

New Country Conditions Research to Add to TOCs

** As you find new supporting documents, please (1) insert the article & annotations under the date that you added it and (2) add a Comment noting whether it refers to: (a) [Kachin Nationality](#), (b) the [Ma Ba Tha Buddhist monks](#), (c) [May's organizations](#), (d) [KJL's personal experiences](#), (e) [MSP's personal experiences](#), (f) [persecution & treatment of political activists](#), (g) [persecution of the family members of activists](#), (h) [treatment of Christians](#), or (i) [donation arrests](#). Team members should regularly check to confirm their TOCs are up-to-date. **

New Additions Added by 2/24

Tab X, Page X *Myanmar Torturing Female Political Prisoners in Mandalay, The Irrawaddy, (Feb. 20, 2023)*

Accessible at: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-torturing-female-political-prisoners-in-mandalay.html>

“Myanmar junta prison staff have been beating and torturing female political prisoners held in Mandalay’s Obo Prison. At least 30 women detainees are now being held separately, after over 100 female inmates were injured by prison staff in January, according to a letter smuggled out of the jail.

“The prisoners were not only tortured, but are now being given little food,” the letter said. The fate of the 30 women moved to another wing is unknown. Prison officials have played loud music from the wing, as a means of disguising the potential beating and torturing of the prisoners.”

“More than a hundred female political prisoners in Obo Prison were also injured on February 3 and 4, when around 150 prison staff beat them after an argument between inmates, according to the NUG’s Ministry of Human Rights. At least 20 prisoners were seriously injured and have been denied proper healthcare, added the NUG. The Ministry of Human Rights said that it feared that the female prisoners may be subjected to sexual violence in the coming days, citing reliable sources.”

New Additions Added 2/17:

Tab X, Page X *Myanmar: Prominent Religious Leader on Trial, Human Rights Watch, (Feb. 20, 2023).*

Accessible at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/20/myanmar-prominent-religious-leader-trial>

Commented [PGN1]: This pertains to persecution of Kachin leaders

“Rev. Samson, 65, is the former head of the Kachin Baptist Convention and is chairman of the Kachin National Consultative Assembly, which facilitated peace talks with the previous National League for Democracy party civilian government.” P.X.

“On December 5, 2022, junta immigration officials and police arrested Rev. Samson at Mandalay International Airport, preventing him from leaving the country. Junta authorities have not disclosed his whereabouts but are apparently holding him at Myitkyina prison where the hearings are being held in a closed court. His family have not been allowed to see or communicate with him since his arrest. In December, the junta charged Rev. Samson under section 17 of the Unlawful Associations Act for allegedly meeting with ethnic Kachin armed group leaders in January 2022, and section 505A of the penal code for “incitement” after holding a group prayer with members of the opposition National Unity Government (NUG). The offenses carry prison terms of up to 3 years each. The junta frequently uses vaguely worded and loosely interpreted provisions in its penal code to imprison peaceful activists. The hearings for these two charges concluded on February 14 with no verdict.” P.X.

“Since the military coup in February 2021, junta security forces have carried out deadly crackdowns against the political opposition to military rule, arbitrarily detained more than 19,000 people, and committed numerous crimes against humanity and war crimes across the country, documented by Human Rights Watch and other groups. Myanmar’s junta courts are neither independent nor provide basic fair trial rights. Many trials are held in grossly unjust closed-door military tribunals or in “special courts” inside prison facilities where detainees gain access to their lawyer only on the day of their trial.” P.X.

“The prosecution of a high-profile Kachin religious figure like Rev. Samson is a heavy-handed attempt to chill all dissent among ethnic minority leaders,” Pearson said. “ASEAN and other concerned governments should press for the release of Rev. Samson and others wrongfully detained since the February 2021 coup.” P.X.

New Additions Added 3/8:

Tab X, Page X FRANCE 24, *Myanmar’s junta warns against ‘riot and anarchy’ as thousands continue protests*, France24, (Feb. 22, 2021).

Commented [AD2]: This pertains to May’s experiences in that it corroborates specific protests that occurred in late February 2022.

Accessible at <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20210222-thousands-of-protesters-rally-in-myanmar-junta-warns-more-could-die>

“Much of Myanmar has been in uproar over the generals ousting and detaining civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi three weeks ago. Massive street demonstrations have taken place across the country, while a civil disobedience campaign has choked many government operations as well as businesses.” P. 1.

“The warning followed the deadliest weekend since the coup -- two people were killed when security forces fired at protesters in the city of Mandalay, and a third man was shot dead in Yangon. A young woman also died on Friday after being shot in the head at a protest and spending almost a fortnight on life support. The woman whose funeral was held on Sunday was the first confirmed fatality of the protests, and she has emerged as a potent symbol of the anti-junta movement.” P. 1.

“United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Monday spoke out against the ‘brutal force’ used by those behind Myanmar’s coup and urged the military to immediately halt the repression and release prisoners. ‘Today, I call on the Myanmar military to stop the repression immediately. Release the prisoners. End the violence. Respect human rights, and the will of the people expressed in recent elections,’ Guterres told the UN Human Rights Council in a pre-recorded video message.” P. 1.

“Yangon residents woke up to a heavy security presence, including police and military trucks on the roads and an embassy district barricaded.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Helen Regan, *Huge demonstrations across Myanmar despite military’s warning that protesters could ‘suffer loss of life,’* CNN, (Feb. 22, 2021).

Accessible at <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/21/asia/myanmar-general-strike-military-warning-intl-hnk/index.html>

“Huge crowds brought Myanmar’s towns and cities to a standstill Monday in a mass strike against [the coup](#), despite a warning from the military junta that [protesters](#) will “suffer loss of life” if demonstrations confront security forces. Activists had called for a historic strike following the [most violent weekend since protests](#) against the February 1 coup began, in which police opened fire on protesters in the second largest city, Mandalay, on Saturday, [leaving at least two dead](#).” P. 1.

“In an ominous statement Sunday evening, the military junta said it could use lethal force against protesters.” P. 1.

Commented [AD3]: This pertains to May’s experiences in that it corroborates specific protests that occurred in late February 2022.

“Video from social media Sunday night and Monday morning showed barbed wire blocking roads to some foreign embassies in the largest city, Yangon, the focus point for many recent protests. Footage also showed what appeared to be police and military vehicles rolling through the streets. Protesters called for all offices and shops to be closed on Monday, with activists urging all citizens to join the protest, known as the ‘Five Twos’ – or the 22222 strike – in reference to Monday’s date. ‘22.2.2021 will be a big historic day. Keep watching us and pray for us, friends,’ leading protest activist group, the Civil Disobedience Movement said in a tweet Sunday.” P. 1.

“In the capital, Naypyidaw, Sunday large crowds gathered to attend the funeral of a young woman, who died on Friday after being shot in the head during an anti-coup protest. Mya Thweh Thweh Khine, who was shot just before her 20th birthday, was the first known casualty of pro-democracy protests. Video of her funeral procession showed a hearse with her picture in front and a convoy of vehicles driving out of a hospital. As the procession drove through the streets, people on motorbikes and bystanders were seen raising the three-finger salute from the Hunger Games movies, which has been adopted by protesters.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Protests in Myanmar amid flurry of Southeast Asian diplomacy, Al Jazeera, (Feb. 24, 2021).

