



## **Myanmar Situation Update (19 April to 25 April 2021)**

The protests continued for the 12th week across the country despite the brutal crackdown. After a weeks-long absence, protesters returned to the streets in downtown Yangon ahead of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. The media also reported that more than 110 people, many of them student activists and youth protesters, were abducted by the junta. Some of the protest leaders' houses were raided while some of them fled to avoid the arrests.

The ASEAN Leaders' Meeting was held on 24 April in Jakarta, Indonesia and was represented by junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing despite strong objection from the people of Myanmar and both local and international CSOs. The calls to invite the National Unity Government (NUG) to the meeting in order to address the issue of Myanmar were not fulfilled. The meeting ended with the issue of a "Five Points of Consensus", which was criticised for not including the call for the release of political detainees in Myanmar. Deadly crackdowns on the protesters and the attacks on ethnic communities by the junta continued even during the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

The World Bank forecast the Myanmar economy will decline by 10 percent this year due to the impact of the military coup. Around 200,000 workers in the garment industry have lost their jobs and nearly a third of the garment industry jobs have been wiped out with many other industries. The World Food Program (WFP) analysis also shows up to 3.4 million or more people will struggle to afford food in coming months with urban areas worst affected as job losses mount in manufacturing, construction and services and food prices are in rise.

As air raids and the continuing fights between the Myanmar military led thousands of people to cross the border to Thailand and India. The humanitarian organizations also stressed the importance of unfettered access to everyone fleeing Myanmar to provide lifesaving aid and other services, including healthcare, food and water.

There are nearly 250,000 displaced persons inside Myanmar or neighbouring countries like Thailand, India. However, there is no proper humanitarian assistance for these victims and it was discussed in many CSOs forums for immediate actions, specially from the Thai government, UN and other international relief groups.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners figures show that as of 25 April, 751 people are confirmed killed by this junta. 3,431 are currently under detention while 79 are sentenced. 1,159 arrest warrants have been issued. 20 were sentenced to death and 14 to three years imprisonment<sup>1</sup>.

### Timeline of events

Date	Developments
19 April	<p>Media reported that the junta soldiers have destroyed gravesite of 12 protesters that were buried at the Bago cemetery and created a monument at the gravesite<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The regime's Myawaddy TV announced that six people were arrested following the blasts in Yankin township and the photos of them aired during the report indicated that they have been severely tortured<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>One of the most prominent pro-democracy protest leaders Tayzar San's house was raided by the junta forces but the junta failed to capture him as he has escaped earlier<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>The Japanese journalist detained by security forces in Yangon on 18 April has been transferred to Insein prison. Japan urged the military junta to free the journalist accused of spreading "fake news". Diplomats have requested permission to visit the journalist in jail but that request had not yet been granted<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>The European Union adopts a new round of sanctions targeting 10 people and two military-controlled companies. The 10 individuals include members of the State Administrative Council and the two companies are Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Co. Ltd. (MEHL) and Myanmar Economic Corp. (MEC)<sup>6</sup>.</p>
20 April	<p>Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) reported that the National Unity Government announced last week by pro-democracy politicians has been deemed an unlawful association.</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://aappb.org/?p=14595>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-soldiers-destroy-bago-cemetery-gravesite-of-slain-protesters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-regime-detains-tortures-yangon-residents-bombing-govt-office.html?>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/prominent-protest-leader-escapes-arrest-myanmar-junta.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/japan-urges-release-of-journalist-facing-fake-news-charge>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/03/22/myanmar-burma-eu-sanctions-11-people-over-the-recent-military-coup-and-ensuing-repression/>

	<p>The junta's State Administration Council (SAC) threatened that they will abolish the passport of medical professionals who were charged with S505(A) as they were involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement<sup>7</sup>.</p> <p>The Shan Human Rights Foundation urged French engineering company Razel-Bec to withdraw from the military-backed upper Yeywa dam project in Northern Shan state<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>Thai Prime Minister announced that he would not be attending the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April but would be represented by deputy prime minister Don Pramudwinai.</p> <p>UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and his predecessor Ban Ki-moon urged governments in southeast Asia to push to end the crisis in Myanmar.</p>
21 April	<p>Union Minister of Health and Education of the National Unity Government Zaw Wai Soe called on military personnel to cooperate with civilians and save Myanmar people.</p> <p>A blue-shirt campaign was launched by pro-democracy activists to call for the release of 3,300 detainees held by the junta.</p> <p>The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) responded to the junta's claims via MWD and MRTV for fabricating and exaggerating the list of protesters killed by the junta in crackdowns. AAPP said the fatality lists are rigorously verified and trusted<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>The Yangon house of U Thein Nyunt, a member of the junta's State Administrative Council (SAC), was attacked with three bombs around 7.15 pm<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>Mizzima, one of the media channels banned by the military junta announced Free-To-Air Mizzima TV channel is available in Myanmar language in Myanmar and all other countries in Asia<sup>11</sup>.</p> <p>The US imposes new sanctions on Myanmar's 2 state-owned businesses, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Myanmar Pearl Enterprise<sup>12</sup>.</p>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/khitthitnews/posts/1177269089377102>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/activists-urge-french-engineering-firm-razel-bec-to-withdraw-from-military-backed-dam-project>

