

JUNTA LAUNCHES MILITARY OPERATION AND ARRESTS NEARLY 20 VILLAGERS IN PAUNG



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“INSIDE”

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JUNTA ARRESTS TWO INDIVIDUALS AND LAYS ANTI-TERRORISM CHARGES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



October 3, 2023

HURFOM: Two people from Mawlamyine and Thaton Townships of Mon State were arrested by the military junta in the last week of September, 2023 and both are being charged with offenses under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) according to sources close to their families.

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News

JUNTA LAUNCHES MILITARY OPERATION AND ARRESTS NEARLY 20 VILLAGERS IN PAUNG



September 13, 2023

HURFOM: On September 6, 2023, the military junta launched a military operation in Oak Tan Dar and surrounding villages, Paung Township, Mon State and arrested nearly 20 villagers.

At the end of August, 2023, the junta-appointed village Administrator and police members were shot and killed and the police station and the Township General Administration Department Office were attacked.

There have been rumors that the Peo-

ple's Defense Forces are planning to launch a military operation in the township. In response a military unit of approximately 1000 troops invaded the township.

"They arrested everyone they suspected. Even the pregnant women were arrested. Nearly 20 residents from Oak Tan Dar were arrested. They came to arrest one husband but didn't find him, so they arrested the wife," said an Oak Tan Dar resident.

The military unit is also checking "the visitors' report" in Oak Tan Dar and sur-

rounding villages.

"We've heard they will make more arrests. Those arrested are being sent to the Zin Jike Police Station. Those suspected to be with the PDF are sent to the military interrogation center," said a source close to the junta's police force.

The military unit is patrolling the Oak Tan Dar, Yinn Nyein villages, along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway Road, and in wards in Zin Jike Town. The operation is aggressive and worrisome to the local people.

THREE CIVILIANS SUSTAIN INJURIES FROM DRONE-BOMB EXPLOSION IN BILIN



September 7, 2023

HURFOM: On September 1, 2023, a bomb carried by a drone was dropped

and exploded nearby Dough Yat village, Bilin Township, in Mon State.

Three civilians sustained minor injuries, according to the local rescue team. While traveling along the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway Road, a tricycle encountered the injured civilians near the entrance of the village.

"All of them were injured by pieces of a bomb shell. The bomb dropped (and exploded) near the tricycle. It was not a life-threatening situation," said one villager.

The local rescue team sent the victims to the Bilin Township General Hospital. Soon after the explosion, a military unit stationed at the "Shew Than Lwin" toll-gate launched more than four artillery attacks targeting Dough Yat village, according to the locals.

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News

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October 3, 2023

HURFOM: Two people from Mawlamyine and Thaton Townships of Mon State were arrested by the military junta in the last week of September, 2023 and both are being charged with offenses under the

Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) according to sources close to their families.

On September 22, a multi-departmental junta team conducted a “stop and check” on the Thaton – Hpa-An Highway Road nearby Bin Hline Ward. The team arrested an 18-year-old local resident Ma Aye Chan May. After checking her mobile phone, the junta accused her of having a connection with the People’s Defense Force.

On September 27, the junta used excessive force in a raid on the house of Ko Nyi Htet Aung in Shwe Myine Thiri Ward, Mawlamyine and arrested him. The junta accuses him of sharing activities of the National Unity Government (NUG) and the People’s Defense Force (PDF) on his Facebook account.

The Thaton Police filed ATA charges citing Sections 52(a) and (b) against Ma Aye Chan May on September 24 and the Zay Yar Thiri Police charged Ko Nyi Htet Aung under section 52(a).

“Many residents in Mon State were arrested this month. Most of them were charged under the Anti-Terrorist Act. It looks like the junta has done more abuse to those who can’t oppose them,” said an activist who helps political prisoners.

In September, 2023, at least 40 residents from Thaton, Kyike Hto, Paung, Mawlamyine and Thanbyu-zayat Townships were forcibly arrested and about 20 of them have disappeared. Family members have lost contact with those arrested.

MORE THAN 2,000 VILLAGERS FLEE FROM THEIR HOMES IN BILIN



September 6, 2023

HURFOM: On September 4, 2023, more than 2,000 villagers from four villages of Bilin Township, Mon State fled from their homes and took shelter in nearby villages when an armed clash broke out in their area.

The clash between the military junta and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army and the People’s Defense Forces started in the morning and villagers

from Ah Lu Lay, Ah Lu Gyi, Ah Lell and Ah Nout Yaw Lay villages fled for their safety.

“People started to worry when the Burmese army arrived at Ah Lu Lay. As soon as the armed clashes started, artillery shells fell down onto our village. Some villagers fled to the northern part of Bilin while some ran away to the southern part,” said an Ah Lu Lay resident.

The battle took four hours and the situation is now becoming more stable, but tensions remain high in the area. Villagers are worried the junta may launch an air assault.

On April 12, 2023, armed clashes broke out in Ah Lu Lay village and the military junta burnt down three houses and looted six motorbikes, according to a statement by the Thaton District Karen National Union.

