



Myanmar Situation Update (3 to 9 May 2021)

The pro-democracy protests continued across the country in different townships despite the continuing lethal attacks by the junta forces and arrests of protesters and the youth. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) figures showed that as of 9 May, 780 people have been killed by the junta, 3,826 are currently under detention while 84 were sentenced. 1,540 arrest warrants have been issued and among them 20 were sentenced to death and 14 to three years imprisonment¹.

Junta also said that it would not agree to a visit by a Southeast Asian envoy until it could establish stability. Maj. Kaung Htet San, a spokesperson for the junta's State Administration Council said in an online news conference: "Whether we will follow the suggestions of ASEAN or not will depend on the situation of the country."

Explosions and killings have been reported in several states and regions including Yangon in the past week while growing numbers of clashes between the military and the civilian defense forces are also reported in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions. Four administrators appointed by the junta were killed in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, while a NLD MP and four other people were killed in the explosion of a parcel bomb in Bago region.

Local media also reported the fighting between the military and the KNLA and KIA in Kachin and Kayah States and the military air raids in those areas left dozens of civilians injured. It is also reported more than 7000 people in Papun district in Karen State are hiding as their villages are being attacked while more than 3000 fled into Thailand². People of Salween River Basin Network, a civil rights group based in Mae Hong Son, urged the Thai government not to push the refugees back. The CSOs also repeatedly requested humanitarian organisations and relief agencies to take part in the distribution. In addition, more than 200 local and the international NGOs called on the UN to impose Myanmar arms embargo³.

The junta also banned 3 media outlets including Myitkyina Journal, The 74 Media based in Kachin state and Tachileik News Agency from Shan state, totaling up to 8 abolished media outlets since the coup. The detained Japanese journalist, Yuki Kitazumi, was charged for spreading "fake news".

¹ <https://aappb.org/?p=14941>

² <http://karennews.org/2021/05/people-displaced-by-burma-army-in-karen-state-facing-crisis-aid-workers-call-for-food-medicine-clean-water-to-be-urgently-delivered/>

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/05/un-security-council-adopt-global-arms-embargo-myanmar>

The National Unity Government (NUG) set up a “people’s defence force” to protect civilians and outlined 35-point basic principles for its defense ministry, after the junta announced that the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), National Unity Government (NUG) and People Defense Force (PDF) are terrorist organizations.

Timeline of events

Date	Developments
3 May	<p>An NLD parliamentarian and three policemen taking part in a civil disobedience movement and a villager were killed by a parcel bomb explosion in a Pyay Township where they are taking shelter in Bago⁴.</p> <p>The Mansi Township police chief was killed and another police officer was seriously injured in an attack by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) on the central police station in the town in Bhamo District, Kachin State⁵.</p> <p>Local media reported eight Myanmar military soldiers were killed in Hakha, Chin state by the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) on Saturday and Monday’s night.</p> <p>The Myanmar military continued to launch lethal air attacks on villages in Kachin State’s Momauk township after one of the military helicopters was shot down by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA)⁶.</p> <p>The CRPH announced the appointments of two union ministers for Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Labour and four deputy ministers for Ministries of Human Rights, Labour, Education and International Cooperation⁷.</p> <p>The Karen National Union (KNU) appealed to other ethnic armies to unite against the military, as the country enters its fourth month under the junta regime⁸.</p> <p>Japanese freelance journalist Yuki Kitazumi who was detained by junta forces since April was indicted on a charge of spreading “fake news”. He could face a jail term of up to three years if convicted under the penal code as amended after the coup⁹.</p>

⁴ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/nld-mp-killed-explosion-myanmars-bago-region.html>

⁵ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/township-police-chief-killed-kia-attack-northern-myanmar.html>

⁶ <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/airstrikes-continue-after-kia-shoots-down-junta-helicopter-in-momauk>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/posts/168791508580162>

⁸ <https://mizzima.com/article/knu-calls-unity-among-ethnic-fighters-myanmars-east>

⁹ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/japanese-journalist-indicted-myanmar-fake-news-charge.html>

	<p>Pope Francis invited believers to say a special prayer for Myanmar every day during this Marian month of May during the recitation of the daily rosary¹⁰.</p> <p>The United States urged ASEAN to press Myanmar to implement actions agreed at a regional summit last month during the Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with the foreign minister of Brunei, the bloc's current chair, in London¹¹.</p> <p>On World Press Freedom Day, the diplomatic missions in Myanmar called for the immediate release of all media workers, the establishment of the freedom of information and communication and for the end of all internet restrictions in Myanmar¹².</p> <p>The Manipur High Court in India allowed seven Myanmar citizens to seek protection from the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi. Those included the journalists from Mizzima media.</p>
4 May	<p>Three bomb blasts were reported in different locations in Myaing township in Magway region targeting government offices. There were also reports that a bomb went off at the college of education in the Mon State capital Mawlamyine¹³.</p> <p>Two bomb blasts were reported at the entrance of a newly-opened military run hospital, the MoeKaung Treasure Maternal and Child Hospital, in Yankin township of Yangon¹⁴.</p> <p>The Arakan National Party (ANP), the largest ethnically Rakhine party to cut ties with junta three months after taking a seat on the State Administration Council. The party's central executive committee decided to end the party's association with the military council and the party's central committee is to meet again to make a final decision¹⁵.</p> <p>The junta lifted the curfew hours to 10 pm to 4 am in Yangon region except Cocokyun.</p>

