



## FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS ON FRONT LINES EXPLOITED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS



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### ATTEMPTED RAPE VICTIM DENIED JUSTICE



July 12, 2022

HURFOM: On the last day of Burma Songkran (April 16), 2021, a 12-year-old girl from Han Gan village, Ye Township, Mon State on her way back from the festival of the Kyaik Mem Plog Pagoda suffered an attempted rape.

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**News**

**FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS ON FRONT LINES EXPLOITED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS**



September 6, 2022

HURFOM: According to sources close to the military, families of lower ranked soldiers, i.e. private class who are based in Mawlamyine, or who are serving on the front lines, are being exploited by upper military officials.

The primary way this takes place is through loans attached with high interest rates, according to one source.

Family members of soldiers are dependent on the military salaries, which are not sufficient to cover the rising costs of basic commodities. Family members then have to borrow money from senior military officials who are charging high interest rates.

“My husband is on the front line and I and my children live here (in the battalion). His salary isn’t enough for us, so we have to borrow money from the captains. We have to pay the interest. After getting the salary, we’ve paid the debt. Then, we have to borrow again. It keeps going round in circles,” said the wife of a private soldier.

The family members of lower-ranked soldiers have to stay in the battalion and completely depend on the military salary, but have quickly gotten into debt due to rising prices of basic commodities.

Although the military council provided an additional monetary support of 30,000 kyat/per soldier and for members of police forces, this supplement appears to be insufficient.

“Most families (of these soldiers) are in debt. They rely on the salary of their husband for basic goods, which are costing more and more. Then, they have to borrow money again. Some families now have to use all the salary just to pay interest and they have to borrow money to buy food,” continued the source.

Compounding this burden, military commanders have banned spouses of soldiers from securing any work outside of the battalion.

According to local news agencies, some soldiers are making extra money from burning down villages and looting valuables belonging to villagers.

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**News**

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July 12, 2022

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Separated from her mother, in the crowds, a man with tattoos had dragged her away from the festival, and tried to rape the child in a deserted

spot. She shouted for help and the man hit her on the head with a stone and then ran away.

“After the incident, we went to the Administrator of Koe Mile village (the nearest village) and made a report. The Administrator said “Just treat the injury of the child first and we can discuss later.” It has been more than a year now since the incident and he has done nothing,” said the mother.

The child is suffering from a head injury and has been waiting for surgery.

“I am not satisfied with the situation. Both the Han Gan and Koe Mile village Administrators have not made any attempt to investigate the case or arrest the abuser,” continued the mother.

The Han Gan village Administrator claims that although the “Han Gan village organized the festival, the incident took place nearby Ko Mile village. What can I do? If the incident took place nearby Ko Mile, Ko, then their Administrator must take responsibility for it.”

Incidents such as this have become even more common since the February 2021 military led coup. As the rule of law continues to break down across the country, many women and child rule are being left without legal protections. “The unsettled politics in the country stops me from chasing after this case. I want to request help from organizations that help women and children but I know nothing about them,” said the mother.

**NO COMPENSATION FOR VILLAGE HOUSES DESTROYED BY OIL AND GAS PROJECT**



July 4, 2022

HURFOM: In February, 2022, officials from the “Yadanar Natural Oil and Gas Project” conducted a survey in the village of Pauk Pin Kwin, located in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.

The survey destroyed 12 houses, and those who suffered property losses have not received any compensation.

“When they did a land survey, they didn’t inform the village Administrator, and they haven’t paid compensation for houses that were destroyed as a result,” said Ko Maung Htoo, the village Administrator of Pauk Pin Kwin village.

The Yadanar Natural Oil and Gas Project bought land plots in the village in 2002/2003 but the company did nothing with the land. Eventually local villagers built houses on these plots.

After the coup, the company showed renewed interest in their project.

Oil companies, like TOTAL, chose to withdraw from the project in light of human rights abuses conducted by the military since the coup. Only a Japanese Company, called Nippon Oil and Gas Exploration and the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise which is controlled by the military junta continue to support the Yadanar project.

## News

## ARMED CLASHES SHUTS DOWN EMERGENCY SERVICES TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS



July 7, 2022

HURFOM: The Burmese military and the local People Defense Forces (PDF) have had frequent armed clashes on the highway road between Ye and Thanbyuzayat Townships, in Mon State.

As a result local emergency response teams have been unable to use that part of the highway.

On July 1, members of the PDF, known as the “Mon State Taung Nyo People Guerrilla Force” announced that people would be barred from using

the Ye-Thanyuzayat highway from 9:30 pm to 4:00 am.

“The announcement has made it difficult to transport patients at night. We want to save patients but we’ll be harmed if they (the soldiers and the PDF) attack us,” said a member of a local emergency response team.

Local emergency response teams must request letters from doctors and local authorities to transport patients at night.

“When transporting patients at night, soldiers stop and investigate us at the check-point. Sometimes, we have to make a U-turn if we encounter an armed clash on our way,” said the member.

Security forces of the military junta routinely shoot people travelling at night, and there have been a frequent robberies and murders along the Ye-Thanyuzayat highway.

On July 1, a local resident from Ye Town was attacked and robbed by six armed persons near Maw Ka Nin village, Ye Township.

## LOCALS ABANDONED PLANTATIONS DUE TO LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS



July 11, 2022

HURFOM: Locals from Kyaung Shar Kwin area, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division have told HURFOM that they had to abandon their plantation due to landmines.

“A landmine exploded near my plantation. After that, I have not gone back. Another explosion can take place any time,” said a local plantation owner from the Kyaung Shar Kwin area.

