

# FEBRUARY CHRONOLOGY 2020

## Summary of the Current Situation:

642 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

74 political prisoners are serving sentences,

139 are awaiting trial inside prison,

429 are awaiting trial outside prison.

21 students injured due to artillery shell blasts at a school at Buthidaung Township



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**WEBSITE**

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**Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)**

**နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း**

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# ACRONYMS

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

# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## ARRESTS

### **Burma Army Arrests Civilian with Walkie-talkie due to Possible Links to EAG**

Long Jingda, aged 52, was arrested after a column of army soldiers stopped him near Phat Pheik, Panglong Township in southern Shan State. The soldiers accused him of working for an Ethnic Armed Group after becoming suspicious when his walkie-talkie made a sound in his bag during questioning. According to Sai Aung Kham, village headman, the day before, soldiers from the column had asked to know if any of the villagers had walkie-talkies. He was let go the following day after Sai Aung Kham and members of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) intervened. Sai Aung Kham stated that when Long Jingda was released his left eye was swollen.

### **Arrest of Arakan Youth Conference Representative and a man from Buthidaung Township**

A passenger boat travelling to Kyauktaw from Paletwa in Chin State was fired upon on February 27 and four people aboard the vessel were injured. The attackers remain unknown. After the incident, the army questioned all passengers, leading to the detention of Arakan Youth Conference representative, Kyaw Hla, and another man from Buthidaung Township. On February 27, five passenger boats had left Paletwa town, southbound to Kyauktaw town in Arakan State, when gunfire targeted one of them while arriving at Tinma village. The attack injured three men and one woman. The injured are Ko Ko Maung from Sittwe, boat driver Min Aye Thein, a boat assistant, and Khin Mar from Paletwa. There were around 80 passengers aboard the five. The army stopped all the boats near Kyauktaw town and questioned them for about three hours.

### **Six Ferry Passengers Detained in Kyauktaw Township**

An army regiment intercepted a ferryboat carrying 20 passengers near Tinma village while commuting between Kyauktaw Township in Arakan State and Paletwa Township in Chin State and arrested six men on February 26, according to family members of the detainees. The captives were identified as Tun Chay, 57, and Kun Choke, 39, from Shwe Pyi village in Kyauktaw Township; Aye Thein Maung, 42, from Kyauktaw town; Aung Kyaw Nyunt, 47, and Aung Than Nu, 22, from Doe Chaungwa village in Paletwa Township; and one other man from Pyaine Taine village. Women and the owner of the ferryboat were freed on the same day. The army has not issued any statement regarding the incident.

## CHARGES

### **Three Students Leaders Charged with Unlawful Protest of School-Year Extension Decision**

On February 6, three student leaders in Naypyitaw were charged with violating section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for staging a protest without a permit. Protesters called on the Ministry of Education to revoke a recent decision to extend the school year by one month, and to end threats against students for protesting the extension- which one of the charged

students, Htoo Khant Thaw, claims school officials had made toward students at the Education College. Director-general of the Basic Education Department, Ko Lay Win, denied that the Ministry of Education had ordered school officials to prevent teachers and students from protesting. After nearly a month of protests, the Ministry of Education and Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) education committee met to find a solution.

### **Nine Students Charged under Peaceful Assembly Law after Demonstrating in Rangoon against Internet Blackout in Arakan and Chin States.**

Nine students have been charged with violating Article 19 of the country's Peaceful Assembly Law, after staging a protest on February 23 against the government's suspension of internet services in Arakan and Chin States. Under section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Law, the students could face a sentence of up to three months, because they did not receive prior permission to hold the protest. The nine students organized and were part of a gathering of about 100 who demanded that the government reinstate mobile internet access in nine townships in Chin and Arakan States. Amongst the nine students, six are being questioned in Kamaryut Police Station. According to the police, no arrests have been made and they have just been called in for questioning. The six currently being questioned are from the All Burma Students Union. They include Zaw Htet Naing, Aung Pyae Sone Hpyu, Hnin, Aye Myat Mon Kyaw, Naung Htet Aung and Thu Ta Soe. Three other student leaders – Kyaw Lin, Myat Hein Htun from Rakhine Students Union (Rangoon Universities) and Thet Win Aung from All Burma Students Union - have also had charges filed against them.

