



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

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Summary of the Current Situation

As of the end of March 173 political prisoners remain incarcerated in Burma, with 316 activists currently awaiting trial for political actions. The government continues to disregard its responsibility to adhere to international human rights standards, and instead violates the rights of its citizens, oppresses media, and violently cracks down on any form of dissent or opposition. The following chronology documents the political prisoner numbers from March and, in the light of the events related to the student demonstrations in Letpadan, gives a separate account of the extensive number of students and supporters arrested in relation to the March 10 crackdown.

"There can be no national reconciliation in Burma, as long as there are political prisoners"

MONTH IN REVIEW

This month in total 92 political activists were charged, 31 of which were arrested. 7 were sentenced, and 3 were released.

Thousands of garment workers from Red Stone, Costec, E Land Myanmar, and Ford Glory factories in Rangoon's industrial zone have been striking against factory conditions and for better pay. Following violent action by police on March 5, 21 more protesters face charges for rioting and allegedly instigating the protests and face up to two years in prison if convicted. Two reporters were also arrested but freed shortly after.

The student protests against the New Education Law, which centralizes power with the government rather than the universities, took a new turn during the month of March. On March 10, after a weeklong blockade in Letpadan Townships, students gathered there began their final march towards Rangoon, as was initially agreed with local authorities. However this resulted in a bloody and violent crackdown carried out by police, security forces and plainclothes thugs. They chased down the protesters, dragging them out of houses and monasteries. The crackdown was described by an Irrawaddy reporter at the scene as 'a complete breakdown of police discipline' with security forces split into two groups—one faction attempting to exercise restraint over the other, who were attacking protesters indiscriminately. The police have also been accused of using civilian forces sporting red armbands to assist with the breaking up of the student group. Following the crackdown, 133 were arrested around

Burma in connection with the student protests, throughout the month, 70 are still detained and 63 were released.

The violent crackdown has led to widespread national and international outcry, by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the UN and Special Rapporteur Ms. Yanghee Lee, and 130 organizations under the umbrella of ALTSEAN. However, President Thein Sein when giving an interview to the BBC stated that the security forces did not overstep international laws and only beat student protesters after they were attacked.

In response to the events, students and supporters have launched an armband campaign to protest against violence and raise awareness about their rights for peaceful protests. They have reported being harassed by The Special Branch (SB) recording and interrogating the participants accepting a white armband.

DETENTIONS

Eight People Arrested Following Protest Demanding Student Release

On March 27, during the protest demanding the release of all students that were jailed following the Letpadan crackdown, the police arrested another eight people. The demonstration lasted 30 minutes in Rangoon and was halted shortly after it began in Myin Cha.

Five were arrested in Myingyan: Nyan Myint Than and Si Thu Myat, second year students of Myin Chan Degree College, Sein Win, Kyaw Than Tun and Ma Phyu.

Three persons were arrested in Rangoon, including Nanda Sit Aung, one of the leaders of the core group of student protesters who were beaten and arrested in Letpadan. However, shortly after their arrest, two of the three, namely Shein Yarzar Tun and Aung Htet Aung, were freed.

Nanda Sit Aung is still detained and was taken to Western District Police Force Office. According to Shein Yarzar Tun, “the reason Ko Nanda Sit Aung has been detaining is that he was issued a warrant in Letpadan Tsp. Another thing is that he is a leading member of Democracy Education Movement Committee.” He is now facing trial under Sections 143, 145, 146, 147, 505 (b) and, according to Nanda Sit Aung’s father, he was charged under 38 different sections of law.

Kyaw Ko Ko who led the protest on March 27 managed to escape.

[\(27 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(28 March 2015 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 March 2015 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 March 2015 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 March 2015 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

Two Student Activists Arrested for Writing Graffiti

Two students were arrested on March 20 for writing graffiti on the Workers Hospital wall in Mandalay demanding the release of students from prison and calling President Thein Sein and Home Minister Ko Ko “terrorists”. The slogans also included “We don’t want dictatorship” and “Release all detained students!”

The two activists were released from police custody a few hours later.

