

AUGUST CHRONOLOGY 2020

Summary of the Current Situation:

537 individuals are oppressed in Burma due to political activity:

33 political prisoners are serving sentences,

163 are awaiting trial inside prison,

341 are awaiting trial outside prison.



Youth beaten at Mandalay Youth Center receiving treatment for wounds
(Photo Credit – Voice of Myanmar)

WEBSITE

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Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)

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ACRONYMS

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

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Arrests: 54

Charges: 9

Releases: 49

Sentences: 9

Bad Health: 2

Arrested by EAOs: 13

Released by EAOs: 8

Month in Review

8888 Uprising

It was 32 years this month since the 8888 uprising also known as the People's Democracy Movement began on August 8, 1988. However, Burma is still struggling for democracy, peace and national reconciliation. Moreover, the civil war continues as ethnic issues have not been addressed. Today, activists, students, farmers, workers and civilians still face oppression and restrictions from all sides. In various situations human rights are on the verge of eradication. Accordingly, to fulfill the hope of democracy that began 32 years ago, the key to the reform process is through the protection and promotion of human rights, immediate cooperation with the peace process, amending and repeal oppressive laws, draft and enact laws to promote the rights of citizens, the unconditional release of political prisoners, those who are facing trial inside and outside prisons must be carried out as soon as possible. For these reasons, we urge the government to take immediate action in each sector for the benefit of its people.

This is in contrast to an amendment recently approved by the Union parliament Upper House in July and by the Lower House on August 20 to the 1959 Defence Services Act. The original provision in the act allowed the court martial three years to make a decision, thereafter three years a civilian court is able to make a decision. However this recent amendment takes this power away from the civilian court, after three years no court is allowed to handle the case.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

In August, freedom of speech and expression in Burma has not made any positive steps and it continues to be in a sensitive position. Those exercising these rights face repression in different ways. This month Sein Htwe of the Democracy, Peace and Women (DPW) Group was sentenced to imprisonment under Section 19 of PAPPL and was also charged under Section 20 of PAPPL. Likewise, two Karen youths Sa Thein Zaw Min and Saw Hser Kwar Lar were charged under Section 20 of PAPPL and two civilians Aung Moe Zaw and Kyi Win of Shwegyin Township of Bago Division were charged under Section 19 of PAPPL. Social activist of Arakan State's Sittwe Town was also charged under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunication Law and Sayadaw U Sein Ti Ta was ordered to testify under Section 500 of the Penal Code and a decision was made to prosecute Sayadaw U Thawbita under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunication Law who played a leading role in the 2007 Saffron Revolution.

By evaluating the above cases, the extent of the freedom of speech and expression of Burma is found to be deteriorating. It is the responsibility of the government to implement improvements to the situation of freedom of speech and expression in the country. Legally, the government must ratify and sign international treaties which guarantee these rights, provisions must be arranged to systematically guarantee this. The government must simultaneously cooperate with civil society organizations (CSOs).

Conditions of Prisons and Cells

Conditions in prisons and cells across Burma have not significantly changed this month. It is especially worrying that the use of torture and other forms of confession and punishment continue to this day. In August, two youths died after all five were beaten after being detained at Mandalay Youth Center having attempted to run away from the center. One of the youths is currently receiving medical treatment. [According to police officials, the case was filed as a murder case and five suspected staffs of the center was arrested and being investigated in relation to the deaths.](#) In addition to this, a man, who was detained at the Myin Ka Kone Police Station in Bogalay Township in Ayeyarwaddy Division, died with injuries over his body in police custody. [Tun Shwe of the Division Police Head Quarter said they will investigate police station officials for the death by organizing a district-level tribunal.](#) We welcome the ongoing actions and urge these to be transparent. Torture is a disrespect to human dignity and an abuse of power. [Articles 2 and 5 of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials](#) state that "law enforcement officials shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons and protect from the torture. Torture affects not only physical and mental health but also reconciliation with the community after release. Measures must be strictly taken to prevent the recurrence of torture in prisons and cells. Moreover, awareness of human rights education, [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#) and [United Nations Convention against Torture\(UNCAT\)](#) must be provided to the relevant officials. Perpetrators must be brought to justice with effective action taken against them.

Deterioration of Civil and Political Rights

These various incidents in August detail the deterioration of civil and political rights across Burma.

- Khin Khin Kyaw, who was sentenced to imprisonment in relation to the Letpadan student protest, had her licence as a high court lawyer removed.
- Former student leader of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) Aung Thant Zin Oo a.k.a Lin Htet Naing a.k.a James, was sentenced six months imprisonment with hard labour after facing trial for four years. The plaintiff from the Immigration Department did not close the case against him even though the charges filed against all students were closed as soon as the new government took power.
- 15 northern Rakhine villages in Arakan State's Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya and Ann Townships, voter registration lists are struggling to be posted, due to armed conflicts

between the Military and Arakan Army (AA). In addition to this a substantial number of internally displaced people (IDP) living in the Langkhur, Mong Hsat, and Tachileik districts near the Thai border will not get to vote in the November 2020 election.

- Phoe San, an Arakan National Party (ANP) lawmaker who represents Kyaukphyu Township in the state parliament was told by district election officials that he was disqualified from the upcoming election because his estranged son, former Myanmar army major Aung Myint Soe, has joined the Arakan Army (AA).
- A total of five Rohingya candidates from northern Arakan state have been banned from participating in the November 8 election.

[Civil rights include ensuring peoples' physical and mental integrity, life, and safety; protection from discrimination on grounds. Political rights include natural justice \(procedural fairness\) in law.](#) There is no denying that these rights are restrained in Burma. If a government is able to bring the civil and political rights in a country, it can be described as a democratizing government. As the implementation of the civil and political rights in Burma is the essential process in transition, we urge the government to work for it as soon as possible. Furthermore, we urge the government to ensure that the indigenous peoples living in conflict areas do not lose their right to vote.

Consequences of Ongoing Conflicts in Ethnic Areas

In August, the armed conflict is still ongoing in the ethnic regions and ethnic peoples continue to face arrests and charges. Moreover, they are being arrested on arbitrary suspicion and torture consequently occurs. Some incidents among in August incidents are excerpted below:

Tortures

- [San Shwe Hlaing](#), a villager of Pu Zun Pe Village in Arakan State's Mrauk-U Township, who was arrested by the Light Infantry Battalion No. 377, died while he was investigating.
- Nyi Nyi Soe, a second year student at Kyaukphyu Education College, from Pyintaw village in Ann Township in Arakan State, was beaten and investigated by three soldiers of the military's No.757 Light Infantry battalion. [\(The Tatmadaw announced that Nyi Nyi Soe was given thirty thousand Kyat for the medical expenses on the day he was beaten and was given three hundred thousand Kyat the following day, and that action will be taken in accordance with the military rules\)](#)
- Injuries appeared on the faces and noses of Maung Aye Naing and Win Naing from Zin Chaung village in Kyaukphyu Township in Arakan State as they were beaten and interrogated.
- The bodies of three Ta'ang men from Muse and Namkham Township in Shan State, arrested by Light Infantry Division No. 99, were found three months after their arrests. [\(A Military leader from Light Division No 99 met with village officials, civil society organizations, and other local lawmakers and claimed they were conducting an investigation. They would also interrogate and gain the truth from soldiers\)](#)

[Article 6 of the Body of Principles for the the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment](#) states that "no person under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". Though many ethnic people have suffered various forms of tortures during more than 70 years of armed conflict in Burma, justice has not been given. As long as armed conflict continues, human rights abuses will continue. The government must implement and engage in the immediate peace process. The situation was exemplified when the Arakan Army (AA) was not invited to the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong Fourth Meeting held in August. This only delays the peace and national reconciliation process. It also greatly affects the Arakan people living in the conflict zones. True peace will be brought only if all ethnic armed groups are fully involved in negotiations.

Arakan State is facing a COVID-19 outbreak, however, Arakan State and Chin State's Paletwa Township is not included in the military's ceasefire which was extended until the end of September. This is a

worrying situation and the locals will not be able to effectively protect and prevent armed conflicts. Therefore, we urge the government to find ways and to take action in the affected regions.