¹⁰ <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/pope-francis-myanmar-mass-may16-ascension.html>

¹¹ <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/junta-05032021164824.html>

¹² <https://mm.usembassy.gov/statement-from-diplomatic-missions-to-myanmar-on-world-press-freedom-day/>

¹³ <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/blasts-reported-at-three-locations-in-magways-myaing-township>

¹⁴ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/new-myanmar-junta-owned-hospital-targeted-bombs.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/after-working-with-myanmars-regime-rakhines-major-party-remains-divided.html>

	<p>The junta announced that anyone using satellite dishes to watch television faces up to one year in prison or a fine of K500,000 (US\$320)¹⁶</p> <p>Myanmar's military has received hundreds of millions of dollars from gas sales through a financial scheme linked to a pipeline exploited by French energy giant Total, a French media reported¹⁷.</p>
5 May	<p>While soldiers nearby fired at a motorcyclist who ignored their order to stop, they accidentally shot and killed an ethnic Myanmar Chinese civilian, who was waiting her turn to get a COVID-19 vaccine jab at the hospital in Mandalay¹⁸.</p> <p>Myanmar's ambassador to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun urged the US to impose "targeted, coordinated and tougher sanctions" on the Myanmar military and its businesses such as Myawaddy and Innwa banks, the state-owned Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE).</p> <p>The General Administration Department under the Union Government Office has been moved back under the Ministry of Home Affairs by the junta according to the Article 419 from the constitution¹⁹</p> <p>A group of security personnel who were standing guard at an off-take station in Mandalay of 800 km long oil and natural gas pipelines that run from western Myanmar to China were deadly attacked²⁰.</p> <p>The ousted chief minister of Sagaing Region has been charged under the Anti-Corruption Law along with four of his regional cabinet members in Monywa²¹.</p> <p>The National Unity Government (NUG) set up a "people's defence force" to protect civilians, as the police and military deploy deadly arms against anti-coup protesters²².</p>

¹⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/06/myanmar-junta-bans-satellite-television>

¹⁷ <https://www.news24.com/fin24/economy/world/total-shared-gas-revenue-with-myanmar-military-report-20210505>

¹⁸ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/ethnic-chinese-woman-waiting-covid-19-jab-shot-dead-myanmar-junta-troops.html>

¹⁹ <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/general-administration-department-transferred-to-home-affairs-ministry>

²⁰ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/attack-oil-and-gas-pipelines-china-off-take-station-spotlight-stakes-junta-regime-protect-protesters-arson-attack-strategic-investment-unsupport.html>

²¹ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-accuses-sagaing-chief-minister-and-other-cabinet-members-of-corruption>

²² <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/115217634032210>

	<p>The junta abolished additional 3 media outlets, Myitkyina Journal and The 74 Media based in Kachin state and Tachileik News Agency from Shan state, totaling up to 8 abolished media outlets²³.</p> <p>Zin Mar Aung, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar, met with 36 parliamentarians from European states, the European Union, and Australia to discuss the current situation in Myanmar and explore possibilities for concrete support²⁴.</p> <p>About 200 non-governmental organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called on the UN Security Council to impose an arms embargo on the military junta in Myanmar²⁵.</p>
6 May	<p>In targeted attacks, three administrators appointed by the junta have been killed in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions²⁶.</p> <p>The lawyer of the ousted State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi again demanded an in-person meeting with her. The judge will decide at the next hearing, scheduled for May 20, whether or not to grant an in-person meeting²⁷.</p> <p>A court procedure of ousted State Counsellor Aung Suu Kyi took place by video conference at the Yangon Eastern District Court. Her legal team was not able to attend the procedure as the "internet was not available at the court" where the lawyers were, according to a lawyer. At the Yangon court, she has been charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act, while she is facing another five cases in a township court in Naypyitaw.</p> <p>Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden in a joint statement expressed support for women's and girls rights in Myanmar. They called for the immediate and unconditional release of all human rights defenders²⁸.</p> <p>The UK brought together foreign and development ministers from G7 countries, as well as guests from the Indo-Pacific region and Africa met for decisive co-ordinated action on</p>

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1188004118303599>

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/114713624082611>

²⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/05/un-security-council-adopt-global-arms-embargo-myanmar>