[\(21 March 2015 - DVB\)](#)

Prominent Columnist Faces Trial for Criticizing Instrumentalization of Buddhism

Htin Lin Oo, prominent columnist and former NLD information officer, will face trial for insulting religion after a court at Chaung-U in Sagaing Region upheld charges against him. The trial will begin on March 24. Htin Lin Oo has been charged with two counts of insulting religion during a speech he gave on October 27, 2014 and in which he criticized the use of Buddhism as a tool for extreme nationalism. He has repeatedly been denied bail.

[\(18 March 2015 - Mizzima\)](#)

Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten

On March 5 red armband vigilantes joined police in efforts to break up the protests in Rangoon’s Shwe Pyi That industrial zone. Protest leaders Myo Min Min and Naing Htay Lwin as well as 15 protesters and two journalists were detained for their participation in the protests. Fourteen of these workers have been charged and face up to two years in Rangoon’s

Shwe Pyi That industrial zone. Protest leaders Myo Min Min and Naing Htay Lwin as well as 15 protesters and two journalists were detained for their participation in the protests. Fourteen of these workers have been charged and face up to two years in prison if convicted. Myo Min Min and Naing Htay Lwin along with two protesters, Ko Thu Zaw Kyi Win and Ko Naing Zaw Kyi Win, have threatened to go on hunger strike after the court requested that their case be moved to a court 90 minutes' away from the township where their families live, making it difficult for them. According to AAPP sources, 21 more factory workers from the Shwepyitha Township strike were arrested. Three of these protesters Naing Htay Lwin, Myo Min Min, and Naing Zaw Kyi, are currently detained in Insein prison. On March 3 2015, Naing Htay Lwin was sent to Shwepyitha Township Court and the second court hearing was scheduled for March 17, 2015. Myo Min Min appeared before the Shwepyitha Township court on March 6, 2015. Naing Zaw Kyi Win appeared before the court on March 9, 2015. The other detainees are currently being held in the interrogation center.

(9 March 2015- AAPP Source Inside Burma) ([25 February 2015 - The Irrawaddy](#)) ([27 February 2015 - Myanmar Times](#)) ([2 March 2015 - Burma Partnership](#))([4 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy](#)) ([6 March 2015 - Bangkok Post](#)) ([9 March 2015- Myanmar Times](#)) ([16 March 2015 - Myanmar Times](#))

Student Protesters Arrested Near Letpadan Market

On the morning of March 6, a few students from the main protest camp, who were protesting against the National Education Bill, explained the conditions regarding students

who were brutally arrested in Rangoon and how they were blocked in Letpadan Township, near the Letpadan market. Then students were arrested and taken in a truck. The detained students were Yeyint Paing Mu (Kyause Technology University), Aung Min Khant (Kyause Technology University), and Ei Thinzar Maung (Yadanarbon University). They are all members of the All Burma Federation of Student Union (ABFSU). On March 3, 2015, activists, including students in Mandalay, staged a protest and called for a stop to violence on the student protesters from the main group in Letpadan Township. Three out of the Mandalay protesters were charged under five different sections of laws: Section 18, Section 114, Section 143, Section 145 and Section 505 (b) and their case was filed at No-2 Police Station, Anung Myae Tharzan Township, Mandalay, on March 4. The three accused are Aye Thein, Ahmar Ni and Tin Mar Ye.

(6 March 2015 – AAPP Source Inside Burma)

Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity Education Law Protest

A solidarity protest for reform of the New Education Law in Rangoon was cracked down violently by hundreds of police and plain-clothes vigilantes. The protest was in solidarity with the student protesters who were being blocked by the police in Letpadan, Pegu division. Five student leaders, Tin May Kyaw, Zin Min Phyo, Hein Htet Aung, Zaw Lin Htut and Pyae Thaw and three members the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, Nilar Thein, Nu Nu Aung and

Myo Thant were arrested after being beaten. They were charged under Section 18 of the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act and released the following day.

[\(5 March - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(5 March - Burma Partnership\)](#) [\(5 March - Associated Press\)](#)
[\(6 March - DVB\)](#) [\(5 March 2015 - DVB\)](#)

INCARCERATIONS

Two Members of MDCF and Two Civilians Sentenced

Thein Aung Myint and Saw Hla Aung, members of the Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF) were arbitrarily detained. They were sentenced on March 23, 2015 by a court in Mandalay's Chan Aye Thar Zan Township to six months in prison under Section 18 of the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act for leading a peaceful protest against electricity price hikes on March 27, 2014.

