The military junta restrictions on the freedom of movement, is creating new challenges in the economy, for social and health services and on residents livelihoods.

## JUNTA'S AIR ASSAULT INJURES THREE IDPS

February 27, 2023

HURFOM: The military junta launched two air assaults on a shelter for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State. The first attack took place at 12 pm on February 19 and the second occurred at 09:30 am on February 20, 2023.

The three IDPs including a 14-year-old child were injured in the attack. In total, more than half a dozen innocent civilians in Kaw Ka Rate Township were injured or killed in the attacks.

"They launched an airstrike at midnight yesterday, and then another strike took place at about 9:30 am the next morning, February 20. We also heard artillery gunfire and small weapons fire around the town," said a Kaw Ka Rate resident.

The military junta has frequently launched artillery and air assaults targeting the shelter. The IDPs are suffering from insecurity and mental stress.

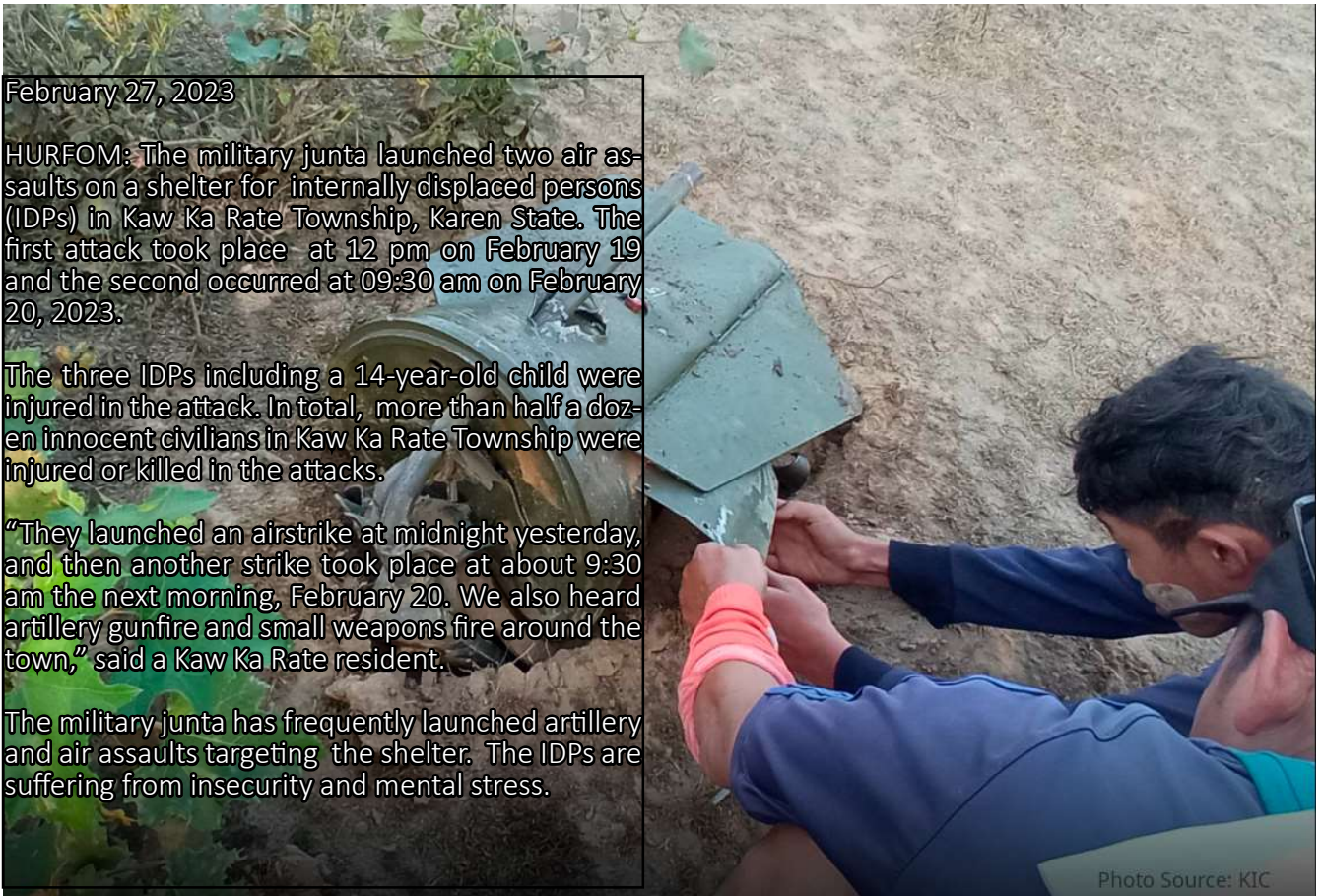


Photo Source: KIC



## News

## OFFSET THEIR RISING OPERATING COSTS. SOLDIERS ARREST VILLAGERS AND EXTORT MONEY FROM KAW DUT VILLAGERS



February 22, 2023

HURFOM: Kaw Dut village has garnered the attention of the Burmese army since the junta-appointed village Administrator San Win was killed. He was replaced by an individual named Ah Nine.

Burmese soldiers are now present in the village very often, arresting villagers and extorting money from them.

On February 19, 2023, an explosion occurred at Kaw Cha village, Kaw Dut village track, Lamine Sub-township, Ye Township in Mon State.

According to local sources, shortly after the explosion, soldiers occupied the village, arrested villagers and began to extort money from them.

Recently, two Kaw Dut residents were stopped by the Burmese soldiers on the way to their plantation on February 20, 2023.

"They encountered soldiers on their way to the plantation. One of them was afraid of the soldiers and he ran away. The soldiers shot at him but he escaped. The other was arrested and the soldiers demanded 500,000 Kyat for his release. He couldn't fulfill their demand, so he was arrested. He was taken to the Lamine police station by car and soldiers drove his bike. When his family members found out about the incident, they reported it to the village Administrator and went to the police station. He was only released after paying 400,000 Kyat," said a family member of the victim.

