

ON THE GROUND IN MYANMAR

mizzima WEEKLY

Analysis & Insight



A Woman's Place is in the Revolution

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DIGITAL MAGAZINE

Our relaunched magazine Mizzima Weekly provides readers with a more focused read on what matters in Myanmar and the wider region, with an emphasis on analysis, insight and providing key talking points.

BULLYING BY SUPERPOWER NOT ACCEPTABLE, SAY MYANMAR CITIZENS

Facebook users in Myanmar are expressing strong opinions about reports of Chinese pressure on Myanmar's ethnic armed group Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) to cease military operations near the China-Myanmar border.

The fuss blew up after a letter was reportedly leaked from the Security Committee of Ruili City in China demanding the TNLA immediately cease fire with the Myanmar junta and cooperate with China to maintain stability in northern Myanmar and the border area, according to Shwe Phee Myay News Agency. The letter called for measures to guarantee the safety of Chinese citizens and Chinese businesses in Myanmar, as well as to eliminate military actions that threaten the stability of the Chinese border area and the security of Chinese citizens' lives and property.

Particularly galling – as far as the Myanmar citizens are concerned – is the threat to use “forceful disciplinary measures” if the TNLA does not comply.

The response by Myanmar social media users has come thick and fast.

One Facebook user commented, “As a Myanmar citizen, I strongly condemn the threats made by the Security Committee of Ruili City against the Myanmar people and the TNLA. While I respect China as a good neighbor, I cannot accept their threats in Myanmar's internal matters.”

Prominent 88-generation student leader Min Ko Naing weighed in, writing, “We will not bow to fear, nor will we act rashly based on emotions. We will

respond with wisdom and courage. No matter how much powerful countries try to disturb our revolution, the people of Myanmar have a clear message: We will not submit to bullying from any superpower, especially not when our revolution, built on the sacrifice of blood and lives, is nearing its goal.”

As part of the Brotherhood Alliance, which comprised the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (widely known as Kokang Army), Arakan Army and TNLA, the Ta'ang armed group participated in a significant military campaign dubbed Operation 1027 against the Myanmar junta. This offensive, launched in northern Shan State, dealt a severe blow to Myanmar's military junta.

The alliance's forces managed to overrun numerous military installations, including hundreds of junta army bases. Their advance also led to the capture of about 20 towns and key trade corridors linking Myanmar to China, dramatically altering the region's power dynamics and drawing increased attention from China.

Myanmar citizens are angry at the bullying by the neighbouring superpower. Many Myanmar citizens recognize the crucial juncture the Myanmar resistance is at as it tries to topple the illegal military junta.

While it is understandable that China wants to protect its interests and nationals – and has held meetings with resistance players to secure them – the threatening letter is a bridge too far.

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Women have played a powerful role in Myanmar's Spring Revolution but it has been a tough struggle against the patriarchy. Photo: AFP

A Woman's Place is in the Revolution

Insight Myanmar

“We see women activists from the protests or the Civil Disobedience Movement, like you can see women everywhere! And you will see photos of woman all the time, which in a sense means that there’s an increased visibility for women in politics, and especially since the revolution. But the question is, are they actually are getting the space or the voice that they deserve, or the rights that they deserve? And I think the answer to that, quite frankly, it’s ‘No!’ Because even though there’s a lot of women we see on mainstream media and social media, it doesn’t necessarily mean that they’re getting a lot of participation.”

Hnin Thet Hmu Khin’s engagement, which began with humanitarian assistance during the Rohingya crisis in 2018, evolved into a deeper involvement with the resistance following the military coup of 2021, she tells the Insight Myanmar Podcast.

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE

Her inspiring story of activism is intertwined with the broader struggle for democracy and justice in Myanmar. But while her story is a narrative of unwavering resolve and commitment, it also sheds light on the systemic marginalization of women within the revolutionary movement. The spotlight has predominantly been on men, perpetuating a cycle of inequity for women in the public sphere. And while the 2021 coup may have catalyzed a wave of increased visibility for women—images of women holding banners, participating in protests, and even wielding guns began to circulate widely— it has not really translated into genuine participation or respect within the movement.

Within the National Unity Government (NUG), although there are some female ministers and deputy ministers, Hnin still has her reservations. “It seems like



Women PDF fighters in training in Mandalay Region. Photo: AFP

the NUG pays more attention to ethnic representation rather than gender representation," she says. "When you look at the roles of the woman deputy ministers and ministers, you can see that they're given roles that are still typically associated with gender stereotypes, for example: health, education, women, youth and children's affairs, but like things like Ministry of Defense, then again, it is the males." To Hnin, this systemic bias reflects a broader, societal challenge.

MORE THAN SYMBOLIC FIGURES

Hnin stresses that true progress requires more than just symbolic female figures in power. It's about creating an environment where ordinary women can actively participate in politics and the decision-making process; for this, systemic change is needed. Real progress involves ensuring that women at all levels of society have the opportunity to participate fully in the political process. "Women are not actually getting the rights or the respect or the space or participation that they can provide to the revolution," she says simply.

In the age of the Spring Revolution, the struggle for women's equality extends even to combat. Women are given military training by the resistance, but few are actually deployed to the front lines. Instead, echoing traditional gender roles, their involvement is predominantly limited to support positions, such as medics. This division of labor limits women's opportunities to engage fully in the revolutionary struggle. Moreover, gender-based violence within these armed groups remains a significant issue, with many incidents discussed privately but rarely addressed publicly or by the NUG.

TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The challenges of addressing gender-based violence within revolutionary groups vary between Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and the newly formed People's Defense Forces (PDFs). While more established EAOs have mechanisms, at least in theory, for reporting harassment, Hnin finds that such incidents are often trivialized.



Women PDF fighters on a mission in Mandalay Region. Photo: AFP

"I heard a case of a woman being sexually harassed in the camps, and she took it to the superiors," she says. "The superiors were like, 'Oh, they're just teasing you, this is okay, they just love you. They're just brothers, just uncles.' So, it's quite normalized."

In the newer PDFs, it can be even worse, and victims may feel pressured to stay silent. This in turn leads to perpetrators who feel untouchable due to their involvement in the revolution.

"And of course, usually the public or the community protects them because, 'Oh, they're participating in the revolution!'"

This dynamic creates a challenging environment for women, where they must navigate both the dangers of armed conflict and the risks of internal violence.

The issue of gender-based violence within revolutionary groups is a stark reminder of the challenges faced by women activists everywhere. And to Hnin, the normalization of such violence reflects deep-seated patriarchal attitudes within Burmese society that persist even within movements fighting for "liberation."

Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort to change the culture within revolutionary groups, ensuring that all forms of oppression are challenged and eradicated. Unfortunately, the current realities are such that Hnin describes women, even those fighting with armed groups, as having to consider getting a boyfriend or husband for "protection" against potential harassment.

Continuing on this theme, Hnin explains how sexual violence has long been used as a psychological weapon of oppression by the Myanmar military. She advocates for international legal action to address these war crimes, emphasizing the necessity for accountability and justice. Unfortunately, international bodies such as the ICC prefer to leave such matters to domestic courts. And even if a court were willing to hear a case, prosecution would still be difficult, because according to Hnin, "We can't talk to the survivors because they

don't survive, honestly, because they kill them! And even if they don't kill them, they are so scared that they can't talk at all; we can't find them."

PSYCHOLOGICAL TOLL

The psychological toll on survivors of sexual violence is immense, leading to long-term trauma, fear, and mistrust. They often experience severe mental health issues, including PTSD, depression, and anxiety.

These impacts are compounded by societal stigma, which isolates and silences survivors, preventing them from seeking help or justice. The pervasive fear of being targeted for speaking out exacerbates this psychological burden, creating a culture of silence and invisibility around these atrocities.

Hnin stresses how women's roles and contributions are systematically marginalized within the broader revolutionary agenda. She points out that the initial, surface wave of optimism and unity has receded, revealing deeper challenges.

The sentiment one hears of "winning the revolution first and addressing women's rights later" illustrates the continued marginalization of women's issues within the broader revolutionary agenda. "That's very problematic, because women constitute more than half of Myanmar's population," she says. "If we are not talking now about those half of the population's rights, then it means that you are ignoring more than 50% of the population!"

The reluctance to prioritize women's rights has tangible consequences. Women's participation in decision-making remains limited, and their potential contributions to the revolution are underutilized.

This exclusion not only undermines the revolution's goals of equality and justice but also perpetuates the very structures of oppression it seeks to dismantle.

The marginalization of women's voices in these critical discussions means that the revolution cannot fully achieve its transformative potential.

LIBERATION OF ALL GROUPS

Hnin emphasizes that the liberation of all oppressed groups, including women, should be integral to the revolution. Unseating the military is only one part of the struggle: if societal attitudes and structures remain unchanged, then real progress cannot be achieved.

“The reason [for not embracing this change] is that [Burmese] society is deeply patriarchal,” she says.

“The community is still feeding into it. Society itself is very patriarchal and problematic, and still holding onto a lot of stereotypical gender norms.”

This perspective highlights the need for an ideological revolution alongside the armed struggle to ensure lasting and meaningful change. The fight for freedom must encompass all forms of oppression, including those within the revolutionary ranks.