News

UNDER-AGED GIRL TORTURED: PERPETRATOR OFFERS MONETARY COMPENSATION TO DROP THE CASE



were broken and she had an infected leg wound revealing her bone.

The girl was able to escape to her home and her mother reported the case to Thanbyuzayat Police Station.

Thanbyuzayat Police charged the owner Daw Chan Myae and other co-workers Ah Ngae Ma aka Yin Yin Chan and Hein Min Htet under Sections 114, 324, 325 of Burmese Criminal Act.

Soon after the police were involved, the owner visited the victim's family and gave five million MMK in compensation. The mother agreed to terminate the legal case, according to a source familiar with the matter.

September 7, 2023

HURFOM: On August 21, 2023, an 11-year-old girl was brutally tortured. The victim worked at "Chan Myae Dawei Thar" Restaurant near the PTT gas station in Well Rat village, Thanbyuzayat Township, in Mon State.

She was beaten and tortured by the restaurant owner and other co-workers, after being accused of damaging a frying pan.

The girl's face was swollen, and had a cut to the back of her head. Her teeth

"First, a legal complaint was filed with the police station, but the owner gave five million MMK and the case was terminated. The victim's family is poor and they've needed money to pay medical fees for their daughter. So they accepted five million MMK and agreed to terminate the case," said the source.

The girl has been admitted to the Mawlamyine General Hospital for further treatment.

ARTILLERY ATTACK KILLS ONE AND INJURES TWO IN PU LAW



September 12, 2023

HURFOM: On September 9, 2023, the military junta attacked with any provocation Latt Ku village, in Pu Law Township, Dawei District, Tenasserim Division.

The attack killed a man and injured two villagers including a child.

A military ship that anchored near the Kyork Kar village, and a military unit stationed near the village launched their attacks without cause, locals told HURFOM.

"Two artillery shells dropped and exploded near the Latt Ku high school and another exploded in Pyin Htein village. There were another two artillery explosions but I don't know exactly where they landed," said a local resident.

The explosions killed 23-year-old Latt Ku, and a 41-year-old woman and her 8-year-old son were injured.

In August, 2023, an artillery shell exploded in Latt Ku village killing an elderly woman and damaging three houses.

News

JUNTA'S AIR ASSAULT KILLS TEACHER AND THREE STUDENTS



The area is under the control of the Karen National Liberation Army's 5th Brigade.

On September 6, the joint forces of the KNLA and the PDF attacked the junta's Sard Law Kye military base. In response, the next day the military junta launched air assaults targeting three communities.

"The junta launched an air assault on a village inhabited by civilians. Four people were killed including a teacher. Seven people sustained injuries," said a local source.

September 12, 2023

HURFOM: On September 7, 2023, the military junta launched an air assault on Htee Wall Hta village, Dwel Low Township, Mu Taw District, Karen State that killed a teacher and three students.

The deceased included 56-year-old teacher Saw Hpar Dar, two male students Saw Al Mu and Saw Bo Gyi, and one girl, Naw Htee Ku Phaw. The three children ranged in ages 13 to 16.

The air assault forced more than 60 households in Htee Wall Hta village to flee.

On September 8, the junta also launched air assault on Kha Lel Htar and Tar Khae Dell villages which are controlled by the 6th Brigade of the KNLA. That assault injured a civilian, destroyed a school, and at least ten houses.

MARRIED COUPLE ARRESTED DUE TO PRO-MILITARY INFORMERS IN THATON

September 12, 2023

HURFOM: On September 7, 2023, the military junta arrested a married couple living in Thane Gone Ward, Thaton Town, Mon State after accusing them of sharing information with the People's Defense Forces.

The junta used excessive force when they raided their home and arrested 34-year-old Ko Min Zayar and his 34-year-old wife Ma Honey Kyaw.

"Ma Honey wrote a comment under a social media post by Pan Sello (a supporter of the National Unity Government – NUG). Military supporters found that and informed the junta, who then arrested her. The junta alleges they're NLD supporters so they arrested her in a spiteful manner," said a Thaton resident.



The couple run a toy and stationery shop in Thaton Central Market. The junta detained and interrogated them at the Thaton Police Station.

According to the Association for the Assistance of Political Prisoners (AAPP) as of September 7, at least 808 people have been arrested in Mon State since the attempted coup.

News

JUNTA BANS AMBULANCE CREW FROM PROVIDING SERVICE AT NIGHT



September 8, 2023

HURFOM: The military junta has issued a curfew in Tenasserim Town, Tenasserim Division banning people from going outside between 8 pm and 5 am. But there were no special restrictions issued for ambulances.

However, effective August 25, junta's check-points in Tenasserim Division have started to ban ambulances traveling at night.

"When going to Myeik, we have to pass the check-point of the 599th Light Infantry Battalion based near Ball Di Kan Bridge in Tenasserim Town. Soldiers at that check-point have stopped us. Sometimes, they point guns and verbally abuse us. It feels very life-threatening," said a social worker from Tenasserim Town.

