



Photo Credited: Free Burma Ranger

Situation of Women in Myanmar's Armed Conflict from April to June 2024



Published By Burmese Women's Union ©

July, 2024

1. Introduction

Since the terrorist military attempted to take control of the country, the people of Myanmar participated in the Spring Revolution to show their dissent through peaceful protests. Later, as the crackdown, arbitrary arrest, and killing by the military worsened, the peaceful revolution transformed into an armed revolution where the people of Myanmar resisted the military with whatever weapons they could manage to get. People have been forced to flee their homes and lands, were injured, lost their lives, and faced various problems such as loss of income and properties in the three years since the military coup in 2021 as the military has deployed brutal offensive attacks by air, water, and heavy artillery shelling. Besides, the military has destroyed villages by burning, committed mass killing, and has been targeting civilians causing huge loss of lives, destruction, and insecurity. Currently, the military continues to commit severe human rights violations ramping up several arrests which is a subsequent event from the recent illegal conscription law. It has deliberately also blocked and cut off internet lines, and intercepted and arrested those who use virtual private networks (VPNs).

The revolution has been continuing for more than three years yet women just as men and people of other gender orientations have continued their endeavors and have not stopped their commitment to the movement and in their fight against the terrorist military. Amidst instability and conflicts and despite heavy artillery raining down, the military offensive attacks, and air bombardment, women have been standing their ground in their fight against the military. In this paper, the Burmese Women's Union (BWU) has analyzed and presented the situation of women in conflict during April, May, and June 2024. There are limitations and challenges in collecting and accessing information due to the current tension on the ground and thus the actual data and numbers could be higher than this paper endeavored to offer.

2. The Situation of Women in Armed Conflicts

Intensified fighting between the military and resistance forces continues to wage throughout the country. According to Burma News International (BNI), there were 71 clashes between the military and the resistance forces in April¹ and 65 clashes in May.² Armed conflicts have waged on and intensified in Arakan, Kachin, Karen, and northern Shan States in June.



Photo Credited: Burma News International

Women and children were heavily affected by these ever-intensifying fighting causing survival, social, education, health, and mental health issues. A huge number of people have been displaced due to air bombardment, heavy artillery shelling, burning of villages, arbitrary arrests, killings, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A reverse effect of the military offensive escalation across the country means shrinking of the safe place for people to escape. In Arakan State, people face difficulties in escaping to safe places due to the military's blockage of roads.³ Women and children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance as a result

¹BNI Burma News International, 14 May 2024 <https://mmpeacemonitor.org/327714/peace-monitoring-dashboard-april-2023-2/>*

² Burma News International, 17 June 2024 <https://mmpeacemonitor.org/328375/peace-monitoring-dashboard-may-2023-2/>

³ Development Media Group, 13 June 2024

of the conflicts. According to the BWU's findings, physical violence against women has significantly increased during the ongoing conflict in Burma. Findings indicated that in many cases the Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO) handled and assisted mostly domestic/family violence (DV/FV) in the Karenni State. Between 2019 to 2024, DV/FV cases the KNWO received were more than 300.⁴ Moreover, the BWU's own data collection in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Ayeyarwady Regions, and in Karenni State, revealed a total of 29 conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) against women from January to June 2024. However, there were no comprehensive punishments and judicial mechanisms to bring justice for women victims/survivors of these heinous crimes who suffered physical and psychological violence in times of conflict. This has even encouraged perpetrators to blatantly commit more CRSV and SGBV against women.

2.1 .The Situation of Women IDP

A direct proportional effect of fighting between the military and resistance forces was the large number of refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had to flee their homes. Amidst intensified fighting, those fleeing the wars suffered physical damage and loss and are in great need of psychological healing. Since the 2021 military coup, the exponential increase in the number of people fleeing wars across the country, and in May 2024, it had reached over 1 million civilians who had fled their homes in its controlled areas, stated the Karen National Union (KNU).⁵ According to the statistics issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), there are more than 3 million war refugees in Burma.

<https://web.facebook.com/dmgnewsagency/posts/pfbid0qepdpSuiu635NmaAfCsT8bT6RadLnfEmttBx5F1xUHXwCSFFKLZpRgmmAETuGTAol>

⁴ Kantarawaddy Times, 22 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/pfbid0iUx6yAA9Lyejr5kjaLAYkXAeZPndPSzc9HqJb7B6CZ2v64UfPcSTkaRMTnrbLXYrl>

⁵ RFA Burmese, 20 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid0YQZsaga7e7bphW8MH7zwCDHFBW4MXVKxjeM9GvSLEBvzTFy3KKiKCK5uMazPu2U6l>



Photo Credited: Metta Development Foundation, Families, including pregnant women, children, and disabled and elderly people, have fled shelling and airstrikes in northern Myanmar's Kachin State

With the arrival of monsoon and rainy season in Burma, war refugees all over the country experience and suffer from fever, cold, and other diseases, and there is an urgent need for medicines, covers, and shelter.

