

THE HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF MONLAND

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TARGET AREAS | APRIL 2021





CONTENTS



Photo (top): Motorcycle protesters leading a demonstration while waving National League for Democracy flags, 18 April 2021

Photo (bottom): Youth from several wards in Mawlamyine joined a “Red Movement/Red Paint” campaign last night to symbolize and commemorate those killed on the streets since the military coup by the SAC junta’s forces.. 15 April 2021

ABOUT HURFOM



HURFOM was founded by exiled pro-democracy students from the 1988 uprisings, recent activists and Mon community leaders and youth. Its primary objective is the restoration of democracy, human rights and genuine peace in Burma.

HURFOM is a non-profit organization, and all its members are volunteers with a shared vision for peace in the country. For 25 years, as a local ethnic human rights organization, HURFOM has been dedicated to the establishment of a democratic Burma, documenting and monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and southern Burma and building the capacity of other community-based organization (CBOs) to document violations of human rights and advocate for justice.

<http://rehmonnya.org/>





An Overview of the Situation in Burma

On 1 February 2021, the Burma Army carried out a well-orchestrated coup to overthrow the democratically elected National League for Democracy (NLD) government. Their actions were done in response to allegations that the November 2020 General Election included numerous cases of fraud. Despite their claims, there has been no evidence of this. The Union Election Commission and the NLD continued with their affairs and on the Eve of the first session of Parliament since the election, the military carried out their coup. They have since seized illegitimate control over the country's affairs. Civilians have responded with nationwide protests that have drawn thousands condemning the actions of the Army. Among a list of demands are calls for the release of those detained, an end to the regime's takeover and a new Constitution in line with democratic norms and principles.

MAIN VIOLATIONS

STATE SPONSORED KILLINGS,
TORTURE, ARBITRARY ARREST,
FORCED DISAPPEARANCE &
PROPERTY CONFISCATION
'STOP & FRISK' SEARCHES





APRIL

1

Mon SAC tightened up security at downtown entry and exit toll gates in Mawlamyine. The arrests targeting young people and confiscation of the motorcycles are mounting. Two were arrested with their motorcycles and the security troops took them towards Kyaikmayaw road.

Guerrilla strikes continued in many wards and quarters in Dawei. Despite the ongoing attacks on civilians and the military's violent response, there is still momentum fueling people's rejection of the coup.

2

A young man, Myo Min Aung, was arrested in the evening. He was accused of owning an air rifle in Hpa-An, Karen State. His three friends who led the March 27 protests in Hpa-An and Eain Du were arrested on 29 March and detained in Taungkalay Prison.

3

Thousands joined the anti-coup protests today in Kyaik Hto and Bee Lin, the northern cities of Mon State. Anti-coup protests are also continuing in Three Pagodas Pass.

At least 11 civilians were arrested in Dawei when security troops were looking for weapons and arrested suspected individuals.

One protestor was shot to death, and two were injured in protests in Thaton, Mon. Twelve people, including young women, were arrested by police forces.

APRIL

4

Protestors burned the 2008 Constitution to show their support of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Federal Army in Three Pagodas Pass. About 200 young people joined the demonstration. There were no clashes.

5

In Yebyu township, soldiers launched more stop and frisk searches. A HURFOM source said: "it is very frustrating to go out with restrictions and stops everywhere." Some young residents were asked for money.

6

SAC troops raided a local cigar distribution business and arrested two staff accused of being linked with financially supporting the Civil Disobedience Movement in Dawei. A local witness also reported that the troops are searching for protest organizers, many of whom are in hiding.



At least ten villagers from Kanet Thiri, Thayet Chaung Township in Dawei were arbitrarily arrested by a military column from LIB #406 based in the village, locals reported. "I think it was the consequences of the protests over the last one month," a source added.

Clashes broke out between the Burma Army and the Karen National Liberation Army in Ye Township, Mon State at 7:15 PM. A local villager was injured. Fighting occurred near Marn Aung village, Ye Township. There were no casualties.

