



# Women Vigorously Opposing Dictators

**Women's News Quarterly Analysis Report from May to July 2022**

# Introduction

The history of Burma/Myanmar is tainted with human rights violations, arbitrary arrests and sentencing, unlawful killings, and sexual violence against women. These acts were systematically committed under the military regime, leaving the country in a hideous state. However, the military members committing these crimes are not held accountable for their actions, but instead walks free with impunity, leading to a lack of justice for survivors. In this 21st century, the military has again to seize power by deliberately arresting civilian government officials and committing horrific human rights violations against all who dissent.

Civilians across the country are actively resisting the military in order to be free from inhumane acts of brutal military dictatorship. During the last three months, women have shown resistance against the military junta by leading peaceful guerilla demonstrations as well as by joining local defense forces and assuming responsibility in any appointed duties without surrendering.

Women who dissent are not excluded from strict inspection and arbitrary arrests by the military junta. Human rights violations are perpetrated every single day. Amid warnings and condemnations from international governments, four political prisoners including two public figures were executed by the military junta on July 25th.

This cruel act by the military junta clearly illustrates to the world that the military will do anything to hold onto power despite the pressure and condemnation from international communities. On the other hand, this inhumane act by the military junta confirms to the people of Myanmar that the security of the civilians will only be restored when the junta is abolished.

The Burmese military continuously burns down public properties and houses across the entire country, deliberately opening fires toward civilians and IDP (internally displaced people) camps. During these targeted shootings, women and children are disproportionately harmed and killed. With the political unrest entering its second year, active armed conflicts are widespread across the country, causing an exponential increase in the numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs). On the other hand, the country's economic sector has significantly collapsed as the inflation rate has risen to fourth place in the world.

# Women's situation after the attempted coup

- *Women's political activities*

Women's participation in the pro-democracy movement against the military junta in Myanmar have significantly increased along with the vast majority of civilians. However, the arrest of pro-democracy activists, civilians affiliated with politics and innocent citizens including women, children and elders have also increased. In addition to arbitrary arrests, the Burmese military continues to commit human rights violations such as unlawful sentencing and abduction of family members of activists who are then held as hostages.

In response to the arbitrary arrests and strict inspections by the military junta, the women of Myanmar participate in guerilla demonstrations mainly in the Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Thanintaryi regions. During the last three months, women led demonstrations with slogans such as **“A Day Filled in Red Is a Sign of Vanishing Dictatorship”** and **“Women Against Fascist Military”**.



In addition to peaceful demonstrations against the military junta, women civilians have also donated their treasured jewelry such as gold earrings to the People Defense Force (PDF), who are fervently resisting against the Burmese military. Myaing locals from the middle part of Myanmar have donated their accessories to PDF in order to aid success of the Spring Revolution despite their own houses and properties being torched by the military junta and

forced to be internally displaced.<sup>1</sup> A woman who donated to PDF spoke to the Irrawaddy media outlet:



**“Earrings are one of the most precious and valued treasures for women. Since the military coup, we no longer have ownership of our homes nor our lives. As much as we value our jewelry, they are worth more to the success of the Revolution.”**

Women who joined local defense forces in opposition to the military junta support the pro-democracy movement through appointed duties. A Pa-O woman who did not get her family’s permission to join the defense force shares her journey to Pa-O Lo Ywel media: **“my family didn’t approve of my idea to join the defense force so I secretly left home by lying to them that I will go to Phekon (which is a nearby city from her hometown, Mobyae)”**<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to many youths joining the PDF, mothers of PDF members have also joined to help with cooking meals in the PDF camps. They deserve the same respect and appreciation in their decision to sacrifice everything in order to support their children fighting against the military junta.<sup>3</sup>

Women in PDF are also assisting with medical needs for Internally Displaced People (IDP). Medical groups from Htilin People’s Defense Force collaborate with Women, Youth and Children Ministry from National Unity Government (NUG) to assist with medical needs of IDPs.<sup>4</sup>

During the month of June, it is reported that women political prisoners demonstrated against wardens for their oppressive actions towards political prisoners. RFA news reported that a woman prisoner lost her pregnancy due to wardens’ refusal to admit her into a hospital on time. As punishment for this demonstration, drinking water was not provided for the women prisoners for more than 2weeks. The women were forced to drink bathroom water which resulted in GI infections and diarrhea.<sup>5</sup>

Women behind prison cells are courageously raising their voices and advocating for themselves in order to be free from oppression and injustice. Through the observation of these brave acts from women inside and outside of prison cells, it could be analyzed that women are still staying strong. They are making abundant sacrifices in order to abolish the military junta and succeed in the Spring Revolution.

