

Burma Democratic Futures Working Group - BDFWG

University of Virginia

A Brief Summary of Events in October 2023

Table of Contents	Page
Introduction	2
Revolutionary Forces Formed a Transitional Constitution Drafting Committee in the Karenni State and Chin State	2
Operation 1027 was Launched by the Northern Alliance	2
Mr. Wang Xiaohong, Minister of Public Security of the Chinese Government, Paid a Visit to Myanmar	3
General Ko Ko Maung, Top Official of the Army, was Imprisoned for Corruption	4
Figure 1: Map of Conflicts	5
Table 1: Data of Myanmar Conflicts in October 2023	6
Human Rights Violations	6
Table 2: Data of Human Rights Violations by SAC in October 2023	6
Acronyms	7
Sources	7

Introduction

A notable event that took place during the month of October was Operation 1027, which was carried out as a joint operation between MNDAA, TNLA, and AA. These three groups are known as the Three Northern Alliances. The operation had a great impact on the progress of the democratic revolution, and it remains to be seen what the consequences will be. Additionally, another important step forward for democratic processes is the drafting of the state constitution between the revolutionary forces in Kayah (Karenni) State and Chin State. These events are taking place in a time where there is great instability within the Military Council. The commander of the Northern Military Command, Major General Ko Ko Maung, was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a military court on corruption charges. In addition, Lt. Gen. Moe Myint Tun, who has been dismissed from his position and is under investigation, was also sentenced to life in prison on corruption charges.

As military conflicts in northern Myanmar escalate in intensity, military conflicts are still persistent in other regions such as Sagaing region, Kayah (Karenni) State, and Magway region.

Revolutionary Forces Formed a Transitional Constitution Drafting Committee in the Karenni State and Chin State

The revolutionary forces in Karenni State and Chin State are working to draft a state constitution for their respective states.

The Working Committee of Chinland Council Conference (WCCCC) was led by the Chin National Front (CNF) and other revolutionary forces. It was formed on September 22 in order to draft the constitution of the Chin State. The WCCCC's main responsibility is the drafting of the Constitution, and they have begun work on the draft during the month of October.

Similarly, in the Karenni State, revolutionary forces formed the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) which is responsible for the forming of the transitional state constitution drafting committee. The committee was formed on October 24 with the aim of eventually drafting the constitution of the Kayah (Karenni) State.

The drafting of the constitutions of ethnically based states and revolutionary forces is very important for the future of democratic processes in Myanmar. It comes during a time when a constitution on the federal level has yet to come into existence. The drafting of these state constitutions is likely to affect the future of the federal system, and carve out space for ethnic states to protect their rights and interests.

Operation 1027 was Launched by the Northern Alliance

On October 27, 2023, the largest military operation that occurred after the military coup d'état was launched by the three groups known as the Northern Brotherhood Alliance. This alliance is formed between the three groups: Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), Arakan Army (AA), and Taang National Liberation Army (TNLA). The participating

PDF soldiers numbered in tens and thousands for the October 27 operation. The scale of the operation went from Muse, the China-Myanmar border town in Northern Shan State; Kokang Autonomous Region to Mandalay division; and Mokot Township and Sagaing Division up to Tigyaing Township.

The operation was conducted to fight for self-defense against the military dictatorship, protect civilians, establish a federal democratic system, install Kokang Regional Self-Government, and stop online gambling. The MNDAA announced that one of its main purposes of participating in the operation was to combat money laundering gangs in the Kokang region, where online fraud gangs are based. Another purpose was to reinstate self-governance for the MNDAA group. Operation 1027 is a turning point for the democratic revolution, as the Military Council is feeling really challenged and threatened by the revolutionary forces.

The operation is also specifically targeting online scamming schemes, which are mainly run by Chinese nationals. The scammers are mostly located in Northern Shan State in the Kokang Autonomous Region and they can also be seen in the Wa Autonomous Region (controlled by the United Wa State Party) and Shwekokko town in Karen State (controlled by the Border Guard Forces). The Chinese government has pressured the Military Council and armed organizations in the area to arrest the scammers for months. The companies have been fraudulently bringing in citizens from Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar and forcing them to work in their businesses. The majority of business owners are Chinese citizens that have relocated to Myanmar capitalizing on the instability of the region. The authorities in the Kokang region are also implicated in the crime, by either turning a blind eye to or condoning the online fraud gangs that commit these transnational crimes. Despite pressure from the Chinese government, the Kokang region has still been struggling to effectively combat online money laundering schemes.

When more information around Operation 1027 was published, there were also details that suggested that the Chinese government was also behind the operation. However, what can be stated is that China's objective is not aligned with the MNDAA, that is hoping to recapture the Kokang region and regain self-governance. However, with or without Chinese support, the MNDAA would have taken advantage of the military opportunity to recapture the region.