The role of military wives in the revolution also presents a complex dynamic. They have little standing, and are treated as virtual slaves by higher ranking officers’ wives. However, to Hnin, this systemic mistreatment is now working against the military. Scorned by the system that keeps them silent and doesn’t value their contributions, these women have become powerful influencers, convincing their husbands to defect and join the resistance.

“For them, it’s such an eye-opening experience to be in the revolution, to be engaging and working with activists, because their potential has been ignored and unappreciated for a very long time,” Hnin explains. “Their capabilities and potential have been appreciated! They feel more empowered to be working with those like-minded people because now they have a chance to talk about the stories. For the first time in their life, they can talk about it publicly, and they feel empowered to have an audience that wants to listen to them and appreciates what they have done for the revolution!”

This shift illustrates the nuanced ways in which women can impact the course of the revolution,

even from within traditionally constrained roles, and highlights the potential for change within the military structure, itself, as military wives leverage their positions to weaken the regime.

‘FRONTLINE ETHICS’

Hnin has her own Burmese language podcast, ‘Frontline Ethics,’ and she touches on all these issues and more on her platform. Thus, her activism takes on a multi-dimensional aspect, not only a fight against the military dictatorship, but also a challenge to the patriarchal norms that restrict women’s roles in society. Her work emphasizes the need for an inclusive revolution that addresses all forms of oppression. This comprehensive approach to activism is crucial for achieving a just and equitable society.

Hnin’s narrative highlights the dual struggle faced by women in the revolution: fighting against the military regime and challenging the patriarchal structures within the revolutionary movements themselves.

This dual struggle is a testament to the resilience and determination of women activists who continue to push for their rights in the face of overwhelming challenges. And Hnin’s advice to women is to never let themselves be silenced, and call out injustice when they see it, and in particular when, themselves, are its victims.

“Sometimes I say that you existing in in this very male dominated world is already enough,” she says.

“Maybe you can’t speak, or maybe you don’t have a chance to speak. Maybe there are barriers. But just living, and just surviving in this very male-dominated world, it’s already a voice.”

CATCH THE INSIGHT MYANMAR PODCAST HERE:

<https://player.captivate.fm/episode/1c02dd98-f9d7-4340-b213-0808666725b9>

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Photo: AFP

FORMER ROHINGYA FOES OF THE MILITARY NOW FRIENDS?

Developments amongst the Rohingya community in Myanmar and in Bangladesh refugee camps ought to have analysts scratching their heads.

Why is it that a “genocidal” military is now fighting alongside their former targets?

Why are Rohingya militants now in bed with this military?

The Myanmar junta began conscripting young Rohingya men in January 2024, just ahead of enacting a nationwide conscription law in February. While the law technically applies to all citizens, the Rohingya have been denied citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. Despite this, the junta’s spokesperson insisted the conscription law affects “guest citizens” too, further complicating the situation.

Although the junta denies forcibly recruiting Rohingya soldiers, reports on the ground tell a different story. Many Rohingya young men have been fleeing to escape conscription, seeking refuge in camps in Bangladesh. The legitimacy of recruiting Rohingyas as new soldiers remains unclear, with contradictory statements from the junta fueling further confusion.

One such camp, Kutupalong in Bangladesh, has seen a surge in forced recruitment. Rohingya militant

groups, such as Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), and Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), are allegedly working with the junta to bolster their ranks by enlisting young men and boys. RSO, which had been weakened for years, is reportedly trying to restore its manpower by backing the junta’s efforts to counter new threats in Rakhine State, primarily from the Arakan Army (AA). The AA has emerged as a formidable regional force, continuously challenging the junta’s hold over Rakhine.

The dynamic has drawn attention to shifting alliances within the Rohingya community, particularly between RSO and ARSA. ARSA, which gained notoriety in 2017, has received less favour from the Bangladeshi authorities compared to RSO. This discrepancy was highlighted in an interview with Arakan Army leader Tun Myat Naing, who suggested that Bangladesh’s approach to Rohingya militia groups is inconsistent.

On August 31, Bangladeshi authorities arrested Nabi Hussain, the 47-year-old leader of the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), along with his 45-year-old brother, Syed Hussain, at the B-block of Refugee Camp No. 3 in Cox’s Bazar. The arrest, carried out by the Irani Pahar Police under the Palongkhali Union, underscores the increasingly complex dynamics within the Rohingya refugee camps, where various groups are reportedly vying for influence and manpower.



Female protesters against the military junta. Photo: AFP

What should stand out to observers is the oddity of Rohingya militant groups who were pitted against the Myanmar military in 2017, now allying themselves with the military.

As tensions rise in both Myanmar and Bangladesh, the fate of young Rohingya men hangs in the balance. Fleeing forced recruitment by the Myanmar junta, they now find themselves caught between militant groups and a precarious existence in refugee camps, with no clear resolution in sight.

ARE WOMEN BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO THE MYANMAR MILITARY?

The Myanmar junta has escalated its conscription efforts, sparking concerns among women and their families as the regime targets new recruits for mandatory military service. Following the collection of 5,000 young men for the first batch of the “people’s military service” in March and the initiation of training on April 8, the junta struggled to meet the same numbers for its second round. In response, authorities broadened their recruitment efforts, turning to urban areas and targeting the children of non-CDM (Civil Disobedience Movement) civilian staff.

Although there is no official mandate for female conscription in place, reports from the Ayeyarwady region indicate that girls were recruited for the third batch in certain townships. The junta’s official announcement states that women will not be conscripted until the fifth batch. However, discrepancies are emerging. On May 13, seven women were arrested in Okpho Township, Pegu Region, with only one managing to secure release by bribing authorities. The remaining six were sent to Taungngu Township for military training. In other regions, such as Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi, preparations to enlist women for military training began as early as June.

Reports on the ground also indicate that women have already started military training. According to a Mandalay-based media outlet, women were seen participating in training sessions conducted by male instructors. The training is reportedly being provided at battalions under the management of the No. (33) Light Infantry Division in Mandalay and surrounding towns. However, it remains unclear whether these women were recruited through the junta’s conscription efforts or are members of pro-regime militia groups.

In light of these developments, many young women whose families can afford it are fleeing the country to avoid conscription. Those with fewer financial means are seeking refuge in liberated areas controlled by the People’s Defense Force (PDF), particularly in the Sagaing region.

Ms. Chaw Su Han, a member of Monywa University’s Student Union, noted that many young women have been arriving in the liberated zones of Sagaing since rumours of women’s conscription began to circulate. Some are even joining the PDF’s medical teams.

“In my town, there were reports of some women being sent to military training,” said one young woman from Dawei. “I can’t afford to go abroad, so I’m moving carefully to other places. I will resist the junta’s laws and refuse to comply with conscription.”

One mother of a listed recruit expressed her concerns: “We can’t afford to send my daughter abroad, so I sent her to Sagaing. The journey is hard, but I can’t let her life be destroyed by the junta.”

As fears of forced conscription grow, the fate of women in Myanmar hangs in the balance, with many taking drastic steps to avoid being drawn into the junta military fold.

CHINA CALLS ON TNLA TO STOP FIGHTING

China’s recent diplomatic interventions in Myanmar have raised concerns over the country’s involvement in the ongoing conflict, particularly as Beijing exerts pressure on ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) along its border.

Amid a series of high-level meetings between Chinese officials and Myanmar’s junta leaders, China has also called on the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) to halt its operations in border areas, underscoring its interest in maintaining stability in the region.

In August, China ramped up its diplomatic efforts with Myanmar. Deng Xijun, China’s special envoy for Myanmar, visited Naypyidaw to meet with junta leader Min Aung Hlaing. This visit paved the way for Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who later traveled to Myanmar’s capital for further discussions. Wang Yi

urged the junta to safeguard Chinese investments and interests in Myanmar, control anti-China sentiment, and ensure stability along the countries' shared borders. He also met with former military dictator Than Shwe, who requested continued Chinese support for Myanmar's internal peace efforts.

While China officially maintains that it does not intervene in Myanmar's internal affairs, Wang Yi's trip to Myanmar was followed by a visit to Thailand for the 9th Lancang-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting, where he laid out three guiding principles for Myanmar: halting the civil war, ensuring Myanmar's continued participation in ASEAN, and avoiding external intervention in the country's affairs.

In parallel, China has been exerting pressure on EAOs, particularly those near its border. On August 28, Deng Xijun met with General Gam Shawng, Vice President of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), in the Chinese city of Tengchong. While meetings with other northern EAOs such as the United Wa State Army (UWSA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the TNLA remain unconfirmed, analysts believe that Deng has engaged with all China-border-based EAOs during late August.

One key development involves the TNLA receiving a strongly worded warning letter from Chinese authorities, demanding that the group cease its military activities in border areas to avoid harming Chinese citizens and property. The letter, written in a blunt and authoritative tone, cited the Ruili State Security Committee and threatened "consequences" if the TNLA

did not comply. Despite lacking official government seals, the letter prompted the TNLA's central committee to hold an emergency meeting. The letter warned the group that failure to stop fighting could lead to severe repercussions.

