

# APRIL CHRONOLOGY 2020

## Summary of the Current Situation:

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

**50** political prisoners are serving sentences,

**137** are awaiting trial inside prison,

**400** are awaiting trial outside prison.

Channel Mandalay reporter Nanda was sentenced to two years imprisonment for broadcasting a live video of a confrontation between villagers and police in Mandalay



Accessed Myanmar Times April

**WEBSITE**

**TWITTER**

**FACEBOOK**



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

**နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း**

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# ACRONYMS

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

# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## ARRESTS

### **Military Arrests Five Men from Taungup Township**

On April 5, five men from Sar Pyin village in Taungup Township of Arakan State were arrested and taken to an unknown location for investigation. The village administrator, Win Myint, identified the arrested men as Than Naing, a farmer; Hla Phyu, a tea shop owner; Aung Htoo, who owns a radio repair business; Myint Aung, grocery store owner; and Pyone Cho who runs a photography business. When the village administrator questioned the soldiers and policemen who took the local men away if they had been arrested, they denied this, saying that the locals would be released after speaking with Tactical Operations Command. The military has accused the five men of having ties with the Arakan Army and handed them over to the local police station pending further investigation.

### **Series of AA-related arrests made in Chin State**

The military arrested several individuals due to suspected association with the Arakan Army (AA) in Chin State between March 20 and the first week of April.

Aung Thein Min, and Moe Sandar (aka Bo Ma Chay), were taken into custody on these allegations according to a statement released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief on April 4. U Aung Thein Min was arrested on March 20 while returning home after cutting firewood. His wife said they make a living in Hta Ron Aing village by driving a motor boat. He has been accused of transporting provisions for the AA.

According to locals, Moe Sandar is a teacher of ethnic languages in Kyauktan village who arrived in Hta Ron Aing village in early March to vacation there. She stands accused of persuading a military officer to join the AA and act as a double-agent in order to gather information about his military unit. The military has stated that they have handed over the two to the respective local police stations to face legal action. Another man from Hta Ron Aing village, Aung Myint Swe, was arrested by the military's 77th Light Infantry Division on the evening of April 4, while having dinner with his family. The captain of the division told his wife they would need to question him about the village's motor boats, and that he would be released the following day. Three days later, his wife says that he has still not been released, and no statement from the military issued regarding his arrest. Last week three other men accused of being AA affiliates were arrested in the neighboring Kyauktaw Township after the military did a surprise "check" on Thayet Oak village on April 1.

## CHARGES

### **Editor-in-chief of Kitthit News Media and Joint Secretary of News Media Council Charged Under Anti-Terroism Law**

On March 31, Special Police Force filed a case against joint secretary of News Media Council and Thar Lon Zaung Htet, editor-in-chief of Kitthit news agency, under Section 50 (a), 52 (a) of Anti-

Terrorism Law in Sanchaung Township Police Station. They were charged for broadcasting interviews with Arakan Army (AA), considered a terrorist organization since March 24 by the government.

### **Two Strike Leaders and Five Labor Leaders Charged under Disaster Management Act**

On April 12, the Future Light Team charged Than Myint Aung and Mya Kyaw Kyaw, along with five labor leaders, under Section 30 of the Disaster Management Act. Mya Kyaw Kyaw helped coordinate the temporary closure of the Global Tamura Electronic Myanmar (ETEC) factory in Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (South). On April 9, workers at the ETEC factory protested on the grounds that overtime was not being paid in accordance with the law. On that day, Myat Kyaw and Than Myint Aung were consulted with workers, and they agreed to follow government directives and the strike was temporarily suspended at 3 am on 10 April.

### **Two Labor Activists and 13 Labor Leaders Charged under Disaster Management Act**

Two labor activists and 13 labor leaders from Iron King factory in Myaung Dagar industrial zone from Hmawbi Township in Yangon have been charged under Section 30 of the Disaster Management Act. More than 50 workers protested against the factory complaining that they were fired with no reason. Although they were told that the Iron King factory was shut down due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there was no actual closure of the factory.

