

# MAY CHRONOLOGY 2020

## Summary of the Current Situation:

**592** individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

**41** political prisoners are serving sentences,

**142** are awaiting trial inside prison,

**409** are awaiting trial outside prison.

Kyauk Seik Villagers Tortured by soldiers



Accessed Myanmar Now May

**WEBSITE**

**TWITTER**

**FACEBOOK**



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

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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

### **Ponnagyun woman arrested by military and police**

Daw Ma Than, a 42-year-old woman from Ponnagyun town, Arakan State was arrested on the morning of May 6. The exact reason for her arrest remains unknown although locals speculated that suspected affiliation with the Arakan Army (AA) was the likely reason. Witnesses reported that the woman was taken by a group of military soldiers, policemen, and a local ward administrator after her home was searched and she was questioned. Locals say that she was taken to Ponnagyun Township police station. Amyotha Hluttaw lawmaker, U Khin Maung Latt, said he was not familiar with the details of the case but was able to confirm that she was arrested by the No. 550 Light Infantry Battalion. The military's Western Command spokesperson, Colonel Win Zaw Oo and Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun of the True News Information Team were sought for comment but could not be reached.

### **Five Arrested After Army Search Homes in Muse Township**

On May 17, five people were arrested after soldiers, accompanied by government officials and village headmen, searched homes in Mang Mai, located in Muse Township in northern Shan State.

A local said soldiers conducted a surprise search at night and that one person was arrested at 4 a.m. and another one was picked up at 9 a.m. but didn't say anything about the other three that were arrested. A family member of one of the people that were arrested said that the five people from Mang Mai were taken to the Muse Myoma police station.

The police told villagers they were searching for illicit drugs and weapons. A villager did not know who was arrested or why but heard two of the detainees are Kachin and two are Shan and Bamar. The Army's website reported a Chinese-made Paryi rifle, 3 M22 rifles, a Beretta pistol, a Luger pistol, and magazines and ammunition for the firearms were recovered during the search.

### **Burmese army troops arrest two students from village of Ponnagyun - Doe Tan village**

On May 5, Burmese army troops arrested two teenage boys from Doe Tan Village, Ponnagyun Township, Arakan State. Maung Win Than, a 17-year-old university student, and 14-year-old Maung Pyi Nyein Aung were traveling by boat with three other boys to see a friend in Ponnagyun Town, when Maung Win Than and Maung Pyi Nyein were arrested by army troops near Thazi village. The reason behind their arrest remains unclear.

### **Protesters arrested in Rangoon**

On 5 May, Dagon Seikkan Township police station in Rangoon Division arrested five workers from Rainwear House factory and a worker from Backpacks factory in Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone. The workers were arrested for demonstrations they carried out before the Thingyan holiday. Dagon Township Commander's Office confirmed that the case had been filed by the factory owners. Due to COVID-19 outbreak, workers from Backpack Factory, Rainwear House, and Blue Diamond Bag Factory in Dagon Seikkan Township organized a protest in early April in front of the respective

factories, demanding that employers continue paying workers at least minimum wage during the month of April if the factories were forced to shut down due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On May 5, police in the Rangoon Division of Dagon Seikkan Township arrested five factory workers for their role in demonstrations held outside local factories before the Thingyan holiday in April. According to the Dagon Township Commander's Office, the case against the employees of Rainwear House and Backpacks Factory was filed by the factory owners. Workers from Backpack Factory, Rainwear House and Blue Diamond Bag Factory organized a protest in early April to demand that employers continue paying workers at least minimum wage throughout the month of April- should the factories be forced to close due to the COVID-19 outbreak. They five were charged under Article 188 of the Penal Code.

### **Social worker arrested in Kyaukphyu Township**

On 27 May, Kyaw Aye Than, a social worker from Kyaukphyu Township, was arrested by the military at Kyuaktalone checkpoint in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan State. Afterwards, the military searched Kyaw Aye Than's homes, said one of his colleagues. Kyaw Aye Than is the chairman of Kyaukphyu and was participating in the Kyaukphyu checkpoint in Kyaukphyu.

Similarly, a villager in Malagyun, Kyaukphyu Township has also been arrested.

On May 27, Kyaw Aye Than was arrested by the military at the Kyuaktalone health checkpoint in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan State. A social worker and Chairman of Kyaukphyu, Kyaw Aye Than was volunteering at the local health checkpoint to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 when he was arrested by military personnel. According to one of his colleagues, the military searched Kyaw Aye Than's home afterwards. Another villager in Malagyun, Kyaukphyu Township has also been arrested.

## **CHARGES**

### **Three Villagers, Including Teacher and Administration Official, Charged under Counter-Terrorism Law in Arakan State**

On May 11, Kyaw Lin Tun, a teacher, Aung Hla Thein, a village administration official and Nyi Nyi were charged under sections 50(a) and (i) of the Counter-Terrorism Law at the Maungdaw District Court in Arakan State. The next court hearing for the three men is scheduled for May 25.

Kyaw Lin Tun, a teacher at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Maungdaw town, was taken in for questioning by the Pyin Phyu police on March 31. Aung Hla Thein, an official of the Ngwe Taung village administration department, was taken from his home by Pyin Phyu police on April 4. He also faced police questioning, reportedly on suspicion of involvement in an explosion that took place between Ngwe Taung and Pyar Thar villages. Nyi Nyi Naing was arrested in March while he was on the way to see his girlfriend at a neighbouring village. The Office of the Commander-in-Chief previously said Nyi Nyi Naing was arrested while attempting to lay a landmine along the Buthidaung-Maungdaw road on March 25, with two other men and a woman fleeing the scene.

### **Counter-Terrorism Charges against ANP Chairman and Four Others in Taungup Township**

On May 11, five men from Taungup Township in Arakan State, were charged under the Counter-Terrorism Law Section 52 (a). The five men are the ANP Chairman Pyone Cho from Hsar Pyin village, Than Naing, Aung Htoo, Maung Myint Aung and Hla Phyu.

