

DECEMBER CHRONOLOGY 2019

Summary of the Current Situation:

631 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

74 political prisoners are serving sentences,

171 are awaiting trial inside prison,

386 are awaiting trial outside prison.

Nay Zar Tun, sister of child soldier Aung Ko Htwe, and two others sentenced for protesting



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WEBSITE

TWITTER

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Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)
နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း

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ACRONYMS

ABFSU	All Burma Federation of Student Unions
CAT	Conservation Alliance Tanawthari
CNPC	China National Petroleum Corporation
EAO	Ethnic Armed Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KHRG	Karen Human Rights Group
KIA	Kachin Independence Army
KNU	Karen National Union
MFU	Myanmar Farmers' Union
MNHRC	Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
MOGE	Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
NLD	National League for Democracy
NNC	Naga National Council
PAPPL	Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law
RCSS	Restoration Council of Shan State
RCSS/SSA	Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army – South
SHRF	Shan Human Rights Foundation
TNLA	Ta'ang National Liberation Army
YUSU	Yangon University Students' Union

POLITICAL PRISONERS

ARRESTS

Military Shoots and Detains Mentally-Ill Man

On December 11, a resident of Nan Kya Village, Mrauk-U, Arakan State was shot in the arm by the Military, and detained on suspicion of having links to the Arakan Army. The man was stopped by soldiers stationed at a monastery in the village. When he attempted to flee, the soldiers shot at him. They confiscated his phone, finding pictures of people in Military uniforms. He was then brought to their vehicle and driven out of the village. The village administrator was also arrested, but released later in the day. The man remains in Military detention. According to a witness, the man is mentally-ill and prior to his arrest, was warned by locals to stay away from the monastery where the Military was stationed. No information about where he is being held is available.

16 Arrested in Maungdaw Township

On December 12, the Military arrested 16 people from the Rohingya village of Shwezarr in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State. The Military arrived to arrest Zaibur Rahama for drug trafficking. However, according to his family he was not engaged in drug trafficking and had likely been arrested to be extorted. Fifteen other villagers were arrested along with Zaibur Rahama, including his brother, who was injured at the time of the arrest, having been hit by the Military officers' Jeep. The officers initially attempted to arrest Zaibur Rahama disguised in burkas, but left after being swarmed by villagers. They returned with reinforcements and made the arrests. The reason for the additional 15 arrests is unknown. On December 16, hundreds of Burma Army troops arrived at Rohingya villages around Maungdaw, including Shwezarr, causing fear in the communities that they were preparing to destroy the remaining villages. Since December 9, two to three Military Intelligence Officers have been stationed in each Rohingya village in Maungdaw.

Three Civilians Arrested By Military in MaEi Township

On December 1, three civilians were arrested by the Military after shooting occurred near MaEi Township, Taungkok Township, Arakan State. The three arrested were transferred to MaEi police station. The three arrested from MaEi Township were Saw Naing, from Ward 1, Pyae Kyaw Hein and Ye Win Naing, from Ward 4.

Military Arrests Seven Residents of Minbya Township

On December 11 at around 11:00 pm, the Burma Army arrested seven people in Satetaya Village, Minbya Township, Arakan State, under suspicion of being associated with the Arakan Army. When the Army entered the village, a local engaged them with gunfire. Nyan Thein, the village administrator, and Phyu Phyu Win died during the shooting. Afterwards, the Army arrested seven civilians who were neighbours of the administrator. The arrested include Ba Nyut, a Satetaya

villager, as well as three Ngantak villagers, two Taungpok villagers, and one was Kyaukmaw villager. On December 15, the seven were transferred to Minbya police station.

Military Arrests a Resident of Mrauk-U on Suspicion of Being Associated with Arakan Army

On December 11, the Army arrested a resident of Nankya village, Mrauk-U Township, on suspicion of association with the Arakan Army. The resident was 30-year-old Thein Zaw Oo, who was arrested near the monastery of Nankya village. During the arrest, he attempted to flee, but a soldier shot him. He suffered minor gunshot wounds to his left arm. According to a local eyewitness, the man was mentally ill. On December 15, the Army handed Thein Zaw Oo over to the Minbya police station.

CHARGES

27 Farmers Facing Charges in Karenni State

Since July, the Military has now filed 60 lawsuits against 41 farmers from Loikaw and Demoso Townships in Karenni State for trespassing on Military-owned land. New lawsuits were filed against 10 farmers on December 13, including three staff members of the Karenni State Farmer Union (KSFU). The land was seized from the farmers in 1990, but was never used. Local farmers continued to rely on the use of the land to operate their farms and generate income. In May, the Military began to build fences around it. The 41 farmers were charged under Articles 447 and Article 427 of the Penal Code for trespassing and causing damage by continuing to farm, as well as under the Public Property Protection Act for breaking the fences to do so. Many of the farmers are facing multiple counts of the same charges, filed by different Military officers. 11 farmers are awaiting trial in custody, while 30 have been granted bail.

Two Men Arrested by Military in Buthidaung Township

On December 19, two men were arrested by the Military while travelling within Arakan State to visit their daughters. They were on their way from Hpa Wut Chaung village in Maungdaw Township to Rathedaung Township, when they were arrested in Buthidaung Township. It is unknown where the men are being detained. Aung Thaug Shwe, representative for Buthidaung Township in the House of Representatives plans to present the men's case to authorities.