The military junta has reinforced their troops in Tenasserim Town and put more restrictions and interrogation tactics in place, so that rescue teams and health service providers are finding it difficult to do their work.

"If ambulances are totally banned at night, we won't have supplies and will have to collect medicine to be prepared for emergencies," said a health service provider from Tenasserim Town.

There are at least 27 junta's check-points between the Ma Htwelwe Taung Gate and Kaw Taung City, which is at the end of the Mon State border.

For more than 2 and half years, the junta has targeted rescue teams and charity groups and arrested their members. Some teams or groups have had to stop providing their services.

"Since the attempted coup, there are not enough health workers in township hospitals in Tenasserim Division. Most residents nearby Tenasserim Town have to go to Myeik for medical treatment," said a villager.

"If ambulances are totally banned at night, we won't have supplies and will have to collect medicine to be prepared for emergencies,"

News

THREE KAN BAUK RESIDENTS ACCUSED OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PDF

September 14, 2023

HURFOM: On September 7, 2023, three family members from Mya Thidar Ward, Kan Bauk Town, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division were arrested by the military junta after being accused of providing financial support to the People's Defense Forces (PDF).

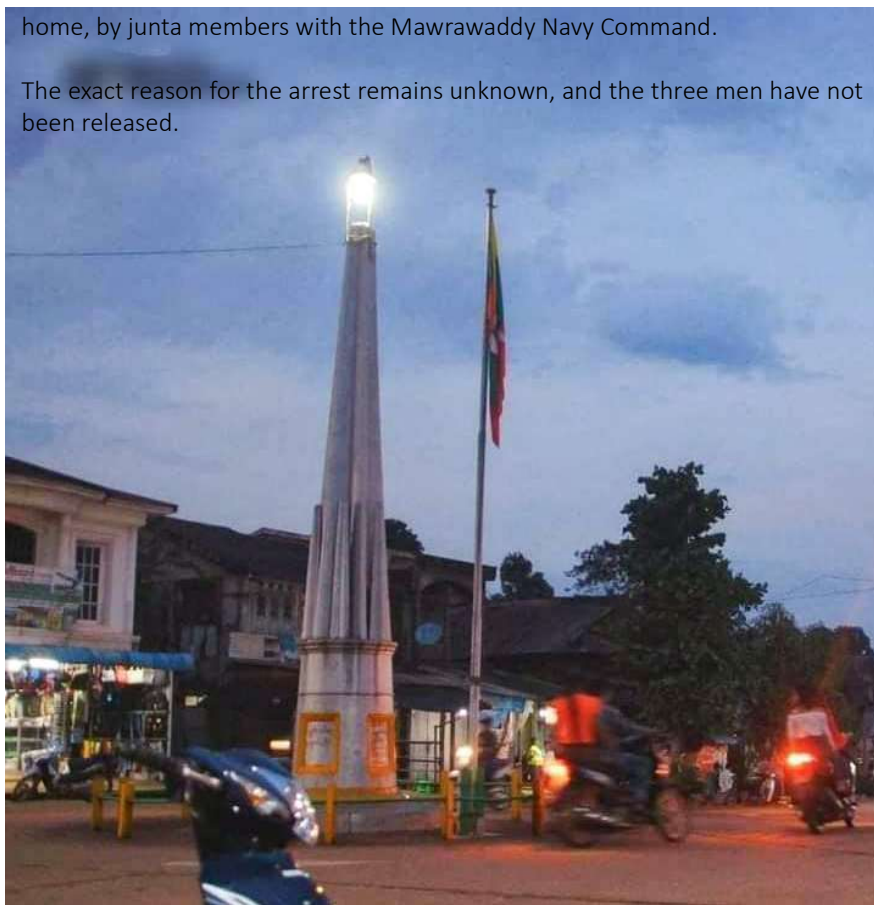
Neighbours told HURFOM that the family was robbed by armed gunmen.

"At about noon on September 7, they went to Yebyu for a family matter and on their way back home, they were robbed. Their money and car was taken from them. The robbers were covering their faces and holding guns. They had to return home by public transportation," said a source close to the family. The family lost 20 million MMK in the robbery but the junta accused them of giving that money to the PDF.

A resident close to the family said the 60-year-old U Hla Tun, his son and his brother-in-law were arrested at their

home, by junta members with the Mawrawaddy Navy Command.

The exact reason for the arrest remains unknown, and the three men have not been released.



RESIDENTS FROM FIVE VILLAGES FLEE AS MILITARY LAUNCHES OPERATION IN YEBYU TOWNSHIP

October 11, 2023

HURFOM: On October 9, 2023, the military junta launched an operation in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division and forcefully evacuated residents from five villages.

The military junta has been launching operations in villages along the western coast of Ye Township for 13 days, — from September 22 to October 4. As of October 9, another 50 troops have come to reinforce the regiment.

