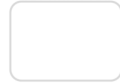


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	675
Land:	Myanmar
Kilde:	Radio Free Asia (RFA)
Titel:	Daily Updates 6 - 30. november 2023
Udgivet:	30. november 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	30. januar 2024



Document #2101049

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

12 men in tea shop massacred by junta troops for no apparent reason

By RFA Burmese

A dozen men drinking their morning tea at a shop in central Myanmar were massacred by junta troops on Thursday for no apparent reason, local residents told Radio Free Asia, in the latest spasm of violence in the country's civil war.

The victims – between the ages of 30 and 50 – were tied up and shot by column of 70 soldiers passing by the shop in Mandalay region's Madaya township, along the Mandalay-Mogoke highway, a local resident said on condition of anonymity.

"These men, including the shop owner, were tied with their hands behind their backs before they were killed," the resident said.

The junta troops were mobilized at around 6 a.m. to reinforce soldiers at the Pat Lei Inn outpost near the border of Madaya and Singu township, according to local defense forces.

At about 8 a.m., the column arrived at the tea shop, about 800 meters (a half-mile) from a conflict area, from where nearly 500 residents have fled fighting between junta troops and People's Defense Force, or PDF, militia fighters, the resident told RFA.

Because soldiers took the mobile phones belonging to the men at the tea shop, the identities of the victims were still unknown, according to the resident.

RFA attempted to contact Thein Htay, the junta's minister for economic affairs and the Mandalay regional spokesman, for comment on the tea shop massacre, but he didn't answer phone calls on Thursday.

Airstrikes in Chin state kill 10 civilians

Also on Thursday, 10 civilians were killed when two junta airstrikes in southern Chin state struck six homes, a local resident said on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

"The victims included an entire family and some children," the resident said. "The attack occurred without any battle."

After the attack in Matupi township's Vuilu village, the junta cut off mobile phone communications. The village has about 250 people and 70 households.

RFA attempted to contact Minister of Social Affairs Kyaw Soe Win, who is also the Chin state spokesman for the military junta, but he couldn't be reached.

Translated by Aung Naing. Edited by Matt Reed and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Chin state: According to local residents, a dozen men drinking tea at a shop were massacred by junta troops for no apparent reason

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/tea-shop-killings-11162023160723.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

16 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101049

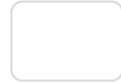
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Document #2101047

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar's junta ambushes Rakhine village at night, killing 3

By RFA Burmese

Shrapnel from a shell explosion killed three villagers and injured several others in western Myanmar on Tuesday night, residents told Radio Free Asia. Four children were among the eight injured in Rakhine state as attacks escalate.

No fighting preceded the attack, locals said. Junta troops began shooting into Minbya township's Sin Gyi Pyin village late on Tuesday night and the artillery hit two houses. The explosions burned down nearby houses, said a resident who did not want to be named for security reasons.

"They died due to the heavy artillery. Two young men died on the spot. Another woman died around 12 am. The artillery dropped when they were sleeping," he said.

"Two houses hit by the artillery were also burned. There was no fight. It was just shooting for no reason. They have been shooting like this for two nights."

The attack killed Saw Muda, a woman in her 50s, as well as Mar Mauk Arlarm and Swe Yauk Huson, both in their 20s. The victims are all from Sin Gyi Pyin village.

Locals claimed that the heavy artillery was fired by the junta's Infantry Battalion-380 based in Minbya, but RFA could not independently confirm this.

The injured villagers have been sent to Minbya Hospital, and families of the deceased are preparing to have their bodies cremated in the village.

Those hurt in the attack are from three Minbya neighborhoods but the

total number of injured people is not yet known.

RFA called Rakhine's junta spokesperson Hla Thein for comment on the attacks, but he did not answer the phone.

[Fighting in Rakhine state](#) resumed on Monday after a year-long ceasefire. Five civilians died on the first day and 18 were injured by heavy artillery explosions and rounds of gunfire by junta troops.

The dead are from Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Minbya townships. Fighting in other parts of Rakhine state killed two more civilians from Ann township on Tuesday night when junta troops fired into Thea Kan Htaung village.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Rakhine state: Junta troops ambushed village at night, killed 3 residents and injured several others, including 4 children

Country:
Myanmar

Source:
[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/rakhine-killings-11162023034142.html>

Document type:
Media Report

Language:
English

Published:
16 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:
23 November 2023

Document ID:

Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for
Country of Origin and
Asylum Research and
Documentation
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Document #2101050

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta attacks by air, river during Arakan Army clash

By RFA Burmese

Updated Nov. 17, 2023, 2:51 p.m. ET

Clashes this week in western Myanmar between the Arakan Army and junta troops have driven more than 26,000 people from their homes, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, said on Friday.

After the ethnic armed forces [seized a police station](#) in Rakhine state Thursday morning, junta forces retaliated with airstrikes.

The military regime also brought in navy ships, one Pauktaw township resident told Radio Free Asia. Gunfire continued until Thursday afternoon, when locals began to leave en masse.

