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RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Airstrikes and shelling killed 44 civilians in Myanmar in September

By RFA Burmese

Casualties continue to mount in Myanmar as junta forces make increasing use of airstrikes and heavy artillery bombardments on civilian targets.

Figures compiled exclusively by Radio Free Asia show that 44 civilians were killed and 142 injured in such attacks in September alone.

On Sept. 28, four members of the same family died when a shell landed on their house in Sagaing region's Kale township.

"The shell dropped landed straight on their house and they died on the spot," a local resident who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals told RFA Burmese.

Locals said villages are often targeted after junta troops suffer casualties in fighting with People's Defense Forces in Sagaing.

ecoi.net description:

In September 2023, junta airstrikes and heavy artillery bombardments on civilian targets killed 44 civilians and injured 142 others

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/myanmar-airstrikes-and-shelling-10022023053726.html>

A battle between the two sides broke out in Pale township in Sagaing region on Sept. 29. The junta then fired on the Htan Ta Pin neighborhood, killing a 64-year-old woman and destroying houses, locals said.

“The junta opened fire at least 10 times and five to six shells dropped on Htan Ta Pin, with the others falling on an adjoining neighborhood,” said a local who also declined to be named.

The attacks are indiscriminate; last Wednesday 18 students were injured in Sagaing region’s Wuntho township when a shell exploded next to a [school](#).

RFA’s figures show Sagaing was the hardest-hit region or state last month with 20 deaths and 38 injuries as a result of aerial and land bombardment.

Bago region was the second hardest hit with four civilian deaths and 26 injuries. The region has seen fierce fighting between junta troops and the military wing of the Karen National Union, a powerful ethnic group.

For the year through September, 816 civilians were killed in shelling and aerial attacks, with 1,628 people injured, RFA figures show.

Junta forces rely on airstrikes and shelling in areas where ground troops have made little progress, according to political analyst Than Soe Naing.

“The air raids cause massive casualties nationwide,” he said.

“The junta has stepped up its terrorist acts by carrying out these indiscriminate attacks.”

RFA called junta spokesperson Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun seeking comment on the rising civilian casualties, but no one answered.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Elaine Chan.

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Media Report

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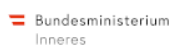
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Document #2098272

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Conflict in Myanmar's Shan state drives 1,000 civilians into China

By RFA Burmese

Fighting between junta troops and the ethnic Ta'ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, has driven more than 1,000 people from northeast Myanmar's Shan state across the border with China to seek shelter, according to residents.

The group is the latest example of civilians displaced by conflict in Myanmar, where the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says that tens of thousands have fled into neighboring countries to avoid conflict since the military's February 2021 coup.

More than 1.6 million people have been internally displaced by fighting since the takeover, according to the U.N.

Fighting between the military and the TNLA in Shan's Muse and Kutkai townships broke out on July 23, when the latter's forces attacked a pro-junta militia convoy near Sei Lant village on the Muse-Namhkan highway.

ecoi.net description:

Shan state: According to residents, fighting between junta troops and the ethnic Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) forced more than 1,000 people to cross the border with China to seek shelter

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/conflict-10032023164950.html>

Since then, more than 1,000 residents of seven villages – including the border tracts of Nam Kat and Sei Lant – have fled into China, said a resident of Nam Kat who, like others interviewed for this report, spoke to RFA Burmese on condition of anonymity, citing security concerns.

“We have been fleeing from our homes for two months now,” said the resident. “We can’t make a living and the children’s education has also been impacted.”

The resident said that few people felt the need to flee the fighting initially, even when the military began firing artillery in the area.

“But one evening recently, lots of people from Namhkan fled after being attacked because the military used a jet fighter and the attack was at night,” he said.

There are more than 100 internally displaced persons, or IDPs, sheltering in Namhkan’s Kawng Tat village and more than 300 IDPs sheltering in Muse’s Nam Hsant village, the resident said, while at least 1,000 people have fled to Ruili and Jie Gao in southwest China’s Yunnan province. The number of people who have fled elsewhere was not immediately clear, he added.

Caught between two factions

Residents of Sei Lant told RFA that while some villagers had fled to Muse, most are “living in fear” in their homes. One resident named Aik Sai said that although fighting has stopped in recent days, “they are worried that it will resume” due to the presence of troops from both sides stationed near the village.

“Both sides are staying [near] the village and we can’t drive them out,” he said, urging the troops to “fight in the jungle, if possible ... [because] it isn’t good for both sides to use locals as shields.”

Aik Sai said life in the village had ground to a halt amid the fighting and that “we can’t earn a living.”

“We’re worried about residents being shot in the village,” he added.

TNLA spokesman Lt-Col. Mai Aik Kyaw confirmed the military’s recent use of air power in the area.

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He said that on Sept. 25 at around 10:00 p.m., the military dropped six bombs, including two 500-pound bombs with an impact radius of up to 30 meters (100 feet), in the jungle near a TNLA camp along the Muse-Namhkan highway, around 16 kilometers (10 miles) from the Chinese border.

“We don’t know why they came and attacked,” he said, adding that the TNLA has “only engaged in self-defense.”

“Since Sept. 22, there has been no retaliatory attack from our side,” Mai Aik Kyaw said. “On their side, they are constantly firing from the air and artillery every day. In the last three or four days, there have been drone attacks.”

A resident of Kutkai’s Ngawt Ngar village also confirmed the military’s use of aircraft, saying that two fighter jets fired on the tract on the afternoon of Sept. 26. That same evening, he said, junta troops in nearby Nam Hpat Kar lobbed artillery at Ngawt Ngar, damaging a home.

The resident said that the incidents were enough to cause many villagers to flee and others to go into hiding nearby.

“There are only a few people left [in the village],” he said. “Some ran away to the jungle, since people don’t dare to stay in the village anymore.”

Control of border town

Attempts by RFA to reach the junta’s economic minister and Shan state spokesman Khun Thein Maung went unanswered.

Similarly, RFA contacted the Chinese Embassy in Yangon via email regarding the issue of Myanmar nationals fleeing into China due to fighting near the border, but received no response.