More than 3,000 war refugees in Arakan State, where the fighting has been escalating, require emergency medicine and food.⁶ There is a concern that these refugees could face an outbreak of dengue fever since it is well into the rainy season but having no proper and safe shelter, inadequate mosquito nets, and proper toilet facilities.⁷ In addition, new arrival of war refugees

⁶ RFA Burmese, 16 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid0oMUeHTf735pioXK5eDWkRrujVdspn1U7JrNE68sXt9AsMu2xFYgojwvcjFEgAFXil>

⁷ Development Media Group, 22 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/dmgnewsagency/posts/pfbid02hFdpXbR9gvAftKqDpTmonoFppJ1Gh75FG9JyUheaxFdsZVuH11SVCP8wyhX4ag5l>

fleeing the war in the eastern part of Loikaw, Karenni State, are in urgent need of shelter, cover, and assistance.⁸



Photo Credited: Frontier Myanmar, A woman washes clothes at a camp for internally displaced persons in Myothit monastery in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State

Surviving for the IDPs have become harder. Women IDPs have to find ways to solve survival issues. Women IDPs in western Demoso in Karenni State have to search for globular fungi in the jungle to get one meal. If they found more of these fungi, they could sell for Kyat 1,000 per cup. Women need more necessary items for their monthly circle, such as menstruation pads. The shortage or lack of pads and menstrual supplies is affecting women's health. From March to April, over 900 women IDPs from seven villages in Yinmarbin and Salingyi Townships were in dire need of women's health-related items and menstrual supplies. Women IDPs try to solve each other's needs by sharing. Relief and aid organizations assisting IDPs found

⁸ Kantarawaddy Times, 13 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/pfbid02noFztT7RjocAYzVQgLUngBegk7sfXYkmxRWCsVZxTrfXFMesWkwBH7Y3Kvvg7i811>

themselves having difficulties purchasing large quantities of these supplies as it requires a lot of money as one pack of pads costs around Kyat 1,000.⁹



Photo: Myaelatt Athan, IDPs women from Salingyi Townships, Sagaing Region

⁹ 3 April 2024, မြေလတ်အသံ

<https://www.myaelattathan.org/articles/%E1%80%85%E1%80%85%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9B%E1%80%BE%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AC%E1%80%84%E1%80%BA%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%81%89%E1%81%80%E1%81%80%E1%80%BB%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AC%E1%80%BA%E1%80%A1%E1%80%90%E1%80%BD%E1%80%80%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9C%E1%80%85%E1%80%89%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9E%E1%80%AF%E1%80%B6%E1%80%B8%E1%80%95%E1%80%85%E1%80%B9%E1%80%85%E1%80%8A%E1%80%BA%E1%80%B8%E1%80%90%E1%80%BD%E1%80%B1%E1%80%A1%E1%80%9B%E1%80%B1%E1%80%B8%E1%80%95%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AB%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9C%E1%80%AD%E1%80%AF%E1%80%A1%E1%80%95%E1%80%BA%E1%80%94%E1%80%B1>

.¹⁰ People fleeing war also need basic health care urgently. Women and children do not receive basic health care resulting in additional health problems. Children under the age of (2) from Mawchi, Hpasawng Township have not been vaccinated for more than three years.¹¹



Photo: Healthcare workers in the Civil Disobedience Movement check children for signs of COVID-19 in Karenni State's Demoso Township, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

¹⁰ 3 April 2024, မြေလတ်အသံ

<https://www.myaelattathan.org/articles/%E1%80%85%E1%80%85%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9B%E1%80%BE%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AC%E1%80%84%E1%80%BA%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%81%89%E1%81%80%E1%81%80%E1%80%BB%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AC%E1%80%BA%E1%80%A1%E1%80%90%E1%80%BD%E1%80%80%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9C%E1%80%85%E1%80%89%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9E%E1%80%AF%E1%80%B6%E1%80%B8%E1%80%95%E1%80%85%E1%80%B9%E1%80%85%E1%80%8A%E1%80%BA%E1%80%B8%E1%80%90%E1%80%BD%E1%80%B1%E1%80%A1%E1%80%9B%E1%80%B1%E1%80%B8%E1%80%95%E1%80%B1%E1%80%AB%E1%80%BA%E1%80%9C%E1%80%AD%E1%80%AF%E1%80%A1%E1%80%95%E1%80%BA%E1%80%94%E1%80%B1>