"I am not sure whether all the residents could get out of the city," he said, asking to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals. "I think parts of the city are blocked as [junta troops] are shooting from both air and sea."

The escalated hostilities in Rakhine and neighboring southern Chin state have restricted key transport routes and waterways between Rakhine's state capital of Sittwe and Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital, according to [Friday's update from OCHA](#).

Fighting has been especially intense in Rakhine's Pauktaw and Maungdaw townships and in Chin's Paletwa township, according to OCHA.

Since Monday, 11 deaths and more than 30 injuries have been reported, and more than 100 people have reportedly been detained by junta forces, OCHA said.

Humanitarian aid suspended

The attack on the police station ended a ceasefire brokered in 2022 after fighting led to shortages in food, medicine and access to health care for more than 2 million residents.

In May, Cyclone Mocha devastated much of Rakhine. Hungry and shelterless residents have complained for months of slow or nonexistent aid delivery in the aftermath of the storm.

OCHA said Friday that most humanitarian activities have been suspended “due to the resurgence of conflict, increased security scrutiny, road and waterway blockades, and movement restrictions between urban and rural areas.”

Tensions between the junta and the Arakan Army had resurfaced in recent months, according to Richard Horsey, the International Crisis Group’s senior Myanmar adviser.

“Both sides knew that fighting could resume at any time,” [he said on Friday](#). “The regime kept sizable forces deployed in the state for that eventuality.”

On Thursday, two junta warships traveling along the Kaladan River fired more than 10 shots with heavy weapons.

The ships continued to Pauktaw along the Kwe Ku River as a helicopter from Sittwe continued firing.

“Two of three navy ships docked and one remained on the river. Now the helicopter is hovering and shooting,” the Pauktaw resident said. “Residents from the city are fleeing to nearby places.”

A new hotspot

The Pauktaw police station, previously under junta control, was seized by the Arakan Army, said another Pauktaw resident, but the city continued to be attacked by the junta airforce and navy.

“The residents from the city are fleeing and [junta soldiers] are shooting. I know there is damage and that there have been casualties, but we are still hiding,” he told RFA, asking to remain anonymous.

Pauktaw’s residents escaped on foot, by cars and on motorcycles, according to a video uploaded to Facebook on Thursday afternoon.

The Arakan Army “has seized the moment to press its advantage” following the [Operation 1027](#) offensive that began three weeks ago,

Horsey said.

The Arakan Army is part of the “Three Brotherhood” Alliance of rebels that has seen notable gains against the military in several key cities in Shan state in the country’s northeast.

This week’s attacks by the Arakan Army in western Myanmar have created a new hotspot that “the regime can ill afford to get bogged down in,” according to Horsey.

“It also will not welcome the idea of renewed conflict with the AA, which it has [struggled to overcome](#) even when other parts of Myanmar were quiet, back in 2019-2020,” he said.

The junta has yet to release any information on the incidents in Pauktaw. RFA called Rakhine state’s junta spokesperson Hla Thein, but he did not answer the phone.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Matt Reed.

This story has been updated with details from the U.N. and comments from the ICG’s Richard Horsey.

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ecoi.net description:

Rakhine state: Clashes between the Arakan Army and junta troops forced more than 26,000 people to flee their homes

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/arakan-army-pauktaw-11172023045939.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

17 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101050

Austrian Red Cross	Wiedner Hauptstraße	Contact
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Documentation	info@ecoi.net	
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Document #2101476

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Anatomy of an extrajudicial massacre

Months after they narrowly escaped being murdered by junta-aligned soldiers, Ko Aung Aung* and Ko Moe Kyaw* still bear gruesome scars across their necks. Yet they are the lucky ones, two among three survivors of extrajudicial killings carried out by the Shanni Nationalities Army that saw five others murdered on a single night in Kachin state's Se Zin village.

In all, a group of approximately 100 people arrested en masse in Se Zin last year are believed to have been killed by security forces between August 2022 and January 2023 while others died due to horrific prison conditions, according to local rights monitors, a witness, and the accounts of the two survivors who spoke with RFA.

The detainees ranged in age from a 14-year-old boy to a 67-year-old man. All were arrested in August 2022, following a raid in Se Zin in which junta soldiers razed hundreds of homes.

Ko Aung Aung's and Ko Moe Kyaw's unlikely survival offers a unique window into the lawlessness that has become a norm under the military regime.

"When we arrived at the scene, we were forced to sit on our haunches. Then I heard sounds of hitting and [people] falling down together with stones. We were being killed. I thought they were beating us, but I did not think they were cutting throats," Ko Aung Aung told RFA months later.

The rare accounts also shed light on extrajudicial murders, which campaigners say is a matter of increasing concern with nearly 20,000 [people](#) currently in custody in prisons across the country.

"The Se Zin incident is extremely horrible. It is an international crime," said a Kachin analyst who has researched the incident and corroborated the accounts shared by the two survivors. He asked not to be named for fear of his safety.

“It is just one example and many similar incidents are happening. It is because the violators of human rights are repeatedly unpunished and they have enjoyed impunity.”

