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Document #2097606

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Troops kill 2 men in Myanmar's Kachin state

Another man from the same township died after being used as a human shield.

By RFA Burmese

Three men from Kachin state's Momauk township died on the same day after running into junta troops, locals told Radio Free Asia on Friday.

On Wednesday, a column of around 250 troops stormed Au Htan Yang village.

They stopped two men who were riding a motorcycle to the village, according to a local who didn't want to be named for safety reasons.

ecoi.net description:

Kachin State: 2 men killed by Junta troops and 10 people from same township taken as human shields; one of them killed in shell explosion

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/kachin-deaths-09012023062540.html>

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“When the column was entering Au Htan Yang village, two young men riding down from Pang Kawng Mu village were arrested and interrogated,” the local said.

“One was tied up on his back and killed. The other one was killed at the garbage dump of Dawt Hpon Yan village [Yin Kwe Taung village].”

The troops then took another 10 people to use as human shields, according to the local.

As they headed towards the headquarters of the anti-junta Kachin Independence Army, one man in his 40s, identified as Chit Min, was killed by a shell explosion.

“The young people were crouching down when the heavy artillery landed,” the local said.

“Chit Min was not able to crouch and was hit. His body was found on the morning of August 31.”

The other nine hostages were released on Thursday evening, the resident added.

Kachin state-based news organization 74 Media reported Friday that around 100 people from villages in the township fled to a Christian church and other 'safe places' while the battle between the troops and the Kachin Independence Army continued.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Taejun Kang.

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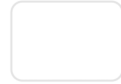
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Document #2096718

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops detain more than 70 civilians in Myanmar's Mandalay region

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops arrested more than 70 residents of Mandalay region's Ngazun township, residents told Radio Free Asia Tuesday.

They said the locals from Tha Kyin village were rounded up in revenge for a People's Defense Force drone attack that killed seven soldiers.

A resident, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal, said troops captured more than 50 villagers on Sunday and around 20 on Monday.

"Everyone they met on their way was grabbed and immediately drugged," the local said.

"The women were arrested at night. Their faces were covered and their hands were tied behind their backs.

"Every man was arrested, fathers, sons and brothers."

He said after the locals were tortured and interrogated at the village administrative office, they were taken to another village in four trucks on Monday.

Around 40 were released on Tuesday, according to a leader of the local defense force, TGYR-Youth Guerrilla Counter Revolution, who wouldn't give his name for security reasons.

"The detainees were taken as human shields and not all were released when the troops arrived at their destination. More than 30 were still held."

RFA's calls to the junta's Mandalay region spokesperson, Thein Htay, went unanswered Tuesday.

Troops have been stationed in Tha Kyin village since a junta captain was killed in a shootout with the local People's Defence Force in February 2022.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Taejun Kang.

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ecoi.net description:

Mandalay region: According to locals, junta troops arrested more than 70 residents in revenge for a People's Defense Force (PDF) drone attack that killed 7 soldiers

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2097962

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

2 years on, Myanmar's resistance is formidable foe of junta: head of shadow govt

Anti-junta forces are no longer a handful of rag-tag units brandishing homemade weapons.

Two years after Myanmar's National Unity Government called for armed rebellion against the leaders of a coup, anti-junta forces are well-organized and making gains against the country's military, the head of the shadow administration said Thursday.

The claims by NUG President Duwa Lashi La suggest a substantial improvement in effectiveness by Peoples' Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitaries, who began their fight against the junta on Sept. 7, 2021, as a scattered group of poorly equipped local units.

"We started with handmade guns to defend our villages, but now, we are able to form strategic and well-organized regiments and battalions armed with automatic rifles that can fight back against the military junta," said the NUG leader.

"We can now use attack drones to effectively fight the military junta troops," he said.

He said the rebel fighters could even threaten the capital, Naypyidaw.

In a statement to mark the second anniversary of the resistance to the military's Feb. 1, 2021, takeover, the NUG Ministry of Defense said that anti-junta forces are in the midst of a "pre-offensive" against the regime.

After uniting nearly 300 PDF battalions in more than 250 townships across the country in the first year of the rebellion, the NUG ministry said it was able to "open additional fronts" against the military in its second year, gaining control of new territory in Sagaing and Magway regions, as well as Chin, Kayah and Kayin states.

Maung Maung Swe, a spokesman for the NUG Ministry of Defense, said that PDF groups had killed 26,194 junta troops and wounded 10,804 others in 9,900 battles over the past two years. He acknowledged that there had been PDF casualties, but did not disclose the exact number.

'Baseless' claims

But Thein Tun Oo, the executive director of the Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies, made up of former military officers, dismissed the NUG's claims as "baseless."

"In terms of security, they may be active in some areas that the military cannot completely control, but what is certain is that they have not been successful enough to control certain regions, as they say," said the think tank director.

"Additionally, their claim to have killed nearly 30,000 military personnel is just propaganda," he said. "I think they just want to announce that they are winning, regardless of what is actually happening on the ground."

Attempts by RFA Burmese to contact junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comment on the NUG's claims went

unanswered Thursday.

