Summary of the Current Situation:

641 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

35 political prisoners are serving sentences,

146 are awaiting trial inside prison,

460 are awaiting trial outside prison.
### ACRONYMS

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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABFSU</td>
<td>All Burma Federation of Student Unions</td>
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<td>CAT</td>
<td>Conservation Alliance Tanawthari</td>
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<td>CNPC</td>
<td>China National Petroleum Corporation</td>
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<td>EAO</td>
<td>Ethnic Armed Organization</td>
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<td>Ta’ang National Liberation Army</td>
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<td>YUSU</td>
<td>Yangon University Students’ Union</td>
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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Arrests: 66
Charges: 71
Releases: 49
Sentences: 4
Bad Health: 6
Released by EAOs: 5

ARRESTS

Another Myebon ward administrator arrested

On June 3, Aung Than, the northern ward administrator of Myebon Township in Rakhine State was arrested and taken into custody. According to the administrator’s son, Aung Than Naing, a security force team arrived on four motorbikes at their home the morning of the arrest. The team of five or six men wore a mix of police, military, and civilian dress, and took his father’s national ID cards before they brought him to the Myebon Township Police Station for interrogation. The family denies any wrongdoing on the administrator’s part and anxiously awaits his return.

Aung Than’s arrest has raised fresh fears among rural and village tract administrators in the township as the military continues to detain local officials on counterterrorism charges (under suspicion of association with the Arakan Army). An anonymous local administrator who asked not to be named, relayed that he and other local administrators worried for Aung Than’s safety and that several officials resigned their posts, fearing they would be targeted next.

The anonymous administrator also mentioned that the military were also looking for Nyunt Win, chairman of the municipal corporation, and Maung Maung Lwin, secretary of the welfare association. Two people from Nyein Chan Yay prawn trade center were also arrested although they have been released.
Military Arrests ANP Chair of Maei town, Taungup Township

Early on the morning of June 9, the chair of the Arakan National Party (ANP) in Maei Town of Taungup Township, Myo Lwin, was arrested by the military. According to Daw Khin Mar Win, the local official’s wife, the tactical operations commander, the No. 3 ward administrator of Maei town, and 30 soldiers took her husband away in handcuffs. The military has released no official statement about the arrest of Myo Lwin (aka Maung Kae) and Brigadier-General Zaw Min Tun of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team could not be reached when phoned for comment on the local official’s arrest. Family members have expressed worry about 46 year-old Myo Lwin as they have not been told where he is being detained.

There has been a pattern of the military arresting ANP members accused of having ties to the AA in Taungup Township and other Rakhine State townships, says lawyer and vice-chair of the ANP’s Central Executive Committee.

Man Taken Away by Army in Mrauk Oo Township

A man has been taken away by the army following a military column entering Leik Sin Pyin village in Mrauk Oo Township. Two men were initially arrested, but one was released when the troops left the village. Kyaw Sein, 55, and Myint Than Htay, 30, both from Leik Sin Pyin village, were both detained. The first was released before the troops left however Myint Than Htay was taken away to Lin Hmwe Taung Mountain, where the army is stationed. According to the village leader, Leik Sin Pyin, the soldiers said they would release Myint Than Htay when they arrived at their base.

The village leader also stated that the troops had carried out searches in some empty houses in the village, ransacking them in the process. A local villager said that 300,000 kyat (215 USD) and a pair of earrings have disappeared from her house. Clothes and other items have gone missing from other houses as well.

Villagers Flee in Fear After Nine Men Arrested

Nine villagers between 20 and 25 years old were arrested on June 26 by patrolling army troops near Katthapyay village in Kyaukphyu township, causing a number of villagers to flee in fear and move to Kyaukphyu town.

The nine men are all from Katthapyay village. They are Hla Maung Than, Maung Ngay, Maung Hla Myint, San Hla Maung, Aung Tin Chay, Kun Kya Aung, Maung Than Hlaing, Kin Maung Win, and Hla Nu Aung. On the day they were arrested they were sitting by the side of the road
which goes to Thitpoke Taung Ye which is a naval base. They were looking at their phones. That was when a group of patrolling soldiers saw them and arrested them. They were taken that day to Thitpoke Taung Ye naval base, located three miles east off Katthapyay village. Following the arrest of the nine men the majority of the inhabitants of Katthapyay have fled to Kyaukphyu town. Around two thirds of the 110 households (around 500 people) in Katthapyay village have left and are staying with charitable groups or relatives.

Civilian Arrested by Army in Rathedaung Township

On June 5, Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing from Thamila Village in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State, was arrested by the army. When Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing returned from his fishing trip back to the village by boat, he met with the army and was taken to Kalarchaung Village.

Two Villagers Arrested by Army in Taungup Township

On June 3, the army entered Chak Paut village and arrested Kyaw Tin Aung and Myint Aye Than, (Nga Moe). Myint Aye Than’s, (Nga Moe) mother, said Nga Moe was arrested for having an Arakan seal on his chest. Furthermore she added that he has a bad leg and does not travel very often because of his cirrhosis.

Army Arrest Seven Villagers in Minbya Township

On June 5, the army arrived at the Kyaukkote Village, Minbya Township, Arakan State and arrested seven villagers: Maung Soe, Thein Aye Kyaw, Myat Lin Gyi, Kyaw Soe Lin, Khaing Nyein Soe, Win Zaw Oo and La maung Thein, chairman of the Committee on the Prevention of Coronavirus. Among the seven, La Thein was beaten by the army. Besides this, the youths in the village were also asked to take off their shirts and the army checked if they had tattoos or not.