‘They came in and beat us with iron sticks’

In early 2022, Ko Aung Aung arrived in Kachin state’s Se Zin village looking for work. The 39-year-old hoped the gold mines of Hpakant township might provide the subsistence wages he had struggled to find in his native Sagaing region.

Ko Moe Kyaw, 23, had arrived around the same time and for much the same reason. Like Ko Aung Aung, he found work at a gold mine digging the earth.

The two were among the hundreds of thousands [who work in the gold](#), jade and rare earth mines that dot this mineral-rich land.

But the jobs come with no small risk. Mine [collapses](#) are common, as are [landslides](#), and the environmental and health [costs](#) are steep. The dangers lie outside of the mines, too. Kachin state has always been among the most lawless parts of Myanmar, with gangs, militias and the government’s military forces vying for the region’s wealth.

Since the coup, such fighting has only intensified, and post-coup clashes between the military and those against its rule, such as the People's Defense Force, have added a new level of chaos.

Starting in July 2022, [weeks of fighting](#) between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) against junta forces and their allies in Hpakant township resulted in thousands of displaced civilians. After the KIA and PDF seized both a junta camp and SNA military camp, the junta launched airstrikes on Se Zin village and set fire to more than 400 homes.

At least 15 people were killed, and the military detained some 400 people in and around Se Zin — rounding them up in a monastery where they were questioned about their ties to the anti-junta forces.

Approximately 100 of them were then brought to the local police station.

“When we arrived at the police station, we were forced to lie face down and beaten. They asked us whether we had connections with the PDF and when we said no, they beat us again. After putting us in the cell, they came in and beat us with iron sticks,” Ko Aung Aung recounted.

The intervening months brought worsening horrors. Though RFA can not corroborate their accounts, the survivors said they were treated brutally,

given scant food and only one liter of water each day to split among 10 prisoners. Ko Moe Kyaw and Ko Aung Aung said they shared a small cell with 13 others, four of whom died of fever in the months after their arrest. Two others were allegedly killed by police in December, including a 14-year-old who was beaten with a stick until his shinbone protruded from his skin.

The four who died in custody were taken away by a car and thrown into the Uyu river, according to Ko Moe Kyaw. Other detainees who arrived later were beaten to death because there was no place for them in the police station.

All the while, men were taken from their cells each night, never to return.

Released into hell

Finally, on the night of Jan. 19, it was their turn. Ko Moe Kyaw, Ko Aung Aung and six others were pulled from their cells for interrogation and handed over to Shanni Nationalities Army forces. Unlike many other ethnic armed organizations that have long fought Myanmar's military, [the SNA has in recent years aligned itself with the junta](#), as it is in opposition with the KIA.

Once in the SNA soldiers' custody, the men were tied to motorcycles and driven into the jungle.

"Our mouths were sealed with tape, our eyes were covered with cloth, and our hands were tied behind our backs by three ropes," Ko Aung Aung recounted to RFA.

Upon arrival, they were brought to what appeared in the dark to be a ditch of sorts.

"I was forced to sit on the edge of a knoll and hit twice on the back of my head and when I fell down, my throat was cut. [A guy] sat astride me to cut my throat when I was lying on my back."

Nearby lay Ko Moe Kyaw, who said he believed the drunkenness of the soldiers saved him from worse injury.

"They were heavily drunk, so they could not cut my throat deeply. Others fell down on their backs. I fell down in a prone position," he told RFA.

When the soldiers departed, the three survivors took stock of their surroundings.

"One man got up first and said if you are not dead, get up. Then, one had to sit and the other stood. One took off the cloth covering his eyes and his mouth. We also cut each others' ropes with our mouths to untie them,"

said Ko Moe Kyaw. "Since we could not go anywhere, we slept beside the dead bodies that night."

By the light of day, they discovered their would-be grave was the open pit of a former gold mine. As they sought help, Ko Aung Aung, the most seriously injured of the three, nearly passed out due to the heavy bleeding.

They made it to an undisclosed safe location, where a doctor working with the Civil Disobedience Movement, or CDM, treated their injuries.

"Each had an injury on the back of their heads. There were also cuts on their necks," the doctor told RFA. On his Facebook page, he posted images of the men's wounds as well as the accounts of their near-death experience.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity for security reasons, a Se Zin resident said prisoners at the police station were regularly pulled out to be murdered.

They "were killed by cutting their throats.... It was like cutting a chicken's head off," he said. Over the course of the months he occasionally saw others who escaped alive.

"One man's injury was so severe that I did not dare to look at it. It was a deep cut under Adam's apple. The other one was just beaten."

SNA spokesperson Col. Sai Aung Mein and military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun could not be reached for comment while Win Ye Tun, Kachin state's Military Council Minister for Social Affairs and spokesperson, said he had no knowledge of this incident.

A similar pattern

While the accounts shared by the two survivors cannot be fully verified, they share commonalities with war crimes recorded across Myanmar as junta soldiers utilize torture, [mutilation](#) and [beheadings](#) to terrify the civilian population.