At a July 31 meeting of the National Defense and Security Council, junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing confirmed that his soldiers have been killed in PDF attacks, although he did not provide details. He noted that fighting was underway in Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Tanintharyi regions, as well as Kayin, Kayah, Chin and Mon states.

Reliance on air power

The Burmese military has faced challenges in situations where it does not enjoy an asymmetric advantage, said Mimi Winn Byrd, a Burmese-American retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and current military analyst at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii.

"The junta has suffered more casualties in [nearly] every battle in Myanmar, compared with the revolutionary forces," she said. "That's why the junta has to use more air power and airplanes, because they no longer win ground battles. If you keep track of these situations, you can say that the revolution is making a lot of progress."

Military analyst Hla Kyaw Zaw suggested that the resistance is still too fractured to achieve victory, but acknowledged the progress it had made over the past two years.

"If the entire revolution can be solidified under one leadership to operate in proper balance, rather than fragmented without a strong leadership, the [resistance] will win sooner or later," he said.

According to the NUG, fighting is taking place in every one of Myanmar's 14 states and regions except Yangon and Irrawaddy regions, where the resistance regularly carries out targeted bombings.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says that more than 1.6 million people have fled fighting in Myanmar since the military coup. In addition to the more than 300,000 who fled conflict before the takeover, there are currently nearly two million internally displaced people across the country.

Translated by Myo Min Aung. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

Article on organisation of anti-junta forces

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Myanmar

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[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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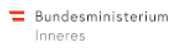
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Document #2097245

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

With nearly 200 destroyed, religious buildings targeted by Myanmar's junta

By RFA Burmese

Myanmar's junta has destroyed nearly 200 religious buildings across the country since the military seized power in February 2021, with most of the devastation in areas with a strong armed resistance, according to data compiled by Radio Free Asia.

The army's bombing and torching of Buddhist monasteries, Christian churches and mosques across the Southeast Asian nation is part of ongoing post-coup surge in violence targeting civilian populations.

The data, based on figures released by religious leaders, right groups and local residents, indicate that most of the buildings were located in western Chin state, where junta forces leveled 85 ethnic Chin Christian churches.

Soldiers set the structures ablaze or hit them with air strikes and ground artillery, according to the Chin Human Rights Organization.

ecoi.net description:

Junta destroyed nearly 200 religious buildings across the country since it seized power in February 2021

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/religious-buildings-09082023132748.html>

Document type:

Media Report

After Chin state, northwest Myanmar's Sagaing region saw the second most buildings destroyed with 50 – most of them Buddhist monasteries.

Junta forces demolished 39 places of worship in Shan and Kayah states, 19 in Magway region, and five in Kayin and Mon states and east Bago region, for a total of 198 structures.

In August alone, the military destroyed seven churches in Chin state and an artillery shell hit a church compound, said Salai Timmy Htut, secretary-general of the Chinland Joint Defense Committee, a rebel group formed in response to the 2021 coup to protect Chin state from the military junta.

"These attacks suggest the junta is increasingly targeting churches lately," he told RFA.

Amid the attacks, worshipers are holding religious services in safer, albeit less convenient locations, he said.

Rev. Bishop Loon Mont, general secretary of the Chin Baptist Federation, said those displaced by fighting pray wherever they have taken temporary shelter or go to secure places.

In Sagaing, junta forces have destroyed 40 Buddhist monasteries, a nunnery, six churches and three mosques.

The presiding abbot of Sagaing's Myauk Yamar Monastery said locals have not yet been able to repair the damaged monasteries and fear that soldiers will destroy them again, once they are rebuilt.

"We are really brokenhearted to see these religious buildings damaged," he said. "This should never have happened in Myanmar. A leader of the country committing these sins is unforgivable."

On Aug. 27, a Buddhist monk was injured and two monasteries were damaged by junta artillery fire from boats sailing down the Chindwin River during an attack on riparian villages in Sagaing's Salingyi township, residents said.

Campaign of intimidation

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In Magway region, Yu Ko, a member of the Htee Lin-Gangaw relief group, said monasteries damaged in fighting have yet to be repaired, and residents are helping the Buddhist monks who fled.

“As the entire villages of some residents were burned down to ashes, their whole population fled to camps for the displaced,” he said. “They have built temporary shelters with bamboo and leaves for their monks.”

Banyar, founder of the Karenni Human Rights Group, told RFA that churches in Kayah state were mostly damaged by aerial bombardments.

“The most recent church the junta attacked was obviously visible as it was located in the middle of the village,” he said. “No military forces were stationed there.”

RFA could not reach junta spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comment.

The junta is targeting places of worship to intimidate civilians, said Ngai Tam Maung, deputy minister of humanitarian affairs and disaster management under the shadow National Unity Government, or NUG.

“The junta’s deliberate attacks on religious buildings should never have been done against the people,” he said.

The NUG’s Ministry of Human Rights is maintaining records of such attacks so that junta leaders can one day “receive the due punishment that they deserve for their terrorist activities,” he said.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Joshua Lipos.

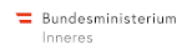
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Document #2097239

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Air, artillery strikes have killed over 450 civilians in Myanmar so far this year

By RFA Burmese

This story includes graphic content.

