



Women News Analysis Paper

January to March 2024



Credit: Rosey Women's Union - Dawei

1. Summary

The day 8th March, is celebrated as International Women's Day (IWD). It is the day that recognizes women's struggle and revolutionary activities and organizes women's political activities in various forms such as women's human rights and other organizing activities. Women in Burma have been facing insecure socio-economic life, experiencing psychological and physical oppression, and living in a society where the prevalence of patriarchal norms compounded by lack of rule of law, are unbridled so much so that women are treated as inferiors or lesser beings. This situation became worse when the military attempted to take control of the country in 2021.

Women are arbitrarily detained, threatened to feel their lives in danger, tortured, and raped during interrogation including enduring other forms of torture, and arbitrary killing by the terrorist military forces. Adding to the already oppressive situation women are under, the terrorist military issued and activated the '2010 People's Military Service Law' on 10 February 2024. Despite the various forms of oppression and violence that women experience and endure, they continue to participate and contribute in several ways to the Spring Revolution even after three years. This exhibits their resilience, strength, and ability to fight against injustice and oppressive systems further indicating their revolutionary spirit to continue fighting for women's rights.

In this three-month analysis report, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) compiled and analyzed the contents, figures, and statistics from the statements and publications of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners Burma (AAPP) and other sources from reliable news media posts including BWU's own collection of information. The actual figures could be higher as access to information on the ground at times is limited. Numerous limitations and challenges remain concerning accessing, verifying, and validating information directly from the ground, and, as such, actual numbers may be higher than reported here.

2. Women's Situation

2.1 Women's Political Activities

Since the 2021 attempted coup, from participating in peaceful protests to joining in the armed revolution, women have shown their dissent against the terrorist military's inhumane and brutal oppression of the people. With strong belief and commitment, they have continued to participate in the revolution resisting patriarchy and inequality. Dr. Mie Mie Win Byrd, a former US military officer, remarked that the participation of women in the Spring Revolution was the strongest of all in history despite repression.¹ Even women from regions that previously had not been active and not participated in political activities are now getting involved in armed revolution taking enormous risks and sacrificing their lives. Innlay-based People's Defense Force (PDF) conducted their military training and among the trainees, ten female soldiers completed the training.²

In the resistance movement, women traditionally have served in positions like logistics officer and medic. However, as the armed revolution gained momentum, women have now gone beyond this and have been actively taking up arms fighting on the front lines in Sagaing Region, Karenni, Kachin, and Chin States. On 20 January 2024, the coalition revolutionary forces led by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) attacked and burned down the terrorist military's Infantry Battalion 42, located in Waykha Village, Kachin State. Among those who heroically battled against the military troops, a mother of five children Daw Chaw Su bravely fought

¹ VOA Burmese, 31 Jan 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=1788145561662822>

² Mekong News, 23 Jan 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/MeKongNewsMM/posts/pfbid02XpBuTEFikBK5JeVibzV3nvGhnc2ymJPWDzKR3DHCbaTod96XYUPAEDWYM5ssCSyl>

along with other male soldiers. The KIA has honoured and promoted Daw Chaw Su from private to sergeant for her ability and outstanding qualities.³

Although participation as well as contribution of women in revolutionary forces and organizations has increased, much remains to be done to achieve equality and a fair distribution of power. In addition, certain limitations and obstacles in terms of gender equality remain concerning the roles of females in the resistance forces. The Chin National Defense Force (CNDF) has 10% female participation, but most of them are tasked with office jobs, medic, cooking, and computer-related work. The Chin female soldiers are prepared not only to fulfill the responsibilities they are assigned to but also to fight on the frontlines. It is analyzed that creating conducive spaces and opportunities for passionate women in different duties and tasks within the resistance movement as well as to take arms against the military, based on their strong will, is a step forward to bring victory to the revolution.⁴

The strikes and protests also become the general public's politics without resorting to weapons. As armed resistance against the terrorist military has gained momentum nationwide, the protests initiated by the public have continued to stay strong since 1 February 2021 up until now. Among many public strikes and protests, several ones in Sagaing Region have remained stout till these days and these protests are 'Shwe Hnwe Thway', 'New Strength March', 'Zarmani Thway', 'Revolutionary Spirit', 'No Saviors We Seek, That's Our Village', 'Victory Flag Unfurl, Golden Yay Kyi March', and 'Never Retreat, That's the Revolutionary Spirit.'⁵ In the

