

Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group – BDFWG

University of Virginia

Weekly Summary (August 01 - 07, 2024)

Civilian Casualties / Deaths/ Losses During the Second Week of August

In the first week of August, air and artillery attacks by the military council in Myanmar led to the deaths of 49 civilians, including two children and six women.

The northern Shan State experienced the highest number of fatalities, with 18 deaths reported. The Mandalay Region followed with 15 deaths, while Rakhine State saw five, Sagaing Region three, and Bago Region, Magway Region, southern Shan State, and Tanintharyi Region each reported two deaths.

Of the total fatalities, eight were attributed to artillery fire, 33 resulted from air and drone strikes, and eight were due to homicide.

Villages Set on Fire

The Military Council set fire to 58 houses in various locations across Myanmar, resulting in their destruction.

Arrest of Civilians by the Military Council

In the first week of August, a total of 58 civilians were arrested across Myanmar, with 54 arrests occurring in Rakhine State, three in the Ayeyarwady Region, and one in Bago Region.

Aerial Assaults on Civilians by the Military Council

In the first week of August, the Military Council in Myanmar conducted a total of 63 airstrikes. The distribution of these strikes was as follows: 26 occurred in northern Shan State, 18 in Magway Region, 11 in Mandalay Region, 5 in Chin State, 2 in Rakhine State, and 1 in Sagaing Region.

The Conflicts and Casualties in the First Week of August

In the first week of August 2024, there were a total of 52 clashes, both major and minor, including drone strikes. Northern Shan State experienced the most incidents, with 15 clashes reported. Mandalay, Sagaing, and Tanintharyi Regions followed closely, each recording 6 clashes. Magway Region had 4 clashes, while Bago Region, Chin State, Kachin State, and Rakhine State each reported 3. Mon State had 2 clashes, and southern Shan State had 1. Notably, there were no clashes in Ayeyarwady Region, Karenni State, Kayin State, and Yangon Region.

108 junta members and 2 members of the Revolutionary Joint Forces were reported killed in these confrontations in the first week of August.

All information provided is based on local news reports published between August 1st and 7th, 2024.

Operation 1027 (Part 2)

Operations by MDY-PDF and Joint Forces

On August 1, the PDFs employed bulldozers to launch an attack on and subsequently capture the Chaung Gyi Police Station located along the Mogoke-Mandalay road in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region.

Operations by TNLA and Joint Forces

On August 6, the TNLA successfully seized control of the remaining Military Council battalions in Kyaukme, northern Shan State. This included the headquarters of the Light Infantry Battalion (KhaMaRa 501), the Light Infantry Battalion (KhaMaRa 502), and the operational command headquarters of the Military Council (SaKaKha-1).

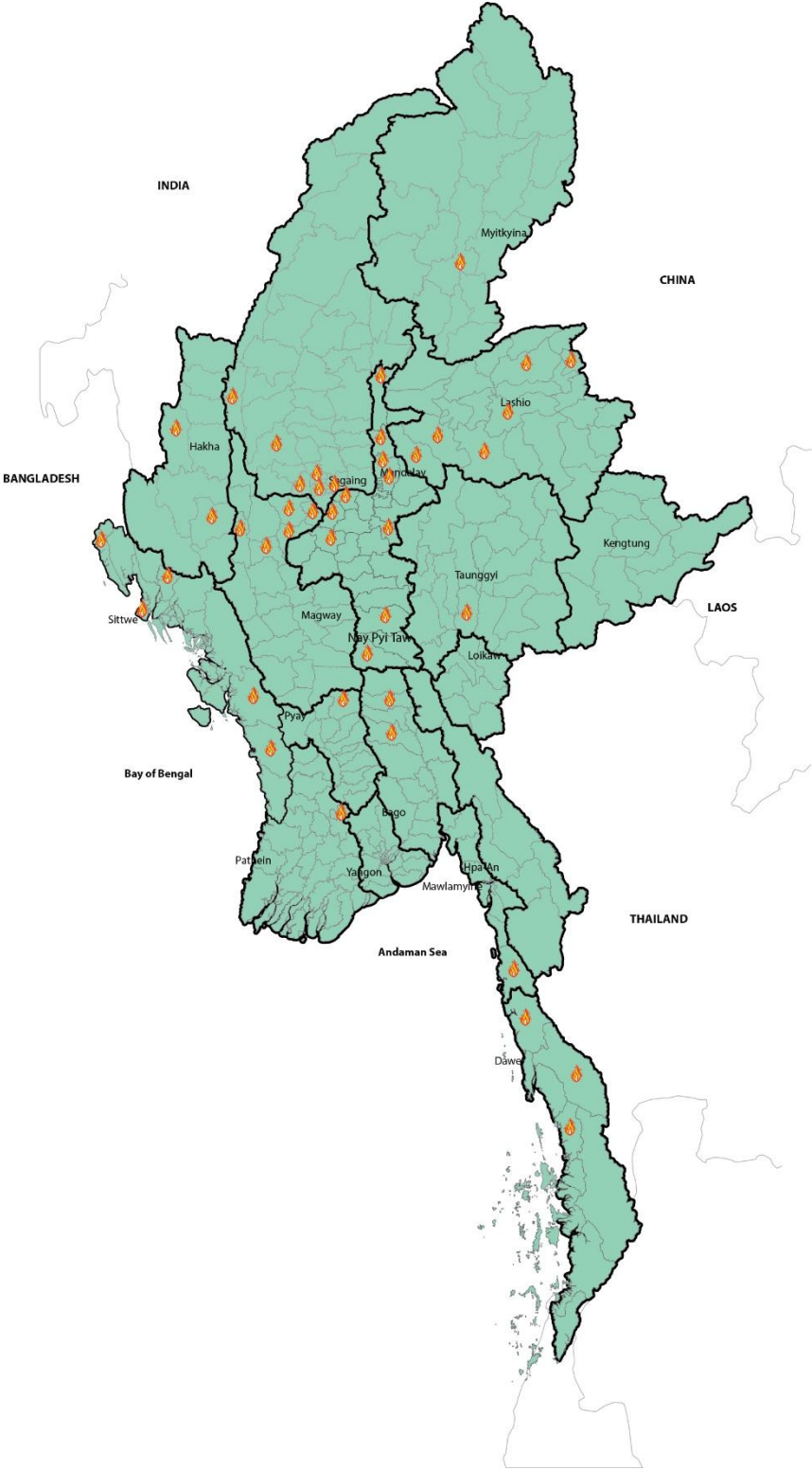
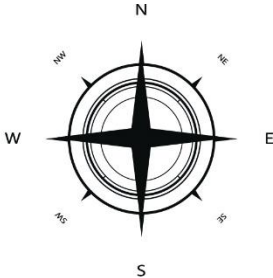
Operations by MNDAA and Joint Forces