Bullet injuries and fatalities

- Three civilians were killed and six civilians wounded, including a 17-year-old youth in shootings in Rathedaung, Kyauktaw, Ann, Sittwe and Maungdaw Townships, in Arakan State.
- Another four civilians were also killed and one wounded in Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Muse Townships in Shan State.

Deaths/injuries caused by artillery shelling

- 21 civilians including four children were injured and one civilian died in artillery shelling in Kyauktaw, Rathedaung and Minbya Townships, Rakhine State.

Deaths/injuries caused by landmines

- Two civilians including a 17-year-old youth were killed by landmines in Ann and Minbya Townships, Arakan State.

Deaths/injuries caused by Remnants of artillery shells

- Two children died and four children were injured in an exploding remnant of artillery shells in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State.

Land Issues

Land issues continue to occur in Burma. Especially, farmers who continue to face lawsuits over land confiscation by the military. In August, 22 farmers including an 87-year-old farmer in Hsihseng Township in the Pa-O Self-Administered Area of southern Shan State were charged under Section 447 of the Penal Code for cultivation on land which were confiscated by the military. According to the documentation of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) to by the end of August, a total of **187** farmers from Ayeyarwady, Mandalay Divisions and Shan State are facing trial outside prisons, **12** farmers from Mandalay, Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions are facing trial inside prisons and **8** farmers are serving their prison sentences. Farmers facing loss of lands and charges, arrests and charges cause damage in all possible ways. The government needs to work towards solving land confiscation as soon as possible without any delay. In addition to this, we urge the government to consider the role of forgotten farmers in the transitional process and to conditionally release all farmers who have been arrested, charged and sentenced.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

ARRESTS

Pauktaw Township Resident Arrested at Tatmadaw Checkpoint in Myebon

On August 4, Aung Thein Tun, aged 24, and four others were stopped at a Military checkpoint, in Myebon Township, close to Twar Thar Yar Village. Aung Thein Tun was traveling to China before being arrested at this checkpoint. His father went to the checkpoint and informed him that his son was arrested temporarily due to information on his phone, related to the Arakan Army (AA). His father was denied access to see Aung Thein Tun. Within the Arakan State, arrests are being made with vague, arbitrary circumstances under suspicion to links to the AA.

Three Villagers from Kyauktaw Township Arrested after Bomb Blast near A Pauk Wa Village

On August 9, Maung Nyunt Hlaing, A Tun and Maung Than Hla, three villagers of the A Pauk Wa Village in Arakan State's Kyauktaw Township, were arrested by the military after a bomb blast near A Pauk Wa Village. Around 10am, a bomb blast occurred when the military soldiers gathered under the tree near a road of A Pauk Wa Village. Then 50 villagers were taken. All villagers arrested were released at 4pm except for Maung Nyunt Hlaing, A Tun and Maung Than Hla.

Military Announced Three AA Members Arrested, One of Them is Trishaw Driver Said His Father

On August 13, the Tatmadaw True News Information Team announced that they arrested three members of the Arakan Army (AA) with drugs at 2pm on August 12 at the Kyauktan Military Checkpoint. They are trishaw driver Kyaw Kyaw Win, Thar Zan from Sittwe Town and Maung Bu from Tan Yar Village in Myebon Township. Ba Than, a father of Kyaw Kyaw Win, said Kyaw Kyaw Win rides a trishaw to support the family and is not related to AA and drugs, and brought the two men on that day he was arrested because these two men rented his trishaw.

Army Detains Three Kyaukphyu Villagers

Three villagers from the Kap Thapyay village, in the township of Kyaukphyu, were arrested at 4am on August 14. The Military gathered the village people in the monastery, leading them to believe it was a meeting, before calling names of villagers and arresting three for interrogation. The arrested villagers were Ba Than Shwe, Wai Thee Aung, and Than Myat Shwe. The Military believed these men had ties with the Arakan Army (AA). Family Members and respected villagers have denied any claims of the three individual detainees' affiliation with the AA.

Other Military arrests have taken place within the Rakhine townships of Kyauktaw and Kyauphyu by the Military due to other AA affiliated suspicions. Seven people from the Kap Thapyay, the same village the recently arrested were also from, were charged with breaking the Anti-Terrorism Law in June.

CHARGES

Two Protest Leaders Arrested and Charged in Shwegyin

On August 6, two protest leaders, Aung Moe Zaw and Kyi Min, were arrested and charged under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law in Shwegyin Township in Bago Division for holding a protest without the necessary permission. They protested calling for action to be taken in the case of the shooting of the death of a Karen woman and the withdrawal of the military bases. Superintendent of Shwegyin Township, Aung Than Oo, said they will release them as the charge allows them to post bail.

Fifty Five Farmers Charged for Trespassing in Singu

55 farmers were charged again under Section 447 of the Penal Code for trespassing and for cultivating the military's own land at Nyaung Wunn Village in Singu Township in Mandalay Division, said Captain Zaw Win Naing from Supply and Transport Battalion No.121, a plaintiff in the case. The charge was brought in July and is now being investigated by the local police, said Kyaw Tint, member of Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands. According to farmers, these lands have been cultivated since 1973 by their ancestors.

AA Leader's Sister and Brother-in-law Prosecuted under Counter-Terrorism Law

On August 6, Rangoon's West District Court prosecuted Yamin Myat, a.k.a Moe Hnin Phyu, sister of leader of Arakan Army (AA), and Kyaw Naing, her husband, under Section 52(a) of the Counterterrorism Law. On October 19, 2019, they were arrested at Rangoon International Airport when Yamin Myat picked up her husband, Kyaw Naing, and daughter who returned from Thailand. On October 20, 2019, the couple was charged under the Counterterrorism Law at the Mayangone Township Police Station by Police Captain Min Khaing from the Yangon Region Special Branch.

Lawsuit Filed Against Villager Arrested by Military

On August 7, military transferred Chat Gyi, a villager of Myin Pyin Village in Arakan State's Kyaukpyu Township, to the Kyaukpyu Myoma Police Station and had a lawsuit filed against him under Section 19(f) of the India Act two months after he was arrested. On June 2, a military contingent arrested him when they found an object hanging under the downstairs of his house. Chat Gyi runs a home-based shop and he picked up an unidentified object near the seashore and hung on under the downstairs of his house over a year ago. When the military contingent was at his shop on June 2, they found it and arrested him to investigate whether this object is a bomb. There has been no contact with his family since he was arrested and his family is worried because he is not in good health.

Three Activists Charged for Unlawful Assembly Over Karen Martyrs' Day Event

August 12 marked the 70th anniversary of Karen Revolution leader Saw Ba U Gyi's death, it is also known as Karen Martyrs' Day. On August 10, permission to hold the event was denied by the Kyauktada Township authorities, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The event organizers Sa Thein Zaw Min and Saw Hser Kwar Lar were determined to hold the event. The commemoration followed the COVID-19 guidelines. Groups were limited to 15 people, with several dozen attending the event at the Maha Bandula Park, in Rangoon. Attendees wore masks, gloves, and followed procedural guidelines for COVID-19. For holding the event, the two Karen activists were charged with a lawsuit by the police, under Article 20 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law because they failed to disclose information about the event in the materials they filed with the authorities. They were both arrested on August 24 because they did not take bail. On August 24, Sein Htwe was charged under Section 20 of PAPPL for reading a message at the 70th anniversary of the Karen Martyrs' Day. She had been arrested from last year's 69th Karen Martyrs Day event in 2019 under Article 19 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, but did not follow up on the matters, so she was arrested. She was sent to Insein Prison due to denial of the request for bail. On August 27, she was sentenced with 15 days of imprisonment by Kyautada Township Courts under Section 19 of PAPPL for the 69th Karen Martyrs Day event in 2019.