On April 5 the five men were arrested and investigated under the Unlawful Associations Act Section 17 at La Mu Police Station but were released on May 5 after the court found insufficient evidence to charge them. They were then almost immediately rearrested by police concerning a bombing incident near Ma Ei Town and are now facing charges under the Counter Terrorism Law.

The Taungup Judge gave four days of pre-trial custody starting May 11 and on May 16 at the court hearing the men were charged under Section 52 of the Counter Terrorism Law. The case has been filed against the men by the officer in charge of Ma Yi Police Station

On May 22, five men from Sar Pyin village appeared before Taungup Township Court for a hearing but it was rescheduled until June 5 because the plaintiff failed to appear. According to lawyer, U Tin Nyo the plaintiff can be absent twice, but must show up on the third scheduled court hearing. The accused and their families were anxious for the hearing to occur as several of the men are not in good health and have already been detained for three weeks.

The five men- U Pyone Cho, U Hla Phyu, U Than Naing, Ko Aung Htoo and Ko Maung Myint Aung - were originally arrested on April 5, on accusation of being affiliated with the Arakan Army. Major Myint Zaw Aung from the Mobile Operations Command-5 town filed the lawsuit against the five men under Section 52(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. That case was dropped on May 7, after the Taungup Township cited insufficient evidence to charge the men, but less than an hour later they were all re-arrested on suspicion of being involved with a bomb blast. If they are found guilty the five men could face 3-7 years in prison.

### **Five Men from Kyauk Seik, as well as Seven Fugitives, Charged with Terrorism**

Sittwe District Court has charged five men from Kyauk Seik village in Ponnargyun Township on two counts of terror related charges under Section 50 (j) and Section 52 (a). Seven men who have escaped arrest have also been charged in absentia. The five men from Kyauk Seik had previously been held on a navy ship and had been tortured by military personnel. The case attracted public attention after a video appeared on social media on May 10 showing soldiers beating five men who were handcuffed and blindfolded aboard a boat. According to the army, legal action would be taken against security personnel involved in the unlawful interrogation of the men.

The five arrested men have been accused by a captain from Infantry Battalion 550 of having links to the Arakan Army (AA) and have now been charged under the Counter Terror Law. The five men include Nyi Nyi Aung (24), Myo Linn Oo (24), Maung Chay (24) who are from Kyauk Seik. The remaining two include Min Soe (38), from Ponnargyun Town, and Kyaw Win Hein (22) from Zi Pin Gyi village in Mrauk Oo Township. They were taken to Sittwe District Court for the hearing after which they were taken to Sittwe Prison under police escort

The seven men who have evaded capture by the authorities include Maung Thar Htun (35), Nyo Thar Aung (38), Maung Ba Chay (41), Maung Maung Chay (38), San Htay Chay (31), Maung Kyi (39) who are from Kyauk Seik, and Maung San Win (31) from Zay Di Yin village.

#### **Younger brother of detained Taungup official facing terrorism charge**

On the afternoon of May 25, the younger brother of a local official in Taungup Township was brought in for questioning by township police and remanded into custody on terrorism charges later that day. Sithu Kyaw Zan (a.k.a. Michael) is now being held on charges under Section 50(i) of the Counterterrorism Law which deals with “terrorist bombings” and carries a sentence of ten years to life in prison if he is found guilty.

His older brother, Zeya Kyaw, Chair of the Development Affairs Committee for Taungup Township, and two other men were also charged under the Counterterrorism Law on May 11 and subsequently taken into custody. Their remand was due to expire on May 25, but when families inquired about the case of the three men, the Taungup Township police chief said that they had been released from the previous charge but remained in custody on another. When asked for details on the the case of Sithu Kyaw Zan, and the case involving Zeya Kyaw and two other men, Taungup Township police said they could not comment on specifics because authorities in Nay Pyi Taw were handling both cases directly.

#### **Three people, who made live broadcasts against Bago Government, were prosecuted**

During the coronavirus control activities, including two activists in Bago Township; Ko Lin Naing, Naing Naing Aung, and Kyaw Naing Win a.k.a Saw Kyaw Naing Win, the lawyer of the People's Party, were charged under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code and Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law for broadcasting live stream via a social media page and lobbying garment workers in the Bago Industrial Zone unrest. The three were charged with two cases in police station No. 3 by Deputy Provincial Commissioner Kyaw Lwin Moe. Ko Kyaw Naing Win a.k.a Saw Kyaw Naing Win, the lawyer of the People's Party said that he peacefully discussed with officials responsible for workers and explained that he did not broadcast a live stream and did not motivate the workers to hold demonstrations.

Under current restrictions due to the coronavirus, two activists; Ko Lin Naing and Naing Naing Aung, and the lawyer of the People’s Party, Kyaw Naing Win (a.k.a. Saw Kyaw Naing Win) were prosecuted for broadcasting a live stream video via social media, allegedly urging garment workers in the Bago Industrial Zone to protest. The three were charged with violation of Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, and Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law by Deputy Provincial Commissioner Kyaw Lwin Moe. Kyaw Naing Win claims that he did not broadcast a live stream video, nor did he motivate workers to hold demonstrations.

#### **Four Labor Activists Charged over Garment Factory Protest**

On May 8, Moe Sandar Myint, temporarily in charge of the Federations of Garment Workers-Myanmar (FGWM), Sai Yu Maung, Joint Secretary of Action Labor Rights, Thwin Aung and Tun Lwin Oo, other labour assistants, were charged under Section 341, 353 and 427 of the Penal Code at Hlaing Tharyar Township Court in Rangoon. Moe Sandar Myint said that they had been charged for

demanding higher wage pay for the workers at Kai Cheing Garment Factory. At the beginning of October 2019, approximately 40 workers protested, leading to Kai Cheing Garment Factory owner filing a complaint at the police station in Hlaing Tharyar Township for blocking the factory's front entrance.

