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Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Myanmar – January to June 2022

01 July 2022

03 January 2022

Suspected massacre in Kayah State

The bodies of 35 people were found in several burnt-out vehicles in Hpruso township (Kayah State) on 25.12.21. According to reports that the UN considers to be credible, they are the bodies of civilian victims of military violence. Security forces allegedly arrested them on 24.12.21 and then killed, burned them or burned them alive. According to the humanitarian aid organisation Save the Children, the victims include women and children as well as two of the organisation's staff members who disappeared on their way back from a humanitarian mission in eastern Kayah. The rest of those killed were reportedly fleeing fighting in their villages. Myanmar state media reported that seven trucks carrying "terrorists" were fired upon when fighting broke out between military personnel and resistance forces in Hpruso township.

Clashes, attacks and unlawful killings

Between 17.12.21 and 28.12.21, armed clashes occurred between Myanmar's armed forces (Tatmadaw) and ethnic armies or People's Defence Forces (PDF) in Yangon and in the districts of Loikaw, Shadaw (Kayah State), Tedim, Mindat (Chin State), Muse (Shan State), Gangaw, Pakkoku (Magway Region), Ye-U, Kalay (Sagaing Region), Mohnyin (Kachin State) and Myawaddy (Kayin State), causing heavy casualties on both sides. Dozens of civilians were killed, tens of thousands have fled, most of them from violence in Gangaw (13,000) and fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in Myawaddy near the Thai-Myanmar border (7,000). According to Thai authorities, the number of people who have fled to Thailand since 15.12.21 had risen to over 5,300 by 28.12.21. On 19.12.21, anti-junta militants known as Pa Kha Pha set fire to a police outpost in Mandalay, prompting security forces to respond with dozens of arrests. On the same day, a deadly knife attack against the family of a village administrator in Kalay (Sagaing region) led to security forces opening fire and 600 people fleeing in fear of retaliation. Following Tatmadaw raids in Gangaw and Depayin (Sagaing Region), locals discovered the bodies of 12 people, including two PDF members and three children, between 19.12.21 and 21.12.21. Bullet wounds in the chest and back of the heads of the bodies indicate that they were executed by soldiers.

10 January 2022

Clashes in Sagaing Region and in Chin, Kayah, Kayin und Shan States

Returning locals discovered the dead bodies of 20 civilians in Natchaung (Kalay Township, Sagaing Region) where clashes erupted between local People's Defence Forces (PDF) and the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) on 22.12.21. Fighting also took place in villages in the municipalities of Taze, Wetlet and Indaw in the Sagaing region between 02.01.22 and 04.01.22. In Wetlet and Indaw, the Tatmadaw used helicopters to drop grenades and also bombs on Indaw. At least 15 people died in Indaw and around 1,000 people fled. On 03.01.22, the Tatmadaw burnt down over 40 houses and two churches in Thantlang (Chin State). On the same day, the Chinland Defence Force (CDF)

carried out an attack on a military base in Matupi, resulting in fighting that lasted all day. On 06.01.22, heavy fighting once again erupted between the CDF and Tatmadaw in Matupi, and further clashes occurred in Falam on the same day, also involving the Kalay PDF. In Hpruso Township (Kayah State), where junta soldiers killed at least 35 civilians on 24.12.21 (cf. BN of 03.01.22), fighting reportedly broke out between the Tatmadaw and an alliance of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) and the Karenni Army (KA) on 31.12.21. Armed clashes also took place in Demoso on 31.12.21 and 01.01.22. A total of at least 35 junta soldiers and two members of the resistance alliance were reportedly killed in the fighting. On 07.01.22, over 1,000 civilians fled armed clashes between the KNDF and Tatmadaw in Loikaw. Four civilians and two KNDF members were killed. Between 19.05.21 and 31.12.21, KNDF sources say about 130 clashes took place between the Tatmadaw and resistance forces in Kayah. According to the Karenni Human Rights Group, at least 146 civilians have been killed by junta forces in the region since the military coup on 01.02.21. On 04.01.22, violence between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the Tatmadaw escalated again near Lay Kay Kaw town (Myawaddy Township, Kayin State). Junta forces fired 30 artillery shells at residential houses, which they subsequently looted. Several hours of fighting broke out between the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Tatmadaw near Mongko (northern Shan State) on 03.01.22. The latter also clashed with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in Namkham (also Shan State) on 05.01.22. Junta soldiers were reportedly killed and civilians injured.

Poverty

According to a report issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 14.4 million people – a good quarter of the population – are expected to be in need of humanitarian aid in 2022. The report cites price increases for food and petrol as the main reason, which in turn have been caused by a real shortage of goods as a result of strikes, among other things, and the increasing depreciation of the kyat. Almost half of the population is living in poverty as a result of the economic and political developments of 2021.