On the same day, another man, by the name of Ko Thar Ngae from Kaw Cha village was arrested by the military junta. His family was not informed.

"Ko Thar Ngae was arrested at his home yesterday. We don't know why he was arrested," said a villager.

Ko Thar Ngae was transferred from the Lamine Police Station to the Ye Police Station.

## News

## SITUATION AROUND JONE DOE MORE STABLE, BUT VILLAGERS STILL AFRAID



February 8, 2023

HURFOM: An armed clash took place between the Burmese army and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Force (PDF) from January 22 to 26, 2023.

Heavy fighting took place around Kan Ne village near Jone

Doe Town, Kaw Ka Rate Township, in Karen State.

More than 26 houses were burnt down and roughly 10,000 villagers had to flee.

"The situation is getting stable now, so some villagers are returning to their homes. But some dare not go back. They are still staying at their relatives' houses or monasteries," said one villager.

The military junta launched both artillery and air attacks. There are concerns there might be artillery shells which did not explode, and villagers should check their places carefully and thoroughly before their return, advised a villager who is helping to clean up the battle ground.

"There is currently no military movement but I've advised villagers to be cautious with their return," said the volunteer.

Those who fled want to return as soon as possible, but are also afraid of further possible armed clashes.

## TWO KILLED, 6 INJURED IN VEHICLE ATTACK



February 8, 2023

HURFOM: A passenger car carrying 8 individuals was traveling near Hnan Jell village, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division, when at about 3 pm on February 6, 2023 the vehicle was shot at by unknown assailants.

A monk and a woman in the car were killed during the attack. Four passengers sustained severe injuries and two children suffered minor injuries. All of the victims were sent to the Dawei General Hospital.

The two fatalities were a 60-year-old Abbot from Yar Phu new village and 65-year-old Daw Ohm Myint.

The passengers were enroute to Yar Phu village, Yebyu Township, having been in Dawei City.

"I heard about 30 gunshots at 3 pm. I went outside and saw the monk's car had been shot at. The monk was in the front seat, and was dead, the woman was in the back seat," said a Hnan Jell villager.

No further information has emerged to explain who is responsible for the attack or their motives.