The court also sentenced, Kyaw Myo Htun, for applauding the protesters, and Khet Khet Tin, wife of Thein Aung Myint who asked the authorities not to use excessive force when arresting her husband.

The four of them will appeal the sentence.

[\(23 March 2015 - FIDH\)](#)

Two Myanmar Post Journalists Sentenced over Defamation Charges

Chief editor Than Htike Thu and deputy chief reporter San Moe Tun of the Myanmar Post were sentenced to two months in prison on March 18, 2015 for defamation by Moulmein Township Court in Mon State. They were sentenced under Article 500 of the Penal Code for publishing a story that appeared on January 29, 2014, in which Major Thein Zaw, a military lawmaker in the Mon State legislature, had been misquoted.

The article was titled "A Military Parliamentary Representative Says They Have to Take Seats in Parliament Because of Low Educational Standards." Major Thein Zein's lawyer filed a complaint of defamation.

This sentencing has been reported as being the latest sign of a lack of media freedom in Burma.

[\(18 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Resentenced Community Leaders Incarcerated in Sittwe Prison

Three community leaders, Ba Tha, Kyaw Myint and his son Hla Myint were incarcerated in Sittwe Prison on March 8. They were imprisoned for this before, but released in an amnesty in June 2014. The three were sentenced under Section 147, 333 and 395 of the Penal Code. They are being represented by human rights lawyer Hla Myo Myint, who announced plans to appeal at the Supreme Court in Naypyidaw.

[\(14 March 2015 - Fortify Rights\)](#)[\(16 March 2015 - DVB\)](#)

Solo Protester Sentenced

Zaw Myint, who staged a solo protest calling for a solution to the political situation including four party talks in Nay Pyi Daw council area in Pyinmana Township on September 21, 2014, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment on March 5, 2015. Zaw Myint said that even though the other township authorities did not indict him, he was still charged in Nay Pyi Daw Township because he was not permitted to stage a solo protest in the council area or President Area. He was sent to Yemethin prison.

(6 March 2015 – AAPP Sources in Burma)

RELEASES

An 88 Year Woman Old Freed After Finishing One Month Sentence in Prison [\(2 March 2015 - DVB\)](#)

An 88 year old woman Daw Tin Hlaing, resident of Lalway Township, was declared a trespasser by Nay Pyi Daw City Development Committee and was sentenced to one month imprisonment under Section 26 of City Development Committee Act at Nay Pyi Daw City Development court on February 27, 2015.

On March 26, around noon, she was freed from Yamethin prison as her sentence is finished.

(26 March 2015 – AAPP Sources in Burma)

Two Gold Miners Released

Two gold miners Anh Kyaw and Kyaw Kyaw were released on March 24, 2015 before their prison sentence was completed. They were imprisoned under Penal Code Section 505 (b) and Section 143, and freed under 401 Act from Yamethin prison.

(24 March 2015 - AAPP Sources in Burma)

Photographer, Detained for Satirical Post about Military, Released

Aung Nay Myo, a freelance photojournalist, was detained following a complaint by official Myint Lwin of the Special Intelligence Department. The branch called for him to be charged for slandering the government after he posted a movie poster mocking government officials. 88 Generation Peace and Open Society requested to meet with the superintendent to inquire about Aung Nay Myo's arrest. He was not charged and was released on March 2, 2015.

CONDITIONS OF DETENTIONS

Female Student Detainees Forced to Take Pregnancy Tests

Released detainees have claimed that 20 women who were arrested during the student protests were forced to take pregnancy tests while in detention with no explanation from prison officials. Many activists view this as a tactic of humiliation, a violation of women's right to privacy, and as an intention to smear the image of the student protesters.