Healthcare Worker Transferred to Police Station and Lawsuit Filed Against Him

On August 16, Kyaw Min Tun, a health worker, who was arrested in Ann Township in Arakan State, was transferred to Ann Myoma Police Station. A lawsuit was filed against him under Section 50(j) and 52(a) of the Counterterrorism Law, said his brother Khaing Kyaw Hlaing. The three healthcare workers, whose department is under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Sports, have been identified as Nyein Lin Zaw, Min Kyaw Naing and Kyaw Min Tun. They work at the Thabyu Chaing Kyun rural healthcare center in Ann Township. The trio were arrested by security personnel at the checkpoint while they were travelling toward downtown Ann from Thabyu Chaing Kyun village to attend a training course for Grade II medical staff conducted by the Department of Public Health. On August 10, Nyein Lin Zaw and Min Kyaw Naing were released but Kyaw Min Tun is still under detention.

22 Hsihseng Farmers Prosecuted for Trespassing on Their Own Land

The military has brought trespassing charges against 22 farmers in Hsihseng Township in the Pa-O Self-Administered Area of southern Shan State. Light Infantry Battalions No.423 and 424 are prosecuting the farmers, who were charged after planting crops on more than 300 acres of farmland that the army confiscated from them, under Article 447 of the Penal Code. The military initially prosecuted 15 farmers in May, and seven more in early August. All of the farmers attended their first court hearing on August 17, except for one 87-year-old farmer who requested medical leave.

The military and the Hsihseng Township farmers have been involved in the land dispute since May, but the farmers say that they were not informed that their farmlands were seized more than 20 years ago, and never received compensation. Additionally, the farmers said that nearly 35 acres of their corn crops were destroyed by unidentified perpetrators in early July.

Police Officer Charged Under Terrorism Act for Allegedly Reporting to AA

Ye Ko Naing, a 27 year old police officer was arrested and charged under the Terrorism Act Sections 50(j) and Section 52(a). These charges are due to suspicion he was reporting to the Arakan Army (AA). Ye Ko Naing was from the Ale Chaung Village in Rambree Township. He worked in Kyaukphyu Township

at the Sane Police station, he was on duty when arrested. The arrest took place on June 28 and charges against him filed on June 29. His case is still pending.

Two Kyaukphyu Villagers Face Terror Charges

Maung Aye Naing (37) and Win Naing (27) from Zin Chaung village in Kyaukphyu Township in Arakan State have been charged under Section 50(a) and Section 52(j) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. The duo was held on remand by the Kyaukphyu Township Court for the second time, their family members said following a court hearing on August 17. Four people from Zin Chaung village were arrested by a contingent of military and police personnel on July 7. Two of the four detainees were released from a police station on the same day, but Maung Aye Naing and Ko Win Naing have been held in military custody since then.

The detainees were unable to make contact with family members for three weeks and they were transferred to Kyaukphyu Myoma police station before charged under the Counter-Terrorism Law. Maung Aye Naing and Win Naing sustained injuries from allegedly being beaten in military custody, said Than Naing, a family member of Maung Aye Naing. The court fixed the next hearing date for August 28, with family members of the detainees previously imploring authorities to ensure that the accused are afforded due process under the law

Independent Candidate Arrested and Charged

On August 21, Htay Aung, who will run as an independent candidate at the Kawhmu Township Constituency in Rangoon Division at the upcoming 2020 general election, was arrested under Section 124(a) of the Penal Code for defamation of the State and sent to Insein Prison. On August 21, the case was filed at the Eastern District Court of Rangoon by Pazundaung Township Administrator, Chan Nyein Aung, a plaintiff. Htay Aung invited the political parties and held a press conference on August 8 and said the government of the Nation League for Democracy (NLD) has received international support.

Social Activist Charged for Criticizing Arakan State Government on Social Media

Soe Naing, a social activist from Sittwe, has been charged with writing false information with the intent to discredit the Arakan State government. The case was opened against him on August 25 by the Sittwe Township Administrator, who filed the case at the town's central police station. Soe Naing said the administrator had filed the case under Section 66 (d) of the Telecommunications Law, referring to four posts posted on his social media page between 2019 and 2020. He said police had raided and searched his home after the posts on August 22. He was granted bail of 3 million kyats (US\$ 2,236) during a meeting with officials at the Sittwe Town Police Station on August 25.

DETENTION

Civilian Detained by Military, Family Concerned

Family members of Aye Maung (57) from Tawpanzin village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, have expressed concern as they have no updates on his wellbeing for over four days after he was reportedly detained by the military on August 9 while on his way to a drug store in neighbouring Sabalhla village, according to the administrator of the Thinganat village-tract, of which Tawpanzin is a part. Aye Maung was reportedly arrested by personnel from the military's Kansauk Mountain-based No. 539 Light Infantry Battalion.

DISAPPEARANCES

20 Civilians from Chin state Missing between 2018 and 2020

Twenty civilians from Chin state have gone missing between 2018 and 2020, with five of them allegedly abducted by the Arakan Army (AA). For the remaining 15, family members might know who abducted them, but for civil societies it is difficult to identify who abducted them without any evidence. All the

missing persons and abducted persons are males, and a dozen of them are younger than 30. On August 1, Chin IDP Support Committee (CISC) stated the AA abducted Myint Maung from Paletwa on April 12 and four young men from the township on July 29.

The Khumi Affairs Coordination Council (KACC) announced on July 30 that the AA had abducted four young Chin men on the border area between Rakhine's Kyauktaw township and Paletwa. They also added that 20 cases have been recorded but that there could be many more. Both the AA and the military have denied that they have detained the missing persons. In previous cases, both the military and the AA have blamed each other for the arbitrary arrest and detention of civilians suspected of aiding the other.

TRIAL

Buddhist Monk Sein Ti Ta to Testify in Defamation Case

On August 6, Pyigyidagun Township Court in Mandalay Division ordered Buddhist Monk Sein Ti Ta stood trial under Section 505(b) and now Section 500 of the Penal Code. Lieutenant Colonel Thant Zaw Oo sued him under the Penal Code's Article 505(b) in May for criticizing the military on social media. However, a court in Pyigyidagun Township dropped the charges against him in July, 2019. Afterwards, the military appealed against the rejection and the Mandalay Region High Court ordered a review on July 3, 2020. Therefore, a court in Pyigyidagun Township ordered him to be put on trial under Section 500 of the Penal Code. On August 20, Monk Sein Ti Ta was granted bail of 3 million kyat (US\$ 2,200). He is also facing a lawsuit under Article 66(d) of the Telecommunications Act in September 2019. Both lawsuits will be heard on September 9.

High Court Rejects Military Appeal to Increase Karenni Farmers' Sentences

The High Court in Kayah State on August 14 rejected an appeal by the army seeking more severe punishments against 21 ethnic Karennis who were sentenced to imprisonment or fined for trespassing and damaging military-owned farmland. The group of 21—comprising 18 farmers and three activists from the Karenni State Farmers Union (KSFU)—were released from prison along with 20 other Karenni farmers in early March upon completing their prison terms and paying fines after being charged by the military. The 41 farmers and activists are from Loikaw and Demoso Townships of Kayah State. However, in the case of the group of 21 farmers and activists, the military appealed to the Kayah State High Court in June, asking it to increase their punishments. A district court rejected an earlier appeal by the army in May.

Since July 2019, the military has opened more than 50 lawsuits against the 41 ethnic Karenni farmers and activists under articles 447, 427, 353 and 294 of the Penal Code for trespassing, damaging property, performing obscene acts and songs, and deterring public servants from discharging their duties. At least 12 farmers from the group of 41 faced additional lawsuits under the Public Property Protection Act for destroying the fences built by the army on the farmland. Those 12 farmers had been held in prison for up to six months during their trials.

On August 31, the state High Court is due to rule on the army's appeal in the cases against 19 farmers (also among the total group of 41 farmers and activists) from Demos Township, according to the KSFU. The military appealed to the High Court for harsher sentences against them after its appeal was rejected by a district court.

97 Workers Fined Five Million Kyat for Failing to Attend Court Hearing

The 97 workers from Gust Myanmar Factory are dissatisfied with the court ruling that they will be fined five million kyats (US\$3,684) for failing to attend their court hearing on July 4. They were charged under 46(d) of the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law (SLDL) by the head of the Labor Relations Department on May 13. The 97 workers attended the first court hearing but most of them did not appear before the court for the next hearings. Therefore, the court issued an arrest warrant against 71 workers who failed to attend the fourth court hearing.