Young Man Arrested in Ann Township

On June 10, Zaw Htay, who was on the express bus of Shwe Pyi Thit that departed from Sittwe to Yangon, was arrested at the checkpoint in Ann Township, Arakan State. On June 13, the Military News Agency reported that Zaw Htay was a member of Arakan Army (AA) and delivering food for them. Although the report mentioned that Zaw Htay was from Dagon Village, Myebon Township, Than Hlaing, the Village headman of Dagon denied that he was a resident in the village.
Army Arrests Two Villagers in Kyauktaw

On June 11, the army arrested Wai Hla Maung from A Poutwa Village, and Mae La from Pyanechaung Village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State. Both of them were arrested by the army at the entrance of A Poutwa Village after returning from Pyanechaung Village.

Local Abbot from Mrauk Oo Township Abducted by Military troops

One of two men detained by the military from Leik Sin Pyin village in Mrauk Oo Township remains missing after a military column entered the village. Kyaw Sein, aged 55, was released before the troops left the village, but the local abbot, Than Myint Htay, aged 30, was taken away to Lin Hmwe Taung Mountain where the military is stationed.

According to a village leader, soldiers left with Myint Than Htay in custody around 6pm on the evening of June 14. Residents fled when troops arrived at the village, leaving their homes empty and later returned to find several of their homes had been searched and ransacked in the process. Clothes and other items were taken, with one woman reporting 300,000 kyat and a pair of earrings missing from her home.

The Hluttaw representative of Mrauk Oo Township, Tun Thar Sein and the Tatmadaw True News Information Team secretary, Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun were both unavailable when called for comment.

CHARGES

Two Village Administrators Facing Terrorism Charges in Myebon Township

Two village administrators in Myebon Township, Rakhine State remain in detention facing terrorism charges. Maung Zaw, the administrator of Angu Ywar Thit village, and Kyaw Myint, administrator of Ywar Thit Kay village, were arrested on May 30 by military and police personnel. According to Pe Than, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Myebon township, the tactical military commander stationed in the area took the two away for interrogation while the two men's houses were searched. At least five of Maung Zaw's relatives had their homes searched as well.

The pair were detained at the Myebon Township General Administration Department office on May 30 night and transferred to Myebon Township Police Station the next day. As of May 31,
the two are facing charges under sections 50(j) and 52(b) of the Counterterrorism Law on suspicion of association with the Arakan Army (AA). Section 50(j) deals with terrorism financing and carries a prison sentence of 10 years to life, with the possibility of a fine. Section 52(b) includes offenses regarding unmarked plastic explosives and carries a five to 10 year prison sentence, with or without a fine. Military spokesman Brigadier Gen Zaw Min Tun claimed that the two men revealed their ties to the AA during interrogation.

Family members of Maung Zaw and Kyaw Myint Military deny these allegations citing lack of evidence and express worry over the men's absence. Meanwhile, other local administrators contemplate resignation as their fears of arbitrary arrest increase.

Two Men from Mrauk-U Face Terrorism Charges after Six-Month Detention

Police have opened a case against Sein Win Maung from Minbya Township and Seik Phar Chay from Thabyaykan village of Mrauk-U district under the Counter-Terrorism Law after the army detained them on November 29, 2019. They were detained for six months before being transferred into police custody in May.

Sein Win Maung was arrested by government soldiers near Tin Nyo hospital on his way to Thabyaykan village in Mrauk-U Township. On that day, the soldiers took Sein Win Maung to the Linmwaytaung Pagoda hill in Mrauk-U Township, where he was allegedly beaten and interrogated. The next day, he was taken to the military detention centre in Sittwe by military helicopter, according to his wife Daw Tin Win, who said her account was based on U Sein Win Maung’s recollection. Seik Phar Chay was arrested while drinking water at a house at the entrance of the village on his way back to his village. On May 12, No. 1 Sittwe police station transferred the duo to Mrauk-U police station on suspicion of having links to the Arakan Army (AA). The police have filed a case against them under Section 50(j) of the Counter-Terrorism Law.

On May 19, they were remanded into custody at the Mrauk-U Township Court. On that day, they met their families. Currently, Sein Win Maung is being detained at the Mrauk-U Police Station. Sein Win Maung and Seik Phar Chay appeared before the Mrauk-U Township Court on June 1. Their next hearing will be on June 15.

Army Prosecutes 47 Farmers in Kholam in Southern Shan State

The army prosecuted 47 farmers in southern Shan State after farmers would not agree to sign a document stating that the army owns the land they have been farming for decades. The
Infantry Battalion Num. 66, based in Namsang Township, confiscated 1,353.33 acres of farmlands from 64 farmers. The Infantry Battalion Num. 66, based in Kholam Sub-township, prosecuted the farmers in Namsang Township Court.

During frequent meetings, the army has been pressuring farmers to comply with its demands, according to local farmers. During the last meeting, after refusing to sign four times, local farmers were charged with trespassing under Article 447. The army has previously charged 70 farmers with trespassing in Hsihseng Township, located in southern Shan State.