Hpa-an Administrator Files Cases Against Ten Bingyi Village Farmers

On November 29, the Hpa-an administrator filed a lawsuit at the Hpa-an Township court in Karen State against ten farmers from Bingyi village. The Administrator claimed that they had illegally cultivated crops in the old village land. Five were charged under Article 188 of the Penal Code, while the other five were charged under Article 188 and Article 109 of the Penal Code. The land farmed was the former site of Warbotaw village. In 1950 all of its residents fled to nearby villages due to ongoing conflict. In 2014, the Ward 2 Ministry of Industry confiscated the land and designated it as a rubber plantation. The land was abandoned in 2018, and redesignated by the State Government as state-owned land. Since, the State Government has not allowed the villagers to cultivate the

land. Instead, for the past ten years, the Government has allowed private entrepreneurs, companies, and organizations to farm the land for a rent of 100,000 kyats (USD \$68.57) per year.

Military Sues Ten Karenni Farmers for Trespassing

Colonel San Phyo Aung filed lawsuits against ten Karenni farmers under Article 447 of the Penal Code at Loikaw Township Court, Karreni State, claiming that the farmers were trespassing on the Army's land. According to chairman of the Karenni State Farmers Union Khu Tu Reh, the chargers date back to an incident in June, when Military officers arrived on their fields while they were cultivating corn, accused them of trespassing on the Army's land and took photos of the farmers. Six of the farmers, Htay Reh, Mi Reh, Moe Reh, Saw Reh, Soe Aung a.k.a Soe Reh and Bu Reh were charged under only Article 447 of the Penal Code, while Sarie Peh, and Htar Reh were charged under only Article 447 of the Penal Code. Two farmers, Peh Reh and U Reh were charged under both.

Cases to go Ahead Against Five of Six Locals Charged in Connection with Factory Protest

On December 20, the Patheingyi Township Court confirmed that it would go ahead with the prosecution of five of six people from Aung Thabyay village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, charged in connection with a protest of a cement factory. The five were charged under Articles 436, 440 and 114 of the Penal Code. The sixth, Myint Khaing, was released with all charges dropped, due to a lack of evidence against him. The five that will continue to face prosecution include Naing Tun Aung, Min Thein, Phoe Mar, Kyaw Zay Ya and 100 Households Administrator Moe Lin. The six were arrested on May 16, after Han Zaw Lin from Alpha Cement factory, a coal-fired power plant project, filed charges against the protesters.

Rangoon West District Court Ordered to Hold Hearing in Case Against Arakan Army General's Sister and Brother-in-Law

The Rangoon West District Court has been ordered to accept an application for a hearing in the politically-sensitive case of Arakan Army General Tun Myat Naing's sister and brother-in-law. The hearing was scheduled for December 18. The application was filed by the deputy chief Min Khaing, who requested that the case be moved from Mayangone Township Court of Rangoon to the West District Court of Rangoon.

SENTENCES

Peacock Generation Members Sentenced to Additional Jail Time

Four members of the Peacock Generation, a satirical performance group, were sentenced to six months in prison under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Act by the Mayangone Township Court in Yangon on December 11. In April and May, charges were filed by Military officials in a number of townships for performances criticizing the Military. The charges under 66(d) were brought for livestreaming these performances on Facebook. Mayangone Township Court and Botahtaung Township Court, Yangon have already respectively sentenced five and six members to one year in prison with hard labour for charges under Section 505(a). Ko Paing Ye Thu, Ko Paing Phyo Min, Ko Zayar Lwin and Ma Su Yadanar Myint continue to be held at Insein Prison in Yangon.

Village Administrator Sentenced for Involvement in May Protest

On December 27, the village administrator for Aungthabyae Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division was sentenced to one year in prison with hard labour by the Patheingyi Township Court. Moe Lin was sentenced for allegedly inciting the public, for trying to mediate a conflict between a Chinese cement factory and locals, during a protest turned violent. On May 15, villagers held a protest demanding to be compensated for losses in land due to the construction of a road by the factory and for authorities to address issues they say were caused by a large influx of Chinese workers at the site. 50 locals were arrested for the protest and nearly 20 were injured when the police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the protesters.

Three People Jailed, Including the Sister of Former Child Soldier Aung Ko Htwe

On December 24, Dagon Myothit (New Port) Township Court ordered three people, including former child soldier Aung Ko Htwe's sister, to be imprisoned for supporting the case of the former child soldier. Aung Ko Htwe's sister Naing Zar Tun was sentenced to one year imprisonment under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code and six months imprisonment under section 153 of the Penal Code. Khin Cho Naing and Zaw Myint were also punished for the two articles above, as well as given six months imprisonment under Article 7 of the Union Seal Law. In addition, the judge ruled that the three would be allowed to subtract their days in pre-trial detention from their sentences.. Aung Ko Htwe's sister Nay Zar Tun is suffering from a health condition, that sometimes causes her to vomit blood.

TRIALS

Supreme Court Appeal Submitted for Arakan Politician and Author

On December 10, lawyers for Arakan politician Aye Maung and author Wai Hin Aung announced that they have submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Union asking them to reconsider their 20 year high treason sentences.

DETENTIONS

Two Government Employees Detained for Questioning

Two staff members of the Department of Education were arrested by police officers and members of the Military Affairs Security Unit and are currently being detained. The officials entered Konedan Village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State on December 3 and checked residents household registration certificates. The two government employees were arrested from their homes, along with a teacher, a school clerk and a village administrator, who were later released. The two government employees were taken to Maungdaw Police station in Arakan state for interrogation by the Military Affairs Unit. Their families have not been able to visit them, and no further information is available about their arrest.