As China deepens its involvement in Myanmar's political and military affairs, questions are mounting about the extent of its influence on both the junta and ethnic groups. China's diplomatic efforts and its pressure on EAOs, particularly the TNLA, are reshaping the conflict dynamics, raising new concerns about the future of Myanmar's revolution.

TOP MIZZIMA BURMESE VIDEOS

Please find the top Mizzima Burmese videos of the last week.

The plan to attack Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw simultaneously has begun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luaNMP4H4ck>

If the military leader pretends to be crazy, the country will only suffer more

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YsM2E_KtyI

I don't think Aya will back down amid the noise of critics (Editorial Talk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8W97D0hCEA>





Air strike damage. Photo: Mai So Jar via Facebook

TNLA SAYS 11 CIVILIANS KILLED IN MYANMAR JUNTA AIR STRIKES IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE

Myanmar military air strikes in northern Shan state killed 11 civilians and wounded 11 more, a spokeswoman for an ethnic minority armed group battling the junta told AFP on Friday.

The junta is battling widespread armed opposition to its 2021 coup and its soldiers are accused of bloody rampages and using air and artillery strikes to punish civilian communities.

"They bombed at two areas in Namhkam" town on Friday around 1:00 am local time (1830 GMT), Lway Yay Oo of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said.

The strikes killed 11 and wounded 11, she said, adding that the office of a local political party had been damaged.

The dead were five men, four women and two children, she said.

Namhkam is around five kilometres (three miles) from the border with China's Yunnan province, with TNLA fighters claiming control of the town following weeks of fighting last year.

Images on social media showed people sifting through rubble and carrying a young person who appeared to be wounded.

One video showed several destroyed buildings. AFP reporters geolocated that video to a site in Namhkam and said it had not appeared online before.

One resident said she had seen 13 wounded people in the local hospital.

"I heard they will hold funerals this evening," she told AFP, asking for anonymity for security reasons.

The TNLA had warned residents of the danger of further airstrikes and said people would be allowed to leave the town for safety, she added.

AFP was unable to reach a junta spokesman for comment.

Since last year the military has lost swaths of territory near the border with China in northern Shan state to an alliance of armed ethnic minority groups and "People's Defence Forces" battling to overturn its coup.

The groups have seized a regional military command and taken control of lucrative border trade crossings, prompting rare public criticism by military supporters of the junta's top leadership.

Earlier this week junta chief Min Aung Hlaing warned civilians in territory held by ethnic minority armed groups to prepare for military counterattacks, state media reported.

The junta also announced this week that it had declared the TNLA a "terrorist" organisation.

Those found supporting or contacting the TNLA and two other ethnic minority armed groups, the Arakan Army (AA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), can now face legal action.

AFP



Photo: AFP

MYANMAR'S MILITARY COUNCIL DECLARES THREE BROTHERHOOD ALLIANCE A TERRORIST GROUP


The Military Council has designated the Three Brotherhood Alliance, consisting of the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), as a terrorist organization. The announcement was made on Myawaddy Television, a military-controlled channel, on the evening of 2 September.

This decision marks a reversal of a previous move by the junta. In March 2020, the Arakan Army (AA) was initially labeled a terrorist group, but this designation was lifted in March 2021 following the military coup. The junta has now reinstated the terrorist label for the AA, along with its allies MNDAA and TNLA.

The military council's statement accuses the Three Brotherhood Alliance of being based within Myanmar and engaging in violent activities against the state.

The Junta's Anti-Terrorism Central Committee stated that the declaration was made with the approval of the Union Government, headed by junta leader Min Aung Hlaing.

This designation comes amid ongoing conflicts in northern Shan State and Rakhine State. The first and second phases of the Three Brotherhood Alliance's Operation 1027 have led to intense clashes with junta forces, resulting in the military council losing control of several towns and military bases.



Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing. Photo: AFP

NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT DECLARES MYANMAR JUNTA AS 'ENEMY OF THE STATE'

The Myanmar National Unity Government (NUG) has declared the State Administration Council as a terrorist group and an enemy of the state, urging international action.

In a statement on 5 September, the NUG had the following to say:

The military group, operating under the name of the State Administration Council, has committed not only treason and betrayal against the state and the people, but also daily war crimes, such as targeting and killing civilians in cities, villages, and refugee camps using various types of weapons, and carrying out airstrikes and bombings across multiple areas. These grave crimes violate international laws of armed conflict and human rights laws, and they constitute serious war crimes that must be prosecuted in international courts and military tribunals, leading to appropriate punishments.

Furthermore, the terrorist military group, operating under the name of the State Administration Council, has been forcibly recruiting young people aged 18 to 35 and older civilians aged 35 to 65 to be used intentionally as

human shields in battles. The group has been engaging in actions that harm the political, economic, health, educational, and social interests of the people residing in the Union of Myanmar and damage the dignity of the nation. Their activities are aimed at the utter devastation of Myanmar, undermining national security and defense, which is why they are now designated as the enemy of the state and the people.

From today onwards, we declare that any involvement, support, or cooperation with the terrorist military group's affiliated organizations, defense, and security mechanisms will be considered acts of treason against the state and people, supporting terrorist war crimes. We urge all citizens to oppose and resist the terrorist council's operations by all available means.

We also call on Myanmar's neighboring countries, ASEAN member states, and United Nations member states, who desire peace and stability in Myanmar, to take effective and strong actions against the terrorist military group operating under the name of the State Administration Council.

MYANMAR'S NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THE MILITARY'S USE OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS

Myanmar's National Unity Government (NUG) condemned in a statement on 3 September 2024 the Military Council's attempt to exploit the population as human shields, calling for global action against the dictatorship. The statement is as follows.

On February 10, 2024, the terrorist military council forcibly enforced the mandatory conscription law, coercing young people between the ages of 18 and 35 to serve as human shields. Following this, on August 16, 2024, they established a subordinate terrorist group named the "Central Command for Public Security and Counter-Terrorism", attempting to forcibly mobilize elderly citizens, aged 35 to 65, for combat.

Due to the unified strength of the entire public and the revolutionary forces, the terrorist military council, which is facing failures in political, military, foreign, and financial arenas, is desperately looking to use the entire country and its people as hostages and human shields for the sole purpose of prolonging its own survival.

The threat of military dictatorship has now fallen upon every individual, regardless of age, ethnicity, or religion, and it is becoming increasingly evident that no one can escape from it. Therefore, it is a solemn call to decisively resist and oppose the terrorist military council, which underestimated the power of the people's Spring Revolution, by using all possible means to clearly demonstrate that "the entire population will never bow down to the military dictators".

It is imperative for countries around the world to understand that the root cause of all the suffering faced by Myanmar and its people is the military dictators and the battalions, units, and soldiers who carry out their unjust orders. We urge them to take effective actions to stop the military council from using all civilians as human shields and to support, the People's Spring Revolution, which strives to end dictatorship, including the military dictatorship, and to establish a federal democratic system.



OVER 1,700 WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED AND 27,000 ARRESTED SINCE MYANMAR COUP: AAPP

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that 1,748 women and children have been killed since the military coup began three years ago.

According to the AAPP, a total of 5,592 people, including 614 children and 1,134 women, lost their lives between 1 February, 2021, and 2 February, 2024, at the hands of the Military Council and its affiliates.

While these figures have been verified, AAPP noted that approximately 2,500 additional deaths are still pending confirmation.

In addition to the fatalities, the AAPP revealed that 27,294 individuals were arrested in connection with the coup, with 20,827 still in detention. Of those detained, 9,371 have received prison sentences.

The figures provided are based on the best available data, but the actual situation on the ground may be even more dire.

The Military Council has repeatedly launched aerial attacks on non-military targets, including monasteries, schools, health facilities, and residential homes,

committing war crimes in the process, according to AAPP's research.

On 27 August, the military launched an unprovoked attack on Kyaukme and Hsipaw towns in Shan State, resulting in the destruction of homes and schools and the deaths of local residents.

In a separate incident on 27 August, two civilians were killed when the military bombed a school in Ngang Mya Gyi village, Nganzun Township, Mandalay Region. The following day, three monasteries were destroyed, and several residents were injured during an aerial attack on Latwae Myinni village in Natogyi Township, Mandalay region, according to the AAPP.

Furthermore, on 13 August, junta forces fired artillery shells from the Mau security gate in Monywa town, Sagaing Region, causing an explosion at the Tanongtaw (Taung) village market that killed eight women and three men, and injured ten others, as reported by the Monywa-Amyint True News Information Team.



Arakan Army leader Twan Mrat Naing.
Photo: AFP

ARAKAN ARMY SPOKESPERSON CONDEMNS MYANMAR JUNTA'S TERRORIST LABELLING AS "COWARDLY ACT"

U Khaing Thukha, spokesperson for the Arakan Army (AA), fiercely condemned the Myanmar junta's recent decision to designate the AA as a terrorist group, describing it as "a cowardly act of deranged people."

The AA has been actively engaged in fighting for the liberation of Rakhine State, where they have taken control of several townships.

U Khaing Thukha criticized the junta's move saying, "The hated Myanmar military junta's branding of the ULA/AA, which is supported by virtually the entire

Rakhine population, as a terrorist group is an act of cowardice by insane people who have lost their faith."