³ The Irrawaddy-Burmese Edition, 22 Jan 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/100064895881172/posts/782394487267074/>

⁴ HI-Honest Information, 22 Feb 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/honestinfo/posts/pfbid0eH8owG6d16rcggKJXGbBkrUyNz5RSjSckrptiH9PF4eWF6CtGQEbajWXYawySiel>

⁵ Delta News Agency, 7 Feb 2024

Sagaing Region where intense fighting continues between the revolutionary forces and the military, the people protested and a march was held led by the Yinmabin-Salingyi Multi-village Strike Committee on 7 January 2024 while expressing their dissent with slogans like ‘Revolutionary victory, depends only on the public’.⁶

On 8 March, despite oppression and arbitrary arrests, various public events were held nationwide to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). Under the slogans titled “Fight against patriarchy, let's men and women unite,” “Eradication of Dictatorship of Any Forms,” “Eliminate all forms of violence against women,” and “Let’s men and women unite to fight against patriarchy,” the Hnin Si Yaung (or Rose color) or Rosy Women's Union (RWU) led and organized the public protests and marches in Launglone Township, Dawei District.⁷ On the IWD, over 400 local people – including women activists and members of the Shan, Kachin, Lisu, and Kho Lone Lishaw ethnic groups – gathered in Namkham Town, which is under the control of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in northern Shan State on 8 March.⁸ On 7 March, local villagers joined hands with the *Kyay Let Myay* (meaning rural) Organization also held a gathering to celebrate IWD on the Eve of

<https://www.facebook.com/deltanewsagency/posts/pfbid0g5QtoHn4VedV1F8wbRuc8DAV6fbwYaPgagRnh7VK1x4ZC82TDuiweVpDz2xzfUBql>

⁶ မြေလတ်အသံ-Myaelatt Athan, 7 Jan 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/myaelattathan/posts/pfbid0ZZxt8AVcwpsYQHpljSBt3VeN2G2o8jDUwKi5Z19LXsbrEnsis6YpA8v6i5st6sFnI>

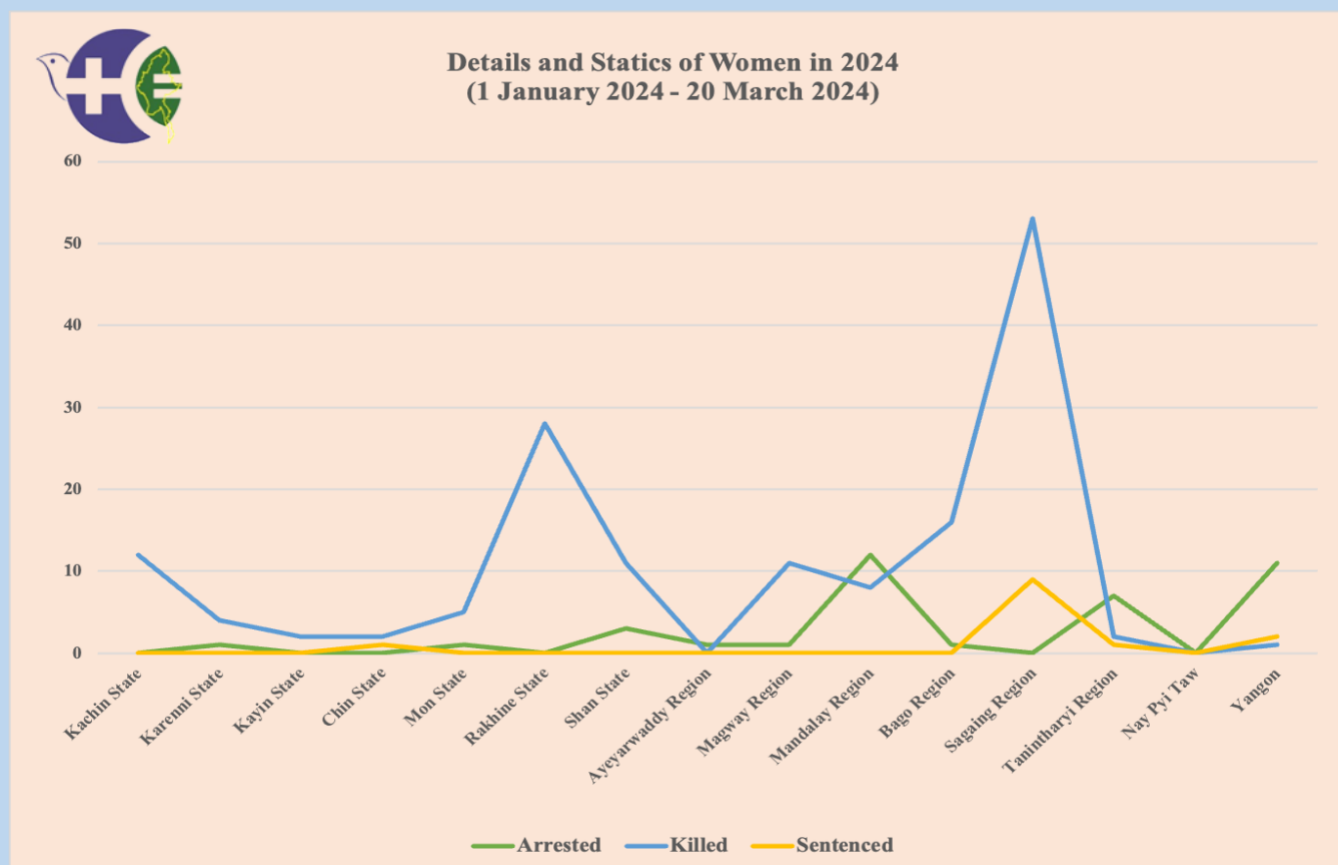
⁷ Rosy Women’s Union-Dawei, 8 March 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=437364378956938&id=100080501374507