Two Youths Campaigning against on Year Anniversary of Internet Ban in Charged

On June 21 it had been one yer since the internet services had been suspended in seven townships in Rakhine and Paletwa Township in Chin State. Two youths were involved in a campaign to demand the resumption of internet services on June 21 in Kyaukphyu, soon afterwards they were charged under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Law. The two youths are from the Thada Yinthwee New Generation Youth Group. Another woman, from Ann Township, who was also involved in the campaign has undergone questioning by the police. Ma Aye Aye Naing the chairwoman of Ann township’s New Generation Youth Group told Narinjara that she was also being investigated by police for campaigning against the internet blackout which had been photographed and posted on Facebook. A witness said that the campaigners “were not noisy”, “We have been shut off from the rest of the world, and we want to be connected, that’s why we did this”.

Rakhine Nationalists Appear in Court Charged with Maintaining Links with Armed Groups.

On June 16 Rakhine National Party’s Taungup Township vice-chairman U Wai Thaung, Township Municipal Committee Chairman U Zaya Kyaw, and with his youngest brother U Si Thu Kyaw Zan (Michael), and former Chairman of the Township Municipal Committee U San Ngwe were taken to the Thandwe township court. All four have been charged under Section 50(a) and 52(a) of the Anti-Terrorism Law. Accused of maintaining links with ethnic armed groups. It is the fourth time they have been reprimanded.

Case filed against Five Yangon activists protesting Internet ban
On June 22, Kyauktada Township police station charged five protestors including Ko Sithu Aung (Maung Saungkha), director of the freedom of expression advocacy group ATHAN under the Peaceful Assembly Law. The activists used banners on the Sule pedestrian overpass in downtown Yangon on June 21 to mark the one-year anniversary of the internet ban, which has been imposed on seven Arakan State townships and Chin State’s Paletwa Township.

DISAPPEARANCES

Father and Son Reported Missing in Kyaukphyu Township

A father and his son, identified as Wai Kyan Aung, 81, and Maung Nyo, 46, from Kon Baung Gyi village in Arakan State’s Kyaukphyu Township, were reported missing on June 1 while on their way to the seashore about 1 mile from their home. The pair have not been seen or heard from since, according to Maung Nyo’s wife Daw Sandar Nyein. Maung Nyo, a navy retiree, who is actively involved in philanthropic work in the village, which is part of the Kinchaung village-tract. The family has informed the Zinchaung police station about the disappearance.

TRIALS

Five Sar Pyin Villagers Face Third Terrorism Trial Hearing, Military Officer Questioned by Court

On June 4, five men facing charges under Section 52(a) of the Counter-Terrorism Law were questioned by the No. 5 Military Operations Command at a police station in Arakan State’s Taungup Township. The five defendants, including Sar Pyin village’s Arakan National Party chapter chairman, Pyone Cho, appeared before the Taungup Township Court on June 5 for a second time. They were questioned by military officers prior to the court hearing on whether they had links to the Arakan Army (AA).

A lawyer representing the accused, Tin Nyo, said the five men should not have been questioned because they had already been charged under the Counter-Terrorism Law. The court summoned the plaintiff and the Sar Pyin village administrator, who is a prosecution witness, for the June 5 hearing. However, the pair were no-shows and, in their absence, a 100-household head from Taungup’s Kan Paing ward was summoned. Also, the plaintiff was absent when the defendants appeared in court for the first time on May 22.
On June 15, the five men appeared before the Taungup Township Court for the third time and the plaintiff, Major Myint Zaw Aung from the No. 5 Military Operations Command, was also questioned by the court for the first time. The court asked the plaintiff as to whether he made a trip to Sar Pyin village to check and verify the case or not, Major Myint Zaw Aung denied his involvement. In addition, the court also questioned Sar Pyin village administrator, Win Myint, a prosecution witness, and a third person. Another 22 prosecution witnesses are expected to be called to testify as the trial continues.

Arrested Prominent Arakanese Nationals Remanded for Fourth Time
On June 16, several prominent public figures from Taungup Township, Rakhine State, were remanded for the fourth time since they were arrested for terrorism offenses last month.
Zeya Kyaw, Chair of Taungup Township Development Affairs Committee San Ngwe, a member of the same committee; Sithu Kyaw Zan, the younger brother of Zyar Kyaw; and Wai Thaung, Vice Chair of the Arakan National Party (ANP) for Taungup Township were arrested between May 9 and 24. The four men, since charged under Sections 50(a) and 52(a) of the Counterterrorism Law, have been brought repeatedly to township courts to face charges.

On May 11, Zeya Kyaw, Sithu Kyaw Zan, and Wai Thaung appeared at Taungup Township Court and received their first 2-week detention. The three were then transferred to Rangoon via military plane and detained at an interrogation facility in Mingaladon Township. On May 24, the north Okkalapa Township Court in Rangoon extended the remand. On June 2, Sithu Kyaw Zan joined the other three men at Thandwe Township Court where they were given a third 2-week remand. The four returned to Thandwe Township Court on June 16, for a fourth remand to last until their next trial hearing set for June 30.

12 Residents Arrested while Transporting Rice to IDP Appear in First Court Hearing in Kyauktaw Township
On June 23, 12 people who were detained on April 4 while transporting rice bags for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kyauktaw Township appeared before the Mrauk-U District Court. Another 54 people are apparently wanted in connection with the case.

The 12 defendants were arrested at the No. 9 Mobile Operations Command gate after transporting 150 bags of rice from the Kyauktaw Township General Administration Department. The group had intended to deliver the government-provided rice to the residents
of the Nyaung Chaung IDP camp. A total of 15 people, including some IDPs and the Nyaung Chaung village-tract clerk, Ohn Naing, were arrested on April 4 and subsequently charged under Sections 50(J) and 52(B) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. Three of the detainees are under 18 and were granted bail but will also stand trial separately at the Kyauktaw Township Court. Family members insist that the defendants have been wrongfully accused. Their next court hearing has been scheduled for July 7.