[\(March 16 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Journalist Detained and Beaten by Red Armband Gang

People sporting red armbands in support of the government attacked and beat a journalist, Aung Zaw Htoo, from Popular Journal on March 10 after he attempted to interview them over their role in a violent attack on student protesters. He was phoned by a former source who claimed that they wanted to give an interview and apologize to the public, but instead when Aung Zaw Htoo went to meet them they grabbed him and said “you media men are not people who would help us, but are the ones who fuel the fire”.

[\(March 16 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Labor Union Leaders Threaten Hunger Strike

Union leaders, Ko Naing Htay Lwin and Ko Myo Min Min, and activists Ko Thu Zaw Kyi Win and Ko Naing Zaw Kyi Win stated that they would go on hunger strike if they are sent to a different court which is 90

minutes drive away from their township making it difficult for their families to visit them. Authorities claim this is for security reasons however rights groups have regularly accused authorities of using transferring as a way to create hardship for the families and the accused.

[\(16 March 2015 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Human Rights Defender, Tun Tun Oo, Goes on Hunger Strike

A member of the Human Rights Watch Defender Network (HRWDN), Tun Tun Oo, who was arrested and is currently detained in Pyapon prison for destroying plants from grazing ground, went on a hunger strike. “Tun Tun Oo has been on hunger strike, including no water, since February 28, 2015 after his medical note submission to the township judge requesting bail for Section 6/1 was denied. He is very weak and has not had food or drinks,” said a resident of Dedaye Township, Aung Kyaw San, who visited him in prison.

“Because Tun Tun Oo’s condition requires hospitalization outside of prison, the Pyapon prison doctor recommended he receives this medical attention and gave him a medical note. Dedaye Township judge refused to grant him bail three times even though Tun Tun Oo submitted a letter with the medical note,” said Myint Naing, one of the leaders of HRWDN. To immediately withdraw Section 6/1 which six Dedaye residents, including Tun Tun Oo, were charged under, more

than 800 Dedaye Township residents signed a petition and submitted the signatures to the Irrawaddy Divisional Minister, on February 19, 2015.

[\(3 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

DEMONSTRATIONS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Disabled Woman Expelled from Apartment After Participating in Protest

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement ordered Su Pone Chit, a highly educated and disabled woman, to leave her apartment on March 31, 2015 at most. She was permitted to stay there since 2005 by the Pyidaungzu Minister.

Su Pone Chit said the order was issued after her participation in the Irrawaddy student protest column against the National Education Bill on February 8, 2015.

[**\(30 March 2015 - RFA/Burmese\)**](#)

BBC Reporter Facing Criminal Charges

Reporter Nay Myo Lin, a Mandalay-based Burmese journalist for the BBC could face criminal charges after a police officer filed a legal complaint at Chan Mya Thar Si Police station against him. Nay Myo allegedly hit a policeman when covering a demonstration. The police tried to stop protesters on motorbikes and several drivers fell. Nay Myo was among those in the accident and allegedly hit the officer out of anger.

[**\(30 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)**](#)

Seven Activists Charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly Law

On March 21, 2015, seven activists, ABFSU chairman Kyaw Ko Ko, ABFSU members Nanda Sit Aung, Phyo Phyo Aung, Paing Ye Thu and Thin Thin Aye (aka) Mei Mei (88 Generation Peace and Open Society), Nay Myo Zin and Naw Ohn Hla, who protested against

and called for the amendment of the National Education Bill and participated in four parties talk in Rangoon, were charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act. They were charged by the authorities from 8 different Townships: Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Mingla Taung Nyunt and Tamwe Township.

According to the police officer from Tamwe Tsp Myoma police station they were ordered by a high level officer to charge the seven activists under Section 18. He added that the police also enquired about the accused who are in hiding.

(24 March 2015 - AAPP Source Inside Burma)

Thirteen Activists Charged in Hpa-an Police Station

On March 21, 2015, in Hpa-an Township, Karen State, around 300 protesters, led by the 88 Karen Generation Student Association and Farmers Support Network, from Karen State and Irrawaddy Division, demonstrated and called for the release of detained students and factory workers. Consequently, thirteen activists including two monks were arrested and charged under Section 18 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act on March 22. Some of the activists are currently detained in Hpa-an police station, according to Saw Maung Gyi, a coordinator of the 88 Karen Generation Student Association.

