

Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group

University of Virginia

The Summary of June 2024

In June 2024, the military council encountered major military defeats.

The TNLA and allied PDF forces launched the 1027 operation (second wave) in the Northern Shan State and Mandalay Region. Within three days, they captured 12 military bases in Naung Cho, 8 camps in Kyaukme, and 6 in Mogoke, totaling 26 camps. Naungcho City and Kyaukme City fell under the control of TNLA and its allies.

In Kachin State, the KIA and its allies seized three strategic military bases on the Indawgyi-Hpakan road on June 23. They had previously captured Sezin and Ta Makhan near Hpakan in March and April, gaining control of the road between Selzin, Tamahkan, and Hpakan. Presently, Hpakan is under KIA's control.

In Rakhine State, the Arakan Army (AA) took control of Taw Hein Taung, the main fortress of the Western Regional Military Command. This development indicates that the military council may soon have to relinquish the Western Regional Military Command in Ann Township. The AA also established authority over Thandwe Township after capturing the Thandwe Town Police Station and Thandwe Airport (Mazin Airport).

The Chin Brotherhood forces took control of Matupi, the second capital of Chin State on June 29, leading to Democratic Forces holding nearly 80 percent of Chin State. This signifies a significant portion of Chin State now being under revolutionary forces' command.

On June 18, the Karenni National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allied forces successfully seized the Sukali military base located south of Myawaddy in Karen State. Additionally, on June 25, the Karenni Defense Forces captured the strategically important Maksalong Hill camp in Bawlakhe Township, Karen State.

The People's Defense Forces (Mandalay) captured Military Council bases Pan Tha Le, Kyauk Gyan, and Yay So camps, as well as the Air Defense Unit in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region on June 27.

On June 28, in the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road area of Sagaing Region, the main Military Council army camp in Indaw Township was taken over by the People's Defense Joint Forces.

In June, the Military Council engaged in several interactions with China. Chinese Special Envoy Deng Xijun visited Nay Pyi Taw to discuss border security matters. Notably, his visit coincided with a period when the Military Council faced numerous setbacks: TNLA and PDF forces captured military camps in Northern Shan State and Mandalay Region during the second wave of the 1027 operation, Taw Hein Taung, Thandwe City, and Thandwe Airport were occupied by the AA in Rakhine State, and the KIA took control of Hpakan. Moreover, the Chinese government's decision to invite former President Thein Sein to attend the Conference commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was noteworthy. Since 2023, China has played a significant role in Myanmar's internal affairs, and the first half of 2024 witnessed closer cooperation between China and the Myanmar Military Council.

The Foreign Minister of the National Unity Government, Zin Mar Aung, meeting with the Foreign Minister of Australia and holding discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister of East Timor represent positive developments for the pro-democracy forces.

As of June 2024, the inflation rate of the Myanmar Kyat currency had surged to US\$1 being equivalent to 4400 Myanmar kyats. The price of gold had also experienced a drastic increase. In addition, general commodity prices, including the cost of rice, had gone up. In response to this situation, the Military

Council resorted to arresting rice traders and gold entrepreneurs. However, rather than alleviating the issue, this action exacerbated the situation, resulting in further price increases for goods.

In June, Military Council troops set ablaze and destroyed 16 villages in Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Sagaing Region, Thanintharyi Region, and Chin State. Additionally, the Military Council detained 631 Civilians from various parts of Myanmar, including those caught using VPN on their mobile phones, individuals who wore flowers on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday, as well as rice traders and gold entrepreneurs.

In June 2024, there were 193 large-scale battles and small-scale clashes between the Military Council forces and Democratic Resistance Forces, resulting in the deaths of 675 Military Council soldiers and 33 members of the revolutionary forces. Additionally, 285 civilians, including 16 children, lost their lives due to inhumane actions such as aerial bombardment and artillery attacks by the Military Council. Among the casualties was a revered monk from Win Nimmitaron Monastery in Bago City, Myanmar, whose death sparked outrage among the monk community. In response, discontent monks initiated a Buddhist traditional strike known as "Pattnikkuzana" against the Military Council.