The Myanmar junta, facing widespread losses across the country, declared the AA, along with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), as terrorist organizations on 2 September.

This announcement follows the junta's loss of the Northeast Regional Military Command headquartered in Lashio and other townships in northern Shan State.

It is uncertain at this time how the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) responded to the junta's announcement.

The AA also suggested that the junta's announcement might be an attempt to divert attention from the daily acts of violence against the Rakhine people, committed in collaboration with groups the junta itself has labeled as terrorists.

"Certainly, the people of Myanmar as a whole are aware of who the real terrorists are," said U Khaing Thukha.

The Three Brotherhood Alliance, which includes the AA, TNLA, and MNDAA, launched Operation 1027 on 27 October 2023, successfully capturing several of the junta's bases, battalions, and townships. After agreeing to a truce in January 2024 through the China-mediated Haigen deal, the alliance resumed its offensive in June with the second phase of Operation 1027. This led to significant victories over the junta, including the capture of the Northeast Regional Military Command in northern Shan State.

In a related incident at around 4 am on 3 September, anti-junta forces launched a mortar attack on the headquarters of the junta's Central Region Military Command in the Mandalay Palace in Mandalay Region. This command center is responsible for coordinating the junta's resistance to the second phase of Operation 1027 and the Shan-Man operation.

NGOS CONDEMN SENTENCING OF JOURNALISTS TO DECADES IN PRISON WITHOUT EXPLANATION

On 2 September 2024, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Myanmar Journalist Network (MJN) condemned the sentencing of two Burmese journalists to decades in prison. The two groups call for global support for press freedom in Myanmar. Their statement is as follows.

Journalists Myo Myint Oo and Aung San Oo, associated with the independent online media outlet Dawei Watch, were sentenced to life and 20 years imprisonment respectively by a military court in the city of Myeik in southern Myanmar on August 27, with authorities failing to explain the verdict. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), and its affiliate, the Myanmar Journalist Network (MJN), condemn the sentencing and urge global governments, civil society organisations, and development actors to increase their efforts to support independent Burmese media.

On August 27, Ko Kyaw, chief editor of independent media Dawei Watch announced that two independent journalists associated with the media outlet, Myo Myint Oo and Aung San Oo, were convicted under Myanmar's Counter-Terrorism Law and sentenced, respectively, to life and 20 years in prison by a military court in the city of Myeik in southern Myanmar. Kyaw stated that the sentences were not made public until recently.

Myint Oo was sentenced on February 16, and San Oo on May 15, after being denied the right to a legal defence or the opportunity to speak in court. The court has not released a detailed explanation or rationale behind the verdict, and no opportunity to inquire about the judicial process.

The two Myeik-based journalists were arrested by the junta at their homes in December 2023. Dawei Watch editor claims they were arrested three days after returning home from hiding, with their family members


reportedly being told by military personnel that the journalists were arrested for their reporting.

A statement released by Dawei Watch on August 27 claims that Myint Oo and San Oo were violently interrogated for four days in a detention centre before being illegally transferred to Myeik Prison. The outlet stated, "We strongly condemn the SAC for illegally arresting, interrogating, and detaining these journalists without giving them the right to a fair defence under the law. We urge their immediate release".

Since the military junta seized power in 2021, Myanmar's media have faced arrests, attacks, and killings. On August 21, two journalists associated with the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), Ko Htet Myat Thu and Ko Win Htut Oo, were killed as a result of a home raid by the military junta in the southern Mon state.

The MJN stated: "The sentencing of two journalists from Dawei Watch to excessively long prison terms highlights the military junta's hostility towards the media and the intense pressure they are exerting. The fact that the two journalists, who were arrested in a town not under martial law, were tried and convicted in a military court located in a town under martial law, indicates a blatant disregard for existing laws and is seen by MJN as an attempt to intimidate independent journalists and hinder their work. MJN also condemns this sentencing."

The IFJ stated: "The harsh sentencing of the Myo Myint Oo and Aung San Oo are clear violations of press freedom and human rights. Their trials, shrouded in secrecy and contrary to internationally accepted legal proceedings, are a clear example of the repression carried out by the junta over the past three years. The international community must do more to support Myanmar's embattled media community."



Damaged building following attack.
Photo: supplied

BRAVE WARRIORS FOR MYANMAR LAUNCH MORTAR ATTACK ON CENTRAL MILITARY COMMAND

The Brave Warriors for Myanmar (BWM) carried out a mortar attack on the Central Regional Military Command in the Mandalay Palace, Aungmyaythazan Township, striking the command center while Vice Senior General Soe Win was present. The assault, which began around 4:08 am on 3 September, involved ten 107 mm mortar shells.

The Central Regional Military Command serves as the primary command center for countering the ongoing operation 1027 and the Shan-Man operation being carried out by Three Brotherhood Alliance and revolutionary forces.

A BWM official said, "The attack injured 18 individuals, including Soe Win's personal assistant, a colonel, and three officers. Four of the injured are reported to be in critical condition. Soe Win was evacuated to Nay Pyi Taw by helicopter following the attack."

The mortars targeted several locations, with two shells landing directly on the Mandalay Palace. Other shells hit nearby areas, including the No. 4 Police Station, the Nyaungkwal Police Security Gate, the Shwekyin Security Gate and residential areas.

A residential house was also damaged during the

attack, resulting in minor injuries to one resident and damage to a car, according to local sources.

Mizzima is currently seeking independent confirmation of the extent of the damage at the Central Regional Military Command.

Despite the risks, BWM officials emphasized the importance of the operation and praised the thorough preparation and local support received.

"Given the significance of the target, the security measures were extremely tight. Our comrades invested considerable time and effort into planning, and we are relieved that the attackers are safe," said a BWM official.

The BWM, known for targeting large-scale military sites, has previously attacked the Central Command once last December, along with multiple assaults on Ayelar Air Base in Naypyitaw, Taungoo Air Base in Bago Region, and Tada-U Air Base in Mandalay Region.

As fighting continues between revolutionary forces and the military council in the Mandalay Region, the junta has increased its military presence in the city. Residents report heightened surveillance and security measures as the conflict intensifies.



Photo: Supplied

DR. TAYZAR SAN DENOUNCES CHINA'S PRESSURE ON MYANMAR'S SPRING REVOLUTION

Dr. Tayzar San, a leading figure in the Myanmar Spring Revolution, has rejected China's pressure to halt the ongoing revolution, asserting that the movement for democracy in Myanmar will not be deterred.

Dr. Tayzar San's comments came in response to a letter from China's Shwe Li National Security Committee addressed to the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), which is engaged in conflict with the Military Council's army in northern Shan State. The letter called for an immediate ceasefire and warned of harsher measures if fighting continues.

Dr. Tayzar San said, "Regardless of pressure, coercion, or hindrance from any country, including China, we are resolute in our revolutionary journey. There is no reason to halt our fight for freedom and democracy."

He emphasized that Myanmar's fate will be determined by its own people and criticized China for not understanding that the root cause of Myanmar's instability and conflict is the dictatorship. Dr. Tayzar San accused China of attempting to undermine the momentum of Myanmar's revolution and extend the military dictatorship's rule.

The revolutionary leader underscored that the struggle, which has spanned over 70 years, is driven by the demand for democracy, multi-ethnic self-governance, and justice.

"We are committed to establishing a government system that truly represents the people. This is not contrary to China's interests; in fact, the end of tyranny aligns with China's interests," Dr. Tayzar San said.

He warned that any support for the military dictatorship from China would only strengthen the resolve of the Myanmar people against the junta.

The National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) also condemned China's letter, calling it a disrespectful affront to the TNLA and the broader revolution. The NUCC urged China to retract its statement and instead support Myanmar's struggle for democracy with empathy and respect, in line with international law and principles.

The statements from Dr. Tayzar San and the NUCC highlight the ongoing tension between Myanmar's revolutionary forces and external actors influencing the country's tumultuous path to democracy.



Rohingya child. Photo: AFP

BANGLADESH WORKING TO PREVENT NEW ROHINGYA REFUGEE INFLUX

Bangladesh is working to prevent a fresh influx of stateless and persecuted Rohingya refugees, its caretaker government has said, after thousands crossed the border from Myanmar in recent weeks.

Around one million Rohingya live in sprawling and squalid relief camps in Bangladesh, most having fled Myanmar in 2017 during a military crackdown now the subject of a United Nations genocide court case.

Driving the latest exodus is an escalating conflict between Bangladesh's junta-run neighbour and the rebel Arakan Army near their shared border, displacing many residents from Rohingya-majority Maungdaw township.

"We have information that around 8,000 Rohingya have entered Bangladesh," interim foreign minister Touhid Hossain told reporters on Tuesday evening.

Hossain did not specify the time period in which the refugees had crossed over the border.

But he said a "serious cabinet discussion" would be held this week to work out "how to prevent" more arrivals.

"We are sorry to say this, but it's beyond our capacity to give shelter to anyone else," he added.

The situation in Myanmar has been further inflamed

by the military's forced recruitment of Rohingya to battle the rebel group, including reportedly more than 2,000 from Bangladeshi refugee camps.

That has led to alleged reprisal attacks by the Arakan Army against Rohingya civilians.