### **Three street artists charged for speech ‘insulting religion’**

On April 3, three street artists Zayar Hnaung, Ja Sai, and Naw Htun Aung, were charged for violating article 295(a) of the Penal Code which criminalizes speech that could offend others or be seen as insulting to their religion. The graffiti artists were arrested after complaints arose from Buddhist hardliners regarding a mural they painted on a wall in Myitkyina, Kachin. The mural depicted a grim reaper wearing a red cloak and spreading the COVID-19 virus, which Buddhist hardliners complained looked like a Buddhist monk. The artists posted a picture of the mural on social media in the first week of April but ended up painting over it after being bombarded with hate speech. The charges were filed by the deputy director of Kachin State’s Religious Offices.

### **Five Villagers from Ponnagyun Township Charged under Anti-Terrorism Law**

Police Station in Ponnagyun Township charged five villagers under Section 50 (J), 52 (a) of Anti-Terrorism Law. Six days after artillery shells exploded into Kyauk Seik Village, an army troop entered the village and conducted a search of the villagers, and then arrested 38 villagers on 19 April. The next day, 33 out of 38 villagers were released. Myo Lin Oo from Kyauk Seik, Nyi Nyi Aung, Maung Chay, Kyaw Win Hein from Zipin Gyi Village, and Myo Min Aung from Ponnagyun Town, remained in custody. On 24 April, the army transferred the five of them to the police station in Ponnagyun Township.

## **DETENTION**

### **15 Men Detained over Alleged AA Links in Kyauktaw Township**

In a statement on April 8, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief has stated that the military on April 4 detained 15 men from Kyauktaw Township, including a village-tract administration clerk, for alleged links to the Arakan Army (AA). Locals said the men were detained while transporting 150 bags of government-supplied rice to Nyaung Chaung IDP camp from the township administrative office. The men were stopped at the Sa Ka Kha No. 9 gate and questioned by army soldiers before being taken into custody. The statement confirmed that legal action will be taken against the 15 men, who have been transferred into police custody

The military said a subsequent investigation found that Nyaung Chaung village-tract clerk, Ohn Naing, asked for rice supplies to be provided to IDPs monthly. When he received the rice sacks, however, he only gave two-thirds of the total to the IDPs and diverted the other third to the AA. The army also stated that the group included seven people who received military training in “forest camps” in 2019 and 2020, and one person who collected money for the AA.

### **Three Villagers Detained over Alleged Links to AA in Kyauktaw Township**

On April 1, the army conducted a surprise check at Thayet Oak village in Kyauktaw Township in Arakan State and arrested three people for allegedly having ties to the Arakan Army (AA). Aung San Hla, age 56, Soe Shwe Maung, 52, and Tin Tin Maung, 40, are now being held at the Sittwe Myoma Police Station and legal action has been taken against them. Furthermore, the army said that it filed charges against two other men —Kyaw Gyi, aka Kyaw Tint, and Kyaw Thein Chay — who are on the run.

The army announced that it conducted the unannounced sweep of Thayet Oak village after receiving a tip-off that members of the AA were living in the village undercover, pretending to be civilians while collecting extortion money and recruiting. Rations, medicines, foodstuffs donated by NGOs for war-displaced people, wires used to rig explosive devices, detonators and other provisions stockpiled by the AA were seized from the village.

### **Villagers Detained in Maungdaw Township**

A teacher from Maungdaw town and another man from Ngwe Taung village in southern Maungdaw Township have been detained by police. Arakan State Hluttaw lawmaker, Maung Ohn, said that Aung Hla Thein, age 42, from Ngwe Taung village was taken by the Pyin Phyu area’s No. 6 Border Guard Police Force at around noon on April 4. On March 31, a teacher from Maungdaw town, Kyaw Linn Tun, was detained by police and taken to the Pyin Phyu Police Station. Maungdaw District education officer, Khin Aung, said he had been informed that Kyaw Linn Tun was being charged under the Counter-Terrorism Law. The Office of the Commander-in-Chief previously stated that a man was arrested at around 7:30 p.m. on March 25 on the Buthidaung-Maungdaw highway road while setting up a landmine, with two other men and a woman fleeing the scene.

## **SENTENCES**

### **Two Journalists and Two Villagers Sentenced to Two Years in Prison Over Cement Factory Dispute**

On 3 April, Pathein Township Court in Mandalay Region sentenced a TV reporter, Nanda (aka) Aung Kyi Myint, and two of Aungthebye villagers, Min Naing and Chit Min Thu, to two years in prison for

Section 332 of the Penal Code in connection with an Alfa Cement factory dispute. A one-year prison sentence for Section 147 was also ordered. On May 15 2019, they were arrested and charged in connection with the coal-fired Alfa Cement project in Aung Thauung village.