Than Soe Naing, a Myanmar political commentator, said he believes that the junta has been stepping up attacks in the area because it “cannot tolerate” TNLA control of Muse, a town of economic importance due to its proximity to the border.

“That’s why the junta is putting pressure on the TNLA, and the fighting has become intense,” he said.

According to the TNLA, the two sides fought nearly 50 battles between July 23 and Sept. 26.

RFA reporting found that a total of nine civilians – including a child – were killed and 13 civilians were injured in Mogoke, Muse and Kutkai townships over the same period.

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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Document #2098940

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Thousands flee Sagaing region townships after Myanmar junta raids — Radio Free Asia

Almost 5,000 people have fled their homes after two days of raids on villages in Sagaing region's Salingyi township, locals told RFA on Thursday.

Troops took several people with them to use as human shields, according to an organization helping victims of the conflict.

The junta sent in a Russian-made attack helicopter on Wednesday morning, targeting villages between Salingyi and Yinmarbin townships.

On Thursday morning, hundreds of troops stormed Let Taung Gyi village in Pale township.

Local People's Defense Forces (PDFs) had planted landmines near the entrance of the village but it's not known whether the junta troops suffered any casualties. They arrested people suspected of planting the mines after entering the village, according to a local who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"About 10 residents were arrested while they were fleeing to safety from Let Taung Gyi village this morning," the resident said, adding that the identities of those arrested are not yet known.

"The column [of soldiers] was in a convoy and moving slowly from one village to another. It had been going for a long time."

The local said the convoy contained around 300 soldiers and 17 military vehicles that opened fire on villages along the route while a helicopter strafed villages in Salingyi and Yinmarbin townships, according to an aid worker who also asked not to be named for safety reasons.

“Helicopters shot at two villages,” they said. “The Mi-35 fired along both sides of the village road because [the junta] were worried PDFs would come along the road.”

Around 5,000 residents of at least five villages fled their homes ahead of the raids, said the aid worker.

Calls to Sagaing region’s junta spokesperson Sai Naing Naing Kyaw by RFA went unanswered Thursday.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region, Salingyi township: Almost 5,000 people flee their homes following raids by junta troops on villages

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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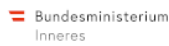
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Document #2098953

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

29 dead as blast hits camp of civilians on Myanmar-China border

Twenty-nine people were killed, including 11 children, when junta air forces dropped a bomb on a displaced persons camp in northern Kachin state, a Kachin Independence Army information officer told Radio Free Asia Tuesday.

Col. Naw Bu said all of the victims were internally displaced people living near Lai Zar in the mountainous border area between Kachin state and China.

Lai Zar is the headquarters of the KIA, which has fought the Burmese military for decades and controls areas of northern Myanmar. Naw Bu claimed the junta was targeting the HQ in the attack, which happened around midnight local time on Monday.

There were 11 children among the dead, who were buried on Tuesday. The 57 injured people have been taken to a nearby hospital. Officials in Lai Zar are still searching for the missing and dead and the identities of those killed is still being investigated.

Naw Bu told RFA that this was not the junta's usual style of attack. Although the military often fires at Lai Zar with heavy artillery from Burmese army camps at Bum Re Bum and Hka Ya Bum, he said that this bombing may have been carried out by a drone.

"It was not heavy artillery. Something like a plane or a drone. If it was by a jet, its sound could have been heard," he told RFA, adding that he wasn't sure yet what type of bomb had been dropped.

He suggested that the military "is threatening us ... so that we join their peace talks" with other ethnic armies.

RFA was unable to independently verify what type of weaponry had been used in the attack.

'There is nothing left for them'

A resident of Lai Zar who was providing assistance told RFA that the injured were still being transported to the hospital as of noon on Tuesday.

"I saw little children injured and breastfeeding infants left by mothers who've been killed," said the resident who, like others interviewed by RFA for this report, spoke on condition of anonymity citing fear of reprisal. "We need to provide assistance for these children."

The resident said that in addition to the 57 injured, "there may be more who did not get to the hospital because the whole refugee camp was wiped out and blown away by the attack."

Another resident who witnessed the attack said that many homes had been destroyed in the attack by what he described as "highly destructive bombs."

"Those who live in the camp no longer have homes -- there is nothing left for them," the resident said. "The bomb left a lake-sized hole in the earth."

He said the attack had also damaged a local church, a preschool building, and the village school.

"All the people at home when the bomb hit died on the spot," he added.

Targeting civilians

Deputy Information Minister Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun denied that the junta carried out the attack.

"Think about whether bombardment or artillery shelling near the border area at midnight is possible or not," he told state-controlled media.

"We can attack any rebel headquarters but we don't do it."

The junta spokesman claimed only the KIA uses drones to drop bombs in the area, in order to attack junta troops.

The United Nations in Myanmar said it was "deeply concerned" by reports civilians, including women and children, were killed and injured.

"IDP [Internally Displaced Persons] camps are places of refuge, and civilians, no matter where they are, should never be a target," the U.N. said on its [Facebook page](#).

Tom Andrews, the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, told RFA in an interview that the incident at the camp is "one more brutal attack on innocent civilians" and "part of the massive campaign of violence against civilians by the military junta."

He called the attack and others like it "probable war crimes."

Jacob, the head of the group Kachin Human Rights Watch, told RFA that the attack was the latest attempt by the military to "wipe out ethnic groups" and that the junta "must take full responsibility for it."

"Many civilians have been killed by these kinds of highly destructive weapons and airstrikes," he said. "The junta is fully responsible for these attacks and must be held accountable."

KIO under attack

The attack comes nearly a year after the [military dropped four bombs](#) into a crowd in Hpakant as the Kachin Independence Organization celebrated its 62nd anniversary. At least 50 were killed and 100 were wounded in the airstrike.

The Kachin Independence Organization is the political wing of the KIA, which has stepped up its resistance since the Burmese military seized power of Myanmar in a coup against an elected government in February 2021.

The village where displaced people in Kachin state are sheltering is 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) from Lai Zar.

The border area was a site of heavy fighting in late June when junta forces attempted to capture Lai Zar using heavy artillery.

According to a U.N. report, as of late September Kachin state had over 93,000 internally displaced people. Waingmaw township, where Lai Zar is located, is home to over 20,000 of them living in some two dozen camps.