Watchdog Fortify Rights said in a report last month that its investigation found the Arakan Army had on August 5 launched a drone and mortar attack that killed more than 100 Rohingya men, women and children near the Bangladeshi border.

The Arakan Army has repeatedly denied responsibility for the bombardment.

Further complicating the security situation for Rohingya in Bangladesh was the ousting last month of autocratic ruler Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India after a student-led uprising.

Hasina was replaced by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who is leading the country's interim government and faces the challenge of bedding down democratic reforms ahead of expected elections.

He pledged to keep supporting Rohingya refugees soon after taking office, but said his country needed "the sustained efforts of the international community" to do so.

MYANMAR JUNTA REVISES ELECTRICITY TARIFFS TO OVER TWO-FOLD HIGH ON ACCOUNT OF INCREASING PRODUCTION COSTS

The Military Council's Ministry of Electric Power announced they would revise electricity tariffs from 1 September onwards. Both domestic use and commercial use will be hiked to a more than two-fold high.

Under the announcement made by the Ministry, the tariff will not be significantly higher for domestic users with below 200 units (KWH) per month, but users with over 200 units must pay 300 Kyats per unit. The previous tariff was 125 per unit for customers using over 200 units, more than doubling the tariff.

For commercial use, customers using under 20,000 units per month will have to pay nearly twice as much. Those using over 20,000 units per month will have to pay more than double. The previous tariff for over 20,000 units per month was 180 Kyats per unit but now they must pay 500 Kyats per unit under the new tariff.

The reason the Ministry of Electric Power gave for hiking tariffs is increasing production costs in electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

The Ministry of Electric Power upgrades the power plants and power grids. It also conducts extensions and maintenance works in collaboration with local and foreign investors.

The costs for power generation to distribute stable power to the public has become higher in respective financial years. Electricity bill rates must thus be renewed, the announcement made by the Ministry on 30 August says.

The common people in the country are worrying about harsher and harder livelihood caused by rising commodity prices and increased electricity tariffs.

High inflation in the country pushed fuel and commodity prices upward after the military coup in Myanmar. Subsequently, most of the common people are trying hard and struggling with many difficulties for their survival and subsistence.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC), Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, said at a meeting held in Naypyitaw in January last year that they were working to generate adequate electricity by 2025.

Currently the alternate load shedding system is being used in distribution of electricity across the country. A local resident in Yangon said that they faced more frequent power outages than before.

An industrialist said that a hike in the electricity tariff to more than double would cause suspensions and closures of many SME businesses. The increased electricity costs would increase production costs too resulting in a rise in commodity prices as well.

Many foreign investors exited the country after facing severe power outages. Some local industries also had to suspend their operations because of severe power shortages and outages.



People at the border crossing.
Photo: Mizzima

MILITARY COUNCIL IMPOSES BORDER RESTRICTIONS ON YOUNG MEN AT KAWTHAUNG-RANONG BORDER CROSSING

The military council has implemented new restrictions at the border crossing between Kawthaung, Myanmar, and Ranong, Thailand, blocking the departure of men aged 18 to 35, according to local residents.

Starting on 2 September, only residents of Kawthaung are permitted to cross the border, leaving many young men from other regions and states stranded.

A traveler from Kawthaung to Ranong said, "An immigration officer at the border loudly announced that only Kawthaung residents could cross, without providing any explanation. The rest of the men were turned back."

Men were generally allowed to cross the border until 1 September. This new directive has now barred men aged 18 to 34 from leaving the country, even those holding Visiting Passports (PV) and visas. A local woman confirmed that women could still pass through since the ban specifically targeted young men.

"Women could pass through. Men between the ages of 18 and 34 who hold PV passports and visas couldn't go out anymore," a local female resident said.

A political analyst warned that this restriction could lead to a rise in illegal border crossings and human trafficking as people seek alternative means to cross the border.

"As a result, illegal border crossing and human trafficking will increase. The black market will likely see an increase as well," the analyst said.

In addition to the border restrictions at Kawthaung, the military council has also tightened controls at Yangon International Airport, restricting the departure of individuals with certain types of PV passports.



Photo: AFP

EDIBLE OIL RATIONING STARTS IN YANGON REGION

It is learned from the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association that edible oil will be distributed in some townships in Yangon Region through an Edible Oil Ration Book from 1 September onwards.

The sale and distribution of edible oil by queuing and producing household registration at designated and authorized shops in some suburban townships and wards of Yangon Region will be suspended. A new system of selling with edible oil ration books issued to each household by the Ward Administration Office concerned will be started.

This new sale and distribution system was started in some wards of South Dagon, East Dagon and North Okkalapa Townships in Yangon Region with the issuance of these edible oil ration books.

The junta-controlled Supervisory Committee on Import Storage and Distribution of Edible Oil under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce set the new wholesale reference price at 6,490 Kyats per viss (approx. 1.6 Kg) for edible palm oil. The price of edible oil in the open market subsequently rose too.

The weekly wholesale reference price was previously set by the Ministry of Economy and

Commerce at 6,375 Kyat per viss for 26 August to 1 September. The price was reset to 6,490 Kyat per viss for the period of 2-8 September, raising the price by 85 Kyat from the previous week.

The price of edible oil rose to 18,000 Kyats per viss in the open market. In some townships outside Yangon, the price reached up to 20,000 Kyats per viss.

The supervisory committee warns that they will take action against overpricing, hoarding with intent of speculation, and other malpractices in accordance with the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

Myanmar's annual demand for edible oil is about one million tonnes. The country imports 600-700,000 tonnes of edible oil from Malaysia and Indonesia annually. The monthly consumption in the country is over 5,000 tonnes.

The country needs over US\$600 million per year for the import of edible oil. The Military Council is trying to reduce foreign exchange spending on edible oil import through the imposition of restrictions on edible oil imports.



Photo: Facebook

OVER 130 ELEPHANTS AND THEIR KEEPERS SEEK REFUGE AMID FIGHTING IN MANDALAY REGION

The Myanmar resistance is taking care to protect working elephants caught up in ongoing clashes in the Mandalay region.

An official from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) reported that 138 elephants, along with their keepers and families, who fled due to ongoing fighting in Thabeikkyi and Singu townships in Mandalay Region, are being detained and provided with necessary care.

Since 10 July, ongoing conflict in the Mandalay Region has forced logging elephants, their keepers, and their families who were under the Ministry of Forestry of the Myanmar junta to seek refuge in forests and mountains controlled by the PLA.

A total of ten elephant herds were already in the PLA's military area, with an additional eleven herds moving from Singu Township to Mogok and Thabeikkyi Townships. As a result, 21 elephant herds, comprising 138 elephants, are currently under protection.

"The relocation is due to the fighting, and young elephants are also part of the herds," a PLA information officer said.

These elephants are currently being conserved as "public treasures" by PLA Battalion No. 222 and will be returned to the appropriate departments under the new People's Democratic Government, according to the official.

The PLA has been actively participating in Operation 1027, which is being coordinated by the Three Brotherhood Alliance across Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and Northern Shan State. As of now, the joint revolutionary forces control Thabeikkyi, Singu, Mogok, and Tagaung towns in Mandalay Region.

In a related development, when the People's Defense Forces (PDF) attacked and seized junta camps in Kani and Yinmarbin townships, Sagaing Region last year. The forest staff and elephants from the Alaungdaw Kathapa Forest Reserve were safeguarded by the PDF.



Twin elephants with their mother.
Photo: AFP

RARE TWIN ELEPHANTS TAKE FIRST STEPS IN BAGO, MYANMAR

Baby elephant twins born last week on a timber camp in Myanmar are thriving after a wobbly first few days in the world, officials told AFP on Thursday.

Pearl Sint was born a few minutes before her brother Kyaw Pearl last week at the 60-acre Wingabaw elephant camp in the Bago region operated by state-run Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

At about two feet and six inches tall, the pint-sized twins were around four inches shorter than the average calf, said Myo Min Aung, the camp's assistant manager.

This meant they were not tall enough to reach their mother's teat and feed.

"We helped them by putting small wooden blocks under their front legs and bringing their heads up to their mother's breast," he said.

On the third day, they were able to feed themselves and quickly showed their personalities.

"The little male likes to wander around and play with humans rather than stay with his mother," said Myo Min Aung.

"He is not feeding as much as the female little one does."

Another official at the camp, who did not want to give his name, said he hoped the twins would not take after their father, a bull elephant named Aye Htike.

"He was badly behaved. He used to attack the other elephants and people," he said.

Pearl Sandar, the twins' mother, "has a kind heart," the official said.

"She doesn't attack others... we are training the twins to be well-behaved, not like their father."

The arrival of the twins takes the population of the elephant camp up to nine, the official said.

Previously around 3,000 elephants were used for labour at state timber enterprises in Myanmar, the majority dragging freshly cut trees through the dense jungle to transport hubs and mills.

But now those at the Wingabaw camp, like many others, carry humans instead of logs and earn their keep as a tourist attraction.

Fewer than 50,000 Asian elephants remain in the wild, and fewer than 2,000 of them are found in Myanmar, according 2018 figures from environmental group WWF.

"This is my first time personally experiencing an elephant twin birth," said Myo Min Aung.