## **DISAPPEARANCE**

### **Villager Missing from Kyauktaw Township**

On May 23, Saw Win Maung (54), a resident of Daung Taw Yoe village in Kyauktaw Township from Arakan State, went missing after leaving home to gather vegetables at Mro cemetery. According to family members, some people said they heard sounds of gunfire from the Light Infantry Battalion No. 376.

Local residents reported Saw Win Maung's disappearance to LIB No. 376 on May 24 but they were not allowed to approach within 500 yards of the battalion building to search for the missing villager. According to a local, the soldiers said they would shoot women or men if they entered the area. Maung Han Nu, the administrator of Daung Taw Yoe village, said there had not been any recent clashes near the village and that U Saw Win Maung's disappearance was the first case of its kind in the village.

## **TRIALS**

### **Court Rejects Driver's Petition**

On May 15, the Western District Court rejected the petition filed by Myat Lin Oo, a taxi driver in Rangoon who was arrested alongside Tin Hlaing Oo and May Myat Mon from the Arakan Association (Singapore) in July 2019. It was rejected on the grounds that the case is a state matter of concern and safety. Tin Hlaing Oo and May Myat Mon, who has been exiled from Singapore, rented Myat Lin Oo's taxi, which led to their arrest and joint charge.

### **Lawsuit against Irrawaddy Senior Editor Dismissed**

On May 5, the military dismissed the lawsuit against Ye Ni, senior editor of the Irrawaddy News Agency, at Kyauktada Township Court. At the court hearing on May 19, the case concluded after examining the plaintiff, Lieutenant Colonel Zaw Min Tun. Ye Ni was charged due to the Irrawaddy News Agency reporting on the fighting in Mrauk-U in Arakan State. Zaw Min Tun, a Lieutenant Colonel from Rangoon Division's military command, filed a case against Ye Ni under Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law.

## SENTENCES

### **Cement Factory Protester Sentenced to Three Months Imprisonment with Hard Labor**

On May 14, Shwe Ohn (60), an activist who was shot in the leg by police after he resisted the construction of a cement factory in his village in Mandalay region in 2019, has been sentenced to three months in prison with hard labor under a section of the Peaceful Assembly Law and charged with nine offences after his arrest in March, when police surrounded his home in Aung Tha Pyay village and opened fire after claiming they were pelted with rocks.

Villagers from Aung Tha Pyay brawled with police in May last year before smashing windows and setting fire to vehicles and buildings at the construction site of the Alpha Cement Factory. The company pressed charges and police issued arrest warrants for more than 30 villagers, including Shwe Ohn, who went into hiding for several months before returning to his home. He was charged with nine offences including rioting, grievously hurting a public servant and arson. His next court hearing was scheduled on May 19, where he faced the rest of the charges.

### **Six Labor Strike Leaders Sentenced to Three Months for Breaking COVID-19 Rules**

On May 4, six labor rights activists, including two union leaders from a factory in Rangoon's Dagon Seikkan Township, were jailed for three months for leading strikes which violated COVID-19 orders. Since May 2, more than 100 workers from the Blue Diamond bags factory have blocked the entrance to demand full wages during April, although operations stopped from April 19 to 30 due to government orders.

The strike was led by members of the unregistered All Burma Federation of Trade Unions (ABFTU). Thet Htar Swe of the ABFTU said that the authorities on May 4 broke up the strike and arrested two leaders and four ABFTU members without holding any talks. Factory union leaders, Zar Zar Htun and Lay Lay Mar, and ABFTU members, Kyaw Myo, Myo Gyi, Min Min Naing and Thet Oo Maung, were sentenced to three months in prison by the Dagon Seikkan Township Court under the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law, according to ABFTU.

Before the Thingyan holidays, Blue Diamond workers held strikes demanding their employer close the factory for a month with full pay to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Labor activist Ma Thet Htar said five other workers' leaders from the Rainwear House and Brightberg factories in Dagon Seikkan also were arrested on May 4 over strikes held before Thingyan.

### **News Editor Jailed for Two Years over Coronavirus Misinformation**

A News editor has been jailed for two years after his agency reported a coronavirus death that turned out to be false, according to his lawyer on May 22. Chief editor, Zaw Ye Htet, was arrested April 13, the same day his online news agency Dae Pyaw published an erroneous article alleging there had been a death due to the COVID-19 in eastern Karen State. On May 20 he faced trial and was sentenced under Section 505(b) to two years in jail for making a statement that could cause fear or alarm. His lawyer has stated that they will appeal this decision.

### **Local Activist Sentenced for Criticizing former Administrator on Social Media**

On May 12, Salingyi Township Court in Sagaing Division sentenced Thet Naing Win, a local activist from Nyaung Pin Gyi village, under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law for criticizing the

former Administrator of Salingyi Township on social media. Thet Naing Win shared his criticisms about township administrator Aung Myint Tun regarding the presence of those who have not yet received help in support of the floods in 2017.

## **RELEASES**

### **Three Painters Promoting COVID-19 Awareness Released on Bail but Charges Remain**

Three painters were released from jail on bail by a Myitkyina Court on April 30 but continue to face charges of “insulting religion” for their public mural promoting awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kachin State capital. The lawyers for both the plaintiff and the defendants will meet to discuss the case on May 5. After that, the next round of court hearings will be scheduled. The artists—Cecilia Ja Seng, Naw Tun Aung, and Zayyar Nawng—are being charged with violating Article 295(a) of the Penal Code by Tun Myint Aung, the deputy director of Kachin State’s religious affairs department. The prosecutor did not object to the request for bail, but it was set at 10 million kyat (7,124 USD) for each defendant.

On April 3, the painters were arrested for creating a mural on the wall of a railway station in Myitkyina intending to raise awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic. It featured a grim reaper coming after members of the public while carrying the virus, with the message “stay at home, save lives.” The artwork was criticized by people online as insulting Buddhism—they said that the reaper’s robe was too similar to those worn by monks.