Trial of U Thawbita Continues in Amarapura

A court in Amarapura Township decided on August 27 to proceed with defamation charges against monk U Thawbita over defamation on social media. U Thawbita, who played a lead role in the 2007 Saffron Revolution, posted a photo of commander-in-chief, Min Aung Hlaing, on a visit to a military-owned farm in 2018 and wrote “A cow entering a cattle farm” as a caption. Posts on U Thawbita’s page also blamed the military for a prison break in Hpa-An and suggested the army was worse than a natural disaster. The court has been evaluating a complaint filed by lieutenant colonel Myo Khaing Win against the monk since September 2018. U Thawbita is out on bail but faces a two-year prison sentence under section 66(d) of the Telecommunication Law if found guilty. The next hearing is scheduled for September 10.

The monk has argued that the complaint should be rejected because it was not made by the aggrieved person, something which is required under a 2017 amendment to the law. He has not confirmed or denied writing the posts in question but said on August 27 the prosecution has been unable to prove it was him. Aung Thein, the monk’s lawyer, said his client could appeal to a higher court but it was rare for charges to be dropped at this stage. The army also filed another charge against the 40-year-old monk under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code in November last year. But two separate courts rejected the charges in April and May.

SENTENCES

Former ABFSU Leader Sentenced to Six Months Imprisonment with Hard Labour

On August 25, Rangoon Division’s Kyauktada Township Court sentenced six months imprisonment with hard labour under Section 468 of Penal Code to former student leader of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) Aung Thant Zin Oo a.k.a Lin Htet Naing a.k.a James. He was charged for possession of a Fake ID when he was arrested by police for participating in the National Education Bill Protest in 2015, said his wife Phyo Phyo Aung. He was sentenced after facing trial for four years as the plaintiff from Immigration Department did not close the case against him although the charges filed against all students were closed as soon as the new government took their seats.

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

Myanmar Human Rights Body Investigates Deaths of Two Teens at Mandalay Youth Center

On August 12, the Human Rights Committee determined the death of two 17 year old boys, Pyae Phyo Maung and Khaing Zaw Tun, was due to the lack of staff at the Mandalay Youth Center, along with the lack of enforcement and adherence to rules and regulations. The two boys were serving a two year sentence when they and three others tried to escape. When caught and brought back to the camp, allegedly, older youths at the camp beat them. One source claimed all five were forced to lie on their stomachs while being beaten. Pyae Phyo Maung died at the center and Khaing Zaw Tun at the hospital the next day. The parents of both youth were not provided clear and sufficient information from the center. A case was filed on August 28, in relation to the two deaths. On August 29 the police said, five staff members of the Mandalay Youth centre have been arrested and are under investigation. Khaing Zaw Tun parents were told by the doctor, their son had sufficient bruising specifically on the head, broken neck and broken lung. The head of the Mandalay Youth Center claimed the other boys who tried to escape were fine, but a report claimed that a 15 year old boy, Htet Lin Chit, was still being treated at the hospital. The Human Rights Committee urged for further investigation into this incident, and that the center reprimand those who committed this crime against the boys.

Man Dies in Police Custody in Bogalay Township

On August 9, Kyaw Thet Oo (26), who was detained on August 6 at the Myin Ka Kone Police Station in Bogalay Township in Ayeyarwaddy Division, died in police custody. His body was handed over to his home from the hospital at 2pm on August 9 by the police. Police Captain Zaw Myo Htet of Myin Ka Kone

Police Station said that the police station was at fault and would follow the law if the family chooses to take legal action.

It is reported that Kyaw Thet Oo's whole body was covered in bruises and had signs of burn marks and handcuffs. Thaung Aung, who was detained at this police station, said Kyaw Thet Oo died while he was being beaten by police. He also said police investigated and accused Kyaw Thet Oo of being a member of a boat smuggling gang.

On August 6, Kyaw Thet Oo was accused by villagers of stealing a boat that belonged to his uncle and sent to the police station. His uncle, A Ngel Lay, made a call to the Myin Ka Kon Police Station saying he did not want to file the case as Kyaw Thet Oo is his nephew. Nonetheless, the police said they were taking on the case anyway.

Matriculation Pass Percentage From Prison Exam Centres Rise to Over 60 Per Cent

The Prison Department claimed 108 students out of 178 students passed the matriculation exam in 2019-20. From 11 different prisons in 2020, 60% of students have passed the exam, passing rate up 5.7% from 2019 examinations. At the Insein Prison, 58 out of the 85 students passed, making their pass rate 68%. Out of the 58 people who passed the test at Insein Prison, 24 received distinctions on their exams. The calculated numbers come from the students at Insein Central Prison, Katha Prison, Loikaw Prison, Nyaungshwe Prison, Kentung Prison, Kyaukphyu Prison, Hpa-an Prison, Thayet Prison, and Maubin Prison.

Judge of Ayeyarwaddy Division Investigated Prisons and Cells

On August 10, Myo Nyunt, a group led by a high court judge of the Ayeyarwaddy Division investigated Pyapon Prison and Pyapon Myoma Police Station in Pyapon District in Ayeyarwaddy Division. They investigated the dormitories for prisoners and detainees, medical clinics and kitchens, as well as asked prisoners about comfortability; receiving medical treatment if they are in poor health; whether there was torture; and whether they have the rights they deserve in accordance with the law. Moreover, the group investigated the Kyaiklat Myo Ma Police Station and cell, and Dedaye Myoma Police Station and cell.

RELEASES

Five Men, Including Hsar Pyin village ANP Chairman Released

On August 12, a court in Taungup Township in Arakan State released five men, including Hsar Pyin village ANP Chairman in Taungup Township, after a court found insufficient evidence to charge them. On April 5, Hsar Pyin, village ANP Chairman Pyone Cho, and villagers Than Naing, Hla Phyu, Aung Htoo and Maung Myint Aung 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. Then, Major Myint Zaw Aung of Number (5) Military Operation Headquarter.

Five Released in Taungup, Arakan, After Being Held for Four Months on Terror Charges

A total of five people were released from prison after their Counter Terror Law charges were dropped. The group included Than Naing, Aung Htoo, Maung Myint Aung, Hla Pyu and Pyone Cho the Arakan National Party chairman. The men were found not guilty by the Taungup Township Court. There were a total of 26 prosecution witnesses who testified against them. The men were first arrested on April 5 and released on May 5 as a consequence of the lack of evidence against their Illegal Association charge under Section 17. They were rearrested on May 5 and charged under Counter Terror Laws and Section 52(a) accused of a connection with a bomb explosion. The group was found not guilty and for a second time have been released.

Peacock Generation Thangyat Team Member Released

Suu Yadana Myint, a Peacock Generation Thanguyat group member, was released from prison in Rangoon, serving her six month prison sentence on August 19. A high-ranking Military officer prosecuted the group team for supposedly weakening the Military, under the Penal Code Section 505(b) at the Botataung Township Court and another case at the Mayangon Township court under the Telecommunication law Section 66(d). She was released in Rangoon.

Monk and Administrator in Mrauk-U Township Released after Counter-Terror Charges Dropped

On August 19, monk U Kawidaza and village administrator Wai Soe Tun, from Owe Hthing Village in Arakan State's Mrauk-U Township, were released after charges related to the Counter-Terror Law were dropped by Mrauk-U District Court. They had spent one year in prison. On September 20, 2019, they were arrested by military personnel when they went to the Kyauk-Kyat Village in Mrauk-U Township for the Teacher Honourable Ceremony. On August 21, Myat Hein Tun, general secretary of the Rakhine Students' Union (Yangon Universities), and Member Kyaw Lin, who were sentenced to one month imprisonment under Section 19 of PAPPL, were released from Insein Prison after time served. On July 23, Rangoon Division's Kamayut Township Court sentenced them for holding a protest against the internet ban in several townships of the Rakhine and Chin States.

