



Myanmar Situation Update (19 - 25 July 2021)

Summary

Demonstrations were held across Myanmar on the public Martyr's Day holiday to commemorate slain independence heroes, including the father of the country's detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta excluded Suu Kyi from the annual Martyrs' Day observances honoring her father, Gen. Aung San, and other heroes who led Myanmar to independence from British rule. Detained senior National League for Democracy (NLD) politician Nyan Win, a senior adviser to Aung San Suu Kyi, died in the hospital after becoming infected with COVID-19 in jail.

Prisoners within Yangon's Insein Prison staged a protest by chanting anti-dictatorship slogans on the morning of 23 July and made three demands to the junta: free political prisoners charged under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code, provide adequate and proper medical treatment to those who have been ill, and relax the new restrictions on items sent to inmates from their families which have made life extremely hard. The Committee Representing Yangon Region Hluttaw (CRYH) and the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) called for an urgent request to the diplomatic community to act for the safeguard of prisoners. A joint statement was released by 16 ambassadors to Myanmar, urging the relevant authorities to resolve the situation peacefully. Sources close to the military confirmed that at least 20 prisoners including 5 women were killed during a brutal crackdown by the junta in Insein Prison, while the University of Yangon Students' Union (UYSU) announced that the junta armed forces made a brutal crackdown by beating those political prisoners and kept the protest leaders in solitary confinement. The junta's deputy director of the Prison Department denied keeping protest leaders in solitary confinement in Insein.

Myanmar's ousted government said in a press conference that the COVID-19 vaccination program will start next month with two methods; firstly vaccination will be implemented in ethnic areas and secondly it will be performed with third-party organizations.

The UN Country Team in Myanmar was stepping up its response efforts following an alarming spike in the reported number of COVID-19 cases in the country. Its first support was brought up to the IDPs in Mindat of Chin State via UNHCR. Up to 5,000 people will be benefited according to a UN statement. But IDPs in

remote areas of Mindat which are not under the control of the junta are left behind as the junta imposed restrictions on the distribution of UNHCR aid and didn't let the aid team go outside town.

The United States on 23 July renewed its call on Myanmar's junta to free a jailed US journalist Danny Fenster, managing editor of the Frontier Myanmar news outlet, as concerns grow about a COVID-19 outbreak in prisons packed with detained activists. Amnesty International called on the junta to release prominent human rights defender Thin Thin Aung who is facing three years in prison over materials published and broadcast by the media outlet she co-founded, Mizzima. IFEX, the global network of over 100 organizations dedicated to promoting and defending the right to freedom of expression and information, called for the restoration of media licenses to IFEX member Mizzima News and other media outlets who have played an essential role in shedding light on the violence inflicted by the junta against their own people. Also on 20 July, the junta arrested the chief editor and 2 journalists from Taunggyi-based Thanlwin Thwechin media.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Myanmar has lost an estimated 1.2 million jobs in the second quarter following the February military takeover that crippled an economy already weakened by the coronavirus pandemic¹.

Amid political unrest, the COVID-19 crisis and ongoing fighting between the military and civilian resistance fighters and ethnic armed groups, the junta is quietly attempting to pave the way for the implementation in Myanmar of China's strategic infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)².

Protests continue in different parts of Myanmar despite the crackdown by the junta. The clashes between the junta forces and the civil resistance fighters or Ethnic Armed Organizations also emerged across Myanmar particularly in Shan, Karen, Kachin, Mon, Kayah, Chin States and Sagaing, Yangon, Bago and Magway Regions.

According to the information compiled by ANFREL, at least 12 bomb blasts happened across Myanmar in the past week. It was reported that at least 4 people were injured³.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that, as of 24 July, 931 people have been killed by the junta. 5,360 people are currently under detention and 255 are sentenced. 65 have been sentenced to death and 1,963 are evading arrest warrants.

¹ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-loses-12-million-jobs-after-military-takeover-un-labour-agency-says>

² <https://www.irrawaddy.com/opinion/analysis/myanmar-junta-implementing-chinas-bri-projects-by-stealth.html>

³ Annexure I

Colour Code and its Categories

Political updates	Repression by the junta	International community	CRFs and EAOs	Humanitarian situation	Media	Other

Timeline of events

July 19

Anti-coup protesters in Myanmar held demonstrations to coincide with a public Martyr's Day holiday to commemorate slain independence heroes⁴.

Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi was excluded by the junta from annual Martyrs' Day observances honoring her father, Gen. Aung San, who led Myanmar to independence from British rule⁵.

Free Myanmar' candle lighting event was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The event was organised by the Myanmar Action Group Denmark, a grassroots organisation started by volunteers in response to the coup⁶. Also the media reported, Kim Aris, the younger son of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and grandson of Gen. Aung San, attended an event in London held to mark the 1947 assassination of Gen. Aung San and his colleagues⁷.

