



Myanmar Situation Update (8 to 14 March 2021)

As the people of Myanmar continue the civil disobedience movement including nationwide street protests, the total number of deaths has doubled to at least 126 in the past week. The anti-coup protests saw another record-breaking surge in deaths on 14 March alone when at least 38 civilians were killed by security forces. The exact number could be higher as many casualties are yet to be confirmed.

After several Chinese-owned factories were burnt and a large number of deaths were reported in clashes between civilians and security forces in Yangon on 14 March, the military junta imposed martial law in Yangon's Hlaing Thar Yar and Shwe Pyi Thar townships.

In the past week, the military junta also raided the offices of three independent news outlets and detained two media personnel following the ban of five news outlets. In addition, six journalists who were detained while covering anti-coup protests were charged for incitement.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a total of 2,156 people have been arrested, charged, or sentenced in relation to the military coup of February 1. Three of them were convicted, 73 have been charged with a warrant and are evading arrest, 319 were released¹.

Timeline of events

Date	Developments
8 March	Security forces established bases in civilian schools, universities, and hospitals starting from the night of 7 March in Myanmar's major cities, including Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Monywa and Ayeyarwady ² .

¹ <https://aappb.org/?p=13671>

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<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-military-regimes-forces-establish-bases-civilian-schools-universities-hospitals.html>

	<p>Security forces launched a deadly crackdown on protesters in Myitkyina, killing two.</p> <p>The military junta banned five private media organizations, namely the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), 7 Day News, Mizzima, Myanmar Now and Khit Thit Media.</p> <p>Security forces raided Myanmar Now's office in Yangon and seized computers, printers and parts of the newsroom's data server. Myanmar Now is the first media organization to be raided by the military junta since the coup.</p> <p>The President of UN Security Council issued a statement on Myanmar³, which "strongly condemns the violence against peaceful protesters". This is the first use of the word "condemn" by the council in response to the situation in Myanmar. However, the word "coup", that appeared in an earlier draft, was not in the statement.</p> <p>The military junta accused detained Australian economic adviser Professor Sean Turnell of trying to flee the country with secret financial information.</p> <p>There was a tense situation in Yangon's Sanchaung township when security forces trapped more than 200 protesters from the afternoon of 8 March to the morning of 9 March. Western embassies in Yangon released statements in relation to the situation and called for immediate de-escalation.</p>
9 March	<p>Security forces raided Kamaryut Media and Mizzima's offices in Yangon and arrested the Kamaryut Media's co-founder Han Thar Nyein and editor-in-chief Nathan Maung.</p> <p>Thailand has prepared facilities in provinces bordering Myanmar to accommodate a possible influx of refugees. Thai media reported that seven areas in Mae Sot, Tha Song Yang, Mae Ramat and Phob Phra districts have been set aside as refugee camps.⁴</p> <p>Another National League for Democracy (NLD) official died while under detention by the military junta. Ko Zaw Myat Lin was arrested by security officers during a raid at Suu Vocational Institute in Shwe Pyi on the night of 8 March.</p> <p>The CRPH appointed Mann Win Khaing Than as its acting vice-president.</p>

³ <http://undocs.org/S/PRST/2021/5>

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<https://www.thaibpsworld.com/thailand-ready-to-accommodate-refugees-from-myanmar-fleeing-the-violent-unrest/>

	<p>Myanmar's ambassador to the UK issued a statement calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and Win Myint.</p> <p>EU Military Staff Director General Vice-Admiral Hervé Bléjean urged Myanmar to immediately stop all violence and to exercise utmost restraint in dealing with protesters, to avoid further casualties and respect international law through a phone call with Deputy Commander in Chief of the Myanmar military Vice-Senior General Soe Win.⁵</p>
10 March	<p>Five international NGOs, People In Need, Trocaire, ChildFund Myanmar, Christian Aid and Mercy Corps, denied having any discussions with the military regime after the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement announced cooperation with them.</p> <p>The Israeli-Canadian lobbyist hired by Myanmar's junta will be paid \$2 million to "assist in explaining the real situation" of the army's coup to the United States and other countries, documents filed with the U.S. government show⁶.</p> <p>The UN Security Council agreed on a statement that condemns the use of violence against protesters in Myanmar and urges military restraint, but dropped language condemning the army takeover as a coup and threatening possible further action due to the opposition by China, Russia, India and Vietnam⁷.</p>
11 March	<p>Police and military killed 12 protesters. Among the dead were eight people killed in the central town of Myaing.</p> <p>The military junta removed Arakan Army (AA) insurgents from its list of terrorist groups.</p> <p>In a news conference, the military junta accused Aung San Suu Kyi of taking bribes worth \$600,000 as well as gold in 2017-18, and again promised to hold an election and hand over to the winning party.</p>