The protest on February 23 called on the government to lift the internet ban in place for over a year across eight townships of the northern Arakan State and Paletwa Township in Chin State. In addition to the resumption of internet services, the student leaders demanded that those responsible for an artillery shell exploding on primary school grounds in Buthidaung Township be held accountable, and to give international media "the right to freely access areas to report." Students from the Rakhine Students' Union, as well as students from the All Burma Federation of Students Union, and the Rangoon University of Economic Students' Union (Ywathagyi area) were in attendance at the protest. Nine, including Myat Hein Tun and Kyaw Lin, have been charged. On March 25, seven out of nine were sentenced to a month in prison with hard labor under Section 19 of PAPPL.

ARRESTS BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUP

AA Abducts Two Monks and Two Novices From Monasteries in Arakan State

The Arakan Army (AA) abducted Wunna Thara, the abbot of Myo Oo Kaung Monastery; Dhamma Piya, the abbot of Shwe Si Wa Monastery; and two novices in Let Kauk Zay Ward in Mrauk-U at midnight on August 18 for allegedly recruiting for the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), according to Kay Ya Wuntha, the abbot of La Kyi Taung Monastery in the same ward. A layperson at Myo Oo Kaung Monastery who witnessed the abduction stated that seven people wearing plain clothes blindfolded the monks and took them away, and also searched the room of Wunna Thara.

Seven Armed Men Arrested Four Family Members from Kyaukme

On August 20, seven armed men arrested four family members living in No.1 Ward, Kyaukme Town in Northern Shan State. They are Phoe Oo and his sons Eike Sai (14), Pan Ti (12) and Aung Chan Aye (9). A local said Phoe Oo's wife was not at home and was not arrested because she is already evading arrest over a problem with a land transaction.

RELEASES BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUP

AA Releases Five Members of ALP

On August 18, the Arakan Army (AA) released two senior members of the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) and three civilian medics it abducted in Arakan State's Ponnagyun Township on August 10. Among those abducted were ALP First Joint-Secretary, Khaing Aung Soe Than, liaison office staff member, Khaing Htay, and three other members who are medics, working for the Rakhine Community Health Workers Association (RCHWA).

All the five abductees were released. They were taken for interrogation and released afterwards. No injuries have been found on them. The ALP said the AA has detained party members on four occasions, twice in 2017 and twice this year. A total of 12 ALP members were detained in those incidents and two managed to escape. There are unconfirmed reports that the AA has killed other detainees.

Arakan Army Releases Three of Four Detained Chin Youths

On 29th July four Chin youths were abducted by Arakan Army (AA) troops when traveling to Paletwa town. They were from Nga Tharine village, Kyauktaw Township. Kyaw Aung, Secretary of Chin Internally Displaced Persons Support Committee confirmed the release of three of the hostages. Khin Maung Tun, Benjamin and Aung Tun were released on 25th August, but Aung Soe, who works with a civil society organization in Paletwa Township remains a prisoner of the EAO. Salai Myo Htike, an Upper House lawmaker from Chin State, corroborated the release of three men detained by the Arakan Army.

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Statement by CSOs State's TNLA Tortured Rural People

Approximately 50 civil society organizations (CSOs) released a statement and denounced Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) for committing physical abuses and threatenly asking villagers for money in Kutkai Township and Mangton Township in Northern Shan State.

In July, three women, one who was pregnant, two children and three men, including a disabled man, who live in Kar Laing Village and Nant Phat Kar Village in Kutkai Township and Mangton Township were arbitrarily tortured and were intimately asked for money by TNLA. On July 29, the Kachin National Congress Party called for action to be taken against two TNLA soldiers who beat J Naw and his wife in Gar Lai Village in Kutai Township on July 26. They beat them without any reason.

TNLA Information Team released a statement on August 1 saying that they found the TNLA soldiers who committed the human rights violations and that appropriate action will be taken against them in line with the Articles of the Penal Code. Additionally, they will invite the victims to the court hearings.

Nine Civilians Charged Transferred to the Police Station

On August 1, nine civilians, who were arrested on suspicion of having ties to the Arakan Army (AA) at the Arakan State's Kyaukpyu and Ramree Townships and charged under the Counter Terrorism Law, were transferred to the Kyaukpyu Myoma Police Station by the military. The nine civilians are from Yay Nan Don Village and A Lel Chaung Village. As their family members heard about the transfer to the Kyaukpyu Myoma Police Station, they came to the police station to meet them. But, they were not allowed to see them and just had a chance to give them some clothes, said family members of the A Lel Chaung Village.

Twenty-Three Villagers in Kyauktaw Township Released after Investigation

On August 6, 23 villagers, who were arrested and investigated at the Phayar Paung Village in Arakan State's Kyauktaw Township by the military convoy on August 5, were released. 19 out of 23 villagers are from Phayar Paung Village, three are from Taung Pauk Village and one is from Ponna Village.

Case of Year-Long Detained Brothers Raised to the MNHRC

Two missing brothers, Maung Win Htay and Maung Htay Win went missing 11 months ago. They were arrested on October 8, 2019, by the Military. Daw Ma Shaw, the mother of the two men, with the help of the Rakhine State Human Rights Defenders Group, has sent a letter to Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, explaining the matter. They went missing while grazing their livestock in Myebon Township, by the river. Later this year, Daw Ma Shaw found out her sons were at Sittwe Prison. A man recently released from Sittwe Prison provided the information to her. Daw Ma Shaw went to the Sittwe Prison in late July to visit the men, but authorities denied her access, claiming her sons were not at the prison. Since the arrests, the mother has not received any formal information on the whereabouts of her sons. She urges for help in finding her sons.

Violence In Rakhine Prevents Voter List Posting in 15 Village-tracts, IDP Camps

The Rakhine State Election Sub-Commission reported, within 15 northern Rakhine villages, voter registration lists are struggling to be posted, due to armed conflicts between the Military and Arakan Army (AA). The primary voter lists allow potential voters to check their registration credentials and provides the opportunity to fix any mistakes before the November 8 election. Within this upcoming election, 232 candidates are running within Rakhine. The state has 1,640,000 eligible voters. Voter registration lists that were supposed to be posted for the public's review from July 27 through August 7. The review period was extended as a result of a large proportion of mistakes within voter registrations to August 14. The lack of registration postings within the villages are a consequence of disbanded administrations. The conflict has caused dwindling security and caused people to emigrate away from dangerous areas.

A civil society claimed 200,000 people so far are affected by the conflict that has caused 150 camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) to open. The voter registrations cannot be posted at these camps, due to the lack of data. The Election Commission does not have the information to know who and what specific village the IDPs come from. Some voter lists have been posted, but only due to the documentation of correct data information. These camps have managers or administrative bodies which provide the required information. Rakhine Ethin Congress said the public is not interested in the election, as they hoped for governmental improvements, since the election of 2010. Most people are looking for survival, and with the disappointment of earlier elections and the lack of attention paid to the people within the Rakhine state, they could care less. Some still wish to vote, not knowing if it will be beneficial or even possible.

Thousands of Shan IDPs Still Unable to Vote in 2020 Election

Within Shan State a substantial number of internally displaced people (IDP) near the Thai border will not get to vote in the November 2020 election. Most of whom will not be able to vote live in the Langkhur, Mong Hsat, and Tachileik districts. These IDPs became displaced in the late 1990's and early 2000s. Due to prior IDP family members not registering for an ID, many are unable to register, and names will not be able to appear on the registration. Without the prior kin registration, it makes it nearly impossible to get documentation and without proper documentation they may not register for the election.

Two of Three Health Workers Arrested in Ann Township Released

On August 9, Three health workers were arrested by the Military at a checkpoint in Ann township, on their way to work training. The arrest was due to the military's suspicion of the men having ties with the Arakan Army (AA). At the checkpoint, they covered detainees' heads and took them in separate rooms to be interrogated. Two of the three men were released on August 10. Of the men Nyein Lin Zaw, Min Kyaw Naing both were released but Zaw Min Tun is still in custody at the Myoma police station in Ann Township. They said Zaw Min Tun had messages on his WeChat linked to the AA.

