

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Human Rights Situation in Mon State, Karen State & Tanintharyi Region

APRIL
2022



SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

Death & Destruction By the Military Junta Inhibits Prospects for Peace & Regional Stability

APRIL 2022

It was yet another **devastating month for civilians** in Burma. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) continued to document egregious human rights violations in target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. Within the first week of April, **two children were among those killed** by the junta's use of long-range heavy artillery in Thaton, Mon State as the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) rose to over 6000. In Dawei, up to seven local villagers were also arrested during the first few days of April. Among those unlawfully abducted were journalists, affiliates of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and defected police officers. Despite the continued crackdowns on pro-democracy civilians, anti-coup strikes continued **alongside rallying efforts and advocacy to hold the military junta accountable** for their crimes against humanity.

Among the most concerning human rights violations documented this month was the **increase in the number of civilians routinely forcibly displaced in**

southeastern Burma. Innocent people are being deliberately targeted by the military junta. In Kawkaik township alone, a total of **12,177 people were forcibly displaced** by the end of March due to the military junta's ongoing offensives. **At the end of April, this number increased to over 14,200**. Forced disappearances are on the rise, and human rights defenders are under attack, often forced into exile. Alongside increasing surveillance, HURFOM has documented that local people in southeastern Burma are living in constant fear, with **no protection, no security, and no rule of law**. During the fourth week of April, between 900 and 1200 IDPs were forced to flee their homes across all target areas in the last week as junta violence wreaked terror.

The crisis has again **forced thousands to seek refuge along the Thai-Burma border**, where Thai authorities have failed to act on humanitarian grounds. Makeshift shelters established along the Moei river are easily damaged by the persistence of heavy rain. **A lack of clean**

SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

water and food has led to the spread of disease, particularly among young children and the elderly.

The military junta has continued to **fail the people of Burma**. HURFOM reporting has led to the conclusion that without serious repercussions and intervention by the international community to hold the military accountable, human rights violations will continue with impunity.

As the month came to an end, **daily life remained strenuous**. With the economy in turmoil and fighting rampant, the military is relentlessly extorting civilians for monetary gain. Between 18 and 24 April, HURFOM documented **over 50 cases of civilians forced to forfeit their belongings**

at security toll gates, in addition to over 60 million Myanmar kyats stolen, and more than 23 cases of motorcycles confiscated. The actions of the soldiers of the Burma Army **speak to the impunity** which they have long benefited from, as well as their belief that they are above the law. The international community must not lose sight of these **injustices which continue** to plague the overall well-being of innocent people. There is a responsibility to respond with **coordinated urgency** which meets the moment of the current crisis. A global arms embargo, alongside targeted sanctions, are long overdue, as is a referral of the situation on the ground in Burma to the International Criminal Court.