### **17 Villagers from Sanfaree Village Charged at Hpa-an Township Court**

On February 19, Inspector Zaw Myo Min of the Industrial Territory Police Station in Hpa-an Township, charged 17 locals under Sections 143, 145, 152, 505(b) and 34 of the Penal Code at the Hpa-an Township Court in Karen State for preventing authorities from removing huts which had been built without permission near San Mano Village in San Faree Village in Hpa-an Township. On February 11, the State's authorities started removing 721 huts which have been built in the project area of the Taung Ka Lay Extended Housing Project and 17 locals were arrested by police of the Industrial Territory Police Station. Locals said these lands were abandoned by the military in 2016 and was owned by their ancestors.

## **TRIALS**

### **Court Grants Bail to Prominent Burmese Lawyer and Poet Sued by Military**

Well-known lawyer Kyi Myint, age 75, and poet Saw Wai, age 60, were granted bail by the Kawthaung Township Court, in Tanintharyi Region on February 3. The court granted the defendants bail because in addition to their age, they were able to prove that they are suffering from heart disease. The two men were sued by the military for defamation related to remarks about constitutional amendment. Under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code, this violation carries a penalty of up to two years in prison. The court set their bail at 10 million kyats each (US \$6,865) and the next court hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled for February 17.

## **Supreme Court of the Tanintharyi Division Rejected Appeal of Tanintharyi Journal**

On February 14, the Supreme Court of the Tanintharyi Division rejected the appeal for the editor of the Tanintharyi Journal who was sentenced to six months imprisonment or paying a fine of 500,000 Kyat .U Aye Lu, deputy director of the regional government, filed the complaint under Section 25(b) of the News Media Law about the story in the Dawei township court on November 23, 2017, alleging that it had libeled regional officials in violation of the act. In February 2019, Dawei Township Court sentenced U Myo Aung, chief editor of the Tanintharyi Journal, to six months imprisonment and to pay a K500,000 (US\$326) fine. Therefore, the Tanintharyi Journal paid the fine and appealed to the district court. However, the district court rejected the appeal.

## **SENTENCES**

### **Myanmar Court Fines Activist and Four Factory Workers for Illegal Assembly**

The Dagon Township Court found Moe Sandar Myint of Action Labor Rights (ALR) and four workers at the Nature Garment factory guilty of violating the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law on February 12. The five were arrested last November after the factory's workers went on strike to protest alleged violations of labor rights and employment contracts. The protesters blocked the factory's main gate preventing vehicles from entering or leaving. As a result factory management brought charges of illegal assembly against the five. They were sentenced to 24 days in prison or a fine of 30,000 kyats (US\$20.60) each. The five opted to pay a total 150,000 kyats in fines. "I am upset with the judiciary for punishing workers, who are actually the victims," said Moe Sandar Myint.

### **Three Peacock Generation Members Convicted for 'Online Defamation'**

In the latest of a series of convictions of the Peacock Generation, a Rangoon court sentenced three Peacock Generation members to six months in prison on February 18. The court found Su Yadana Myint, Kay Khine Tun, and Paing Phyto Min guilty of violating Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Act for posting videos of their performances on social media which-due to the critical nature of the performances- was considered 'online defamation'. The court acquitted the other four other members; Nyein Chan Soe, Zaw Lin Tun, Paing Ye Thu and Zayar Lwin of these charges.

So far six members have been handed prison sentences between 2 and 3 years and only Nyein Chan Soe has been cleared of a prison charge. The seven still face suits in the Ayeyarwady region, which have not yet scheduled their trials. In protest of the judiciary's rulings the accused members have stopped participating in their trials- revoking their lawyer's power of attorney.

### **Naw Ohn Hla and Three Other Protest Leaders Sentenced to One Year Imprisonment**

On February 17, Myawady Township Court in Karen State sentenced Naw Ohn Hla and three protest leaders, U Nge, Sandar Myint and Maung Oo, to one month imprisonment under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law.

On April 21, 2019, they staged a protest for not abolishing the Shwe Mya Sandi Housing. The following day, Myawady Police Force arrested them at Myawaddy in Karen State and investigated them at Myawaddy Myoma Police Station and granted them bail. Although they asked for permission to stage a protest, they were charged because they did not change the date of the protest as requested, as a state level official was visiting Myawaddy on their protest date.