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<sup>1</sup> Bago Watchnews, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/bagowatch/posts/554834519484149>

<sup>2</sup> Pa-O Lo Ywel, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/PAOLOYwel/posts/1479487405805702>

<sup>3</sup> Chin News Agency, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02AiBEde3CJ7gpfBFDPDfxuUJEPB3KPsfApe1u7KHbv xSS2bVhFhHnKKEUeWKBajYlJ&id=101557665614894](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02AiBEde3CJ7gpfBFDPDfxuUJEPB3KPsfApe1u7KHbv xSS2bVhFhHnKKEUeWKBajYlJ&id=101557665614894)

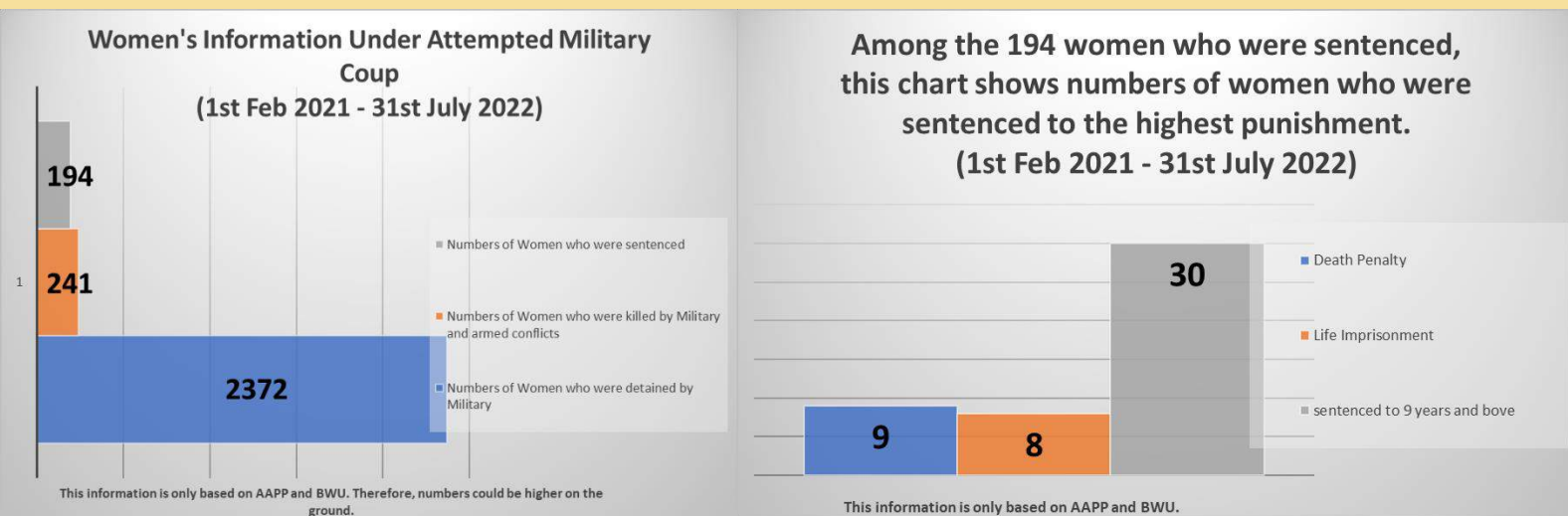
<sup>4</sup> Ayarawaddy Times, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/ayerawaddytimes/posts/pfbid0HhZmdWUWtx7YuSSFrqSuHbnjTp9ZH573X7S61uvydqrYp1igEJNne3y3AczGbi5Nl>

<sup>5</sup> RFA, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=5256345277797035>



Based on sources from Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) and Burmese Women’s Union (BWU), 2372 women have been detained by the SAC (State Administration Council) military from February 2021 to July 2022.