⁸ The Irrawaddy-Burmese Edition, 9 March 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/theirrawaddyburmese/posts/pfbid02mB4gucskJDKmMF6gtX4np2JzBPTHjcmpeo6iJKZK1u5BLddMTYZ7LGvWxxKR9QsSI>

it.⁹public gathering and talk was held in the village of Salingyi Township.¹⁰



2.2 Women's Security Situation

(a) Arbitrary Arrest and Detention

Based on the data released by the AAPP and a summary of data collected by the BWU, the number of women who were arrested reached 38 just between 1 January to 20 March 2024. It is found that the majority of women detained by the terrorist military are accused of spreading false information on social media pages.

⁹ Khit Thit Media, 7 March 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/pfbid03LdoDy5FDN5TsK9q9ERQVHNTd6EhhGcxQm1dyneKm8m7DG65sUyw2XEcMhubcB6HI>

¹⁰ Delta News Agency, 7 March 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/deltanewsagency/posts/pfbid02iBK2JQjR6tCFZC783nE6pgbPjmSPrxsDqcGSjSop2s4XocyuFfVxfAbs4zosJt1UI>

For the past three months, the bureaucratic mechanism of the terrorist military had not only blatantly violated women's rights but also continuously oppressed and tortured them. On 29 January, Ma Nobel Aye, a former political prisoner, was arrested yet again by the terrorist military in Nyangkhashae Gate, Bago Region.¹¹ Ma Nobel Aye was a woman who was determined to resist any kind of dictator. On 8 February, Ma Nobel Aye was shot dead as she was about to appear before the Waw Court, alleging she tried to escape.

“My sister, she could not even walk but she was dragged through the village by her hair. They then said she screamed so they shot her in the head execution style. After they killed my sister, Lay Kwin was brought into the bamboo forest and shot dead as well” said Ko Htet Myet, brother of Ma Noble Aye. Close sources and those who knew Ma Noble Aye's family said she couldn't walk, let alone run as she suffered cancer of the uterus/womb and was under enormous pain when she was arrested. She continued and committed her life to activism without even seeking treatment for her health issue.¹²

The experiences of women facing imprisonment and punishment under counter-terrorism law in the aftermath of the attempted coup in Myanmar underscore the precarious situation female activists face and the difficulties in pursuing justice and social change. On 15 October 2023, in North Okkalapa Township, Shin Devi, a 50-year-old woman, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, was on her way to pick up the drone she ordered online for filmmaking but was arrested, tortured, and beaten for a week at the interrogation center by the terrorist military. On 10 January

¹¹ Burma VJ, 16 Feb 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/100064760958738/posts/790041773164514/>

¹² HI-Honest Information, 13 March 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/100079788362744/posts/392041426798800/>

2024, she was sentenced to life in prison under two of the counter-terrorism laws by the military tribunal.¹³ On 31 January 2024, Ma Htay Htay Win (aka) Ma Hnin Ei Htwe, a member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the Tavoy Women's Union (TWU), was also sentenced to ten years in prison by the Dawei district court under section 50 (j) of the counter-terrorism law.¹⁴

On 16 February at midnight, five Rakhine women who were garment factory workers and locals from Htan Chauk Pin Ward, Shwepyitha Township, were arrested by the terrorist military's soldiers seemingly and allegedly breaking the overnight guest audit rule.