### **Pyigyidagun Township Court in Mandalay Division Sentenced Protest Leaders**

On February 21, Pyigyidagun Township Court in Mandalay Division sentenced seven out of eight protest leaders to pay 10,000 Kyat or to serve seven days in prison, after being charged under Section 20 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for staging a protest for labour rights on February 17, 2019. The seven protest leaders were Thet Hnin Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Industries Craft & Services Trade Unions Federation (MICS-TUsF), Tint Shein Soe, Than Than Myint a.k.a Su Su Naing, Soe Nandar Myint, Thura, Nay Linn Aung, Phyo Sandar Soe, Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM), and Thaung Nyunt. The lawsuit against U Taung Nyunt was dropped. They chose to pay the fine and they were initially charged on February 18, 2019, by the Police Chief of the Pyigyidagun Township Police Force

## **RELEASES**

### **Kachin Pastors walk Free after Military Drops Unlawful Association Case**

On February 21 two Kachin pastors, Rev. Bima Dau Lum and Sumlut Tu Htang, were released from prison after the military dropped charges of Unlawful Association it had filed against them. The pastors were arrested on February 5 under Article 17(1) of the Unlawful Association Act, for attending an event celebrating the 60th Kachin Revolution Day. After spending two weeks in the Myitkyina prison the pastors were released following orders to drop the case.

### **Ann Township man walks free after acquittal in counter-terrorism law case**

Maung Tin Yi, a resident of Ann Township who was charged under section 50(a) of Burma's counter-terrorism law, was acquitted by the Kyaukphyu District Court on February 4. His lawyer, Kyaw San Naing, said that he was released because the prosecution failed to present compelling enough evidence to support a conviction. The 47 year old from Tattaung town in Arakan State's Ann Township was detained by local police on July 3, for allegedly sending a threatening letter to electrical engineer Soe Hlaing. He was formally charged under the counter-terrorism law in August last year.

### **Ex-High Court Lawyer Zaw Win Released After time-served**

On February 5, Ex-High Court Lawyer Zaw Win, who had been sentenced to two years imprisonment under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code for criticizing the judicial system, was released from Obo after Prison for time-served. In addition, Pyigyidagun Township Court in Mandalay Division granted him bail on payment of one hundred million Kyat for two counts of charges. Zaw Win, had been charged under Sections 505(b), 353, 228, 506 and 294 of the Penal Code for throwing his slippers at the sign of the Pyigyidagun township court and for criticizing the judicial system. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code.

### **17-year-old school student Too Wai Yan Released by Patheingyi Township Court**

On January 31, a 17-year-old school student Too Wai Yan, who had been arrested and charged for his involvement in cement factory riot, was released by the Patheingyi Township Court in Mandalay Division according to the Child Law in Myanmar.

On May 15, 2019, Too Wai Yan allegedly ransacked a cement factory construction site and was arrested by the Patheingyi Township Police Station on May 24, 2019. He said police wrongfully arrested him because they were not able to catch the real suspect, his father. The Patheingyi Myoma Police Station charged him under Sections 332, 333 and 114 of the Penal Code.

### **ARRESTS BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS**

#### **Arakan Army denies arresting NLD official from Ramree Township in Arakan State**

The Arakan Army (AA) on February 10 denied kidnapping a local official of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) in Arakan State. Zeya Min, executive committee member and treasurer for the Ramree Township NLD, was allegedly seized by unidentified gunmen on February 8 while on his way home, according to Khin Yee, the secretary of the Ramree Township NLD.

Khin Yee also stated that the AA carried out the kidnapping because of the public rally held on December 4, 2019 to show support for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who led the Myanmar defence at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Leaders of the township NLD had been threatened via phone calls and on Facebook for organizing the rally. Zeya Min's family reported the abduction and Ramree Police Station has opened a case under Section 50 (a) and (b) and Section 54 of the Counter-terrorism Law for the abduction and is investigating the scene of the crime.