On July 25th, Myanmar Alin News (a military junta controlled media outlet) reported that four political prisoners sentenced to the death penalty by the military court had been executed. The news of the execution of the four pro-democracy activists devastated the people of Myanmar as well as those in the international communities. This execution illustrates the fact that the military junta has zero tolerance for any dissent towards them and will not hesitate to use violence in order to hold onto their power. Seventy-two political prisoners’ remains sentenced with the death penalty, including nine women.<sup>6</sup>



▪ ***Situation of Women’s security including a fear for their lives***

As the military coup enters its’ eighteenth month, the employment and economics sectors continue to deteriorate, leading to armed robberies and murders becoming frequent crimes. . . . Armed robberies in Mandalay, Moneywa, Myintkyinar and Yangon including public transports like YBS, are very common. As a result, it is no longer safe for women to commute even short distances. The women of Myanmar live in constant fear for their lives.

On June 18th,, an elder lady from Minbue village, Minpyar township, Rakhine state was killed in an armed robbery.<sup>7</sup> In Nyaungpyiky village, Watlet Township, Sagaing region, a 70

<sup>6</sup> Nway Oo Revolution, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/NwayOoRevolution/posts/pfbid02n8RdGhABakx4o57mxLPXTx5uqxscpNXCebeXPf3nCGJoxfjVOEeW6w3rgJC4Za2n1>  
<sup>7</sup> BNA, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022. [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=175519974890317&id=107469705028678](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=175519974890317&id=107469705028678)

years old woman was robbed in her own home on June 14th.<sup>8</sup> Another woman was killed in a robbery in Chanmyatharsi Township, Mandalay on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July.<sup>9</sup>

Alongside the rise in robberies, a variety of gambling have emerged across the country, leading to crimes of theft and domestic violence. A woman mentioned in one of the HI news reports the impact of gambling on women.<sup>10</sup>

***Permitting gambling affects us, women from different aspects such as domestic violence, economic as well as it is a concerned to women's security. We don't know who and where to seek justice. We had to take care of our own security ourselves.***

Gambling is a major factor of domestic violence and armed robberies.

In addition to gambling and robberies, sexual abuse towards young girls have substantially increased in Myanmar as a result of a rise in unemployment rate and armed conflicts. Young girls from Kayah (Karenni) state are lured towards jobs abroad and become victims of human and sex trafficking.<sup>11</sup> In addition, young girls are subjected to sexual abuse from unscrupulous people. Young girls from Kachin state were deceived into taking naked photos in return for cash. It is reported in the 74 Media that the naked photos of young girls are widely spread on online platforms such as Telegram and VK, giving access to anyone willing to pay a thousand kyats.<sup>12</sup>

## ▪ ***Violence Against Women***

In order to retain power, the military junta continuously arrests and sentences those who dissent including women activists. Daw Wone Hwal who worked as a public service officer in Hakha, Chin state, and Aye Aye Maw, a deputy director of public service provider, were both arrested on the 24th of May with the accusation of writing a post in support of Chin Defense Force (CDF) on social media.<sup>13</sup> On the 18th of May, Aye Khaing Oo, a CDM doctor in Thauangkyi was also arrested while she was at a hospital, treating a patient.<sup>14</sup>

In addition, Zin Mar Win from Zayarthiri tract, Meit city, Tharnitaryi division was arrested on May 29th for posting news related to PDF on social media and was sentenced to two years in prison on the 14th of June.<sup>15</sup> On June 17th, a celebrity named Naw Cho Sin (a.k.a Ma Cho)

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<sup>8</sup> Voice of Myanmar, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/1083685922233080>

<sup>9</sup> Network Media Group, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0v1TtFZ2eeN4Nx2qonmHTCoMxa9ZUug4fAwsRXMR5zW1brRw97\\_rlg\\_wp1B\\_GJDH39rU1&id=382181045736248](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0v1TtFZ2eeN4Nx2qonmHTCoMxa9ZUug4fAwsRXMR5zW1brRw97_rlg_wp1B_GJDH39rU1&id=382181045736248)