DISAPPEARANCES

Arkanese Villagers Remain Missing After Being Detained by the Military

Two men from Thapyi Kan village in Mrauk-U Township remain missing after being detained by the Military on November 29. Their families report that while they have heard they were taken to an Army outpost in the Lin Mwe Daung mountains, they have not been given any information by the authorities about where the men have been taken or how long they will be detained. They were arrested while travelling to Mrauk-U Town, when they encountered a clash between the Arakan Army and the Military.

One Missing During Court Hearing of Three from Mrauk-U

On December 6, two of the three men arrested in September from O Htaine Village, Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State, appeared in court. While all three were meant to appear, only a monk and the O Htaine Village Administrators were present while the third, a young man named Myat Maung, was missing. On September 20, the three were arrested by the Army while travelling by car to pick up a monk from Kyaukyat Township. On November 23, the Army transferred them to Switte police station from the Kyauktaw police station. Currently, the O Htain monk and village administrator are detained in Switte Ward 1 Police Station.

Road workers Disappear in Arakan State

On December 26, three road workers went missing while returning home from repairing a road near Mu Yin Village in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan State. The whereabouts of the men is unknown, but the police have found the footwear and sweaters of the three at the spot where they are thought to have disappeared. According to family members, the men did not have any conflicts with anyone. Police are investigating the disappearance.

RELEASES

Buthidaung Teacher Released

On December 3, a teacher was released from custody after his charges were dropped due to insufficient evidence, during an appearance before the Buthidaung Township Court in Arakan State. Nay Zaw Linn was arrested on August 5 on his way home from teaching in Thayetpyin village in Buthidaung Township, and charged under Section 50(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Act for alleged ties to the Arakan Army.

Karenni Activists Released from Prison

All six Karenni activists sentenced to six months imprisonment for opposing a statue of General Aung San have now been freed. They were sentenced on November 7 by the Loikaw Township

Court in Karenni State after spending five months in pre-trial detention. Khu Kyu Phae Kay, also known as Guugu, was released from prison on December 2. The remaining five were released on December 13. The six were charged on March 25 under Section 10 of the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens. The charges were filed for a statement they released in March that called the Karenni State government Chief Minister, L Phaung Sho and Planning and Finance Minister Maw Maw dictators, traitors and corrupt. The activists had criticized the government for the construction of a statue of Burma independence leader General Aung San in Loikaw. On December 27, the Loikaw District Court rejected an appeal filed by the Karenni State Government to increase the sentences.

Kachin Activist Released from Prison

On December 16, Paul Lu was released from Myityina prison in Kachin State, having completed his sentence of three and a half months. The activist was initially sentenced on September 2 by the Myityina court to 15 days in prison under Article 19 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for organizing a street performance to highlight the impacts of the war on IDPs. During his sentencing, Paul Lu handed Judge Than Tun a broken scale of justice to in a symbolic protest of the decision. The judge opened another case against him and on September 6, Paul Lu was sentenced to 3 months in prison under Section 228 of the Penal Code, for disturbing the duties of a civil servant, and insulting and disrespecting the court.

Teacher Charged Under Counter-Terrorism Law

A teacher from Kyauk Yan Village in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, appeared before the Buthidaung Township Court on December 3. He was officially charged under Section 50(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law, for allegedly providing intelligence to the Arakan Army (AA). Naing Aung Tun was arrested along with San Maung, Kyaw Thu Soe, Maung Tun Sein and Maung Phyu Daung on August 10 by two police officers, who filed the charges against all four. No information is available as to whether he is being held in pre-trial detention. On December 24, the charges were dropped by the Buthidaung Township Court, and he was released.

Owner of Shwe Nadi Speedboat Released, Six Staff Members Remain in Detention

On December 9, the owner of Shwe Nadi Speedboat, Shwe Than, was released by the Arakan Army (AA). Six of the company's staff members remain in detention. They are being held in Sittwe, Arakan State, where they will face trial by the AA. On October 26, the AA arrested Shwe Than and the six staff members during a raid of the Shwe Nadi Speedboat, which was travelling from Sittwe to Buthidaung Township in Arakan State.

Three of the Six Civilians Arrested By the Military Released

On December 15, three civilians from Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State were released from detention, after being held by the Military. Shwe Nu, Than Oo, Nyi Nyi Aung were among six to have been arrested in Miwa village on November 21. 11 soldiers entered the village and made the arrests at a local tea shop. Three remain in detention.

Man Charged After Factory Protest Released

On December 20, the Patheingyi Township Court in Mandalay region released an accused individual in a case against protesters of a coal-fired power plant project, near Aung Thabyay village in Patheingyi Township. Myint Khaing's charges were dropped due to a lack of evidence against him. Myint Khaing is one of six residents of Aung Thabyay village who were arrested on May 16 for their alleged involvement in a protest against coal-fired power plant project. They were charged under Articles 436 and 440 of the Penal Code. The charges against the remaining five accused were upheld by the Court, with only Myint Khaing's charges dropped.

Man Accused of Involvement in Maungdaw-Angumaw Road Mine Explosion Released Unconditionally

On December 17, the Maungdaw District Court in Arakan State unconditionally released Maung Kyaw Thein, who was arrested on suspicion of his involvement in a mine explosion. On April 21, two mines exploded on Maungdaw-Angumaw Road. The day after that, the Mawrawaddy resident was arrested and charged under Article 50 (e) of the Violence Prevention Act.