¹¹ Kantarawaddy Times, 11 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/pfbid02JNQTJa87DFQtDJZw439FvbfRvnQvUEfu2jFcYuiyt2SWFAiELHHwdGPUDUCEwvshl>

The terrorist military continues to block communication channels as well as transportation routes. War refugees not only have physical needs but also need assistance for health, psychological healing, and recovery of their lives as they have been struggling. On top of failing to provide any assistance to the victims/refugees who were escaping, the military even targeted and carried out airstrikes on the people fleeing the war. The evidence of this was the military air strike with a jet fighter near the Roman Catholic church in Gweikahtaung 17 Mile Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State, as food items were being distributed to the war refugees on 7th May 2024.¹² International organizations are also making efforts to help refugees in Burma. On 20th June, due to the escalation of the armed conflict, the European Union (EU) announced that it would increase humanitarian aid to €15 million to help the people affected by the war and the Rohingya.¹³ However, given the scale and sheer numbers of people escaping wars, it is certain much more assistance is needed.

2.2 Injuries, Deaths, and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence during conflict

Based on the BWU's monitoring of the situation of women in the conflict, the military targeted its attacks on civilians, committed various forms of human rights violations, and raped and killed women resulting in the death of 41 women, and 27 women injured in May 2024 alone. A closer look at the data indicated that air strikes killed 14 and injured 3; landmines killed 1 and injured 7; extra-judicial killing resulted in the death of 8; heavy artillery shelling killed 16 and injured 12; bomb explosions killed 5; and rape and murder committed by pro-military militia Pyusawhtee resulted in the death of 2 women.¹⁴