### **Six villagers from Kyauktan acquitted of terrorism charges**

Six residents of Kyauktan village, Rathedaung Township were released from custody on May 15 following a hearing at the Sittwe District Court. The young men, all in their twenties, were acquitted by the court due to lack of evidence. This decision came after the six spent over a year in prison on pending terrorism charges.

The six men; Maung Htun Min Naing, Maung Nyi Nyi Htwe, Maung Maung Naing, Maung Oo Myint Htun, Maung Soe Kyaw, and Maung Nyein Shwe were among eight residents arrested by the military last year under the Counter-terrorism Law, Sections 52(a) and 50(a) for suspected association with the Arakan Army (AA). Two of the eight originally arrested, Mg Nay Lin Tun, and Mg Thein Aye Maung, have been released on bail but continue to face trial at the Sittwe Township Court under the Child Law because they are minors.

The arrests were the result of a sweeping detention of Kyauktan village on April 30, 2019 when the military summoned all men under 15 (275 villagers total) to the village school and detained them there for a lengthy mass interrogation in efforts to root out Arakan Army associates. One of the six men acquitted, Maung Nyein Shwe, recalled being beaten by soldiers repeatedly during this time saying, “They covered our eyes and tied our hands at the back during interrogation. If we said we did not have any ties with the AA, they beat us more,” he said. He also recounts difficulties surviving while held in prison. On the morning of May 2, military gunfire broke out at the school leaving six villagers shot dead and eight others wounded- two of whom died while undergoing medical treatment for their injuries.

An inquiry was made into the incident by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission but the report, submitted in June 2019, found no fault in the military’s conduct.

### **Maungdaw Court Drops Terrorism Charges against Couple**

A married couple facing charges under the Counter-Terrorism Law over a deadly explosion they were implicated in near U Daung village in Maungdaw Township in Arakan State have been released by the Maungdaw Township Court. Maung Nyi Htay (19) and Sandar Win (17) were released on May 28 due to lack of evidence, according to a township court authority. Aung Tun Thein, a local betel quid seller who lives near a U Daung village police outpost died on April 30 following an explosion that reportedly occurred when he unpacked a parcel that he found near a bamboo grove behind his shop. Maung Nyi Htay and Sandar Win, who were in the vicinity at the time of the explosion, were arrested on suspicion of involvement and a lawsuit against them was opened at the Alae Than Kyaw police station under sections 50(a) and 50(i) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. They were transferred to the Pyin Phyu police station for interrogation and remanded twice, on May 4 and 14, at the Maungdaw Township Court.

## **CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

### **Charges against 14 Inmates after Prison Fight**

Than Khaing, a prison administrator, filed a lawsuit against 14 prisoners at Bago Township police station for an altercation in Bago prison. Four prisoners, including Nay Lin Htet, were charged under Section 294, 506, 114 of the Penal Code and 10 prisoners, including Htwe Htwe, were charged under section 326, 324, 114 of the Penal Code. In the incident, on May 1, a group of four prisoners and another group of ten prisoners had a fight armed with iron bars, causing Nay Lin Htet and Nyein Chan from a group of four to get injured. Nay Lin Htet is suffering from a life-threatening condition and is being treated as an inpatient at Bago Hospital. According to Nyunt Shwe, Bago Region Constituency (1) Parliamentary Speaker of the Region, the only persons responsible for the case were the prison staff.

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

#### **A man arrested By AA in Taungkok Township**

On 5 May, the Office of Defense Services released a statement that Than Shwe from Buushwemaw Village, Taungkok Township, Arakan State was arrested by Arakan Army (AA). According to the military statement, the AA members, who were armed with a knife, broke through the gate of Than Shwe's house and arrested him. The statement also mentioned that Than Shwe is the chair of the Village Disease Prevention Committee (COVID-19).

On May 5, Myanmar's Office of Defense Services released a statement that Than Shwe was arrested by the Arakan Army (AA). Than Shwe, from Buushwemaw Village, Taungkok Township, Arakan State, is chair of the Village Disease (COVID-19) Prevention Committee. According to the statement, AA members armed with a knife broke through the gate of Than Shwe's house and arrested him.

### **Group urges release of health worker allegedly abducted by AA**

On May 24, The University of Community Health Alumni Association (UCHAA) released a statement calling for the release of a village healthcare worker who was detained by the Arakan Army (AA) in Rathedaung Township earlier this month.

Soe Win Thu, 29, who worked at the Konedan Village health center was one of four people abducted on May 16 by the ethnic armed group, according to a fellow staff member who asked not to be identified. The others were a couple who provide security to the clinic and their daughter. The staff member claims the four were taken from their homes the morning of May 16 by the ethnic armed group. The daughter was released later that day, and her parents were released on May 21. Almost 10 days after the abduction, the UCHAA believes Soe Win Thu remains in AA custody. In their statement they express concern for the missing man and demand his immediate release. Regrettably the Development Media Group (DMG) has opted not to reach out to the AA for more information about the health worker, as the government has started taking legal action against journalists who use the AA as a source in their reporting.

### **Releases by Ethnic Armed Groups**

#### **AA Allegedly Abducted Five people from Kyauktaw Township, Later Freed Them**

Five people from Khabaw and Marlar (Mro) villages in Kyauktaw Township were released on May 19, one day after being abducted, according to a 100-household head from Khabaw village. The Khabaw village 100-household head, Pan Thar, as well as two 100-household heads from Marlar (Mro) village and two other men, arrived back at their homes on May 19 after being held by unknown captors for a day.

In a statement on May 19, the Army said the Arakan Army (AA) had abducted five people including 100-household heads from Khabaw and Marlar (Mro) villages on the afternoon of May 18. Eight men and four women from the two villages left for Kyauktaw Town earlier that day to take supplies for COVID-19 preventive measures provided by the State, and to buy other necessary items, the statement said. After the group of 12 split up to shop at the market in Kyauktaw, the five men were abducted by the AA between noon and 12:30 p.m., according to the statement.