## News

## MUP CRITICIZE NEW ELECTORAL LAW: NOW ONLY ABLE TO ONLY RUN AT STATE/DIVISION LEVEL IN UPCOMING ELECTION



February 15, 2023

HURFOM: Members of the Mon Unity Party's central executive committee recently criticized the January 26th military's electoral law changes. Members view the changes as an abuse and restriction on political parties which they believe, violates the human rights of ethnic peoples.

"All the ethnic political parties have to reduce their status from "Union Level" to "State/Division Level". (The new electoral law) has banned the rights of the ethnic people. This is a huge human rights violation," said one CEC member.

A former CEC /MUP member noted that the new electoral law blocks or reduces the number of the ethnic lawmakers in the Union Parliament, which is the highest legislative power in the country.

"They (the military council and the election commission) have intentionally planned to reduce the numbers of ethnic lawmakers and to silence the voice of ethnic people in the Union Parliament," said the former CEC/MUP member.

The new law requires that a Union-level political party must have at least 100,000 members and be able to operate their offices in at least 160 townships. Further, the party must have a fund of 100 million Kyat.

Due to these new criteria, the MUP is unable to operate the party at the union level so they have no alternative but to run only at the State/Division level.

On February 11, 2023, the MUP called a CEC meeting at their headquarter in Mawlamyine and decided to close their offices in Yangon, Pegu and Tenasserim Divisions and register the party in Mon and Karen States.

"At the union level, there are the USDP, the NLD and the National Unity Party. Due to the current situation, the NLD won't compete in the election. They (the military council and the election commission) called an election only after setting up a plan that will ensure the USDP will win the election. It is impossible to beat them in the election," said the former CEC member of the MUP.

The new electoral law also forces all political parties to apply for a new registration within 60 days of January 26th, the day the law was approved. Parties that fail to do so are automatically abolished.

## BURMESE MILITARY KILLED ONE VILLAGER AND ARREST ANOTHER IN MAW KA NIN



February 16, 2023

HURFOM: Killing and arresting innocent civilians in Ye Township has been on the rise since the declaration of martial law. Local sources report that on February 9, 2023, a man named

Nai Bin from Maw Ka Nin village, Ye Township, in Mon State was killed by the Burmese military.

Nai Bin was a plantation worker and was shot to death at about 2 am while on his plantation. Another villager told HURFOM that Burmese soldiers invaded his plantation and shot him three times.

"He was killed at about 2 am. Neighbouring plantation workers found his body at 4 pm on February 10 and informed his family members," said a neighbour of Nai Bin.

Another Maw Ka Nin villager named Nai Kyaw Oo, was arrested at his home by the 106th Light Infantry Battalion on February 7, 2023.

"On his way back to his home from the plantation, Nai Kyaw Oo had an argument with soldiers from the 106th LIB on the evening of February 6," said a Maw Ka Nin villager.

His family members have lost contact with Nai Kyaw Oo since his arrest. The military allowed them to meet with the victim on February 12, 2023.

## News

## USE OF LANDMINES RE-EMERGE IN MON STATE



March 10, 2023

HURFOM: The use of landmines had stopped since 2020, but in early 2023, two years after the coup, a landmine explosion happened again in Mon State.

According to a local source, at least 10 innocent civilians have been injured by landmine explosions within two years of the coup.

In 2020, landmine explosions occurred frequently in the Kyaung Shar Kwin area, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. The area is mostly inhabited by Mon people and about 20 villagers were injured by landmine explosions.

## TWO CHILDREN KILLED BY JUNTA'S ARTILLERY ATTACK IN THATON

March 14, 2023

HURFOM: On March 8, 2023, two children from Jone Main village, Thaton Township, in Mon State were killed by an artillery attack initiated by the 24th Light Infantry Battalion. The two victims were seven years old and 13 years old.



Kyaung Shar Kwin is the area controlled by the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Karen National Union (KNU). Most of the landmine victims were innocent plantation workers.

After the coup, a landmine explosion began to occur in Northern Ye Township, Mon State in early 2023. According to data collected by HURFOM, four plantation workers were injured by landmine explosions over a 20-day period between January 28 and February 18, 2023.

Two men lost their legs while another two were injured by landmine explosions near the Rope Bridge at Bale Ka Hwelve village, Lamine Town, Ye Township, in Mon State.