One of Three Men Arrested After A Military Offensive in Kyauktaw Released

In Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, one of three men who was arrested after a military offensive was released. 17-year-old Maung Kyi Lin, from Sabarsate village, Kyauktaw Township, was released on December 19 by Kyauktaw Township Court due to being underage. On November 13, Maung Kyi Lin was arrested on suspicion of being connected to an attack on the Military a day prior day on a bridge near Thayatpin village.

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

Demands Met After Myinchan Prison Riot

On December 30, a riot took place at Myinchan Prison in Mandalay Region. The prisoners demanded to be able to leave their cells at night, which are currently enclosed with barbed wire, and to be able to have access to aspirin. Prison authorities have met the prisoners demands, and have agreed to leave a hole in the barbed wire and to allow prisoners to have access to aspirin.

Approximately Half of Burma's Prisoners Convicted Of Drug-Related Offences

In Burma's prisons, about half of the approximately 90,000 inmates have been convicted of drug-related offences, according to organizations supporting the healthcare service needs inside prisons. In addition, prisoners have limited access to medical treatment and disease prevention. In prisons and police stations, there is a high risk of the spread of infectious diseases such as TB, HIV, dengue fever and diarrhea from person to person.

Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights

Five Civilians Injured in Mrauk-U

Three children and two adults from Yar Shay Pyin in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State are recovering in a Mrauk-U hospital after their village was shelled by the Military on December 1. Locals report that the Military began firing from about a mile away into the village. When the shooting began, the villagers fled but shells struck some houses before all could leave. Tun Tha Sein, an ANP MP representing Mrauk-U in the Arakan State Parliament, reports that no fighting was taking place at the time. Military spokesperson Colonel Win Zaw Oo claimed that at the time, the Military was returning fire from the Arakan Army from within the village.

Shelling of Two Mrauk-U Villages Results in Injuries and Deaths

On December 2, two villages in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State were struck by artillery shells, killing three and injuring seven. In Ale Zay quarter of Mrauk-U Town, a month-old baby, a four-year-old boy and a 30-year-old woman died from the artillery shell explosions. Three more were injured, including one severely. They were taken to Mrauk-U hospital for surgery. Earlier in the day, a shell fell on Na Leik village. Three were injured by shrapnel and taken to Mrauk-U hospital. This includes a thirteen-year-old girl, an eighteen year-old boy and a twenty-seven year-old woman.

Shell Explosion Injures Three Farmers in Northern Shan State

On November 29, an artillery shell explosion in Man Wah village, Namtu township, in northern Shan State killed one woman and injured two more. The women were working in a corn field at the time, and struck by shrapnel when the shell struck nearby. One of the injured woman was treated for less severe injuries at Namtu hospital, while the other was brought to Lashio Hospital in critical condition. Fighting between the Military and the Restoration Council of Shan State was ongoing in the area, but it is unknown which armed group is responsible for firing the shell.

Three Killed and Eight Injured in Mrauk-U Township

On the evening of December 2, fighting in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State resulted in the deaths of a mother and her two young children, and injured eight others. One artillery shell exploded in Alaezay Ward of Mrauk-U Town. A four-year old child, a five-month old baby and their mother were killed. Four others remain at Mrauk-U hospital, but are not in critical condition. In Na Late village, within Mrauk-U Township, three more, including a child, were struck by shrapnel from an artillery shell explosion that struck the village. They were taken to Mrauk-U Hospital for minor injuries.

Five Injured by Shell Blast in Mrauk-U

Five are recovering from injuries from an artillery shell that struck a house in Shar Chay Byint Village in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State on December 1. Those injured include three children. All are recovering in Mrauk-U hospital. Locals report that the shell was fired by Military soldiers, and that no fighting was ongoing at the time. This claim was denied by Military spokesperson Win Zaw Oo. He asserted that while the Military responded to fire from the Arakan Army (AA) within the village, the AA is responsible for the civilians injuries.

Landmine Blast in Buthidaung Severely Injures Man

On December 2, a man was herding cattle in Tha Yet Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, when he stepped on a landmine. He was severely injured by the blast and has lost his leg. He was taken to Buthidaung hospital for treatment. There are ongoing clashes between the Military and Arakan Army (AA) in the area, but it is unknown who is responsible for setting the landmine.

Grenade Thrown at House Owned by Tamu MP

A house of Maung Maung Latt, the National League for Democracy (NLD) MP for Tamu, Sagaing Region was attacked on December 3. An unidentified man on a motorbike threw a grenade into the house. Although the pin was removed, no explosion occurred. While owned Maung Maung Latt, the house is occupied by his mother and sisters. As an MP, he lives in Naypyitaw. It is not known who is responsible for the attack, but Ethnic Armed Groups aiming to stoke fear ahead of the election, are suspected by Myint Zaw, chairman of the Tamu NLD Party.

Young Boy Killed by Military Fire

A nine-year old boy died at Kyauktaw Hospital on December 6, after sustaining five bullet wounds, shot by Military soldiers. At the time he was struck, the boy was running home from school, after fighting broke out between the Military and the Arakan Army (AA) in Pike The Quarter of Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State. He was caught in the crossfire, as the Military fired at members of the AA.

Passenger Bought Caught in Crossfire in Chin State

Civilian passengers of a boat travelling down the Kaladan River on December 10 was struck by an artillery shell when it encountered fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and Military in Noon Bu Village, Paletwa Township, Chin State. A woman and a three-year-old boy were killed, and seven others were injured. The injured were taken to Paletwa Hospital. Both the AA and the Military have blamed each other for the attack.

