Throughout the month of June 2022, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), continued to document the perils and challenges faced by civilians across target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. The military junta is deploying the same patterns of impunity as they arbitrarily arrest innocent villagers and confiscate their belongings and attach high ransoms. Their presence in local areas has threatened prospects for their survival, including significant impacts on their ability to work. Landmines have been deliberately laid by the Burma Army in their villages, posing additional risks to their lives.

Cases of theft, extortion and raids by the military junta are rampant and continue due to the lack of reliable domestic accountability channels in place. Civilians have been forced to endure layer upon layer of uncertainty as their futures remain in jeopardy due to the junta’s growing presence, and selfless acts of war.

By the end of June 2022, HURFOM reported that 45 civilians were arrested, 45 were detained, 29 injured and 19 had been killed by the junta. There were more than twice as many people killed in June 2022, compared to last month’s reporting period. However, the trajectory remains the same, in that there are growing numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) and a worsening humanitarian crisis that demands immediate, coordinated action as civilians are caught in the crossfire of violence.

Indiscriminate firing in the Tanintharyi region led to increased attacks against civilians. On 3 June 2022, HURFOM documented the case of a fourteen-year-old girl who was killed by the Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 404 in Dawei District. She was the daughter of a military junta soldier. Ma Leh Leh Win was an eighth-grade student who lived in the junta barracks with her family, located near Sone Sin Phyar Village, Thayet Chaung Township. Another civilian named, U Thet Htwe, aged 30, was also hit and killed on the way to his farm and died on the spot. According to a local villager, another two villagers were wounded, and one was in critical condition.

On 4 June 2022, HURFOM recorded that a young student from Hpa-An University, Karen State was abducted and killed by the junta. Maung Nyan Ko Win, a third-year student who had joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and was majoring in mathematics, was arbitrarily shot by junta forces, and tortured to death. The attacks on young people in Burma are on the rise. A new report released in June by
the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, addressed the risks children in Burma face. A harrowing 250,000 are displaced across the country, and over nearly 400 have been maimed or killed in conflict since 1 February 2021. These numbers show that the military junta does not discriminate based on age. Young children have been subjected to torture and are even among the 114 people sentenced to death by the Burma Army. This once again speaks to their complete and utter disregard for rule of law, and democratic values and principles.

As the military junta’s quest for power grows, they have set an unfortunate precedent in how far they are willing to go to override and disregard the precedents entrenched in international human rights laws. Upon announcing that four civilians were to be sentenced to death, including two prominent pro-democracy activists, HURFOM joined 198 international and Burma organizations in condemning the orders by the military to execute them.

Teachers and medics also continue to have their lives and careers threatened for their support of the National League for Democracy. HURFOM observed the ongoing detention and targeting of health workers. In May 2022, HURFOM reported that 52 medical workers were dismissed, and six activists were sentenced to prison sentences of at least two years. In June 2022, an additional 20 health workers were fired for their pro-democracy activities in Mon State and Tanintharyi region.

World Refugee Day was commemorated on 20 June 2022. HURFOM condemned the mass atrocities that the Burma Army continues to commit with impunity, and further called upon international actors, including UN bodies and the ASEAN Humanitarian Coordination body (the AHA Centre) to support local actors in their emergency response to the situation on the ground, rather than make agreements with the Burma Army.

HURFOM also recognized the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June and condemned the use of torture by any and all parties and called for investigations to probe the unlawful deaths of civilians across the country who have been tortured to death, as well as those who have been forced to endure trauma and long term injuries as a result.

The situation in Burma continues to unravel, the safety and security of civilians must take precedent. The grave human rights violations committed today are ongoing, yet the military evades accountability. There must be concrete actions and steps forward which make clear that the military is not free to violate international laws, human rights, and freedoms.
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 June 2022, HURFOM recorded least 45 arrested, 45 detained, 29 injured and 19 killed.

Members of Parliament and their families targeted by the military junta.
PROTESTS ACROSS TARGET AREAS IN June 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANINTHARYI</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON STATE</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAREN STATE</td>
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3,300+ CIVILIANS DISPLACED ACROSS TARGET AREAS

CIVILIANS TARGETED IN MON, KAREN STATE & TANINTHARYI REGION

- Dismissed for involvement in the civil disobedience movement: 34+
- Protesters/activists sentenced in junta courts: 8+
- Enforced disappearances by the military: 5+
Civilians are being regularly extorted for their possessions, including mobile phones and vehicles, as well as for their money in Karen State by the military junta. Ambush patrols of Burma Army soldiers have been deployed along the roads in and around Hpa-an and are said to be carrying out extortions of local civilians and travelers. A woman who spoke to HURFOM said that her son was fined 50,000 Myanmar Kyats (27 USD) for not having a license. However, once he proved he had one, he still had to pay. “These kinds of things happen every day,” she added.