Accessible at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/24/myanmar-set-for-more-protests-as-indonesia-steps-up-diplomacy>.

“Protests against the coup continued in Myanmar on Wednesday with people gathering outside the embassies of Indonesia and Thailand, amid fears a flurry of diplomacy to build a regional coalition to steer a path out of the country’s political crisis could give the generals’ power grab legitimacy.” P. 1.

“Hundreds of thousands took to the streets across Myanmar on Monday amid a general strike to condemn the February 1 coup and demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, despite threats from authorities that confrontation could get people killed. Gatherings were smaller on Wednesday, but groups turned out in front of the embassies of Indonesia and Thailand and calls went out on social media urging ASEAN, which Myanmar joined in 1997 under a previous military regime, not to give the coup leaders legitimacy by visiting the country.” P. 1.

Commented [AD4]: This pertains to May's experiences in that it corroborates specific protests that occurred in late February 2022.

“Groups from Myanmar’s different ethnic minorities also came out onto the streets of Yangon, Myanmar’s biggest city, on Wednesday. Bottom of Form ‘We ethnic minority people haven’t had the chance to demand our rights but now we do,’ said San Aung Li, 26, a member of the Kachin minority. ‘So I’m supporting the protest as all ethnic people are, with one voice.’” P. 1.

New Additions Added 3/10:

Tab X, Page X

Gatty Lecture Rewind Podcast, *Episode 67: May Sabe Phyu, Gender Equality Network Myanmar*, (Apr. 21, 2022).

Accessible at <https://gattyrewind.libsyn.com/episode-67-may-phyu-sabe-gender-equality-network-in-myanmar>

“My talk is focused on women[’s] peace and security and women’s important role not only in this spring revolutions after 2021 [with the] military’s failed coup, but in the history. I started to talk about . . . throughout the history, Myanmar women had participated in the different political and social movements. . . . They are important roles and their participation, contributions was not recognized and undervalued. It is totally absent from the historical account and normally the history is recorded mostly through the lens of male authors. Male historians tend to leave out the role of women. So, the whole presentation [the talk called “What’s Happening in Myanmar: Women, Peace, and Security” that May previously gave] is about some of the background history of complicated, complex Myanmar peace process and the history of 70 years of civil conflict and then how women’s organizations . . . march throughout the political situations and how they are trying to contribute and participate in many different roles like advocating not only women’s rights and gender equality, but also the issue of . . . the rights for our ethnic and religious minorities and overall equality of all gender minorities, etc.” 03:47-05:49.

“I focus on how, structurally, women are discriminated in country [sic], so I talk about structural discrimination, cultural and societal discrimination. But, in addition to all of that, women’s struggle individually in their own family and their society. [I talk about] how they are trying to break the glass ceilings and the overall struggle of women’s rights movement and advocacy on women’s peace and security agenda in the past and right now.” 05:50-06:39.

“[I want my audience members to walk away with] two things: One is, [that] in the national community and the media Myanmar issue[s] are not so popular in the national media, and a lot of people, including the audience who came to listen to my talk, a lot of people, they don’t know

Commented [AD5]: This is from a podcast that May was on, corroborating her continued activism and criticism of the junta. There's a lot here, almost certainly too much to put in a TOC, but we can always pick and choose which parts we want from it

Commented [AD6R5]: 4/11: added time stamps

what's happening in Myanmar right now. Since the world is so busy with Afghanistan, Ukraine, and also the other important issues. So, Myanmar, we are always out of the attentions of our international media and international communities, mainly because our countries have been isolated for so long. Because, I mean in my 45 years in life, I have spent almost 40 years living under the military regime. Different kinds of military regimes, they isolate the country and they try to cut all the communications and information with the international community A lot of people, they don't know even where Myanmar is situated, and we always have to respond that actually, Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia after Indonesia . . . but no one knows about us . . . [S]o we want the international community to understand what's happening in Myanmar right now and we would like to get more attention and empathy from the international community to help us from the terrible situations we are in right now. So, that's one thing." 07:34-10:00.

"Another takeaway I would like the audience to take from the talk is, as I said from our history, in most of the cases, women's important role is always neglected or undervalued. So, I would like to highlight that women are courageously sacrificing their lives and they are contributing so much not only for the society they are living [in], but for the country What we would like the international community to understand is Myanmar conflict is not internal affairs at all. This is something the world should pay more attention [to]. On part of it, women's participation and women's contribution is so important and you shouldn't undervalue or overlook how women have been contributing to this important situation." 10:00-11:38.

"My Network, Gender Equality Network, itself is [an] inter-agency, national level advocacy network, so of course we do a lot of research on women's meaningful participation in politics, decision-making, peace process, and we keep documenting gender-based violence, especially after the coup. We started to document human rights violations, overall human rights violations, of course. And then, more specifically, sexual violence by the forces is one of the topic we are trying to document along this year. Of course, we are also trying to understand the international mechanisms since we are all member states of the UN, and the role of UN is to maintain peace and stability among the UN member states. We try to understand which international mechanisms work or which international mechanisms do not work." 13:02-14:38.

"In Myanmar's case, sadly, most of the international mechanisms existing seem [to be] not working. That is why individually I am curious and I would like to do more research on what are the existing international mechanisms and if the existing mechanisms are not working, what are the alternatives we have? . . . We need to save our country and we need to

save our people's lives. So we need to find out which mechanism is useful for us. That's the area of research that I'm very much interested in and I'm trying desperately to find out right now as well." 14:42-16:05.

"The common misconceptions that people outside of Myanmar have about the coup is that, I already mentioned it, this is just the internal affairs. So the international community, all the UN member states, they do care so much about serenity and non-interference policies. They try to put Myanmar's issues in the pan of Asia. Like 'okay, Asia should be the one to try to help Myanmar's situations. We have to follow non-interference policy and since this is internal affair, we should not intervene.' That's the common misconception. And before we talk about politics, even from the human rights perspective, from the humanitarian needs' perspective, the international community or the UN, from our perspective, they just wash their hands, sit back, and [go] 'okay, humanitarian principles should be neutral[ity], impartiality, independence,' blah blah blah. But, the situation is 'are you sure? You are impartial or independent?' when we talk about the humanitarian needs in Myanmar." 17:31-19:24.

"We are living under the terrorizations of military junta, and [the] humanitarian landscape is very hostile. The military junta is arresting and killing humanitarian workers. In such situations, you are still talking about humanitarian principles like impartiality, independence, blah blah blah. So, from our perspective, all of these are misconceptions. If you do care about human rights, if you care about humanitarian situations and the lives of the people, this is not internal affairs at all . . . everything is connected." 20:06-21:10.

"Myanmar's issue is that . . . we are not getting enough support from the UN and international community." 22:49-23:04.