#### **Three family members of BGF police, health staffer released by AA**

The AA released three members of the Border Guard Force, as well as a health worker who had been detained prior to the arrest of the BGF members. Ko Soe Win Thu, a healthworker in Kone Dan village had been abducted on May 16<sup>th</sup> and released on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **AA Releases Three Villagers, One Escapes, from Paletwa Township**

On May 25, the Arakan Army (AA) released four villagers from Yaadein Village in Paletwa Township, Chin State. The four were Than Tun, Di Sar, Ko Ko Aung, and Lone Bae. They were arrested on March 22 and three were released while Lone Bae escaped. Currently, the four are being investigated by the military and police.

# Restrictions in Civil and Political Rights

## **Taungup NLD Members Targeted by Fake Police Personnel**

Some members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Arakan State's Taungup Township have gone into hiding, fearing for their safety following recent threats to local party backers and in one instance an attempted "arrest" by a group masquerading as police personnel.

NLD executive member Tin Win Hlaing from Kyaw Kaing village is one such party affiliate now lying low, after a group in police uniforms tried to detain him on May 2, according to lawmaker Daw Ni Ni May Myint, who represents Taungup in the Pyithu Hluttaw. Prior to that, fellow NLD member Maung Nge was threatened by a group of people armed with weapons, and another group also tried to destroy the fence outside his brother's house.

Police Major Than Naing, head of the Taungup Township police force, said the group of people in police uniforms were not real law enforcement officers, describing them as belonging to a "terrorist group." The case is currently being investigated by police and army.

## **Houses in Rathedaung Twsp village set on fire by Army**

Eight wooden houses were burnt down in Nga Tauktu Chay village in Arakan State's Rathedaung Township on the evening of May 4. One villager, Kyaw Naing Tun, recalled that soldiers of the No. 538 Light Infantry Battalion fired shots at some women and young boys who had been looking for fish or vegetables nearby. After the villagers fled, the houses were set ablaze.

This is not the first time residents of Nga Tauktu Chay have had to flee from their homes, or that military soldiers have set fire to the homes of villagers- for no apparent reason. Nga Tauktu Chay residents fled to Pyar Chaung Gyi IPD camp and other nearby villages when clashes broke out between the Arakan Army and Light Infantry Battalion Nos. 536, 537, and 538 in November 2019. On March 22 of this year, over 500 houses were burned to the ground in Tinma village, Kyauktaw Township, after soldiers allegedly set them on fire. The Arakan State Disaster Management Department allocated over K90 to rebuild those houses, but the Burmese government has done little to prevent soldiers from doing so in the first place.

## **Man Shot by Shan Soldiers while Allegedly Stealing Timber**

A Shan ethnic armed organisation killed a man after he was caught allegedly harvesting illegal timber in eastern Shan State. Lieutenant Colonel Ohm Khur, the spokesperson for the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA), said his soldiers apprehended two men on April 27 for illegal timber production on Loi Pankaw mountain, an area controlled by the ethnic armed group. One of the timber traffickers tried to take a gun from one of the soldiers and they shot him. The men, who are from Chit Htoo, were found with three chainsaws, and several logs and timber planks.

After the incident, rumours circulated on Facebook that RCSS/SSA soldiers were collecting taxes and they shot the man when he refused to pay up. Sao Ohm Khur denied the allegations. He said RCSS/SSA representatives have already explained to the headman and villagers in Chit Htoo why

their soldiers killed the man. A police officer from Myoma station in Tachilek has confirmed the man is from Chit Htoo. The officer said the man was shot in the back and a murder investigation has been opened. The man's body was sent to the Tachilek public hospital for an autopsy.

#### **Four Villagers Released after Mass Arrest in Ann Township**

Four out of 20 people believed to have been detained by authorities on May 18 in Ann Township were released on May 20, according to their family members. Five people were from Darlet A Nauk village and 14 people from Darlet A Lae Kyun village. Five people, including Tun Khaing, a middle school teacher, were detained while they left for Late Kone village to buy cashew nuts.

The mass detention was preceded by a search party being put together to look for Myo Naing, a resident of Darlet A Lae Kyun village who went missing on May 17 after leaving home to go fishing at Darlet Creek. Fifteen people from the village set out on May 18 to find the missing men, but 14 of them were arrested while in two groups searching the local motorway and waterway. One member of the search party, Than Wai, managed to evade arrest. Locals are worried that the remaining detainees could be killed as they heard some people went missing and their bodies were found later in Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun.

#### **Shan Rights Group Accuses Army of Human Rights Violations**

After defeating a militia group in northern Shan State, the army sent in reinforcement troops and used civilians as forced labour, instead of implementing emergency measures to protect villagers during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Shan rights group. The Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) reported that the army killed and tortured civilians, while forcing hundreds to work for its soldiers in Lashio district.

Since the pro-government Kawng Kha militia was disarmed at the end of March, the SHRF said it has been pouring troops from the Light Infantry Division No. 99 into the area to secure the militia's former stronghold near Pang Haew, a Kachin village that is located in Kutkhai Township, about 60 km east of Lashio town. SHRF reported that No. 99 soldiers arrested and shot a 27-year-old villager from Ho Ser when he returned from tending his cattle on April 26. The man's bruised body was found by family members with multiple gunshot wounds in his abdomen half-buried near a road about 2 km from his village.

#### **Sittwe writer attacked with slingshot spike sees no point in going to the police**

A Rakhine-based writer and journalist, was hospitalized on May 13 after two men on a motorbike fired a metal spike at him with a slingshot, but says that he sees no point in bringing the case to the police.

Kyaw Lin, (a.k.a. Yaung Sone) was talking on the phone in front of his house when the two men rode by and attacked. He sustained minor injuries to the chest and has been receiving treatment at Sittwe Hospital. This is the second time that Kyaw Lin has been attacked in Sittwe. The first attack occurred in 2017 when unknown assailants stabbed him, possibly in retaliation for an article he wrote about soaring land prices in the town. He filed a case with the police then, but the attackers were never found.