Arakan Army will not Release Paletwa MP

The Arakan Army (AA) has announced that they do not plan to release a Paletwa MP in their custody since November 3. Hoi Tin is a NLD MP that represents Chin State constituency number 11 in the upper house. He is the only remaining person in detention out of 11 others who were arrested while

on a ferry travelling in Paletwa Township, Chin State. According to AA spokesperson Khine Thukha, the MP is being held because he poses a security threat to the AA.

Complaint Filed after Military Attack on Minbya Civilians

The families of two civilians killed by the Military have filed complaints with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Minbya Township police. Villagers report that soldiers entered Satetara Village, Minbya Township, Arakan State on December 11, with no fighting at the time. The soldiers reportedly entered the village while firing their guns, and demanded to know the location of the village administrator's home. When they arrived at the house, they again fired their weapons, striking a local woman. According to his family, the village administrator was beaten in his home with the butt of a rifle, and died from head injuries. On December 13, the Military announced that on December 11 they had returned fire from the Arakan Army (AA) in Satetara Village, and had found the body of the village administrator within the house from which the AA was firing.

Arakan Army and Military Trade Blame for Death of Buthidaung NLD Chairman

On December 25, Buthidaung NLD chairman Ye Thain was killed by a shell explosion while being held in Arakan Army (AA) detention. Ye Thain had been in AA custody since December 11, when he was detained for interrogation because of his role in organizing a December 12 rally in support of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ICJ in Pyinshae Village, Buthidaung Township, Arakan State. According to the AA, the shells were fired by the Buthidaung-based 15th Light Infantry Battalion into the AA camp where Ye Thain was being held in Oaktaung Village, Buthidaung Township. Military spokesperson Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun denied that the clash had taken place, blaming the AA for the death of the NLD chairman.

Ten Villagers Injured in Minbya Shell Explosion

An artillery shell exploded in Kalama Taung Village in Minbya Township on December 11. Ten villagers were injured and were taken to Minbya Hospital. Two sustained serious injuries. At the time of the explosion, there was a nearby clash between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Military. Most fled to safety when the fighting began and the village was struck. It is unknown which group is responsible for the shell.

Body of Abducted Village Administrator Found

On December 14, the body of Kyaw Aye Maung was found at the base of Mount Minbu, located near Thalu Chaing Village in Minbya Township, Arakan State. Kyaw Aye Maung was the village administrator for Kyaukmaw, Arakan State. On December 11, he was visiting the home of the Satetra village administrator in Minbya Township when the Military arrived, killing the Satetra village administrator and arresting Kyaw Aye Maung, as well as eight other villagers. One of the villagers was released due to his old age, while the other seven remain detained in an unknown location. According to his family, the village administrator did not have any ties to the Arakan Army.

Child Soldier Released by Military

A 17-year-old boy, who has been serving as a child soldier in the Military has been released.. On April 24, when Aung Naing Win was sixteen, a motorcycle taxi driver promised to take him to a job, but instead brought him to Thanbyuzayat Military Compound. When he did not return his family's home in Kha Pyat Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region, his family reported him missing. They continued to search for him until September 26, when he was able to call them and tell them what had happened. After being sent a recruitment centre in Mawlamyine and a training centre in Thaton Township, Aung Naing Win was made to join the Light Infantry Division 542, stationed in Kyauphyu Township, Arakan State. Despite his official documents stating a 2002 birthday, the Military issued him a national identity card with a 1999 birthday.

NLD Member Under Police Protection after Viral Video Criticizing Lack of Action on Drug Abuse

A member of the National League for Democracy in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region is now under police protection. On December 15, Mi Mi Gyi spoke at a public meeting with the regional chief minister, expressed concern over the lack of action being taken against the widespread drug abuse in Kawlin. She presented the Minister with a basket of used syringes, to draw attention to the magnitude of the problem. After a video of her speech went viral on social media, someone set bales of straw on fire near her house. Mi Mi Gyi reported the incident, and a police officer was assigned to provide protection.

Woman Killed by Shell in Arakan State

On December 18, one person was killed in Khin Mar Yee Village, Myebon Township, Arakan State. The woman died from head injuries after a shell fired from a nearby mountain range, where a military column is currently stationed, struck her home. According to Military spokesperson Colonel Win Zaw Oo, a clash between the Arakan Army and the Military did take place near Khin Mar Yee Village. However, he claimed that their fire was in the opposite direction of the village.

Bodies of Missing Youth Found in Arakan State

The bodies of two missing youth were found on December 19. Maung Ray Lin and Maung Maung Htwe had been missing since December 17, when they did not return home from the market. The victims were travelling from their homes in Ray Ngan Chaung Village in Ann Township, Arakan State to a nearby village. They were shot by the Military when passing through Gan Gaw Myint. According to Colonel Win Zaw Oo, they were shot because they were travelling to plant a landmine.

Landmine injures civilians in Shan State

On December 14, two were injured and one was killed from stepping on landmines in three separate incidents across Namhsan Township, Northern Shan State. In Zayan Mang Mai, Hla Aung was taken to Lashio hospital for treatment of her injuries. In Kaitkai village, Aye Ngwe had her leg amputated after the blast. In Loi Pyet village, Tun Tin died from his injuries at the time of the explosion.