²⁶ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-military-appointed-administrators-killed-by-anonymous-attackers.html>

²⁷ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/suu-kyis-lawyer-says-case-cannot-proceed-without-in-person-meeting-with-her-client>

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofSwedenSectionOfficeinYangon/posts/2784273301884013>

	shared global challenges and threats including to agree tough, further measures on Myanmar if the military refuses to change course ²⁹ .
7 May	<p>Media reported that at least 16 military troops were killed and several were wounded in a series of shootouts with civilian resistance forces of Kani Township in Sagaing Region.</p> <p>The National Unity Government (NUG), has outlined 35-point basic principles for its defense ministry which are quite different from the practices of the current military controlled by the regime³⁰.</p> <p>Senior National League for Democracy (NLD) member U Win Htein and former captain in the Myanmar military, will be tried on sedition charges in a separate court inside Naypyitaw Prison on May 14. The charge carries a potential prison sentence of up to 20 years with a fine³¹.</p> <p>Two central committee members and another youth member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) arrested by Junta in front of the party's headquarters in Yangon³².</p> <p>The Arakan National Council (ANC), a Rakhine armed group based in Kayin State, joined the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) in the fight against the Junta³³.</p> <p>The junta said it would not agree to a visit by the ASEAN envoy until it could establish stability³⁴.</p> <p>The US-ASEAN Business Council has called for the U.S. to appoint a special envoy for Myanmar to coordinate a strategic approach involving smart, targeted sanctions and create room for effective dialogue in tandem with allies³⁵.</p>
8 May	Residents from at least two-dozen villages in Sagaing region's Kani township are in need of emergency assistance and hiding in nearby forests as the regime's soldiers continue

²⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-secures-g7-action-to-tackle-global-challenges-and-threats?>

³⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/115264064027567>

³¹ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-to-try-senior-nld-member-u-win-htein-in-prison.html>

³² <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-forces-abduct-three-nld-members.html>

³³ <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/rakhine-nationalist-group-joins-knu-in-fight-against-military>

³⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-says-seeks-stability-before-allowing-asean-envoy-visit-2021-05-07/>

³⁵ <https://www.usasean.org/press-release/2021/05/06/us-asean-business-council-calls-biden-harris-administration-appoint-special>

	<p>their rampage in the area after a series of deadly shootouts with civilian resistance forces³⁶.</p> <p>The junta suspended at least 1,683 teaching and administrative staff from 15 universities³⁷.</p> <p>The Chinland Defence Force (CDF), a group formed by the resistance fighters, seized and burned down a police outpost in Surkhua, in the south of the Hakha in Chin State.</p> <p>116 civil society organizations from Mandalay rejected to collaborate with the State Administration Council (SAC) after the junta-controlled government departments offered CSOs to implement social development activities³⁸.</p> <p>The junta declared the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), National Unity Government (NUG) and People Defense Force (PDF) as terrorist organizations³⁹.</p> <p>The junta controlled Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved 15 projects, including a Chinese \$2.5-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) power project, the biggest single investment since the new military takeover⁴⁰.</p> <p>The ASEAN chair and secretary general plan to visit Myanmar after the end of Ramadan next week to hold further talks with junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and concerned senior officials⁴¹.</p>
9 May	<p>The National Unity Government (NUG) said it will not negotiate with the junta against the will of the people, despite calls from the ASEAN for talks⁴².</p> <p>Prominent democracy activist Ko Mya Aye, who has spent more than three months behind bars since the February coup, faces hate speech charges under Article 505(c) of the Penal Code for incitement, which carries up to two years in prison⁴³.</p>

³⁶ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/thousands-in-hiding-need-help-as-myanmar-regimes-forces-rampage-through-villages.html>

³⁷ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-suspends-over-1600-educators-for-refusing-to-work.html>

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1190859784684699>

³⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4399797970065026>

⁴⁰ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/162007.html>

⁴¹ <https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/What-to-expect-after-ASEAN-s-Myanmar-summit>

⁴² <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-nug-snubs-asean-talks.html>

⁴³ <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/veteran-myanmar-activist-faces-hate-speech-charges.html>

	<p>Moe San Suu Kyi, in charge of the central youth working committee of NLD as well as the daughter of former Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, has been arrested⁴⁴.</p> <p>Another junta-appointed ward administrative officer of ward 3, Hlaing Thar Yar Township was attacked with a knife and died at the spot⁴⁵.</p> <p>On the occasion of Mother's Day, "Support the Democracy Movements in Burma" organized a movement in Washington Square Park, New York to raise awareness about political prisoners in Myanmar and urged the junta to free all the detainees⁴⁶.</p>
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⁴⁴ <https://t.me/TachileikNewsAgency/4557?>

⁴⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1191549891282355>

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1191809591256385>