"I am happy to take care of the little twin elephants, but it is also a big responsibility."

AFP



A BOND BETWEEN HUMAN AND CANINE AMID POLITICAL CRISIS IN MYANMAR
KHINE WATHAN AND PHYO LAY

It was a harrowing night filled with the sounds of gunfire, the screams of terrified people, and the splashing of those swimming across the Moei River, known in Burmese as the Thaungyin River.

The scene unfolded during the third week of December 2021 as locals attempted to flee to safety due to fierce fighting between the junta and resistance forces in Palu village, Myawaddy Township, Karen (Kayin) State.

Among those trying to escape was May Than, a 50-year-old woman from Hpa-an Township who had given up her civil servant job to join the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). May Than had fled to Palu village from Hpa-an township after joining the CDM.

May Than was forced to flee once more when the fighting intensified a week after her arrival in Palu

village. It was then that she became concerned about her companions. She travelled with her two sons and two daughters, but it was more challenging for her to decide about her two dogs, Yoon Yoon and Nga Pone, who shared a bond with her as strong as her children.

At that time, May Than grappled with numerous questions: “Will there be problems on the road if she takes two dogs with her? Are the people she plans to accompany agreeable? Will it become her responsibility if their barking puts people in danger? How can she take these dogs with her? How can she feed these dogs who consume only meat?”

Ultimately, May Than had to decide whether or not to bring her dogs. She made the final decision to take them. As a result, her dogs – Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon – embarked on a rough journey to begin a new life as exiled canines.

"It was a tough choice to bring Yoon Yoon and Nga Pone along. While many people only saw my dogs as pets, I treated them more like members of my family. I wanted my family to be with me, even though it was inconvenient for others," May Than remarked.

Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon had been with May Than for more than six years. When they first arrived, Nga Pone was just a month old, and Yoon Yoon was only about five months old. Nga Pone is a male cross-bred yellow dog, while Yoon Yoon is a female black-white terrier.

"Knowing that I adore dogs, a civil servant from Kya Inn Seik Gyi Township gave me Nga Pone as a gift. I purchased Yoon Yoon from Myawaddy as a birthday present for my daughter," said May Than.

"Nga Pone requires a daily wash because he likes to go outside and always returns home dirty. Nga Pone usually sulks on the days I won't let him out. Yoon Yoon is the calm type and longs to be close to people," May Than explained.

May Than's family endured a difficult journey. They first had to flee to Kuam Tar, a village in Hpa-an Township, Karen (Kayin) State. From there, they proceeded to Lay Kay Kaw Myothit, also known as the "town of peace," close to the Thai-Myanmar border. They subsequently arrived at the Palu Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp and had to cross the Moei River to reach the border town of Mae Sot.

According to May Than, the most challenging part was when they had to wade across the Moei River from Palu camp to Mae Sot with Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon.

As the fighting forced her family to relocate to Mae Sot, Thailand, May Than urged her children and two dogs to cross the Moei River before she did. Her two sons took care of Nga Pone while her two daughters looked after Yoon Yoon during the crossing.

"Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon didn't seem afraid when we crossed the river," May Than said. "They seemed to understand the circumstances, in our opinion."

May Than's eldest son recounted, "The water was just shin-high when we started to cross the river. Then, as we gradually approached the middle, the water level rose to over five feet and five inches deep. As a result, I had to cross quite awkwardly by carrying Nga Pone on my shoulder and holding a rope that had been extended between the opposite banks under my arms."

"My entire body was underwater when I reached the middle of the river. I felt like I was choking because of how strong the current was. At that moment, I was really concerned that Nga Pone would break away from me. I was suffocating and wouldn't have been able to do anything if he had separated from me," the son remarked.

May Than's two daughters and Yoon Yoon crossed the river together. One of May Than's daughters described how things worsened when they reached the middle of the river.

"While I was holding the rope to cross the river and carrying Yoon Yoon and my packages on one side, I fell on my back in the center. It became really heavy. I pleaded with the men who approached me at that moment to help save Yoon Yoon. After that, I allowed them to take Yoon Yoon with them to the riverbank," she recounted.

Prior to reaching the Palu IDP camp, May Than stayed in Kuam Tar village, Hpa-an Township. They were forced to leave for Lay Kay Kaw village in Myawaddy Township after it became impossible for them to stay there.

They stayed in Lay Kay Kaw for about nine months, but when the fighting intensified, they moved to Palu IDP camp. Taking Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon with them during the battle was challenging.

Nga Pone was not extremely frightened during the fighting, but Yoon Yoon trembled with fear. The noises from the conflict traumatized her. May Than's daughter said, "Even now, when the door is closed and she hears a loud noise, she still finds a place to hide."

While May Than and her children ate whatever was available, they had to find meat for Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon. They had to buy and reserve canned fish and dried shrimp for the dogs.

"We had to pay 3,000 kyat to buy a can of canned fish," said May Than's son. "These were not for us. We simply purchased those foods for Yoon Yoon and Nga Pone."

May Than's group consisted of fifteen people when they moved from the Palu IDP Camp to Mae Sot, Thailand. The other group members were unhappy about the two dogs. According to May Than, some people blamed her and advised her to leave the dogs behind, so she had to be extremely careful not to disturb those who traveled with her.

"I decided at that moment that we would stay behind if they didn't allow the dogs. I could understand those who accompanied us, but I was unable to part from my pets. I was responsible for my dogs for the rest of their lives because I willingly raised them. They were the youngest in my home. I didn't like it even when people called Yoon Yoon and Nga Pone just 'dogs,'" May Than remarked.

In reality, it wasn't too difficult for a family of five to cross the Moei River to reach Thailand from an IDP camp. However, May Than had to confer with her family when she discovered that they were unable to enter Mae Sot due to the dogs they were bringing. It led to some contemplation.

"At that time, my oldest son suggested that we go back to Myawaddy," May Than said. "Then, a group that brought us cooked rice felt sorry for us and helped us find a way to enter Mae Sot."

Because of the group's plan, May Than's two daughters and Yoon Yoon had to accompany a group that would proceed on foot, while May Than and Nga Pone travelled by car through the village.

To enter Mae Sot, the group who set off on foot had to trek at two in the morning. Once inside, they had to

conceal Yoon Yoon under a blouse and take her with them.

May Than's daughter said, "We had to tell Yoon Yoon to keep quiet and not to bark back if other dogs barked when we were sneaking into another country."

"Yoon Yoon accompanied me discreetly the entire time, exactly as I instructed. Yoon Yoon was silent while a young guide held her in his arms that day, despite the fact that she had previously refused to be carried by strangers."

After walking for around three and a half hours, the group on foot arrived in Mae Sot at around 5:30 in the morning. They had to pass through farms, forests, jungle areas, and military gates before reaching their destination.

The challenges didn't end when they arrived in Mae Sot.

Due to accommodation issues and lack of employment, they were forced to live in safe houses after moving to Mae Sot and look for a place to rent. "We had dogs with us, so the owners of the houses did not rent to us. Additionally, because we had dogs, we were unable to share a house with other people," May Than added. Eventually, her family was able to rent a private home.

Nga Pone and Yoon Yoon are currently in a tranquil and safe location. Every day, Nga Pone ventures outside with confidence, but when he is forbidden from doing so, he remains as gloomy as ever. As a result, May Than's family members take Yoon Yoon and Nga Pone for daily motorbike rides, which makes them happier dogs than they were before.

CAVEAT CREDITOR: CHINA OFFERS A FINANCIAL LIFELINE TO MYANMAR'S JUNTA

ZACHARY ABUZA FOR RFA

Photo: Isaac Chou



Economic bungling, battlefield losses create a vicious cycle for the beleaguered generals

Opposition battlefield gains are not just a military setback for the junta, but an important economic blow that is compounding their already dire fiscal straits – something China should ponder as it moves to bail out the military regime in Myanmar.

The junta's egregious economic mismanagement had been a greater threat to their rule than any potential military challenge, until Operation 1027 was launched by a trio of ethnic armies in late 2023.

GDP has fallen by 20% since the coup. The kyat is now trading around 7,000 to the dollar, from 1,350 prior to the coup. Inflation is currently over 30%, and the price of staples has increased by 200% since the military takeover.

Projected economic growth in 2024 has been halved to 1%. Real wages have plummeted, impacting domestic consumption.

The coup eviscerated 15 years of sustained economic growth, and plunged more than half of the population beneath the poverty line. Public health and sanitation are so underfunded that the country is seeing an increase in cholera cases.

Currency controls have wreaked havoc on importers. The government has an acute shortage of foreign exchange and has to allocate it to pay for petroleum products, including jet fuel, and other staples. To stem bank runs, the regime has limited daily withdrawals at banks to 200,000 kyats (US\$406).

Military losses cause economic pain

The opposition claims to have effective control of over 50% of the country and one-third of the cities and towns. The over-extended military is increasingly reliant on conscripts at the front lines, while its logistical ability to sustain the war is breaking.

Due to their urgent need for conscripts, the regime has tried to block young men from emigrating, but at the same time, it is trying to increase the taxes from overseas wages to 25% which must be paid through state-owned banks that convert the foreign exchange at the artificially low official rate.