Further sentence for Aung San Suu Kyi

On 10.01.22, a court in Naypyidaw sentenced ousted de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi to another four years in prison for illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and for violating coronavirus restrictions. Suu Kyi had already been sentenced to four years imprisonment on 06.12.21 for inciting sedition and violating coronavirus rules. Shortly afterwards, the junta halved the sentence and commuted it to house arrest (cf. BN of 10.06.21 and 13.12.21). Aung San Suu Kyi faces additional charges, including corruption and violation of the Official Secrets Act.

17 January 2022

Fighting and military violence in Kayah, Kayin, Sagaing, Mandalay, Tanintharyi, Shan und Chin

According to UN figures, more than half of the population of Loikaw Municipality (population of approx. 124,000; seat of the Kayah State capital of the same name) and a total of almost 90,000 people fled Kayah on 13.01.22 as a result of the fighting, which has been ongoing since 07.01.22. Local media and human rights groups estimate that up to 170,000 people have been displaced. On 11.01.22, Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) fighter jets dropped several bombs over the town of Loikaw. The number of civilian casualties is not known. Parts of the city have been cut off from the power and water supply since 09.01.22. Due to the proximity to the capital Naypyidaw, the military is cracking down on the resistance movement in the Karenni communities of Loikaw and Demoso. In Kayin State, Tatmadaw units shelled villages in Kawkaik Township from the ground and from the air between 08.01.22 and 10.01.22. Clashes also occurred with the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) on 10.01.22. Civilians were killed and injured, and around 2,000 people have fled the area. More than 7,000 people have fled the neighbouring Yinmabin and Salingyi Townships following clashes between the Tatmadaw and local People's Defence Forces (PDF) in Pale Township (Sagaing Region) since 08.01.22. On 10.01.22, Junta forces launched renewed air strikes on a village in Pale and carried out raids. At least five people were killed who state media say were "terrorists". On 09.01.22, junta troops abducted several civilians in Wetlet Township (Sagaing) with the intention of using them as human shields in attacks on PDF bases. At least five civilians and two members of the local resistance group Eagle Army were killed in attacks and raids in Htigyaing, Ye-U und Kalay Townships on 10.01.22 and 11.01.22. Members of the Tamu PDF attacked the guards of a labour camp in Tamu (Sagaing) near the Indian border on 10.01.22. A gunfire exchange ensued in which 11 people were killed. On 12.01.22, Tatmadaw fighter jets bombed Moe Dar Gyi

village in Katha Township (Sagaing). Several buildings were destroyed and a 5-year-old child was injured. It is not known whether there were any other civilian casualties. Junta troops shot dead a 10-year-old boy in Mingin Township (Sagaing) the same day. Following an explosion near an administrative building in Mandalay, troops opened fire on 13.01.22, killing a child and injuring two other people. Between 12.01.22 and 14.01.22, junta forces repeatedly set fire to Kauk Yobon village in Madaya Township, Mandalay. On 12.01.22, three civilians were killed at the same location on suspicion of cooperating with the military. Tatmadaw soldiers killed four young people aged between 14 and 19 with gun shots to the head in Thayetchaung Community (Tanintharyi Region) on 07.01.22. The incident was preceded by clashes between local resistance forces and the pro-military militia Pyu Saw Htee. In northern Shan State, fighting broke out once again between the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Tatmadaw in Namkham Township on 12.01.22, killing five Tatmadaw soldiers. On 08.01.22 and 09.01.22, locals discovered the bodies of ten people, including one child, in Matupi (Chin State) who had been abducted by junta forces during clashes that erupted between the Tatmadaw and the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) between 03.01.22 and 06.01.22. The number of civilians killed in connection with protests against the military coup of 01.02.21 had risen to 1,469 by 14.01.22. Over 11,500 people were arrested for political reasons, and over 8,600 of them remain in custody. Members of the military are currently going door to door across the country to help electricity providers collect payments. Since the coup, millions of people have refused to pay their electricity bills out of protest. Those who continue to refuse to do so are being threatened they will pay with their lives. Many have already had their electricity lines cut by junta troops.

New charges filed against Aung San Suu Kyi

On 14.01.22, the military junta filed five more charges against ousted de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi for alleged violations of the Anti-Corruption Act. Suu Kyi, who was sentenced to a total of six years in prison in December 2021 and January 2022 (cf. BN of 10.01.22), now faces eleven more charges. She faces up to 160 years in prison.

Prison sentences handed down to journalists

During the week of 03.01.22 to 09.01.22, a court in Sagaing sentenced two journalists from the now defunct Zayar Times newspaper to two years in prison for incitement. The newspaper's deputy editor Pyae Phyoo Aung and reporter Myint Myat Aung had been arrested for their coverage of the protests against the military coup and calling the junta a "coup regime".

