

A00035-2021:

- “Seeking all memos, reports (complete) from the CDN Embassy in Myanmar on all unfolding events from February 1st, - April 7th 2021”

[1-15 FEBRUARY START]

UPDATE 4

This reports also serves as the every 4 hour Watch Office check-in for YNGON.

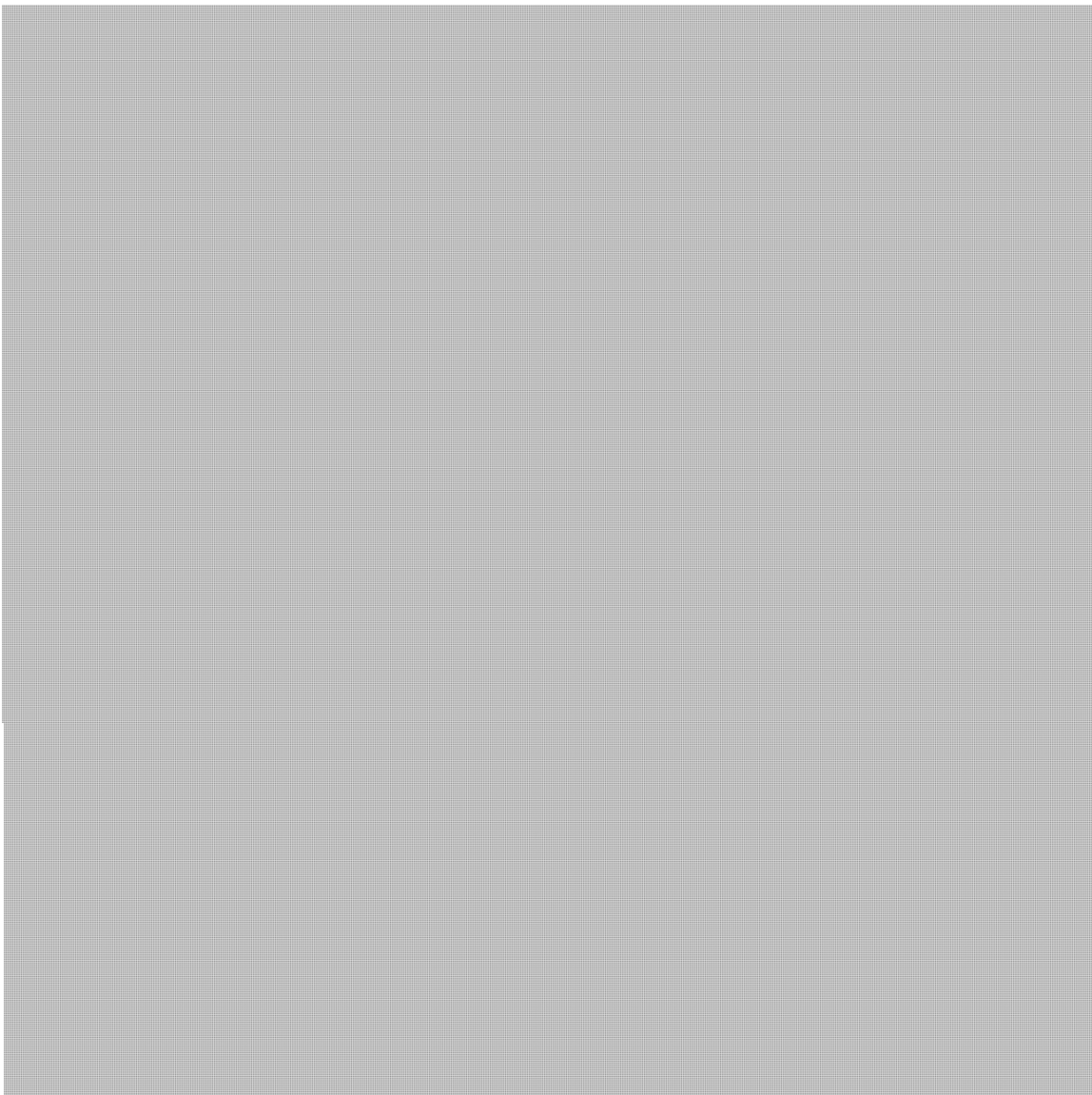
Summary of current situation:

- The military continues to **consolidate the early morning Feb 1 takeover**, with announcement by the Tatmadaw of a **one year State of Emergency and installation of the military Vice President Myint Swe, as interim president**. Tatmadaw statement included commitment to hold elections in one year.
- Situation remains highly volatile and fluid.
- Comms (telcom, internet, phone, TV and radio) all cut in early morning; restored midday, but access is variable.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The airport has been shut down, some social media postings suggesting that the shutdown is until end of May [REDACTED]
- Banks announced closure afternoon of 1 Feb.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Report: As per earlier reporting, between 2 and 3 am on 1 Feb, the Tatmadaw seized control of the government and detained senior level NLD leadership, including the State Counsellor and *de facto* leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the President Win Myint and NLD Vic Chair, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung. [REDACTED]

List of detained officials, [REDACTED]

1. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (State Counsellor)
2. U Win Myint (President)
3. [REDACTED]
4. Dr. Zaw Myint Maung (Chief Minister of Mandalay Region)



The Tatmadaw released two statements today (see attached), the first around 8:00 am and the second this afternoon seeking to ground their actions within the parameters of the 2008 Constitution and pointing in particular to article 417 of the constitution, which permits a military takeover in the event of an emergency that threatens Myanmar's sovereignty, or that could "disintegrate the Union" or "national solidarity".

The second statement reiterated the USDP and Tatmadaw's fraud allegations, reiterated earlier demands that went unmet (postponement of parliament, convening the NDSC, disbanding the EUC, and review the voter lists and contested votes). The military statement further confirmed its intention to reform the UEC, scrutinize the voters list, hold another election in a year, and transfer power back to the winning party at that point. The Tatmadaw also released a statement on Jan 31, criticizing diplomatic missions for interfering in Myanmar's affairs (see attached).

Protests and civil unrest: The possibility of civil unrest and political violence remains of significant concern. At the time of writing, there is an ongoing pro-Tatmadaw protest in at city hall

[REDACTED] There have been reports of protests in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and in other states and regions. There have been reports of pro-Tatmadaw supporters celebrating and roving around in trucks. One social media, a letter, purportedly from the NLD leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi, calling on NLD supports to take their concerns to the street has been circulating widely. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Media reports as well that a protest outside the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok culminated in clashes between protesters and riot police

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Airport and banks are shutdown. Reports of line ups and closures at stores.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Media: YNGON has fielded one query [REDACTED] seeking background information on the coup and the diplomatic response. The reporter will be directed back to HQ comms. YNGON understands that OSC is working on media lines.

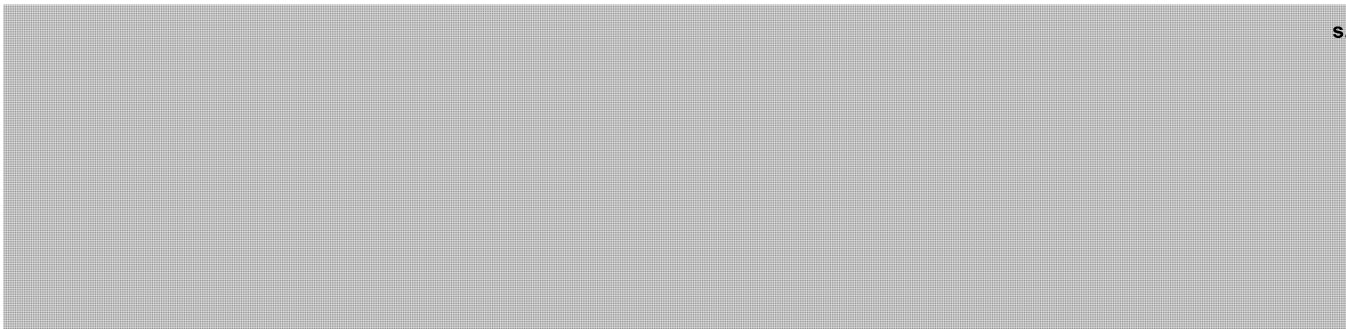
[REDACTED]

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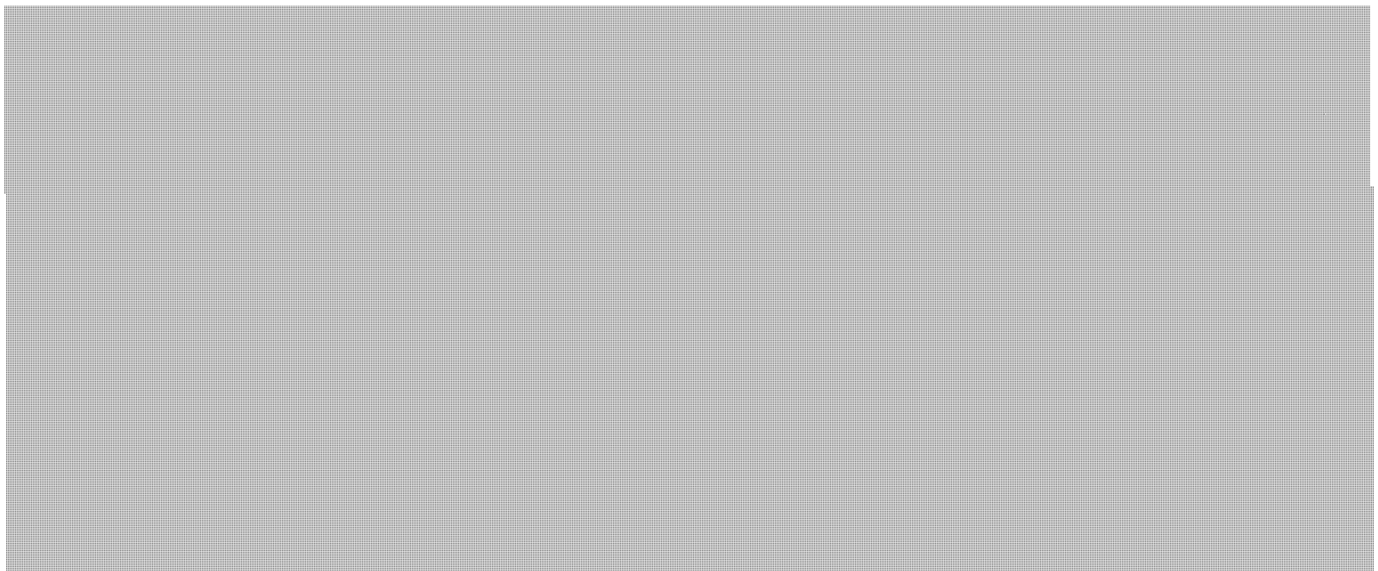
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Statements: UNSG, UK, Australia, NZ, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Norway, India, Thailand and Japan have all issued HQ-level statements. China's FM's spokesperson has also been quoted in the press commenting on the developments, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There have been many statements from local organizations and NGO groupings expressing concern and condemnation. Statements from larger EAOs are reportedly imminent.



Drafted: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

Input: YNGON-GR [REDACTED] YNGON-GR [REDACTED] BNGKK-GR, [REDACTED]

Consulted: YNGON- [REDACTED] YNGON [REDACTED]

Approved: HOM

End of Day Update – February 1, 2021

This reports also serves as the 4 hour Watch Office check-in for YNGON.

As the end of the day approaches, [REDACTED]

Key developments over the past few hours [REDACTED]

- **8:00pm-6:00am curfew** announced this evening on Tatmadaw controlled TV Station MWD. [REDACTED]

- Three **protests** occurred in Yangon over the course of the day, one of which took place in front of City Hall [REDACTED] All were pro-Tatmadaw. Abroad, pro-NLD protests were organized in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Tokyo.
- The message circulating on Facebook, [REDACTED] The message calls NLD supporters to the streets, greatly increasing the risks of large-scale protests and civil unrest in the coming days (Reftel YNGON-534)
- Increasing, but largely anecdotal of **arrests and detentions** of pro-democracy activists and CSO leaders. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] increased roadblocks and checkpoints throughout Yangon.
- **Interim Ministers** announced late this evening, again on the MWD TV station. See attached bio. YNGON will provide more detailed information in the coming days, as more information becomes available.
 - U Wanna Maung Lwin – Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Foreign Minister under former president Thein Sein. Ex-military; USDP
 - Lt Gen Soe Htut – Ministry of Home Affairs (incumbent) and Ministry of Union Government – conflict of interest controversies related to Jade Mining; one of largest shareholders in MEHL
 - Gen Maya Tun Oo – Defense – Currently 3rd most powerful in military chain of command
 - Lt Gen Tun Tun Naung – Border Affairs – member of Tatmadaw’s new Peace Negotiation Committee (announced shortly after Nov elections)

- U Win Shein – Ministry of Planning, Finance and Investment – Formerly Minister of Finance and Review under Thein Sein
- Ko Ko Naing – Ministry of International Cooperation
- Chit Naing – Ministry of Information
- U Ko Ko – Religious Affairs – former Minister of Home Affairs under Thein Sein
- Dr. Thet Khine Win – Ministry of Health and Sports
- U Aunng Naing Oo – Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations – Formerly Director General of DICA and Perm Sec of MIFER in past NLD administration
- U Myint Khine – Ministry of Labour and Public Energy

- [Redacted]

- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet issued a statement late Feb 1 expressing concerns (attached).
- **Media queries:** YNGON has referred two media [Redacted] both directed to media relations.

[Redacted]

YNGON-GR [Redacted]

Input: YNGON-GR [Redacted] Thu; YNGON [Redacted]

Approved: HOM

2 FEBRUARY

Summary: The situation in Myanmar remains fluid and volatile. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The military regime has been issuing announcements on MWD TV- a Tatmadaw controlled TV station, and not in writing, [REDACTED]

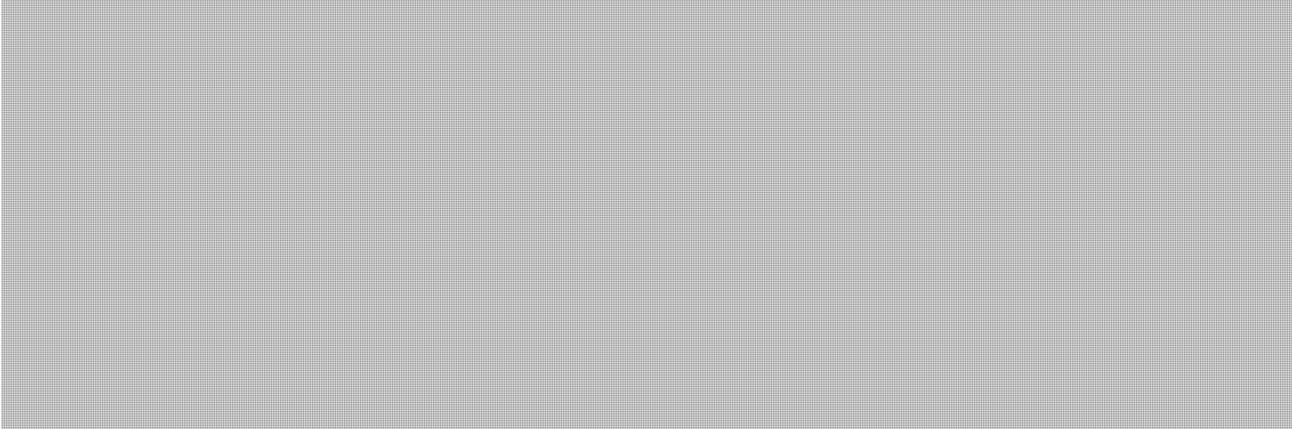

At this time, the situation in Yangon appears relatively calm: comms are back on line and have remained so all day; banks are open. Stores are open (but with long lines) and are again able to accept credit cards. The daytime presence of military and police in urban Yangon is low, although indications are that this increases at night after the still unconfirmed 8pm-6am curfew, including with checkpoints and road blocks.

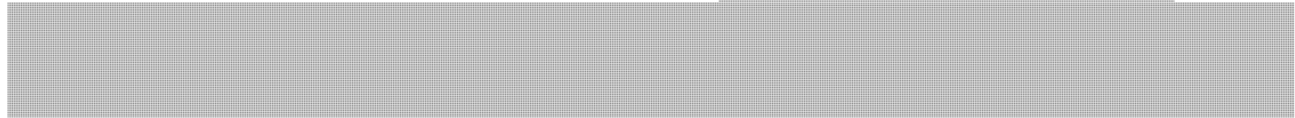


The current lull could be deceiving however, as there appears to be growing momentum around a civil disobedience movement and pro-NLD protests that emerged on social media over the course of the day, and that is expected to commence tomorrow. [REDACTED]

Key developments over the course of the day:

- **Current situation:** Stores and banks are open, albeit with long line ups. Food stocks appear to be being replenished.
- **Airport and airfield remains closed** with varying reports of when flights (cargo and relief flights) will be resumed. YNGON is tracking.
- **Land borders are closed**, but anecdotal reports suggest that there continues to be cross-border cargo traffic.
- **Curfew** (unofficial announce on military controlled TV) appears to be being enforced, but sporadically. YNGON is quiet this evening with almost no traffic or pedestrian movements.
- [REDACTED]
- To YNGON's knowledge, no charges have been laid against detained individuals.
- [REDACTED]
- There are also reports on social media that several NLD parliamentarians have been released or returned to house arrest [REDACTED]
- Social media is buzzing with posts of Myanmar citizens distressed by the reversal of their country's democratic transition and calling for the help of the international community, as well

as by an influx of celebratory posts on Tiktok of Myanmar military personnel in support of the coup.

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- **Protests:** a large-pro Tatmadaw protest took place in YNGON today. Reports of large troop deployment in Mandalay, where a protest against the coup is taking place. A civil servant disobedience movement spearheaded by medical doctors from government hospitals has rapidly gained momentum on social media over the course of the day. It will commence tomorrow with work stoppages and possible protests. 

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- **Comms:** YNGON has referred three international press inquiries to media relations and will continue to do so as per YGNON's comms procedures. **YNGON understands that media talking points are being developed to ensure consistency of response to media queries.**
 - **Statements:** MINA's statement has been amplified on YNGON's Facebook page with 668 likes and 106 comments (majority positive) at the time of writing.
 - Yesterday evening, the **Russian Embassy** issued a mildly worded statement 
 <https://www.facebook.com/rus.mmr>

YNGON-GR/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] YNGON-DA, [REDACTED] YNGON-CS, [REDACTED]

Approved: HOM

YNGON-537: MYANMAR CIVIL SOCIETY REACTS TO 01 FEB COUP

SUMMARY: In the 24 hours following the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw)'s seizure of power (01 Feb), domestic civil society organizations (CSOs) and international non-government organizations (INGOs) in Myanmar have forcefully condemned the coup and denounced the Tatmadaw, calling for the release of detainees, restoration of civilian government, and reconvening Parliament in accordance with the country's November 2020 election results (widely endorsed by domestic and international observers as credible – see Paragraph 1). Some organizations drew particular attention to the human rights and potential mistreatment of individuals detained in the coup, including some activists; the ongoing disruption of phone and internet access; and prior Tatmadaw human rights violations, especially against ethnic minorities and the Rohingya. Most organizations called for a strong, swift, and coordinated international response to the current crisis, with many calling for targeted sanctions against military leaders, including their vast economic holdings, and action by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).


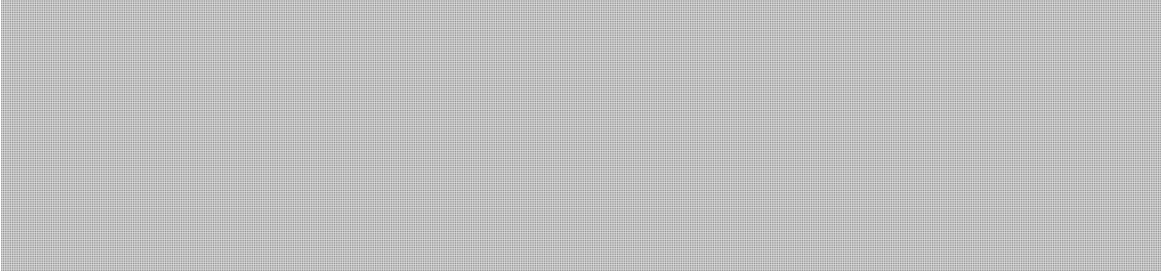
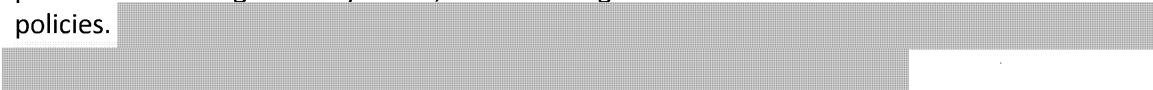
REPORT:

1. In response to escalating tensions between the Tatmadaw and civilian government last week, and repeated, inaccurate assertions by the Tatmadaw of electoral fraud in Myanmar's November 8 election, 12 domestic election observer organizations issued a joint statement days before the coup (29 Jan, REFTTEL: YNGON-531 Update 2) reiterating their findings that the results of Myanmar's November 2020 general election were credible. This assessment is based on their observation of voter list displays, campaign activities, advance voting during the pre-election period, voting processes on election day, and vote tabulation. While the group acknowledges very real shortcomings in Myanmar's electoral and constitutional framework, issues of disenfranchisement and some inconsistencies in election administration, these observers reiterate that the election outcome – whereby the National League for Democracy (NLD) won over 80% of contested seats - reflects the will of the majority of voters. (**Note:** This assessment aligns with those from other international election observers, [REDACTED])
2. In addition to the now widely-reported arrests of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK), President Win Myint, and other senior members of the NLD party (including Chief Ministers and other state/regional leaders), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

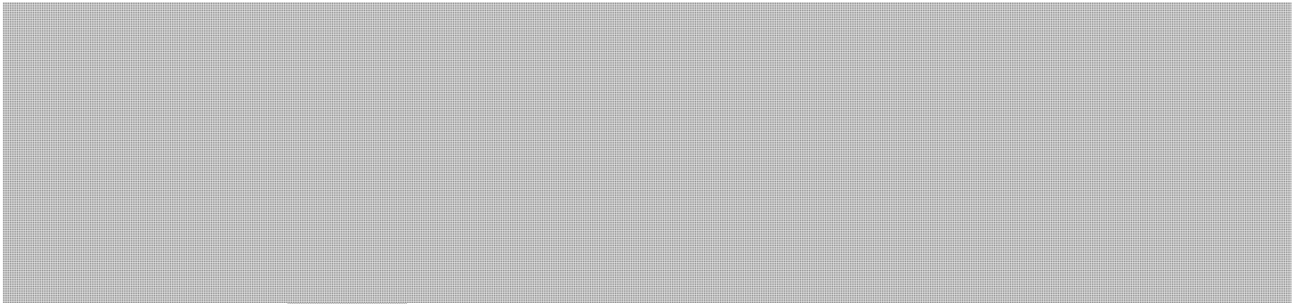
Among those rumoured detained are youth leaders, writers, and at least two members of the **88 Generations Students Group**, a Burmese pro-democracy movement known for their activism against the country's military junta in 1988 (in which ASSK was famously involved, and many of whom would go on to senior positions in the NLD).

3. **Views and analysis:** In English-language statements following the coup, CSOs and INGOs in Myanmar forcefully condemn it, denouncing the Tatmadaw and the current state of emergency. Some organizations express particular concern regarding the human rights and potential mistreatment of individuals detained, including activists, and the ongoing disruption of phone and internet service. Local Burmese-language statements, including those from several unions and student groups, similarly condemn the coup, oppose the Tatmadaw, and urge for the release of Tatmadaw detainees. Some Burmese-language statements express concern that the coup will impede progress towards a more peaceful and federal Myanmar.
4. Most CSOs and INGOs roundly reject the Tatmadaw's rationale for seizing power, reiterating their support for the November 8 election outcome. A number of organizations present the coup as proof that the Tatmadaw never did, and also never will, have any genuine interest in ceding power and supporting Myanmar's democratic transition.
[REDACTED]
5. Several CSOs and INGOs also note the Tatmadaw's historical legacy of human rights and humanitarian law violations, up to and including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. They express particular concern for the plight of ethnic minorities in Myanmar, including the Rohingya, who have suffered disproportionately at the hands of the Tatmadaw under prior juntas, and still today.
[REDACTED]
6. **Calls for Tatmadaw action:** Nearly all CSO and INGO statements call for the immediate release of individuals detained yesterday, though few mentioned detained activists specifically. Most organizations also call on the Tatmadaw to rescind the state of emergency; restore cellular and internet communications country-wide; respect the results of the recent election and allow Parliament to reconvene. With particular attention to the treatment of detained individuals in custody, **Amnesty International** calls on the Tatmadaw to clarify the legal basis on which they were detained; guarantee the rights of those arrested are fully respected, including against ill-treatment; access to lawyers of their own choice and to their families; and guarantee their whereabouts and grant them access to medical care.

7. Thinking ahead to potential civil unrest or protests, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International call on the Tatmadaw to end arbitrary limits on freedom of assembly and association, and urge them to exercise maximum restraint and limit the use of force to disperse potential protesters.

8. **Calls for international action:** Most English-language CSO and INGO statements call for a strong, swift, and coordinated international response to the current crisis, urging foreign countries and multilateral institutions to condemn the coup and hold the Tatmadaw accountable. While no group advocates for sweeping sanctions on Myanmar, given the likely adverse effects on Myanmar people, most English-language CSO and INGO statements urge targeted sanctions against military leaders and their vast economic holdings. Justice Myanmar writes that the military coup shows a “systemic failure” in how the international community – noting the United States and European Union specifically - has dealt with Myanmar in recent years, by “normalising the Myanmar military and their business”, despite their human rights violations.

9. Some CSO and INGO statements – from Fortify Rights, the Network of Human Rights Documentation – Burma, and a joint statement from 29 diverse CSOs and NGOs – also urge action from the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**. Specifically, these statements urge the UNSC to convene an emergency meeting to respond to the current situation, including sending a delegation to Myanmar, establishing a global arms embargo, and referring the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Human Rights Watch names China, Russia, and Japan (not a UNSC member) specifically for blocking coordinated international action to promote human rights in Myanmar, and encourages these three countries to reassess their policies.

10. Other unique calls to action from the above-referenced joint statement from 29 CSOs and NGOs, including **ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights** and **Progressive Voice of Burma**, include calls for 1) social media companies, in particular Facebook, to suspend the accounts of military and proxy (Union Solidarity and Development Party) leaders that have used their platforms to spread disinformation, fear, and psychological violence; and 2) ASEAN leaders to use “all diplomatic leverage” to ensure the rule of law is upheld and the will of the Myanmar people is respected.

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s.21(1)(b)

s.13(1)(b)

DRAFTED: YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

INPUT FROM: YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

APPROVED: YNGON-GR [redacted]

OSC- Please pass PRMNY as you deem relevant.

Following the OSD/YNGON call this morning, YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

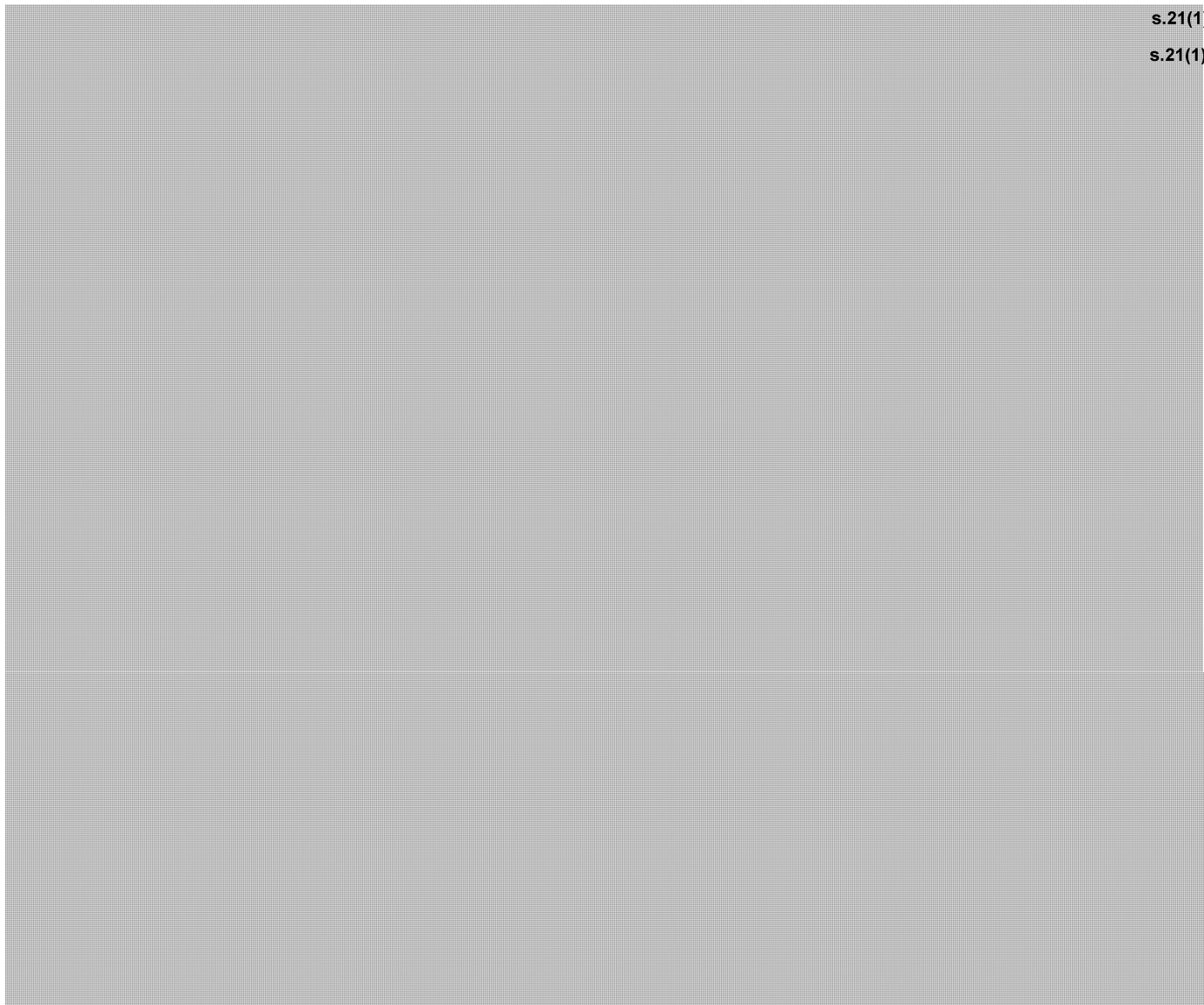


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<https://www.facebook.com/rus.mmr>

YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Approved: HOM

3 February

Reftel: GSRPBNKK6777; YNGON-538; 536; 535; 534; 533; 531; 530; 529; 458

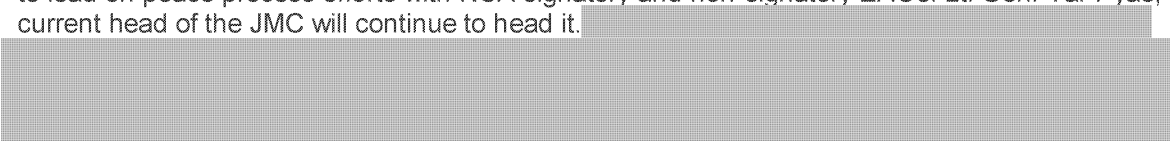
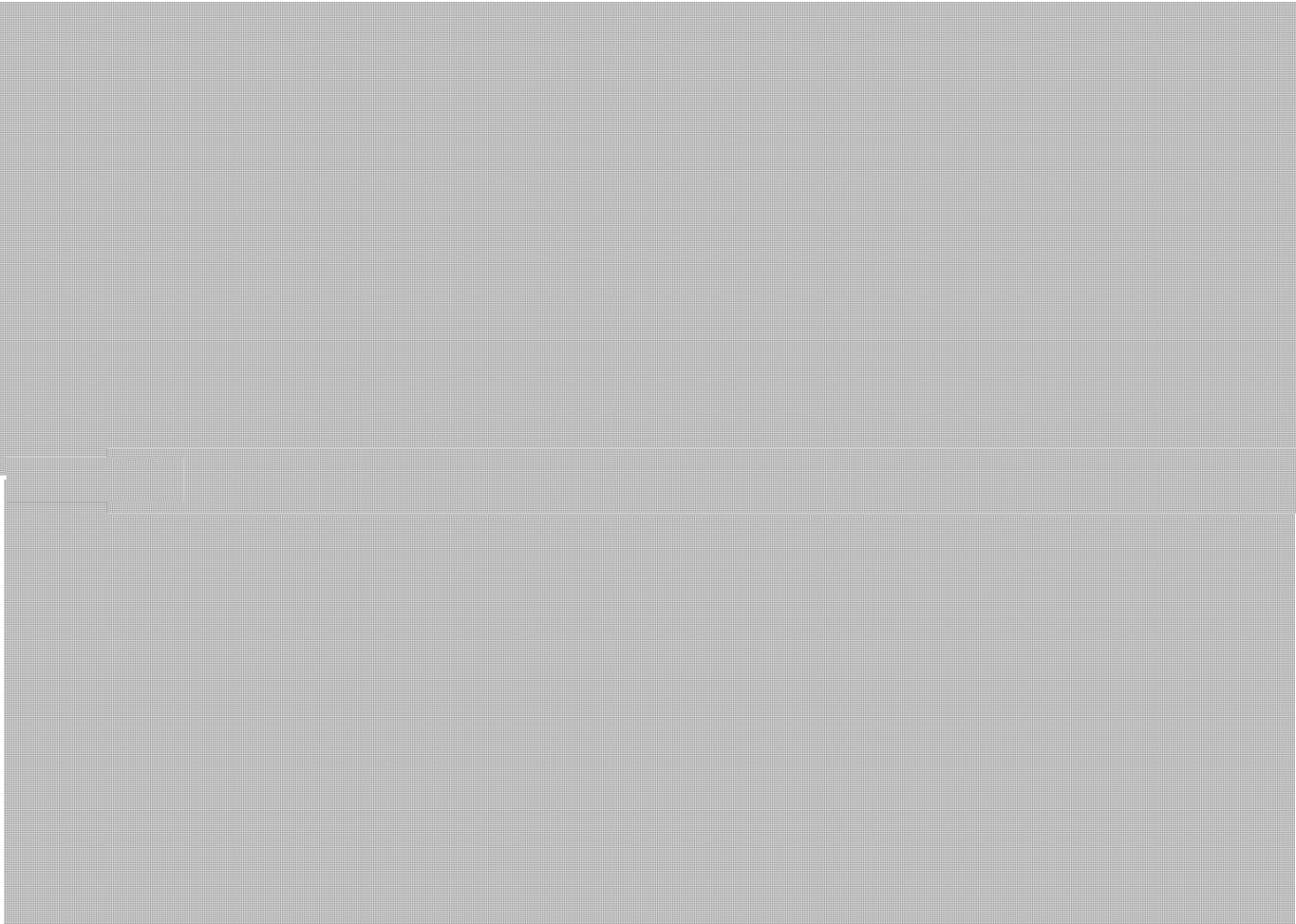
Context: What's happening today?

- As per YNGON's earlier reporting, the Tatmadaw continues efforts to consolidate power three days post-coup with rapid-fire announcements of senior positions within the government, and installing a mix of Tatmadaw officers and civilian bureaucrats, many of whom worked under the Thein Sein government (2011-2016), restoring comms, opening the road to Nay Pyi Taw, reopening the airport and allowing relief and cargo flight to resume, and quickly retreating to the "normal" COVID-era 12-4 curfew.
- The Tatmadaw's naming of a *Pro Tem* President, subsequent convening of the National Defense and Security Council (NDSC), declaration of a State of Emergency, and transfer of power to the Commander in Chief, have been followed by further announcements (new Supreme Court Justices, new Cabinet, disbanded and reconstituted UEC, establishment of a State Administrative Council, and naming of a mix of military and civilian appointees to senior-level positions).

- Other efforts at establishing legitimacy and efforts to demonstrate movement in areas where the civilian government failed [REDACTED] include a nation-wide ceasefire (excluding State defense and administrative measures) but including for the first time Rakhine and the western command, **restoring full internet access in Rakhine**, commitments to COVID vaccination and mitigation, and continued progress on the peace process.

- Efforts to delegitimize the elected NLD government also continue. [REDACTED]

- Over the course of the past 24 hours, the UEC has been reconstituted, with all new commissioners who are Tatmadaw-aligned. Former UEC chair (2010) Thein Soe has been reinstalled as UEC chair. Thein Soe oversaw the UEC in the 2010 elections, which saw an NLD boycott and a USDP majority of 80%.
- [REDACTED]
- A State Administrative Council has been established [REDACTED] (Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Vice Sr Gen Soe Win):
 - Sen Gen Min Aung Hlaing – Chair
 - Vice Sen Gen Soe Win – Vice Chair
 - Gen Mya Tun Oo – Member
 - Gen Tin Aung San – Member
 - Gen Maung Maung Kyaw – Member
 - Lt. Gen Moe Myint Tun – Member
 - Phado Man Nyeint Maung – Member
 - U Thein Nyunt – Member
 - U Khin Maung Swe – Member
 - Lt. Gen Aung Lin Dwe – Secretary
 - Lt. Gen Ye Win Oo – Joint Secretary
- The State Administrative Council is a new body, based on section 419 of the 2008 constitution where “the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services to whom the sovereign power has been transferred shall have the right to exercise the powers of legislature, executive and judiciary. The Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services may exercise the legislative power either by himself or by a body including him. The executive power and the judicial power may be transferred to and exercised by an appropriate body that has been formed or a suitable person.”
- There are reports [REDACTED] that the State Counsellor and the President has been charged in court today, although reporting on the nature of the charges vary.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- A civil (service) disobedience movement has been launched Feb 3 with work stoppages beginning today, primarily at government hospitals and clinics across the country. Last night's Iron Pot Protest had the streets of Yangon resounding with clanging pots at 20h00.
- While pro-NLD protests have been limited to online movements, the civil (service) disobedience movement, and pot clanging, the risk of civil unrest, pro-NLD and pro-Tatmadaw clashes, and a Tatmadaw crackdown remains high and of significant concern.

- **Peace Process:** On Feb 2 a reconstituted Tatmadaw peace negotiating committee was formed to lead on peace process efforts with NCA signatory and non-signatory EAOs. Lt. Gen. Yar Pyae, current head of the JMC will continue to head it.

 - **Feel on the ground:** Although Yangon has been quiet for the past two days, it appears that the initial shock and devastation is giving way to simmering anger, with the explosion yesterday of several online protest and disobedience movements. Myanmar people showed up to vote in high numbers. Voter turnout was extremely high despite COVID and likely in response to pre-election threats by the Tatmadaw that backfired dramatically. Eligible voters voted overwhelmingly for the NLD, for the Lady herself who continues to be revered, and for democracy as their chosen means to advance political change in the country. This reversal in Myanmar's democratic trajectory is a devastating blow for many in Myanmar. The wounds of past uprisings and regime changes are not far below the surface. Many members of the pro-democracy movement were political prisoners, sometimes for decades. Others were killed and their families still bear the scars and fears of a military takeover.
 - Although pro-NLD protest have been largely confined to the safety of balconies and online platforms, the risk that they could spill out into the streets is very present, as is a corresponding military crackdown.
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What's next:

- Continued efforts to **dismantle** the NLD with ongoing detention of senior NLD leaders. The State Counsellor's arrest is likely part of this equation. With the State Counsellor out of the way, [REDACTED]
- Potential **restrictions on freedom of expression** further targeting of journalists and media. Immediate flashpoint: today's removal of the Tatmadaw-controlled MWD facebook page by FB, critical media coverage, ongoing utilization to mobilize protesters or dissent.
- Potential **increased movement restrictions** or further comms lockdowns. Given the efforts to demonstrate normalcy and the lifting of internet restrictions today in Rakhine as "a show of good faith", this is unlikely in the immediate term, but possible and likely if protestors take to the streets.
- **Increased calls and pressure for international assistance**, support and action, including aid conditionality, paired with calls to avoid blanket or broad sanctions that will disadvantage vulnerable groups while pushing Myanmar towards China.

- **Elections:** The Tatmadaw claims it wants to work towards fresh elections and an eventual handing over of power to the winner. The Tatmadaw has committed to an election within one year, after reconstituting the UEC and an inquiry into allegations of voter fraud, a recount and review of the voter lists.

- **Minority rights and Rohingya:** the Tatmadaw have been filling Cabinet posts and other key positions with Bamar nationalist, some with ties to MaBaTha. Today saw the release of prison of extremist Buddhist Monk and MaBaTha founder Wirathu and some contemporaries. Expectation is that anti-minority, anti-Rohingya and anti-western rhetoric and positioning may increase. This also does not bode well for minority rights or near to mid-term resolution of the Rohingya crisis or returns.

- **Peace talks:** Given the formation of the peace talks committee (first established in November), the work done to calm the conflict with the AA in Rakhine State, and the nation-wide ceasefire, there may well be more progress in the overall peace process in the days to come, including with key non-signatories, like the Northern Alliance.

Consulted: YNGON-GR/ [REDACTED] YNGON-DA/ [REDACTED]

Approved-HOM

4 February

Reftel: GSRPBNKK6777; YNGON-540; 538; 536; 535; 534; 533; 531; 530; 529; 458

Context: What is happening today?

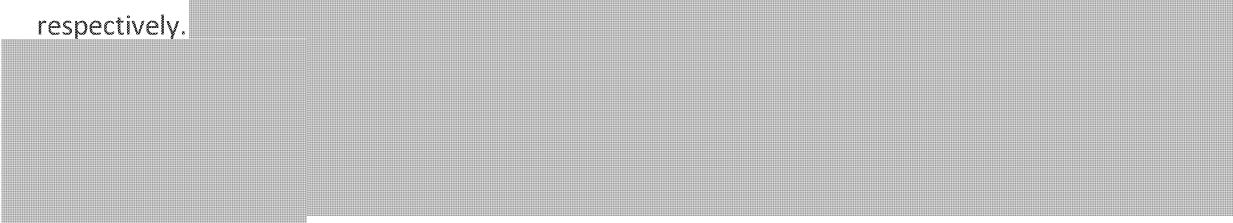
Facebook and other social media platforms blocked across the country:

- **Military regime cut Facebook today**, as well as FB-owned social media platforms WhatsApp, messenger and Instagram. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Connectivity on some platforms was variable, as was access across different telcom providers with some intermittent access at times on some platform.

- YNGON understands that the motivation behind this was the rapid acceleration over the past 48 hours of use of the platform(s) by Myanmar users to mobilize and plan protests.


Detentions:

- NLD leaders, poll workers, civil society leaders and pro-democracy leaders continue to be detained. As reported yesterday, the State Counsellor and the President were formally charged under the Import Export Law (up to 3yrs) and the National Disaster Law (up to 3yrs) respectively.
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Saffron Revolution monk jailed:

- Yesterday's release of hardline nationalist monk and MaBaTha founder, U Wirathu, was followed today with the sentencing of Sayadaw U Thawbita, who played a prominent role in the Saffron Revolution in 2007. U Thawbita was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for defamation over a post on social media in 2018 that lampooned Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Protests:

- At the time of writing, the first pro-NLD protests were taking place in a number of locations in Yangon. Protestors are seeking to keep a close hold on the venues for the flash protests, to avoid clashes and heavy security presence. That being said, one expected venue is Mahabandoolah park and Sule Pagoda, both in the immediate vicinity of the Chancery. A heavier than normal police presence was observed in those locations this afternoon.
 - The civil disobedience campaign continues to gain momentum and has expanded beyond the medical profession to include university professors and teaching staff as well as other civil servants.
 - In addition to the two NLD statements issued yesterday, seeking to reassert the authority of the duly elected NLD officials, pro-democracy Generation 88 leaders also released a video statement. The statement urged the people to resist, to support the civil servants joining the civil disobedience campaign and to continue the peaceful movements such as the 'Iron bucket campaign'. At least two of the movement's leaders and former political prisoners are reportedly on the run.
 - The pot clanging protest is also gaining momentum and can be heard throughout Yangon every evening at 8:00.
 - NLD attempting to reassert themselves: Local media reported today that the NLD MPs convened a "parliament" of about 70 NLD MPs from the residential guest house in Nay Pyi Taw. The session was convened by Daw Phyu Thin, a well-known NLD figure and Lower House MP of Mingala Taung Nyunt Township (Yangon Region). During the meeting, she pledged to carry out the responsibility given by the people. Future sessions are scheduled; they will be held remotely.
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New members of the SAC

- The Tatmadaw announced five new civilian members to the newly formed State Administrative Council, bringing the total membership, including the CinC, to 16, of which 8 are civilians. Of

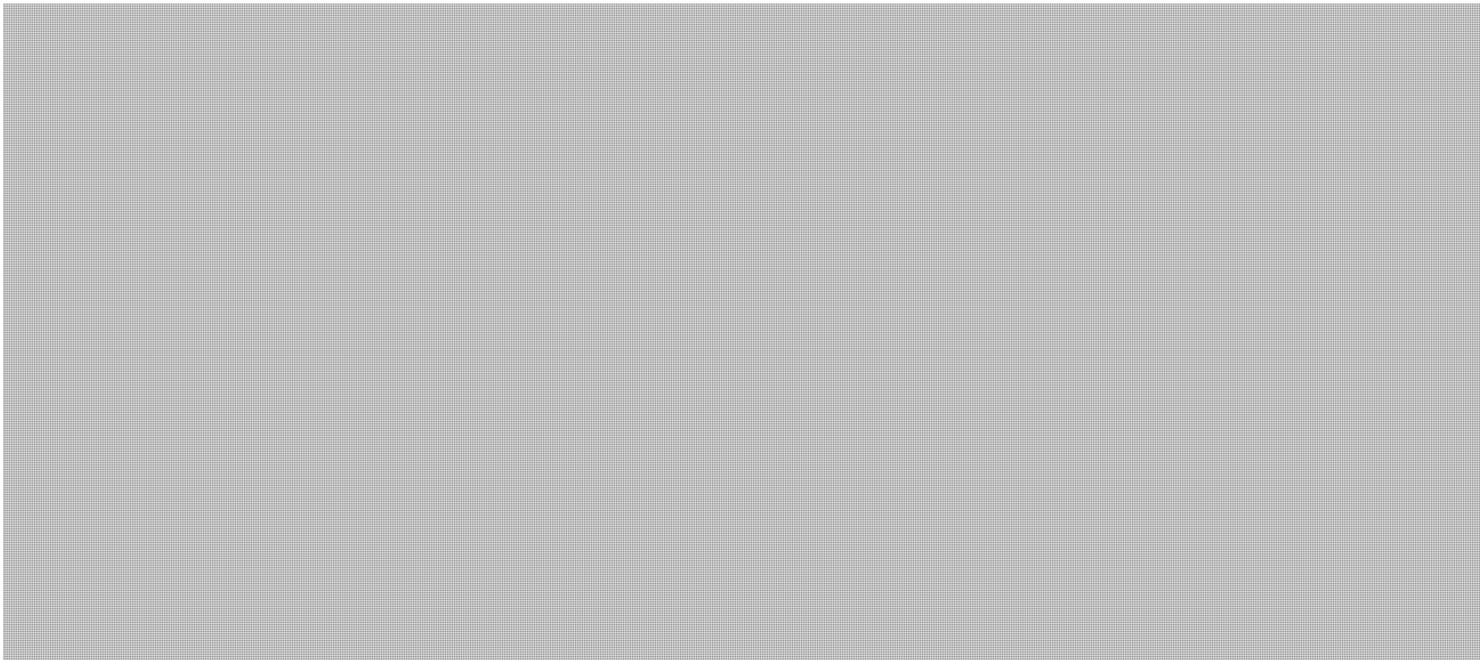
note is the inclusion of Arakan National Party (ANP) leader and spokesperson Aye Nu Sein. Aye Nu Sein (YNGON met in 2019) was previously highly and vocally critical of the Tatmadaw, and her role on the council is being called a betrayal by Arakanese and is stirring anger in Rakhine. Sai Lone Hseng, a USDP member who was speaker for the Shan State parliament, was also added to the council. The other three additions are less well-known: Jeng Phang Naw Tawng, Mong Hay, and Saw Daniel.

- **Sen Gen Min Aung Hlaing – Chair**
- **Vice Sen Gen Soe Win – Vice Chair**
- **Gen Mya Tun Oo – Member**
- **Gen Tin Aung San – Member**
- **Gen Maung Maung Kyaw – Member**
- **Lt. Gen Moe Myint Tun – Member**
- **Lt. Gen Aung Lin Dwe – Secretary**
- **Lt. Gen Ye Win Oo – Joint Secretary**
- **Phado Man Nyein Maung – Member (Kayin)** is a former member of the Karen National Union (KNU), one of the biggest ethnic armed groups in Myanmar. He left the KNU in 2020 to run for an election but subsequently lost the NLD candidate. The Karen National Union issued an announcement dissociating itself from former central executive committee member Padoh Mahn Nyein Maung, who was among the first batch of appointees to the SAC. The statement said Mahn Nyein Maung resigned from the organization last year, and his resignation had been accepted. “Any matters concerning Padoh Mahn Nyein Maung's personal actions are not related to the KNU,” the statement said.
- **U Thein Nyunt – Member** is the chairperson of New National Democracy Party and Khin Maung Swe is the chairperson of the National Democratic Force. Both Thein Nyunt and Khin Maung Swe are former allies of Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, but split from the NLD when it refused to run in the 2010 general elections. Thein Nyunt then split from Khin Maung Swe's NDF shortly after the 2010 election. Despite their roots in the NLD, both the NNDP and NDF have become increasingly nationalist and aligned with the military in recent years. They are among the 33 parties which met with Min Aung Hlaing before the elections, accused the NLD of electoral fraud and supported the coup, although their parties did not win a single seat in the 2020 Elections. They also lobbied for the enactment of Race and Religion Law when they were MPs in the parliament from 2011 to 2015.
- **U Khin Maung Swe – Member**
- **Daw Aye Nu Sein – Member (Rakhine)** is a spokesperson and CEC member of the Arakan National Party (see above).
- **Jeng Phang Naw Taung – Member (Kachin)**
- **U Maung Har – Member (Chin)** was a manager from Myanmar Economic Bank. He is the son of anti-colonial Chin activist. He is not a member of any political party.
- **U Sai Lone Sine – Member (Shan)**
- **Sai Lone Hseng** is a USDP member who was speaker for the Shan State parliament from 2011 to 2015.
- **Saw Daniel – Vice Chair (Kayah)**

s.21(1)(b)



Statements:



[Redacted]

s.21(1)(b)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

YNGON-GR, [Redacted]

With input from: YNGON-GR/ [Redacted] YNGON-DA, [Redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR, [Redacted] YNGON-DA/ [Redacted] YNGON-CS/ [Redacted]

Approved: HOM

s.21(1)(b)

s.19(1)

5 February

MYANMAR COUP –DAY FIVE – What’s happening today?



Detentions: As anticipated, there were further pro-NLD protests today. The protesters appear to be applying tactics similar to those used in Hong Kong and Thailand: flash unannounced protests, with quick dispersal. The protests were peaceful, but some were large, including hundreds of student protesters at Dagon University. This tactic and the level of spontaneity reduces the chance that there will be a heavy advance police presence at specific areas, and could reduce the chance of violence. Indications are that these tactics will continue. However, if this trend continues the protests may not be “official” or registered, and could be considered unlawful by the security forces. It also makes it likely that these protests continue to increase in frequency and size, and could take place at random or at unanticipated areas. It is also possible that there could be an overall increased security presence. There are indications that police may have been authorized to use varying forms of **crowd control measures and force** in response to protests, including deploying or mobilizing riot police, immediate arrests of unauthorized protesters, using tear gas, utilizing rubber bullets or Tasers and other methods. **Risk of civil unrest remains high and of significant concern.**

Detentions: Detentions continue and are moving to senior bureaucratic officials, including a number of Director Generals and Deputy Ministers from key economic ministries [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was among those detained today.

ANP throws support behind the Tatmadaw: The Arakan National Party issued a surprisingly pro-Tatmadaw statement this morning. The statement did not denounce the coup but rather mentioned that the ANP will cooperate with the Tatmadaw. The ANP statement claims that the NLD did not meet them when they had meetings with other ethnic political parties and refused the request from the AA and the Tatmadaw to hold elections in parts of Rakhine where voting was cancelled. The statement pointed to both the NLD and the Tatmadaw as responsible for heightened political tensions, resulting in the coup and State of Emergency. The statement welcomed the CiC’s announcement that the Tatmadaw will hold the multiparty democratic elections and will transfer power to the people. The ANP committed to cooperation with the Tatmadaw government in return for the release U San Kyaw Hla (Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker), removal of terrorist status of the AA, and release from prison of former ANP leader Dr. Aye Maung, Wai Hin Aung and other political prisoners, and assistance for resettlement and rehabilitation Rakhine IDPs and other Rakhine national interests. Many Rakhine people are reportedly outraged by the statement as they feel like it is the betrayal to the Rakhine people who suffered from oppressive military operations in Rakhine State. During the interview with a local media, U Oo Hla Saw, a prominent Rakhine MP from the ANP, also said that they welcome Daw Aye Nu Sein (a ANP political leader) becoming the member of State Administration Committee. Given that the ANP is largely nationalist and have in the past exhibited intolerance towards the Rohingya, the alignment between the ANP and the Tatmadaw is a worrying trend for further erosion of human rights and persecution of Rohingya community in Rakhine State.

Protests: Pro-NLD flash protests continued today, with large groups of students marching in Yangon, including Dagon University. There are indications that police services in some urban areas have been

given instructions allowing the use of force against protestors to but disrupt protests and arrests protestors including rubber bullets, Taser.



Kirin Holdings cuts ties with MEHL: Kirin beer company announced today it was terminating its joint venture with the Military-owned conglomerate Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL). The move, in response to the coup, is the first major international company to cut ties or withdraw from Myanmar since the launch of the coup on Feb 1.

YNGON-GR [redacted]

Input: YNGON-GR/[redacted]

Approved: HOM

8 February

WATCH OFFICE – Please consider this YNGON’s final check in for Feb 8

Summary: Toward the end of last week, the military’s efforts focussed around an outward facing presentation of business as usual posture, manifested by last week’s MOFA meeting, rapid fire naming of appointments of senior officials, the Tatmadaw’s reach-out to business communities and Chambers, and heads of domestic banks. This façade of normality, self-legitimization (REFTEL YNGON-546) and business as usual was shattered by the Tatmadaw’s full shutdown of all comms except landlines on Saturday, and the commencement of large-scale street protests (see below), beginning on Saturday.

Detentions of senior officials, pro-democracy leaders and HRDs continue, and now include high profile expat advisors and INGO reps. Continued massive civil unrest in the coming days is likely. There is a heightened risk of a military crack-down, use of force to dispel protestors, or clashes between pro-NLD and pro-USDP supporters.

Overview:

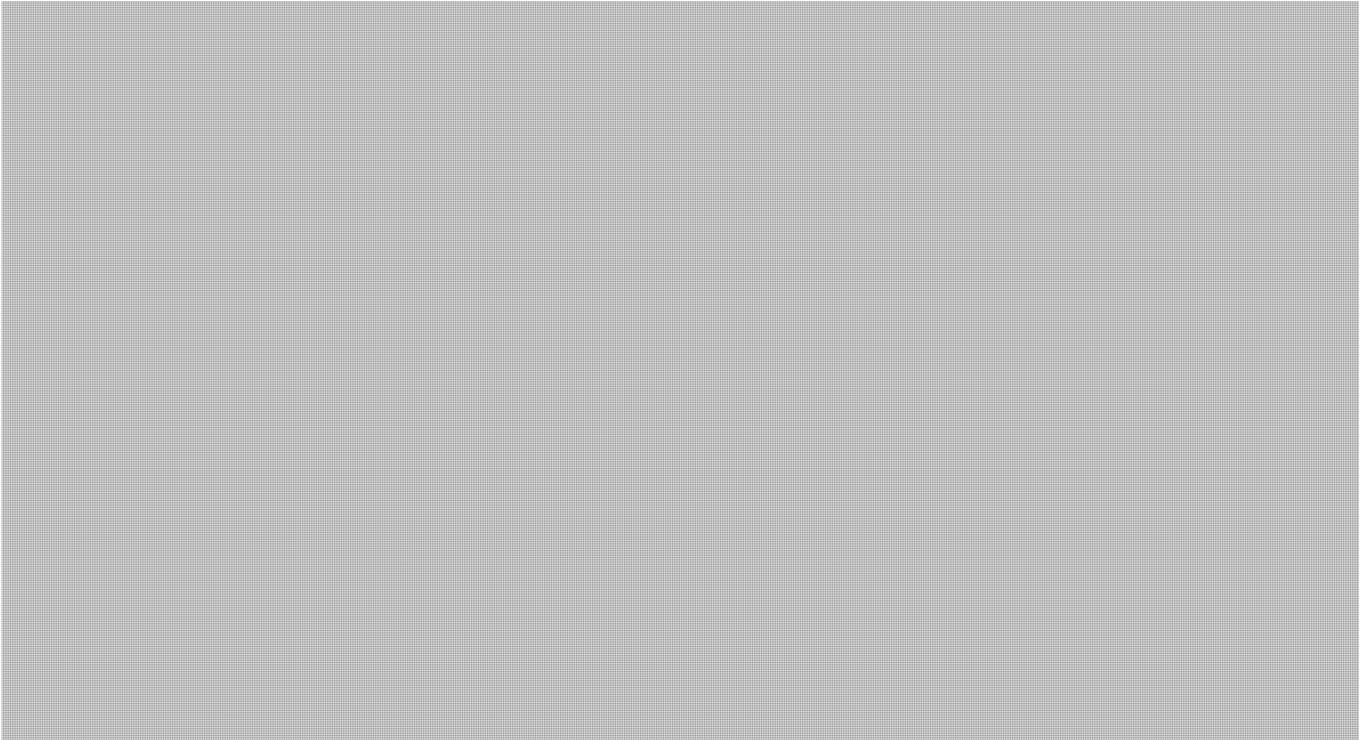
- A full communication shutdown was triggered on Saturday. Telecom providers were ordered to shutdown mid morning Saturday rendering workaround such as VPNs useless. The comms shutdown was an effort to halt growing civil disobedience and protest movements online. Mobilizers have shifted to other means, and efforts to dampen protest movements through comms shutdowns and misinformation campaigns have backfired dramatically.
- Street protests began in earnest on Saturday Feb 6, with large-scale pro-NLD street protests in the tens of thousands on Feb 7.
- A nation-wide “general strike” was called for today Feb 8. The last general strike took place in 1988.
- General strike demands are:
 - To release all those detained
 - Abolish military dictatorship
 - Establish a federal democratic union
 - Abolish the 2008 constitution
- Various organizations, professional organizations, and civil servants have joined the general strike, including the normally Tatmadaw-aligned Forest Service, and some **MOFA civil servants**. Student groups and labour unions are out in large numbers as well.
- **Massive protests took place on Feb 08 in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.** These are the largest protests in the country since 2007, and number in tens of thousands. Continued daily mass-protests are expected.
- In Yangon, protests commenced at 8:00 am, in multiple locations, including Sule Pagoda (near the Chancery) and Hledan.
- Waves of protesters in the thousands marched towards Sule Pagoda over the course of the day on the road directly in from the Shangri-La (SQ residences).

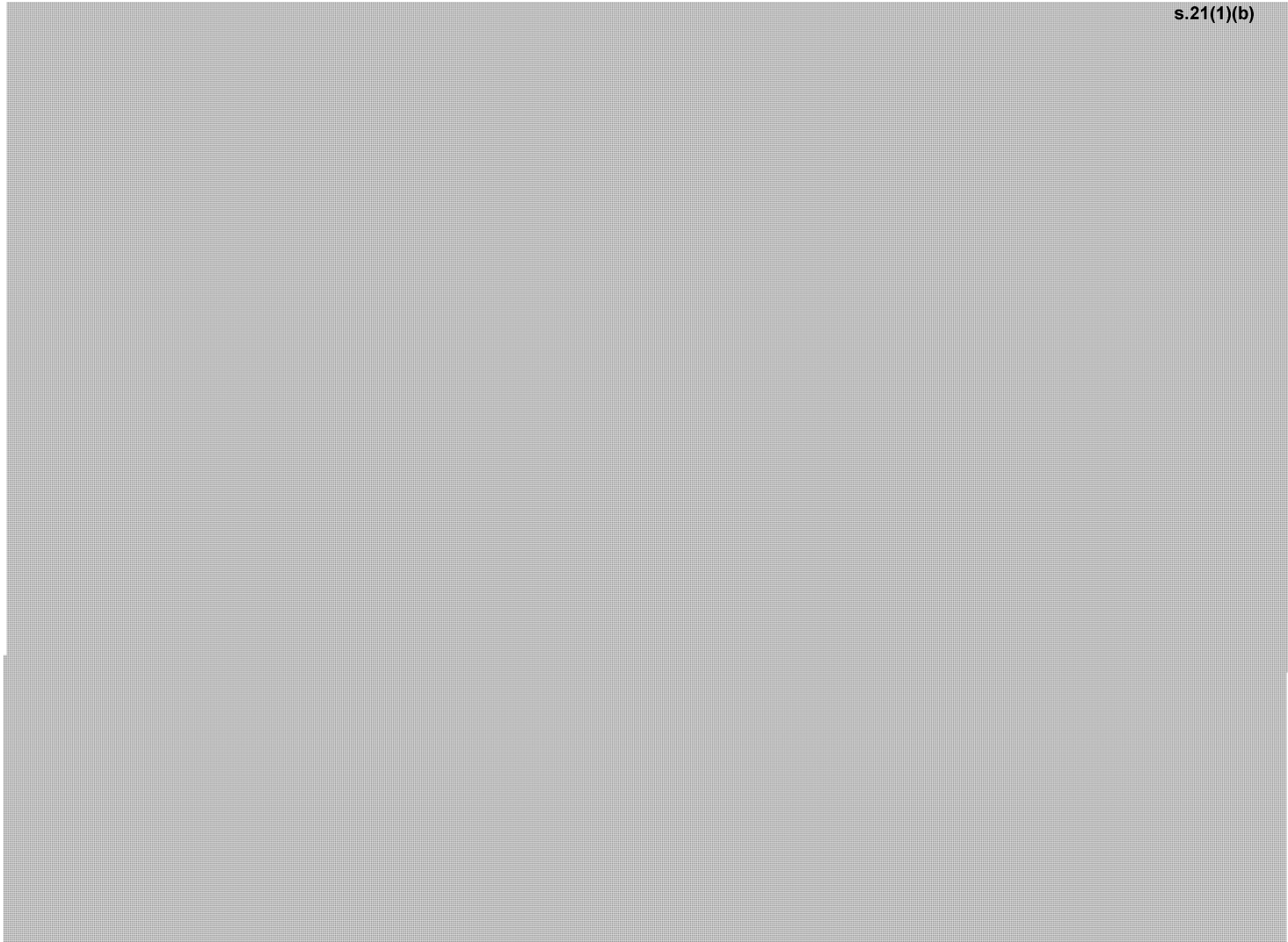
- Protests at Sule and Hledan are in the many tens of thousands.
- For the most parts, protests are peaceful, although there is a heavy police presence, including water cannons at the Sule location.
- **Military crackdown has precedent in Myanmar and remains of significant concern.** [REDACTED]

- **Of note and concern:** local TV station MRTV has released a copy of an apparent order that police are authorized to use live rounds if protesters cross police barriers around “strategic venues” tomorrow. This report may be part of an active misinformation campaign to dampen protest movements. [REDACTED]
- **Also reports that curfew has been re-imposed from 8pm - 4pm from this evening.** This in contrast to recent announcements that even the pre coup COVID curfew would be lifted.

[REDACTED] section 144 of Myanmar’s criminal procedure code will be applied as of tonight, prohibiting of more than 5 persons together in public. Implications for tomorrow’s protestors have many observers very concerned.

- [REDACTED] military mobilization of approximately 300 troops at staging points on the outskirts of Yangon.
- [REDACTED] water cannons have been deployed against protesters in NayPyiTaw.
- Many stores, banks and services are closed in Yangon as a result of the general strike and protests.
- Protests are expected to continue.

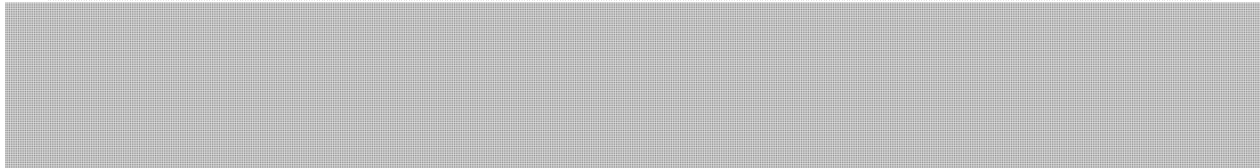




Consular:



- An updated TAA advising of mass protests and comms disruptions was issued on Feb 7.
- An updated ROCA was updated on Feb 8.



Statements:

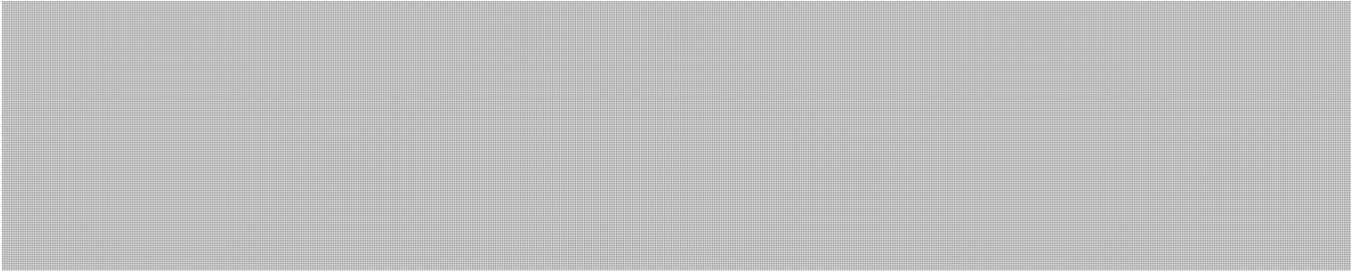
- YNGON issued a statement on Feb 8 focused on the right to assembly and expression, and calling for the military to refrain from all forms of violence against peaceful protesters. Two hours after posting, it had garnered more than 3K likes and 279 comments- majority of which were positive: <https://www.facebook.com/1421359581427574/posts/2971037186459798/?d=n>

- US Embassy has issued a similar statement.
<https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.rangoon/photos/a.127051360710025/3678798728868586/>
- The Pope also issued a statement last night calling for restraint:
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-02/pope-angelus-appeal-myanmar.html>

Coordination/Engagement:



- In US President Biden’s recent speech on his Administration’s foreign policy direction, the President focussed extensively on Myanmar and highlighted repeatedly ongoing coordination with international partners on next steps. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/04/remarks-by-president-biden-on-americas-place-in-the-world/>
- The Tatmadaw’s early efforts to establish credibility through claims of election fraud (REFTEL YNGON-546) and early meetings with banks, business councils, and diplomats is being countered by NLD assertions of their continued legitimacy as the elected government with a clear mandate from the people [redacted] and MOFA note on the Friday diplomatic briefing).



YNGON-GR, [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA/[redacted] YNGON-D/[redacted] YNGON-GR/[redacted] YNGON-DA/[redacted]

Approved: HOM

YNGON-546: Myanmar’s Nov 2020 elections were credible – despite [redacted] Tatmadaw claims to the contrary

REFTEL: YNGON-437, 453, 458, 459, 460, 461, 465, 468, 531, 544

SUMMARY: The Myanmar military (Tatmadaw)'s seizure of power on 01 Feb is the latest and most troubling development in a concerted and long-term effort to undermine the legitimacy of Myanmar's Nov 8, 2020 general election results. Investigating alleged electoral fraud is a priority for this new junta, and one should anticipate continued attention and announcements describing their upcoming "investigations"

It therefore bears repeating that while Myanmar's pre-election environment was tense,

Election Day in Myanmar was a success, deemed credible by domestic and international election observers, like-minded Embassies, their Foreign Ministries and Canada (see statements [here](#) and [here](#)). While domestic and international observers condemn the Myanmar military's seizure of power,

REPORT:

1. On 15 November 2020, the Union Election Commission of Myanmar (UEC) officially confirmed State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK)'s National League for Democracy (NLD) party as the winner of the 8 November general elections. The NLD secured 396 (83%) out of 476 contested seats in the bicameral legislature, surpassing the 322 needed to form a majority, and six more than the 390 seats they won in 2015 (79%). The Tatmadaw proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won 33 seats (eight seats less than their 41 seats won in 2015).

Even amid surging cases of COVID-19 at the time, voters turned out in record numbers (72 percent of eligible voters; nearly 27 of 37 million people) in what amounted to a greater than expected landslide victory for the NLD. Analysts speculate that Tatmadaw and USDP behaviour in the week prior to the election (see Paragraph 6 below and *REFTEL* YNGON-458) backfired, bringing out more voters than anticipated to secure and entrench Myanmar's still nascent and fragile democracy.

2. The above election outcome has been deemed credible, unanimously, by accredited domestic and international election observers including the [People's Alliance for Credible Elections \(PACE\)](#), [Myanmar Network Organization for Free and Fair Elections \(MYNFREL\)](#), [The Carter Center](#), and [Asian Network for Free Elections \(ANFREL\)](#).

While noting the constitutional constraints, security issues, and disenfranchisement of Rohingya (as in the previous election), they agree that Myanmar's Election Day was peaceful, without significant incidents or major irregularities reported. Polling stations were generally well-prepared with COVID-19 precautions, and observers reported no major discrepancies in displaying the marks on the ballots, decision of invalid votes, and securing ballot papers and forms. In polling stations where counting was observed, the process was conducted according to procedures and in the

presence of party agents. Tabulation proceeded smoothly in tabulation centers observed by various missions.

3. In response to escalating tensions between the Tatmadaw and civilian government last month (January 2021), and repeated, inaccurate assertions by the Tatmadaw of electoral fraud in Myanmar's election, 12 domestic election observer organizations issued a joint statement days before the coup reiterating their findings that the results of Myanmar's November 2020 general election were credible. This assessment is based on their observation of voter list displays, campaign activities, advance voting during the pre-election period, voting processes on Election Day, and vote tabulation. While the group acknowledges very real shortcomings in Myanmar's electoral and constitutional framework, issues of disenfranchisement and some inconsistencies in election administration (see Paragraph 4), these observers reiterate that the election outcome reflects the will of the majority of Myanmar voters.

4.

5.

6. Following the election, a number of like-minded Embassies (including the United States, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Finland, EU, Australia, India, Thailand) and their capitals (from Japan, United Kingdom, European Union, United States, Sweden) released statements to commend the Myanmar people for a successful election, noting the importance of transition to civilian governance and committing to ongoing engagement with Myanmar. When final results were announced the following week, the United States, United Kingdom, European Union and Japan congratulated the NLD and ASSK. YNGON issued a statement on November 9 congratulating the people of Myanmar for exercising their hard-won

right to vote, followed by a statement on November 11 that recognized the elections in Myanmar as an important step in Myanmar's ongoing democratic transition.