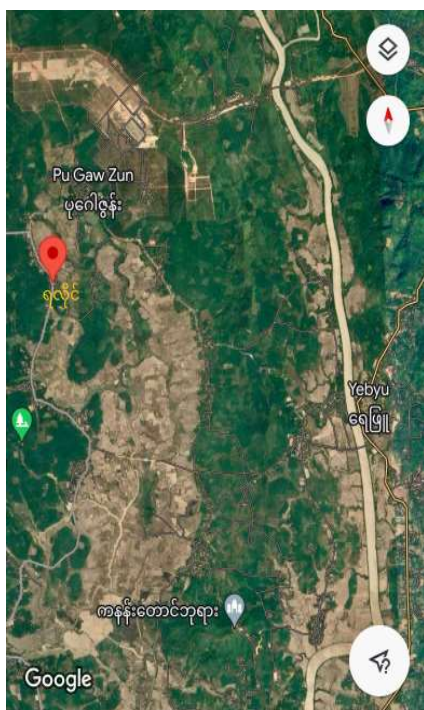
"The military operation is at Pu Gaw Zun and Ya Line villages but sometimes the military unit reaches our village so that we have to flee. The junta destroyed and burnt down houses in those two villages," said an A Ka Ni villager.

Due to the reinforcement of the military operation, residents from Pu Gaw Zun, Ya Line, Kha Maung Chaung, Wa Zun Taw and A Ka Ni villages fled their homes.

"There have been arrests of civilians. The military started to burn down houses at 6 pm yesterday (October 9). Most residents had to flee to Thit Toe Htaung village," said a Na Bu Lell resident.

On October 10, the military junta launched an artillery attack on Pu Gaw Zun village and burnt down three houses. They also destroyed and burnt down a mobile phone shop and a gasoline station in Ya Line village.

Similarly, the military junta has launched an operation in Sa Khan Gyi village tract in the north-west part of Long Lone Township and many villagers had to run away for their safety.



News

LAW COMES FROM THE BARREL OF A GUN



October 6, 2023

HURFOM: “Just kill my son if he works as an informant for the military junta. I won’t complain about that. But it isn’t true now. He is the one who has fed us. It’s totally brutal,” mourned a mother of a Long Lone resident who was killed by the Long Lone Township People’s Defense Force (PDF).

On September 26, 2023, the Long Lone PDF announced they arrested and killed seven military junta’s informers between July to September, 2023.

In July, the Long Lone PDF stated they arrested and killed a 64-year-old nun and three other villagers. In August, they arrested and killed a woman. The group also killed two 20-year-old men in September, according to the announcement.

Following the announcement, family members of the victims and other revolutionary forces criticized the conduct of the Long Lone PDF.

“It isn’t lawful to kill a person after accusing him/her of being a military informer. It’s a terrorist act and a war crime,” criticized a political activist.

On July 16, Nun, Daw Nandar Sari who lived in Kuti Nar Yone Phayar Road, Wel Kyune Nyaung Gone Ward, Dawei and U Aung Moe, who was repairing her residence went to Kadet Nge Htane village, Long Lone Township to pay worship to the

village Abbot. Both disappeared on their way back home.

“We got in contact with them when they were at the monastery. They said they would come back soon. After that, we lost contact with them. I think an armed group might have arrested and detained them. I knew they were dead only after seeing the PDF announcement,” said the son of Daw Nandar Sari. The Long Lone PDF accused Daw Nandar Sari and U Aung Moe of exploiting religion and working as military informers.

On August 6, 33-year-old Ma War War from Way D village, Long Lone Township was killed by the Long Lone PDF, who claim she cooperated with the military junta.

“My daughter did nothing wrong. You can ask everyone in the village. If she did wrong, how dare she stay in the village,” said the mother of Ma War War.

On September 14, two 20-year-old Inn Zout residents, Ko Nay Ye Soe aka Ko Taught Taught and Ko Aung Nine Shane aka Ko Ngae Ngae were killed by the Long Lone PDF. Both were accused of working for the leader of local “Pyu Saw Htee” a pro-junta group, known as Ma Nu Thein.

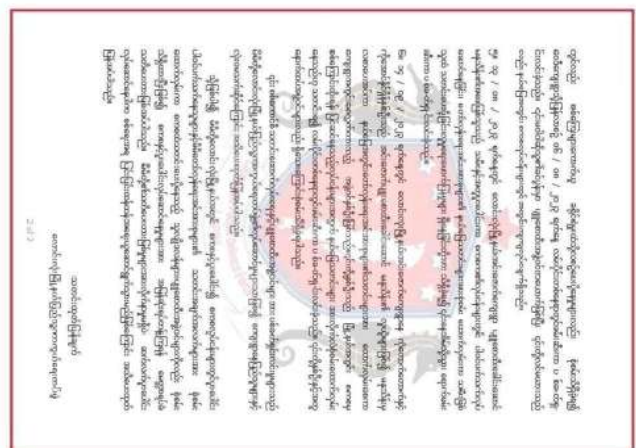
“My son had to run away when he saw the military. They should interrogate carefully after the arrest. I’ve suffered more because my son was killed even though he was innocent,” said the mother of Ko Taught Taught.

The Long Lone PDF did not return the bodies of those they killed to family members.