Myanmar's ousted government warned that 400,000 people could die if the junta mismanaged the battle with a third wave of COVID-19, as dire shortages of oxygen caused daily death tolls to spike and the United Nations warned of devastation⁸.

Dr. Sasa, the Minister of International Cooperation of the National Unity Government in Myanmar called for an emergency meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar, Hon. Thomas. H. Andrew, regarding the crisis of the third wave of COVID-19, and the crisis of atrocities by the military junta in Myanmar⁹.

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/opponents-myanmar-coup-hold-protests-martyrs-day-holiday-2021>

⁵ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/excluded-07192021183123.html>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarNowEnglishVersion/posts/2704790846478809>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4608384015873086>

⁸ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/covid-07192021202832.html>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/MOICMyanmar/posts/159948556242440>

Five volunteer doctors working for a community-based COVID-19 prevention and charity group in Yangon's North Dagon were lured to a house under false pretenses and arrested by the junta¹⁰.

Two doctors were arrested in Mandalay last week, offering further evidence of the junta's targeting of healthcare workers despite a spiraling public health crisis. Both were beaten at the time of their arrest, are currently being held at an interrogation center¹¹.

A brother of an ousted National League for Democracy (NLD) parliamentarian was arrested at his home and junta's troops confiscated his money and car¹².

In Nwamlant village of Moemauk Township in Kachin State, junta's officials from LIB-616 and LID-88 met with the victim's family who had been raped and killed in previous week, to apologize and give them 2.1M kyat (\$1,276) in compensation¹³.

The wife of a detained Australian adviser to Myanmar's deposed leader pleaded for her husband's release, citing worries about his health as the country endures a surge of COVID-19 cases¹⁴.

The UN Country Team in Myanmar was stepping up its response efforts following an alarming spike in the reported number of COVID-19 cases in the country. Through its efforts, Myanmar is expected to receive enough COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility during 2021 to cover 20 percent of the population which is required to be distributed according to WHO guidelines for prioritizing vaccination¹⁵.

Basic goods for refugees in Mindat Township of Chin State which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) brought arrived in the town and will provide basic requirements starting on Tuesday. According to the United Nations' statement, up to 5,000 people (1,000 households) will be benefited¹⁶.

UN human rights experts expressed their utmost concern for the situation of human rights defenders in Myanmar, and called for a stronger international response to the military coup, including coordinated sanctions and an arms embargo against the junta by an 'emergency coalition of nations'¹⁷.

¹⁰ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-arrests-doctors-after-luring-them-with-fake-covid>

¹¹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/two-mandalay-doctors-arrested-as-juntas-assault-on-medical-workers>

¹² <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/military-arrests-brother-of-nld-mp-confiscates-money-and-car>

¹³ <https://kachinnews.com/2021/07/21/burma-army-pays-compensation-to-family-of-murder-victim-in-kachin-state>

¹⁴ <https://mizzima.com/article/australian-advisers-wife-pleads-myanmar-junta-his-release>

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/UNinMyanmar/>

¹⁶ <https://mizzima.com/article/un-convoy-arrives-mindat-provide-assistance-refugees>

¹⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27323&LangID=E&>

	<p>MEDAID International Foundation Inc together with Myanmar healthcare professionals overseas urgently called for an immediate international third party intervention to control Myanmar COVID-19 crisis, a national disaster that is threatening regional stability and urged the international community to act¹⁸.</p>
	<p>A well-known anti-coup activist was shot dead in her home in Bago Region's Htantabin Township on and her daughter was seriously injured as three unidentified men broke into her home at around 9:30pm and opened fire, according to the relatives¹⁹.</p> <p>People defense forces (PDF) triggered remote mines on junta's troops in Kyingo mountain of Pauk township, Magway Region. According to the PDF, at least 44 junta's troops died in the two days' battle²⁰.</p> <p>There were three battles between the junta armed forces and a combined force of Myaing, Pale and Yinmabin PDFs. According to the Myaing PDF, the junta army lost about 14 soldiers and 1 PDF member died²¹.</p>
	<p>Over 5,000 residents from three villages in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, fled their homes after junta raids and the IDPs were still in the forest and having troubles as they included elderly and children²².</p> <p>The IDPs support committee based in Hpakant said more than 200 locals were forced to flee their homes after the junta shelled two villages in Hpakant, Kachin State²³.</p>
	<p>China's National Health Commission (NHC) said in a statement that China recorded 65 new confirmed cases for July 19, compared with 31 a day earlier, with Yunnan province reporting 41 new cases originating from abroad, all of whom were Chinese nationals who recently returned from Myanmar²⁴.</p> <p>Amid Myanmar's COVID-19 spike, the developer of the controversial China-backed Shwe Kokko new city project near the Thai border in Karen State has been recruiting staff, prompting fears over a rise in cross-border crime²⁵.</p>

¹⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2122942711180468&id=144474819027277

¹⁹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/woman-known-for-anti-dictatorship-activism-shot-dead-in-htantabin>

²⁰ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/476090?>

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/ayeyarwaddytimes/posts/1941612155996776>

²² <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/around-5000-sagaing-villagers-flee-myanmar-junta-raid.html>

²³ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-shells-villages-in-hpakant>

²⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/china-reports-65-new-covid-19-cases-july-19>

²⁵ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/chinese-casino-city-in-myanmar-recruiting-despite-covid-19-crisis.html>

July 20

The junta has detained its three soldiers accused of raping and murdering a 55-year-old ethnic Kachin farmer for investigation. A spokesperson of the Kachin State Women's Network (KSWN) said that the military justice system cannot be trusted based on experiences in similar cases in the past²⁶.