Two fishermen allegedly beaten by Burma Army soldiers in Kyauktaw

Two fishermen in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State were beaten by Burma Army soldiers on December 19. While travelling by boat, Maung Kyaw Hla and Than Hlaing were stopped by gunfire

from soldiers stationed at Mount Kyauktaw. The soldiers asked the fishermen why they did not stop their boat, and were punched and beaten with an iron bar after responding that they did not know they were supposed to. Maung Kyaw Hla was hospitalized due to the severity of his injuries.

Mothers of Child Soldiers Call for their Sons' Return

Two boys from northern Shan State are currently being forced to serve as child soldiers for the Military, according to their mothers. They held a press conference in Yangon on December 20, calling for their sons to be returned home. Eight months ago, Lui Say went missing from his home in Aung Club village, Hsi Hseng Township. After filing a missing person's report, his mother was informed that he is stationed with the Light Infantry Battalion 427 in Demoso Township, Karen State and the 16-year-old would not be allowed to return home until he has completed five years of service. Another child soldier, a 17-year-old with autism named Abraham, was taken from his home in Lwe Yin Mingalar Village in Pekon Township. A corporal from the Infantry Battalion 421 promised to take Abraham to a school. After he was missing for eight months, his mother learned he was serving as a private in the Army in Sumprabum, Karen State. The corporal who took Abraham told his mother that if Abraham was allowed to leave, he would be viewed as a deserter and fugitive.

Bodies of missing farmers recovered in Arakan paddy field

The bodies of two farmers, Ni Maung (61 years old) and Kin Chay (40 years old) were found half buried in a paddy field in Meabon township in Arakan state. The father in law of Ni Maung said he believed the pair might have died on 18th December. There were reports of fighting on that day, the Arakan Army have denied involvement and the Burma Army spokesman was unavailable for comment.

Immigration officials abducted in Rakhine

Three immigration officials were taken into custody by the Arakan Army (AA) on December 24, according to the Office of Commander in Chief of Defense services. The staff were travelling on a boat traveling along the Mayyu River, when five AA members abducted the three immigration officials before releasing the boat, according to state media.

Mytel Employees Go Missing in Arakan State

According to a statement from Military spokesperson Colonel Win Zaw Oo, the Arakan Army (AA) has abducted two employees of the Military-owned telecommunications company Mytel. The director of the Arakan state office and his driver were travelling in northern Arakan state to inspect telecommunication towers. On December 18, they were on their way to Kyauktaw Township but went missing. The government has blocked internet services in Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Minbya Townships in Arakan State since June. AA spokesperson Khaing Thukha denied having any knowledge about the two men.

Four civilians injured in Kyauktaw shooting

Four civilians from Kyauktaw township in Arakan State were injured in a gunfight on December 28. The injured were Sein Kyaw Win, 53, Aung Win, 43, Aung Kyi, 50, and Ma Than That. Two of the

injured were transferred to Sittwe hospital for treatment of severe injuries, while the other two were sent to the local Kyauktaw hospital.

Arakan State Clash Injures Ten Civilians

Ten civilians were injured by fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Military in Arakan State on December 27 and 28. On December 27, six were injured when a shell fired at a Military camp by the AA struck a house in Kywelkuseik Village, Myaebone Township. According to a statement from the Office of Commander-in-Chief, the Military took the civilians to the Military hospital in Ann Township and provided them with monetary compensation. The following day, four were injured near Mahar Kangyi Shin Pagoda in Kyauktaw Town during a clash and taken to Sittwe hospital. The Military claims that the AA is responsible for the civilian injuries. The AA denied this claim, stating that they had fired at the pagoda where the Military was stationed, killing 20 soldiers, but the civilians were killed when the Military retaliated.

Three Villagers Injured in Mrauk-U Artillery Blast

On December 1, fierce fighting between the Military and Arakan Army (AA) occurred in the mountain of Yan Chaung Phyar in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State. An explosion of artillery shells injured three villagers: Sandar Win, Ba Htun, and Nandar Moe.

Civilians Detained By Arakan Army From Shwe Nadi Speedboat Released

On December 6, civilians detained by the Arakan Army (AA) from Shwe Nadi speedboat were released. The speedboat was detained on December 5 while it was travelling between Paletwa and Taung Pyo villages in Sittwe, Arakan State. The boat was raided by the AA, who temporarily detained two drivers and 11 passengers.

One Killed and One Injured by Landmines in NamSan Township

On December 11, two men stepped on a landmine in Pan Nin village, Nam Sam Township, northern Shan State. One man was killed by the accident, while the other was injured. The two men were travelling from their homes in Pan Nin to get drinking water.

Lawyer of Ko Swe Win Mocked And Threatened in Courtroom

On December 13, editor Ko Swe Win appeared in court in Mandalay Division for an appeal hearing of previously dismissed charges. After the hearing, followers of ultranationalist monk U Wirathu mocked and threatened Ywat Nu Aung, Ko Swe Win's lawyer. In March 2017, Kyaw Myo Shwe, a follower of the monk U Wirathu, sued Ko Swe Win for criticizing comments made by the monk on Facebook. Ko Swe Win was charged under Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunication Law. After two years of trial, the township court dismissed the case. Kyaw Myo Swe was not satisfied with the court's decision and appealed the result.

24 Mrauk-U Youth Arrested by Arakan Army for Drug Use

On the evening of December 15, the Arakan Army (AA) arrested 24 youths for drug use in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State. The arrest came after the AA posted signs on lamp posts and walls in Mrauk-U Township, stating that effective immediately, action would be taken against drug dealers and users. Local residents said that it was the first time the youth has been arrested by the AA for using drugs.

