



## **Myanmar Situation Update (12 April to 18 April 2021)**

The protests continued for the 11th week despite the brutal crackdown by the junta forces. Ko Wai Moe Naing, a prominent leader of the pro-democracy protest movement in Monywa, Sagaing region, was beaten and dragged away after a vehicle hit his motorbike. 26 citizens were killed by the junta forces during the Thingyan period, habitually the country's most joyful and auspicious holidays.

Mobile data was cut in Myanmar for the 35th consecutive day according to Netblocks while nighttime internet blocking continues. Wireless and broadband services were also shut down throughout the country. Youth are fighting the junta's internet shutdown and information suppression with underground printed newsletters such as Molotov, The Voice of Spring, and The Milestone of Spring that they are secretly distributing across communities in Yangon and other cities.

This week, pro-democracy politicians, including the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) announced a shadow National Unity Government (NUG) formed under the terms of the Federal Democracy Charter. Mahn Win Khaing Than, an ethnic Karen and former House Speaker was appointed as the prime minister, while Duwa Lashi La, president of the Kachin National Consultative Assembly is the vice president. President U Win Myint and State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi retain their positions.

The special ASEAN summit on Myanmar is scheduled to take place on 24 April in Jakarta and Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing will attend the summit as his first known foreign trip since he staged the coup. The National Unity Government officials responded that ASEAN has to negotiate with the newly formed legitimate government if they want to help resolve the current situation. They also urged ASEAN to provide a seat at the summit for the NUG and not to recognize the junta as the legitimate representative of Myanmar.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 737 people have been killed by the junta as of 18 April and 3,229 people are currently under detention. 75 have been sentenced and 930 arrest warrants have been issued targeting pro-democracy activists, political party leaders, government officials, medical officers, celebrities and social media influencers.

An art and culture concert called "Myanmar Spring", to be held on 24 April at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center. The charity event is organized by Myanmar students in Thailand, in the hope of raising awareness and raising funds in support of the anti-coup Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), internally displaced individuals, and families of those who have lost their lives in the conflict in Myanmar.

## Timeline of events

Date	Developments
12 April	<p>The Myanmar Press Council made an announcement related to the selection of new council members. Among 23 applications received, 6 were denied, 11 were directly appointed from different sectors, and the selection of the last 3 vacant seats among the rest of 6 individual journalists will be conducted on 30 April<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Monywa-based Nowadays News media, an official regional online registered media, was raided by the security forces on the 11th night. A freelance journalist from Nowadays News, Soe Min Thu, has been detained since March and kept in Oh-Bo prison<sup>2</sup>. A charge has been filed against him.</p> <p>The junta filed an extra charge against Aung San Suu Kyi under the Natural Disaster Management Law for allegedly breaching COVID-19 restrictions and visiting the residence of National League for Democracy (NLD) members in Za Bu Thi Ri Township in Nay Pyi Taw in August 2020, citing it caused “a crowd gathering”. She has been charged with six cases at the moment and the next hearing will be on 26 April 2021<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>The media reported that the military is charging families the equivalent of \$85 to retrieve the bodies of those killed by security forces in a bloody crackdown in Bago last week. At least 82 people were killed Friday in Bago<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Addressing the 12th anniversary of Arakan Army (AA), Major General Tun Myat Naing, the chief of AA mentioned “We don’t want the CDM and street protests in Rakhine State. We have the ‘Way of Rakhita’. We have our goals. While we are taking concrete strides towards those goals, it is important not to get confused over other issues.”<sup>5</sup></p> <p>A 7-year-old girl was shot by the Myanmar junta after it launched a bloody crackdown in Tamu, Sagaing Region. Forces also raided the Grace hospital and its local administrator's home, reportedly destroying equipment, beating staff and seizing their phones.</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/myanmarpresscouncil/posts/4519700438044976>

<sup>2</sup> <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/457445>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-files-new-charge-daw-aung-san-suu-kyi.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/11/asia/myanmar-families-bago-bodies-intl-hnk/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/aa-chief-not-want-myanmars-strikes-protests-rakhine-state.html>

	<p>More than a thousands of people fled their homes in Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Region after the junta's armed forces conducted raids on three villages<sup>6</sup>.</p>
13 April	<p>A military and police convoy comprising five vehicles carrying police and soldiers was attacked with explosives in Kachin's Hpakant Township by an unidentified group as it was heading to a village where residents had been staging an anti-regime protest<sup>7</sup>.</p> <p>In a statement, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet warned that Myanmar is heading toward a "full blown conflict" with "clear echoes" of Syria in 2011, unless the international community steps in to stop the violence<sup>8</sup>.</p>
14 April	<p>The junta distributed propaganda leaflets in Nay Pyi Taw, explaining why they took power. The leaflets' content includes the corruption cases against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the electoral frauds allegedly committed by the NLD government.</p> <p>According to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and local media reports, nearly 100 Myanmar military troops were killed in the regime's attempt to retake control of a strategic base near the Chinese border from the KIA<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>Two jet fighters from Myanmar's military carried out airstrikes on Kachin State's Momauk Township, forcing local residents to hide in bomb shelters. The bombing attack came as fighting between the military regime and ethnic armed group the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has intensified in recent days<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>A person who suffers from mental illness was sentenced to death along with 18 other people by Myanmar's military regime on 8 April after being accused of banditry and murder in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon, in late March<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>The Myanmar military regime has charged 19 government doctors, including a director of the health ministry, several medical superintendents and specialists across the country,</p>