## **RELEASES**

### **VoM Journalist Freed Facing Terrorism Charges**

On April 9, police released Nay Myo Lin, chief editor of Mandalay-based Voice of Myanmar (VOM), after he was arrested on March 31 and charged under Section 50(a) and 52(a) of the Anti-Terrorism Law, for his interview with Khaing Thu Kha, a spokesperson of the Arakan Army (AA), which the government declared a terrorist organisation on March 23. Nay Myo Lin said the police told him they could not prosecute him with the cases filed against him, so they have to free him. He, however, signed a commitment that he would be available for questioning if needed. If convicted of the two charges, Nay Myo Lin can be sentenced to a total of 10 years imprisonment. Nay Myo Lin maintained that he did not do anything wrong in interviewing the AA spokesperson as he was just doing his job as a journalist.

### **Annual New Year Inmate Release Includes 26 Political Prisoners**

On April 22, President Win Myint pardoned nearly 24,900 prisoners from across the country, including 26 political prisoners, as part of an annual holiday amnesty marking the country's Buddhist New Year. The president commuted death sentences to life-in-prison terms with no release, and reduced life sentences without a time limit to 40 years, sentences of more than 40 years to only 40 years, and sentences of less than 40 years to a quarter of the prisoners' original terms. AAPP confirmed the release of 26 political prisoners. There are now 55 political prisoners remaining in jails across the country, with 140 more facing trials while in detention, and 400 others undergoing trials outside prison. Nearly 3,000 prisoners, meanwhile, were released from Yangon's Insein Prison, while more than 1,551 were freed from Obo Prison in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city by population. More than 400 prisoners, including Chinese nationals, were freed from jails in Lashio, the largest town in northern Shan state. Over 1,000 inmates, including 10 Chinese, were released from Myitkyina, capital of Kachin state. More than 473 inmates were released from Kinthar Nos. 1 and 2 Manufacturing Detention Camps in Tatfone Township of the capital Naypyidaw, while 53 others were let go from Naypyidaw Prison.

### **Nine Protesters Released from Mandalay Central Prison**

On April 2, a total of nine farmers and activists, who protested for the confiscation of their confiscated land, were released from Mandalay Central Prison. The strike took place in 2017 from 6 to 27 July. The nine released were Maung Soe, Dr. Khin Maung Htay, Min Thu, Soe Win, Ye Yint Aung, Soe Lwin, Soe Min, Tin Ohn Kyaw, and Soe Htay. They were charged along with Aung Thu and Than Lwin under Section 19, 20 of Peaceful Assembly and Possession Act. The nine were sentenced to one month each and the remaining two, Than Lwin and Aung Thu, were declared fugitives.

### **Seven Student Internet Censorship Protesters Released**

On April 3, Naung Htet Aung, Aung Pyae Sone Phyo, Zaw Htet Naing, Hnin Nu and Aye Myat Mon Kyaw from Yangon University of Education, and Thuta Soe from Yankin Education College were released from Insein Prison. Later on April 13, Thet Tin Aung from Taungoo Education College was released. On March 25, the seven students were sentenced to one month imprisonment for protesting the internet censorship. They were charged under Section 19 of the Law on Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act by Kamaryut Township Police Chief, Thein Han.

### **Yadanarbon Student Released**

On April 23, the charges against Thin Thin Swe, a sophomore from Yadanabon University, were dropped by Patheingyi Township Court in Mandalay Division and he was released. She has been arrested together with nine other villagers on March 25 after being issued under warrant in a coal-fired cement plant dispute near Aung Thayay village.

### **Five Villagers Arrested over Coal-fired Power Plant Dispute Released on Bail**

On April 23, five of the 10 villagers arrested in connection with a coal-fired power plant dispute were released on bail by the Patheingyi Township Court. On March 24 and early on March 25, when police arrested a local resident who was issued a warrant in connection with a coal-fired power plant in Aung Thayay Village, a riot broke out and some local villagers were injured as police opened fire. The ten villagers were arrested and they were charged under Section 333, 326, 114 of the Penal Code. Only five have been released on bail and the other five remained in custody.