While one of the major objectives of Operation 1027 was to destroy the military dictatorship, there are more questions on how the three northern allies will continue from this point to work on the current democratic revolution. Currently, the other democratic revolutionary forces participating in the operation include: the Nation Unity Government Ministry of Defense's People's Defense Forces (PDFs), the Bamar People's Liberation Army (BPLA) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Whether or not the groups involved can use the momentum from the successful operation to the greater democratic revolution remains to be determined.

Mr. Wang Xiaohong, Minister of Public Security of the Chinese Government, Paid a Visit to Myanmar

At the press conference on October 27, when Operation 1027 began, the Chinese government Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Mr. Wang Wenbin said, "China is closely monitoring the ongoing conflict in northern Myanmar. I urge all concerned parties to cease immediately and resolve differences through dialogue, negotiation, and peaceful means". In addition, he urged them to avoid escalating the current situation and effectively resolve the issue in order to have stability and security along the China-Myanmar border.

Within three days of the execution of Operation 1027, the Chinese Minister of Public Security Mr. Wang Xiaohong arrived in Myanmar. He met with the leader of the Military Council General Min Aung Hlaing. At a moment when fighting was still occurring along the China-Myanmar border, a Chinese state-level minister arriving in Myanmar is a significant event. In the three years since the Military Coup, there was no visit from higher rank ministers other than Mr. Qin Gang who visited Myanmar last May. The visit from the Chinese Minister of Public Security may be related to the concern over China-Myanmar border clashes.

General Ko Ko Maung, Top Official of the Army, was Imprisoned for Corruption

In the recent months, there were a series of dismissals and imprisonments of top leaders in the Military Council's cabinet. In October, Lieutenant General Moe Myint Tun was sentenced to life in prison with corruption charges. Most recently, General Ko Ko Maung, the commander of the Northern Military Command, was also sentenced to 10 years in prison for corruption.

Some analysts suggest that the dismissals and imprisonments of military generals show instability within the Military Council.

Military Conflicts

Military conflicts intensified in the month of October, especially in northern Myanmar. On October 27, Operation 1027 took place not only along the Sino-Myanmar border and the northern Shan State but also in the Kachin State. Military conflicts also continued to happen in the Sagaing Region to the Mandalay Region.

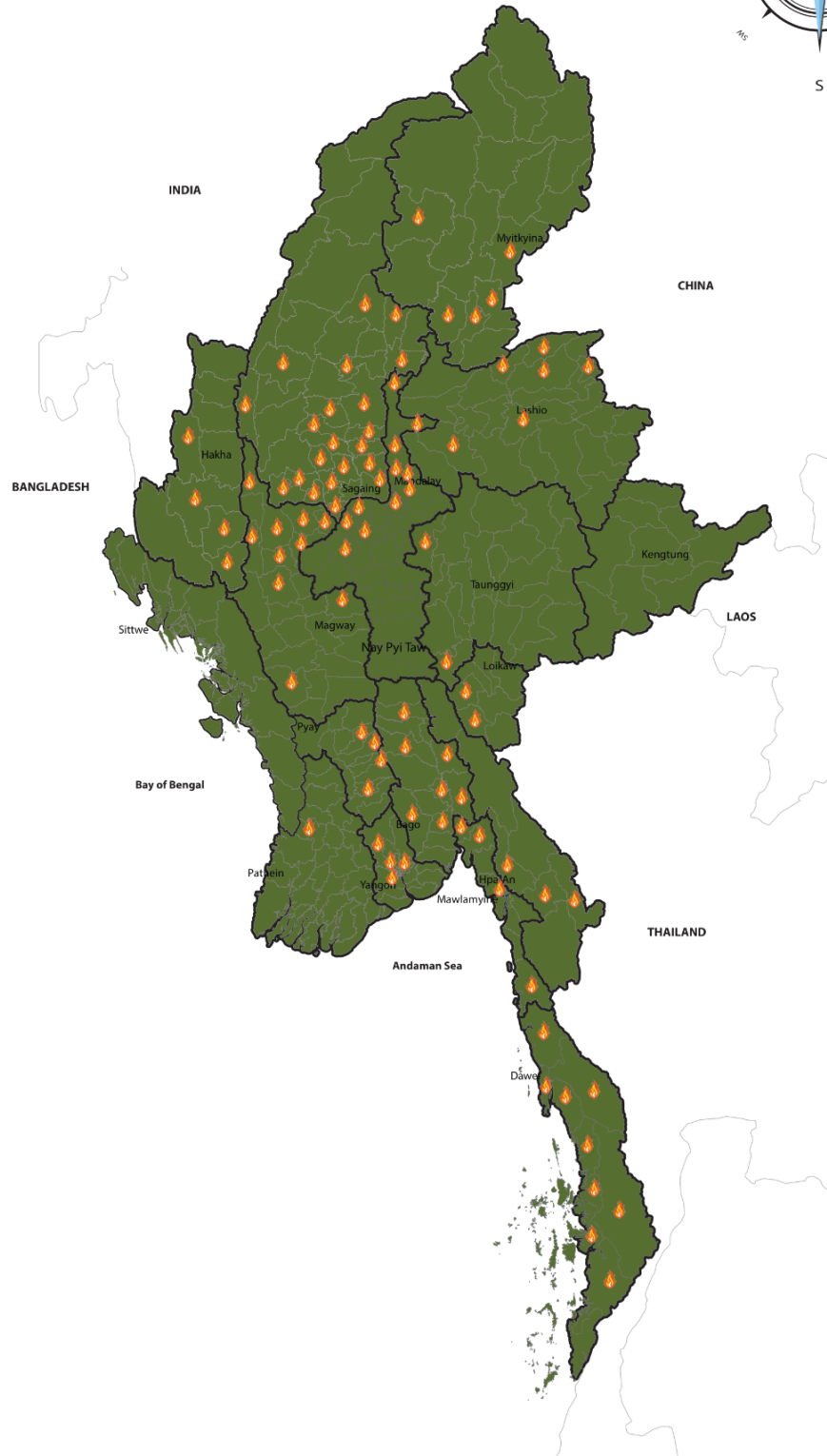
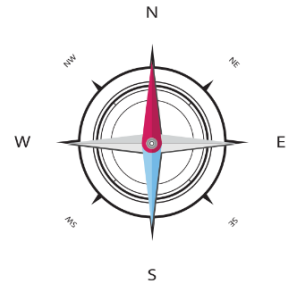
Up to now five cities in northern Shan state and one city in Sagaing region are controlled by revolutionaries.