Between late 2019 and 2020, there have been 10 victims who suffered from landmine explosions in Yebyu Township. Five victims were from the Kyaung Shar Kwin area. Local plantation owners have been frightened to go to their lands due to frequent explosions.

“I’ve abandoned my plantation. I am afraid to go there. All landmine victims have been my neighbors. If I were injured, my family would be in trouble. That’s why I’ve abandoned my betel nut plantation for three years now,” said a plantation owner from A Lae Sakan village.

Both ethnic armed organizations – the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Karen National Union (KNU) are active in this area, but no group has taken responsibility for the landmines.

The Dawei District NMSP office released a statement on March 16, 2020 stating that both NMSP and KNU had a responsibility for finding a solution that would end the use of landmines in the area.

“My betel nut plantation is ten years old. There was a landmine explosion on the way to my plantation. But what can I do to respond? This plantation is the sole source of our livelihood. So I have to go to my plantation with fear,” said one land owner.

It is estimated that approximately 200 plantation owners work roughly 2,000-acre of land in the Kyaung Shar Kwin area, which is controlled by the KNU.

**News**

**MILITARY JUNTA SLASHES ETHNIC AFFAIRS BUDGET**



July 19, 2022

HURFOM: The Mon State government allocated a separate budget line for non-Burmese ethnics and is allowing the funding to be used to support the literature and culture sector. However, the military junta halved the budget allocation for this fiscal year.

After the start of 2021, the ethnic affairs budget remained at the same level as previous years. Each ethnic group had received 100 million Kyat, but in the 2022 fiscal year, each ethnic groups were allocated just 50 million Kyat.

“The Mon State government has allocated a separate budget for three non-Burmese ethnics. But this year, each will have only a half amount = 50 million Kyat,” said an activist who works for the Mon literature and culture sector.

Since the time of the former government led by President U Thein Sein, the Mon State government had allocated a separate budget for Mon, Karen and Pa’O ethnics.

“It looks like there is no separate budget for ethnic affairs. Budget for literature and culture has already been halved. As far as I know, the government also has no budget to support ethnic language courses offered in the government school,” said the activist.

This move by the military junta will create limitations and difficulties in supporting ethnic affairs.

**RAPE VICTIMS ARE BEING FORCED TO ACCEPT MONEY RATHER THAN JUSTICE**



July 19, 2022

HURFOM: Since the coup, organizations providing legal support to women and children report increases in domestic assaults and rape – particularly of children.

One organization said they have twenty case files open regarding rape involving children, and 10 cases of domestic assault. According to those working to assist victims, the actual number of cases is expected to be higher than what

is reported, as many cases are not reported.

When victims have reported the incidents, authorities attempt to settle the case with monetary compensation rather than pursue an arrest and use the rule of law.

“The main problem is due to difficulties people have to make their livelihood. If there is a rape case and the victim isn’t pregnant, (the authorities have forced) the victim to accept the money and settle the case. As it’s very difficult to get justice (under the judicial system controlled by the military junta), the victim’s family has eventually accepted the monetary compensation and dismissed the case,” said an activist for woman and child rights.

Most households endure great difficulties due to the unsettled politics and

parents are focused on trying to make a living, in extremely difficult circumstances. The offer of monetary settlement rather than pursuit of criminal prosecution becomes an economic dilemma.

Most of the rape victims are between the ages of 12-14, and most were abused by relatives or family acquaintances.

“Now, no one has an easy livelihood. The parents have to leave their children at their neighbors’ or relatives’ houses and go to work. (So the children are unprotected and) something bad happens. If this situation continues, the raping of children will never been stopped,” said the activist.

**News**

**HAM GAM VILLAGERS EXPERIENCE FREQUENT ELECTRICITY BLACKOUTS, DESPITE TWO PROVIDERS**



July 22, 2022

HURFOM: Ham Gam villagers are divided over two companies selling electricity service, amidst blackouts and price hikes.

Khan Company has been the main electricity provider, but began to cut its power supply on July 14, 2022. The company began operations in 2016, and the founder, U Inn had provided 24-hour electricity service to Ham Gam.

In 2020-21, he sold his business to a Korean company.

A new company called SEGEP has now appeared and is offering a lower price, but requires villagers to purchase their meter boxes.

“Now, the SEGEP company (the new electricity providing company) said they’ll charge only 1,200 Kyat per 1kWh, so some rich people have made the switch to the new company. Villagers are divided into two groups,” said a Ham Gam villager.

Khan Electricity had been charging 1,200 Kyat per 1kWh, but was gradually

increasing their price due to the rising cost of petrol. There had also been long periods when the electricity supply had been cut off, leaving villagers in a blackout situation.

“We had difficulty when the electricity was cut off. We can’t charge our phones and can’t connect to people or do our jobs. Nightly blackouts have also created situations for robbery,” said a woman from Ham Gam village.

Switching to a new electricity provider requires the purchase of a new meter box. This can cost between 400,000 to 500,000 Kyat.

“If we want to make a switch and buy electricity from the SEGEP company, we’re forced to buy their electricity meter box (we can’t use the old one we have now). It isn’t okay for us,” said a villager.

On July 17, the villagers organized a protest and demanded electricity service providers companies respect the villagers. They also called on the local authorities to find a solution to the electricity problem.

**ARMED GROUP BEATS AND EXTORTS VILLAGER IN SOUTHERN YE**

July 29, 2022

HURFOM: On July 24, 2022, an unknown armed group dressed in military uniforms entered Yin Dane village, located in the Yin Yel village track of Southern Ye Township, Mon State.

Approximately 6 armed group members beat and tortured a 57-year old villager called Nai Choi.