### **Arakanese Activist Released after Serving 15-day Prison Sentence**

On April 3, Ko Than Hla, leader of the Rakhine Youth New Generation Network, who was imprisoned under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Law for demanding justice in the killings of innocent civilians in Arakan State, was released from Sittwe Prison after having served out his 15-day sentence. Following his release, he criticized the legal action taken against him.

The Sittwe District Court delivered its guilty verdict on March 20 for a protest that Ko Than Hla, aka Ko Min Bar Chay, helped organize outside the Arakan State government offices in Sittwe in January 2019. The demonstrators had gathered there to protest the killing of seven people and wounding of a dozen others in 2017 when police attempted to disperse a public gathering in Mrauk-U, Arakan State, by shooting into the crowd.

## **CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

### **Drug Trafficking in Prisons Would Be Investigated**

Mon State Prime Minister, Dr. Aye Zan, said that investigations into drug trafficking in prisons would be carried out and action would be taken. On April 17, a prisoner released from Mawlamyine Prison reported on social media that drug traffickers were in prison and inmates were also paying garbage and sewage taxes. Therefore, Mon State Prime Minister said that the drug trade in prisons would be tightened in cooperation with concerned organizations.

## **Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups**

### **Arakan Army Arrested a Former Military Officer by Police Impersonation**

On April 4, the Arakan Army (AA) impersonated police officers and arrested Kyaw Htoo, a former military officer from Gyiphyutaung Village from Taungok Township in Arakan State. There were two men in police uniforms and one in civilian clothes while they were entering the village and arresting Kyaw Htoo.

### **Arakan Army Arrested a Development Affairs Officer in Paletwa**

On April 11, the Arakan Army (AA) arrested Myint Maung, a Development Affairs Officer, in Myoma Ward in Paletwa Township from Chin State. On that day, AA came to Myint Maung's home with weapons and arrested him. Reasons for his arrest still remain unknown.

### **Arakan Army Arrested Two Villagers in Paletwa Township**

On April 10, the Arakan Army (AA) arrested Aung Pa and Lin Ban from Myothit Ward, Paletwa Town in Chin State, according to the Khumi Affairs Coordination Council (KACC)'s statement. Moreover, it has been reported that threats were made to those who serve the refugees.

# Restrictions on Civil Rights and Political Rights

## **Karen Community Leader Killed by Army in Hpa-pun Township**

On March 31, Saw Thet Mee, a villager from Htee Baw Kee, was killed while on his way back from a food and household shopping trip along with other villagers when they were confronted by an army troop.

In a statement issued by the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services on April 1, a clash erupted between a military road security troop and the Karen National Union (KNU), and the army seized 14 AK-47 bullets, two detonators and other items from civilian KNU members. According to the statement, the confrontation resulted in the fatality of Saw Thet Mee.

Karen organizations do not agree with the military statement and said that Saw Thet Mee was a community leader who was not a member of KNU. Furthermore, they said that the villagers did not carry any weapons but had been transporting 10 barrels of oil, 23kg of betel nut and one ax. A Hpa-pun villager and the Salween Peace Park Chairman, Saw Paul Sein Twa, said that the army fired on the civilians.

## **Civilians Threatened with Imprisonment for Accepting Face Masks from RCSS/SSA**

The Army has threatened to imprison civilians if they took personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA), said RCSS/SSA spokesperson, Col Sao Ohm Khur.

Since the first week of April, RCSS/SSA medics have been providing PPE to townships in southern Shan State to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In Nawng Lay and Mai Pok villages in Mongpan Township, the medics took temperatures and provided information in Shan about preventing coronavirus infections with hand washing and mask-wearing. They gave face masks, hand sanitizer and flyers with information about COVID-19. On April 12, the army attacked the RCSS/SSA while its medics carried out a COVID-19 awareness campaign near Mongpan Township.

## **Man tortured to death by Army**

A villager from Lakesinpyin village, near Mrauk-U was tortured to death by Light Infantry Battalion no.377, after he went to a workshop to fix his motorbike. He was arrested at a military checkpoint and allegedly died while being tortured during military interrogation. His family were called and told to retrieve his corpse from the hospital, where the army had sent him after interrogation. It has not been announced what he was being interrogated for.