New Additions Added 3/28:

Tab X, Page X

Smuggled note exposes violence against women in Myanmar jail – lawyers, activists, Reuters, (Mar. 9, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/smuggled-note-exposes-violence-against-women-myanmar-jail-lawyers-activists-2023-03-10/>

"In early February, four members of an anti-junta group in the Myanmar city of Mandalay said they received a secret, one-page, handwritten note spirited out of a prison that details two days of clashes and beatings of female political prisoners. The note, received by the 'Anti-Junta Forces

Commented [PGN7]: This pertains to evidence of violence against women prisoners in Myanmar

Commented [PGN8]: Article says: Reuters could not independently verify if there were any female guards present during the incidents on Feb. 3-4 or if the rule book remains current.

"They used excessive force," Aung Myo Min said, adding that his ministry had investigated the violence at Obo prison. He declined to explain how the investigation was conducted and offered no evidence to support the allegation

Does this diminish credibility?

Commented [AD9R8]: I think it may reduce the probative value, but it's still a valuable article (sorry can't get evidence out of my brain)

Coordination Committee – Mandalay' and since seen by Reuters, provides the first detailed account of a crackdown on defiant female prisoners inside Mandalay's Obo prison that left scores of women injured, according to six activists and lawyers who work with political prisoners." P. X.

"Inside the prison, which rights activists say houses some 2,000 political inmates including 330 women, an altercation between an inmate and a prison official on Feb. 3 led to around 150 male prison guards arriving with slingshots, batons and bamboo sticks, the note, written in Burmese, said. "During that incident, more than 100 female political prisoners were seriously injured including a broken arm, eye injuries and facial bruises," the note said." P. X.

"Aung Myo Min, the human rights minister in Myanmar's exiled parallel civilian government, said Obo prison authorities had violated prison rules by using male guards to handle female inmates. 'As these people are women prisoners, they have to be handled by women prison guards. But they used men,' he told Reuters, echoing similar allegations made separately by activists and lawyers. Male guards cannot enter dormitories housing female inmates without the presence of women guards and female inmates cannot be physically beaten, according to a copy of a nationwide prison rule book published in 1992 seen by Reuters." P. X.

"They refused to give medicines to the injured prisoners after beating them severely. We had to use under-the-table methods to be able to send medicine,' one lawyer said. Reuters could not independently verify that information. After the violence, 72 female political prisoners were isolated from other inmates at Obo and dozens were transferred to other jails without their families being notified, according to three activists, two lawyers and two family members." P. X.

Tab X, Page X

Jonathan Head, Myanmar army chief vows to crush resistance in rare speech, BBC, (Mar. 27, 2023).

Accessible at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65084202>

"The pageantry of Myanmar's annual military parade did little to mask the sinister message - the country's armed forces won't stop fighting those opposing their rule, whatever the cost." P. X.

“But General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, showed no signs of backing down in a rare speech. The regime, he said, would deal decisively with what he described as "acts of terror" by armed resistance groups. And, he added, countries which have condemned his coup - supporters of terror, he branded them - were wrong and should join the military in shaping its own form of democracy.” P. X.

“There was Orwellian double-speak too, such as blaming Aung San Suu Kyi and her party for attempting to seize power through their resounding election victory in November 2020, when it was the men in uniform who actually seized power at the point of a gun, and at such catastrophic cost to the country.” P. X.

“From the security of its fortified citadel, the military appears to believe that brute force, used on an increasingly exhausted population, will eventually cement their regime.” P. X.

Tab X, Page X

Sauid Ahmed Khan, *The Unholy Nexus Between The Monks and Military in Myanmar*, Australian Institute of International Affairs (Mar. 22, 2023).

Accessible at

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-unholy-nexus-between-the-monks-and-military-in-myanmar/>

“In Myanmar both religion and ethnicity have become powerful weapons for demographic control and efficient government. Buddhist monks are often employed by the military when they are unable to attract their citizens to their interests.” P. X.

“A number of ultranationalist Patriotic Association of Myanmar (Ma-Ba-Tha) Monks were banned and imprisoned as part of Aung San Suu Kyi’s quasi-civilian NDL (National League for Democracy) government attempt to rein in extremism. With the military junta back in power after the 2021 coup, Ma-Ba-Tha has been released, which has coincided with greater support for the junta as the protector of Buddhism.” P. X.

“These extremist Monks have long been the cause of violence against minorities, including the riots of 2013 that killed 70 Muslims and led to a military operation in Rakhine. Over time, the military has treated them with gifts and has encouraged their ultranationalist and frequently Islamophobic agendas.” P. X.

“Over time, the slow exclusion of ethnic minorities from resources development and political representation has evolved into the persecution

Commented [PGN10]: This pertains to the close relationship between Ma Ba Tha & the government, thus confirming the threats May received were even more dangerous than just a third party sending them - shows close ties with government

of minorities, as the plight of the Rohingya people illustrates. Other ethnic minority groups frequently involved in violent conflict in Myanmar include Kachin, Shan, and Karen peoples.” P. X.

Tab X, Page X

Military council threatens to take action against those enrolled in NUG schools, Burma News International, (Mar. 4, 2023).

Accessible at: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/military-council-threatens-take-action-against-those-enrolled-nug-schools>

“The military council has threatened to take action against parents who enroll their children in online schools established and opened by the National Unity Government (NUG) under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The threat emerged after the military council discovered the leaked information of more than 500 students enrolled in Free Online Educational Institution Myanmar (FOEIM), an online school.” P. X.

“The military council announced on March 1 that parents of students who send their children to NUG schools will be prosecuted under the Anti-Terrorism Act, and that their children should only be enrolled in schools recognized by the military council.” P. X.

New Additions Added 3/29:

Tab X, Page X

Alar Corritti et al., *Atrocities in Myanmar: Documenting the Junta’s Attacks on Civilians*, United States Institute of Peace, (Mar. 1, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/03/atrocities-myanmar-documenting-juntas-attacks-civilians>

“Even before the February 2021 coup, Myanmar’s military often deployed systematic violence against civilians, developing a reputation for ruthlessness that dates back decades. Their abuse of ethnic minorities such as the Rohingya have been the subject of countless international human rights investigations, while their nearly unchecked power allowed them to operate with impunity.” P. 1.

“Since the coup, the scale of the junta’s violence and brutality has intensified, reaching nearly every corner of the country. In an attempt to assert its power, the junta has detained nearly 20,000 civilians and killed an estimated 3,000 others over the last two years. Meanwhile, 1.5 million

Commented [PGN11]: This pertains to the dangers Soi may face as a member of FOEIM

Commented [PGN12R11]: A flag: article says

In 2022, FOEIM charged an annual school fee of 1,000 to 3,000 Thai baht per class, and there was a financial abuse scandal by the founder of FOEIM, with some disputes with the office team.

Commented [AD13]: This article is about treatment of ethnic minorities and protesters. Although the article is specifically about the targeting of ethnic minorities in Karenni State, the authors suggest that the military junta treats other ethnic minorities in the same way.

people have been displaced as the junta and a strengthening resistance movement fight for territorial control.” P. 1.

“The documented abuse [against ethnic minorities in Karenni State] proves the junta’s targeting of civilians is far more pervasive and severe than previously known, as it’s only through on-the-ground investigations that we were able to uncover these crimes. There are many places in Myanmar where this has not been done — where victims of the junta’s atrocities haven’t been given a voice and a path toward justice. Civil society should be empowered to undertake such efforts across the country, and the international community should use the evidence from Karenni State as a catalyst for serious accountability measures to bring the perpetrators of junta crimes to justice.” P. 1.