<sup>10</sup> HI, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/honestinfo/posts/2011832212333511>

<sup>11</sup> Than Lwin Times, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/thanlwinimes9/posts/3776633522461136>

<sup>12</sup> The 74 Media, 8th May 2022. [https://www.facebook.com/The74Media/posts/554075029445356?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/The74Media/posts/554075029445356?_rdc=1&_rdr)

<sup>13</sup> Sisters 2 Sisters, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/SpeakUp4MyanmarWomen/posts/337958461803110>

<sup>14</sup> Network Media Group, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. [https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1073039636650382&id=382181045736248](https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1073039636650382&id=382181045736248)

<sup>15</sup> BHRN, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/BHRNUK/posts/354093296831678>

was also arrested with the accusation of being affiliated with PDF by the military junta and its militia.<sup>16</sup> Both of these women were arrested at night, 11PM and at 8PM respectively.

Military junta are also arresting CDM teachers who are working hard in providing education to students during armed conflicts. It is reported that more than twenty-four teachers who are teaching under the administration of National Unity Government (NUG) were arrested by the military junta.<sup>17</sup> A CDM teacher named Daw Yu Yu Lwin from Meit city, Tharnitaryi division was arrested on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July while she temporarily came back to her house from hiding.<sup>18</sup>

Women are also subjected to extreme sexual violence. According to sources, the perpetrators of sexual violence are family members and friends of the survivors and members of the military junta.

It is reported in BHRN media that a leader of *Pyu Saw Htee* (widely known as Pro-military network) raped an 8-year old girl, a second grader in Natinn village, Kantbaluu city, Sagaing region on June 6th.<sup>19</sup> During the raid in Khantkaw Township, Magway region by military group, a woman was raped and murdered along with other seven men.<sup>20</sup> On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, two girls were raped and killed among three other men during the raid in southern new village, Palae Township, Sagaing region.<sup>21</sup> In Paingkyae village, Saitphyu Township, Magway region, a mother of two children was raped and killed while the military soldiers raided the village.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/mmpressphoto/posts/7662157623825198>

<sup>17</sup> Voice of Myanmar, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/pfbid025DwR8eLmvpysNHq3Hug2uv8NVJ1yp4jaHYX8fKsK4gbNZoaFkrVwK6VjEvDXqSyNI>

<sup>18</sup> Voice of Myanmar, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/pfbid025DwR8eLmvpysNHq3Hug2uv8NVJ1yp4jaHYX8fKsK4gbNZoaFkrVwK6VjEvDXqSyNI>

<sup>19</sup> BHRN, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/BHRNUK/posts/350004473907227>

<sup>20</sup> BNI, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3J9n6zl>

<sup>21</sup> Khitthit News, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/pfbid02xs8ow1hhPFBQtD9WQcx5YL4J7xTNxEmmiHLunLrCPUS9i3oKZjAMLZSpHhPHg2mDI>

<sup>22</sup> Khitthit News, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/pfbid02xs8ow1hhPFBQtD9WQcx5YL4J7xTNxEmmiHLunLrCPUS9i3oKZjAMLZSpHhPHg2mDI>



Photo 1: Women advocate to end sexual violence, photo from Women Alliance Burma

Similarly, a thirteen-year-old girl was raped and her mother was killed by two masked men in Oatthwin city, Eastern Bago region.<sup>23</sup> In Yaekan tract, Lawpitha, Loikaw city, Kayah (Karenni) state, an eighteen-year-old boy who is a cousin of an eleven-year-old girl attempted to rape the girl.<sup>24</sup> The girl's family reported to the police under military junta but it was ignored. The family then sought help from the Karenni State Police (KSP) which was founded by CDM police. However, the boy ran away to Yangon to avoid being persecuted. On July 4th, another woman was raped and killed by her co-worker.<sup>25</sup> In Lweingyin, Kachin state, a four-year-old girl was raped and murdered.<sup>26</sup>

Women and pro-democracy activists as targets in the arbitrary arrests by the military junta has been ongoing for more than a year, as well as sexual violence against women. **During the last three months of documenting sexual violence cases, there have been nine rape cases including an attempted rape.** Victims include underage girls as well as married women. However, there is no hope in getting justice for those victims and survivors as the complete erosion of justice mechanism allows the perpetrators to commit sexual violence against women with absolute impunity. The information documented here are only based on the data collected by the Burmese Women's Union (BWU). Therefore, there are limitations in accessing sexual violence cases in the areas where internet and phone connection are shut down.