## **Two WHO workers shot, one killed in attack on a vehicle in Minbya Twsp**

On the evening of April 20 a health worker was killed and another injured when the World Health Organization (WHO) vehicle they were driving in was shot at in Minbya Township, Arakan State. The two were transporting nose and mouth swabs from suspected COVID-19 patients to the National Health Laboratory in Yangon for testing when their vehicle was attacked. Samples need

to be transported by car since flight services to Sittwe have been suspended. WHO employee, Pyae Sone Win Maung, was hit in his left hip and right arm and died from his wounds after receiving treatment at Minbya Hospital. WHO health supervisor, Aung Myo Oo sustained injuries to his right hand and has been transferred to Sittwe General Hospital.

According to residents nearby Minbya and Hpar Pyo villages, heavy fighting between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military began around Rar Maung Bridge-where the shooting took place- the morning of April 20 and continued into the evening when the WHO vehicle passed through the area.

Both the AA and the military denied responsibility for the attack; each blaming the other. In response, UN agencies and 16 humanitarian organizations condemned the attack; calling on both sides to commit to an immediate ceasefire and an international investigation into what really happened. The Arakan Army has since issued a statement saying that the casualties were caused by small arms fire from a military base at the head of the Rar Maung Bridge.

### **Rakhine Villager Shot Dead at Checkpoint in Minbya Twsp**

On April 22, Kyaw Win Chey was returning home to May Lwan village in Minbya Township from a fishing excursion when he was shot dead by Myanmar soldiers. After the incident the office of the military's commander-in-chief issued a statement that security forces had fired warning shots after Kyaw Win Chey failed to stop his motorbike at the checkpoint. The statement also claimed that soldiers who inspected his body found a Chinese-made grenade and a knife in the toolbox he was carrying. It also claimed that the man's father, Kyaw Hla Oo, had informed the Myanmar military that his son worked for the gun mining industry for the past 13 years, had returned to May Lwan village six months ago and could have been a conspirator of the Arakan Army (AA).

But Kyaw Hla Oo denied ever making such statements, saying his son was hard of hearing, couldn't ride a motorbike- which the family couldn't even afford- and was returning home on foot when he encountered the troops.

A military captain offered compensation to the grieving family in 150,000 kyats (U.S. \$104) saying that the soldiers had made a mistake in shooting Kyaw Win Chey, and later helped bury the body. Myanmar soldiers also inspected homes in the village, and called a mandatory village meeting in which they said that such accidents happen in military conflicts. Military spokesman Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun offered no comment on the incident, although he did note discrepancies between the accounts of the commander-in-chief's office, the victim's family and village elders.

### **A Driver and Passenger Killed in Alleged AA Attack**

On April 21, a driver was killed and one of his passengers died after the Arakan Army (AA) shot at the car, which was carrying medicines from the CPS pesticide company near the Ramen bridge, Minbya Township in Arakan State. On April 26, the passenger died from his injuries at a hospital in Sittwe Township. The military reported that the vehicle was shot by AA, but the AA's spokesman denied the accusations

### **33 Villagers Suspected to Have Ties with AA from Ponnagyun Township Released, 5 Charged**

On April 20, the army released 33 out of 38 men from Kyauk Seik Village in Ponnagyun Township in Arakan State who were arrested on April 19 on suspicion of affiliation with the Arakan Army (AA), an ethnic armed group which the government designated as a terrorist group in March. The remaining five villagers - Myo Lin Oo from Kyauk Seik, Nyi Nyi Aung, Maung Chay, Kyaw Win Hein from Zipin Gyi Village, and Myo Min Aung from Ponnagyun Town- were transferred to the police station in Ponnagyun Township and charged under Section 50 (J), 52 (a) of Anti-Terrorism Law.

On April 21, Kyauk Seik villagers stated that the 33 men had to pledge and sign a document saying that they are not affiliated with the AA and that they would also not communicate with the AA in the future. According to some of the released men, on April 19 they were tied up and taken to the military's Light Infantry Battalion 550 and were not given water or food until their release. Some were beaten and sustained minor injuries – one man had an inflammation on his face, and another had chest injuries from being hit with the butt of a gun