The Comprehensive Summary of What Happened in Myanmar in the Month of June 2024

National Unity Government and International Community

1. National Unity Government's Foreign Minister Zin Mar Aung met with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong on June 6 to address the ongoing political crisis in Myanmar and discuss humanitarian aid for the approximately 2.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
2. The delegation of NUG ministers held meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister of East Timor during their visit on June 20, 21, and 24.

The Military Council and the International Community

The Relation with China

1. On June 14, an agreement was signed between China and the Military Council for a grant of 3.6 million for 12 projects in the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (2024). The Lancang River, flowing through southwest China and becoming the Mekong River in Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, serves as the basis for the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) established in 2016 for collaboration among the riparian states. Myanmar has received US\$ 35 million from China for 118 LMC projects from 2017 to 2024. Initially set to co-chair the LMC with China from 2020 to December 2023, Myanmar was suspended from this position by China following the military coup.
2. The Chinese government's special envoy, Mr. Deng Xijun, and the Foreign Minister of the Military Council, ThanSwe, held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on June 18. The meeting took place against the backdrop of escalating military tensions in northern Shan State and increased fighting in coastal areas of southern Rakhine State, where Beijing has significant investments. The Military Council Media reported that they have held discussions to strengthen their long-term "Pauk-Phaw" relationship, as well as to collaborate on promoting peace and stability along the border. They also highlighted increased cooperation at regional and international levels, including within the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations and the United Nations. Since being appointed as a special envoy to Myanmar in December 2022, Deng has met with junta leader Min Aung Hlaing four times in Naypyitaw to address border stability. He has also engaged with leaders of ethnic armed groups in Kunming, encouraging them to participate in dialogues with the regime both prior to and after the initiation of Operation 1027 in the previous year.

3. Former President Thein Sein traveled to China on June 27 to participate in the Conference commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence at the invitation of the Chinese Government. While in China, he met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on June 29. Notably, China opted to invite former President U Thein Sein rather than coup leader Min Aung Hlaing, who has not been invited by China since the February 1 coup. The Chinese ambassador Chen Hai had previously met with Thein Sein in April to discuss "the situation in Myanmar and cooperation between the two countries," as per the post by the embassy in Yangon on its Facebook page.

The Relation with Iran

Military Council Foreign Minister Than Swe traveled to Iran to participate in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting and engaged in discussions with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani to enhance bilateral relations.

Reports suggest that Iran has been providing weapons to the Myanmar military regime following the 2021 coup. According to the Asia Times, an Iranian delegation visited Myanmar in January 2022. A Boeing 747 cargo plane belonging to Iranian cargo airline Qeshm Fars Air, which was sanctioned by the U.S. for allegedly transporting weapons to Tehran-backed groups in the Syrian civil war, landed in Naypyitaw and Yangon three times between January and April 2022. In response to sanctions from Western nations, Myanmar generals have been trying to strengthen relationships with Russia, China, India, Belarus, Iran and North Korea with which It has reestablished diplomatic relations.

The Relation with India

On his way to Tehran for the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue, Foreign Minister of the Myanmar Military Council Than Swe transited and met with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar of India on June 26.

The Relation with the U.S.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Christian Brink held discussions with a senior officer from the Myanmar Military Council Navy on June 21 and 22 in Vietnam.

The relation with Thailand

The Vice Chairman of the Military Council, Soe Win, engaged in discussions with Lt-Gen Prasan Saengsirirak of the Royal Thai Armed Forces during the 36th meeting of the Thai-Myanmar Border Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on June 29. The focus was on enhancing Thai-Myanmar collaboration in combating drugs and terrorism, as well as addressing law and order challenges in the border region. They also signed agreements on these cooperative efforts, as reported by Military Council media.

Election to be held by Military Council

The Military Council leader, Min Aung Hlaing, announced on June 15 that elections are scheduled to take place in 2025 following a census to be conducted in October 2024. Despite repeatedly stating that elections would be held in over three years, the military chief's stance has evolved. Initially proposing nationwide elections, he later shifted to suggesting elections in specific regions of the country due to the loss of territories to democratic resistance forces. However, during his speech on June 15, Min Aung Hlaing did not specify the areas where the elections would be held or provide details on the process.