Two videos recently obtained by RFA from a civil society group that has been recording human rights violations in Kachin state show similar atrocities being carried out by security forces.

The first video was found on the phone of an SNA soldier who was arrested by the KIA. In an interview with the civil society group, the soldier said it had been shared by his trainer.

The video shows an SNA soldier and a man in plain clothes, both armed,

repeatedly stabbing two unmoving men lying on the ground.

In the background, voices can be heard giving orders in Shanni, Kachin and Burmese languages, telling the soldiers to put the knife into the heart.

Tony Loughran, a former British Special Forces medic who reviewed the footage, pointed out the fact that neither victim is struggling or shouting. The immobility of the victims, he said, led him to believe the recording showed a training session.

"They were trying to teach him to cut the jugular and the carotid here, okay. But he had the wrong angle. He was upward of the body. So he was looking to the camera for directions all the time."

In the second video obtained by RFA, six men in plain clothes holding guns cut the throat of an unarmed man and kick him into a pit. In the video, they can be heard speaking Burmese.

Miemie Winn Byrd, a former U.S. Army officer who reviewed the footage, told RFA there could be no circumstances in which such actions by a soldier would be justified.

"This was not a military operation, but a murder. This is war crime."

Edited by Abby Seiff.

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ecoi.net description:

Article on a group of around 100 people arrested en masse in Kachin State's Se Zin village in August 2022 and who are believed to have been killed by security forces before January 2023

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/myanmar-sezin-killings-11162023100324.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:
English

Published:
20 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:
30 November 2023

Document ID:
2101476

Austrian Red Cross	Wiedner Hauptstraße	Contact
Austrian Centre for	32, 1041 Wien	Imprint & Disclaimer
Country of Origin and	T +43 1 589 00 583	F.A.Q.
Asylum Research and	F +43 1 589 00 589	Data Protection Notice
Documentation	info@ecoi.net	
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Document #2101054

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops block road, water transport amid Arakan Army clashes

By RFA Burmese

Junta soldiers have blocked highways and waterways throughout western Myanmar's Rakhine state, halting the flow of medicine, fuel and other basic commodities as the regime contends with renewed attacks from the Arakan Army, an ethnic rebel group, several local residents told Radio Free Asia on Monday.

Troops have set up security checkpoints on roads linking towns and villages in both southern and northern Rakhine state, and the drivers of buses and cargo trucks have been stranded on the roadside after being denied access to the Sittwe-Yangon highway.

"They said that the blockade will be lifted only when security returns to normal," the driver of a passenger bus who requested anonymity for security reasons told RFA. "So, we prepare our meals here."

The road and waterway closures began on Nov. 13, shortly after the Arakan Army ended a year-old ceasefire when it attacked police outposts and junta convoys in Rathedaung and Minbya townships.

The offensive in Rakhine state coincided with the Arakan Army's participation in [Operation 1027](#) – named after the Oct. 27 start of the military offensive – as part of the "Three Brotherhood Alliance" with two other armed ethnic groups against the military in Shan state in the north.

Roadblocks over the last week have included detailed inspections, residents said. The military has also imposed a curfew between 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. in Sittwe, Rakhine's state capital.

"No one can travel," a Sittwe resident told RFA. "People in cities will face more difficulties as all the businesses have stopped."

'Strategy to bring misery'

The junta is causing trouble to discourage people from supporting the Arakan Army, according to Rakhine politician Pe Than.

"It's a strategy to bring misery for people," he said. "The military is forcing people to blame the [Arakan Army] for the troubles."

When there were clashes between junta soldiers and the Arakan Army in August 2022, the military regime also blocked access to towns in northern Rakhine, and also arrested civilians, Pe Than said. Several months later, the Arakan Army [agreed to a ceasefire](#), he noted.

RFA called the junta spokesman for Rakhine, Hla Thein, for comment on the blockades, but the calls went unanswered.

Junta spokesman Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun told the *Myanma Alin* newspaper that the fighting with the Arakan Army has delayed the development of Rakhine state.

RFA tried to contact Arakan Army spokesman Khine Thukha for a response to that remark but was unable to reach him.

In May, Cyclone Mocha devastated much of Rakhine. Hungry and shelterless residents have complained for months of slow or nonexistent aid delivery in the aftermath of the storm.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, said on Friday that most humanitarian activities have been suspended because of "the resurgence of conflict" and "movement restrictions between urban and rural areas."

More than 26,000 people across nine townships in Rakhine fled from junta artillery attacks last week, OCHA said on Friday.

Translated by Aung Naing. Edited by Matt Reed and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Rakhine state: Amid renewed attacks from the Arakan Army, junta soldiers blocked highways and waterways throughout the state, halting the flow of medicine, fuel and other basic commodities

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/rakhine-roads-blocked-11202023152043.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

20 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101054

Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for
Country of Origin and
Asylum Research and
Documentation
(ACCORD)

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Document #2101052

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Ongoing conflict in northern Myanmar kills 2, including child

By RFA Burmese

Residents in northeastern Myanmar are facing both a humanitarian crisis and intense conflict, people living in the area told Radio Free Asia. On Sunday night, airstrikes by junta forces killed two people, including a child, in Shan state.