Translated by Myo Min Aung. Edited by Mike Firn.

Updated to raise mention that the blast hit a displaced persons' camp and to include additional comments from residents, rights groups and U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews.

ecoi.net description:

Kachin state: 29 people, including 11 children, killed as junta air forces dropped bomb on IDP camp, the Kachin Independence Army says

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

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Document #2098954

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Child killed, 8 civilians injured in shell attack in Myanmar's Bago

One child was killed and several others were injured after a series of attacks throughout Bago division's Nyaunglebin district, according to the Karen National Union. The ethnic armed group controlling the area reported that two children are among the eight people hurt by heavy artillery fired by junta troops.

Two junta battalions attacked Mone township for nine continuous hours, starting at noon, residents reported.

The attack targeted multiple residential villages, killing 14-year-old Yu Ya Ti Naing in Kyaw Hla.

The junta's Infantry Battalion 264, based in Kyaukkyi township, fired at Ywar Kan Lant village on Tuesday afternoon. One family told Radio Free Asia that three of its members were wounded in the attack, including their two-year-old child, Naw Ke Balu Mu.

In Nandameik village another two-year-old and three adults were injured. Shrapnel also injured one abbot at a monastery in Tha Nat Kwin village.

One Nandameik resident, asking to remain anonymous for security reasons, told RFA that two shells could be heard landing in the village.

"One landed on the side of the village and the other landed on a house. All four of its family members, including a child and an elderly person, were hit and injured," they said. "The army is firing heavy weapons at villages almost every day."

RFA called the Bago region's junta spokesperson, Tin Oo, for more information on the attacks, but the calls went unanswered.

Clashes in Nyaunglebin district have been frequent this year, given the Karen National Union's strong presence in Kyaukkyi, Shwekyin, and Mone townships. In August, several attacks in the district [injured 20 people](#) and [killed five](#).

After a series of attacks in May, roughly 150,000 people were displaced in Nyaunglebin district alone since the coup.

Since 2022, armed resistance across central regions of the county has prompted increased attacks from junta adversaries, including airstrikes and gunfire.

Nationwide, 816 civilians were killed and 1,628 were injured by military attacks from January 2022 to September 2023, according to data compiled by RFA.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Bago division, Nyaunglebin district: One child killed and several people injured in artillery fire by junta troops

Country:
Myanmar

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[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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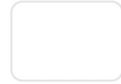
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Document #2099153

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Five-day raid continues as 45,000 flee Myanmar's Sagaing region

One local was killed and nearly 45,000 people were displaced during military raids in Myanmar's northern Sagaing region, local residents told Radio Free Asia on Monday.

Junta troops stormed villages across four townships from Thursday until Sunday, detaining nearly 30 people along the way.

Most of the internally displaced are from Khin-U, Shwebo, Pale and Kanbalu townships.

On Thursday and Friday, five residents remaining in Pale township's Kyar Si village and Kan Gyi village were captured when junta troops stormed the area, Zaw Htet, a leader of the local people's administration group, told RFA.

"The villagers told them to flee," he said, adding that they did not know whether the captured people were still alive. "The junta troops are still in Kyar Si village. Similarly in Kan Gyi, two people were arrested because they did not flee when the troops entered the village. One was shot dead and another was beaten and released."

Zaw Htet identified the dead man as Chan Thar, in his 40s.

Nobody has been in contact with the three men taken from Kyar Si village and their status is still unknown.

Troops are continuing to destroy villages in Pale township, said Nan Win, a member of the township's People's Defense Force. He added that this assault was more violent than ones previously carried out in the township and that troops were still stationed in two villages.

Soldiers set up a blockade in Chin Pyit village trapping nearly 30 residents, locals said. The number of women and children is still unknown, as the army has not allowed anyone to enter the village since Thursday.

The next morning, 500 soldiers raided two more villages, forcing over 15,000 residents to flee.

One woman told RFA the army was shooting people along the route.

"It seems like they will continue to raid Nyan Inn village," she said, requesting anonymity to protect herself. "The people outside the village were chased and shot at with guns and shelled with heavy weapons. The entire village was forced to flee because they were afraid of the [troops]."

The convoy was divided into groups to carry out attacks on more villages in Khin-U and Shwebo townships on Saturday, residents said.

A group of over 100 soldiers raided four villages, according to the residents.

A Khin-U resident who did not want to be named for security reasons told RFA that he had to flee when he heard the convoy was on its way.

"I was so worried about the heavy rain and had to run, despite bad communication," he said. "I had to flee ahead as soon as I heard because I was worried that I would be too delayed by the muddy roads to escape."

On Sunday, nearly 30 civilians were arrested when the army raided Tha Yet Pin Wun village and nearby forests in Shwebo township, said an official of Khin-U Special Force Organization.

"When the army left the village they [civilians] were trapped because they thought that the convoy would not come to the forest where they were fleeing," the official said. "We got the information that mothers ... were among the arrested. We don't know who or how many were arrested. But the junta council troops captured them to use as human shields."

Local defense forces attacked the group entering Khin-U township using landmines, leading to speculation that villagers were held hostage in retaliation, a local defense forces official told RFA, asking to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

RFA called Sai Naing Naing Kyaw, the junta spokesperson, seeking comment on the raids, but he did not reply by the time of publication.

On Oct. 5 and 6, a raid in Sagaing's Pale and Salingyi townships left one man dead, 10 people in police custody, and thousands displaced.

More than 800,000 people in Sagaing region have been forced to flee their homes due to violence since the Feb. 1, 2021 coup,, according to the United Nations.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: One person killed and nearly 30 people detained as junta troops raid villages across 4 townships; almost 45,000 people were displaced

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[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2099154

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta enlists ethnic militias in fight for Kachin state

Myanmar's junta is beefing up its proxy forces in Kachin state, pitting ethnic minority fighters against one another to counter staunch resistance in the northern region, according to military experts.

The use of ethnic fighters, in addition to other militias such as the Pyu Saw Htee, is the latest gambit by the junta to solidify power in Myanmar, where the military has become embroiled in a multifront conflict with armed groups following its February 2021 coup d'etat.