7. Well before Myanmar's voters went to the polls in November, the Tatmadaw began flexing its political muscles, criticizing the government and UEC and raising doubts over whether the election - as arranged by NLD-appointed Commissioners at the UEC - would be free and fair. Six days prior to the election, a Tatmadaw statement noted that "weakness and deficiencies which were never seen in the previous elections are appearing now," warning that the government had to take responsibility for any mistakes committed by the UEC. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] military-drafted) 2008 Constitution, which recognizes the Tatmadaw as the country's national guardian ([REDACTED])

8. After Election Day, the USDP made numerous statements alleging election fraud, mainly related to inaccuracies in voter lists (recall the USDP won only 33 seats in the Nov 2020 election, eight seats less than their 41 seats in 2015). In less than one month, and starting with townships where the USDP suffered heavy defeats, the Tatmadaw made a series of announcements to release its findings of "irregularities" in voter lists, eventually claiming to have found 10.4 million irregularities that could lead to potential voter fraud (including, allegedly, duplicate names from lists in different townships, or names of underage or dead individuals). There has been no evidence made publicly available to substantiate these allegations. Throughout the process, Commander-in-Chief and army general Min Aung Hlaing claimed the military had embarked on the task to ensure that the country's democracy would not be harmed, saying "If the election can be proved free, fair and transparent, it will reflect the true wishes of the people and the Tatmadaw and certain political parties [read: USDP] will accept the results. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED] the UEC does not maintain its own master list of eligible voters, but rather works with the Ministry of Union Government Office, the General Administration Department and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population to prepare lists. They also rely on voters to help verify the lists, with policies that require township sub-commissions to display lists twice prior to the election (which is difficult to monitor and enforce in such a decentralized system). On Election Day 2020, accredited observers noted that at some polling stations, the voter list was not displayed as required. One observer group found that in one third of polling stations, 1-10 people were turned away because their names were not on the list, and at a few polling stations, 1-10 people were allowed to vote even though their names were not on the list.

10. By virtue of how they are prepared, there were inaccuracies in voter lists for Myanmar's referendum on the 2008 Constitution, and in the 2010 and 2015 [REDACTED] elections; however, list irregularities do not indicate fraud. Myanmar voters presented proof of identification, or at the very least, proof of age, prior to voting. They also dip their fingers in

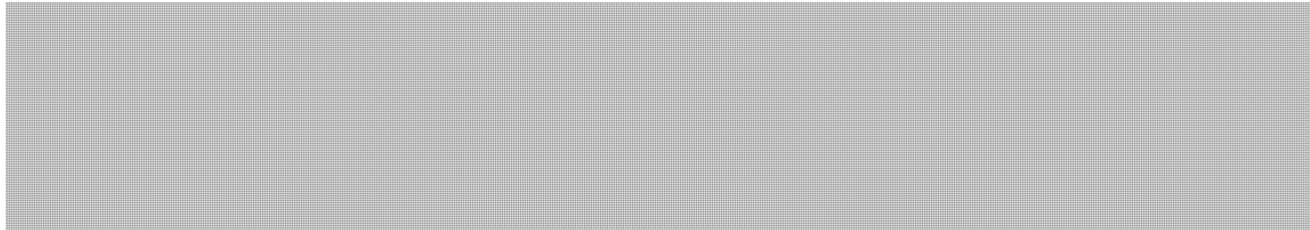
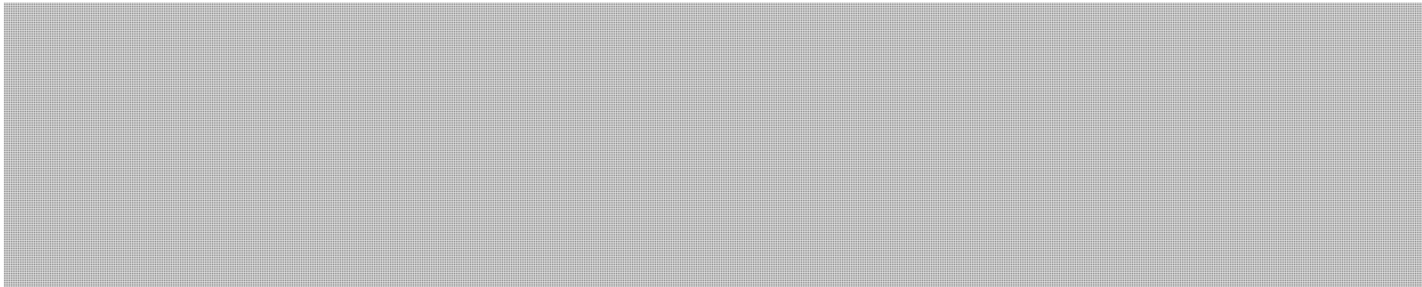
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indelible ink which, coupled with COVID-19 travel restrictions, would have made it exceptionally difficult for anyone to vote twice. In accordance with electoral process, results were announced after each ballot was counted in the presence of election sub-commission members, polling station officers and members, candidates and election representatives, polling station representatives of the candidates and their assistants, election observers, news media and members of civil service societies.

11. To their credit, the USDP did avail themselves of available channels to lodge their concerns. The UEC received a total of 287 petitions against election results, of which the overwhelming majority (92%) were submitted against successful NLD candidates, mostly by the USDP. In January 2021 the UEC formed four electoral tribunals to investigate the complaints. (Three writ petitions were also submitted to the Supreme Court, alleging fraud in the election and the call for the establishment of a special commission to investigate alleged election fraud.) These proceedings may have brought some genuine irregularities to light, and may have also bolstered the case for necessary reforms within the UEC. The UEC had invited petitioners and respondents to preliminary hearings in Nay Pyi Daw last week (starting 01 Feb), and preliminary hearings at the Supreme Court had also been scheduled. Needless to say, the Tatmadaw pursued other channels to voice their concerns, including the request to convene a special session of Parliament to address the issue, and also convening the National Defense and Security Council, both of which ASSK refused. After seizing power on 01 Feb the Tatmadaw issued a statement declaring that the UEC failed to settle the matter of “tremendous discrepancies” which were found in the voter lists, and committing to “the verification of voter lists in accordance with the law”.



DRAFTED: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

APPROVED: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

10 February

WATCH OFFICE – Please consider this YNGON’s final check in for Feb 10

Summary: Domestic focus remains the continuing massive street protests and unrest throughout the country, primarily in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. There are indications of growing counter protests of pro-USDP and Tatmadaw supporters, and of supporters being rallied, paid and moved to protests areas, sometimes in military vehicles. While the first week post-coup saw the Tatmadaw seeking to present a business-as-usual case, and lay out (repeatedly) spurious claims of legitimacy, they currently appear to be shifting rapidly toward containment efforts, utilizing a variety of methods to quell the nation-wide protests that remain under way. These include: deploying military units, mobilizing pro-Tatmadaw supporters, threats of further comms shutdowns, ongoing curfews and restrictions on gathering size, reports of use of force against protesters in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, and efforts to increase online surveillance. A draft **Cyber Security Law** is before the State Administrative Council. The law seeks to “protect any threats to the national sovereignty and tranquility...and protect electronic communication in and outside of Myanmar... to protect any electronic and personal information. Domestic media reported on the arrival today of flights from China including Chinese technicians to assist the Tatmadaw on online containment, surveillance and restrictions

Myanmar National League for Democracy (NLD)’s national headquarters was raided by Tatmadaw Feb 9. Detentions of senior officials, pro-democracy leaders and HRDs continue, and now include high profile expat advisors and INGO reps. In some cases, whereabouts of detained individuals remain unknown. According to Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) at least 190 lawmakers and activists have been arrested in Myanmar since February 1. **Continued massive civil unrest in the coming days is likely. There is a heightened risk of a military crack-down**, use of force to dispel protestors, or clashes between pro-NLD and pro-USDP supporters.

Protests/ civil disobedience:

- Massive protests continued today throughout the country, particularly in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.
- Protests in Yangon continue to be tense, with military deployed in the city. Tensions have yet to escalate to violence in Yangon.
- There is an increased presence of military personnel across the city, but no incidents of violence in Yangon as there has been in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.
- Also increased activity on the part of pro-military/pro-USDP instigators, some in military vehicles. Reports abound that these protesters are being paid to agitate.
- There are growing concerns that Bamar extremists, such as MaBaTha, will be mobilized in support of the Tatmadaw.
- Protesters are not part of a monolithic, unified, homogeneous, organized group. The movement that is sweeping the country appears organic. Many protesters are young, some from student groups, others from labour unions or professional organizations engaged in the civil disobedience strike campaign. Others are former generation 88 protesters, pro democracy activists, NLD members, or Aung San Suu Kyi supporters. Others are protesting without any formal affiliation, and doing so in very large numbers.
- [REDACTED]
- Large group of protesters outside of the [REDACTED] continued yesterday and today. [REDACTED] Similar protests [REDACTED]
- Protesters also reported outside [REDACTED] but in smaller numbers. Protesters are seeking support and are not antagonistic.
- A small group of protesters [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] They appear to be spillover from the larger group of protesters at Sule Pagoda. They are peaceful and do not appear to be cognizant of the Chancery location within the business towers. The front doors to the business tower is locked and security has been increased.
- In Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay security forces have deployed water cannons and rubber bullets (as well as some live rounds) against protesters. 7 injured, two seriously, one of whom subsequently succumbed to her injuries, which resulted from a live-fire round to the head.
- In Mandalay water cannons and tear gas were used against protesters again over the past two days.
- Yangon airport is open to relief flights but with a flight reduction due to civil disobedience on the part of airfield workers and air traffic controllers.

- On February 9, Korean Air temporarily suspended its flights for one week until February 15 with a possible extension afterwards.
- New Zealand [REDACTED] announced decision to suspend contact with Myanmar: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/436071/new-zealand-suspends-military-polical-contact-with-myanmar-after-military-coup-ardern>.
- Today more than 5000 workers at two large mines, the **Letpadaung Taung** and Kyaysin Taung copper mines, joined the civil disobedience movement today.

Comms:

- CBC Radio Interview with HOM took place late evening Feb 8. Transcript of the call has been circulated by Media Monitoring.

- [REDACTED]

Consular:

- There are [REDACTED] and co-travellers registered with ROCA. [REDACTED] ROCA messages sent Monday and Tuesday. TAA updated Tuesday. ROCA on flight availability to go out tomorrow.

Statements:

- The Myanmar Office of the UN Resident Coordinator yesterday issued a statement condemning the use of force against protesters: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/02/1084212>

Coordination/Engagement:

[REDACTED]

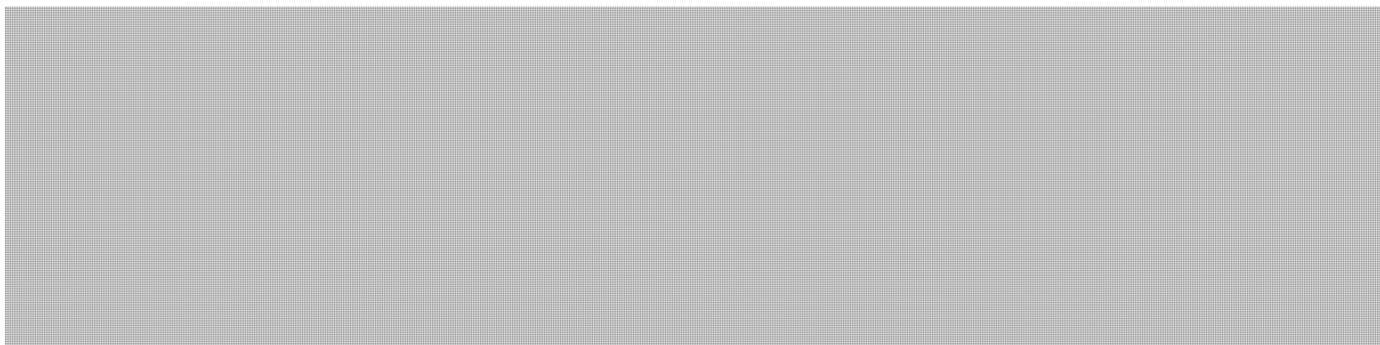
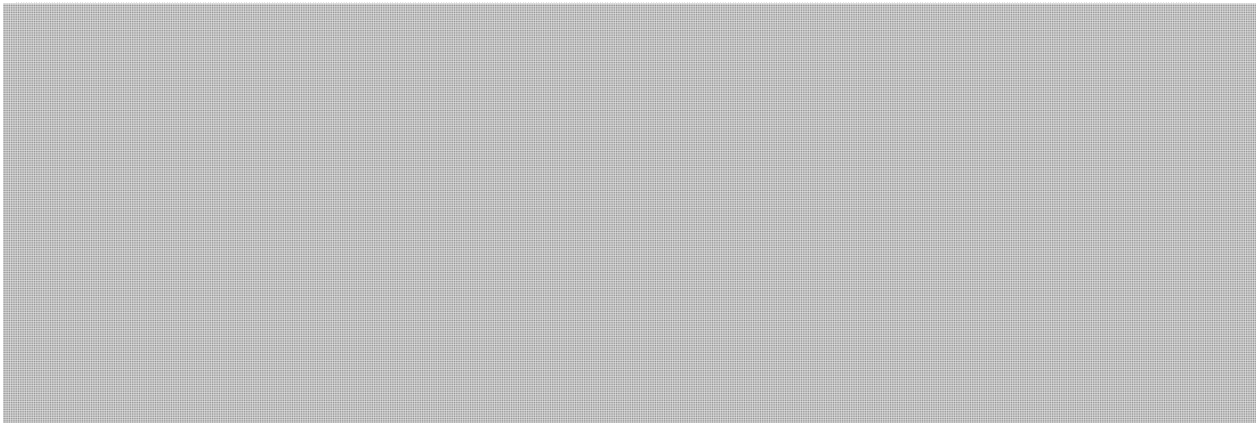
- The Tatmadaw's early efforts to establish credibility through claims of election fraud (REFTEL YNGON-546) and early meetings with banks, business councils, and diplomats are being countered by NLD assertions of their continued legitimacy as the elected government with a clear mandate from the people.

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- As reported in earlier sitreps, on February 5, 2021, 298 Hluttaw Representatives convened an emergency meeting and unanimously agreed to establish the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) in order to ensure the work of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw would carry on.



YNGON-GR, [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA/[redacted] YNGON-D/[redacted] YNGON-GR/[redacted] YNGON-DA/[redacted]

Approved: HOM

11 February

YNGON-548: Myanmar coup d'état: Constitutional considerations

SUMMARY: On 01 Feb, the (purportedly) Acting President of Myanmar, Vice-President Myint Swe, issued an Order under **Articles 417** and **418(a)** of the Constitution (see excerpts below signature), declaring a state of emergency and transferring legislative, judicial and executive powers to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (CIC) Min Aung Hlaing. This declaration and associated transfer of power, very shortly after the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) arrested President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and other high-ranking government officials, was the ostensibly legal mechanism for a de facto coup d'état. The CIC and Tatmadaw, then and now, argue that their seizure of power is in accordance with Myanmar's 2008 Constitution;

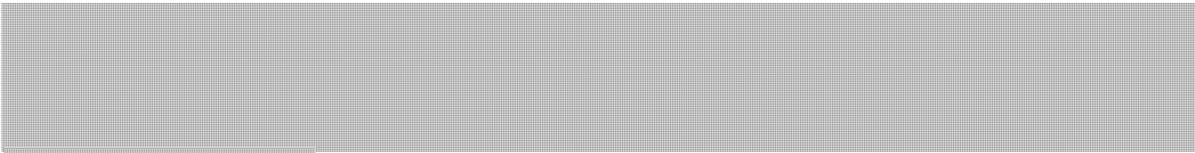
REPORT:

1. In the early hours of 01 Feb, shortly after the Tatmadaw arrested President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK), and other high-ranking officials from the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) Party, they installed Vice-President Myint Swe – an ex-military officer in the Myanmar Army, with the rank of Lieutenant General – as Acting President of Myanmar. (**Note:** Canada has had sanctions in place against Vice-President Myint Swe under its Special Economic Measures (Burma) Regulations since 2012.) The Acting President swiftly convened a meeting of Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC), where the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Min Aung Hlaing, delivered an evidently compelling presentation on Myanmar's (allegedly) fraudulent Nov 2020 election, and the NLD government's obstinate refusal to address it. After hearing this report, the Acting President issued Order Number 1/2021 under **Articles 417** and **418(a)** of the Constitution, declaring a state of emergency and transferring legislative, judicial and executive powers to the CIC. The Order provides that the emergency declaration is to remain in force for one year.
2. Background: The 01 Feb NDSC meeting was the first to be convened in over five years. As established in the 2008 (military-drafted) Constitution, the NDSC was designed to function as the highest authority for security and defense issues in Myanmar, led by the President but including the Commander-in-Chief (CIC). Of its 11 members, the CIC appoints 5 (Deputy CIC, one Vice President, and Ministers for Defence, Home Affairs and Border Affairs), and the remaining 5 members are civilians (President, one Vice President, Speakers of the Upper and Lower House, and Minister for Foreign Affairs). While the Constitution does not require or empower the NDSC to make decisions by voting, the military enjoys disproportionate influence in this forum (6 seats to 5). Through the entirety of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK)'s first tenure (2015-2020), ASSK refused, resolutely, to convene the 11-member NDSC, for fear that the 6/5 military majority might use the forum, as they did on 01 Feb, to wrestle power from the civilian

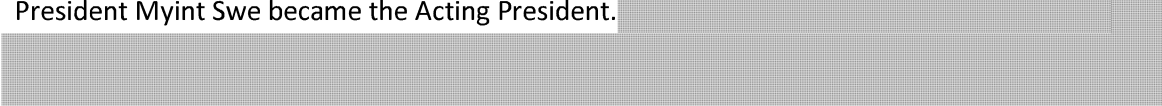
government. The Tatmadaw was frustrated by ASSK's refusal to convene an NDSC meeting, in part to address their claims of electoral fraud, prior to the 2021 Parliamentary Session.

3. Background: The President of Myanmar is elected by Members of Parliament (MPs), including military-appointed MPs, from three candidates nominated by MPs from Myanmar's 1) lower house, 2) upper house and 3) appointed military representatives to both houses. Each MP then casts a single vote for his or her preferred presidential candidate; the candidate with the most votes becomes President, and the other two candidates become Vice-Presidents. Shortly after Myanmar's 2015 general election, Htin Kyaw (lower house candidate) captured 360 of 652 votes and became president (he was later replaced by Win Myint). In second place was Myint Swe, nominated by the military, who received 213 votes.

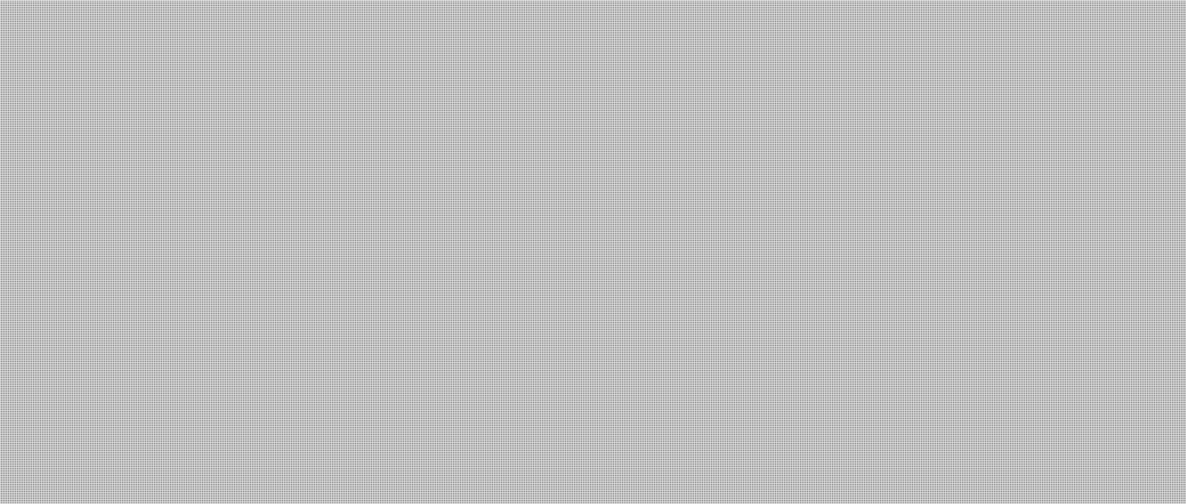
4.



Myanmar's Constitution (**Article 73(a)**) describes a process whereby one of Myanmar's two Vice-Presidents, who won the second highest number of votes in the Presidential election (in this case, Myint Swe), shall serve as Acting President if the office of the President falls vacant due to their resignation, death, permanent disability or any other cause [emphasis added]. The military claims that they arrested President Win Myint on 01 Feb, Vice-President Myint Swe became the Acting President.



5.



6. **Article 417** of Myanmar's Constitution mandates that the President may declare a state of emergency after co-ordinating with the National Defence and Security Council. Separately, **Article 201** mandates that the NDSC shall include five civilian office holders (the President, one Vice President, Speakers of the two houses of parliament, and Minister of Foreign Affairs) in addition to the CIC and 5 military appointees (See Paragraph 2). When "Acting President" Myint Swe convened the NDSC on 01 Feb, no civilian representatives were included. The constitution

does not specify necessary quorum for NDSC meetings, and it is therefore possible that this step in the transfer of power did not reflect constitutional procedure. (**Note:** To date, the NDSC still has only six known members, all military representatives: Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing; Second Vice-President/Acting President Mying Swe; Deputy Commander-in-Chief Soe Win; Minister for Defence Mya Tun Oo; and Minister for Home Affairs Soe Htut.)

7. Beyond the question of quorum at the NDSC meeting, it is also unlikely that an Acting President [REDACTED] has the authority to convene this group and declare a state of emergency at all. The Articles invoked by purported Acting President Myint Swe to declare the state of emergency – **Articles 417** and **418** – describe possible actions by the President, with no mention of possible intervention by an Acting President. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED] **Article 417** indicates that if there arises or if there is sufficient reason for a state of emergency to arise that may disintegrate the Union or disintegrate national solidarity or that may cause the loss of sovereignty, due to acts or attempts to take over the sovereignty of the Union by insurgency, violence and wrongful forcible means, the President may, after co-ordinating with the National Defence and Security Council, promulgate an ordinance and declare a state of emergency. On 01 Feb, the Acting President’s reason for this declaration was that Myanmar’s November 8 2020 election, conducted under the authority of the Union Election Commission, was not free, fair and transparent. The CIC, then and now, argues that the fraudulent election, together with the (civilian) government’s failure to address or investigate it, constitutes “wrongful forcible means” of taking power and causing “loss of sovereignty”. Per prior YNGON reporting (**REFTEL YNGON-546**): While Myanmar’s pre-election environment was tense, [REDACTED] Election Day in Myanmar was a success, deemed credible by domestic and international election observers, like-minded Embassies, their Foreign Ministries and Canada.

9. [REDACTED] While **Article 20(f)** of Myanmar’s Constitution indicates The Defense Services (Tatmadaw) is “mainly responsible” for safeguarding the Constitution, [REDACTED]

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)

COMMENT:

[REDACTED]

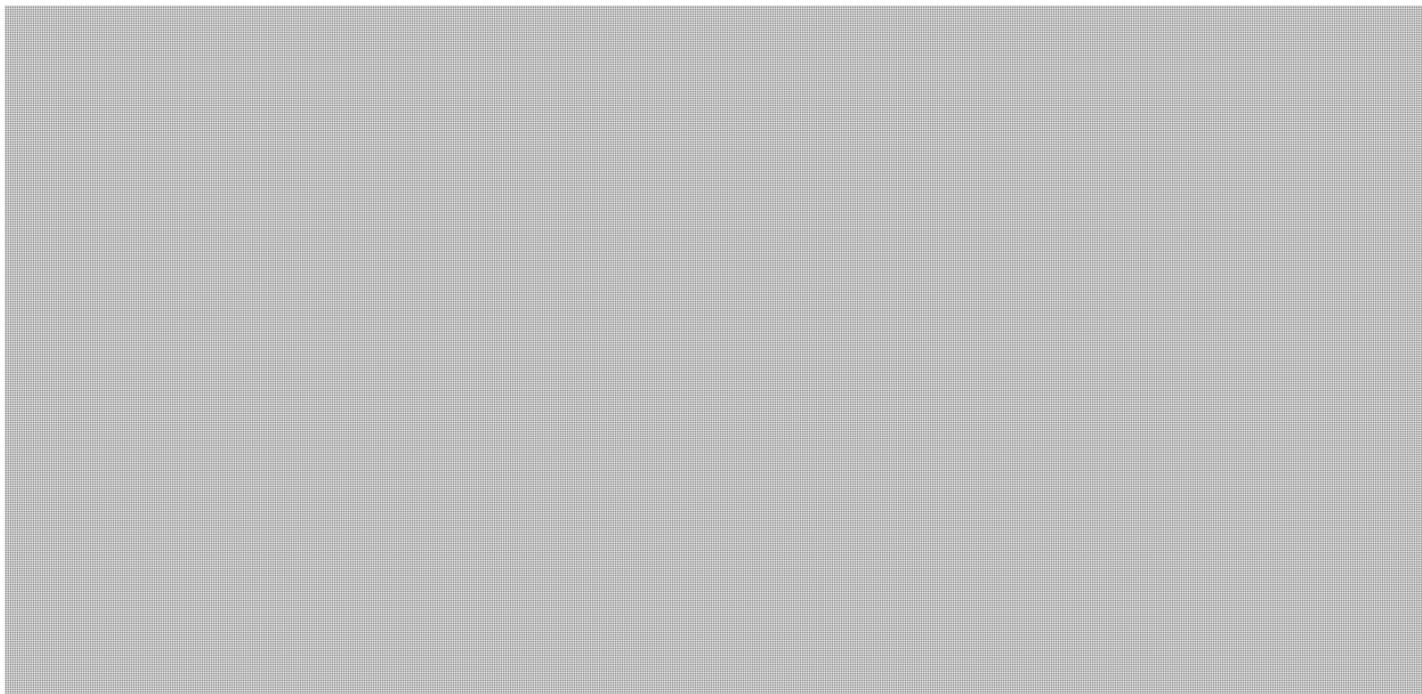
[REDACTED]

DRAFTED: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

CONSULTED: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

APPROVED: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

12 February



Protests/civil disobedience

- In Yangon, protestors were out in slightly smaller numbers Wednesday and Thursday. **Numbers have swelled considerably again today, Feb 12.**
- Yesterday evening in a statement issued by the Tatmadaw, the Commander in Chief, now styling himself as the Chairman of the State Administrative Council, acknowledged the ongoing massive protests for the first time and called on civil servants to return to work. He urged people to stop mass gatherings to avoid spreading the coronavirus and blamed "unscrupulous persons" for stoppages in a growing civil disobedience movement by medics, teachers, railway workers and other government employees: "Those who are away from their duties are requested to return to their duties immediately for the interests of the country and people without focusing on the emotion". The statement, which was followed by an announcement of the release of 23,000 prisoners (see below), has fuelled further fears of a possible crackdown.
- Despite this and the ongoing restrictions, as anticipated, crowd size has swelled again today - a national holiday (Chinese New Year and Union Day). Protesters are gathering in the thousands at traditional destinations (Hledan and Sule), while also disbursing to other sites, including embassies, UN offices, as well as government offices (to pressure personnel to join the civil disobedience movement).
[Redacted]
- There are also large groups of protestors moving about by foot and vehicle.
- There are large numbers of protestors outside the [Redacted] with about 1000 people, approximately 1000 medical personnel [Redacted]

Other

gatherings include approximately 1,000 in front of the Internal Revenue Department (Pansodan St), banks and government offices.

- There is a small group of protesters (50-70) seated under [REDACTED]. They are spillover from the Sule protests and [REDACTED].
- Protests in **Yangon continue to be peaceful**, but there is a noticeable security forces presence, including military.
- There is a mobilization of military vehicles across Yangon, with confirmed sightings of military vehicles with mobile jamming devices positioned near protest areas.
- Outside Yangon there continue to be reports of protests in towns across the country.
- [REDACTED]
- Police are arresting some protestors, erecting roadblocks and blocking bridges.

Civil Disobedience (CDM)

- Civil disobedience movement (CDM) continues to grow across Myanmar, with air traffic controllers, ~80 employees of the Central Bank of Myanmar's Yangon Branch, Government Newspaper Printing Office, Myanmar Highway Freight Transportation Association and University of Yangon now participating, with implications on banking/financial, health and transportation sectors.
- On social media, some activists are calling on workers in the private sector to join the movement, targeting banks, finance, telecommunications and transportation.
- TMD is ratcheting up their response to the CDM: State Administration Council (SAC) released a statement indicating individuals who intimidate or pressure the civil servants not to carry out their duties will face legal consequences; also announced 10 phone numbers for the civil servants to report any case of intimidation; some Ministries threatening up to 1 year in prison for employees participating; statement from CIC pledging to take action against civil servants joining the CDM, while also (in the same statement) suggesting civil servants' salaries might be increased.
- Midnight raids continue, targeting at CDM leader doctors, UEC members, regime opponents and critics, and even fortune teller who said that the military government will go down soon. In many detentions are without warrants.
- All ward/village tract administrators are released from their duties. Speculations that they will be replaced by USDP supporters to monitor people.
- USDP released a letter directing their party leaders to find USDP members who can replace CDM staff.

Supply Chains:

- There are growing concerns that supply chains will be affected by the ongoing civil unrest. Access to markets, and food supplies in stores continues to be readily available. Some banks, particularly smaller ones, are reporting liquidity issues and runs on smaller banks. Larger banks, while closed today because of the national holiday, remain operational with liquidity. Challenge for larger banks is staffing, with many staff participating in the CDM. ATMs appear to be being replenished. That being said, gold prices have risen in Myanmar, with reports of

increased gold purchases, particularly after the now debunked rumour that the 10,000 MMK note would be demonetized.

- US announcement of sanctions this morning [REDACTED]
- There are also concerns regarding availability of Kerosene/jet fuel after a key supplier announced suspension of its operations in Myanmar on Feb 11. Domestic media is reporting that Puma energy tanks in Thilawa have been seized by the military forces and puma staff in Yangon international airport are forced to work [REDACTED] <https://twitter.com/mrattkthu/status/1360119472397377536?s=21> . Also rumours that a Chinese supplier of kerosene is now supplying any shortfall, [REDACTED]

Comms

- [REDACTED]
- HOM spoke on-record to CBC: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/cbc-news-the-world-at-six/id250083757#episodeGuid=w6-2e059029-eb93-4d42-8ccf-abeca0fad196>

Statements

- The United Nations in Myanmar expressed strong concern at reports of use of force by security forces in response to demonstrations (<https://myanmar.un.org/en/111127-united-nations-myanmar-expresses-strong-concern-reports-use-force-security-forces-response>)
- UNICEF called for greater attention to protection of children's rights in Myanmar during time of crisis (<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/unicef-calls-greater-attention-protection-childrens-rights-myanmar>)
- The CSO Working Group on Myanmar National Human Rights Council (MNHRC) Reform called for the MNHRC to denounce the Myanmar military coup and stand with the people of Myanmar. <https://www.facebook.com/ReformMNHRC>
- Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada Statement on Myanmar (attached) urges the UN HRC to take immediate and decisive action for increased monitoring of human rights violations and firm measures towards prevention of further violations.
- The INGO Forum in Myanmar issued a joint statement issued by INGOs on the unfolding crisis in Myanmar, highlighting the potential immediate and longer-term impacts of the military seizure of power on the safety, rights and wellbeing of people across Myanmar (see attached).
- YNGON has posted the GAC statement welcoming US sanctions on the mission's FB page. At the time of writing, it had 1.3k likes and 89 comments –most positive, some asking for more assistance, some cautionary as to the impact of sanctions.

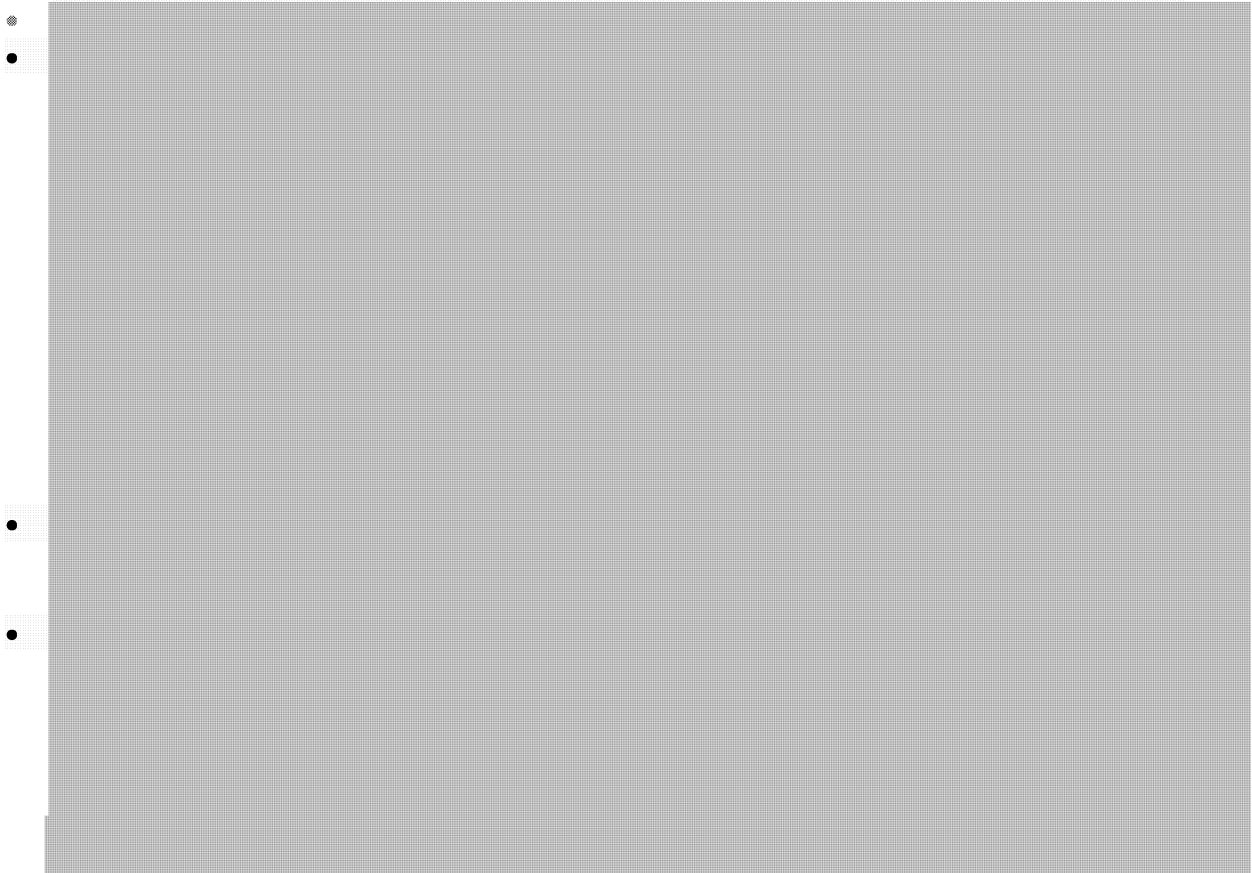
Coordination/Engagement

- On Wednesday, President Biden approved an executive order that will enable targeted sanctions in Myanmar. His administration will define the scope of sanctions this week.

Statement from US Secretary of State Blinken here:

<https://twitter.com/USEmbassyBurma/status/1360089158707015680/photo/1>

- [REDACTED] Canada has issued a statement of support and YNGON has amplified on FB.
- The UN Human Rights Council will hold a Special Session on Myanmar today in Geneva; Canada submitted an intervention and also co-sponsored the UK Resolution, expected to pass.

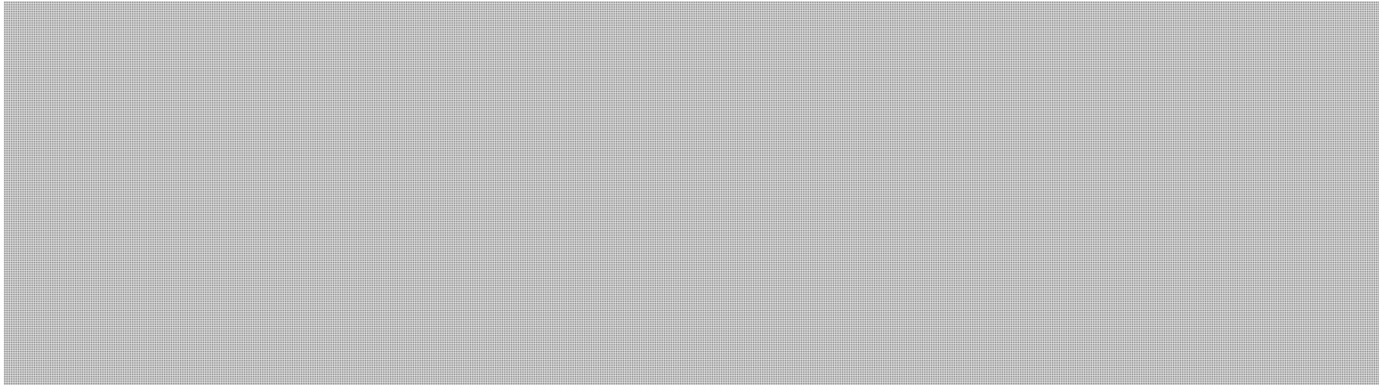


Detentions, arrests, releases

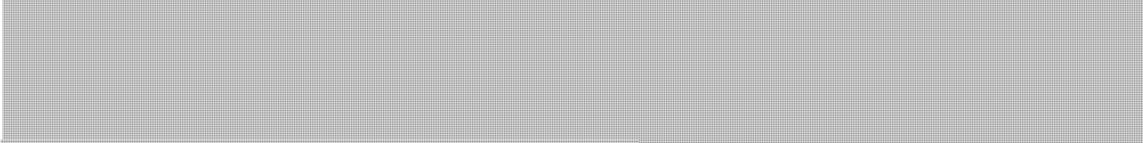


- TMD has announced the remitted the sentences of 23,369 prisoners, including 55 foreigners today. As announcement said sentences for Myanmar prisoners were being remitted while the country “is establishing a new democratic state with peace, development and discipline to turn the prisoners into certain decent citizens, to please the public and to create the humanitarian and compassionate grounds.” <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-sentences-idUSKBN2AC033>. Large crowds are reported in front of jails. Well-known Rakhine politician Dr Aye Maung and author Mai Hun Aung are among the people released. Pardons and prisoner releases are not uncommon in Myanmar, but normally take place during the spring festival of Thingyan. This move is one of many seeking to placate the population amidst massive protest. It also serves to empty prisons in anticipation of a surge in arrests and detentions.
- Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) now reporting 262 people detained in relation to / in aftermath of the coup.

- Wave of arrests targeting Union Election Commission officials and township chairs, amongst others; other arrests since Wednesday include protestors and protest organizers; some Parliamentarians and additional NLD officials; two former State Chief Ministers.

s.21(1)(b)



Other updates (of concern)

- 
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-malaysia-idUSKBN2AB1T4>.
- Reports of military raiding NLD offices and ASSK charity (Daw Khin Kyi Foundation) overnight Wednesday, possibly looking for more information (or evidence) with which to charge the State Counsellor.
- Reported cancellation of domestic flights (notification by tourist agencies) 


Digital spaces

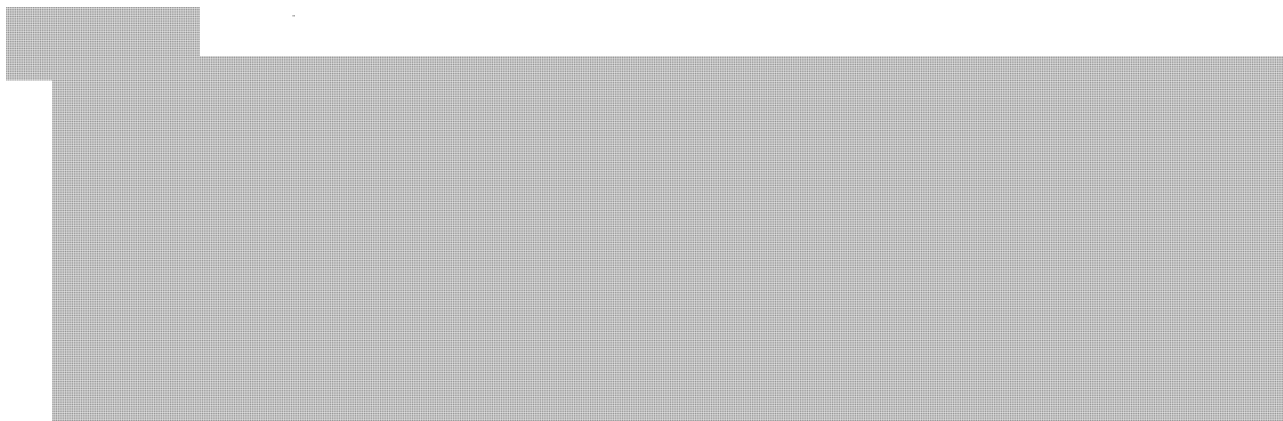
- (Likely false) rumours of another mass internet shutdown for the second half of February fuelling ongoing concerns about connectivity, access to information, freedom of expression and media freedom.
- **Cyber Security Law** (REFTEL YNGON-547): The Tatmadaw is expediting the passage of a new draft Cyber Security Law, which, if passed, risks seriously undermining freedom of speech, access to information and privacy in Myanmar. If enacted, it could pose a threat to activists and critics of the regime. The draft was sent to all licensed telecommunication companies, asking for submission of reviews not later than **15 Feb 2021**. The new law is alarming in many ways and is also accompanied by news that Chinese technicians specializing in setting up a firewall and cyber-surveillance had arrived in the country very recently (this remains unconfirmed). The law enables greater military control of information, controls and limits the activities of telcom providers, and criminalizes “violators” and actions such as misinformation or disinformation with up to three years in prison and fines.

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)

- All telecommunication service providers (or internet service providers) must establish a storage facility (or data-center) at a location assigned by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication. (This means that the ISPs must have a data-center at the location specified by the ministry).
- All telecommunication service providers must promptly intercept, remove, destroy or suspend any type of information upon request by the ministry.
- All telecommunication companies must withhold the data of the users for up to 3 years.
- Upon suspicion of breach of the Cyber Security Law, any user or the device that was used can be investigated by the authority.
- The union governance council (the military coup government) can assign an individual or a group of individuals with the authority to intercept the data of a suspected person or organization. All telecommunication service providers must prepare for such an interception beforehand.
- The ministry or any authorities designated by the ministry can monitor any online service at its own discretion.
- The ministry can suspend any online service, comprehend any telecommunication device, and banning any online service permanently at the discretion of the Union Governance Council (the military coup government).
- An individual in violation of the Cyber Security Law can be imprisoned for a sentence of up to 3 years or a fine not exceeding 10,000,000 Kyats (equivalent to around 7000 USD) or both.
- Civil society groups are expressing serious concerns with the cyber-security bill, calling it dystopian, and are urging a strong response from the diplomatic community:
<https://www.facebook.com/FreeExpressionMyanmar/photos/pcb.3663682897078606/366368273745335/>
- See attached analysis from Center for Law and Democracy.
- [REDACTED]
- Facebook announced new measures to significantly reduce the distribution of all content on Facebook pages and profiles run by the Tamadaw, and has suspended the ability of Myanmar government agencies (now under TMD control) to send content removal requests to FB
<https://about.fb.com/news/2021/02/an-update-on-myanmar/>



YNGON-GR [REDACTED]

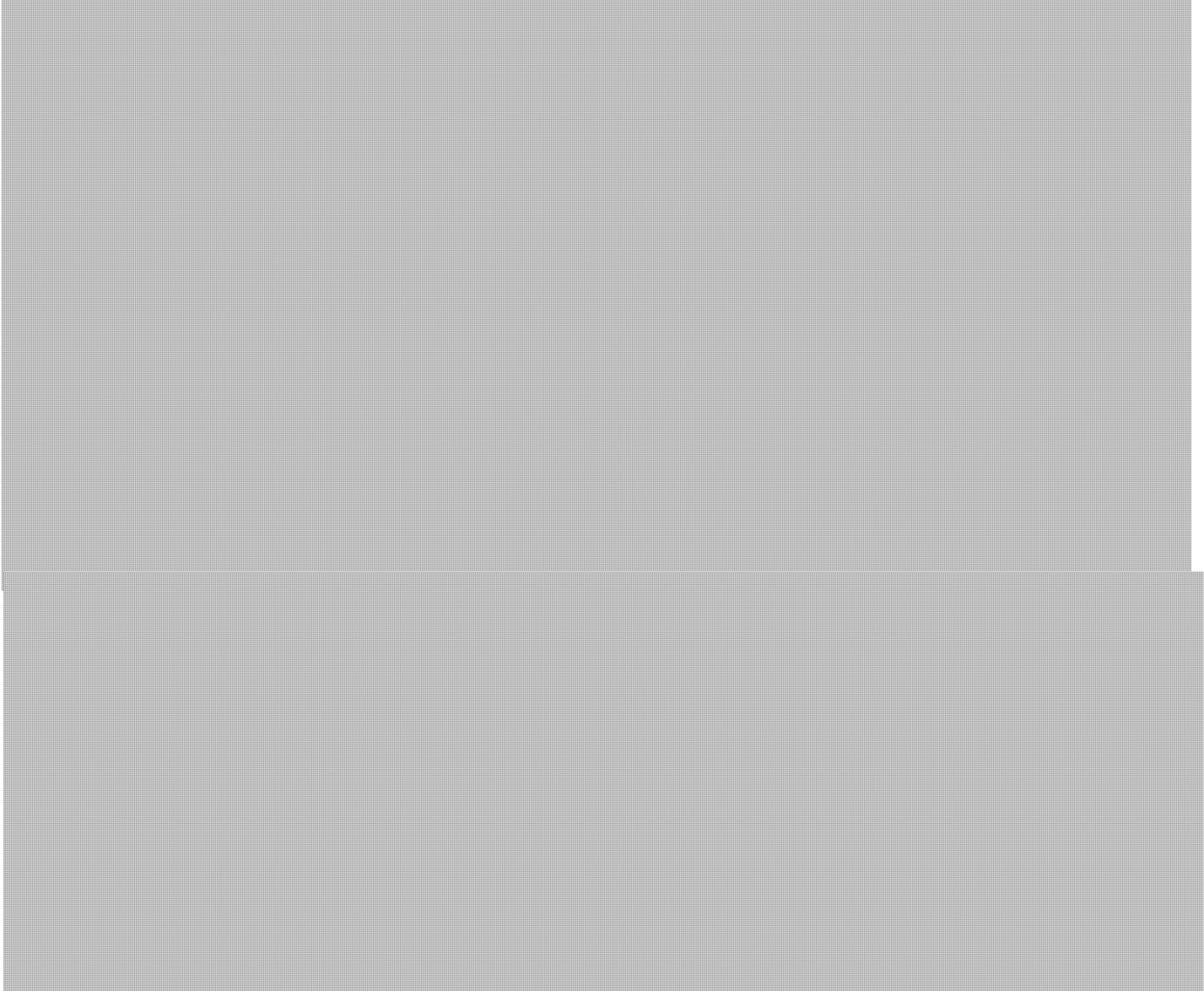
With input from: YNGON-GR [REDACTED] YNGON-GR [REDACTED] YGNON-CS/ [REDACTED]

Consulted: YNGON-TD, [REDACTED] YNGON-DA, [REDACTED]

Approved: HOM

15 February

s.21(1)(b)



Military Mobilization:

- Coinciding with the planned internet blackout (described above), media reported numerous army convoys across the country, including in Yangon (photos of the convoys were circulating on social media and confirmed by security services, LM reports and eyewitnesses).
- There is a noticeable increase in military presence in Yangon, including tanks and armoured vehicles around town and at protest locations- particularly the Central Bank.
- Military armoured vehicles remain deployed at various buildings in Yangon, including (reportedly) at the Yangon Parliamentary compound, Municipal office, Central Bank and Chinese Embassy.
- YNGON has heard reports of police action and arrests overnight consistent with previous evenings, but no reports of violence by these newly deployed military/security forces.

- There are credible reports that the 77th LID has been deployed in Yangon. The 77th LID was deployed during the 2007 Saffron Revolution and was brutal in its response.

Protests/Civil Disobedience:

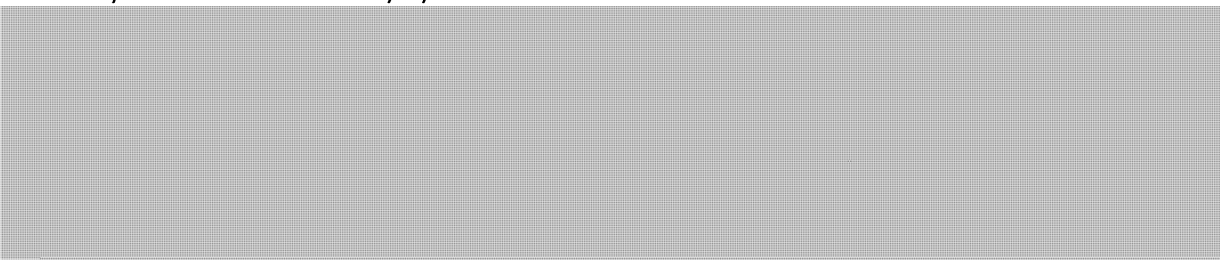
- Large-scale protests took place across the country on Feb 13 and 14.
- Saturday (13 Feb) marked the birthday of General Aung San, one of the founders of independent Myanmar and father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Protesters' mobilization was high across the country. In Yangon, [REDACTED] suggest there are 10,000 protesters in Sule Pagoda area, in front of 250 police officers, and 5,000 in Hledan, with a minimal deployment of security forces. Other gatherings (1,000-4,000 people) were reported [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] In Yangon, no violence was reported.
- On Monday, protests continue across the country today. Mobilization rates remain high, but **noticeably smaller today** than the previous week. Specific numbers are challenging to quantify or verify independently. Protesters continue to be highly mobile – moving from location to location by foot and car.
- **Protests continue to be peaceful in Yangon**, with no major violence, clashes or forceful security forces response reported at the time of writing. Reports of gunshots and violence against protestors in Myitkyina (Kachin State, northern Myanmar) over the weekend and reports of violence, including use of rubber bullets in Mandalay late afternoon of Feb 15.
- In Yangon, protests are concentrating at Hledan and Sule, but in smaller numbers. There are also ongoing protests at the Central Bank, as well as at [REDACTED].
- As with yesterday (Sunday) [REDACTED] continues to be a major gathering point, with 3,000 people reported on Sunday.
- In late afternoon of Feb 15, police seized control the NLD Headquarter on Shwegondaing Road (Bahan Township); they have blocked the traffic and are mounting guard. Live stream shows that thousands of protesters gathering in front of the police barriers, and that tension is mounting.
- Outside of Yangon, protests were reported over the weekend in Mandalay, Monywa, Lashio, Loikaw; in Nay Pyi Taw, 10,000 people were reported at protest sites. In Mandalay Region, media reported 10,000 protesters in Yamethin, and 200,000 in Myinchan-Pakokku area. In Mandalay town, the protest was led by more than 100 monks. In Meiktila, protestors were targeted by slingshots, but no major violence has been reported.
- Saturday evening saw an increase in midnight raids and detentions in wards and townships. There were also reports and rumours that prisoners from among the 23,000 released earlier in the week were paid and deployed across Yangon to wreak havoc. Details have gone viral on social media, but alleged specific instances are challenging to corroborate. Communities have established ward-level self-protection units and have detained several “hoodlums” or “strangers” in their neighbourhoods. There are fears of vigilantism as anxiety levels increase. Observers note that this pattern is consistent with the Tatmadaw's 88 playbook when violence was deliberately incited to give a pretext for further draconian measures and/or a crackdown.
- Events which took place during the comms blackout on Sunday evening/early Monday morning remain opaque, but it does not appear that there was a major crackdown or an increase in detentions beyond what has been happening nightly for the past week.

Civil Disobedience (CDM):


- Civil disobedience movement (CDM) continues to grow across Myanmar, despite threats of reprisals and loss of employment from the Commander in Chief.
- More civil servants and private sector workers are joining the movement, including staff from the banking sector, the Ministry of Social Welfare; Dagon University; 105 Mile Muse Economic Zone (disrupting border trade with China); some police officers; and refueling stations supplying the Yangon Bus System (causing potential disruption to bus services).
- Like last week, increasing CDM momentum is prompting a harsher response from authorities: reports of authorities making some arrests, suspending some officials from duty, and of more widespread harassment; security forces recently summoned staff and teachers from Meiktila Aerospace University to urge their return to work; police also surrounded the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) compound in Myitkyina (Kachin State) urging their return to work.
- CDM also being waged online: a social media campaign is calling on China National Petroleum Corporation workers to join the movement; authorities on social media remind civil servants that the CDM is illegal and can yield sanctions.
- Midnight raids continue, targeting at CDM leaders, doctors, UEC members, regime opponents and critics.

Detentions, Arrests, Releases:

- Local media is reporting that detained State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi's expected court appearance today has been postponed and she is remanded until 17 Feb pending another hearing; her lawyer has not been able to meet with her. She is expected to appear via video link at a yet to be confirmed Nay Pyi Taw court.

-  That evening, numerous police operations were conducted in Yangon to arrest protest and CDM leaders. In some townships, such as Sanchaung and Hlaing, dozens of police vehicles were mobilized. According to witnesses, footages and media reports, local residents beat pots and pans to inform their neighbours; all arrests attempts were met with resistance; brawls were reported between local communities and security forces. Eventually, it appears that few arrests were conducted. Similar incidents were reported in Pakokku, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi. In Mandalay, the authorities sought to arrest firefighters who joined the CDM.
- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has confirmed 400 detentions in relation to the coup since 01 February; 375 remain detained.

Draconian State Administrative Council (SAC) Measures:

- 
- Efforts are focused on containment and disruption through intimidation, fear, misinformation campaigns, punitive economic measures and increasingly draconian legal measures and restrictions to stifle dissent and end the ongoing protests and civil disobedience campaign. Collectively these measures target protesters and CDM leaders, facilitate increased surveillance, and represents significant human rights erosions and privacy issues. YNGON reported on the Cyber Security bill in YNGON-549. A summary of further measures are below.

Press Council Directives:

- On Saturday, the Ministry of Information (MOI)'s directives to the country's Press Council, a media adjudication body which investigates and settles press disputes, went viral online. They urge the media to report "ethically" and "avoid instigating public unrest." The ministry stated that some newspapers, weeklies and online media "wrongly" use "regime" for the junta's governing body, the State Administrative Council (SAC), "which was constitutionally formed by the military."

Amendment to the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens:

- On 13 February, the military regime's State Administrative Council suspended several key articles from the Privacy Law that had been enacted by the National League for Democracy (NLD) administration to prevent citizens targeting each other with lawsuits and to protect privacy and security. With these suspensions, the authorities are now allowed to enter into private properties to search, seize evidence and arrest without a warrant and presence of ward administrators. People can be detained for more than 24 hours without a court's approval. Private messages can be intercepted and the authorities can demand personal telephonic and electronic communications data from telecoms providers. The authorities can now open, search, seize or destroy private correspondence, which was previously prevented by the Privacy Law. The military regime also suspended the requirement for a court to approve the seizure and destruction of possessions and property.

Ward or Village Tract Administration Law:

- The regime has also reinstated much-hated provisions from the 2012 Ward or Village Tract Administration Law which requires citizens to report overnight guests to the authorities. The legislation was amended by the NLD in September 2016 despite opposition from military-appointed lawmakers who said it provided key data on people's location. As the elected ward and village tract administrators have all been released from duties, people are worried that the military will replace these administrators with supporters of the USDP for stricter surveillance of people in the neighbourhood.

Amendment to Penal Code:

- Amendments to Penal Code came out on the night of 14 February. The amendment to section 121, which defines high treason, now explicitly outlaws using "unconstitutional means" to

overthrow or assists, incites or conspires to overthrow the government. This move could be targeted towards NLD lawmakers who have formed an alternative parliament and also protestors who are urging for the military intervention from the Western countries.

- The maximum punishment under section 124A has been amended to harsher punishments: reference to transportation for life has been replaced by 20 years' imprisonment, and a reference to three years' imprisonment increased to seven years. The text has also been expanded to specifically prohibit contempt towards the Defence Services and its personnel. Two new offences are added: sabotage or obstruction of the Defence Services or other law enforcement authorities (s124C); and disruption to the Defence Services or government employees (s124D). Those who breach the law shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to twenty years with fine or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years with fine or with fine. These two additions are specifically to silence and punish the anti-coup protestors and the people and organizations supporting Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).
- Section 505 has also been expanded. The original law outlawed "statements conducive to public mischief", but the amendments are more specific. This includes anybody who causes "fear to a group of citizens or the public", "intends to spread false news" or intends to "agitate directly or indirectly criminal offence against a government employee". It carries a prison sentence of up to three years. Authorities can arrest people without warrant for these offences. The amendment to Section 505 will have negative impacts on freedom of speech and can be used against dissidents online and offline.

Supply Chains:

- There are continued concerns that supply chains will be affected by the ongoing civil unrest.
- At this time, stores are open with ongoing access to markets. Food supplies in stores continues to be readily available.
- Some banks, particularly smaller ones, are reporting liquidity issues and runs on smaller banks. Larger banks have sufficient liquidity.
- Most banking offices are closed today due to staffing issues stemming from the CDM. Staff shortages are sufficient to be halting or pausing most financial transactions.

US announcement of sanctions resulted

There are reports of seizing assets at Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB);

Comms:



- HOM spoke on-record to CBC: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/cbc-news-the-world-at-six/id250083757#episodeGuid=w6-2e059029-eb93-4d42-8ccf-abeca0fad196>
- New media query [redacted] has been referred to media relations.
- TPs [redacted] consulted with BNGKK-IM and previously developed comms procedures shared internally with CBS.

Statements:

- On the evening of Feb 14, YNGON issued a joint mission-level statement with 17 other missions urging restraint on the part of Myanmar security forces; at the time of writing, the post has more than 9.3K reactions, almost all positive; 1.6K comments and 1.9K shares: Feb 14 Joint [Statement](#) by Diplomatic Missions in Myanmar (urging security forces to refrain from violence) .
- On 13 Feb, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) issued a notice to Myanmar’s Foreign Missions and Diplomatic Corps ([attached](#) and on Facebook in Burmese [here](#)).
- On 14 Feb, the Spokesperson for the Secretary General issued a [statement](#) expressing the Secretary General’s deep concern about the situation in Myanmar, including ongoing arrests; the statement calls on the Myanmar military to ensure right of peaceful assembly and access to information is respected
- Also on 14 Feb, 177 Myanmar civil society organizations [called](#) on the UN Security Council for urgent enhanced monitoring and intervention amid increasing violence by security forces

Coordination/Engagement:

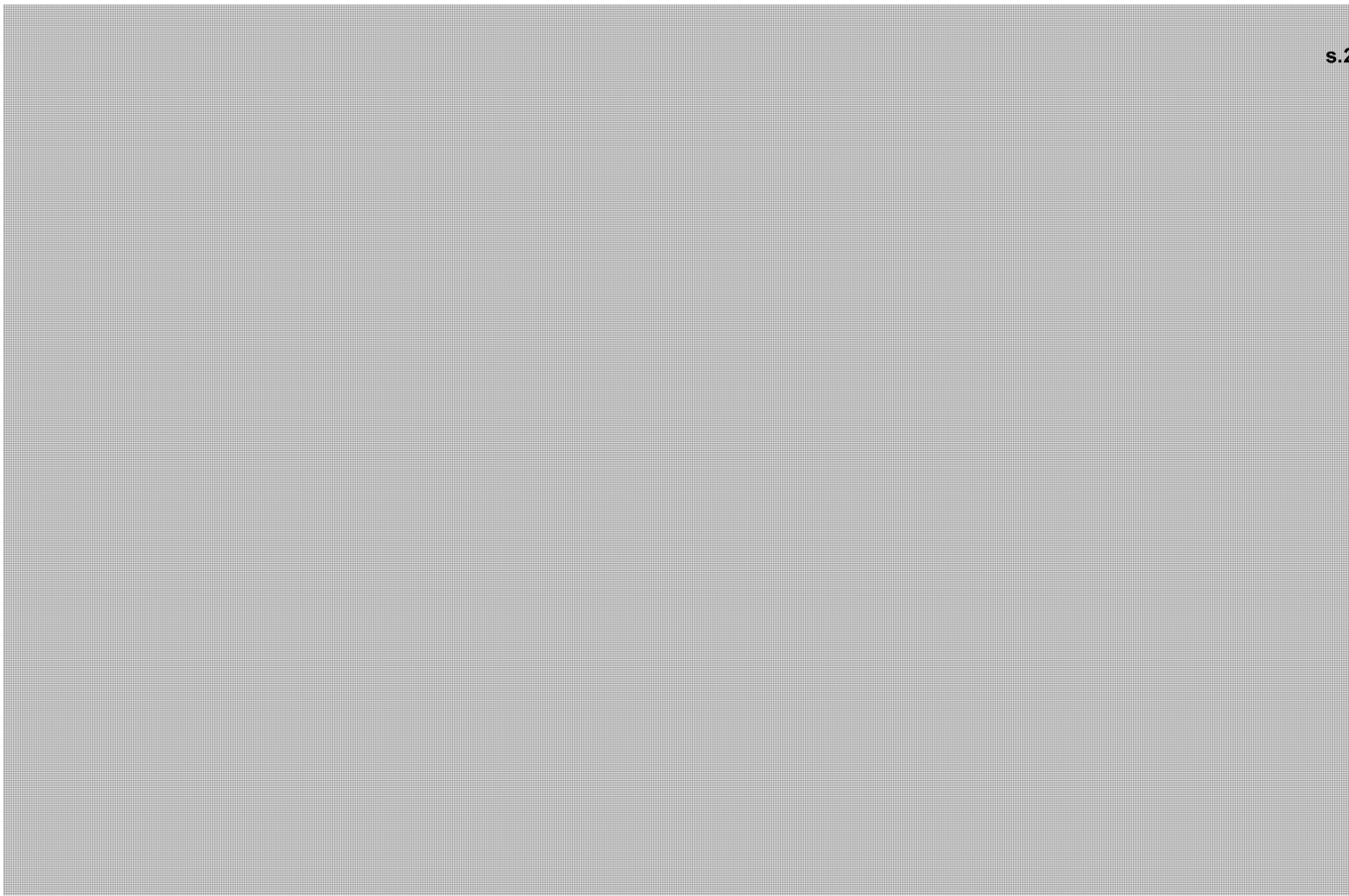
[redacted] YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.



s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)



Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

With input from: YGNON-CS/ [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-CS/ [redacted]

Approved: HOM

[1-15 FEBRUARY END]

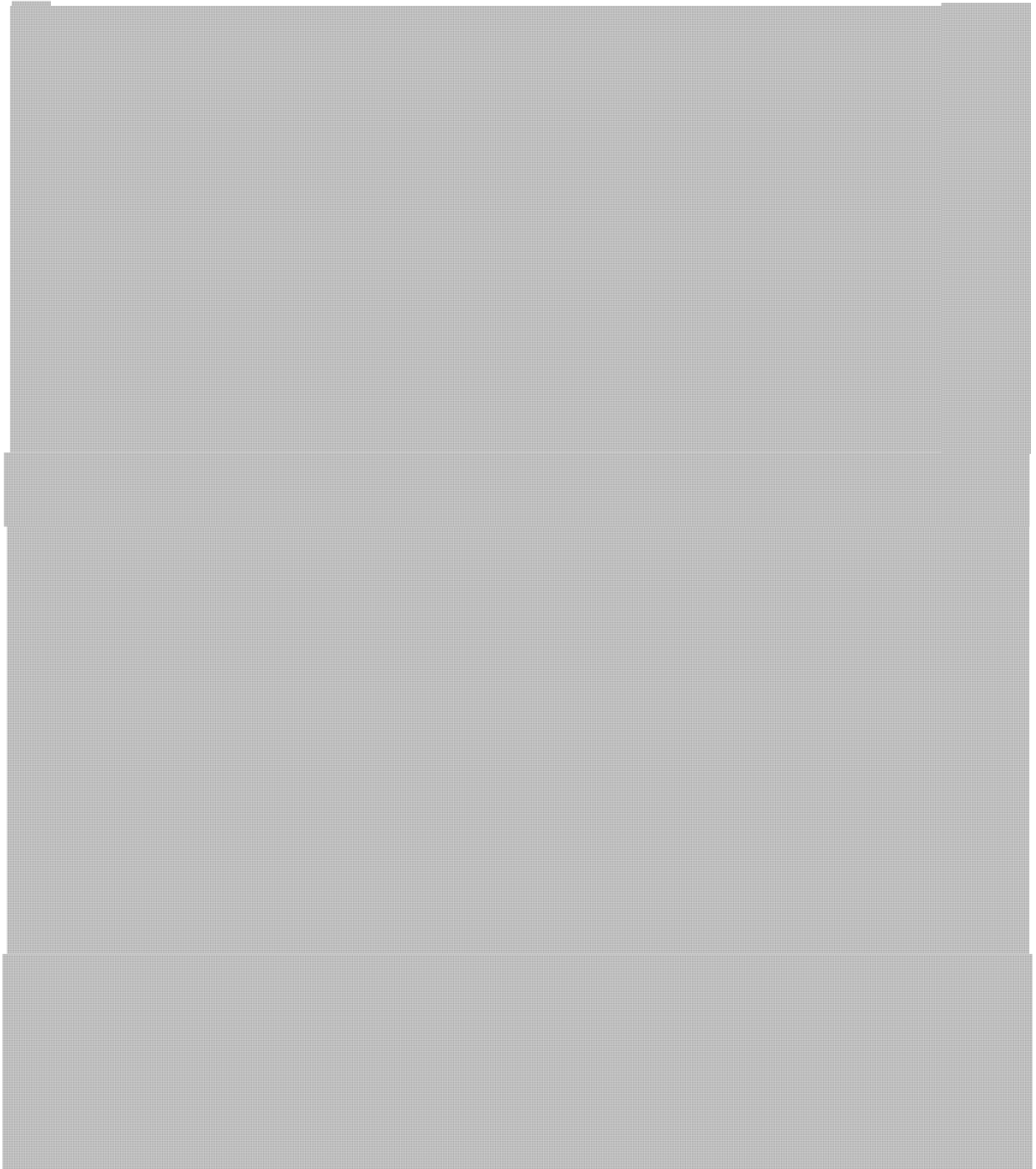
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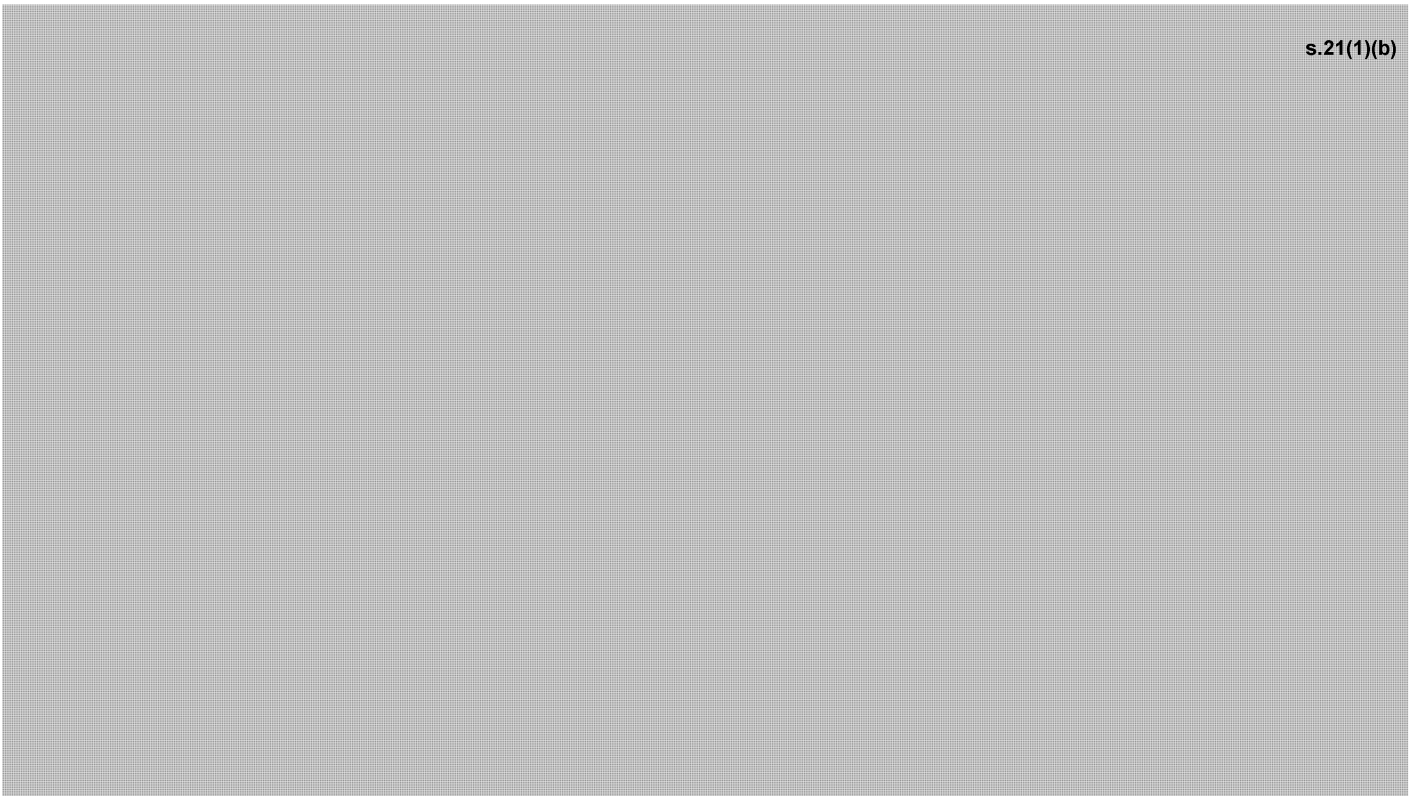
[16-28 FEBRUARY START]

16 February

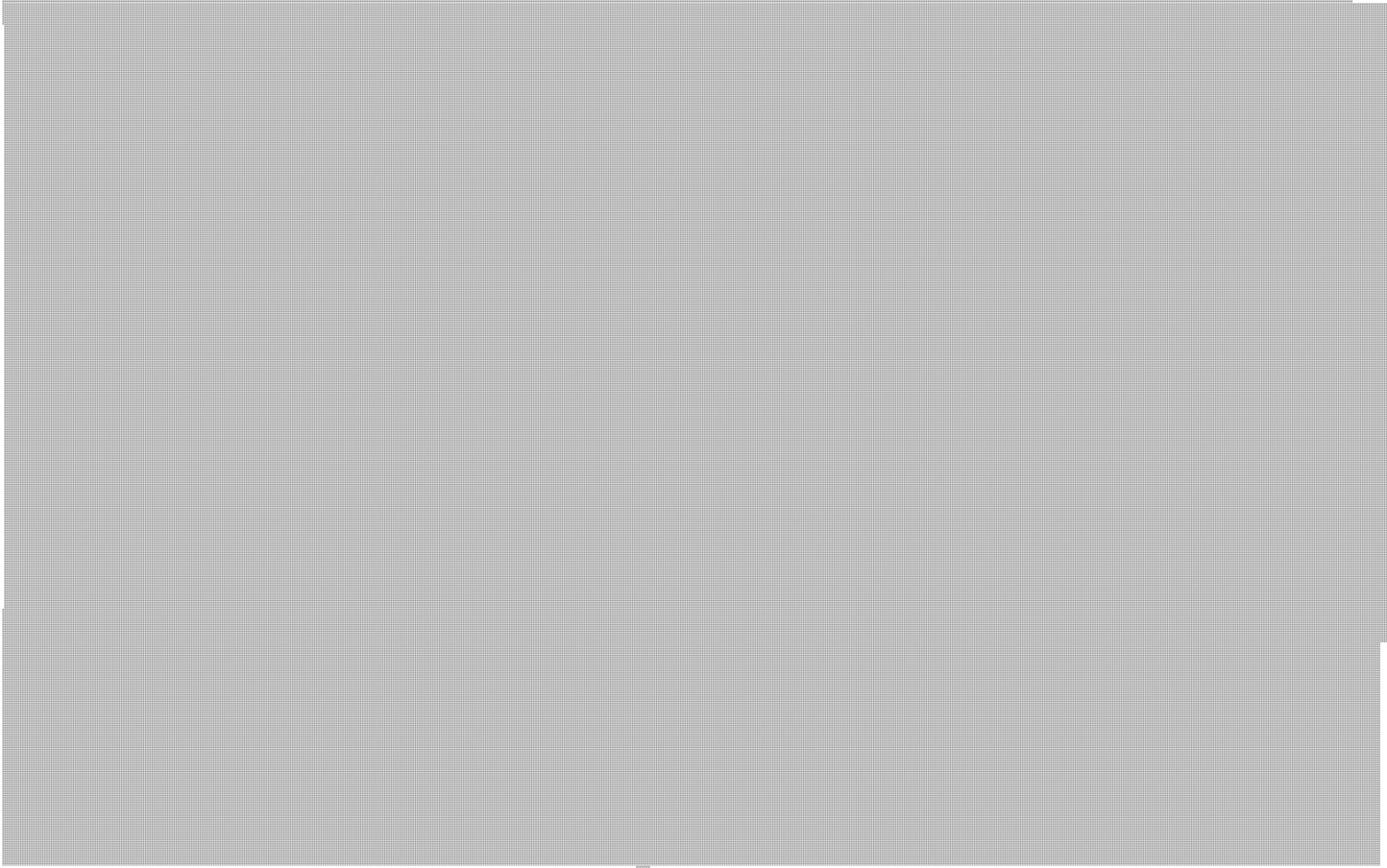


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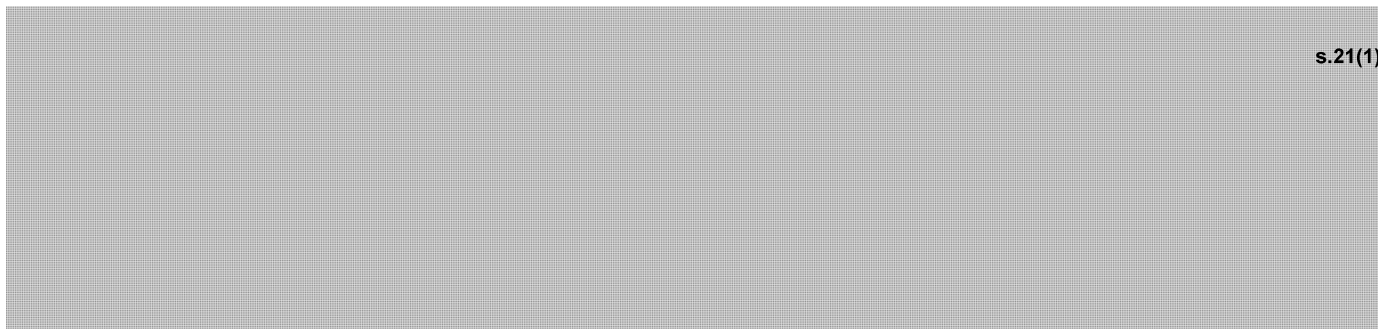


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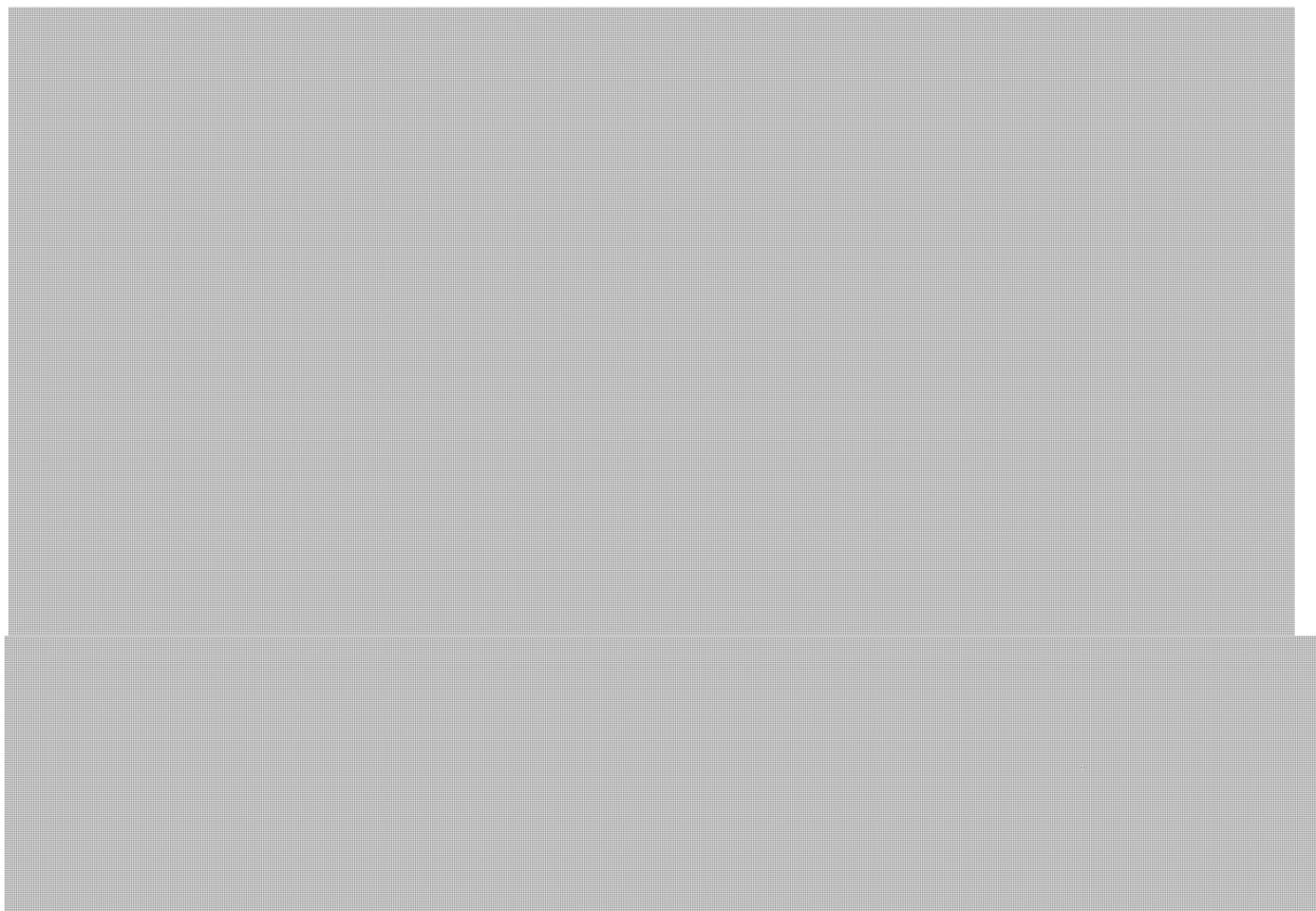
Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR/Hart, [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

17 February

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Military Mobilization:

- Coinciding with the planned internet blackout [REDACTED] media reported numerous army convoys across the country, including in Yangon (photos of the convoys were circulating on social media and confirmed by security services, LM reports and eyewitnesses).
- There was a noticeable increase in military presence in Yangon, including tanks and armoured vehicles around town and at protest locations- particularly the Central Bank over the weekend and earlier in the week.
- Military armoured vehicles were deployed at various buildings in Yangon, including (reportedly) at the Yangon Parliamentary compound, Municipal office, Central Bank and Chinese Embassy.
- While there is still a demonstrably stronger police presence downtown, military vehicles and troops do not appear to be deployed as widely or prominently today, as earlier this week, despite the large protests.
- In response to larger protests today (see below), there are reports of 6 army trucks, water-cannon trucks at Sule. In Hledan, 6 army trucks, 8 police trucks, 1 water-cannon truck have been deployed.
- The military also deployed troops in Mandalay again this morning, reportedly to handle the mass protests expected to take place today.