Myanmar junta urged citizens to recite daily in their homes the Ratana Sutta, a Buddhist discourse that followers believe can offset the effects of famine and disease in the junta's newspapers by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, as COVID deaths soared²⁷.

Junta-controlled health ministry expected half of the population to be vaccinated against COVID-19 this year²⁸.

Myanmar's junta are again seeking to replace the country's ambassador to the United Nations, who opposed the February coup. Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that he had appointed Aung Thurein, who left the military this year after 26 years, as Myanmar's U.N. ambassador²⁹.

The NUG's national commission on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has released a statement that condemns in the strongest terms the seizures & destructions of medicines & supplies and the arrest of medical professionals by the thuggish junta³⁰.

The junta's newspaper said that 375 prisoners in the whole country tested COVID-19 positive and only 6 people died, including U Nyan Win from the NLD³¹.

Myanmar's detained politician Nyan Win, a senior adviser to ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, died in hospital after becoming infected with COVID-19 in jail, National League of Democracy said³².

Junta's troops threatened local leaders in Hpakant Township that it would launch artillery attacks if the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) visited their villages located along the Karmai to Hpakant road³³.

²⁶ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/kachin-07202021201524.html>

²⁷ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/as-covid-deaths-soar-myanmar-junta-urges-citizens-to-recite-buddhist>

²⁸ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-targets-higher-vaccinations-as-covid-19-cases-soar>

²⁹ <https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/myanmars-military-junta-again-seeks-replace-its-un-ambassador>

³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/152531923634114>

³¹ <http://www.mdn.gov.mm/newspaper/public/ebooks/read/6580#6>

³² <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-targets-higher-vaccinations-covid-19-cases-soar-2021>

³³ <https://kachinnews.com/2021/07/20/military-threatens-to-bomb-villages-in-hpakant-township/>

The wife and two children of a National League for Democracy (NLD) MP were detained following a failed bid to arrest him, according to a source close to the lawmaker³⁴.

About 50 junta's troops looted the houses of civilian in Nangpe village of Bawlake township, Kayah State and confiscated their belongings, according to the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force - KNDF³⁵.

The Arakan Army (AA) announced a two-week lockdown across the Rakhine state to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the area and urged people in the state's 17 townships "to stay in their homes" from July 20 to Aug. 4³⁶.

A group of attackers stabbed a ward administrator to death in the Sagaing Region capital of Monywa, according to the local residents³⁷.

In Kachin State, there was a battle at the foot of Milong hill on Lido road, between a combined force of CDPF mainly with CDM staff, PDFs, KIA regiment (6) and the junta armed forces in cooperation with the Naga People's Army. 14 junta's troops died, 8 were arrested and 3 CDPF members died and 4 were injured³⁸.

More than 600 COVID-19 cases were reported this month in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand and a spokeswoman of the Map Foundation, an NGO helping migrants, estimated hundreds of Myanmar migrant workers, about 30 percent, have been infected with COVID-19 in Chiang Mai³⁹.

Many IDPs in Mindat, Chin State are still in need as the junta imposed restrictions on distribution of UNHCR aid. Relief workers said that thousands remain beyond reach, as only camps under military control are allowed to receive aid⁴⁰.

Progressive Karenni People's Force (PKPF) announced that the resumption of fighting in Kayah (Karenni) State has led to more than 2,600 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from seven villages and supplies are urgently needed⁴¹.

³⁴<https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-detains-wife-and-children-of-mandalay-mp-wanted-for-incitemen>

³⁵<https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1251730045264339>

³⁶<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/arakan-army-announces-lockdown-in-myanmars-rakhine-state-amid>

³⁷<https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/local-administrator-stabbed-and-killed-in-monywa>

³⁸https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=345784300389173&id=110276337273305

³⁹<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/hundreds-of-myanmar-migrants-infected-with-covid-19-in-chiang-mai>

⁴⁰<https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/many-in-mindat-still-in-need-as-junta-imposes-restrictions>

⁴¹<https://www.mizzima.com/article/more-2600-idps-flee-fighting-bawlakha-township-kayah-state?>