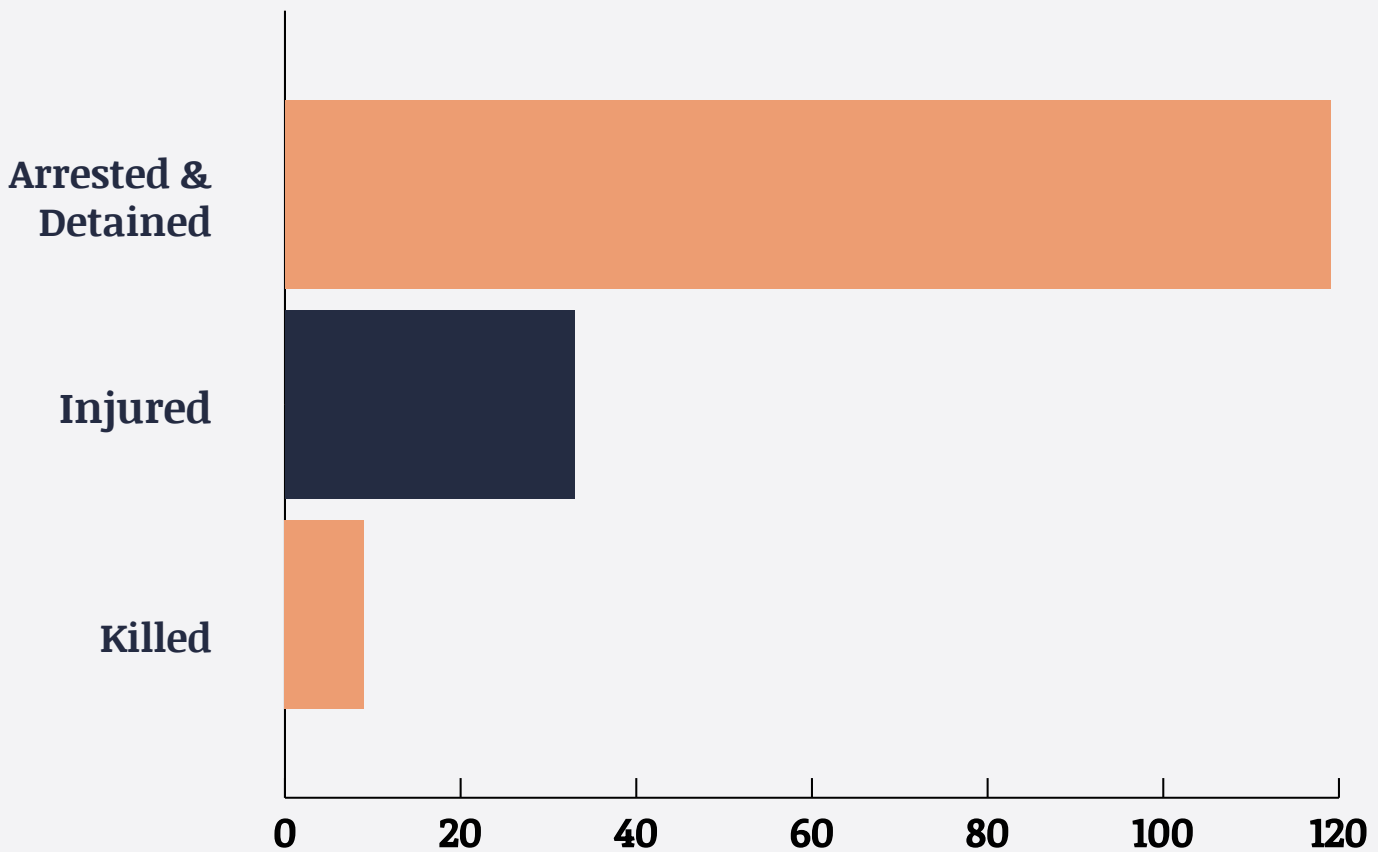
“The military junta still uses the ‘four cuts’ campaign strategy which targets local civilians. They must end these systematic attacks on our people.”

— Karen aid worker from Thayet Chaung Township on the indiscriminate firing by the Burma Army in civilian areas

SCALED UP HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HURFOM fieldworkers continue to take great risks to document the human rights violations being perpetrated in target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of April, HURFOM recorded least **67 arrested, 52 detained, 33 injured and 9 killed.**

Civilians Arrested, Injured & Killed in April in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region



**Compared to March 2022, there were 13 more civilians arrested and detained and 9 more injuries in the month of April, according to HURFOM reports.*

8+

Members of Parliament and their families targeted by the military junta.



KAREN STATE

April 2022

The crisis in Karen State has again **forced thousands to seek refuge** along the Thai-Burma border, where Thai authorities have failed to act on humanitarian grounds. Makeshift shelters established along the Moei river are **easily damaged** by the persistence of heavy rain. A lack of clean water and food has led to the **spread of disease**, particularly among young children and the elderly. The military junta has **continued to fail** the people of Burma. HURFOM reporting has led to the conclusion that without **serious repercussions** and intervention by the international community to **hold the military accountable**, human rights violations will continue with impunity.



Timeline of Atrocities in Karen State | April 2022

4 April



Heavy artillery fire from the junta's 97th Infantry Division based in Kawkareik was fired at villages near Taw Naw Waterfall.

11 April



A 27-year-old woman was shot dead by the junta at a checkpoint at Jai Bridge in Kawkareik Township.

21 April



The junta carried out airstrikes and heavy artillery attacks on at least 6 villages in Kyainnseikyi Township, which led to an estimated 500 IDPs.