Locals were caught off guard when a junta plane began an aerial attack on Myo Thit village in Namhsan township around 10 pm. It was unexpected because there had not been any fighting beforehand, said one local, asking to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"There is no fighting in Namhsan, but the aerial bombardment was carried out while people were sleeping," he told RFA, adding that six women and two men were injured in addition to the two killed. "People died and houses were also burned."

The explosions damaged 23 houses in total. The bomb weighed roughly 500 pounds and killed Tar San Naw, as well as a child, when it landed on a house, according to a statement released by the Ta'ang National Liberation Army on Monday.

The junta has not released any information about this attack and calls by RFA to Shan state's junta spokesperson Khun Thein Maung went unanswered.

Conflict in northeastern Shan state has intensified in the last two months, as an allied group of resistance armies took three major cities in Operation 1027 in late October.

Earlier that month, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army attacked several junta convoys, causing their troops to retaliate. Since Oct. 10, nearly

30,000 internally displaced people have been sheltering in makeshift tents near the China-Myanmar border in Laukkaing township.

Since Thursday, heavy rain has made life more difficult for those forced from their homes.

After several days of rain, resources are becoming harder to find and people's health is deteriorating, said a Laukkaing resident, who did not want to be named for security reasons.

"They have been living in tents since before [the rain]. It is raining and they are not comfortable anymore. Most are workers from other areas, not residents," he told RFA. "There are many people who came to work in Laukkaing from other areas. Water also became scarce in that camp."

Elderly people and children are also more prone to illness in the colder weather without blankets, he added. On Saturday, the camp's water and electricity were cut off.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army warned Chinese citizens in Laukkaing to return to China to avoid conflict in the region. They also told civilians to stay away from military camps and not to move around the area.

All of Laukkaing's roads and gates out of the city are blocked and locals are facing food shortages, residents also reported. Junta troops are not letting food or supplies into the city.

After Operation 1027, battles between the military junta and the three northern allies have been continuing in eight townships, including Namhkan, Chinshwehaw, Nawngkhio, Lashio and Manton.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Shan state: Airstrikes by junta forces killed 2 people, including a child; according to a local resident, the attack came unexpected as there had not been any fighting beforehand

Country:
Myanmar

Source:

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/shan-conflict-11202023045637.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

20 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101052

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Document #2101055

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta troops arrest and stab 6 men to death

By RFA Burmese

Villagers in central Myanmar recovered the bodies of six people who were stabbed to death, locals told Radio Free Asia. On Friday, junta troops arrested the group in Mandalay region on suspicion of being resistance fighters in local People's Defense Forces.

The victims are from Madaya and Patheingyi townships, including 25-year-old Min Nge Tar, as well as Thaung Yin and Poe Htaw, who were both about 40 years old and from Kin village. Three brothers, 18-year-old Ko Tun, 22-year-old Ko Pyone and 25-year-old Ko Mone, from Patheingyi's Tha Yet Kaing village were also killed.

On Saturday, a dead body with stab wounds was found near Tha Yet Kaing village, a Kin villager who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals told RFA.

"When [junta soldiers] asked them where they were from, they said that they were from Kin village. So [the first three men] were arrested and accused of being in People's Defense Forces," he said. "The three brothers from Tha Yet Kaing village were arrested for riding a motorcycle with three men. The next day, all the bodies were found in the same place."

In Sagaing, Yangon and Mandalay regions, the military regime has placed tight restrictions on men riding motorbikes in an effort to reduce attacks from resistance groups.

Junta troops often raid Kin village on suspicion of hiding resistance fighters, so some of the residents have left the village, locals told RFA. To avoid suspicion, some men and their families have moved closer to Tha Yet Kaing village, which is about 6.5 kilometers (four miles) away from Kin village.

The three Kin villagers who were arrested and killed are people who moved with their families close to Tha Yet Kaing village and were fleeing the junta's raids, they added.

Calls by RFA to Mandalay region's junta spokesperson Thein Htay went unanswered on Tuesday.

On Thursday, fighting near Pin Lel Inn village attracted the presence of a junta convoy. The group arrested 11 men who were sitting in a tea shop in Aung Kan Thar village and another man from Pwe Sar Kone village. Junta soldiers shot and killed all 12 men, locals said.

As of Nov. 20, nearly 4,200 civilians have been killed across the country after the 2021 military coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Mandalay region: According to locals, junta troops arrested 6 people on suspicion of being resistance fighters in local People's Defense Forces (PDF) and stabbed them to death

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/mandalay-killings-11212023045627.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

21 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101055

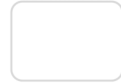
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Document #2101056

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Karenni officials: 200 university workers are safe after evacuation

By RFA Burmese

More than 200 civilians evacuated from a university during recent fighting in the Kayah state capital in eastern Myanmar are being provided health care at a safe location, Karenni officials told Radio Free Asia.

