



Myanmar Situation Update (22 to 28 March 2021)

As the *Tatmadaw* marked the Myanmar Armed Forces Day on March 27, at least 114 people were killed by the military junta, the bloodiest day so far since the military coup on February 1. The mass killings came a day after the military junta warned the protesters that they will face the risk of getting shot through state owned television.

As of 28 March, at least 459 people have been confirmed killed by the junta.¹ Among them, at least 38 were children. A total of 2,559 people have been detained since the coup, of which 37 of them are sentenced and 119 have been issued arrest warrants.

Internet shutdown also continued in the past week including mobile internet and wireless broadband internet (except fibre internet). Crackdown targeting the media also continued, leading to more than 50 journalists being detained so far. The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), meanwhile, has nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022.

Timeline of events

Date	Developments
22 March	<p>Over 40 civil servants from the education department in Ayeyarwady Region submitted their resignation letter due to pressure against the CDM by the authorities.</p> <p>Military-controlled news media said the junta arrested 14 NLD members who tried to go to an ethnic armed group to join “an explosive training”².</p> <p>BBC journalist Aung Thura who was detained last week in Nay Pyi Taw was released being deprived of sleep for three nights and interrogated about links to the CDM or CRPH.</p>

¹ <https://aappb.org/?p=13924>

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<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-arrests-nld-members-seeking-explosive-training.html>

	<p>The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned chief of police force and deputy home affairs minister Than Hlaing, a Bureau of Special Operations commander Aung Soe, and two entities connected to the military.³</p>
23 March	<p>In a news conference, the junta said the detained Australian economic adviser Professor Sean Turnell is under investigation on two counts of violating the immigration and official secrets acts. The junta also announced that it has informed the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to arrest the members of the CRPH⁴.</p> <p>The junta dismissed a total of 56 staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for participating in the CDM.</p> <p>A seven-year old girl was shot dead at home in Mandalay.</p> <p>Arakan Army’s (AA) spokesperson Khine Thu Kha said that the AA condemned the Myanmar Military and will stand together with the people⁵.</p> <p>Some signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) said they won’t attend Armed Forces Day on March 27. The Karen National Union (KNU) stated in a statement that “The KNU will only attend ceremonies that reflect dignity, humanity, justice and freedom for all.”⁶</p>
24 March	<p>In response to the junta’s claim of normalcy in the country, people called for a nationwide “silent strike”. Roads and cities across Myanmar were deserted due to the silent protest.</p> <p>The junta freed more than 600 people who were detained in relation to anti-military demonstrations, including 360 men and 268 women⁷. A photojournalist from Associated Press, Thein Zaw, was also released.</p>

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<https://mm.usembassy.gov/united-states-targets-burmese-military-forces-for-repression-of-pro-democracy-protests/>

4 https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=122832333186141&id=105480538254654

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https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-rakhine-idUSKBN2BF1H5?fbclid=IwAR10q6W1lqT Nr-tuUongvlaQYHXZx3uTrWWrWcnrecOZwPgpEzz_ajKCTAI

6 <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/nca-signatories-snob-myanmars-armed-forces-day.html>

7 <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/myanmar-frees-600-protesters-detained-in-anti-military-rallies/>

	<p>Aung San Suu Kyi's scheduled court appearance in Nay Pyi Taw via video conferencing was deferred until 1 April due to the nationwide internet shutdown⁸.</p> <p>China and Russia expressed deep concern on Myanmar and voiced support for all parties in Myanmar to seek a political solution to the current crisis within the constitution and legal framework⁹.</p> <p>Around 100 officials and staff from various famous supermarkets, Citymart, Orange and Sein Gay Har and others were detained in Yangon for participating in the silent strike.</p> <p>Ethnic armed organisation Karen National Union (KNU) blocked the delivery of food supplies that the military bought from Thailand.</p> <p>Four staff from the Shan State-based ethnic media Kanbawza Tai News have been detained by the security forces after a night raid. The detainees include two journalists, the publisher and a security guard.</p>
25 March	<p>The fighting between the Myanmar Military and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has escalated since the coup and the KIA seizes the military camp in Kachin state.</p> <p>The junta-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar arrested top officials of several private banks in an effort to pressure them to resume operations.</p> <p>Son of Aung San Suu Kyi, Dannian Kim Arundel Aris, asked the Myanmar Ambassador in the UK to arrange a telephone conversation with his mother.</p> <p>The UK announced sanction on military-owned conglomerate Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd for its involvement in serious human rights violations against the Rohingya and its association with senior military figures¹⁰.</p> <p>U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned Myanma Economic Holdings Public Company Limited (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corporation Limited (MEC)¹¹.</p>