According to a local source, the armed group members demanded one million Kyat from their victim. It is alleged that Nai Choi was selling illicit drugs and gambling in Yin Dane village.

“Most villagers were frightened very much on that day. They don’t dare going outside either day or night. The villagers are afraid of being kidnapped and extorted,” said one local villager.

Since the military coup, an armed group led by Nai Chan and his “Yarmanya Army”, has been extorting money from villagers in Southern Ye Township.



**News**

**SECURITY FORCES KILL CIVILIAN IN MAWLAMYINE**

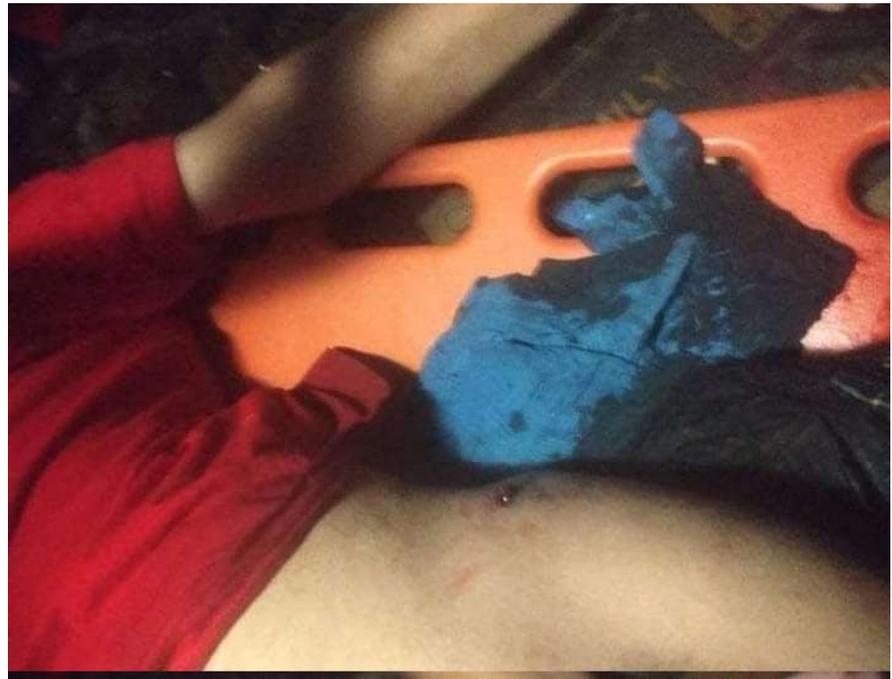
August 2, 2022

HURFOM: At approximately 7:30 pm on July 30, 2022, security forces based near the Mawlamyine airport shot and killed a civilian in Mawlamyine, the capital of the Mon State.

The soldiers and police forces attempted to stop the victim who lived in the Thwe Toud ward at a checkpoint near the Mawlamyine airport. However, the victim did not stop his motorbike, security forces chased after him and shot him to death.

“He went to Myine Thar Yar Ward and the soldiers and police forces who were based nearby the Mawlamyine airport told him to stop his motorbike. He didn’t, and the security forces chased after him. When he reached the corner of U Sit Maung and La Gon Eane Streets, he was shot to death,” said one of his neighbors.

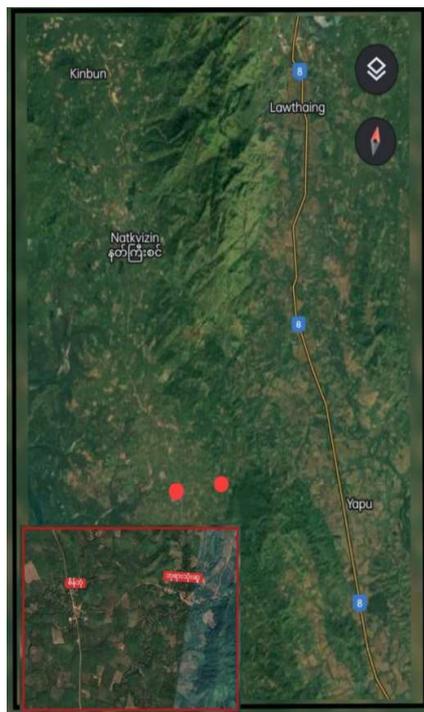
A local emergency rescue team took the victim to the Mawlamyine General Hospital for treatment, but he died enroute.



“Security forces recently killed two other civilians in Mu Pon Ward (who were outside after curfew),” remarked a Mawlamyine resident.

Soldiers and police have tightened security in Mawlamyine, including stopping vehicles for inspection and conducting household checks for visitors. Security forces have been instructed to shoot people who refuse to comply.

**UNKNOWN ARMED GROUP ARREST AND EXTORT VILLAGERS IN YEBYU**



August 3, 2022

HURFOM: On July 29, 2022, an unknown, armed group arrested about 20 villagers from Pha Yar Thone Zu and Sein Bone villages, Yebu Township, located in Tenasserim Division.

Local sources told HURFOM that family members had to pay one million Kyat for each arrested person for their release.

“They arrested about 20 people and got more than 10 millions Kyat. After receiving money, they released all detainees except three villagers. The three villagers were eventually released between Kywe Tha Lin and Log Tie villages on July 31. Now, everyone turns off their lights

after sunset and dare not go outside at night,” said a villager.

Recently the armed group attempted to intimidate individuals from the two villages who had motorcars. They were told they would have to pay 700,000 Kyt per vehicle, but local militia attempted to arrest the extortionist. They ran away empty handed.