Second Trial of Five Kyaukseik Villagers

On June 5, five Kyaukseik villagers from Ponnagyun Township in Arakan State appeared before the court of Switte for a second time. The five men were beaten and tortured, which caused a public outcry after a video went viral, and charged under Section 50(e), 52(a) of the Anti-Terrorisms Law. Captain Tint Naing Tun of the 550 Battalion filed a case against them. On April 19, the army arrested a total of 38 people from Kyaukseik Village and released 33 people while the remaining five were detained. The court has set an additional court date for June 12.

SENTENCES

Three Members of Peacock Generation Group Face Additional Prison Sentences

On June 11, Maubin Township Court sentenced three members of the youth Thangyat group to one-year imprisonment under section 505(a) of the Penal Code and section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law for their controversial Thangyat (performance art) allegedly disparaging the army last Thingyan from April 13 to 16. This was in addition to the one year imprisonment's handed down by Pyapon Township Court and Dedaye Township Court prior to this hearing. The Three members have hence been handed a cumulative three year sentence.

The army acted as prosecutor against the three young men, who were Zeyar Lwin, Pai Phyo Thu and Pai Phyo Min. They were charged by Lieutenant Colonel Myo Min Oo from the Yangon Region Military Command.

Myo Min Tun Sentenced and Fined by Ramree Township in Internet Shutdown Protest.

On June 25, Myo Min Tun was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment and a fine of 20,000kyat which was subsequently paid. As a member of the Ramree Township’s Youth Network he was
charged for unlawful protest after a group from the network gathered to demonstrate on the anniversary of a year-long internet blackout in parts of the Rakhine and Chin states. June 21 marked exactly one year since the Government suspended internet services in seven Arakan State townships and Paletwa Township of Chin State. Seven members of the Youth Network met that day at the entrance to Ramree town wearing t-shirts and holding signs calling for the Government to restore internet access. Pictures taken at the event were posted online that day and later Myo Min Tun, a communications officer for Ramree Youth Network, was charged for violating Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. He handles communication and coordination with other youth networks in all 17 townships of Arakan State, and says that he was arrested because he did not apply for a permit to protest before staging the event. The case was filed by Major Zan Win of Ramree Township Police.

RELEASES

Four Minors Accused of Terrorism Released for Lack of Evidence

On June 2, a juvenile court in Mrauk-U Township in Arakan State released a minor from Lekka village and three others from Kyauksepyin village due to lack of evidence after being sued by the military under terrorism charges.

The three minors from Kyauksepyin village were detained along with 22 other villagers by army troops in June 2019 on suspicion of having ties to the Arakan Army (AA). The three were sued in the juvenile court in Mrauk-U, and the 22 others at the Sittwe District Court under sections 50(a) and 50(j) and Section 52(a) of the Counterterrorism Law. Out of the 22 villagers, 17 were released in May due to lack of evidence and five others are still on trial.

The minor from Lekka village was arrested along with 26 others by the army in April 2019 in their village on suspicion of having ties to the AA a day after the group launched an attack on a temporary military outpost and a police battalion in Mrauk-U. The villagers denied having ties to the AA and the relatives of the 27 men later claimed they were tortured during military detention.

Peacock Generation Member Released Early

Phoe Thar, a member of satirical poetry troupe Peacock Generation, was released from Insein Prison on June 26. Because of amnesty and reduction of his prison sentence, he was released earlier from his 14-month sentence. Several members of the Peacock Generation were given
prison sentences for their performance of a controversial Thangyat (performance art) which allegedly disparaged the military. Zayya Lwin, Paing Ye Thu, Paing Phyo Min, Kay Khine Tun and Su Yadanar Myint are still in Insein Prison.

**Man Released by Border Guard Force after One Month Detention**

On June 6, Myint Soe, from Doepite Village in Rathedaung Township in Arakan State, was released by the No.3 Border Guard Force (BGF) based in Buthidaung Township after being detained for more than a month. On May 2, at around 4 pm, unidentified troops shot six BGF soldiers, who were drinking alcohol at a shop in Donepite Village and two of them were injured.

After the incident, Myint Soe was taken by the BGF on suspicion of the incident. Although Myint Soe was arraigned in Buthidaung Township Court from May 8 to June 7 under Section 50(a) of the Terrorism Act and remanded in custody for two weeks, the BGF eventually released him on June 6.

**CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

**Female Labor Leaders Tortured in Prison**

The Blue Diamond Labor strike was terminated and two female labor leaders were also charged under various laws. Ma Zar Zar Tun, a female prisoner, said that in the prison, they were being abused in various ways. Those two leaders had to do cleaning works in Insein prison and sleep in front of toilets in the prison. Prison officials told them that they would have to pay a fee if they wanted to relocate.

**Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups**

**KNU Arrests Four Mon Adolescents and Demands Heavy Fine, One Tortured**

On May 28, the Karen National Union (KNU) arrested four Mon adolescents accusing them of using illicit drugs at a rubber plantation near Ngar Kalay stream of Kyaung Yaw village in Ye Township from Mon State. One of them was caught with pills in hand and would be accordingly punished. The remaining three were detained and the KNU demanded a total 2 million kyat (1,435 USD) for their release.

One of them was tortured and suffered an eye injury. His mother had to pay 700,000kyat (502 USD) for his release. KNU said the other two would be released when they paid 1.3 millionkyat
(1,220 USD). The family members of the rest two detainees are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay the heavy fine.