Fierce fighting between junta troops and a joint force of the Kachin Independence Army, or KIA, and People's Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitary groups began moving in July towards the KIA's headquarters in Lai Zar, a remote town in Kachin state on the border with China.

Since then, the junta has been attacking townships on the ground and from the air near Lai Zar and areas along the Myitkyina-Bhamo road, as part of a bid to gain control of the major Kachin cities of Hpakant, Bhamo and Myitkyina.

But the KIA and PDF – loosely organized units of civilians across the country who have taken up arms against the junta – have proved worthy adversaries.

Col. Naw Bu, a spokesman for the KIA, recently told RFA Burmese that more than 80 battles were fought the vicinity of Bhamo, Hpakant, Tanai, Shwegu, Momauk, Waingmaw and at the KIA's Lai Zar headquarters between July 23 and Sept. 11, during which 51 junta soldiers were killed and 106 injured.

The number of casualties among anti-junta forces was not immediately

available and the junta has provided little information on the fighting.

On Monday, Naw Bu said that amid the resistance, the junta has begun enlisting ethnic militias in Kachin and neighboring Shan state to reinforce its Bhamo-based troops in attacking the KIA in Lai Zar.

"These militias are sent to the front line after receiving only brief amounts of military training," he said. "They would never arm those militias unless they were being used on the front line ... So, we ethnic groups have to fight one another and they are happy to let ethnic troops die."

Naw Bu said that the junta had been sending ethnic militias to fight around Lai Zar since Sept. 17.

Among them are the Lisu militia, led by Shwe Min, and the Warazup militia, led by Min Zay Thant, he said. The two militias clashed with the KIA several times since last year, and the Warazup group claimed that its troops raided and destroyed a post manned by KIA Battalion 14 on Oct. 2.

Reports of the junta's use of ethnic militias follow a Sept. 10 visit by junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to northern Shan state, during which he met with several militia leaders and urged them to cooperate in military and security initiatives.

Reserve force for 'dwindling' military

Warazup leader Min Zay Thant told RFA that his militia, based in Hpakant township, has fought the KIA as a matter of "self-defense" against repeated attacks.

"If they attack us, we will respond as much as we can, in accordance with our plan for security of the area and the safety of our people," he said. "If they don't want these problems, the KIA shouldn't attack us."

Min Zay Thant said that the militia was "enforcing the security of Warazup village" and "not involved in junta troop offensives."

Attempts to contact junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comment on the military's use of ethnic militias in Kachin state went unanswered Monday.

But Thein Tun Oo, executive director of the pro-military Thayninga Institute of Strategic Studies, made up of former generals, told RFA that the military has a long tradition of using militias to counter armed groups in Myanmar.

"Beginning with the communist insurgency that started after our [1948] independence, and later, when armed violence took place across the

country, it was the militias that kept the regions stable,” he said. “This is the method that was used in the past, and now it is being used again. It’s nothing special.”

Other observers say the junta’s push to enlist ethnic militias in its fight against the KIA shows that its ground forces are increasingly stretched thin.

“[Militia groups] can be used as a kind of reserve force,” said political commentator Than Soe Naing. “When the military is dwindling, as it is these days, they are mobilized to join in the war.”

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Kachin and Shan States: Junta has reportedly begun to enlist ethnic militias to reinforce its attacks on the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)

Country:

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Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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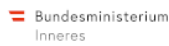
2099154

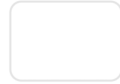
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Document #2099155

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Three Myanmar teens killed in brutal Sagaing beating

Villagers found six bodies after an attack in Sagaing region's Yinmarbin township, residents told Radio Free Asia on Tuesday.

More than 80 troops raided Thea Kone village on Saturday, causing residents to flee. But when locals returned to check the area the following day, six people were arrested. They had returned to feed livestock and were captured by soldiers who were hiding in the village.

By Monday, some had been beaten to death, while others were shot, residents said. The victims included Thant Zin Oo, Khant Nay Naing and Than Htike Aung, who were all 17 years old. Maung Lin, Zaw Maung and Zaw Thu were in their 30s.

Zaw Maung was beheaded by the soldiers, according to one resident, who asked to remain anonymous for security reasons.

"When the group left on Oct. 15, locals returned to their village because they thought that the area was clear. But half of the junta forces remained hiding in the village," he told RFA.

"They arrested [the six] and they were killed before the troops left the village on Oct. 16.

"The corpses were found with bruises and bullet holes from the shooting."

The bodies were found in a pile at the entrance of Thea Kone village on Monday evening. Residents said they also found a blood-stained wooden stick at the site.

One woman said she was afraid to return home after the killings and was

still hiding in the area.

"I've been fleeing ahead of the troops since Oct. 14, and it has been four days today. I still haven't returned home," she told RFA, asking to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"I am afraid that the column will come back. Those arrested were killed while feeding the cattle they left at home. They were not members of people's defense forces. They were local civilians."

Locals said they did not know the reason for the attack. Thea Kone is an agricultural village with just over 600 residents. Calls to Saing Naing Naing Kyaw, Sagaing region's junta spokesperson, went unanswered.

In July, 14 people were killed in Yinmarbin township in another village raid. The township has been the site of multiple airstrikes and arson attacks by junta forces this year.

More than 4,000 civilians have been killed across the country since the military coup in Feb. 2021. according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region, Yinmarbin township: 6 villagers, including 3 teenagers, killed after being detained by junta soldiers

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

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Document #2100309

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta committed 22 massacres since coup, research group finds

Junta troops have carried out 22 massacres across Myanmar since the February 2021 military coup, according to an independent research group based in Yangon.

The massacres – defined as the killing of 10 or more civilians at once – have left more than 500 people dead, including children and elderly, the Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP-Myanmar) said in a statement on Friday.

The most recent attack on civilians killed 29 people, including 11 children, happened on [Oct. 9 when a bomb](#) was dropped on the Mung Lai Hkyet internally displaced persons camp near the Kachin Independence Army headquarters.

“We are always worried about when the artillery will hit us again or when the planes will come back to drop bombs on us,” a woman who survived the attack told Radio Free Asia.

Thirteen of the 22 attacks happened in northern region of Sagaing, ISP-Myanmar found.