"The military junta has established their bases near Bale Ka Hwelve Rope Bridge and the People Defense Forces are also active in the area. The local villagers have to use that route to go to their plantations and other villages," said a Maw Ka Nin villager.

No one has taken responsibility for the placement of the landmines, and there has been no justice for the landmine victims.

"Most villagers thought the landmines were planted by the military junta. Landmine explosions started to take place in our area only after the coup. Now, no one typically goes to their plantations," said a Bale Ka Hwelve villager.

However, some villagers have no choice because they must work.

According to a report by UNICEF Myanmar, there have been 390 landmine victims in Burma in 2022 and 34% were children.

Two civilians were also seriously injured, according to local sources.

"The battalion just randomly shot artillery weapons without any provocation. A 9-year-old child and a 50-year-old woman were seriously injured," said a local source.

Jone Main village is under the authority of the 1st Brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA).

For the last two years, the military base has routinely launched artillery attacks on Jone Main, and until now there had not been any casualties.

Approximately 300 Jone Main villagers have fled from their homes.

According to the statement from the Ministry of Women, Youth and Child Affairs of the National Unity Government, since the coup, the junta has killed 242 children. In addition 372 children have been arrested and detained.



## News

## JUNTA DETAINS TWO YOUNG WOMEN AT INTERROGATION CENTER: NO CONTACT POSSIBLE



March 14, 2023

HURFOM: On March 9, 2023, the military junta arrested two young women near Ka Lane Ong Town, Yebyu Township, Dawei District, in the Tenasserim Division, and sent them to the local interrogation center.

17-year-old Ma Kay Thi Thi Lin from Zin Bar village and 18-year-old Ma Thet Myat Noe from Kyauk Shut (Nwe Le) village went to Ka Lane Ong Town by motorbike to buy mobile phones. They were arrested by Burmese soldiers near a bridge on their way back.

Local residents told HURFOM that, since the women were arrested there has been no contact with them.

“The two arrested girls are just ordinary civilians. Their families don’t have any contact with (political or revolutionary groups). Some villagers said Ma Thet Myat Noe’s boyfriend may be a member of the People Defense Forces (PDF) and the junta is using that unproven allegation as the basis for the arrest,” said a Ka Lane Ong resident.

According to local sources, the women were first detained at the Ka Lane Ong Police Station and then transferred to the interrogation center at the 410th Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) on March 10, 2023.

## AN 18-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN TPP



March 16, 2023

HURFOM: At about 8 am on March 12, 2023, a young woman, aged 18, who lived in Kyan Taw village near Three Pagoda Pass (TPP) Town, Kyarinnseikyi Township, Karen State was killed, according to the local sources.

She was killed on her way to TPP to buy goods when her motorbike was also stolen.

The perpetrator was arrested in Kyarinnseikyi Town on March 14.

“She was killed on Sunday morning. Her body was found on Monday. It looked like she was beaten about the head with a brick. The perpetrator had scratches on his face. It looked like she was struggling for survival,” said a villager from Kyan Taw village.

The woman was a divorcee and a mother of a child. The source said the perpetrator fell in love with her, before she was married.

“I don’t know if she was raped or not. But the perpetrator refused to admit that he killed her,” said the villager.

## News

## “KRATOM CULTURE” IS GROWING IN MON AREAS: SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON THE RISE



March 20, 2023

HURFOM: Summer festival season celebrates ordinations and weddings. The season has arrived in many Mon communities. Kratom leaf liquor plays an important and essential role in the festival season, to welcome and treat visitors.

Kratom leaves are boiled in a big bowl and distilled to create the liquor that is served to neighbors who came to support the ceremony and guests. During the festival season people are drinking alcohol, beer and Kratom liquor and dancing happily in the ordination ceremonies

Serving visitors and helpers with Kratom liquor is very much a part of Mon culture that involves both adults and adolescents.

“I had Kratom liquor one time, as I didn’t know what it was. I fell asleep after I drank it. My mother knew about that and I have not drunk it again. Its color looks like the color of sugar cane juice but the taste is bad,” said a 10-year-old boy who had tried Kratom liquor for the first time.

Kratom liquor has a sharp bitter taste. It is often mixed with Coca Cola and/or anti cough liquids, in an effort to remove the bitter taste and to enhance sedative effect.