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https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/94496/myanmar-phone-call-between-vice-admiral-bl%C3%A9jean-and-vice-senior-general-soe-win_en?fbclid=IwAR2GwHK975hIbnKFabesSja0QWw_ZjgfK3coGYz5VlxOoOVO1XZ9j36LF8U

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-lobbyist-usa/lobbyist-to-be-paid-2-million-to-explain-myanmars-coup-on-behalf-of-junta-idUSKBN2B20AR>

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-un/u-n-security-council-agrees-to-condemn-myanmar-violence-urge-military-restraint-idUSKBN2B22D8>

	<p>The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CPRH) announced that it has engaged with UK-based international law firm Volterra Fietta to "pursue legal proceedings against the unconstitutional and illegitimate military regime."</p> <p>Vietnam's Foreign Ministry called for all parties in Myanmar to refrain from violence and engage in dialogue with each other.</p> <p>A Polish journalist in Myanmar was detained, according to Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁸</p>
12 March	<p>Six reporters were detained while covering anti-coup protests. Kay Zon Nway (Myanmar Now), Aung Ye Ko (7Day), Ye Myo Khant (Myanmar Pressphoto Agency), Thein Zaw (AP), Hein Pyae Zaw (ZeeKwat Media), and freelance reporter Banyar Oo are facing charges of incitement under section 505(a) of the Penal Code.</p> <p>The 10 ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) met to discuss strategies to stop the Myanmar military's ongoing violent crackdown on anti-coup protesters throughout the country. The meeting indicated EAOs are also working toward establishing common ground around future dialogue with the CRPH and the General Strike Committee (GSC).</p> <p>The USA grants temporary deportation relief and work permits to Myanmar citizens living in the US. About 1,600 Myanmar citizens will be eligible for Temporary Protected Status for 18 months.</p> <p>South Korea announced it would suspend defence exchanges and reconsider development aid to Myanmar.</p>
13 March	<p>The CPRH-appointed acting vice president Mahn Win Khaing Than addressed the public for the first time and vowed to pursue a "revolution" to overturn the military junta.</p> <p>Media reported at least 12 people were killed during protests.</p> <p>The leaders of the Quad alliance (United States, India, Australia and Japan) declared they would work together to restore democracy in Myanmar.</p>
14 March	<p>At least 38 people killed by the police and military across the country violently crackdown in many townships in Yangon, Bago City, Mandalay City, Loikaw in Kayah State, Hpakant in Kachin State. Among them 22 deaths are from Hlaing Thar Yar township in Yangon.</p>

⁸ <https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/mfa-statement-on-the-detention-of-a-polish-journalist-in-myanmar>

	<p>The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar made a statement to urge Myanmar to “take further effective measures to stop all acts of violence, punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law and ensure the safety of life and property of Chinese companies and personnel in Myanmar”⁹. The statement issued after the fire broke out at two garment factories owned by Chinese investors.</p> <p>The CRPH declared that the citizens have the right to self-defence against the military junta’s violent crackdown¹⁰.</p> <p>The military junta declared martial law in Hlaing Thar Yar and Shwe Pyi Thar townships in Yangon.</p>
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Prepared by,
Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)
15 March 2021, 11.30 AM (Bangkok time)

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<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-03-14/Two-Chinese-funded-garment-factories-set-on-fire-in-Myanmar-YCP1cUIQIE/index.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/crph.official.mm/posts/134374852021828>