Military losses have only exacerbated the regime's already dire economic predicament by cutting into key sources of income: gem sales, oil and gas rents, military-owned enterprises, and corporate taxes.

On July 26, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army captured Mogoke, the ruby mining center. The wholesale trade of gemstones in Mogoke and elsewhere is largely controlled through military-owned companies.

The Kachin Independence Army has stepped up their control over key jade mining centers, most recently capturing two military bases in Hpakant township.

In early August, the opposition National Unity Government's people's defense forces, or PDFs, took over the Tagaung Taung Nickel Mine, north of Mandalay.

The mine is one of China's largest foreign investments in the country, and prior to the coup is thought to have earned the junta over \$120 million in annual rents. Its operator, Wanbao Mining, is a subsidiary of the Chinese arms conglomerate NORINCO.

Opposition wants pipeline rent

Since the capture of Wanbao, China has reached out directly to the NUG. PDFs are now providing security and rents will no longer be paid to the junta.

Also in August, PDFs briefly took over a pumping

and off-take station for China's oil and gas pipelines. Junta troops retook the facility, as the regime is desperate for the rents from China.

The NUG and allied ethnic armies have repeatedly pledged to protect China's economic interests in general, and the pipelines, in particular, but have pushed for rents to be paid to them, not the junta.

In western Myanmar, while the Arakan Army has not taken over the port of Kyaukphyu where a Chinese SOE has been trying to construct a deepwater port and special economic zone around its pipelines, it controls all of the territory surrounding the important Chinese Belt and Road Initiative project.

The PDF militias captured their fourth oil field directly owned by the Myanmar Ministry of Oil and Gas Enterprises, since March.

The regime has long used its two conglomerates - the Myanma Economic Corporation, or MEC, and Myanma Economic Holdings Limited, or MEHL - as cash cows. Together the two firms own over 120 different corporations across almost every sector of the economy.

The NUG has had a sustained campaign to boycott Mytel, the country's largest telecommunications provider, as well as owner of Myanmar and Dagon Beers, and Red Ruby and Premium Gold Cigarettes.

Currency controls spur capital flight

While the full impact of the boycotts as well as other dislocations is unknown, MEHL has not paid an annual dividend since the coup in February 2021, which is devastating to military morale. All military personnel are required to invest a fixed amount of their paltry salary, determined by their rank, in MEHL every month. The annual dividend is a financial lifeline.

Corporate taxes are down, in parallel with the overall collapse of the economy. New foreign investment, except from some Chinese and Thai investors, has dried up.

Only \$150 million in new foreign investment was pledged in the first 7 months of 2024. Key foreign investors in the textile sector, including Primark, H&M and Inditex have all pulled out. Capital imports have ground to a halt.

The military regime has been largely funding its war efforts through its currency control mechanism, requiring all companies to sell 65% of their foreign exchange at artificially low rates.

Jared Bissinger argues in a recent report that the junta had raised \$1.8 billion through arbitrage in 2024 alone. This takes away productive revenue that could be used to generate economic growth, and spurs more capital flight. Exporters are likely under-reporting their sales to hide assets abroad.

Economic activity has also been hampered by the irregular and dwindling supply of electricity. Hong Kong's V-Corp shuttered a number of projects, while Singapore's Sembcorp recently indefinitely suspended operations at a 250 MW facility, outside of Mandalay, compounding the dire shortage of electricity.

Although the government has pledged \$100 million to pay for the import of petroleum and diesel, nothing has happened, leading to nationwide shortages and spiking prices.

A Chinese financial lifeline?

Due to the shortage of hard currency, the junta has pushed for more border trade, which can be settled in kyat. But even that is no panacea, as the ethnic armies control most of the border crossings and a growing number of transit and trade hubs along the Chinese border.

Given the shortage of cash, the regime has prioritized indigenous production of arms and ammunition. But in August, PDFs attacked an MEC-owned mill in Myingyan that was producing steel for shells, grinding production to a halt.

The NUG is now starting to regularly target the regime's ability to wage war.

In the face of this, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently offered the junta a \$3 billion financial lifeline.

This has to be seen as an inducement to get the State Administrative Council, as the junta calls itself, to accept a nationwide election as an offramp from the civil war, but it could also give the junta the confidence that it can continue to afford to fight on.

The NUG issued an immediate warning to China, with Tin Tun Naing – the NUG's Minister of Planning, Finance, and Investment – telling Beijing that any post-coup government would not honor debts and liabilities incurred by the junta.

"It is unforgivable and impermissible for the illegal military council, which has no claim to represent the people, and which has usurped state power by force from the people, to fund their apparatus of terror, persecution, and slaughter by borrowing from domestic or foreign lenders under the guise of raising public debt," he said.

As the junta continues to lose on the battlefield, they will lose streams of revenue and further stress the government's shaky financial situation.

Caveat creditor.

Zachary Abuza is a professor at the National War College in Washington and an adjunct at Georgetown University. The views expressed here are his own and do not reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Defense, the National War College, Georgetown University or Radio Free Asia.

Courtesy of Radio Free Asia



Protestors in Manipur. Photo: AFP

FIVE KILLED AS VIOLENCE FLARES IN RESTIVE INDIAN STATE

Fresh clashes in India's strife-addled northeast killed at least five people on Saturday, a local government official said, hours after a rocket bombardment prompted authorities to shut schools.

Manipur state has been rocked by periodic violence for more than a year between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community.

The conflict has simmered since then, splitting previously cohabitating communities along ethnic lines.

Another round of clashes killed five people in Jiribam district, sitting on India's border with war-torn Myanmar.

"From morning, there has been fighting between the two communities in Jiribam. We have recovered five bodies and we are awaiting further details," a local government official, who declined to be identified, told AFP.

One person was shot dead while sleeping and another four "armed persons" were killed in a "subsequent exchange of fire", the Press Trust of India reported.

Saturday's violence comes after the deaths of two other people over the past week in separate attacks.

Schools were ordered shut after a rocket attack by insurgents the previous day killed a 78-year-old man and wounded six others.

A local government notice said all schools in the state would be closed on Saturday, when classes are usually held, to protect the "safety of the students and teachers".

Officers responding to the attack "were fired upon by suspected Kuki militants but the police team retaliated robustly and repelled the attack", a police statement said.

Local media reports said the elderly man was killed when a rocket hit the residence of the late Mairenbam Koireng Singh, a former chief minister of Manipur.

The Indian Express newspaper, citing an unnamed security source, said that the rockets appeared to be "improvised projectiles" made using "galvanised iron pipes attached to explosives".

Friday's attack also came days after insurgents used drones to drop explosives in what police called a "significant escalation" of violence in the state.

A 31-year-old woman was killed and six others were wounded in that incident.

Long-standing tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities revolve around competition for land and public jobs.

Rights activists have accused local leaders of exacerbating ethnic divisions for political gain.



Indian Himalayan mountain range. Photo: AFP

INDIA LAUNCHES FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS AT HIMALAYAN GLACIAL LAKES

India is setting up high-tech warning systems at nearly 200 Himalayan glacial lakes at risk of bursting their banks, a deadly threat exacerbated by climate change, disaster officials said last week.

India's Himalayas contain at least 7,500 glacial lakes, many of which pose risks of dangerous flash floods.

Teams from India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are targeting 190 high-altitude lakes deemed to be the most dangerous in a mission slated to take three years.

"We have already made significant strides in mitigating risks", Safi Ahsan Rizvi, a senior NDMA official directing the mission, told AFP.

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is the sudden release of water that has collected in former glacier beds.

These lakes are formed by the retreat of glaciers, a naturally occurring phenomenon turbocharged by the warmer temperatures.

One expedition is currently working to install early warning systems around six high-risk lakes in the northeastern state of Sikkim, where at least 77 people died in such a flood in October 2023.

"We have done 20 lakes so far, and will complete 40 this summer," Rizvi said.

The project will also include "lowering lake levels" of accumulated water and ice slush in lakes.

Teams include experts from the army and multiple government agencies, including the Indian Space Research Organisation, geologists, hydrologists, computing engineers and weather specialists.

India's air force is also expected to join the mission later, flying heavy equipment into remote sites.

'CATASTROPHIC IMPACTS'

The mission will cover the Himalayan regions in India, from Kashmir and Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, many in areas bordering China.

Climate change is driving the disappearance of glaciers, with half the Earth's 215,000 glaciers projected to melt by the end of the century, even if warming can be capped at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The volume of glacial lakes has jumped by 50 percent in 30 years, according to a 2020 study based on satellite data.

A study, published in Nature Communications, found that 15 million people live within 50 kilometres (31 miles) of a glacial lake and within one kilometre of potential flooding from a breach.

The risk was greatest in the "High Mountains Asia" region across 12 countries, including India, Pakistan, China and Nepal.

That is partly because more people live closer to glacial lakes in the region than in other parts of the world, making warning times even shorter.

Last month a glacial lake outburst in neighbouring Nepal's Everest region sent a devastating flood of frigid water through the village of Thame, sweeping away buildings.

However, residents were forewarned and there were no casualties.