The military junta has alleged that the civilians, which include teachers and the rector from Loikaw University, were being detained against their will.

“Some of them seem to be in a good mood, but some others said they are missing their family members,” said Banyar, the director of the Karenni Human Rights Organization. “We have told them that we will proceed in accordance with rules and regulations.”

Fighting began in Loikaw in eastern Myanmar on Nov. 11 when the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force, or KNDF, [targeted junta bases and a prison in the city](#). Junta troops retaliated with airstrikes and shelling, killing 20 civilians, according to the Karenni Human Rights Organization.

The KNDF announced on Nov. 15 that they had successfully occupied the university, where two battalions of military junta soldiers had been stationed. The soldiers had frequently raided and shelled nearby villages, according to KNDF Chairman Khun Bedu.

Regime spokesperson Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said the attack on Loikaw University was a “barbaric act” and alleged that Karenni troops had killed some teachers and taken other teachers hostage.

Khun Bedu denied these accusations, saying the attack was carried out only because soldiers were stationed there.

A Karenni National Progressive Party official told RFA that junta troops used some university staff members and students as human shields during the fighting. They were evacuated to a secure place and no one has been tortured or killed, he said.

"We are working to allow them to go to their destinations safely," he said. "We are not using them as human shields like the military did."

On Monday, the KNDP published a recorded video clip on its social media page with statements from the university's rector and several teachers.

Some of the university staff members were being questioned about possible junta associations, said Banyar, who goes by one name. Legal action may be taken against some of them, he said on Monday. He did not provide specific details.

Artillery attacks and air strikes

Karenni forces launched their offensive this month after their northern allies' "Operation 1027," during which rebel groups won control of three major cities in Shan state.

The Karenni Humanitarian Aid Initiative on Tuesday said air strikes and artillery attacks killed 68 civilians between Nov. 11-19 in Loikaw and Shan's Pekon township. Victims included 10 children and 18 women, the group said.

The information was gathered from the Karenni Human Rights Organization and media reports, they said.

A humanitarian volunteer for Karenni displaced persons told RFA that the actual casualty toll may be higher.

"We cannot get some figures from the frontlines of battles," the volunteer said. "As the military was being defeated in the battles, they carried out air strikes on civilian targets and shot people dead."

RFA attempted to contact Myint Kyi, junta spokesperson for Kayah state, but phone calls went unanswered.

Neither the junta nor Karenni forces have stated total casualty tolls from the fighting that began on Nov. 11.

Elsewhere in Myanmar, a People's Defense Force in Chin state said they have occupied a military outpost at [Kennedy Peak](#) between Kalay and Tedim townships.

About 30 junta soldiers had been stationed at the outpost since the February 2021 military coup.

"We began to attack this outpost at 4 a.m., and totally controlled the camp at around 6 a.m.," an official from PDF Zoland told RFA. "It was the highest mountain in northern Chin and strategically important. So we captured it."

RFA attempted to contact Kyaw Soe Win, the social affairs minister and junta spokesperson for Chin state government, for his response but was unable to reach him.

Translated by Aung Naing. Edited by Matt Reed and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Kayah state: According to Karenni officials, more than 200 civilians were evacuated from a university during recent fighting and are being provided health care at a safe location

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/kayah-university-evacuation-11212023154654.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

21 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

23 November 2023

Document ID:

2101056

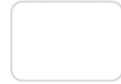
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Document #2101478

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta uses pregnant women and monks as human shields: Arakan Army

Nearly 100 civilians were caught in a battle in western Myanmar on Tuesday, locals told Radio Free Asia. As fighting in Rakhine state between the Arakan Army and junta forces continues over the disputed town of Pauktaw, residents report an increase in abductions and injuries across the region.

Junta forces abducted nearly 100 people, including monks, the elderly, children and pregnant women in Pauktaw to use as human shields, according to an Arakan Army statement on Nov. 21.

The civilians were abducted on Nov. 16 when the ethnic army captured Pauktaw's police station, which was previously occupied by junta troops. In retaliation, the regime attacked the coastal area by firing weaponry from navy ships and aircraft.

By the following week, the junta army and police had re-captured Pauktaw and were patrolling neighborhoods.

The Arakan Army seized control of the city again on Tuesday and rescued the captured civilians, according to the group's statement. It also stated the regime was frequently using heavy artillery and launching rockets from ships and by aircraft.

The junta stated it had captured Pauktaw before Tuesday, but an announcement by junta spokesman Maj. Gen Zaw Min Tun in military-controlled newspapers did not say anything about the arrested people.

Fighting between the two groups is also affecting civilians in the state's northeast. On Monday evening in Paletwa township on the Chin state

border, eight civilians, including five children, were injured in a junta airstrike.

Some of the children are in a critical condition after they were struck by bomb shrapnel while bathing in a creek, said a woman from Mee Zar village, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"The children were hit when they came back from bathing in the creek down from the village. The adults were hit when they went to pick things up," she said.