24 January 2022

Security situation

On 16.01.22, junta troops attacked six villages in Myaing Township (Magway Region) and raided four others. They set fire to and destroyed many houses, causing thousands of people to flee. In Latyetma village, locals found the remains of three people killed by junta forces during a raid on 11.01.22. According to local media reports, about 800 Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) soldiers have been deployed to Myaing to clear villages, have been destroying property and carrying out arrests since 10.01.22. The aim of the campaign, which had been extended to 20 villages by 18.01.22, was to locate People's Defence Forces (PDF) camps and break resistance to military rule, they said. According to a statement issued by the underground National Unity Government (NUG), NUG forces carried out attacks on members, infrastructure and businesses of the ruling State Administrative Council (SAC) in five townships in Yangon between 08.01.22. and 16.01.22. A non-commissioned officer and a member of the council were reportedly killed and other military personnel injured. In Naypyidaw, the Fight for Justice-Tatkon group killed a retired military captain on 16.01.22. The military killed six civilians, including two children, in air strikes on Nan Mae Khon town and a refugee camp in Hpruso (Kayah State) on 16.01.22 and 17.01.22. More than 20,000 people fled. The SAC cited reports that PDFs were planning to carry out attacks on military positions in Loikaw from Nan Mae Khon as the reason for the action. On 19.01.22, PDF groups attacked a government office in Loikaw, Kayah State, killing 15 Tatmadaw soldiers, according to their PDF's own sources. Junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun confirmed PDFs had carried out several attacks on military installations in Loikaw but did not comment on casualties. Junta forces shot dead four civilians and arrested five others during a raid in Lezin (Monywa Township, Sagaing Region) on 17.01.22. Tatmadaw soldiers torched San Myo village in Gangaw (Magway) on 18.01.22 following clashes with local PDFs, destroying over 100 houses. In Pinlebu Township (Sagaing), the Pinlebu PDF

stormed the police station and a military camp on the same day, resulting in skirmishes between the military and the PDF with deaths and injuries on both sides. In Madaya (Mandalay Region), Madaya PDF troops attacked nine military vehicles with landmines on 18.01.22, injuring several soldiers. Following the attack, junta forces opened fire in Bo Kone village, killing two civilians, including one child. In Yinmabin (Sagaing), a group of three PDFs reportedly managed to free five captured civilians on 19.01.22 after several days of fighting with security forces. Four out of 13 people abducted by junta forces from Letpan village (Natogyi commune) on 18.01.22 died at an interrogation centre in Mandalay. Relatives suspect torture as the cause of death. 9 According to reports by the Shan Human Rights Foundation, the military laid landmines near oil and gas pipelines in Hsipaw (Shan State) to protect a pumping station from attacks by opponents of the regime. As a result of the fighting between the Tatmadaw and an alliance of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and local PDFs, which has been ongoing since mid-December 2021, it is estimated that up to 50,000 people from Myawaddy, Kawkaik and Hpapun townships have been displaced in Kayah State. The number of people displaced across the Thai border fluctuates between 3,000 and 5,000 daily. In Chin State, fighting between the military and PDFs, which has been occurring daily since 08.01.22, had displaced hundreds of people from Falam Township and at least 3,000 from Matupi Township by 20.01.22, including about 400 to neighbouring India. In a report published on 17.01.22, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) classified the security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar as unstable and documented an intensification of clashes and increase in civilian casualties in Kayah and Kayah states and Magway and Sagaing regions. In December 2021 alone, armed clashes were reported in ten townships (Kale, Kanbalu, Kani, Kyunhla, Mingin, Monywa, Pale, Tabayin, Taze and Ye-U) in Sagaing. The report says the security situation has also deteriorated in Chin State. As of 27.12.21, an estimated 320,900 people had been displaced throughout Myanmar due to clashes following the military coup on 01.02.21. This brings the total number of internally displaced persons to approximately 661,000.

Freedom of the press

On 18.01.22, security forces in Dawei (Tanintharyi region) arrested a female reporter, a male reporter and an office worker from the news organisation Dawei Watch. On the day of the arrests, Dawei Watch had reported that over 60 people had been killed and over 900 arrested in Tanintharyi since the coup.