¹² DVB, May 7 2024

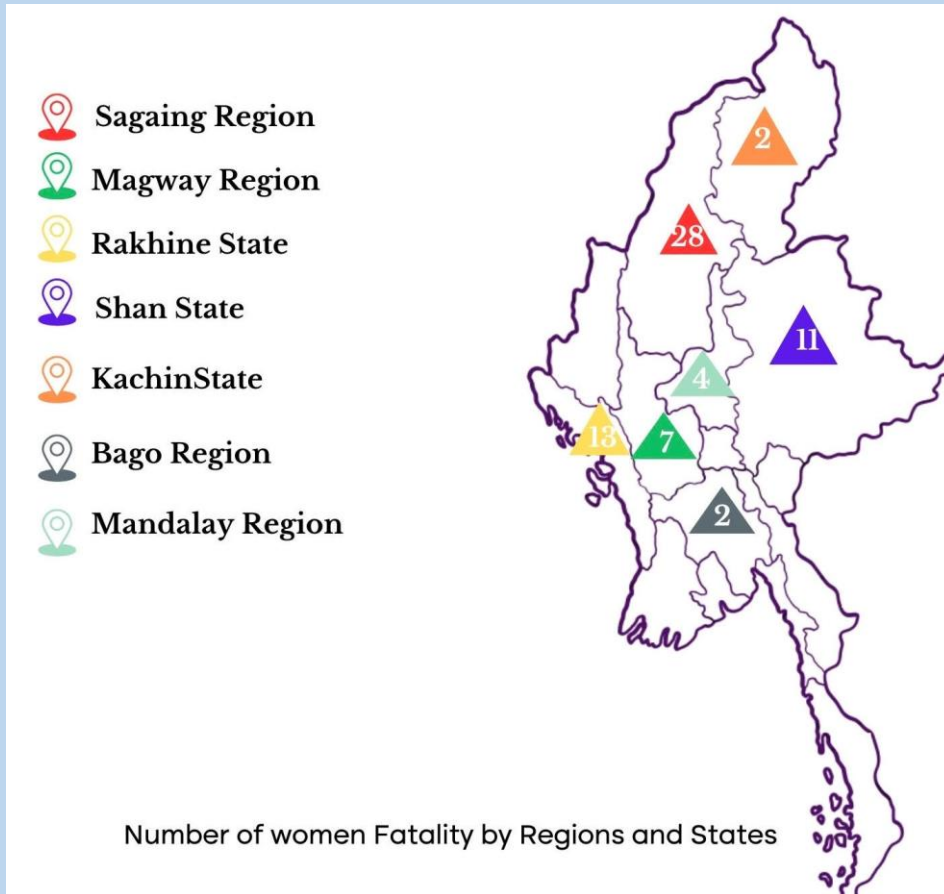
<https://burmese.dvb.no/post/651235>

¹³ Kantarawaddy Times, 21 June 2024

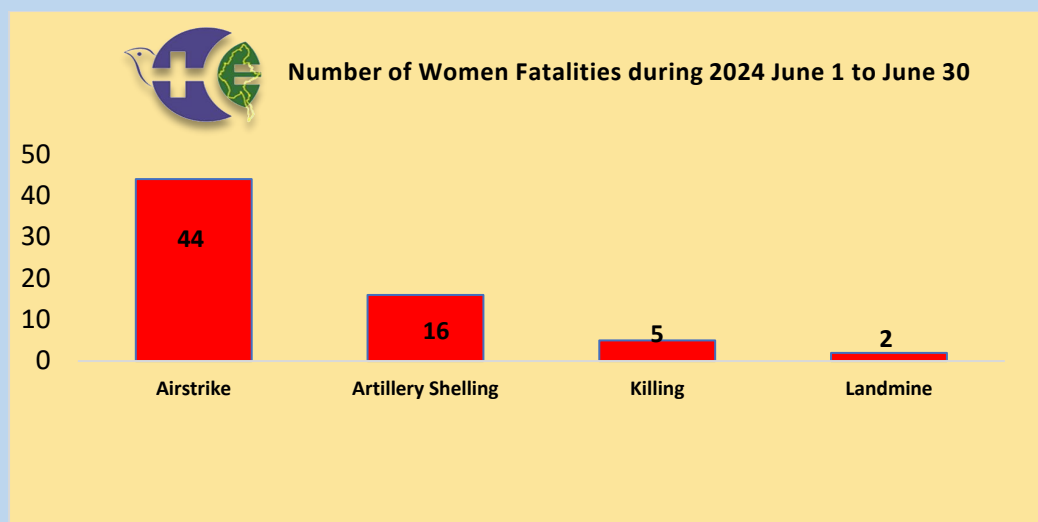
<https://web.facebook.com/KantarawaddyTimes/posts/pfbid08BMyLfKHpwQN3tbHaXwMgjBFpGhBMPXgrJFHeEfzQuMVC1DJMFQaBANciSbdn28ZI>

¹⁴ Burmese Women's Union, May 31 2024

<https://burmesewomensunion.org/?p=4656>



The BWU also found that from 1st to 30th June alone a total of 67 women lost their lives across the country due to conflict – out of which 44 deaths were by air strikes, 16 by shelling, 5 by arbitrary killing, and 2 by landmines. Fourteen out of 67 were under aged 18. A total of 57 women were injured and wounded – 24 by shelling, 16 by air strikes, and 3 by landmines. Two women were raped – one perpetrated by the military troops, and another one by civilians. In the same month, five women political prisoners were seriously beaten and injured by prison authorities.



On May 29, the Arakan Army (AA) issued a statement detailing a total of 76 people – men, women, including children and elderly in Satyoekya Ward, Byaiphyu Village, Sittwe, Arakan State, were killed with some women were raped before they were killed during the three days military attacks. Based on this information, the BWU believes and is concerned that the military and their supporters are a constant threat and harm to the safety and security of women throughout Burma. The military is openly committing genocide and war crimes. According to the statements issued on 13th June 2024 by the National League for Democracy (NLD), there have been 115 massacres (five or more people killed) and 1,670 civilian deaths since the coup. The NLD statement described these civilians were injured and massacred by military columns that systematically and continuously inflicted arbitrary arrests, tortures, murder, aerial bombardment, shelling, and burning on their path.¹⁵ In addition, around 500 people were arrested, interrogated, and tortured. Some of those detainees were underage or teenagers requiring medical attention at the hospital as a result of torture. Only one member of their family is allowed to visit them in the hospital, and they are closely monitored and guarded by the police. In the Byaiphyu Village incident, the women and children were not allowed to stay in the village and were forcibly relocated and locked up in the city while male villagers were tortured and killed.¹⁶

¹⁵ RFA Burmese, 14 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid02icvWkSGqCfpuDLWNtE9RMMy6UjfCNXhCfzpBVknqMmKoC2nsRU926yAmD3ZSgi2qRl>

¹⁶ Delta News Agency, 21 June 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/deltanewsagency/posts/pfbid035F6qB2FDo5kssJoMkjRv63EpaVuX6cjGfTKp2Neyr1NTPSRbLAdGuaBra85txx2Kl>

Rape and sexual harassment are used not only in ethnic areas but also everywhere in the country as weapons of war by the military. The entire military as an established institution and its soldiers openly commit rape without making it a criminal offense. During the past three months, the BWU has monitored and found the number of sexual assaults on women in southern Shan State has drastically increased. On 14th April, a military soldier threatened a woman war refugee with a grenade and attempted to rape her while gunpoint to her head in Hsihseng Township.¹⁷ The incident threatens the mental and physical security of women causing constant fear and anxiety. The terrorist military continues to commit war crimes with impunity allowing them more opportunity to continue committing human rights violations and inflicting psychological and sexual violence against women.