On August 1, the headquarters of the Military Council's Northeastern Regional Military Command (RMC) in Lashio, northern Shan State, was attacked and taken over by the Kokang Army (MNDAA) along with joint forces. Following this, on August 2, over a hundred soldiers from the RMC, along with their families, surrendered.

On August 3, the MNDAA-led coalition forces fully captured the Northeastern Regional Military Command (RMC) located in Lashio, northern Shan State.

Data of Myanmar Conflict 01-07, August 2024									
States	Clashes between SAC and PDF/EAOs	Air Strike	SAC's soldiers killed	PDF killed	Children killed	Civilians killed	Civilians arrested	Villages set on fire	Houses burned down
AYEYARWADY							3		
BAGO	3		12			2	1		15
CHIN	3	5							
KACHIN	3								
MAGWAY	4	18	24	2		2			41
MANDALAY	6	11	16		2	15			
MON	2								
RAKHINE	3	2				5	54		
SAGAING	6	1	15			3			
SHAN (North)	15	26				18			2
SHAN (South)	1		15			2			
TANINTHARYI	6		26			2			
TOTAL	52	63	108	2	2	49	58		58

Map of Myanmar Conflict (August 01-07, 2024)



Notable News from the First Week of August

Special Representative of the Military Leader Meets Cambodian Prime Minister

On August 1, Minister Ko Ko Hlaing, designated as a special representative of Min Aung Hlaing, met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet at the Peace Palace.

USDP Seeks Russian Military Assistance for Military Council

On August 4, Sputnik reported that the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has requested military assistance from Russia for the coup military council.

Military Council Rejects Applications for Re-registration of New Society Party (NSP) and ZCD

On August 5, the Military Council's Election Commission announced the rejection of party registration applications from the Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) and the Zomi Congress for Democracy (ZCD). The Commission stated that the applications did not meet the requirements outlined in Section 6 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The ZCD is notable for being the first Chin political party to reapply for registration.

Pro-military and Anti-MNDAA Rallies Held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon City Hall

On August 6, the Military Council issued a directive to organize pro-military and anti-MNDAA rallies. Regional and state Military Councils were instructed to arrange transportation for participants and provide bottled water and food for the events. Supporters of the military, displaying yellow, green, red, and military flags, gathered in front of Yangon City Hall to protest against the MNDAA.

Military Council Helicopter Crash

On August 2, a Eurocopter helicopter crashed shortly after taking off from the Military Council air base in Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region. The incident resulted in the deaths of Maj. Gen. Soe Tin Lat, the commander of the Southern Regional Air Command, and a co-pilot, while two other officers on board sustained injuries.

PDF Seizes Chinese-Owned Tagaung Nickel Plant; NUG in Discussions with Chinese Company

In late July, People's Defense Forces (PDFs) seized control of the Tagaung nickel plant located in Tigyang Township, Sagaing Region. The plant, which has received an investment of \$855 million from a Chinese state-owned mining company, was previously under the Military Council's control. Approximately 50 Military Council soldiers stationed at the site expressed their willingness to surrender to the PDFs in the last week of July. It has been reported that China has approached the National Unity Government (NUG) to mediate this situation, and the NUG is currently in talks with Chinese representatives regarding the future of the facility.

Military Council Arrests Nearly 100 Money Changers

On August 1, the Central Bank of the Military Council announced the arrest of 93 foreign exchange operators in response to the significant decline in the value of the Myanmar kyat and the rise in the price of the US dollar. The bank is currently reviewing the accounts and financial transactions of those arrested, and further actions will be taken under the Financial Institutions Law. Additionally, the Central Bank reported that from January 2023 to August 1, 2024, it revoked the business licenses of 194 foreign exchange businesses for failing to comply with its regulations.

Sources - The Irrawaddy, RFA, Ayeyarwaddy Times, Myanmar Pressphoto Agency, PVTV,

Khit Thit Media, Narinjara, Mizzima, Myanmar Now, DVB, BBC, MeKong News,

ThanLwin Times, D Day News, Khonumthung Burmese.