31 January 2022

Security situation

Soldiers of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) conducted raids on ten villages in Pauk Township (Magway Region) from 20.01.22 to 23.01.22, looting and damaging the houses of suspected resistance fighters, arresting an unknown number of people and shooting one man dead. Since 14.01.22, junta forces have also been setting fire to oil fields in the townships of Pauk and Myaing. According to local media reports, the aim of these actions is to put pressure on the local population, for whom the fields are an important source of income, and to break the resistance against the military regime. Civilians were reportedly killed and wounded in fighting between the Tatmadaw and an alliance of resistance forces from the Katha People's Defence Force (PDF) and the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) on 22.01.22 and 23.01.22 north of Katha town (Sagaing region). The military reportedly fired heavy artillery at the area. A pregnant woman and a child were killed in Palaw (Tanintharyi Region) after an explosive device suspected to have been detonated by junta forces exploded on 23.01.22. According to media reports, this may have been in retaliation for a deadly attack against military personnel carried out by the Palaw Township PDF resistance group on 08.01.22. A 16-year-old CDF fighter was fatally shot in a gunfire exchange between members of the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) and Junta forces in Kanpetlet, Chin State, on 23.01.22. In Demoso (Kayah State), fighting broke out once again between the Tatmadaw and the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF on 24.01.22), supported by PDF troops. The Tatmadaw used combat helicopters for reinforcement, but there is no confirmed information about the number of people killed or injured so far. Security forces arrested seven volunteers and confiscated an ambulance, medicines and medical equipment during a raid carried out on a charity clinic in Dawei (Tanintharyi) on 24.01.22. The Earthquake PDF bombed a branch of KBZ Bank in Pakkoku (Magway) on 24.01.22. The bank had already been the target of attacks and robberies in Mandalay and Yangon in October 2021 for allegedly freezing accounts of supporters of the civil disobedience and revolutionary movements and passing on information about donations to the junta. Tatmadaw soldiers shot dead four civilians, including a 10-year-old child, in Ayadaw (Sagaing) on 26.01.22 after their unit became the target of a bomb detonated out by the Ayadaw

Revolutionary Alliance. On 27.01.22, fighting broke out between the Tatmadaw and the Kokang Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Kutkai (Shan State). Junta forces surprised nine members of the Ye-U PDF planting explosive devices in Ye-U (Sagaing) on 28.01.22, arresting seven of them and shooting them dead. The incident was preceded by a skirmish between the PDF and a military column on the same day, in which several soldiers were reportedly killed.

New charges against Aung San Suu Kyi and Win Myint

Myanmar's judiciary formally indicted the ousted de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi and former President Win Myint for electoral fraud on 31.01.22. The charges relate to the parliamentary election held on 08.11.20 in which Suu Kyi's party, the National League of Democracy (NLD), won more than half of all parliamentary seats. No evidence was provided. Suu Kyi, against whom ten other cases are currently pending, had already been sentenced to a total of six years in prison in December 2021 and January 2022. Observers and human rights experts assume that this is a show trial.

07 February 2022

One year anniversary of the military coup on 01.02.22

According to various reports, a few small protests took place against the military regime and silent strikes were held in many cities across the country on the first anniversary of the military coup. In Yangon (Rangoon), Mandalay and Naypyitaw, among others, the streets were deserted between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., shops were closed and people did not go to work. The strike ended in communal clapping. Reports indicate that between 10 and 30 people were subsequently arrested in Yangon for joining in the clapping. Prior to the strike, pressure was put on shop owners by the junta to open their shops and arrests were announced for anyone participating in the silent strike. According to a report issued on 03.02.22, over 100 people were arrested between 27.01.22 and 02.02.22 for speaking out on social media in support of the silent strike. Pro-military rallies and events organised by the military were reported in Yangon, Mandalay and Naypyitaw, among other places. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), the number of people killed as a result of police and military violence since the military coup on 01.02.21 has risen to at least 1,519. No less than 8,977 people are currently being detained for political reasons and arrest warrants have been issued for 1,974 others (as of 04.02.22). The UN has said that the number of internally displaced persons had risen to over 400,000 as of January 2022. It is estimated that around half the population now lives in poverty and more than 14.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (cf. BN of 10.01.22). On 31.01.22, the US, UK and Canada imposed sanctions on several supporters of the military leadership, members of the judiciary and entities accused of providing financial support to the military leadership.

Security incidents

Two people were killed and 38 were injured in a grenade attack carried out against participants of a pro-military demonstration in the town of Tachileik (Shan State) on 01.02.22. So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Several explosions took place in eleven townships of Yangon the same day for which the underground National Unity Government (NUG) has claimed responsibility. The attacks were aimed at 24 junta targets, including Myanmar military soldiers (Tatmadaw), an air force lieutenant colonel, security posts and administrative buildings. According to a report issued on 31.01.22, more than 30 soldiers were killed in Magwe, Sagaing and Taninthary regions, as well as in Chin, Shan and Kayah states between 28.01.22 and 31.01.22 when several violent clashes erupted between Tatmadaw troops and People's Defence Forces (PDFs) and in raids by PDFs. Between 01.02.22 and 03.02.22, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and local People's Defence Forces (PDFs) attacked several Tatmadaw military bases and a police station in Kachin State and northern Shan State. There is no reliable information available on the number of people killed or injured. Armed clashes between Tatmadaw troops and Chin National Army (CNA) and Chinland Defence Force Thantlang (CDF) were reported on 01.02.22 in Thantlang Township, Chin State. Previously, Tatmadaw soldiers reportedly destroyed over 90 houses and a church in the township 30.01.02 and 01.02.22. According to reports, most residents have fled the fighting which occurs almost on a daily basis. In Loikaw Township, Kayah State, the bodies of seven civilians suspected to have been killed in raids carried out by military troops were found in Yeyo and Bado villages on 28.01.2012. A total of 23 civilians were reportedly killed by Tatmadaw soldiers in the township in January 2022. Forty-five people were reportedly killed