- YNGON has heard reports of police action and arrests overnight consistent with previous evenings, but **no reports of violence by these newly deployed military/security forces.**
- There have been no reports of major crackdowns or violence during the nightly comms black out period.

Protests/Civil Disobedience:

- Protests picked up considerably again on Wednesday after a three-day lull.
- Tuesday saw a marked decreased in protesters and street-level activity, but Wednesday saw the return **to massive protests in Yangon.**
- Protesters continue to be highly mobile – moving from location to location by foot and car.
- Protest tactics have changed with greater number of protest sites, many focussed in front of embassies, and quick moves, in addition to the traditional gathering points.
- Hledan and Sule continue to be primary gathering points. By midday on Feb 17 both locations have several thousand people each, and a steady flow of protestors is reaching them. Protests are reported in other places of Yangon, including Hlaing Thayar and Insein Townships, in front of the US Embassy, ILO offices, UN offices, Central Bank of Myanmar (Yankin Township), Myay Ni Gone Junction, and NLD HQ (Shwegondaing St).
- [REDACTED] a large concentration of protesters again today.
- Protests today have also included traffic disruption with cars and trucks being deliberately stalled in the middle of major roadways, bridges and in front of embassies.
- For the time being, **protests continue to be peaceful.** Security Forces continue are deployed but continue to exercise restraint.
- YNGON has seen CDM organizational material encouraging protesters [REDACTED] and protests in English with English signage to maximize coverage in international media outlets,
[REDACTED]
- While protests in Yangon have been peaceful, since Feb 15 there have been reports of a violent mixed-military and police response against protesters in Mandalay, including use of high-powered “AirForce” guns, rubber bullets, water cannons, slingshots and beatings.
- **The trial of the State Counsellor (which started today, Feb 17) and expected conviction will be flashpoints for large-scale protests.** The rallying cry for today’s protests have been for a “*Millions Gathering for the Release of Aung San Suu Kyi*”.
- Events which took place during the comms blackouts periods each evening from Sunday to Tuesday night/Wednesday morning remain opaque, but it does not appear that there was a major crackdown or an increase in detentions beyond what has been happening nightly for the past two weeks.
- After reports of criminal activities and intrusions in past nights across YNGON, the past two evenings have been rather quiet. Neighborhood watch groups are still activated [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Civil Disobedience (CDM):

- Civil disobedience movement (CDM) continues across Myanmar, despite threats of reprisals and loss of employment from the Commander in Chief.

- CDM leaders remain focus of arrests and detentions.
- More civil servants and private sector workers are joining the movement, including staff from the banking sector, civil servants, lawyers, rail workers, the Ministry of Social Welfare; Dagon University; 105 Mile Muse Economic Zone (disrupting border trade with China); some police officers; and refueling stations supplying the Yangon Bus System (causing potential disruption to bus services).
- In a speech Monday night before his State Administration Council, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chastised medics in particular for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement, for their “failure to perform their duties” and said the government is “taking legal actions on these cases”. Staff from state-owned airline Myanmar National Airlines say police are paying nightly visits to their housing complex in an effort to intimidate and force them back to work.

Detentions, Arrests, Releases:

- **ASSK Trial: On Feb 16, new charges under the Natural Disaster Law were laid against the State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi.** Similar to earlier charges laid against the President, the State Counsellor has been charged under section 25 of the Natural Disaster Management Law for violating COVID-19 measures during the election campaign.
- The State Counsellor’s expected court appearance on Feb 15 was postponed and she was remanded until 17 Feb (today). A virtual court appearance at a Nay Pyi Taw court took place today. Contacts and media reporting suggest that, as of time of writing, her lawyer was not able to meet with her in advance of the hearing.
- In today’s hearings, the defendants appeared via video call, according to Assistant Township Judge Daw Nan Aye Mya Thiri, who is also the head of the court’s news and information team. Nan Aye Mya Thiri said there were nine witnesses in each case at today’s hearings, although it was not clear who was involved, adding that the pair appeared to be in good health, and that video conferencing was used for their health and safety. The next court hearing is scheduled for **March 1**.
- It is likely that today’s hearings and the new charges under the Natural Disaster Law which were laid yesterday **have sparked the marked increase in protests today after a two-day lull**.
- **CRPH:** Clarifying earlier reports that authorities had issued arrest warrants for all the members of Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), composed of more than 300 Members of Parliament, local media is now reporting that **warrants have only been issued for the Committees 15 founding members, plus two ethnic MPs who later joined this Committee (17 in total)**. The CRPH is claiming to be the sole legitimate legislative body of the country. As expected, CRPH members will reportedly be charged under Article 505[b] of the Penal Code.
- There continue to be reports of arrests of prominent activists, MPs and senior members of ASSK’s National League for Democracy (NLD) party. These include the Rakhine Chief Minister and Union Election Commission chair in Kachin.
- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that as of yesterday (16 Feb), a total of **452 people have been arrested and detained in relation to the coup**, including government and Members of Parliament (131); Union Election Commission staff (); civilians and civil society (84); and NLD party members (60); activists and students (37); and civil servants (25).

Draconian State Administrative Council (SAC) Measures:

- It appears increasingly likely that [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- On Feb 16, the Tatmadaw held its first press conference for media (see below) and disseminated another circular note to missions (attached).
- Efforts are focused on containment and disruption through intimidation, fear, misinformation campaigns, punitive economic measures and increasingly draconian legal measures and restrictions to stifle dissent and end the ongoing protests and civil disobedience campaign. Collectively these measures target protesters and CDM leaders, facilitate increased surveillance, and represents significant human rights erosions and privacy issues. YNGON reported on the Cyber Security bill in YNGON-549. A summary of further measures are below.

Amendment of Electronic Transactions Law


- On 15 January, the military regime announced the amendment of the “Electronic Transactions Law” by adding provisions that limit internet freedom. The draft said the amendment was made to protect the personal information of the public in accordance with the law, but seems to be more aimed at punishing regime critics. According to the new amendment, anyone who obtains, spreads, or doctors personal information of others without permission could face up to three years in prison, which could be aimed at punishing people for naming and shaming civil servants that refuse to participate in the civil disobedience movement. Another clause, also carrying a three year sentence, prohibits the distribution of news that could create “panic” or defame the government, a clear threat to free speech and free press. Other clauses include prohibitions of cyberattacks to create instability in the country, and to damage relations with foreign countries, which can be punished up to five years and seven years imprisonment respectively. The law also provides for data to be released to government departments or investigation teams where concerns of cybersecurity, cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, cyber misuse, cyber incident and cybercrimes exist. This is very broad (especially ‘cyber misuse’) with high risks of intrusion upon personal data privacy.
- This amendment follows widespread condemnation of a new proposed Cybersecurity Law (reftel earlier reporting), which a wide range of business, civil society and human rights groups have pushed back against, warning that it would limit freedom of expression and undermine data privacy. The main difference between Cybersecurity Law and Electronic Transaction Law is that in Cybersecurity Law, the junta can have complete control over internet service providers, put more limit on the use of the internet and control access of websites. Even the use of VPN to bypass these restrictions is illegal under Cybersecurity Law. On the other hand, Electronic Transaction aims more to limit the freedom of expression and punish any political dissidents who express their opinion online. It is not clear at this stage whether the regime plans to push ahead with the Cybersecurity Law, or if it has dropped the idea because of the backlash and instead pushed through amendments to the Electronic Transactions Law.

Supply Chains:

- There are continued concerns that supply chains will be affected by the ongoing civil unrest.
- At this time, stores are open with ongoing access to markets. Food supplies in stores continues to be readily available.

- With a majority of their employees now taking part in the CDM, and endorsing its “no recognition, no participation” approach, most private banks nationwide remain closed, resulting in sluggish banking services and financial transactions. Similarly, few government-run banks are open or operating fully.
- Local media reports a large number of people rushed to the Myanmar military-owned Myawaddy Bank in Yangon to withdraw cash on Tuesday morning after anti-coup protesters called for a boycott of military-related businesses. Some banks are limiting the amounts of cash customers can withdraw at a time, and there are reports of some ATMs of smaller banks across Yangon running out of money or not re-filled consistently in recent days.

Comms:

- 
- YNGON amplified the Global Affairs Canada Facebook post announcing **the Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention** in State-to-State Relations (pertinent in Myanmar given the recent detention of Australian and senior advisor to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, Sean Turnell; post has garnered 60 reactions to date, mostly positive)

Statements:

- 
- On Feb 16, UN special rapporteur Tom Andrews issued a statement warning of the heightened risk of violence today, given tensions are high over the charges and trials of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint. He called on “all governments, individuals and entities that may have influence on Myanmar military authorities to use that influence to convince the junta that the rallies planned for Wednesday must be allowed to proceed without detentions or violence”.
 - On Feb 16, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar gave an interview to domestic media outlets, reprinted in Chinese State media, rebuffing allegations that China was behind or supports the coup. Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar was quoted as stating that “the current development in Myanmar is absolutely not what China wants to see”. The Ambassador also reiterated China's support for a UN Security Council statement expressing “deep concern” over the “state of emergency” and calling for the “immediate release” of those detained, including Aung San Suu Kyi (see attached).
 - **Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Myanmar** issued a joint statement on the proposed cyber security law (apparently on hold, with the State Administrative Council modifying the Electronic Transaction Law Instead – see State Administrative Council Measures above)
 - **The Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI)**, an initiative of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), along with 12 organisations, urged the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) to undertake investigations into serious human rights violations, including use of excessive force and lethal weapons against peaceful protestors, and other violations of fundamental freedoms that are being committed by the Myanmar military and security forces.

- **The People with Disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disability's** issued a Press Statement on Situation in Myanmar (attached) urging all necessary measures to help us end the serious human rights violations and disruption of democratization and peace process in Myanmar.
- **Summary of Canadian Statements to date:**
 1. Jan 29 Joint Statement by the Diplomatic Missions in Myanmar (pre-coup, affirming support for Myanmar's democratic transition)
 2. Feb 1 Ministerial Statement (condemning coup)
 3. Feb 3 Joint (G7) Ministerial Statement (condemning coup)
 4. Feb 8 YNGON Statement in support of freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech, and calling for restraint (3.9k interactions)
 5. Feb 12 GAC Statement in support of US sanctions (2.2k interactions)
 6. Feb 12 Statement of Members of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies
 7. Feb 12 GENEV Statement at UN Human Rights Council
 8. Feb 14 Joint Statement by Diplomatic Missions in Myanmar (urging security forces to refrain from violence) (10.5K interactions)

Coordination/Engagement:

[Redacted]

- On Feb 16, [Redacted]
- On Feb 17, EU announced the suspension of MYPOL an EU-Myanmar police training program.

[Redacted]

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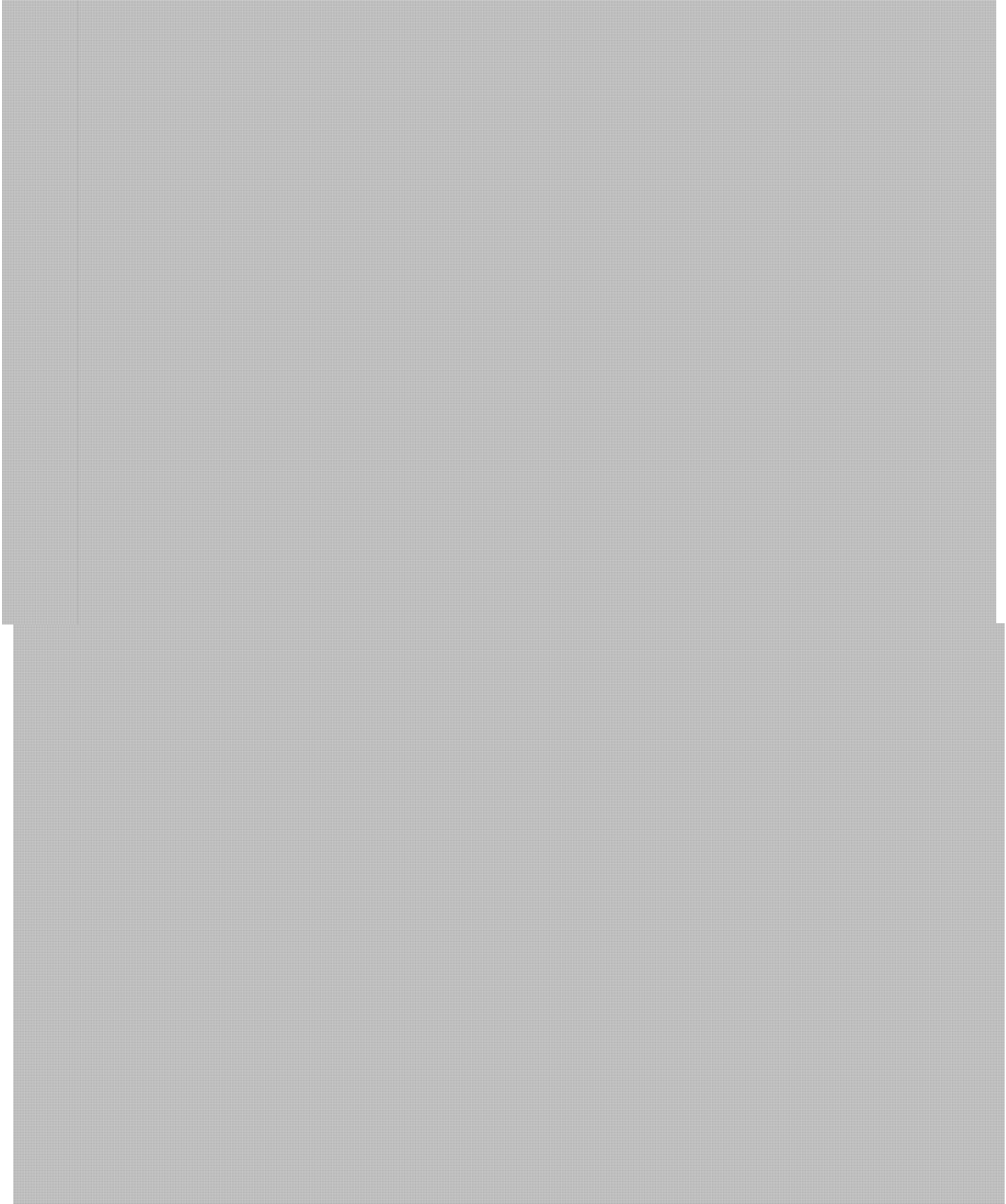
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SAC Press Conference:

- In its first-ever press conference yesterday (16 Feb), the State Administrative Council (SAC), represented by Deputy Minister for Information (and former Tatmadaw spokesperson) Zaw Min Tun pledged that Myanmar's foreign policies will remain unchanged. Key messages [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are consistent: establish the credibility, legality and constitutionality of the coup (election fraud, UEC failures, failure of the NLD to listen to Tatmadaw allegations, failure to convene the National Defense and Security Council; failure to redo the voter lists etc.). The spokesperson also repeated the 5 Roadmaps that the CIC envisioned: form the new UEC and check voter list; Covid-19 response plan; economic development; peace process and general elections.
- During Q&A session, Zaw Min Tun noted that the regime is aware of calls for international sanctions and had no further comment, saying they expected this kind of response. Apparently brushing off the potential impact of sanctions, he noted that even in the midst of the 1988 financial crisis (also the year of the last coup and military crackdown on protest), authorities "managed", holding up the very construction of Nay Pyi Taw (constructed 2002-2012) as an example. When asking about legitimacy of the military government, the spokesperson underscored Myanmar's ongoing presence in foreign countries (their missions abroad), and the presence of foreign countries' missions in Myanmar, as proof of legitimacy on behalf of the international community. He repeated that the military is doing everything according to the constitution [REDACTED] including the arbitrary detention and the use of excessive force and live rounds to crack down the protestors. He also mentioned that the military is checking Daw Khin Kyi Foundation (charity foundation founded by Aung San Suu Kyi) for illegally transactions with foreign countries, another accusation to add more charges to Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. The spokesperson also threatened the government staff participating in CDM that they are going to taking legal actions against those staff after waiting for some time.
- Many domestic media outlets boycotted the press conference. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did attend. The rest present were state-owned media and military-aligned media outlets.

s.15(1) - International

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s.21(1)(b)

Drafted: YNGON-GR [redacted] YNGON-GR, [redacted] YNGON-GR, [redacted]

With input from: YGNON-CS/ [redacted] YNGON-DA [redacted]

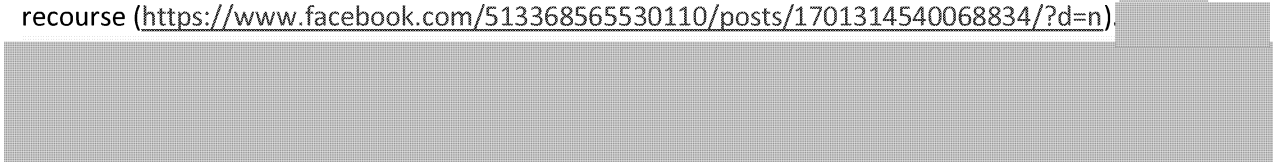
Consulted: YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-CS, [redacted]

Approved: HOM

22 February

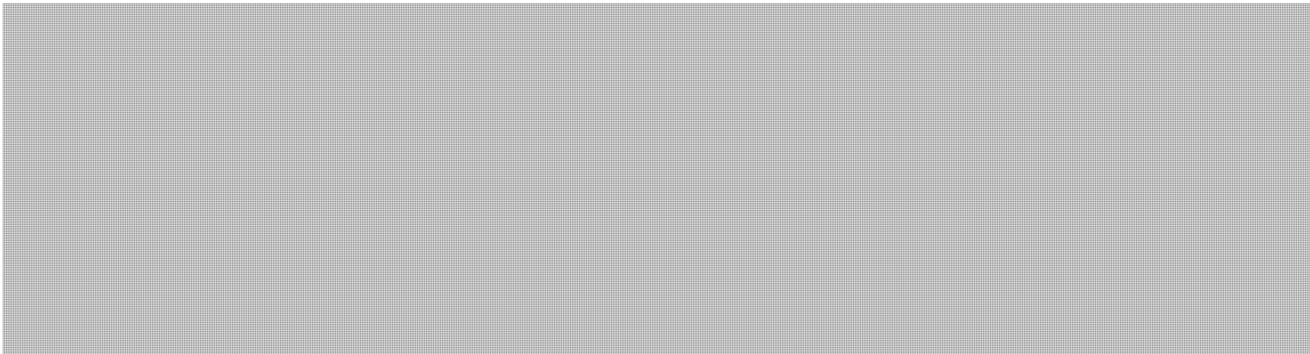
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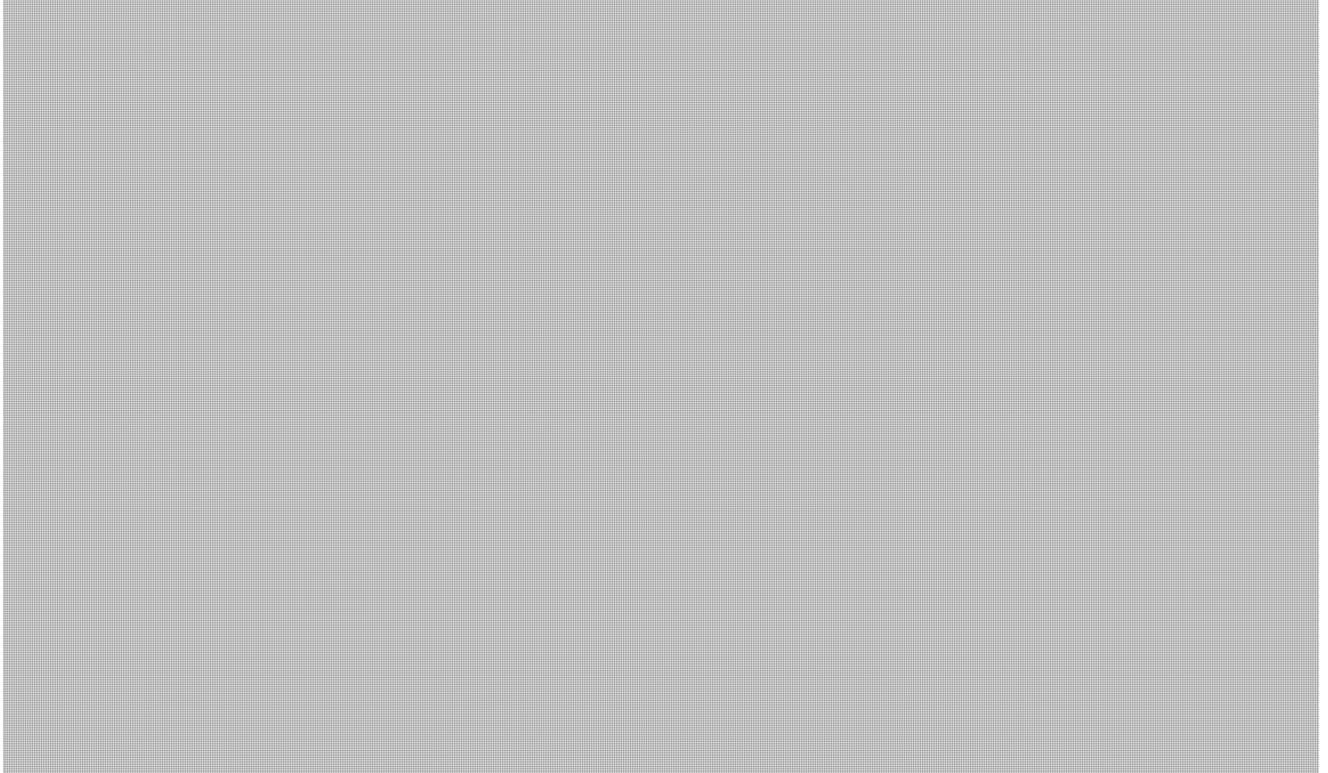
Protests in Mandalay on Saturday Feb 20 turned violent with security forces firing into crowds, killing two, prompting a flurry of international statements condemning the violence and a retaliatory press release from MOFA directed at the diplomatic community, charging that recent statements were “flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar”, in violation of the VCDR and threatening recourse (<https://www.facebook.com/513368565530110/posts/1701314540068834/?d=n>).



Massive protests continue across the country today, with a general strike and massive mobilization of protesters called for February 22 (5 2’s). Protests in Yangon today were the largest to date, but have **remained peaceful** with restraint on both sides; despite this, tensions are high. Protests across the country were also massive. There are reports of arrests in Nay Pyi Taw, but at the time of writing, no reports of violence similar to that which took place in Mandalay on Saturday. Given tensions, violence over the weekend in Mandalay, and the reported mobilization of security forces into Yangon overnight, YNGON and other diplomatic missions are monitoring closely for escalation. Focus of protests is shifting from targeting the Regime and calls for a return to democratic rule to focussing on calls to the international community to respond. Protest areas over the past week and today have focussed on embassies and UN offices, in addition to traditional rallying points. Most shops and markets are closed nationwide. Although internet was restored in Yangon at 09h00 (rather than shutdown until noon as earlier announced) it remained inconsistent throughout the day and limited to 2G.

Restrictive measures to contain the CDM movement have continued, with military mobilization, erection of road blocks and barriers, arrests and detention of CDM organizers, continued curfews and internet shutdowns overnights, and **threats aired on Feb 21 over Tatmadaw controlled news outlets (MRTV) that lethal force may applied against protesters**: “it is found that the protesters have raised their incitement towards riot and anarchy on the day of Feb 22. Protesters are now inciting the people, especially emotional youths, to a confrontational path where they will suffer the loss of life.”



**Protests/Civil Disobedience:**

- Protests continued over the weekend (Feb 20-21), but at a smaller scale than the very large protests which occurred mid and end of week.
- While protests in Yangon remained peaceful, protests in Mandalay turned violent on Saturday Feb 20, with security forces shooting into crowds of protesters with live rounds, killing two and injuring several more.
- Sunday saw massive online mobilization for large-scale protests and a nation-wide strike across the country on Monday Feb 22 (2.22.2021) or the “Penta/5 2’s. The date is deliberately evocative of the 4 8’s protests – the August 8, 1988 protests that resulted in a massive military crackdown on protesters.
- **Large-scale nation-wide protests and general strike commenced on Feb 22:** Indications are that today’s protests were massive and the largest to date. Protesters converged on known protests sites across the city.

- Protesters are highly mobile. Protesters appeared to be taking care not to cause any damage, were picking up garbage and there were CDM volunteers in vehicles moving through protests providing water and food. Waves of protesters on foot and vehicle moved constantly from site to site and tried to circumvent the barbed wire blockades and barriers that were erected over night in front of several high concentration areas, including [REDACTED]
- Protest tactics have changed with greater number of protest sites, [REDACTED] and quick moves, in addition to the traditional gathering points.
- Remarkably, given the size, the mounting tensions, and military mobilization, **protests continue to be peaceful.**
- Security Forces mobilized across Yangon last night in large number (see below) but at the time of writing, their presence at protest sites today appeared to be minimal. In Yangon at least, the security forces continue to exercise restraint
- YNGON has seen CDM organizational material [REDACTED] and protests in English with English signage to maximize coverage in international media outlets, suggesting that they are shifting focus from triggering a climb down of the regime and restoration of the democratically elected government, to focussing international attention on Myanmar.
- Today's signage has been almost completely in English language and is focussed on garnering international attention (see photo).

Mandalay Violence:

- As reported separately over the weekend, protests in Mandalay turned violent on Saturday with security forces shooting into a crowd of protesters killing at least two and injuring several others. Security forces response included both police and military, with credible reports that military snipers from the 33rd LID were deployed. The 33rd LID was responsible for human rights atrocities in Rakhine in 2017 and the entire division (along with the 99th LID) was sanctioned by the US in late 2018. Credible reports, video and eye-witnesses reports suggest that live rounds were fired into a crowd of fleeing protesters. At least one of the victims succumbed to a head shot, the immediate aftermath of which was captured on video and circulated widely on social media. There are (as yet unconfirmed) reports that ambulances were fired upon.
- On Sunday, protesters in Mandalay gathered en masse for a silent sit-in protest.
- Several states and diplomatic missions issued statements of concern and calls for restraint including Singapore, United States, UK, Australia, Denmark, Japan, EU, UN, Germany and Canada.
- These statements prompted an unprecedented MOFA press statement



<https://www.facebook.com/513368565530110/posts/1701314540068834/?d=n> alleging that such statements are “tantamount to flagrant interference in the internal affairs in Myanmar ... and violated Article 41 of the VCDR which implies that diplomats are to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State and should not interfere with the internal affairs of that State.”

Civil Disobedience (CDM):

- Civil disobedience movement (CDM) continues across Myanmar, with growing numbers of civil servants from healthcare, education and transportation sectors, lawyers, banking sector employees, rail workers, staff from MOFA, the Ministry of Social Welfare; Dagon University; 105 Mile Muse Economic Zone (disrupting border trade with China); some police officers; and refueling station employees supplying the Yangon Bus System (causing potential disruption to bus services) joining the CDM despite threats of reprisals and loss of employment from the Tatmadaw, including from the Commander in Chief.
- Late last week, a fertilizer factory in Kangyitauk Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region), had to stop production after 200 of their staffs joined the CDM. In Hakha Township (Chin State), 51 firefighters joined the movement. In Monywa, a soldier joined the protestors. It is the first public defection of a member of the Tatmadaw.
- CDM leaders remain the focus of continuing arrests and detentions, with some trials beginning. On Wednesday last week, 11 staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) were arrested for joining the CDM; on Thursday, 8 civil servants from the Cooperative Department were trialed in Nay Pyi Taw; and over the weekend 10 MOFA employees went through their first hearing in Nay Pyi Taw.
- Today's 22222 protest was called by the newly established **General Strike Committee**. The GSC was established on Feb 20 by a range of activists and organisations that have been at the forefront of the protests so far, including student unions and political parties. Their message is somewhat more radical than many protesters, who tend to call for the return of democracy and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners. The GSC's four objectives are: the abolition of the 2008 Constitution; an end dictatorship; a federal democratic union; release of detainees. The group includes the Democratic Party for a New Society and the Yangon University Students' Union, both of which played a role in organising the first large protest in Yangon on February 6. It is not clear at this point if the GSC will work in coordination with or in conflict /competition with the CRPH. Early indications are that it is the latter.

Military Mobilization:

- There were significant troop movements into and around Yangon last night between 21:00 hrs and 24:00. Security forces also patrolled the streets in large convoys using megaphones to reiterate the prohibition of gatherings of 5 people and more. The access to US, Chinese, French embassies and UNDP office was blocked by police. During the night, truck trailers were positioned across several key bridges.
- Domestic online media is reporting the presence of an increased number of armoured white police vehicles and alleging that military armoured transport vehicles have been repainted

white, labelled as police vehicles. [REDACTED]

- There continues to be the same contingent of security vehicles parked near Sule as there has been for the past week.

Detentions, Arrests, Releases:

- As of 21 February, a total of 640 people have been detained or issued arrest warrants in relation to the military coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners¹. Of them, four were sentenced to jail, 32 have been issued an arrest warrant but are evading arrest, three have been charged but not detained, and 47 were released. A total of 593 are still under detention, including those sentenced, among them 144 politicians, 132 UEC officials, 72 NLD party members, 130 “civilians and CSOs”, 51 civil servants and 47 “activists and students”. This number will increase after reports of multiple arrests at the Nay Pyi Taw protests late this afternoon.

Media:

- 12 out of 26 members of the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) resigned on Feb 19. According to one of them, the reason for the exodus that they no longer felt they could protect journalists. (The MPC is an independent media adjudication body.)
- More than 20 journalists, including editors, from the Myanmar Times, one of the most reputable and longstanding print and online news daily's, left their jobs in protests after facing what they viewed as censorship by the management team and were forced to participate in the Tatmadaw's press conference. At the Regime's insistence, The Myanmar Times had reportedly banned their journalists from using the term “coup”, telling them to use the term “power transfer” instead. [REDACTED]
- On Sunday, Facebook deleted the main page of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw True News Information Team Page) under its standards prohibiting the incitement of violence, a day after two protesters were killed when police opened fire at a demonstration against the Feb 1 coup. Also over the weekend, the Regime added Wikipedia to its banned platforms.

Supply Chains:

- Responding to rumours of impending fuel shortages leading to line-ups at petrol stations, the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association issued a statement today noting that while domestic fuel prices may rise, there are adequate stocks of fuel and supplies will not run out. The spokesperson for the association did note that fuel prices outside Yangon may rise or rationing may be imposed in the short-term because supplies stored in the commercial capital cannot be easily distributed to other areas due to the civil disobedience movement.

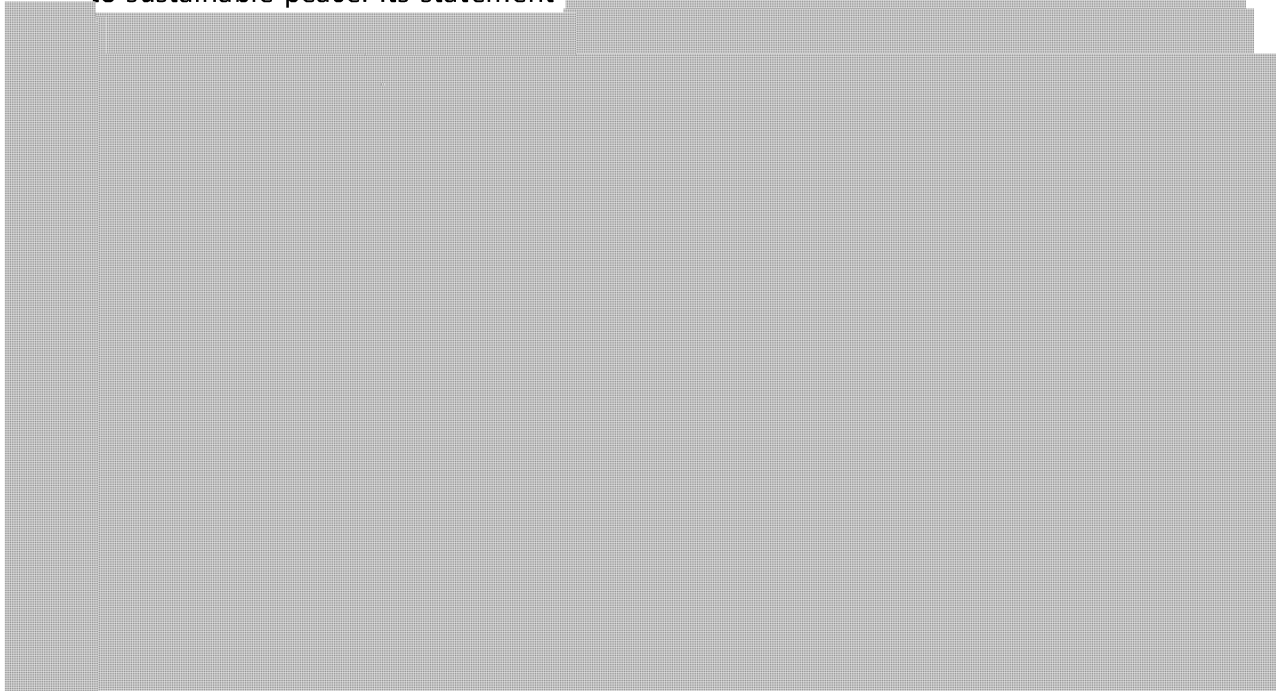
Statements:

- In addition to statements reported on over the weekend (Singapore, US, UK, Australia etc), Japan issued a statement of concern on Feb 22, with the Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato stating that Japan's government "strongly demands that Myanmar stop violence against its citizens".
- The UN Special Rapporteur on Feb 22 also issued a statement noting deep concern with the Regime's public warning to protesters and stating that unlike in 1988 "actions by the security forces are being recorded you will be held accountable."
- On Feb 22, the German Foreign Office issued a statement noting that "it is deeply worrying how protesters are being dealt with in Myanmar. We will not just stand by. We will use diplomatic channels for de-escalation but we reserve the right to sanction the military regime as a last resort."
- On Feb 21, UNSG Antonio Guterres issued a statement condemning the use of deadly force against protesters.
- **Summary of Canadian Statements to date:**
 9. Jan 29 Joint Statement by the Diplomatic Missions in Myanmar (pre-coup, affirming support for Myanmar's democratic transition)
 10. Feb 1 Ministerial Statement (condemning coup)
 11. Feb 3 Joint (G7) Ministerial Statement (condemning coup)
 12. Feb 8 YNGON Statement in support of freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech, and calling for restraint (3.9k interactions)
 13. Feb 12 GAC Statement in support of US sanctions (2.2k interactions)
 14. Feb 12 Statement of Members of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies
 15. Feb 12 GENEV Statement at UN Human Rights Council
 16. Feb 14 Joint Statement by Diplomatic Missions in Myanmar (urging security forces to refrain from violence) (10.5K interactions)
 17. Feb 20 GAC statement on Mandalay violence. Two posts amplified on YNGON's Facebook page, one with original post (1.4K interactions), one with full statement translate into Myanmar language (1.7K interactions)
<https://www.facebook.com/1421359581427574/posts/2980802482149935/?d=n>. Comments were mixed, many asking what Canada could possibly do, others asking for a more forceful response from the international community.

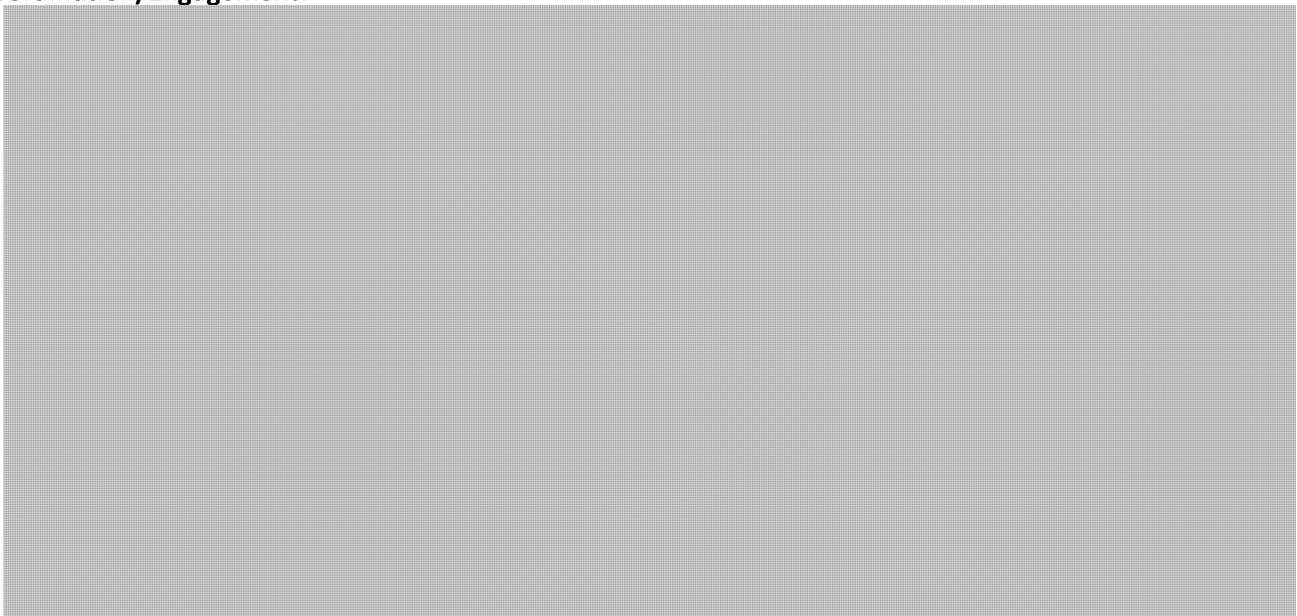
Peace Process:

- On 20 February 2021, the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) convened the second special meeting on the political situation of Myanmar and issued a strongly worded statement in support of the CDM. In its statement, the PPST strongly supported "all public mobilizations and movements including the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) against dictatorship and the military coup" and committed to "finding all possible means to provide necessary support for the public movement." The PPST suspended all political negotiations "with the military council that seized the state power by force." It also demanded the unconditional and immediate release of detainees; condemned acts of violence and force against peaceful demonstrators; and committed to collaborate with all national and regional actors, including the international community to abolish the military dictatorship.

- The PPST is the representative entity of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which consists of the signatory 10 Ethnic Armed Organizations (EOs), with the goal of working towards reconciliation and developing a Federal Democratic Union as a pathway to sustainable peace. Its statement



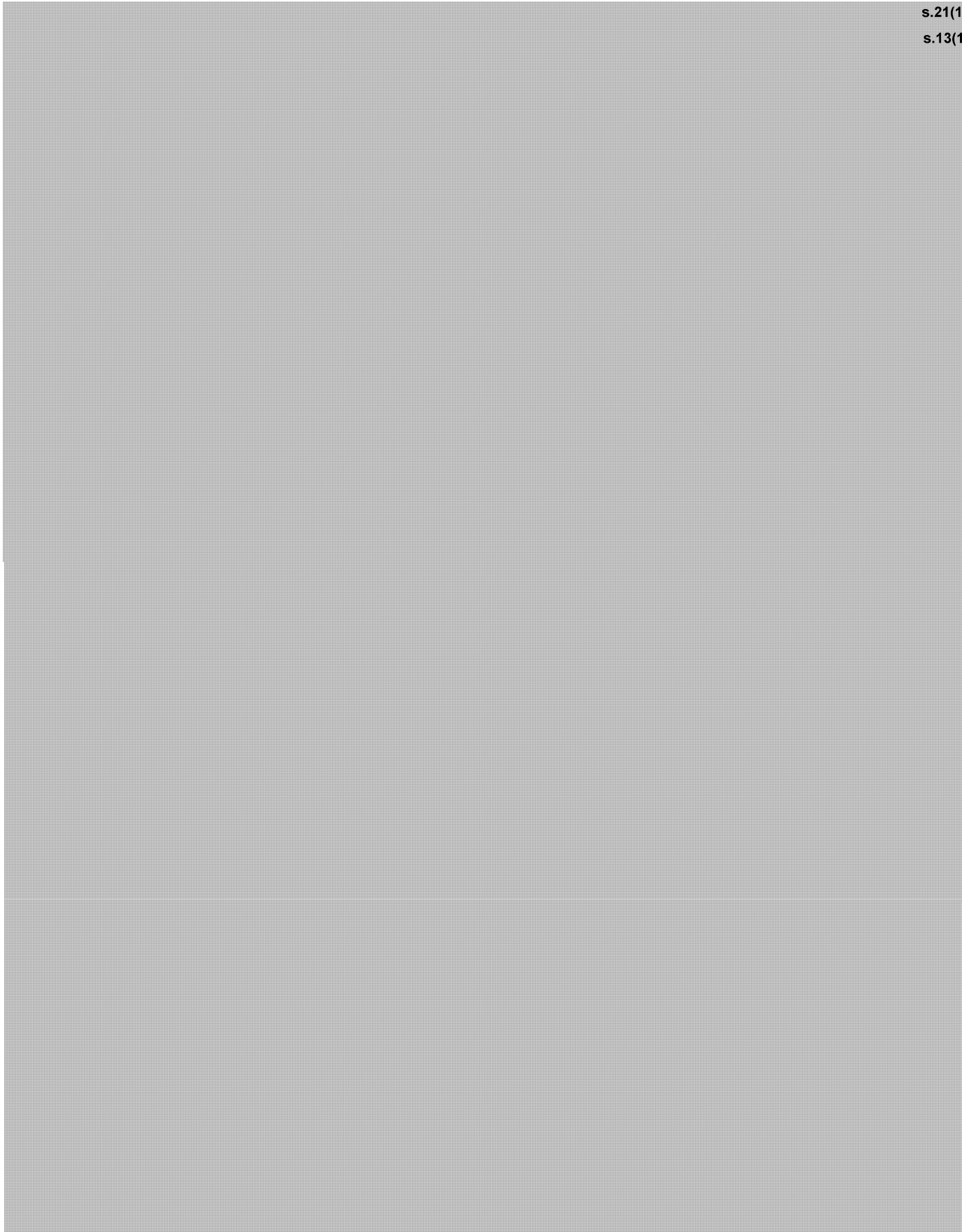
Coordination/Engagement:



- Norway announced Feb 21 that they are freezing state-to-state support, but continuing support via UN and civil society to promote peace, democracy, protection of human rights and humanitarian aid (see attached).

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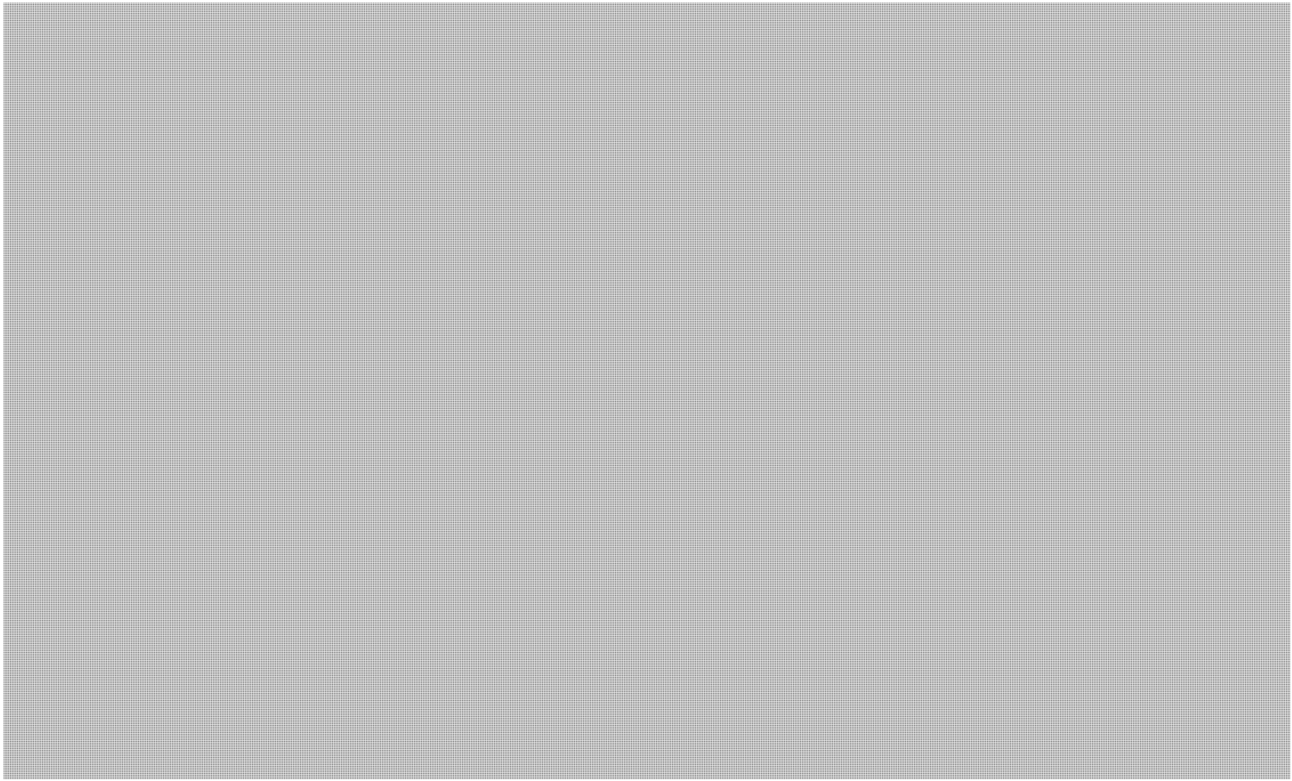
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24 February

MYANMAR – SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19 - As of 10:00 Myanmar Standard Time on 25 February 2021

- Latest updates: As of 25 February, Myanmar has reached 141,816 cases and 3,197 deaths. Myanmar's COVID-19 response is severely affected by the military coup of 1 February, as most of the government staff employed for testing, case management and vaccination are taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and some have resigned or have been detained.
- Testing: The National Health Laboratory has remained closed over the last 2 weeks, conducting only a limited number of tests per day. Currently, between 700 and 1000 samples are being tested per day, compared to 20,000 to 22,000 per day before 1 February. As a result, the national daily average of new cases has dropped significantly to less than 20 new confirmed cases. Data are increasing unreliable; however there is no indication of a new wave emerging so far.
- Vaccinations: the vaccination campaign began on 27 January, prioritizing health workers, volunteers and members of Parliament (before the coup). However, the campaign has also been affected by the CDM and vaccinations are now being conducted by the military at a decreased rate. A second shipment of 2 million doses arrived 11 February from India but has yet to be distributed. This second shipment was intended for the general public. Private health care providers (including those that serve CBS) are working to secure authorization for the procurement and delivery of vaccines in the upcoming months (likely Covishield/AstraZeneca).
- COVAX vaccine delays are also to be expected. Unicef confirmed that although Myanmar had received approval for the COVAX supported vaccines, the military junta has yet to submit the finalized documentation and permits to ensure the importation of the vaccines. At this moment, there is no clear timeframe on when this will take place.
- Health partners: major multilateral funds like Gavi, the Global Fund and the World Bank (all with significant COVID-19 investments in country) [REDACTED]
- Private clinics [REDACTED] and other expats [REDACTED]

25 February

s.15(1) - International

REFTEL: YNGON-555

s.21(1)(b)

Summary: As reported earlier, on 20 February 2021, the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) convened the second special meeting on the political situation of Myanmar and issued a strongly worded statement in support of the CDM. <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/ethnic-parties-peace-team-ppst-condemns-coup-calls-peaceful-solutions-and-appeals-support-un>. In its statement, the PPST strongly supported “all public mobilizations and movements including the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) against dictatorship and the military coup” and committed to “finding all possible means to provide necessary support for the public movement.” The PPST suspended all political negotiations “with the military council that seized the state power by force.” It also demanded the unconditional and immediate release of detainees; condemned acts of violence and force against peaceful demonstrators; and committed to collaborate with all national and regional actors, including the international community to abolish the military dictatorship. Its statement [REDACTED], at least outwardly, the PPST is presenting strong opposition to the military regime. [REDACTED]

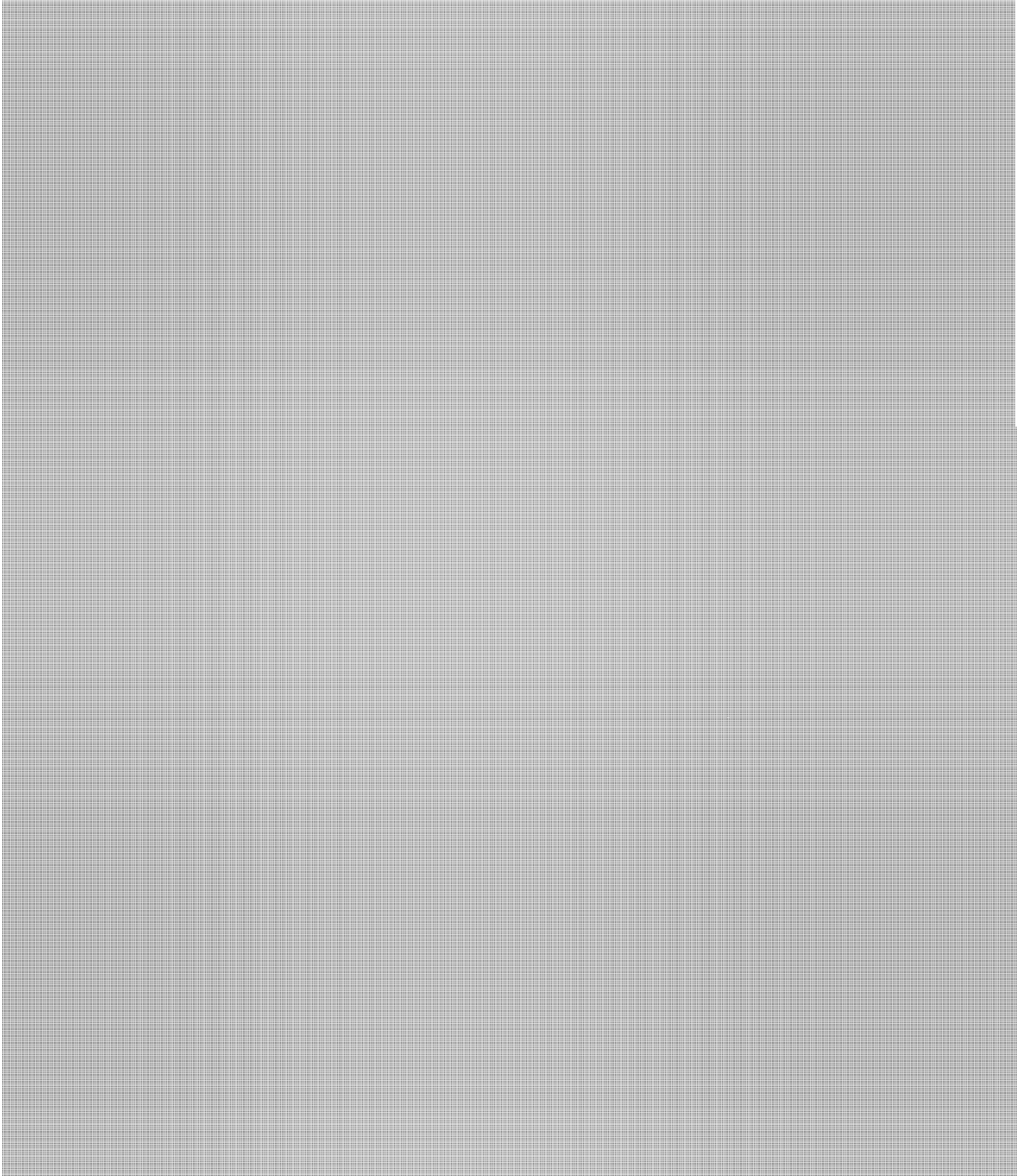
2. PPST Background: The Peace Process Steering Team is the representative entity of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which consists of the signatory 10 Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), with the goal of working towards reconciliation and developing a Federal Democratic Union as a pathway to sustainable peace. The PPST was formed by the eight original NCA EAO signatories in 2016 to coordinate and open peace talks with the civilian government and the Tatmadaw. At the time it was led by the KNU, one of the largest and most sophisticated EAOs. In October 2018, the KNU retreated from the PPST due to internal divisions and power struggles, dissatisfaction with the democratic nature of the PPST itself which gave the smaller EAOs equal heft within it, and, more publicly, out of protest over lack of progress by the moribund peace process. It is now lead by the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), with now low-level KNU participation. RCSS, with KNU, one of the two largest signatory EAOs is perhaps the most vocally anti-coup amongst the signatories. In early February, the RCSS offered sanctuary in its territory for those on the run from the authorities. In the early hours of 18 February, its liaison office in Kyaukme, Northern Shan State, was attacked with explosives. No one was hurt and no group or individual has claimed responsibility. The 10 EAO

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signatories represent only a portion of active, large and well-armed EAOs in
Myanmar. [REDACTED]

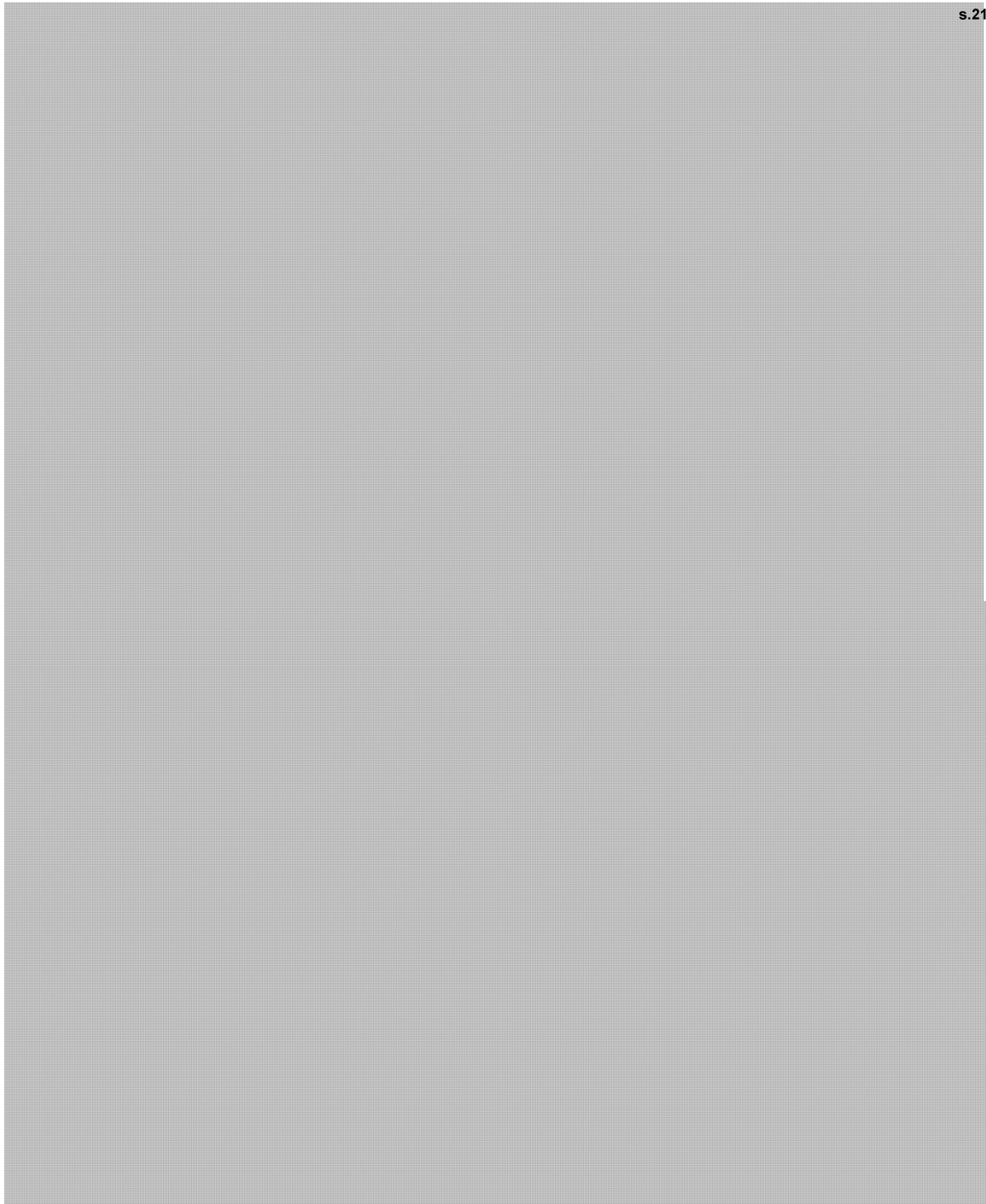
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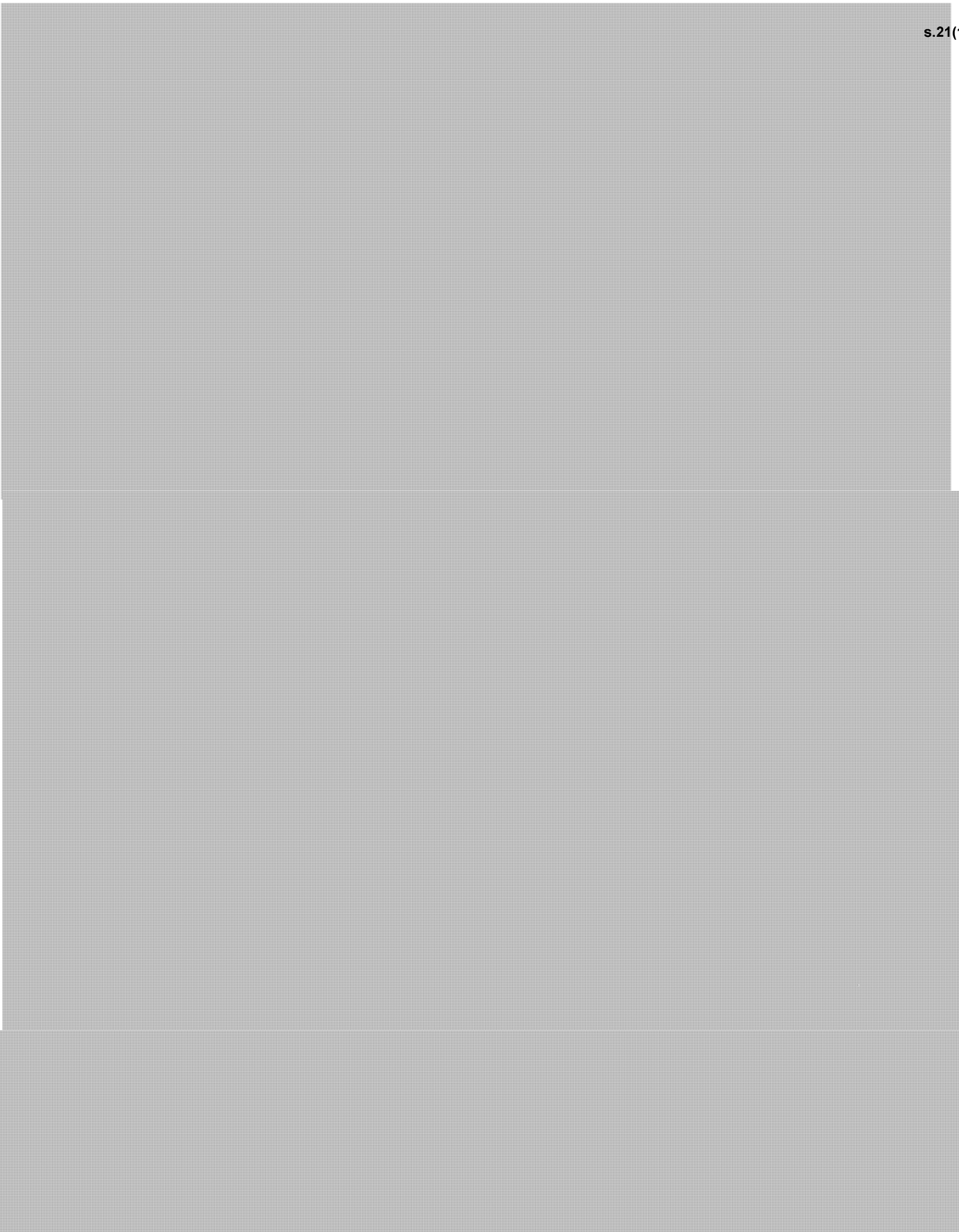
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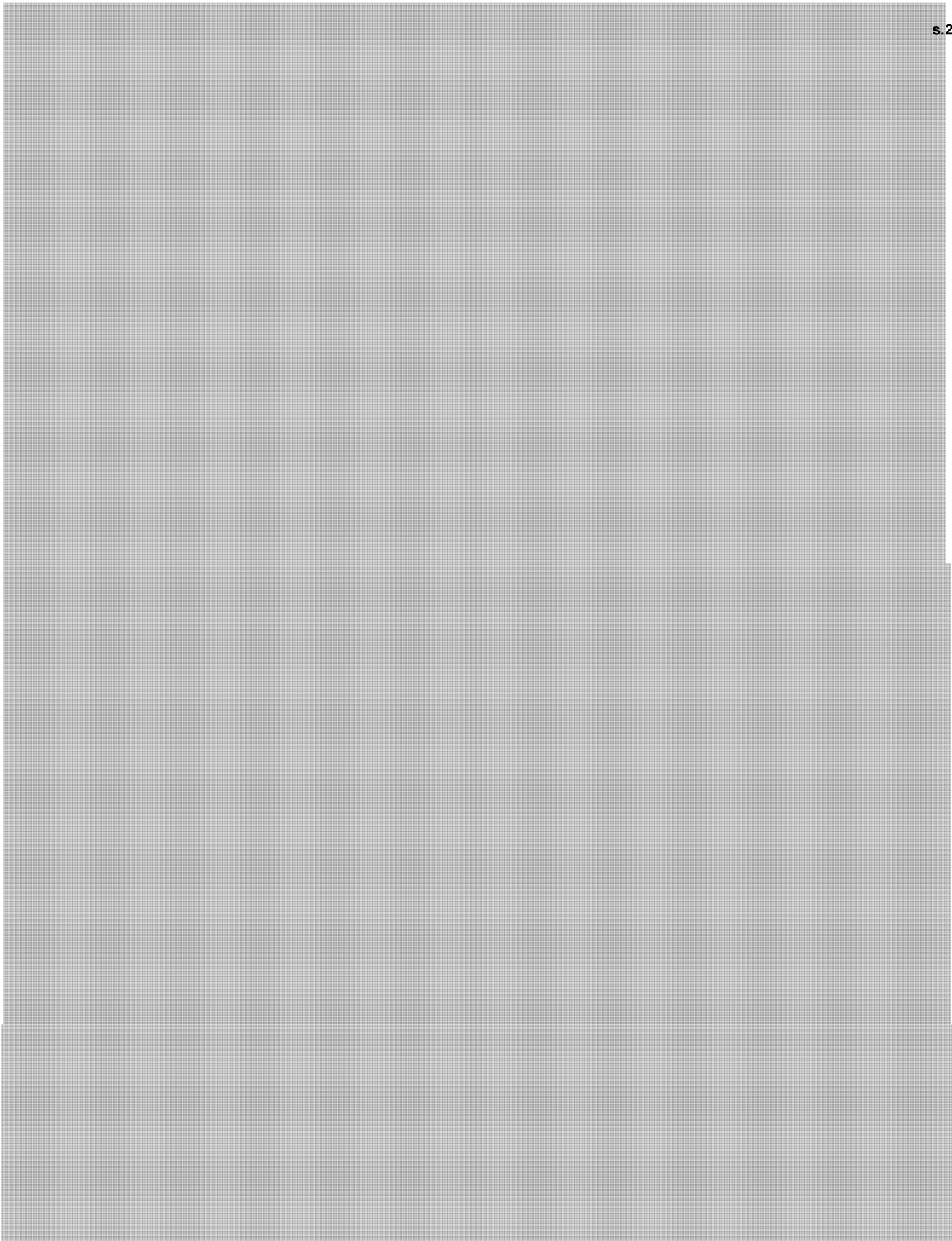
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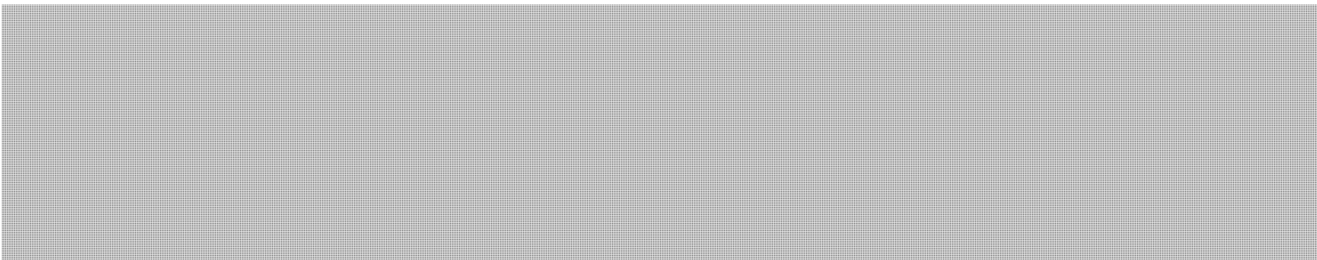
Approved: HOM

YNGON-559: Myanmar Coup Update 17 (Feb 25)

Summary

After the unprecedented mobilization of protestors in Yangon and across Myanmar on Monday, protests have been smaller this week and peaceful. Today, however, there were reports at midday of multiple violent clashes and street fights between pro-Tatmadaw protestors and Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) protestors. There are reports of clashes in at least six locations in Yangon, including the Sule protest site and nearby Central Railway Station. Tatmadaw supporters, some participating in a downtown rally, used knives, slingshots, and other projectiles to harass CDM protestors. Residents and ward administrators have reportedly taken some of the alleged instigators into custody, some using sticks and knives.