The deadliest one took place in [Pa Zi Gyi village in Sagaing’s Kanbalu township](#) on April 11 when nearly 170 people were killed in an air strike, ISP-Myanmar said.

The group’s statement also listed the May 2022 junta raid on Mon Taing Pin village in Sagaing’s Ye-U township that resulted in 29 civilian deaths.

Although the junta has admitted it was behind the air attack on Pa Zi Gyi village, junta spokesman Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun said the regime wasn’t

responsible for the Mung Lai Hkyet bombing.

Kyaw Zaw, spokesman for the National Unity Government – made up of former civilian leaders and anti-junta activists – said that the details of the massacres should be referred to the International Criminal Court.

In July, the NUG's Ministry of Human Rights released a tally that showed 144 incidents in which a junta attack on civilians resulted in more than five deaths.

The junta will continue to commit massacres if ASEAN and the rest of the international community doesn't take decisive action, said Zaw Win of the Southeast Asia-based human rights group Fortify Rights.

Attempts by RFA to contact Zaw Min Tun on Friday for comment on the ISP-Myanmar's statement went unanswered.

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Matt Reed.

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ecoi.net description:

Junta troops have carried out 22 massacres across the country since the February 2021 military coup, an independent Yangon-based think tank says

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2099679

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta razes village in northern Myanmar, opens fire on residents

By RFA Burmese

Updated Oct. 10, 2023, at 8:25 a.m. ET

A man died and eight were injured when troops laid landmines in their village in Sagaing region after raiding it and burning the houses to the ground, locals said Friday.

Two mines exploded while residents were cleaning up the remains of their houses on Thursday, one Pyawbwe resident told Radio Free Asia. After the troops left the village, they turned back to shell the survivors.

"After they left, we went in and cleared the burnt houses in the village. The two mines planted by the junta soldiers were stepped on and blew up," said the man who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals. "The troops shelled the area that had been blown up, injuring nine people with landmines and heavy artillery. One of them died this morning."

The column trekked from Ye-U township to Tabayin township. Villages along the route were systematically raided and bombarded with heavy artillery, he added.

Across the south of Sagaing region, military convoys have carried out brutal attacks, causing thousands to flee their homes in early October.

Troops **killed one man** and arrested 30 on a five-day raid across Shwebo, Khin-U, Pale and Kanbalu townships during the third week of October. On Saturday, villagers found **three teenagers beaten** and shot to death outside their village in Yinmarbin township.

RFA contacted Sagaing region's ethnic affairs minister and junta spokesperson Sai Naing Naing Kyaw seeking comment on the attack, but

he did not reply by time of publication.

Nationwide, junta convoys killed eight civilians from Oct. 1 to 17 with airstrikes and heavy artillery, according to data compiled by RFA. Forty-one people were injured.

More than 800,000 people have fled their homes in Sagaing region due to the conflict since the military coup, according to the United Nations.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

Updated to add that the attack happened on Thursday.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: According to locals, junta troops killed one man, injured 8 civilians and arrested 30 others when they raided a village, burned down houses and laid landmines

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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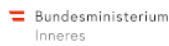
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Document #2099681

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

At least 56 women killed in junta attacks in three months

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops killed at least 56 women in Myanmar during the three months ending September, according to the Burma Women's Union, or BWU, amid a scorched earth offensive that has left the country's most vulnerable victims of the military's worst atrocities.

Of those killed between July 1 and Sept. 28, 30 died by artillery strikes, six by air strikes, 13 were shot dead, one died in custody, three were burned alive, one was raped and killed, and two were beaten to death, the BWU said in a report, citing information compiled by Thailand's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma).

BWU Joint General Secretary Wai Wai told RFA Burmese that her organization is working to ensure that the junta is held accountable for these and other killings carried out in the aftermath of its Feb. 1, 2021 coup d'etat.

"For the women who died because of these inhuman acts committed by the terrorist army, the Burma Women's Union will cooperate with all relevant organizations that are trying to bring justice to the victims, those who lost their family members and survivors," she said.

Wai Wai said the death toll in the BWU's report may be incomplete and could be much higher.

In one incident, in Sagaing region's Wetlet township, on Aug. 27, junta troops raided Kyee Kan (North) village and killed four civilians, including a 20-year-old woman named Shwe Mann Thu, residents said.

The young woman was arrested and killed after being sexually assaulted, said a person close to her family who, like others interviewed for this

report, spoke on condition of anonymity, citing fear of reprisal.

"When her body was found, she was naked, and a ... container was inserted into her vagina," the person said. "We saw signs of rape ... and her throat was slashed."

In another incident, on Aug. 3, a 43-year-old woman displaced by fighting in Kayah state's Demoso township stepped on a military landmine and bled to death, according to Banyar, the director of the Karenni National Human Rights Group.

"The junta troops have planted many mines here," he said. "Most people don't die if they step on ... mines but are wounded or lose their legs ... [others] bleed to death."

Banyar said that no one should have to fear stepping on a landmine in a civilian area where no members of the armed resistance are present.

Most vulnerable at risk

Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe, the minister of women, youths and children's affairs for Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, or NUG, told RFA that women and children have been subjected to the worst violence by junta troops since the coup.

"Currently, more than 2 million people have fled their homes due to the junta's crackdown and more than half of them are women and children," she said. "These incidents are because of the junta, which is targeting the people as if they were enemies and then committing crimes."

She vowed that the junta's crimes against women and children will be thoroughly documented and sent for review to international bodies of justice.

Attempts by RFA to contact junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comments regarding the claims by the BWU went unanswered Monday, however, junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has said that his soldiers "do not harm civilians."

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, over 600 women are among the more than 4,000 people killed by the junta troops since the coup.

Hundreds of civilians killed

The BWU's investigation into the junta's killing of women came as another watchdog, the Pyinsama Mandai Civil Surveillance Group, or PMCSG, said that at least 473 civilians were killed in violence in the regions of Sagaing,

Magway, and Yangon, and Chin state, alone in the four months ending in August.

Among those killed were 435 men and 38 women, as well as 29 boys and two girls under the age of 18, the group said in a report released Monday.