Civilian Casualties/Deaths/Losses in the Month of June

In June 2024, a total of 285 civilians lost their lives in Myanmar as a result of military airstrikes and heavy Artillery attacks. This tragic toll included 10 monks, 16 children, 21 women, and 20 Rohingya individuals. The Military Council destroyed a total of 306 houses by setting them on fire in various parts of Myanmar during the month of June.

On June 2nd, in Tedim Township, Chin State, the Military Council troops set fire and destroyed 41 houses by setting them on fire. Additionally, on June 24, 10 houses were burned down in Hakha Township. On

June 13, soldiers of the Military Council set fire to Phatawrei village in Natmauk Township, Magway Region, resulting in the destruction of 40 houses.

In Mandalay Region, on the morning of June 10th, the Military council army raided and burned Kukone village in Natogyi Township, destroying 63 homes. On June 13, the troops burned Pe Kin Gyi village in Natogyi Township, destroying 70 houses, and on June 15, 35 homes were destroyed in Traopin village, Singu Township.

In Sagaing Region, on June 10, around 50 military council personnel set fire to 2 houses in Hta Naung Taw North village, located at the MaU gate entrance of Monywa Township. On June 20, 3 houses were destroyed in Le Zin village, Monywa Township. Additionally, on the morning of June 12, 4 military vehicles arrived in Wetlet Township and burned 12 houses.

In Tanintharyi Region, Yebyu Township, on June 19, Myauk Chaw village saw 30 houses destroyed by aerial bombardment and heavy artillery attacks.

Arrests of Civilians in the Month of June

In June 2024, the military council detained 631 civilians across Myanmar, targeting individuals who were found with VPNs on their mobile phones, those who wore flowers on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday, rice traders, and gold entrepreneurs.

Crackdown on VPN users

In an effort to control the spread of information, the Military Council arrested individuals in possession of Virtual Private Network (VPN) on their mobile devices. Beginning on May 30th, the Military Council implemented measures to restrict access to Facebook in Myanmar, including monitoring and blocking all VPNs using the Secure Web Gateway (SWG). In urban centers like Yangon, those caught installing VPN apps on their phones faced extortion or arrest by military forces.

Crackdown on Flower Wearers

Another notable crackdown by the Military Council in June involved the arrest of individuals who wore flowers on Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday. Twenty people were detained on charges of staging a protest against the Military Council by wearing flowers and commemorating Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday.

Rice Merchants Arrested

The Military Council detained and prosecuted 10 rice entrepreneurs, which included U Ye Min Aung, the chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation, and U Lu Maw Myint Maung, the chairman of the Bayint Naung Rice Commodity Board, on June 21. The arrests were made on the grounds that the price of rice had surged significantly. Additionally, 58 rice entrepreneurs were apprehended and questioned, with 24 of them receiving fines. The Military Council disclosed on June 30 that 11 rice entrepreneurs, among them a Japanese national, were still in custody.

Gold and Foreign Currency Traders Arrested

Furthermore, in June, the Military Council made several unusual arrests unrelated to political matters, targeting gold sellers, Thai condo brokers and foreign currency traders

During a period of surging gold prices, the military council arrested 21 gold traders as the price of gold soared to a record high of over 580,000 kyats per tical.

The Military Council also apprehended and prosecuted individuals involved in buying and selling condo apartments in Thailand, alleging that their activities were aimed at disrupting the foreign currency market. Three individuals who had opened a bank account in Thailand and purchased a condo were among those arrested.

Between May 24th and June 4th, the military council detained 39 foreign currency sellers on charges of engaging in currency speculation.

The apprehension of these businessmen and traders highlights the poor economic management of the Military Council. These arrests have exacerbated hoarding, leading to further increases in commodity prices and higher inflation rates.