APRIL

7

A Kaw Thaung resident was killed at a detention center. The victim, Ye Minn Htun, 32 was arrested five day ago. On 6 April, family members of Ye Minn Htun were informed by officials to come and retrieve his body from the hospital.

The Burma Army, LIB 299 launched artillery strikes against the Karen National Union near Marn Aung Village, Ye Township, Mon. Attacks from the previous night killed one villager and injured three others.

At 10PM in Hpa An, Karen State security forces abducted four civilians and confiscated their motorcycles. One man was severely beaten when he refused to get in the Army truck. A source said forces were searching homes and checking guestlists on the main road

8

Junta security forces forcibly removed PSI satellite dishes to blackout Mizzima and DVB TV news across Mon State.

The SAC Junta detained Dr. Ohn Ohn Yee, a 67-year-old pediatrician in Hpa-An, Karen State. She was arrested by plainclothes officers on the evening of April 8, charged with section 505a of the penal code and now detained for not treating the child of a police officer.

”

Our lives are not safe anymore. How many more need to be killed?

- A local who expressed worry amid the coup

9

SAC junta security forces arrested two young protestors on night bike strikes in Paung township, Mon. Soe Min Oo and Thiri were brought to the police station and were charged with section 505(a) of the Penal Code.

Two former administrators were arrested on accusations of being linked to a fire that broke out in an admin office early morning in Shwe Myaine Thiri, Mawlamyine, Mon. Approximately 30 residents were interrogated and their houses searched by the junta.

On the western border of Mon, 15 protesters were killed by riot police and approximately 38 were injured. People couldn't retrieve the dead bodies because the SAC blocked all roads. Hundreds of residents fled to the Mon border.

APRIL

10

At 9:35 AM local time, a Karen villager was shot to death at the Byaw Taw Wa security checkpoint by the junta after he refused to be searched and turned around at a checkpoint in Dawei. The same troops stopped a group of 5 youth, looted their phones and motos.

11

A SAC battalion under the Military Operation Management Command No19 reportedly set fire to a Buddhist Monastery in Kanin Kamoh village, Ye, Mon after the senior monk refused to let the Army make a base in the monastery compound. The incident occurred at 11PM.

12

The brother and nephew of former Ye Township NLD Chairman were arbitrarily arrested for unknown reasons, said a local witness.



APRIL

13

A 34-year-old man from Thanbyuzayat, Mon State was arrested at the Ah-bit checkpoint after troops found protest-related photos on his phone. However, when they took his phone as evidence, the military added two grenades and accused him of owning weapons. A similar case happened in Dawei to eight local protestors last week when SAC troops used false evidence to charge civilians.

Two Civil Disobedience supporters from Myine Tharyar ward had their homes raided and were arrested.

Two sisters, Su Mon Thet and My My Thet, one a teacher and the other a nurse were abducted by Dawei SAC forces after they found evidence of participating in protests on their phones.

14

Warrantless midnight raids and arbitrary arrests by using the Household Inspection and Guest Register regulation continued in several Townships in Mon. At least 12 civilians were arrested by security forces in Mudon, Paung, and Mawlamyine.

15

Arrests are increasing and becoming more severe.

The junta is fabricating evidence to charge innocent civilians.



APRIL

16

SILENT

STRIKE

Civilians in Mon State, Mawlamyine protested against the SAC Junta by staying at home on the last day of Thingyan (Burmese New Year) to commemorate those who gave their lives in the Revolution. Residents from Hpa An and Dawei also joined the Silent Strike.

17

A mass protest in Three Pagodas border town was dispersed by SAC riot police. Two youth were injured by police rubber bullets.

”

‘Beware of the military informants. They are everywhere and newly appointed by the junta.

Two of my close friends were abducted and their houses were raided. They’re activists with low profiles, but the ward administration knows who they are and were arrested”

- local resident from Myaine Thayar ward, Mawlamyine

18

Ko Thein Zan, one of the protest leaders, was arrested by the junta security forces in Three Pagodas Town. Many protesters are in hiding.