# Month in Review

## Freedom of Speech and Expression

The right to freedom of expression in Burma remains vulnerable. In April, three members of the Kachin Regional Research Group including Director Naw Tun Aung, Ko Zeyar Nye and Ma Ja Seng were charged under Section 295 (a) of the Penal Code. In April, Ko Naing a.k.a Aung Kyi Myint, a reporter from Channel Mandalay TV, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, along with two villagers, Aung Naing and Chit Min under Section 332, 147 of The Penal Code. Journalists are responsible for their work and prosecuting them under criminal penalties has greatly undermined the media sector. According to the French Press Freedom Index (RSF), Burma's freedom of press Index has been declined year after year. According to these indicators, Burma's freedom of the press has steadily dropped from the rank of 131 in 2017, to 139 in 2020. This is a matter of concern for the media sector and shows the urgent need for protection of the media community. Arresting, prosecuting, and punishing those who exercise their freedom of expression and speech is a deviation from the path of democracy. Freedom of expression is not a threat to the government, but a request for reform. Freedom of the press in Burma is continuing to decline, and journalists are still under threat. Therefore, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) urges the Government to take action to promote freedom of the press and promote the rights of journalists.

## Prisoners Issues

During April, as a positive step, 24,896 prisoners, including 26 of the political prisoners submitted for consideration for release by AAPP were released in the annual Presidential pardon. However despite this release, prisons remain overcrowded. This is particularly concerning during the COVID 19 epidemic. Therefore, AAPP calls for the release of more prisoners, including the 50 political prisoners who remain behind bars arbitrarily.

## Consequences of Conflict in Ethnic Areas

During the ongoing epidemic of COVID-19, various human rights abuses in Burma continues unabated. In particular, with the ongoing armed conflict in ethnic areas, indigenous peoples have also suffered serious harm. Some of the events that took place in April are listed below

- [Ko Zaw Gyi from Yaw Sin Pyin village was tortured to death after he was arrested by Mrauk-U-based Battalion No. 377. His corpse was taken to Mrauk-U hospital.](#)
- [In Minbya Township, Arakan State, Kyaw Win Khaing a.k.a Kyaw Win from May Lwan village was shot dead by an army officer and died on the spot.](#) ( After the incident, the office of the military's commander-in-chief issued a statement that security forces had fired warning shots after Kyaw Win Chey failed to stop his motorbike at the checkpoint.)
- [Ta'ang Women's Organization \(TWO\); Ta'ang Students and Youth Union \(TSYU\); The Ta'ang Legal Association \(TLA\) issued a statement saying that the Burmese military continues to take advantage of the Covid-19 incident and commit human rights abuses in northern Shan State.](#)
- In Arakan State, a World Health Organization driver died from wounds sustained when gunmen fired on him and another health worker as they drove from the conflict zone to the major city Yangon carrying coronavirus test samples. Another driver was killed and one of

his passengers died after the Arakan Army (AA) shot at the car, which was carrying medicines from the CPS pesticide company near the Ramen bridge, Minbya Township in Arakan State.

#### **Bullet injuries and fatalities**

- At least 18 people, including three children, were killed in the shootings and 29 others, including four children, were injured in Paletwa Township, Chin State, Mrauk-U Township, Kyauktaw Township, Buthidaung Township, Myebon and Minbya Township, Arakan State.

#### **Deaths/injuries caused by airstrikes**

- Seven civilians were killed and eight injured in airstrikes in Paletwa Township, Chin State.

#### **Deaths/injuries caused by artillery shelling**

- At least 17 people were killed, including four children, and 31 were injured, including five children in Paletwa Township, Chin State, Kyauktaw Township, Ann Township, Buthidaung Township, and Ponnagyun Township, Arakan State.

#### **Landmine and bomb blast injuries and fatalities**

- One child and a civilian were injured in a bomb blast in Mrauk-U Township, Arakan State.
- A civilian was killed in a landmine blast in Rathedaung Township, Arakan State.

Indigenous people living in ethnic areas have been facing fears of human rights abuses by armed groups such as arrests, torture, and killing. Given the threat of COVID-19, fighting in ethnic areas must be stopped as soon as possible and ceasefires should be implemented as soon as possible. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appealed for ["urgent action to end the global mass shootings and put an end to the disease that destroys our social world."](#) At present, there is a great need for the protection of indigenous peoples living in ethnic regions in Burma, due to conflict and the threat of COVID-19.