Before releasing them, the military soldiers extorted money from them saying one of the women's heights was not par standard or too short. During their arrest, all women were blindfolded and thus did not know which location they were

“We were arrested around midnight as we were asleep. I saw many young people being detained when we got into the car. There were Rakhine men and women as well as other ethnic nationalities. But the majority of them were Rakhine ethnic. Those whose height reaches 5 ft 3 inches are detained. Those who did not reach that height were released but forced to pay Kyat 200,000. I was arrested on the 16th and was released on the 17th around 6 in the evening. They tortured and poured hot cooking oil on anyone who asked why they were being arrested. A young man lost his eyes for being poured with hot oil.”

taken to. One of the women believed that they were taken to an unknown interrogation center and recounted to a news agency about things that she encountered during their detention as below.¹⁵

¹³ Myanmar Now, 10 Jan 2024.

<https://myanmar-now.org/mm/news/48046/?fbclid=IwAR38espKK1qc2zc9B3hXg-kKW7UhYMEv9OoTBY3OGYFVJrGSQGPJU76Aa2I>

¹⁴ Dawei Watch, 2 Feb 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/DaweiWatch/posts/pfbid04eJ6tBqpvBZykczfFYjdYqqrV8sor9t64ZzwzeAzvvyMsEds2YT68bTpfXMFtB8Ll? rdc=1& rdr>

¹⁵ Western News, 18 Feb 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/westernnewsagency/posts/pfbid02gHDJCta4vFa9oc5mcCrX1uFJJ93vPXxiWq9NPYbjJPcYp9x2sGVsi7TdEGFtaDsil? rdc=1& rdr>

(b) Women's Situation in Prison

Women political prisoners in Maubin prison, Ayeyarwady Region, have been subjected to torture and other forms of abuse carried out by the prison staff led by women section warden Daw May Zin Tun (2 stars, lieutenant position). These abuses included vulgar verbal abuse in front of everyone, having their clothes and underwear stripped, having them stand naked in front of everyone, and being searched in the political prisoners' genitals and anal cavities. The prison staff would undertake this type of search even when young women political prisoners are on their period or menstruation.¹⁶

In the past three months, the paper found that due to poor and deteriorating health care, there resulted in loss of life in the various prisons all over Myanmar. Over 50 political prisoners both male and female in Kalay Prison in Sagaing Region, have been suffering from severe illnesses. Still, they were provided with just paracetamol by the prison staff for every disease and every sickness.¹⁷

Ma Su May Aung, a political prisoner and Chemistry (H3) student at Magway University, lost her life on 22 January 2024 due to a lack of prompt medical access and treatment. She had health conditions of skin issues, arthritis, enlarged liver, and heart disease.¹⁸ In addition, 35-year-old Ma Yin Moe passed away in Oo Bo Prison, Mandalay, from kidney disease as she was not given adequate care as well as was not permitted to get long-term treatment in a private hospital.¹⁹ Prisons in Myanmar

¹⁶ PEN 47, 14 Jan 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/pen47media/posts/pfbid0wfzC671B9mEWFkQJPhVLPqHbb2dMUzRMHDbTxZe2DZDWXDJBp1wt1mXBXLtMfvzWI?_rdc=1&_rdr

¹⁷ Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, 13 Jan 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/mmpressphoto/posts/pfbid08SL03yit58BudvgKoAxxxykeQdQXNJRLlrTNeDULWdW6TPmnrKtjNLZUzEnWUTHa5l?_rdc=1&_rdr