“Even though they shot and killed our son, we still hoped they gave back the body,” said the parents of Ko Taught Taught.

In July, August and September, 2023, at least 20 residents from Long Lone Township were killed by the military junta and the Long Lone PDF. Another 18 residents were killed by unknown armed groups.

“Regarding this incident, we’ve gotten lots of loud criticism from the people. We’ve stood with dignity along the era of this revolution but these incidents have made us look (like we’ve poured water into the sand) and lost everything,” said a PDF member from Long Lone Township.



News

JUNTA'S LIMITATION ON MOTORCYCLE MOVEMENT IN THATON CREATES PROBLEM FOR DRIVERS



October 11, 2023

HURFOM: On October 3, 2023, a retired captain from Kyar Pan village, Durian Sake village track, Thaton Township, Mon State was shot and killed.

On October 6, the junta's Thaton Township Administration Council issued a local order banning two men from riding the same motorcycle.

The order states that two men can not ride the same motorcycle and if a man and woman are both riding a motorcycle, the man can not ride in the rear seat of the motorcycle.

"After announcing the order by the loudspeaker, the soldiers are blocking the entrance and exit of the town and checking people. They've also tightened security in the town," said a Thaton resident.

If someone breaches the restriction, he/she will face one-month imprisonment without hard labor or 20,000 MMK fine or both.

"It's really difficult for us. As we're allowed to bring only a woman on the rear seat. Even if we bring women at the rear, the passenger has to wear a raincoat in the rainy season and soldiers may mistake the person on the rear as a man and can shoot us," said a motorcycle driver.

Since February 2021, the military junta has issued local orders limiting motorcycle movement in five out of ten Townships in Mon State, in Kyike Hto, Bilin, Thaton, Paung and Ye Townships.

VILLAGER KILLED BY ARTILLERY EXPLOSION IN MAW TONE VILLAGE



October 2, 2023

HURFOM: On September 25, 2023, the 306th Artillery Battalion based in Eastern Maw Tone village, Tenasserim Township, in Tenasserim Division indiscriminately launched numerous artillery attacks that killed a villager.

The battalion shot 81 mm artillery weapons at least ten times targeting the Eastern Maw Tone village tract. One of the artillery shells dropped and exploded in a house. A 30-year-old man was killed.

"He tried to close his front door as he heard artillery gunfire. The artillery shell dropped and exploded directly where he was. We tried to send him to hospital but he died of excessive bleeding within minutes," said a villager from Eastern Maw Tone.

Artillery explosions also took place in Eastern Maw Tone, Za Lone, Htone Nwe and Ban La Mut villages and two houses in Eastern Maw Tone were destroyed by the explosion. There had been no armed clashes in the area prior to the indiscriminate artillery attacks.

News

JUNTA DESPERATE FOR US DOLLARS TRIES TO EXPLOIT MIGRANT WORKERS



October 3, 2023

HURFOM: After the attempted coup, many countries in the international community undertook some economic sanctions as a way to show their opposition to the junta. The World Bank also decided to halt loans to Burma.

As a result export income has declined, and economic sanctions of the international community are proving to have some impact.

Singapore recently decided to cut its dealings with two banks controlled by the junta.

These efforts are making it more difficult for the junta to access US dollars.

In response the junta has turned to exploiting migrant workers abroad, as a short term remedy to access US dollars.

On September 1, 2023, the junta declared that migrant workers abroad must transfer back 25% of their salary to Burma via official transfer systems to domestic banks. If not, they would be banned from working abroad for three years.

"We've worked like slaves to get this money and we have to send 25% to the junta. It's totally unfair. When we were in trouble abroad, no one came to help us," said a Burmese migrant worker in Thailand.

When transferring their salary to their families, most migrant workers use a fast, simple and illegal money transfer agency, rather than the complicated and often delayed official banking system.

After declaring the new law targeting migrant workers, the junta began to arrest illegal money transfer agencies and their brokers in Mon State.

From September 15 to 17, 2023, five illegal money transfer brokers were arrested in Kyike Hto, Paung and Thaton Townships and face charges under section 171 of the Monetary Association Laws Act.

"They've arrested illegal money transfer brokers to increase the pressure on migrant workers to use the official banking system. If so, they (the junta) will get 25% (of their salary)," said a local source.

Critics of the new law note the junta already exploits income from natural resources extraction to kill its own people. Migrant workers are unwilling to send their salary back to banks controlled by the junta as they don't want their salary to be a contribution to killing people in Burma.

In addition, the junta controlled banks use an exchange rate that is much lower than the exchange rate being used in the actual market.

On September 19, 2023, one Thai Baht was equivalent to 96.5 MMK in the actual market but the junta-controlled banks say the Thai Baht is equal to 55 MMK. One US dollar is equivalent to more than 3,000 MMK in the actual market but one US dollar is priced at more than 2,000 MMK in domestic banks. After the attempted coup, the numbers of workers interested in working abroad sharply increased and many go abroad via legal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pathways with select countries, or via undocumented routes.