Seven Elderly People Trapped in Rathataung Township

On December 14, nearly 1,300 residents of Thaungdra village, Rathedaung Township, Arakan State fled their homes when Military troops arrived to their village. Seven elderly people were unable to flee and become trapped in their village. The remaining villagers include 100-year-olds Ma Ma Phyu and Maung Nyut Oo, 80-year-old Maung Thar Zan, 90-years-old Ma Kyauk Phyu, 74-years-old Saw Mya Thein, 70-years-old Poe Shwe Sein, and an unidentified 80-year-old woman. In addition, according to local Khin Maung Latt, a mentally ill man, Kyaw Nyein Htun, who was also unable to flee the village was taken as a guide by the soldiers. Khin Maung Latt also reported that the soldiers continued to fire heavy weapons from the village and patrolled the village

Two Police Officers Each Sentenced to Three Months Imprisonment

On December 18, two policemen were each sentenced to three months imprisonment for assaulting a villager of Kyauktaw for no reason. The sentences were handed out after a year and a half of trial. The assault took place on May 21, 2018 in Paung Township, Mon State, where Maung Gyi says that he was kicked and beaten by police officers, Than Hlaing Oo and Sai Htet Aung from Yin Nyein police station in Paung Township. Maung Gyi's leg was broken during the beating and he was bruised all over his body. After the assault, he was hospitalized for three days in hospital between Yin Nyein Regional Hospital and Thaton Township Hospital. On May 25, four days after the assault, Maung Gyi filed a case against the two police officers at Paung Township Police Station. However, the commander told him that the perpetrators should be prosecuted only under the Police Disciplinary Code and negotiated with Maung Gyi for him not file a case in an external court. However, as the two policemen were not charged internally, Maun Gyi filed the case before the court of Paung Township on July 2, 2018.

AA Raids Boat Travelling from Sittwe to Buthidaung

On the morning of December 20, the Arakan Army blocked the Aung Kyaw Moe ship from leaving Buthidaung on its way to Sittwe, both in Arakan State. The ship was under investigation due to reports that it was carrying food supplies for the Military. After the investigation, AA released the ship at four o'clock in the evening.

A Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party Shot Dead in Kyaukme Township

On December 23, in Narmon village, Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State, a member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, Sai Htay Aung was shot dead by unknown gunmen. Sai Htay Aung was dissolving cement to construct a road for his mother's home, when two gunmen arrived and fired at shot at him 20 times, killing him, according to an anonymous official from Zi Wi Ta Social Welfare Association.

Buthidaung Local Steps on a Landmine

On the morning of December 25, Tamaranthar villager, Maung La stepped on a landmine in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State. Both of Maung La's legs were injured, as well as his mouth and head. He received medical treatment at a hospital in Buthidaung Township.

Clash Near Namtu-Lashio Highway Kills Driver

On December 29, a clash between Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Military army killed a driver caught in the crossfire near Namtu-Lashio highway in northern Shan state. The driver was a mine-truck driver and live in Namtu.

AA Releases Two Civilians Detained for Nearly Ten Months

On December 28, the Arakan Army (AA) released two civilians, Zin Aung and Thein Lin, who had been detained on suspicion of being associated with Burma Army. After the two were interrogated, the AA transferred them to their parents in Paletwa Township, Chin State instead of the Burma Army.

Defendant Calls for Action on Police Violence

On December 29, Htay Lwin held a press conference asking for action to be taken, after he was shot by police in Myeik Township, Tanintharyi region. Htay Lwin had planted shady trees on village roads and schools in Kan Pyin village, but a woman named Tin War had removed and destroyed them. Afterwards, Htay Lwin and Tin War visited a village headman on August 20 and conflict erupted. Htay Lwin said Tin War went to the police station during the conflict and reported that he was armed with a knife. The police came to arrest him, and shot him in the left arm. Thamote regional police station charged Htay Lwin under Section 19(e) of Armed Services Act. Myeik Township court found him not guilty of the offence and released him unconditionally.

Ko Aung, Myeik Township police chief said Tanintharyi police chief Ye Khaung Myint is investigating the case to take action against the shooter.

On December 30, army arrested Nyi Pu, a civilian who is engaged in rice trading in Sharshay village, Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State. Nyi Pu said he was arrested on suspicion of being associated with Arakan Army (AA) but was released in the evening.

Shooting in Kyauktaw Injures Two Women

On December 30, shooting in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, injured two women and damaged several homes and departmental offices. The two injured women were 78-year-old Ma Ma Oo and a 23-year-old teacher.

Six Artillery Shell Blasts in Two Villages in Mrauk-U Township Leaves Woman Injured

On the evening of December 30, a woman was injured when six artillery shells exploded in Lay Nyin Taung village and Sin Baw Gaing village. The resident of Sin Baw Gaing village was injured in the blast while she was travelling to buy some bananas.

AA arrested Sixteen Car Drivers on Aung Takon (7) Boat

On December 31, the Arakan Army stopped Aung Takon (7) boat near Sapho Island, Rathataung Township, Arakan State, and arrested 16 car drivers. There were a total of 89 passengers and 12 staff members on Aung Takon (7) boat which run for Sittwe-Buthidaung. 16 of the 18 car drivers were arrested by the AA work for the Department of Road Transport. According to Soe Aung, District Administrator, the drivers came to Maung Taw to drive to rehabilitation camps.