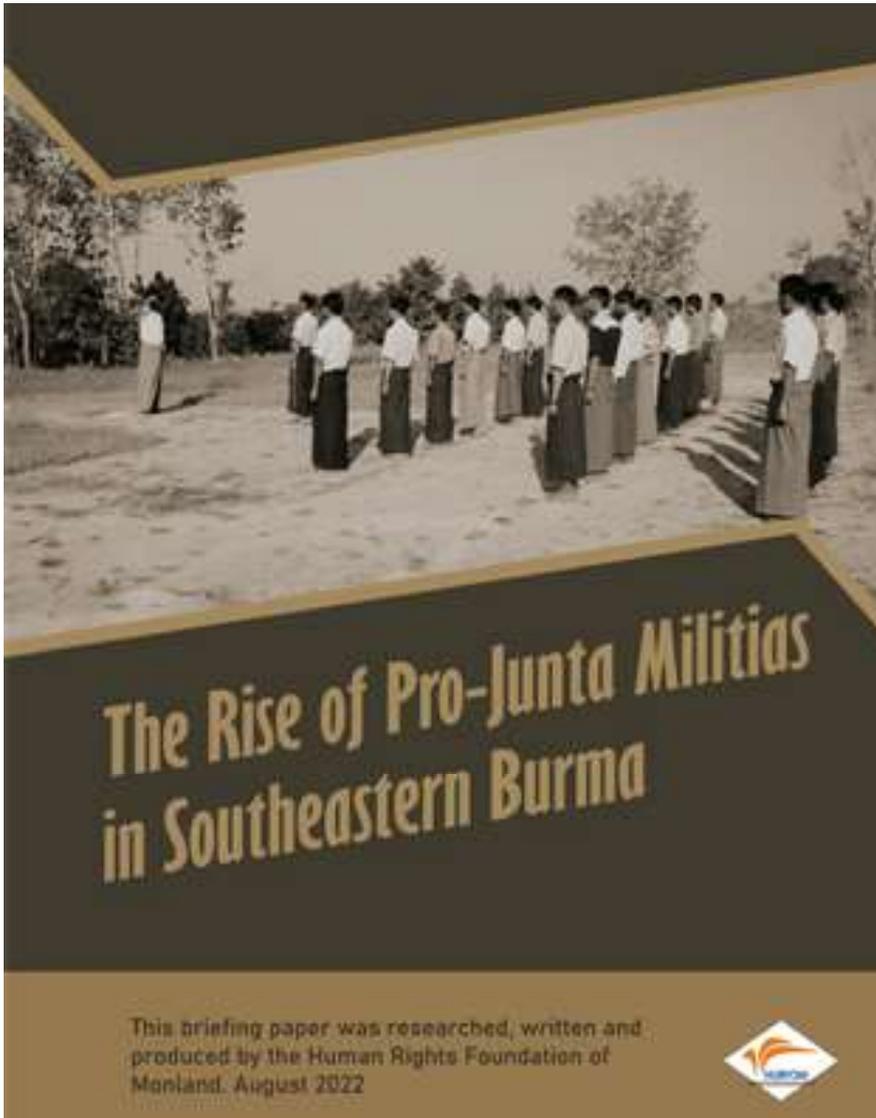
“They have more than 30 members. Their group is different from others. They speak Karen, Mon and also Burmese,” said a local villager.

Now, villagers from Pha Yar Thone Zu and Sein Bone villages are frightened and do not go outside at night.

Tensions increase in the area as military forces have invaded Yebu Township. More than 1,000 villagers have had to flee their homes.

## News

## HURFOM RELEASES A NEW BRIEFER, “THE RISE OF PRO-JUNTA MILITIAS IN SOUTHEASTERN BURMA “



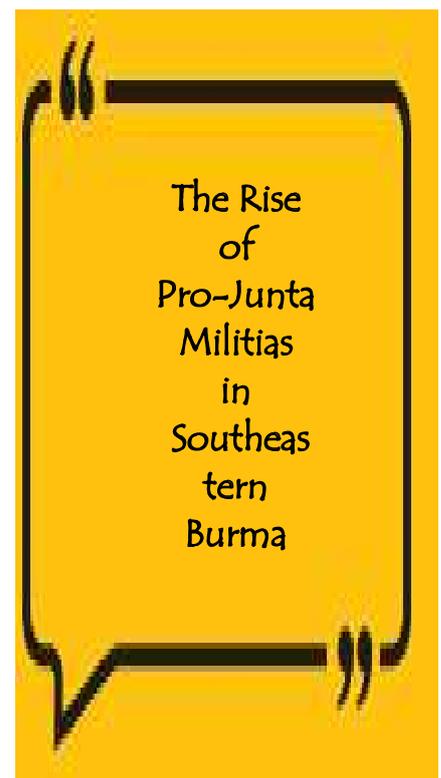
According to documentation and reporting by HURFOM and networks, there have been at least 129 victims of militia violence, with 18 killed across target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region since the attempted coup. The majority of the victims have been in Dawei as tensions between armed groups continue to rise. The victims are mostly young men, but their families, including women, the elderly, and children, have also been targeted. They have been shot, and brutally tortured before their deaths. Many human rights defenders have fled in exile to avoid being caught and killed by groups such as these.

HURFOM condemns the unlawful acts being perpetrated by the junta backed paramilitias and demands that they be held accountable through being tried and punished under international accountability mechanisms. Change cannot come from inside Burma alone. International stakeholders have a moral and political obligation to intervene when the safety of innocent people is at risk. Each day that passes without action is one more which must rest on the consciousness of world leaders.