At least 11 massacres – defined as the killing of 10 or more civilians at once – took place between May and the end of August, PMCSG said. Six occurred in Sagaing and five in Chin state, it said.

When compiling records of human rights violations and crimes in the four regions and state, PMCSG said that 405 attacks were committed by the junta, 80 by anti-junta People's Defense Force paramilitary groups, and 44 by unidentified armed groups.

Of the 405 attacks by the junta, 344 targeted civilians and 61 targeted armed groups, it said. At least 205 incidents were classified as war crimes, 112 as human rights violations, and 27 as regular crimes.

PMCSG said it had compiled data for its report based on "information on the ground," as well as from trusted news outlets, and interviews with families of the victims.

Junta representatives were unavailable for comment on the PMCSG's findings.

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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According to the Burma Women's Union (BWU), junta troops killed at least 56 women between July and September 2023

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Document #2099682

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Newborns and women among 50 detained in southern Myanmar

Myanmar troops arrested around 50 villagers in an act of retaliation, locals told Radio Free Asia on Wednesday. After a local People's Defence Force attacked a junta outpost, soldiers captured women, children and entire families from a nearby village.

While the army has already released some detainees, others remain in custody in Tanintharyi, the country's southern coastal region. Locals from Myeik township said soldiers captured them on Monday following a clash that allegedly left several junta soldiers dead.

The arrests are ongoing, a resident who did not want to be named for security reasons told RFA on Wednesday.

"They arrested all the villagers in Tone Byaw Gyi village. There are entire families, even mothers with newborn babies," he said. "Some were released. Some are still being arrested."

The militia group attacked the post in Tone Byaw Gyi last week, an official from the local People's Defense Force said.

"We tried to seize the outpost, but we couldn't because they laid many landmines around it," he said, asking to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

"We left the battle because we were out of arms and ammunition. Our side lost a drone in the battle."

Junta forces are treating villagers harshly because of their heavy losses, he said, adding that 12 soldiers were killed and six were injured.

RFA has been unable to confirm these claims.

Tanintharyi region's junta spokesperson Thant Zin did not respond to RFA's request for comment by the time of publication.

The junta outpost in Tone Byaw Gyi is the site of many ongoing clashes since the country's 2021 coup, with local resistance groups bombing the outpost in July.

Regime troops arrested over 3,200 people in Tanintharyi region between April 2022 and September 2023. Among them, 2,141 were released, according to the independent research group that goes only by the initials FEB Tanintharyi.

More than 25,000 people, including pro-democracy activists, have been arrested since the coup, according to the [Assistance Association for Political Prisoners](#).

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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ecoi.net description:

Tanintharyi region: According to local residents, junta troops arrested around 50 villagers including mothers with newborn babies after a local People's Defence Force (PDF) attacked a junta outpost

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2099977

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Ethnic alliance launches offensive on junta in eastern Myanmar

By RFA Burmese

An alliance of three ethnic armies opened an offensive against Myanmar's military regime on Friday, launching attacks on outposts in seven different locations in Shan state, in the east, including the headquarters of the junta's Northeastern Command.

At around 4:00 a.m., the Northern Alliance made up of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Arakan Army simultaneously struck junta positions in the strategic Shan cities of Kunlong, Theinni, Chin Shwe Haw, Laukkaing, Namhkan, Kutkai, and Lashio – the state's largest municipality.

In a statement, the alliance said "Operation 1027" – named for the Oct. 27 date of the offensive – was initiated to protect the lives and property of civilians, defend its three member armies, and exert greater control over the self-administered regions within their territories.

It said the operation was also part of a bid to reduce the junta's air and artillery strike capabilities, remove the military regime from power, and crack down on criminal activities – including online scam operations – that have proliferated along the country's northeastern border with China.

Residents of Shan state told RFA Burmese that at least eight civilians were killed in Friday's fighting, including three children. The number of combatant casualties was not immediately available, as the clashes were ongoing at the time of publishing.

Pho Wa, a resident of Hopang, near Chin Shwe Haw in Shan's Kokang region, said there were "many casualties" among junta troops and civil servants, and that key infrastructure, including bridges, had been destroyed, slowing the flow of goods in and out of the area.

"Since multiple checkpoints ... were raided, many customs agents, police officers and soldiers were killed," he said. "The residents of Chin Shwe Haw have fled to [a region] administered by an [ethnic] Wa force called Nam Tit. Many are still trapped in Chin Shwe Haw city."

Residents said Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, or MNDAA, troops raided the downtown area of Chin Shwe Haw on Friday afternoon. They said inhabitants of Laukkaing were urgently preparing to flee the area ahead of an anticipated raid on the city by the armed group

Kutkai and Lashio clashes

In Kutkai township, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, soldiers attacked a pro-junta Pan Saye militia outpost on Friday morning, leading to fierce fighting, residents said.

A woman from Kutkai said that junta troops based in nearby Nam Hpat Kar village counterattacked with artillery fire, drawing the village into the battlezone. At least two civilians – a man and a child – were killed and five others wounded, she said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to fear of reprisal.

"I think there were more than 30 artillery strikes this morning," the woman said. "Clashes broke out when the TNLA attacked the [junta's] outposts ... That's why they counterattacked with artillery from Nam Hpat Kar, but many of the shells fell on Nam Hpat Kar village."

A 40-year-old man was also killed in a military air strike amid fighting near Kutkai's Nawng Hswe Nam Kut village, residents said.

In Mong Ko township, fighting between junta forces and MNDAA troops has been fierce since Friday morning, and at midday the junta sent two combat helicopters to attack, residents said.

Junta outposts near villages of Tar Pong, Nar Hpa and Mat Hki Nu in Lashio township, which is the seat of the military's Northeastern Command, as well as a toll gate in Ho Peik village, were attacked Friday morning. Lashio residents said they heard the sound of heavy weapons until 7:00 p.m. on Friday and that all flights out of the city's airport had been suspended amid the clashes.

Due to the complicated and fast-moving situation in the villages around Lashio, the exact number of casualties is not yet known, but a rescue worker said that two people had been injured and sent to the hospital. Fighting in the area was tense until noon on Friday.