A 40-year-old organizer of the anti-coup movement was taken at a police station after being hit with a private van in Dawei: ‘The security troops are plainclothes officers. They hit the man on the moto. They pointed the gun at him and took him,’ said a witness

APRIL

19

At least four civilians, including a freelance photographer, Thiha Soe, who supported the anti-coup movement, were caught by SAC security troops in midnight raids in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State. Many activists are on the run.

Almost all townships located in Mon State are facing restrictions under Martial Law imposed by the Mon SAC since February 10. Midnight searches and interrogations with warrantless arrests are ongoing.

A civilian who donated to CDM was arrested by plainclothes officials in Paung Township, Mon State.

20

An unidentified dead body, which residents in Thiri Mingalar, Mawlamyine found on 17 April, was an individual who was killed and abandoned by the SAC troops of railroad security, according to a trusted rescue team member.

21

In Dawei, that at least 20 civilians were arrested in three different wards. According to a witness, most of the detainees were protestors, activists, and supporters. A neighbor was abducted as well when the police tried to arrest a man in hiding.

A school teacher and activist was arrested at her hiding place at 11PM in Hpa An, Karen State.

The nightly roundups of civilians are illegal and a suppression of rights and freedoms by the terrorist junta.

APRIL

22

Five civilians were arrested during midnight raids in Mawlamyine, Mon. A witness saw what happened by looking through the small hole in a bamboo wall.

Hpa-An's SAC junta used 40 police, soldiers, and 5 police trucks to arrest a CDM school teacher.

SAC Junta forces violently dispersed mass protests in Long Lone Township, Dawei. Police confiscated their motos and devices. Two young protestors were abducted outside the town.

A high school teacher was arrested and two doctors were issued arrest warrants and charged with 505(a) in Hpa-An, Karen State.

23

A CDM doctor was arrested in his hiding place, Shwe Than Lwin Guest House in Hpa-An. He was issued an arrest warrant and charged with 505(a): "Two police trucks and a jail van reached the Guesthouse where he is hiding and abducted him. Now we are looking for a volunteer lawyer," said a source.

Newly appointed UEC members came and inspected ballots, voterlists in Paung Township, Mon State. A HURFOM source said: "One of the main reasons that SAC took over the country was election fraud. It seems like they are collecting evidence to prove what they accused the NLD UEC of."

24

The lists of the disappeared are increasing. Parents are worried. "Some witnesses told us that my son was beaten with a gun and abducted around 7:30 PM on 27 March near the Chinese temple in Dawei. Since then, we have not heard from him," said U Soe Than, father of a protester.

Demonstrators were violently dispersed by riot police and soldiers in Three Pagodas Town. One was injured on his right arm by a bullet. Five youth arrested, and their motos were taken to the Army Battalion.

A woman protester was hit by a police truck in Three Pagodas Town. Another six young men were arrested with their motos and detained in Army Battalion.

APRIL

25

Clashes broke out between the junta's Infantry Battalion No.32 and the Karen National Liberation Army near Three Pagodas Border Town at midnight. Two SAC soldiers were killed. The SAC troops locked down the whole township in return.

A group of SAC Junta forces raided a tea shop and checked the customer's smartphones. At least seven young civilians in Gone Htake ward, Mawlamyine were arrested. A social worker and protestor, Htet Ko, is confirmed among the arrests. All motos were confiscated.

Two civilians were abducted, including a young Mon woman in Htin Yuu village, Thanbyuzayat Township. They came with four trucks, 18 police and soldiers in total. It was not clear why they arrested these young people.

26

Aung Pyae Myat, one of the biker strikes organizers, was recently abducted from his home by SAC Junta forces in Hpa An.

A 28-year-old woman from a protest was shot dead by SAC riot police around 7:15 PM near Yone Gyi junction. Another two protestors were abducted, according to residents.

Ko Thiha, a student in his final year at Mawlamyine University, was abducted by SAC Junta forces from his home.

CONTINUED

It was reported that a 28-year-old woman from a protest group was shot and killed by riot police around 7:15 PM at Yone Gyi junction. Another two protestors were abducted, according to residents.

Ko Thiha, a student in his final year at Mawlamyine University, was abducted by SAC Junta forces from his home last night,

Photo: The protest where the 28-year old woman was shot and killed by riot police on 26 April.