**Government Liable for AA Abductions of ALP Members Says Spokesperson**

On June 1, the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) released a statement claiming the Burmese government holds some culpability for the abductions of three members by the Arakan Army (AA).

On May 23, 15 AA members abducted Khaing Maung Khin and Khaing Maung Lone, (two members of ALP’s armed wing), from their homes in Rabetchaing Village, Pauktaw Township. On May 31, ten armed AA members on five motorbikes rode into Sarpyin Village, Taungup Township looking for the homes of a local administrator and Win Hlaing. They were unable to find the local administrator, but arrested Win Hlaing around 8pm that night, telling his wife that they were taking him for interrogation.

The AA spokesperson claimed that the AA did not arrest Win Hlaing, but made no mention of the two other men. When AA officials were contacted by the ALP, they were told that the abductees were being detained for interrogation, and offered no concrete answer as to when they would be released.

In the statement released on June 1, ALP spokesperson, Colonel Khaing Soe Mya said that the government is obligated to take responsibility for the security of ethnic armed groups in areas under its jurisdiction according to the terms of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signed by both parties in 2015. Due to this, he said the government could be liable for these abductions.

**Releases by Ethnic Armed Groups**

**Treasurer of Ramree NLD Executive Committee Released by AA**

On June 5, Zeyar Min, Treasurer of Ramree NLD Executive Committee, was released after being arrested by the Arakan Army (AA) on February 8 in Ramree Township in Arakan State. According to Maung Maung, head of the police station in Ramree Township, AA released Zeyar Min near Taung-Painne on Kyaukphyu road after four months of detention.

**Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights**
Dozens of Administrators in Myebon Twsp Resign as Officials Fear Prosecution

On Friday, June 5, 51 ward and village-tract administrators in Myebon Township, Rakhine State resigned following the military arrest of three local officials late last month. By June 8, this number rose to 62 out of the total 68 administrators in the township. This left only three Myebon administrators active in their positions across a township with 9 wards and 59 village tracts.

The mass resignation resulted from growing fears of military arrest among Myebon officials after three township administrators: Aung Than of Myebon town, Maung Zaw of Angu Ywar Thit Village, and Kyaw Myint of Ywar Thit Kay Village, were arrested by the military in late May. The three have since been charged under Sections 50(j) and 52(b) of the Counterterrorism Law for allegedly having connections to Arakan Army (AA) forces. Military spokesman, Brigadier Gen Zaw Min Tun stated that interrogations with Htay Maung and Aung Than Zaw revealed their links to the AA although a spokesman from Arakan forces denied this. Intimidated by these arrests, some administrators have fled their homes as well as their posts for fear of persecution. Myebon Lawmaker Pe Than fears this will weaken rule of law in the township with few officials left to perform essential duties.

Arrest and detention of civilians and local officials by the military has been common practice in Rakhine State; the center of the 17-month long conflict between the military and the AA. However, one administrator who wished to remain anonymous, expressed confusion over why administrators from Myebon township were being targeted in particular. He claims there is no fighting in the area, and no local support for terrorist organizations. Local residents report that soldiers have been posted at the police station and conducting interrogations in Myebon town since May, although the military has never had a presence in the area before.

In 2019 tons of administrators resigned from their positions following the arrest of local officials in Rakhine State’s Minbya, Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Mrauk-U townships as well.

Three released, Two Remain in Custody in Taungup Township

On June 7, three people were released following the arrest of five men by the army in Taungup Township’s Chet Pauk village, close to Ma Ei town. The three released men have been named as Kan Zaw, 44, Naing Chay, 26, and Maung Naing Naing Lin, 18.
The three men were arrested on June 1 while shopping in Me Ei town. The two who remain in custody are Kyaw Tin Aung and Maung Myint Aye Than, 37 and 18 respectively. They were arrested by troops on June 3. Maung Myint has a tattoo of a bird on his chest, a symbol for Arakan, he was arrested for that, according to his mother.

18 Villagers from Tinma and Tinmagyi Remain Detained under Military Custody
The families of 18 villagers taken by the army from Tinma village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, are increasingly concerned for their well-being as relatives remain largely without information about the detainees’ status.

Members of Light Infantry Division No. 55 on a temporary deployment near Taungshae Mountain and Tinma village detained eight villagers from Tinma village (‘new’) on March 13 and 10 people from Tinmagyi village on March 16. The body of Maung Win Gyi, who was among those detained in March, was found floating in water near Setyone jetty two days after his arrest. The ages of the eight detainees from Tinma village range from 30s to 70s. It has also been reported that Grade 9 student Maung Tun Tun Wai from Tinmagyi village was also taken to Taungshae Mountain.

The families of the detainees lodged a complaint with the relevant police station but that has not improved how their situation is being handled, the families said. In connection with the case, a complaint letter was made to the President’s Office, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

Colleagues call for release of kidnapped Taungup Township man
On June 6 the Food Security Working Group (FSWG), a nongovernmental organisation involved in food security-related issues in Myanmar, released a statement demanding the release of U Than Shwe from Bu Shwe Maw village, Taungup Township, who was abducted on May 5 by an armed group. The statement by the FSWG expressed worry that no information has yet come to light on his whereabouts or condition. The statement said that U Than Shwe “takes a leading role in philanthropic works and social activities without involving himself in political issues. We would like to urge the concerned party to release the abductee and send him to his family in a safe and healthy manner”. Meanwhile the Military has alleged that he was abducted by the Arakan Army (AA).