Saw Maung Gyi added, although the protesters submitted the letter to get a permit to stage a protest, they were prohibited by the authorities.

According to Kyi Lwin, one of the accused from Farmers Support Network, the accused were granted a 500,000 Kyat bail.

[\(22 March 2015 - VOA\)](#) [\(24 March 2015 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Three Student Leaders Charged for Protest Against Education Bill

Three Tavoy student leaders: Min Lwin Oo, Thura Naing and Zin Maung Phyoo, were charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act at Yae Township police station for giving a speech explaining about the National Education Bill and the 11 amendments demanded by students.

[\(18 March 2015 - RFA\)](#)

Student Protest Leaders Charged

Two student protest leaders who led the Irrawaddy student protest in Maubin Township demanding an end to violence against the student protesters in Letpadan Township have been charged under Section 18 at Maubin Township Police Station. Wai Yan Aung, a tutor, said their case was filed by the prosecutor Maubin Township Police Station commander. On March 9, students from the Irrawaddy student protest group circulated flyers in Maubin Township demanding an end to violence against student protesters in Letpadan Township.

Wai Yan Aung, Aung Kyaw Kyaw and Aung

Khant were charged on March 16 under Section 18 at ten different townships.

Wai Yan Aung was also indicted under Section 18 at Bassein Township Police Station after he staged a sit-in protest in front of Bassein Township, Irrawaddy Division.

[\(10 March 2015 - Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

[\(17 March 2015 - Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

Letpadan Residents Charged for Supporting Student Protesters

Eleven Letpadan residents including Naing Win, Nanda Soe, Kyi Kyi Win, Myo Swe, Myat Thu, Win Min Tun, Baydar Lay, Myat Thu, Naing Win, and Aye Ko Htut were indicted on the same day under Section 18 by the Letpadan Township Myoma police station because they failed to submit a letter for permission to protest.

Nine out of twelve residents were granted bail and they were summoned to appear before the court on March 19, but Naing Win and Nanda Soe, were arrested and detained in Letpadan Township Myoma police station.

[\(5 March 2015 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 March 2015 - Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

Four Paungde Township Residents Charged for Supporting Student Protesters

Four out of approximately 60 protesters who staged a protest and provided support for the protesting students in Paungde Township, Pegu Division, were charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law by the station commander from Paungde Township Police Station. One of the accused, Moe Hlaing, said their case was opened because they did not submit a letter for permission to stage a protest. The accused are members of Paungde Township People's Support

Network Khin Maung Hlaing, Chit Ko, Ye Kyaw Naing and Moe Hlaing.

[\(4 March 2015 - Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

LAND ISSUES

Four Farmers Charged for Trespassing

On March 25, 2015, four local farmers prohibited the staff from continuing their activities when Tenasserim Divisional government's staff members organized the construction of the building in Sanchi section, Tavoy Tsp, Tenasserim Division.

The farmers were charged under Penal Code Section 332 and Section 447 for trespassing. The police raided the farmers' houses and attempted to arrest the farmers at night on March 28, but the accused farmers were in hiding, according to Shwe Zin Yu, one of the farmers.

In 2011, Tenasserim Divisional government confiscated more than 300 acres of land in Sanchi Section. Although the divisional government gave compensation, several farmers refused to take money.

[\(29 March 2015 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

After Seven Years, Military Attempts to Retake Land in Pauk Township

In 2008 the Ministry of Defence illegally took more than 30,000 acres of land in order to develop a factory in Pauk township. They gave the residents 5000 kyats in compensation. Now, supposedly after land activists confronted the government about this case, the government is seeking to secure the land legally. The Pakkoku district administration notified the residents that they are invited to object the illegal confiscation. However, the deadline to file an objection had already passed by six days by the time the residents received the notices.

KEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Burma Army to Maintain Political Role According to President

According to President Thein Sein, the Burma Army will maintain its role in politics in order to assist in Burma's transition to democracy; however will eventually submit to civilian rule. He told the BBC that, "In fact the military is the one who is assisting in the flourishing in our country".