Kratom use is widespread, with as many as 80% of individuals ranging in age from 10-50 years old trying the liquor. This is most noticeable in areas where Mon people live.

Those who are Kratom liquor drinkers say the liquor has an energetic effect and makes them more active to do work. It can, they say, also ease muscle pain. Many people believe

Kratom liquor does not have side effects like other narcotic drugs, so they feel safe to drink the liquor regularly.

“I feel comfortable after drinking Kratom. I can do my work well. I’m active. No more muscle pain after work. But when I drink too much, I can’t sleep. I’m sleepy but can’t fall asleep,” said a young man who drinks Kratom liquor.

Kratom leaves are highly available in Karen State with one kilogram of the leaves priced at 8,000 Kyat. Another narcotic substance known as WY tablets are priced at 3,000-3,500 Kyat per tablet and are easily available.

Students, youth, plantation workers, fisherfolk and those doing hard labor use Kratom liquor as a substitute for narcotic drugs. Usage of Kratom is growing, so much so, that some villagers have started farming Kratom leaves commercially.

Excessive usage of Kratom liquor can cause increased heart rate, sleeplessness, nausea and vomiting, high blood pressure, damage to liver and lungs and constipation. Regular and prolonged usage of Kratom liquor can cause mental disorders. Thailand elected to exclude Kratom leaves from the narcotic group list in 2021. As a result the usage and trade of Kratom leaves has risen sharply along the Thai-Burma border. The commercial farming of Kratom leaves is also growing in this area.

Due to political unrest which emerged after the coup, has contributed to the Burma police force being unable to arrest and control the trade and use of narcotic drugs. Many students, adolescents and adults are increasingly becoming victims of substance abuse.



## News

### Information on HURFOM and Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers

Dear Readers,

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

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

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

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

Please email or mail a name and address to:

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

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

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

With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

## KYAIKMAYAW PRISON OFFICIALS STEALING MONEY FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS



March 20, 2023

HURFOM: Prison officials from the Kyaikmayaw Central Prison have been wrongly demanding money from family members of the political prisoners. Officials have been telling family members that the prisoners need money and that they should send certain amounts to the prison officials. When family members complied, prison officials did not transfer the full amounts to the political prisoners.

A political prisoner who was recently released from the Kyaikmayaw pris-

on said if family members sent them 100,000 Kyat, prison officials took 30,000 Kyat.

"The corruption in the prison system is getting worse. If a prisoner doesn't want to do hard labor, he/she must pay the officials about two million Kyat. Political prisoners who can pay money are also abused by the prison officials," said the political prisoner.