	<p>IFEX, the global network of over 100 organisations dedicated to promoting and defending the right to freedom of expression and information, called for the restoration of media licenses to IFEX member Mizzima News and other media outlets who have played an essential role in shedding light on the violence inflicted by the junta against their own people⁴².</p> <p>The junta armed forces arrested the chief editor and 2 journalists from Taunggyi-based Thanlwin Thwechin media⁴³.</p>
	<p>Junta's Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) declared a "Stay at home" order in three townships in Kachin State and nine townships in Magway Region on Tuesday⁴⁴.</p>
July 21	
	<p>Two senior detained members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), U Kyaw Ho and U Han Thar Myint, who have been infected with COVID - 19 and have difficulty in breathing, have been transferred from Insein Prison to Yangon General Hospital, according to their lawyers⁴⁵.</p> <p>The National Unity Government (NUG) has formed a task force with local health organizations in the country's ethnic areas to prevent and control COVID-19 in cooperation with international agencies. It includes 11 members and is led by Dr. Cynthia Maung, the founder of the Mae Tao Clinic, which has been providing basic healthcare services for internally displaced persons (IDP) and migrant workers for three decades in Mae Sot on the Thai-Myanmar border⁴⁶.</p> <p>Junta's Union Minister of International Cooperation, U Ko Ko Hlaing, attended the 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting via video conferencing on Wednesday, its controlled newspapers stated⁴⁷.</p>
	<p>Witnesses said that junta's troops beat those who did not wear masks with wooden sticks in Shwe Pyi Thar of Yangon Region⁴⁸.</p>
	<p>Japan decided to provide up to 700 oxygen concentrators, utilizing the fund for an ongoing project implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in response to the outbreak</p>

⁴² <https://mizzima.com/article/ifex-calling-restoration-media-licenses-ifex-member-including-mizzima-news>

⁴³ <https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/884280422173632>

⁴⁴ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/stay-at-home-order-imposed-in-three-townships-in-kachin-and-nine-township>

⁴⁵ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-jailed-senior-nld-members-moved-to-hospital-one-infected>

⁴⁶ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-parallel-govt-forms-covid-task-force-with-ethnic-health>

⁴⁷ <http://www.mdn.gov.mm/newspaper/public/ebooks/read/6585#4>

⁴⁸ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/mm/news/7577>

of COVID-19 in Myanmar. And it will provide 14 ambulances to health care facilities in different areas of Myanmar⁴⁹.

The head of Russia's state arms exporter said that Moscow was cooperating closely with the junta to supply it with military hardware including aircraft. Rights activists have accused Moscow of legitimising the junta, by continuing bilateral visits and arms deals⁵⁰.

The Philippines Embassy in Myanmar urged its people to leave Myanmar as there is uncontrollable COVID-19 spike in Myanmar. One philipino died with COVID-19 in last week in Myanmar and 8 have been infected with COVID-19, according to the Eduardo Kapunan Jr, Ambassador to Myanmar⁵¹.

Fresh fighting broke out in southern Chin State's Mindat Township as the junta launched a new offensive against the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) and a temporary ceasefire expired, according to local sources⁵².

Myaing's People Defense Force released a statement that they together with Monywa, Kani, Pale, Yinmarbin and Yar Gyi PDF attacked the base of junta's troops in Yinmarbin on Wednesday at least 5 junta's troops died⁵³.

The People Defense Force (Kalay) announced that they attacked a junta's base camp on Bogoke road of Tarhan ward, Kalay township and at least 2 junta's troops were killed⁵⁴.

There was fierce fighting between Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army - MNDAA and junta's troops near Bansai and Nanthu villages of northern Shan State⁵⁵.

Some houses in Yangon raised yellow flags to ask for help as people in their homes have been infected with the COVID-19 virus, according to locals⁵⁶.

The conflict between warring Shan ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) in southern Shan State has displaced almost a thousand civilians in Mong Kung Township. A volunteer helping them said that they urgently needed assistance⁵⁷.

⁴⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/eoj.mm/posts/1685189658349668>

⁵⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/russia-myanmar-cooperating-military-equipment-supplies-ifax-2021>

⁵¹ <https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/884332895501718>

⁵² <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/fresh-fighting-breaks-out-in-mindat-as-temporary-ceasefire-expires>

⁵³ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=118910503789357&id=103939828619758

⁵⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/chinworldmedia/posts/4345820048812671>

⁵⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/klnburmese/posts/2027895687384992>

⁵⁶ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/some-houses-in-yangon-raise-yellow-flags-to-ask-for-help>

