



### Myanmar Situation Update (5 April to 11 April 2021)

The protests continued for the 10th week that protesters have used different methods to express their resistance towards the military coup such as “bleeding dye strike”, “marching shoes strike”, “flash strike” while the internet shutdown also continued at night time and all the wireless and broadband services were shut down since last week throughout the country.

In Bago region, more than 80 protesters have been killed by the junta with use of heavy weapons on 9 April and the residents in Bago also fled their homes following the attacks. On the other hand, 19 people have been sentenced to death at courts under the martial law declared by the junta.

There are a high number of Myanmar people displaced from their villages to ethnic army areas and Thai-Myanmar border. Currently, there are shortages of basic necessities, food, shelter, medicine in the displaced persons communities.

UN’s special envoy for Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener has arrived in Thailand to start a tour in Asian countries to step up diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar. However, it was reported that Myanmar’s military has turned down her request to visit Myanmar.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners 706 people have been killed by the junta as of 11 April and 3059 people are currently under detention, 64 are sentenced and 657 arrest warrants have been issued targeting pro-democracy activists, political party leaders, government officials, celebrities and social media influencers.

#### Timeline of events

Date	Developments
5 April	Nearly 6,000 IDPs in five camps along Shan State’s border with Thailand are facing threats of military airstrikes <sup>1</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/thousands-of-people-in-shan-state-face-grave-threat-of-junta-airstrikes>

	<p>The junta's police force raided <i>The Hakha Post</i>, an ethnic media outlet based in Chin State<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>An Australian couple held under house arrest for two weeks were freed and allowed to leave the country without charge<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>Protesters in Myanmar clapped together in a show of dissent against the military junta on Monday. Clapping began in various parts of the main city Yangon at 5 pm in response to a call by protest organisers<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Brunei, the current ASEAN chair, extended its support for a meeting to discuss developments in Myanmar, which is likely to take place in Jakarta.</p>
6 April	<p>Young people in Myanmar called on the people not to celebrate the Myanmar traditional new year water festival this year to defy the junta and honor those who have been slain.</p> <p>Myanmar activists painted roadways in red to protest against the junta's bloody crackdown on protests and it was called "bleeding dye strike".</p> <p>Preliminary hearings were held for three journalists detained in Yangon on February 27 while covering protests of the military coup. Aung Ye Ko of 7 Day Media, Hein Pyae Zaw of Zee-Gwet or "Owl" Media, and freelancer Banyar Oo appeared in a prison court for the closed hearing<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>Villagers in the area fled after an attack by the Myanmar military forced the Karen National Union (KNU) to a local base in Mon State. KNU announced that one civilian had been killed and another injured in the clash.</p> <p>Russian Foreign Ministry said sanctions against Myanmar junta were futile and extremely dangerous and the West risked triggering civil war in Myanmar by imposing sanctions.</p> <p>French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the European Union is preparing to impose collective sanctions on junta targeting its business interests<sup>6</sup>.</p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/police-raid-office-of-ethnic-chin-media-outlet>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-05/australians-christa-avery-matthew-o-kane-arrest-free-myanmar/100048568>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics/myanmar-protesters-clap-to-denounce-junta-as-region-focuses-on-crisis-idUSKBN2BS07P>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/press-freedom/journalists-trial-covering-myanmar-coup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics/russia-says-myanmar-sanctions-could-lead-to-civil-war-but-eu-plans-more-idUSKBN2BTOMP>