“The junta employs a collective punishment strategy when it comes to fighting insurgencies and ethnic armed groups: They deliberately target civilians, seeing them as the “support base” for armed resistance groups.” P. 1.

“Hundreds of civilians have been killed by mortar shelling, crossfire, airstrikes and landmines. The junta has damaged or destroyed over 1,000 homes across 87 towns, as well as targeted civilian infrastructure like health care clinics. International humanitarian aid to the area has also been routinely blocked by the junta, leaving many people without adequate supplies of safe food and water. When aid does manage to reach Karenni State, the task is often taken up by local civil society members, who are frequently arrested and detained by the junta. In all, the junta has arbitrarily arrested at least 260 civilians — including peaceful protesters, teachers, medical personnel and humanitarian aid workers — and have killed at least 115 of those arrested. Of those that are released, many have reported they were subjected to torture and cruel treatment.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Military’s ‘four cuts’ doctrine drives perpetual human rights crisis in Myanmar, says UN report, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, (Mar. 3, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/militarys-four-cuts-doctrine-drives-perpetual-human-rights-crisis-myanmar>

“Myanmar’s military has created a perpetual human rights crisis through the continuous use of violence, including the killing, arbitrary arrest, torture and enforced disappearance of anti-coup opponents, a report published by the UN Human Rights Office said today.” P. 1.

Commented [AD14]: This article is about increasing violence by the military junta since the coup.

“Two years after the military launched a coup, the generals have embarked on a scorched earth policy in an attempt to stamp out opposition,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, said.” P. 1.

“The military employs its so-called four-cuts approach - including through indiscriminate airstrikes and artillery shelling, razing villages to displace civilian populations, and denial of humanitarian access - to cut off non-State organized armed groups and other anti-military armed elements from access to food, finances, intelligence and recruits.” P. 1.

“One of the most frequently used tactics by the military is the systematic and widespread burning of villages and dwellings. Consistent with their modus operandi documented over decades, including in Kachin in 2011 and Rakhine in 2017, UN reports indicated that nearly 39,000 houses nationwide have been burnt or destroyed in military operations since February 2022, representing a more than 1,000-fold increase compared to 2021.” P. 1.

“The military has also adopted rules, including martial law, intended to target anti-coup opposition and severely restrict the civic space that had significantly contributed to Myanmar’s democratic transition,” Türk said. ‘Across Myanmar, people are continuously exposed to violations and crimes, including killings, enforced disappearances, displacement, torture, arbitrary arrests, and sexual violence. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the military and its affiliated militias continue to be responsible for most violations, some of which may constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes,’ the UN Human Rights Chief said.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Situation of human rights in Myanmar, United Nation Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, (Mar. 3, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/myanmar-factsheet.pdf>

“Two years after the military coup, people in Myanmar remain exposed to daily human rights violations. Myanmar’s conflict landscape has changed dramatically, highlighting concerns for the protection of civilians. By late 2021, and throughout 2022, violence intensified especially in the north-west and south-east, with the military employing its “four-cuts” strategy: indiscriminate deployment of airstrikes and artillery shelling, mass burnings of villages to displace civilian populations, and denial of humanitarian access. The military also unilaterally adopted rules to decimate anti-coup opposition and to dismantle the expanded civic space that had significantly contributed to Myanmar’s development.” P. 1.

Commented [AD15]: This is a UN report on human rights in Myanmar. It touches on a lot of topics, including treatment of political activists and the treatment of family members (targeting in the places of the activists)

“There is widespread use of extrajudicial executions by the military often following arrests carried out in villages and towns after raids. In the past year, there were at least 24 incidents where 5 or more people were detained and then killed in a single incident. At least 920 people have died while in military custody since 1 February 2021. Individuals were also killed in airstrikes, by artillery fire and during arson attacks on villages.” P. 1.

“Family members of persons with outstanding arrest warrants increasingly faced arbitrary arrest and detention, including through repeated abductions and hostage taking of children, as young as three, constituting in some cases enforced disappearances.” P. 2.

“Interviewees continued to report inadequate conditions in detention, which may amount to torture, including overcrowding; insufficient sanitation and hygiene; and lack of access to or denial of healthcare services, food, and water.” P. 2.

“Soldiers moved from village to village even if there was no active fighting, looted properties, occasionally stayed overnight, and burnt down houses before departing. Often ground raids are preceded by artillery fire or airstrikes to rush villagers out so they leave valuables behind. Soldiers also immolated people, set food storage facilities on fire, and burnt cattle.” P. 2.

“The military also carried out enforced disappearances, particularly of prominent political figures, and religious and community leaders, family members of sought individuals to force them out of hiding and in the context of raids on villages.” P. 2.

“Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, were perpetrated in interrogation centres and other formal detention settings against women, men and LGBTQI+ community members, as well as in villages during military raids.” P. 2.

“Military has unilaterally adopted so-called laws, amended existing provisions, and used laws and institutions (e.g. judiciary) to target opponents and suppress dissent.” P. 3.

“There are reasonable grounds to believe that some of the most serious violations committed by the military may amount to crimes against humanity. These are murder; forcible transfer, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law; torture; rape; persecution of an identifiable group or

collective on political grounds; enforced disappearances; and other inhumane acts causing great suffering and serious injury.” P. 4.

“Some of these acts, when committed in relation to armed conflicts, may also constitute war crimes. These include attacking civilians and protected objects; murder; mutilation; torture; cruel treatment; outrages upon personal dignity; taking of hostages; execution without due process; displacing civilians; starvation; and destroying or seizing properties.” P. 4.

Tab X, Page X

More than two years on, impact of Myanmar military coup ‘devastating,’ United Nations, (16 Mar. 2023).

Accessible at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134682>

“Now in its third year, Noeleen Heyzer said that ‘the impact of the military takeover on the country and its people, has been devastating.’” P. 1.

“On 1 February, [Heyzer] said the military had extended its State of Emergency and intensified the use of force to include more aerial bombing, the burning of civilian homes, and other ‘grave human rights violations to maintain its grip on power.’ She described the spread of Martial Law to 47 different townships, and the empowering of citizens deemed loyal to the regime, by allowing them to carry guns. Atrocities, beheadings, and the mutilation of rebel fighters’ bodies have been recorded, together with escalating violence in ethnic areas. ‘We just received reports that 28 civilians were killed by the military at a monastery in Southern Shan state this weekend.’” P. 1.

“The conflict has meant humanitarian needs have risen steadily, with 17.6 million Burmese in need of humanitarian assistance, more than 1.6 million internally displaced, and an estimated 55,000 civilian buildings destroyed since the coup. She said it was critical, that a Myanmar-led process, reflective of all voices – especially women, youth and minorities – be allowed to decide the country’s future.” P. 1.

Commented [AD16]: This article is about the increasing violence of the military junta

Tab X, Page X

Myanmar: Abuses Mount Since Military Coup, Human Rights Watch, (Jan. 12, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/01/12/myanmar-abuses-mount-military-coup>

“Myanmar’s junta has been responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity since the military coup in February 2021, Human Rights Watch said today in its *World Report 2023*. The security forces have been implicated in mass killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual

Commented [AD17]: This article is about increasing violence by the military junta

violence, and attacks on civilians in conflict areas. Amid a post-coup economic crisis, the junta has severely hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid to communities most at risk.” P. 1.