Saw Ba Bal Sal Pho had just returned home from taking his 8-months-pregnant wife to get examined at an hospital in Bago region's Kyaukkyi township when he realized that he had left his mobile phone at the doctor's office.

The 28-year-old father of three was advised to wait, as a military jet had been spotted in the area but he decided to quickly make the trip, a resident who is close to the young man's family named Saw Alexander told RFA Burmese.

The decision turned out to cost him his life.

As he made his way across the Baw Ka Htar bridge near his home village of Hpa Yar Gyi, the aircraft dropped six bombs, killing him instantly.

ecoi.net description:

According to observers, more than 450 civilians have been killed in air and artillery attacks by the junta so far in 2023

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/strikes-09112023132130.html>

Document type:

Media Report

Saw Ba Bal Sal Pho, killed Aug. 24, is just one of 462 civilians killed by junta airstrikes and artillery fire across Myanmar during the first eight months of the year, according to data compiled by RFA Burmese. At least 812 others were wounded in the attacks.

According to Thailand's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), junta authorities have killed at least 4,071 civilians since the coup.

"While on the bridge, he was hit by the military's aerial bombs," Saw Alexander said. "Half of his head was blown away. Only his face was left. His stomach was blasted open and ... his intestines spilled out."

The junta, which took control of the country in a 2021 coup, has stepped up attacks by jets and artillery in the northern Sagaing region, as well as Kachin and northern Shan states, because they see it as more effective than ground offensive and undermining their morale, said Col. Naw Bu, a spokesman for the ethnic Kachin Liberation Army, or KIA.

"The junta realized that its strategy of deploying offensive columns on the ground is too risky," he said. "Additionally, they seem to believe their shelling and air attacks are lowering the morale of the resistance quite a lot."

Naw Bu claimed that the military was also targeting civilians during these attacks.

Attempts by RFA to contact junta Deputy Information Minister Major Gen. Zaw Min Tun went unanswered.

Thein Tun Oo, the executive director of the Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies formed by former military generals, told RFA that the military "does not condone civilian casualties in meeting its military objectives" and "cannot be blamed" for the deaths.

"Whenever there is a battle in areas close to the civilian population, civilian deaths are inevitable," he said. "You can't blame them for using heavy artillery weapons. According to the Rules of Engagement

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(ROE), when in battles, you can't spare civilians or anybody. As the military has a task to execute, it cannot be too merciful."

Action needed 'immediately'

In another case in late August, a shell fired by the military's Kha-La-Ya Light Infantry Division during a battle with the anti-junta People's Defense Force, or PDF, in Magway region's Gangaw township exploded in the village of Saing Du, killing one resident and injuring two others.

"They fired around the village with 60mm and 120mm artillery," said a resident who, like some others interviewed for this report, spoke on condition of anonymity, citing fear of reprisal. "One of three shells they fired into Saing Du village hit the front of a house. Three people were injured and one of them was killed."

Human rights activists are calling on international governments to pressure the junta over the air and artillery strikes, which they categorized as "war crimes."

The longer the delay in taking action against the military, the more civilian casualties there will be, said the rebel National Unity Government, or NUG, Human Rights Minister Aung Myo Min.

"The military [leaders] will continue to crush and kill people as long as they can – even until their last breath – so we need to take some practical actions immediately, rather than holding discussions and giving presentations," he said. "We especially need to effectively pressure the countries and governments that are involved in the export and sale of jet fuel to the junta to cut off their routes as soon as possible."

The NUG said that it wants to see economic sanctions on all imports of jet fuel for the military and is working to obtain technical assistance to install air traffic alert systems in Myanmar.

Translated by Myo Min Aung. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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Document #2097238

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta airstrike damages school in Myanmar's Sagaing region

By RFA Burmese

A junta attack helicopter targeted a temporary school in Sagaing region's Yinmarbin township, residents told Radio Free Asia Tuesday.

None of the teachers or students at the school in the township's Ka Paing village were killed in the junta airstrike but one person was injured in the arm and chest.

"A 20-year-old man was hit and had to be treated to stop the bleeding because it was life-threatening," said a local, who didn't want to be named for fear of reprisals.

"A Mi-35 came and shot for almost half an hour damaging the school," he said, referring to a Russian-made helicopter.

The man said there had been no fighting near the school, but locals often had to flee ahead of junta raids.

ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: According to residents, a junta attack helicopter targeted a temporary school and injured one person

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/junta-school-airstrike-09122023054745.html>

Document type:
Media Report

The school was set up by civil disobedience movement teachers to serve around 200 students from nearby villages.

The junta has released no statement on the raid. RFA called Sagaing region spokesperson Tin Than Win but nobody answered.

On Sept. 7, a teacher and three students died and seven people were injured by a junta airstrike in Kayin state's Hpapun township, according to the Karen National Union.

Union spokesperson P'doh Saw K'ler Say told RFA Burmese the junta bombed a school dormitory in a deliberately targeted attack.

Education facilities in Myanmar were among those most targeted by attacks of any country in the world last year according to the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

A joint statement by the group and Human Rights Watch said it was second only to Ukraine in terms of attacks.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Taejun Kang.