This time, when officers from Sittwe police station visited him at the hospital the next morning to ask if he wished to file a case, he declined. Unable to identify his attackers in the dark, and with no CCTV cameras nearby to serve as evidence, Kyaw Lin saw little reason for filing a case, saying “They can’t even solve the case from 2017. It will be worse now.” He could only speculate that the attackers were drug traffickers, since he writes commentaries on the drug trade in the Rakhine.

### **Imprisoned Founder of ANP Stripped of Lawmaker Status after Treason Conviction in 2019**

The jailed Arakanese politician and founder of the Arakan National Party (ANP), Dr Aye Maung, has been stripped of his status as an MP and barred from running for office in the future, state media announced on May 18. He is serving a 20-year sentence for treason after giving a speech in 2018 in which he said “armed struggle” was one-way Arakanese people could regain their sovereignty.

His impeachment from his position as a Lower House MP has been in effect since his conviction in March 2019, the Union Election Commission (UEC) said in a statement. Lawmakers sentenced to prison terms are automatically removed from their duties under Article 11(d) of the Lower House Election Law. Furthermore, under Article 88(a) of the Lower House Election Law, those convicted of treason are barred from future elections. It is unclear why the UEC has chosen to make this announcement more than a year after Aye Maung’s conviction.

He was arrested along with the writer Wai Hin Aung in 2018 after they gave speeches at an event in Rathedaung Township to mark the 233rd anniversary of the fall of the Rakhine kingdom. They were sentenced to 20 years in prison for high treason under Article 122(1) of the Penal Code, and another two years for defaming the state under Article 505(b), to be served concurrently. Their trial spanned 41 hearings. They appealed the verdict three times but were ultimately rejected by the Union Supreme Court.

### **Probe sought after five bodies found in shallow graves in Minbya Twsp**

Families are pushing authorities to investigate the deaths of five people whose bodies were found in shallow graves last month in Arakan State’s Minbya Township. Three middle-aged men from Min Ywar village - Than Kyaw, Saw Hla Tun, and Than Tun Aung - went missing on March 24 after they left home to cut wood in a nearby forest. Their bodies were found in two shallow pits on April 23 at a valley west of Taung Pote Kay village.

Meanwhile two men from Thine Pone Chaung village - Maung Than Myint, 45; and Win Manung, 35 - were found in a shallow grave at Kyet Yet Saydi Mountain near the Rangoon-Sittwe road on April 26. The two had been missing since January 7 after they left their village on a motorbike to tend to a fish farm. Daw Nyein May, the wife of Maung Than Myint, said that although no one saw military personnel arrest the two men, their bodies were found in an area close to where military troops are stationed.

Family members reported the missing persons cases to the Arakan Human Rights Defenders and Promoters Association but no progress had been made on the cases until the bodies were discovered last month. The families also submitted the cases to the Myanmar National Human

Rights Commission, requesting a probe into their deaths, but have yet to receive a response. The military was sought for comment on the five villagers' deaths but could not be reached.

### **Family Members Demand Release of 10 Arrested Civilians from Arakan State**

Family members are demanding the release of 10 civilians, including Tun Tun Wai, a 14-year-old eighth-grade student in the village of Tinma in Kyauktaw Township from Arakan State. They were arrested by a Brigade-55 Subnational Armed Forces on March 16. On that day, the army took a total of 50 civilians with them to their camp and, then, released 40. The remaining 10 were detained for further investigation.

### **Orders not to engage in defamatory conduct against the government in Loikaw**

On 3 May, the Loikaw Township General Administration issued a local order not to engage in defamatory conduct against the government. Sporadic expressions of disgust at government organizations are not allowed, either by the use of amplifiers or not, in the ward / village tract area; writing that is not in conformity with the law, which may be defamatory; image; posters; vinyl; markings; and etc. Failure to comply with such orders will be taken in accordance with the existing law.

### **The RCSS's seven soldiers and two civilians found at the Minetone checkpoint**

On 9 May, seven soldiers of the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and two civilians were found at the Hong Lee checkpoint in Minetone Town, Shan State. Afterwards, they were handed over to the army. The seven fled from the Loitai Lian Brigade of RCSS/SSA and the two were taken away as new soldiers of RCSS/SSA. Over two months ago, they were arrested by the Shan Army while working on the mountain. Currently, the seven soldiers are under investigation by the military security forces and two civilians are being monitored separately.

### **Release of Ponnagyun-Doe Tan Villagers**

On 10 May, the army released seven villagers of Ponnagyun-Doe Tan Village, Saw Hla Oo, Saw Than, Maung Tun Soe, Hla Aung, Hla Tun Sein, Maung Hla Gyi and Win Chay. They were arrested on 9 May by the army. In addition, the army arrived at the village on 7 May, and arrested 11 residents, then they released them on the next day. The 11 arrested were Maung Aye Thein, Saut Lone Chay, Tun Aung Kyaw, Soe Tun Aung, Shwe Thein Sein, Soe Aung Thein, Thar Vam, Maung Ba Sein, Thein Nyunt Chay, Tun Sein, and Maung Myat Thein.

### **Police complained to the Media Council to take action against VOM Editor-in-Chief**

Deputy police chief Khin Maung Win from Mandalay region police forces complained on 12 April to the media council to take action against Voice of Myanmar (VOM) editor-in-chief Nay Myo Lin under Article 19 of the Press Law for publishing an interview with the spokesperson of the Arakan Army (AA). On 5 May, Nay Myo Lin was summoned for a media hearing with officials of the Press Council due to the complaint. On 31 March, Nay Myo Lin was arrested under Articles 50 (a) and 52 (a) of the Anti-Terrorism Law and was detained in Mandalay O-Bo prison, then the case was dismissed and he was released on 9 April.