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/photos/a.565641466814048/4260823627295795/>

⁹ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/china-russia-express-deep-concern-myanmars-protest-death-toll-mounts.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-major-military-business-interests-in-further-measures-against-myanmar-military-regime?>

¹¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0078>

26 March	<p>The headquarters of the NLD in Yangon was attacked by arsonists, but no serious damage was reported.</p> <p>The junta freed 322 people detained in relation to anti-coup demonstrations.</p> <p>Russia's deputy defence minister Alexander Fomin met junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in the Nay Pyi Taw said that Russia is seeking to strengthen military ties with Myanmar.</p> <p>Myanmar's international beauty pageant candidate Han Lay spoke up against the coup in the pageant show.</p> <p>The CDM was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 by six academics at the University of Oslo in Norway.</p> <p>33 party members including 15 central executive committee members of the Mon Unity Party resigned as objection of the party's alliance with the junta.</p> <p>Thailand marked the CRPH's UN envoy Kyaw Moe Tun and 5 others for arrest and handover to the junta¹².</p> <p>The junta warned protesters through state television MRTV that they "can be in danger of getting shot to the head and back".</p>
27 March	<p>At least 114 civilians have been killed in 44 towns across Myanmar in this day, making it the bloodiest day since the coup¹³.</p> <p>The KNU refused to meet with the coup leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unless his troops stop killing civilians and grant freedom to all detainees arrested following the coup. The KNU also said in a statement that it will escalate its protection to the public and defence against the junta¹⁴.</p> <p>Eight countries including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand have sent representatives to the Armed Forces Day military parade in Naypyitaw, Nakkie Asia reported. Russia sent its deputy defense minister and the representatives were military attaches.</p> <p>Shots were fired at American Center in Yangon. No injuries were reported.</p>

¹² https://www.khaosod.co.th/special-stories/news_6212039

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarNowEnglishVersion/posts/2616956555262239>

¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/KNUDOIHQ/posts/1401907233524929>

	<p>Federal Radio program is on air starting from 27 March, 2021 at 9:00 AM.</p> <p>A neighborhood watch member was burned alive after being injured by gunfire from Myanmar’s security forces in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.</p> <p>UNICEF seeks protections as Myanmar children die on the streets as of 23 March, at least 23 children have reportedly been killed, while at least 11 more have been severely wounded¹⁵.t</p>
<p>28 March</p>	<p>12 chiefs of defense from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, United Kingdom and the United States condemn the use of lethal force against unarmed people on 27 March¹⁶.</p> <p>Military open fire to the Emergency Exit areas of Asia Royal Private Hospital and one health worker died.</p> <p>Myanmar security forces opened fire at a funeral on Sunday as people across the country gathered to mourn 114 people killed the previous day.</p> <p>Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing reiterated a promise to hold elections while addressing the annual Army Day parade and said that violent acts were inappropriate¹⁷.</p> <p>The junta’s armed forces fired rubber bullets at the Asia Royal Hospital in Sanchaung township, injuring one staff member.</p> <p>The General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN) delivered an open letter to 16 EAOs to protect civilians’ lives against repression of the military junta¹⁸.</p> <p>In a joint statement, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Alice Wairimu Nderitu and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet condemned the killing of peace protestors and urged the Myanmar military to “immediately stop killing the very people it has the duty to serve and protect”.</p>

¹⁵ <https://mizzima.com/article/unicef-seeks-protections-myanmar-children-die-streets>

¹⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-usa-military-exclusi/exclusive-top-military-officers-from-u-s-allies-to-condemn-violence-by-myanmar-security-forces-idUSKBN2BK002>

¹⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-junta/myanmar-junta-leader-pledges-democracy-at-army-day-parade-idUSKBN2BJ01G>

¹⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=177854400816868&id=137892031479772

Prepared by,
Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
28 March 2021, 11.30 AM (Bangkok time)