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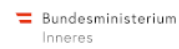
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Document #2097243

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta steps up use of banned cluster bombs

By RFA Burmese

Myanmar's junta is using internationally-banned cluster bombs to attack rebel forces in ethnic areas of the country, said residents, officials from armed ethnic groups and an international campaign working to eradicate the weapons.

Cluster bombs, which can be fired from cannons or dropped from airplanes, explode in mid-air, releasing dozens or hundreds of smaller bombs that scatter and explode, often killing or maiming civilians.

Neither Myanmar nor the United States are among the 123 signatories to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, an international treaty outlawing the use of such weapons.

"Myanmar's production and use of cluster bombs is gravely concerning as these indiscriminate weapons primarily kill and injure civilians. There can be no justification for using them," said Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, a researcher with the Cluster Munition Monitor, the research and monitoring wing of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition based in Geneva, Switzerland.

"All governments should condemn this use of an internationally-banned weapon," he said.

In a [report](#) issued on Aug. 31, the Cluster Munition Coalition said the ruling junta has used domestically-produced cluster bombs in attacks in several parts of the country since 2021, including as recently as early this June.

For example, the junta used cluster munitions in attacks near the villages of Kon Tha, Nam Mae Kon, and Warisuplia, in Demoso township of Kayah

state from Feb. 17 to Mar. 7, the CMC's report said.

The CMC also cited evidence that the Myanmar military used cluster bombs during an Apr. 16 airstrike on Pan Pa village in Chin state's Mindat township, which killed three people, including a child, and injured seven others.

Denial

Thein Tun Oo, executive director of the pro-military Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies, denied that the military was using cluster bombs.

"As far as we understand, as far as we have studied so far, we have never heard of the military using cluster bombs," he said.

"Has the other side got any evidence?" he asked. "For example, the details of where and how a cluster bomb was dropped, [and] what the ground situation was like when it was dropped. They need these details to accuse."

Radio Free Asia could not reach junta spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun for comment.

Former military Capt. Kaung Thu Win, who joined the anti-regime civil disobedience movement, said unexploded submunitions from cluster bombs can detonate later from a mere touch of the hand and are a danger to children and rural residents.

"They will remain unexploded in forests, ditches and forest valleys," he said. "They are hidden for a while and explode only when children are playing near them or civilians go into the forests."

Spreading horror

Salai Htet Ni, spokesman of the Chin National Front, said the junta has been dropping cluster bombs in western Myanmar's Chin state, including on Mount Victoria, where the ethnic Chin nationalist political organization is based, for a long time.

When junta dropped bombs onto the group's headquarters from a plane, the explosions sent out submunitions that exploded again and again in a 61-meter (200-foot) radius, he said.

"And if they strike a forest, all nearby trees and plants are [destroyed], and they won't regrow," he said.

An official from the Karenni National Defense Force's information department said he has seen junta forces use cluster bombs to attack

civilian communities in Kayah state, burning down homes in villages and wiping out entire neighborhoods.

"The junta usually uses these highly explosive cluster bombs when attacking nonmilitary targets [and] civilian areas or places where war refugees shelter," he said. "In 2023, the military started to frequently use 500-pound bombs, missiles and cluster bombs."

The junta's use of these weapons against civilian targets is a violation of international law and a crime against humanity, said Banyar Khun Aung, executive director of the Karenni Human Rights Group.

"The intention behind these cluster bombs ... is to deliberately kill and destroy a large number of the civilian population, causing mass casualties and forcing them to flee to other locations," he said. "That is evidently a horrible human rights violation."

Translated by Myo Min Aung for RFA Burmese. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Malcolm Foster.

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ecoi.net description:

According to residents and officials from armed ethnic groups, the junta is using cluster bombs to attack rebel forces in ethnic areas of the country

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2097645

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar military launches 20 airstrikes during ASEAN Air Chiefs conference

By RFA Burmese

Myanmar's military kept up its campaign of airstrikes even during the controversial ASEAN Air Chiefs conference, to which four countries decided not to send a representative. There were 20 air attacks during the three-day event, locals and ethnic armed groups told Radio Free Asia on Monday.

The conference took place from Sept. 13-15 led by junta Air Force chief Gen. Tun Aung. Air Force chiefs from Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand attended, while Singapore and the Philippines sent video messages. Malaysia and Indonesia boycotted the event.

Meanwhile the junta's brutal air campaign continued with airstrikes on Sagaing region's Indaw, Pale and Ayadaw townships. The air force also attacked Mogoke township in Mandalay region and Kyaukkyi township in eastern Bago region.

In Indaw, junta planes attacked a monastery in Kha Yan Sat Kone village on Friday, following up with a heavy artillery bombardment.

ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region, Mandalay region, Bago region: According to locals and ethnic armed groups, the junta launched 20 airstrikes within 3 days

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/junta-airstrikes-09182023062443.html>

Document type:

The 77-year-old abbot Rajinda and 42-year-old laybrother Win Thein died in the attack, according to a local who didn't want to be named for fear of reprisals.

"The monastery was bombed by an airplane," the local said.

"Seconds later, the junta fired a Howitzer at the same monastery killing the abbot ...That's why the whole village had to sleep outside the village on the night of September 15.