<sup>9</sup> <https://aappb.org/?p=14475>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-members-house-bombed-yangon.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/MizzimaDaily/posts/4307751479259724>

<sup>12</sup> <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0138>

	<p>Myanmar was elected as a member of the UN executive board of United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Offices for Project Services for 3-year term of 2022 - 2024 during the United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting held in New York on 20 April 2021. The National Unity Government (NUG) announced its intention to serve as a member of the Executive Board for 3 years starting from 1 January 2022<sup>13</sup>.</p> <p>UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews said the Myanmar military's crackdown on anti-coup protesters has displaced close to a quarter of a million people.</p>
22 April	<p>In an open letter from the National Unity Government (NUG), Dr Sasa, the union minister of international cooperation and the spokesman of the NUG expressed its willingness to join the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting representing the people of Myanmar and put forward six demands if ASEAN community believes that the engagement with the junta is necessary<sup>14</sup>.</p> <p>The National Unity Government urged Interpol to work with Indonesian police to arrest junta leader Min Aung Hlaing when he travels to Jakarta for the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting<sup>15</sup>.</p> <p>Myanmar's state-owned television announces that all cabinet members of the recently formed Myanmar's National Unity Government members including vice president and ministers and deputy ministers have been charged with high treason and unlawful association.</p> <p>BBC Burmese reports that a hearing in the state secrets trial of Aung San Suu Kyi has been postponed because the junta's internet blocking is preventing video conferencing from taking place. The hearing has been postponed to May 6.</p> <p>After witnessing the junta's continuous targeted raids on doctors and healthcare facilities treating the wounded, Myanmar Doctors for Human Rights has asked the United Nation and international organizations to take meaningful measures against the junta<sup>16</sup>.</p>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/109931194560854>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/110289211191719>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NUGmyanmar/posts/110352587852048>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-doctors-urge-un-action-military-junta.html>

	<p>The media reported the Myanmar military fired long-range artillery at three locations along Shan State’s border with Thailand and shells exploding near two camps for internally displaced people (IDP)<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China hoped the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting would pave the way for a “soft landing”. He also calls on the international community to take an objective and fair attitude and do more to help ease the tension in Myanmar, rather than the opposite.<sup>18</sup></p> <p>Spokesman of the Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte announced that the president would not attend the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting on 24 April<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>Through a joint statement, Southeast Asian civil society organizations called on the ASEAN leaders to heed the call of its people at the summit on Myanmar. It also included eight demands including inviting the recently formed NUG to the summit<sup>20</sup>.</p>
23 April	<p>Prominent pro-democracy protest leader Wai Moe Naing and 41 others were brought to court for an initial hearing via video conferencing on murder allegations against them. Wai Moe Naing also been accused with five criminal charges including murder, unlawful assembly, wrongful confinement, abduction with intent to murder and incitement during a hearing held via video link, his lawyer Moe Zaw Htun said. He faces a total of 28 years in prison under the charges<sup>21</sup>.</p> <p>Anti-coup protesters returned to the streets in Yangon ahead of Min Aung Hlaing’s trip to ASEAN summit after a weeks-long absence following junta’s violent crackdown on the protests that killed hundreds of protesters.</p> <p>Local media reported that the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has seized at least 10 of the army bases since fighting escalated with the Myanmar military after the coup. It includes the military bases and police stations in the Kachin State townships of Hpakant, Mogaung, Waingmaw, Puta-O, Tanai townships and northern Shan State<sup>22</sup>.</p>

<sup>17</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/myanmar-military-artillery-shells-explode-near-shan-idp-camps>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/senior-chinese-diplomat-hopes-asean-summit-helps-with-myanmar-soft-landing-2021-04-23/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippine-president-not-attending-asean-summit-myanmar-spokesman-2021-04-22/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ANFREL/posts/4446555822025308>