An additional cause for concern has been recent reports of civilians in Karen State experiencing a mobile phone and Internet shutdown of network services since 23 April 2022. There have been frequent armed clashes between the KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) and the Burmese military who are based near the Dagon Tie Police Station. The telecommunications network blackout is thought to be related to these ongoing armed clashes.

Violent tactics were deployed against prisoners in Hpa-An, Karen State after two political prisoners managed to escape. Nearly 73 inmates were confirmed injured in riots involving prison authorities, between June 3-5, 2022. Young inmates were struck with electric sticks and shot at with iron nuts attached to slingshots from outside the cells, according to a source who asked to remain anonymous: “The prison authorities used the senior criminals to do their dirty work in the prisons, rather than themselves. On the nights of June 3 and 4, when the inmates were napping, the Warden ordered their criminals to stab the young inmates from outside the cells. It was covered in blood, and many inmates were injured.” The inmates were also deprived of food and water for days. At least four dozen inmates suffered injuries.

The people of Burma deserve peace in their homelands. For too long the junta has denied them their fundamental human rights.
The junta forces in southeastern Dooplaya have been deploying relentless attacks against local villages in the areas with heavy mortar shelling on 29 June 2022, and early in the morning on 30 June 2022 with airstrikes, according to members of the emergency response group operating in the regions. Details of the damage and injuries were not immediately available, however medics on the ground who spoke to HURFOM said that these brutal attacks led to more than 500 locals who were forced to flee their homes and livelihoods.

**CASE STUDIES**

*June 3-5, 2022, Hpa-An, Karen State:*

Nearly 73 inmates were confirmed injured in riots involving prison authorities after two political prisoners escaped from Hpa-an Prison in Karen State between June 3-5, 2022, dependable sources close to the prison told reporters. Consequently, the prison authorities attacked young inmates who were detained with electric sticks and shot them with iron nuts attached to slingshots from outside the cells, according to a source who asked to remain anonymous.

*17 June 2022, Hpa-An, Karen State:*

Ambush patrols of junta troops have been deployed along the roads in and around Hpa-an and are said to be carrying out extortions of local civilians and travelers. They were seen stopping and checking some young people on motorcycles. They appeared to be asking for money, according to local villagers.
Alongside the junta’s instability which they are responsible for, a widespread failure with the rule of law coupled with a dysfunctional education system is thought to have contributed to 40% of youth in Ye Township, Mon State and Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division succumbing to drug abuse. Individuals are also abusing Kratom leaves. Usage of this drug is the highest in Mon State while abuse of WY tablets stands at second place. According to Mon State Police records, there were 406 drug abuse cases in 2019. In 2020, drug abuse cases more than doubled — with 844 points recorded.

The junta’s military actions and offensives have led to many villagers to flee. In Ah Sin San Pya village, located in Ye Township, Mon State, the military continues to arrest those it perceives to oppose the coup. Ah Sin San Pya village has the highest number of deaths, arrests, and disappearances among the many villages in Ye Township. An estimated 60 households and individuals in the village have fled their homes because of their involvement in the anti-coup movements over the last year. A local that HURFOM spoke to said, “My friend earned his livelihood selling fish. He wasn’t strongly involved in anti-coup protests. But the military exaggerated his background and pictured him as a person who seriously opposed the military. So, he and his entire family had to run away.” The military junta frequently conducts searches of abandoned houses of villagers who have fled and also destroys any personal property that has been left behind.

In another case, Htone-Bho-Lae village, Thaton township, was raided by junta forces at the end of June 2022. On the evening of June 25, soldiers and an estimated 70 troops entered the village where a young woman, and ten ethnic Karen villagers, including a disabled person, were tortured, and killed. Their bodies were then burned inside their homes, according to local defense forces. A total of 152 houses were set on fire including a monastery. Htone-Bho-Lae village is a Karen majority village, with seven victims out of ten are mostly Karen. Their bodies were burned along with their homes. Cases such as this speak to the indiscriminate nature of the junta to deliberately target innocent civilians.