Military Refuses to Drop Charges Against Pa-O Farmers after Negotiations Attempt

June 2020
Farmers in southern Shan State’s Hsihseng Township are expected to go to trial since the military has opted to not withdraw trespassing charges against them regarding a land dispute.

The farmers, who are officials from the Pa-O self-administered region, and officials from the military’s eastern command met at a General Administration Department office on June 4 to discuss how to resolve land issues stemming from the army seizure of the farmers’ land. However, they did not come to any agreement.

According to San Win Maung, headman of Aung Chan Tha ward in Hsihseng Township, the farmers demanded that the army allow them to work on their farmland, to withdraw trespassing charges against more than 70 farmers, to unblock a road and to return 29 tractors to farmers. He stated that the police returned the tractors in the evening but that the army did not withdraw the charges against the farmers, meaning they have to go to trial.

194 civil society organizations (CSOs), including many ethnic Pa-O organizations, released a joint statement on June 3 accusing the military’s Light Infantry Battalion #423 and #424 of confiscating the farmland, destroying farmers’ crops, prosecuting and threatening farmers, and seizing their tractors. The joint statement also noted that the farmers were facing economic hardships amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The chair of the Pa-O Youth Organization Khun Oo has said that if the situation does not change, they will send a petition letter to the vice president and launch a campaign, involving a strike with farmers.

Two Girls Arrested for Possible AA Links Released in Sittwe
Lone Ma Chay, 16, and Khin Win Oo, 18, from Kywi Thay Paik Seik village under Sittwe Township, were arrested on June 12 under suspicion of having links to Arakan Army (AA) and released the next day. Both were handcuffed and taken to Myoma police station of Sittwe for interrogations. The police officers repeatedly asked if they were members of AA and if they had guns. They were questioned over text messages where Khin Win Oo sent a message to Lone Ma Chay talking about arrests in their village. However, Khin Win Oo convinced the police that they were ordinary Arakanese nationals and not aligned with AA activities.

Military Forces Civilians To Guide Soldiers
On June 18, soldiers forced five men from Kutkai Township to guide the Military into an area of northern Shan State where recent clashes with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) had been reported. Three of the men were ethnic Ta’ang from Nawng Huel village, and the other two were Kachin living in Kariai Zup Awng, an internally displaced persons camp (IDP) in the
township. They were taken by the Military’s Light Infantry Division, Column 88 on the morning of June 18, and released at about 3:30pm later that day.

Locals reported recent fighting between the Military and the KIA near Kariai, Nwang Hpan, and Nam Phoo villages as well as increased fighting between the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TLNA) and the Military in Kutkai Township. Despite a unilateral ceasefire between the Military and the Three Brotherhood Alliance (which the TLNA is a member of), this has not stopped the Military from sending reinforcements to the region. As a result locals do not foresee the hostilities ending soon, even though it adds an extra burden to communities already battling to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

**AA Released Four Civilians Detained for Almost a Month, One Died**

On June 1, the Arakan Army (AA) released Sein Ma Oo, a Chin women from Thinekyat Village, and Sein Win Sein, Yaung Saw and Kyaw Win Thu, both Chin men from Taung Shay Pyin Village. The four were arrested by AA on May 3 and detained for nearly a month. Among the four released, Sein Ma Oo was submitted to the hospital for medical treatment on the day of her release. She had emotional disturbances, fear, shortness of breath and she did not remember any of her family members. She died on June 3. On June 4, AA announced that Sein Ma Oo's death had no relation to them.

**Polices Interrogate Spouse of Sithu Kyaw Zan**

On June 5, the police interrogated Nan Khin Aye Kyi, the spouse of Sithu Kyaw Zan, (Michael), who has been charged under Anti-Terrorism Law in Taunguk Township in Arakan State. While Nang Khin Aye Kyi was selling noodles at their home shop in Kanpai Ward, the police took her to Taungup Township police station and questioned her about Michael, her husband. Then she was released after 15 minutes of interrogation. Michael, her husband, was arrested on May 24.

**Civilian shot dead by Police, One Civilian Escaped**

On June 15, Thaung Tun from Myaingtharyar village was shot dead by a police officer and Min Thu , another resident of Myaingtharyar Village escaped. In the incident, when Thaung Tun and Min Thu climbed the mountain where mining is illegal on the night of June 15, they encountered two police officers. Then Min Thu was handcuffed while Thaung Tun was tortured and shot dead. After Thaung Tun was killed, Min Thu ran away with the handcuffs on and arrived at his home the next morning.
Restaurant Owner Beaten by 10 Police Officers outside of Uniform

On June 14, the owner of local restaurant Shwe La Min was threatened with a gun and beaten by 10 unidentified police officers who wore normal clothes, including one in uniform, from Magway Township Police Station.

Month in Review

Freedom of Speech and Expression

Limits on freedom of speech and expression remain a fundamental challenge to the democratic transition in Burma, these are important human rights essential for any successfully democratic society. In June this year, Burma experienced its worst recent month in this deteriorating human rights situation. This month three members of the Peacock Generation group were sentenced at Pyapon, Dedaye and Maubin Township Courts under Section 505(a) of the Penal Code for exercising freedom of speech and expression. In addition to this, Myo Min Tun, the leader of the youth network from Ramree Township, Arakan State, faced fines under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act. Two youths from the Thandar Yin Thwee Generation Youth Association in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, and Five activists including Si Thu Aung (Saung Ka), executive director of ATHAN, were all charged under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law.