<sup>21</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/wai-moe-naing-faces-28-year-prison-sentence-as-junta-hits-him-with-five-charges>

<sup>22</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/kia-has-seized-10-myanmar-military-bases-since-coup-locals-estimate>

	<p>A bomb blast occurred at the house of Daw Thet Thet Khaing, the junta-appointed Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in Sanchaung Township<sup>23</sup>.</p> <p>“Say Thanks to Korea Campaign ” was conducted to acknowledge the support of Korean people in the Myanmar crisis. One of the activists of this campaign said that they are thankful not only to the Korean government but also to the citizens, artists and media of Korea who actively involved in the movement of Burmese Spring.</p>
24 April	<p>According to a 17 year old former detainee recently released, a female detainee accused of involvement bombings in Yankin has been sexually assaulted and tortured by junta forces at interrogation center in Shwepyithar Township and denied access to medical treatment for her injuries<sup>24</sup>.</p> <p>Media reported an explosion took place outside the military owned Innwa Bank in Pyay, Bago Region as oo injuries reported<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>Editor-in-chief of the Thanlyin Post Tu Tu Tha, two of her relatives and a family friend were arrested by junta in Thanlyin township, Yangon<sup>26</sup>.</p> <p>Myanmar nationals in Japan and Rome organized rallies against the military junta on Saturday.</p> <p>The Myanmar military fired warning shots above a civilian boat carrying Thai border patrol officers on the section of the Salween River where Thailand and Myanmar shared a border. Thailand said on Saturday the incident was a misunderstanding<sup>27</sup>.</p> <p>ASEAN released a “Five Points of Consensus” on the crisis in Myanmar after the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting that took place in Jakarta. First, there shall be immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar and all parties shall exercise utmost restraint. Second, constructive dialogue among all parties concerned shall commence to seek a peaceful solution in the interests of the people. Third, a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair shall facilitate mediation of the dialogue process, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of ASEAN. Fourth, ASEAN shall provide humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. Fifth, the special envoy and delegation shall visit Myanmar to meet all parties concerned<sup>28</sup>.</p>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/aveyarwaddytimes/posts/1872378312920161>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/female-detainee-sexually-assaulted-tortured-interrogation-former-cellmate.html>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/theirrawaddy/posts/4358455410865949>

<sup>26</sup> <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/writer-and-journalist-tu-tu-tha-detained-with-her-son-in-yangon>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-troops-fire-warning-shots-above-boat-carrying-thai-border-officials-2021-04-24/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://asean.org/chairmans-statement-asean-leaders-meeting-24-april-2021-five-point-consensus/>

	<p>ASEAN summit and its outcomes were criticized by the civil society groups and the Myanmar pro-democracy activists. Activists say the call from the international community to negotiate and solve the issues doesn't reflect Myanmar's ground situation and also the The five-point consensus have not mentioned releasing the political prisoners.</p> <p>Police officers dispersed dozens of Indonesian activists protested near the ASEAN secretariat as leaders met to discuss the Myanmar crisis.</p> <p>Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called on the junta to release Myanmar's ousted president Win Myint and state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi who are under house arrest.</p>
25 April	<p>A bomb blast happened in front of the Pyay University in Pyay, Bago<sup>29</sup>.</p> <p>The University Students Union in Mandalay called for a boycott of junta-provided education as Myanmar's junta planned to reopen schools and universities while students are being killed. The protesters also showed solidarity with the civilian National Unity Government (NUG).</p> <p>The NUG said it welcomed the consensus reached by the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Myanmar crisis, and added the junta had to be held to its promises.</p> <p>In a statement, the EU joined ASEAN in calling for an immediate cessation of violence and supports the commitments made at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting to start a constructive dialogue involving all parties including the CRPH/NUG to seek a peaceful solution<sup>30</sup>.</p> <p>NUG spokesperson Dr Sasa said there would be no chance of dialogue unless the junta agreed to conditions laid by the NUG, which are the restoration of the democratically elected leaders, an end to violence against civilians, soldiers removed from streets and the release of political prisoners.</p>

Prepared by,  
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<sup>29</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2869429950040229&id=2206963259620238](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2869429950040229&id=2206963259620238)

<sup>30</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/97200/myanmar-statement-high-representative-josep-borrell-outcome-asean-summit\\_en?](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/97200/myanmar-statement-high-representative-josep-borrell-outcome-asean-summit_en?)