### **Investigation over a police officer beat a villager**

According to reports, Tin Aung Moe, who was assisting in the check-in at Pyinywar Health Inspectorate, was beaten by the Pyinywar Village's deputy police chief Oak Myat in Myaungmya Township, Irrawaddy Division and the case is being investigated. On 13 May, Tin Aung Moe's oxen hit a signboard at Pyinywar police station and the signboard was damaged. On the next day after the incident, On May 14th, the deputy police chief was not satisfied with the incident and took Tin Aung Moe, the owner of the cattle to the checkpoint and beat him with electric light, hit him.

**Releases of four residents in Thanchaung Village, Rathedaung Township** After Burmese army detained two men and women, who returned from cutting bamboo, on 19 May, the army released the two women on the same day and released the two men on the next day. The four were from Thanchaung Village, Rathedaung Township, Arakan State and they were arrested while coming back home from collecting bamboo.

On May 19, the Burmese army detained two men and two women as they were returning home from cutting and collecting bamboo. The four, all from Thanchaung Village, Rathedaung Township, Arakan State have since returned home. The two women were released the same day, and the two men were let go the following day.

### **Release of two Wethali Villagers arrested by the military**

On 25 May, two Wethali villagers, Mrauk-U Township, Mae Ni and Maung Soe, who had been taken away as guides by the military, were released. On 24 May, clashes between AA and the military broke out near the Wethali village, and a military convoy entered the village, then they took the two villagers.

# Month in Review

## Freedom of Speech and Expression

The situation for freedom of expression in Burma continues to deteriorate, and those exercising it are still facing oppression. During May, Shwe Ohn from Aungthabyay Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Division was sentenced to three months' imprisonment under Article 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act for exercising his right to freedom of expression. In a number of similar cases Kyaw Naing Win a.k. Saw Kyaw Naing Win, a lawyer for the People's Party and two activists in Bago, Naing Naing Aung, and Lin Naing, were charged under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code and Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law. In addition, after one year since their initial charge Zayyar Lwin, Paing Ye Thu and Paing Phyo Min a.k.a Diye, members of Peacock Generation charged under Section 505 (a) of the Penal Code, had their first court hearing.

[The right to freedom of expression is essential to human development and prosperity. It is the basis for all aspirations, self-sufficiency, and the pursuit of truth and the need for democratic and good governance.](#) Every government has a duty to promote and protect the freedom of expression, the fundamental right to freedom of expression.. Therefore, the Assistant Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) urges the Government to promote this right in vulnerable situations and to promote the fundamental freedoms of citizens.

## Human rights abuses committed by authorities

In May, [Tin Aung Moe, who was assisting at the health examining checkpoint of Pyinywar Village, was beaten and punched by Myat Ko, the deputy police chief of Pyin Village in MyaungMya Township, Irrawaddy Division. Relevant authorities are currently investigating the case.](#) All authorities must respect human dignity and human rights. AAPP therefore strongly urges the government to take appropriate measures to prevent similar violations in the future.

## Freedom of the Press

May 3 marked World Press Freedom Day, yet in Burma journalists continue to face obstacles and oppression. Freedom of the press in Burma is continuing to decline, and journalists are still under threat. Journalists are particularly in danger when reporting on conflict between the military and ethnic armed groups. [In Arakan State, where the military and the Arakan Army \(AA\) are fighting, journalists from local and international media are having trouble getting information. local media in particular seldom receive an answer in response to a request for information from relevant departments, including the government.](#) Zaw Ye Htet, a Hpa-an-based news editor, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code for allegedly misinforming the public. Democracy requires a free press. He was sentenced despite apologizing to readers for posting inaccurate information. AAPP urges the Government to protect the independence of Burma's media sector and provide justice for journalists who have been hindered and harassed for doing their job.

## Conditions of Imprisonment

Prison conditions remain substandard. In May, one group of 10 prisoners and another group of four inmates had a fight with iron bars in Bago prison, which left two inmates injured. U Nyunt Shwe, a regional parliament speaker in the Bago Region's constituency (1), said the prison staff were responsible for prisoners being able to be armed.

## Consequences of conflict in ethnic areas

In May, armed clashes between the military and the Arakan Army (AA) continued unabated, and human rights abuses continued to deteriorate. During May, 76 local people were arrested and detained in the Arakan state alone. 57 out of the 76 residents were released but 19 were still detained. Furthermore, persecution remains a serious concern. The case of five Arakan men beaten by Burmese military on board of a warship, video of which was widely circulated on social media, caused much criticism. In response, [the military announced](#) that its security forces will be prosecuted under military law.

In areas of armed conflict, torture against humanity is a [war crime](#). [Articles 2 and 5 Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and Article 6 of the Law provides for protection](#) from torture under any form of detention or imprisonment. However, the inability to put an end to the armed conflict in both sides of the armed forces in Burma indicates that these violations are still ongoing.

Moreover, as a result of the armed conflict in May, the deaths and injuries of civilians are extremely worrying. The following events are also disclosed.

### Bullet injuries and fatalities

- 17 people were wounded in the shootings, including four children, and a civilian was killed in Paletwa Township, Chin State, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, and Minbya Townships, Arakan State.

### Deaths/injuries caused by artillery shelling

- At least 13 people, including four children, were injured in the artillery shelling in Paletwa Township, Chin State, Kyauktaw, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, and Mrauk-U Townships, Rakhine State.

### Deaths/injuries caused by the bomb blast

- Explosions in Rathedaung, Maungdaw, Kyauktaw, Buthidaung, Myebon, and Minbya townships, Arakan State killed five people, including two children, and injured three people including one child.

### Deaths/injuries caused by landmines

- Two civilians were killed and three injured in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun Townships, Arakan State, Paletwa Township, Chin State because of landmine explosions. Besides, a civilian in Yephyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, and another civilian in Ye Township, Mon State were injured.

Government's respect for human rights is usually measured by [respecting human rights standards, the protection of human rights abuses, and the government fulfills the requirements for every citizen to live with dignity](#). Therefore, AAPP urges the government, military and armed groups to end arrests, charges, prosecutions, tortures and deaths of civilians.