The arbitrary arrests of civilians without arrest warrants by the junta is ongoing in Mawlamyine, Mon State. It was reported that at 6:30 pm on June 15, more than 30 members of the Burma Army, traveling in nine military vehicles,
arrived in Zay Gyo Ward, Moulmein, and abducted a 35 years-old man and a young woman. Another two local sources confirmed that the same night, two more young men were arrested in the Daungzayat Ward, Mawlamyine, after the junta troops conducted surprise midnight guest checks. Locals believed the checks were all in connection with the military junta’s attempts to squander the Spring Revolution.

The junta arrested two youths and a former schoolteacher after a drone attacked a junta military intelligence bureau office in Thanbyuzayat Township on 16 June 2022. They were all accused of being linked with the drone attack conducted by the People’s Defense Force (PDF) on June 14, 2022.

“**These killings and shootings are a reminder of the junta’s impunity. Crimes by the Burma Army take place without investigations, accountability, or confessions.**”

**CASE STUDIES**

**12 June 2022, Kyaikhto, Mon State**
A truck driver was hit by artillery shells fired by junta forces. Myint Maung, 45, a truck driver and a resident of Kyaikhto, Mon State was injured in his right thigh, according to a member of the Kyaikto Emergency Response Team. The incident took place near the Moke-Palin Junction checkpoint. Homes near the checkpoint were also raided and threatened on the night of June 12. Prior to the incident, troops extorted money from travelers.

**15 June 2022, Mawlamyine, Mon State**
Arbitrary arrests of civilians persist without arrest warrants in Mon State. It was reported that at 6:30 pm on June 15, more than 30 members of the junta troops (in 9 military vehicles) arrived in Zay Gyo Ward, Moulmein, and abducted a 35 years-old man and a young woman. These two detainees were from an apartment in Thuwanna, Daungzayat Ward, Mawlamyine. The man resisted and was beaten.
Informers are also ruthlessly exercising no restraint and committing crimes with impunity. Around 4:00PM on June 9, 2022, U Nyi Nyi Thein, a member of the junta-backed “Pyu-Saw-Htee para militia force”, a resident of Kyaukme Taung village, Dawei, killed two innocent villagers with his rifle gun near 23-mile checkpoint, according to witnesses.

Armed conflict also continued across target areas, leading to growing levels of forced displacement. On 10 June 2022, in Palaw Township, Myeik District, Tanintharyi Region, there were frequent clashes between the Palaw People’s Defense Coalition and the junta. In the morning, the Burma Army attacked Nat Ein Taung and Shan Dut villages, forcing the locals to flee to safer areas.

Tanintharyi region in particular has witnessed the rise of attacks perpetrated by junta-backed militias who have an agenda that seeks to terrorize and intimidate innocent civilians. Their homes are raided, burned and scorched with no regard for the law. HURFOM has recorded several instances of civilians abducted, and killed. While some of the attacks appear random, others are targeted, especially when it comes to assaulting human rights defenders. The situation is cause for alarm.

Civilians are not safe in the custody of the military junta. On 15 June 2022, around 4:00 am, a group of 12 junta-sponsored para-militia forces arrived in Ekni Village, Yebyu Township, Dawei to conduct a crackdown. Two villagers, Ko Myo Ko, age 22, and his friend Ye Pai Soe, age 23, were abducted and then killed, according to local witnesses. During their crackdown operation in the village, a National League for Democracy member, Kyi Ngwe’s home, was also bombed, and indiscriminate gunshots were fired at the village, according to the villagers.

In a similar violent incident, a 50-year-old man from Ka Nyin Inn village, from the Wun Ford village track, Yebyu Township was killed at his home by an unknown group on June 16 2022. Since the coup, the military has frequently killed innocent civilians in the Tenasserim Division. Other armed and violent groups like the Pyu Saw Htee and Black Kite Brotherhood are believed to be sponsored by the junta, and they have targeted family members of the NLD supporters and the People Defense Forces (PDF).

Junta forces infiltrated and cracked down on Tee Zit village, Long Lone Township, Dawei on the evening of 19
June 2022, and arbitrarily beat and abducted at least eight villagers. At around 5PM, U Shwe Oo, Maw Kyaw, Ngwe Thaung, and two other villagers were arbitrarily arrested. They were kicked with military boots, hit with gun butts, and last seen with blood on their heads. All villagers were taken along with the junta forces. “They destroyed everything if there were no people in the houses,” said a 35-years-old male villager who managed to escape the raid.