⁵⁷ <https://english.shannews.org/archives/24070>

	<p>IDPs who fled in nearby forest from the Shwe Aung Thar village of Mindat township, Chin State are in dire need of food supplies as they couldn't go back to their places⁵⁸.</p>
	<p>Telenor's users are worried about their personal data's safety after Telenor group sold it to M1 group who has a tie with Myanmar junta. Now users lost their trust in Telenor as they tried to protect the digital rights as much as possible while the guarantee of personal data's safety was lessened after the coup. A current worker of Telenor Myanmar said that the new owner, M1 group, probably started to manage it in the early months of 2022⁵⁹.</p>
	<p>The leader of junta-allied Karen armed group, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), has died of COVID-19 while receiving treatment at a junta-run military hospital in Yangon⁶⁰.</p>
<p>July 22</p>	
	<p>According to the junta's Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment for COVID-19, basic education schools including monastery and private schools will continue to close for two more weeks from July 26 to August 8 due to the need to continue controlling the spread of COVID-19⁶¹.</p> <p>Junta ordered that apart from political prisoners and detainees, they withdrawn the ongoing criminal proceedings and released those prisoners with criminal charges from Insein prison⁶².</p>
	<p>Two protesters were shot on the legs and two others were arrested when gunmen opened fire on a group of protesters called "Phoenixes in the Ashes" in Chan Mya Thar Si Township, Mandalay⁶³.</p> <p>Government Technological Institute - GTI Student Union said that junta's troops beat and arrested 9 people including the chair and members of GTI Student Union in Taikkyi and Oakkan townships of Yangon⁶⁴.</p>
	<p>More than 730,000 COVID-19 vaccines out of 2 million vaccines donated by China arrived in Yangon. The remaining vaccines are scheduled to arrive in Yangon⁶⁵.</p> <p>Justice for Myanmar announced a press release on Thursday that the Tokyo 2020 Olympics & Paralympics has partnered with at least three businesses that continue to maintain commercial ties</p>

⁵⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/chinworldmedia/posts/4344457785615564>

⁵⁹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/mm/news/7539>

⁶⁰ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/leader-of-junta-allied-karen-armed-group-dies-of-covid.html>

⁶¹ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/schools-to-remain-closed-for-two-more-weeks-to-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19>

⁶² <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/prisoners-from-insein-jail-released-after-govt-order-to-withdraw-their-ongoing>

⁶³ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/two-injured-two-arrested-protest?>

⁶⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1255509994886344>

⁶⁵ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/chinese-covid-19-vaccines-arrive-in-myanmar.html>

with the Myanmar junta, in breach of their human rights responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises⁶⁶.

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) said in a statement that an “urgent and massive” international humanitarian intervention is required to confront Myanmar’s COVID-19 crisis⁶⁷.

Thai army seized face masks illegally imported into Myanmar from Maw Taung-Singkhon pass, according to Thai media⁶⁸.

Thailand’s Ban Phu Nam Rom-Tiki permanent border cargo checkpoint with Myanmar was ordered to close from July 22-August 4 to keep their border with Myanmar tight as COVID-19 cases rose⁶⁹.

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) conducted an online press conference to provide updates on the situation-on-the-ground and recommendations to the international community about how they can effectively respond to the health crisis, the challenges of which have been exacerbated by the February 1 coup⁷⁰.

A motion was filed in the National Assembly of France to recognize the National Unity Government (NUG) as the rightful government of Myanmar⁷¹. A debate or vote on the motion has yet to be scheduled.

Two people on a motorcycle attacked a military checkpoint with 2 grenades in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, Media reported that the attack was made by the People's Defense Force, and heard that the soldiers died on the spot and that the checkpoint was also damaged⁷².

Gunmen reportedly entered and attacked the house of a health ministry employee in Mindat in which the employee was injured, his son was killed and the house set on fire⁷³.

A USDP Village Organizer of Yele Maw Village, Kan Phyu group, Wetlet Township in Sagaing Division was shot dead⁷⁴.

⁶⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/justiceformyanmar.org/photos/a.112041640488379/366317751727432>

⁶⁷ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/only-a-massive-humanitarian-intervention-can-curb-myanmars-covid>

⁶⁸ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/thai-army-seizes-masks-illegally-imported-into-myanmar>

⁶⁹ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/thailand-keeps-myanmar-border-tight-covid-19-cases-rise?>

⁷⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/aseanmp/videos/1165144523985681>

⁷¹ https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/dossiers/reconnaitre_gouvernement_birmanie

⁷² <https://kachinnews.com/2021/07/23/military-checkpoint-attacked-with-grenades-in-hpakant-township/>

⁷³ <https://mizzima.com/article/health-ministry-employee-injured-son-killed-home-attack-mindat>