AFP



Mohammad Yunus. Photo: AFP

BANGLADESH EX-PM SHOULD 'KEEP QUIET' UNTIL TRIAL: YUNUS

Bangladesh's ousted premier Sheikh Hasina should "keep quiet" while exiled in India until she is brought home for trial, interim leader Muhammad Yunus told Indian media on Thursday last week.

Hasina, 76, fled to India by helicopter one month ago as protesters marched on her palace in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted rule of 15 years.

An interim government led by Nobel laureate Yunus has been under public pressure to demand her extradition and trial over the hundreds of demonstrators killed during the weeks of unrest that toppled ultimately her.

"If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," Yunus, 84, told the Press Trust of India news agency.

"Sitting in India, she is speaking and giving instructions. No one likes it. It's not good for us or for India."

Hasina has remained in India, her former government's biggest patron and benefactor, since her August 5 overthrow, inflaming tensions between the two South Asian neighbours.

She gave a public statement the week after her arrival calling for Bangladeshis to gather in Dhaka to mark the 1975 assassination of her father, independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina's comments were seen as a provocative effort to galvanise members of her Awami League party and undermine law and order in the fragile first days after Yunus took office.

It was prevented by a counter-demonstration outside her childhood home in the capital by a mob that beat suspected Awami League supporters with sticks and rods.

Yunus did not say whether a formal extradition request had been made to India. His government has avoided committing itself to demanding her return.

Hasina's government was accused of widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killing of her political opponents.

Numerous criminal cases have been lodged against Hasina and senior Awami League figures over the deaths of protesters in a police crackdown on the student-led uprising that ultimately ousted her.

Demonstrations were planned in Dhaka on Thursday to mark one month since Hasina's toppling and to remember the "martyrs" killed during the unrest.

Yunus returned from Europe three days after Hasina's departure to head a temporary administration that faces the monumental challenge of steering democratic reforms.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his pioneering work in microfinance, credited with helping millions of Bangladeshis out of grinding poverty.

His caretaker government has promised fresh elections but has given no firm commitment on when they will be held.

AFP

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THE CURE LIES WITHIN

“There’s a lot of Western perceptions of traditional medicine being unhygienic, not effective, or useless,” Shalini Sri Perumal tells the Insight Myanmar Podcast. “A lot of it is Western-centric and Euro-centric, and has a bit of a colonial hangover. This perception of traditional medicine—although it’s not necessarily unfounded, because there is some traditional medicine that can be harmful, and that might need to be reconsidered— but because they came about from a time [where] it’s not applicable anymore, and the belief systems maybe don’t make sense now.”

Originally from India, Shalini grew up in Africa and in other parts of Asia. Her experiences in diverse cultures helped open her eyes to the power of indigenous medicine. A turning point in her life came in 2016, when she became a volunteer at the renowned Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, on the Thai-Burmese border, “one of the only refugee-run charity organizations in the world where all the staff is refugees or migrant workers themselves, and the service is free.” The clinic serves 100,000 Burmese migrant patients annually, predominantly ethnic minorities who have few, if any, other options for medical treatment.

Today, she is a Communications Officer at ActionAid India, where she combines her passions of traditional medicine and advocacy for refugee rights. These two areas of focus have led to a strong connection with Burma, and she regularly consults with a handful of community-based women’s organizations there, including The Kachin Women’s Association and the Finnish Refugee Council.

Reminiscing about her time at the Mae Tao Clinic, Shalini describes her admiration of Dr. Cynthia Maung, its Karen founder who began her work in 1988. Since that time, Dr. Maung has accomplished much under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and the clinic is now a community-owned social enterprise with an eye towards sustainability.

For Shalini, it is “an amazing place,” adding that “over the years they’ve offered about 135,000 antenatal care consultations, more than 75,000 family planning consultations, and 34,000 deliveries— and this is all since 2007. So it’s one of the region’s largest provider of reproductive health services for migrants, refugees, and even displaced populations. A lot of displaced populations travel across Southeast Myanmar and come to MTC because it’s really the only healthcare service they can access! So it really provides a lot of hope for women and men as well, and children facing challenges and of displacement and like limited access to healthcare. So yeah, it’s an amazing place.”

Discussing the myriad challenges faced by Burmese refugees across the border, Shalini notes that although Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is officially committed to the principle of “non-refoulement”—that is, safeguarding the rights and well-being of those fleeing persecution. Yet, as Phil Robertson poignantly pointed in a recent podcast conversation, migrant populations in Thailand lack access to important services based on their undocumented status, including health care. In addition, as Kenneth Wong addressed in another episode, many migrants lack proficiency in Thai, which Shalini says is also an impediment to securing assistance. With these issues in mind, the Mae Tao Clinic is partnering with the general hospital in Mae Sot, working together to provide treatment options. Even so, migrants still have many concerns about receiving medical attention. “They don’t feel comfortable being in a Thai hospital because of the legal repercussions that they might face, [like if] they don’t have all the documentation that they need, or they’re living quote-unquote ‘illegally’ in Thailand. So there’s a lot of fear, and they feel safer with community-based and Burmese indigenous community-based healthcare services.”

CATCH THE PODCAST

Read more or catch the podcast at Insight Myanmar:

<https://insightmyanmar.org/complete-shows/2024/8/26/episode-264-the-cure-lies-within>

JUNTA BEGINS FORCIBLY RECRUITING MALE CIVILIANS UP TO AGE 65

In a desperate bid to counter mounting losses in Myanmar's civil war, the military junta has begun forcibly recruiting male civilians up to age 65, according to the Radio Free Asia (RFA).

The policy, also now targeting male civilians up to 65 years old, including those with disabilities, aims to bolster the army's strength against rebel militias.

The junta's People's Security and Counter-Terrorism Central Committee, formed last month, is overseeing this initiative. Their mandate includes arming civilians, providing combat training, and "expanding forces."

Across various regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, and Kayin (Karen) regions and states, local officials are actively recruiting. In Ayeyarwady, a resident said that the junta is forcing men aged 35-65 to serve in local militia groups. He continued that they will have to take part in local security services based on drawing lots.

Alarming, the conscription appears indiscriminate. The same resident told RFA that those who refuse to be recruited have to pay money (to get out of service)."

Even more concerning, he added that in some villages, the junta is "requiring the disabled to serve in the public security forces."

This latest move follows the junta's implementation of a mandatory conscription law in February 2024, which primarily targets males under 35 and females under 27. The law requires all men between 18 and 35 and women aged 18 to 27 to serve in the military for up to two years.



Myanmar junta leader
Min Aung Hlaing

MYANMAR JUNTA PUSHES FOR CENSUS COMPLETION AHEAD OF PLANNED ELECTION

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar's military council officially known as the State Administration Council, has emphasized the importance of completing a nationwide population and household census by December 2024, according to the state-run newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Speaking at a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Soe Win stressed that the census must be conducted without international aid and will be crucial for the planned general election.

The census project, initiated in October 2021, is set to run for 36 months. Soe Win highlighted the need for accurate data collection, urging officials to deploy security personnel in areas where census-taking may be challenging.

The junta views the census as a key step towards holding a general election.

This move comes as the military junta seeks to solidify its control following the 2021 coup, despite ongoing armed resistance and international criticism.

CHIANG MAI'S ROHINGYA CULTURAL NIGHT CELEBRATES ROHINGYA WOMEN'S RESILIENCE

The Rohingya Maiyafuinor Collaborative Network (RMCN) hosted a vibrant Rohingya Cultural Night at Bamboo Family Market in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on September 8, according to the Facebook page of "Expats and Locals Living in Chiang Mai".

The event showcased the rich cultural heritage and inspiring stories of Rohingya people, with a special focus on women's empowerment.

Attendees were treated to a screening of "Journey of Love," a poignant film chronicling the experiences of five courageous Rohingya women who overcame adversity to establish the RMCN. The evening also featured a delectable Rohingya dinner prepared by a team of skilled women cooks, offering guests a taste of Rohingya traditional cuisine.

Yasmin Ullah, founder of RMCN, emphasized the importance of cultural exchange. "We need to uplift and rebuild these connections again. And I think the best way to do that is to showcase our food, our culture, our film, our women, and various other aspects of who we are to make sure that the rest of the country also understand who we are, so that we can find a way to connect further again," Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) quoted Yasmin Ullah as saying.

The event also highlighted the Ek Khaale Rohingya visual restoration project, displaying photographs that capture the community's spirit and resilience. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with Rohingya women, exchanging thoughts and ideas.



THAILAND'S PAYAP UNIVERSITY'S MOVIE NIGHT CELEBRATES MYANMAR'S CULTURE AND SUPPORTS REFUGEES

Payap University's recent "Movie Night" event, held on September 6 blended cultural appreciation with humanitarian support. The event, organized by Do One Thing in collaboration with Artists' Shelter, took place at the Sirindhorn Learning Resource Center and drew a diverse crowd of students, faculty, and community members, according to the Facebook page of the Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace- Payap University.

The highlight of the evening was the screening of "DARING FLOWERS," a film that pays tribute to revolutionary artists while raising awareness about the ongoing challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Myanmar's Rakhine State, including those in Rohingya camps.

The event featured ten local vendors from Myanmar, offering attendees a taste of traditional cuisine, drinks, and crafts.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to Daughters Rising for their sponsorship, which played a crucial role in the event's success.

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