3. Sexual Assault, Abuse, and Exploitation in Anti-Military Resistance Forces

During the time of revolution, the resistance forces ought to conduct themselves sensibly to ensure they too do not act and behave like the terrorist military and dictators. Incidences of women being sexually exploited, harassed, and abused within the resistance organizations, forces, and community, have become common and frequent and the perpetrators are imposters pretending to be good revolutionary men. These incidences and behaviors should be effectively dealt with and punished as everyone fights for a federal democratic union and egalitarian society. Those who survived these despicable acts of abuse and exploitation should be fully supported and protected so that they can be physically and psychologically healed. The Voice of Spring published an article titled “Womanizer Behind the Revolutionary Mask or Revolutionary Imposter U Kawida (Shwe Ohn Pin)” on 7th June 2024. The article exposed a Buddhist monk named U Kawida (Shwe Ohn Pin) who had sexually harassed and assaulted women. U Kawida was seen writing insults to a woman on social media.¹⁸

Moreover, the ‘officials’ from the revolutionary group termed as a government by the resistance movement are also identified and involved as transgressors of sexual harassment and

¹⁷ DVB, 30 May 2024

<https://burmese.dvb.no/post/654036>

¹⁸ The Voice of Spring, 7 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/thevoiceofspring/posts/pfbid029TBsWutyehhv7gKgCayjjKpFaPG4JawVk6uwqu5PDbf8MBmjvhBnJ4o2UDZRV1PCI>

abuse perpetrated against women. These people who proclaimed themselves to be revolutionaries fighting against dictatorship and its machinery, their morale, beliefs, perception, and views on women, must be judged and scrutinized right now, not aftermath of the revolution. In one incident, Salai Issac Khin, the National Unity Government's (NUG) representative to India, committed sexual harassment on a female employee in his office, and the complaint was sent to NUG's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in March 2024. On 20th April 2024, news of the MOFA giving a verbal warning to Salai Issac Khin came out, and he was also warned the same incident would not occur again. On 30th April, the woman (victim/survivor) who suffered sexual assault and the other two female office workers were sacked from their positions.¹⁹ The victim/survivor expressed her feelings on social media that the decision and the way MOFA handled the case were unfair. The NUG issued a statement stating that the perpetrator, Salai Issac Khin was temporarily suspended from his position as NUG's representative to India on 25th June only after several women's organizations started speaking out and criticized the incident and its handling.²⁰ The NUG adopted and ratified the policy on Protection from Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (PSHEA) on 28th February 2023. However, it remains to be seen whether the adopted policy would be appropriately followed and applied in this incident.

4. Illegal Conscription Law and the Situation of Women

The military junta activated the People's Military service Law which was enacted on 4th November 2010 by the military dictator General Than Shwe.²¹ Youth, middle-aged men, and women who fall under the age group to be drafted by the illegal conscription law are facing the consequences of the law. Women were also targeted by the military with illegal conscription law as they were in dire need of human power.

¹⁹ BBC Burmese , 22 June 2024.

https://www.bbc.com/burmese/articles/cxwwzzl9erjo?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR2YSNP0JipH11E8MAQ283BkEg7a03FVrwwxLNiJ4GmxtzfW2Kel-Uk6zNg_aem_tE016WloTUzYvtFLjL1F2g

²⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Myanmar, 25 June 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/mofaNUG?_rdc=1&_rdr

²¹ Timeline: Myanmar Junta Fast-Tracks Conscription Law Implementation, The Irrawaddy, 10 February 2024 - <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/politics/timeline-myanmar-junta-fast-tracks-conscription-law-implementation.html>



People queue to apply for visas at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon on Feb. 14. (Credit: Royal Active Travels)

A person close to the military headquarters told to the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) that the defense minister, General Tin Aung San, had ordered all regional military headquarters on 31st May to prepare military training schools and collect a list of women who will be enlisted in the military Batch 5 so that they are ready to serve in July.²² Within a few days of this news, other news media reported that the military started drafting women from some areas of Burma.²³ A resident of Myeik said that in some villages in Kawthaung and Myeik towns, of Tanintharyi region, the listing of female military service draftees was being conducted but under the pretense of a census. As a result, young people are fleeing from their towns and communities to other areas.