"Migrant workers who came under MOU agreements often have to do jobs which are different from the job classifications described in their MOU contract. Even though they came with an MOU, they couldn't get that type of job when arriving here. They had to wait for months. It's terrible," said a migrant worker in Thailand.

The junta is now also pressuring "foreign work agencies" to make sure that migrant workers had signed documents agreeing to send 25% of their salary back to their mother country before they leave the country.

"I had to sign the document. But I don't know how to transfer back my salary," said a migrant worker who recently left Burma.

"One of my friends had gone to Korea for work and he/she had to sign a document before their departure agreeing to send back 25% of their salary. It's compulsory," said another local source.

The National Unity Government says this latest move by the junta is a breach of the 1999 Foreign Work Law, and is abusive and oppresses migrant workers.

News

GRADE-4 SCHOOLGIRL DIES IN DRONE-BOMB ATTACK IN KAW KA RATE



October 17, 2023

HURFOM: About at noon on October 13, 2023, a bomb dropped by a drone exploded near the No. 2 Basic Education High School in Ward #2, Kaw Ka Rate Town, Karen State.

The explosion killed a 10-year-old grade-4 schoolgirl and injured three other schoolgirls.

"A bomb was dropped from a drone even though there was no armed clash. Four

schoolgirls were injured and a grade-4 girl died upon reaching Kaw Ka Rate Hospital," said an official from a local social and rescue team.

Ma Moe Moe Aye, was the name of the young girl who succumbed to massive injuries. Two of another three injured schoolgirls are in critical condition and were transferred from the Kaw Ka Rate Hospital to the Hpa-An General Hospital for further treatment.

It is believed that revolutionary forces were responsible for the drone attack which was intended to drop its bomb on the military unit base in Kaw Ka Rate Hospital Hill. HURFOM has not yet been able to confirm what happened.

Following the attack, a Kaw Ka Rate based military unit launched indiscriminate and heavy and small weapons fire targeting the surrounding area, according to the residents.

Parents are no longer sending their children to school in the wake of the drone bombing.

EARLY OCTOBER 19 KYAUK KA NYAR VILLAGERS ARRESTED AND NOT YET RELEASED



October 18, 2023

HURFOM: On October 7, 2023, 24 residents from Kyauk Ka Nyar village, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division were arrested by the local artillery regiment. As of today, only five of those arrested were released and 19 remain in custody.

"Some of those arrested during the military operation were released on the same day. But most have not been released yet. Just five were released," said a local source.

Most of those arrested are young men and are being detained and interrogated at either the Kyauk Ka Nyar artillery regiment base or the Yebyu Township Police Station.

"The military initially arrested them to be used as a human shield. But we don't know why the artillery regiment made the arrest," said a local man from Kyauk Ka Nyar village.

The Kyauk Ka Nyar based artillery regiment have hidden themselves in nearby areas and are arresting villagers without cause. Now local men are fleeing for their safety and will not stay in the village.

News

MORE THAN TEN RESIDENTS ARRESTED WITHIN TWO WEEKS IN PU LAW



October 13, 2023

HURFOM: Between October 1st to the 10th, 2023, 13 residents from Pu Law Township, Tenasserim Division were arrested by the military junta.

On October 1, 2023, 19-year-old young man who worked at a "prawn farm" in Thel Pone village, Pu Law Township was arrested by six soldiers and some members of a pro-military group known as the "Pu Saw Htee" group. They came in civilian clothes to arrest him.

On October 2, 2023, U Hoe Lwin from Ward #3, Pa La Town was arrested by the junta.

Four residents were arrested at the check-point nearby Mee Laung Chaung village on October 4 and on October 8, the junta arrested four men from Ward #3 and #4, Pa La Towns.

On October 10, four women from Ward #3 and #4, Pa La Town were arrested at their home.

"All arrested residents were brought to the Pa La Town Police Station," said a local man.

The military junta has tried to control Pa La Town and surrounding villages and launched operations in the area leaving local people worrying about their safety.

In the last week of September, 11 residents from Pa La Town, Pu Law Township were arrested by the junta and only two of them were released. The remaining victims were detained at the 285th Pu Law based Light Infantry Battalion base.

"All arrested residents were brought to the Pa La Town Police Station,"

News

MILITARY JUNTA GREEDILY EXTORTS MONEY FROM MOTORISTS IN EAST FOREST AREA OF DAWEI TOWNSHIP



October 19, 2023

HURFOM: Local people from the East Forest area of Dawei Township, Tenasserim Division reported to HURFOM that the junta's check-points routinely and excessively extort truck drivers and motorists.

After the attempted coup, the junta increased the number of check-points between Dawei City and Mitta Town and each check-point extorts motorists for thousands to ten thousands in MMK.

"The money they extort from us is more than the cost of gasoline. We have to pay money along the road. "Eighth Mile" gate is the worst. They said "one penny" or "two pennies". "One penny" means 10,000 MMK. We were extorted when we go and have to pay money again when we return," said a motorist.

The junta extorts money from local motorists and from those traveling to Thailand via illegal routes. Those drivers have to pay anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 MMK.