	<p>At least eight of 11 people were detained after communicating with CNN journalist Clarissa Ward<sup>7</sup>.</p>
<p>7 April</p>	<p>Security forces opened fire on protesters in the Kale, Sagaing. Eleven people were reportedly killed and several others wounded.</p> <p>A series of explosions reported at least in seven locations in Yangon, including state-owned offices, a military cantonment area and a shopping mall<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>State-owned TV announced that Aye Thaw Kaung, a member of a family that owns Myanmar's popular cafeteria and bakery, was arrested for shooting at the American Center in Yangon. According to Myawaddy, the NLD supporters attacked the center on March 27 to cause political complications between the US and Myanmar<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>In an statement, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) said it has received 180,000 pieces of evidence detailing extrajudicial executions and the widespread use of lethal force on peaceful protesters by the junta including more than 540 extrajudicial executions, over the deaths of 10 political prisoners in custody and the torture of prisoners<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Zahairi Bahari's meeting with the junta's Electricity and Energy Minister U Aung Than Oo, prompted criticism among pro-democracy supporters.</p> <p>Myanmar Ambassador to the United Kingdom Kyaw Swar Minn was barred from entering the embassy under orders from Myanmar's military junta<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>After talks with UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Lestari said the United Kingdom will support ASEAN in its efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar.</p> <p>Despite the criticisms, Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha insisted that Thailand has provided humanitarian assistance to Myanmar refugees along the Thai-Myanmar border<sup>12</sup>.</p> <p>Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga voiced grave concerns with the Laotian Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh over the situation in Myanmar where the security forces</p>

<sup>7</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/05/asia/myanmar-military-arrests-release-cnn-intl/index.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/series-explosions-rock-least-seven-locations-myanmars-largest-city.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4308196749225149>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/photos/pcb.147016144091032/147016110757702/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/myanmars-ambassador-britain-locked-out-london-embassy>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2096599/pm-insists-thailand-has-helped-myanmar-refugees>

	<p>continue their violent crackdown on protests. He also said that he looked forward to Laos, which shares its northwestern border with Myanmar, to play its part<sup>13</sup>.</p>
<p>8 April</p>	<p>A man who helped extinguish a fire at a ward administration office in Taunggyi, Shan State was arrested and tortured to death in custody<sup>14</sup>.</p> <p>Malaysia defended the meeting between Malaysia ambassador to Myanmar and the junta representative and said the meeting was held to convey to Myanmar that an energy project had been suspended by Malaysian state oil firm Petronas<sup>15</sup>.</p> <p>The Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) called on other parties, ethnic armed groups and Myanmar's parallel government to work together to form a federal army<sup>16</sup>.</p> <p>Protesters launched a "Marching Shoes Strike" by placing flowers in pairs of shoes in front of the doors, on the streets, public places to honor pro-democracy protesters who have been killed by the junta and to express their continued resistance to the military regime<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>The junta's peace committee visited Matmanseng and Wan Hai in northern Shan State to meet officials from the United Wa State Army (UWSA) and the Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) to strengthen the relations with them<sup>18</sup>.</p> <p>Myanmar military spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said the state of emergency could be extended for an additional "six months or more" over "two terms" and "if the duties are not done yet." He did not give a firm date for when elections would be held, but said that according to the 2008 military-drafted constitution, "we have to finish everything within two years. We have to hold a free and fair election within these two years."<sup>19</sup></p> <p>The U.S. imposed sanctions on state-owned business Myanmar Gems Enterprise (MGE)<sup>20</sup>.</p>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/04/07/national/suga-myanmar-laos/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/man-helped-extinguish-fire-tortured-death-myanmar-regime-custody.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-malaysia/malaysia-defends-myanmar-envoys-meeting-with-junta-after-backlash-idUSKBN2BV1N9>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/shans-largest-party-calls-for-coalition-to-form-federal-army-and-publish-a-new-constitution>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4309695509075273>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-shores-ties-two-powerful-northern-ethnic-armies.html>

<sup>19</sup> <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2021/04/08/asia/myanmar-zaw-min-tun-interview-intl-hnk/index.html?fbclid=IwAR0eHllzxt5kXYW3pgLJWH2iF-RBM0s1zNdIJCjSa56LG40C06gfFzgMNVg>