Moreover, the township administration instructed that the list of young women be collected when they could not gather the young men in Yedashe Township, Taungoo District, Bago Region. In addition, starting from the first week of June, militia groups led by a Buddhist monk, U Warthawa who is armed by the military, started rounding up and arresting residents in

²² DVB, 4 June 2024

<https://burmese.dvb.no/post/654629>

²³ Myanmar Now, 13 June 2024

https://myanmar-now.org/mm/news/53292/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR1FpiWm-fe6ANc1yKRFDiU0vT0NIvdsDeNysav0AJgVg5toatC2PS-oRbw_aem_4_Y83IkRpoal-qxrtk6UZA

Htangone District, Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Region.²⁴ The terrorist military not only forcibly enlists new recruits but also extorts money to replace military personnel. On 5th June, a resident of Myoma Ward Ma Sein Sein May who recently had an operation for her gynecology problem, was arrested during the night for refusing to pay Kyat 10,000 to replace someone else in her place. She was living with her mother in Letpadan in northwestern Bago.²⁵ The BWU released a paper on 19th June 2024 published the situation that women are in as a result of enforcing Myanmar's illegal conscription law and the paper looked at Myanmar illegal conscription law's direct and indirect physical and psychological impacts on women.²⁶ The paper analyzed the consequences of illegal law which places women in further predicaments on top of existing problems like struggle for livelihood and survival. Illegal Conscription law forces and pushes some women to get married young as they tried to avoid conscription and placed some becoming domestic and family violence victims.

5. Situation of Women Peace and Security

For generations, women in Myanmar lacked social security which has deteriorated further after 2021. In general, women in Myanmar repeatedly experience and face violations of women's rights including being detained, beaten, and sexually assaulted. Among the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Myanmar ranks at the bottom in the Global Women, Peace, and Security Index (WPS Index).²⁷

²⁴ RFA Burmese, 21 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid02RnFqTWO97YMQ69x3YdYmZvDwqPnuH12NxKav2RooJcJi6ZpniYz8kRUS5j44neYpl>

²⁵ မြေလတ်အသံ, Myaelatt Athan, 7 June 2024

https://web.facebook.com/myaelattathan/posts/915307363968862?ref=embed_post&rdc=1&rdr

²⁶ Burmese Women's Union, 19 June 2024

<https://burmesewomensunion.org/?p=4662>

²⁷ DVB, April 9 2024

<https://burmese.dvb.no/post/647631>



Source: Women Peace and Security Index 2023/2024

Women live and experience fear and terror daily in Myanmar due to conflict. Every day, the number of women being arrested and detained increases. On 19th July, a dozen women from Mandalay who wore flowers in their hair were arrested as the military believed this was an act of participating in the White Flower Campaign.²⁸

²⁸ မြေလတ်အသံ, Myaelatt Athan, June 19 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/myaelattathan/posts/pfbid07xoVStF1PL1w1TcvUZXSfxmPRja1C6jg5Mi91VcQ4ZmGnaXBqpe9KUgKFw7hWAmDI>



White Flower Campaign at Kani, Sagaing Region, Photo by SGSCB

The military openly violates all forms of human rights everywhere in the country and communication lines and facilities such as internet lines and VPNs are deliberately cut off and banned to restrict the flow of information in the country. The military and its supporter groups inspected and searched mobile phones of pedestrians, passersby, and vendors at a busy intersection in Nayche Market on 13th June, and about 20 people found using VPNs were detained and fined. Among the 20 detainees, 2 women who are owners of U Tin Myint Store in Nayche Market were detained, brought to the police station, and only released in the evening after several hours. The military revived and amended its cybersecurity law at the end of 2021 and the law punishes three years in prison for anyone found using VPNs without permission and incurs a fine of five million kyats. As a result, already living under insecure conditions and struggling due to rampant corruption committed by the rank and file of the military and its bureaucratic machinery, the people of Myanmar are likely to suffer more of an information blackout.²⁹

²⁹ RFA Burmese, 14 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese/posts/pfbid02T2miCquPiPcf8EAmDGvFPYP4PmDWCX1bUXjqbAuB3ogEXATadxRKwGhPeikdQyXgl>