"Now they have returned to the village as they have to cremate the abbot. The abbot's head was split and the civilian was hit in the chest," said the man, adding that there had been no fighting in the area before the attack.

Three junta helicopters carried out 13 airstrikes on villages in Bago region's Kyaukkyi township, according to a Karen National Union statement Friday.

More than 5,000 residents from six villages were forced to flee to escape the bombardment, the statement said.

A local resident, who didn't want to be named for security reasons, told RFA that people are still unwilling to return to their homes because they are afraid of more airstrikes. They are staying in nearby villages and the forest.

On Friday night, a jet fighter fired on a village in Mandalay region's Mogoke township for 15 minutes, residents told RFA Burmese.

They said the junta launched the attack following a battle with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army.

A spokesperson for the ethnic armed group, Lt. Col. Mong Aik Kyaw, said the junta has stepped up its air campaign recently.

"We have seen more airstrikes from their side," he said.

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“Now they are attacking civilian targets. Last month, a jet fighter came and attacked Taung Gyaw hill where there was no fighting.”

He added that since July 23, there have been more than 40 clashes between the junta army and the TNLA.

Calls to junta Deputy Information Minister Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun went unanswered.

The Air Force chiefs who attended the ASEAN conference in Naypyitaw discussed regional security and cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw spokesperson Sithu Maung said all ASEAN members should have boycotted the conference.

“Airstrikes targeting civilians, not military targets are war crimes and crimes against humanity,” said the representative of the committee which is made up of members of the National League for Democracy and other lawmakers ousted in the February 2021 coup.

“If they attended the conference knowing of this situation it would encourage violence.”

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Taejun Kang.

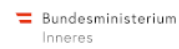
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Document #2097964

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops kill 7 villagers after rebel attack on gunboats

Killings were retribution and an intimidation tactic, residents say.

Junta troops have killed at least seven civilians in Myanmar's northern Sagaing region in what residents and rebel fighters say was retaliation for an attack on their gunboats by members of the armed resistance.

The killings are the latest example of deadly attacks on civilians by junta troops that rights groups say amount to crimes against humanity since the military seized power in a Feb. 1, 2021 coup d'état. Thailand-based NGO Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) says authorities have killed at least 4,092 civilians in the 31 months since the takeover.

ecoi.net description:

Sagaing Region: According to residents, junta troops killed 7 civilians in retaliation for attack on junta gunboats

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/ne>

The seven victims were killed Sunday after six junta gunboats carrying more than 100 soldiers, weapons, ammunition and food from Mandalay to Bhamo in Kachin state along the Irrawaddy River came under heavy artillery fire from the anti-junta People's Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitary group, residents told RFA Burmese.

A few hours after the attack near Katha township's Toke Gyi village – a settlement of around 200 houses located some 360 kilometers (225 miles) north of Mandalay and 30 kilometers (20 miles) west of the Kachin border – the gunboats docked and unloaded the soldiers, who opened fire and raided the area, the residents said.

"When they reached Toke Gyi village, they entered and set fire to the houses," said one of the residents who, like others RFA interviewed for this report, spoke on condition of anonymity citing fear of reprisal. "They killed seven villagers who remained in the village."

The resident said that troops shot and killed some of the villagers at first sight, and captured, tortured and killed others. He said all seven were killed on the same day and that four of the bodies have since been recovered.

"We also found traces of the other three being killed in some places," he said. "[Of the four bodies recovered] two were shot to death. One had a bullet wound on the right side of his chest and another was shot in the head. The other two were found to have been burned alive."

[ws/myanmar/gunboats-09192023153602.html](https://www.ecoi.net/en/news/myanmar/gunboats-09192023153602.html)

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The victims whose bodies were recovered are Aung Lin, 41, and Khin Maung Htay, 43, from Toke Gyi village; and Ye Maung, 30, and Nyang Tun, 38, from nearby Than Pa Yar Kone village. The bodies of Aung Than, 23, Ko Chal, 22, and Bo Bo Tun, 21 – all from Toke Gyi – remain missing.

Yae Le and Moe Sit raids

Residents said that the gunboats left Kathar township the following morning and anchored just across the border in Kachin's Shwe Gu township, where soldiers raided Yae Le village and arrested 50 people.

"The junta troops arrested several men and women in Yae Le yesterday," a resident of the village told RFA on Tuesday. "The women were later released, but the men were forced to work as porters, carrying equipment to [nearby] Moe Sit village."

The resident said that the troops raided Moe Sit village on Tuesday.

More than 1,000 residents of Yae Le and Moe Sit were forced to flee their homes during the raids, he said.

The scale of military arson and total number of people who remain in the custody of junta troops from the two villages was not immediately clear.

RFA contacted Tin Than Win, the junta's minister of natural resources and spokesman for Sagaing region, for more information about the attacks, but he declined to answer, saying that he has no knowledge of security and military issues. Calls to Win Ye Tun, the junta's social affairs minister and spokesman for Kachin state went unanswered Friday.

Pro-junta channels on the social media platform Telegram reported that six bodies of PDF members were recovered during what they termed a "clearance operation" in Katha township, but RFA was unable to independently verify the claim.