"I heard that the injured are in a critical condition. At the moment, we're hiding when we hear the sound of the plane. I am still afraid it will come again."

All eight victims are currently receiving medical treatment at Mee Zar District Hospital.

RFA contacted Chin state's junta spokesperson Kyaw Soe Win by phone regarding the aerial bombardment, but he did not respond by the time of publication.

Mee Zar village is about 10 kilometers (six miles) away from Paletwa township's Hta Run Aing village, where another clash between the junta army and Arakan Army erupted, locals said.

On Monday evening, a Christian church in Matupi township's Lalengpi town was destroyed during the junta's airstrike, according to the locals.

Eleven residents, including eight children, were killed during an aerial bombardment on Vuilu village in Matupi township on the night of Nov. 15.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Rakhine state: Junta forces abduct nearly 100 civilians as fighting between them and the Arakan Army continues over the disputed town of Pauktaw

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/rakhine-border-fighting-11222023060802.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

22 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

30 November 2023

Document ID:

2101478

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Document #2101483

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Chinese authorities fire tear gas at people fleeing Myanmar fighting

Chinese authorities fired tear gas at people attempting to flee from intensifying fighting between Myanmar's military junta and allied ethnic armed groups.

Social media videos showed several dozen people covering their faces at the China-Myanmar border as tear gas hovered on one side of a fence in Shan state's Laukkaing township on Saturday afternoon.

"Chinese police and soldiers used tear gas to expel Kokang people who sought shelter at the border line," a resident in Laukkaing township told Radio Free Asia on condition of anonymity for security reasons. "They recently fled there due to the escalation of armed conflict."

The allied resistance forces announced on Friday that they would intensify an offensive that has seen widespread gains over the last month.

The "Three Brotherhood" Alliance of the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, or MNDAA, launched an offensive on Oct. 27 – dubbed "[Operation 1027](#)" – and have made notable gains against the military in several key cities in Shan state.

On Saturday, the MNDAA seized the Kyin San Kyawt border gate near the key border town of Muse, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) from Laukkaing.

The gate is one of five major entry points in the area that handles Myanmar's largest volume of trade with China.

It's the second border gate in Muse township that the alliance now controls, along with two others elsewhere, according to [the Associated](#)

[Press](#), which noted that almost all legal cross-border trade with China has stopped over the last month because of the fighting.

On Sunday, allied forces near another gate in the area carried out drone attacks, which disrupted a cargo inspection area and hit some buildings, while junta forces fired artillery shells from a highland area, locals told RFA.

Junta spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun confirmed to state-owned media on Monday that there were clashes near Muse over the weekend, but he didn't disclose details or comment on the loss of control of the Kyin San Kyawt gate.

China's live-fire exercises

In Laukkaing, MNDAA spokesperson Li Kyar Win said he has seen the tear gas videos but didn't have any further information. He noted that junta troops had carried out artillery attacks on nearby areas, which forced the local residents to move toward the border.

Shan state-based media Shwe Phee Myay News Agency and the local Kengtung Hit Tine online news outlet reported on their Facebook pages that Chinese police had deployed tear gas on the border line. RFA has not independently confirmed the reports. Messages left with Chinese government sources seeking comment about the tear gas weren't immediately returned on Monday.

Also on Saturday, junta-controlled media reported that the Chinese government informed Myanmar's military of live-fire exercises near the border over the weekend.

"The regular military drill of the southern command of the People's Republic of China was reported on Nov. 25," Zaw Min Tun said. "It is aimed to ensure peace and stability at the border area."

Political analyst Than Soe Naing told RFA that the Chinese drills are the first in the area since 2017 – a period that also saw heavy fighting in Shan state.

"I assume that the Chinese army conducts these drills to protect their sovereignty and to ensure the least impact on their people," he said. "It is not directly related to Operation 1027, but it is their message for readiness on security of their people's lives and property."

Chinese media reported that the exercises began Saturday and ended Monday, but didn't disclose the exact location or the number of troops involved.

"It is not an unordinary exercise," said Thein Tun Oo, the executive director of Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies, a think tank run by former military officers.

"There may be some rumors and assumptions on this issue," he said. "However, China and Myanmar have agreed on military exercises and cooperation in foreign affairs. A mutual understanding has been made between the two countries."

Translated by Aung Naing. Edited by Matt Reed and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Shan state, Laukkaing township: Chinese authorities fire tear gas at people at the China-Myanmar border attempting to flee from fighting between military junta and ethnic armed groups

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/tear-gas-shan-11272023171634.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

27 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

11 December 2023

Document ID:

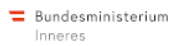
2101483

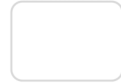
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Document #2101484

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar's junta fires into Rakhine villages, killing 3 children

Junta bombing in western Myanmar killed four people, locals told Radio Free Asia on Tuesday.

Heavy artillery fired at Rakhine state's War Shee Lar village on Monday evening exploded, injuring seven people. Five of the seven are in critical condition and were sent to Buthidaung Hospital in the township's capital.