“Since the coup, Myanmar’s security forces have arbitrarily arrested more than 16,000 pro-democracy activists and supporters and killed at least 2,300, according to the nongovernmental Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. In July, the military executed four political prisoners in Myanmar’s first use of the death penalty in over three decades. The National League for Democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, is serving a 33-year sentence after closed military trials for corruption, incitement, breaching the Official Secrets Act, and other politically motivated charges.” P. 1.

“The Myanmar military has carried out indiscriminate ground and air attacks that have resulted in numerous civilian deaths. Fighting since the coup has displaced over one million people internally, with another 70,000 refugees fleeing into neighboring countries.” P. 1.

“The junta has blocked desperately needed humanitarian aid from reaching millions of displaced people and others at risk, in violation of international humanitarian law. Across the country, security forces imposed new travel restrictions and attacked aid workers, blocked access to roads and aid convoys, destroyed non-military supplies, and shut down telecommunications services.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Tirana Hassan, *World Report 2023: A New Model for Global Leadership on Human Rights*, Human Rights Watch, (2023).

Accessible at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023>

“In February 2021, Myanmar’s military staged a coup and has brutally suppressed widespread opposition ever since. For two years, the military junta has carried out systematic abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and sexual violence, that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.” P. 1.

“The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) produced a “Five Point Consensus”—negotiated between the bloc and Myanmar’s junta—to address the crisis in the country. It has failed, with several ASEAN countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore acknowledging the junta’s refusal to comply. Since the coup, ASEAN has barred Myanmar junta representatives from the bloc’s high-level meetings. Beyond that, ASEAN has imposed minimal pressure on Myanmar, while other powerful governments, including those of the US and UK, hide behind regional deference to justify their own limited action.” P. 1.

Commented [AD18]: This is the forward from the HRW’s 2023 report by the Executive Director. It discusses violence by the military junta as well as acknowledgement by other countries of the junta’s actions

World Report 2023: Events of 2022, Human Rights Watch, (2023).

Accessible at

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2023/01/World_Report_2023_WEBSPREADS_0.pdf

“Since staging a coup on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military has carried out a brutal nationwide crackdown on millions of people opposed to its rule. The junta security forces have carried out mass killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, sexual violence, and other abuses that amount to crimes against humanity. Freedom of speech and assembly face severe restrictions.” P. 432.

“Expanded military operations have resulted in numerous war crimes against ethnic minority populations in Kachin, Karen, Karenni, and Shan States. The military has also committed abuses including using “scorched earth” tactics, burning villages in Magway and Sagaing regions. The Myanmar military has long defied international calls for accountability, including for atrocity crimes committed against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities. The junta’s ineptitude and mismanagement of the country’s economy since the coup has heightened the suffering of the population and entrenched a climate of fear and insecurity.” P. 432.

“Since the coup, junta authorities have arbitrarily arrested more than 16,000 prodemocracy supporters. Many former detainees alleged torture or other ill-treatment, such as sexual violence, during their detention. One journalist recounted after his release that guards raped and beat him in detention.” P. 432.

“Myanmar’s military and police are responsible for scores of deaths in custody. Human Rights Watch documented in detail the deaths of six detained activists that involved apparent torture or the denial of adequate medical care. At least 273 people have died in police or military custody in police stations, military interrogation centers, and prisons since the coup, according to the United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR). The military junta has carried out grossly unfair trials in closed courts to impose lengthy and often harsh sentences. By November 2022, the junta’s security forces killed at least 2,400 persons, according to the nongovernmental Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.” P. 432.

“The junta brought multiple charges against Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the ousted National League for Democracy party, including for corruption, incitement, and breaching the Official Secrets Act. In September, three of her deposed cabinet ministers—Soe Win, Sett Aung

Commented [AD19]: This is a report of Myanmar in 2022, and it includes the increasing violence of the junta as well as its targeted persecution of certain ethnic groups, including the Kachin people. The report also touches on the treatment of political prisoners and political activists, and even corroborates the arrest of Sean Turnell, which Professor Fischer mentions in her affidavit in support of May

and Kyaw Win—and Australian economic adviser Sean Turnell were convicted under the Official Secrets Act and each sentenced to three years’ imprisonment. Earlier that month, Aung San Suu Kyi and former President Win Myint were each sentenced to three years and hard labor under electoral fraud charges. The multiple convictions meant Aung San Suu Kyi faces more than 23 years in prison.” P. 432-33.

“The military’s indiscriminate use of artillery and airstrikes has killed and injured numerous civilians, damaged villages, including schools, and forced thousands to flee. Blocks to mobile internet data and networks are ongoing in many parts of the country where anti-junta opposition has resulted in clashes between the Myanmar military and pro-democracy armed groups.” P. 433.

“On October 23, the military carried out an airstrike on a music concert in Hpakant, Kachin State, organized by the opposition Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) to commemorate the ethnic organization’s 62nd anniversary, in an apparent violation of the laws of war. The attack killed at least 80 people and injured over 100. Junta forces subsequently blocked access to medical care for those harmed.” P. 434.

“OHCHR reported that military operations destroyed up to 30,000 civilian infrastructures, including schools in Magway and Sagaing Regions, as well as in Kachin, Shan, Karen, and Karenni States. The OHCHR said that since the coup, at least 382 children have been killed; there were 266 other reported deaths following raids and arrests in villages, and another 111 reported cases where victims were burned alive or after extrajudicial killings, in apparent attempts to destroy evidence of crimes.” P. 434.

“Lawyers are increasing harassed by junta authorities when defending political and criminal cases. Closed courts and a lack of due process are just some of the challenges they face. The junta has sought to legitimize its power by arbitrarily changing laws, appointing junta-aligned judges, and arresting lawyers for defending junta opponents. A law enacted in March formally brought the police under armed forces control, requiring police officers to comply with all military orders, including taking part in military operations.” P. 437.

Tab X, Page X

Antony J. Blinken, *Marking Two years Since the Military Coup in Burma*, United States Department of State, (Jan. 31, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.state.gov/markings-two-years-since-the-military-coup-in-burma/>

“Since the military’s coup on February 1, 2021, the political, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Burma has only grown more dire, with reports

Commented [AD20]: This is a press release from the Secretary of State. It mentions the increasing violence and that the US has imposed sanctions on the military junta. it also states the US government’s support the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar.

indicating nearly 3,000 killed, nearly 17,000 detained, and more than 1.5 million displaced. The regime's ongoing scorched-earth campaign continues to inflict harm and claim the lives of innocent people, fueling a worsening armed conflict within Burma and insecurity beyond its borders." P. 1.

"Today, the United States is imposing sanctions on six individuals and three entities linked to the regime's efforts to generate revenue and procure arms, including senior leadership of Burma's Ministry of Energy, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), and Burma's Air Force, as well as an arms dealer and a family member of a previously designated business associate of the military. We are also sanctioning the Union Electoral Commission, which the regime has deployed to advance its plans for deeply flawed elections that would subvert the will of the people of Burma. We are taking today's action in conjunction with actions also being taken by the United Kingdom and Canada. To date, we have sanctioned, under Executive Order 14014, 80 individuals and 32 entities to deprive the regime of the means to perpetuate its violence and to promote the democratic aspirations of Burma's people." P. 1.