#### **TNLA Arrested Five Kholon Lishaw Ethnic**

According to the member of Kholon Lishaw Youth Information Committee, Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) arrested five Kholon Lishaw Ethnic civilians including two 70 year old men. On February 24, TNLA arrested four civilians from War Lu Village, Namkham Township, Northern Shan State and arrested a village administrator from another village who visited War Lu Village on February 27. Mai Eike Kyaw, a TNLA spokesperson, said there are poppy plantations around War Lu Village and TNLA's Drug Team arrested them

### **RELEASES BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS**

#### **AA Releases Engineer Detained in Shwe Nadi Ferry Incident After almost 120 Days**

The Arakan Army (AA) said on February 24<sup>th</sup> it released a junior engineer, who had been detained on October 26 2019 for approx. 120 days, after having determined that he did not have any affiliation with the military. The statement said that Kyaw Zin Tun, who works in the civil construction and maintenance section of the government's Bridge Department, was handed over to the village administrator and community leaders at Yee Pike Sone village in Rathedaung Township. The AA claims that his detention lasted 120 days due to ongoing military attacks, making it unsafe to release him sooner.

The AA had stopped the Shwe Nadi express ferry that runs from Sittwe to Buthidaung, near Yay Myat village in Rathedaung Township on October 26 2019, detaining soldiers, police personnel and civilians aboard the boat, including Kyaw Zin Tun. The AA stated that it had now released all civilians detained in the incident, with those people still in its custody having ties to the military. The remaining detainees will be released if the army releases people who were detained on accusations of having links with the AA.

### **ABSDF Released Four Pinlebu Locals**

On February 23, All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) released Khin Hnaung from Taw Pyar Village, Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Division, Tun Myaing Oo from Pein Ne Kone Nar Khar Village, Pinlebu Township, a girl and a boy from elsewhere in Pinlebu Township. They work at the water-melon plantation in Nant San Yan Village area in Waimaw Township, Kachin State and ABFSU Battalion (11) arrested them in January 2.

## **Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights**

### **Youth in Kyauktaw Arrested and Interrogated by Military**

On February 8, Arnolds, who lives in Myothit Ward in Kyauktaw Town, Arakan State, was arrested and interrogated by the military while he was going to refuel his motorcycle. He was released as one of the soldiers said that his answers were correct after the military had asked him the names and jobs of his parents. He was beaten while his hands were tied on his back. After release he went to the Kyauktaw Hospital for emergency treatment for injuries to his back and cheek.

### **Rakhine Civilian Hospitalized after Alleged Beating by the Military**

A Rakhine State civilian was hospitalized last week after an alleged beating by the military. On February 18 he was transferred from a hospital in Minbya Township to one in the state capital, Sittwe, where he is receiving treatment for injuries to his head, face, and forearm. Htay Hlaing of Phar Pyaw Village, was detained and beaten by government soldiers as a clash broke out between the Arakan Army (AA) and military forces on February 13. The lamppost factory worker had gone home for lunch after the fighting stopped, when government soldiers in the village arrested, questioned, and hit him with their rifle stocks. By then the villagers had fled so the soldiers ordered him into a house where they accused him of being in the AA, which he denied. After continued hits to the head and face; Htay Hlaing was knocked unconscious. When he awoke, he discovered that the soldiers were standing guard outside the house. The next day he managed to escape, and hid until his relatives eventually found him.

Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun of the military's True News Information Team denied knowledge of this incident, and senior officials of the regional military and security ministry have given no comment. AA Information Officer, Khaing Thukha, said the fighting on Thursday between the AA and the military's Light Infantry Battalion 55 lasted all day- with casualties on both sides, and the AA taking one prisoner.



# Legislation and Policy Development

## Amendments Proposed to Controversial Privacy Law

On February 18 the Lower House's Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs submitted a bill to amend the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens in Rangoon. For many rights activists, review and amendment of this law is long overdue which has been criticized for curbing freedom of expression

The proposed amendments submitted to the Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday call for a reduction in the maximum prison sentence for a defamation conviction down to two years, which would make it a bailable offense. Politicians claim that the law has been exploited using the non-bailable defamation charge to put people in prison - since according to Myanmar's criminal procedures those charged with crimes punishable by three or more years in prison do not qualify for bail.

## Month in Review

### Freedom of Speech and Expression

The condition of freedom of speech and expression in Burma has continued to regress. In February, **(12)** students were sued under Section 19 and 20 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for exercising their freedom of speech and expression. Including activist Naw Ohn Hla, a total of **(19)** people were sentenced to imprisonment or to pay fine under Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law or Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law. Under current government citizens continue to be restrained with a variety of repressive laws, such as Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, and this has greatly impeded Burma's transition process. Therefore, AAPP urges the government to respect the rights of all civilians to freedom of expression.