A Pauk Wa Village Administrator Released after Arrested by Military

In the early morning of August 13, Kyaw Mya, village administrator of A Pauk Wa village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, was arrested together with other villagers by a military convoy that was parked in A Pauk Wa police station. All villagers were released on the same day except for Kyaw Mya, who was released shortly after.

Myanmar Bars Rohingya Candidates from Election in Northern Arakan

A total of five Rohingya candidates from northern Arakan state have been banned from participating in the November 8 election, by the Election Sub-Commission. All five bans are under similar pretences, that their close family members e.g grandparents, parents were not citizens when they were born. Election Law, Section 10(e) which claims both parents need to be citizens to run for election was cited for their rejection. Some candidate parents held National ID cards, and did not receive the Citizen Verification ID Cards, which the Election Commission said was required for citizenship. The men

blocked from running for political positions are Abdul Rasheed, Abu Tahay, Kyaw Min the leader of the Democracy and Human Rights party and his party affiliates, Aung Hla, and Saw Myint. Abul Rasheed was rejected from candidacy by the election commission in the city of Sittwe. Rasheed had proof his parents and grandparents received citizenship in 1957. Similarly, his father looked to run for election in the 2015 election. Abu Tahay is a non-affiliated member and it is unclear when he was disqualified from running. For Kyaw Min, running for politics is not new. He won a seat in the 1990's, but the military annulled the results. In the 2015 election, the rejection of Kyaw Min and 14 others running for positions was made by the Electoral Commission. Aung Hla and Saw Myint planned on running in the State Parliament, against Buthidaung citizens. In the upcoming election four of the seven Democracy and Human Rights party members running were denied. With these rejections, some wish to repeal the Election Commission decision.

Myanmar Largest Monitor Group Barred from Observing November Polls

A large monitoring group called the People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) has been banned from observing the upcoming election by the Union Election Commission (UEC). In the past, PACE has monitored the 2015 election and by-elections of 2017. PACE is an independent group of election monitors, the civil society organization promotes transparency within the election process. It intended to deploy 2,900 election observers for the upcoming November election, an election due to COVID-19 will have less international observation. In a statement, on August 13, the UEC's decision to ban the organization was due to PACE's lack of registration with the government and its lack of independence from international aid. The UEC stated that these actions violate Section 27 of the Law on the Association Registration and Chapter 14(c) of the Local Elections Observers Guidelines. The registration law was passed in 2015 and was voluntary. One civil society member said organizations that monitor the government are less likely to register with the government for reasons of independence.

Several consequences of this ban will be at stake. An international presence within the election will already be restricted, due to Covid-19 and with the ban of PACE, this means there will be an increased threat to transparency, evaluation, and accountability during the election due to a lower number of independent observers. It is important for areas within Burma to have independent observations, not only to evaluate irregularities but to help in areas with armed conflicts, who may lack basic infrastructure and transportation during the voting process. A total of 443 civil society organizations made a statement criticizing the ban of PACE calling it a threat and an increased risk for restrictions on other civil society organizations. Causing a direct restriction to freedom of association and speech.

Body of Man Who Died in Tatmadaw Battalion No.377 Detention Transferred to Mrauk-U Police

On August 7, San Shwe Hlaing, 41, went missing after attending his brother's funeral in Mrauk-oo Township, he was originally from Pan Kaing village. There are many discrepancies in what truly happened to Shwe Hlaing. The Military first reported on August 10, a 41-year-old man named San Shwe Hlaing attempted to open a gate on a battalion base, and when warning shots were fired at him, he fled the scene. San Shwe Hlaing was arrested by Light Infantry Battalion No. 377. Allegations claimed he was intoxicated when arrested and later questioned on August 8. The man's body was handed over on August 10, to Mrauk-Oo Township police. Trauma on San Shwe Hlaing's decaying body was visible, such as a damaged skull, stab wounds, gunshot wounds, and a detached jaw.

The first interrogation report said he was a Private from the Arakan Army (AA), providing him an ID number. The report also claimed San Shwe Hlaing would be handed over to the police and they would step in for proper investigation, and charges. The investigation never took place as the police received his body already deceased. The family of the man denies any allegations with ties with the AA and said he was a regular working man. An eyewitness said the man never went close to the military regiment, but was beaten and detained by the Military men. On August 11, another report claimed he was shot and killed while running from the battalion. A state Representative of Mrauk-Oo Township, Tun Thar Sein, spoke out saying this was a violation of human rights because the torture and the killing took place without a proper legal trial or investigation.

Police Raid Home of Young Man Holding a Solo Ceremony for Rice Crisis Day

On August 13, police raided the home of activist Thiha Tun, a young man who held a Solo Ceremony to celebrate 53 years of the Rice Crisis Day at Kyunn Village in Marn Aung Town in Arakan State. Thiha Tun lives in Sitt Kal Taw Oak village in Marn Aung Township. In addition, some police members asked for information about the student leaders of the Rakhine State Student Union, who held the 53 year celebration of Rice Crisis Day at Sittwe Technological College.

Four Kyauktaw Township Men Detained by Army

On August 14, four men from Kyauktalone village within Kyauktaw Township, were detained by Light Infantry Battalion No. 376. The men were Hla Maung, Thar Gyi, Aung Khin Hla, and Than Aung Kyaw. Approximately 30 Military men ununiformed came into the village at 10 A.M, and conducted a hunt, going house to house until the men were arrested. The four men were taken to Shwe Tahlae village. It is unclear why the four men were arrested, but an Upper House legislator, Tun Win, whose district is Kyauktaw was informed of their arrest. They were detained for one day, and then released.

Action To Be Taken against DKBA Member

On August 15, Colonel Tun Tun of headquarter of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) told the media that effective action will be taken in accordance with military discipline law against a DKBA member who arrested and beat a civilian in Myawaddy in Karen State. On August 12 at 9:00pm, Lieutenant Htet Myat Thu from DKBA pointed his gun at Myo Win from Myawaddy and ordered him to get in the car. Then, Lieutenant Htet Myat Thu handcuffed Myo Win, beat and kicked him, and threatenly shot the gun. Lieutenant Htet Myat is being held at the DKBA headquarters. A press conference was held on August 21, Major Win Myint Oo from DKBA said they will take legal action in consultation with lawyers as Myo Win gave false information.

Six Villagers Including Headmistress Released by Military Convoy

In the evening of August 19, six villagers, including a school principal from Apaukwa Village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, who were arrested by the military convoy in that morning, were released. The released villagers are Khaing Hla Nu from Apaukwa Village, who is a primary school principal at Oo Soon Taung Village in Kyauktaw Township, her husband San Tun Baw, Tun Tun Win from Pyine Chaung Village, who is working at Apaukwa Village, Hla Sein Maung from Apaukwa Village as a security at World Treasure Bank in Kyauktaw Town, Zaw Naing Oo, and an unidentified Apaukwa Villager. They were arrested on suspicion of being members of the Arakan Army (AA) living at Apaukwa Village. This military convoy encamped at the Apaukwa Village.

Supreme Court Rejected Activist Naw Ohn Hla's Motion

On August 20, the Supreme Court rejected Activist Naw Ohn Hla's motion to plead not guilty to 15 days imprisonment for using the forbidden word in the celebration of Karen Martyrs' Day in 2019. On August 20, Naw Ohn Hla submitted the application by herself. As all the petitions were rejected at the district and divisional courts, she submitted it to the supreme court but it was rejected again.

Seventeen Kyauktaw Locals Detained by Military Convoy Have Not Been Contacted for Six Months

Seventeen locals from Tin Ma Thit Village and Tin Ma Gyi Village in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State detained by the military convoy for six month still have had no contact, said their family members. On April 13 and 16, a military convoy arrested eight villagers from Tin Ma Thit Village and 10 villagers from Tin Ma Gyi Village, said local residents. A dead body of Maung Tun Sein, 62 years old, from Tin Ma Thit Village, was found in a stream near the village and 17 other villagers have not been contacted so far.