"The United States remains firm in our position that the regime's planned elections cannot be free or fair, not while the regime has killed, detained, or forced possible contenders to flee, nor while it continues to inflict brutal violence against its peaceful opponents. Many key political stakeholders have announced their refusal to participate in these elections, which will be neither inclusive nor representative, and which almost certainly will fuel greater bloodshed. The United States will continue to support the pro-democracy movement and its efforts to advance peace and multiparty governance in Burma. We commend those working to strengthen unity and cohesion among diverse groups who share a vision of a genuine and inclusive democracy in Burma." P. 1.

New Country Conditions Added 3/31

Tab X, Page X

"Myanmar junta dissolves Suu Kyi's party as election deadline passes," CNN (March 28, 2023)

Accessible at: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/28/asia/myanmar-suu-kyi-nld-dissolved-intl-hnk/index.html>

Commented [J121]: This article relates to efforts to crush political dissent and crack down on political activism in Myanmar. It also relates to the government's treatment of NUG

“Myanmar’s military government has dissolved the ousted ruling party of former leader Aung San Suu Kyi and 39 other parties, state media announced on Tuesday, over their failure to register for an election set to prolong the army’s grip on power.” P.1

“The National League for Democracy (NLD) is among dozens of parliamentary parties that were severely weakened by the military’s 2021 coup against Suu Kyi’s elected government and its crackdown on protests against its rule.” P.1

“The election is almost certain to be swept by the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), a military proxy that was trounced by the NLD in the 2015 election and in a 2020 vote that the generals eventually voided, citing unaddressed irregularities.” P.1

“Tun Myint, a senior NLD official, said the party would never have registered for the polls with many of its members in jail or “involved in the revolution.”” P.1

““It doesn’t matter whether they say our party is dissolved or not. We are standing with the support of people,” Tun Myint told Reuters.” P.1

“The shadow National Unity Government (NUG), which the junta has declared “terrorists,” said the military had no authority to hold what would be a sham election.” P.1

Commented [J122]: Flagging for TRIG purposes, may not be worth including this article

“The election would return Myanmar to the quasi-civilian democratic system that experts say the military can control with the NLD out of the picture.” P.1

“Under the power-sharing arrangement outlined in the constitution, the military is guaranteed three ministerial portfolios, a quarter of all legislative seats and a say in who gets nominated to become president.”
P.1

New Country Conditions Added 4/11:

Tab X, Page X

Using Technology to Promote Gender Equality, and the empowerment and participation of women and girls in Myanmar (CSW62 Side Event), United Nations, (Mar. 6, 2023).

Accessible at <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1oxediha6>

“When the military started using digital platforms to surveil, make and discriminate, arrest and encroach on women human rights defenders’ online privacy and activities, a real need for digital security emerged. To highlight how restrictive Myanmar became, since 2021, and the military control, Myanmar military security forces conducted seizure of and surprise checks of citizens’ mobiles on the streets and at their homes. The security forces arrested people for having a Facebook post that was slightly critical of their illegal attempt to seize power. Many of our colleagues were arrested, and their phones confiscated. The military tried to retrieve the deleted data to find intelligence to arrest additional activists and women human rights defenders who were associated with detained women human rights defenders.” 47:35-48:40.

“Further, our [Gender Equality] Network provided VPN and other digital resources, including buying OneDrive spaces, to upload and save sensitive information and documents online. For instance, our Network also organized digital security training and workshops for our members in 2021 to provide contextualized and adaptive assistance to members who had to navigate through a restricted environment.” 49:34-50:03.

“At least 54 of Myanmar’s 330 townships are currently affected by internet blackouts. The women rights organization[s] and women human rights defenders in these townships face major impediments in accessing [the] internet and in using a digital platform for documentation, evidence gathering, and communication. It is very important that people in active armed conflict areas have access to digital platforms. Therefore, for those who wish to support Myanmar’s pro-democracy movement and resistance, it is important to find alternative solutions to internet. 51:03-51:47.

Commented [AD23]: This is about May's continued activism and the treatment of gender equality activists

Commented [AD24]: Is there an issue with this language potentially being interpreted as supporting an armed group?

“Digital space[s] have been hijacked by authoritarian forces to incite hatred, spread lies and attacks, and ridicule those women human rights defenders who dared to resist and fight back against the military’s authoritarianism. For instance, some social media platforms were a source of misinformation for attacks on women human rights defenders. We have absolute evidence of women human rights defenders [who are] inmates being attacked on purpose to defame their image and dignity. One pro-democracy activist was forced to jump from a high-rise building as the only way to avoid the junta forces. After she was on the ground dead, she became undressed and the trolls of the junta deliberately spread inappropriate pictures with an entirely made-up story of her life. This is not an isolated case as there are countless incidents of women human rights defenders being targeted and attacked by junta trolls to silence their activism, to sexualize images, and by spreading rumors around their dignity and private life.” 52:09-53:32.

“There are a lot of areas, like Myanmar, and the other affected countries [where] there can be [at] any time internet blackout or internet blockage from the authoritarian regime. So, we have been asking . . . international communities [to] provid[e] centralized [systems] or any other, like centralized broadband, that can access the local phone lines to connect with. Because there is no way for the people who are living inside the country [to access them], because all the telecommunications companies are owned by them [the authoritarian regime. All the communications we are using are being tapped. 1:11:49-1:12:36.

Tab X, Page X

Press Conference: Women Human Rights Defenders from Myanmar (Sponsored by the Mission of Norway), United Nations, (Mar. 13, 2023).

Accessible at <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1r/k1r27vircx>

“The current terror campaign used by the Myanmar military . . . has the strategic intent of forcing people to submit to the military and make the entire population suffer from their tyrannical acts. So, the behavior of the military is not just for control of the nation. It is for the purpose of pure terror. These heinous acts amount to crime[s] against humanity and gross human rights violations. Following the failed coup, the use of the digital platform to organize protests, as well as the actual physical organizing, have suffered from extremely punitive actions, [such as] severe repression and curtailment of freedom of speech and expressions of political opinions. These punishments extend down to the level of actions, where simply giving a “Like” to a Facebook post that is critical of the junta can result in arrest, torture, and confiscation of all mobile phones. The military can retrieve crucial information from deleted data on the phones, which

Commented [AD25]: This is about May's continued activism.

they use to target people indiscriminately for arrests, and torture and even death.” 03:38-04:58.

“We women of Myanmar believe that to achieve gender equality, it is a must to end militarism and the impunity enjoyed by the military for their actions. We know in our hearts that women’s rights and gender equality will never be advanced if the junta remains in power. The National Unity Government, National Unity Consultative Council, and ethnic resistance organizations are all legitimate bodies for governance of Myanmar, and the vast majority of people recognize them as such . . . We urge that international community to recognize these legitimate governing bodies publicly. 04:59-05:57.

Tab X, Page X

Edith M. Lederer, *Activists urge UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to court*, Associated Press News, (Mar. 14, 2023).