Myanmar's CDM continues in full force, proving particularly disruptive for the country's health, education, transportation and banking sectors. There are growing signs of frustration on the part of the military regime, which continues to target apparent CDM leaders and influencers for arrest, while some government departments are suspending officials not at work. The regime is also threatening journalists, union officials, and other activists as part of a wider effort to stifle dissent and consolidate control.

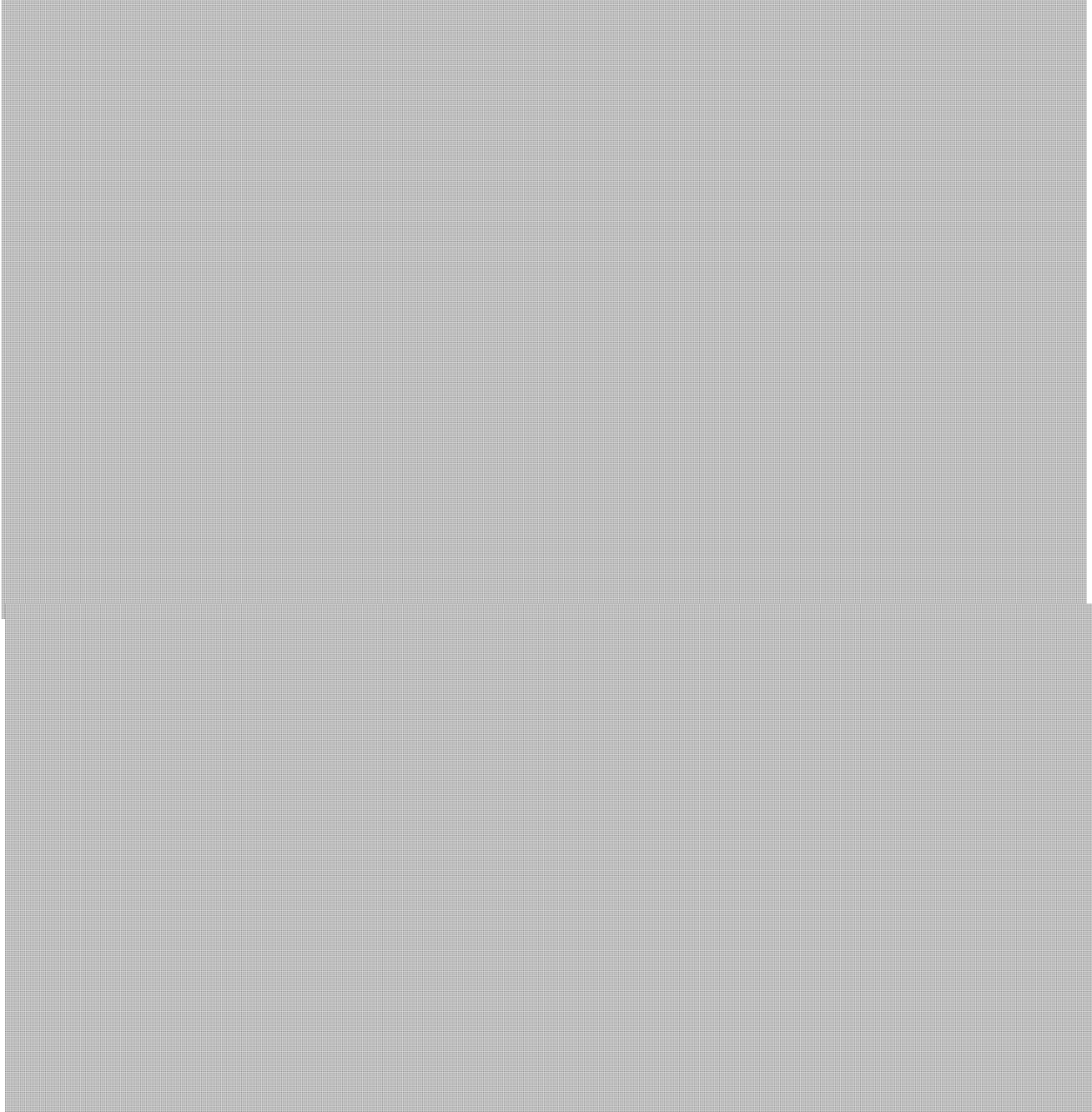


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While power struggles continue domestically, both the Tatmadaw and opposition groups are seeking international legitimacy and support as well. The Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) appointed international representatives this week, and the regime Foreign Minister held meetings [REDACTED] are keen to diffuse the ongoing political crisis.



Protests

- After unprecedented mobilization of protestors across Myanmar on Monday (REFTEL YNGON-555), the number of protestors decreased significantly over the course of this week. Protests were relatively small and peaceful at common locations including Hledan, Sule, [REDACTED] Military/police barricades remained in place this week around or near expected protest sites, causing some disruption to local traffic.
- In response to news on Tuesday that Indonesia is pushing ASEAN countries to agree to an action plan on Myanmar that would keep the junta to its promise of holding elections (see **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**), protestors in Yangon descended [REDACTED] (over 1000 gathered on Wednesday). The protest remained peaceful.
- Outside of Yangon, media reported protests in cities in Nay Pyi Taw Territory, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, and Kachin, Kayin and Shan States. The largest reported protest was in Mandalay, where over 1000 protestors reportedly gathered yesterday (Wednesday). There have been reports of some arrests, but no violence.
- More than 70 people arrested during the **crackdown at Mandalay** city's Yadanabon dockyard on 20 Feb were remanded in custody on Tuesday, to be charged with a range of offenses under Myanmar's amended Penal Code. (Two people were killed at the Mandalay protest, including a 36-year-old carpenter, and a 16-year-old who was assisting another injured activist when he was shot by Myanmar security forces.)
- More than 200 protestors who were arrested during the **mass demonstrates in Nay Pyi Taw** on Monday were released on Tuesday, with six remaining in police custody. (Those who were released reportedly had to pay ~CAD 50-100 fines and sign a pledge not to protest again.)
- Today's appearance of pro-Tatmadaw protesters (and alleged instigators of violence) is the first time they appear to have emerged in a coordinated fashion or large numbers since the 1 Feb coup. It is unclear at the point of writing if this is an isolated incident, a trend, or deliberate deployment of pro-Tatmadaw agitators working to incite violence. YNGON will continue to monitor carefully. At the time of writing, sites of known clashes are now calm.

Civil Disobedience Movement

- Myanmar's CDM continues, proving particularly disruptive to the country's health, education, transportation and banking sectors. On Wednesday an association of container truck drivers announced it will join the movement. In Yangon, only (Tatmadaw-owned) Myawaddy and the Myanmar Economic Bank are officially open, although cash withdrawal is suspended until the end of the month to allow salary payments. (Some companies with accounts in private banks are reputedly facing difficulties transferring salaries, too.)
- In a speech earlier this week, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing spoke about civil servants going on strike, particularly healthcare workers, promising "disciplinary actions" against doctors and nurses for purportedly violating their oaths to serve the public. He also threatened similar action should any police or soldiers fail to do their duty. In an attempt to lure civil servants back to work, he also promised "cash rewards" to healthcare workers and teachers. (**Note:** A statement by the military-run Myawaddy TV on the evening of 22 Feb said that due to the civil disobedience movement, 357 of the 1,162 hospitals across the country are completely shut down. While regime data should be treated with caution, their acknowledgement of the scale of the problem is noteworthy.)

s.15(1) - International

- Some government departments, including the **Ministry of Education and Department of Disaster Management**, reportedly issued notification letters to their staff this week demanding they return to office under the threat of investigation and action in accordance with the Civil Servants rules (Civil Service Personnel Law). Some government departments, at the Union and in States/Regions, suspended staff for joining the CDM.
- An [REDACTED] list of 78 celebrities and influencers apparently wanted by the military regime for supporting the CDM has been circulating on social media. Most of them seem to be facing charges under Penal Code Section 505(b), which has already been used to target other celebrities, activists, and politicians.

s.21(1)(b)

Media

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] The ban, now public, will remain in effect indefinitely. To ban military-linked commercial entities, Facebook is using the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar's 2019 report, on the economic interests of the Tatmadaw, as the basis to guide these efforts, along with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The ban does not cover government ministries and agencies engaged in the provision of essential public services. This includes the Ministry of Health and Sport and the Ministry of Education. [REDACTED]
- In a speech before the State Administrative Council this week, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing threatened to revoke publishing licences of news outlets that continue to describe the current regime as a "military government that staged a coup". (**Note:** In response, independent news media in Myanmar issued a statement today rejecting the regime's requests to avoid terms like "coup government", "military regime", and "military council".)
- Yesterday (24 Feb), police and soldiers arrested reporters who were taking recording protests in Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmanar. Police and soldiers dispersed the protesters and threatened to arrest them and seize their cameras. It is not clear how many reports were eventually detained. On the same day, two female journalists were arrested by police in Monywa. They were writing news related to alleged "thugs" found in one of the Monywa townships and the police station chief agreed to be interviewed for that news. The journalists were arrested when they arrived at the station to interview him.

Other arrests, releases and trials

- According to the **Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)**, **728** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup on 01 Feb, including 150 political representatives/appointees, 148 Union Election Commission (UEC) officials, 78 National League for Democracy (NLD) members, 165 "civilians and CSOs", 55 civil servants, and 52 activists and students. **666** are being actively persecuted (charged, sentenced, or evading outstanding warrant).
- The (NLD) **Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement** Dr. Win Myat Aye has been charged under Section 505(a) of Myanmar's Penal code for allegedly encouraging civil servants to join the CDM.

- After being detained again two weeks ago, **Rakhine chief minister Nyi Pu** has been charged with incitement under section 505(b) of the Penal Code, the same charge brought against other government officials and outspoken supporters of the CDM. s.21(1)(b)
- **Four former Union Ministers** were reportedly released from house arrest Tuesday afternoon, including the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Minister of Hotels and Travel, Union Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and Union Minister of Ethnic Affairs. s.21(1)(b)
- **U Wirathu**, a monk well-known for his nationalist rhetoric, is scheduled to be released on bail tomorrow (Friday). He was charged with sedition in 2019 and turned himself in to authorities on 2 November, just before Myanmar's 8 November general election. Since the NLD came to power in 2016, U Wirathu and other nationalists have staged pro-military campaigns across the country. They oppose the major constitutional amendments proposed by the NLD and praise the Myanmar military as the guardian of the country and of Buddhism, while condemning the West for its attempts to prosecute the military leadership on the Rohingya issue.
- This week, the police charged a Yangon resident, U Kyi Win, with article 212 of the Penal Code for knowingly accepting **actor Lu Min** in his house while the latter had a warrant out for his arrest. In the arrest warrants made public by the government, it is specified that any support to the fugitives will be sanctioned.

State Administrative Council (SAC)

- In a State Administrative Council meeting on Monday, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said an investigation will be conducted into the **Rakhine Advisory Commission**. The 9-person commission led by Koffi Annan was formed in September 2016, upon the request of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, intended to analyze the situation in Rakhine and to identify the causes of the communal issues in Rakhine State. The commission released its final report in August 2017.
- On 24 Feb, domestic media began reporting that the Tatmadaw regime dissolved the **Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office**. The position of State Counsellor and the Ministry set up to support her was established in 2016 to serve as a legislative loophole to the 2008 Constitution which precluded Aung San Suu Kyi from the presidency by virtue of her marriage to a foreigner. The establishment of the role of State Counsellor and the accompanying Office of the State Counsellor enabled the State Counsellor to become the de facto Head of Government. Dissolving the office is likely to infuriate supporters, lead to growing concerns about the State Counsellor's ongoing detention, and could precipitate another round of large protests. YNGON's contacts report that the office in NPT has been closed. (**Note:** Voting to extend the State Counsellor's office was one of the first actions taken this month by the newly convened Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.)
- **Appointments:**
 - An **Advisory Group (AG)** to the State Administration Council (SAC) was formed (but not widely advertised) last week (18 Feb). The group – see bios **attached** - is comprised of seven individuals, including two Lieutenant-Generals, one retired Colonel, and four civilians. The civilians have notable international experience, including as advisors to the Myanmar Peace Center (MPC), United Nations, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and two former members of an Inquiry Commission established by President Thein Sein to investigate communal violence in Rakhine State.

- o Local media report that

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- o There are unconfirmed reports that some Yangon ward and and/or village administrators have been replaced by **township administrative councils** (modeled after the State Administrative Council). The new township administrative councils are reportedly comprised of ex-USDP members. (**Note:** Local administrators are arguably the most important units of government for Myanmar people, as they serve as a conduit for most interactions with government.)

International Relations

- The **Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw** (CRPH) made two new appointments this week, declaring **Dr. Sa Sa** the special envoy to the United Nations and **Htin Linn Aung** as Myanmar's international relations representative (biographies below). (**Note:** These are the third and fourth appointments made by the CRPH, after reappointing State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, and reflects the importance attached to shaping the international response to the coup.) The CRPH also announced that it had opened an International Relations Office in the US state of Maryland on 22 Feb, in order to communicate with the UN, international governments and international organizations, and to conduct bilateral relations.

•

[REDACTED]

The Australian statement said Johnston "expressed deep concern" about the situation, called for Turnell's "immediate release" and "urged Myanmar authorities to refrain from violence against civilians".

- After speaking with **Thai** foreign affairs minister by videoconference earlier in the week, the junta's designated Foreign Affairs Minister, **Wunna Maung Lwin**, travelled to Bangkok on Wednesday – the junta's first diplomatic trip abroad. According to Myanmar state media, they focused on "further intensifying collaboration in regional and multilateral arenas," particularly within the ASEAN framework on the basis of ASEAN solidarity and unity, reported the Global New Light of Myanmar.
- **Indonesia** faced condemnation from Myanmar people this week after reports emerged that it had been pushing other ASEAN nations to agree to an action plan that included keeping the military to its promise to hold a "fair and inclusive" new election. Following these reports, a large crowd gathered in front of the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon on Tuesday, demanding Jakarta not back the junta's plan to hold a new election, and that it recognize the results of the November 8 general election.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Minister Marsudi met regime Foreign Affairs Minister **Wunna Maung Lwin** in Bangkok on Wednesday.

- Minister Marsudi also spoke with **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** by phone this week, with Chinese state-owned media reporting that Beijing supports efforts by ASEAN to ease the situation in Myanmar. Indonesian Minister Marsudi said Jakarta and other ASEAN member countries proposed holding an informal meeting, and hoped that China would support it. She reportedly promised that ASEAN would help Myanmar find a way out of the current situation and advance inclusive democratic processes in Myanmar.
- As expected, **Myanmar's Ambassador to the United Nations** resigned yesterday, in advance of the UN Special Envoy's briefing to the General Assembly tomorrow (Friday). Several news agencies reported that U Myint Thu, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN, will leave his post in New York and will return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Myanmar. It is still unknown who will replace him and which position he will hold in MOFA.
- Despite a court ordering a one-day delay on the deportation of 1,086 Myanmar migrant workers in **Malaysia**, immigration officials went ahead with the plan. A last-minute appeal was filed by Amnesty International and Asylum Access Malaysia, which was granted by the court but ignored by Malaysia.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The migrants departed on three Myanmar navy ships.

Statements

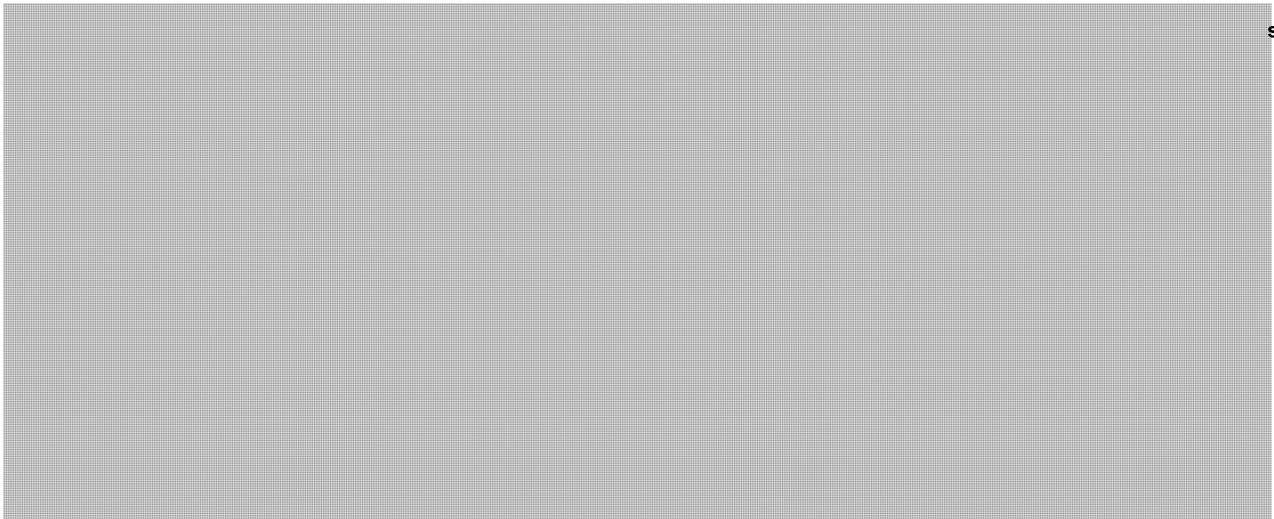
- **G7 Foreign Ministers**, including Canada, released a joint statement on Tuesday, condemning violence committed by Myanmar's security forces against peaceful protests and called again for

the release of detainees and full humanitarian access to support the most vulnerable. (At the time of writing, the YNGON Facebook post has garnered 450 reactions and 40 comments, mostly positive.)

- Canada also issued a [statement](#) on Wednesday welcoming the **new US sanctions** against two leaders of the coup in Myanmar. (At the time of writing, the YNGON Facebook post has garnered 2.4k reactions and 100 comments, mostly positive.)
- On **Monday**, the **EU Foreign Affairs Council** held its regular meeting and released a statement on Myanmar. The statement reads that the EU will cooperate with other actors, especially ASEAN, on the Myanmar issue. The statement also calls the SAC to release the detained civilian leaders immediately. According to the statement, the EU “stands ready” to impose targeted sanctions.
- **Over 250 civil society organizations** signed an [open letter](#) to the UN Security Council, urging it to immediately dispatch an intervention mission to Myanmar to stop violence from being inflicted against peaceful protesters, prevent further bloodshed and loss of life and release all those arbitrarily detained.
- **137 civil society organizations** issued an [open letter](#) to the UNSC urging them to institute a coordinated, global arms embargo on Myanmar.
- In their own [open letter](#) to the UNSC, the **General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN)** - formed by 27 ethnic nationalities in Myanmar to protest against the coup – notes that long before the current coup, nationalities of Myanmar have been victim of human rights violations. The group calls on the UNSC to use all influence at its disposal and exert pressure on the military to end Myanmar’s internal wars, protect peaceful protesters, provide humanitarian assistance, discourage business ties with Myanmar, and call for an interim government with representatives from all nationalities.

Coming up

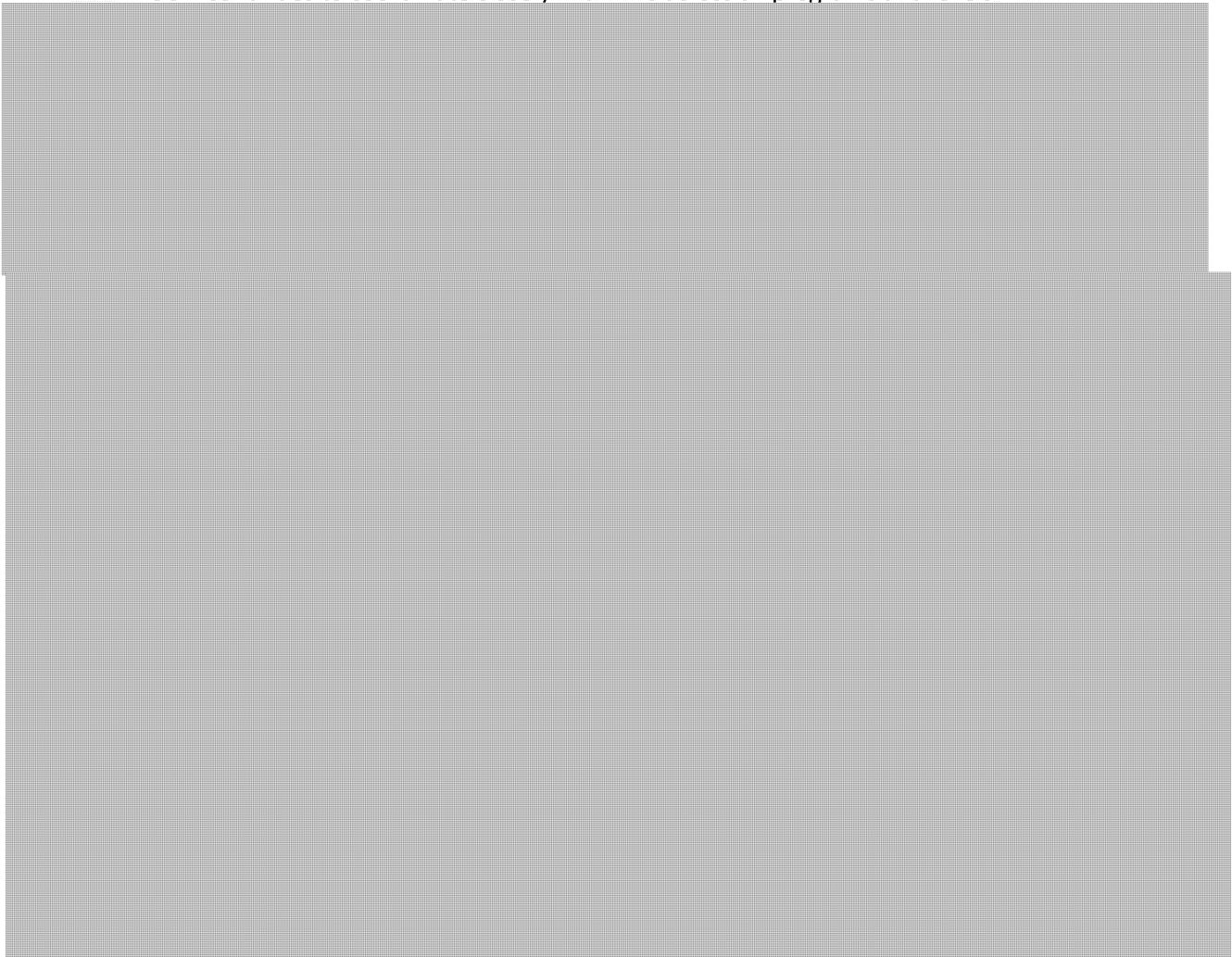
- Tomorrow (Friday) is also the end of month and monthly payday for many in Myanmar. It will be important to watch for possible bank closures, runs on banks, flare-ups of tensions, possible violence and increased protests, particularly if the ongoing CDM movement continues to shut down the banking sector and people are not paid.
- The new Union Election Commission (UEC) formed by Myanmar’s military regime has invited political parties to a meeting tomorrow (Friday). The invitation letter did not give an agenda and only asked the parties to say if they will attend. The Kachin State People’s Party (KSPP) has announced its intention to join; the National League for Democracy (NLD), Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD), Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), Ta’ang National Party (TNP), and Arakan National League for Democracy have indicated they will not.
- The UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy to Myanmar will be briefing the **UN General Assembly** tomorrow (Friday) on developments in Myanmar; PRMNY HOM will be delivering a statement following the briefing.
- The next hearing for State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint is scheduled for 1 March (Monday). (The State Counsellor’s first court hearing, earlier than scheduled and without a lawyer present, took place on 16 Feb.)



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Like-minded coordination

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.



Drafted: YNGON-GR/[redacted] YNGON-GR/[redacted]

With input from: YNGON-GR/[redacted] YNGON-CS/[redacted] YNGON-DA/[redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

[16-28 FEBRUARY END]

[1-15 MARCH START]

1 March

Summary: The last weekend of February and the one-month anniversary of the coup marked a worrying turning point in Myanmar, post-coup, with a **marked escalation of violence** and **use of force** against protesters by police and military. Security forces had previously demonstrated some restraint in the face of large-scale protests, but growing pressure to hobble the protesters and dismantle the CDM amidst, a heightened and deployed security forces presence, and ever growing momentum and continuing large-scale peaceful protesters created a very charged and tense atmosphere this weekend that was a marked departure from that of previous week and which ultimately led to Sunday's violence and use of force on the part of the security forces- the worst to date.

Late in the last week of February (REFTEL YNGON-559) saw the first time deployment of violent pro-Tatmadaw instigators across Yangon, seeking to instigate violence, as per the 1988 regime playbook in which violence and clashes were used as a pretext for a violent crackdown on protesters and subsequent declaration of martial law.

As anticipated, protesters converged in large numbers over the weekend, particularly on Sunday for "Milk Tea Alliance" protests, a nation-wide general strike, the one-month anniversary, on the eve of the State Counsellor's second court hearing, and days after galvanizing speeches at the UNGA, including by the (now former) Myanmar Ambassador to the UN. While smaller than the large-scale protests of the previous weekend, there was a discernable change in the tone of protesters and changes to the protest tactics being used. The movement continues to be leaderless and organic. Tactics have shifted fluidly from static protests, to mobile ones; from domestic focus to garnering international attention; from traditional sign-wielding protesters to traffic disruption and slow-downs; from spirited, music-filled gatherings, to the triggering of community-level protection networks. Toward the end of last week, protest vibes shifted from almost celebratory and inclusive earlier in the month, to a much more tense atmosphere, with greater attention to readiness and security, and generally younger protesters sporting homemade tactical gear and PPE. Increasingly protesters have deployed tactics utilized and honed in Hong Kong and Thailand. Over the week prior to the Sunday crack-down, online content created by protest movements in those two countries on tactics, preparation, communications, and home-made PPE was translated into Myanmar language and circulated widely on social media. Sunday protesters in particular deployed a range of these tactics, including homemade barriers and PPE. The weekend also saw parallel protests led by the "Milk Tea Alliance" in other ASEAN Member countries. The Tatmadaw clearly underestimated the size and determination of the protest movement. The fact that it remains leaderless means that it is unpredictable and harder to break or disburse. Different protests groups are protesting for different reasons. It also means that beyond protests, there is no overarching protest strategy, and no one for the Tatmadaw to negotiate with (if they ever wanted to- which is doubtful). There is also emerging competition between different factions of the protest movement. While

protesters were galvanized by the UNGA statements on Thursday, they were also clearly fearful of violent retribution on the part of security forces which was presaged Friday.

On Sunday February 28, those fears were realized when security forces applied an apparently coordinated and systematic hardened approach across the country and cracked down violently in the early morning. Truncheon beatings, tear gas, water cannons, sling shots, rubber bullets, flashbangs, stun grenades and live rounds firing, were deployed across multiple cities and many protest sites within Yangon.

The Sunday crack-down resulted in the highest death toll to date after more than a month of massive, but largely peaceful protests. Reports from citizen journalists filming as the violence occurred suggests that military and police were pre-deployed in very large numbers to key protest sites across Yangon. They utilized corralling techniques and opened fire with live rounds with little to no warning. Reporting also suggests that protesters were arrested in large numbers. Of concern are credible reports that TMD soldiers fired into hospital grounds where protesters were sheltering, of denial of offered medical aid by red cross volunteers to injured protesters in need by security forces, and reports that medical volunteers were threatened at gunpoint, and many arrested. If true this could represent violations of international humanitarian law. [REDACTED] At this point, it appears that reports of the shooting into the hospital are credible, although there are no confirmed reports of injuries stemming from that particular incident.

The crackdown appeared to have been deliberate and coordinated with reports of violence across the country. Use of lethal force by security forces was reported in Yangon, Dawei, Myeik, Bago, Madalay, Pakokku, Lashio, Mawlamyine. The violent response, after a month of relative restraint, likely sought to break the growing anti-coup protest momentum which had in the week prior gained significant traction both in-country and in the region with the CDM, the General Strike Committee and the regional Milk Tea Alliance. The crack-down also followed growing international condemnation and pressure against the regime, including at the UN General Assembly session in New York.

The Association for Political Prisoners confirmed that close to 500 people had been arrested over the weekend, bringing the total number of detentions since February 1 to more than 1100 people. Among those arrested Sunday were a number of journalists. Local HRD organizations put the number of arrests/detentions of journalists at 24, of which 10 were released without charge, 2 released with bail, and 5 sent to Insein prison.

Fatalities: Total number of fatalities and injuries stemming from the Sunday protests are difficult to confirm and reports vary. EXERA has reported at least 14 deaths, the UN Office of Human Rights, 18, EBO has reported 25 deaths, and reports from domestic observer groups range from 24-27

fatalities. AAPP is reporting 30 deaths. Numbers of serious injuries are significant but there is no confirmed data yet available. Deaths included male and female protesters and bystanders.

Myanmar's CDM continues in full force, proving particularly disruptive for the country's health, education, transportation and banking sectors. Sunday's violence is indicative of the signs of frustration on the part of the military regime, which continues to target apparent CDM leaders and influencers for arrest, while some government departments are suspending officials not at work. The CDM has brought the banking sector to its knees, and there are growing concerns for supply chain issue – particularly fuel supplies.

Condemnation for the escalation of violence was swift with a number of mission-level and capital statements on Feb 28 and March 1. YNGON issued a mission-level statement mid-day on Feb 28 when it became clear that the violence was indicative a systematic and deliberate crack-down on protesters. GAC subsequently issued a Ministerial statement early on March 1 (Yangon time). Other mission statements included those from UK, US, EU, Australian and NZ embassies (see below). Capital statements included Canada, US, EU, UK (see below). The UNSG, O/UNHCHR and the UNSR for Myanmar all issued very strongly worded statements.





Other New Developments

SAC-M:

- Not to be confused with the SAC- the governing body of the illegitimate regime - three former UN experts announced on 1 March the establishment of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M).
- The SAC-M's founding members are Yanghee Lee, former UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, Marzuki Darusman, former chair of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and Chris Sidoti, former member of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar. The independent group will seek to support the peoples of Myanmar in their fight for human rights, democracy, peace, justice and accountability.

COVID:

- The Tatmadaw regime has further extended the effective period of temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries up to 31 March 2021 (from 28 February 2021), "in order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19".
- Despite this, domestic COVID measures have either been lifted or are being ignored. Testing is almost non-existent with a resulting decline of positive cases despite the massive gatherings and protests that have been taking place across the country. Confirmed COVID cases yesterday were at 6, with only 1105 tests conducted. Also of concern is that the vaccination program, just getting going prior to the coup, has also come to a standstill. Some medical workers not focussed on CDM or working on the streets providing first aid are beginning to sound the alarm of coup-

accelerated third wave at a time when local health facilities, already weak, are being greatly affected by the coup and the CDM.

Civil Disobedience Movement:

- Myanmar's CDM continues, proving particularly disruptive to the country's health, education, transportation and banking sectors.
- Myanmar's civil disobedience movement (CDM) continues to frustrate the new regime, which has acknowledged the toll of the CDM more openly in recent days. [REDACTED] notes that the CDM has caused "considerable damage" to business owners and hardship to workers, and accuses CDM protestors of harassing employees and preventing them from going to work, noting that "certain steps will need to be taken to make sure the CDM-related threats decrease and workers return to their workplace as possible".
- In remarks to the Management Committee of the State Administration Council on 25 Feb (Thursday), Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing noted the negative impact of the CDM on providing public health services, saying "the ministry concerned should take action against CDM activists who make disturbances to prevent the opening of hospitals". The Chairman advised the Committee and designated Union Ministers to appoint staff who are loyal to the State; promote staff who fulfil their duties; and to take legal action against staff who violate rules and regulations; and "to monitor staff to prevent them from posting matters that can undermine the stability and security of the State on social media".
- The following day (26 Feb), (Tatmadaw) MRTV News stated that action will be taken against people inciting others to participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement; violent protests; or any violation of the article 144 (Criminal Code), prohibiting any gathering of more than 5 people in public space.
- In an announcement on 27 Feb, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population announced legal actions against "illegal labour organizations", accusing them of "speeding up their activities to instigate the owners and labours of industries and factories to join the CDM". In this context the organizations are deemed "illegal" because they have not registered under the terms and conditions of Myanmar's 2011 Labour Organization Law. The announcement threatens "serious legal actions" if they continue "unlawful activities".

Other arrests, releases and trials

- **New charges for the State Counsellor:** The second hearing for State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) and President Win Myint took place today (01 March), as scheduled. During the hearing, "authorities" announced two new charges against the State Counsellor under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which criminalizes statements, rumours or reports with intent to cause fear or alarm to the public, and article 67 of the communications law, which indicates anyone in possession of restricted telecommunications equipment is liable to imprisonment. ASSK's lawyer(s) were again not invited to participate in the hearing; media and YNGON contacts report that ASSK has still not had the opportunity to meet them. Her whereabouts are currently unknown, with unconfirmed rumours that she has been moved from house arrest to an undisclosed location. The next hearing is scheduled for 15 March.

- [REDACTED] the arrests of at least **three LGBT activists** in Yangon this morning. The three individuals, including two transgender women, were part of prominent LGBT demonstrations in Yangon recently.
- On Friday evening, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that **771** people had been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup (some have since been released). The AAPP's most recent report, today, indicates that **1132** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced – indicating over 300 arrests in the last two days.

CRPH

- On Thursday (25 Feb) the Union Election Commission issued a notification indicating that given the State of Emergency and associated transfer of legislative power to the Commander-in-Chief, and the invalid 2020 election results, “it is illegal to perform the Hluttaw works such as forming committees representing Hluttaw without authority” – in other words declaring the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw illegal. The notification says “forming the representing committees of Hluttaws after 01 February 2021 is not in compliance with the State Constitution ... and effective legal actions will be taken in accordance with the existing laws”. [REDACTED]
- On Monday March 1, the CPRH issued a statement announcing that U Kyaw Moe Tun will remain in his position as permanent representative to the United Nations (statement in Myanmar attached 20210228_Gov_CRPH9). This will pose a challenging issue around legitimacy for the UN and member States.

- (Tatmdaw) Global New Light of Myanmar published a one-page article on Friday (26 Feb) criticizing the National League for Democracy for inviting the Rakhine Advisory Commission, a foreign entity, to investigate conditions in Rakhine State, and the Commission's alleged plans “to give citizenship to the Bengali [Rohingya]”. The article suggests that the NLD was unduly influenced by U Ko Ni, the late NLD lawyer and Muslim, assassinated in at Yangon International Airport in 2017 - and suggests that the NLD was working with the US, UK and UN to weaken the Tatmadaw. The blatantly anti-Rohingya and –Muslim language in this article aligns with other nationalist signals from the Tatmadaw in recent weeks, and may signal their intent to incite hate and distrust of the Rohingya and other ethnic minority groups in Myanmar.
- YNGON continues to receive at least daily “Information Sheets” [REDACTED] from the Foreign Relations Department of the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs. The English-language information sheets - usually about 10 pages long, poorly translated, and with pages out of order - usually include recent speeches from Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and accounts of some of his meetings; the latest “findings” on voting or ballot irregularities; and other articles intended to delegitimize the ongoing civil disobedience movement and protests. While some articles present a Tatmadaw spin on established facts, [REDACTED] There is usually coverage of economic reforms or other kinds of commercial support to Myanmar businesses, and articles on military or police officers providing social services to the poor. More recently, the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs has also been sending

CDM-related videos of, allegedly, CDM protestors harassing government, or “dutiful” public servants refusing to join the CDM.

Union Election Commission:

- On 26 February, the new Union Election Commission (UEC) formed by the SAC met with political parties in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting this morning was attended by 53 of the 91 officially registered political parties but later, two parties expelled the representatives who attended the meeting for not acting in accordance with their parties’ decisions. Several parties including the NLD, People’s Party, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), and Kyah State Democratic Party (KSDP) boycotted the meeting, while some parties which accepted the positions in the coup government, including the People Pioneer Party (PPP), Arakan National Party (ANP) and Mon Unity Party (MUP) attended the meeting. Interestingly, only 10 out of these 53 parties won a seat in the 2020 elections and they won only over 3% of the seats. Most of the parties are those allied parties of the USDP, which had never won a seat in the elections and are known to be ultra-nationalist parties.
- **Regime-appointed UEC has rescinded the results of the 2020 election:** Although the military arrested former UEC chair and sub-commission members and is allegedly creating evidence of electoral fraud, the UEC new chair did not make any announcement on the result of the investigation and insisted that the former parliament and the election **results are now nullified**. Many of the attendees more closely aligned to the military also reportedly insisted the election was fraudulent and rigged, and encouraged the UEC to punish the NLD and even those who boycotted today’s meeting.
- A letter dated 28 February was circulated on social media that the UEC sent out to all the political parties to research on Proportional Representations (PR) system. The letter said that the UEC will discuss the research in their next meeting with parties with a view to moving away from the current First Past The Post system. The Tatmadaw and the USD have long wanted to covert to a PR system. They made a proposal before the 2015 General Election but it was not implemented. After the landslide win of the NLD in 2015 and 2020, their desire for PR system becomes stronger. The NLD, however, objected the PR system with an excuse that the military took 25% of the seats in the parliament and PR system would gave them opportunity to take control of the parliament if they can forge alliance with some parties. According to IFES, if the 2020 election results are converted to PR, the NLD win would drop from 83% to 67%, the USDP would increase from 6% to 22%, and ethnic parties would go from 10% to 11% only. The PR system would surely favour the military proxy party, USDP and the military’s control of the parliament.

Supply Chains:

- On Friday (26 Feb), KBZ, Myanmar’s largest privately-owned bank, announced they will reactivate some of their activities between 3 and 5 March in order to facilitate the payroll process of their partners and SMEs.
- Yesterday (28 Feb), the Central Bank of Myanmar announced that all withdrawals from ATMs will be capped at 500,000 MMK (~CAD 500) per day (instead of 1,000,000) and 2,000,000 MMK per week for individuals. For companies, the cap is 20,000,000 MMK per week.
- On March 1, Myanmar Plaza, Yangon city’s largest mall and frequent protest site, announced it was closing indefinitely.

- **Fuel and oil supplies:** There are growing concerns about a potential fuel shortage in the country. The CBM is reportedly prompting foreign banks in Myanmar to issue Credit Letters to Myanmar oil importers. The difficulty for those stakeholders to source such letters contributes to the depletion of Myanmar stocks of oil.
- While Tatmadaw [REDACTED] acknowledges “rumours” that markets, stores, a banks are closed, and that a shortage of oil and gas is coming, [REDACTED] that “in reality, these mechanisms are running normally and peacefully for the daily life of the people”. [REDACTED]

International Relations:

- The military regime has dismissed Myanmar Ambassador to the United Nations U Kyaw Moe Tun following his address to an informal UN General Assembly meeting on Friday in which he supported the democratically elected government and denounced the military’s seizure of power. Many social media users thanked the ambassador for his stand and for voicing the people’s demands. In an announcement signed by the regime-appointed Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it accused the ambassador of committing “high treason” for representing the elected parliamentarians’ Committee Representing the Union Parliament (CPRH) at the UN meeting in New York.
- Canada’s UNGA intervention has also be very well received by many in the protest movement, as were the YNGON and GAC statements, although increasingly, statements of support and condemnation of violence are being questioned and challenged as insufficient or as empty threats and undeliverable promises by the international community.

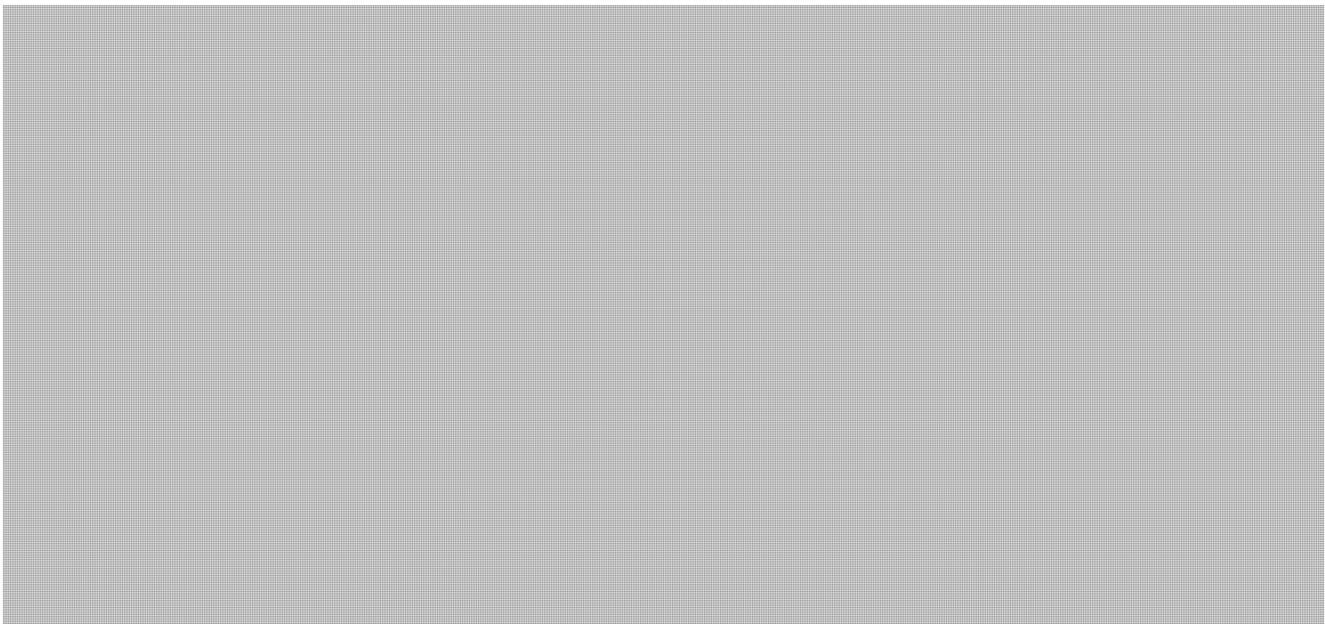
International Trade:

- Australian International energy giant Woodside announced Feb 28 that it was cutting its presence in Myanmar over human rights concerns and the growing violence. The announcement came after a widely criticized interview by Woodside CEO the week prior in which he called the coup an “transitory issue”.
- Myanmar’s Center for Responsible Business also issued a joint statement last week which was signed by a range of major foreign investors and some domestic companies including KBZ banks and Serge Pun, head of Yoma Bank.

Statements:

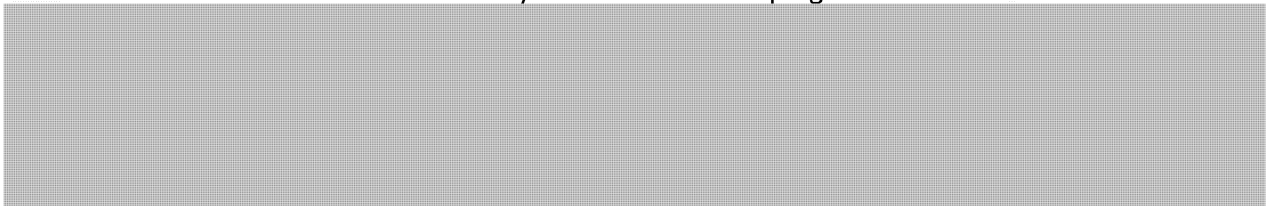
- Responding to excessive use of force against protestors by security forces over the weekend, YNGON issued a mission-level [statement](#) yesterday (28 Feb – 7.9k reactions at the time of writing).
- GAC issued a Ministerial [statement](#) from Minister Garneau (amplified on YNGON Facebook page – ~500 reactions at the time of writing) early on March 1 (Yangon time). Many comments indicate that statements and calls to action are not enough, or asked what Canada would do to ensure that “those responsible would be held to account”.
- A number of like-minded diplomatic missions in Myanmar, and their capitals, also issued statements, including:
 - US Embassy in Myanmar [statement](#); US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [statement](#); by Secretary Antony Blinken [tweet](#)
 - European Union in Myanmar [statement](#)

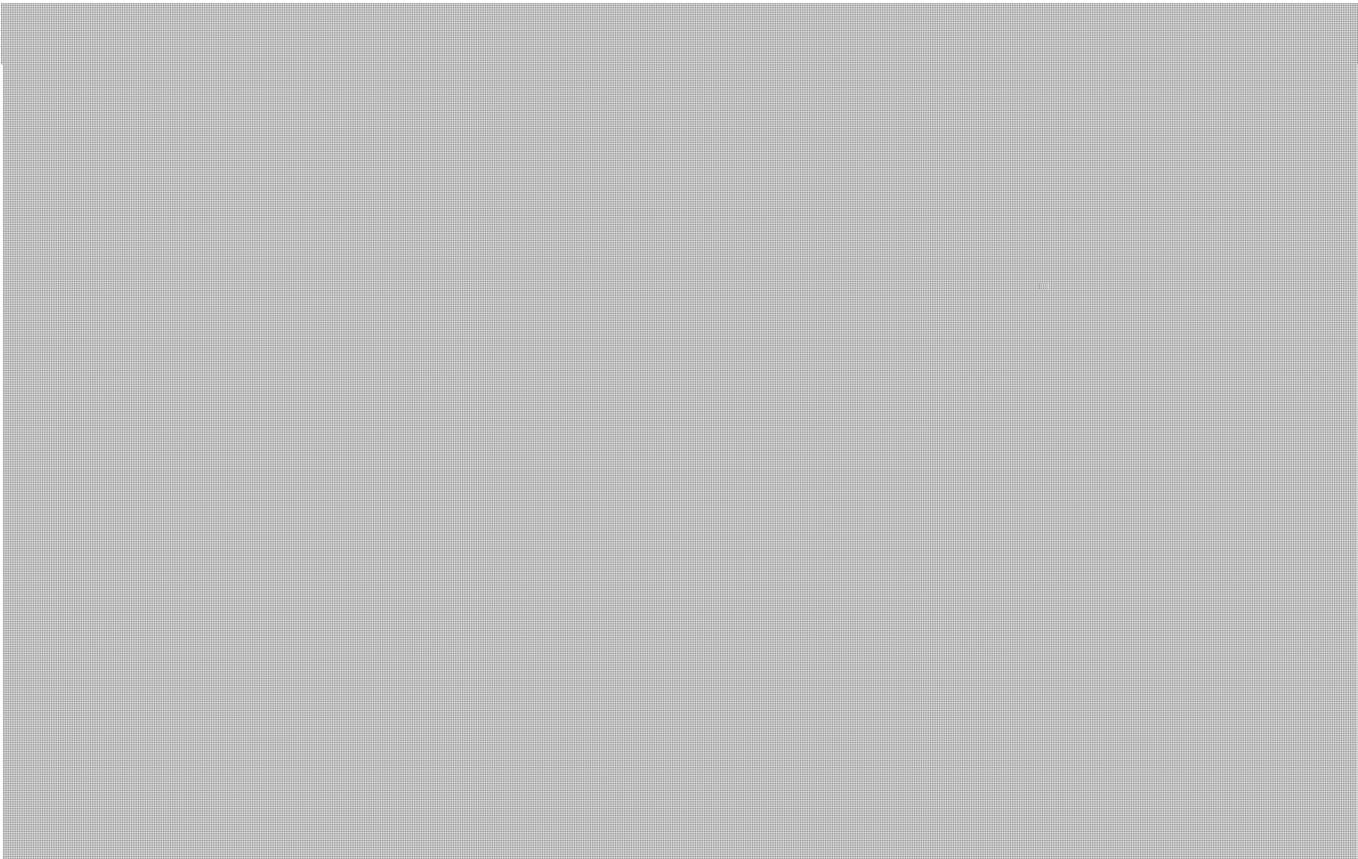
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade [statement](#)
- Australian Embassy in Myanmar [statement](#)
- Norway Minister of Foreign Affairs [statement](#)
- British Embassy in Myanmar [tweet](#)
- Denmark Minister of Foreign Affairs [tweet](#)
- Sweden Minister of Foreign Affairs [tweet](#)
- [UN Human Rights Office](#) **issued a strongly worded Statement on March 1.**
- **The Secretary-General strongly condemns the violent crackdown in Myanmar:** Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Myanmar (<https://myanmar.un.org/en/114093-statement-attributable-spokesperson-secretary-general-myanmar>).
- **UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar:** The UNSR called for concerted coordinated international action, noting in was imperative to ratchet up the response. He proposed:
 - A global arms embargo
 - Strengthened targeted sanctions
 - Convening of the UNSC and invocation of Chapter VII with UN sanctions and ICC referral.
- Human Rights Watch welcomed Canada's statement and issued their own, noting that "live ammunition should not be used to control or disperse protests.



Like-minded Coordination:

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.





Drafted: YNGON-GR, [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-GR- [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-CS, [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA [redacted] YNGON-CS/ [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

3 March

OSC, this is not a reporting day for YNGON, but sending a brief update your way given developments on the ground.

- Minimal small-scale protests today, none in the vicinity of SQs or Chancery.
- Isolated pockets of violent confrontation by security forces – particularly in one outlying township in Yangon, with reports of excessive use of force.

- Increase of community-installed barricades at ward entrances off main roadways.

- Comms blackout over night again (01:00-09:00).
- Comms restored at 09h00.
- Expect that comms cuts will continue over the coming days during the same timeframe.

REPORT: As per YNGON's reporting on Monday on shifting tactics by both the security forces (military and police) and protesters, today, security forces went after small pockets of protesters in alleyways and within community-barricaded wards (like neighbourhoods but with controllable exit and entry points). A range of tactics are being used by communities to barricade their wards (metal and wooden barriers, to tires, tree stumps, road debris, dump truck loads of stones and handmade tire puncturing devices). The most affected township in Yangon today was north Okkalapa township – [REDACTED] with reports of fatalities and excessive use of force by security forces.

There were no large-scale protests of note.

The violence in north Okkalapa seemed to occur between small, isolated groups of protesters, or individuals, and military and police.

As per the message from [REDACTED] the security forces appear to be deliberately targeting protest leaders, including via sniper fire. Security forces are also forcibly entering residential wards and compounds that have been barricaded by the communities, in some cases burning or bulldozing barricades to gain access to community wards.

There are reports from [REDACTED] of shooting and beatings of lone individuals after detention. There is potentially credible video documentary of an execution of a detained protester, beatings of medical workers, and firing of live rounds, including sub-machine guns. Tear gas and rubber bullets were deployed in these areas. [REDACTED] there is a higher than normal proportion of head shots in shooting deaths, with video and photos circulating of snipers with rifles. These are clear human rights violations ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

No violence occurred in the vicinity [REDACTED] and no protests took place in those areas.

As of approximately 16h00 pm today, [REDACTED] reported 10 deaths reported across the country – with **1 in Yangon** (North Okkalapa) - likely to rise after there is a better understanding of what happened in Okkalapa later in the afternoon). Other fatalities were in towns outside of Yangon in the following towns:

Monywa – 5

Mandalay – 2

Myin Chan – 1

Magway – 1

As of 20h30, IFES reported a different tally [REDACTED]

North Okkalapa – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Khit Thit media is reporting 13, VOM is reporting 13, AFP is reporting 6 or 7. At this point the reported numbers of fatalities are variable and may change.

Mandalay – 3

Monywa – 6

Myin Chan – 1

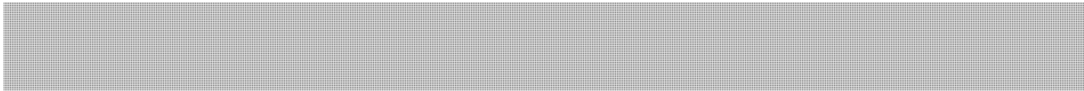
Magway -1

Mawlamyaing - 1

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)



YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-CS/ [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Approved: HOM

4 March

YNGON-565: Coup Update 19 (March 4)

Summary: Protests in Yangon this week were small, with isolated pockets of violent confrontation in community-level wards, including daily use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and flashbangs (sound grenades) to disperse them. Security forces appear willing to crack down sooner, and with greater force than weeks prior. There are documented instances of security forces beating unarmed protestors, before and while in detention. In Yangon and across the country on Wednesday, Myanmar endured its deadliest day since the 01 Feb coup (**REFTEL YNGON-564 below**), with the United Nations announcing at least **38** people were killed nation-wide (**note:** this figure is the highest mentioned, significantly above other accounts ranging from 17-24 deaths). There were reported deaths in **Yangon (13), Monya (7), Mandalay (2), Salin (1) and Myingyan (1)**. These are the first known deaths among protestors since Sunday, 20 Feb (when **18** people were killed nation-wide; REFTEL YNGON-555). (**Note:** numbers of reported and confirmed deaths vary, and will likely change in the coming days.) In Yangon today, there have been fewer protests and instances of violence. Most protests have been forcibly dispersed by security forces using tear gas and flashbangs. Other gatherings are reported in other pockets of the city, but for the moment, incidents remain low.

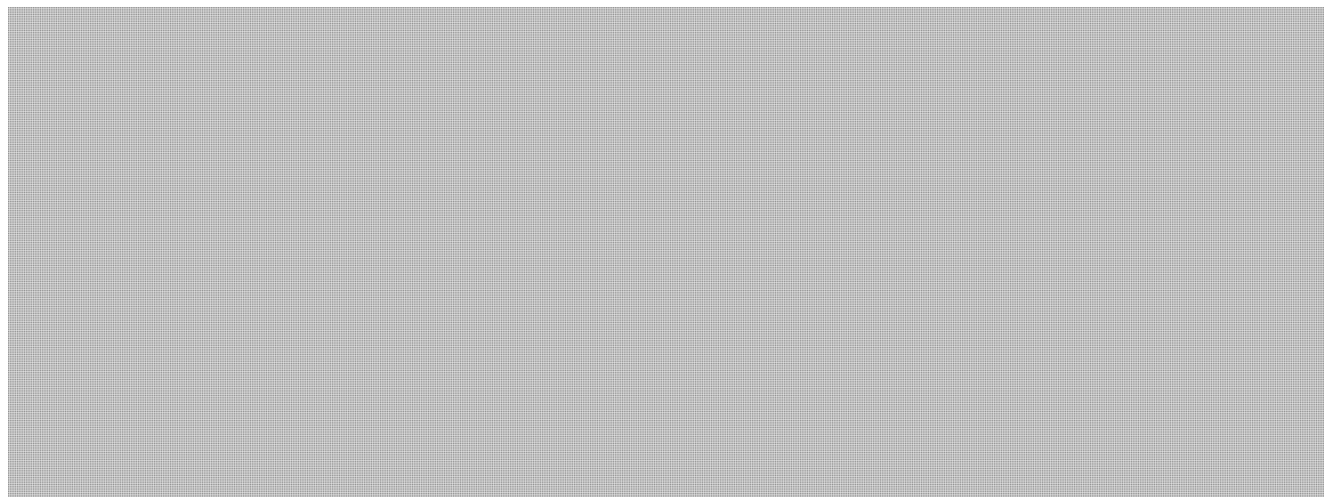
On Wednesday, the epicentre of violence was North Okkalapa, Yangon, where an estimated 13 people died from live rounds shot by the Tatmadaw's 77th Light Infantry Division, apparently using an automatic weapon. Approximately 50 people were injured and hundreds reportedly arrested. There are videos circulating that, if verified, suggest serious human rights violations. Many of those killed on Wednesday, in Yangon and other cities, died of gunshot wounds to the head.

The composition and frontlines of Myanmar's protest movement have shifted from thousands gathering in open spaces, major thoroughfares, and in front of government buildings and Embassies, to smaller groups in streets and alleys in residential areas. Where protests in weeks past were peaceful, colourful, and even celebratory, protestors today wear hardhats and wield homemade shields for protection. Responding to escalating violence, communities in Yangon have barricaded themselves behind homemade roadblocks, using everything from bamboo or rebar to houseplants and spare tires. Downtown, larger streets have similar roadblocks and obstacles designed to slow traffic and security forces that may be approaching. As the physical environment hardens, so too have attitudes; protestors once brought water and food to police officers guarding government buildings (protest sites) as gestures of goodwill; today protestors call them dogs and terrorists.

Myanmar bureaucrats continue to join the country's civil disobedience movement, including some 4,000 civil servants from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and 115 employees from the Ministry of Information. Small numbers of security forces, mostly police, have also joined the CDM. Hundreds of protestors arrested last weekend were released, but hundreds of new detainees will replace them.

The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues to press its case for international legitimacy, labelling the Tatmadaw a terrorist organization and appointing four Acting Ministers this week. The group has not yet answered calls from other protest groups to denounce the 2008 Constitution.

The regime Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled over 40 of their representatives abroad this week (no change in Canada), and announced new appointments to Kuwait, Pakistan, Indonesia, India, China and the UN. The NLD-appointed Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations, dismissed by the junta last week, intends to keep his seat – which may add urgency to UN processes concerning recognition. ASEAN Ministers of Foreign Affairs met virtually this week, with Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia advocating vocally for conflict resolution, though potential paths towards that remain unclear.



PROTESTS

- In Yangon today, there have been fewer protests or incidents, but tension remains high. Most protests have been forcibly dispersed by security forces using tear gas and flashbangs. Such incidents were reported in Myaynigone, South Okkalapa, North Dagon, Insein, Shwepyithar, as well as in downtown. Other gatherings are reported in other pockets of the city, but for the moment, incidents remain low. Traffic in Yangon still remains significantly disrupted by road blocks. Protests outside Yangon today are reported in at least seven cities, including Mandalay, some of which have been dispersed. No information has filtered out regarding potential casualties or major clashes.
- Protests in Yangon this week were small, with isolated pockets of violent confrontation in community-level wards, and daily use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and flashbangs (sound grenades) by security forces seeking to disperse or dislodge protestors. In Yangon, over the course of the week, some of the most violent confrontations were in Sanchuang, Tamwe and Okkalapa Townships. Outside of Yangon, there were consistent protests across the country in Mandalay, Myingyan (Mandalay Region), Monywa (Sagaing Region), Magway (Magway Region), and Myitkyina (Kachin State). There were reports of live rounds fired by police this week in Mandalay, Kalay (Sagaing Region) and Taunggyi (Shan State), but no deaths have been reported.

- As noted above, violence and excessive use of force escalated in Yangon and across the country on Wednesday, the epicentre of which was North Okkalapa, Yangon (an outlying township, approximately 7.5km from the SQ and 10km from the Chancery). That morning, Frontier Myanmar reported police and 77th Light Infantry Division soldiers breaking up a protest at Yangon's North Okkalapa roundabout with teargas and rubber bullets. A video posted later in the day on social media shows two men being shot in the township, and the sound of an automatic weapon can be heard. To the extent of YNGON's knowledge, this is the first time such a weapon has been used to attack protestors. (The number of gunshot victims in North Okkalapa was so high that striking medical workers decided to return to work to reopen the township hospital.)
- There are graphic videos circulating that, if verified, suggest serious human rights violations on Wednesday; this includes CCTV footage showing several police officers brutally beating three medics with batons and the butts of their shotguns; police dragging bodies of people after shooting them in [REDACTED] and the apparent execution, at close range, of a detained protestor.
- There were also mass arrests reported in the area, with one student activist posting that six police vans were being filled with around 50 protestors each. Images circulated showing students lined up with their hands on their heads preparing to enter the vans. Myanmar Now claimed that around 500 people were arrested in Yangon yesterday.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM)

- Bureaucrats (both Union and in States/Regions) continue to join the ongoing CDM, including 4,000 employees from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, according to RFA Burmese. 115 employees from the Ministry of Information also joined the movement this week, in addition to nine staff from the Sagaing Region General Administration Department and U Thet Sin, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Union Attorney General Office. He is the highest bureaucrat to join the CDM to date.
- There were a few reports of security forces (rank-and-file) defecting and/or joining the CDM movement this week, including a small number of police officers in Magway, Yangon and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Shan States and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Twelve soldiers serving in the Myanmar military reportedly deserted and turned themselves over to the Karen National Union (KNU) in a show of solidarity with anti-coup protestors. (**Note:** It is too soon to suggest these instances are trending towards defections en masse.)
- In remarks on 01 March, Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing (MAL) said that action is being taken against civil servants participating in the CDM, and that respective ministries will take action after "systematic inspections" (suggesting that the junta's response to CDM will vary by Ministry). Relevant ministries have been instructed to take action against physicians, specialists and staff participating in the movement. The next day (02 March) the (government) Global New Light of Myanmar printed a "[Request to health workers](#)" from the Ministry of Health and Sports, urging their return to their duties to help the COVID-19 vaccination program.

s.15(1) - International

- In an op-ed published today, Frontier contributors Aye Min Thant and Yan Aung write that the Civil Disobedience Movement must define clear goals, set sustainable strategies and ditch alleged illusions of foreign intervention if it is to win its tug-of-war with the Tatmadaw. They argue that the CDM should seek to inflict maximum harm on the military regime's ability to function while ensuring the public can still access basic necessities. If the people begin to lose not only income but also electricity, water and household waste collection, living under a military dictatorship may start to look more appealing, the op-ed says.

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- Monday evening (01 March, local time), the **Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)** issued an announcement labelling the State Administration Council (SAC) a "terrorist group" for "its atrocities and acts of terrorism". The statement reads that "[shooting, beating, and arresting peaceful protestors on the streets] amounts to a declaration of war on unarmed civilians".
- The following day (02 March), the CRPH announced four Acting Union Ministers, covering 9 ministries, to assume the duties on behalf of (NLD) Union Ministers who currently "cannot assume their duties". **Daw Zin Mar Aung** is appointed Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs; **U Lwin Ko Latt** is Acting Minister of the President's Office and of the Union Government Office; **U Tin Tun Naing** is Acting Minister of Planning, Finance and Industry; Investment and Foreign Economic Relations; and Commerce; **Dr. Zaw Wai Soe** will be Minister of Labour, Immigration and Population; Education; and Health and Sports.
- Also on Tuesday (02 March), the diaspora **Kachin Alliance**, based in Washington, D.C., issued a letter to "respectfully decline" a reported invitation to join the CRPH. The Kachin Alliance advocates for an inclusive Burma and, more specifically, the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution, establishment of federal democracy, and formation of an interim Union Government. The letter indicates that while they understand the NLD's decision to utilize the 2008 Constitution to legitimize the CRPH mandate, in their view, maintaining it will only perpetuate the regime's destructive role in politics and the country's social cohesion.
- On Wednesday (03 March), the **Sagaing Region CRPH** organized People's Administration Associations in 11 Townships out of 37. To date, this is the first example of township-scale parallel administration(s). (**Note:** Except for Kayah and Rakhine, there are CRPH-like committees in all of Myanmar's States and Regions.)
- In remarks to the State Administration Council early this week (01 March), and consistent with earlier statements, MAL said action is being taken against the CRPH, which they say is illegally carrying out activities while the new Union Election Committee is launching an investigation into vote-rigging in the 08 Nov general election.

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), **1498 people** have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup; 1192 are being actively persecuted (charged, sentenced, or have an outstanding arrest warrant). Notably, the AAPP list includes 16 journalists detained, several in Insein Prison, most arrested 27 Feb-01

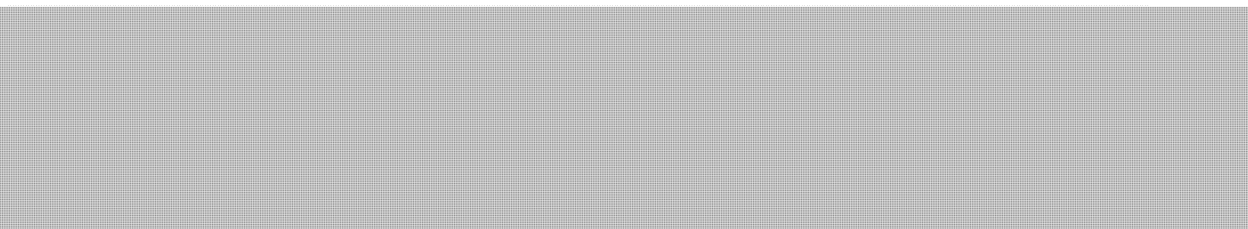
March, and facing charges under Penal Code – 505 (A). Journalists have found themselves targeted by police and soldiers as they try to capture the unrest on the streets.

- On Tuesday (02 March), an additional lawsuit was filed against Dr. Win Myat Aye, (NLD) Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, for failing “to clarify the statistics... regarding the purchase of the Covid-19 vaccine”. (He is currently in hiding and already charged with 505 (b) of the Penal Code.) Also on Tuesday, Dr. Arkar Moe Thu, a professor from Yangon University and advocate for academic freedom, was arrested while gathering protestors in front of the Myanmar ICT Park in Yangon.
- This week, multiple reports suggested that police were stopping vehicles and pedestrians and asking to see their social media activity. Reportedly, individuals with political activity (specifically anti-regime activity) had their phones taken away or were arrested.
- On Wednesday (03 March), more than 500 protestors arrested on 28 February were reportedly released from Insein Prison. Today (04 March) Chin State Chief Minister and members of his cabinet were released from house arrest. (They were all arrested on 1 February.)

PEACE TALKS

- Early this week (01 March) the Brotherhood Alliance, composed of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Arakan Army (AA), announced that they will extend their unilateral ceasefire until the end of March. (They made their initial announcement in September 2019.)
- Elsewhere, in Northern Shan State, fighting resumed Wednesday (03 March) between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Tatmadaw. An additional clash broke out in Muse Township. The KIA released a statement claiming that the Tatmadaw is moving troops aboard civilian trucks.

SUPPLY CHAINS



- Likely responding to violence and excessive use of force against protestors on Wednesday (03 March), City Holdings announced some of its flagship grocery (CityMart) stores and shops would close Wednesday, and then Thursday (expected to reopen on Friday, some with restricted hours). Some of its stores – especially those in malls and plazas where protestors have been gathering – will remain closed until further notice. Grab, a local ride-sharing and food delivery service, suspended its services today.

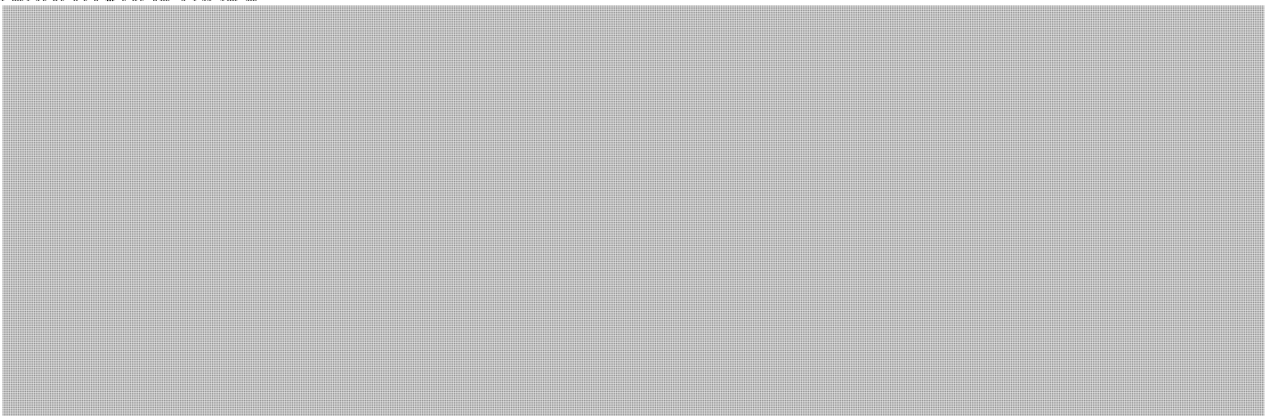
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- On Monday evening (01 March local time), the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)** recalled over 40 of their representatives abroad (mostly Minister-Counsellors and secretaries) back to their

headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw, and also announced new appointments to Kuwait, Pakistan, Indonesia, India, China and the United Nations (in Vienna and New York). (**Note:** No change to Myanmar representation in Canada.) A MOFA [press release](#) issued Tuesday (02 March) describes the transfers as a “regular task”.