Campaign of intimidation

An official with the Katha Township PDF told RFA that the junta troops killed the seven villagers as retribution for the attack his group led on their gunboats.

"One of their ships was hit quite a lot, so they approached the old village of Than Pa Yar Kone and then went up to Toke Gyi village, shot people, arrested them, and burned their houses," the PDF official said.

At least 45 houses were razed in the military raid, he said.

According to data compiled by RFA, at least 32 civilians from Katha township were killed in junta airstrikes, artillery fire and while being held in military custody in the nine months from January to September.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recently said that more than 26,000 people have been displaced by conflict in Kachin state since the coup.

Win Naing, a representative of the People's Hluttaw of Moe Kaung township, said the military kills innocent civilians as part of a campaign of intimidation that it hopes will erode public support for the armed resistance.

"If [soldiers] are hurt in fighting, they raid villages and attack innocent civilians who can't fight back," he said. "That's how they terrify the people, hoping that they'd stop supporting the revolution. They use this strategy as a weapon."

Translated by Myo Min Aung. Edited by Joshua Lipes and Malcolm Foster.

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Document #2097644

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Myanmar junta kills 4 civilians during Tanintharyi mass arrests

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops killed four civilians who were arrested with scores of others in a raid on Tanintharyi region's Palaw township, residents told Radio Free Asia on Tuesday.

Soldiers raided Let Ku village on Friday, seizing around 130 civilians, according to one local who didn't want to be named for safety reasons.

"Locals from Let Ku villages and nearby villages were arrested and held in Du Yin Pin Shaung village and military Infantry-285 camp near Let Ku village," he said.

"The arrested have not been released to this day."

Troops killed four villagers while another man died in a heavy artillery attack, residents told RFA Burmese.

They identified the four family members from Let Ku as Ba Kyin, his son Ngwe Soe, his daughter Thandar Nwe and his niece Yi Win.

ecoi.net description:

Tanintharyi region: According to local residents, the junta killed 4 civilians during a mass arrests; another man died in a heavy artillery attack

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/tanintharyi-arrests-09192023045603.html>

Document type:

RFA called Tanintharyi region junta spokesperson Thant Zin to seek comment on the killings but nobody answered.

Junta troops are fighting with a local People's Defense Force, prompting residents to flee six villages in Palaw township.

More than 75,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes in Tanintharyi region since the Feb. 2021 military coup, according to the United Nations.

Edited by Mike Firn and Elaine Chan.

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Document #2098933

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Disabled man's burned body found near Myanmar's Ayeyarwady River

Residents of Kachin state's Shwegu township found the mutilated, burned body of a disabled man on the banks of the Ayeyarwady river, they told Radio Free Asia on Thursday.

They said 30-year-old Ko Saw was a gold miner from Yae Le village.

Junta troops arrested him on Monday, after they arrived in the village in a fleet of warships.

One local said the man had a damaged leg and arm, injured in the gold mine, and bad eyesight.

He said the man was unable to run away and thought the troops wouldn't arrest him because he was disabled.

"When the soldiers found him, they searched his home and found the People's Defense Force uniform of his brother-in-law in a box. He didn't even know he had that suit," said the local, who didn't want to be named for safety reasons.

ecoi.net description:

Kachin state, Shwegu township:
Disabled gold miner found dead
after being arrested by junta
troops

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/ayeyarwady-body-found-09212023065028.html>

Document type:
Media Report

"The troops immediately arrested him and stabbed him. His legs were beaten and crushed. Then he was burnt to death."

Another resident said troops tied the man's hands behind his back and beat him before taking him away.

The six warships that arrived Monday were attacked by a local People's Defense Force the previous day, residents said.

On Sunday, the vessels moored at Toke Gyi and around 200 soldiers raided the village, shooting dead seven residents and burning down 45 homes.

The next day, troops torched around 10 rafts and several boats at Yae Le, used to prospect for gold in the river.

They accused locals of harboring People's Defense Forces and ethnic Kachin Independence Army fighters.

More than 1,000 residents of Yae Le fled their homes ahead of the raid.

When RFA called the junta spokesperson for Kachin State, Win Ye Tun, seeking comment on the killings, he said security issues were not related to him.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn and Taejun Kang.

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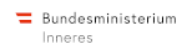
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Document #2098257

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Troops arrest more than 100 villagers in Myanmar's Magway region

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops arrested and interrogated more than 100 villagers in Magway region's Gangaw township after anti-junta militias captured weapons in a raid on an arms depot, local People's Defense Forces said this week.

The roundup began on Monday in Kant That village, where villagers had been armed and told to defend the depot.

Earlier in the day, combined People's Defense Forces (PDFs) attacked the arms depot, according to a statement Thursday by the Yaw National Revolution Force.

They fought a 20-minute battle with junta troops and affiliated Pyu Saw Htee soldiers.

The statement said that three members of the combined junta forces were killed and the rest of the troops fled their camp.

ecoi.net description:

Magway region: According to local People's Defense Forces, junta troops arrested and interrogated more than 100 villagers after anti-junta militias captured weapons in a raid on an arms depot

Country:
Myanmar

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

Original link:
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/magway-mass-arrests-09222023052338.html>

A PDF official who didn't want to be named for security reasons said the defense forces were able to seize a lot of guns and bullets because the villagers who had been told to guard the depot didn't put up a fight, prompting an angry response from junta troops.