The deceased include eight-year-old Arru Shu Lar and 11-year-old Abdullah, as well as 50-year-old Ha Bezar.

The injured are in their 30s to 40s, said a War Shee Lar resident who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"They died and were injured when a heavy weapon dropped while they were working in the vegetable farm. Arru Shu Lar and Ha Beza died on the spot," he told RFA. "Another child died on the way to the hospital. The dead have been cremated in the village."

Heavy artillery was fired by a Buthidaung township-based junta battalion, he added. The shelling continued even as villagers cremated the bodies of the deceased in the village cemetery.

War Shee Lar is a Rohingya village with about 1,000 people. Locals said that all the residents are afraid, but they have to hide in the village because there is no place to run.

To Buthidaung's southeast, a teenager was killed when junta troops fired at a village in Mrauk-U township.

Fifteen-year-old Cho Cho died on Monday night in Pan Be Tan village after

being struck in the stomach by a bullet in her home, residents said.

The shooting was from a Mrauk-U-based junta infantry battalion, locals alleged.

RFA contacted Rakhine state's junta spokesperson Hla Thein by phone, but he did not reply by the time of publication. The junta has not released any information through official channels or regime-backed media regarding the killings.

The junta's army has been deliberately targeting civilians since Nov. 13, when fighting with the Arakan Army resumed, said Pe Than, a former member of parliament from the Arakan National Party in Rakhine state.

"Now the junta army can no longer go directly to the battleground and fight. That's why they open fire with small and heavy artillery from their camps. And they mainly target civilian areas," he told RFA. "It's like burning down the barn when they cannot hit the rats. [The junta] has been fighting in a way that harms the people since the beginning of the fighting in Rakhine state."

The military has blocked roads connecting Rakhine state from the rest of the country, as well as roads and waterways between towns and villages, he said, adding people's livelihoods were severely affected by this tactic.

Fighting between the junta and Arakan Army resumed on Nov. 13 after a year-long ceasefire. According to data compiled by RFA, fighting since Nov.13 has killed 17 civilians and injured 57 more.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Rakhine state, War Shee Lar village: 4 people killed and another 7 injured by junta artillery fire

Country:
Myanmar

Source:
[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/rakhine-shelling-11282023052732.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

28 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

11 December 2023

Document ID:

2101484

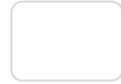
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Document #2101488

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Chin allied resistance claims big junta losses in western Myanmar

Allied resistance armies seized two towns in northwestern Myanmar, one of the groups said this week.

The joint forces captured Matupi township's Lalengpi and Resaw towns in battles that ended on Wednesday.

Resistance fighters attacked and captured a junta outpost with about 50 soldiers in Resaw after four days of fighting, a Chin Defense Forces official told Radio Free Asia.

"Our joint team, led by Chin Defense Forces, seized it on the morning of November 29," he said. "We currently control the town. We had some casualties too."

Eleven junta soldiers surrendered, and four soldiers from the ethnic armed alliance died, he added.

The Chin National Army, the armed wing of the more than 20-year-old political organization Chin National Front, partnered with ethnic armed group Chin Defense Forces, to carry out the attack.

In Tuesday and Wednesday's battles, junta troops launched at least 20 airstrikes to defend their position, locals said.

Since Saturday, fighting has forced nearly 3,000 Resaw residents to flee for their safety, they added.

Earlier that week, the alliance secured another Chin town in Matupi. Joint forces managed to also seize Lalengpi's junta outpost last Friday, Chin National Front spokesperson Salai Htet Ni told RFA.

"We, the joint forces of the Chin National Army and Chin Defence Forces, seized the outpost on the morning of the 24th," he said, adding that junta soldiers had since fled from the camp. "There is only one outpost in Lalengpi. We are currently in control of the entire town."

Shrapnel from weapons and stray bullets killed four residents and damaged at least 10 houses, including a Christian church, according to locals.

About 30 junta soldiers fled the outpost on Friday during the clash. The group surrendered to the Assam Rifles security force in India, after crossing the border, according to residents living in the area.

Junta soldiers brought a villager from the India-Myanmar border as a guide, they added.

Junta troops who surrendered are currently seeking refuge in the Assam Rifles camp in Laki village in Mizoram state, said a Laki resident who did not want to be named for security reasons.

"They arrived at our village in the early morning of November 28, then they released the guide they had brought. Once they reached the Indian border, Indian soldiers went to meet them," she said.

"They said three of their soldiers died on the way. There are about 30 of them left in total. I think they will be sent back to the border of Phaicham Veng village [in Manipur] by plane today."

RFA attempted to contact Chin state's junta spokesman Kyaw Soe Win, but phone calls went unanswered on Wednesday.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Chin state, Matupi township: Resistance armies Chin National Army and Chin Defence Forces capture 2 towns previously under junta control

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/chin-fighting-11302023071854.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Language:

English

Published:

30 November 2023

Available on ecoi.net since:

11 December 2023

Document ID:

2101488

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