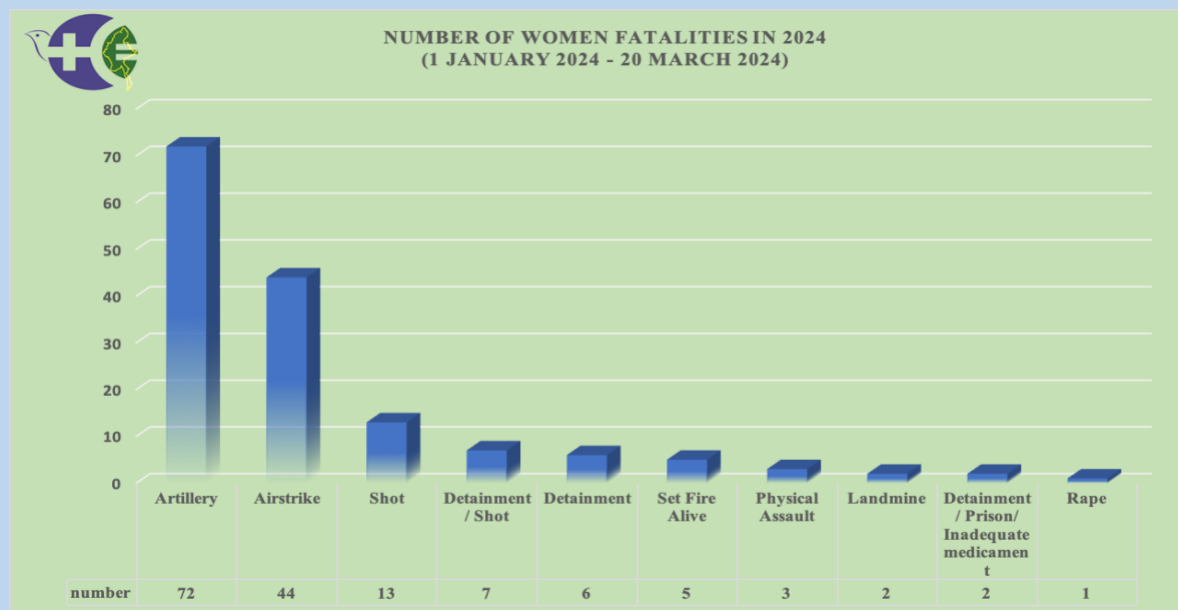
¹⁸ The Irrawaddy-Burmese Edition, 26b Jan 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddyburmese/posts/pfbid02RcnKZNB37pLd2aWkkquf4xeDa45VQasz4owP3aYSJVyixJ1XdwcE423rRYKCZNUl>

¹⁹ RFA-Burmese, 7 Feb 2024.

have become the second battleground for political prisoners and during this three-month report period, a total of 11 political prisoners had already lost their lives.²⁰

(c) Women's deaths



There was a total of 155 women who died in Myanmar in the period between 1 January to 20 March 2024. Among them, a total of 72 women were killed by heavy artillery shellings, 44 being killed during airstrikes, 13 being shot, 7 being shot dead during arrest, 6 were killed while in detention or imprisoned, 5 being burnt alive, 3 died as a result of physical abuse and torture, 2 being killed by landmines, 2 died for not getting access to adequate medical cares, and one died after being raped by the military forces. Most of the victims are from the Sagaing Region.

<https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid0H4kn7f7F3mfemhJgyZ7E5vjT5YomwpFMbvRBRC1S4cW31XEQyeRd67eoWTWvGYcEI>

²⁰ Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, 27 Feb 2024.

<https://web.facebook.com/mmpressphoto/posts/pfbid0rxfWFkxXtghitEgf95w8FY13CFnjpnJafAHWtja2i3mgaKRhQDTijVvJQCix8HHU1>

In Shwe Zar Li and Let Khoat Tan Wards, Mongmit Township, northern Shan State, 102 people were murdered and some raped by the terrorist military troops while hiding in bomb shelters. This unthinkable atrocity was perpetrated by the Battalion 99. The same Battalion also committed a heinous crime arresting and killing a father resident of Ywadaylay Village and raping and killing his 13-year-old daughter as they entered Mongmit to wreak havoc. A husband and wife, residents who lived between the villages of Ohnkyaw and Shwe Zar Li were also arrested, the man was slain, and the woman was raped and killed. It was also reported that two girls from the same village - Shwe Zar Li, aged 15 and 17 were also raped and killed by these military soldiers.²¹