Accessible at <https://apnews.com/article/myanmar-military-united-nations-security-council-activists-df32231976b81a698892c29c00dbb7f9>

“May Sabe Phyu, director of the Gender Equality Network, a coalition of organizations promoting women’s rights in Myanmar, accused Myanmar’s military of conducting “a terror campaign” and committing “heinous acts” that constituted crimes against humanity. She said the Security Council should refer the junta’s actions to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.” P. 1.

“Phyu, who left Myanmar after the takeover and is now based in the United States, asked the Security Council to pressure Myanmar’s neighbors not to support the government but to publicly support democratic forces, including the National Unity Government, which she said has the support of the people of Myanmar. And she criticized U.N. envoy Heyzer for meeting Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing but not meeting publicly with pro-democracy groups including the National Unity Government, which operates underground and calls itself the country’s legitimate government.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

In Her Own Words, Women’s Peace & Humanitarian Fund.

Accessible at <https://wphfund.org/in-her-own-words-mav-sabe/>

“May Sabe Phyu is a human rights defender, peace advocate and WPHF partner from Myanmar. Her work centers around advancing social justice for Myanmar’s ethnic minorities, combating violence against women and girls and advancing gender equality. With support from WPHF, May Sabe has worked — in partnership with Action Aid International — to enhance

Commented [AD26]: This is about May's continued activism

Commented [AD27]: This is an interview corroborating May's story and activism

the gender responsiveness of humanitarian action during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her critical work has provided displaced women and girls with hygiene kits, protective equipment and training on protection against gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse across Kachin State, a mountainous region in northern Myanmar.” P. 1.

“Born into a multi-ethnic family, May Sabe soon learned about the reality of ethnic discrimination and the inextricable connection between ethnicity and armed conflict in Myanmar. While her mother was born in Kachin State, her father belongs to the Bamar, the dominant ethnic group in the country, which has systematically excluded, marginalized, and oppressed ethnic minorities, including the Kachin, for decades. ‘As a mixed-blood child, I was always seen as an outsider in my own community. This discrimination made me think a lot about the origin of Myanmar’s ethnic divide and inspired me to become a peace activist and advocate for ending inequality and violence, especially in remote areas.’” P. 1.

“After living under a military dictatorship for most of her life, May Sabe knows that men’s hunger for power and authority can result in increased violence and the adoption of policies that fail to address the needs of women and girls. While most people in Myanmar still believe that women’s place is at home, not in politics, and that women lack the knowledge and skills to lead, May Sabe is a firm advocate for feminist leadership and strongly believes that women’s negotiation skills are critical for advancing peaceful dialogue and achieving sustainable peace.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X

Edith Lederer, *Activists Urge UN Security Council to Refer Myanmar to Court*, Seattle Times, (Mar. 13, 2023)

Accessible at <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/activists-urge-un-security-council-to-refer-myanmar-to-court/>

“May Sabe Phyu, director of the Gender Equality Network, a coalition of organizations promoting women’s rights in Myanmar, accused Myanmar’s military of conducting “a terror campaign” and committing “heinous acts” that constituted crimes against humanity. She said the Security Council should refer the junta’s actions to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.”

“Phyu, who left Myanmar after the takeover and is now based in the United States, asked the Security Council to pressure Myanmar’s neighbors not to support the government but to publicly support

Commented [J128]: This article includes info about May speaking at a UN event

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democratic forces, including the National Unity Government, which she said has the support of the people of Myanmar.”

“And she criticized U.N. envoy Heyzer for meeting Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing but not meeting publicly with pro-democracy groups including the National Unity Government, which operates underground and calls itself the country’s legitimate government”

New Country Conditions Added 4/16:

Tab X, Page X **Han Thit, *Insein Prison court hands three-year sentences to 10 student activists*, Myanmar Now, (Apr. 4, 2022)**

Accessible at <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/insein-prison-court-hands-three-year-sentences-to-10-student-activists/>

“A court inside Yangon’s Insein Prison last week gave three-year sentences to 10 people—a journalist and nine student activists—for their opposition to the military dictatorship.” **P.X.**

“The others sentenced at Insein Prison last week included Khant Thu Aung, the chair of a branch of the Yangon Economic University Students’ Union, and Yin Myat Noe Oo, the branch’s treasurer.” **P.X.**

“They were arrested in April last year at the Kyauk Myaung market in Tamwe along with Phyto Kyaw Naing, member of the union, and Min Hein Khant, a former union member.” **P.X.**

“Khant Thu Aung has said he is concerned for his own safety, said Thet Naung, his lawyer. “He instructed us to keep an eye on his status. He’s very worried about getting targeted,” the lawyer said. “I heard he was tortured as well. Although the others are being held near the meditation center, he is being held at the main ward.” He did not give further details.” **P.X.**

Tab X, Page X **Han Thit, *Student activist handed three-year sentence by Insein Prison court*, Myanmar Now, (Feb. 21, 2022)**

Accessible at: <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/student-activist-handed-three-year-sentence-by-insein-prison-court/>

“A student activist arrested in Yangon last year after putting up posters that criticised the junta was handed a three-year prison sentence for incitement at a court inside Insein Prison last week.” P.X.

“Yin Myat Noe Oo, the treasurer of a branch of the Yangon University of Economics Students’ Union, was among four detained in April near the Kyauk Myaung Market in Tamwe.” P.X.

“Yin Myat Noe Oo was arrested alongside Khant Thu Aung, her union’s chair, Phyo Kyaw Naing, a union member and Min Hein Khant, a former member” P.X.

“Khant Thu Aung, the union’s chair, was reportedly denied medical attention while sick in prison.” P.X.

New Country Conditions Added 4/21:

Tab X, Page X **Johnathan Head and Nicholas Yong, Myanmar military airstrike: More than 100 people feared dead, BBC News, (Apr. 12, 2023),**

Accessible at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65238250>

“More than 100 people are feared to have been killed in Tuesday’s airstrike by the Myanmar military, one of the deadliest so far in the civil war. Survivors told the BBC they have collected at least 80 bodies, but expect the toll to rise further. The United Nations has condemned the attack, which targeted a village in the north-western Sagaing region. The military has increasingly used air strikes against their opponents since seizing power in February 2021.” P. 1.

“With so many army convoys being ambushed now on the roads, the junta is using air power more widely, targeting symbols of defiance of its rule. This includes schools and health clinics; sometimes entire villages are destroyed in a scorched earth campaign which it hopes will eventually exhaust the tenacious resistance it is facing in much of the country.” P. 1.

“‘Despite clear legal obligations for the military to protect civilians in the conduct of hostilities, there has been blatant disregard for the related rules of international law,’ the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, said. ‘There are reasonable grounds to believe that the military and its affiliated militias are responsible for an extremely broad

Commented [AD30]: This article is about the increasing violence of the junta. Flag that the event that the junta bombed was arranged by the PDF.

range of human rights violations and abuses since 1 February 2021, some of which may constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.’ Thousands have been killed in the civil war, with an additional 1.4 million displaced. Nearly a third of the country's population is also in need of humanitarian aid, according to the United Nations.” P. 1.