- Also on Monday, the (NLD-appointed) **Permanent Representative of Myanmar, U Kyaw Moe Tun**, to the United Nations in New York wrote a letter to the President of the UN General Assembly, confirming that he remains Myanmar’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Writing that the perpetrators of Myanmar’s recent coup had no authority to remove him from his position - as they claim to have done last week – U Kyaw Moe Tun urged the President to communicate his standing as Permanent Representative to all member states of the General Assembly. (Later in the week, Myanmar’s (NLD-appointed) deputy ambassador to the United Nations in New York, **U Tin Maung Naing**, resigned after the military regime assigned him to replace U Kyaw Moe Tun.)
- On Tuesday (02 March), **ASEAN Ministers of Foreign Affairs** held an informal meeting to discuss Myanmar (among other subjects). Indonesia and Malaysia asked for the immediate release of detained civilian leaders. The Malaysian Foreign Minister proposed to send an ASEAN election expert group to settle the voter fraud claims of the Tatmadaw and urged to return to the negotiating table to solve the current political crisis. The Indonesian Foreign Minister also called on the Tatmadaw to open its doors to ASEAN while still holding to ASEAN’s “non-interference policy”. Yesterday, Vivian Balakrishnan, Singaporean Foreign Minister, also made a similar remark: “ASEAN can still play a constructive role in facilitating hopefully a return to normalcy and stability in Myanmar”, despite the non-interference of the organization.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE



STATEMENTS

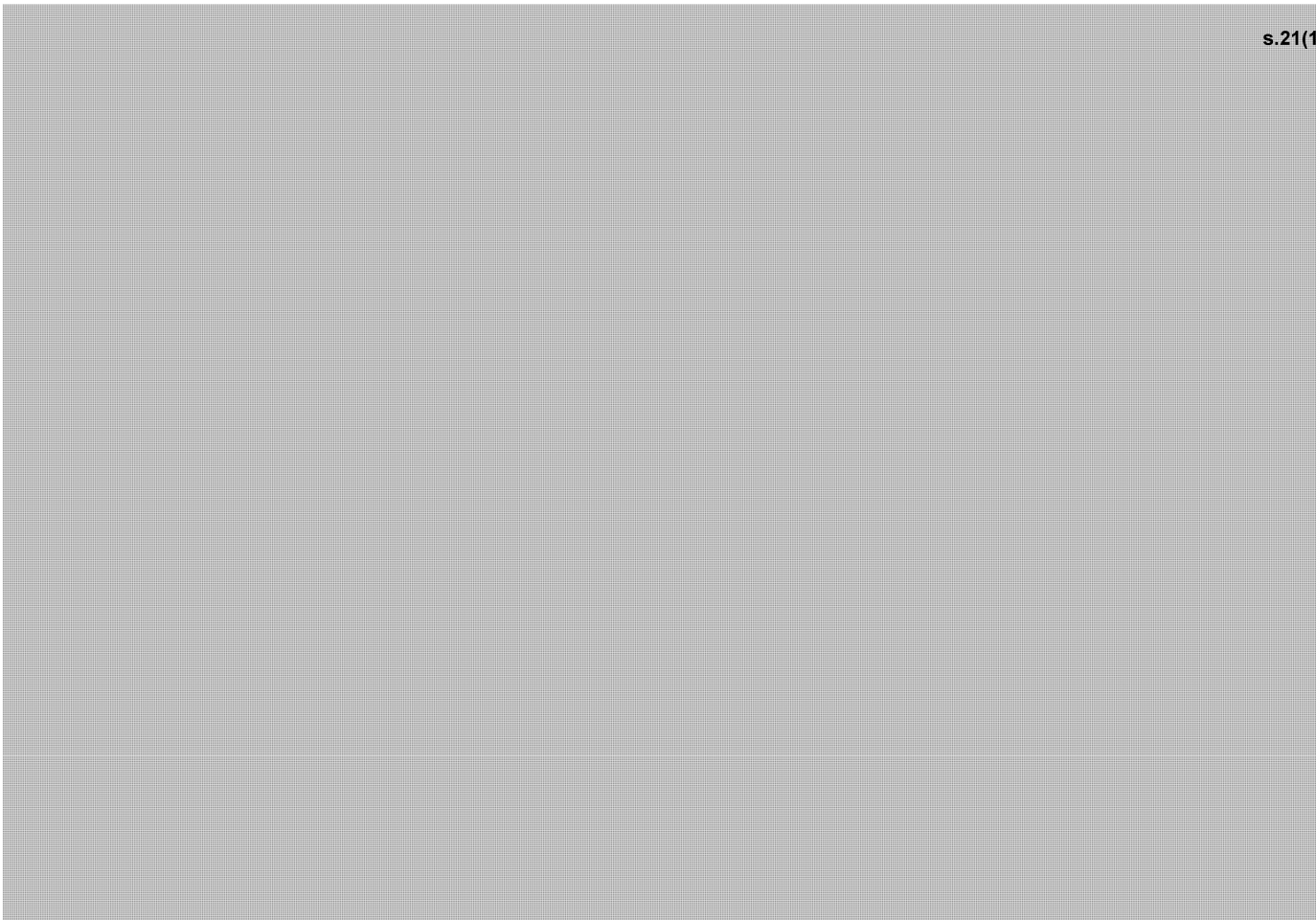
- Responding to violence on Wednesday, and along with the US, UK, and other like-minded missions (including New Zealand, Sweden, Netherlands, and Denmark), **YNGON** changed its social media banners to black in recognition of those killed. On [Facebook](#), the change has garnered ~3K reactions at the time of writing. Earlier Canadian statements responding to excessive use of force against protestors by security forces continue to generate local reactions; YNGON’s 28 Feb mission-level [statement](#) has ~7.5k reactions at the time of writing; Minister Garneau’s 1 March [statement](#), amplified on YNGON Facebook page, has garnered ~700 reactions (Minister Garneau’s statement was not translated into Burmese). Most comments are

cries for help from the international community, with some saying explicitly that action, not just words or statements, are urgently needed.

- The **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)**, established by the UN in September 2018, released a [bulletin](#) that reads they are collecting evidence of “the alleged use of excessive force against peaceful protesters”. The statement also says that they are cooperating International Criminal Court (ICC) and will share the evidence with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where Gambia is already suing Myanmar for the crime of genocide.
- On 01 March, the **General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC)** sent a [letter](#) to ASEAN Heads of State, noting “the Myanmar people are strongly against the countries that continue diplomatic ties with the military council and that interfere [with] the UN taking action against it”. The letter says all ASEAN Heads of State should acknowledge and engage only with the Committee Representing the Pyidungsu Hluttaw (CRPH).
- On 03 March, **over 450 Myanmar civil society organizations** signed an open [letter](#) to the UN Human Rights Council to request that the Security Council protect the peoples of Myanmar. Specifically, they urge the UN Security Council to 1) immediately dispatch an enhanced monitoring and intervention mission to Myanmar to stop the violence, prevent further bloodshed, and release all those arbitrarily detained; 2) impose targeted sanctions on military leaders, military-linked businesses and its partners; and 3) impose a coordinated, global arms embargo on Myanmar. They also ask the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the reports and papers of the UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and, in particular, its conference paper on the economic interests of the Tatmadaw.
- On 03 March, the **European Union** issued a [statement](#) condemning the continued violent repression of peaceful protesters by the Myanmar military and security forces, noting “clear breaches of international law” including unarmed civilians and medical workers being shot. The statement also characterizes the persecution and intimidation of media workers as unacceptable, and says there must be accountability and a return to democracy in Myanmar.

LIKE-MINDED ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.



COMING UP



- The Special Advisory Council – Myanmar (SAC-M, **REFTEL YNGON-650**) will hold an online press conference tomorrow (Friday), 14:30 YGN time, to introduce the work of the Council and address the urgent crisis in Myanmar. YNGON will view and report accordingly.

Drafted: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-GR, [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-AG, [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)

6 March

RESENDING with expanded distribution.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

Consulted: YNGON-TD, [REDACTED] YNGON-GR-Thu; [REDACTED]

Approved: HOM

Unofficial translation of above-linked Facebook post in Myanmar language by a Rohingya activist Ro Nay San Lwin:

Translation: The military terrorist group has hired Canadian-based former Israeli intelligence official to lobby for them in the United States and elsewhere.

As a Canadian-based lobbying organization, it violates Canadian sanctions.

Israel provided weapons and technology needed by the dictators. That is why this Israeli lobbyist agreed to lobby for unethical terrorists.

We need to go to the embassies of Canada and Israel and tell them to stop this lobbyist. The Israeli lobbyist has got a lot of money.

8 March

YNGON-567: Myanmar Coup Update 20 (March 8)

Happy International Women's Day!

Summary: Protests in Yangon over the weekend were amongst the smallest seen since the Feb 1 coup. As reported earlier they represent an emergent trend and shift away from the first month post-coup protest activities which were typified by large-scale protests and marches culminating in massive weekend protests. Over the past weekend, protests were small, with isolated pockets of violent confrontation in community-level wards, including daily use of tear gas, rubber bullets, flashbangs and sound grenades on the part of security forces to disperse them. After last weekend's "Bloody Sunday" and the violence on Wednesday, protests have been replaced with much smaller-scale but still violent confrontations. Security forces appear to be going after small groups of protesters sporting increasingly hardened PPE in community fortified areas, as well as CDM and NLD leaders in their wards, communities and residences.

Security forces appear to be now utilizing non-lethal, but excessive force including beatings, rubber bullets, flash bangs, sound grenades and detentions, timed at night to maximize fear and disruption.

Over the weekend, on Saturday, but particularly Sunday, **security forces intensified their nighttime activities**, appearing to utilize psychological and physical intimidation to cow protesters and break the CDM. Over the evening of Sunday night, between 9:30 -11:00 pm, security forces - predominately military - launched a coordinated operation across Yangon, and in several other cities, with groups comprising of between 15-20 TMD soldiers entering wards and occupying public hospitals and universities. Flashbangs and sound grenades were heard across the city. Analysis suggests that this move was both part of psyops and intimidation, but also operational: securing public buildings to embed and house TMD troops in problematic neighbourhoods to better control and disrupt the CDM, rather than necessitating daily movements to and from outlying bases and barracks.

At the time of writing, YNGON can confirm one death in Mandalay, and two in Myikkyina over the past three days. The use of force, and occupation of public spaces in Yangon while excessive and an escalation, was non-lethal. YNGON understands that the private hospitals remain currently unaffected and that the public hospitals have been "partially" occupied, ostensibly allowing the hospitals to continue to provide services. Some analysts suggest that TMD occupation in the hospitals will both put

pressure on the CDM (originators of which were from the public health sector), while also monitoring who is coming in for treatment – with concerns that activists or CDM leaders in need of medical care may avoid the public hospitals for fear of detention.

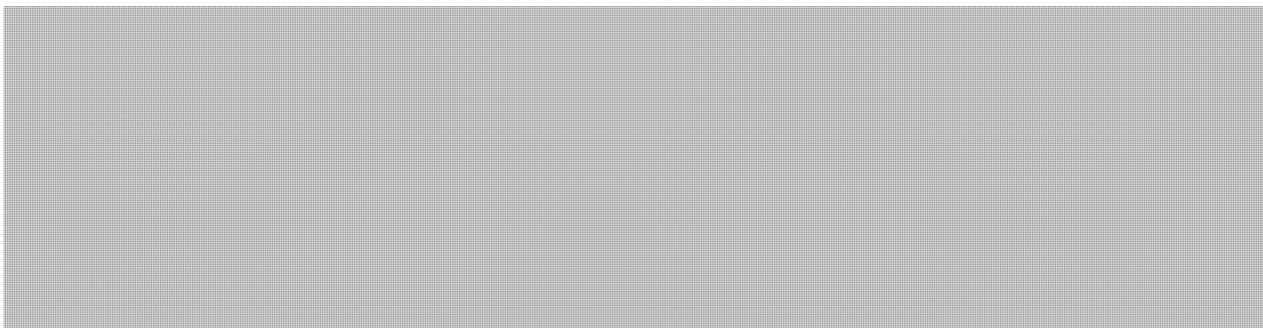
There are also disturbing reports of beatings and deaths of detainees, including an NLD ward chairman from Pabeda Township, Yangon, who was detained Saturday night. He reportedly died several hours later while in custody.

The weekend's nighttime activities of security forces, [REDACTED] as a mix of intimidation, control, and reducing the heft of the increasingly popular CDM and CRPH also served, [REDACTED] to "take back the night" on the eve of yet another general strike that has been called for by the General Strike Committee, the CDM and the CRPH for this week.

On **Monday March 8**, at the time of writing, **Yangon was quiet**. There were reports of small-scale protests in outlying townships of Yangon, including townships including Insein, Thaketa, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Thanlyin, North Oakalapa, Tamwe, Hlaing and Ahlone. According to Exera, security forces deployed early in the usual protest places in Yangon, before protestors arrived. They instructed them to disperse. Myanmar Now reported an ebb-and-flow pattern, with security forces dispersing the protestors, before the latter regrouped and gathered again. In spite of the permanent tension and occasional use of tear gas and stun grenades, no major episode of violence has been reported so far in Yangon today. It is expected that tensions will continue to ebb and flow over the coming days.

There are unconfirmed but credible reports of ongoing excessive use of force against protesters in Mandalay on Monday March 8, with reports of serious injuries, as well as large, peaceful protesters in Magway Region.

Several private banks including AYA, KBZ and MAB and a number of store fronts are closed today as a result of the general strike.



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM)

- Myanmar's civil disobedience movement continues, with resignation of several high-rank officials and more police officers in recent days. The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) is also advocating more forcefully for the CDM, prompting subsequent threats from the regime to take action against civil servants who refuse to return to work.
- Since Thursday, new additions to the country's CDM include the Principal of the Myanmar Mercantile Marine College, a prestigious institution in Myanmar; U Myint Zaw, the head of the Myanmar shipyard; 22 employees from the General Administration Department in Myitkyina (Kachin State); 111 civil servants working for (Tatmadaw) MRTV media channels; 76 civil servants from Myanmar Alin and Kyay Mone Newspapers; and 15 officers from Nay Pyi Taw's General Administration Department.
- A growing number of police officers are also joining the CDM, including 9 police officers from Putao (Kachin State); 2 police officers from Pakokku (Magway Region); 1 from Myitkyina (Kachin State); 40 officers from Tiddim (Chin State) and 18 officers in Mandalay. In recent days, information has circulated that a large group of Myanmar policemen reportedly crossed the Indian border to take refuge. According to Indian media, only 11 policemen were involved. According to The Irrawaddy, **more than 600 police officers** have joined the movement since 01 February. (**Comment:** As more police officers resign, it is increasingly likely that the Tatmadaw will deploy troops to replace them.)
- On 03 March, Dr. Zaw Wai Soe (CRPH-appointed Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population; Education; and Health and Sports) posted a Facebook message urging civil servants to join the CDM, stating that all civil servants should join the movement by 08 March, suggesting all those who refuse would "ignore people's interests". In this firm letter he added that "respective schools and administrative buildings will be occupied by the CDM, by civil servants, teachers, students and we will protest together with the people's government". In a rather rapid about-face, he announced this morning (Monday) that there is no more deadline for civil servants to join the CDM.
- On Sunday afternoon (07 March), the CRPH released a statement reading that civil servants joining the movement are following the law, while those who do not are acting in violation of the civil servant law, which dictates civil servants to be loyal to the people's government. Sunday evening, the CRPH abolished the Myanmar Police Force Maintenance of Discipline Law 4/1995, which

sanctions undiscipline and desertion by police officers. (In the last days, numerous police officers had pointed out this law was an obstacle for them to join the CDM.) CRPH member Htin Linn Aung posted on Facebook that Police and Soldiers who joined the CDM should immediately seek help from any Ethnic Armed Organisations according to instructions from CRPH authorities. (**Note:** Htin Linn Aung is not on the shortlist of the 15 CRPH founding members, but currently serves as the special representative of the CRPH's international relations office, according to BBC Burmese.)

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PHYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- In a letter dated **04 March** to the UN Secretary General, the CRPH Special Envoy to the UN, **Dr. SaSa**, urged the UN Security Council to uphold the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in accordance with the UN Charter; impose robust and targeted sanctions on military leaders and assets; establish a total arms embargo; and renounce the use of force against protestors and bring perpetrators of atrocities to justice. [REDACTED]
- On **05 March**, the CRPH released a formal announcement of its four-pronged “political vision”, including 1) ending the military dictatorship; 2) ensuring the unconditional release of all unlawful detainees, including President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; 3) achieving “full-fledged democracy” and 4) “rescinding” the 2008 Constitution and writing a new Constitution “based on the federal system”. The CRPH’s commitment to rescinding the 2008 Constitution - from which the CRPH derives its own legitimacy to govern – is significant insofar as it could serve to bridge the CRPH and NLD with other groups and factions of the country’s anti-coup movement, many of whom are protesting not just for the restoration of the NLD government under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, but for a dramatic re-making of the country’s political institutions.
- Sunday evening, the CRPH announced that township-scale administration committees of 11 members each have been set up in all the 44 townships of Yangon Region, except one (Coco Island). [REDACTED]

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- As of 07 March, According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), 1790 people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. 1472 are being actively persecuted in Burma (charged, sentenced, or outstanding arrest warrant). In recent days, this includes Thura U Aung Ko, the former minister for Culture and Religious Affairs under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi government, now charged for corruption under article 55 of the Penal Code; U Soe Nyut Lwin, Former Finance Minister for Shan State and U Ye Hlaing, NLD Chairman for Loilin Township (Shan State), arrested Friday night in Yangon; U Nyi Nyi Kyaw, one of the leaders of the 1988 protests in Mandalay, also arrested; and U Kyaw Thu,

the founder of the Free Funeral Service, as well as several members of his organization, sued under the article 505 A of the penal code, i.e. inciting to mutiny.

- Over the weekend, NLD community leaders appeared to have been the focus of some of the night-time raids and detentions. NLD ward chair for Pabedan Township was detained after being beaten at his home at the point of detention. His family was notified to retrieve his body from Mingaladon military hospital the following day. His body bore marks indicating a severe beating, and possibly torture while under detention. A second NLD leader is also reported to have succumbed to injuries sustained after detention [REDACTED]
- In Shan State's Muse Township, the brutalised body of a 43-year-old protester was returned to his family on March 5, after being arrested during protests on February 28.
- The former Shan State finance minister was arrested during the Saturday night police raids in Yangon. Soe Nyunt Lwin's arrest was confirmed by notice in state media, which said he was nabbed at a house in South Okkalapa Township, after going into hiding following charges under section 505b of the Penal Code on February 16. It also said legal action would be taken against those who sheltered him.
- On March 5, an NLD member and his 17-year-old nephew were reportedly hacked to death by a mob of military supporters in Magway's Pwintbyu Township, with two others injured. Media is reporting that one of the attackers was a failed USPD candidate.
- As with last week, multiple reports suggested that police were continuing to stop vehicles and pedestrians and asking to see their social media activity. Reportedly, individuals with political activity (specifically anti-regime activity) had their phones taken away or were arrested.
- Other announcements include the persecution of Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, CRPH-named acting minister of health, education, labour and immigration under 505 (a). He was also charged under Article 122 of the Penal Code for high treason (this charge can carry death penalty or life imprisonment), Win Ko Ko Thein, the deputy director of the health ministry's human resource department and social influencer under 505 (a) and Telecommunication Law, and founder of the Free Funeral Service Association, Kyaw Thu and Shwe Zee Kwet under 505 (a) for supporting the CDM. The state paper also said that those who are involved in CPRH can be charged with high treason and sentenced to death, transportation for life or 22 years in prison. Those who support the CRPH or communicate with the CRPH can face seven years in prison under section 124D of the Penal Code for disrupting or hindering Tatmadaw or government employees.
- Some NLD MPs that voted to establish the CRPH, and/or continue to support its activities, sometimes also referred to as CRPH "members", have been arrested, including at least two in Yangon on 07 March. The shortlist of CRPH founding members (17) all have outstanding warrants for their arrest under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, but are, at the time of writing, safe and secure.

SUPPLY CHAINS

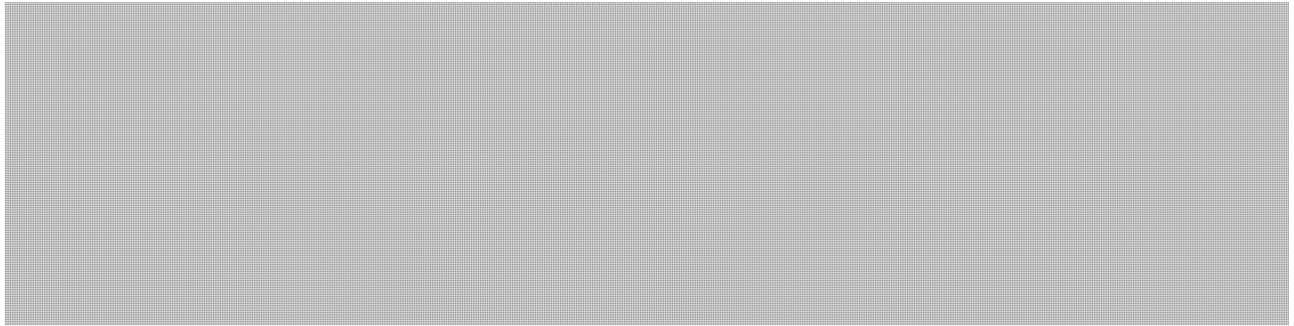
- On Friday (05 March), the Central Bank of Myanmar released an order urging all private bank to reopen by 8 March, claiming (Tatmadaw) authorities would provide security. The statement adds that banks which would not comply with that order would be sanctioned. Despite the official instruction to resume operation, many private banks remain closed in Yangon, with reports that some ATMs are temporarily out of cash. In Rakhine State, however, some branches of private banks reopened.
- YNGON and other LMs are watching supply chains and the banking situation closely.

s.17

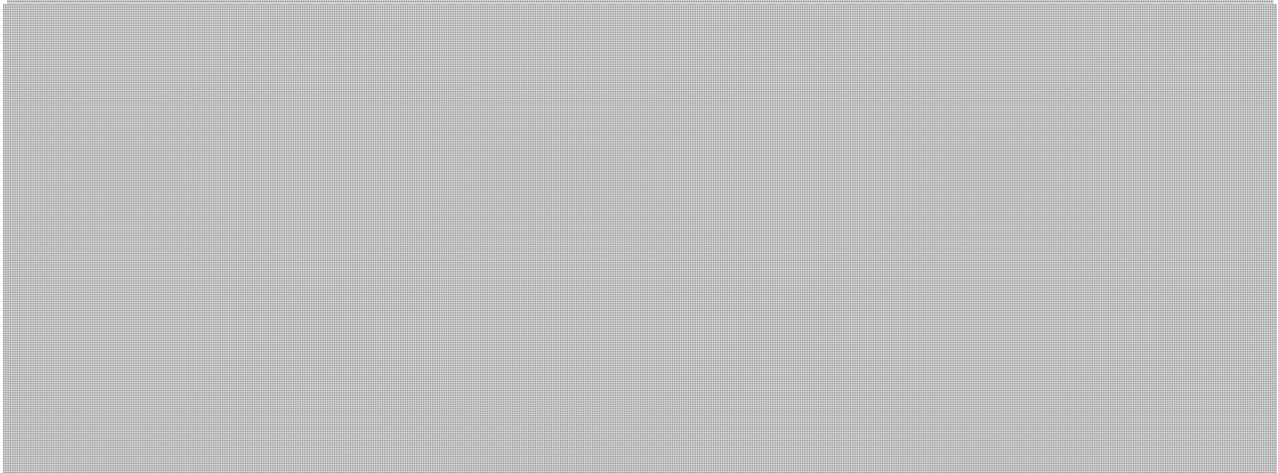
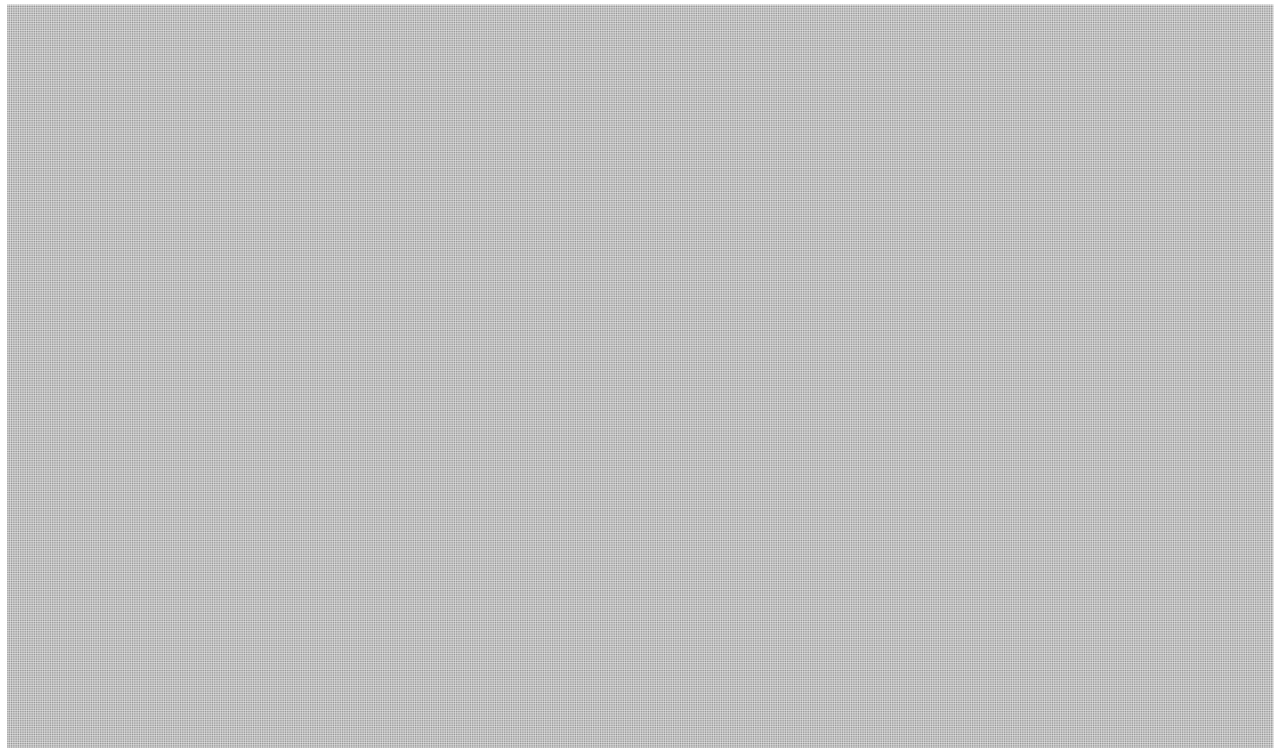
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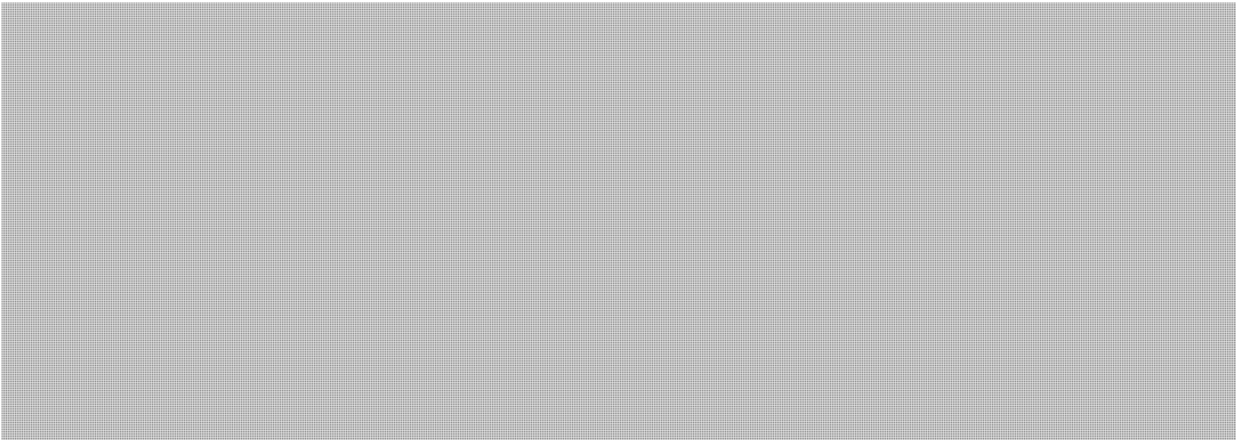
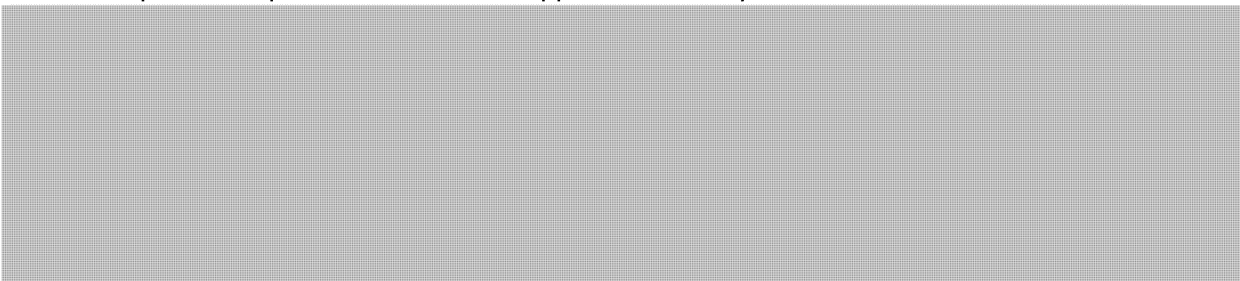
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CYBER SECURITY



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



- 
- Also on 05 March, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced further restrictions to constrain the Burmese military regime's access to U.S. goods and technology, calling for the restoration of democracy in Burma. The press release by the U.S. Department of Commerce in response to the military coup and escalating violence against peaceful protesters in Burma can be found here: <https://go.usa.gov/xsUXa>
 - Also on Friday, Reuters reported the European Union has suspended its support for development projects in Myanmar to avoid providing financial assistance to the military. The EU informed a committee of the World Trade Organization on Thursday that it had put on hold all development cooperation that would support the military authorities.
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STATEMENTS

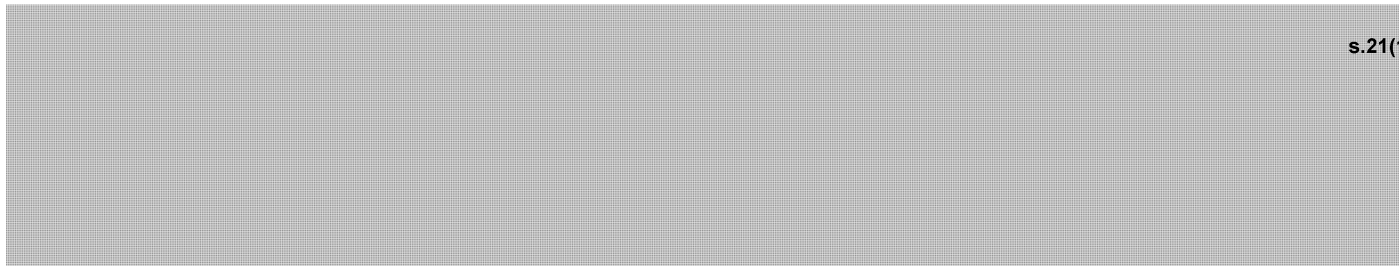
- On 05 March, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) released a statement on ASEAN (attached), noting that “ASEAN’s non-interference policy is currently having a tremendous negative effect on the lives and liberty of people in Burma”. The statement expresses concern about reported “daily contact” between Singapore and the junta-designated Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin, saying “any action which provides legitimacy to the military is not in line with the desires of people in Burma”.
- **Physicians for Human Rights** issued a statement on March 8, confirming security forces present in Yangon General Hospital, West Yangon General Hospital, North Okkalapa Waibargi Specialist Hospital, South Okkalapa Women and Children’s Hospital, East Yangon General Hospital and Central Women’s Hospital and stating that they were “appalled by this latest wave of violence by the Myanmar military, including the invasion and occupation of public hospitals and wanton excessive force against civilians” and calling the occupation of hospitals “a violation of international law”.
- The **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)**, established by the UN in September 2018, released a [bulletin](#) on March 8 that clarified that their mandate includes the current situation, stating that they are collecting evidence of “the alleged use of excessive force against peaceful protesters” and cooperating International Criminal Court (ICC) and the

International Court of Justice (ICJ. [REDACTED])

- On 08 March, Australia issued a statement announcing the suspension of military cooperation and redirecting development aid to humanitarian assistance through non-government organisations exclusively. Australia called for the release of political prisoners, including detained citizen Sean Turnell, who served as an economic advisor to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and committed to reviewing their sanctions regime.
- On 08 March, Myanmar Women Human Rights Defenders (comprised of five Myanmar CSOs) issued a letter to “Admirable Sisters” on the occasion of International Women’s Day, asking readers to speak out for the urgent protection of women and girls in Burma/Myanmar and the restoration of democracy. More specifically, they urge the UN, ASEAN, regional governments and the international community to take immediate action against the military coup; urge all governments not to legitimize the military regime and do everything possible to limit its revenue; urge all parties to stop the assault and harassment of women protestors and release those arbitrarily detained; and institute a global arms embargo.

LIKE-MINDED ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.



s.21(1)(b)

Drafted: YNGON-GR, [redacted] YNGON-GR, [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-DA, [redacted] YNGON-AG/ [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-CS, [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

10 March

REFTEL: YNGON-567,566, 565, 564, 560

Summary: As referenced in YNGON 567, the TMD has again shifted tactics with a focus on nighttime raids on wards and townships to dismantle and break the Civil Disobedience (CDM) movement and maximize fear and intimidation, with an apparent move away from use of live rounds and lethal force in Yangon.


Report: TMD's nighttime activities accelerated over the past weekend with a spike in detentions and the occupation of public hospitals and schools in wards across the city (REFTEL-567). This continued on Monday evening. At approximately 9:30 pm, well after the start of the 8:00 pm curfew, Myanmar social media lit up with reports that the Tatmadaw had blocked off wards within Sanchaung township (approximately 4.5km to the west of SQs), corralling approximately 200, mostly young, protesters, CSO, CDM and General Strike Committee (GSC) leaders in the area who were unable to escape and who were hiding in the wards of the township— [REDACTED]

There was a heightened security forces presence. The TMD encircled the area, blocking all exit points, and began conducting house to house searches and raids looking for protesters and families who were in violation of the regime's household guest registration law that requires that all guests be registered. The group was unable to leave the area and many were sheltering in residences, with fear of a bloody crackdown particularly after the 1:00 am internet shutdown.

In a dramatic show of courage and solidarity, citizens across Yangon poured out onto the streets late evening, defying *en masse* the nightly curfew for the first time since the coup, aiming to distract and pull security forces away from Sanchaung. Security forces eventually withdrew in the early hours of the morning, allowing most of those blocked to escape.

Reports indicate that between 50-60 protesters were detained, most of whom have been subsequently released, many on March 11. The arrests were random. In some apartments, those who are residing in that apartment were arrested although they did not find any protestor. One of the detainees wrote of his experience on social media. He was not a protestor but a resident in the area who was swept up in the detentions. During his arrest, he said, one of the soldiers said "if we were in Buthidaung [Rakhine Rohingya community], we would have killed at least three people already." One protester stated that their case went up to Ministry of Home Affairs and MoHA minister came and spoke with detainees prior to their release. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

International Response: Real-time social media calls for help on Monday evening went viral, and included direct calls to the international community for **direct physical diplomatic protection on site** as a visible diplomatic presence to deter force. Multiple diplomatic missions, including Canada, the US, EU, UK, Germany, France and UN in Myanmar issued statements on social media calling for restraint and for protesters to be allowed to leave the area, which received a largely positive response. YNGON's Facebook post on the events has 10.4K interactions and the Twitter post on YNGON's new account has 6,373 retweets and 5,755 likes. YNGON's statement on media freedoms – also posted on Monday evening with the announcement that five domestic media outlets had been stripped of their licences and offices raided, has 377 retweets and 475 likes on Twitter and 5.2K interactions on FB. The statements of the international community issued while the crisis was unfolding, were credited by some as contributing to the eventual withdrawal of the TMD in the early morning of Tuesday, allowing most of those in hiding to escape, as well as the absence of use of lethal force or violence as had been feared. Community members have been quoted in domestic press that they were concerned that the police would go into all the apartments and look for the protestors, but because of the international pressure and protest around the city, in the end, security forces in the end checked only a few houses and apartments on the main road



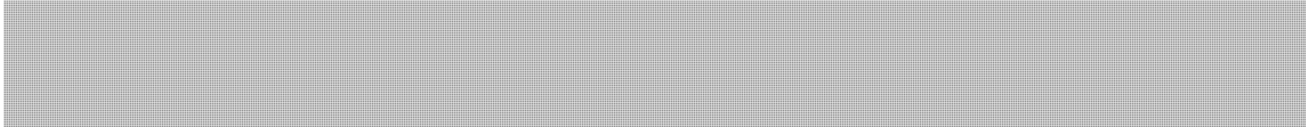
Apparent SF Restraint: Since last week's *Bloody Sunday* and use of lethal force a week ago on Wednesday March 3, **daytime protests (size and number) and daytime violence have both diminished** in Yangon. The security forces have ramped up their nighttime intimidation tactics and detentions, but appear to have reverted to non-lethal force on instruction. They are also disrupting the smaller day-time protests and entering communities at night, forcibly with flashbangs, rubber bullets, physically destroying (sometimes burning) community erected barricades, and corralling, detaining and often beating small groups of hard-core protesters, who (as previously reported), have been instructed to retreat and melt away into surrounding streets if confronted. Focus has shifted from city-center and former protest sites and daytime mass gatherings, to targeting smaller protests or disrupting "agitating" neighbourhoods in outlying residential communities and wards after curfew. Security forces are clearly targeting CDM leaders and active and defiant wards and townships, and are embedding forces within those communities. Today for example, security forces targeted resilient and defiant CDM railway employees by raiding the Myanmar Railways locomotive shed in downtown Yangon, with at least four people detained. Detentions have increased with more than 1930 individuals detained since Feb1 according the AAPP.

The extensive coordination of the Sunday's take over of public hospitals in Yangon and several areas of the country and the mode of operations and tactics suggests continued high-level of command and control, that, for the time being, includes restraint in terms of use of lethal force. **Security forces do not appear to have used live rounds in Yangon on Monday or over the past week, since March**

3. Domestic media has reported that SF have been instructed to refrain from use of lethal force given the public outcry domestically and the international scrutiny and condemnation that last week's violence generated. Recent international calls for restraint have gone

There are also indications that Tatmadaw is looking to consolidate and legitimize its control in advance March 27's Resistance Day and April 1, the day the elected government was set to resume in parliament. Whether they seek to do this by a continued show of restraint and reasserting their *earlier business as usual* narrative, relaxation of some restrictions (ie reduction of internet shutdown hours with resumption of internet now at 6:30 rather than 9:0 am) and reasserting their assumed mantle of the protectors of a Bamar Buddhist Myanmar, or by further violent crackdowns, intolerance of dissent and protest, further targeting of CDM/CRPH leadership, increasing restrictions, or efforts to hobble/dismantle the CDM remains to be seen, and merit careful monitoring. The State Counsellor's next hearing is another potential flashpoint.

Conclusion: While the current apparent **restraint and reduction of lethal force after a sharp increase in targeted violence last week is notable**, the ongoing actions of the regime against its own citizens continue to include actions of grave concern and human rights violations. Security forces have been utilizing flashbangs, stun grenades, beatings and rubber bullets against small and targeted groups of protesters in their residential neighbourhoods and communities to devastating effect. Beatings at the point of detention have been documented and reports of beatings and torture while in detention, including two confirmed deaths are of serious and continued concern. YNGON has previously reported on the death of two NLD party members who were arrested at night and died while in detention. CDM leaders and social media activists are also raising alarm about a higher number of "missing people" with increased "missing" notices posted on social media. Protests in towns and cities outside of Yangon also continue, including in Mandalay, Myitkyina, and Dawei where there have been reports of excessive use of force on the part of security forces. HRDs and media (five organization of which were stripped of their licences on Monday)



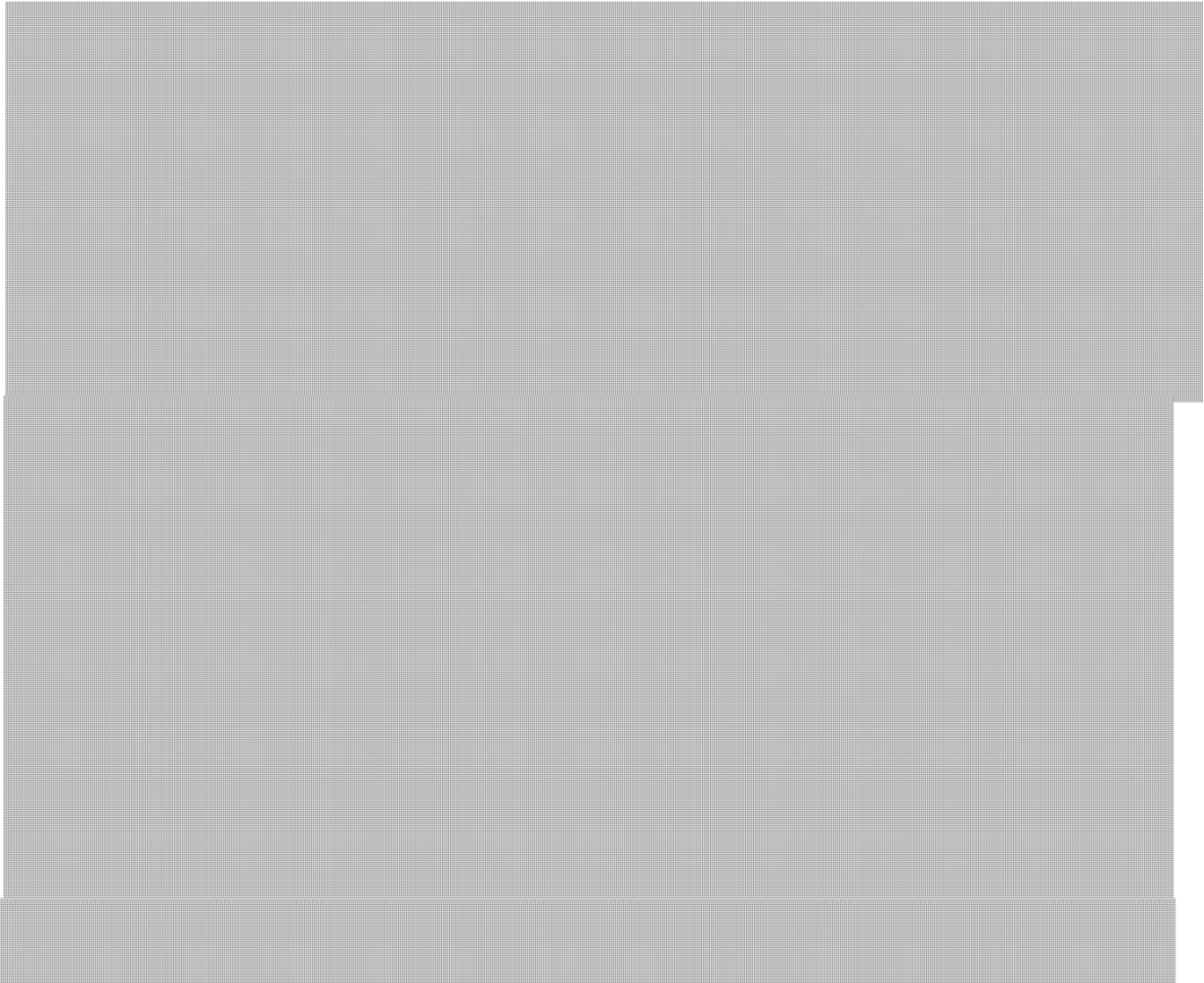
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<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/japan-urges-myanmar-regime-stop-violence-free-detained-leaders.html>

<https://twitter.com/canembmyanmar/status/1368934667026526217?s=21>

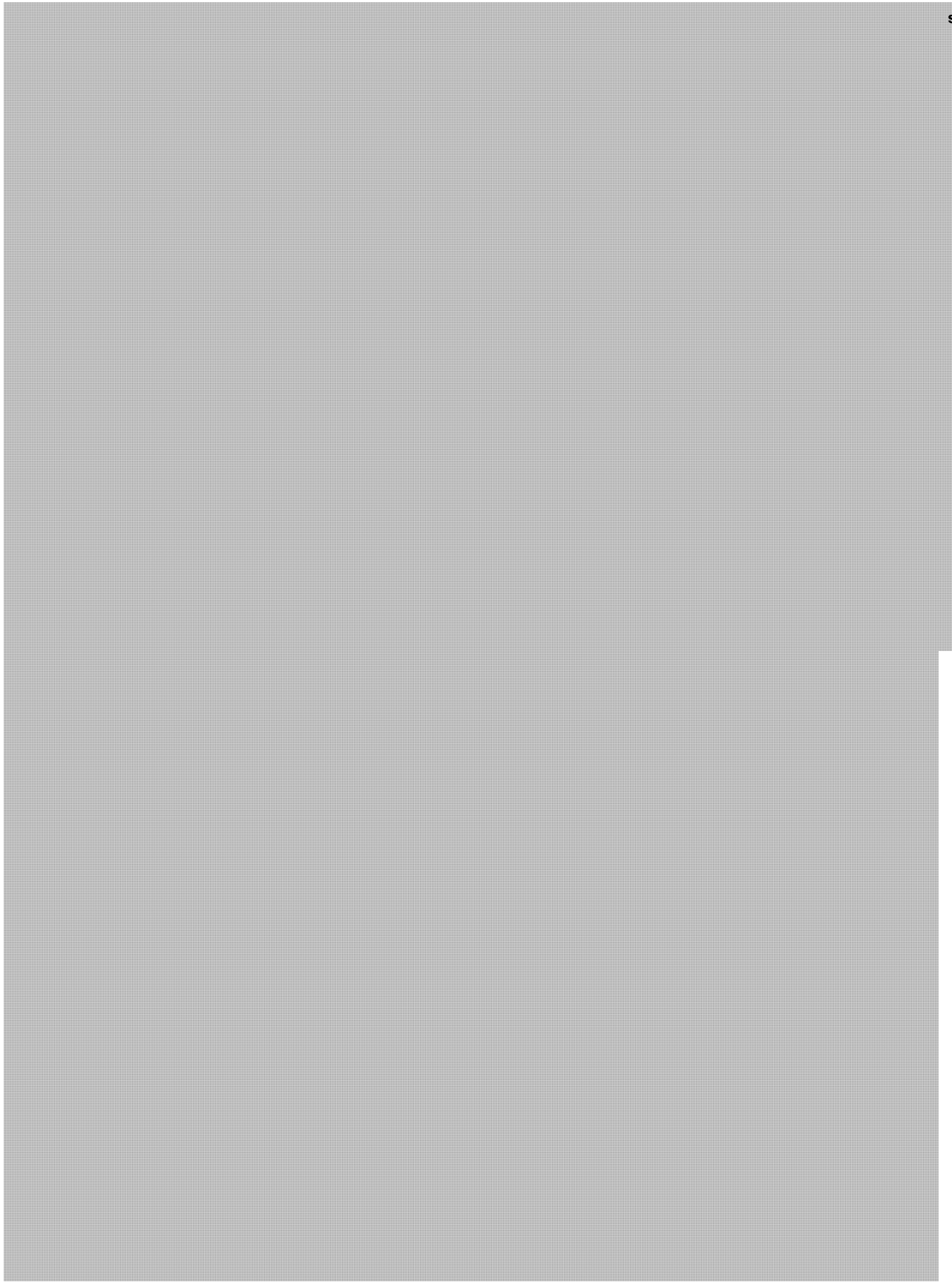
<https://twitter.com/canembmyanmar/status/1368938211662196738?s=21>

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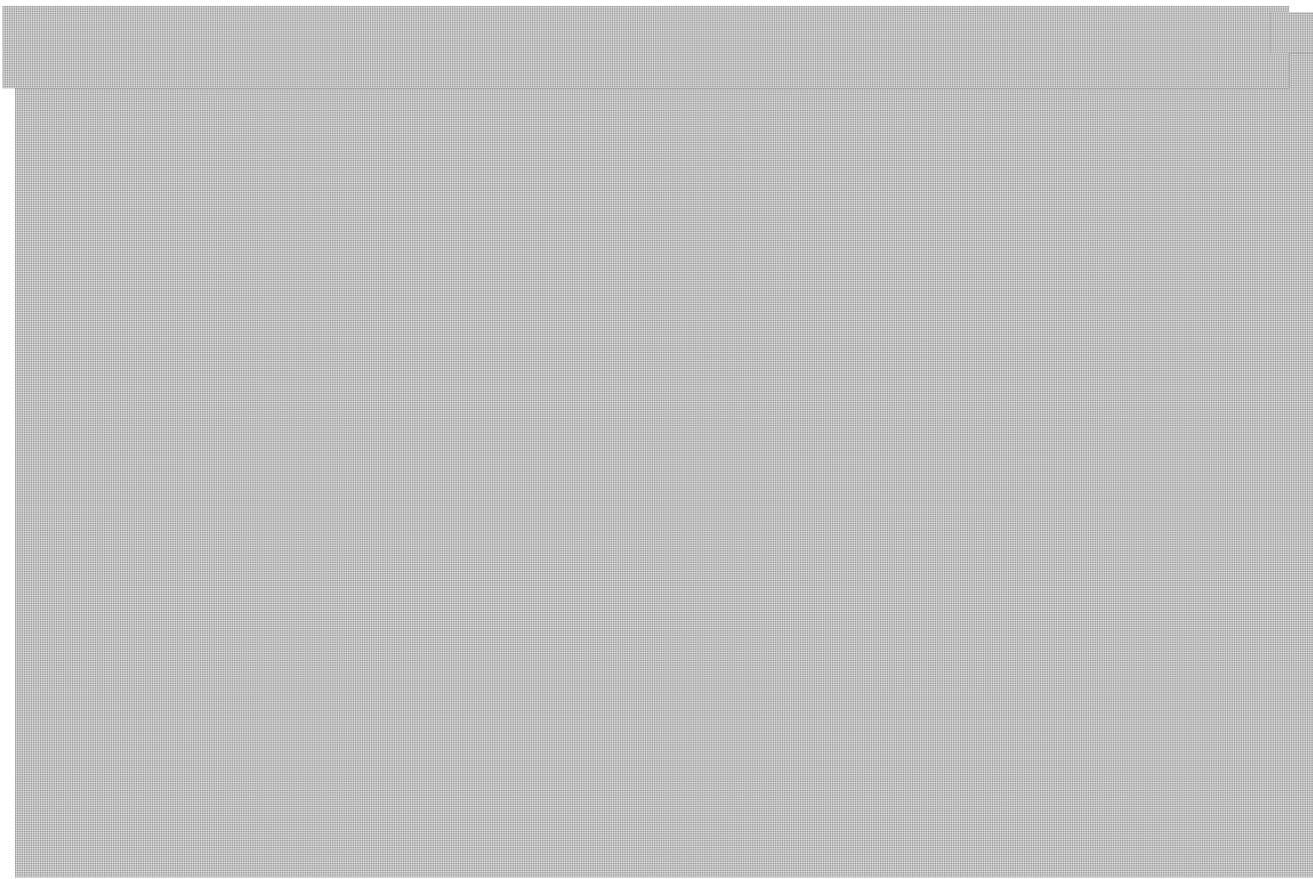


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Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

11 March

s.15(1) - International

s.17

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YNGON-572: MYANMAR Coup Update 21 (March 11)

s.21(1)(b)

Summary: Today has been a violent one in Myanmar, with reports of security forces killing at least 8 protestors across the country, including 6 in Myaing (Magway Region), 1 in Mandalay and 1 in Yangon (North Dagon) with live rounds. This is the most violent day in Myanmar after February 28 (at least 18 killed) and March 3 (at least 21 killed). In total, more than 60 protestors have been killed since the 01 Feb coup d'état, concentrated in Yangon (15+), Mandalay Region (14) and Sagaing Region (10).

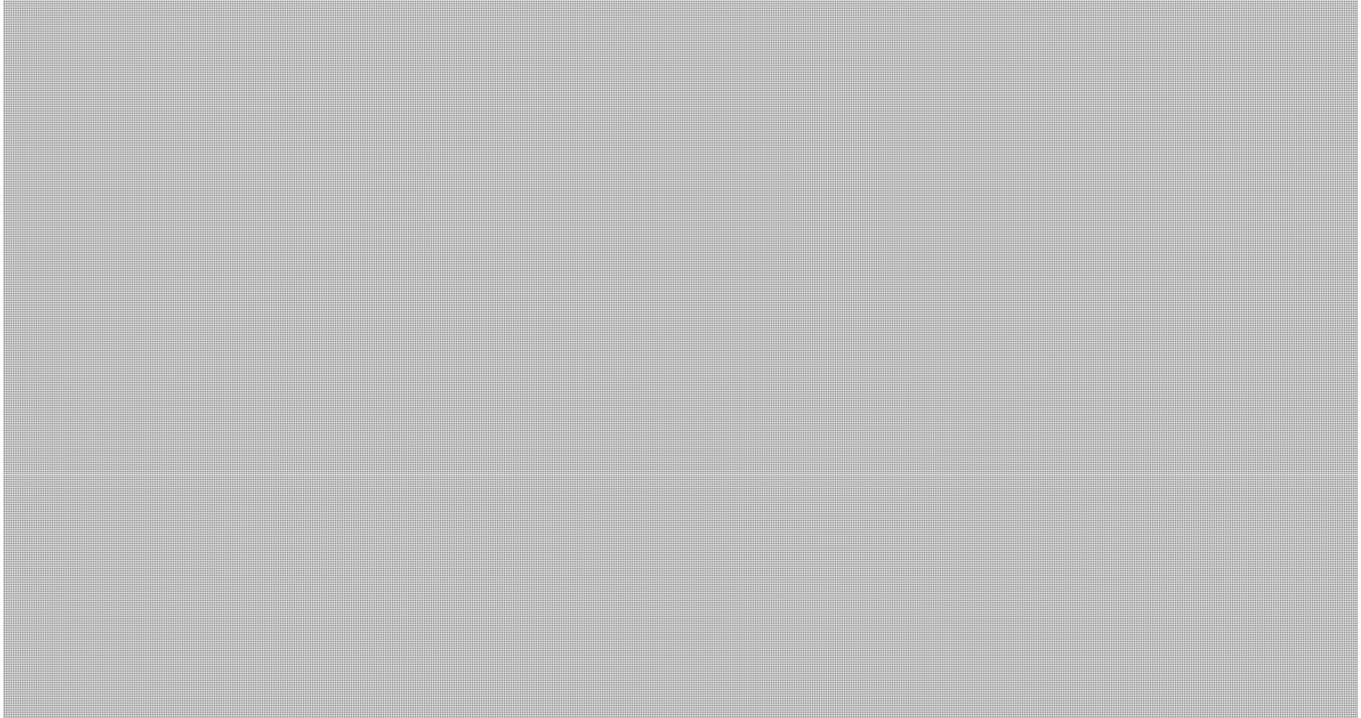
At the time of writing, small protests continue in some parts of Yangon, including North Dagon (where one person was reportedly killed earlier today). Approximately 50 protestors have also gathered in Sanchuang, another popular protest site. [REDACTED]

Police broke up a protest in North Okkalapa (Yangon) yesterday with tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds before arresting up to 300 protestors. Tensions continued after curfew, with reports of security forces barricading township exits and entrances, suggesting possible raids and arrests overnight. Security forces used rubber bullets and sound grenades, [REDACTED]

Otherwise, daytime protests in Yangon this week were much reduced in both size and number of locations. Security forces in Yangon this week deployed to usual protest places and dispersed protestors with excessive but non-lethal force, including tear gas, rubber bullets, beatings and reports of beatings while detained. Security forces implemented more nighttime operations and raids, targeting protestors, activists, and (real or perceived) civil disobedience and political leaders, after the 20h00 curfew to maximize fear and disruption (**REFTEL YNGON-567; 570**). After revoking the publishing licenses of five media outlets on Monday, the regime also raided at least two media offices this week, arresting two people in the process.

The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) continued domestic outreach this week, advertising talks with some ethnic armed organizations, including NCA signatories, on social media. The Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and Karen National Union (KNU) have both indicated support for civil servants participating in the civil disobedience movement (CDM). There have been a number of clashes between the Tatmadaw and KNU in recent days, and today the Tatmadaw announced that it no longer considered the Arakan Army (AA) a terrorist organization.

Development and humanitarian program implementing partners are increasingly concerned about the emerging impact of the military coup on the food security and health of the population. Negative changes on supply chains have been observed in Myanmar, including increasing prices of food staples and fuel, a very disrupted banking system due to the ongoing CDM, as well as the suspension of service provision to poor or vulnerable populations in health and nutrition. It is still too early to assess the impact on specific projects and/or partners.



PROTESTS

- In Yangon yesterday, security forces also deployed near Ma Hlwa Gone Railway Compound, patrolling the streets and clearing barricades. (**Note:** Ma Hlwa Gone railway workers are widely involved in the civil disobedience movement.) Tension remained very high throughout the day, with Frontier reporting that security forces evicted more than 1,000 rail workers and their families from their government-provided accommodation, arresting at least three staff.
- Prior to today's violence, there have been few reports of significant violence, casualties or deaths among protestors across the country since the previous report on Monday (when two people were killed in Myitkyina and one person died in Ayeyarwady Region's Pyapon township). In Dawei (Tanintharyi Region) on Tuesday night, tear gas grenades were reportedly deployed into a house, and one person was injured. In Sagaing Region, Exera reports that a 22-year-old boy was killed during (unspecified) incidents in Sagaing Township.
- Police used tear gas, sound grenades, and/or rubber bullets to disperse protestors in Loikaw (Kayah State), Mohnyin Township (Kachin State); Myeik (Tanintharyi Region); and Myingyan (Mandalay Region). There were reported arrests in Taungoo (Bago) and Kyaukme (Shan State).

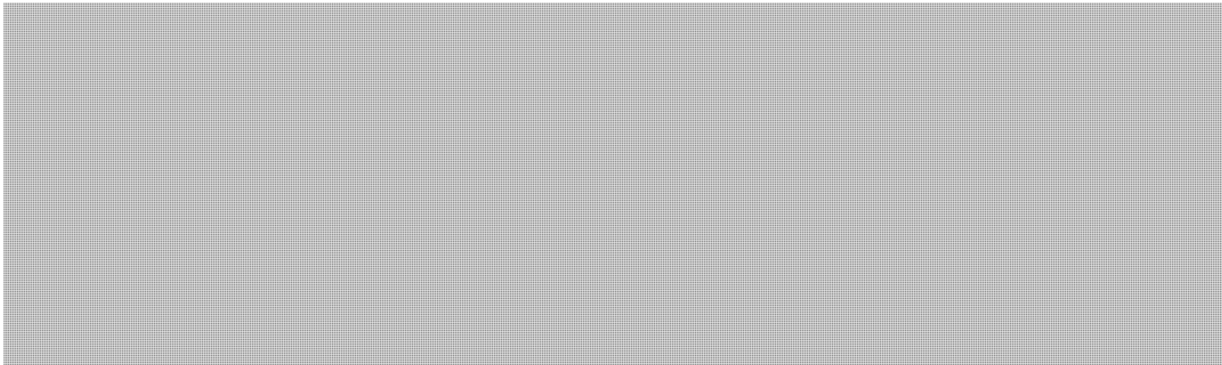
Other protests took place in at least a dozen other Myanmar cities but no significant violence was reported.

- The Myanmar Police Force announced this week that "actions will be taken against printing and photocopy services" that support the protests. Many of these shops have been printing out protest signs, pictures of Min Aung Hlaing's face, and other documents to be used during demonstrations. The police also pledged to take action against protesters who hang "women's clothes and sanitary products on the road while they are protesting" claiming the practice is disrespectful to monks and Buddhism. (The protest tactic preys on the misogyny and superstition of security forces, many of whom believe that walking under these items will affect their masculinity.)
- Myanmar police officers who fled to India to avoid taking orders from the junta told Reuters this week that they were specifically ordered to shoot and kill protesters. "Shoot till they are dead," one officer said a superior demanded, telling him to use his submachine gun to disperse protesters in the Sagaing Region town of Khampat.

MEDIA

- Monday night, state-owned MRTV channel announced that the regime had revoked the license of 5 media outlets – namely, **Mizzima**, **DVB**, **Myanmar Now**, **Khit Thit** and **7 Days**. The junta announcement said these outlets have been "banned from publishing or broadcasting" with any "media or technology", an apparent blanket ban on reporting of any kind. **Khit Thit** and **Mizzima** have both already announced they will continue reporting despite the ban, while **Myanmar Now** and **DVB** are continuing to post regular updates. **7Day News**, on the other hand, appears to have bowed out (at least for now).
- Also on Monday, the police searched the offices of **Myanmar Now** media (Pabedan Township). The following day, police searched the office of **Kamayut media** (Kamayut Township). **U Nay Than Maung**, editor-in-chief, and **U Han Thar Nyein**, co-founder, were also arrested. Later in the afternoon, police also searched the office of **Mizzima Media**; offices were empty at that moment. (On Monday, YNGON posted a tweet on the importance of a free and independent press to any safe and prosperous society, garnering 377 retweets and 483 "likes").
- Independent newspaper **Daily Eleven** announced it is temporarily suspending publication, apparently a voluntary measure, but likely the result of military pressure or fear of punishment. Four of the country's biggest daily papers are now no longer publishing, after **Daily Eleven** and **The Voice** voluntarily suspended and **7Day News Daily** was ordered to shut down. In mid February, Myanmar Times has also announced the suspension of operations for three months, leaving **Standard Time** as the sole privately run daily.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)



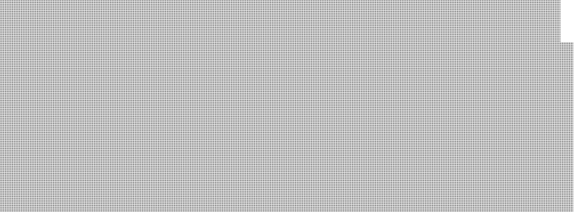
- Also on Tuesday, the CRPH announced that they selected **U Mann Win Khaing Than**, former Upper House Speaker, as their acting Vice-President. As former President U Win Myint is not in capacity to carry out his duty, the acting Vice-President will assume his role. An ethnic Karen member of the NLD, U Mann Khaing Than served as speaker for the upper house of parliament prior to the coup. On Wednesday, the police searched the U Mann Win Khaing Than's house in Myawaddy (Kayin State); there are no reports of subsequent arrests.
- At a videoconference held Wednesday with the CRPH, the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) offered to welcome public servants, including government employees, police officers and soldiers involved in the civil disobedience movement. The RCSS and other NCA signatories reject the coup and do not accept Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing. (**Note:** the Karen National Union, also an NCA signatory, has also pledged to protect civil servants and others opposing the military coup.)
- The CRPH revealed this week that they have filed a lawsuit against the State Administration Council (SAC) under articles 122 (high treason) and 124 (a) (sedition) of the Penal Code at the Supreme Court earlier this month (04 March).


STATE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL (SAC)

- On Tuesday (09 March), the **Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement**, led by regime Minister Daw Thet Thet Khine, called a meeting to discuss extending of the Memoranda of Understanding for 5 INGOs in Myanmar: Mercy Corps Myanmar, Child Fund Myanmar, Trocaire, People in Need Myanmar and Christian Aid Myanmar. All five organisations quickly released statements clarifying that they were not at the meeting and have made no agreements with the military government. Trocaire and Childfund went a step further, declaring they “stand with the people of Myanmar in this time of great distress”. Trocaire also referred to the officials as “those currently taking on the roles of the Ministry of Social Welfare”, an apparent refusal to recognise their legitimacy. According to state media, the (regime) Minister told meeting participants (mostly bureaucrats) that cooperation with international organizations provides technical assistance and financial assistance, adding that “it is necessary to make a list of how effective each organization is and what activities are being carried out in order to report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council”.

- The State Administration Council held a press conference this afternoon (11 March), which local and international media (or what's left of them) were invited to attend. Key points include:
 - **Detained State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi:** The regime said many people were being questions and facts verified over (unspecified) offenses (potentially flagging more charges to come). The Tatmadaw allege that she was found to have illegally accepted USD 600,000 and gold, and made other references to financial irregularities in foundations run by ASSK and the NLD. (**Note:** The next hearing for State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi is scheduled for Monday, March 15 - REFTTEL YNGON-560).
 - **Current state of emergency:** the spokesman said the military council will only be in control of the country for a certain period of time before an election, but he left uncertain how long that period of time would be.
 - **Civil disobedience movement:** The spokesman said "most staff" are coming back to work, saying that 96 people have been prosecuted for supporting the CDM to date. He acknowledged that the health sector has been hit particularly hard.
 - **Third-party mediation / election monitoring:** The spokesman rejected the idea of the United Nations or ASEAN auditing voter lists and ballots, saying that their (the junta's) Union Election Commission is adequate.

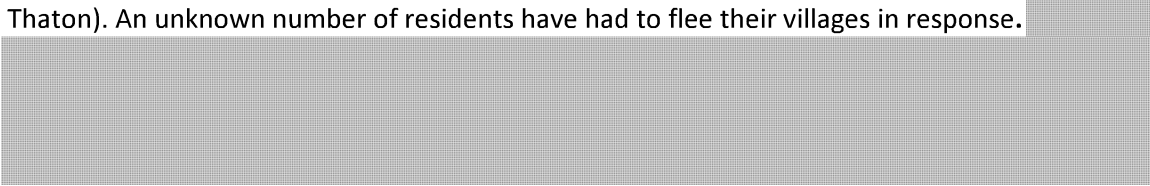
ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that **2008** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. Some have been released since then; **1689** are being actively prosecuted (charged, sentenced, or outstanding arrest warrant). Recently released protesters have recounted tales of beatings while in custody to The Irrawaddy, including with pipes, wooden sticks and chains. Photos alleging beatings and mistreatment in custody continue to circulate widely on social media.
- On Monday night, state-owned MRTV quoted Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing (MAL) as saying that "an attempt to flee the country by the former government's foreign economic adviser, Sean Turnell, was stopped in time and secret state financial information was found through him". MAL indicated that (regime) Union-level ministers are taking legal actions in response, but formal charges are still pending. 
- A third National League for Democracy party member has died in custody after being arrested in a late night raid. **Zaw Myat Linn**, head of the Suu Vocational Institute, and member of a newly-established CRPH Township Administration Team, was arrested early Tuesday morning and his family was informed of his death in the afternoon. The family said he had a large wound to his abdomen, which the military claimed he sustained while trying to escape. The junta has reportedly refused to hand over the body.

- Two officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director General U Chan Aye and Assistant Director U Soe Thura, were arrested Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw. They are accused of leaking confidential information about talks between Myanmar and China on the security of the Kyaukphyu – Kunming pipelines (**REFTEL-567**). 

- A court hearing for detained Mandalay chief minister Zaw Myint Maung was held on Monday via videoconference, during which his lawyer requested an in-person hearing for the next session, scheduled on March 17; Detained Magway Region Chief Minister Aung Moe Nyo appeared before a court via video link Tuesday, facing an incitement charge under section 505(b) of the Penal Code.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

- There have been increasing reports of clashes between the Karen National Liberation Army (armed wing of the Karen National Union) and the Tatmadaw, with five incidents on Tuesday alone (in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State, Thaton and Kyaikto townships in Mon State, and in other “areas under control of Brigade 1 of the KNLA”, according to a KNU member based in Thaton). An unknown number of residents have had to flee their villages in response. 
- Khit Thit Media is reporting that Taungoo Air Base (Bago Region, at the foot of Kayin hills) was targeted by 4 rockets Wednesday night. No casualties were reported and. No information has been released about the perpetrators. Such attack is uncommon in Myanmar’s lowlands.
- The regime has officially revoked the “terrorist” label once designated to the Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic armed group fighting for greater autonomy in Rakhine State. The military's reason, announced in state-run media today, was that the AA has ceased terrorist activities. Last year’s order said the AA incited “fears and threats” to civilians in northern Rakhine State, attacked the military, police and security outposts and used civilians as human shields. Fighting between the two groups ended in the weeks before the November 2020 general election, ostensibly to allow voting to take place in townships where elections had been cancelled due to insecurity and violence.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Regime Foreign Affairs Minister **Wunna Maung Lwin** met the **Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar** in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. While Myanmar state TV said the meeting was about

strengthening bilateral ties, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Japan's statement, which was also posted to Facebook, infuriated social media users by referring to Wunna Maung Lwin as "foreign minister", something Indonesia had specifically avoided doing. [REDACTED]

- **Vice-Senior General Soe Win** also spoke with the **Head of the European Union Military Staff** via videoconference on Tuesday (09 March). State media reports they discussed efforts of the SAC for the rule of law and community peace in accordance with the Constitution; handling protests in accordance with the stipulations, the implementation of five future work plans of the council and COVID-19 vaccination programs.
- On Monday, **U Kyaw Zwar Minn**, Myanmar Ambassador to UK released a statement pledging loyalty to the former civilian government and urging for the release of the detained civilian leaders. Dominic Raab, UK Foreign Secretary endorsed the statement. Shortly thereafter, **U Htin Lin Aung**, International Representative of the CRPH stated that the Ambassador's statement criticized the statement for not showing full support to the people and to the CDM. On Wednesday, state media announced that Ambassador Kyaw Zwar Minn "failed to perform his assigned duties", and has therefore been called back to MOFA.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a regional organization around the Indian Ocean, has invited Wunna Maung Lwin, the regime Minister of Foreign Affairs, for a meeting on 1 April 2021 in Sri Lanka. This is the first time that an SAC summit is invited to an international summit.

FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTH

- Development and humanitarian program implementing partners are increasingly concerned about the emerging impact of the military coup on the food security and health of poor and vulnerable populations. Negative changes on supply chains have been observed in Myanmar, including increasing prices of food staples and fuel, a disrupted banking system, as well as the frequent suspension of service provision in health and nutrition. It is still too early to assess the impact on specific projects / partners, notably those working with internally displaced persons.
- On food security, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Many organizations are struggling or have not been able to provide cash transfers to vulnerable populations as a result of banking disruptions, which have also led to struggles in making payroll. Cash transfers to the very poor, that used to be delivered through the Department of Social Welfare have been suspended, putting additional stress on populations that were already in a vulnerable situation, and is likely to result in increased food insecurity.

- On health, the coup and CDM have severely reduced the provision of public health and nutrition services across Myanmar. Health workers have been at the forefront of the movement, which has decreased the availability of life-saving interventions for the population. The population has resorted to (relatively numerous) private clinics, some of which have agreed to decrease existing fees (but not waive them completely). However, with an impact on livelihoods and cash transfers, this access will continue to be limited to those who can afford care. Donors and partners are exploring alternative service provision through non-government organizations and – in some areas - ethnic health organizations to address immediate needs.
- COVID testing, treatment and immunization have also been severely affected by the coup and the general strike of health workers participating in the CDM. Testing capacity has decreased and treatment for COVID patients is limited to some high-end private clinics and military hospitals. While Myanmar had received in January and February 3.5 million doses of COVISHIELD vaccine (Indian made Astra Zeneca), only about 100,000 individuals have been vaccinated. The remainder of the vaccines will expire in a month. As a result, Gavi is likely to reallocate Myanmar’s initial COVAX allocation of 4 million doses to another country. It has been reported that vaccination is only taking place in Rakhine state (no data has been published) and partners received a request from state authorities to provide staff information for vaccination purposes.

STATEMENTS

- On Monday night, multiple diplomatic missions, including Canada, the US, EU, UK, Germany, France and UN in Myanmar issued statements on social media calling for restraint and for protesters to be allowed to leave the area, which received a largely positive response (REFTEL YNGON-570).
- Responding to reports of high tensions in North Okkalapa last night (Wednesday), YNGON issued a tweet (3.4K retweets; 3.6K likes) and Facebook post (5.3K reactions) urging security forces to refrain from the use of force. Most Facebook comments thank Canada for its support, doubt whether statements will influence the Tatmadaw, and/or urge action (not words). The US, UK and other like-minded countries issued similar statements. The US also issued a tweet on Thursday (linking new sanctions to ongoing violence).
- On Wednesday (10 March) the UN Security Council issued a Presidential Statement expressing deep concern about developments in Myanmar. The Council strongly condemned the violence against peaceful protesters. It expressed deep concern over restrictions against medical personnel, civil society, labour union members, journalists and media workers, and called for the immediate release of all those detained arbitrarily. The statement did stop short of explicitly condemning the military takeover, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

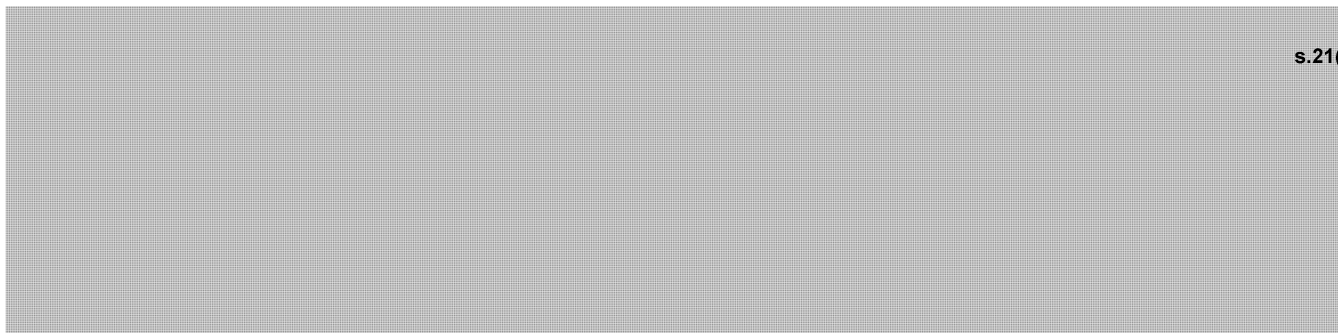
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LIKE-MINDED COORDINATION

- **YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.**
- In a [press release](#) on Wednesday, the **US Treasury Department** announced it had sanctioned two adult children of Min Aung Hlaing. The sanctions, in response to the coup and an intensified crackdown on peaceful protesters who oppose it, involve Aung Pyae Sone and Khin Thiri Thet Mon, as well as six companies they control. The sanctioned companies include Khin Thiri Thet Mon's well-known film company Seventh Sense, along with A&M Mahar, Sky One Construction, The Yangon Restaurant, The Yangon Gallery and Everfit.



s.21(1)(b)

Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-AG, [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-DA/ [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

15 March

SUMMARY:

- March 14 was a day of high tensions and violence across Myanmar, particularly in two outlying industrial townships (Hlaing Thayar and Shwepyithar Townships) in the western and northwestern -outskirts of Yangon approximately 21-22 km and 32-33 km (respectively) from the SQ compound and Chancery (respectively).
- In late afternoon of March 14, there were confirmed reports that a small group of protesters was forcibly dispersed with use of live rounds by security forces, resulting in at least three deaths and community-installed barricades set afire by TMD. Shortly after the dispersal, rioters reportedly set fire to a number of Chinese-affiliated factories in Shwe Lin Ban industrial zone. According to EXERA more than 10 factories were set on fire and a subsequent violent crackdown took place into the evening and after curfew resulting in a large number of casualties. Reporting on fatalities has varied widely from 11 to more 50 deaths in this township alone. Similar incidents were reported in the adjoining outlying industrial township of Shwepyithar (31 km from SQs), across Hlaing River and to the north, with fires being set to Chinese-affiliated garment factories. One death has been reported in Shwepyithar.
- The fires have been attributed to CDM protesters and come after a CRPH announcement earlier in the day justifying use of force in “self-defence” on the part of the protest movement. The fires prompted a statement from the Embassy of China “urging Myanmar to take further measures to stop all acts of violence, punish the perpetrators in accordance with law and ensure the safety of life and property of Chinese businesses and personnel”. CDM leadership has denied setting the fires, blaming the TMD.
- The security forces crackdown on protesters and residents in the townships included use of live rounds, with multiple injuries and the highest number of fatalities in a single day since the beginning of the Feb 1 coup. Reporting is variable and inconsistent with numbers of fatalities on March 14 ranging from 3 to 60 fatalities. A local charity group confirmed 16 were killed in Hlaing Thayar township, while the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners reported 32 deaths, Myanmar Now reported that a hospital had received 34 dead bodies, and RFA Burmese estimated over 50 killed. AAPP is reporting 38 deaths across Myanmar yesterday. 32 in Yangon.

- In response to the two incidents, and to curtail the defiant protest movement which itself risks becoming more violent, **martial law** was declared late last night in Hlaing Tharyar and Shwepyithar Townships, with four more added early morning on March 15: North Dagon, South Dagon, Dagon Seikkan North Okkalapa (see below for details on martial law).
- Also last night, telecom providers were instructed to shut down mobile internet. Wifi and wired internet, cell/mobile calls and SMS were all restored this morning two hours earlier than anticipated at 07:00, but mobile data has remained suspended nation wide.
- Conversely, many areas of Yangon appeared normal during the day on March 14 and 15, with no signs of security forces, reduced barricades, and normal pattern of life signs. Many stores reopened in Yangon today. Banks also appeared to be reopening.
- **Flash Points:** While most protesters have remained peaceful, reports of increased use, or condoning, of violence on the part of the CRPH, CDM and/or small groups of hard-line protesters are of concern. The coming March 27 Armed Forces Day, and the April 1 date which had been set for the first sitting of the new democratically elected government are also key potential areas of concern or flashpoints for further violence. YNGON is also watching

IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW:

- On March 14, the Tatmadaw regime imposed martial law in two townships (Hlaing Thayar and Shwepyithar Townships) where there had been reports of fires set at industrial complexes including Chinese-affiliated garment factories and a violent crackdown by security forces against protesters including multiple fatalities from live rounds. The number of implicated townships was increased to a total of six on March 15 with the addition of North Dagon (15 km from SQs), South Dagon (16km from SQs), Dagon Seikkan (19 km from SQs), and North Okkalapa (15 km from SQs) townships.
- While the country has been in a state of *de facto* martial law imposed by virtue of a number of restrictive regulations and laws implemented by the regime's State Administrative Council since the Feb 1 coup, the recent announcements facilitate formalized security and administrative assumption of control by the military over the affected townships.
- The term 'Martial Law' is often conflated with a 'State of Emergency'. The two terms represent different legal instruments that can be used in times of disaster or instability. In the Myanmar context the State of Emergency and Martial Law are two very different but interlinked functions.
- The State of Emergency declared by the regime appointed-President following the detention of the NLD President provided the legal and constitutional pretext for the military takeover on

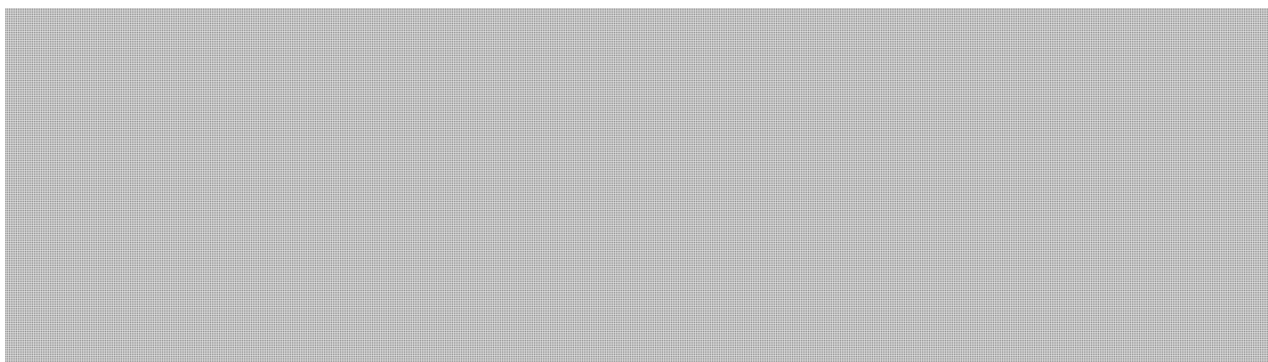
February 1st and has been in place since. Declaration of a State of Emergency and military control is outlined in Articles 419 and 420 of the constitution.

- In the Myanmar context, the State of Emergency is a nation-wide, political, strategic device allowing the military seizure of power. After the regime-appointed President convened the National Security and Defense Council, the NDSC declared a State of Emergency which transfers power to the TMD under the control of the CIC. It was for this reason that the State Councillor had resisted all earlier calls to convene the NDSC during the entirety of her tenure.

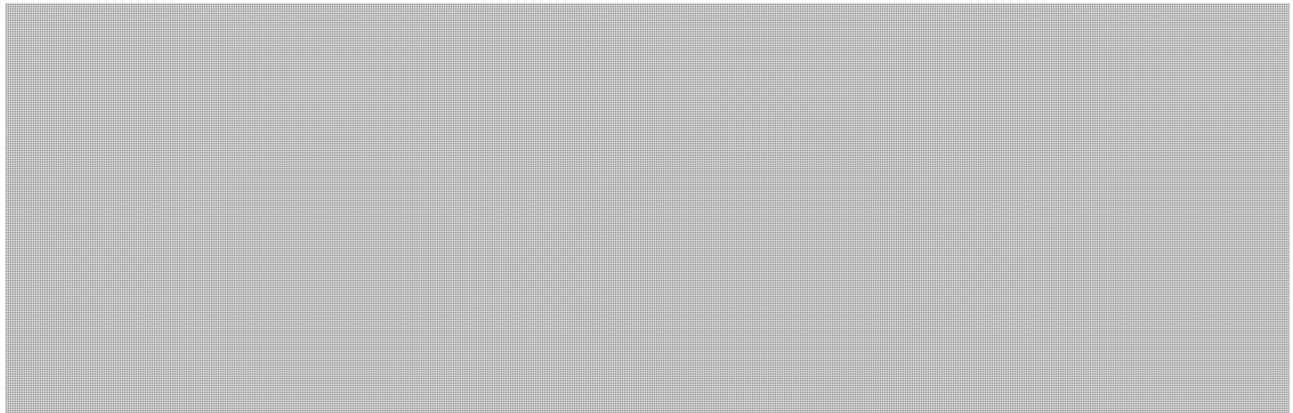
- Martial Law,



- In practice, however, many of the provisions enabled by declaration of Martial Law have already been imposed or in place since the coup. Article 420 of the Constitution of Myanmar stipulates that: “the Commander-in Chief of the Defence Services may, during the duration of the declaration of a state of emergency, restrict or suspend as required, one or more fundamental rights of the citizens in the required area”. This means that the TMD can and has already clamped down on basic rights and freedoms, deployed troops to the streets, imposed curfews and check points and arbitrarily detain citizens irrespective of yesterday’s formal declaration ‘Martial Law’.
- Since the Feb 1 coup, the TMD has used a mixture of force and imposed a series of new and draconian laws and regulations, as well as a more “rigorous” application of current laws to suppress protests and cow the population into submission, while disregarding the protections that Myanmar’s laws and constitution should afford to its citizens.



- since the 1 February coup, the TMD' State Administrative Council (SAC) has made several changes to other aspects of Myanmar's Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure which have the same effect as martial law. These changes have included prohibiting contempt towards the military and criminalising sabotage, obstruction or disruption of the Defence Services of law enforcement authorities. The regime has created new offences, including spreading fake news or committing an offence against a government employee, with potential three-year jail terms. Other changes limit due process and the right to a fair trial, as well as prohibiting any attempt to overthrow state institutions by "unconstitutional" means. This all helps lay the groundwork for the TMD to use the law to arrest, stifle dissent, detain (often brutally) and charge protestors and other perceived enemies of the regime.



FATALITIES:

Data source: Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, as of 15 March 2021. Data subject to change as casualties are confirmed.

See Myanmar states and regions [here](#); Yangon townships [here](#)

- Background:** Myanmar is comprised of 7 regions, 7 states, and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Regions and states are comprised of districts; districts are comprised of townships. Yangon Region is comprised of 4 Districts - Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern, which converge in Yangon City – and 45 Townships. Yangon City is comprised of 33 of the 45 Townships.
- In Myanmar, there were no fatalities by security forces in the first three weeks following the coup; all fatalities have taken place in the following / most recent three weeks.**
- While there is an upward trajectory in total fatalities in Myanmar, daily fatalities are volatile and concentrated:** 81% of total Myanmar fatalities occurred on just 5 days: 28 Feb, 3 March, 11 March, 13 March and 15 March.
- Myanmar fatalities are concentrated in regions:** In total, there have been fatalities in all 7 regions, 2 of 7 states, and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. 85% of fatalities have occurred in four regions: Yangon Region (48% of total fatalities – Yangon City is located within Yangon region (like Ottawa within the broader NCR)), Mandalay (17%), Magway (11%) and Sagaing (9%).
- In Yangon City, there have been 10 days with at least one reported fatality, and 55 fatalities in total.** 32 of the 55 Yangon City fatalities (58.2%) were on just one day, 14 March.
- In Yangon City, there have been fatalities in 13 of 33 townships.**

- **Five Yangon City townships have had more than one day with a reported fatality:** Hlaing Tharyar (28 Feb and 14 March), North Dagon (06 March and 11 March), North Okkalapa (03 March and 14 March), Shwe Pyi Thar (20 Feb, 28 Feb, 09 March, 14 March) and South Dagon (28 Feb, 14 March).
- **Most fatalities in Yangon City (93%) have been in two of four Yangon districts, specifically its Northern District (53% of all Yangon fatalities) and Eastern District (40% of all Yangon Fatalities).** These districts represent Yangon City's outermost Northwest and Northeast areas, respectively, characterized as working class or urban poor industrial neighborhoods. There have been no attacks by security forces in the CBS SQ or Chancery Townships (Mingala Taungnyunt and Kyaukdata, respectively).

s.21(1)(b)

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS :

- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that **2156** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. Some have been released since then; **1837** are being actively prosecuted (charged, sentenced, or outstanding arrest warrant).
- State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi was scheduled to appear before court again today (15 March). At the time of writing, Reuters is reporting that the court hearing will be adjourned until 24 March "due to tech problems".

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT:

- On 11 March, the State Administration Council announced that civil servants who uphold their duties in the current context would be promoted.
- According to Eleven Media, India announced on Sunday that 200 members of Myanmar Police Force and their families crossed the Indian border to take shelter.

BANKING:

- On Friday, **KBZ Bank** released instructions to their staff, stating branches should reopen to provide basic services, such as refilling ATMs, accepting deposits and paying salaries. According to the instructions, the banks will keep operating with reduced personnel, as was the case under Covid-19 restrictions. On Sunday, KBZ bank staff were invited to state whether or not they are willing to come to work. If they turn down the offer, they will get 3 days of paid leave; after this, days not worked will be deducted from their salaries.
- Early anecdotal information on Monday March 15 suggests that banking services may be starting to reopen or normalize on Monday. It is too early to determine if this trend will be sustained. There is concerted CDM naming and shaming approach that is making it difficult for employees to return to work.
- ATMs have been replenished and a number of government owned and private bank have resumed some services at branch level.
- The regime is increasingly focused on investigating the flow of foreign funds into Myanmar, especially via INGOs and NGOs in-country, with the Central Bank issuing a number of directives

to private banks in recent days requesting information on INGO and NGO bank accounts. Recently, the Central Bank has ordered private banks to report cash flow statements for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Oxfam, Open Society Myanmar and Kayuna Association.

The Central Bank has already announced that legal action will be taken against officials at the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank (SMEDB) for failing to report the conversion of international funds from an account held by Open Society Myanmar.

MEDIA:

- On Friday (12 March), 5 reporters (working for Associated Press, Myanmar Now Media, 7Day Media and 2 freelance reporters) were charged under article 505 of criminal code (statements conducing to public mischief). Meanwhile, The Irrawaddy is charged under article 505 (a) of the Penal Code, for inciting dissent of civil servants, after publishing an article in which it claimed that the police were demanding 13 million MMK to release 70 doctors arrested.
- Also on Friday, in Taunggyi (Shan State), a Polish reporter was arrested by security forces. On Saturday, the German Embassy in Yangon, which represents the consular interests of Poland in Myanmar, requested information about the condition of the Polish journalist who was reported arrested in Taunggyi on 11 March, and whose whereabouts remain unknown.

INTERNAL CONFLICT:

- On Friday (12 March), Acting Leader General Yawd Serk delivered remarks at a **Peace Process Steering Team (PPST)** Meeting. In his remarks, the Acting Leader General – also General of the **Restoration Council of Shan State** - accuses the military council (Tatmadaw) of repeatedly violating the Nationwide Ceasefire agreement (CSA) since the coup, and questions the Tatmadaw's stance on the NCA. The remarks conclude by urging NCA signatories "to work with all ethnic peoples to end the dictatorship and to build a federal union". (The Peace Process Steering Team is comprised of the 10 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signatories.)

- Early after the coup, the KNU offered to harbour CRPH and CDM protest leaders in its controlled territories and is seeking to play the role of a facilitator or platform between the TMD and CRPH/CDM.

- According to local news yesterday (Sunday 14 March), Nay Pyi Taw confirmed the recent arrival of weapons from Russia. On March 19, a Russian aircraft will deliver 2 MIG-29 fighter jets as well as firearms.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGU HLUTTAW (CRPH):

- On 11 March, Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) announced that it has formally engaged public international law firm Volterra Fietta to advise and pursue international legal proceedings against the military regime. Noting that international law proceedings take time, the CRPH has committed to pursuing them vigorously, and hold perpetrators of widespread and systematic human rights violations to account.
- On 14 March, the CRPH issue a statement (attached and linked) in which it affirmed the right of the Myanmar people to protect themselves and others against “unlawful military coup council”, their chain of command, or others operating under their orders, and authorizing the establishment of community or ward-level protective /defensive committees. This move coincides with a reported increase in protester violence in the past three days.
- The CRPH Acting Vice President Mann Win Khine delivered his first-ever national address on Saturday (13 March), in which he called for nationwide unity to end military dictatorship; pledged to introduce laws to protect protestors and permit their self-defence; promised to abolish the 2008 Constitution and establish a federal democratic union; and urged civil servants to join the civil disobedience movement. He pledged the CRPH would set up a ‘defense system’, but did not elaborate on the nature of such system. He announced that public administration will be handled through interim public administration bodies. In a separate interview with Democratic Voice of Burma, Dr. Sasa, Myanmar’s Special envoy to United Nations, said that an interim government will be formed in early April with a new constitution based on federalism and democracy.

STATEMENTS:



- On Thursday, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council, saying “the reluctance of a few nations to act should not prohibit the coordinated action of those that are”. He urged this coalition of member states to take five immediate steps, including 1) stopping the flow of revenue into junta coffers; 2) outlaw the export of arms to the Myanmar military; 3) member states with universal jurisdiction laws should initiate investigations against senior security officials in Myanmar; 4) stop the flow of humanitarian and development aid through the junta; and 5) deny recognition of the military junta as the legitimate government.
- Also on Thursday, the CSO Working Group on Myanmar National Human Rights Council (MNHRC) Reform and 55 local and regional CSOs and networks called for the suspension of the

MNHRC from regional and global platforms of national human rights institutions, and the end to any cooperation from its international partners. The statement deems the MNHRC an ally of the military regime, not a human rights institution.

- On Friday, Myanmar civil society organizations expressed serious concern by the alleged silence of the United Nations in Myanmar and urged its leaders to speak out and take action. The organisations note in their statement that only 5 out of 20 UN programs, agencies and departments operating inside Myanmar have publicly commented on the military coup, and called explicitly on the UN Resident Coordinator and other agency heads (including UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, among others) to publicly end their silence, elaborate on risks faced by their beneficiaries, and commit to taking action.
- In response to violence in Myanmar on Sunday, the UN Special Envoy Christine Schraner Burgener strongly condemned the continuing bloodshed, saying the international community, “including regional actors”, must come together in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and their democratic aspirations.
- UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews issued a tweet that the supply of cash and weapons to junta leaders must be cut, appealing to UN member states to heed his call for action.
- The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) issued a statement expressing grave concerns that a major military crackdown may be imminent, with fatal consequences. They call for immediate international political intervention to halt the violence and engage all parties in dialogue, saying “the international community has repeatedly failed to protect the people of Myanmar from the atrocities of the Tatmadaw”.
- British Ambassador Dan Chugg issued a statement calling for the immediate cessation of violence and for the military regime to hand back power to those democratically elected by the people of Myanmar.
- Meanwhile, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar released a statement on Facebook raising concerns about the destruction of Chinese businesses and factories in Hlaing Tharyar, Yangon. There is no mention of violence against protestors in the statement.

LIKE-MINDED ACTIVITIES:

- On Thursday (11 March), the **Asian Development Bank** announced it is suspending its projects directed to the Myanmar government.
- Friday morning (12 March), the **UK Embassy in Myanmar** updated its Travel Advice for citizens.
- [REDACTED]
- On March 15 Australia updated their Travel Advice for Citizens. Language is now very similar to Canada’s.
- On Friday (12 March), US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas designated Myanmar for **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for 18 months. This new designation enables Myanmar nationals currently residing in the United States to file initial applications for TPS. This status will ease their immigration procedures and their stay on US soil.
- Also on Friday, **South Korea** announced it will suspend defence exchanges with Myanmar and ban arms exports to the country. The ministry also said Seoul would limit exports of other strategic items, reconsider development aid and grant humanitarian exemptions for Myanmar nationals to allow them to stay in South Korea until the situation improves.

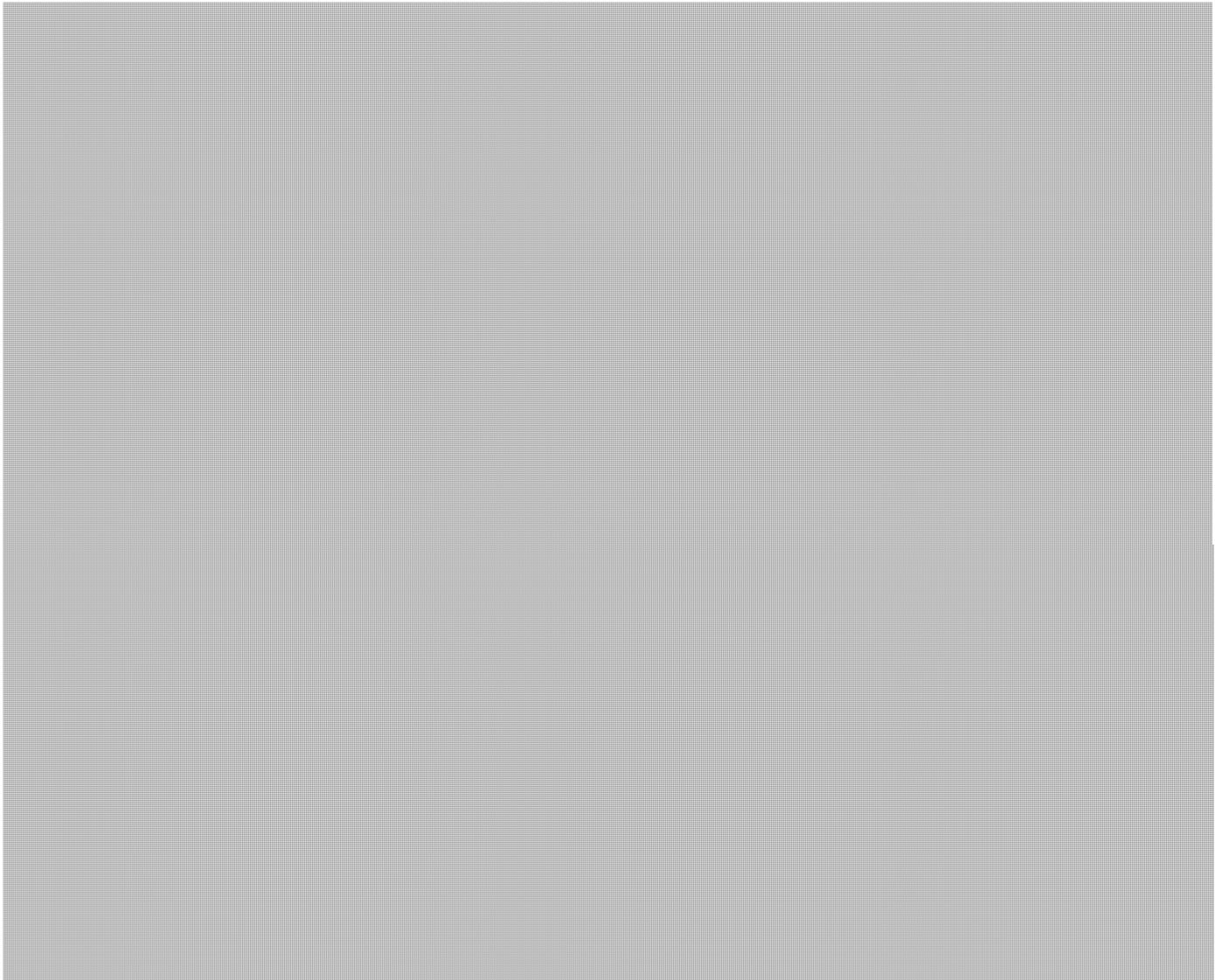
s.13(1)(b)
s.15(1) - International

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- President Joe Biden on Friday took part in the first leaders' summit of the informal international alliance known as the "**Quad**", comprised of the United States, India, Australia and Japan. The four countries declared they would work together to restore democracy in Myanmar.

s.21(1)(b)



Drafted: YNGON-GR, [redacted] / YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-DA/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-DA [redacted] YNGON-CS/ [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM

[1-15 MARCH END]

[16-31 MARCH START]

18 March

YNGON-576: MYANMAR - Coup Update 24 (March 18)

SUMMARY

- Shortly after martial law was declared in 6 Yangon townships on Monday (**REFTEL YNGON-573**), martial law was also declared in 7 Mandalay townships. Declaration of martial law, the deployment of security forces into wards and neighbourhoods, a nationwide mobile internet suspension (but not wifi internet), use of lethal force against protestors, and changing tactics on the part of some elements in the protest movement, have effectively prevented large daytime gatherings in Yangon and elsewhere, though tense and violent standoffs of small groups in outlying wards continue. Days in Yangon and across Myanmar are quieter, but nights are increasingly chaotic, with security forces moving against nighttime protestors and harassing residents, and several instances of arson targeting warehouses, police offices, homes and some barricades. For the time being the bulk of this nighttime activity is targeting wards and townships in outlying areas of the broader Yangon municipality. There is a risk of further polarization and escalation: between security forces and small groups of hardline protestors prepared to fight back; between civilians participating in the civil disobedience movement and those who do not, or can no longer afford to; between the State Administration Council (SAC) and Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), and various ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) supporting them (or not) to varying degrees.
- **There were fewer instances of excessive or lethal force against protestors and civilians in Myanmar in this reporting period. That said, at least 23 people were killed by security forces nationwide (Tuesday-Thursday inclusive), including deaths in Yangon Region (14); Ayeyarwaddy Region (2); Mandalay Region (2); Sagaing Region (4) and Shan State (1). (Note: Reports vary; reported casualties subject to change.)** Protests in Yangon were small and contained to tense pockets in Hlaing Thayar (see below), North Okkalapa, Thaketa, South Dagon,

Insein, Hlaing, Hledan, Sanchaung, Tamwe, and Thingangyun. Several clashes were associated with an enhanced effort by security forces to deploy and dismantle community barricades.

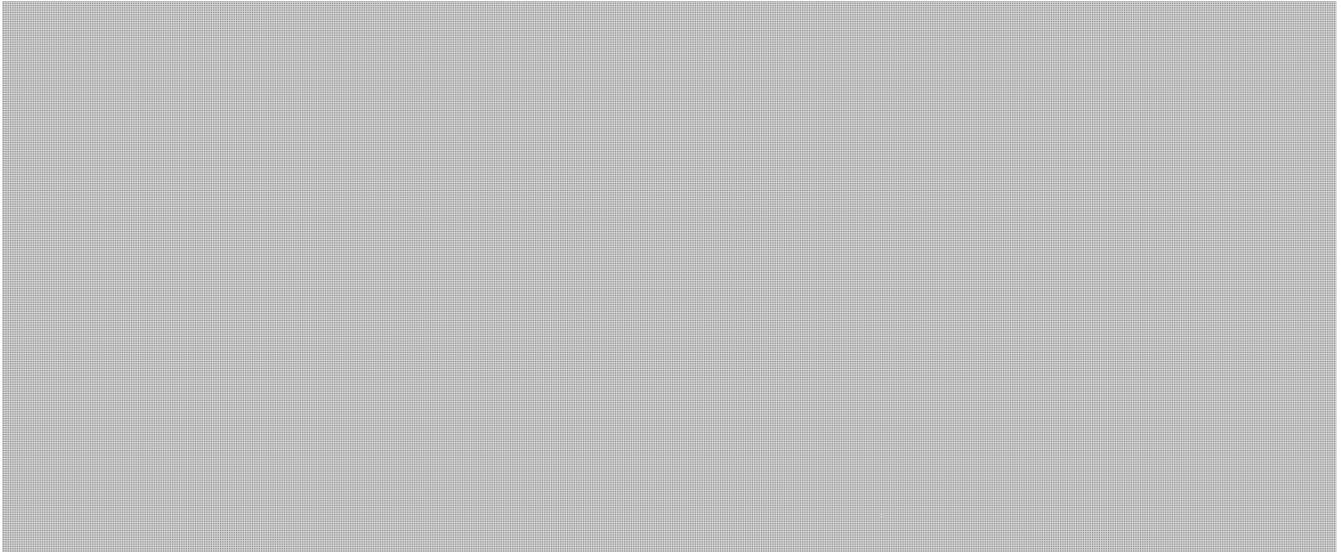
- On Wednesday afternoon, security forces remained deployed in many areas of Yangon, including Sanchaung, Hlaing, Hledan, Yankin, and North Dagon. They arrested people from these neighborhoods to make them clear barricades under their watch. In Hlaing township, this episode yielded high tensions, with 3 people reportedly killed and at least 3 injured. There were protests elsewhere in Yangon on Wednesday – including in Insein, Tamwe and Thingangyun – but no major clashes.
- **Few incidents have been reported in Yangon on Thursday**, with no major incidents of violence, and no reported fatalities, but certain Townships – including Hlaing Thayar and North Okaklapa – remain volatile. As security forces cleared barricades around the bridge to Hlaing Thayar, there was some confrontation with protestors, leading to arrests and reports of gunshots towards houses. In Tamwe today, barricades were cleared by fire. In Sanchaung (Kyuntaw Street), one sit-in is now taking place. In Thanlyin, one protest is reported, without tension for the moment.
- **Tensions remained high in Hlaing Thayar this week; at least 6 people were killed.** (Note: as above, figures are subject to change.) There were reports of riots late into Monday evening in some industrial areas, followed by ebb-and-flow protests, shooting, and reports of arson the following day (at least one factory, one petrol station, and two houses were set on fire). There are competing narratives as to who is responsible for this violence and destruction of property (REFTEL YNGON-573).

[REDACTED]

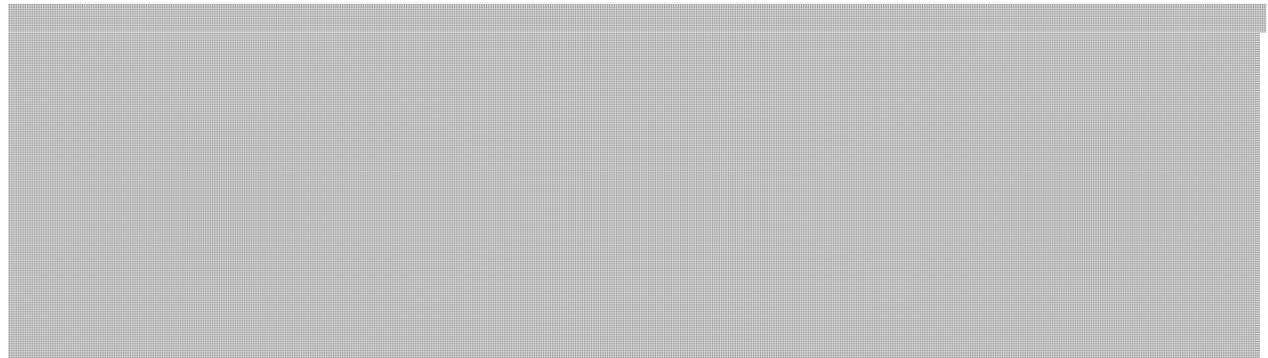
There are concerning calls on social media to identify and target SAC informants or spies, which, in addition to growing anti-Chinese sentiment, could fuel future intra-civilian violence. Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) reported an exodus of thousands of workers from the neighborhood over the course of the week. In a notice seen by the South China Morning Post, the (Chinese) State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission ordered its state-owned enterprises in Myanmar to evacuate non-essential staff from Myanmar.

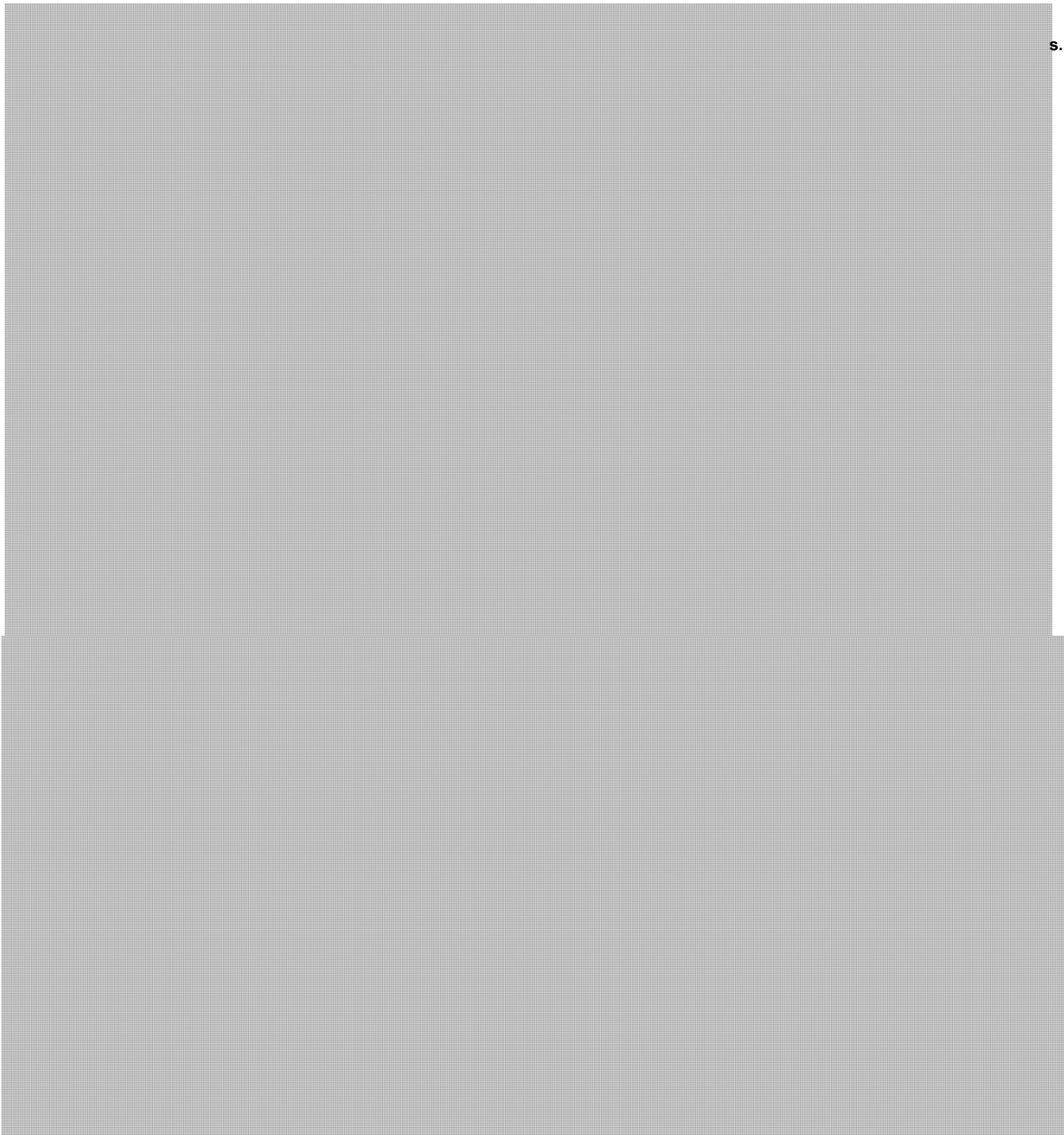
- **On Tuesday (16 March), the Sangha Maha Nayaka (MaHaNa), a government-appointed body of high-ranking monks that oversees Myanmar's Buddhist monkhood, and the supreme Buddhist authority in the country, broke silence after a mild statement immediately after the coup, and aligned itself with those opposed to the regime and the coup.** In a draft statement issued via social media on Tuesday, the MaHaNa announced it is suspending all activities until tension abates in Myanmar, and until COVID-19 is under control. The MaHaNa called on the regime to end the violent arrest, torture and killing of unarmed civilians by the armed minority and to prevent the looting and destruction of public property. The MaHaNa group is highly conservative and extremely cautious; for it to break so clearly with the regime—which imagines itself protector of Buddhism—signals a clear rift and may also galvanise monastic opposition to the regime. Of all domestic organizations, the Sangha is perhaps the one with the greatest ability to influence or sway the Tatmadaw. [REDACTED]

- **A nationwide mobile internet suspension remains in place (implemented 15 March, after Sunday crackdown in Hlaing Thayar).** Restricting mobile internet – in a country where few people have access to any other connection – poses significant operational challenges to Myanmar people, businesses and organizations. It also renders information on ongoing protest and security forces activity difficult to access and/or verify. On Thursday (18 March), authorities also suspended Myanmar Net, the publically available wifi that one can use on the streets with a dedicated top-up card. While **home and office wifi networks continue to function at the time of writing**, continued restrictions are likely as March 27 – Armed Forces Day – approaches; an important occasion for the Tatmadaw to demonstrate consolidated control.



- **Potential Flashpoint: There is potential for more violent confrontation between some elements of increasingly hard-line civilian protesters, bearing homemade weapons, and regime security forces.** Social media is rife with information and instructions – including from fellow protest movements in Thailand and Hong Kong – on how to make Molotov cocktails and handmade “air guns”. Civilians prepared to bear arms against security forces will characterize their actions as self-defence, especially against incursions by police or military into their communities, often at night. (There are videos circulating widely on social media of security forces roaming residential streets after curfew, shouting threats and insults, and sometimes shooting at houses or apartments at random.) Even if civilians prepared to bear arms against security forces are a minority in the wider anti-coup or protest movement, such action would be a significant escalation and would also likely prompt a severe crackdown from security forces, and the military specifically (increasingly deployed by the regime en lieu of police officers).





CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- Civil servants have been instructed to return to office by Monday (22 March) at the latest, warned that failure to do so may result in demotion or legal action under the Civil Service Law. An LM contact reports that teachers and professors were asked to notify, in writing, the Ministry of Education by today (18 March) stating whether or not they will return to work. The contact anticipates a surge of protection requests from teachers and professors who choose not to return and may therefore be at risk.

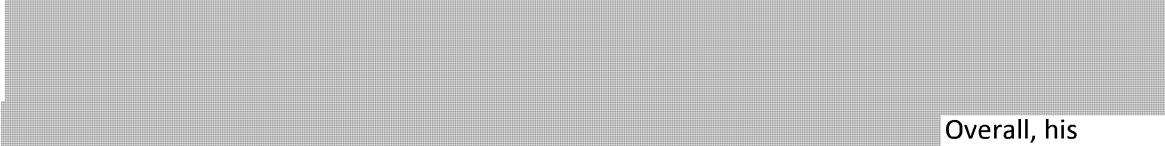


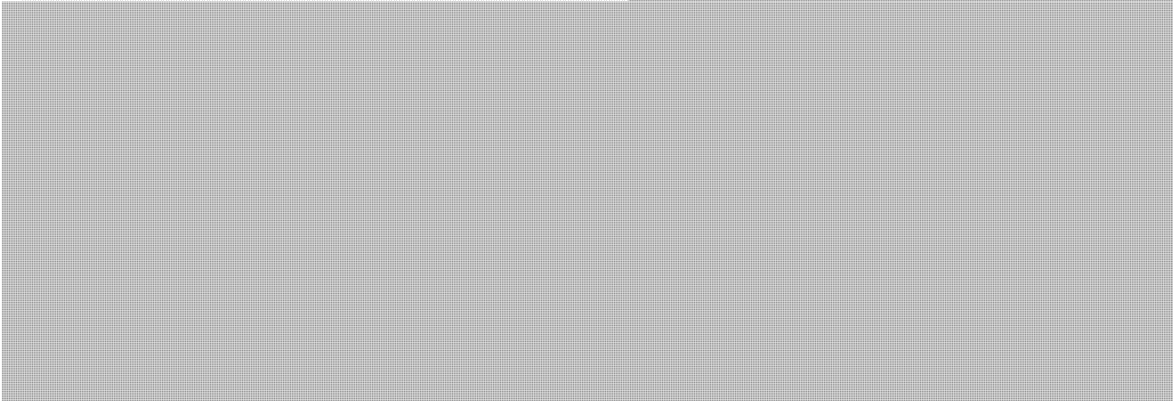
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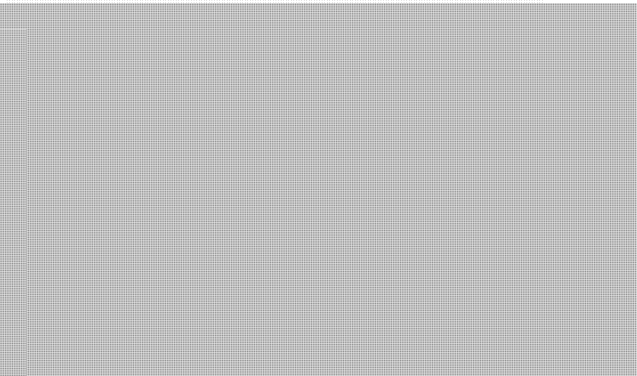
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- In Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, 8 civil servants from the Cooperative Department (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation) who joined the CDM were charged with article 188 of the Penal Code (disobedience to order) and sentenced to three months of prison.
- In Kyan Gin (Ayeyarwaddy Region), two police officers who spoke against the SAC on Facebook and joined the CDM were sentenced to 1 year in prison on Tuesday.
- Indian authorities confirmed to BBC Burmese that more than 400 Myanmar nationals (mostly police) have fled to India since 01 Feb. Separately, a local media outlet reported on Tuesday that 212 staff from Myanmar's Central Bank have been suspended since the beginning of the movement.

HEALTH CARE

-  Overall, his assessment of access to health services for the expat and diplomatic community was positive: private clinics and hospitals are open, providing full services including 24-hour emergency care, intensive care units, surgery and specialist services. Private hospitals are not running at anywhere near full capacity and continue to be adequately staffed by physicians, nurses and technicians. Pharmaceuticals are readily available, with sufficient supplies and active supply chains. He advised that private hospitals in Yangon offer a standard of care consistent with international standards. Some private hospitals have relationships with Thai diagnostic services, such that lab tests and samples can be undertaken in Yangon, or sent to Thailand's N-Health for further analysis.
-  Ambulance services continue to run during daytime and pre-curfew hours. While clinics and emergency departments are open 24/7, ambulances do not run after the 20:00 curfew.
- On COVID, and as YNGON has previously reported, 


- 
- On the country's public health system and availability of essential and life-saving medical services to the country's poor and vulnerable, 

BANKING

- Sectors such as banking and transportation – both hard-hit by the CDM – appear to be re-instating some basic operations, if sporadically. Some banks and reopening across the country but long queues can be seen in front of ATMs, many of which run out of cash very quickly.
- The regime remains focused on foreign flows into Myanmar bank accounts, especially to accounts held by non-profit organizations and international non-government organizations. This week, Tatmadaw  announced that the Central Bank of Myanmar investigated 24 private banks in Myanmar to freeze the cash flow from foreign countries into **Open Society Myanmar** bank accounts, promising action against Open Society for allegedly illegal cash transfers, and against the receiving bank. The Tatmadaw has a long history of suspicion and paranoia vis-à-vis Open Society Foundations, a grantmaking network founded by business magnate George Soros, who has met State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi several times. One Open Society Myanmar employee is currently detained by the regime; arrest warrants have been issued for others.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- Dr. SaSa, the CRPH-appointed Special Envoy to the United Nations; U Kyaw Moe Tun (NLD) Myanmar's Ambassador to the UN in New York; and U Mann Win Khaing Than, CRPH-appointed Acting President, were all charged with high treason this week, a crime which can carry up to 20 years in prison or the death penalty.
- On Tuesday (16 March), the CRPH announced that they will keep records and will take action against civil servants who force or threaten others not to join the CDM.
- Also on Tuesday, the CRPH removed all the Myanmar EAOs from the list of unlawful organizations, and thanked those which have been supporting the opposition movement and

the CDM. Theoretically, this move allows EAOs to operate openly and grants easier access to financial services.

- The CRPH also issued a statement this week calling oil and gas companies to stop making payments to the SAC (including taxes). According to the statement, the CRPH sent emails to oil and gas companies on 5 March instructing them to stop payments by 9 March. (The CRPH stated that the companies which do not follow this instruction will be required to make all those payments again when the CRPH assumes office.)

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that **2191** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. Some have been released since then; **1872** are being actively persecuted (charged, sentenced, or outstanding arrest warrant). Photos alleging beatings and mistreatment in custody continue to circulate widely on social media.
- Local media outlet Eleven Media reported today that State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has been charged for bribery, an offence which is punishable by 15 years in prison.
- Several media networks reported Wednesday that more than 300 students arrested in Tamwe, Yangon are now charged with article 505 (a) of the Penal Code (inciting mutiny). Their trial is postponed because it was supposed to be held online (the Internet disruption is therefore an obstacle).
- On Wednesday, all Township Election Commission chairs were released. They had been detained since the second week of February. They have since urged UN member states not to recognize the SAC as legitimate, and call on foreign companies to sever ties with Tatmadaw-related conglomerates.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

- **TMS-KIO/KIA clashes in Kachin:** Amidst indications that the TMD is seeking to secure an agreement with the Three Brotherhood Alliance (TBA) – comprised of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Arakan Army (AA) - and possibly the Northern Alliance, which includes the TBA plus Kachin Independence Army / Kachin Independence Organization (KIA/KIO), in order to have an “announceable” in advance of March 27 Armed Forces Day, armed clashes between KIA (an Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) non-signatory) and the TMD have escalated since 11 March. The escalation follows a violent crackdown by the TMD against peaceful protesters in the Kachin State capital of Myitkyina on 8 March, leading to two deaths, multiple injuries and more than 90 arrests.
- The crackdown led to outrage on social media and calls for KIO and KIA to come out more strongly against the coup and the violence against protesters. In response, shortly after 08 March, the KIA requested that the (TMD) Northern Command not harm peaceful protests, to which the Northern Command responded by warning the KIO/KIA not to get involved,

threatening military action if the KIA intervened, and threatening further use of force against protesters if the KIA inserted itself. In response, the KIA raided a TMD outpost on 11 March. There have been a series of clashes between KIA Brigade 1 and Northern Command over the past week, with approximately 200 people displaced, and reports that fleeing villagers were barred by the TMD from entering an internally displaced persons camp in the area.

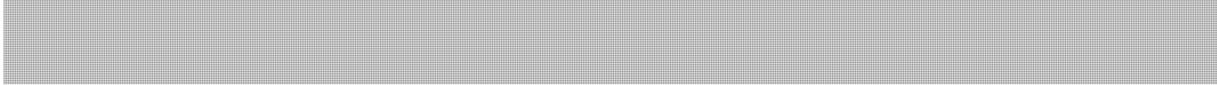
- While the escalations ostensibly stem from KIO/KIA offensive operations against the TMD in retaliation for the killing of unarmed civilians, observers have also remarked that EAOs and KIO/KIA in particular often launch or escalate offensives during or leading up to negotiations to ensure that they are entering negotiations on the front foot from a position of strength, as well (in previous instances) to increase geographic footholds and control in strategic areas in advance of potential ceasefire deals or agreements.
- As per earlier reporting, on 26 February the Tatmadaw once again extended its unilateral, nationwide ceasefire, this time from 1 until 31 March. As with the renewal at the end of January, the ceasefire includes Rakhine and Chin States which had been previously excluded on the grounds that the AA had been engaged in “terrorist activities”. As reported last week, the Three Brotherhood Alliance (TBA- AA, TNLA, MNDAA) announced its own one-month extension of their unilateral ceasefire until 31 March 2021.
- On 11 March, the regime’s State Administrative Council also delisted the Arakan Army as a designated terrorist entity, almost a year after the Myanmar Government listed it officially on March 24, 2020. The move followed earlier announcements naming former Arakan National Party leaders to the SAC, releasing jailed prominent ANP politician Dr. Aye Maung (12 Feb), announcing the restoration of internet to Rakhine State and the opening of schools.

[REDACTED]


The TBA and its composite members have never responded publically to the coup, and, the AA in particular, have welcomed the rapprochement with the TMD, with the AA’s spokesperson stating following the delisting that “AA welcomed the move” and that “it offered a path for future dialogue”. YNGON is preparing a more detailed report on EAO engagement and the coup.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- On Wednesday (17 March), the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar (IIMM) issued a statement on their [website](#) noting they are closely following events since the Tatmadaw’s seizure of power and collecting evidence regarding arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances and the use of force, including lethal force, against those peacefully opposing the coup. The IIMM encourages individuals who received or were aware of illegal orders or policies to contact the Mechanism and reveal the truth.

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- On 15 March, Myanmar was added to the “population at risk” category by the Responsibility To Protect Monitor, produced by the Global Centre for Responsibility To Protect. In February, protestors used to call for military intervention in the framework of the R2P.

STATEMENTS

- On Tuesday, nearly 500 Myanmar civil society organizations expressed their deep disappointment at the lack of action by the UN Security council, naming Russia, India, Vietnam and China’s stances specifically. The statement describes China’s policy of non-interference and attention to political stability and material interests as an affront to those killed by Myanmar security forces and to the international community that “professes to uphold human rights and democracy” and to prevent further atrocities. They reiterated calls for the UNSC to immediately dispatch an enhanced monitoring and intervention mission to Myanmar; impose a coordinated, global arms embargo and refer Myanmar to the International Criminal court to hold the military regime to account.
 - Also on Tuesday, the World Food Program warned that rising food and fuel prices threaten the poorest and most vulnerable in Myanmar. WFP’s food price monitoring shows that food prices are trending upwards in some urban areas with the retail price of palm oil up 20 percent since the start of February in the peri-urban areas of the main city Yangon, and rice prices in the peri-urban areas of Yangon and Mandalay also up 4 percent since the last week of February.
 - On Tuesday (and following the Sunday massacre in Hlaing Thayar), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade issued a short Facebook post noting it is appalled by the continued use of violence against peaceful protestors and civilians in Myanmar, and that those responsible must be held to account.
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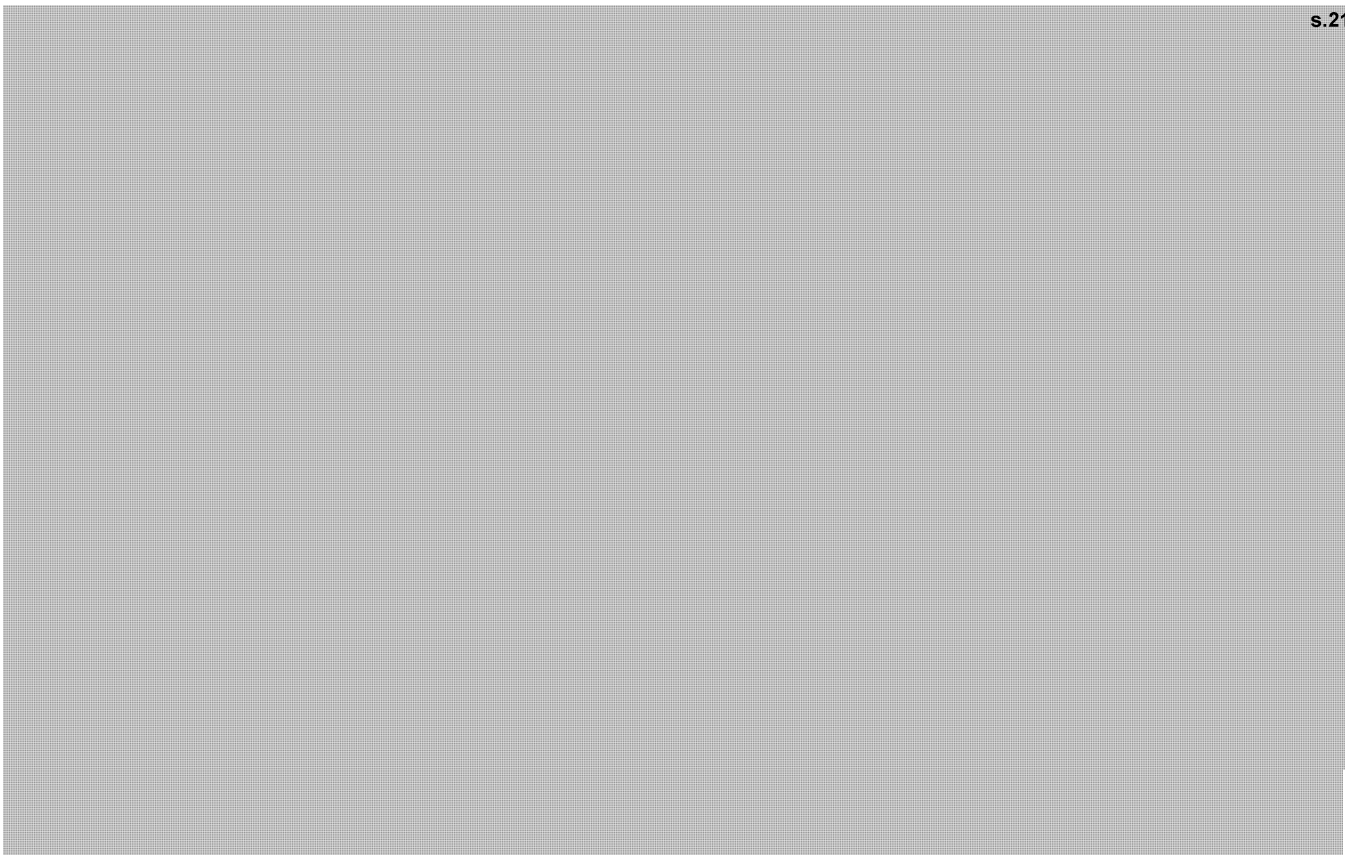
LIKE-MINDED COORDINATION

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.

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Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-GR [redacted]

With input from: YNGON-GR [redacted] YNGON-DA [redacted]

Approved: YNGON HOM [redacted]

22 March

YNGON-577: MYANMAR - Coup Update 25 (Day 50)

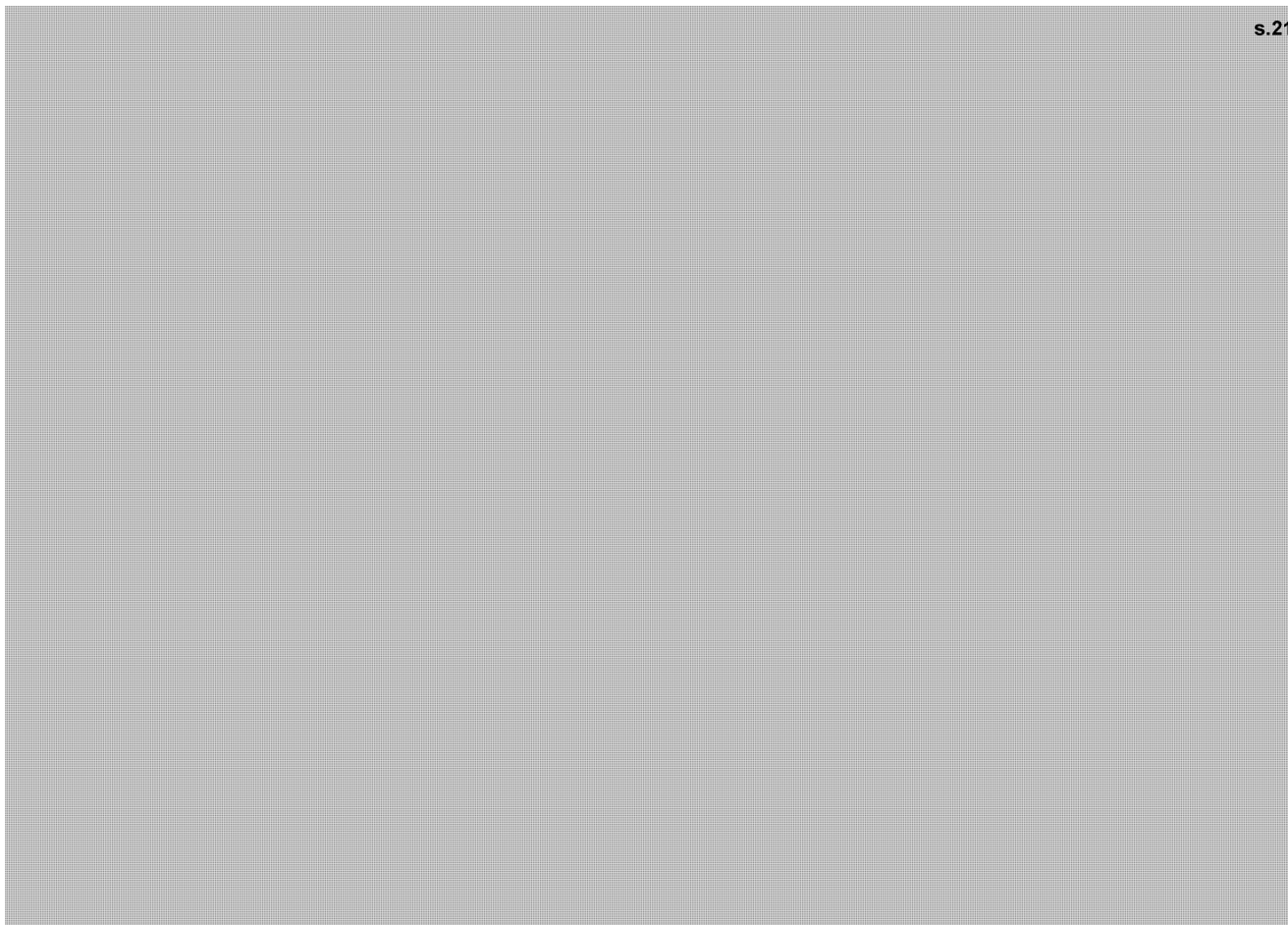
SUMMARY

- After periods of excessive and lethal force against protesters in outlying townships in Yangon in early to mid March, particularly March 14, the proceeding week and over the reporting period from the last report on March 18 was marked by reduced number of fatalities and reduction of use of lethal force against protesters in Yangon.
- Some peaceful “dawn protests” took place Monday morning with protests in Hledan (Kamayut Township), Kyaukmyaung (Tarmwe Township) and Kyimyindaing Township. However, they remained limited to local wards and of limited magnitude. On Sule Pagoda Street and Pyay Road, a car horn campaign could be heard briefly. In Hlaing Township, the residents sent out balloons carrying “R2P” labels. Protests remained peaceful with no security forces disruption.
- Since those early morning events, no major protests and no major tensions or fatalities have been reported in Yangon today. Over all, there continues to be fewer, and smaller protests limited to local wards and neighbourhoods, [REDACTED]
- Despite this, tensions remain high in restive outlying townships and wards, particularly at night, with nighttime activities, including harassments, intimidation, beatings and detentions on the part of the TMD continuing, but with fewer incidents of use of excessive force or lethal force.
- TMD continued to deployed in Yangon with efforts to clear community barricades across the city, often compelling residents to remove the barricades themselves at gunpoint, along with reports of harassment and intimidation on the part of security forces. Street clearing activities included physically removing parked vehicles from roadways with large machinery, with reports that many private vehicles were deliberately and heavily damaged. As of the morning of Monday March 21, most of the community-installed barricades, including substantial sandbag walls and roadways that had previously been completely obstructed had been cleared. Many TMD-installed barricades blocking traditional protest sites and major roadways have also been removed.
- There are signs of resumption of normal pattern of life movement in many areas of the city that YNGON frequents, with markets, tea shops, and stores open. Several local parks and promenades have reopened. Banks are also reopening – although there are limitations to some services.
- **As per the previous report (YNGON-576), there continued to be fewer instances of excessive or lethal force against protestors and civilians, particularly in Yangon.**

- However, there continued to be protests and use of excessive and lethal force against protesters in cities outside of Yangon, **urban areas in a number of states and regions including; Monway (Sagaing region), Pyay, (Bago Region), Mandalay, Taunggyi (southern Shan state), Tachileik (eastern Shan state), Nay Pyi Taw, Dawei and Magway.**

- Also of concern and note are first-time reports over the weekend of retaliatory actions by civilians against security forces and administrators aligned with the regime, with a number of deaths reported: two police were killed in Sagaing region, four TMD soldiers were killed in Shan state, and two village tract administrators appointed by the regime and a member of a TMD-aligned militia were killed in Mawaddy – near the Thai and Kayin border.
- In one incident in Yangon on Sunday, a young women died from a six-story fall after TMD forcibly entered the office of We Love Myanmar – a Myanmar NGO. There are competing and unverified reports around her death, with most reports suggesting she fell while trying to escape or hide, some suggesting she jumped, and others suggesting that she was pushed or thrown from the sixth floor. Regardless, the result was the tragic and unnecessary loss of a young life.
- **A nationwide mobile internet suspension remains in place (implemented 15 March, after March 14 crackdown in Hlaing Thayar).** The suspension on March 18 of Myanmar Net the publically available wifi that one can use on the streets with a dedicated top-up card also continues. **Home and office wifi networks continue to function at the time of writing.** Resumption of internet in morning was at 6:30 on Monday morning, earlier than 09:00 of the previous four days.
- **As the civil disobedience movement (CDM) enters its seventh week, its strain on Myanmar people and businesses is increasingly obvious and concerning.** Some individuals and businesses perceived to be or in fact undermining the movement or resuming activities and services are increasingly targeted by name-and-shame campaigns. The regime and the CRPH are issuing competing edicts playing a potentially lethal game of tug-of-war with the country's citizens, most particularly the most vulnerable. Civil servants and many in the banking and financial sector were given until March 22 to return to work. Those who do not will be evicted from government-provided accommodations which may increase tensions and potential for violence. The CRPH has issued an edict telling citizens that they have until the end of the month to declare for and adhere to CDM guidelines, and advising that there will be reprisals against them if they return to work. CPRH also issued a statement that citizens do not have to pay electricity bills from February 1, a move which could disrupt electricity supplies in the near to mid term. Over the weekend, the regime issued a statement declaring the CRPH an unlawful organization/association.

- March 24 has been announced as a “dead city protest” with CDM movement calling for all to stay home to bring the city to a standstill just as it begins to open up to normalized activities. On social media, activists are urging people to do a silent strike on 24 March: no noise, no traffic, no business. Although those calls are widely shared on social media, it remains to be seen whether they will be followed on the ground.
- **COVID:** There are some indications that the TMD regime is attempting to reinvigorate the COVID vaccination program, likely due to the fact that the existing stockpile of vaccines is due to expire toward the end of March/beginning of April. Vaccinations being delivered at at least one site in Yangon, but the approach appears *ad hoc* and inconsistent with the previous COVID vaccination strategy (basically, just show up). Details of the numbers being vaccinated are difficult to confirm, but some YNGON LES and their families have been able to access this service. The CDM, on the other hand, has called on supporters to boycott COVID vaccination efforts.
- **Potential Flashpoint:** It is impossible to determine whether the current decrease in activity on the part of protesters and decrease in force on the part of the TMD is indicative of a trend, or is a lull before another potential reescalation. Both are possible. Continued restrictions are likely and escalations possible as **March 27 – Armed Forces Day** – approaches; an important occasion for the Tatmadaw to demonstrate consolidated control. This week leading up to and during the March 27 Armed Forces day remains a flash point for violence and YNGON is monitoring carefully along with other LMs. As reported earlier, April first – the day parliament would have begun its business under the elected NLD government - also remains a flashpoint for both the CDM movement and the TMD.
- **Potential weaponization of the protest movement:** There is potential for violent confrontation on the part of increasingly hard-line civilian protesters, bearing homemade weapons, which would likely precipitate a violent TMD crackdown (Reftel-576). There have been some isolated reports of use of homemade weaponry, but this has not yet materialized as a widespread or large-scale, coordinated tactic. It remains, however, an area of significant concern.

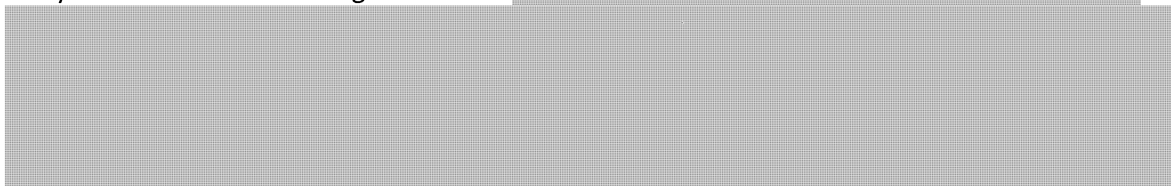


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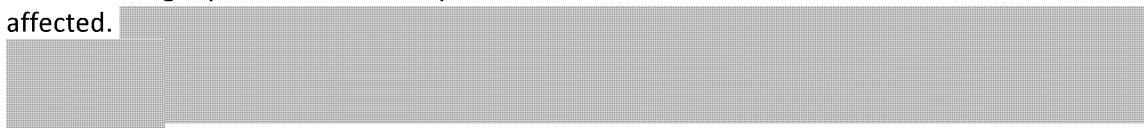
FATALITIES:

- Collecting and confirming fatality figures continues to be challenging with multiple sources and contacts reporting vastly different figures, some deliberate misinformation, differing narratives attributing responsibilities to different actors, deaths from detention or due to injuries days later changing data after the fact, differences in what type of fatalities are being tracked, or difficulties or delays in information collection due to comms shutdowns.

- [redacted] most consistently credible sources that YNGON draws on are the AAPP [redacted] Summary of data available is below. This data may also fluctuate and change over time.



- There has been a trend over the past week of **reduced use of lethal force, a reduction in the number of fatalities, and a reduction in deaths by live rounds in Yangon**. But every single death is a tragedy, and a blow for Myanmar and for the families and loved ones affected.



- [REDACTED] AAPP: [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] the AAPP reports notes:
 - 3 Yangon fatalities on Friday,
 - 2 on Saturday- one being an unidentified body found in a river in north Dagon township – cause of death is unknown at this point.
 - 1 Sunday (the woman who fell from the 6th floor of an NGO building in Mingalar Taungnynt –same township as the SQ compound).

- **YNGON's analysis of fatalities below is based on the AAPP figures:**

Data source: Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, as of 22 March 2021. Data subject to change as casualties are confirmed.

See Myanmar states and regions [here](#); Yangon townships [here](#)

- **Background:** Myanmar is comprised of 7 regions, 7 states, and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Regions and states are comprised of districts; districts are comprised of townships. Yangon Region is comprised of 4 Districts - Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern, which converge in Yangon City – and 45 Townships. Yangon City is comprised of 33 of the 45 Townships. (Yangon City is located inside Yangon Region like Ottawa in the National Capital Region.)
- **Over the current reporting period** (since the March 18 sitrip), AAPP has recorded 6 fatalities in Yangon (including one (yesterday) from a six-story fall); EXERA has tracked one fatality over that same reporting period.
- **While there is a general upward trajectory in total fatalities in Myanmar, daily fatalities are volatile and concentrated: 250** people have been killed by security forces since the 01 Feb coup d'état. **72%** of total Myanmar fatalities occurred on just 5 days: 28 Feb, 3 March, 14 March, 15 March and 19 March.
- **While Myanmar fatalities are still concentrated in regions, there have been more fatalities in states in the last 7 days.** There have been fatalities in all 7 regions, 4 of 7 states (up from 2 of 7 states last week), and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. 83.5% of fatalities have occurred in four regions (down from 85% last week): Yangon Region (53% of total, up from 48% last week due to changes in fatality numbers from March 14), Mandalay (16.5%, down from 17%), Magway (6%, down from 11%) and Sagaing (8%, down from 9%).
- **In Yangon City, there have been 14 days with at least one reported fatality, and 121 fatalities in total.** 82 of the 121 Yangon City fatalities (68%) were on just one day, 14 March.
- **In Yangon City, there have been fatalities in 16 of 33 townships (up from 13 last week).**
- **Eight Yangon City townships have had more than one day with a reported fatality (up from 5 last week):** Hlaing, Hlaing Tharyar, North Dagon, North Okkalapa, Shwe Pyi Thar, South Dagon, South Okkalapa, and Thakata.
- **Most fatalities in Yangon City (95%) fatalities are in two of four Yangon districts (up from 93% last week), specifically its Northern District (59% of all Yangon City fatalities) and Eastern**

District (36% of all Yangon City Fatalities). These districts represent Yangon City's outermost Northwest and Northeast areas, respectively, characterized as working class or urban poor industrial neighborhoods.