APRIL

27

Another strike leader, Saw Aung Khine Myo, was arrested from his home by SAC Junta forces in Hpa An. A protestor said: "Activists need to remove their moto license plates. The junta may be recording us, and can see our motos and then arrest us based on their records."

A group of 22 protestors and activists were brought to the Southeast Command, located in Mawlamyine, Mon State according to the sources from supporters. Most detainees are young women including school teachers. At least 15 were taken with two army trucks at 2PM.

A young protestor from a biker strike group was hit by a police truck and arrested on Lan Gwa Junction in Hpa-An. A friend said, "he suffered minor injured and was abducted by police. We all ran away. His moto was also confiscated."

28

U Myo Aung, 57, living in Myaing Thayar ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State was found dead and abandoned near Airport Rd: "Residents called us to collect a dead body. He was killed by someone," a rescue member said. "We know he is against the coup, and a NLD supporter," his neighbor said.

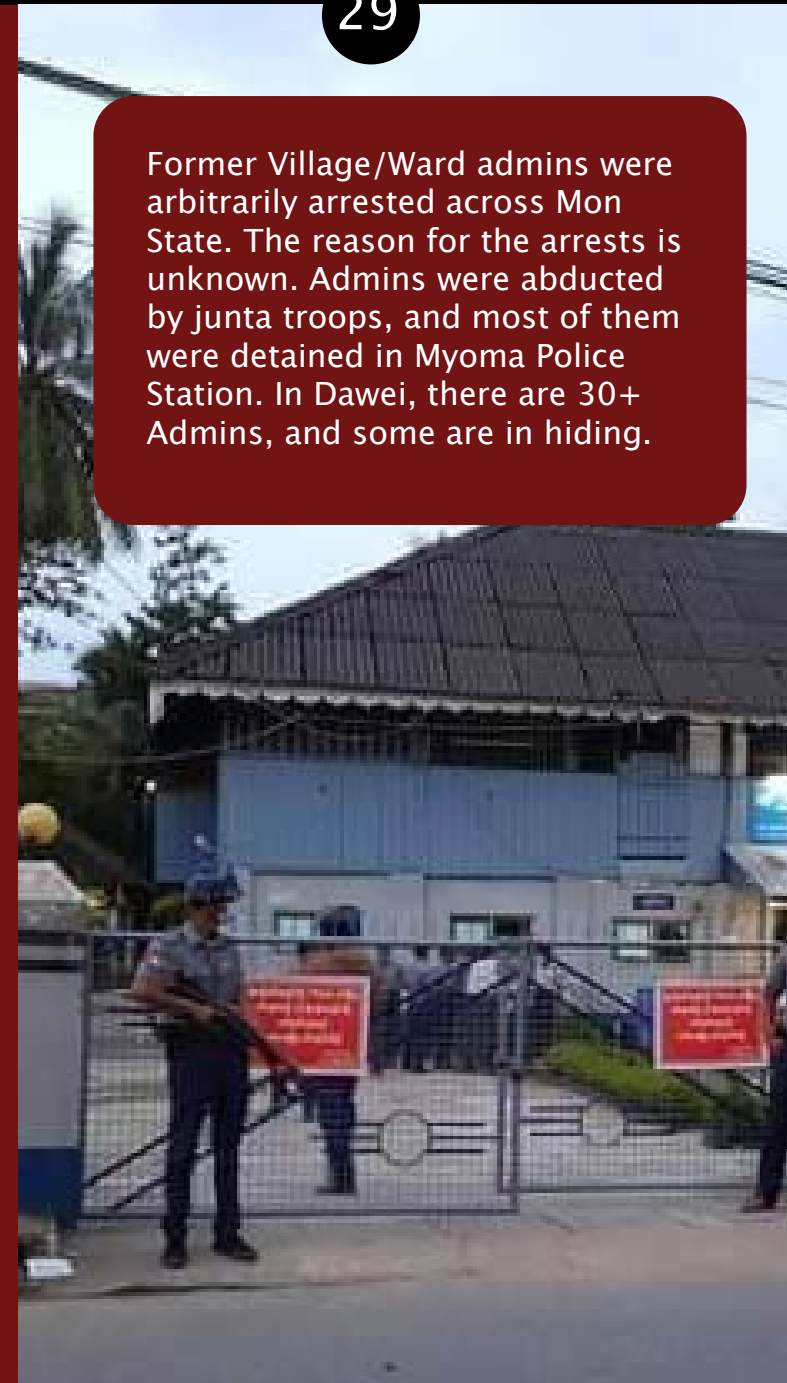
At least five young protesters and activists were abducted in their hiding place, Mogok Vipassana Meditation Center, in Mawlamyine, Mon State at midnight.