August 3, 2022

HURFOM: Today, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), releases a new briefing paper, “The Rise of Pro-Junta Militias in Southeastern Burma.” Our latest briefer finds evidence of increasing violence perpetrated against civilians since the attempted coup on 1 February 2021 by newly formed paramilitias in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. These armed groups are trained and fully supported by the military junta. They have access to weapons and are incentivized through moral and monetary support by the illegal regime. [View full PDF](#)

Activists and human rights defenders continue to face threats to their lives for their work and commitment to the Spring Revolution. Many are facing arbitrary arrest, criminalization, torture, ill-treatment, and killings at the hands of the junta forces and their backed armed groups across the country. The formation and reorganizing of paramilitias by the junta have led to rising levels of violence deployed by these groups. These include: Pyusawhti, Thway Thauk and the Black Kite Brotherhood among others.



**News**

**LAMINE POLICE SHOT AND KILL YOUNG SOCIAL WORKER**



August 3, 2022

HURFOM: According to local sources, police and security forces from the Lamine Police Station, in Ye Township, Mon State shot and killed a young social worker at approximately 11 pm on July 31, 2022.

The victim was a 21-year-old Ko Lin Aung. He was a member of Lamine Youth Charity Association.

“According to neighbors, he was shot and fell off his bike. A white car came out

from the police station and picked up (the dead body). The police informed the family the next morning. He was a peaceful person,” said a local resident.

The police station claim a suspicious person approached the police station, and in response security forces shot at the individual.

However, according to the Lamine Youth Charity Association the police claim is at odds with the fact that personal items from the victim, including his motorbike and blood stains were found on Naung Daw Gyi Pagoda Road which is far away from the police station.

In addition, it is believed that Ko Ling Aung was shot in the back and neck.

“At night during these days, when patrolling the town, security forces usually extort people. Recently, a boy was arrested for having a knife in his motorbike toolbox and his family had to pay one million kyat for his release. As (the country is) under military rule, they (soldiers and police forces) do as they like,” said a Lamine resident.

**WOMEN IN DAWEI PRISON IN URGENT NEED OF HEALTH CARE AND PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

August 4, 2022



HURFOM: Female prisoners in the Dawei Prison located in Dawei City, Tenasserim Division are in urgent need of personal hygiene products and health care services. The Dawei Prison has more than 100 female prisoners and 40 of them are political prisoners.

“The women in the prison need menstrual pads and personal hygiene products. They also need health care services. The prison officials have barred some female political prisoners from access to health care,” said a source close to the prison.

Because it is now the rainy season, the prisoners do not have any covered space to hang their clothes. They must wear unwashed clothes and use wet clothing as bed sheets.

Prison officials are forcing the prisoners to do hard labour. Only those who can offer bribes ranging from 300,000 to 500,000 Kyat are able to avoid doing hard labour.

Media members who have reported on these abuses and oppression of women in the Dawei prison, are subjected to intimidation and harassment by prison staff and officials.

**News**

**SCHOOLS IN YE TOWNSHIP CLOSE IN RESPONSE TO RUMOUR OF PENDING ATTACK**



August 8, 2022

HURFOM: On August 5, 2022, a frightening phone message rapidly spread amongst parents living in villages in Ye Township concerning the safety of their children.

The phone message said that a group of 20 people would attack schools in Lamine Sub-township, Ye Township. Immediately parents in Mon State stopped sending their children to schools.

“There is chaos. The school in our village received a letter threatening to close school. Parents did not send their children to school or they rushed to school to bring back their children. The whole village is in a state of total chaos,” said a villager from Southern Ye Township.

Schools in some villages in Ye Township have been closed since August 5, 2022.

“Students and teachers dare not go to schools, nor wear their uniforms. I

went to school today to inquire if anyone was at the school. I saw no one and just came back home. I don’t know how long this condition will continue,” said a schoolteacher who prefers to be anonymous.

There have been many attacks and killings in Ye Township and residents are frightened.

We have heard about many attacks and killings in Ye. Rumours of more attacks are also spreading in villages. No one goes outside after the sunset. I haven’t sent my children to school for two days,” said a student parent.

Security forces, village Administrators and government staff are the targets of increasingly frequent attacks. In response the military junta has tightened security and is making more arrests.

“Most young people from Maw Kanin and R Ru Taung villages were arrested and their motorbikes were confiscated. Some were released, but only after paying a certain amount of money but some remain under arrest. The whole of Ye Township is in a state of total chaos,” said a resident.

**BURMESE ARMY LOOTS VALUABLES FROM A KA NEAT VILLAGE, YEBYU**



August 4, 2022

HURFOM: On July 30, 2022, the Burmese army invaded A Ka Neat village, located in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. The army looted motorcars, motorbikes and other valuables belonging to villagers.

“They carried away at least 20 motorbikes with two trucks. They also looted a lot of

car batteries, food, money and jewelry,” said a villager.

After the looting, the Burmese army then randomly shot up the surroundings with small and heavy weapons.

“Nothing is left in the village. It looks like they ran out of food and supplies at the battalion (and came out to loot things from the village). They frightened the villagers who ran away, so they could take things as they liked,” continued the villager.

Local sources told HURFOM that this group from the Burmese army are also the ones who burned houses and killed monks and villagers in Yebyu Township. Approximately 1,000 residents from six villages have fled from their homes in Yebyu Township.

## News

## TWO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE DIE FROM LACK OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AS MILITARY ESTABLISHES BASES IN YEBYU



August 9, 2022

HURFOM: The incursion of the Burmese military and establishment of its bases in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division has led to many villagers fleeing their homes. Since July 30, 2022, the Burmese military has conducted military operations and established bases in villages in Yebyu Township. Approximately 1,000 people from five different villages have fled from their homes.

These military incursions can be linked to the deaths of at least two internally displaced persons.