<sup>23</sup> THN freelance Journalist, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3J2JTNn>

<sup>24</sup> Karenni Voice, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=613886476608398>

<sup>25</sup> The Kachin News, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/theKachinNews/posts/pfbid02iRhzoNMkR9B6Cw116eyRbLkMuvx4GHJ3pJxKZ7FCT7GmWcoYbfSp73XmyXJVgXY3I>

<sup>26</sup> RFA, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid02wtTNFpzfZqo38CHBYnRHArDBY Ygg4Vub7hVZA57mMcs35BdqJyRW4z5SikD5P8BTI>



## ▪ *Women and the Economic Situation*

Alongside the increase in inflation rate and increasing price of commodities, the price of basic household accommodation is also rising, affecting the vast majority of the population especially those in the lower-class. Those in the labor industry are also severely impacted by this economic decline. Even in agriculture, the cost of fertilizer has doubled. Because of these rising costs, it can be predicted that the agriculture sector will substantially decline in the foreseeable upcoming year. A farmer shared his story that there are fewer people working in the agricultural sector in his region, Kalay Township, Sagaing due to conflict.<sup>27</sup>

A woman from Pathein shares her struggles due to the rise in domestic commodities' price:

**“Domestic commodities have been rising since the coup. Two liters of cooking oil now costs 8,000 kyats. Before, the price for the same cooking oil was around 2,500 kyats. In addition, one bottle of chili that used to cost 2,000 kyats now costs 10,000kyats.”**<sup>28</sup>

In parallel to the rising cost of commodities, the cost of medications have also gone up due to the current crisis. A patient who has been relying on medication discloses his situation:

**“Because the US currency is rising, I tried to buy my medications in advance. Still, I got my medicines at a higher price than normal. Before, it was just 3,500 kyats but now it is 8,000.”**<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Voice of Myanmar, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3PZWYcF>

<sup>28</sup> Ayarawaddy Times, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/ayeyarwaddytimes/posts/pfbid036V7G9D7cW1q4ESEcPKAZ86ygnuwhhkGTjOdyC9HXrDY6iawRKohBDzhcLBNn38Dl>

<sup>29</sup> Burma Associated Press, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3PVJ0bz>



*Photo 2: commodities photo from Voice of Myanmar*

In addition, women who work in garment factories have been forced to leave their jobs due to the shutting down of 200 factories. According to Burmese Garment Factories Association, it is reported that over two-hundred thousand workers lost their jobs as of June 2022. Only 500 factories remain in operation in Myanmar.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> RFA, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3OALn2g>

According to the interviews with women laborers conducted by the Burmese Women's Union, it was found that workers received only four-thousand eight-hundred kyats per day. In addition to the low pay, their labor's rights were also violated. Despite this, there are no opportunities to negotiate with the employers. Although labor rights are being violated, employees have no choice but to continue working due to the availability of few employment opportunities in order to make a living. Many workers who actively participated in the Spring Revolution were fired from their jobs in addition to being targets of arbitrary arrests by the military junta.

## Women's situation in Armed-conflicts

Armed conflicts between People Defense Forces, Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations and military junta are escalating across the country in order to abolish the military group. Due to war weapons such as landmines, other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO), injuries and death of women and children have substantially increased.