Civilians are routinely subjected to indiscriminate firing and shelling. A 50-year-old villager, U Pho Khet, was shot dead by the junta troops, and more than 20 villagers were arrested and used as human shields in Lae Thit village, Tanintharyi Township. In the evening of June 18, the village head and villagers found the body of U Pho Khat, who had been shot dead by the junta troops, and covered with branches near the village. The junta troops have arrested villagers who were not able to escape in time. All detainees were being held at the village’s monastery where the junta troops are temporarily based.

CASE STUDIES

6 June 2022, Long Lone Township, Dawei
At 1:00 PM CDM teacher Daw Yin Yin Thant, who lives in front of her school, was abducted, and arbitrarily detained in a detention center operated by the junta military intelligence. She was accused of posting a photo of anti-coup activities on a brick wall at the primary school, situated in Ward C. The junta is also investigating her husband and son.

9 June 2022, Dawei:
Three local youths were shot indiscriminately by an ambush patrol of the junta. Two died immediately. One was seriously injured in the leg. The junta patrol troops shot them while traveling from Thingangyun to Waku village, Dawei. They were shot at without warning. Another source also described the case: “These young men did not know that the Army was patrolling the area. The soldiers saw the three of them and shot for no reason. They were hit on the spot.”
KEY OBSERVATIONS

1. Other armed and violent groups like the Pyu Saw Htee and Black Kite Brotherhood are believed to be sponsored by the junta, and they have targeted innocent civilians, predominantly those affiliated with the pro-democracy movement.

2. An increase in the brutality against political prisoners detained in military-junta run jails. HURFOM reported that over 70 inmates were injured during riots with prison authorities after two political prisoners managed to escape from Hpa-An prison in Karen State.

3. Prominent pro-democracy politicians and activists, including those affiliated with the National League for Democracy, continue to be targeted by the junta. They are also increasingly being charged under draconian laws and face long, unjust sentences.

4. There continued to be internal displacement in Burma fueled by the military junta who are scorching villages and carrying out aerial and ground attacks. These illegal assaults have killed women and children.

5. Motorcycles, mobile devices, and money are regularly confiscated and extorted from civilians at checkpoints stationed by the junta deliberately along key-routes. Civilians were forced to pay excessive bribes to retrieve their possessions. However, very few were able to afford the high costs.

6. Torture remains rampant in Burma, and across target areas where innocent civilians are subjected to grueling, horrifying acts by the junta to extract information.

7. The international community including UN bodies and ASEAN are not responding swiftly enough to the situation on the ground in Burma, which demands urgent attention and consequences for the junta.

8. Military impunity remains deeply ingrained into the institutions representing the Tatmadaw, which only emboldens the junta to continue perpetrating human rights violations.

9. The rise of plain-clothes ‘security’ officers is backed by the military junta and have been using intimidation tactics and threats to extort civilians out of money, and their possessions. Cases have been reported across HURFOM’s main target areas.

10. The arbitrary arrests and unlawful detention by the junta are ongoing, as are warrantless raids and indiscriminate firing into civilian areas.
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A referral of the situation on the ground in Burma made immediately by the United Nations Security Council to the International Criminal Court.

2. Concerted and coordinated action by global actors for an urgently mandated global arms embargo which would prevent the free flow of weapons into the hands of the murderous junta.

3. Aviation fuel sanctions to put an effective end to the airstrikes in Burma which have contributed to significant loss of life, particularly among innocent civilians.

4. Targeted sanctions on military junta officials, as well as their families, which puts holds on their financial assets and possessions and undercuts their ability to do corrupt business dealings abroad.

5. Strengthened and renewed protection mechanisms which grant civilians who are vulnerable and at risk of assault in a position where they are able to access justice referral and accountability pathways.

6. Renewed and continued funding support for local organizations responding to the needs of their communities on the ground. Cross-border aid pathways must be accessed and all humanitarian aid in the hands of local actors.

7. Foreign investors in Burma must immediately cease their operations and withdraw their involvement from all development projects in the country, including but not limited to airports, seaports, and cement businesses.

8. An abrupt and immediate halt to the use of torture by the military junta, and further we call for investigations to probe the unlawful deaths of civilians in Burma who have been tortured to death, as well as those who have been forced to endure trauma and long-term injuries as a result.
MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

June 2022