### Consequences of Conflict in Ethnic Regions

Despite the signature of the [Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement \(NCA\)](#) in 2015, ethnic conflicts have continued with EAGs who have not signed the NCA, but also skirmishes have continued with those that have signed the NCA. Over the last year fighting between the army and Arakan Army (AA) has intensified. Indigenous people continue to suffer a disproportionate amount from the effects of these armed conflicts. The incidents of February are shown below;

### Human Rights Abuses Committed by Authorities

- **Tortures**

1. [Arnolds](#), who lives in Myothit Ward in Kyauktaw Town, Arakan State, was arrested and interrogated by the military while he was going to refuel his motorcycle. He was beaten while his hands were tied on his back, and thus he had to receive emergency treatment at the hospital of Kyauktaw Township.

2. [Htay Hlaing](#), who lives in Phar Pyaw Village, Minbya Township, Arakan State, was seriously injured when he was arrested and beaten by the army. He was admitted to Sittwe Hospital through Minbya Hospital and received treatment.

- **Arrests**

1. [Long Jingda](#) who lives in Phat Pheik Village, Naung Hlaing Village Tract, Panglong Town, Loilem Township, southern Shan State, was arrested for two days by the army, accusing him of working for an Ethnic Armed Group Army.
2. [Arakan Youth Conference representative, Kyaw Hla and a 10th grade student from Buthidaung Township](#), who were on the passenger boat travelling to Kyauktaw from Paletwa in Chin State, are being arrested by the army. Similarly, [six civilians](#) on a passenger boat travelling to Paletwa Township from Kyauktaw Township are being arrested by the army.

### **Human Rights Abuses Committed by Ethnic Armed Groups**

- **Arrests**

1. [Zeya Min](#), executive committee member and treasurer for the Ramree Township National League for Democracy (NLD) in Arakan State, was arrested by Arakan Army (AA) on February 6, according to NLD spokesman Dr. Myo Nyunt. AA news and information officer, Khine Thuka denied that they did not arrest.
2. In Nankam Township, northern Shan State, [Five Kholon Lishaw Ethnic civilians including two 70 year old men](#) are being arrested by Ta'ang National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA).

### **Fatalities/Injuries**

- In Kyauktaw, Rethadaung, Buthidaung, Mrauk-U and Minbya Township, Arakan State, and Pletwa Township, Chin State, four civilians were killed by gunfire and 30 civilians were injured, including two children. In addition, a civilian was killed by gunfire in Kyaukme Township, Shan State. Moreover, because of artillery and bomb blast in Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, Buthidaung, Minbya and Mrauk-U Township, eight people were killed, including four children, and 43 were injured, including 28 children (Most of the 28 children were students). Besides, four civilians were killed and two were injured by landmines in Rathedaung and Buthidaung Townships, Arakan State, Mingngot Township, Shan State, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.

The incidents above are human rights violations in armed conflicts committed by state and non state forces. In both cases the perpetrators enjoy impunity. February 20 is the day of The World Day of Social Justice which states that [“Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.”](#) Therefore, we urge the government to protect indigenous people who suffer

the consequences of fighting that haven't ended yet and to enact the reparation law for those who have suffered from human rights violations.

The positive step in February is that the AAPP, Equality Myanmar, Human Rights Defenders and Promoters(HRDP) and The Seagull and International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Public Management Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Committee for Citizens' Fundamental Rights of Pyithu Hluttaw, the Committee for Citizens' Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights of Amyotha Hluttaw discussed the need to sign and ratify the [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(UNCAT\)](#) and [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#) in order to prevent human rights abuses and torture.

### **Land Issues**

Land confiscation and disputes are still unsolved in Burma. In February, 133.12 acres of land, which were confiscated by the Ministry of Industry in Ywar Thit Gyi Sanpya Village in Sagaing Division, were returned to the original farmers. Despite this, many more land seizures remain contested.

- Approximately 25 farmers staged a protest in Pyu Town in Bago Division to return their confiscated lands.
- The Mangpan People's Militia Force (PMF), which is an armed group aligned with the Burma Army, has seized 370 acres of lands from farmers in Nam Pao village-tract, located in Lashio township, to plant rubber and mango trees for its own profit.