Innocent women and children are faced with injuries and death due to planted landmines by the military junta in the areas they have raided. A woman lost her left leg while picking fruits when a landmine exploded in Yaenikan village, Loikaw Township, Kayah (Karenni) state.<sup>31</sup> In Inndawkyi areas, Moenyin's Kachin state, a mother and her son were also injured by landmine's explosion.<sup>32</sup> On July 9th, a woman and her four-year old son from Kyungkone village, Bago region were injured by a landmine's explosion which caused the son to lose both of his legs.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Kantarawaddy Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/5028465213938615>

<sup>32</sup> RFA, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/10161830224298128>

<sup>33</sup> RFA, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



*Photo 3: Ordnance which have landed in Madap village, Mintat city, Chin state, photo from – Mindat People's Defense Force*

Due to indiscriminate shooting from the military junta's side, women and children are at highest risk of suffering from injuries and death. A 33-year-old woman was killed and her seven-year-old son was injured during the firing between Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and military junta in Kyarinnasantkyi Township, Karen state.<sup>34</sup> Similarly, a woman and a 5-year-old child was injured in No (5) tract, Natwatya road, Hlaing Tharyar due to a bomb's explosion.<sup>35</sup> On 19<sup>th</sup> of June, a local woman was found dead along with 2 others who were injured due to the explosion of ordnance into the Madawyan village Hpakhant Township, Kachin state.<sup>36</sup>

The violent acts of a pro-militia group widely known as Pyu Saw Htee is one of the perpetrators behind many women's deaths. . The military and its' Pyu Saw Htee group raided a village and torched down 31 houses. The burned body of an 80-year-old woman was found after their raid.<sup>37</sup> On 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, Daw Khin Cho (aka Mae Cho) was arrested by the military junta in Wabyaw village, Longlone Township. Three hours after the arrest, her dead body was dumped near her house, with signs indicating she was tortured before her death.<sup>38</sup> In addition, North Yaesakyo Guerilla Organization (N-YSO) reported that a five-months pregnant woman

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<sup>34</sup> BNI, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://bit.ly/3vTvlKx>

<sup>35</sup> RFA, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/10161873484923128>

<sup>36</sup> Network Media Group, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1093094767978202&id=382181045736248](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1093094767978202&id=382181045736248)

<sup>37</sup> RFA, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/10161879167088128>

<sup>38</sup> BHRN, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/BHRNUK/posts/358686493039025>



who joined the CDM (Civil Disobedience Movement) along with 30 other women and 2 men were found burned to death by the military junta.<sup>39</sup>

Ma Han Ni Oo and her uncle, Ko Ye were shot to death by an unknown armed group on 19<sup>th</sup> of May at noon in Eastern tract, Thaketa township, Yangon. It is also reported in some news that it was the act of a pro-military group called Thway Thauk.<sup>40</sup> A 60 year old mother of a PDF soldier was shot to death by an unknown group while she was selling vegetables in Kannar road market, Dawei city.<sup>41</sup> Two female members of the yUSDP (Union Solidarity and Development Part) were shot to death by another unknown group near Laethan market, Yangon.<sup>42</sup>

During armed conflicts, disabled persons face the highest risk, difficulties and

**“ I am worried every day. Whenever I heard news of locals and villages were arrested and killed, I felt when would be my time for death. I cried whenever I had to move to another place. I had to run then come back. As I can't run like others, I am worried that I might be left alone and killed.”**

challenges compared to abled persons. If there is a sudden raid in a village, it is impossible for them to run like others. Because of their inability to flee, they become victims of arbitrary arrests and beatings by the military junta. A disabled woman from Latpadaung, Sagaing region, Su Su spoke in the media about her worries during armed conflicts as below.<sup>43</sup>

The military junta whose only focus is inciting fear and inflicting terror in exchange for power is the one responsible for the majority of injuries and deaths during armed conflicts. The military junta is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in order to eradicate their dissents. They intentionally fire at the civilians, burn down homes, and plant landmines. And in addition age and Disabled are not an exception in arbitrary arrests and killings.