24 April

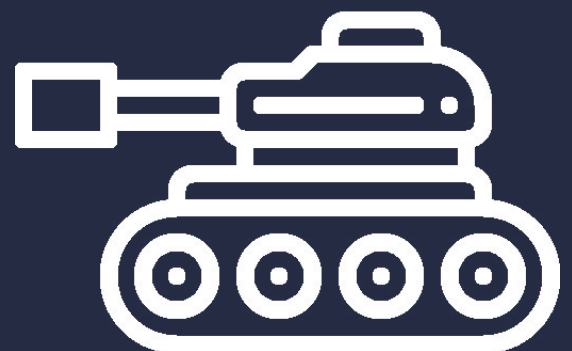


Indiscriminate shelling by the Artillery Battalion No.318 led to over 1,300 villagers fleeing Kyainnseikyi Township,

25 April



Locals reported that the junta arrested at least 70 male villagers and travelers, forcing them to be porters in Kyainnseikyi Township.





MON STATE

April 2022



According to travelers and cars drivers, financial extortion, levying by the junta security forces under “security fees” is ongoing in Ye Township, Mon State, at the military council security checkpoint on the Rangoon-Ye-Dawei-Myeik road. The military junta commits illegal taxation every day to each vehicle that uses this route.

I was stopped by the security toll-gate run by the junta soldiers. About six soldiers with full uniforms checked my friend and I. They asked us to open our mobile phones, backpacks and motorbike seat. They could not find any illegal things. However, they demanded 10,000 Myanmar Kyat to let us continue our journey. They’re collecting money from passenger cars and vans at the Ye River Crossing Checkpoint in Mon State”

— A young man from Kaloh village who spoke to a HURFOM reporter



The military junta continues to target innocent civilians

11 April 2022: Two local female travelers from Mawkanin village, Lamine sub-town, Ye Township were seriously injured by the junta’s indiscriminate gun firing while traveling to Thanbyuzayat. They were each seriously injured on the chest and head.



TANINTHARYI REGION

April 2022

In Tanintharyi region, civilians are being **forced to face** a variety of challenges waged upon them by the military junta. Conflict has displaced thousands while a **mounting presence** of soldiers has been a breeding ground of insecurity. Villagers have been **routinely subjected** to violent interrogations and abductions. Family members HURFOM has spoken to are **unaware** of the location and well-being of their loved ones. This **tremulous situation** has led to further disregard of the rule of the law by the regime.

Homes have been deliberately set on fire by the junta as their belongings are looted and destroyed.



Arbitrary Arrest on the Rise in Tanintharyi Region*

36+

ARRESTED

5+

CHARGED

16+

DETAINED
WITHOUT CAUSE



At least 7,000 IDPs are hiding in nearby forests and are in dire need of medicine and food, according to the local service providers.

Indiscriminate firing has led to growing fears in communities in Tanintharyi region.

**April approximates from HURFOM Fieldstaff*

27

PROTESTS ACROSS TARGET
AREAS IN APRIL 2022

18

TANINTHARYI
REGION

4

MON STATE

5

KAREN STATE



14,200+

CIVILIANS DISPLACED ACROSS TARGET AREAS

CIVILIANS TARGETED IN MON, KAREN STATE
& TANINTHARYI REGION

21+

DISMISSED FOR
INVOLVEMENT
IN THE CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE
MOVEMENT

13+

PROTESTERS/
ACTIVISTS
SENTENCED IN
JUNTA COURTS

4+

ENFORCED
DISAPPEARANCES
BY THE MILITARY

KEY OBSERVATIONS

1. Locals have reported that innocent villagers are being increasingly targeted by the military junta on allegations of being affiliated with civilian armed defense forces and the pro-democracy movement.
2. The increased presence of the military junta in civilian areas has led to more civilians being used as porters and human shields, particularly in Mon and Karen States.
3. The military junta has not slowed or halted their use of air attacks using illegal weapons to target and kill innocent civilians.
4. The homes of well-known activists and pro-democracy affiliates have been targeted by the junta. Their family members have been abducted, tortured and killed.
5. Travel restrictions are being increasingly tightened as the military junta uses the toll-gates as an opportunity to extort civilians for money and valuables.
6. A growing sense of fear, and insecurity is taking a toll on civilians who are constantly fleeing military junta violence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Urgent referral of the situation in Burma to the
International Criminal Court

Targeted sanctions against the military junta

A global arms embargo and halt in the supply of
weapons and aviation fuel

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