<sup>6</sup><https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/locals-flee-as-soldiers-raid-more-than-1000-homes-in-three-magwe-region-villages>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4325545234156967>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/14/asia/myanmar-un-conflict-syria-intl-hnk/index.html>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-troops-sustain-heavy-casualties-kachin-keep-control-strategic-base.html?>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-military-launches-airstrikes-ethnic-armed-group-kachin-state.html>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-hands-mentally-ill-man-death-sentence.html>

	<p>with incitement for their support of the civil disobedience movement (CDM) and for backing the committee representing elected lawmakers<sup>12</sup>.</p> <p>A Myanmar military battalion, Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 320, was defeated by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in intensified battles over four days in an attempt to claim the strategic hilltop base of Alaw Bum in Momauk Township, Kachni State a local media has reported.<sup>13</sup></p> <p>Facebook released a specific policy for Myanmar to remove praise, support and advocacy of violence by Myanmar security forces and protestors from their platform<sup>14</sup>.</p>
<p>15 April</p>	<p>Junta arrested 36 protesters, including a prominent protest leader, celebrities, activists and ordinary citizens in four states and regions in a single day.</p> <p>Ko Wai Moe Naing, a 25-year-old Muslim and a prominent leader of the pro-democracy protest movement in Monywa, Sagaing region, was beaten and dragged away by regime's forces after his motorbike was hit by a vehicle.</p> <p>The people in Myanmar refused to celebrate Thingyan under the junta regime and many of the protesters carried clay pots of traditional symbols of the holiday with pro-democracy slogans painted on them.</p> <p>Local media in Kachin State reported that the junta used human shields in the front line of Puta-O District after severe casualties by KIA on 13 April<sup>15</sup>. It is also reported that Myanmar forces jet fighters have used Chinese air space to attack the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) based on the Alaw Bum mountain<sup>16</sup>.</p> <p>The Public Voice Television (PVTV) was formed to inform the people about the activities of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), National Unity Government (NUG) and related local and international news,</p> <p>Nordic Embassies in Myanmar (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) released a joint statement urging the military to immediately stop the use of violence against civilians and</p>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-charges-arrests-striking-doctors-senior-medical-staff.html>

<sup>13</sup><https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-battalion-reportedly-defeated-by-kia>

<sup>14</sup><https://about.fb.com/news/2021/02/an-update-on-myanmar/>

<sup>15</sup><https://burmese.kachinnews.com/2021/04/15/apr-15-y2/>

<sup>16</sup><https://kachinnews.com/2021/04/15/burma-army-launch-airstrikes-against-kia-from-china/>

	<p>allow the population to exercise their human rights, notably the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly as well as access to information<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>In a press briefing, the UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said at least 71 journalists have been arrested by Myanmar authorities since the military coup in February. According to them, more than half of them are still in detention while some 24 have been charged allegedly spreading fake news<sup>18</sup>.</p>
16 April	<p>The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) announced the formation of a new National Unity Government of Myanmar including ousted members of parliament and leaders of anti-coup protests and ethnic minorities to restore civilian rule and establish a federal union<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>Protesters called for a "silent strike", urging people to stay at home or wear black if they go out to mourn the more than 700 people killed in protests.</p> <p>After a day that prominent protest leader Ko Wai Moe Nang was hit by a car, arrested and taken by junta forces, a picture of him badly tortured went viral online<sup>20</sup>.</p> <p>Media reported that the South Korean steelmaker Posco will end its joint venture with Myanmar Economic Holdings Public, the company controlled by the Myanmar military, it has not disclosed how it will end the arrangement yet<sup>21</sup>.</p> <p>The Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs' Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ambassador Atul Keshap, The U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, &amp; Labor's Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Scott Busby, and the the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) agreed on the importance of restoring Burma's path to democracy<sup>22</sup>.</p> <p>Ahead the planned meeting of the ASEAN, the media reported that southeast Asian countries are considering a proposal to send a humanitarian aid mission to Myanmar as a</p>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofSwedenSectionOfficeinYangon/posts/2769539320024078>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/71-journalists-arrested-in-myanmar-since-february-un20210416024027/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/posts/153313873461259>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/panda-monywa-remains-myanmar-regimes-custody-fears-safety-grow.html>