by the Tatmadaw across Kayah State, in air strikes, bombardments and massacres. On 01.02.22, it was reported that villagers found the partially charred remains of five civilians in Pauk and Myaing Townships (Magway region) on 23.01.22 and 27.01.22. Junta troops burned down twelve houses and stores of rice in three villages in Depayin Township (Sagaing Region) on 30.01.22 and 31.01.22 after two soldiers had been killed in an attack carried out by the Depayin PDF. Several thousand people are reported to have fled from a total of nine villages in the region. According to reports released on 03.02.22, Tatmadaw soldiers burned down at least 400 houses in two villages in Pale Township (Sagaing Region) on 31.01.22.

New charge against Aung San Suu Kyi

On 04.02.22, another charge of corruption was brought against ousted de-facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi in connection with a donation made to the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. A few days earlier, she had been formally charged with fraud in the 2020 general election (cf. BN of 31.01.22). Suu Kyi now faces trial in more than ten cases. She had already been sentenced to a total of six years' imprisonment in December 2021 and January 2022.

14 February 2022

Clashes in Kachin, Rakhine, Sagaing, Chin, Kayah and Bago

Around 200 junta forces were reportedly killed in Hpakant (Kachin State) in a series of clashes that broke out between the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), between 03.02.22 and 05.02.22. The Tatmadaw launched air strikes against KIA troops and civilian targets on 05.02.22. On 04.02.22, 06.02.22 and 07.02.22, armed clashes erupted between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Tatmadaw in Maungdaw (Rakhine State) after the latter attacked an AA base. The AA has accused the military of breaking a ceasefire agreement reached in 2020. One AA fighter and several junta forces were reportedly killed; two civilians were also killed. In Sagaing Region, the Kalay People's Defence Force (PDF) carried out several attacks on Tatmadaw troops on 06.02.22 after they shelled a village in Kalay Township, injuring eight civilians. At least 20 soldiers were killed in the PDF attacks. In Katha Township, the Katha PDF killed at least 16 junta forces on the same day. The PDF carried out further attacks on Tatmadaw targets on 05.02.22 and 06.02.22 in Shwebo, Kani and Pale Townships. Between 05.02.22 and 09.02.22, junta forces set fires in several villages in Taze Township where an alliance of several PDFs attacked a police station on 09.02.22. The Tatmadaw carried out air strikes on eight villages in Ye-U Township on 06.02.22 and 07.02.22. Seventy people were arrested and two were killed in raids, at least 15,000 residents of the township were displaced. In Wetlet, locals discovered the charred remains of six people arrested during a raid carried out on 30.01.22. According to media reports, there are indications that the detainees were burnt alive. Five members of the local PDF were involved in clashes that erupted in Kawlin on 08.02.22. As reported on the same day, junta forces killed at least 24 civilians during raids in Myinmu on 31.01.22 and 03.02.22. At least 20 of the bodies were found charred and dismembered. Between 24.01.22 and 07.02.22, members of the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) repeatedly attacked a military convoy travelling from Matupi to Mindat (Chin State). They claim to have killed at least 20 soldiers. Troops of the convoy attacked and shelled several villages along the way, killing a child and causing hundreds of villagers to flee. In Kalay (Sagaing) and Loikaw (Kayah State) townships, 26 junta forces and one resistance fighter were killed in attacks perpetrated by Kalay PDF, Chin National Defence Force (CNDF), Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) and Karen Army on 07.02.22 and 08.02.22 respectively. On 08.02.22, local PDFs carried out raids and attacks in Yinmabin, Khin U, Pale, Shwebo (Sagaing) and Gyobingauk townships (Bago region), reportedly killing around 35 Tatmadaw soldiers. In Khin U, two civilians also were killed in the fighting. In Pale, between 03.02.22 and 05.02.22, junta forces had shot dead four civilians and set fire to two villages, one of which was almost completely razed to the ground, half the other village was reduced to ashes. During fighting that broke out between the Tatmadaw and a local PDF in Demoso (Kayah), an artillery shell hit an IDP camp on 10.02.22. Several shelters were destroyed and one person was injured. In a village in the neighbouring municipality of Loikaw, the bodies of two civilians burnt beyond recognition were found after the clashes.

Deterioration in the humanitarian situation

While the total number of internally displaced persons was estimated to be around 661,000 at the end of 2021, this figure had risen to over 800,000 by 11.02.22, according to UN figures. 440,000 fled as a result of the military coup (cf. BN of 07.02.22). The states of Kayin, Kayah, Mon, Shan and Chin as well as the regions of Bago, Tanintharyi,

Magway and Sagaing have been hit the hardest. According to the UN, the situation is expected to deteriorate further.