LAND RIGHTS

27 Farmers Facing Charges in Karenni State

Since July, the Military has now filed 60 lawsuits against 41 farmers from Loikaw and Demoso Townships in Karenni State for trespassing on Military-owned land. New lawsuits were filed against 10 farmers on December 13, including three staff members of the Karenni State Farmer Union (KSFU). The land was seized from the farmers in 1990, but was never used. Local farmers continued to rely on the use of the land to operate their farms and generate income. In May, the Military began to build fences around it. The 41 farmers were charged under Articles 447 and Article 427 of the Penal Code for trespassing and causing damage by continuing to farm, as well as under the Public Property Protection Act for breaking the fences to do so. Many of the farmers are facing multiple counts of the same charges, filed by different Military officers. 11 farmers are awaiting trial in custody, while 30 have been granted bail.

Landowners Demand Compensation for Land Seized in Botataung

Former landowners in Botataung Township, Yangon staged a protest on December 13, demanding that the Government compensate them for lands seized from them by the Military. The land was taken in 1974 to construct an ordnance depot. In 2015, 32 million kyats each was paid to 277 land owners in compensation. However, 70 people were not given compensation, despite having submitted the request together with those who received compensation. This is the 32nd protest that the landowners have staged calling for compensation.

Sagaing Villagers Protest Copper Mine

On December 29, nearly 200 residents of Kankone Village, Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region marched from their community to the entrance of the Yang Tse Copper Ltd compound. The protesters demanded that they be compensated for 2,000 acres of land confiscated by the copper company and for the village to regain access to the water supply of the nearby Chindwin River.

Local Residents Protest in Pathein Township for Return of Confiscated Farmland and Unused land

On December 13, about 50 local residents from Du Yar Village, Pathein Township, protested against the confiscation of farmland and unused land from Du Yar Village, Hinthada Township, Irrawaddy region. In 1991, Colonel Thar Aye confiscated more than 50 acres of unused land and 70 acres of

farmland, without informing the landlords, or paying any compensation. The lands were confiscated to expand the town into a major city. However the town has not yet been transformed. Even though several complaints have been reported at the regional level since 2016, there has been no response from the government, according to protest organizer U Maung Cho.

Press Conference to Regain Confiscated Land

On December 16, local farmers from Joe Pin Village, Nyaunglebin Township, held a press conference, seeking to regain their confiscated land. Despite Bago Region Prime Minister saying in a speech that the confiscated land would be returned, no such action has been taken. In 1988, the Ministry of Cooperatives confiscated 628.28 acres of farmland from Joe Pin Village for a project. From 1979 until 1987, 95 farmers were officially allowed to cultivate on the land.

Palake Town Ministry of Instruction Pay Over 2,300 Kyat in Compensation for Confiscated Lands

On December 18, the Ministry of Instruction paid over 2,300 Kyat (USD \$1.57) in compensation to the original owner of 1.28 acres of land that had been confiscated. The land was confiscated from Daw Pu 25 years ago, in Mya Nandar Ward, Palake Town, Sint Gai Township, Mandalay region by the Road Department (9) to be used as a camp on the frontlines of a conflict.

Military Demolishes House, Claiming it was Built on Military Land

In Khay Khan Village, Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, the Military demolished a house, claiming it was built on Military-owned land. A telecommunications officer who ordered the houses to be removed said they had told Khin Kyu, house owner, verbally and in writing, not to build the house on the Military owned land, but she went ahead with the construction. As a result, Khin Kyu is being sued by the Telecommunication Officer. There are 16 houses built on what the Military says is their land that will be removed. The Military says they will replace the land for Kyu Khin, whose house was demolished.

Farmers Demand Compensation for Amarapura City Development Project

Over 200 acres of farmer's land was confiscated without compensation in the Amarapura City Development project near Shan Lay village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay division. The farmers now do not have land to cultivate. The project is being implemented by construction businessman Maung Wate. According to Kyi Sein from Shan Lay village, the lands of the farmers fenced so that they could not be used. The farmers are demanding that Myay Nu Kyoon pay them 300 million Kyat (USD \$2054.03) per person.

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- **Shooting in Kyauktaw Injures Two Women**([30 December 2019 - DMG/Burmese](#)) ([30 December 2019 - Narinjara/Burmese](#))
- **Six Artillery Shell Blasts in Two Villages in Mrauk-U Township Leaves Woman Injured**([31 December 2019 - Narinjara/Burmese](#))
- **AA arrested Sixteen Car Drivers on Aung Takon (7) Boat** ([30 December 2019 - DMG/Burmese](#))

LAND RIGHTS

- **27 Farmers Facing Charges in Karenni State**[\(10 December 2019 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(16 December 2019 - Irrawaddy\)](#)
- **Landowners Demand Compensation for Land Seized in Botataung**[\(13 December 2019 - Myanmar Time/Burmese\)](#)[\(13 December 2019 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)[\(14 December 2019 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(18 December 2019 - RFA\)](#)
- **Sagaing Villagers Protest Copper Mine**[\(31 December 2019 - Eleven\)](#) [\(31 December 2019 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(31 December 2019 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 December 2019 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 December 2019 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
- **Local Residents Protest in Patheingyi Township for Return of Confiscated Farmland and Unused land**[\(14 December 2019 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
- **Press Conference to Regain Confiscated Land** [\(16 December 2019 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)[\(17 December 2019 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
- **Palake Town Ministry of Instruction Pay Over 2,300 Kyat in Compensation for Confiscated Lands**[\(20 December 2019 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
- **Military Demolishes House, Claiming it was Built on Military Land**[\(24 December 2019 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
- **Farmers Demand Compensation for Amarapura City Development Project** [\(26 December 2019 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

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