<sup>21</sup> <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Coup/Myanmar-coup-Week-from-March-30-to-April-17-Opponents-of-junta-unveil-Suu-Kyi-led-unity-cabinet>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/eapmediahub/posts/4050089221701197>

	<p>potential first step for a long-term plan to start a dialogue between the junta and its political opponents<sup>23</sup>.</p>
<p>17 April</p>	<p>Myanmar's junta released 23,184 prisoners from jails across the country under a New Year amnesty<sup>24</sup>.</p> <p>Three reporters from a local newspaper were detained by the military in Myitkyina and are being kept at a military interrogation center in Myitkyina, Kachin State<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>A homemade bomb exploded at the General Administration Department office in Yankin Township in Yangon<sup>26</sup>.</p> <p>A group launched an artillery attack on a Myanmar Air Force facility under the military's Northern Command near Maw Hpawng Village in Myitkyina, in Kachin State<sup>27</sup>.</p> <p>The very first cabinet meeting of the National Unity Government of Myanmar was held via video conferencing. The vice president Duwa Lashi La delivered his opening speech encouraging to make prompt actions and implementation as a new cabinet regarding the current situation of Myanmar. The prime minister Mahn Win Khaing Than urged to form the Federal Democratic Nation with the united effort of the cabinet members<sup>28</sup>.</p> <p>The chief of Arakan Army, Twan Mrat Naingan tweeted from an account believed to be the one he is using and said referring to the to the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) which announced a list of members of their National Unity Government, "They offered us with respect. We didn't join as we have our own stands. They're not to be blamed."</p> <p>The Myanmar people living in the Netherlands held a rally in Amsterdam in protest of the military dictatorship, joined by Dutch nationals. They condemned the military's violent crackdown on civilians and showcased photos taken during the ongoing Spring Revolution.<sup>29</sup></p>

<sup>23</sup><https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-southeast-asian-nations-weigh-aid-mission-myanmar-2021-04-16/>

<sup>24</sup><https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-releases-prisoners-new-year-though-likely-not-dissidents-2021-04-17/>

<sup>25</sup><https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-arrests-three-journalists-kachin-state-capital.html>

<sup>26</sup><https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4337830672928423>

<sup>27</sup><https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4337211062990384>

<sup>28</sup><https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/106835028203804>

<sup>29</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarNowEnglishVersion/posts/2632388813719013>

	<p>The Media Freedom Coalition released a statement to express its deep concern with the continued efforts by the junta’s military and police to crack down on media freedom. The statement was signed by Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States<sup>30</sup>.</p> <p>A Thai foreign ministry spokesman confirmed the Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing will attend the ASEAN summit in Indonesia on 24 April.</p>
18 April	<p>The junta’s forces raided residences in Yankin Township, Yangon and arrested at least 10 youths at a gunpoint. The arrests came after three bombs exploded on 17 April at a General Administration Department office in the township where troops established a base, which has reportedly killed a police officer and injured three.<sup>31</sup></p> <p>A National Unity Government (NUG) official said that ASEAN has to negotiate with the newly formed NUG if they want to help resolve the turmoil triggered by the military coup and they should not recognize the junta.<sup>32</sup></p> <p>A bomb blast was reported at a KBZ Bank branch in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, at around 4pm. No casualties were reported.<sup>33</sup></p> <p>The junta will restrict the import of five main Thailand food products (juice, coffee &amp; tea, instant coffee, condensed milk and evaporated milk) from Myawaddy Border starting from 1 May.</p> <p>Hundreds of villagers in Kani Township, Sagaing Region, said they are fleeing their homes after soldiers raided Chaungma village in the township, following a roadside shootout on the Monywa-Kalewa highway.</p> <p>The Japanese reporter, Yuki Kitazumi, has been arrested again in Yangon. He was first arrested on 26 February when he was reporting in Myay Ni Gone, Yangon and released on the same day<sup>34</sup>.</p>

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=928793871253892&id=179300782869875](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=928793871253892&id=179300782869875)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4340268102684680>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-unity-government-says-it-must-be-part-any-asean-bid-end-crisis-2021-04-18/?fbclid=IwAR13Asjuzlk56pIdqJqWrtOwSGB9LzVOnoMrKnOMi21Gi8loU7xfJe1yib0>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4341201499258007>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/216265185075061/posts/4299368120098060/?d=n>

	<p>“Bike for Myanmar” movement led by a bikers group organized an anti-coup protest in front of the Myanmar Embassy and in some markets in Jakarta, Indonesia where ASEAN summit is to be held. <sup>35</sup></p>
--	---

Prepared by,  
Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)  
19 April 2021, 11.30 am (Bangkok time)



---

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/burmanewsnetwork/posts/238080121217257>