21 February 2022

Fighting and attacks in Mon, Yangon, Magway, Chin, Mandalay, Sagaing, Shan, Kachin

On 08.02.22 and 09.02.22, two military-appointed community leaders were killed in Kyaikto (Mon State) and Yangon. In Yangon's South Dagon Township, unidentified persons carried out attacks on an office of the promilitary Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and a district administration office on 14.02.22. Another attack on an administrative building was documented in North Okkalapa on 15.02.22. According to reports issued on 17.02.22, a combination of the Yaw Defence Force and the Myaing People's Defence Force (PDF) attacked a police station in Gangaw (Magway Region) on 10.02.22, fuelling clashes the same day and the following day. Around 20 security force members and one PDF member were killed, according to the resistance groups. On 16.02.22, members of the military-backed Pyu Saw Htee militia raided two villages in Pauk Township, Magway, looting and destroying several houses. The raid was preceded by an attack perpetrated by the guerrilla group Anonymous Special Task Force on a house belonging to Pyu Saw Htee leaders, in which two people died. On 13.02.22, the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) set fire to more houses in the town of Thantlang in Chin State. Since September 2021, more than 900 of Thantlang's approximately 2,300 buildings have been destroyed as a result of a total of 25 arson attacks. The entire population of 8,000 to 10,000 people have fled fighting between the Tatmadaw and resistance forces. Access and supply routes cut off by the military make it impossible for them to return. PDF members killed two soldiers and injured others in an attack carried out on a military checkpoint in Singu (Mandalay Region) on 14.02.22. Members of the Natogyi Township PDF fired mortar shells at security forces guarding an off-take station of the oil and gas pipelines to China near Natogyi (Mandalay) the same day. On 15.02.22, security forces raided Natogyi and arrested 24 people on charges of belonging to or funding the PDF. The Natogyi Township PDF operates under the opposition shadow National Unity Government (NUG), which was formed by ousted democratically elected MPs. Those arrested were known locally to support Aung San Suu Kyi's National League of Democracy (NLD) party. According to media reports issued on 14.02.22, junta forces burnt down large parts of Mote Thar and Mauk Tet villages in Mingin commune (Sagaing region) during a raid carried out on 10.02.22, killing four civilians. The raid was preceded by an attack perpetrated by the local PDF on a nearby military outpost. In Taze Township (Sagaing), the Tatmadaw destroyed around 80 houses in four villages when they carried out arson attacks in the first half of February 2022. In Khin U (Sagaing), junta forces dressed in plain clothes killed 14 members of a local PDF, including two young men aged 15, on 17.02.22. In Kalay (Sagaing), resistance forces carried out attacks on a military camp on 12.02.22, 14.02.22 and 17.02.22. According to a Chinland Defence Force (CDF) spokesperson, the troops stationed there allegedly put pressure on the civilian population to form pro-junta militias. On 15.02.22, Myanmar Army troops occupied the town of Moebye in southern Shan State. On 16.02.22, fighting broke out there between the Tatmadaw troops and an alliance of several local PDFs, including the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF). In the process, at least 15 PDF members had been killed and several civilians injured, some seriously, by 18.02.22 in attacks delivered from the air and with tank ammunition. The junta forces are also reported to have suffered casualties. The military has cut the telephone lines and internet connection to Moebye. Tatmadaw troops clashed with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Swampabon (Kachin State) on 15.02.22.

28 February 2022

Attacks and hostilities

At least 16 civilians, 17 PDF members and ten junta forces were killed in attacks carried out by anti-regime forces and in fighting that erupted between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and various resistance groups (People's Defence Forces, (PDF)) in Yangon, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Kayah between 19.02.22 and 24.02.22. Junta forces burnt the furniture and medical equipment of a hospital in Mindat (Chin) on 18.02.22 where wounded PDF members were undergoing treatment.

Arrests and convictions

Around 50 people were arrested in Chauk (Magway) and Monywa (Sagaing) on 21.02.22 and 22.02.22 in the course of protests against the military regime, and some of them, including at least 20 minors, were tortured. Some people

who took part in protests in Monywa were injured. In Natogyi (Mandalay), where PDF members had carried out attacks on a gas pipeline on 14.02.22 (cf. BN of 21.02.22), junta forces arrested another 20 people. On 16.02.22 and 17.02.22, three female students were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to seven years for donating money to displaced persons and allegedly passing information to foreign journalists. On 22.02.22, two well-known writers who had been arrested on 01.02.21 were sentenced to two and three years imprisonment respectively under section 505a of the Penal Code for making statements critical of the regime.

Situation in prisons

According to reports issued by the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) on 19.02.22, junta forces raped two men and a woman at an interrogation centre in Mandalay. A two-year-old child died in a prison in Thandwe (Rakhine) on 24.02.22. She had been detained with her mother who had been arrested for allegedly supporting the PDF.