In the first week of August 2022, two IDPs were unable to access medical treatment.

The two victims were a 40-year-old man from A Ka Neat village, and a 11-year-old child from Wa Zen Taw village.

“The child frequently suffered from epilepsy. The child had been able to access regular medical treatments in a nearby home at a clinic in A Ka Neat, but since the family had to flee, it was not possible to maintain any regular treatments,” said a villager close to the family.

On August 4, 2022, a 40-year-old man who had fled from home took shelter in a plantation. The individual had been seriously ill for two days.

“(Both) the child (and the man) died at the (Yebyu) IDP camp. They died at the same time in the morning. The man fled from his home and had been ill for two days. Access to any transportation is very bad, making it hard to go to the clinic (in the camp). The camp also doesn’t have enough medicine,” said another IDP.

## AUTHORITIES FORCE PARENTS TO ACCEPT MONEY FOR DAUGHTER WHO DIED IN BUS ACCIDENT



August 10, 2022

HURFOM: On August 5, 2022, the “Aunty Win” Express Bus traveling on the Yangon-Dawei-Myeik route, struck and killed a four-year-old child from Thar Yar Mon village.

A local source told HURFOM, the child suffered from broken ribs which damaged her lungs.

Following the accident, prominent persons from the village, which is located in the Yar Phu village tract of Yebyu Township, in Dawei District, Tenasserim Division visited the child’s parents.

The group included the village Administrator and local police. They forced the parents not to file a report and to accept a monetary compensation of three million Kyat.

“Our child is dead. Nothing can change that, even if we file a report so we’ve accepted the compensation. We’re not satisfied but both the village authority and the police forced us. We have no alternative but to accept the compensation,” said one family member.

Villagers now fear this case will establish a precedent, where the powerful can pay a fine, or offer compensation rather than being held criminally accountable for certain actions.

## News

# AUGUST 2022 OVERVIEW

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REMAIN RAMPANT IN MON STATE, KAREN STATE AND TANINTHARYI REGION



September 1, 2022

HURFOM: Throughout the month of August 2022, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) documented increasing attacks on civilians and human rights defenders. Many of these assaults amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. Across target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region, the Burma Army has continued to commit widespread human rights violations with impunity.

Civilians have routinely been caught in the crossfire of the junta's offensives, which are expanding and are subsequently fueling the worsening humanitarian crisis on the ground. Children are among those targeted in a series of raids and flyover attacks by the military who are using various tools of terror to isolate and intimidate civilian populations.

[Download full report](#)

HURFOM is devastated by the rise in the numbers of those injured, killed, arbitrarily arrested and detained on a regular basis. In addition to the crimes being committed by the junta, civilians are also facing a multitude of other challenges including inflation. Since early August 2022, the inflation rate has risen dramatically, which has led to higher prices for essential commodities. Rice, cooking oil, chili and onions are three times their average price.

A daily worker earning 5000 Myanmar Kyat (approximately 2 USD) a day is now unable to feed a family of more than three. The income and outcome are imbalanced. People have to struggle just to buy food. "I have to go to work on my bike rather than consider buying gasoline," said a laborer. The fact that the military junta controls the US dollar and import market means most importers are facing huge losses.

Some have to stop their trading, according to the Thai product importers: "We've been selling Thai products for a long time. We've never experienced a situation as bad as this. The Thai currency has a good price while the Myanmar Kyat has no value so we have to pay three times the amount for a product. Then, our customers can't afford it. So the products are left over at our store. It is not possible to make a profit through imports now, without suffering a loss. If the inflation rate continues to rise, we will have to close our store," said a Thai product importer.

There is also another gasoline shortage that has occurred, which is adding additional pain to all sectors. "Not only is the price of gasoline getting higher but there is a shortage of gasoline. If we want to buy some, we have to go to the city. But we can only buy it with limitations. We can't buy as much as we want. The situation is really bad in some rural areas," said a local who spoke to HURFOM. As of August 11, 2022, 16.6 grams of gold priced at 2.5 million Kyat while one US dollar is equivalent to 2,750 Kyat.

The rise of junta backed pro militias across Southeastern Myanmar has become an additional area of growing concern for HURFOM. On 3 August, HURFOM released a briefing paper which documented at least 129 victims of militia violence, with 18 killed across target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region since 1 February 2021. Throughout this month, there were ongoing attacks launched by these groups including Pyusawhti, Thway Thauk and the Black Kite Brotherhood among others.

The junta is paving pathways for destruction as the country's prospects for democracy slowly deteriorate. Their desperate quests for power were apparent even before the attempted coup on 1 February 2021, as they sought legitimacy through various diplomatic channels while the very institution of the Tatmadaw was becoming increasingly more unpopular. Their tirade of war crimes, as well as crimes against humanity and genocide, is further evidence of the great lengths that the military junta is willing to go to invoke cruel means of control onto the people of Burma.

And yet, a sentiment of hope, determination and adversity is still prominent throughout the country as rallying forces join together to defeat and dismantle the junta. [[Download full report in PDF](#)]

**News**

**STUDENTS GIVE UP PURSUING UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN OTHER CITIES DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS**



September 5, 2022

HURFOM: Students from Mon State who already passed their matriculation exam with high marks fear attending universities outside Mon State due to unsettled politics and security concerns.

Top universities including the University of Medicine, Economics, Computer Studies and the Education Degree College

institute are located in Yangon, Mandalay and Magway. Because these institutions are located in cities that are very far from Mon State, parents worry about sending their children away to attend these universities or colleges.