[\(20 March 2015 - Reuters\)](#)

UN Special Rapporteur Reports Fear and Hostility in Burma

Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, Ms. Yanghee Lee, reported on various matters regarding the current state of Burma's human rights where she noted the spread of fear and hostility in Burma, governments backtrack on protecting human rights, lack of improvement for displaced people who are living in "abysmal" conditions, to name a few. People are being smuggled to Thailand or Malaysia as a result of human rights violations in Arakan State, escalation of violence near the Chinese border, Burma's security forces are still recruiting children, and ethnic tensions are only worsening. Ms. Lee wrote that the "government should focus on creating an empowered population, including the youth and women, to ensure that a new generation can work together to create a prosperous and stable country and reverse the current slide towards extreme nationalism, religious hatred and conflict.

[\(10 March 2015 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

EU and US Condemn Student Protest

Crackdown

The EU condemned the actions of the police force in Letpadan Township, Pegu Division, on March 10, after the student demonstration for the amendment of the National Education Bill was cracked down on and several protesters were arrested. The EU is also concerned that the country is backsliding towards how it used to be under the former military government era. Additionally, the EU called for an official independent investigation into the crackdown by the police force as freedom of expression and assembly are recognized as basic rights of citizens. Furthermore, the US also denounced these actions and urged the Burmese government to respect the rights for freedom of assembly. The US Democratic Member of Parliament Joe Crowley and Republican Member of Parliament Steve Chabot released a report, stating that the violence needs to end immediately and all detainees including students, monks and reporters must be released. A few days later, State Department acting spokeswoman Ms Marie Harf said in a statement that the US calls "for the immediate, unconditional release of all individuals being detained in the country as a result of exercising their right to peacefully assemble." She also called for an "impartial and credible" investigation to hold those involved accountable, including security forces who applied excessive force".

[\(10 March 2015 - Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 March 2015 - Mizzima\)](#)

Conclusion / Analysis

The National Education Law demonstrations ended with the brutal detention and imprisonment of students, monks, supporters, bystanders and journalists as the government indiscriminately detained any individuals suspected of being supporters of the protest. As a result of the mistreatment of journalists, several media outlets have planned a temporary boycott and campaign against these injustices in hopes of spreading the word about violence against the media and to denounce the brutal beatings and unjust detention of journalists. Hundreds of garment factory workers patiently protested this month demanding a raise in pay as living costs were becoming difficult to afford. Instead of discussing terms with the workers, the government responded with threats of legal proceedings and job loss. When the threats were left unheeded the government used violent tactics in an attempt to disperse the protesters and arrested 21 more workers.

The government's consistent response to any advocates for change is still to oppress and arrest them, with the continuing use of threats and violence to silence dissent. Over a hundred people

were arrested and detained this month for demonstrating peacefully and demanding greater freedom and quality of life in the country.

Moreover, the government needs to drastically improve the conditions of detention and stop using torture and incommunicado detention as tools designed to humiliate and abuse the detainees. The use of torture and beatings still exists, with accounts coming that students were tortured in detention. It shows once again the humiliation, violation of privacy and brutality detainees have to endure. The health conditions, the lack of access to legal counsel and the holding of prisoners incommunicado all point to a system that does little to respect the basic human rights of their people and of people in detention.

The manner in which the student and garment worker protesters were detained this month casts fresh light on the oppressive situation that still prevails in Burma. In the midst of rhetoric surrounding the move towards democratic change, the month of March served to demonstrate how little progress has really been made. The violent tactics of the police, the return of civilian thugs sporting

Conclusion / Analysis

imprisonment of political and human rights activists and supporters are all stark reminders that current government is different from the previous military rule in name only. Their actions and attitudes towards human rights and political opposition have not changed and the mindset of the military junta still rules within the current government.