14 March 2022

UN Human Rights Commissioner refers to armed conflict as civil war

According to Acled data analysed for a media report, around 12,000 civilians have died as a result of political violence since the military coup on 01.02.21. Most of the killings occurred during demonstrations in the first six months after the coup. Since August 2021, more and more people have died in armed clashes between resistance groups (People's Defence Forces, PDF) and the Myanmar military. These are becoming increasingly coordinated and have reached regions in central Myanmar that were previously considered to be peaceful. According to UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, the conflict in Myanmar should now be called a civil war. At least 35 civilians and 16 PDF members died in the clashes that took place recently in Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions and Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states between 19.02.22 and 09.03.22. Dozens of people were injured, some seriously. According to media reports, around 50 junta soldiers were also killed.

28 March 2022

UN sees evidence of war crimes

According to a UN Human Rights report published on 15.03.22, there has been clear evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity since the military coup took place on 01.02.21. The military has reportedly bombed residential areas with air strikes and heavy weapons and has targeted civilians. People have been shot, burned, tortured, arbitrarily arrested or used as human shields by the military. At least 1,600 people have reportedly been killed by security forces and allied groups since the coup. More than 12,500 people have been arrested. At least 543 others have been killed for supporting the military.

At least 40 civilians and 16 members of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) reportedly died in recent clashes and as a result of violence by the military (Tatmadaw) that occurred between 09.03.22 and 24.03.22 in Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi regions and Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states. Dozens were injured, some seriously, and many people had to flee their homes because of fighting and attacks by the Tatmadaw. Several people were arrested in Yangon and Sagaing. Several hundred buildings (homes and temples) were burnt to the ground by the Tatmadaw, according to media reports. Around 24 junta soldiers were killed.

11 April 2022

Violence in several parts of the country, persecution of opposition members

Media report that between 23.03. and 07.04.22, two civilians, two members of the People's Defence Forces PDF and 15 military personnel were killed and many others injured in armed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and local resistance groups (PDF) in the Sagaing and Magway regions. In Gangaw (Magway), junta forces destroyed around 200 homes and displaced several thousand people. In fighting between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armies in Kayin and Shan states, junta forces also attacked civilian targets. Two people died and around 2,000 fled to Thailand. Up to 60 Tatmadaw are reported to have died. Fighting also broke out in Shan State between the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and the United Wa State Army (UWSA), with casualties on both sides. In the same period, junta courts sentenced four media workers to prison terms of between

two and five years for reporting on the resistance to the military coup of 01.02.21. A total of 17 others are facing two to ten years in prison for participating in protests and supporting PDFs.

25 April 2022

Fighting in several parts of the country, more villages burnt down in the north-west

Media report that between 02.04. and 17.04.22, the Myanmar military Tatmadaw, supported by the pro-military militia Pyu Saw Htee, clashed with ethnic armies or People's Defence Forces PDF in Kayah, Kayin and Rakhine states as well as in Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon regions. At least 28 civilians and 14 PDF members were killed in the incidents. Anti-junta forces reported to have killed around 70 military personnel. In Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing, the Tatmadaw again burnt down dozens of villages; hundreds of homes fell victim to the flames. Since the coup on 01.02.21, the military has destroyed over 8,000 civilian buildings in the country, most of them in the northwest (as of 01.04.22). The number of displaced people in the area exceeded 300,000 for the first time in March 2022. In total, 566,100 people (representing 1 percent of the population) became refugees as a result of the violence and insecurity caused by the coup (as of 11.04.22).

On the occasion of the Buddhist New Year festival Thingyan, the junta released 1,619 prisoners from several prisons on 17.04.22. Of the current 10,290 political prisoners, none were pardoned.

09 May 2022

Another five years in prison for Aung San Suu Kyi

On 27.04.22, a court controlled by the military junta sentenced de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been ousted from office on 01.02.21, to a further five years in prison for corruption. In December 2021 and January 2022, she had already been sentenced to a total of six years' imprisonment for inciting sedition, using unregistered radios, and allegedly violating Corona regulations.

Fighting and deadly violence in Magway, Sagaing, Kayin, Mon, Shan, Naypyidaw, and Mandalay

Myanmar media report that between 08.04. and 03.05.22 there were again large-scale military raids and clashes between the army (Tatmadaw) and People's Defence Forces (PDF), some of whom are fighting alongside ethnic armed organisations (EAO). Junta forces burnt down hundreds of houses in more than 30 villages in the Magway and Sagaing regions. Several villages as well as camps of displaced people were completely destroyed and at least 36 civilians and seven PDF members lost their lives. Armed clashes were also reported from Kayin, Mon and Shan states and in the capital Naypyidaw. Anti-regime forces claim to have killed around 100 police and military personnel across the country in this period. In Mandalay, the recently formed pro-military group Thway Thout Aphwe has claimed responsibility for the killings of three civilians, stating that their aim was to "wipe out" members and supporters of the former ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD) and the PDFs, as well as their family members. Similar groups have appeared in Yangon and Taunggyi.