Statistics of Clashes in the Month of June

In June 2024, a total of 193 battles, including drone attacks, were recorded across various regions in Myanmar. The highest number of clashes, 37 in total, occurred in Sagaing Region, followed by Chin State with 28 incidents. Magway and Mandalay Regions experienced 24 and 22 clashes, respectively. Rakhine State saw 17 battles, mainly due to the town-capturing offensives by the Arakan Army. Kachin State had 15 battles with the Kachin Independence Army on the offensive. In northern Shan State, where the 1027 operation (second wave) was ongoing, there were a total of six major battles. Karen State and Karenni State each had four battles. Tanintharyi Region and Bago Region each saw 16 clashes, while Mon State had three fights, and one occurred in southern Shan State. Notably, there was no fighting reported in Irrawaddy and Yangon.

Throughout June, 675 Military Council soldiers lost their lives in the conflicts. Rakhine State had the highest casualties, with 200 Military Council soldiers killed, followed by Magway Region with 111 and Sagaing Region with 107 deaths of Military Council soldiers. During the same period, 33 members of the joint revolutionary forces had fallen in the battles.

Major Offensives in the Month of June

Major offensives performed by democratic revolutionary forces, capturing towns and Military Council bases are as follows:

Chin State

On the morning of June 9th, the Chin Brotherhood forces launched an attack on Matupi Town, where the military headquarters under the Northwestern Regional Military Command are located, in the name of "Operation CB." They successfully captured the police station, Township administration office, and the light infantry battalion 304 based in Matupi. The whole city of Chin State's second capital, Matupi, was captured by the Chin Brotherhood Forces on June 29.

Kachin State

In the Indawgyi-Hpakan area, the KIA joint forces launched attacks on and captured three strategically important military bases namely Welong, Nyaung Pin, and Chang Wa camps on June 23 and 24.

Karenni State

The Karenni Revolutionary Joint Forces took control of the strategic Mak Salaung Taung hill military base in Bawlakhe Township, Karenni State, on June 25.

Karen State

The joint forces led by the 6th Brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) successfully captured the Sukali military base of the Military Council, located in the southern region of Myawaddy, on June 18.

Magway Region

On June 25, in PhaLanOhh Village track in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, the Shin Ma Kan camp belonging to the Pyu Saw Htee Militias affiliated with the Military Council was attacked and taken over. During the operation, 10 members of the Pyu Saw Htee Militias and Military Council soldiers were killed, one was captured alive, and six guns along with ammunition were seized.

Mandalay Region

On June 27, the People's Defense Forces successfully seized control of the Military Council bases Pan Tha Le, Kyauk Gyan, and Yay So camps in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

Rakhine State

Various military border guard bases along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border, including NakhaKha 6 in Indin village, NakhaKha 2 and NakhaKha 4 in Maung Thaw Township, and NakhaKha 9 in Myin Hlook Sub-Township, were all occupied by the Arakan Army. Additionally, the Tow Hein Taung Strategic Hill Military Camp, a crucial location for the Western Regional Military Headquarters of the Military Council in Rakhine State, along with Thandwe Airport (Mazin Airport) and Thandwe City Police Station, were all taken over by the Arakan Army (AA) and its allied forces on June 23.

Sagaing Region

In Indaw Township on the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road, the People's Defense Forces launched an attack and successfully occupied a key strategic camp of the Military Council Army on June 28.

Northern Shan State

The TNLA and joint forces launched an attack on June 25, capturing Light Infantry Battalion 115, Artillery Unit 606, and the Military Council camp in Ummakah village in Northern Shan State. Additionally, they took control of the artillery unit situated at the top of Kyaukme city, the public hospital, and Military Council offices in Naung cho Town. A total of 53 Military Council soldiers in Naungcho, Hsipaw, Mongmit Towns in Northern Shan State, and Mogoke Town in Mandalay surrendered to the TNLA.

During the second wave of the 1027 operation in Northern Shan State, 24 terrorist Military Council bases were seized, resulting in the deaths of 20 Military Council soldiers and the capture of 17 others, as reported by the Information Department of TNLA.

Thanintharyi Region

The Aungthawara military council camp in Thanintharyi Township, Thanintharyi Region, which had been established for 30 years, was attacked and taken over by joint forces led by the 4th Brigade of the Karen National Liberation Army on June 14.

