

Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group – BDFWG

University of Virginia

Weekly Summary (July 22 - 31, 2024)

Civilian Casualties / Deaths / Losses During the Fourth Week of July

In the final week of July, the Military Council in Myanmar carried out air strikes and artillery attacks resulting in the deaths of 48 civilians, including 2 children and 6 women. The Northern Shan State saw the highest number of casualties, with 16 deaths, followed by 8 each in Rakhine State and Magway Region. Additionally, there were 7 deaths each in Mon State and Sagaing Region. Of the total deaths, 19 were due to heavy artillery fire, 17 from aerial and drone attacks, and 12 from direct killings.

Villages Set on Fire

The Military Council destroyed 222 homes through arson in various regions in Myanmar. On July 23, a battle erupted near Kan Kyi Kone village in Sagaing Region, where the Military Council was stationed in Chaung-U Township, resulting in at least four residential houses being burned down due to an airstrike. In the afternoon of July 23, Military Council soldiers raided Min Kun and Sha Yaung villages in Sagaing Township, burning down more than 30 houses. Additionally, on July 25 and 26, 72 houses were destroyed in Tharak village and 115 houses in a Shan village in the south of Kanbalu Township in Sagaing Region. Furthermore, on July 22, in Tanintharyi Launglon Township, the home of a strike committee member in Pyin Chaung village was burned down by the Military Council.

Arrest of Civilians by the Military Council

In the fourth week of July, a total of 51 civilians were arrested in various parts of Myanmar. Specifically, 24 were arrested in Sagaing, 17 in Mandalay Regions, 8 in Irrawaddy, and 2 in Tanintharyi Region.

Air Strike on Civilians by the Military Council

During the final week of July, the Military Council carried out a total of 28 airstrikes across Myanmar. These airstrikes were conducted 11 times in Mandalay Region, 7 times in Northern Shan State, 5 times in Magway Region, 2 times in Sagaing Region, one time each in Rakhine State, Karenni State and Tanintharyi Region.

The Conflicts and Casualties in the Fourth Week of July

In July 2024, there were a total of 147 battles, including drone attacks, during the fourth week. The highest number of clashes, 49 times, occurred in Northern Shan State, followed by 23 battles in Mandalay Region. Additionally, there were 20 battles in Tanintharyi Region, 15 in Karenni State, and 9 times in Chin State, 8 times in Kachin State and Sagaing Region. 7 battles in Mon State, 4 in Magway Region, and 3 in Karen State, and one time in Rakhine State. There were no reported battles in Irrawaddy Region, Bago Region, Southern Shan State, and Yangon Region during that week.

During the same period, a total of 321 soldiers from the Military Council and 10 members of the Joint Revolutionary Forces were killed in the fighting.

Operation 1027 (Part 2)

Operation of MDY-PDF and Joint Forces

On July 25th, Local Defense Forces launched an attack on the last camp of the Pyu Saw Htee militia group, which is affiliated with the Military Council, in Ywathaywar, Singu Township in Mandalay Region. A intense battle took place, resulting in the capture of the camp.

On July 31st, the MDY-PDF captured military camps in Nga Lone Pwong, Taung Kan, Aung Thapyay, Myo Kone, Htan Pin Kone, Bo Kone, and the Bus Terminal of Aung Thapyay in Mandalay Region. Additionally, a total of 35 military council camps were captured in Madaya Township.

Operation by TNLA and Joint Forces

On July 23, the TNLA reported that during the battle between the Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Military Council in Kyaukme and Mogoke Townships in Northern Shan State from July 20 to 23, 54 dead bodies of the Military Council soldiers and 40 prisoners of war were captured.

Following the battle, Mogoke was taken over by the joint forces of the TNLA after they attacked the remaining military strategic hills and camps east of Mogoke on July 24.

During the conflict to capture Mogoke Township, the TNLA and joint forces seized over 200 various weapons, including multiple rocket launchers belonging to the Military Council, and took more than 30 prisoners of war.

Additionally, on July 31st, the TNLA and allied forces captured the headquarters of 276 battalion and 348 battalion, as well as the settlement strategy under the Northern Military Command in the Mongmit Region in Northern Shan State.

Operation by MNDAA and Joint Forces

During the battle of Lashio on July 21st, a total of 317 military officers, led by a colonel from the Military Council, surrendered to the Kokang Army (MNDAA) along with their complete arsenal of weapons and ammunition.

Subsequently, on July 23rd, the Kokang Army (MNDAA) and their allied joint forces captured the 41st Battalion and 68th Battalion of the Military Council, which were stationed in Lashio, Northern Shan State.

On July 25th, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) seized control of the Military Council's Northeast Regional Headquarters in Lashio. On the same day, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) successfully captured the 68th Infantry Battalion and the Sin Taung camp of the Military Council located in Lashio.