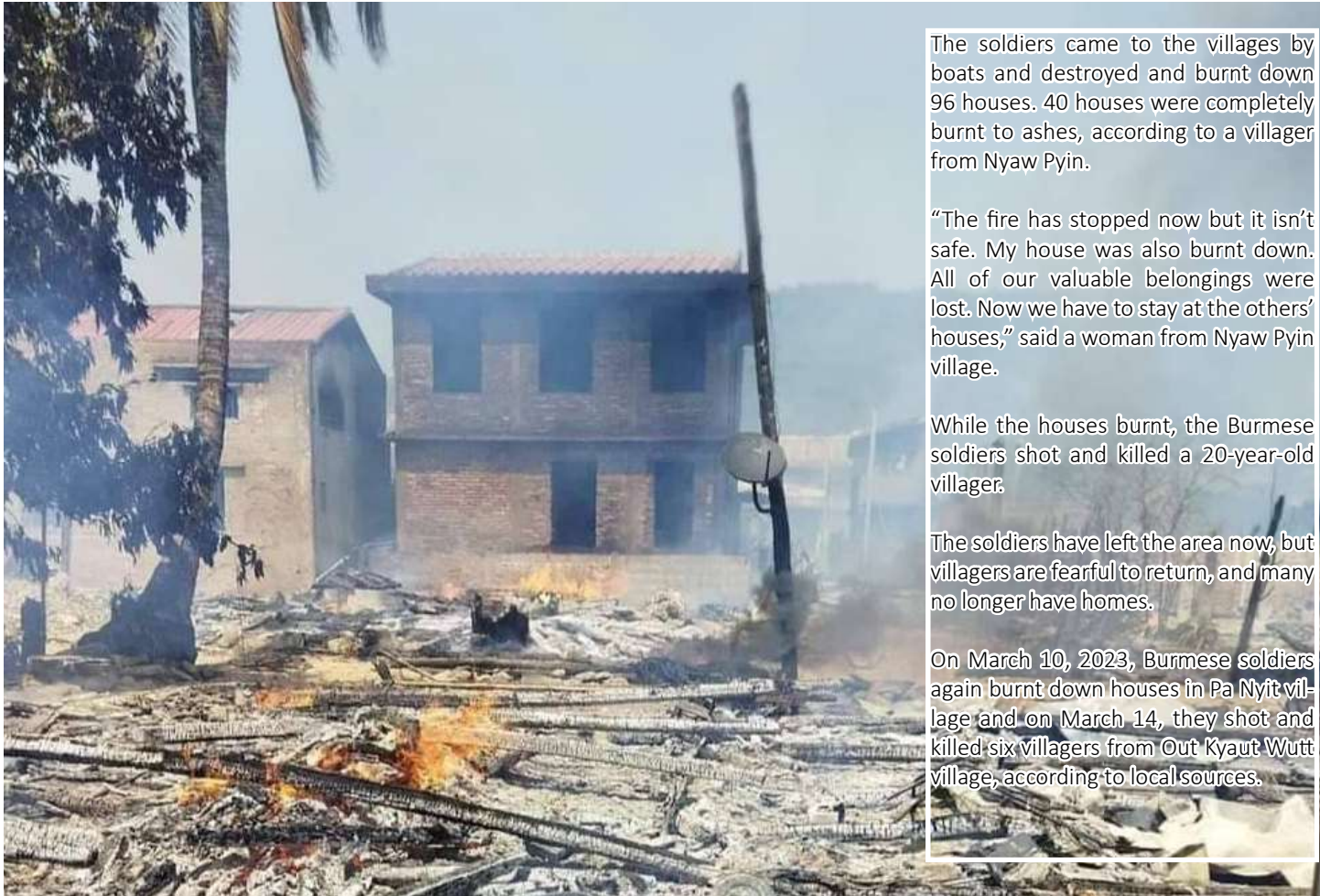
Political prisoners who were released from the Kyaikmayaw Prison said they requested money from the family members just once but the prison officials contacted their family members and dishonestly demanded ten times the amount of money originally requested. "The political prisoners sentenced under Act #505 have been facing this problem," said another recently released political prisoner.

prison, soldiers and prison authorities frequently beat political prisoners without any reason.

"If the prisoners demand something from the authorities, the soldiers enter the prison and beat the prisoners. Then, they send them to the interrogation center in the prison. They go missing for the next two days. When family members ask prison officials about their whereabouts, there is no concrete answer. About ten political prisoners are currently missing from the Kyaikmayaw Prison," said a political prisoner.

The Kyaikmayaw Central Prison has more than 200 male political prisoners and 90 female political prisoners.

## News

**MILITARY JUNTA BURNS DOWN 96 HOUSES AND KILLS VILLAGERS IN LONG LONE TOWNSHIP**

March 27, 2023

HURFOM: At about noon on March 21, 2023, Burmese soldiers entered Nyaw Pyin and Out Kyauk Wutt villages, Long Lone Township, in Tenasserim Division and burnt down houses. Then they shot and killed a villager, local sources told HURFOM.

The soldiers came to the villages by boats and destroyed and burnt down 96 houses. 40 houses were completely burnt to ashes, according to a villager from Nyaw Pyin.

"The fire has stopped now but it isn't safe. My house was also burnt down. All of our valuable belongings were lost. Now we have to stay at the others' houses," said a woman from Nyaw Pyin village.

While the houses burnt, the Burmese soldiers shot and killed a 20-year-old villager.

The soldiers have left the area now, but villagers are fearful to return, and many no longer have homes.

On March 10, 2023, Burmese soldiers again burnt down houses in Pa Nyit village and on March 14, they shot and killed six villagers from Out Kyaut Wutt village, according to local sources.

**HURFOM**

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