Ethnic Ta'ang Families Accuse Military of Killing Three Civilians

In late May, three Ta'ang men, Mai Nyi Tun, Mai Along, and Nyi Leik from Namkham Township, were detained by the Military after a clash with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Villagers who witnessed the abduction said the soldiers demanded the detainees to look down; two of the later killed Ta'ang men were forced to lie on their stomachs. Witnesses are confident the soldiers were from Light Infantry Division No. 99, due to markings on their uniforms. Villagers searched for 10 days for the

missing men before filing anything with authorities. Civil Society organizations even filed with the Muse police station. The three bodies were later uncovered on August 20 in Neng Kat Village, in Muse Township with the presence of family members, villagers, forensic physicians, authorities, along with civil society administrators. When uncovered, there was reason to believe they may have been shot and were buried in trenches, markings on the body hint at possible torture. The three may have been tied to trees as their bodies were wrapped in string, it is not clear whether they were shot or specifically tortured. The cause of death has not been officially verified by the forensic physician, and the bodies have been cremated.

Ta'ang civil society organizations and the family members of the three men seek justice, by the Military and those who committed the crime. The military denies their involvement in the killings but did provide the information about the individuals to Military Intelligence, who helped discover the bodies. A spokesperson for the Military Major General Zaw Min Tun claimed the bodies were found where the TNLA troops were based. Locals believe the Military was involved, despite the denial and allegations blaming the TNLA. An investigation has been opened by Shan state police for further information, seeking to receive justice. On August 27, a Military leader from Light Division No 99, met with village officials, civil society organizations, and other local lawmakers and claimed they were conducting an investigation. They would also interrogate and gain the truth from soldiers.

Military Takes Responsibility over Civilian Death

The military has admitted that its soldiers were responsible for the killing of a civilian amid a clash with the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army-South (RCSS/SSA-S) in Shan state in late June, which prompted a protest by thousands of local residents demanding justice.

Army spokesman said on August 26 that troops were responsible for shooting the civilian in Pan Kin village, Kyaukme Township, on June 29, and said the squadron commander would be court-martialed because the shooter, an infantry soldier, had already been killed in battle. The army engaged in combat with the SSA-S over two days after it accused its soldiers of crossing without advance notice into army-controlled territory when it burned a cache of illegal drugs on June 26.

PMF Beats Kachin Youth at Checkpoint in Hukawng Valley

On August 24 at 2pm Lamai Htoi Bawk, 20, was beaten by the Shahtuzup People's Militia Force, (PMF) troops after his vehicle accidentally struck a bamboo rod that was part of their checkpoint. The family of this Kachin youth from Hukawng Valley, Kachin State demanded the Northern Military Command punish their son's assailants. Lamai Brang Nu reported the incident to the PMF unit and Northern Military Command headquarters. After receiving an apology from the deputy head of Shahtuzup PMF, he announced that he does not intend to press charges. Lamai Htoi Bawk is undergoing medical treatment for his head and other injuries sustained at Myitkyina Public Hospital.

Khin Khin Kyaw Lawyer License Removed

The Supreme Court of the Union rejected the opinion of the Bar Council and revoked Khin Khin Kyaw as a high court lawyer. Khin Khin Kyaw was sentenced to six months imprisonment for allegedly disrupting a courtroom after she filed a legal motion seeking to hold high-ranking police officials responsible for the violent crackdown against protesters in Letpadan in Bago Region on March 10, 2015. However, she was sentenced to three months in prison on appeal. Then, her licence as a high court lawyer was removed on 27 August. The opinion of the Bar Council commented to give her a strong warning, said the high court lawyer Kyi Myint, who represents her case.

College Student Alleges Mistreatment by security personnel in Ann Township

On August 28 Maung Nyi Nyi Soe, from Pyintaw village, Arakan State, aged 18, said that he was beaten during an interrogation by security personnel. Maung Nyi Nyi Soe is a second-year student at Kyaukphyu Education College. The victim lodged a complaint with the Arakan State Students' Union and the union said it would forward the complaint to the president and release a statement regarding the case. The victim was allegedly beaten whilst sitting on a bench at Hinywin Dam near the military's No.757 Light Infantry battalion base at about 2pm on August 28. DMG contacted Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

and Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team seeking comment on the alleged maltreatment of the student, but they could not be reached.

Myanmar's Military Blamed Death of Ethnic Rakhine

On August 26, 30 year old Ko Maung Naing Win from Shan Ywa Village, Kyauktaw Township, at around 10pm he went out to relieve himself as there are no toilets in his household. His sister Dw Ma Hla Mya said "my brother went out to relieve himself, he encountered soldiers who shot him dead. Then they sent his body to the police station, saying that they killed an AA [Arakan Army] member". His relatives said Ko Maung Naing Win's body was covered in bruises as well as gunshot wounds. The military's Tatmadaw True News Information Team said troops on patrol saw suspicious signaling with flashlights at around 1.35 am on Aug. 27 on the Kyauktaw-Wakin road, two people then ran away when troops told them to come in for interrogation.

Rakhine Politician Disqualified from Election due to Son's Arakan Army Ties

On August 22, Phoe San, an Arakan National Party (ANP) lawmaker who represents Kyaukphyu Township in the state parliament was told by district election officials that he was disqualified from the upcoming election because his estranged son, former Myanmar army major Aung Myint Soe, has joined the Arakan Army (AA). Phoe San said an official letter said his son enlisted in the army in 2002 before deserting in May 2018. Phoe San said he had lost contact with Aung Myint Soe and was unaware that his son had joined the AA. He was also not aware that his candidacy violated the election law for parliamentarians. An appeal was given to this Union Election Commission, the national-level body responsible for overseeing the country's elections and vetting parliamentary candidates on August 24. But the appeal was rejected by the Kyaukphyu District Election Subcommittee, noting that the military-controlled Ministry of Home Affairs requested that his candidacy be turned down.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY AMENDMENTS

Both Houses Approved Bill Amending 1959 Defence Services Act

Both houses of parliament approved an amendment to prevent the military from being prosecuted for more than three years after committing a crime. On August 20, the lower house approved an amendment to the 1959 Defence Services Act that was already approved by the Upper House. Therefore, the bill will be submitted to the President for approval and will be signed if there are no more amendments. According to the original provision of Article 125(1) of the 1959 Defence Services Act stated that no trial by court-martial of any person subject to this Act for any offence shall be commenced after the expiration of a period of three years from the date of such offence. The amendment was first submitted by Lt. Col. Aung Tun Lin, MP of the Upper House and the Upper House approved it on July 30 without objection.

Privacy Law Amended to Protect Citizens from State Intrusion

On August 26, the Union Parliament amended the Privacy Law, officially named the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens, to fully ensure the protection of individuals' privacy and security, which was its original aim. The legislation was enacted in March 2017 to provide legal protection for ordinary citizens, allowing them to file lawsuits against authorities, including members of the state security apparatus, if they are being stalked or otherwise having their privacy intruded upon. The law prohibits unwarranted intrusions into households to make arrests or inspections, as well as surveillance of individuals and their private communications in a manner that harms their privacy or dignity, barring the approval of the President or Union ministers.

It states that no one can request or provide private communications logged by telecom operators, unseal private letters and parcels, intrude on an individual's private affairs and family life, or seize or destroy citizens' moveable or immovable property. Yet, the law's vague prescription that "whoever" breaches its provisions shall face up to three years' imprisonment led to its exploitation. For example, its most controversial statute, Article 8(f), which criminalizes defamation, was widely used to stifle criticism of the state, state leaders and individuals by authorities over the past three years.