On July 27th in Northern Shan State, the military camp located at Mansu Pagoda in Lashio was captured, including four Military Council battalions and the AD toll gate camp.

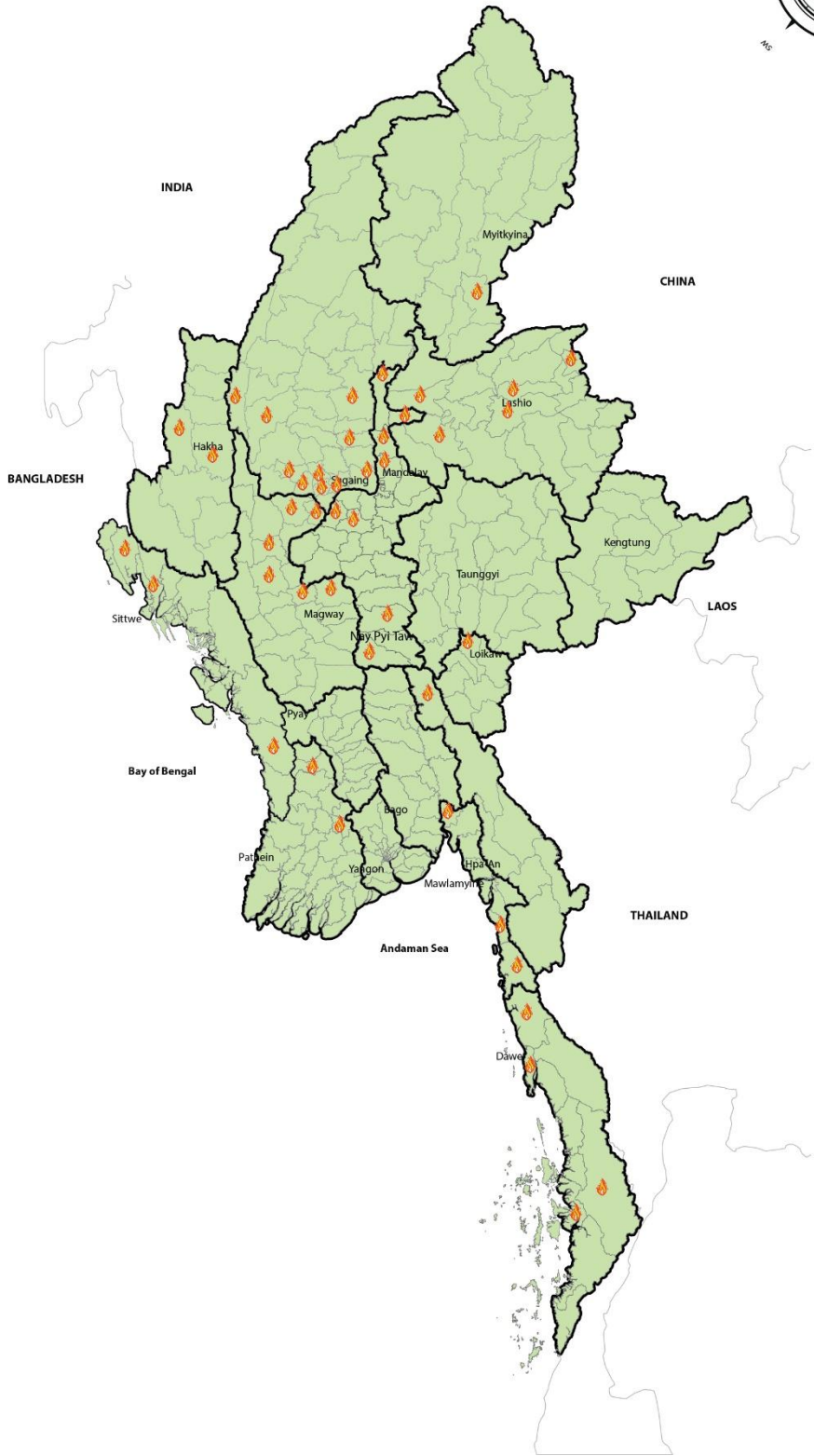
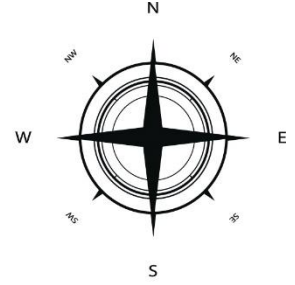
The following day, on July 28th, the MNDAA took control of the Lashio Railway Station in Northern Shan State.

Furthermore, on July 28th and 29th, the combined forces of the MNDAA and BPLA successfully attacked and captured the Communications Battalion, 705th Armored Vehicles Battalion, No. 242 Military Weapons Division, and the military Golf Course Camps, all situated in Lashio.