“Our child has a high enough score to join the University of Economics. It’s scary to go to Yangon because it’s not peaceful there. I dare not send my child to Yangon. It’s useless even if he/she got a high score (in the matriculation exam). He/she must join the universities in Mawlamyine. The current situation creates too much fear for me to send my child away,” said one parent from Mudon Township.

A lack of alternatives means these students often attend local universities such as the one in Mawlamyine.

“My son has got a high score and is able to join the University of Computer Studies in Thaton. But shootings are happening nearly every day there so I dare not send my child. Some students who have studied in Thaton dare not stay there and run back to their villages. I’ve decided to send my son to the Mawlamyine University,” said a parent from Mawlamyine.

Mon State is host to the University of Technology based in Mawlamyine, and Mawlamyine University offers academic programs in 17 major subject areas.

**MILITARY AND POLICE SHOW DISINTEREST IN RESPONDING TO RISING NUMBER OF ROBBERIES**



September 11, 2022

HURFOM: More than a year after the coup, the number of robberies has been increasing in all ten townships of Mon State.

According to local people, the military and police have shown no interest in taking action against these criminal activities. The authorities have demonstrated little intention to investigate or even respond to criminal reports filed by residents, leaving many to suffer in silence over their losses.

“There have been lots of robberies in Mudon Township at the moment. The military council can’t control the situation and they’ve failed to impose rule of law. Recently, in the last week of August, a motorbike robbery took place nearby Kan Gyi Lake in Mudon. The robbery took place in a crowded place,” said a Mudon resident.

Since the coup, unsettled politics and government mismanagement has become the norm. Basic commodity prices have risen sharply and people face both livelihood hardships and growing criminal activities.

“Most gold shop owners in Mawlamyine dare not operate their shops at the moment. Robberies frequently happen in Thanbyuzayat also. But no one dares file a report to the police,” said the resident.

In addition to what many see as a widespread failure of the rule of law, people increasingly are worried about their personal safety.

**News**

**MILITARY COUNCIL PRESSURES SCHOOLS TO OPEN DESPITE SECURITY CONCERNS**



September 16, 2022

HURFOM: Since April, 2022, the Burmese army and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) have frequently engaged in armed clashes in the Kha Lae – Da Gon Die area of Kyarinn-seiki Township, Karen State.

Approximately ten government schools in nearby villages have been closed due to the fighting.

Despite the fact that armed clashes are on-going, the mili-

tary council is pressuring the village authorities and school officials to open government schools in Nan Tie Tun, Pha Yar Ngar Zu and Daung De village of Kha Lae – Da Gon Die area.

“(The military council) issued the order to open schools but the teachers, the parents and the village administrators held a discussion. Because the security situation here remains unstable, most of the teachers are afraid of teaching students. No one can guarantee the safety of the students,” said a villager from Nan Tie Tun.

Parents told HURFOM that they could not send their children to area schools due to the instability and fighting in the area between armed forces.

“If we send our children to school, we have to worry about them for the whole day. We don’t even dare go to work for our own livelihoods. If something happens, we would have to rush to school to pick up our children. Can the military council guarantee the security of the children? If not, we will never send our children to school,” said a woman from Daung De village.

The Burmese army has established bases at the Da Gon Die Police Station and at nearby schools. A local news source also reported the Burmese army placed active landmines on the school premises and put a ground-based artillery weapon in front of the school.

**VILLAGERS HESITATE TO VISIT YE DUE TO FREQUENT ATTACKS AND TIGHT SECURITY**



September 21, 2022

HURFOM: Nearly every day in Ye Town, the capital of Ye Township, there are shootings and attacks on government and military venues. On September 18, 2022, the Ye Guerrilla Force (YGF) announced the barracks of the local battalion (#106) had been attacked.

In response the military council has increased its local security presence. It has also meant that residents from nearby villages do not want to visit their capital.

“I don’t frequently go to Ye Town. I fear if (the security forces are at) the check-point, they may endanger me. If I must go to Ye, I just go by car. If there is no business, I just don’t visit,” said a young man from a village nearby Ye Town.

On September 9, gunshots were heard coming from the Ye District Office. The military arrested some young people by going to their homes and threatening family members.

“After the gunshots, the military council, as usual, arrests young people and threatens them. That’s all they do. Then, they tighten the security,” said a Ye resident.

The military council has tightened the security at two main check-points in Ta Dar Phyu Bridge and Chaung Taung Bridge which are the main entrances to Ye Town.

“We hear gunshots very frequently. Last week, gunshots were heard coming from the Ye District Office. We’ve heard gunshots from various places throughout Ye Town every night,” said another resident.

It is clear to residents that the military council has failed to establish full control over Ye Town. In response the Ye Mon Unity Party has refused to accept a position on the Ye District Military Council.

**News**

**MEDICINE SHORTAGE CONTINUES IN MON STATE**



September 24, 2022

HURFOM: Some medicines have been out of stock since September in Mon state. Patients are paying unusually high prices for needed medications.

Various kinds of analgesics, medications for renal stones, heart diseases and diabetes have run out leaving patients searching for alternatives.

“We could buy medicine easily before. But now, we can’t buy the medicines we usually use so we have to find a substitute. Analgesics are still available in the market but medicines for heart diseases, renal stones and diabetes have run out. The patients who must use a specific brand of medicine are really in trouble,” said a resident from Mawlamyine Township.

Unstable exchange rates for the US dollar, has led pharmacy companies to limit their import levels of some medicines. The price of some medicines has increased by up to 50%.

“The exchange rate for US Dollar is getting high, and the pharmacy companies have reduced their imports, so medicines for heart diseases, diabetes and renal stones have run out. The process of importing medicine is also taking longer so that shortage of some medications will go on for a certain period of time. Low supply will create high prices,” said a pharmacist.