'Strategic shift' for region

RFA reached out to TNLA spokesperson Lt. Col. Tar Aik Kyaw regarding the alliance operation, but had yet to receive a response by the time of publishing. Attempts to contact the MNDAA and Arakan Army, or AA, went unanswered Friday.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government's ministry of defense welcomed the operation in a statement.

RFA was unable to reach junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comment, but he confirmed to local media that fighting had taken place in Chin Shwe Haw, Laukkaing, Theinni, Kunlong and Lashio townships.

He said that the military and police had "suffered casualties" in attacks on outposts at Chin Shwe Haw's Phaung Seik and Tar Par bridges.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters at a regularly scheduled press conference that Beijing is "closely following" the latest fighting along its border and called for dialogue between all parties to avoid escalation of the situation.

Speaking to RFA on Friday, military commentator Than Soe Naing said that the alliance operation was retaliation for recent junta attacks on the headquarters of their ally, the Kachin Independence Army, in Lai Zar, a remote town in Kachin state on the border with China.

"I consider this to be a strategic shift for the entire northern region, centered on Shan state," he said.

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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Shan state: Alliance of 3 ethnic armies opened offensive against the military regime launching attacks on outposts in 7 different locations

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Document #2099975

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops attack villages along British-era Myanmar railway

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops sent to repair part of a colonial British-era railway in northern Myanmar's Sagaing region have burned down some 800 houses in two townships since mid-August, forcing around 10,000 people to flee for their safety, residents and local armed groups say.

The north-south railway, which covers the 550-kilometer (340-mile) distance between Mandalay and Myitkyina in the north, could become a key strategic transport route linking two major cities in infrastructure-poor Myanmar.

The railway was built in 1896 by the Burma Railway Company under British rule. It served as the only public commuting option for those traveling between northern and central Myanmar for decades.

But since the military's February 2021 coup d'état, the tracks run through townships that have seen some of the fiercest fighting between the junta and armed resistance groups.

In mid-August a team of some 100 workers began repairs on the line in Sagaing city's Ywar Htaung station, accompanied by around 200 troops, residents told RFA Burmese.

As the team worked, the military escort began attacking villages along the tracks, said a person assisting victims of conflict in the eastern regions of Sagaing and Wetlet townships who, like others interviewed for this report, spoke on condition of anonymity citing fear of reprisal.

"Five people were killed in [Sagaing township's] Kyun U Taw village ... and in Wetlet, two residents of Nyaung Pin Gyi Taw village were killed," the aid worker said. "Almost the entire village of Htan Gyi was destroyed – only 50

out of more than 400 houses are left ... Nearly the entire village of Thone Sint Kan was also destroyed.”

And earlier this month, two railway workers were killed and two others lost their legs when they detonated a mine while repairing the track.

Attacking villages

The aid worker said that junta forces have been arresting civilians in Sagaing township and firing artillery shells at villages, wounding residents. Around 10,000 people have fled for safety in anticipation of the marauding troops, he said.

In total, troops have set fire to four villages each in Sagaing and Wetlet townships over the past two months, residents said.

“The junta troops are providing security for the train track repair team in Wetlet,” said a resident of the township. “The column has raided [the villages] along the railway tracks and now they are stationed in Thone Sint Kan, Thar Laing, Wet Lu Aing and Pauk Kan Bu Tar villages to provide security for running trains to repair the tracks ... Many locals have fled.”

Anti-junta People’s Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitary groups have responded by destroying segments of the line, said Bo Ye Gaung, a fighter with the PDF in nearby Shwebo township.

“In the beginning, they carried out clearance operations up to the Wetlet area,” he said. “After that, they went around the villages near the railroad and burned and destroyed them.”

In any case, Bo Ye Gaung said, the junta will not be able to link Shwebo township to Myitkyina, in Kachin state, by railway because the terrain is too difficult to defend against attack.

Repairs ‘impossible’ amid PDF attacks

A leader of the Kyung Hla-Kanbalu activist group told RFA that the junta’s clearance operations are aimed at establishing control of three key supply routes between Mandalay and Myitkyina – a highway, a railway and a waterway along the Irrawaddy River.

“As far as we can guess, when transporting to the upper part [of Myanmar], they want to use the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road,” said the activist, who also declined to be named. “When they can’t use this strategic route by land, they have to use a waterway ... But for when this route is inaccessible, we assume they are looking for another supporting route.”

Attempts by RFA to contact the junta's spokespersons in Sagaing region and Kachin state for comment on the railway repairs went unanswered Thursday.

However, a regional railway official agreed with the assessment by the PDF's Bo Ye Gaung, saying that even if the route between Mandalay and Myitkyina was repaired, it would be "impossible" to maintain due to regular attacks by the armed resistance using drones and remote-controlled mines.

Translated by Htin Aung Kyaw. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: Junta troops sent to repair part of a colonial British-era railway burned down about 800 houses in 2 townships since August 2023, forcing around 10,000 people to flee

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[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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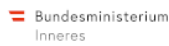
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Document #2099973

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops capture 15 Myanmar villagers to use as human shields

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops arrested 15 people and displaced more than 10,000 during raids in northern Myanmar, residents told Radio Free Asia on Friday.

Around 130 troops entered Sagaing region's Tabayin township on Thursday, prompting more than 10,000 people to abandon some 10 villages in the area.

Soldiers captured 15 people remaining in Shan Taw village to use as human shields, according to locals.

In the evening, the battalion also raided and burned down homes in Boke Htan village, roughly two miles away.

Locals don't know the condition of the detainees or the full extent of the damage in their village, because as of Friday afternoon junta forces still occupied Boke Htan.

"Last night, I saw flames for about an hour, so I think that at least 10 homes will be burned down," said one local who declined to be named for fear of reprisals. "They are still in the village, so I can't say exactly."

The number of arrests may be higher than 15, because some people are still missing from Shan Taw village, he added.

The troops have been razing parts of western Tabayin township since Saturday, when another 10,000 villagers fled.

RFA called Sagaing region's junta spokesperson Sai Naing Naing Kyaw seeking comment on the raids, but he did not reply by the time of publication.

Throughout October, junta troops have conducted several devastating multi-day raids through Sagaing region's southern townships.