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Links / Resources

February 27

[Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

March 2

[Photographer, Detained for Satirical Post about Military, Released \(DVB\)](#)

[Eleven Media Group Donates Money to Two Elderly Imprisoned Women \(Eleven Media Group\)](#)
[Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten \(Burma Partnership\)](#)

March 3

[Human Rights Defender, Tun Tun Oo, Goes on Hunger Strike \(The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

March 4

[Four Paungde Township Residents Charged for Supporting Student Protesters \(Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)
[Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

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[Letpadan Residents Charged for Supporting Student Protesters \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity Education Law Protest \(DVB\)](#)
[Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity](#)

[Education Law Protest](#)

[\(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity Education Law Protest \(Burma Partnership\)](#)
[Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity Education Law Protest \(Associated Press\)](#)

March 6

[Letpadan Residents Charged for Supporting Student Protesters \(The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten \(Bangkok Post\)](#)
[Eight Arrested at Crackdown on Rangoon Solidarity Education Law Protest \(DVB\)](#)

March 9

[Garment Worker Protesters Arrested, Detained, and Beaten \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

March 10

[Violent Crackdown on Student Protest in Letpadan \(DVB\)](#)
[Student Protest Leaders Charged \(Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)
[UN Special Rapporteur Reports Fear and Hostility in Burma \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[EU and US Condemn Student Protest Crackdown \(Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

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[Violent Crackdown on Student Protest in Letpadan \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Violent Crackdown on Student Protest in Letpadan \(The](#)

[Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Restoration Council of Shan State and Shan State Army Representatives Detained \(Burma News International\)](#)

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[Violent Crackdown on Student Protest in Letpadan \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Violent Crackdown on Student Protest in Letpadan \(The Global New Light of Myanmar\)](#)

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[Student protests \(DVB\)](#)

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[Resentenced Rohingya leaders incarcerated in Sittwe Prison \(Fortify Rights\)](#)

March 16

[Resentenced Rohingya leaders incarcerated in Sittwe Prison \(DVB\)](#)
[Female Student Detainees Forced to Take Pregnancy Tests \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Journalist Detained and Beaten by Red Armband Gang \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
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[Journalists Temporarily Boycott Government Press Events \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Monks Plan to Sue Government over 2012 Fire Bombings at Copper Mine \(DVB\)](#)

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[Charged \(Radio Free Asia/Burmese\)](#)

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[Journalists Sentenced over Defamation Charges \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Prominent Columnist Faces Trial for Criticizing Instrumentalization of Buddhism \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Three Student Leaders Sentenced for Protest Against Education Bill \(RFA\)](#)

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[Student protests \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

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[Burma Army to Maintain Political Role According to President \(Reuters\)](#)

March 21

[Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Reached \(DVB\)](#)

[Two Student Activists Arrested for Writing Graffiti \(DVB\)](#)

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[Thirteen Activists Detained in Pa-an Police Station \(VOA\)](#)

[Student protests \(Eleven\)](#)

March 23

[Burma Army Launch Aerial Attack on Kachin State \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Burma Army Launch Aerial Attack on Kachin State \(DVB\)](#)

[Two Members of MDCF and Two Civilians Sentenced \(FIDH\)](#)

March 24

[Journalists Temporarily Boycott Government Press Events \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Journalists Temporarily Boycott Government Press Events \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[After Seven Years, Military Attempts to Retake Land in Pauk Township \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Monks Plan to Sue](#)

[Government over 2012 Fire Bombings at Copper Mine \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Thirteen Activists Detained in Pa-an Police Station \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

March 25

[Women's Group Submit Human Rights Report to UN \(Mizzima\)](#)

March 26

[Global Witness Publishes Report on Land Grabbing in Burma and Accuses Minister of Agriculture \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

March 27

[Global Witness Publishes Report on Land Grabbing in Burma and Accuses Minister of Agriculture \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Eight People Arrested](#)

[Following Protest](#)

[Demanding Student Release \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Journalists Temporarily Boycott Government Press Events \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

March 28

[Eight People Arrested](#)

[Following Protest](#)

[Demanding Student Release \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)

[Eight People Arrested](#)

[Following Protest](#)

[Demanding Student Release \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Eight People Arrested](#)

[Following Protest](#)

[Demanding Student Release \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Eight People Arrested](#)

[Following Protest](#)

[Demanding Student Release \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

March 29

[Four Farmers Charged for Trespassing \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

March 30

[BBC Reporter Facing Criminal Charges \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Disabled Woman Expulsed
from Apartment After
Participating in Protest
\(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

March 31

[EU and US Condemn
Student Protest Crackdown
\(Mizzima\)](#)