In addition, when the junta finds drivers transporting rice, food and medicine, they seize the goods and then demand even more money for the release of the same goods.

The amount being stolen at these check-points is more than the daily income of local motorists and truck drivers.

JUNTA SENTENCES UNIVERSITY STUDENT TO 15-YEARS IMPRISONMENT



October 20, 2023

HURFOM: On October 16, 2023, the Dawei District Court sentenced a 21-year-old university student from Dawei University, Tenasserim Division to 15-years imprisonment after accusing him of supporting the People's Defense Forces.

Ko Linn Htet Phyto, a second-year philosophy major, was arrested on July 26, 2023 at his home in Nyaung Yan Taung Ward, Dawei City. The junta charged him under the Anti-Terrorist Act sections 50(J) and 52(A).

"While pronouncing the sentence, the judge said they found the evidence of connection with the PDF on Ko Linn Htet's mobile phone. This decision is the final one," said a local source.

He was sentenced to 11-year imprisonment for breaching section 50(J) and four-year imprisonment with hard labor for breaching section 52(A). The total imprisonment time is 15 years.

Before the attempted coup, Ko Lin Htet Phyto was a DJ player and he used to play music at the university welfare events and local events in Dawei City.

News

ARTILLERY ATTACKS INJURE TWO LOCAL MEN IN TENASSERIM



October 17, 2023

HURFOM: On October 11, 2023, two local men from Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division were injured by the artillery attacks launched by the military junta.

The 557th Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) based in Out King village, Tenasserim Township and the 558th LIB based in Kamma Line village launched indiscriminate and unprovoked artillery attacks. These attacks injured a 14-year-old young boy from Lel Taung Yar village and another local man from Ta Moke Chone village.

"The injured teenager is a student. The artillery shell dropped and exploded beside their house. He suffered injuries to his arm and bottom," said a Lel Taung Yar resident.

The injured victims were sent to Myeik General Hospital for further treatment.

"Those military units targeted Chay Taw Yar Mount nearby Lel Taung Yar village. There was no house at the base of the Mount. Seven artillery shells dropped and exploded at the base of the Mount but four shells dropped and exploded near houses," said a local source.

In September, 2023, the military junta launched artillery attacks on Ma Ma Taung, Ban Law, Chauk Mile, East Maw Tone and West Maw Tone villages of Tenasserim Division which killed and injured local villagers and damaged homes.

WOMAN ARRESTED BY THE JUNTA FOUND DEAD IN YEBYU

October 18, 2023

HURFOM: On October 14, 2023, local people found the body of a 20-year-old woman who died of a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

The young woman's body was bound with fabric and found in the street near a bridge in Wet Chaung village, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.

The victim was Ma Sandar Khine, from Kha Maung Chaung village. She was arrested by the military on September 22.



Photo Source: Dawei Watch

The military arrested eight villagers including Ma Sandar Khine but only released six of those arrested. Ma Sandar Khine and a local man were detained, until her body was recently found. There has been no report on the whereabouts or status of the man.

News

JUNTA EXTORTS THOSE WHO BREACH LOCAL ORDER RELATED TO RIDING MOTORCYCLES



October 23, 2023

HURFOM: In Thaton Township, Mon State, the military junta issued a local order on October 6, 2023 banning two men from riding the same motorcycle.

After issuing the order, the junta recruited troops to tighten security in Thaton City and began arresting and extorting money from those who were breaching the order.

"They seized the motorbike and released the riders. We went to the police station to get back our motorbike and we had to pay 200,000 MMK," said a Thaton resident.

The junta's order states those who breach the local order will be sentenced to one month imprisonment without hard labor or fined 20,000 MMK. However, junta's troops are not following the order, but simply arresting and extorting money from the riders.

"We've mainly used motorbikes to get around. This restriction has violated our right to freedom of movement," said a local man from Thaton City.

The junta restricting two men from riding the same motorcycle, is in place in five out of ten townships in Mon State. The order is negatively impacting both the daily life and workplaces for local people.

NEARLY 700 HOUSES BURNT DOWN BY THE JUNTA: RESIDENTS ARE FAR FROM RETURNING HOME

October 23, 2023

HURFOM: From January to September, 2023, the military junta burnt down more than 670 houses in Tenasserim Division and tens of thousands of residents had to flee from their homes, stated FE5 Tanintharyi, an independent research team based in Tenasserim.

The military junta are looting abandoned houses, burning down houses, arresting villagers and using them as human shields.

"We have no plan to go back home at this time. The military is still carrying out operations and they haven't stopped burning down houses," said a resident from Dawei Township who ran away from his village.

Within nine months in 2023, the military junta has burnt down 380 houses in Pu Law Township, nearly 180 houses in Long Lone Township, more than 30 houses in Dawei Township, 19 houses in

Tha Yet Chaung Township, 25 houses in Yebyu Township and 30 houses in Tenasserim Township.

"We have no home to return to. If we go back and build a new home, we're afraid of the same things happening again. Now there is no one in the village. Everyone had to run away and take shelter in the mountains or forest," said the resident.