## References

### Political Prisoners

#### ARRESTS

##### **Ponnagyun woman arrested by military and police**

[\(6 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(7 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

##### **Five Myanmar Rakhine Civilians Re-Arrested After Court Release**

[\(8 May 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(23 May 2020 - DMG\)](#)

##### **Five Arrested After Army Search Homes in Muse Township**

[\(21 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

[\(20 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

##### **Burmese army troops arrest two students from village of Ponnagyun - Doe Tan village**

[\(9 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

[\(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

##### **Protesters arrested in Rangoon**

[\(5 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(6 May 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)

##### **A social worker arrested in Kyaukphyu Township**

[\(28 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

##### **A social worker arrested in Kyaukphyu Township**

[\(28 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

#### CHARGES

##### **Three Villagers, Including Teacher and Administration Official, Charged under Counter-Terrorism Law in Arakan State**

[\(11 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(14 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

##### **Counter-Terrorism Charges against ANP Chairman and Four Others in Taungup Township**

[\(16 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

[\(7 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(7 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(8 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

##### **Plaintiff's absence delays trial for Sar Pyin villagers accused of terrorism**

[\(23 May 2020-DMG\)](#)

##### **Five Men from Kyauk Seik, as well as Seven Fugitives, Charged with Terrorism**

[\(25 May 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - RFA\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - RFA\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(13 May 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(14 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(23 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

##### **Younger brother of detained Taungup official facing terrorism charge**

[\(25 May 2020 - DMG\)](#)

[\(25 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(26 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

##### **Three people, who made live broadcasts against Bago Government, were prosecuted**

[\(7 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(7 May 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

**Four Labor Activists Charged over Garment Factory Protest**

[\(8 May 2020 - Kumudra/Burmese\)](#)

[\(9 May 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

**DISAPPEARANCE**

**Villager Missing from Kyauktaw Township**

[\(26 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(26 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

**TRIALS**

**Court Rejects Driver's Petition**

[\(15 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

**Lawsuit against Irrawaddy Senior Editor Dismissed**

[\(5 May - 2020 - One News Myanmar's news page\)](#)

**SENTENCES**

**Cement Factory Protester Sentenced to Three Months Imprisonment with Hard Labor**

[\(15 May 2020 - MMT\)](#)

[\(14 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

**Six Labor Strike Leaders Sentenced to Three Months for Breaking COVID-19 Rules**

[\(4 May 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[\(5 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

**News Editor Jailed for Two Years over Coronavirus Misinformation**

[\(23 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

[\(22 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

**Local Activist Sentenced for Criticizing former Administrator on Social Media**

[\(12 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

**RELEASES**

**Three Painters Promoting COVID-19 Awareness Released on Bail but Charges Remain**

[\(5 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

[\(4 May 2020 - BNI\)](#)

**Six villagers from Kyauktan acquitted of terrorism charges**

[\(16 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(17 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

[\(17 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(18 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

**CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

**Viral Video Shows Five Men from Arakan State Tortured by Military**

[\(11 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 May 2020 - RFA\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - RFA\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(14 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(23 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

**Charges against 14 Inmates after Prison Fight**

[\(3 May 2020 - Eleven/Myanmar\)](#)

**Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups**

**A man arrested By AA in Taungkok Township**

[\(6 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

**Group urges release of health worker allegedly abducted by AA**

[\(25 May 2020 - DMG\)](#)

[\(24 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(24 May 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

[\(25 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

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

**Three family members of BGF police, health staffer released by AA**

(30 May 2020-DMG)

#### **Releases by Ethnic Armed Groups**

**AA Allegedly Abducted Five people from Kyauktaw Township, Later Freed Them**

(20 May 2020 - DMG)

(20 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(21 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

**Three family members of BGF police, health staffer released by AA**

(30 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(30 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(30 May 2020 - DMG)

**AA Releases Three Villagers, One Escapes, from Paletwa Township**

(25 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

**Maungdaw Court Drops Terrorism Charges against Couple**

(15 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(28 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(28 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

#### **Restrictions in Civil and Political Rights**

**Taungup NLD Members Targeted by Fake Police Personnel**

(9 May 2020 - BNI)

**Houses in Rathedaung Twsp village set on fire by Army**

<https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/houses-rathedaung-twsp-village-set-fire>

(5 May 2020 - Burmese)

**Man Shot by Shan Soldiers while Allegedly Stealing Timber**

(4 May 2020 - BNI)

**Four Villagers Released after Mass Arrest in Ann Township**

(19 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - DMG)

(20 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - DMG)

(21 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(21 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(22 May 2020 - BNI)

(23 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(23 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(23 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

**Shan Rights Group Accuses Army of Human Rights Violations**

(14 May 2020 - BNI)

**Sittwe writer attacked with slingshot spike sees no point in going to the police**

(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(14 May 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)

**Imprisoned Founder of ANP Stripped of Lawmaker Status after Treason Conviction in 2019**

(20 May 2020 Myanmar Now)

(20 May 2020- Irrawaddy)

**Probe sought after five bodies found in shallow graves in Minbya Twsp**

(27 May 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

(28 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

**Family Members Demand Release of 10 Arrested Civilians from Arakan State**

(8 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

**Orders not to engage in defamatory conduct  
against the government in Loikaw**

(5 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

**The RCSS's seven soldiers and two civilians  
found at the Minetone checkpoint**

(11 May 2020 - DVB/Burmese)

**Release of Ponnagyun-Doe Tan Villagers**

(9 May 2020 - RFA/Burmese)

(9 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(12 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

(12 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

(13 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

**Police complained to the Media Council to  
take action against VOM Editor-in-Chief**

(1 May 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

**Investigation over a police officer beat a  
villager**

(17 May 2020 - DVB/ Burmese)

**Releases of four residents in Thanchaung  
Village, Rathedaung Township**

(19 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

(20 May 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

**Release of two Wethali Villagers arrested by  
the military**

(26 May 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

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