Therefore, we urge the government to promote the Land Sector and to promote and protect the beneficiary of farmers who are facing the consequences of land loss and are vulnerable to the various land issues. Moreover, we urge the government to enhance the farmers rights by following and respect the [Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Their Benefits](#) [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#) that was ratified by Burma.

## References

### ARRESTS

**Burma Army Arrests Civilian with Walkie-talkie due to Possible Linkage to Shan Army**  
[\(26 February 2020 - BNI Online\)](#)  
[\(21 February 2020 - Shan Herald Agency for News/Burmese\)](#)

**Passenger Boat in Chin State Targeted by Unnamed Shooters Leading to the Arrest of Arakan Youth Conference Representative and a man from Buthidaung Township**  
[\(27 February 2020 - DMG\)](#)  
[\(29 February 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

**Six Ferry Passengers Detained in Kyauktaw Township**  
[\(28 February 2020 - DMG\)](#)  
[\(28 February 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(28 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### CHARGES

**Three Students Leaders Charged with Unlawful Protest of School-Year Extension Decision**  
[\(6 February 2020- Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(5 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 February 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 February 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

**Nine Students Charged under Peaceful Assembly Law after Demonstrating in Rangoon against Internet Blackout in Arakan and Chin States.**  
[\(27 February 2020 - BNI Online\)](#)  
[\(24 February 2020 - RFA\)](#)  
[\(24 February 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 February 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

**17 Villagers from Sanfaree Village Charged at Hpa-an Township Court**  
[\(13 February 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 February 2020 - KIC/Burmese\)](#)

### TRIALS

**Court Grants Bail to Prominent Burmese Lawyer and Poet Sued by Military**  
[\(3 February 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[\(4 February 2020- Myanmar Times\)](#)  
[\(4 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(4 February 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 February 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

**Supreme Court of the Tanintharyi Division Rejected Appeal of Tanintharyi Journal**  
[\(14 February 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 February 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 February 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

### SENTENCES

**Myanmar Court Fines Activist and Four Factory Workers for Illegal Assembly**  
[\(12 February 2020 - Myanmar Times\)](#)  
[\(11 February 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

**Three Peacock Generation Members Convicted for 'Online Defamation'**  
[\(17 February 2020 - Amnesty\)](#)  
[\(February 18, 2020 - Myanmar Times\)](#)  
[\(17 February 2020 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

**Naw Ohn Hla and Three Other Protest Leaders Sentenced to One Year Imprisonment**

[\(11 February 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 February 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **Pyigyidagun Township Court in Mandalay Division Sentenced Protest Leaders**

[\(21 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 February 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 February 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 February 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

### **Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups**

#### **Arakan Army denies arresting NLD official from Ramree Township in Arakan State**

[\(10 February 2020 - MMT\)](#) [\(10 February 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - DMG\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

**TNLA Arrested Five Kholon Lishaw Ethnic** [\(27 February 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

### **RELEASES**

#### **Kachin Pastors Walk Free after Military Drops Unlawful Association Case**

[\(21 February 2020- Irrawady\)](#) [\(24 February - BNI\)](#) [\(7 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(7 February 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(7 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(7 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 February 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

#### **Ann man walks free after acquittal in counter-terrorism law case**

[\(4 February 2020 - DMG\)](#) [\(7 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

#### **Ex-High Court Lawyer Zaw Win Released After time-served.**

[\(5 February 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

#### **17-year-old school student Too Wai Yan Released by Patheingyi Township Court**

[\(5 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 February 2020 - Kumudra/Burmese\)](#)

### **RELEASES BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS**

#### **AA Releases Engineer Detained in Shwe Nadi Ferry Incident After almost 120 Days**

[\(25 February 2020- DMG\)](#) [\(25 February 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 February 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

#### **ABSDF Released Four Pinlebu Locals**

[\(26 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

#### **Youth in Kyauktaw Arrested and Interrogated by Military**

[\(10 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

#### **Rakhine Civilian Hospitalized after Alleged Beating by the Military**

[\(18 February 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(15 February 2020- DMG\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 February 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Amendments Proposed to Controversial Privacy Law**

[\(18 February 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(20 February 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

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