Residents have accused the convoys of killing nine locals, including teenagers who were beaten and beheaded, in addition to burning villages and ambushing villagers with heavy weaponry and landmines.

A five-day raid from Oct. 12 to 16 displaced more than 45,000 villagers.

More than 800,000 people in Sagaing region have been forced to flee their homes due to violence since the Feb. 1, 2021 coup, according to the United Nations.

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Sagaing region: Junta troops arrested 15 people, displaced more than 10,000 during raids and captured 15 people remaining in a village to use them as human shields

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RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Fighting rages in Shan state on day four of ethnic offensive

By RFA Burmese

Four days after an alliance of three ethnic armies opened an offensive against Myanmar's military regime, fierce fighting raged on in Shan state on Monday, disrupting communications and transportation in the country's northeast region, residents said.

On Friday, the Northern Alliance or "Three Brotherhood Alliance" made up of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Arakan Army simultaneously struck junta positions in the strategic Shan cities of Kunlong, Hseni, Chin Shwe Haw, Laukkaing, Namhkan, Kutkai, and Lashio – the state's largest municipality.

By Monday, alliance forces had seized major towns throughout northern Shan state as part of "Operation 1027" – named for the Oct. 27 date of the offensive – displacing at least 6,200 people in Hseni, Kutkai, Kyuakme, Lashio, and Muse townships. Some 5,000 of those who fled are taking shelter in religious compounds and the remainder have been forced to stay in temporary camps in the jungle, according to residents and aid groups.

Around 500 people from Chin Shwe Haw are believed to have fled across the border to China for safety.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, or MNDAA, now controls several districts of Hseni city, where a mine explosion was heard early on Monday morning, residents told RFA Burmese.

Pro-junta groups reported that the main bridge to the city from Lashio had been destroyed in the fighting, but details remained unclear amid electricity and communications outages in the region, said a woman from Nar Hsawt village, around 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) outside of Hseni.

"The situation in Hseni is still not good," said the woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to security risks. "[Junta troops] haven't left the city yet. I also heard gunshots and the sounds of mine explosions. The electricity has been out for three or four days."

MNDAA forces in Hseni are in control of some departmental buildings, including the Hseni police station and the general administration department, residents said.

But junta troops are showing strong resistance to the offensive, they said.

Transportation cut off

In Kutkai, fierce battles raged between the military and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, beginning early on Monday near the Nam Hkaing bridge, which connects the city to Muse township.

"They are still fighting and no one can cross to our side," said a resident of Kutkai, who also declined to be named. "The route has been cut off. All road connections and internet services have been cut off."

In Lashio township, residents told RFA that the MNDAA had seized a police outpost on the Lashio-Mongyai Road and fought with junta troops until noon on Monday. They said the fire of heavy weapons could be heard and combat helicopters were seen hovering around Lashio city.

Elsewhere, anti-junta People's Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitaries battled with junta troops in Nawngkhio township's Kyauk Kan village on Sunday, residents said.

A 50-year-old man was killed and two others were killed in the fighting, they said.

"The army was in the monastery and the PDF came and attacked them," a resident told RFA. "Civilians were hit and one person died. Two were injured and sent to the hospital. This morning, there is still no traffic as the road is closed."

Eleven junta troops, including a deputy battalion commander, were killed in the fighting on Sunday, according to the PDF, which said its units in Mandalay region recovered the bodies of eight junta soldiers and a cache of weapons the same day.

RFA could not independently confirm the number of casualties.

No end to offensive in sight

MNDAA spokesperson Yan Naing told RFA on Monday that the Three Brotherhood Alliance now controls Chin Shwe Haw city.

"We aren't in complete control of Hseni yet, but the operation to eliminate the dictatorship is ongoing," he said. "Since Operation 1027 started, a total of junta's 60 outposts have been seized."

He said that there have been casualties on both sides during the clashes, but could not provide exact numbers due to the ongoing fighting.

Junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun confirmed to local media that some military bases and security outposts came under assault in Chin Shwe Haw, Laukaing, Hseni and Lashio townships and said "some members of the security forces" were killed, though the exact number of casualties had yet to be determined.

As of the time of publishing, the Three Brotherhood Alliance had gained control of bridges and roads connecting to the cities of Nawnghkio, Lashio, Hseni, Kutkai, Muse, Kunlong, Chin Shwe Haw, Laukaing and Hopang, according to reports.

Residents said that the military has mainly countered the operation using air and artillery strikes.

Military and political analysts told RFA that the fighting is likely to continue, as the Three Brotherhood Alliance did not include a timeframe in their announcement of the operation and currently controls the main roads in the area.

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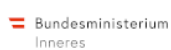
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Junta fires at Myanmar monastery, killing 3 children

By RFA Burmese

Junta artillery shelling killed five civilians, including three children, in central Myanmar, according to residents.

Troops stationed in Magway region's Pakokku township approached two nearby villages and fired heavy weapons at them on Sunday. The bullets hit a monastery in Kan Yat Gyi village, injuring five internally displaced people.

The troops were stationed about three miles away from the villages, said a resident, who declined to be named for security reasons.

"In Kan Yat Gyi, shells fell into a monastery. Two novice [monks] died on the spot," they told Radio Free Asia. Both novice monks were 10 years old.

"Shells fell on a house in Kin village around 11:30 in the morning. The villagers were having lunch at the time. They died soon after. One of them died on the road when she was being taken back to the village from the hospital."

Three Kin village locals, 32-year-old Soe Tint Oo and his six-year-old daughter Thet Htar Nwe, as well as 56-year-old Aye Sint, also died in the attack.

Junta troops stationed in Pakokku township are also firing at Myaing township's villages every day with 80-millimeter weapons, despite there being no clashes with People's Defense Forces for the last three months, residents added.

The unpredictable attacks have forced hundreds of residents from Kin village and two others nearby to flee, locals told RFA. Constant attacks are

likely meant to discourage resistance groups from entering the area.

RFA's calls to Magway region's junta spokesperson Than Swe Win went unanswered.

Junta soldiers have killed over 4,000 civilians since the regime seized power in February's 2021 coup, according to independent monitoring group, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn.

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Magway region: Junta artillery shelling on a monastery killed 5 civilians, including 3 children

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