⁷⁴ <https://mizzima.com/article/usdp-organizer-shot-dead>

	The Karen National Union (KNU) Department of Information announced that there were 29 clashes between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)'s Brigade 5 and junta's troops from July 15 -22 in Papon area. During the clashes, 26 junta's troops died, 35 were injured and 1 civilian dead ⁷⁵ .
	At least 30 people confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 were hiding in the jungles of Myanmar's remote Sagaing region after fleeing fighting between junta's troops and a branch of the People's Defense Force (PDF) militia, residents said ⁷⁶ .
	Amnesty International is calling on the junta to release prominent human rights defender Thin Thin Aung who is facing three years in prison over materials published and broadcast by the media outlet she co-founded, Mizzima ⁷⁷ .
	The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) expressed concern over the junta's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in its latest briefing paper, as "Running Out of Air" ⁷⁸ .
July 23	
	<p>Prisoners within the notorious Insein Prison in Yangon reportedly staged a protest by chanting anti-dictatorship slogans. Activists feared that the protest, in which inmates demanded access to medical care amid the COVID-19 pandemic, would be met with 'vicious' suppression by the prison authorities⁷⁹. A lawyer representing the inmates said that the protesters had made three demands. First is to free political prisoners charged under [Penal Code] 505 (a), second is to provide adequate & proper medical treatment to those who have been ill and last is to relax [new] restrictions for inmates on items sent from families which have made life extremely hard⁸⁰.</p> <p>The Committee Representing Yangon Region Hluttaw (CRYH) have issued an open letter to the Yangon Diplomatic Corps to act to prevent the junta from instituting what it describes as a 'massacre' in Insein Prison after a non-violent strike occurred on Friday's morning⁸¹.</p> <p>Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has released an urgent call to the diplomatic community to call for the safeguard of prisoners who are striking in the notorious Insein Prison on Friday⁸².</p>

⁷⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/KNUDOIHQ/posts/1482754482106870>

⁷⁶ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/patients-07222021184312.html>

⁷⁷ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/amnesty-calls-release-human-rights-defender-thin-thin-aung-who-facing-3>

⁷⁸ <https://rehmonnya.org/archives/6674?>

⁷⁹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/prisoners-stage-anti-dictatorship-protest-inside-insein-prison>

⁸⁰ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/protest-07232021193009.html>

⁸¹ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/cryh-calls-diplomatic-corps-yangon-act-during-insein-jail-strike?>

⁸² <https://www.facebook.com/burmapoliticalprisoners/posts/4328129640579633>

The Myanmar shadow government sent a letter to the International Committee for Red Cross - ICRC (Myanmar) to assist political prisoners in Insein Prison in the wake of prison protests⁸³.

Junta has appointed a new temporary head of its embassy in London, Britain's foreign ministry said, replacing the previous ambassador who was ousted after breaking ranks with the military government over its Feb. 1 coup⁸⁴.

Junta extended the public holidays till August 1 to maintain the situation of COVID 19 spike in Myanmar. The order will apply to all except for the Central Bank, government and private banks under its control⁸⁵.

The junta leader requested in its own newspaper to the CDM health staff again to resume their work so that they could effectively provide necessary health care for the public struggling with the infection of the COVID-19 third wave⁸⁶.

A pregnant woman and another civilian were shot in Saphogyi village of Kani Township, Sagaing on as junta's troops shelled and shot into the village⁸⁷. And 4 civilian houses in Kani were burned down as the junta's troops randomly shelled heavy artillery into 11 villages along the Chindwin River on their shuttle ship⁸⁸.

A joint statement was released by the 16 Ambassadors to Myanmar, urging the relevant authorities to resolve the situation peacefully and respect the basic right to proper healthcare for all those detained inside this and other prisons. And they have been following the situation closely as it continues to evolve⁸⁹.

Thai Embassy in Yangon announced that the process of visa issuance would be suspended in Myanmar for unlimited days, starting from 26th July, due to devastating conditions of COVID-19 infection in the country⁹⁰.

The Shan State Progress Party (SSPP), the political wing of the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) launched COVID-19 vaccine program in its territory with vaccines bought from China⁹¹.

An administrator of Duuyinseik village tract of Thaton, Mon State, was shot dead by 2 unknown men

⁸³ <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/154439110110062>

⁸⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-picks-replacement-envoy-britain-who-broke-ranks>

⁸⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/DVBTVNews/posts/4537029586335506>

⁸⁶ <http://www.mdn.gov.mm/newspaper/public/ebooks/read/6592#2>

⁸⁷ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/476967>

⁸⁸ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/476921>

⁸⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.rangoon/posts/4149627065119081>

⁹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalThaiEmbassyYangon/posts/903012286953799>

⁹¹ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-ethnic-shan-rebels-launch-covid-19>

	<p>with a motorcycle⁹².</p> <p>Yangon Urban Guerrillas, an alliance of 14 Yangon PDFs, announced that they had been watching and recording the response of prison officers after the anti-junta protest in Insein Prison⁹³.</p>
	<p>Thousands of locals fled from Kani of Sagaing Region as the junta's troops randomly shelled heavy artillery and shot from their shuttle ship as they travelled along the Chindwin River⁹⁴.</p> <p>Another 200 IDPs arrived at the monastery of Kyaukme of Northern Shan State as there were fresh clashes between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and in need of support urgently⁹⁵.</p>
	<p>The United States renewed calls on Myanmar's junta to free a jailed US journalist Danny Fenster, managing editor of the Frontier Myanmar news outlet, as concerns grow about a COVID-19 outbreak in prisons packed with detained activists⁹⁶.</p>
	<p>Junta's Union Minister Thet Khaing Win said the priority would be to vaccinate those living near the border with China to ensure smooth trade flows in the area, the state Global New Light of Myanmar reported⁹⁷.</p> <p>Myanmar Metals said that it plans to sell its 51% stake in Bawdwin silver, lead, and zinc project in Myanmar, citing difficulties in securing financing for the \$300 million project after a coup led to social unrest earlier this year, mining.com reported⁹⁸.</p>
July 24	
	<p>The National Unity Government of Myanmar urged the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) - Myanmar to assist the humanitarian aids for those IDPs who fled to the very remote areas as reachable as possible and to continue to support the other IDPs camps in Myanmar⁹⁹.</p>