# References

## ARRESTS

### **Military Arrests Five Men from Taungup Township**

[\(6 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

### **Series of AA-related arrests made in Chin State**

[\(5 April 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(5 April 2020 - The Voice Myanmar/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(6 April 2020 - Myanmar-times\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - Eleven Myanmar\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - 7days-news/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

### **Two Labor Activists and 13 Labor Leaders Charged under Disaster Management Act**

[\(16 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

## CHARGES

### **Editor-in-chief of Kitthit News Media and Joint Secretary of News Media Council Charged Under Anti-Terrorism Law**

[\(1 April 2020 - The Voice Myanmar/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(3 April 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(4 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/Burmese\)](#)

### **Two Strike Leaders and Five Labor Leaders Charged under Disaster Management Act**

[\(12 April 2020 - MMT/Burmese\)](#)

### **Three street artists charged for speech 'insulting religion'**

[\(3 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/ Burmese\)](#)  
[\(4 April 2020 - News-eleven/ Burmese\)](#)  
[\(8 April 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)  
[\(8 April 2020 - MMT\)](#)

## DETENTION

### **15 Men Detained over Alleged AA Links in Kyauktaw Township**

[\(7 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - DMG\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(10 April 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(10 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)  
[\(13 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

### **Three Villagers Detained over Alleged Links to AA in Kyauktaw Township**

[\(6 April 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

### **Villagers Detained in Maungdaw Township**

[\(6 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

## SENTENCES

### **Two Journalists and Two Villagers Sentenced to Two Years in Prison Over Cement Factory Dispute**

[\(3 April 2020 - Myanmar-now/Burmese\)](#)

## RELEASES

### **VoM Journalist Freed Facing Terrorism Charges**

[\(1 April 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - MMT\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - RFA\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(10 April 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(10 April 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)

### **33 Villagers Suspected to Have Ties with AA from Ponnagyun Township Released, 5 Charged**

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

[\(20 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(20 April 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 April 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

### **Nine Protesters Released from Mandalay Central Prison**

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

### **Seven Student Internet Censorship Protesters Released**

[\(3 April 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(3 April 2020 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

### **Yadanarbon Student Released**

[\(13 April 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

### **Five Villagers Arrested over Coal-fired Power Plant Dispute Released on Bail**

[\(13 April 2020 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(23 April 2020 - News-eleven/Burmese\)](#)

### **Arakanese Activist Released after Serving 15-day Prison Sentence**

[\(3 April 2020 - DMG\)](#)  
[\(3 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)

### **Annual New Year Inmate Release Includes 26 Political Prisoners**

[\(17 April 2020 - RFA\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - Mizzima\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - News-eleven/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - News-eleven/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(17 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(20 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

## **CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT**

### **Drug Trafficking in Prisons Would Be Investigated**

[\(19 April 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

## **Arrests by Ethnic Armed Groups**

### **Arakan Army Arrested a Former Military Officer by Police Impersonation**

[\(7 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(7 April 2020 - The Voice Myanmar/Burmese\)](#)

### **Arakan Army Arrested a Development Affairs Officer in Paletwa**

[\(12 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

### **Arakan Army Arrested Two Villagers in Paletwa Township**

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

## **Releases by Ethnic Armed Groups**

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

### **Karen Community Leader Killed by Army in Hpa-pun Township**

[\(4 April 2020 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(9 April 2020 - BNI\)](#)

### **Civilians Threatened with Imprisonment for Accepting Face Masks from RCSS/SSA**

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

### **Two WHO workers shot, one killed in attack on a vehicle in Minbya Twsp**

[\(21 April 2020 - RFA\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - DMG\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - BBC/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(21 April 2020 - The Voice Myanmar/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 April 2020 - Frontier-Myanmar/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 April 2020 - DMG/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(23 April 2020 - News-eleven/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(23 April 2020 - 7day-news/Burmese\)](#)  
[\(22 April 2020 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

### **Rakhine Villager Shot Dead at Checkpoint in Minbya Twsp**

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

[\(22 April 2020 - Myanmar-times/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 April 2020 - BBC/Burmese\)](#)

[\(22 April 2020 - Myanmar-now/Burmese\)](#)

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

[\(22 April 2020 - News-eleven/Burmese\)](#)

## **A Driver and Passenger Killed in Alleged AA Attack**

[\(22 April 2020 - VOA/Burmese\)](#)

[\(27 April 2020 - 7day-news/Burmese\)](#)

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