New laws have been passed to prevent freedom of speech and expression, and are used in tandem with out-dated colonial era laws to limit freedom of expression and speech in Burma. This demonstrates how repression of our human rights will likely continue in the coming years. As long as our fundamental rights are continually oppressed through the law, people
will only continue to lose their civil rights. Therefore, the government responsible for implementing democracy are encouraged to uphold these rights by adhering to a democratic standard of freedom of speech and expression.

Below is a graph of the data compiled according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) data for the six months from January to June 2020 of those arrested, charged, sentenced and released under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act, Section 500, 505 (a) of the Penal Code, and Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunication law.

### Land Issues

Land issues remain a challenge for Burma during this transition period, farmers continue to suffer disproportionately from the effects of land disputes. During June, a total of 47 farmers were charged for planting and plowing on military land in Loilem Township, Nansand Township, and Kunlong Township in Shan State (South). Moreover, the military applied for an additional sentence against 22 farmers who have already been convicted of each offense. Farmers not only lost their ancestral land, these charges and prosecutions created further difficulties. On June 15, a press conference for the Fourth Annual One Year Anniversary of
Government of the Union was held and the Deputy Minister for Ministry of Union Government stated that the confiscated land and more than 100,000 acres of land were given back to the original owners under the current government. However, many farmers continue to lose their land compared to the national average which brings particularly negative effects for the farmers involved. Therefore, the government must act promptly in resolving the land disputes without delay. In doing so, AAPP urges the government to promote and protect the rights and interests of farmers in accordance with The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits and Land confiscation, Resettlement and Recovery Act, as well as bringing justice for farmers who have been charged and prosecuted.

**Consequences of conflict in ethnic areas**

During June, armed clashes between the military and ethnic armed groups are intensifying, as are the repercussions for the indigenous peoples. In particular, as the conflict continues in Arakan State, arrests, prosecutions, disappearances, deaths, injuries, and intimidation rise. In June, due to the conflict between the military and the Arakan Army (AA) 56 civilians were arrested; they were from Sittwe, Taungup, Kyauktaw, Myebon, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, Kyaukphyu and Rathedaung Townships in Arakan State. In addition to this, 16 civilians from Myebon and Kyauktaw Townships, Arakan State were charged under Section 50(e) and 52(b) of the Anti-Terrorism Law. Four civilians from Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw Townships also went missing in Arakan State. These cases are extremely serious human rights abuses, and both sides need to engage in political dialogue in order to protect civilians from the conflict.

Based on information by AAPP from January to June 2020, below is a graph of arrests, charges, prosecutions, and releases in relation to conflict in Arakan State.
Various events during the month of June have left many civilians dead or injured. Civilian casualties are detailed below.

**Bullet injuries and fatalities**

- 7 civilians were killed and 15 people wounded, including one child in a shooting in Paletwa Township, Chin State, and Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, and Mrauk-U Townships, in Arakan State.
- Another civilian was also killed in Kyauktaw Township, Shan State.
- Two civilians were injured in Tamu and Kampat Townships in Sagaing Division.

**Deaths/injuries caused by artillery shelling**

- At least 13 people, including one child, were injured from artillery shelling in Kyauktaw, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, and Ponnagyun Townships, Rakhine State.
- A civilian was killed and another civilian was injured in Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State.
- Two were injured, including one child, in Hpapun Region, Karen State.

**Deaths/injuries caused by the bomb blast**
Explosions killed one and injured another civilian in Ponnagyun townships, Arakan State.

Four civilians were injured in Kawkareik and Myawaddy Township, Karen State.

Deaths/injuries caused by landmines

One civilian was injured in a landmine in Myebon Township, Arakan State.

In addition to this, the lack of precautionary measures for indigenous peoples living in war-torn areas during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious concern. On June 22, a total of 170 countries signed on a statement supporting the global ceasefire requested by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres. All ASEAN members, except Burma, signed the declaration. This was an important step towards achieving national reconciliation, and Burma's failure to sign the petition is a disappointment. It raises questions about the government's commitment to the ongoing peace process. Therefore, AAPP urges the Government to put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 for indigenous peoples.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

On June 26, we recognised the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. However, in Burma various forms of torture continue to take place across the country. During June, Thaung Tun, a resident of Myaingtharyar Village, Thabeikkyin Township was tortured and shot dead by two police officers while he was climbing up to the mountaintop with his friend Min Thu, who managed to escape with the handcuffs still on his hands. Furthermore, 11 policemen, one uniformed and ten without, arrived at the Shwe La Min restaurant and beat the restaurant's owner and threatened him with a gun. In addition to this, a civilian suffered severe injuries after being tortured by the military in Aakgyi Village, Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State.

Torture continue to occur due to the lack of effective prevention and protection mechanisms. Hence, there is still a long way to bringing justice to its victims and providing appropriate
rehabilitation. On June 26, AAPP released a [paper](#) calling on the government to sign the [United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT)](#). AAPP discussed how UNCAT is a treaty which supports the effective ban on torture. Therefore, the AAPP again urges the government to sign the UNCAT.