References

POLITICAL PRISONERS

ARRESTS

Pauktaw Township Resident Arrested at Tatmadaw Checkpoint in Myebon

[\(8 August 2020- DMG\)](#)
[\(8 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Three Villagers from Kyauktaw Township Arrested after Bomb Blast near A Pauk Wa Village

[\(9 August 2020 - Narinjar/Burmese\)](#)

Military Announced Three AA Members Arrested, One of Them is Trishaw Driver Said His Father

[\(14 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - Narinjar/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)

Army Detains Three Kyaukphyu Villagers

[\(15 August 2020-DMG\)](#)
[\(19 August 2020- BNI\)](#)
[\(15 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(16 August 2020 - Narinjar/Burmese\)](#)
[\(16 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

CHARGES

Two Protest Leaders Arrested and Charged in Shwegyin

[\(6 August 2020 - Khit Thit Media's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

Fifty Five Farmers Charged for Trespassing in Singu

[\(7 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

AA Leader's Sister and Brother-in-law Prosecuted under Counter-Terrorism Law

[\(8 August 2020 - Narinjar/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Lawsuit Filed Against Villager Arrested by Military

[\(11 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

Three Activists Charged for Unlawful Assembly Over Karen Martyrs' Day Event

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

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

[\(13 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)

[\(13 August 2020 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - Khit Thit Media's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - KIC's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - KIC's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(24 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - Khit Thit Media's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - Khit Thit Media's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - KIC's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

[\(12 August 2020 - KIC's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(12 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(25 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(27 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(27 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(28 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

Healthcare Worker Transferred to Police Station and Lawsuit Filed Against Him

[\(18 August 2020 - Narinjar/Burmese\)](#)

22 Hsihseng Farmers Prosecuted for Trespassing on Their Own Land

[\(18 August 2020 - Shan News\)](#)

[\(19 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

[\(17 August 2020 - Shan Herald Agency for News/Burmese\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

[\(19 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)

Police Officer Charged Under Terrorism Act for Allegedly Reporting to AA

[\(19 August 2020 - Narinjar\)](#)

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

[\(16 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(19 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Two Kyaukphyu Villagers Face Terror Charges

[\(18 August 2020 - DMG\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(19 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Independent Candidate Arrested and Charged

[\(21 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(21 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(21 August 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[\(21 August 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[\(22 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(23 August 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[\(24 August 2020 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Social Activist Charged for Criticizing Arakan State Government on Social Media

[\(27 August 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(26 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

DETENTION

Civilian Detained by Military, Family Concerned

[\(14 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(13 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(13 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

DISAPPEARANCES

20 Civilians from Chin state Missing between 2018 and 2020

[\(4 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)
[\(4 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)
[\(4 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(4 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

TRIAL

Buddhist Monk Sein Ti Ta to Testify in Defamation Case

[\(6 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(20 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(20 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(20 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

High Court Rejects Military Appeal to Increase Karenni Farmers' Sentences

[\(14 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(19 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

97 Workers Fined Five Million Kyat for Failing to Attend Court Hearing

[\(15 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)
[\(17 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)

Trial of U Thawbita Continues in Amarapura

[\(27 August 2020 - Myanmar Now\)](#)
[\(27 August - 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - Myanmar Now\)](#)
[\(27 August - 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(28 August - 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

[\(28 August - 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)

SENTENCES

Former ABFSU Leader Sentenced to Six Months Imprisonment with Hard Labour

[\(26 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(28 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT

Myanmar Human Rights Body Investigates Deaths of Two Teens at Mandalay Youth Center

[\(7 August 2020-Irrawaddy\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020-Mizzima\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020- Myanmar Times\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020-Irrawaddy\)](#)
[\(4 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(5 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[\(6 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[\(6 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(6 August 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(7 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[\(29 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[\(29 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

Man Dies in Police Custody in Bogalay Township

[\(9 August 2020 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[\(10 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)
[\(10 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(10 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(10 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[\(12 August 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

Matriculation Pass Percentage From Prison Exam Centres Rise to Over 60 Per Cent

[\(9 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[\(9 August 2020 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[\(10 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)

Judge of Ayeyarwaddy Division Investigated Prisons and Cells

[\(11 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

RELEASES

Five Men, Including Hsar Pyin village ANP Chairman Released

[\(12 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

Five Released in Taungup, Arakan, After Being Held for Four Months on Terror Charges

[\(12 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(15 August 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)

Peacock Generation Thangyat Team Member Released

[\(19 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(20 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)

Monk and Administrator in Mrauk-U Township Released after Counter-Terror Charges Dropped

[\(20 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(21 August 2020 - Athen's Facebook Page/Burmese\)](#)

ARRESTS BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUP

AA Abducts Two Monks and Two Novices From Monasteries in Arakan State

[\(20 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(20 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(20 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(21 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

Seven Armed Men Arrested Four Family Members from Kyaukme

[\(21 August 2020 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

RELEASES BY ETHNIC ARMED GROUP

AA Releases Five Members of ALP

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

[\(14 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(14 August 2020 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)

[\(14 August 2020 - MMT\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - DMAG\)](#)

[\(19 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(19 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Arakan Army Releases Three of Four Detained Chin Youths

[\(26 August 2020 - DMG\)](#)

[\(27 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

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

[\(26 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(27 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Statement by CSOs State's TNLA Tortured Rural People

[\(1 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Nine Civilians Charged Transferred to the Police Station

[\(2 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(6 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

Twenty-Three Villagers in Kyauktaw Township Released after Investigation

[\(6 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

[\(6 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

Case of Year-Long Detained Brothers Raised to the MNHRC

[\(6 August 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)

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

[\(6 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

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

Violence In Rakhine Prevents Voter List Posting in 15 Village-tracts, IDP Camps

[\(7 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

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

Thousands of Shan IDPs Still Unable to Vote in 2020 Election

[\(7 August 2020 - Shan News/Burmese\)](#)

[\(10 August 2020 - Shan News\)](#)

[\(11 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

Two of Three Health Workers Arrested in Ann Township Released

[\(11 August 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)

[\(11 August 2020 - DMG\)](#)

[\(11 August 2020 - Myanmar Now\)](#)

[\(10 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

[\(10 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(11 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

A Pauk Wa Village Administrator Released after Arrested by Military

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

[\(13 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)

[\(17 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)

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

[\(17 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - HRW\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

[\(18 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

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

Myanmar Largest Monitor Group Barred from Observing November Polls

[\(13 August 2020 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

[\(14 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[\(14 August 2020 - Shan Herald News/Burmese\)](#)

[\(14 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)
[\(16 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(17 August 2020 - Shan News\)](#)
[\(21 August 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[\(24 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

Body of Man Who Died in Tatmadaw Battalion No.377 Detention Transferred to Mrauk-U Police

[\(11 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[\(11 August 2020 - VOM/Burmese\)](#)
[\(13 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)
[\(13 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

Police Raid Home of Young Man Holding a Solo Ceremony for Rice Crisis Day

[\(14 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

Four Kyauktaw Township Men Detained by Army

[\(14 August 2020 - DMG\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(14 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(15 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(16 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)

Action To Be Taken against DKBA Member

[\(16 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(16 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)
[\(22 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Six Villagers Including Headmistress Released by Military Convoy

[\(19 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)
[\(19 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(19 August 2020 - Narinjara\)](#)
[\(19 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)
[\(20 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Supreme Court Rejected Activist Naw Ohn Hla's Motion

[\(21 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Seventeen Kyauktaw Locals Detained by Military Convoy Have Not Been Contacted for Six Months

[\(25 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

Ethnic Ta'ang Families Accuse Military of Killing Three Civilians

[\(24 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)
[\(25 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(28 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)
[\(28 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Military Takes Responsibility over Civilian Death

[\(26 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)

PMF Beats Kachin Youth at Checkpoint in Hukawng Valley

[\(27 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(28 August 2020 - BNI\)](#)

Khin Khin Kyaw Lawyer License Removed

[\(28 August 2020 - Myanmar Now/Burmese\)](#)

College Student Alleges Mistreatment by security personnel in Ann Township

[\(29 August 2020 - DMG\)](#)
[\(29 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(29 August 2020 - Facebook Page of the Students' Union Of Kyauk Phyu Education College/Burmese\)](#)
[\(30 August 2020 - Narinjara/Burmese\)](#)

Myanmar's Military Blamed Death of Ethnic Rakhine

[\(27 August 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)
[\(31 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

Rakhine Politician Disqualified from Election due to Son's Arakan Army Ties

[\(31 August 2020 - RFA\)](#)
[\(31 August 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[\(31 August 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

LEGISLATION AND POLICY AMENDMENT

Both Houses Approved Bill Amending 1959 Defence Services Act

[\(21 August 2020 - 7 Day News/Burmese\)](#)

Privacy Law Amended to Protect Citizens from State Intrusion

[\(27 August 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)
[\(27 August 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

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