<sup>20</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0115>

	<p>The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar has spoken with members of a committee representing elected lawmakers from the ousted National League for Democracy (NLD), amid Beijing's repeated calls for all parties in Myanmar to seek a political resolution to the current crisis through dialog.</p>
<p>9 April</p>	<p>More than 80 people were killed by the junta forces in Bago township marking another deadliest day since the military coup. Residents in Bago also fled their homes after the junta's attacks on protesters. Residents said police and soldiers had fired at random in residential areas<sup>21</sup>.</p> <p>The junta banned people from using satellite dishes that enable them to access anti-regime protest news from a number of local independent media outlets.</p> <p>The junta set up temporary courts inside prisons in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyarwady regions to hear the cases of political prisoners. So far, temporary courts have been set up in Obo Prison in Mandalay, Insein Prison in Yangon, Pyay Prison in Bago and Hinthada and Pathein prisons in Ayeyarwady Region<sup>22</sup>.</p> <p>Myanmar's ambassador to the United Nations, Kyaw Moe Tun, pressed for a no-fly zone and sanctions as international pressure grew on the military junta to end a deadly crackdown and restore democracy.</p> <p>Representatives from 225 ASEAN civil society groups met virtually to agree on a declaration at a Southeast Asian people-to-people Region Hall hosted by Dino Patti Djalal, chairman of the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), and Jose Ramos-Horta, former Timor-Leste president. The declaration condemned the military coup and upheld the results of the November 2020 general elections.</p> <p>A court in Nay Pyi Taw denied a request for bail by the National League for Democracy (NLD) party member Win Htein, who is suffering from several health problems.</p> <p>Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden released a joint statement during the Arria Formula Meeting on Myanmar calling on the military authorities to immediately stop the violence, end the state of emergency and restore the elected civilian government<sup>23</sup>.</p>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4314131775298313>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-using-prison-courts-try-political-prisoners.html>

<sup>23</sup> <https://fnnewyork.um.dk/en/news-from-the-mission/newsdisplaypage/?newsID=5C0063D1-B474-4846-A889-0EE68920945B>

	<p>Another joint statement was released by ambassadors to Myanmar to stop the violence, to release all political detainees and to restore democracy. The statement was signed by the ambassadors to Myanmar from Australia, Canada, the Delegation of the EU and European Union Member States with presence in Myanmar, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, New Zealand; Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States<sup>24</sup>.</p> <p>UN's special envoy for Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener arrived in Bangkok, Thailand to start a tour of Asian countries to step up diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar. Myanmar's military reportedly turned down her request to visit Myanmar.</p>
10 April	<p>Military-owned Myawaddy TV station announced that 19 people have been sentenced to death in Myanmar for killing an associate of an army captain. The report said the killing took place on March 27 in the North Okkalapa in Yangon. Martial law has been declared in the district, allowing court-martials to pronounce sentences. This is the first time that such sentences were announced since the coup<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>The police station at Naungmon in Shan state was attacked by fighters from an alliance including the Arakan Army (AA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA). Media reported that 14 police officers died and two were missing following the attack<sup>26</sup>.</p> <p>CPRH acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Zin Mar Aung gave a briefing on the UNSC Arria meeting. She requested the support from the international community by the direct physical intervention to stop the military's systematic violence against the civilians, continue to pressure the military to stop the violence and return to the civilian government and recognize CRPH, federal democracy charter and the interim unity government<sup>27</sup>.</p> <p>UK offered shelter to Myanmar ambassador, Kyaw Swar Minn after he was ousted from his embassy by pro-junta diplomats<sup>28</sup>.</p>
11 April	<p>A security guard was wounded in a bomb blast outside the Myawaddy Bank, a military-owned bank's branch in Mandalay.</p>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ukinmyanmar/posts/10158120860597865>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics/myanmar-military-sentences-19-to-death-says-anti-coup-protests-dwindling-idUSKBN2BW0ZC>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/least-14-police-killed-ethnic-armed-groups-attack-outpost-myanmars-shan-state.html>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/posts/148534620605851>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/posts/148534620605851>

	Pro-democracy protesters launched a “flash strike” by aiming flashlights into the night sky across the country as another way of protesting against the coup.
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