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<sup>39</sup> The Irrawaddy, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddyburmese/posts/5756074367770001>

<sup>40</sup> RFA, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/10161835354988128>

<sup>41</sup> Network Media Group, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022. [https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1076327282988284&id=382181045736248](https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1076327282988284&id=382181045736248)  
RFA, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<sup>42</sup> RFA, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.  
<https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid02mC2XtR2harY8u2tyrgHJQQKeum9ZVdonP7x6KQtKKkghfZGWP9YqXVCQ3XLmPbHl>

<sup>43</sup> HI, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3z6aQLs>

# IDPs situation

As the conflicts continue to escalate in resistance against the military junta in the last three months, the numbers of internally displaced persons continue to increase. Even in Mone Township, Bago region where there was no armed conflict before, almost 40,000 locals have fled to other areas due to conflicts between people's defense force and military junta.<sup>44</sup> Increased numbers of IDPs are in need of enormous support due to difficulties both physically and mentally.

Most IDPs are suffering from seasonal diseases such as diarrhea and malaria. Intensified armed conflicts in Tharnitaryi, forces the locals to take temporary shelter in the jungles. As a consequence of fleeing to the jungles without proper shelters, about 70% of these IDPs end up catching malaria<sup>45</sup>. Moreover, about 30IDPs who have taken temporary shelter under Battalion (1) of Karen National Union (KNU) controlled areas in Beelin Township, Mon state are suffering from diarrhea.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Voice of Myanmar, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/VoiceofMyanmarNews/posts/pfbid0K4C7Tqr95xeGaGt1zEMNuEY5oE9EEeAuFuKL8iqi88qaCdDM5Q25G4MhNT2tHUidI>

<sup>45</sup> Than Lwin Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/5112612335523902>

<sup>46</sup> RFA, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/10161803965568128>

Similarly, IDPs from Kalay's Sagaing region are also suffering from diarrhea along with a shortage of medications. In one of the IDPs camps in Kayah (Karenni) state, a toddler died from diarrhea due to a lack of medical care.<sup>47</sup>



Photo 4: IDPs from Karen fleeing-photo from KNU

IDP camps are facing challenges due to the scarcity of medications that can prevent and cure rain-related diseases such as diarrhea and malaria. IDPs encounter a multitude of challenges on top of fleeing violence such as their health and safety. Women, children, and elders are disproportionately impacted among those IDPs.

Although humanitarian aid is needed across the entire country, the military junta continues to deliberately target IDP camps. Military junta raided one of the IDP camps in Tarabon village, Tharnitaryi city, Meit district and burned down the entire camp.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> ကရင်နီစစ်ဘေးရှောင်ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးကွန်ရက်, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

[https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=322990126663907&id=109756087987313](https://web.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=322990126663907&id=109756087987313)

<sup>48</sup> Chin World Media, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/chinworldmedia/posts/383404860488518>

Due to targeted and deliberate actions against IDPs' camps, IDPs are forced to relocate again and again, leading to limited access to food supplies and medical resources.



*Photo 5: IDPs, photo from Than Lwin Times*

As IDPs face an insurmountable number of difficulties and months of living in camps, it is most likely that IDPs would face mental health issues. A doctor who is helping in an IDP camp of Mizoran state, India mentioned that IDPs from Chin state are struggling immensely with mental health problems.<sup>49</sup> Because of this, BWU considers mental health programs as a necessary resource in order to address one of the crucial issues in recovery efforts. .

## Conclusion

As the revolution against the military junta enters its second year, the numbers of injuries and death have significantly increased as well as the enormous number of public properties that have been destroyed. It is worrisome to know that there is not even a hint from the military junta to return power to the civilian government. On the other hand, it is hopeful to see that resistance against the military junta is still widespread across the country by reflecting through all the activities that civilians have done to demonstrate resistance and help abolish the military junta.

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<sup>49</sup> Chin World Media, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. <https://web.facebook.com/chinworldmedia/posts/383404860488518>



Civil society organizations are unable to provide relief, support and assist with recovery activities. By doing so, they face many challenges such as arrests and torture. Arrest warrants are ordered by the military junta to the humanitarian aid workers as well. Even children who are seeking temporary shelter in the IDP camps have lost their right to education as the military junta has arrested CDM teachers.

International humanitarian aid is needed to reach the people of Myanmar who are fighting with their lives to have human rights and democracy. In addition, there is still a need for pressure and sanctions against the military members responsible for human rights violation toward its civilians.