**VILLAGES IN KYARINNSEIKYI SUFFER FROM A ONE MONTH ELECTRICITY BLACKOUT**



September 26, 2022

HURFOM: On August 22, 2022, a transformer in Kyarinnseikyi Township, Karen State was damaged by a bomb blast, leaving many villages in the township without power for the past month.

“The transformer beside Myawaddy-Kawkarake Road was damaged by a bomb blast. We don’t know who is responsible. On September 22, it will be one month

since we have had any electricity,” said a resident from Kyarinnseikyi Township.

Officials from the local Electricity Distribution Department said the electricity service would be restored on September 10, but the blackout remains to this day.

“On September 5, four electricity service providers went to the transformer to repair it but they encountered an armed clash and one of them was killed on the spot. Since then, all service providers dare not go anywhere,” said an official from the Electricity Distribution Department.

The villages that have experienced a blackout include; Htee Pauk Ka Low, Than Pa Yar, Nan Tie Tun, Pha Yar Ngar Zu, Ka Lae – Ta Gon Die and Daung Dee villages of Kyarinnseikyi Township and Chaung Hna Kwa and Taung Ka Lay villages of Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State.

“Because we have no electricity, furniture shops, car and motorbike service shops have to stop their work,” said a villager from Chaung Hna Kwa.

## News

## SECURITY FORCES SHOOT AND KILL A VILLAGER WITHOUT ANY INVESTIGATION: VILLAGERS ARE FURIOUS AND SCARED.



September 27, 2022

HURFOM: Armed resistance against the military council has gained momentum in Southern Ye Township, Mon State.

In response, the military council has tightened security. On September 23, a villager from Ka Log village, Southern Ye Township, Mon State was shot and killed by the security forces of the military council. Soldiers said he breached martial law.

On August 5, 2022 the military council proclaimed that Ye Township is under martial law. The law prohibits anyone going outside after 8 pm.

Villagers in Southern Ye are now frightened to go out at night, according to multiple reports. They are also angry that the security forces are acting with impunity.

The martial law has a significant effect on rubber plantation workers who have to work at night.

“It’ll be a huge trouble if we encounter the security forces on our way to the plantation. Our work must be done at night. We had to fear nothing before but now, we’ll be shot if they (soldiers) suspect us. As we’ve heard that innocent villagers have been shot and killed, we’re frightened. After this recent killing, no one will take responsibility,” said a rubber plantation worker in Southern Ye.

Villagers are also furious that the security forces killed an innocent villager without doing any proper investigation.

“Frankly, most villagers don’t know about these laws. They usually go freely around their villages. Killing a villager without confirming whether they are a good or bad person is an absolute abuse,” said a resident from Ka Log village.

On July 31, of this year a social worker returning to his home at night was shot and killed by the security forces of the Lamine Police Station, in Ye Township.

## 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

## FEAR GROWS AS ARMED GROUPS CONDUCT MILITARY ACTIVITIES NEAR MORE VILLAGES



September 12, 2022

HURFOM: Since September, 2022, the Burmese army, the Karen National Union (KNU) and the local People Defense Force (PDF) have been active in the Wae Kha Mi, Sa Khan Kyi, Ka Lie Ba Daw, Aye Kabar, and Wel Tob villages, as well as the nearby U Khway and Daw Yane recently established villages, located in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State

The situation has led villagers to be worried about their livelihood and safety, according to multiple sources.

These villages are controlled by both the Burmese army and the KNU and increasingly the PDF has become active around the villages.

"Last week, a group of 20, believed to be PDF members, reached Sa Khan Kyi at night. Then, we heard gunshots from the (nearby) Wae Ka Lee battalion at midnight so we got frightened," said a Sa Khan Kyi villager.

After the PDF entered the village, approximately 40 Burmese soldiers began a search of the area between Sa Khan Kyi and Wel Tob villages.

"As our village is controlled by the KNU, we fear (being harmed by the Burmese soldiers) at the moment. The soldiers are patrolling the village. Since August 31, government schools in villages under the mixed-control (by the KNU and the Burmese military) have had to close. Teachers dare not come to schools and parents haven't sent their children to other nearby schools. The situation isn't good," said a villager from Ka Lie Ba Daw.

Military trucks have been frequently attacked by bombs nearby these villages and Burmese soldiers have established their bases outside of the village perimeters.

Whenever military trucks come under attack soldiers respond by arresting villagers indiscriminately from and torturing them. This behavior adds to the fear amongst villagers.

**News**

**NAI CHAN’S RAMANYA ARMY, DEMANDS THREE MILLION KYAT FROM PAUK PIN KWIN**



September 22, 2022

HURFOM: On September 16, 2022, the Ramanya Army, led by Nai Chan, demanded three million Kyat from the residents of Pauk Pin Kwin village, located in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division.

Chan’s army is active in Southern Ye Township, and this is the second time the group has attempted to extort the same village.

“They came with their three members to demand the money. They said they have to buy guns (to fight against the Burmese military). They’d already extorted a fortune of money from the

village. If we don’t pay, we’re afraid that they’ll endanger the villagers,” said a villager of Pauk Pin Kwin.

The first time, the group demanded up to 15 million Kyat, according to the villagers.

“We don’t know when and how they’ll collect the money. The whole village is frightened. We’d already paid for the first time and again, they’ve demanded the money for the second time from the same village. It’s too much,” said a ten-household leader of Pauk Pin Kwin.

The Ramanya Army led by Nai Chan has also extorted millions of money from Ah Baw, Ham Gan and Kaw Hline villages in Southern Ye Township, Mon State.

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