Two people from Chaung Zone Township, Mon State were killed after being hit by a truck belonging to the junta. Their deaths were an apparent attempt an an abduction.

Plainclothes police officers raided and arrested 3 LGBT persons in their beauty parlor shop.

29

Former Village/Ward admins were arbitrarily arrested across Mon State. The reason for the arrests is unknown. Admins were abducted by junta troops, and most of them were detained in Myoma Police Station. In Dawei, there are 30+ Admins, and some are in hiding.



APRIL

ARBITRARY ARRESTS

OF VILLAGE WARD LEADERS

ARE ON THE RISE

According to HURFOM reports received from the field, the arbitrary arrests of former admins and strike leaders continued across Tanintharyi Region.

An estimated 8 protest organizers, including village/ward Admins, were arrested by the SAC security troops in Myei, Tanintharyi Region and another protest leader was grabbed by junta police on 30 April, then detained at the station.

Since April 29, 7 village/ward admins have been abducted from their homes & their hiding places. Many are still on the run. The junta's newly appointed admins could not manage their duties because they were rejected by local civilians.

Since March, 18 individuals have been charged with 505(a), and most are in hiding," a protestor from Lon Lone Township, said.





RELEASE THE DETAINEES



Dr. Ohn Ohn Yee, a 67 yr old pediatrician in Hpa-An, was arrested by plainclothes officers on the evening of April 8.



Two civilians were abducted, including this young Mon woman in Htin Yuu village, Thanbyuzayat Township on 25 April.



**Aung Pyae Myat, Biker Strike Organizer
Abducted from his home around 26 April**



Two sisters, Su Mon Thet and My My Thet, one a teacher and the other a nurse were abducted by Dawei SAC forces after they found CDM related evidence on their phones on 13 April.



RELEASE THE DETAINEES



Two sisters, Su Mon Thet and My My Thet, one a teacher and the other a nurse were abducted by Dawei SAC forces after they found CDM related evidence on their phones on 13 April.



Ko Thein Zan, one of the protest leaders, was arrested by security forces in Three Pagodas Town on 17 April.



At least four civilians, including a freelance photographer, Thiha Soe, who supported the anti-coup movement, were caught in midnight raids on 19 April in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State.



Hpa-An's SAC junta used 40 police, soldiers, and 5 police trucks to arrest a CDM school teacher on 22 April.



RELEASE THE DETAINEES



Another high school teacher was arrested and two doctors were issued arrest warrants and charged with 505(a) in Hpa-An, on 22 April.



Ko Thiha, a student in his final year at Mawlamyine University, was abducted by SAC Junta on 26 April.



Strike leader, Saw Aung Khine Myo, was arrested from his home by SAC Junta forces in Hpa An on 27 April.



Former Village/Ward admins were arbitrarily arrested across Mon on 29 April. The reason for the arrests is unknown, but SAC troops aggressively abducted them, according to locals.