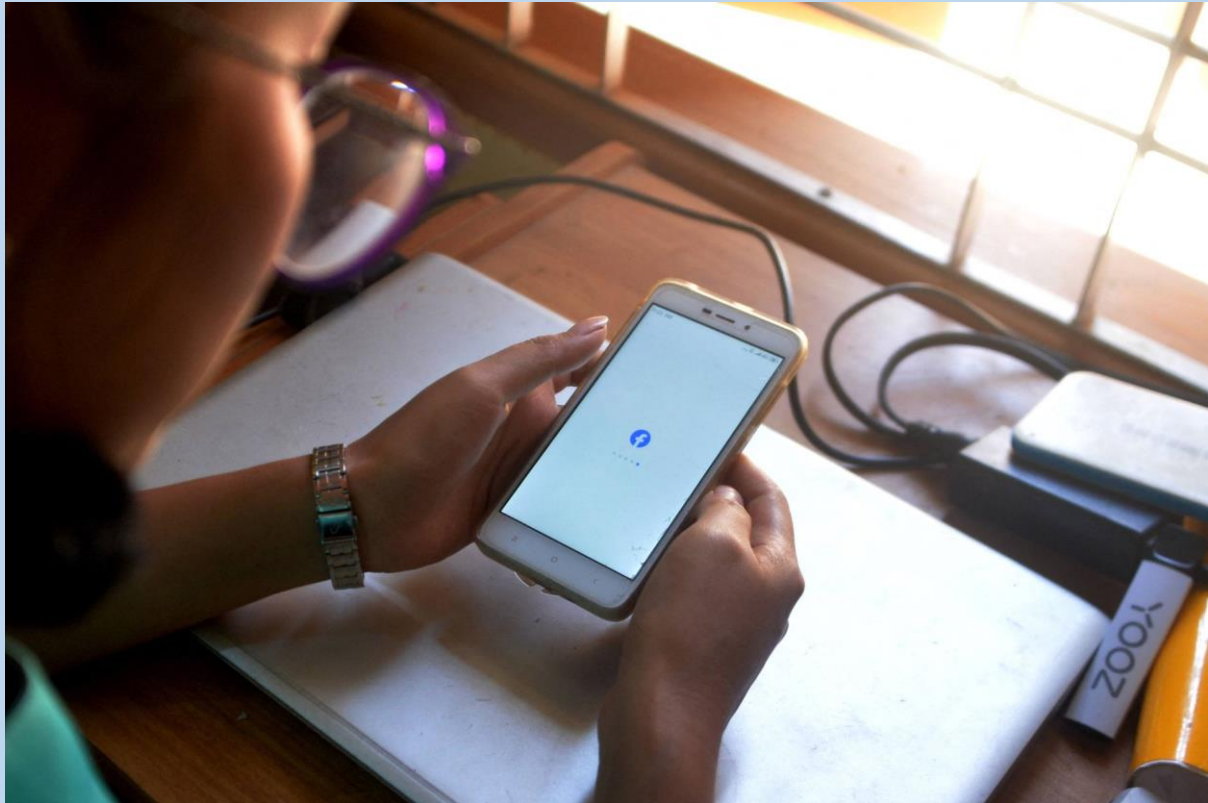


Photo: A woman uses her mobile phone to check Facebook in Naypyitaw, a month after the military coup (AFP / STR)

As the conflict continues, rape is the worst form of sexual violence that women are threatened and experienced. Further dilapidation of the military bureaucracy machinery at the lowest level also means that women and girls of all ages can be negatively affected in several ways. Police Captain Hla Kyaw Oo with a military officer background was serving as the Headquarters Division Commander of the Naypyidaw Police Base. 20 (RaTaPha 20) who coaxed a 16-year-old girl to a police officer's residence, the daughter of Police Corporal Maung Maung Oo in his division, and repeatedly raped her since March 2024. Reports of the rape emerged, and the young woman was threatened by Hla Kyaw Oo not to disclose the sexual assault to anyone, and he would harm her parents if she did. Hla Kyaw Oo summoned the young woman whenever he wanted and raped her. On 5th June, after one of several incidents of rape, the young woman was crying with injuries to her private part, and only then it became known to her family and then became public.³⁰

³⁰ Khit Thit Media, 6 June 2024

https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=819546546939620&id=100066528465996&mibextid=qi2Omg&rdid=fFzldlrxABvx419j& rdc=1& rdr

The BWU has been continuously monitoring the situation of women political activists and has written analysis papers about their situation. During the past three months, the BWU found the torture cases of women political prisoners. On 15th June around noon, some women political prisoners were searched as they were transferred from Kyaikmaraw to Dikeoo Prison. The prison warden confiscated and held some of their belongings and thus around 80 women political prisoners demanded their belongings be returned but the prison wardens responded to their demands by beating which seriously injured 5 women political prisoners. Over 30 women political prisoners from Kyaikmaraw and 50 existing women political prisoners from Dikeoo were beaten and attacked by around 20 male prison staff led by Chief Officer Kyaw Zeya, Myo Thiha Aung (one-star)³¹, Min Zaw Thein (one-star), dormitory warden Lay Myint. They fired guns, shot catapults, and beat using rubber, wooden batons, and ropes, as well as taser guns.³² The safety and security of women are deteriorating day by day under all circumstances. Human rights violations of female political prisoners have severely gone south impacting them physically and psychologically.