"The entire village was arrested and interrogated because they broke the security line," he said.

"Some villagers had no experience and ran away without shooting."

RFA phoned Than Swe Win, the junta spokesperson for Magway region, to get comment on the arrests but nobody answered.

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

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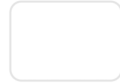
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Document #2098258

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta troops kill 28 militia members in Myanmar's Sagaing region

By RFA Burmese

Junta troops ambushed and killed 28 People's Defense Force members in Sagaing region's Myinmu township, witnesses told Radio Free Asia on Monday.

The dead include 20 members of the Black Eagle defense force, five members of the Myaung Revolution Army, two members of People's Security Group-Myinmu and a 14-year-old boy connected with the anti-junta militias, a People's Security Group official told RFA Burmese.

A local who saw the bodies said that some were shot dead, but others died after their limbs were cut off.

"They were shot in their heads and chests and body parts were cut off," said the local who didn't want to be named for fear of reprisal.

"We were not able to cremate the bodies because there was not enough wood for the number of dead. They were buried by backhoe."

Military violence across Sagaing

Sagaing region has been an anti-junta stronghold and cradle of resistance to the country's brutal military rule since the army seized power in a February 2021 coup.

Junta forces have swept through villages across Sagaing, sometimes more than once, to find and punish suspected resistance fighters belonging to People's Defense Forces and their civilian supporters.

Junta troops often torch not only the houses of families they suspect of being revolutionaries, but also those of teachers who participated in the

nationwide civil disobedience movement following the coup.

In 2022, [RFA reported that junta troops killed 29 men in Mon Taing Pin village](#), maiming and burning the bodies in a 44-hour orgy of violence that was recorded on a soldier's cell phone.

RFA analyzed a cache of files retrieved from a cell phone that was dropped in a neighboring township and found by a villager. It included an image of about 30 men with their hands tied behind their backs on the grounds of a monastery, and victims of execution a day later.

Other instances of Burmese military atrocities and abuses by security forces have been revealed through [testimony from victims and military defectors](#); [images](#) and [footage from citizens' cell phones](#); [CCTV video](#); and [satellite imagery](#) analysis of dozens of [villages](#) in Sagaing burned to the ground.

More allegations of atrocities and war crimes by junta forces have piled up since the Mon Taing Pin massacre. In the deadliest reported incident since the coup, as many as 200 people were killed in an [April 11 air strike on Pa Zi Gyi village](#) in Sagaing's Kanbalu township.

Video of mutilated victims

In last week's incident in Myinmu township, video obtained by RFA showed women and children crying next to the mutilated bodies.

Residents said that the defense force soldiers killed were men from Myaung and Myinmu townships who joined the militias because they wanted to defend their villages after the coup.

Junta telegram channels said Saturday that the junta seized 10 guns and ammunition in Friday's ambush.

The column of 70 troops who killed the defense force members occupied Myaung township on Saturday.

Calls to the junta spokesman for Sagaing region, Tin Than Win, went unanswered.

From February 2021 to July 2023, there were 144 killings of five or more people across the country, and 1,595 people died, the shadow National Unity Government's Ministry of Human Rights announced on July 31.

The NUG, a shadow government formed of politicians ousted in the coup and other pro-democracy campaigners, did not specify whether the dead were civilians or defense force members.

Translated by RFA Burmese. Edited by Mike Firn, Elaine Chan and Matt Reed.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: According to local residents, junta troops ambushed and killed 28 People's Defense Force members

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

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Document #2098264

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Troops kill 2 locals and militia member in Myanmar's Sagaing region

By RFA Burmese

This story contains graphic and disturbing descriptions of killing.

Junta troops killed a People's Defense Force member and two civilians in Sagaing region's Pale township this week, Pale People's Administration Group told Radio Free Asia on Thursday.

Residents of Nyaung Kone village fled ahead of a morning raid by around 80 soldiers on Tuesday.

When some returned later in the day, troops arrested and killed three of them, according to the administration group's Kyaw Soe Win.

"[Some locals] were watching to see if the junta troops would leave the village. They entered the village to have a look," he said.

"When we entered the village on Wednesday morning, we saw some locals and a People's Defense Force soldier had been brutally killed. Their hands were cut off and they were beheaded."

Kyaw Soe Win said three People's Defense Force members managed to escape but were hit and injured by artillery fragments.

Pro-junta Telegram messaging channels said three defense force soldiers were killed.

The junta spokesperson for Sagaing, Sai Naing Naing Kyaw, told RFA he was not aware of the incident.

It's not known if the latest raid was carried out by the junta's notorious

Ogre Column although the method of killing was similar to their tactics.

In March and April this year, Ogre Column troops raided Sagaing, Ye-U, Khin-U, Myinmu, Taze and Myaung townships in Sagaing region, cutting off limbs and beheading people they captured.

More than 800,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes in Sagaing region to escape the fighting, according to the United Nations.