Displaced villagers are unable to return home and their numbers are increasing every day.

The military junta has also banned the transportation of rice, food and medicine in Tenasserim, making the situation even more dire for internally displaced persons.

There are between 40 to 50 armed clashes per month in the Division.



News

VILLAGER KILLED IN ARMED CLASH NEAR KYONE LONG VILLAGE



October 24, 2023

HURFOM: At about 6 am on October 20, 2023, an armed clash took place between the military junta and the joint revolutionary forces for nearly five hours in Kyone Long (new) village, Ye Township, Mon State.

The revolutionary forces attacked the military gate located at the Ye Bridge and the

military responded with indiscriminate artillery attacks targeting the village, forcing residents to flee.

"The armed clash broke out from 6 am and continued until 10 am in Kyone Long (new) village. The military launched about 50 artillery attacks. The villagers were frightened and ran away. They fled to Wel Pong village seeking safe shelter," said a Ye resident.

One villager fleeing his home was killed by an artillery attack.

"After hearing the sound of artillery gunfire, he tried to run from his home. A piece of artillery shell hit his pelvic area and he was killed," said the resident.

After the armed clash, the military junta closed the Ye Bridge and tightened the security in the nearby area.

"They've closed the bridge. We don't know when it will reopen again. Now, every villager must be careful with their comings and goings," said a resident.

JUNTA EXTORTS MONEY FROM OVERSEA WORKERS: THREATENS THEIR PASSPORT VALIDITY



October 27, 2023

HURFOM: On October 16, 2023, the military junta announced that Burmese overseas workers must show a recommendation letter from the Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry

of Planning and Finance to prove they have paid their income tax before extending their passport validity.

The statement is intended for two types of passports – the passport for job (PJ) and the passport for seaman (PS).

The military junta has tried to collect income tax from overseas workers and pressured them to transfer 25% of their income to domestic banks under their control.

"The junta has used various ways to extort money from overseas workers. Now, they've threatened us with our passports and it's inevitable for overseas workers in Singapore. We can't overstay here," said a Burmese overseas worker in Singapore.

If an overseas worker fails to prove he/

she has already paid their income tax, the junta threatens that they will not extend their passport validity.

"If we have to pay income tax and transfer 25% of our wages, we have nothing left. We had to spend millions of MMK to work in Singapore. Now, many people have come to work in Singapore so it isn't okay like before. It's difficult to get a job and we don't have 'overtime'," said one overseas worker.

The military junta has instructed that Burmese overseas workers that they must pay their income tax after October 1, 2023.

"We have to overcome many challenges to work abroad. The junta doesn't show any mercy and tries to get our hard-earned money. It's totally unfair," said an overseas worker.

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

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

With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

UNHEALTHY ECONOMY CREATES A DROP IN DEMAND IN MON STATE



October 30, 2023

Unsettled politics in Burma has created a decline in the economy and there has been a drop in demand in Mon State, local shopkeepers told HURFOM.

Due to inflation and low income, many people have had to reduce their spending so there has been a drop in demand for every good.

"We have very few customers now. We could make one million MMK in sales a day before but now, we're struggling a lot to get just 300,000 MMK a day. Sales have dropped by one-third. Everyone is suffering, they do not have a good livelihood so they have to reduce their spending. The result is a decline in demand," said a building supply store owner from Mawlamyine.

Grocery store owners also reported to HURFOM that there has been a decline in demand.

"The number of customers is declining every day. It's difficult to earn money – so people have to be careful with their spending. After paying workers' and accommodation fees, there's nearly nothing left for us. We can't make a profit. We can't make a living," said a Thai food grocery store owner from Mawlamyine.

Unsettled politics has a huge impact on Burma's economy and the slow flow of trade and high commodity prices are creating problems for people.

News

PARENTS ABANDON DRUG-ADDICT CHILDREN AT NMSP'S REHABILITATION CENTERS



October 19, 2023

HURFOM: In order to provide treatment and rehabilitate drug-addicted children in the Mon area, the New Mon State Party established a "Rehabilitation Center for Drug Victims" based in Thaton, Mawlamyine and Dawei Districts.

As of today, there are between 60 to 70 victims of substance abuse seeking treatment in the three centers. Most were voluntarily sent by their parents.

After sending their children to the rehabilitation center, most parents never visit their children and essentially abandon them, said an official at one of the rehabilitation centers.

"According to the NMSP policy, we can look after a resident only for six months. But now it's been more than a year. The parents never visit the center to see their children. It looks like

they've abandoned them here," said the official.

Due to the political situation, the trade and use of illicit drugs has increased across Mon State as has drinking "Kratom Leaf Liquor". This has become the culture in every village in Mon State.

"Some children abandoned by their parents suffer mental health problems and psychological disorders. Some parents never come to see their children and some have been here for more than a year. Every center takes on the responsibility to care and feed these abandoned children," continued the official.

The NMSP started the construction of the rehabilitation center on February 13, 2019 and began accepting substance abusers in April, 2022.

HURFOM

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