### References

#### Political Prisoners

**ARRESTS**

Another Myebon ward administrator arrested
(4 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)
(4 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(4 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(5 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - BNI)

**Military Arrests ANP Chair of Maei town, Taungup Township**
(9 June 2020 - DMG)
(9 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Man Taken Away by Army in Mrauk Oo Township
(12 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(13 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(15 June 2020 - BNI)

Villagers Flee in Fear After Nine Men Arrested
(28 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(29 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(29 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

**Civilian Arrested by Army in Rathedaung Township**
(6 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Two Villagers Arrested by Army in Taungup Township
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(8 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Army Arrest Seven Villagers in Minbya Township
(8 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(9 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)

Young Man Arrested in Ann Township
(14 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(15 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Army Arrests Two Villagers in Kyauktaw
(11 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(12 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Local Abbot from Mrauk Oo Township Abducted by Military troops
(15 June 2020 - BNI)

**CHARGES**

Two Village Administrators Facing Terrorism Charges in Myebon Township
(1 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
Two Men from Mrauk-U Face Terrorism Charges after Six-Month Detention
(1 June 2020 - DMG)
(1 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(2 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

Army Prosecutes 47 Farmers in Kholam in Southern Shan State
(13 June 2020 - BNI)
(10 June 2020 - Shan News/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)

Two Youths Campaigning against on Year Anniversary of Internet Ban in Charged
(24 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(25 Jun, 2020 - Narinjara)
(25 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Rakhine Nationalists Appear in Court Charged with Maintaining Links with Armed Groups.
(17 June 2020 - DMG)
(17 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)

Five Yangon Activists charged by Kyauktada Township Police
(24 June 2020 - DMG)

DISAPPEARANCES
Father and Son Reported Missing in Kyaukphyu Township
(5 June 2020 - DMG)
(5 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

TRIALS
Five Sar Pyin Villagers Face Third Terrorism Trial Hearing, Military Officer Questioned by Court
(6 June 2020 - DMG)
(6 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(9 June 2020 - BNI) 15 June 2020 - DMG 17 June 2020 - BNI

Arrested Prominent Arakanese Nationals Remanded for Fourth Time
(16 June 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)
(16 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(17 June 2020 - BNI/DMG)
(17 June 2020 - Narinjara)

12 Residents Arrested while Transporting Rice to IDP Appear in First Court Hearing in Kyauktaw Township
(24 June 2020 - DMG)
(24 June 2020 - DMG’s facebook page/Burmese)

Second Trial of Five Kyaukseik Villagers
(5 June 2020 - VOA/Burmese)

SENTENCES
Three Members of Peacock Generation Group Face Additional Prison Sentences
(10 June 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)
(11 June 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese)
(11 June 2020 - Eleven/Burmese)
(12 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(12 June 2020 - 7day News/Burmese)
(13 June 2020 - BNI)
(11 June 2020 - Irrawaddy)

Case Filed Against Protester of Internet Shutdown in Ramree Township
(24 June 2020 - BNI)
(24 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(22 June 2020 - DMG)
RELEASES

Four Minors Accused of Terrorism Released for Lack of Evidence
Ge was arrested along with 26 others by the army in April 2019 in their (3 June 2020 - Irrawaddy)
(3 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

Peacock Generation Member Released Early
(26 June 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese)
(27 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(27 June 2020 - BNI)

Man Released by Border Guard Force after One Month Detention
(10 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT
Female Labor Leaders Tortured in Prison
(2 June 2020 - All Burma Federation of Farmers’ Union facebook page/Burmese)
(16 June 2020 - Tun Kyi’s Facebook page/Burmese)

Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups
KNU Arrests Four Mon Adolescents and Demands Heavy Fine, One Tortured
(June 5, 2020 - Narinjara)

Government Liable for AA Abductions of ALP Members Says Spokesperson
(2 June 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)
(3 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(3 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(3 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

Releases by Ethnic Armed Groups
AA Released Four Civilians Detained for Almost a Month, One Died
(3 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)
(4 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - Eleven/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)
(7 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Treasurer of Ramree NLD Executive Committee Released by AA
(6 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)
(7 June 2020 - 7day news/Burmese)
(9 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)

Restrictions on Civil and Political Rights
Dozens of Administrators in Myebon Twsp Resign as Officials Fear Prosecution
(4 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(4 June 2020 - Myanmar now/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - DMG)
(5 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - DVB/Burmese)
(5 June 2020 - RFA)
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - Eleven/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - RFA/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - VOA/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(8 June 2020 - BNI)
Three released, Two Remain in Custody in Taungup Township
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(8 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(9 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - Narinjara)

18 Villagers from Tinma and Tinmagyi Remain Detained under Military Custody
(6 June 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese)
(9 June 2020 - BNI)
(10 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(11 June 2020 - BNI)
(17 June 2020 - BNI)

Colleagues call for release of kidnapped Taungup Township man
(8 June 2020 - DMG)
(8 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(10 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Military Refuses to Drop Charges Against Pa-O Farmers after Negotiations Attempt
(June 11, 2020)

Two Girls Arrested for Possible AA Links Released in Sittwe
(12 June 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese)
(13 June 2020 - DMG/Burmese)
(13 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(14 June 2020 - Narinjara)
(15 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(15 June 2020 - 7day News/Burmese)

Military Forces Civilians To Guide Soldiers
(18 June 2020 - Shan News/Burmese)
(19 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)
(22 June 2020 - Shan News)

Polices Interrogate Spouse of Sithu Kyaw Zan
(5 June 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese)
(6 June 2020 - BNI/Burmese)

Civilian shot dead by Police, One Civilian Escaped
(17 June 2020 - 7day News/Burmese)

Restaurant Owner Beaten by 10 Police Officers outside of Uniform
(17 June 2020 - Red News Agency/Burmese)
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