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ecoi.net description:

Sagaing region: After raiding a village, junta troops killed a People's Defense Force member and 2 civilians

Country:

Myanmar

Source:

[RFA – Radio Free Asia](#) (Author)

Original link:

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Document #2098266

RFA – Radio Free Asia (Author)

Junta shells school in Myanmar's Sagaing region, injuring 18 kids

By RFA Burmese

At least 18 children were injured and receiving medical care after junta troops fired artillery shells on a village in Myanmar's northern Sagaing region during the middle of the school day, according to residents.

The incident was the latest example of casualties caused by the junta targeting a civilian area in Myanmar, where authorities have killed at least 4,131 people since the military seized power in a Feb. 1, 2021, coup d'état and embarked on a nationwide offensive to root out its opposition.

On Wednesday, the military's Light Infantry Battalion 102, based in the town of Wuntho, fired three howitzer shells at Gyoe Taung village around 13 kilometers (8 miles) to the northeast, one of which exploded around 6 meters (20 feet) away from the village school while classes were in session.

Residents told RFA on Friday that eight boys and 10 girls between the ages of eight and 12 were injured in the shelling, six seriously.

"It's a relief that the shell exploded outside the school," said one resident of Gyoe Taung who, like others interviewed for this report, spoke to RFA Burmese on condition of anonymity, citing security concerns. "If it directly hit, the children would likely have died."

The resident said that several of the children suffered severe bruising to their chests, but that most "are doing fine" after receiving medical treatment from the People's Administrative Organization, which opened the school serving more than 100 children between the ages of four and 12 in the courtyard of the village monastery.

The school had to be temporarily closed due to damage from the shelling,

he said.

According to military experts, the 155-millimeter howitzer used in the attack is typically deployed to back ground troops on the front line of a conflict and is capable of lobbing shells from up to 40 kilometers (25 miles) away.

More than 1,000 residents of villages on the eastern side of Wuntho township are currently sheltering in Gyoe Taung to avoid other fighting in the area, sources said.

Another resident of Gyoe Taung told RFA that people are “terrified” and described the children hit by the shelling as “panic-stricken” due to the random use of heavy artillery by junta troops in the township.

“The shelling hit right near the school where the children were studying and the monastery, which is unacceptable,” the resident said. “The children were scared and started to cry. They panicked as their bleeding injuries were treated.”

The resident said that villagers are “afraid for their lives, as [the soldiers] fire indiscriminately in the township.

“Even if they don’t carry out a raid, the people here are scared,” he said.

‘Unprovoked’ retaliation

The shelling took place a day after members of the anti-junta People’s Defense Force, or PDF, paramilitary group approached and opened fire on a military checkpoint in Wuntho, killing some members of the pro-junta Pyu-saw-htee militia and capturing weapons, residents told RFA, calling the attack “unprovoked.”

A member of the Wuntho PDF said that while the situation in the township is currently stable, the risk of military shelling is constant.

“The junta column is not in much of a position to leave its base to attack,” he said. “As the revolutionary forces attack them jointly, whenever they leave [the safety of their base], they can only remain in close proximity to the town center.”

“As the [junta troops] couldn’t defeat the [opposition], they just fired [shells] randomly,” he said.

In a statement on Thursday, the Ministry of Defense of the shadow National Unity Government, or NUG – made up of former civilian government leaders and anti-junta activists – described the Gyoe Taung village incident as a “military war crime.”

"We have witnessed the junta targeting civilians without exception for children, the elderly, pregnant women and religious leaders," said NUG spokesperson Nay Phone Latt. "The NUG will make sure that all perpetrators are held accountable for these crimes and are given due punishment in the future."

Deadly Sagaing shelling

The incident follows one on Sept. 10 when an unexploded military 60-millimeter shell went off in Wuntho's Taung Boet Hla village, killing one child and seriously injuring six others who had been playing with the munition.

The situation in Gyoe Taung village also came as junta troops fired heavy artillery fire on Sagaing's Kale township on Friday, killing a civilian woman and injuring a civilian man in Dine Kone village, residents said.

Three of 10 shells fired by the military hit the center of Dine Kone, killing 30-year-old Pae Hlaw, they said. The identity of the injured man was not immediately clear.

"One of their shells directly hit the home of the victims," one resident said.

Two civilians in Kale's Tat Oo Thida ward were injured by junta shelling on Thursday night, according to township residents, while on Wednesday, a civilian home in southern Kale's Sha Pho village was hit by heavy artillery, killing four family members.

Attempts by RFA to contact Sai Naing Naing Kyaw, the junta's minister of ethnic affairs and spokesman for Sagaing region, regarding the heavy artillery fire incidents, went unanswered Friday.

Junta troops have killed at least 414 children across Myanmar since the coup, the NUG's ministry of youth and children's affairs said in a June 6 statement.

According to statistics compiled by RFA, junta airstrikes and heavy artillery fire killed a total of 462 civilians and injured 812 others during the eight months from January to the end of August.

Translated by Myo Min Aung. Edited by Joshua Lipas and Malcolm Foster.

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Sagaing region: According to residents, at least 18 children were injured after junta troops fired artillery shells on a village during the middle of the school day

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