- **There has been one death in the CBS SQ Township (Mingala Taungnyunt, Southern District).** Yesterday (21 March) security forces broke into the office of We Love Yangon, a local volunteer organization. A 35-year-old woman tried to sneak out through the fire-escape on the fifth floor, fell, and died instantly. **There have been no reported deaths in the Chancery Township (Kyaukdata, Western District.)**

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- On Sunday (21 March), the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) released another statement about the civil disobedience movement (CDM), saying that **all civil servants should join the CDM by 31 March at the latest.** The statement indicates that those who join will be rewarded by leading roles in the future administration, and those who do not will face sanctions.
- **Many government departments (Union and regional/state) have set deadlines this week for their staff to go back to work.** Failing so, civil servants may be evicted from their government-provided accommodation or face charges under the Myanmar Penal Code or civil service laws; some of these disciplinary measures are already underway:
- On Friday, the Ministry of Transport and Communications announced that 269 staff of Myanmar Airways International are being sued under Penal Code article 505 (a) (inciting dissent) for joining the CDM.
- In Patheingyi General Hospital (Ayeyarwaddy Region), the Deputy Head announced that CDM employees will be charged under the civil servant's law. In Mandalay General Hospital, security forces evicted CDM staff from their government-provided apartment, leading to some tension today.
- This morning (Monday), AYA Bank called staff to get back to work. All those coming back to work tomorrow will be paid for the whole month of March; those who deny will be given paid leave until 24 April and ultimately sanctioned from 25 April onwards.

- [REDACTED] the lead-up to Armed Forces Day, highlighting road clearance activities (at gunpoint), resumption of vaccination programs (as vaccines set to expire), cooperation with WB (misconstrued), and resumption/opening of domestic tourism activities (no demand). [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] with the most vulnerable people and communities in Myanmar at greatest risk from the coup itself, the regime's violence, and increasingly, the opposition to it.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- On Friday, the CRPH issued a statement **urging people to refuse State Administration Council (SAC)-appointed quarter and village leaders**. According to that message, accepting them “would entail hardships”.
- On Saturday (20 March), U Tin Tun Naing, Interim Union Minister for Finance and Industry gave a speech in which he announced **plans to increase economic pressure on the current regime** by reducing 3 sources of Tatmadaw income: internal taxes, oil & gas revenues, and international aid. He also stated that Germany should stop providing raw material and machinery to print Myanmar Kyats banknotes, and that all new banknotes produced would be considered illegal.
- On Sunday (21 March), the CRPH’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Zin Mar Aung held a meeting with **the Chief Minister of Mizoram State (India)**. (On Saturday, the Chief Minister released a strong statement, distancing himself from the wary attitude of New Delhi and pledging to welcome and support Myanmar refugees who would take shelter in his state.)

- On Sunday (21 March) the SAC declared the CRPH an **unlawful association** under the Unlawful Associations Act. (**Note:** the CRPH was already declared an illegal organization on 25 February by the Union Election Commission.) An unlawful association is defined as one that “encourages or aids persons to commit acts of violence or intimidation, or of which the members habitually commit such acts.” The Act states that membership or association to an unlawful association can result in three years in prison; management or promotion (or assisting) an unlawful association can result in five years in prison.

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that **2665** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. Some have been released since then; **2290** are being actively persecuted (charged, sentenced, or outstanding arrest warrant). Photos alleging beatings and mistreatment in custody continue to circulate widely on social media.
- According to Democratic Voice of Burma, the NLD’s Information Officer **U Kyi Toe** was arrested Thursday evening (18 March), alongside with a junior NLD member.
- In Mogok (Mandalay Region), well-known monk Yaypu, who has been involved in the protests for several weeks, was arrested on 11 March. On Friday (19 March) he was demoted from monkhood to layman, and faces charges under article 505 (b) of the Penal Code (intent to cause fear to public)
- Also on Friday, Myanmar Now reported that 2 journalists working for BBC and Mizzima had been arrested in Nay Pyi Taw. As of 22 March, the AAPP reports **20 journalists or news workers have been detained (and remain detained)** since the 01 Feb coup. The detained BBC journalist Aung Thura was released on the morning of March 22 in Nay Pyi Taw, according to Voice of Myanmar. Unfortunately, Than Htike Aung, a reporter for banned outlet Mizzima who was arrested with him on Friday, remains in police custody. They were detained when they arrived at court to cover the latest hearing in NLD patron Win Htein’s trial. AP journalist Thein Zaw will have his next hearing on March 24 (time still TBD).

EAO INVOLVEMENT

- **KNU:** After media reports of Thai suppliers (reports vary – some reports suggested that the supplier was the Thai army (denied); others that it was private exporters) were providing rice to the TMD, the KNU pledged to take action against any entity supplying food to the TMD. Also, and linked to YNGON’s identified flashpoints, the KUN acknowledged more than 600 -1000 asylum seekers in KNU-controlled territory on the Thai border. Most of them are protest leaders, civil servants on strike or members of the security forces.
- KNU leadership have also been quoted in the press as stating that requests for weaponry from those they are harbouring would not be turned down.
- On Saturday (20 March), BBC released an interview with Padoh Mann Mann, the spokesperson for the Brigade 5 of the **Karen National Union (KNU)**. In this interview, he welcomes two recent announcements by the CRPH: the designation of the SAC as terrorist organization, and the delisting of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) from the list of “unlawful organizations”. He also invites the CRPH to rally all EAOs into a “Federal Army”, abolish the 2008 constitution and set up an interim government based on a federal constitution.
- In an [interview](#) with a local news outlet on Friday (19 March), CRPH Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Zin Mar Aung said the CRPH is “**about 80% there**” on reaching a deal with other stakeholders aimed at establishing a federal union in Myanmar. She said among those involved in the talks are the **Karen National Union (KNU)**, the **Restoration Council for Shan State (RCSS)**, and the **Kachin Independence Army (KIA)**, as well as other groups that have signed the **Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)**. One of the key issues that need to be resolved, she explained, is how to establish a new federal army that would be compatible with the aspirations of the country as a whole.

- **KIO/KIA:** On March 21, the Myanmar Army shelled a base controlled by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Hpakant (Kachin State). No casualties were reported. On March 22, domestic media began reporting that the KNU had retaliated with an attack on a TMD base near Sam Pai village in Waimaw. Few details are available.
- Also on Saturday, the spokesperson of the **Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)** pledged that his movement supports the establishment of a Federal Army.
- The **Pa-O People’s Liberation Organization** issued a statement in the run-up to the Pa-O National Day, on 27 March. It urges the government to 1) Halt the violence against unarmed people 2) Release all detainees as soon as possible 3) Solve political issues by political means 4) Establish a federal Union based on national reconciliation.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- On Thursday (18 March) Senior General Min Aung Hlaing participated in the **18th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting**. The Senior General stressed the importance of fighting terrorism in the region in a coordinated manner, and the varied impacts of COVID-19 (noting that the importance of armed forces participating in COVID-19 response efforts).

- On Friday (19 March) Indonesian President Joko Widodo called for a **special ASEAN summit** to address the Myanmar situation. In a statement, the president said he will propose to Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah that the leaders' meeting be held immediately (Brunei currently serves as chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations). ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights have urged Brunei to urgently organize the proposed meeting and to extend an invitation to the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, to attend as well.

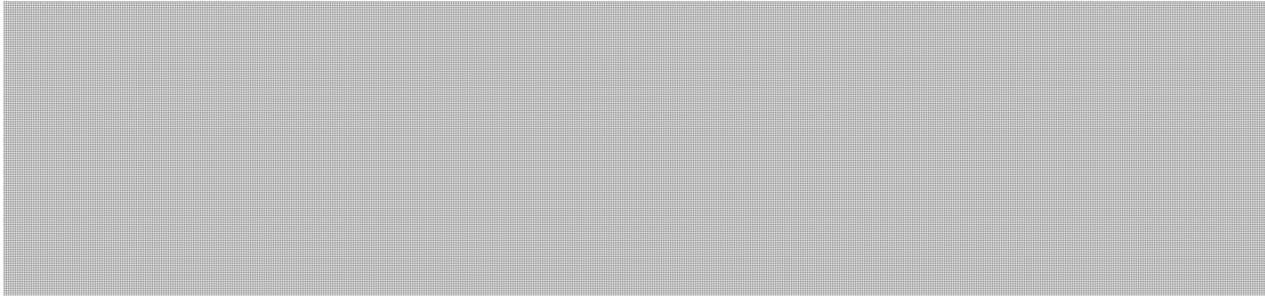
STATEMENTS

- On Friday March 19, YNGON and other LMs issued tweets and Facebook posts in support of the IIMM and raising awareness that the Mechanism's mandate is ongoing and includes violations in the current context: <https://twitter.com/canembmyanmar/status/1372814471865901062?s=21>
- On Friday (19 March), a number of LM missions joined a US-initiated statement on the violence in Hlaing Tharyar township the week prior: <https://twitter.com/usembassyburma/status/1372889220851793922?s=21>. It reads that "the brutal violence against unarmed civilians by the security forces in Hlaing Thayar and elsewhere in Myanmar [...] is immoral and indefensible" and urges Myanmar's military to cease all violence against people of Myanmar.

- Also on Friday, several Chambers of Commerce and Industry based in Myanmar released a joint statement condemning "violence perpetrated against unarmed civilians and those engaged in non-violent protests" and reiterating calls for unrestricted access to information across all telecommunications systems.
- Dozens of Rakhine civil society groups released a statement yesterday (21 March) condemning the military coup and calling for federal democracy.

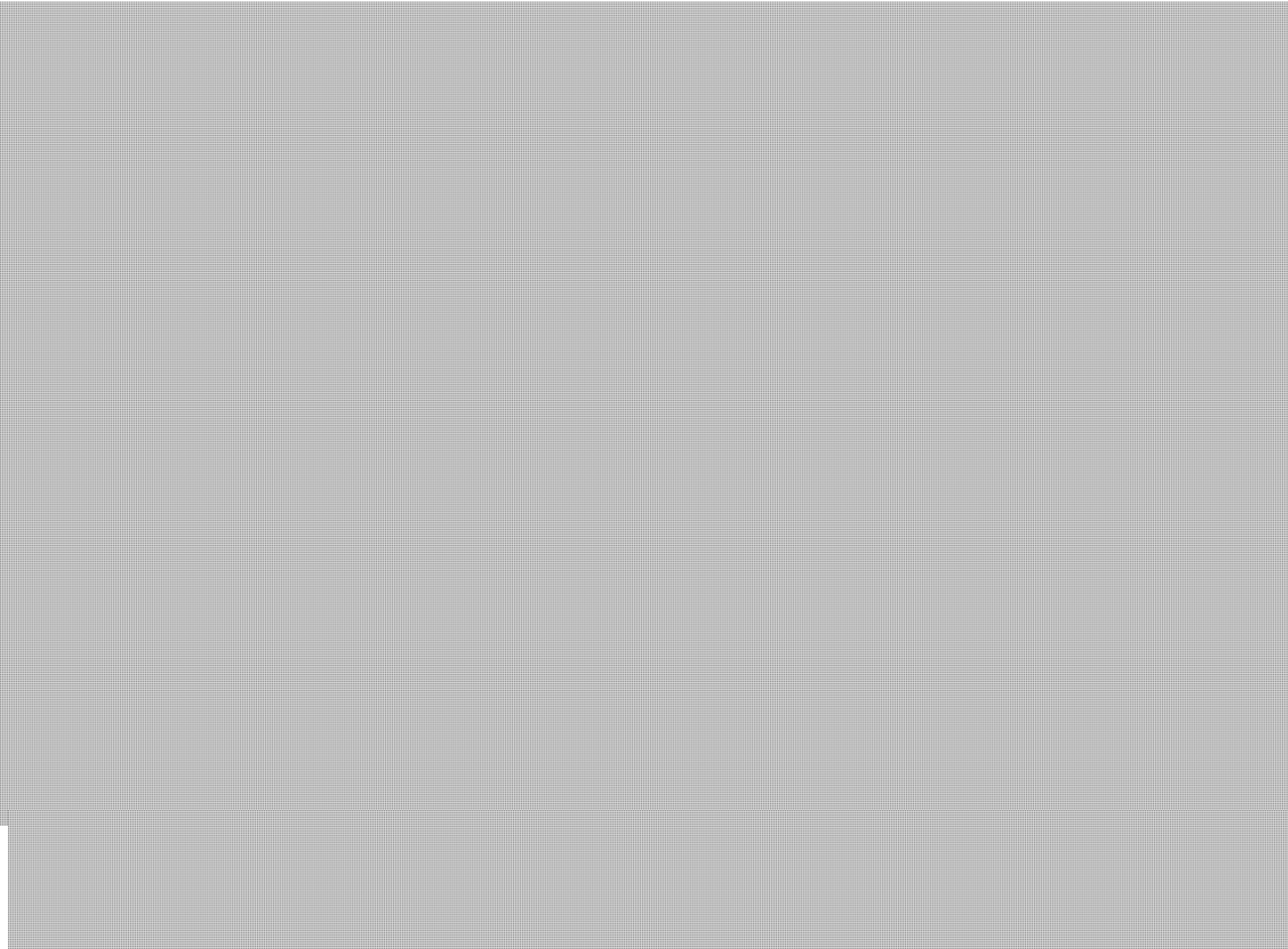
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LIKE-MINDED COORDINATION

- YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.



24 March

- **March 24 was deemed a “Silent Strike Day” or “Dead City Strike” by the various protest movements in Yangon.**
- As a result, Yangon was very quiet.
- Some stores announced one-day closures in support of the strike.
- At time of writing, March 24, there were no reports of ongoing protests in Yangon. There are no reports of active protests across Myanmar at the time of writing.
- Tensions remain high in some outlying areas of Yangon, particularly where there have been previous incidents of violence, **but significantly fewer reports of excess force in Yangon over this week than the week prior and none today.**

- Almost all community-installed barricades in Yangon have been removed, forcibly by TMD.
- As with the previous report, many stores and some banks are reopening this week (some remain temporarily closed due to the CDM strike today). Local grocery stores remain open, but some businesses are not accepting payment by credit card, likely due to their own cash shortages. This is inconsistent: some days stores are accepting credit cards, some days they aren't.

- 628 detainees, many arrested or detained during early March protests were released from prison by security forces today.

OVERALL in Yangon: The past week has been the calmest to date, since the first week of February with a reduction in protests, in violence, in excessive force on the part of TMD, reduction in deaths and reduction in live rounds. Stores have opened, banks are resuming functioning, ATMs are being replenished, traffic patterns are resuming, both TMD and community barricades are reduced. Of the past week, today has been by far the quietest – likely due to the Silent Strike.

- **Today in Yangon:** No protests, no violence.
- **Yesterday in Yangon:** Dawn protests continued yesterday in Thingangyun, Thaketa, Sanchaung, Kyauktada, North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (East) and Hlaing Townships. Those protests gather only a few dozens of participants, and are held for a few minutes. They have been peaceful. In Ahlone and Kyimyindaing Townships, residents covered the streets with origami to express their opposition to the SAC. **No reported fatalities, no reports of force, no reports of live rounds yesterday in Yangon.**
- **Monday in Yangon:** A few small-scale protests were reported in Yangon yesterday evening. In late afternoon a few dozens of protestors marched in Kyaukmyaung (Tarmwe Township) and in Kyuntaw Street (Sanchaung Township), urging residents to join them. No reports of violence or use of excessive/lethal force or fatalities in Yangon.

OVERALL outside Yangon:

- Myanmar is quiet today. No protests.
- Earlier in the week, peaceful protest and nighttime vigils took place in several cities in states and regions outside of Yangon.
- Mandalay continues to be a hot spot for violence outside of Yangon. It was where violence first erupted after the coup and it has continued to be tense with eruptions of violence. The highly problematic Chief of Police of Mandalay is thought to be behind this.

Outside of Yangon yesterday:

- One reported fatality in Mandalay yesterday during forcible dispersal of protesters; two deaths by shootings, including a 7 year old in her home during a raid by security forces. (Mandalay is a city in a different region than Yangon, 637 km away, or approx. 8 hours by car)
- In Dawei, a collision between an army truck and group of protesters led to one death – no details available.
- Protests were also reported in Yezagyo (Magway Region), Khin-U, Depayin, Kalay, Monywa and Salingyi (Sagaing Region).
- A mob of approximately ten people attacked a Myanmar-national owned Denko petrol station in Mandalay Region's Patheingyi Township on March 23 at about 6pm, destroying two petrol

bowsers and a glass panel on a cashier's counter and also threw molotov cocktails. Staff at the petrol station had been able to extinguish them.

Outside of Yangon Monday night:

- Between 3 - 9 people (reports vary) were reportedly killed by live rounds, including a 13 (some reports say 15) year old boy on Monday evening in Mandalay. Reporting varies. (In Mya Yee Nandar Ward, 45th Street (Chan Mya Tharzi Township), a clash broke out when security forces cleared barricades. According to Mandalay In-depth News, 2 people were killed, and 4 others were injured. Another shooting was reported in Pyigy Pyawbwe Ward (Chan Aye Tharzan Township); 3 people were killed. Lastly, 4 people were killed in Thin Pan Kone Ward
[REDACTED]
- As reported in yesterday's sitrep there have been largely peaceful night protests, and some daytime protests in other areas outside of Yangon, including Myikyina (dispersed early after starting), Muse (Northern Shan State), and in Meikhtila (Mandalay Region) - protest was dispersed; 4 people were reportedly arrested. No reports of fatalities
- **Potential Flashpoint:** It is impossible to determine whether the current decrease in activity on the part of protesters and decrease in force on the part of the TMD is indicative of a trend, or is a lull before another potential reescalation. Both are possible. Continued restrictions are likely and escalations possible as **March 27 – Armed Forces Day** – approaches; an important occasion for the Tatmadaw to demonstrate consolidated control. This week leading up to and during the March 27 Armed Forces day remains a flash point for violence and **YNGON is monitoring the possibility of both TMD and protester violence on or leading up to Armed Forces day carefully along with other LMs.** As reported earlier, April first – the day parliament would have begun its business under the elected NLD government - also remains a flashpoint for both the CDM movement and the TMD. **YNGON is monitoring the lead up to Armed Forces Day and April 1 closely as a potential flashpoint.**
- **Potential weaponization of the protest movement:** There is potential for violent confrontation on the part of increasingly hard-line civilian protesters, bearing homemade weapons, which would likely precipitate a violent TMD crackdown (Reftel-576). There have been some isolated reports of use of homemade weaponry, but this has not yet materialized as a widespread or large-scale, coordinated tactic. It remains, however, an area of significant concern.
[REDACTED]

25 March

YNGON-580: MYANMAR - Coup Update 26 (Day 53; March 25)

SUMMARY

- **There continue to be fewer instances of excessive or lethal force by security forces against protestors and civilians in Myanmar, particularly in Yangon, though tensions are higher today than they have been all week.** There were no large or confrontational protests in Yangon this week, though there were some instances of property damage, including arson. Tension is higher in Yangon today, with reports of at least 2 deaths in the city (in Thingangyun Township, ██████████ ██████████). Security forces reportedly set barricades on fire and also took control of a monastery. Four small protests in Yangon today, two at dawn, proceeded without incident. Reports have emerged that an SAC-appointed ward administrator was stabbed (not fatally) in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region (not Yangon City) on Monday. There was one incident of open fire with live rounds in Yangon (City) on Wednesday, but no casualties reported.
- **Possible Arson:** Reports have also emerged of at least three fires in Yangon this week, likely arson, at a Chinese-owned factory in **Shwepyithar** Township (22 March) and two at ward administrator offices in **Dawbon** and **Thaketa** townships (22 March). In all three cases, the cause of the fires are unknown, though there is speculation that the ward administrator offices were targeted to protest the new, State Administration Council (SAC)-appointed ward administrators. Security forces responding to these fires reportedly fired at houses and damaged vehicles in the area, and made some arrests.
- **Dawn protests continued over the reporting period in multiple Yangon townships**, attracting only dozens of participants, sometimes for just a few minutes, and without incident. On Tuesday, residents in two Yangon townships covered the streets with origami to express their opposition to the SAC (an example of a “silent” or “protestor-less” protest, using signs in the absence of people, which has reduced instances of direct confrontations with security forces).
- **Cities across Myanmar participated in a “silent strike” on Wednesday (24 march – REFTEL YNGON-579), including most townships of Yangon, with individuals staying home and businesses remaining closed** (except in smaller towns with no access to mobile internet, who did not know it was happening). The strike was intended to make the streets completely empty and underscore that Myanmar is not “back to normal”. With streets empty and little activity, there were no significant protests or episodes of violence. The only incident reported in Yangon took place in **Yankin Township, when security forces opened fire with live rounds** and arrested 17 young protesters (among them, one 14-year-old boy). Outside of Yangon, several protests were reported during the afternoon, but no major incidents were reported.
- **On Wednesday, likely related if not in response to the strike, the State Administration Council reportedly summoned representatives from large retail chains and markets in Yangon and Mandalay, detaining them well into the evening, and some overnight.** In Yangon, approximately 100 representatives and branch managers from three supermarket chains – City

Mart, Sein Gay Har and Orange – were told to come to City Hall around noon, and were warned that they would be taken from their homes if they failed to present themselves. They had to spend the night at the City Hall and their whereabouts remained unknown until this morning. They were released around noon.

- **In contrast to relative calm in Yangon, security forces continued to employ excessive and lethal force against civilians in Mandalay.** While at the time of writing there are no reports of deaths in Mandalay today, 14 people were killed there over the course of the week, most by live fire from security forces (as many as 9 on Monday, 4 on Tuesday, and 1 on Wednesday – **REFTEL YNGON-577, 579**). There is also footage circulating on social media of security forces allegedly shooting at ambulances in Mandalay over the reporting period. **While every unnecessary life lost is a tragedy, many victims of Myanmar's coup d'état and subsequent crackdown are painfully young.** There were three children, including a seven-year old, among those killed by security forces in Mandalay this week, prompting renewed international condemnation, including from [Canada](#) and calls for security forces to cease violence, and release detainees.
- **Dozens of protests took place across the country over the reporting period with sporadic episodes of violence or confrontation, including at least 3 deaths today:** On Wednesday, there are reports of 1 death and 2 injuries following a shooting by security forces in Kyaukpadaung (Magway Region). Today, in Taunggyi (Shan State), 2 people were reportedly killed when security forces dispersed a protest; tension remains very high. In Mohnyin (Kachin State), Myitkyina News reports that one person was killed by live rounds. In Khin Oo (Sagaing Region), 3 people were injured by live rounds around 12:00 hrs.
- **There were additional incidents of violence targeting security forces during the reporting period. While precise motivations – and perpetrators – are unknown, state property appears to be a common target. For the time being these incidents have taken place outside of Yangon City:** On Monday (22 March), a SAC-appointed ward administrator was stabbed and severely injured in Kyauktan (Yangon Region – not Yangon City). In Mandalay on Monday, two people reportedly threw a stun grenade into an office during a training for education workers (no casualties reported), while in Lashio (Shan State), there were two explosions in the house of a retired Tatmadaw member. Tuesday evening, the education department office in Phekon (Southern Shan State) was destroyed by fire; in Pyapon Township (Ayeyarwaddy Region), the ward administrator's office was also destroyed by fire.
- **Potential flashpoint:** Armed Forces Day, 27 March, in addition to public holidays on 26 and 29 March, present opportunities for protestors to regroup and clash with security forces throughout Myanmar. Security forces may be under stricter orders to crack down on any protests or crowds. The regime appears to be making an effort to deter protests this weekend, through ongoing and new security measures, and ostensibly good-faith gestures, such as the release of hundreds of detained protestors this week, including some journalists (**REFTEL YNGON-579**) (**Note:** 01 April, the day parliament would have begun its business under the elected NLD government, also remains a potential flashpoint.)
- **Potential weaponization of the protest movement:** There is potential for violent confrontation on the part of increasingly hard-line civilian protesters, bearing homemade weapons which would likely precipitate a violent TMD crackdown (**REFTEL YNGON-576, 577, 579**). There have been some isolated reports of use of homemade weaponry, and apparent arson, but this has

not yet materialized as a widespread or large-scale, coordinated tactic. It remains, however, an area of significant concern.

- March 24 was deemed a “Silent Strike Day” or “Dead City Strike” by the various protest movements in Yangon. As a result, Yangon was very quiet. Some stores announced one-day closures in support of the strike.
- At the time of writing, there are reports of injuries and at least 2 deaths in Yangon today (in [redacted] Security forces reportedly set community-installed barricades on fire and also took control of a monastery. **Four small protests in Yangon today, two at dawn, proceeded without incident.**

- As with the previous report, many stores and some banks are reopening this week. Some remain temporarily closed, or with shorter operating hours, due to the civil disobedience movement. ATMs do not always have cash, but are replenished. Local grocery stores frequented by YNGON staff remain open, but some businesses are not accepting payment by credit card, likely due to their own cash shortages. This is inconsistent: some days stores are accepting credit cards, some days they are not.

ARMED FORCES DAY

- The SAC invited the 10 EAO signatories of the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to Armed Forces Day ceremonies. At the time of writing:
 - The **New Mon State Party (NMSP)**, the **Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council (KNLA/PC)** (a minor group, not to be confused with the Karen National Liberation Army, an EAO non-signatory), the **Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA)** and the **Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)** have confirmed they will attend. However, according to Karen News, the KNLA/PC and DKBA are reconsidering this decision.
 - The **Karen National Union (KNU)**, the **Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)** and the **Pa-O National Liberation Army (PNLA)** have decided not to attend the ceremony.
 - The **All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)**, The **Chin National Front (CNF)** and The **Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)** have not voiced their position yet.
- The **Arakan National Party (ANP)** has declined to participate, saying the political situation is among the reasons why it will not accept an invitation to attend Armed Forces Day. (**Note:** On Monday, the ANP released a statement to express their sorrow for the people that have lost their lives during the riot crackdown; the statement also promised to stand with the people “to end any sort of dictatorship”. That said, Daw Aye Nu Sein, the spokesperson of the ANP, is also a member of the State Administration Council.)

MEDIA

- Three journalists were released from detention this week, including a Polish reporter who had been arrested in Taunggyi (Shan State) on 11 March. (He was released after paying a fine.) Detained **BBC journalist Aung Thura** was also released on Monday in Nay Pyi Taw, after reportedly being kept awake for three nights and interrogated about alleged links to the civil disobedience movement. **Thein Zaw**, an AP journalist arrested on 27 February, was also released in Yangon on Wednesday.
- At least 21 other journalists arrested since the coup remain in custody, according to **the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)**, many facing charges under Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code, including Nay Pyi Taw-based freelance journalist Aung Ko Ko Latt (charges announced on Tuesday). In Shan State, the editor and 2 journalists of Kanbawza Tai News were arrested Wednesday night in Hopong, near Taunggyi. The editor's home was searched by security forces.
- In a regime press conference on Tuesday (more below), spokesperson Zaw Min Tun accused the media of neglecting violence by protesters against security forces. He also warned journalists they could be hit with **Unlawful Association Act** charges if they cover the activities of the **Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)**. Asked if the military would guarantee the safety of journalists, the spokesperson responded that journalists have a responsibility to ensure their own safety.

ARRESTS, TRIALS, DETENTIONS

- **2906** people have been arrested, charged or sentenced at one point in relation to the military coup. On Wednesday, approximately **600** protestors arrested in Yangon on 3 March were released from Insein Prison; one of the students recently released said some of the detained protestors bore marks of physical abuse. Four medics who had been beaten and arrested in North Okkalapa on 3 March were also released. (This follows a smaller, but still significant release of 46 protestors from prison in Mandalay on Tuesday, who had been arrested on 08 March.)
- Also on Wednesday, state media announced the sentencing of 14 civilians by military tribunal, after alleged committed crimes in **Hlaing Tharyar** and **Shwepyithar** townships, now areas under martial law. Two people were given 20 years in prison for arson, for allegedly burning a factory; five were given three years for illegal possession of a weapon, for allegedly carrying knives; three were given three years in prison for assisting the concealment of stolen property, by allegedly buying stolen items looted from a factory; and four were sentenced to three years in prison for inciting civil service personnel not to work. All of the sentences include “punitive labour”.
- The fifth hearing of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Win Myint was supposed to take place on Wednesday, but had to be postponed (again) to 1 April, because of internet disruption.

STATE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL (SAC)

- **The SAC held its third press conference on Tuesday (23 March) in Nay Pyi Daw.** In his opening remarks, spokesperson Zaw Min Tun reiterated claims of electoral fraud and shared further findings of related regime investigations. The spokesperson also showed a video of detailed Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein allegedly confessing to allegations of corruption and bribery targeting State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. (In the video, he “confesses” to bribing the State counsellor with cash, gold bars, and expensive silks.) The video quickly went viral given what netizens deemed to be comical forgery (the video shows the Chief Minister sitting, barely moving his lips, while an audio confession in a different voice plays in the background).
- **Other key messages from the spokesperson included:**
 - The regime Union Election Commission and political parties will meet every two months, and the UEC has asked political parties to submit comments on a proportional representation system for voting. The regime will work to ensure every voter has a National Registration Card (note high risk of leveraging this NRC to disenfranchise voters).
 - Violence in recent protests was due to protestors’ attacks, and that security forces had to the legitimate right to defend themselves. The military expressed sadness at the death of protestors, but blamed them for bringing anarchy to the country.
 - Mobile internet connection will not be restored for the moment “because of the stimulation for riots and violence are from online”. He added that Internet’s night suspension will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL

- On Wednesday, **AIR KBZ** announced they will resume domestic flights from 26 to 31 March. (Destinations covered include Sittwe, Myeik, Mandalay, Kengtung, Dawei, Kawthaung, Myitkyina, Heho, Kyaukphyu, Tachileik, Lashio, Thandwe.) **Myanmar National Airlines** also

announced it will resume flights across the country in late March. New regulations from the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports indicate **Covid-19 tests are not necessary anymore for domestic flights**. (The regime has made a very public effort to kick-start domestic tourism, [REDACTED])

- On Wednesday, social media testimonies and footage showed ID checks aboard highway buses, notably between Yangon and Mandalay. [REDACTED] (The same highway runs north, past Mandalay, to Nay Pyi Daw; checkpoints likely indicate enhanced security measures in advance of Armed Forces Day.) Near Mandalay today, the Myanmar Military took control of the 16 Mile Asia World Toll gate on the Mandalay-Muse highway, and are conducting ID checks on vehicles and travellers.

BANKING

- **In recent weeks state media has carried repeated warnings that recalcitrant banks will face “legal action”**, while a purported letter from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing’s State Administration Council to the Central Bank that leaked online says private banks that fail to reopen could be forced to transfer some accounts to military and state-run institutions. Frontier reports the **Central Bank has written to banks warning them they will face escalating financial penalties if they do not open at least 50 percent of branches this week**. Fines will reportedly be levied by dividing banks into three categories based on the number of branches they operate.
- A local news outlet reported that KBZ, which is the country’s largest local private bank with around 40 percent of total assets, had just five branches officially open in Yangon as of Tuesday, out of 144 listed on its website. Each branch was serving 50 customers each through a token system, according to the bank. (A YNGON partner using the token system Thursday morning indicated that some people had arrived at 4:00am, when the curfew lifted, to stand in line. KBZ ATMS are functioning and are being replenished.) AYA Bank has also opened some branches in Yangon.
- Wednesday afternoon, the Central Bank of Myanmar announced it gave a 5 Million MMK penalty to Myanmar Oriental Bank for failing to reopen its branches. According to Frontier, bankers say they’ve been explicitly warned that the fines could increase at any time.
- Nearly all of Myanmar’s private banks have been closed since February 8, when rank-and-file workers joined the Civil Disobedience Movement calling for an end to military rule. While there have been some improvements, with some private banks beginning to reopen (often due to fear of repercussions from the regime), the closure of close to 2,000 private bank branches has made international payments, withdrawals and interbank transfers all but impossible, leaving customers reliant on internet banking and ATMs which are replenished, but sometimes inconsistently.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

- **Many government departments (Union and regional/state) set deadlines this week for their staff to go back to work (REFTEL YNGON-577)**. Failing so, some civil servants may be evicted from their government-provided accommodation, be suspended or dismissed, or face charges under the Myanmar Penal Code and civil service laws. Some of these disciplinary measures are already underway:
- This week, the regime **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** dismissed over 50 employees; the **Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations** temporarily suspended over 60; and 77 staff of the **Mandalay City Development Committee** were temporarily suspended. In Demoso (Kaya State), 21 employees from the General Administration Department were dismissed, and 55 employees from the Meteorology Department were suspended. CDM civil servants from the Railways

Department in Mon State were evicted from government housing (there are reports of similar incidents in Yangon and Mandalay); in Chin State, two civil servants were charged with Article 505 (a) of the Penal Code (inciting mutiny).

- **Despite these disciplinary measures, civil servants continue to join the CDM**, including, this week, four more Myanmar diplomats (two second secretaries from the Embassy in Paris; one official in Tokyo and a fourth in Rome); a Police Sub-Lieutenant in Mogok (Mandalay Region); and the Shan State Chief Law Officer, the first ever SAC-appointed official to join the movement.
- On Tuesday (23 March), **Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, the CRPH-appointed Minister of Education, Health, Labour, Immigration and Population**, posted a **3-part strategy for the CDM**. He called on Myanmar people to 1) urge civil servants to join the movement and force out the non-CDM civil servants; 2) to make all civil servants join the CDM and completely stop the whole administration; and 3) replace the SAC administration with a CRPH-controlled one. In another post, he also called non-CDM civil servants “murderers” and “the people’s enemy”.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- Monday evening (22 March), two days after announcing the CRPH an unlawful association, the SAC announced new charges of treason against 15 leading members of the CRPH. (Most CRPH members were already facing charges under the Penal Code; some already faced charges of treason.) The regime encourages public informants to come forward and threatens to charge individuals associated with the CRPH, and/or media engaging with them, under the unlawful association act. According to Government newspapers Myanmar Alin & Kyay Mone, the SAC requested Interpol to arrest CRPH leaders on 23 March.
- On Monday (22 March), the CRPH issued a statement urging private companies not to participate in the **Gems and Jewellery Fair 2021**, saying companies who join will be blacklisted by the CRPH. CRPH said the emporium, scheduled from April 1-10, is an “unforgivable move given the country is facing hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the citizens’ lives are afflicted by the regime’s careless acts”.
- On Wednesday (24 March), the CRPH effectively endorsed earlier comments from their Special Envoy, Dr. SaSa, on Monday, in which he pledged that “**Justice will be delivered for Rohingyas**”. In a separate address this week, Dr. SaSa called the treatment of Rohingya “ethnic cleansing”, accusing the military of killing “thousands of our brothers [and] sisters Rohingya”. “They are human beings,” he continued, “they can believe Muslim, or Christian, or Buddhist, it doesn’t matter... These same military generals, they raped thousands of Rohingya women, our sisters, and they pushed the children, the babies to the sea,” he said. (These comments may undermine Myanmar’s case at the International Court of Justice, where a defence team led by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi refuted charges of ethnic cleansing, and argued that sexual violence was not widespread during the 2017 Rohingya crisis.)
- On a related note, the CRPH has reappointed **Win Myat Aye** to serve as **minister for social welfare, relief and resettlement**, the same position he held under the NLD government before the coup. (Win Myat Aye is one of the few ministers to have escaped junta custody since the coup. This appointment may clash somewhat with the CRPH’s new line on the Rohingya crisis; while in office, Win Myat Aye questioned the validity of the allegations and said “terrorists” were burning villages, in reference to the Rohingya, despite evidence showing the military burned those villages. He also oversaw many of the controversial development activities in northern Rakhine after most Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh.)

ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS (EAOs)

- According to Reuters on Tuesday, the spokesperson of the **Arakan Army** expressed the outfit's "great sadness that innocent people are being shot and killed all over Myanmar" and added that it stands "together ... with the people". It is the strongest stance to date from the AA; until now, the organization has been silent, and of all ethnic parties, is perceived to be most aligned, if not supportive of, the Tatmadaw coup. (On Monday (22 March), the **Arakan National Party (ANP)** released a statement to express their sorrow "for the people who lost their lives during the riot crackdown". The statement also promised to stand with the people "to end any sort of dictatorship". Daw Aye Nu Sein, the spokesperson of the ANP is a member of the SAC.)
- **Kachin Independence Army (KIA)** Lieutenant Colonel Tan Seng told local media on Monday that current fighting against the Tatmadaw is intended to show the regime that the KIA will not tolerate people being harmed. The Lt Colonel pledged to retaliate in response to any further Tatmadaw violence against Kachin people. Wednesday night, the KIA seized a Myanmar Military base in Alaw Bum which, 30 miles from Laiza.
- The **Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)**'s Brigade 5 says it has blocked food supplies intended for the Tatmadaw, leaving 700 sacks of rice and oil stranded near the Thanlwin (Salween) River. The KNU said this was a "pre-emptive action to prevent conflicts from escalating" but threatened to respond if the military attempted to retrieve the supplies. There are separate reports that Thai and Myanmar military are moving to tighten control over the border.
- At least 15 members of the **Mon Unity Party (MUP)** including two vice-chairs, members of the secretariat team and central committee members resigned from the party yesterday, Khit Thit Media reported. According to the resignation letters, the departing members expressed their grave concerns over the party's cooperation with the junta. (The MUP had accepted a position on the State Administration Council, and on the Mon State SAC.)

STATEMENTS

- **Canadian statements this week:**
 - **23 March:** Foreign Policy CAN tweet welcoming EU sanctions in response to the coup d'état in Myanmar (amplified by YNGON on Twitter and Facebook).
 - **25 March:** Canada in Geneva tweet sharing Canada-UK remarks on Myanmar to the ILO Governing Body (amplified by YNGON on Facebook).
 - **25 March:** YNGON statement on recent fatalities in Myanmar, including three children. Full text reads: *"The reports of shooting deaths of three children in Mandalay over the past three days is a heartbreaking, senseless and tragic loss of young innocent lives. Violence against children and civilians is never acceptable; the loss of life is appalling; and the impact on Myanmar, its future, and its people's efforts to advance democracy, economic prosperity, development and peace - devastating. Our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims of these acts of violence. The Embassy of Canada to Myanmar regrets that it must again echo earlier statements of the Government of Canada which called on the Myanmar security forces to cease all violence, threats and intimidation against civilians, cease the occupation of schools, and to release those detained - among them children and youth, and including protesters, politicians, civil servants, civil society activists and journalists."*
- The **UK Embassy in Myanmar** issued a strongly worded statement on Twitter about the 7-year-old girl recently killed by security forces, calling it "another appalling, cowardly act by the Myanmar military".

- **China** and **Russia** have both expressed “deep concern” about the situation in Myanmar, as the death toll mounts from the junta’s intensifying crackdown on peaceful anti-regime protesters. Irrawaddy reported Wednesday (24 March) that during a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday, both men voiced support for all parties in Myanmar to seek a political solution to the current crisis within the constitution and legal framework, and to avoid further conflict and bloodshed.
- **Save the Children** also issued a statement expressing their horror that children continue to be among the targets of fatal attacks against protesters. The statement also expresses concern for the safety of hundreds of young people being held in detention, including many youth.
- On Monday (22 March), over 180 civil society organizations, including the **Women’s Peace Network**, called on the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** to hold the Myanmar military accountable for grievously violating the human rights of women. Specifically, they call for a UNSC resolution to
 - Refer the situation of Myanmar to the International Criminal Court;
 - Dispatch a monitoring and mediation body to Myanmar;
 - Impose targeted economic sanctions and financial penalties on the junta; and
 - Impose a comprehensive and global arms embargo on Myanmar.
- According to the office of the **UN Secretary General**, in a press briefing on Wednesday (24 March), the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** estimates that approximately 100,000 migrants have left Yangon, and Yang Thar Yar specifically, and returned to their communities of origin, mainly Rakhine State and Ayeyarwaddy Region, in search of safety and security. According to the IOM, they are returning to communities already in distress due to the impacts of the military takeover, including the suspension of banking services and scarcity of food.
- On Wednesday (24 March), the **UN Human Rights Council** passed a resolution condemning abuses of fundamental freedoms in Myanmar. The resolution reaffirms the Council’s “strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and unity of Myanmar.” The document also promises continuing support for the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar – previously established by the Human Rights Council – “to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011, in particular in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan States”, with a view to a future prosecution. (Amnesty International welcomed the resolution, calling it a “clear and unequivocal message to the Myanmar military” and to “businesses with ties to military-owned companies”.)

LIKE-MINDED ACTIVITIES & COORDINATION

- On Monday, as expected, the **European Union** announced asset freezes and visa bans for 11 individuals including Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, his deputy Soe Win, acting president Myint Swe and the military-appointed Union Election Commission chairman Thein Soe. The individuals on the list cannot visit or transfer through European territory, any funds in the EU are frozen, and EU citizens/companies are “forbidden from making funds available” to them. In their announcement, the EU pledged to consider “additional restrictive measures against economic entities controlled by the military” but does not want to pursue any measures that “have an adverse effect on the general population”.
- Also on Monday, the **US Treasury Department** added to its sanction list U Than Hlaing, Chief of Police and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs; Lieutenant-General Aung Soe, Head of the Bureau of Special Operations, as well as the 33rd and 77th Light Infantry Divisions, accused of opening fire into Mandalay Hospital. (According to an investigation by Justice For Myanmar and Amnesty

International, LID 33 and other divisions were listed as Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited shareholders in 2010-11 (a military conglomerate), an arrangement that has likely continued.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Anthony Blinken, **US Secretary of State**, issued a [statement](#) announcing the decision and acknowledging similar actions by EU partners, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The United States is reportedly planning to imminently impose Treasury sanctions on Myanmar Economic Corporation and Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, two conglomerates controlled by the military.

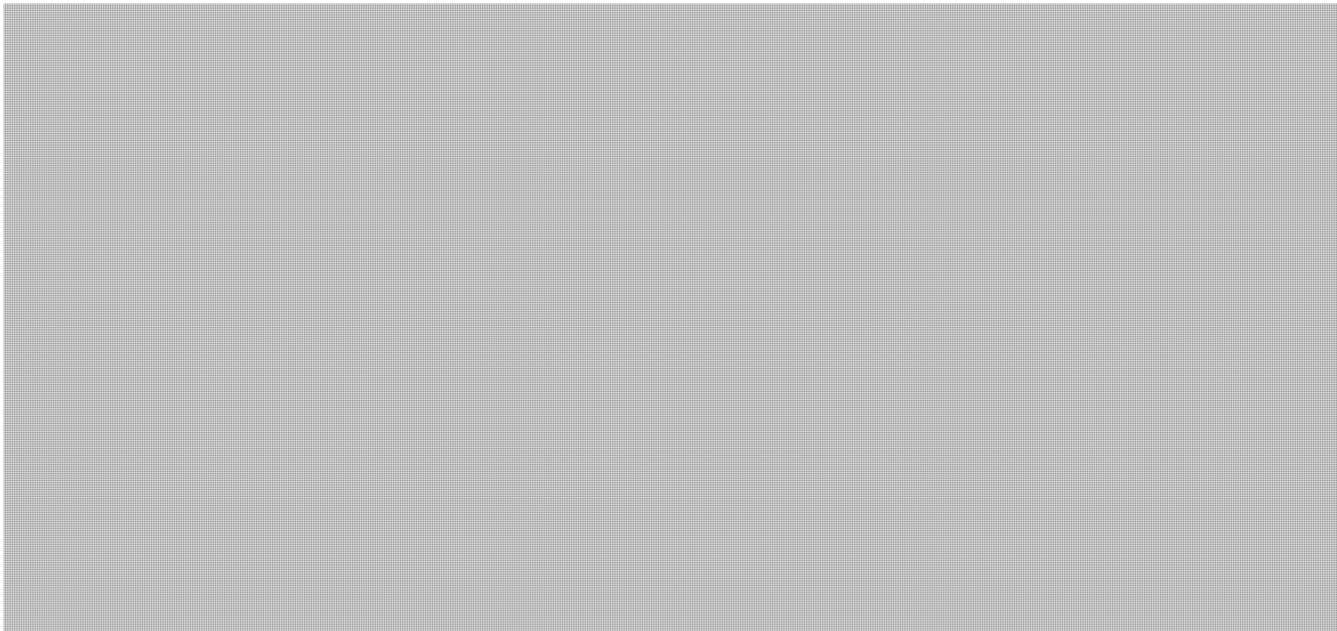
- **Coordination:** YNGON continues to coordinate closely with LMs across all programs and levels.

[REDACTED]

s.17

s.19(1)

s.21(1)(b)



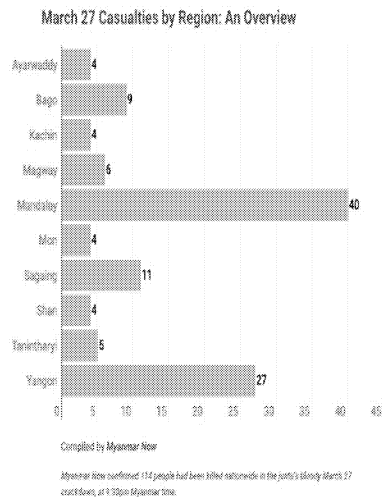
Drafted: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED]

With input from: YNGON-GR, [REDACTED] YNGON-DA, [REDACTED]

Consulted: YNGON-GR [REDACTED]

Approved: YNGON HOM

29 March



SUMMARY:

The security situation on the ground in Myanmar has **deteriorated significantly** over the reporting period. As per YNGON's earlier reporting, March 27- Armed Forces Day – served as a major flashpoint of violence across the country, including in Yangon. More than 114 deaths were reported across Myanmar on Saturday March 27, with at least 41 deaths in the city of Mandalay, and at least 27 deaths in Yangon. There were also fatalities reported in Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions and Kachin, Mon and Shan states. The

fatalities on March 27 represent the highest civilian toll since the February 1 coup. The day of profound violence took place as the Myanmar Tatmadaw Commander in Chief fêted a number of foreign and domestic dignitaries in Nay Pyi Taw in honour of Armed Forces Day. The day was preceded by a stark warning issued on the evening of Feb 26 on Tatmadaw-owned and controlled MRTV, warning that protesters would be shot in the head or back.

In **Yangon**, violence erupted in several townships, with an escalation in both tactics and targets on the part of the TMD. Of particular concern were

reports of use of grenades (likely Tatmadaw), one possible IED in the vicinity of the passport office and central bank (perpetrators and details unconfirmed), and gunfire attack on the American Center. The US Embassy confirmed that gunmen in an unmarked civilian vehicle fired shots at the American Center, striking the bullet-proof glass windows of the street-level guard hut. The glass was not penetrated and there were no injuries.

Violence **outside of Yangon** also escalated on Saturday, particularly in Mandalay, with reports of deaths by live rounds, grenades, and in one case, a wounded protester being burned alive on a tire fire. In another case, a young man was found dead crammed into a generator box, with signage on the front exhorting parents to control their children or face the consequences. Fatalities expanded beyond protesters, to include bystanders and children as young as eleven years old, and a one-year old shot in the eye with a rubber bullet. Arson by security forces and protesters was reported in Mandalay. In

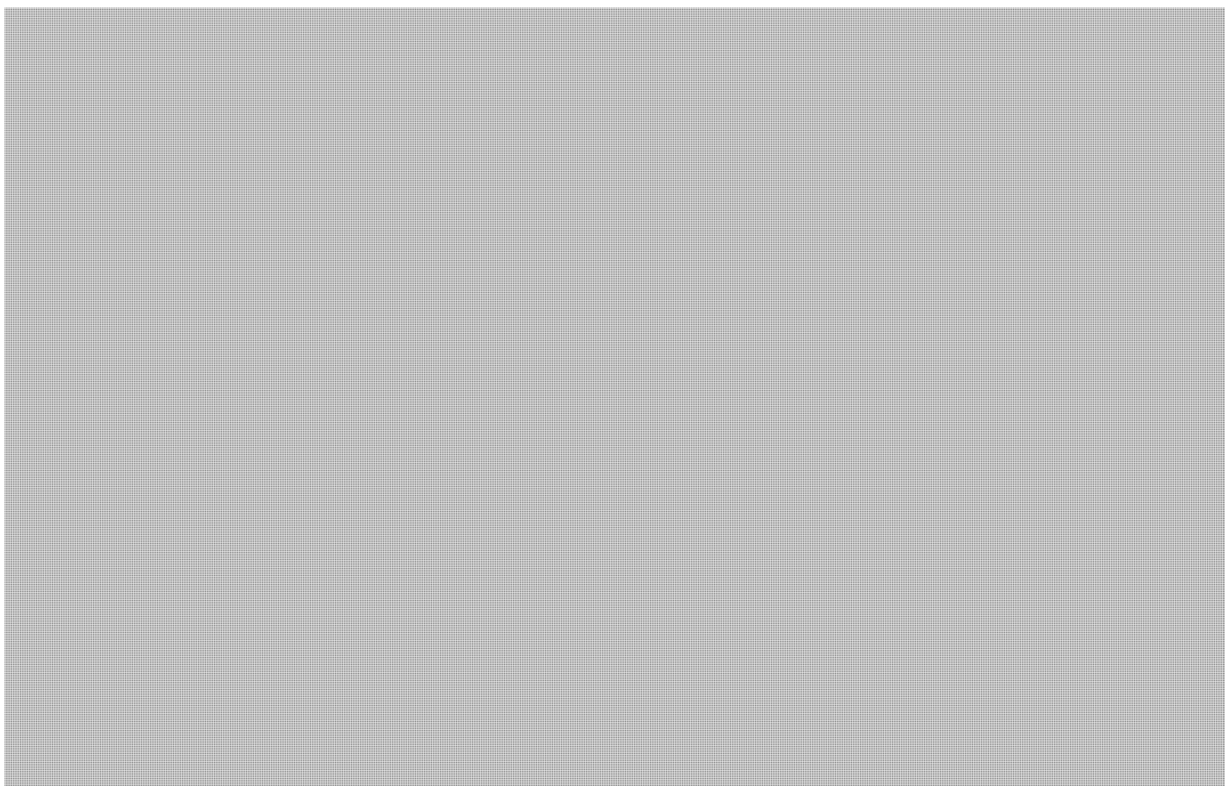
Yangon, multiple fires burned across several townships throughout the day, mostly tires on street barricades, perpetrators unclear. There are some, still isolated, but increasing, reports of protesters responding with force and homemade weaponry, mostly outside of Yangon.

The weekend also saw **Tatmadaw aerial bombardment of KNU/KNLA's (NCA signatory) 5 Brigade**, likely in retaliation for the strongly worded KNU statement issued the day prior, and KNU's harbouring of CRPH and CDM leadership within KNU-controlled territory. Media and multiple direct contacts on the ground report that air strikes hit approximately 20 km from the border, with reports (unconfirmed) that at least 3000 villagers from Itu Hta village on the Thai-Burmese border on Mutaw District fled into Thailand on March 28.

Violence continued on **March 28**, with at least 13 deaths across the country, and one confirmed (some reports suggest 2) deaths in South Dagon township of YNGON.

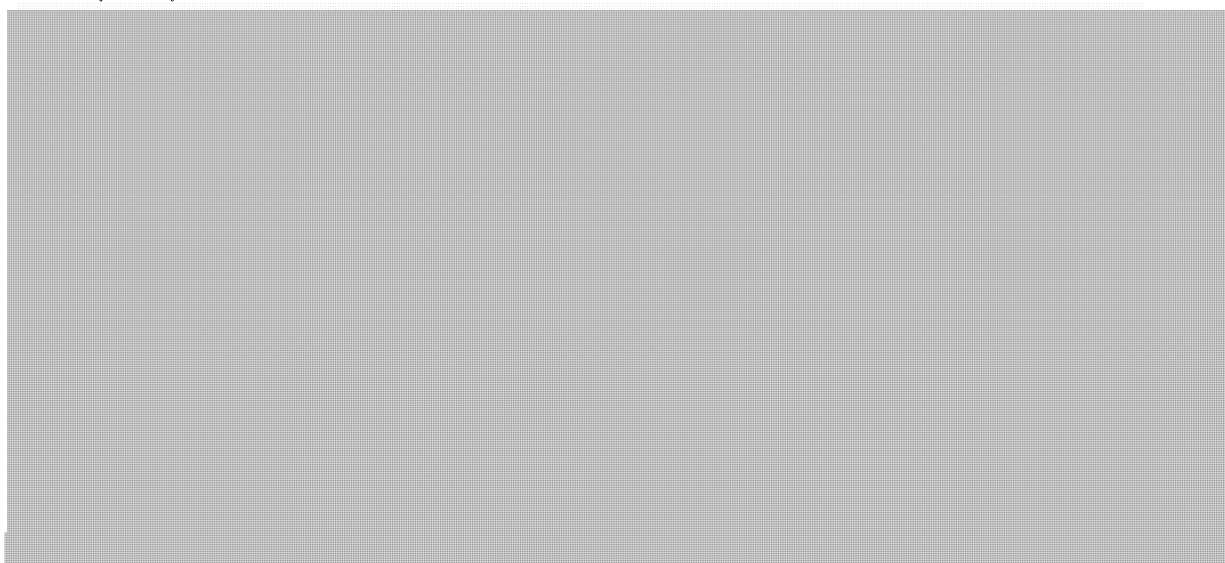
Today is a public holiday in Myanmar. There were areas of high tension and reports of military crackdowns in some areas of Yangon. Loud bangs, possibly flashbangs or sound grenades were discernable from the SQ compound toward midday, with UNDSS reporting that security forces are cracking down the protests taking place in South Dagon Myothit Township over the afternoon. Initial and unverified information indicated that grenades were used by security forces in the crackdown, and one was shot to death and additional injuries. According to [REDACTED] the situation in Myanmar "remains at the same level as yesterday, i.e. overall stable, with several points of tension. Today, incidents are reported in Myitkyina (Kachin State), Kawthaung (Tanintharyi Region, Monywa (Sagaing Region). In Yangon, tension is high in Tamwe (Kyaukmyaung quarter), in Thaketa (Mannpyay Thumana Street), South Dagon, and, to a lesser extent, in Thanlyin."

April first remains another flashpoint – the final day of the former parliament and the day the new parliament would take their seats in the legislature. It is expected that the CRPH and elements of the protest unit will make an announcement on a Unity Government (see below), which could precipitate further retaliatory actions on the part of the TMD, greater violence on the part of the protest movement if rebuffed, greater volatility on the part of the EAOs, and greater calls for legitimacy and recognition on the part of the international community.




s.21(1)(b)

- As with the previous reports, many stores and some banks are reopening this week. Some remain temporarily closed, or with shorter operating hours, due to the civil disobedience movement, or the two public holidays related to Armed Forces Day, including today.
- ATMs do not always have cash, but are replenished. Local grocery stores frequented by YNGON staff remain open, but some businesses are not accepting payment by credit card, likely due to their own cash shortages. This is inconsistent: some days stores are accepting credit cards, some days they are not.



CPRH- Anticipate Announcement of Unity Government:

s.21(1)(b)

- As previously reported by YNGON (REFTEL YNGON-580, 577, 573), YNGON anticipates significant announcements from the **Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)** this week, likely on 31 March/01 April, when the term of the previous civilian government expires.
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Armed Forces Day:

- On March 27, as the country roiled, the Commander in Chief presided of Armed Forces Day in the capital of Nay Pyi Daw, where he feted delegations of various levels from defense attaches to Russia's Deputy Minister of Defense, and engaged in a number of media opportunities, including demonstrating to the Russian Deputy Minister of Defense how to use a slingshot reportedly from among the display of improvised weaponry taken from protesters.
- International representation included Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.
- As scheduled, Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing presided over a military parade in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday, on the occasion of Armed Forces Day (27 March). During his speech, he reiterated that the Army had had to take power because of "unlawful acts", and that elections would be held (he did not mention the timeframe of those elections). He added that "The army seeks to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy" and that "violent acts that affect stability and security in order to make demands are inappropriate."

- At the event, Min Aung Hlaing praised Russia as a “true friend” in his Armed Forces Day speech and the two reaffirmed their commitment to military cooperation in bilateral meetings on March 26.
- Last week, some EAO signatories of the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement had been rumored to attend, but all of them eventually declined the invitation.
- Despite earlier indication to the contrary, no agreement with the Brotherhood Alliance or the Northern Alliance materialized.

Statements: A number of missions and capitals issued statement over the weekend, including Canada.

- Canadian statements:
 - 26 March, condemning 26 condemning the shooting deaths of children (4.6k interactions):
<https://www.facebook.com/1421359581427574/posts/3005876429642540/?d=n>
 - 26 March, supporting US and UK sanctions (2.6k interactions):
<https://www.facebook.com/CanEmbMyanmar/posts/3006566942906822>
 - 27 March, re-posting 28 Feb statement (4.4k interactions):
<https://www.facebook.com/CanEmbMyanmar/posts/3007462846150565>
 - 27 March, YNGON changed Facebook banner to black in honour of lives lost
 - 28 March, Chief of Defense statement (4k interactions):
<https://www.facebook.com/CanEmbMyanmar/posts/3008112372752279>
 - 28 March, MINA issued a statement, amplified on YNGON and GAC corporate accounts on the March 28 violence (2k interactions): <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/minister-of-foreign-affairs-condemns-attacks-on-protestors-in-myanmar.html>
- **Joint Statement of Chiefs of Defense Condemning Myanmar Military** - 13 Chiefs of Defense (Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the USA) released a joint statement, reading that "a professional military follows international standards for conduct and is responsible for protecting – not harming – the people it serves. We urge the Myanmar Armed Forces to cease violence and work to restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar that it has lost through its actions."
- UN
 - <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/statement%C2%A0attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the%C2%A0secretary-general-myanmar%C2%A0>
 - In the wake of today's incidents, the UN stated they are “horrified by the needless loss of life today, with reports of dozens of people shot dead by the military across the country, in the bloodiest day since the coup.”
- The European Union announced “This 76th Myanmar Armed Forces Day will forever stay engraved as a day of terror and dishonor. The killing of unarmed civilians, including children, are indefensible acts.”
- US Ambassador Thomas Vajda wrote “On Myanmar’s Armed Forces Day, security forces are murdering unarmed civilians, including children, the very people they swore to protect. This bloodshed is horrifying. These are not the actions of a professional military or police force”.
- UK issued posts and statements at Mission and Capital level. Ireland (non-resident) has also issued a [statement](#).

Attacks on state apparatus: While the bulk of the brutality and the resulting fatalities and casualties over the reporting period was a result of TMD excessive and lethal use of force, there was also an increase in violence perpetrated by protesters against the regime or those perceived to be aligned with the regime:

- **In Yangon:** Friday evening, State-owned TV channel MRTV reported that unidentified people hurled a grenade into Hlaing Police Station (Yangon Region); a police car was reportedly damaged. To the extent of our knowledge, this is the **first time that such an explosive ordnance is used against security forces in Yangon town.**
- The afternoon was also marked by two loud blasts, which could be heard at a large distance. The first one took place in Tamwe Township around 15:00 hrs. Media have not clarified the circumstances of the incident, but according to converging social media accounts, an artisanal bomb went off; a bomb squad was dispatched on site and found 2 others, which were detonated on site. The second blast occurred around 16:45 hrs in Yankin Township. According to ground witnesses and social media testimonies, it happened near the Passport Office (former Ministry of Home Affairs), on Industrial Road No.1. The street has been closed since then. During the night, media clarified that a third blast had also taken place on Kyimyindaing Police Station at 13:00 hrs. Attacks in Yankin and Kyimindaing were conducted with military-grade grenades; both caused little damage.
- According to State media, one **policeman was killed in a blast in North Dagon Saturday at 12:00 Hrs.** In Mayangone, three others were reportedly injured by Molotov cocktails attacks.
- According to Myanmar Labour News, 94 Ward's administrator office burnt Saturday night in **Dagon Seikkan Township** at 02:00 Hrs. According to certain sources, the fire might be accidental, but uncertainty remains.
- **Attacks on police officers (outside Yangon):** On Friday, the dead bodies of two police officers gone missing were found in a cemetery in Monywa (**Sagaing Region**). No further detail was provided on the circumstances of their disappearance. At least 30 people have been arrested in connection with that case.
- According to media, two mines went off under a police car in Tamu (**Sagaing Region**) Saturday night. One police officer was killed and 2 others injured. Tamu has been the scene of several attacks on security forces.
- According to Voice of Myanmar, security forces were targeted by a hand-made bomb in Nyaunglebin Township (**Bago Region**). The attack took place Thursday at 20:00 hrs near the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. One police officer was reportedly injured. Several attacks have taken place along the highway in Bago Region in recent days. All of them have taken place at night, but we invite you to reconsider any trip on the highway.
- **Attacks on police stations (outside Yangon):** According to MRTV, grenades (or Molotov cocktails) were thrown at police stations in Myeik (**Tanintharyi Region**) and Monywa (**Sagaing Region**) on Friday, although it could not be corroborated by independent media.
- According to Voice of Myanmar, a police station was set on fire around 09:00 hrs near Tamu (**Sagaing Region**).
- Two incidents were reported in **Mandalay:** Saturday afternoon, one police outpost was set on fire in 57th street, Chan Mya Tharzi Township.
- Saturday night, there were also reports that West police station in Mogok (**Mandalay Region**) is also on fire.

- According to Tachileik News, a blast was heard around 21:00 Hrs in the vicinity of Tachileik Township GAD building (**Shan State**). Security forces were deployed on the ground. No further information available.
- In **Sagaing Region**, an explosion was reported at 01:00 hrs. It damaged a bridge on Shwebo – Myitkyina road, in Indaw Township. According to local media, a police convoy crossed the bridge one hour before the explosion. There might be a link between both events.
- In Myitkyina (**Kachin State**) on Sunday, a police station was set on fire by unidentified men at 12:00 Hrs. In the afternoon, another police station was set on fire in Kawthaung (Tanintharyi Region).
- **Attacks on ward administration offices / other buildings (outside Yangon):** According to Than Lwin Khet media, home-made bombs were found Thursday in Pyin Oo Lwin (**Mandalay Region**), in front of the ward administration office. The ordnance did not blow off.
- Saturday night, a ward administrator office was set on fire at 19 x 89 Street, Aung Myay Thazan Township.
- This morning, Kachin wave reported one blast near the Myitkyina District Education Office in **Kachin State**. No casualty was reported.

Internal conflict – EAO-TATMADAW conflict

- According to Bago weekly, 4 rockets were launched onto a barrack of the Light Infantry Division 96 in Kyaikhto (**Mon State**) Thursday evening around 20:30 hrs. No major damage no casualty was reported. Major police operations are reportedly under way in the area to find the perpetrators. Military facilities in Bago Region and Mon State have been targeted by 4 such attacks in March.
- **KIA/Kachin:** Thursday afternoon was marked by new clashes between the KIA and the Tatmadaw in **Kachin State**. (A military convoy of 5 trucks was ambushed by the KIA between Myitkyina and Alaw Bum; 2 trucks were destroyed.) A Tatmadaw base was also conquered by the KIA in Momauk Township.
- In Kachin State, the Brigade 8 of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) warned the SAC of intensified conflict. Saturday night, in two villages of Hpakant Township, the KIA attacked police compounds at 03:00 Hrs. According to media sources, the attack inflicted heavy losses to police force. Sunday morning, Myanmar Air Force conducted air strikes in response. Some artillery shelling was also reported: in Hpakant town, one person was killed and 4 members of a rescue team were injured.
- Also on Sunday, a clash broke out between the KIA and the Tatmadaw around 16:00 Hrs, 10 miles away from Muse (Shan State). Artillery usage was reported.
- **KNU/Kayin:** Friday morning, it was learnt that the Karen national Liberation Army (KNLA) took over a Tatmadaw base in Hpapun Township. According to media, the battle caused numerous casualties.
- Saturday afternoon, Exera reported that the **KNU** had overrun a Tatmadaw base in Hpapun Township (**Kayin State**). The EAO issued a statement reading it is planning to step up the fight to protect civilians. At 20:00 hrs, night air strikes were reported on KNU positions in Kayin State.

- The Karen National Union (KNU), the armed ethnic group that controls the southeastern region, said fighter jets attacked Day Pu No in Papun district, an area held by its Brigade 5 forces, at around 8 p.m., forcing villagers to flee.
- In Kayin State, night air strikes were conducted on KNU's Brigade 5's positions between 20:00 Hrs and 02:00 Hrs (Saturday night – Sunday morning). Some casualties have been reported; residents are reportedly escaping the area.
- In Hpapun Township (Kayin State), KIC media reported new airstrikes Sunday afternoon around 15:00 hrs. This afternoon, it was learnt that last night's strikes had killed 3 civilians and injured 8 others. 3,000 people have reportedly fled the area to Thailand.

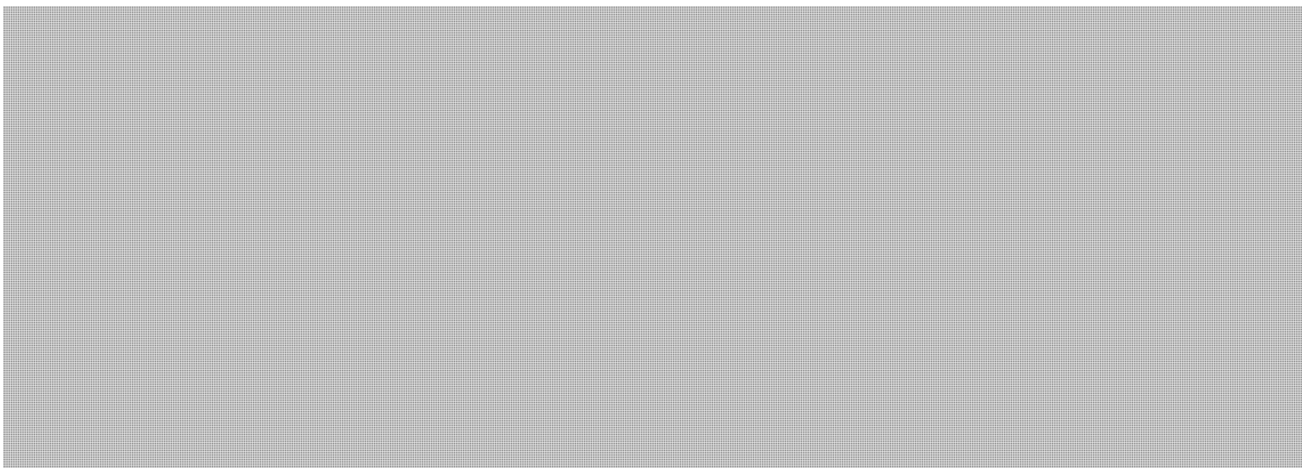
Ethnic armed organizations (statements):

- According to a KNU statement, leaked on Friday, the EAO and NCA signatorie was invited by the Tatmadaw for a meeting; they declined the invitation, arguing they will attend such a meeting only after fulfillment of 8 demands. The most significant ones are the withdrawal of the Military from Kayin territory, its withdrawal from politics, engage with EAOs to end internal conflicts, accept international mediation, etc.
- On Friday, U Khine Thukha, the Spokesperson for Arakan Army (AA), stated the outfit will “stand for the oppressed”. The AA and Myanmar authorities have been in a de facto truce since mid-November, but the latter may be fragilized by the current situation.
- Also Friday, it appeared on social media that the Battalion 903 of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) is taking side for the opposition. Fully-armed soldiers posed on social media, doing three-finger salute. This battalion is based in Kayin State, near the Three-Pagoda Pass border checkpoint with Thailand.

Like-minded activities:

- Thursday, as expected, the US Department of Treasury announced sanctions against the Myanmar Economic Holding Limited (MEHL) and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), the two major Tatmadaw-owned conglomerates.
- On Friday morning, US ambassador Tomas Vajda went in front of the Kamayut High School No.5, In Hledan, to pay homage to Nyi Nyi Htet Aung, who had been killed there on 28 February, and to all the other civilian fatalities.

- UK increased the level of their Travel Advice on the weekend to the highest level, advising citizens to depart ([REDACTED])



s.21(1)(b)

Drafted: YNGON-GR/ [redacted] YNGON-GR/ [redacted]

With Input: YNGON-DA, [redacted] YNGON-CS/ [redacted]

Consulted: YNGON-DA/ [redacted] YNGON-CS [redacted]

Approved: HOM

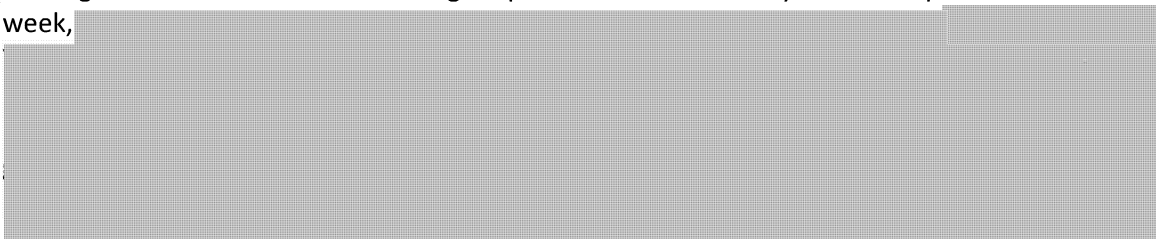
[16-31 MARCH END]

[1-7 APRIL START]1 April**YNGON-582: MYANMAR - Coup Update 28 (April 1)****SUMMARY**

- **Despite significant potential for civilian mobilization and violence by security forces today, 01 April, there have been no reported fatalities at the hands of security forces in Myanmar today.** Today marks what would have been the first day of the new National League for Democracy (NLD) government, had the military not seized power; as expected, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) announced a new federal charter and plans for an interim government; and a hearing for State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi took place in Nay Pyi Taw, after being postponed twice this month. **In Yangon today**, tension remained moderate, with no reports of excessive or lethal force. Two people were arrested during a protest in Hledan; 7 people were arrested in Hlaing, and other protests were reported in South Dagon, Thaketa, Dala and Hlaing. Downtown, there were small street protests this afternoon. Despite a massive police presence in the area, there have been no reports of excessive or lethal force.
- **There were fires at two military-owned shopping centers in Yangon early Thursday morning (Ruby Mart supermarket in downtown Yangon, and Gandamar Wholesale shopping centre in North Okkalapa).** One person was killed during the fire. According to media, the fire has criminal origins: 2 people were arrested. Social media posts suggest people opposed to the coup could not have lit the fires because they started during curfew; other posts suggest the fires were deliberately lit by the military to coincide with the visit of a CNN news crew. Witnesses said that the visiting CNN reporters were at the site of the Gandamar Wholesale fire this morning.
- **On Tuesday, further details emerged regarding the Monday crackdown on protestors in South Dagon (REFTEL YNGON-581), during which security forces reportedly killed at least 15 people.** Reports indicate that home wifi was cut in the area prior to the assault (there are also unconfirmed rumours that authorities asked telco operators for lists of South Dagon residences with access to wifi). Voice of Myanmar reported that security forces used heavy weaponry to break down barricades; some media sources claim that rocket-propelled grenades were used. The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) Twitter account claimed that security forces were not allowing medics into the area to treat wounded protestors. There are also unconfirmed reports of a man being burned to death, with gruesome photos of a charred human body also spreading on social media.
- **Relative to excessive violence from security forces last weekend and on Monday (REFTEL YNGON-581), Yangon was relatively calm on Tuesday and Wednesday, with pockets of high tension and isolated instances of lethal force.** Tension remained high in South Dagon, where **3 people were reportedly killed by security forces on Tuesday.** On Wednesday, a bank ferry (shuttle) bus was hit by gunfire in Tamwe Township (U Chit Maung Street), **and one bank**

employee was killed by a headshot. Security forces deployed to Tamwe and Thanlyn Townships on Tuesday, and tension remained high throughout the day, but no confrontations or instances of violence were reported. Some barricades in Insein and Tamwe Townships were set on fire Wednesday, though it's not known whether it was protestors or security forces that did so.