A woman from E/Tan Ning²² or Ngatanpyinn Village, Minbya Township, Rakhine State, was gang raped by officers and soldiers from the light infantry 205 under Battalion 22. The culprits were Corporal Kyaw Myo Oo, Lance Corporal Thura Naing, and three privates Chit Oo, Myo Aung, and Ko Ko Aung. One of the perpetrators Private Ko Ko Aung admitted to this inhumane crime. Light Infantry 205 raided E/Tan Ning Village and arrested two women – a woman and her daughter on their way in. The mother was dragged out of the house after both mother and daughter were gang raped, admitted Ko Ko Aung. They shot the daughter in the chest but soldiers inhumanely finished her off by cutting her throat as she did not die from the gunshot.²³

²¹ Khit Thit Media, 19 Feb 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/pfbid02iPCdfjtXavZ7VPvXGSxS41vRNhSjtrMaViJRSeue5WUWRnCkSct1jnYkGDrCPv4NI?_rdc=1&_rdr

²² https://arakanprincess-media.translate.google/wp-00113/?_x_tr_sl=my&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=sc

²³ HI-Honest Information, 4 March 2024.

https://hiburma.net/2024/03/%e1%80%9b%e1%80%81%e1%80%ad%e1%80%af%e1%80%84%e1%80%ba%e1%80%80%e1%80%a1%e1%80%99%e1%80%bb%e1%80%ad%e1%80%af%e1%80%b8%e1%80%9e%e1%80%99%e1%80%ae%e1%80%b8%e1%80%90%e1%80%85%e1%80%ba%e1%80%a6%e1%80%b8/?fbclid=IwAR2DFd32keimIVdyYy0FzVyM-c4St-jVIGc_75x4P1od1SHX3cX4G_rsDFw

(d) Conscription Law and Its Impact on Women

On 10 February 2024, the military forces activated the 2010 People's Military Services Law (PMSL) enacted during the reign of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The law primarily targets men aged 18 to 35 and women aged 18 to 27 to serve in the military. Women can face extra risks as a result of this law. One way to avoid such conscription is to go abroad. The attempt to avoid PMSL by migrating abroad is fleeing/escaping by any means, including through illegal channels, where there may be serious risks of human trafficking, migrant labor, and worker abuse. Furthermore, women can be placed in a more vulnerable position of being sexually exploited and abused by brokers.

For families with young women and girls, there certainly be forced marriage or even child marriage could highly likely take place if they cannot send off their children abroad. According to the PMSL law, it targets women and girls over the age of 18, so those around the age of 17 are more likely to marry young and as a result could face additional challenges.²⁴ Although it is a quick way to avoid being conscripted, there may be additional risks for young women. But still, many are willing to take the risk of going abroad just to avoid the PMSL and being conscripted. Furthermore, several women who are not in the PMSL age group, are still emotionally stressed and psychologically under pressure if their husbands, sons, and daughters are in the age groups eligible for conscription, and some even have resorted to committing suicide as they could no longer cope. Moreover, women are frequently seen selling their properties and assets attempting to migrate abroad in search of safety and security for their family. In the coming months, the severe

²⁴ Ayeyarwaddy Times, 21 Feb 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/100067770862498/posts/724677936467895/>

consequences of this PMSL will likely become evident and will have a negative effect, particularly on women as the terrorist military will enforce PMSL in April.²⁵

2.3 Women and Economic Situation

The attempted military coup resulted in a severe economic crisis and the loss of labor rights. Although the minimum wage was raised from Kyat 4,800 to 5,800 in November 2023, some factories have been closed down, while others are increasingly exploiting workers and cutting wages in violation of labor laws. Workers in some factories work for 8 hours without being paid adequately for their efforts. Furthermore, factory workers are reportedly required to work overtime until they reach a certain quota but are not compensated for the extra work. They also face additional wage abuses because the factories could no longer run properly and thus fulfilling and protecting labor rights become less of their concern.²⁶

Under such conditions of labor exploitation, rising food prices, and lack of job opportunities in the country means that going abroad seems like a promising escape route. It has been widely reported that women of Myanmar are lured with incentives and trafficked through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to Dubai. Since the military attempted the coup, more young people particularly women have been offered job incentives to work in Dubai by human traffickers pretending to be the ones who frequently travel abroad and posting pictures and videos while hiding their true identities to recruit women for trafficking.

²⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-plans-implement-mandatory-military-service-april-media-say-2024-02-14/>

²⁶ VOA Burmese, 9 Jan 2024.

<https://burmese.voanews.com/a/myanmar-factories-workers-face-decline-income-due-to-political-hardship/7431476.html?fbclid=IwAR0-R48IIVK5sl8uQW68D7SsQGBXUVkwJ3wgWcizqJkDdXhHYixxvMF3f6A>

Those vulnerable victims who fell prey to the human traffickers faced inhumane abuses and violations as their papers/passports and phones were taken on their arrival at the airport in Dubai, and were not given enough food to eat and many were cramped and huddled into one small room to live and survive.²⁷

Since the people of Myanmar are traveling to other countries both legally and illegally means that they come to encounter rules, regulations, and laws of these countries and as a consequence, some face arrest and detention. The majority of people from Myanmar who migrated abroad encountered such situations mostly in Malaysia and Thailand. Following the Malaysian immigration operation against illegal entry, the raid at Samon Hnyin and Baiduri apartments and surrounding neighborhoods on 19 January at approximately 11 p.m. resulted in several Myanmar migrant workers being arrested.²⁸ Additionally, according to Thai news, a total of 27 people –11 men and 16 women – were taken into custody by Thai police as they entered illegally into Tak a border district and were hiding in a banana field near the Thai-Myanmar border.²⁹

3. Women’s Situation under armed conflict

The terrorist military has been carrying out horrible mass attacks targeting innocent civilians with indiscriminate airstrikes as well as on-the-ground raids. Due to the fighting and the military’s road blockage of roads, pregnant women in Rakhine

²⁷ Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, 13 Jan 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/mmpressphoto/posts/pfbid0iD2ReptP7jJyhdo09Xzw3tCi5HeYhWtSBRbs1nNGetXb7S6LGy4HnBKg5mq1ZoZl?_rdc=1&_rdr

²⁸ Myanmar Labour News, 21 Jan 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/myanmarlabournews/posts/pfbid02S5yJxiMJeUd6F3zBXNfaKYQmVbhCPCkcvWceQLMnJ3oWetJ4RpWohGhaDPMjqTSjl>

²⁹ Dawei Watch, 15 Feb 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/DaweiWatch/posts/pfbid0RFVvztTMnReCZwB4dFzahvE2pJZwWmYm4C1QiehbX9yZWys5KUp7uNAo7cHB4tEEI>

State have been facing difficulty in giving birth as they cannot access healthcare facilities. Rakhine State has never had sufficient medical personnel or supplies to begin with and the road blockage means causing further serious health issues for everyone in Rakhine State, especially for pregnant women. Travel restrictions are also the reason making it extremely difficult for the locals, notably pregnant women, to seek health care facilities. An internally displaced person (IDP) and pregnant woman from Doe Tan Village, Rathedaung Township, in Rakhine State, fleeing the war lost her life on 5 December 2023 while giving birth and her infant did not survive either. At the end of November, a woman gave birth to a twin in Tuangmin IDP camp in Kyauktaw Township but she lost both her children within half an hour due to complications of childbirth.³⁰

Due to the fighting in Rakhine State, the flow of goods and commodities has ceased. As a result, women in Rakhine State are facing a phenomenon of a tenfold increase in the prices for their monthly necessity hygiene products. It used to cost Kyat 300 for women, but it now costs Kyat 3,000. A young woman from Ywet Nyo Taung Village, Maungdaw Township, said “Some women choose to stay home during their menstruation period as they can no longer afford to buy the pads.”³¹

On 14 February, the terrorist military troops with around 200 soldiers based in Myauk Khin Yan Village, Gangaw Township, Magway Region, and the pro-military group in the area called Pyusawhtee joined forces to raid Thintaw Village. Villagers who were trapped and could no longer escape were arrested and massacred in the southern part of Thintaw Village in the Phaya Gone area. Some women among

³⁰ Development Media Group, 6 Jan 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/dmgnewsagency/posts/pfbid02r6pygNAgbj7rSDCkMPmEzqcBNc5H6d1srQqRqzqdvP5N3ir1zibZVhmBQksBeaqxl?_rdc=1&_rdr