“There were at least 600 air attacks by the military between February 2021 and January 2023, according to a BBC analysis of data from the conflict-monitoring group Acled (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project). The junta has been increasingly relying on its Russian and Chinese aircraft to bomb opposition-controlled villages, inflicting much higher casualties among non-combatants.” P. 1.

Tab X, Page X **Min Ye Kyaw and Rebecca Ratcliffe, ‘Our country is sick’: survivors in shock after deadly Myanmar airstrike, Guardian, (Apr. 18, 2023).**

Accessible at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/18/our-country-is-sick-survivors-in-shock-after-deadly-myanmar-airstrike>

“It was supposed to be an opportunity for local people to gather and share food. After more than two years of turmoil following the 2021 military coup, hundreds of locals from neighbouring villages had been invited to Pa Zi Gyi to celebrate the opening of a new village hall, which had been set up by the junta’s domestic opponents. Families – from young toddlers and pregnant women to grandparents – had set off early to attend. The gathering on 11 April quickly became the scene of the deadliest airstrike by the Myanmar military since it seized power; 168 people, including 40 children and 24 pregnant women, were killed, according to the national unity government (NUG), which was set up by elected politicians and activists to oppose the military.” P. 1.

“While the death toll was higher than previous strikes, such attacks are not uncommon. The military, which has struggled to suppress a determined armed resistance to its rule, has increasingly launched airstrikes, including against hospitals and schools.” P. 1.

“The NUG has recorded more than 600 airstrikes between October 2021 and March 2023, he said. “We have recorded that the military targeted civilians, with knowledge that these are civilians, because they targeted the religious buildings; in some cases the attack was on the temporary medical centres that are providing humanitarian assistance.” P. 1.

“A day before Pa Zi Gyi, the military bombed a high school in Webula, Chin state, according to the independent outlet Myanmar Now. The school was closed at the time, but the headteacher and his wife, as well as seven others, were reportedly killed.” P. 1.

Commented [AD31]: This article is about the military's increasing violence. Flag that the event that the junta bombed was arranged by the PDF.

Tab X, Page X ***At least 22 people killed in suspected massacre at Myanmar monastery,***
Reuters, (Mar. 17, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/least-22-people-killed-suspected-massacre-myanmar-monastery-2023-03-17/>

“At least 22 people, including three Buddhist monks, were shot dead at close range in central Myanmar last week, according to a doctor's post-mortem report, in what opponents of military rule say was a massacre of civilians conducted by the army.” P. 1.

“A post-mortem report by Dr. Ye Zaw, who is part of the National Unity Government, an exiled civil administration formed since the coup, said automatic weapons were likely used at close range to kill 22 people, including three saffron-robed monks. ‘Since there were no military uniforms, equipment and ammunition found on the rest of the bodies, it is evident that they were civilians,’ said the report, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters.” P. 1.

“Aung Myo Min, the human rights minister in the National Unity Government, said the junta had ramped up combat operations and attacked groups of unarmed civilians in at least four instances in the last two weeks. ‘It is clearly evident that the strategy of the junta is to target civilians, which is a crime against humanity,’ he told reporters in an online media conference.” P. 1.

“At least 3,137 people have been killed in the military crackdown since the coup, according to the non-profit Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. The United Nations has accused the military of war crimes and crimes against humanity.” P. 1.

Commented [AD32]: This article is about the military's increasing violence

Tab X, Page X ***Ingyin Naing, Women Seen Targeted by Myanmar Forces With ‘Rape and Other Violence,’*** VOA News, (Apr. 2, 2023).

Accessible at <https://www.voanews.com/a/women-seen-targeted-by-myanmar-forces-with-rape-other-violence/7033057.html>

“A Myanmar human rights activist told VOA in a recent interview that the ruling junta in Myanmar ‘is using rape and other violence against women as a bigger part of its campaign to crack down against opposition groups.’ May Sabe Phyu organized women’s demonstrations in the anti-coup protest movement. She fled Myanmar in April 2021 under threat of arrest and is now a visiting fellow at the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University. She and other female Myanmar human rights defenders formed the Women Advocacy Coalition Myanmar in May 2021 to

Commented [AD33]: This article mentions and contains quotes from May and is about the junta's treatment of women

strengthen and support the role of women in the anti-coup movement. She said the junta wants to 'scare people, whoever is against the coup, using fear as a weapon and women's bodies as a battlefield.'" P. 1.

"The National Unity Government (NUG) Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs and the National Unity Consultative Council Joint Coordination Committee on Gender Policy said in a March 8 joint statement that junta troops have sexually assaulted at least 122 women since the beginning of the coup two years ago. At least 3,125 women have been detained in that time, 15 of whom have been sentenced to life in prison by the junta, and 11 more who face the death penalty, according to the statement." P. 1.

"VOA recently reported on one of the latest examples of sexual violence, where junta troops raided Tar Taing village in the seat of Sagaing region on March 1, killing at least 17 civilians, three of whom were women. The women had been gang-raped by the soldiers before being shot and killed. The attack was seen as part of a recent escalation of violence against civilians by the military junta in Myanmar." P. 1.

"The Thai-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said in February that more than 4,000 women had been arrested or detained since the beginning of the coup in February 2021. It also said that the number of women killed in the conflict had reached around 400, with some women being killed in military action, or even burned alive. The organization has been documenting arrests and killings in Myanmar since the coup. The death toll and arrest numbers are based on limited information that can be difficult to collect on the ground in Myanmar. Human rights groups estimate that the number killed could be much higher. The junta has not officially responded to the latest AAPP reports but has in the past rejected the numbers, calling them baseless." P. 1.

"'If we talk about the number of women dying from the ongoing conflict,' May Sabe Phyu said, 'we should include women who hide in the forest and die in childbirth or [of] disease because of [the] lack of health services. We estimate that the number of women dying in Myanmar as a result of the coup is much higher, but we don't know the true toll yet.'" P. 1.

"'Women have been fearlessly resisting the tyrannical rule of the junta since the beginning of the coup over two years ago. Women are courageous, smart, and in leading roles in the revolution, that's why the junta is targeting us,' May Sabe Phyu said in an interview at VOA's Washington headquarters. 'Women are our future leaders,' she said. 'In Myanmar, as in the rest of the world, women often have to use innovative ways to get noticed. We have been innovative in our resistance to the

military's oppression, and now we cannot be denied as a force to be reckoned with, that's why we are being targeted more and more, specifically with sexual violence.” P. 1.

“‘Most of the victims tend to be women,’ [Burmese American academic Miemie Winn Byrd] said, ‘it’s just the anatomy of conflict. Women generally suffer more in conflict than men, and they suffer more when they are arrested because the military uses sexual assault to interrogate, punish and abuse the women in captivity.’” P. 1.

“According to accounts from VOA sources and news reports, attacks against female prisoners by male prison guards working at Obo prison, in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second largest city, underline the challenges faced by women in Myanmar. The guards reportedly beat the women in captivity, leaving the mostly political prisoners with severe injuries, including head wounds, bruised faces and broken bones.” P. 1.

“May Sabe Phyu said the recent reports of attacks inside Obo prison have caused concern among prisoners’ family members, who say they also fear retribution by the junta. May Sabe Phyu said using men to guard female prisoners is against Myanmar’s prison code, something many other activists and human rights watchers say.” P. 1.