⁹² <https://www.facebook.com/thanlwintimes9/posts/2951056148352215>

⁹³ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1253893865047957>

⁹⁴ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/476867>

⁹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/shwepheemyaynews/posts/999582790857852>

⁹⁶ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/us-renews-call-on-myanmar-to-free-journalist-amid-covid-19-fears>

⁹⁷ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-to-use-chinese-vaccines-to-fight-covid-19-in-border-area>

⁹⁸ <https://www.mizzima.com/article/myanmar-metals-said-it-planned-sell-its-51-stake-bawdwin-project?>

⁹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/155225653364741>

Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) , which includes NCA-S-EAOs, formed the “NCA-S-EAO Covid - 19 Situation Management Committee” in order to implement NCA-S-EAO’s Covid - 19 emergency response program. The committee had 11 members and was led by Col.Hkun Okker¹⁰⁰.

Junta’s deputy director of the Prison Department, U Zaw Zaw, denied keeping the protest leaders in solitary confinement in Insein prison and saying that these are the fake news¹⁰¹.

In Monywa, a rally of LGBTs without fear marched up Bogyoke road to show that they stand with political prisoners who were unjustly arrested and detained in Insein Prison¹⁰².

Media reported quoting the sources close to the military confirmed that at least 20 prisoners including 5 women were killed during a brutal crackdown by the junta in Insein Prison¹⁰³.

University of Yangon Students’ Union - UYSU announced that the junta armed forces made a crackdown on the protest in Insein Prison on Friday by beating those political prisoners and kept the protest leaders in solitary confinement¹⁰⁴.

On Saturday afternoon, 130 oxygen cylinders were confiscated at Myawaddy bridge (2) under the order of military officer Myo Min Naung from Kayin state military council. They had been officially imported from Thailand for charitable organizations in Yangon Region¹⁰⁵.

A leader of the Kani People Defense Force said that the clashes restarted with junta’s forces in Kani township of Sagaing State. Locals said that junta’s forces arrested 20 civilians in Min O village of Kani and used them as a human shield in searching PDF members in the forest¹⁰⁶.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that they are deeply concerned about the increasing impact of COVID-19 in Myanmar, including in detention centers. They are closely following the information that has been released recently, on the current situation at various prisons in Myanmar and continued their dialogue with prison authorities to resume purely humanitarian visits and activities in places of detention, including Insein Prison¹⁰⁷.

The European Commission said in a statement that it has mobilised €2 million in emergency assistance to actions helping to fight the pandemic in Myanmar¹⁰⁸.

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/ncasignatoryeaofficial/posts/1125022844689250>

¹⁰¹ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477066>

¹⁰² <https://www.facebook.com/myithmautkhit/posts/298500558631638>

¹⁰³ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477093?>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1254858294951514>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddyburmese/posts/4702033096507472>

¹⁰⁶ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477086>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/ICRC/posts/10158332684367263>

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/EUinMyanmar/posts/2003315556484640>

	<p>India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said that India needed to closely monitor the emerging situation in Myanmar, where China is making further inroads after international sanctions were imposed on the country following the military coup in February¹⁰⁹.</p>
	<p>The clashes happened as Pyusawtee informed their junta's troops about the base camp of Tamu Security Group - TSG and 9 junta's troops died in the battle¹¹⁰.</p> <p>13 People Defense Forces in Magway Region allied and merged as "Magway Defense Army - MDA" to defy the junta¹¹¹.</p> <p>A former village administrator of Myaynigone village of Thaton township, Mon State was shot dead by 2 unknown gunmen¹¹².</p> <p>There were clashes between Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 2 and the Junts' troops in Htee Thar Saw village track of Thantaungyi, Karen State¹¹³.</p>
	<p>Dozens of elderly people who are staying in temporary shelters at monasteries in southern Shan State after fighting between two local armed groups broke out in early June are at risk of a COVID-19 outbreak, two aid workers have said. And they are in need of masks, hand sanitizer and medicine¹¹⁴.</p>
July 25	
	<p>The spokesperson of Myanmar's shadow government, Dr. Sa Sa said that about 4 million COVID - 19 vaccines will be delivered to Myanmar as NUG is in collaboration with the international community to curb the COVID-19 crisis in Myanmar¹¹⁵.</p> <p>Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, Minister of Education and Health of Myanmar shadow government, said in a press conference that the COVID-19 vaccination program will start from next month with 2 methods; firstly vaccination will be implemented in ethnic areas and secondly it will be performed with third party organizations¹¹⁶.</p>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/trendingtopics/must-watch-chinese-inroads-into-myanmar-bipin-rawat/ar-AA>