³¹ One-star = A Police warrant officer from the Myanmar Police Force (ရဲအရာခံပိုလ်)

³² မြေလတ်အသံ-Myaelatt Athan, 19 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/myaelattathan/posts/pfbid02RYPSiEpxtgiQGTyU4kZxLyHDMPkdd2JM3vpsin2aVRm4GHWzLxtRnYpNSGfkFhjWl>



Photo: Social Media, Citizen Journalist

6. Conditions Caused by Serious Economic Downturn

Since the 2021 military coup, the country's economy has plummeted. According to the economic monitoring report published on 12th June 2024 by the World Bank, the number of people living in entrenched poverty has increased pre-COVID 19 periods adding 7 million more to the poverty list. In its statement, the World Bank added that 32 percent of the country's population reached the poverty level returning to the situation seen in 2015.³³ Experts have

³³ Myanmar Labour News, 12 June 2024

<https://www.myanmarlabournews.com/posts/%E1%80%99%E1%80%BC%E1%80%94%E1%80%BA%E1%80%99%E1%80%AC%E1%80%94%E1%80%AD%E1%80%AF%E1%80%84%E1%80%BA%E1%80%84%E1%80%B6%E1%80%90%E1%80%BD%E1%80%84%E1%80%BA%E1%80%86%E1%80%84%E1%80%BA%E1%80%B8%E1%80%9B%E1%80%B2%E1%80%94%E1%80%BD%E1%80%99%E1%80%BA%E1%80%B8%E1%80%95%E1%80%AB%E1%80%B8%E1%80%9E%E1%80%B0-%E1%81%87->

pointed out that the military regime has mismanaged economic planning, strategies, and policies causing price hikes in basic food items such as rice and cooking oil.³⁴



Photo: People queue with empty plastic bottles to buy cheap vegetable oil, in Yangon , Agence France-Presse (AFP)

According to local consumers, some shopping centers and retail shops have temporarily halted selling rice since the 25th of June. Moreover, at least five major rice entrepreneurs from Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyarwady were arrested with the military regime alleging that they caused instability in prices.³⁵ The volatility of commodity prices has mainly hit the people of the lower class, in particular, those with fixed incomes and civil servants. Values of Kyat dropped but prices of basic commodities and consumer goods hiked causing people difficulty to survive. Despite this, the regime's Ministry of Labor (MOL) has not adjusted the wages. The significant downturn in the country's economy has impacted women, particularly mothers and housewives.

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

³⁵ RFA Burmese, 25 June 2024

<https://web.facebook.com/rfaburmese>



Photo: People queue with empty plastic bottles to buy cheap vegetable oil, in Yangon , Agence France-Presse (AFP)

7. Analysis

After over three years of revolution, Myanmar is heading towards a failed nation, and the entire population is subjected to all kinds of abuse and violation inflicted by the military regime. On the other hand, ethnic armed revolutionary forces and groups are establishing self-administered territories, and having their own governing machinery, judiciary, and legislative pillars with legal, police, health, education, and economic departments. In northern Shan State, ethnic nationality forces are vying for their territories, including conquering a city or town. In a time of revolution based on armed struggle and militarization, the injuries and death tolls of women and children have become an undeniable reality. The number of arrests and deaths of women in the conflict has been spiraling up. The number of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women has also swelled. Interrupted information flow and blackouts are deliberately made worse by the military as they are currently checking and inspecting the phones of citizens and arresting and fining those using VPNs. On top of this, they are deliberately blocking and halting internet lines making access to information for the people harder than ever.

On the other hand, the people are facing the consequences of the illegal conscription law. The country's economy has reached its lowest point due to the military's mismanagement and

bungling of the economic sector. Since the 2021 coup, the military has not invested much in health and education. Unemployment and scarcity of decent jobs have driven many people abroad resulting in a loss of human resources in the country. In the long run, these factors will further decelerate the country's economic development. Without having to wage battles, the military has been accelerating human rights violations and criminal acts by targeting civilians, perpetrating massacres, and carrying out air bombardments and artillery shelling. The absence of law and order encourages more sexual violence against women and girls with impunity. The oppressive measures meted out to crush women political prisoners continued and have not paused. Enjoying impunity allows and encourages the military to continue with more crimes and violations. During the monitoring period of these three months from April to June 2024, security and safety for women was not only lost but human rights violations against women and others also worsened.