- **Protestors continue to find creative campaigns to protest the regime:** On Tuesday, activists pushed on social media for a trash campaign in Yangon and elsewhere in the country in protest of the military, calling on residents to throw their garbage on roads and at traffic intersections. (There was some traction in Yangon, especially in Thaketa Township.) On Wednesday morning, a new campaign was initiated: people are invited to clap their hands every morning at 09:09 hrs (the number 9 is auspicious for many in Myanmar).
- **Outside of Yangon today,** in Mandalay, a severe fire was reported in Takhontine Market Ward early this morning. Over 100 houses were heavily damaged and over 500 people are reportedly homeless. In Pyikyitakhon area, 80 houses were also destroyed by fire early morning. The cause of the fires have not been specified. Elsewhere, protests were reported today in Moegaung, Hpakant (Kachin State), Mogok, Mandalay, Pyinmana (Naypyitaw), Ye U (Sagaing Region), and Phyu (Bago Region), without incident.
- **Outside of Yangon this week, there were also fewer instances of excessive and lethal force against protestors.** On Tuesday, **security forces killed at least six people in total**, in Myitkyina, Kachin State (1 person); Muse, Shan State (1); Kawthaung, Tanintharyi Region (3); and Bago (1). **Three civilians died**, and several others were injured, in an armed clash on Wednesday between a convoy of security forces and local residents between Gangaw (Magway Region) and Kalay (Sagaing Region). Protests in at least a dozen cities across Myanmar took place this week without casualties.
- **Attacks on state personnel and property continued this week, though there were fewer instances compared to last week.** Wednesday night in Bago, one person was stabbed at 21:00 hrs; he was suspected of being an SAC informant. Explosive ordnances were reportedly aimed at Bago District police station on Tuesday (injuring 5 police officers) on Tuesday; on Wednesday, a police station in Shwegu (Kachin State) was raided by unidentified men, and some weapons were reportedly stolen. Today, a blast was reported between a police station and General Administration Department in Lashio (Shan State). Protestors from Kalay Township in Sagaing Region successfully detained four traffic policemen on earlier this week, who were reportedly traveling in plain clothes. (A protester told RFA Burmese that they are treating them well and still deciding what to do with them.) In Kayin State on Wednesday, a group of armed men attacked a Myanmar Economic Bank branch with hand grenades and machine guns, injuring three, including a Tatmadaw captain who was deployed for extra security.
- The regime allowed at least two foreign reporters into the country for a brief press tour this week,



- As with the previous reports, many stores and some banks are reopening this week (though not today – 01 April is a bank holiday). Some remain temporarily closed, or with shorter operating hours, due to the civil disobedience movement.
- ATMs do not always have cash, but are replenished. Local grocery stores frequented by YNGON staff remain open, but some businesses are not accepting payment by credit card, likely due to their own cash shortages, or credit card Point of Sale (POS) disabled due to mobile data interruptions. This is inconsistent: some days stores are accepting credit cards, some days they are not.
- Internet continues to be shut down nightly at 01h00. This week, wifi and wired internet restored at 06:30 daily. Mobile data remains suspended.

- **Like-minded travel advisories:** The UK, Germany, Spain and Finland updated their travel advisories this week asking citizens to leave the country while commercial options remain available. (Consistent with Canadian language: "If you are in Myanmar, you should leave now if you can do so safely.")

INTERNAL CONFLICT

- **Clashes between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) continued during the reporting period.** The KIA launched two attacks on the junta on Wednesday, first in Mohnyin, where the KIA ambushed a Tatmadaw military convoy yesterday afternoon, and also in Shwegu, where the KIA attacked a police outpost. The KIA claims to have killed at least 20 soldiers, but due to the remote locations, details are difficult to confirm. Last night, a Tatmadaw oil tank was targeted by an attack at 02:00 hrs in Myitkyina, and facilities belonging to a company close to the military were burnt in Tanai. Today, clashes were reported between KIA and Tatmadaw in Mogaung Township around 11:00 hrs.
- After airstrikes targeting KNU targets in Kayin State, an estimated 3,500 people fled from Hpapun Township into Thailand (**REFTEL YNGON-581**); most of them had been pushed back to Myanmar, by the Thai military, by Tuesday morning (BNGKK report forthcoming). **Tatmadaw air raids against KNU targets continued in Bago Region (one instance) and Kayin State this week.** Air strikes conducted on Tuesday in Bago Region killed 11 civilians and injured 5 others. Last night, more airstrikes were reported in Hpapun township.
- According to **Anadolu Agency** on Wednesday, the **Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO)** claimed responsibility for an attack on a military facility in Rakhine State on Tuesday 30 March. The attack reportedly took place between 04:30 and 07:00 hrs in Aung Zu Village (the media did not specify the name of the township). The attack reportedly claimed the lives of 22 Tatmadaw soldiers. This news has not been confirmed by reliable media yet. The RSO said in a statement that it "will continue to attack the Burmese military until they achieve freedom of Arakan and all Rohingya refugees return to their motherland". On Thursday, local media are reporting that military reinforcements are being flown in to Rakhine State.
- On Wednesday (31 March), the **State Administration Council** issued a statement extending the current unilateral ceasefire with EAOs for one more month, until late April. The impact of that decision is unsure: previous unilateral ceasefires have been punctuated by clashes. This decision came just a day after the Brotherhood Alliance (Arakan Army, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army) announced it would not extend their own ceasefire.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTING PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW (CRPH)

- As anticipated (**REFTEL YNGON-581**), late Wednesday (31 March), the CRPH published an interim governing charter ("**Federal Democracy Charter**", heretofore "the Charter", available in

English [here](#)), as approved by the recently-formed **National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC)**, a CRPH-led body comprised of NLD parliamentarians, and several EAO and other leaders. Concurrently, the CRPH announced the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution, and indicated that a new interim government “will be implemented” in the first week of April, in accordance with the terms of the Charter.

- The charter is separated into two parts – a “**Declaration of the Federal Democratic Union**”, which includes general visions, missions and roadmaps for building the country’s future political system under a new constitution, and a second part called the “**Interim Constitutional Arrangements**”, which sets out specific functions and responsibilities for the so-called National Unity Interim Government that will govern until a permanent charter can be drawn up via a constitutional convention.
- The first section, the Declaration, outlines **four main objectives**: the eradication of dictatorship, the complete nullification of the 2008 Constitution, building a federal democratic union and the emergence of a “people’s government”. The charter recognizes four categories of stakeholders: elected lawmakers, political parties, civil society groups involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement and ethnic armed organizations. The Declaration also includes a roadmap that aims to boost cooperation among the stakeholders, to draw up a permanent constitution through consensus, and form a **National Unity Interim Government** in accordance with the Charter. One of the tasks the CRPH-installed government will work on is “calling a constitutional convention” to draft this new constitution. The Declaration also touched other subjects such as power and resource sharing, and a general description of how the three branches of government will operate independently.
- **The Declaration says the government will be a bicameral parliamentary system led by a prime minister, which is a significant change from the current presidential system, under which members of the government must resign from parliament if they are members of parliament.**
[REDACTED] The Declaration also says the political system will be “secular” and rights of all “ethnic nationalities” will be respected and protected.
[REDACTED]
- **The Burmese-language version did cause some controversy by pledging to protect the rights of non-indigenous ethnic groups.** While this may seem like a good thing at first glance, it leaves room to enshrine arbitrary ethnic distinctions in law, which could perpetuate institutionalized discrimination against groups not considered native to Myanmar, like the Rohingya or ethnic Chinese.
[REDACTED]
- In the **interim constitutional arrangements** under the second part of the charter, the CRPH said the upper and lower houses of parliament in this federal system will be composed of lawmakers elected during the 2020 election. This may anger some in Rakhine, where votes in certain townships were cancelled for security reasons prior to the November poll. Interim

parliamentary committees will also exclude parties that “collaborate with the military council” – presumably in reference to the Arakan National Party and Mon Unity Party.

- **Throughout the interim charter, the CRPH admits that there will be difficulties in imposing certain policies**, such as passing and enforcing interim legislation. The charter says the interim government will “escalate the CDM to weaken and bring to a standstill the governance mechanism of the military council”, as well as assist those on strike and punish those who continue to work for the junta. (On a related note: On 31 March, the CRPH Ministry of the President’s Office issued a statement reiterating that 31 March was the deadline to join CDM. The announcement says that “the public government will appear in the first week of April” (unofficial translation), and promises “serious action” by the new government against those who do not join the movement, describing them as regime collaborators.)
- The interim charter also outlines plans for foreign affairs, economics, social affairs, and defense and security. The **foreign affairs section** is mainly focused on gaining international recognition for the CRPH as the legitimate government and increasing public pressure on the junta, while economics focuses on cutting off the junta’s resources while supporting the people and raising money for the civilian government.
- **As expected, the Charter does appear to include a number of olive branches, if not concessions, to ethnic political parties and armed organizations.** Notably, the Charter states that States’ land and natural resources under the Charter are ultimately owned by residences of the State. (The 2008 Constitution dictates that ultimate ownership of land and resources lies with the Central government. Land rights, especially land disputes or grabs involving the Tatmadaw, are a significant and longstanding bone of contention from Myanmar people all over the country, but especially in States.)
- In a recent interview, a CRPH spokesperson stressed the urgent need for security sector reform and for a **federal army** that can protect the people and federal democracy. Regarding the hypothetical army’s potential to succeed, the spokesperson suggested that unlike in the past, this army will be formed by “a legitimate people’s government”. As such, the CRPH hopes that it will receive support from the international community. The spokesperson said he understands the sense of urgency from the public to see a federal army, but that it will take time to “put this together” in a systematic manner. He suggested people should start preparing themselves, in terms of morale, so that they can serve in the army as professional soldiers.
- The public response to the charter, at least online, was mostly positive today. The general public seems excited by the proposed federal democratic union, something the NLD has long committed to – and armed groups have fought for - with no substantive progress. Following the announcement of the Charter and abolishment of the 2008 Constitution, photos and videos of people burning the 2008 Constitution started circulating online. The **General Strike Committee of Ethnic Nationalities (GSCN)** welcomed the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution but have not commented publically on the Charter. Ethnic political parties and armed groups have not yet commented; [REDACTED]
- On Wednesday, the **Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)** issued a statement condemning “the pogrom of innocent civilians, by the Burmese Army Terrorist group, the genocidal

Tatmadaw, led by the terrorist leader Min Aung Hlaing.” The four-part statement released via Twitter continues, “We understand what the Burmese People nationwide are going through ... We have always stood by the victims of cruelty and injustice, & will continue our self-defence struggle for Justice. In this quest for justice & equitable positioning of all citizens, we are prepared to work with any organization or GOVERNMENT fighting the Burmese Terrorist group, known as Genocidal Tatmadaw.”

- The **Legal Aid Network**, an independent lawyers’ organization, and led by a Burmese expat, offered some negative comments on the Charter, criticizing its nonbinding nature, and the CRPH’s failure to adopt an interim constitution based on a 2008 Constitution prepared by the Federal Constitution Drafting and Coordination Committee, a group of Myanmar activists in exile (not to be confused with the 2008 Constitution that entered into force, drafted by the military). In a Facebook post shared widely among ethnic leaders and communities, the LAN also argues although the widely supported notion of state-based federal union is envisaged, the Charter does not detail or specify how many States there will be (at present, Myanmar contains 7 Regions, mostly Bamar, and 7 States, of mostly ethnic minorities). LAN also notes that the structure of the interim government is similar to the structure of the government under the 2008 constitution: Although the interim government suggests a parliamentary system, with the Prime Minister as head of government, they propose keeping the role of State Counsellor.

LATEST FROM MIN AUNG HLAING

- Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (MAH) traveled to Shan State this week, visiting troops and their families in Tachileik and Kentung Townships. In Kentung on Wednesday (31 March), the Senior General accused the NLD and ethnic armed groups that oppose the Tatmadaw of "dancing to the tune of countries and organizations which support them". He warned that if the NLD still had power, foreign countries and organisations would be able to "steer" Myanmar's government. In a separate speech, he also noted that foreigners should only be allowed to be permanent residents if they are "beneficial to the State". "Special scrutiny must be undertaken whether they are living in the country according to the law," he said. In reference to Myanmar nationals, he said that "in repatriating Myanmar citizen abroad as Myanmar citizens, they must be loyal to the country and not be dual citizens. As such, they must be placed under scrutiny under the 1982 Citizenship Law.”
- Apparently acknowledging current food insecurities, the Senior General said on Tuesday that if "cargo transport is smooth, the food supply will improve". In a separate speech on Wednesday, he said it's important to utilise the country's resources appropriately by cultivating "rice, beans, edible oil crops, and other crops" in "suitable" regions. He said that if Myanmar can produce more of its food at home and cut down on imports, the people will benefit economically. He also encouraged Myanmar to start its own palm oil industry (with the help of foreign investment) in Tanintharyi Region to reduce dependence on imports.
- Regarding the ongoing, nation-wide mobile internet blackout, MAH acknowledged that "the Internet cannot be shut down for a long time because many works depend on it... It is necessary to control the correct use of the Internet, and effective punishment must be sentenced to those who [break the rules]," he continued.

ARRESTS, RELEASES AND DETENTIONS

- **Former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's** court hearing today, by videoconference, ended without any new charges, according to her lawyer. (A local media report had suggested she may be charged with treason.) A member of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team, Min Min Soe, was summoned to a police station in the capital Naypyidaw for a video meeting with her earlier this week. The lawyer reported to local media that the former State Counsellor appears in good health despite two months of detention.
- On Wednesday, media sources reported that U Kyaw Kyaw, NLD MP for Zabuthiri constituency (Nay Pyi Taw Territory) and member of the NLD Central Executive Committee, had **died in custody** in Nay Pyi Taw. He was arrested on 15 March.
- On Wednesday, a military tribunal meanwhile sentenced three people to 20 years in prison with labour for allegedly burning down a ward administration office in Shwepyithar Township, which is under martial law.
- The **Assistance Association for Political Prisoners** reports that over 530 people have been killed by regime security forces since the 01 Feb coup; over 2700 arrested since 01 Feb are currently detained, or sentenced.

BANKING

- Tuesday morning, KBZ bank announced it is putting a withdrawal cap of 200,000 MMK per day (~ CAD 180) from ATMs. Other banks have not officially followed the move yet.
- German company **Giesecke and Devrient**, which supplies Myanmar with products to print bank notes, has suspended all deliveries to the junta "with immediate effect". The company explicitly said the decision was "a reaction to the ongoing violent clashes between the military and civilian population". The suspension would make it more difficult for the regime to print money in response to the current banking/financial crisis.

STATEMENTS

- On Tuesday, the **Three Brotherhood Alliance** released a statement demanding that the Tatmadaw stop committing violence against unarmed civilians and warned that it is reconsidering its ceasefire declaration, which was set to expire on 31 March. (The group, consisting of the Arakan Army (AA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), has largely avoided confrontation with the military since the coup.) In the statement, the groups expressed their condolences for "those who sacrificed their lives", particularly condemning the massive death toll on March 27. The groups urged the Tatmadaw to "immediately stop the killing of peaceful protesters and solve the political crisis as soon as possible", or they will "join hands" with the people in self-defence against military aggression. Shortly after this statement, the CRPH announced that they support this EAO move.
- On Tuesday, the **General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN)** issued an open letter to 16 Ethnic Armed Organizations asking that they provide protection, for people who are protesting without weapons, with "collective leadership".
- The **Karen National Union (KNU)** released a statement responding to recent Tatmadaw airstrikes in Kayin (Karen) State. The statement accuses the Tatmadaw of failing to abide by the

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), an accusation that pre-dates the coup, and says the KNU has “long foreseen a military offensive at the end of the dead-end NCA peace process”. The statement expresses concern about the safety and security of civilians in KNU territories, but says the KNU has no other option but to confront “these serious threats” and defend its territory. They urge the international community not to recognize the military junta, including military and economic relations; to provide necessary humanitarian assistance; and pressure the regime to stop the Tatmadaw from committing crimes against humanity.

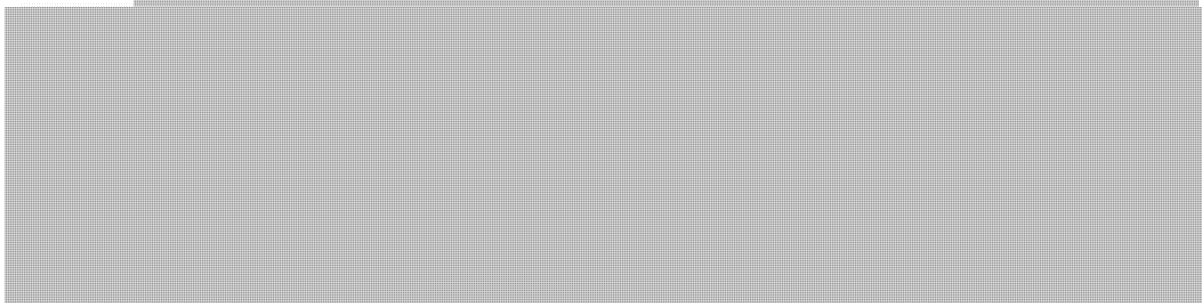
- In a [statement](#) on Tuesday, the **Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)** condemns the aerial attacks on civilian population that occurred from 27-30 March, and warns the international community of a growing humanitarian crisis on the Thai-Burma border. The statement urges the military to return power to a democratically-elected government; calls on the Thai Government to meet its international obligation and offer safe refuge to Burmese civilians seeking asylum and protection in Thailand; and says the UNSC must uphold its responsibility to protect the civilian population of Burma “with a resolution endorsing humanitarian intervention”, and refer crimes committed to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.
- The **Karen Peace Support Network** released a similar [statement](#) calling for an end to airstrikes in Salween Peace Park and human rights violations against the Karen. The network also called on the military to withdraw its troops. The network called for a UN Security Council resolution to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court and impose a global arms embargo on Myanmar.
- On Wednesday, the **UN Refugee Agency** released a [statement](#) yesterday saying it is “appalled” and “shocked” by the “escalating” and “indiscriminate” violence against civilians in Myanmar, both at protests and in ethnic areas. “We urgently call on all countries across the region to offer refuge and protection to all those fleeing for safety. It is vital that anyone crossing the border, seeking asylum in another country, is able to access it,” the statement implored. Thai authorities, who have been criticised for forcing back refugees despite promising to help them, [claimed](#) some 50 Myanmar refugees “voluntarily” returned yesterday. The statement said another 201 refugees had also agreed to voluntarily return, without giving a date for their departure. Activists have said there wasn’t anything voluntary about the previous returns. “Nobody wants to go back right now,” said one 70-year-old refugee.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

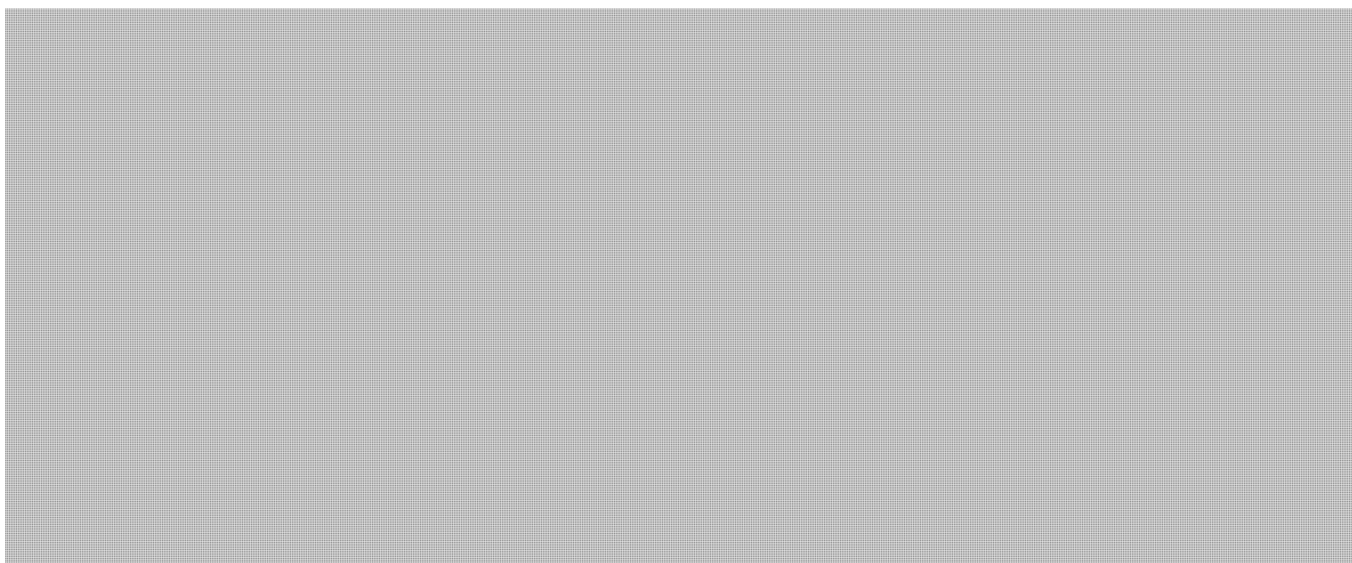
- US Trade Representative Katherine Tai [announced](#) that all US engagement would be suspended under the 2013 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The announcement does not stop trade between the United States and Myanmar, but suspends joint efforts to boost business between the two countries, and certain joint regulatory frameworks (for instance, on dispute settlement).
- Japan has decided to [suspend](#) any new aid to Myanmar, with foreign minister Toshimitsu Motegi saying his country had “taken a clear stance”. Speaking during a parliamentary session, Motegi made the case that suspending aid would be more effective than imposing economic sanctions. (Japan reportedly contributed around US\$1.7 billion in official development assistance to Myanmar in 2019, the majority of it in the form of low-interest loans for infrastructure projects. This made it by far the largest donor on record, although China does not publicise its support.)

- The Manipur state government in India has walked back an order to turn away Myanmar nationals seeking refuge, joining nearby Mizoram state in defying orders from the central government. A local from Tamu Township in Sagaing Region told *The Irrawaddy* that Manipur is accepting a limited number of refugees, namely children and the elderly, plus those with Myanmar citizenship cards and contacts in Manipur. "But they're not accepting the mass of people who don't have contacts in India," he said.

- The UN Security Council met in closed consultations on the situation in Myanmar on Wednesday March 31



- Today, the UK announced further sanctions against military-linked conglomerate Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC). Designating MEC will prohibit funds and economic resources being made available to any subsidiaries 'owned or controlled' by MEC as defined by the Global Human Rights sanctions regime. The Foreign Secretary also announced extra funding to the UN Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) to increase evidence gathering capabilities, which may in future be used in criminal proceedings.



DRAFTED: YNGON-GR [redacted]

WITH INPUT FROM: PRMNY-GR, [redacted] YNGON-GR, [redacted]

CONSULTED: YNGON-MO [redacted] YNGON-DA, [redacted]
[redacted]

APPROVED: HOM

5 April

SUMMARY

- Despite concerns around the April first as a potential flashpoint, tension was moderate in Yangon over the reporting period with some localized tensions but no episodes of excessive or lethal force by security forces in the city or environs.** One unidentified woman's body was found Saturday morning in Thamine area (Mayangone Township) and some barricades were set up in Thaketa, Dawbon and Thanlyin area, causing some traffic disruption. Saturday afternoon, in North Okkalapa (Thudhammar Road), some public buses were stopped by security forces; some passengers and drivers were reportedly beaten. According to media, security forces also deployed to six downtown townships on Saturday, reportedly searching for protest leaders (in Kyauktada, 10 people were reportedly arrested). Midday Sunday, blasts were reported in Hledan area, near Baho Street; police deployment was observed. Otherwise, some limited protests took place this weekend East Dagon, Kyauktan, Insein and Thaketa Townships, without incident. One group on Sunday protested China's role and obstructionism at the UNSC ([photos here](#)).
- In Yangon, the regime appears focussed on disrupting the CDM and protest movement and are reportedly going door to door in "problematic townships" forcibly entering households looking for protest leaders. While no casualties or fatalities have been reported at the time of writing, security forces were active in Tamwe today, going house to house, forcing civilians to remove barricades, with reports of looting and property destruction. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are also unconfirmed reports of civilian detentions by regime forces in Mingalar Taungnyunt township on April 5. There continue to be reports of beatings and torture of detainees while in detention.
- On Sunday, [REDACTED] reported that "few points of tension were reported in Yangon. Some limited protests were reported in East Dagon, Kyauktan and Insein Townships. Violence has been through a lull since 29 March."
- Activists continue to organize creative campaigns to protest the coup: Several Yangon townships participated in "flower marches" on Friday, organized to pay homage to people killed since 01 February. Other "no-protester" event were organized in Yangon this week, with posters and banners hung on the streets. On social media, some are calling for Easter protests on Sunday and Monday to celebrate 'the resurrection of democracy'. However, those calls may not be widely followed. Easter Egg Strike Campaign (i.e. protests) was reported in several townships, including Kyimyindaing, Ahlone and Hlaing Tharyar. Media reported that it met a certain success.

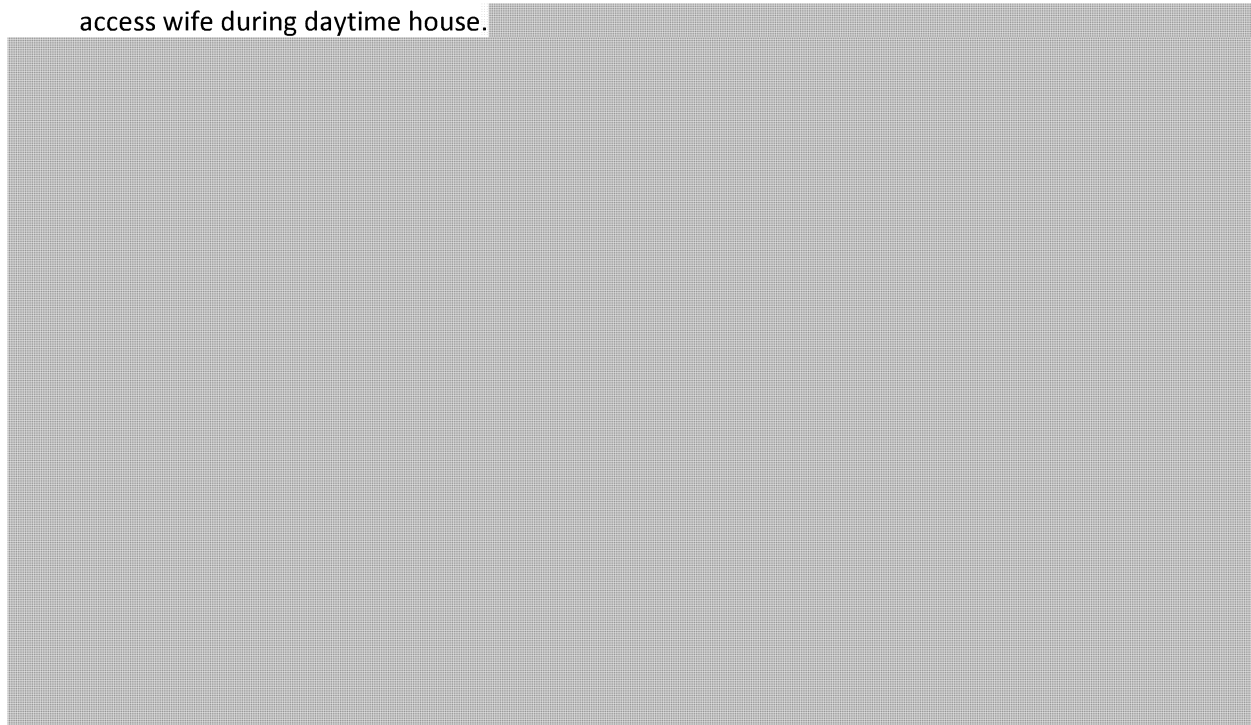
- **Episodes of arson:** In Bahan, CRPH acting Minister Dr Za Wai Soe's home was targeted by arson around Friday night. Minor damage was reported. In Shwepyithar Township, a fire breakout early Saturday morning in Wartayar industrial zone. The cause of this incident is still unknown. In South Dagon, (106 ward, Kyansitthar Street), a shoe factory was set on fire around 20:00 Hrs Saturday night. The Kyuntaw ward office (Sanchaung Township) was set on fire early Sunday morning (Saturday night).
- **Over the weekend, security forces deployed live rounds against protestors in several Myanmar cities, killing at least 11 people in total, 8 of which were in Monywa (Sagaing Region). Security forces appear to have used live rounds to disperse protests, with fatalities reported in Bhamo (Kachin State), Pyinmana (Nay Pyi Taw Territory), and Thaton (Mon State).** There were other instances of live fire, without fatalities, in Bago, Loikaw (Kayah State), and Yinmabin Township (Sagaing Region). There were reports of protests in at least 14 other cities this reporting period. Most of them gathered a few dozens of people and did not yield significant tension. The area between Gangaw (Magway Region) and Kalay (Sagaing Region) has been the scene of recurrent armed clashes between civilians and security forces (including clashes on Wednesday and Thursday last week – REFTEL YNGON-582).
- **There were recurrent attacks on the state apparatus this reporting period, especially in Shan State and Sagaing Region:** In **Shan State**, instances include a homemade bomb targeting an army compound; blasts in front of Tachileik Police Station; a grenade targeting a General Administration Department office; and, in Taunggyi, the Nyaung Phyu Ward administrator's office was set on fire. On Friday morning in **Tamu Township (Sagaing Region)**, one CDM police officer threw 3 grenades into the local police outpost, reportedly killing 5 officers. Also in Tamu, on Saturday and Sunday, grenades were thrown onto military trucks; residents also burned two military outposts and a nearby bridge. In Kalay (Sagaing Region), Chin World media reported that 9 police officers were captured by residents this weekend, now being held in exchange for the release of 7 imprisoned protestors. Elsewhere in Myanmar, grenades were thrown at a police patrol and a police outpost in Karen State and the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) in Demoso (Kaya State). On Sunday, home-made bombs went off near 2 Mytel offices in Bago Region. (Mytel phone operator is partly-owned by MEHL, one of the two major Tatmadaw-related conglomerates.
- **Further internet restrictions:** Thursday night, Internet Service Providers stated that 2600 MHz Broadband Wireless Internet will be suspended from Friday until further notice. This order suspends all Internet boxes fitted with a SIM card, but not fiber wi-fi boxes. (**Note:** While fiber internet cables are popular in major cities like Yangon and Mandalay, outside of Myanmar, these internet "boxes" are the most popular way to connect to the internet.)
- **Potential for intra-civilian violence:** There is potential for intercommunal violence as tensions escalate between local State Administrative Councils and parallel opposition structures, in Yangon and elsewhere. There have been isolated instances of violence, or threats of violence, by the CDM, against alleged SAC informants (REFTEL YNGON-582). Saturday night in Yangon, 2 "people's defense organizations" issued statements pledging to defend the people of Hlaing

Thayar and Dawbon Townships, respectively. They added that informants for security forces will be severely sanctioned. [REDACTED]

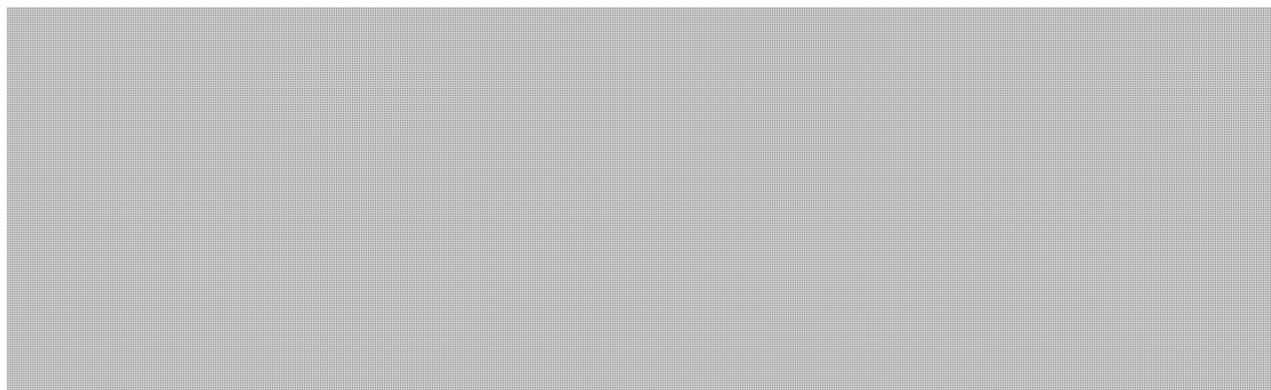
- **Potential weaponization of the protest movement:** There is potential for violent confrontation on the part of increasingly hard-line civilian protesters, bearing homemade weapons which would likely precipitate a violent TMD crackdown (**REFTEL YNGON-576, 577, 579, 580**). There are reports of arson and attacks on the state apparatus almost daily, but these instances do not yet suggest a large-scale, coordinated tactic. It remains, however, an area of significant concern. Similarly, coalition forming between ethnic armed organizations and various factions of the civil disobedience movement carries with it risk of escalation of violence, [REDACTED] This also has not materialized yet, there but remains a possibility and of significant risk. [REDACTED]
- On Sunday, the Min Aung Hlaing, in a speech to soldiers stated that security forces were “exercising utmost restraint”.

- As with the previous reports, many stores and some banks are reopening this week (though not today – 01 April is a bank holiday). Some remain temporarily closed, or with shorter operating hours, due to the civil disobedience movement.

- ATMs do not always have cash, but are replenished. Local grocery stores frequented by YNGON staff remain open, but some businesses are not accepting payment by credit card, likely due to their own cash shortages, or credit card Point of Sale (POS) disabled due to mobile data interruptions. This is inconsistent: some days stores are accepting credit cards, some days they are not.
- Internet continues to be shut down nightly at 01h00. This week, wifi and wired internet restored daily. Time of restoration varies between 06:30 and 09:00 and time of restoration is unpredictable. Mobile data remains suspended. As of end of last week, SIM-based wifi has also now been cut, leaving most Myanmar people without internet connections. Large businesses, banks, hotels, apartment complexes, embassies and those with fiber connections are still able to access wife during daytime house.



COMMUNICATIONS:



- **Canadian petition to the House of Commons:** On March 26 a petition to the House of Commons was opened, calling for: the suspension of high-level political contact, and no recognition of the regime; further sanctions against military entities and companies recommended in the third UN Fact Finding Mission Report; promote a global arms embargo;

suspend all financial assistance to government AND suspend funding the JPF, redirecting to civil society; empower a federal democratic government; continue and expand cross border humanitarian assistance; renew Canada's assistance to support the Rohingya. It currently has 595 signatures. <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3289>

ATTACKS ON STATE APPARATUS

- On Saturday, clashes were reported in Tamu (Sagaing Region): during the afternoon, grenades were thrown onto military trucks; on Sunday, a second grenade attack against a military truck. Civilians managed to take control of 2 military outposts near Chaung Nat Kyi bridge where they burnt the two outposts and the bridge. This is the first time that residents actually take control of military positions. No casualties have been reported at the time of writing.
- Also on Saturday, domestic media reported that nine police officers held captive by residents in Kalay were released in exchange for the release of seven imprisoned protestors. Tamu, Kalay and Gangaw areas (in central-western Myanmar) have been a hotspot of tensions. The success of this venture risks further abductions/detentions on both sides.
- On Sunday evening, two unidentified men threw grenades into the Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) office in Demoso (Kayah State); none of the 4 officers present was reportedly injured.
- In Yangon, Kyuntaw ward office (Sanchaung Township) was set on fire early Sunday morning. The fire caused significant damages. No reports of injuries or fatalities. On Sunday evening, in Taunggyi (Shan State), Nyaung Phyu Ward administrator's office was set on fire

ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS/INTERNAL CONFLICT



- **RCSS flags possible Tatmadaw offensive:** In Shan State, RCSS are on high alert following a report that the Tachileik Township authorities sent a letter to the Thai authorities across the border in Maesai informing them that the Tatmadaw will launch attacks on RCSS bases because RCSS had sided with the CRPH-CDM. In anticipation of the offensive, the Shan State Refugee Committee - representing approximately 6,000 IDPs in five camps along that section of the border [REDACTED]
- **Clashes between RCSS, TNLA and SSPP:** Clashes between the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) – both NCA non-signatories - against the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS –NCA signatory) intensified at Pan Long village in northern Shan State's Namtu Township on Sunday with artillery shells firing. No data on injuries

or fatalities. Tensions between the EAOs around Pan Long village have risen since the end of March, displacing more than 1,000 villagers who have taken shelter at Pan Tha Byay, Yau Oh and Man San villages. April is the end of the dry season and historically fighting between EAOs intensifies during this period before the start of the monsoon season and lull in fighting.

- **Clashes between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) continued during the reporting period:** Clashes between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army's Brigade 5 (KIA) continued over the weekend in Namma Che Hmaw area (Mohnyin Township, Kachin State). The area is home to numerous jade mines; according to local media, soldiers took the control of several of them.
- **KIA rebuff Tatmadaw ceasefire:** One day after the Tatmadaw announced the extension of its unilateral ceasefire towards the EAOs (31 March, REFTEL YNGON-582). On Saturday, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) announced they would continue their military operations in Kachin State. On Saturday, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) issued a statement welcoming Tatmadaw deserters willing to cooperate.
- **PPST statement:** On April 4, the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST), comprising the 10 EAOs which signed the 2015 National ceasefire, issued a joint statement after 2 days of meeting. The PPST statement confirmed signatories' support for the CDM, welcomed the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution and the establishment of a Federal Democracy Charter. They also called on the military regime to immediately end the killing of unarmed civilians. This statement widens the rift between those 10 EAOs and the SAC. Please see below an internal translation of the statement issued earlier today when the meeting ended.
 - PPST Statement: The Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) meeting (14/2021) was held on April 3 to 4, 2021. After discussion of the current political situation and internal conditions, the following common positions were agreed:
 - 1) We call on the military council to immediately halt violent killings and crackdowns on unarmed civilians.
 - 2) We call for the immediate release of all detainees without condition.
 - 3) We will continue to support the CDM including the spring revolution by the public.
 - 4) We welcome and support the CRPH announcement on the abolition of the 2008 Constitution.
 - 5) We welcome the Federal Democracy Charter announced by CRPH with the intention of building a federal democratic union.
- **KNU statement condemning airstrikes:** On 2 April, the KNU issued a statement (attached) strongly condemning the airstrikes on villages in Mutraw District (Papun - Karen State) and Kler Lwee Htoo District (Nyaunglebin - Bago Region). At least fourteen civilians have died, dozens have been injured, and more than 12,000 villagers have been displaced by the airstrikes between March 27 and 31. KNU reports that Thai authorities have refused to allow displaced villagers to cross into Thailand for shelter. [REDACTED]
- **Tatmadaw offensive in KNU territory:** According to media sources, artillery shelling was reported in Thaton Township (Mon State) Friday evening; the incident took place near territory controlled by KNU's Brigade 1. One civilian was reportedly injured.

IMPACT ON WOMEN

- According to a recent report from UN Women, a very small proportion of recorded deaths (7%) are women and girls. Men are more likely to be at the barricades confronting security forces. More significantly, a larger proportion (but still under 30%) of documented arrests are women as a consequence of their participation in the CDM movement. A high proportion of sanctioned civil servants are women, largely consistent with the higher percentage of women than men employed by the civil service. According to AAPP, 223 civilians have been killed between March 27 and April 1, bringing the total number of people killed to 550 as of April 1, with 37 recorded deaths of women and girls [7% of recorded deaths confirmed to be women and girls], with seven victims from Shan State still unknown and unconfirmed.
- 3214 persons have been recorded as either having been arrested or detained, of which 26.32 per cent are women. New AAPP data from April 2 reported that 463 persons have been released as of April 1. The list so far included 175 women [hence 38% of those released have been women]
- The tally of total number of suspended civil servants is now at 1400, with 1012 (72%) of them being female civil servants.

SUPPLY CHAIN/ESSENTIAL SERVICES:

- **Electricity supply:** The Electric Power Corporation (EPC) announced maintenance work on Sunday 4 April. Power cuts took place in several townships in Yangon as part of this maintenance work. YNGON is receiving unconfirmed reporting that power cuts have continued in several townships overnight. It is unclear if this is the result of faults, power grid failures, ongoing maintenance work or deliberate. SQ compound and chancery unaffected.
- **Oil and gas:** Malaysian state-owned oil and gas company Petronas has announced the suspension of operations in Myanmar after a pressure campaign, but has declared force majeure rather than giving any political justification. The company said there has been a "drastic decline in the production level" of its Yetagun gas field in the Andaman Sea, "dropping below the technical threshold of the offshore gas processing plant". The company said it took the decision in order to minimize risks to its staff and assets
- French oil and gas multinational Total, meanwhile, has ruled out demands to suspend operations or withhold payments to the junta. Chief executive Patrick Pouyanné warned that not paying taxes is "a crime under local law" but insisted the company has paid "absolutely no taxes" since the coup due to the breakdown in the financial system. He defended Total's position by reminding that should the company pull out, it would cut electricity access for "millions of people" closing "hospitals and businesses, upending everyday life". Pouyanné expressed fear for the safety of Total's employees should it suspend operations, including the possibility that the military would "force our employees to produce the gas by forced labour". He also offered to pay the equivalent in taxes to organizations working for human rights in Myanmar.
- **Banking:** The banking system in Myanmar appears to be normalizing somewhat, with one senior expat CEO telling YNGON today that the banking system was "staggering back to life" after

heaving handed interventions on the part of the Central Bank, which has demanded that banks have 50% of their branches opening at any given time.

- **Longer-term economic outlook:** On Monday, Fitch Solutions downgraded its outlook for Myanmar stating that the situation in the country had “exceeded the point of uncertainty” and a conservative forecast for its economy would be a 20% contraction in the fiscal year that started in October 2020”.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM)

- Friday morning in Yangon, CDM railway workers from Insein Station released a list of “traitors”, pressuring CDM staff to get back to work. In **Minhla (Bago Region)** on Sunday, CDM teachers joined an online campaign to urge their non-CDM colleagues to join them.
- In **Hakha (Chin State)** on Sunday, 55 staff of the General Administration Department were evicted from government housing and dismissed from their positions

ARRESTS, RELEASES AND DETENTIONS

- Although first media reports initially read that no new charges had been laid against former **State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi** during her hearing on Thursday (**REFTEL YNGON-582**), Reuters reported Friday that she was actually charged for violating the colonial-era **Official Secrets Act**. Three of her former ministers, as well as her economic advisor, Australian national Sean Turnell, were charged under the same law.
- On Friday, **U Win Htein**, one of NLD’s leading figures, was interrogated by video conference. (According to his lawyer, he looked healthy.) Meanwhile, 3 members of the NLD’s Central Executive Committee were heard in Insein Prison Court; among them, U Ye Min Oo, Yangon Region’s finance minister, who was widely expected to become Yangon Chief Minister during NLD’s second tenure.
- Friday evening, State-owned MRTV issued a list of 20 celebrities (singers, actors) charged under article 505 (a) of the penal code (i.e., inciting dissent). The following day, government-run media released a new list of an additional 20 celebrities charged under the same article.
- **The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)** reports that **2667** people are currently detained or sentenced since and in relation to the 01 Feb coup d’état. The AAPP also reports that 425 arrest warrants have been issued and that over **560** people have been killed by security forces in that time. There are ongoing reports of torture in custody, including elected officials and party members, CDM workers, and civilians being tortured to death.

STATEMENTS

- On Thursday, **400 Myanmar civil society organizations** called for the international community at large to ever ties with the (regime) Union Election Commission (UEC). In their statement, they argue that donor organizations, donor countries and those who have provided support to the UEC must immediately suspend all financial, technical and other forms of cooperation.
- On Saturday, over **450 Myanmar CSOs** condemned China’s position at the UN Security Council and “its ongoing efforts to water down UN Security Council statements on Myanmar”. The groups reiterated their deep disappointment at the lack of concrete action by the UNSC, charging that the UNSC has been stymied by China’s interventions.

- On Friday, the **UN Security Council** released a joint statement, expressing “deep concern at the rapidly deteriorating situation, and strongly condemned the use of violence against peaceful protestors”. On Saturday, the president of the UN Security Council, Vietnam's UN envoy Dang Dinh Quy urged parties in Myanmar "to seek any possibility to sit down and talk." Japan and a spokesperson of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs also called on stakeholders to engage in dialogue. Sunday morning, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrew tweeted that "The failure of the UN Security Council to even consider a strong resolution on Myanmar this week was regrettable. Using it as an excuse for inaction would be unacceptable."
- On Saturday, over **40 INGOs working in Myanmar** condemned the Myanmar military's widespread use of deadly violence against civilians, including children. They express deep concern by the dire humanitarian consequences of the crisis, and call on all stakeholders to use all possible diplomatic channels, forums and means to: 1) ensure civilians are protected from indiscriminate violence, and provide refuge and protection to those fleeing for safety; 2) respect and facilitate unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for communities in need across Myanmar; and 3) urgently find a peaceful solution to the crisis, together with the people of Myanmar.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

- **Joint Naval Exercises:** Myanmar has begun conducting a naval and aerial military exercise (with some reports that it is a joint exercise with Bangladesh), including underwater exercises with Myanmar's sole submarine (UMS Minye Theinkhathu- kilo class sub purchased from India in 2020). The exercise began yesterday (April 4) and will continue to April 11 off the Rakhine coast [REDACTED] This drill's dates overlaps with the Quad's French-led La Perouse drill in the Bay of Bengal from 5 to 7 April; it will gather France, USA, Australia, Japan and India. [REDACTED]
- **China:** According to media, **Chinese soldiers and military trucks** were deployed in Jiegao, the Chinese town across the China/Myanmar border in Muse (Shan State) over the weekend. Media added (speculated) that troops were, or would be deployed to protect the Kyaukphyu-Kunming pipeline. YNGON has not/not independently corroborated this reporting.
- **Joint EU HOM-level statement** on the two month anniversary of the first fatality of the Myanmar coup to be issued on April 9. YNGON will join the statement.

s.17

s.19(1)

[Redacted]

s.21(1)(b)

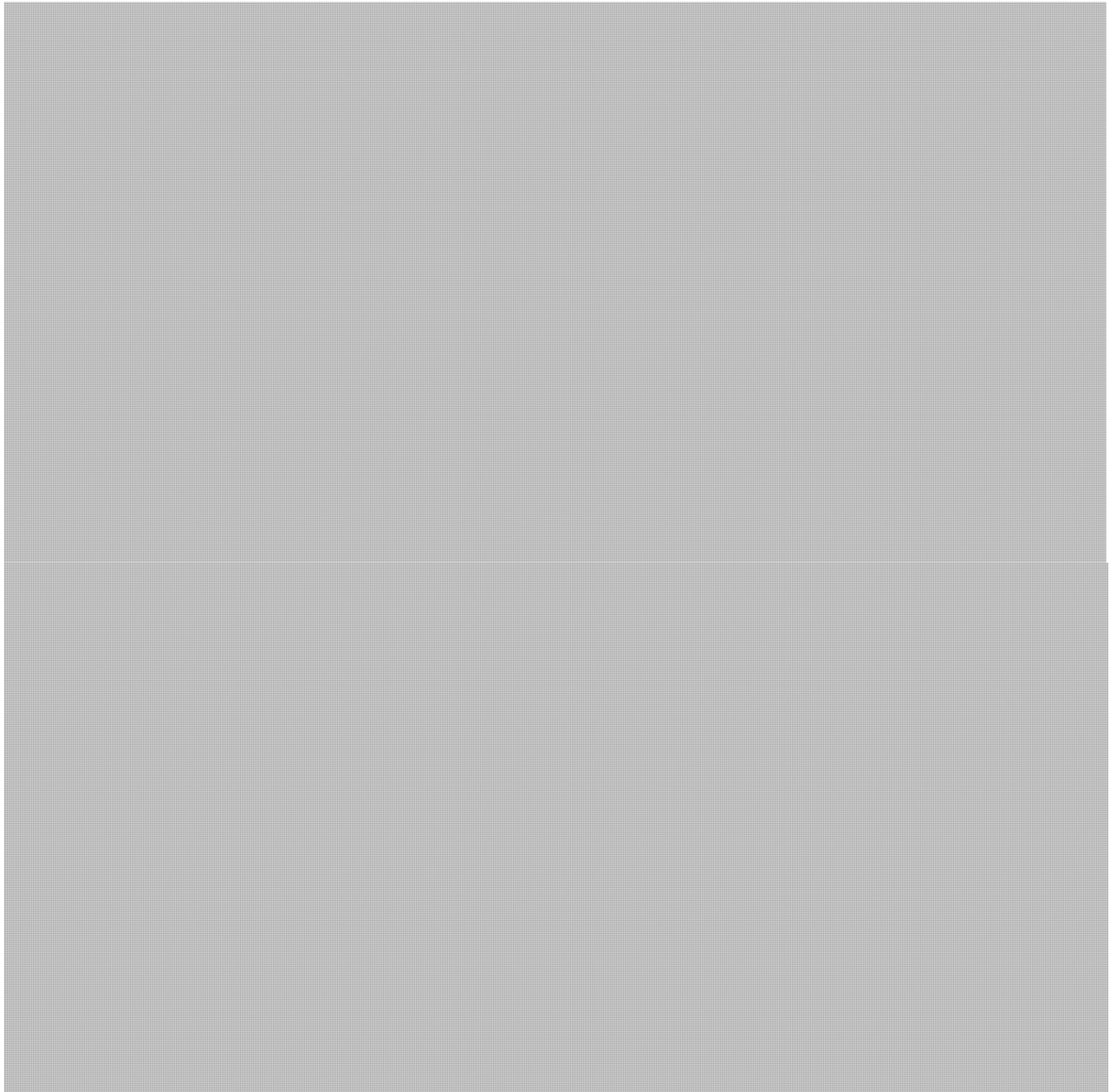
Drafted: YNGON-GR, [Redacted]

Input: YNGON-DA [Redacted] YNGON-CS [Redacted]

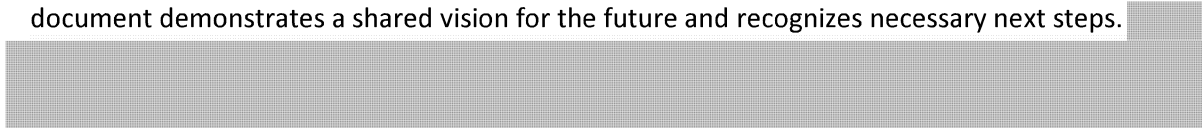
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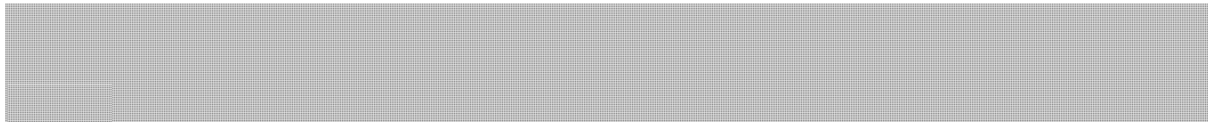
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6. **The CRPH Charter contains strong federal and democratic ideas and demands that have been voiced by different parties in the peace process, as well as past constitutional reform efforts.** The Charter lays out some terms for pragmatic collaboration and steps forward for the CRPH and other stakeholders, increasing inclusion and “unity character” when moving forward in the political roadmap. A variety of ethnic political parties, EAOs (signatory and non-signatory) and their advisors, the **General Strike Committee (GSC)**, **General Strike Committee of Ethnic Nationalities (GSCN)**, and women’s organizations were involved in reviewing the document. The document demonstrates a shared vision for the future and recognizes necessary next steps.

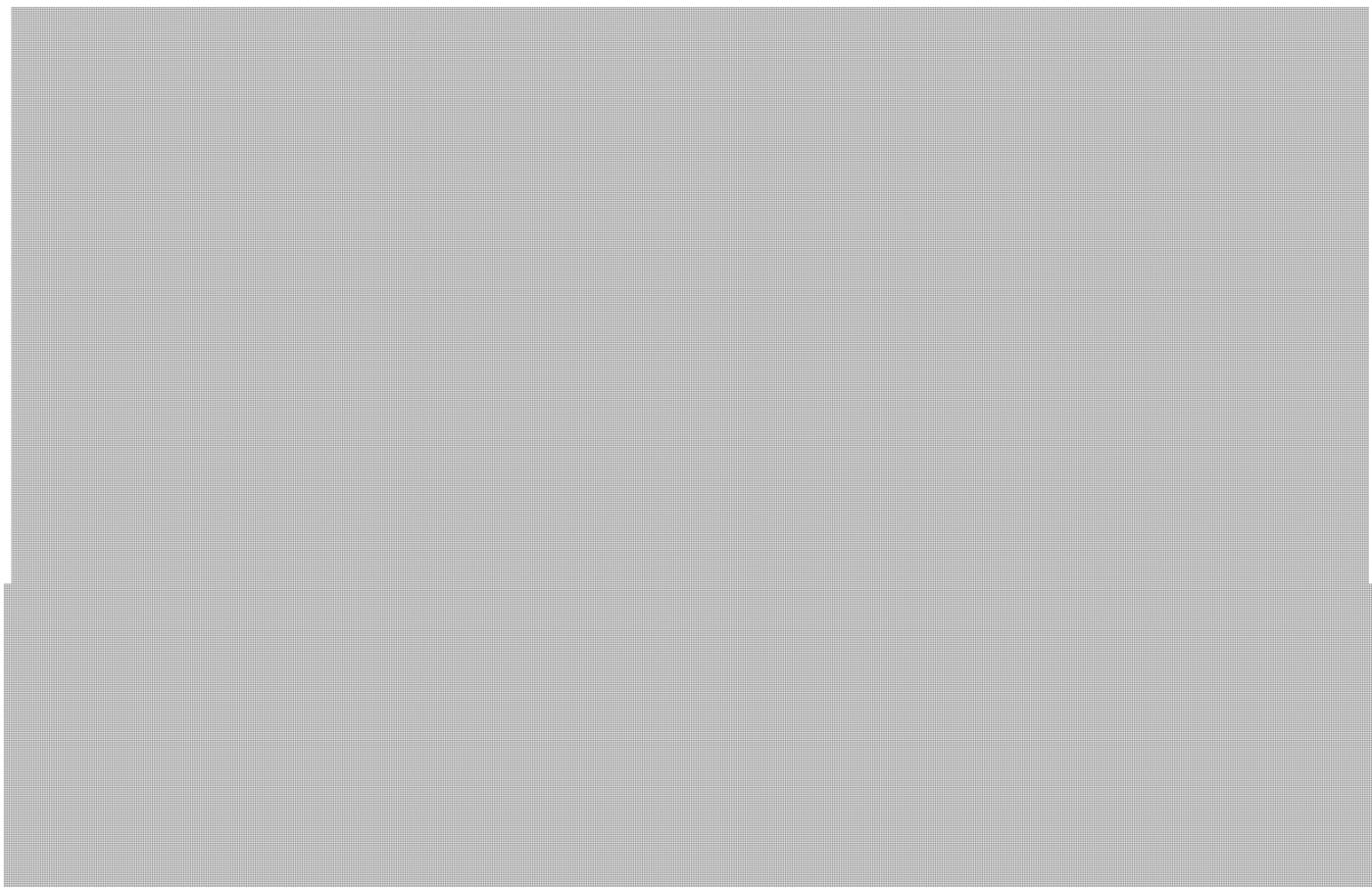


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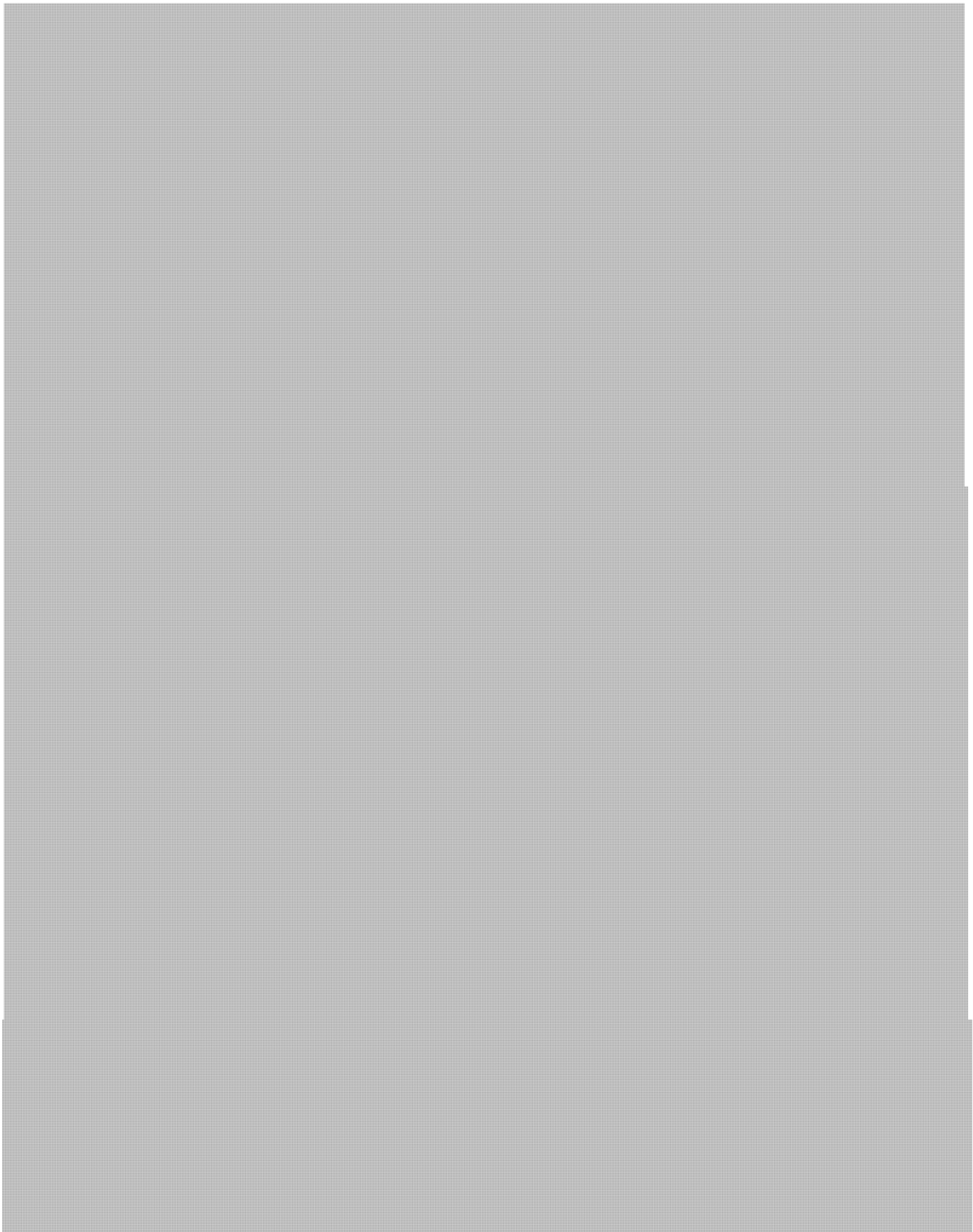


For instance, the Charter includes agreement for Myanmar's constituent units (States) to draft state constitutions; indicates that residual power rests at the state level (instead of Union level); and appears to assign more equal weight between upper and lower houses (the 2008 Constitution allocates more voting power to the lower house, and the upper house is usually regarded as representing state/regional interests). Notably, states' land and natural resources under the Charter are ultimately owned by residences of the State. (The 2008 Constitution dictates that ultimate ownership of land and resources lies with the Central government. Land rights, especially land disputes or grabs involving the Tatmadaw, are a significant and longstanding bone of contention from Myanmar people all over the country, but especially in States.)

8. **The Charter also outlines inclusive elements in its 8-point Unity Government Political Roadmap.** For instance, according to the roadmap, the CRPH will soon establish sectoral committees and commissions (like Parliamentary Committees) which will include not only members of parliament, but also civil society organizations and EAOs. The CRPH is also committed to including representatives of various political parties, EAOs, civil society organizations, academics and other leaders in the Interim Unity Government. The CRPH states it is also committed to including these groups, and CDM groups, in future efforts to establish a long-term political strategy and new Constitution.



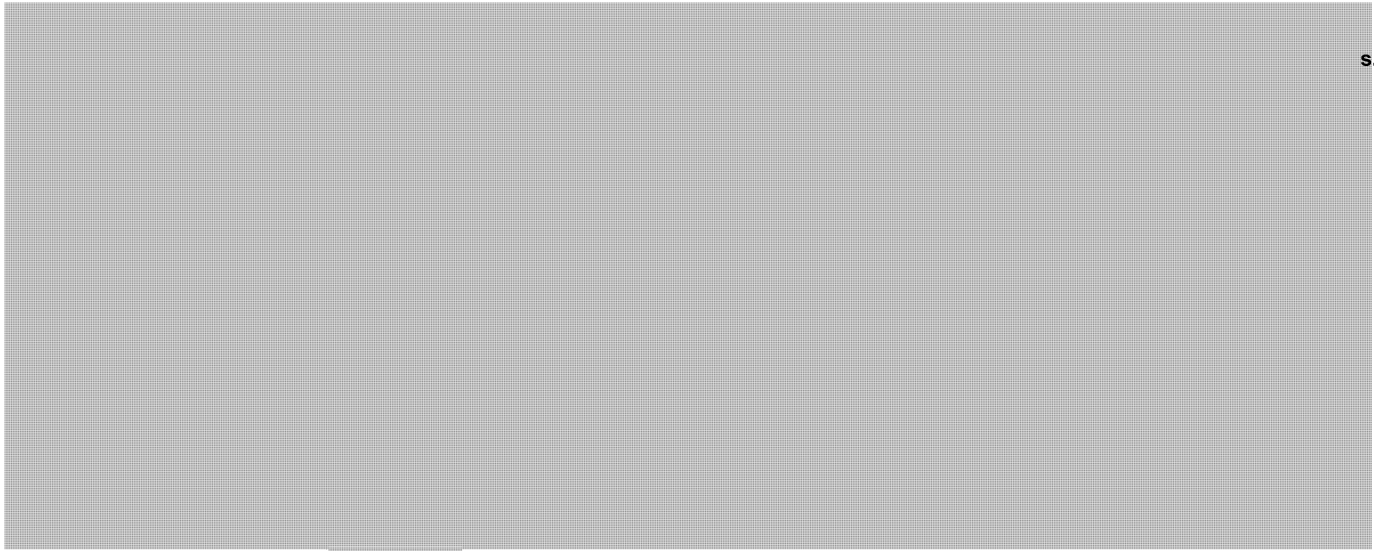
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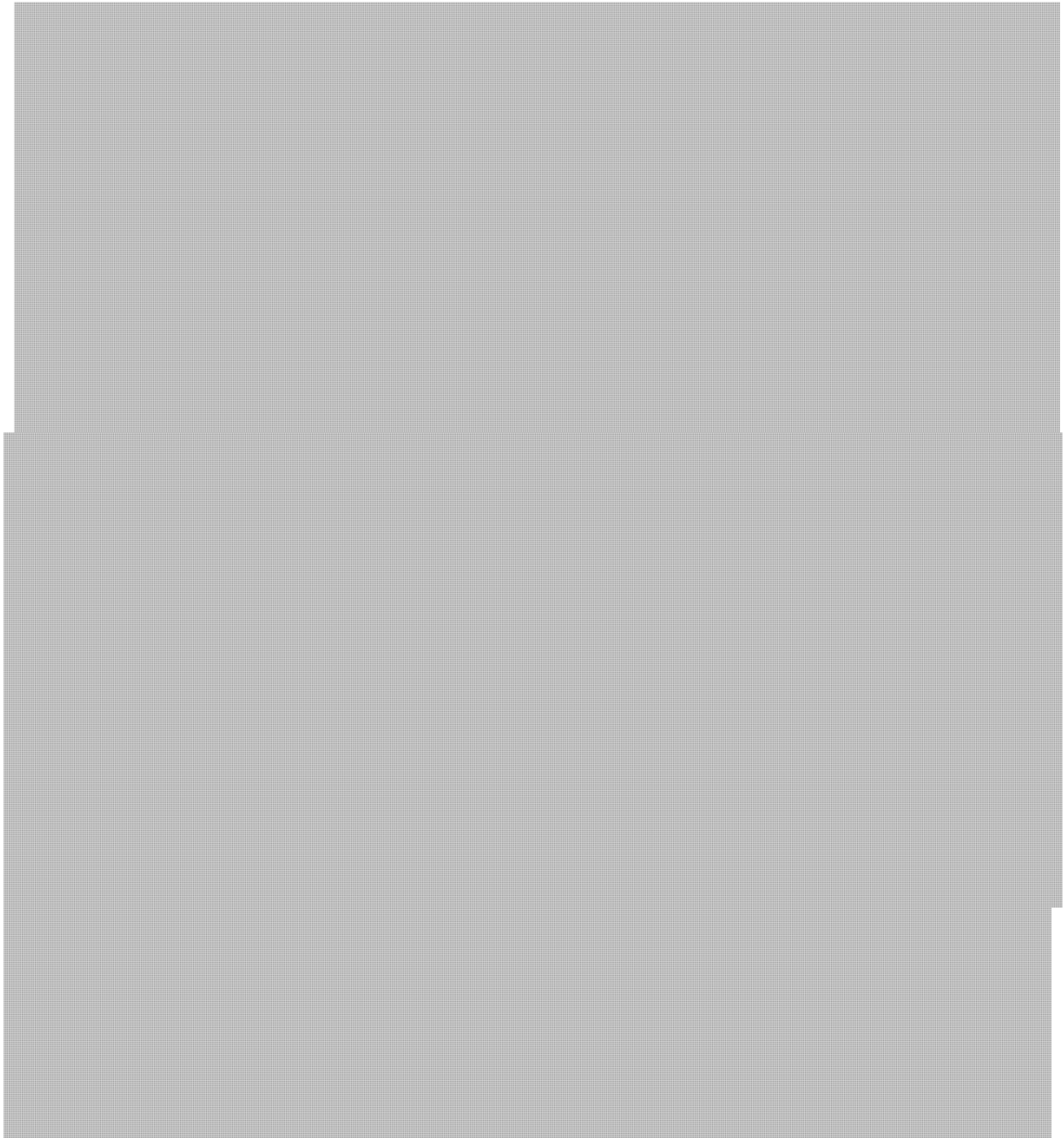
DRAFTED: YNGON-GR, [redacted]

APPROVED: YNGON HOM

7 April

Dear colleagues,

Please see below for a compilation of some of the issues the Development team in Yangon is currently tracking. We will provide periodic updates as the situation evolves. Feel free to share, as appropriate.



- Labour unions (including some LIFT partners) are under pressure as some have been at the forefront of CDM and are now targeted.

While, the CDM and CRPH have pledged to support workers participating in CDM and neighbor-to-neighbor initiatives to distribute food and other essentials are in place, these are quite limited in reach and targeting areas that were already poor. Partners are continuously calling attention to humanitarian needs, particularly water, health and food.

- Health: the health sector continues to be deeply affected by the coup and the CDM movement, with public health services being disrupted or non-existent in many areas of the country. Partners are reporting shortage of medicines and issues with access to health services, especially emergency maternal, child and sexual health and gender-based violence services. While no concrete data has been reported given disruptions in information systems, informal data suggests an increase in the incidence of SGBV. In ethnic areas where the situation is more stable (except where there is active conflict), the referral pathway to township or higher level hospitals (government controlled) has also been disrupted.
- Protection of health workers and patients: Since 1 February, a total of 39 attacks by the military on health service providers or facilities have been reported to WHO, resulting in 10 deaths and 18 injuries. In these attacks, 15 health workers, 10 patients, 15 health facilities (including a maternity ward) and 7 ambulances have been affected. The majority of these incidents have taken place in Yangon and Mandalay (especially in areas under martial law). Some partners have resorted to the establishment of 'pop-up' mobile clinics operated often by volunteer health workers (some of whom are self-trained) that provide quick emergency services and go underground shortly after. Health actors are calling for stronger and more vocal support from the international community, as well as practical solutions on how to protect workers and patients as the violence continues.
- COVID-19 vaccination: the Ministry of Health and Sports has resumed COVID-19 vaccination in some areas of the country including, Rakhine, Northern Shan and Yangon. Vaccination is reported being conducted either by non-CDM health workers in these areas or the military themselves. The national vaccination plan, which included prioritization of at risk groups is not being followed and anyone who wants to access the vaccine can do so, but issues around cold

chain disruptions, legitimizing the coup and confidentiality of records are high. UN and other international partners have no oversight on this vaccination campaign.

- COVAX vaccines: as reported previously, a decision has been made to pause the delivery of the first installment of COVAX vaccines (approx. 4 million doses) given increasing concerns regarding the capacity of the country to vaccinate. Gavi, Unicef and WHO are in conversations regarding alternative means to vaccinate the population through NGOs, CSOs and private sector partners. However, one of the main bottlenecks they are facing is that the ownership of the cold chain rests with the MoHS and the establishment of a parallel structure, including the training of new vaccinators, will be costly and with limited reach.
- Gender: High profile women's rights defenders are at risk and hiding. Small WROs have had to suspend operation due to banking and internet interruption, as well as security concerns. One well known woman CSO leader was killed during the protest and at least one is in detention. There are warrants out for many others. [REDACTED] Some organizations are waiting to see how the situation evolves and considering possible relocation to Bangkok. Other WROs (both staff and organizations) simply don't have the means to relocate. Many WROs are facing uncertainty in terms of legislation issues as well as funding availability.

Drafted: YNGON-DA, [REDACTED]

Consulted: YNGON-DA, [REDACTED] YNGON-GR [REDACTED]

Approved: HOM

[1-7 APRIL END]