23 May 2022

Freedom of expression

The military government has informed that between 27.01. and 05.05.22, a total of 229 people were arrested on charges of sedition and terrorism. The defendants are facing long prison sentences and the loss of homes and property. They had published social media posts in support of opposition groups classified as terrorist organisations by the military. These include the National Unity Government (NUG) in exile, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), which was ousted in the coup, and armed resistance groups (People's Defence Forces, PDF).

Security situation

Media report that between 04. and 18.05.22, at least 39 civilians, 16 members of PDFs and ethnic armies and around 160 Tatmadaw members were killed in clashes between the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) and anti-regime groups in Magway and Sagaing regions and Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states. The number of victims among the Tatmadaw is mainly due to guerrilla attacks and could not be independently verified. Three people were killed and

six others injured in attacks by pro- and anti-military groups in Yangon, Naypyidaw and Mandalay. Most civilian casualties occurred between 10.05 and 13.05.22 in the townships of Ye-U and Pale (Sagaing), where Tatmadaw forces shelled two villages and killed 33 people who had sought shelter in monasteries. According to a report published on 10.05.22 by the think tank Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP Myanmar), a total of 5,646 civilians have lost their lives since the military coup on 01.02.21 due to police and military violence, the armed conflict between Tatmadaw and resistance forces and revenge killings. At least 1,831 people were killed in gun battles, the majority of them in Sagaing, where resistance to the coup is strongest. 3,107 people were killed because they were considered dalans (informants to the military), the leader of the pro-military Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) stated. Besides, a growing number of revenge killings are attributed to pro-military militias such as the Thway Thauk, who are active in Mandalay. Since the end of April 2022, the Thauk have claimed responsibility for the murders of 18 people associated with the former ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD) and PDFs.

13 June 2022

Dozens killed in fighting and attacks

Media report that between 25.05. and 08.06.22, the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and local resistance forces (People's Defence Forces, PDF) or ethnic armies clashed in Magway and Sagaing regions as well as in Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. In Sagaing, at least 27 civilians and four PDF members died as a result of artillery fire or targeted killings by military personnel. In addition, junta forces in the region burnt down over 500 houses and destroyed dozens of motorbikes and motorboats used for food supplies. In Magway, Rakhine and Shan, nine civilians were killed in fighting or by landmines. Seven people were seriously injured in Tatmadaw attacks on IDP camps in Rakhine and Sagaing. Another five people were injured in Yangon on 30.05.22 when a military vehicle rammed into a group of protesters. On 31.05.22, the explosion of a bomb planted by unidentified individuals killed one person and injured nine others in Yangon. Reporters suspect opposition members and PDF members behind the murders of nine people who worked for the military administration or the police or who had relatives working there in Magway, Mandalay, and Kachin.

Military junta plans first executions in three decades

On 03.06.22, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun announced the execution by hanging of four people, among them Phyto Zeya Thaw, former parliamentary member of the National League of Democracy (NLD), and prominent democracy activist Kyaw Min Yu, who had both been sentenced to death for treason and terrorism in January 2021. Two others are to be executed for the murder of a suspected female junta informant. Since the military coup of 01.02.21, military courts have sentenced at least 114 people to death, 41 of them in absentia. The planned executions would be the first executions based on judicial verdicts since 1988.

27 June 2022

Security situation

Between 09.06 and 24.06.22, the Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) and armed resistance groups (People's Defence Forces, PDF) and/or ethnic armies clashed in Chin, Kayah and Shan states and in Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. At least 41 civilians, among them four children, and 24 PDF members died in the incidents. In addition, around 150 military and police personnel have reportedly been killed in fighting and guerrilla attacks. Junta forces again burned down hundreds of homes in Kayah, Magway and Sagaing, as well as a clinic and a Catholic church. Resistance fighters carried out attacks on junta facilities and personnel in Naypyidaw, Rakhine, Shan and Yangon, killing two administrators. Two PDF members were also killed while carrying out the attacks. As a result of clashes with staff in prisons in Kayin and Mandalay, four political prisoners died from torture and shooting on 05.06. and 06.06.22.

Former head of government Aung San Suu Kyi sent to prison

On 22.06.22, the de facto head of government Aung San Suu Kyi, who had been ousted by the military coup on 01.02.21, was taken to a prison in the capital Naypyidaw. She had been sentenced in May 2022 (cf. BN of 09.05.22). Her current prison sentence is eleven years. If also found guilty of the 19 outstanding charges, she could face a total

prison sentence of up to more than 190 years. Human rights organisations speak of a show trial. Prison visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and families of detainees that had been suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic, remain banned, according to the Myanmar prison service.

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