³¹ HI-Honest Information, 23 Jan 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/honestinfo/posts/pfbid02fdk1A2RepVj5sN8QsMvozb5ZAwhDYQnvZwtTnkX2MLgXLZ3tYVg5cxCwWibfJ34XI>

these villagers were arrested and brought to Myauk Khin Yan Village where the military troops were stationed. Until now, no information is available on how many women were arrested and taken to the base and what happened to them. During the military operation in the area, 20 houses in Thintaw and 6 houses in Shwebo were burnt down to the ground. Truckloads of villagers' properties and belongings such as rice, cooking oil, and other food items were taken by the military to their base in Myauk Khin Yan.³²

According to the analysis conducted by Nyan Lynn Thit, there were at least 37 massacres (claimed the deaths of over five people in each case) between September and December 2023 and the killing of 283 civilians took place. In the period between February 2021 and December 2023, there were at least 210 massacres (claimed the deaths of over five people in each case) nationwide, and a total of 2,079 civilians were murdered in these massacres. Furthermore, the majority of these atrocious massacres (over 50%) occurred in the Sagaing Region.³³

4. Situations of IDPs

In Myanmar, the terrorist military troops target civilians and the number of IDPs increased steadily due to the fighting across the country. Since the informal ceasefire agreement was annulled on 13 November 2023, around 148,500 people are estimated to become IDPs in Rakhine and Chin State's Paletwa Township.³⁴ Nationwide, Myanmar has seen 2.7 million people become IDPs since the attempted

³² RFA Burmese, 15 Feb 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid0TeJf7F5ouCvFQR2KYJxVeqL9AYE3kSBzzRMcUmZ453Edrwi s9QHta7SQ9nAzrJqAl>

³³ Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica, 8 March 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=796958722466151&id=100064560917461

³⁴ United Nations OCHA Myanmar, 6 March 2024.

https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=818125127026845&id=100064880940137

coup. As the number of IDPs increases, the need for humanitarian assistance for them increases while there are increasing cases of human rights violations as well.

5. Analysis

Since the attempted military coup, women have participated in the revolution and have played and contributed a vital role in the resistance with their motivations and resilience underpinning the spirit of revolution. With the ups and downs of the revolution, many people particularly women have revolutionized from just resisting the terrorist military to transforming to go against the oppressive ideas, views, behaviours, customs, and traditions against women and girls in Myanmar society. Actions and transformations like these are extremely supportive of building a balanced social life and equality for all genders. Throughout the three years of the armed revolution, women have not stopped assuming responsibilities and participated equally with their male counterparts. It is analyzed that such actions are needed to create a peaceful and just society in Myanmar. However, there are still several necessary steps to be taken to ensure the distribution of power among both genders in higher positions. The revolution started with various identities, particularly gender, ethnicity, etc. Nonetheless, there still exists oppression and discrimination against women and this can surely delay the revolutionary goal.

To cause demoralization, scare, and abandon the revolution, the terrorist military consistently conducts and ups oppression both physically and psychologically and perpetrates human rights violations against women. The military continues arresting and imprisoning with long sentences to civilian, ordinary, and activist women including murdering them. To instill fear in women and women activists, the military uses rape as a weapon blatantly without any conscience.

Innocent young women in the conflict-affected areas are being gang raped by 3 to 5 members of the terrorist military soldiers. Since the military violates and perpetrates the human rights of its citizens, breaks its laws and regulations, and inhumane and merciless actions against the people, there is no hope for the guarantee of the rule of law. It is also impossible for services, support, and help to reach victims, mainly women and girls, of sexual and gender-based violence as the military has cut off everything from transportation to the internet and all other communication channels.

Women from Myanmar are forcibly pushed by circumstances in the country to work abroad, but again face fraud and labor exploitations in the workforce. Many women from Myanmar working in Southeast Asia and the Middle Eastern countries have been facing a lot of uncertainties and daunting problems. Under the laws of each host country, the risks constitute frequent arrests and a lack of basic food and shelter among migrant women.

The terrorist military forces are endeavouring to spread their power to the fullest of their ability. This includes persistently using airstrikes in areas where they are not fighting to preserve their base, station, legitimacy, and control over territory. The military is violating every way possible against its people by airstrikes using jet planes, the use of chemical weapons and mass killing, beheading, burning when still alive, and committing gang rape. Women still tend to be the victims of such extreme inhumane and heinous acts by the military. Despite the lack of safety and security and situations deteriorating in war-torn areas of the country, women are still revolutionizing not only the terrorist military but also the age-old oppressive system against them.