Other Notable Military Clashes

Other notable battles that took place in June 2024 other than the offensives to capture cities , towns and military bases, are as follows.

Bago Region

In Bago Region, On June 25, 16 people were killed when joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the People's Defense Forces (PDF) attacked two Military Council gates in Kyauktaga Township.

Chin State

In Tedim Township, Northern Chin State, clashes between the Military Council and Chinland Council (CC) forces persisted until June 26 in Thayning village. No further updates have been received until this time.

Magway Region

An outpost in Ngape Township, Magway Region, was ambushed on June 21, resulting in the deaths of 20 Military Council soldiers.

A convoy transporting fuel was attacked by a mine on the road near the Forestry Department between NgaKuAi Village and Zeelonebot Village office in Myothit Township, Magway Region on June 25. The attack, carried out by the Taik Daung People's Defense Forces, led to the deaths of 13 soldiers and the overturning of two vehicles.

On the same day, an assault on the base of Pyu Saw Htee, a militia group affiliated with the Military Council, stationed in Sin Chang Village in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region, left 5 Pyu Saw Htee members dead and 7 wounded.

Mandalay Region

A drone strike targeted soldiers stationed at a monastery in Lay Ywa Sone village in Mandalay Region on June 25. The attack, carried out by NRPF, the 8th Battalion of Myingyan District, resulted in the deaths of three Military Council members, including a military officer.

A significant confrontation occurred between the Military Council Army and the Ta-an Army (TNLA) in Mogoke Township, Mandalay Region, which serves as the military command region of the 2nd Brigade of TNLA.

On June 27, the People's Defense Team of Pyin Oo Lwin Township officially announced the arrest of four soldiers of the Military Council, along with weapons, somewhere along the Mandalay-Madaya-Mogoke Road.

Sagaing Region

A skirmish occurred on June 22 with the Military Council in Northern Kale Township in Sagaing Region, resulting in the loss of two members of the People's Defense Forces.

On June 23, the KIA and joint forces launched an attack on Military Council army camps in Indaw City in upper Sagaing Region and Moe Nyin Township in Kachin State. In Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region, on June 24, two soldiers hiding on the Monywa-Chaung U road were killed in a mine attack.

On June 24, at least 20 soldiers were killed when joint revolutionary forces attacked military council positions in Budalin Town in Sagaing Region.

Shan State (North)

Fighting between Military Council forces and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) occurred on June 29 in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, as both sides prepared for upcoming military operations.

Shan State (South)

Violence erupted on June 21 when a Military Council column launched an offensive near Naung Saka Village in Thabek Village Track, Hsihseng Township, Southern Shan State.

Thaninthary Region

On June 22, a police station of Military Council in Marung Village in Khamakgyi Town of Kawthoung District was attacked, resulting in the death of one policeman and one member People's Defense Forces (PDF).

All information provided is based on local news reports published between June 1st and 30th.

Data of Myanmar Conflict June 2024 Total								
States	Clashes between SAC and PDF/EAOs	SAC's soldiers killed	PDF killed	Children killed	Civilians killed	Civilians arrested	Villages set on fire	Houses burned down
AYEYARWADY						17		
BAGO	16	64	5		6	1		
CHIN	28	11			4	5	1	51
KACHIN	15	12		1	6			
KARENNI	4							
KAYIN	4	22						
MAGWAY	24	111	11	2	21	101	3	40
MANDALAY	22	55		1	33	37	9	168
MON	3	1	2		2	13		
RAKHINE	17	200	2	4	82	282		
SAGAING	37	107	11	3	81	103	2	17
SHAN (North)	6	30	1		22			
SHAN (South)	1				4	59		
TANINTHARYI	16	62	1	5	8		1	30
YANGON						13		
TOTAL	193	675	33	16	269	631	16	306

Sources - Myanmar Now, The Irrawaddy, PVTV, DVB, BBC, RFA, Mizzima, Xinhua, Ayeyarwaddy Times, Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, The Eleven Media, Channel News Asia, D Day News, The Strait Times,

Map of Myanmar Conflict (June 2024 Total)