In addition, in Kayah State, the fighting between the Military Council and revolutionary forces is still ongoing. During the fighting in the state, there were interceptions of support vehicles of the Military Council between Phruso Township and Balachai Myonel which had severe consequences for both parties. Fighting continues in the Kachin State as well. Important camps of the Military Council were captured by KIA and allied forces. In Sagaing, fighting in connection with Operation 1027 continues to take place in the upper part of the region.

Figure 1: Map of Conflicts

Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group - BDFWG
University of Virginia

Map of Myanmar Conflict (October 2023 Total)



States	Clashes between SAC and PDF/EAOs	SAC's soldiers killed	PDF killed
BAGO	10	43	
CHIN	9	6	2
KACHIN	6	3	3
KAYAH (Karenni)	2	5	1
KAYIN	15	19	
MAGWAY	27	131	8
MANDALAY	20	67	1
MON	5	54	2
SAGAING	58	193	7
SHAN (North)	25	88	
SHAN (South)	4	7	1
TANINTHARYI	13	69	
TOTAL	194	685	25

Human Rights Violations

There are continued human rights violations committed by the Military Council through the arrest and killing of innocent civilians. In the month of October, military troops set fires in Puzun Surrey Village, Baguio Nyaung Lai Pin Township and Dinga Village, Momok Township, Kachin State.

In addition, the military council troops killed 5 people in Thantawgone village and Saigone village in Yimapin township, Sagaing province. Military troops continue to murder civilians for no apparent reason.

States	Children Killed	Civilians Killed	Civilians Arrested	Villages Set on Fire	Houses Burned Down
AYEYARWADDY			2		
BAGO	1	3	10	1	60
KACHIN	14		20	1	31
KAYAH (Karenni)	1				
KAYIN	1	2			
MAGWAY	1	11	59	3	180
MANDALAY		1	26	6	73
MON			7		
SAGAING	3	48	107	8	168
SHAN (North)	1	7			
SHAN (South)					4
TANINTHARYI	1	1	55		
YANGON			5		
TOTAL	23	73	291	19	516

Acronymns

AA - Arakan Army

BPLA - Bamar People's Liberation Army

CNF - Chin National Front

KIA - Kachin Independence Army

KSCC - Karenni State Consultative Council

MNDAA - Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army

PDF - People's Defense Forces

PLA - People's Liberation Army

TNLA - Taang National Liberation Army

WCCCC - Working Committee of Chinland Council Conference

References:

1. <https://web.facebook.com/photo?fbid=659941279569738&set=a.200508338846370>
2. <https://web.facebook.com/photo?fbid=650767173914696&set=pcb.650706887254058>
3. <https://news-eleven.com/article/283295>
4. <https://burmese.voanews.com/a/wang-xiaohong-in-npt/7336751.html>
5. <https://burma.irrawaddy.com/news/short-news/2023/10/24/375690.html>
6. <https://web.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=773735784766334&set=a.490657273074188>