¹¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/tamusgz/posts/176186674570832>

¹¹¹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/mm/news/7580>

¹¹² <https://www.facebook.com/standardtimedaily/posts/3883263811785544>

¹¹³ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477211>

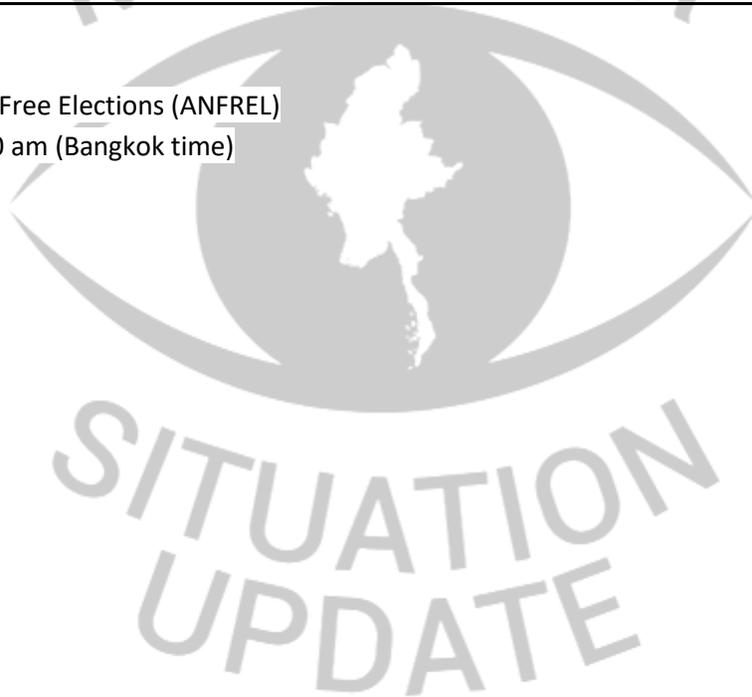
¹¹⁴ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/aid-workers-fear-covid-19-outbreak-among-elderly-people-displaced-b>

¹¹⁵ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477177?>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/DVBTNews/posts/4543030889068709>

	Junta's Ministry of Health and Sport imposed "Stay at Home" order in 9 townships; Lelway from Union Territory, Pyint Phyu, Minbu and Aung Lan townships from Magway Region, Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe and Yat Saut townships from Shan State ¹¹⁷ .
	A 10 household administrator was shot dead at Ward 3 administrative office in Mayangone township, Yangon ¹¹⁸ .
	Some remote villages of Yay township, Mon State are in shortage of food and medicine supplies as the junta imposed week-long lockdown and due to the logistical difficulty in the rainy season ¹¹⁹ .
	Chinese-Myanmar border township, Shweli, was relaxed to "Stay at Home" order from lockdown situation, according to Chinese news ¹²⁰ .

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¹¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/kanbawzatai/posts/1627294490811544>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/886854225249585>

¹¹⁹ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477160?>

¹²⁰ <http://burmese.dvb.no/archives/477293>

Annexure I:**Information on the Blasts Reported Across Myanmar from 19 - 25 July, 2021**

Date	Region/State	Incidents	Source
19 July	Yangon Sagaing Ayeyarwaddy Kachin	A bomb exploded in front of the house of Ward (39) administrator on Monday. In Ye-Oo of Shwebo District, a bomb exploded near Lotus round-about in Magyitaw area on Monday morning while the junta police were removing the wreath there. Reportedly, two policemen were injured in the incident. In Laputta, there was a bomb explosion in front of Ward (5) administration office on Monday. There was a bomb blast at the police office of Mogaung, Kachin State on Monday.	Khit Thit Voice of Myanmar Ayeyarwaddy Times 74 Media
20 July	Ayeyarwaddy	In Kangyidaunt Township, there was a bomb explosion in front of the house of a pro-military woman in Badaukbin village.	Mizzima
22 July	Kachin Yangon	Two people on a motorcycle attacked a military checkpoint with 2 grenades in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, on Wednesday morning. Locals said that there were casualties but cannot be identified. According to locals, there was an explosion near Basic Education Primary School No. (15) on Baho road on Thursday night.	Kachin News Group Mizzima
23 July	Sagaing Magway	2 blasts were reported near Myanmar Apex Bank in ShweBo. 2 junta's troops were severely wounded. A blast was reported in the Municipal compound of Yesagyo.	Khit Thit DVB
24 July	Ayeyarwaddy	A blast was reported beside the Pathein 8 ward administrative office and the status of injuries were not known.	Ayeyarwaddy Times