ADMINS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BY TOWNSHIP



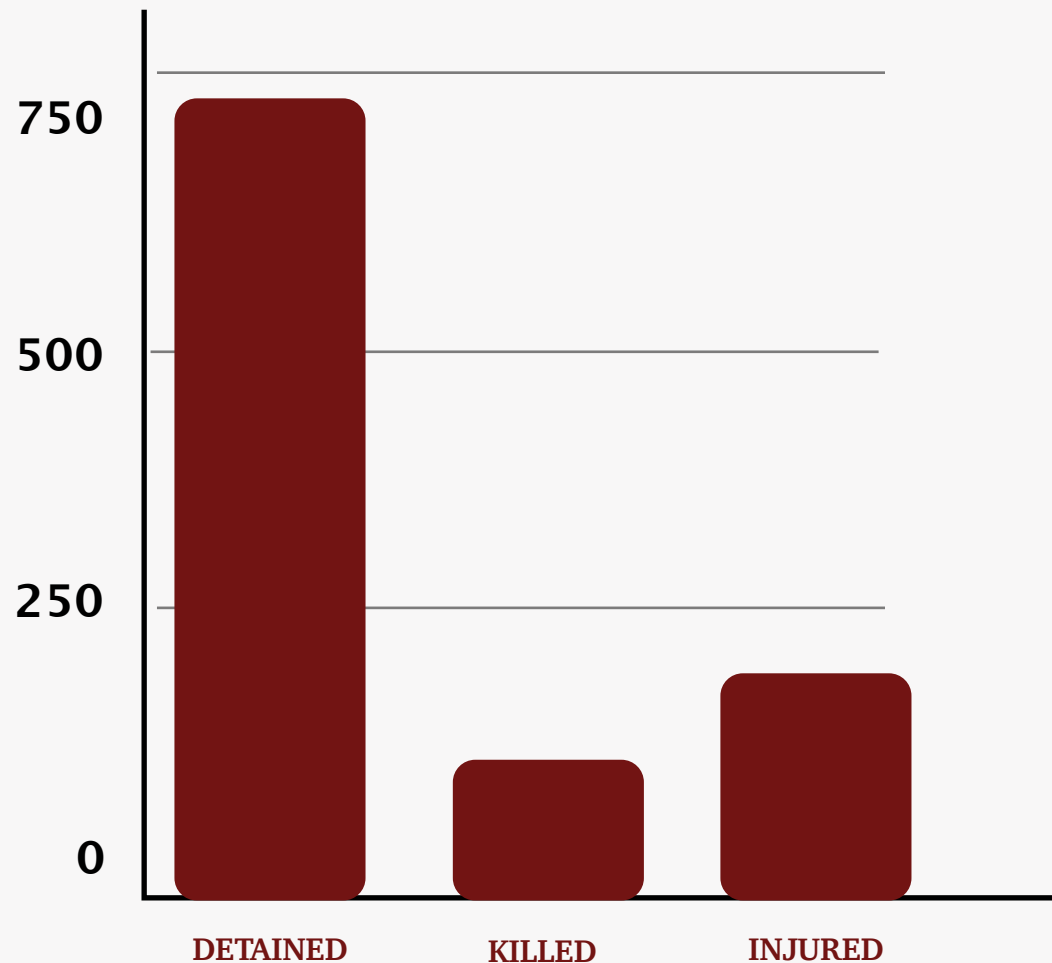
Two from
Kyauk Hto Township,
Mon State



Three from Chaung Zone
Township, including
Aung Myo Lwin

Twenty from Mawlamyine including U Tin Htut,
U Aung Linn, U Aye San, U Sein Minn, U Cho,
U Soe Thu

HURFOM DATA ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FROM 19 MARCH 2021



TARGET AREAS

MON STATE

KAREN STATE

TANINTHARYI
REGION

HURFOM has also observed an increase in midnight raids, arrests and abductions of activists and civil servants associated with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

CALLS

FOR

ACTION

The circumstances throughout Burma are getting worse. The whereabouts, or the conditions, of the over 1,000 people detained are still unknown. HURFOM has also observed a significant increase in the human rights violations committed by the Tatmadaw. We condemn the military's response to peaceful protesters. We are horrified that security forces have been given orders to fire live ammunition into crowds of defenseless protesters.



GLOBAL ARMS EMBARGO

The international community must cut off military access to weapons.



AN ICC REFERRAL

The UN Security Council must respond to the atrocities in Burma through an ICC referral



UN DISPATCHED MONITORING TEAM

UN monitors must be allowed to visit Burma and assess the situation on the ground

SUPPORT OUR WORK

DONATE

**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