All information provided is based on local news reports between July 22th and 31th, 2024

Data of Myanmar Conflict 22-31, July 2024									
States	Clashes between SAC and PDF/EOs	SAC's soldiers killed	PDF killed	Children killed	Civilians killed	Civilians arrested	Air Strike	Villages set on fire	Houses burned down
AYEYARWADY						8			
CHIN	9	28	3						
KACHIN	8								
KARENNI	15						1		
KAYIN	3	27							
MAGWAY	4	11			8		5		
MANDALAY	23	95	2			17	11		
MON	7	6	3		7				
RAKHINE	1	2			8		1		
SAGAING	8	43	1	1	7	24	2		221
SHAN (North)	49	31		1	16		7		
TANINTHARYI	20	78	1			2	1		1
TOTAL	147	321	10	2	46	51	28		222

Map of Myanmar Conflict (July 22-31, 2024)



Other Notable News in the Fourth Week of July

Military Council 's Home Affairs Minister met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi twice

According to a BBC source in Nay Pyi Taw, the Minister of Home Affairs, General Yar Pyae, met twice with the imprisoned State Counselor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, last week. The first meeting took place before Martyr's Day and the second meeting occurred on July 21.

Myint Swe handed over the role of interim president to the military leader

The Military Council announced that Acting President Myint Swe handed over his responsibilities to coup leader Min Aung Hlaing on July 22. This transfer reportedly took place due to Myint Swe's poor health, to allow the National Defense and Security Council to convene. The handover occurred shortly before the conclusion of the extended emergency term of the Military Council, which had been extended five times since seizing power.

The Military Council extended the emergency period by 6 months

On July 31st, 2024, the Military Council convened a meeting of the National Defense and Security Council and decided to extend the state of emergency for an additional 6 months. This marks the sixth extension of the 6-month emergency period.

Asia World company urge to MNDAA to stop fighting as soon as possible

In response to the ongoing conflict in Lashio city, Asia World Company Limited released a statement in Chinese on July 24, urging all relevant armed forces, including the Myanmar National Democratic Army (MNDAA), to halt fighting as soon as possible and engage in discussions for peace with the Military Council. Tun Myint Naing, the owner of Asia World, is the son of the Kokang drug kingpin, Lo Hsing Han, who headed the Kokang Militia Group.

The Military Council did not allow the People's Power Party, which supported the coup, to register

The People's Power Party, which supported the coup, was denied registration by the Military Council on July 22. The Military Council Election Commission (UEC) rejected their application as it did not comply with the provisions of Article 6.

ASEAN talks - Military Council permanent secretary attended

Aung Kyaw Moe, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Military Council, represented the council at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos. The meeting, along with related discussions involving foreign ministers from ASEAN and regional partner countries, took place in Laos from July 25 to 27.

The Military Council said that it had discussed the election preparations with India

The Military Council disclosed that Min Aung Hlaing and India's National Security Adviser, Shri Ajit Doval, met in Nay Pyi Taw on July 26 to discuss the preparations for conducting elections in Myanmar.

Four political parties urge China to accelerate Haigen Agreement

During their visit to China, the Military Council-approved political parties called for the expedited implementation of the Haigen Agreement, which was brokered by China. The Communist Party of China hosted representatives from the USDP, the People's Party, the Arakan Front Party, and the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (White Tiger). It was reported that during the visit, they appealed to China to facilitate the speedy execution of the Haigen Agreement between the three Northern Alliances and the Military Council.

First meeting between CNF and ZRO results in agreement on 3 points

The first peace dialogue between the Chin National Front (CNF/CNA) and the Zomi Reunification Organization (ZRO/ZRA) took place on July 27 in Aizawl, Mizoram. During this meeting, the two parties reached an initial agreement on three key points.

UWSA forces enters Lashio city

United Wa State Army (UWSA) troops made their way into Lashio city in northern Shan State on July 27 amid the ongoing conflict between the Military Council and the Kokant Army (MNDAA). Prior to their entry, the UWSA reportedly notified the conflicting factions and received their consent.

RCSS reiterates call for ceasefire and dialogue

On July 29, the Reconstruction Council of Shan State (RCSS) issued a renewed appeal to halt the hostilities and foster a federal democratic union by resolving disputes among relevant organizations through all inclusive plenary meeting.

Thailand pledges nine million baht to support Myanmar

Thai Foreign Minister Marisin Nyamphon announced during the 57th ASEAN meeting in Vientiane, Laos, that Thailand will offer nine million baht in humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre.

Sources - The Irrawaddy, RFA, Ayeyarwaddy Times, Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, Khit Thit Media, Narinjara, Mizzima, Myanmar Now, DVB, BBC, MeKong News, Than Lwin Times, PVTV, D Day News, Khonumthung Burmese.