



Students for Free Burma

OFFICIAL MEMO

SITUATION UPDATE: July 20, 2022

- **Political Developments**

- On July 15, 2022, [State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi testified against fraud charges](#) regarding the 2020 national elections that were made against her by the military junta. She denied these charges in a closed trial in Nay Pyi Taw.
- On July 14, 2022, a [financial scandal regarding the Burmese military-affiliated political party Union Solidarity and Development Party \(USDP\)](#) emerged again when U Maung Myint, a senior USDP official, revealed that USDP spokesperson Dr. Nanda Hla Myint borrowed two billion Kyats (US\$1.07 million) from the party.
- In an interview with the acting president of [the National Unity Government \(NUG\)](#), [Duwa Lashi La](#) talked about the challenges of garnering international attention and the recent developments regarding the armed revolution against the military regime.

- **Ground Situation**

- As of July 19, 2022, the [Assistance Association for Political Prisoners \(AAPP\)](#), a Burmese human rights advocacy organization, [reported](#) that 2,092 individuals have been killed. AAPP also reported that 14,736 individuals have been arrested and 11,668 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- On July 18, local media reported that [clashes between the Arakan Army \(AA\) and the junta forces](#) took place in northern Maungdaw Township in Rakhine State.
- [Clashes](#) between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the junta forces have been taking place in Hpakant Township in Kachin State since July 17.
- Between July 15-19, at least six junta officials have been [killed](#) by local resistance forces in Yangon.
- On July 14, 2022, the junta carried out [airstrikes in Depayin Township](#) in Sagaing Township forcing thousands of civilians to flee from their homes.
- On July 14, Mizzima's freelance reporter Ma Nyein Nyein Aye was [sentenced to three years in prison](#) with hard labor under the 505(A) charge. She was arrested on January 15, 2022, while reporting on the ground in Yangon.
- On July 13, at least [nine teachers](#) from an online school were arrested by the junta. They were teaching students who are boycotting the junta education system.
- The military regime has been disrupting several roads in Chin State resulting in residents in Matupi and Mindat townships of southern [Chin State running out of food supplies](#).
- During the first half of July, junta forces have been [burning more than 150 oil wells](#) in Magway Region in an attempt to cut off support for local PDFs. The local population owns and operates the oil wells. They rely on oil production for livelihood.

- **International Responses**

- o On July 20, 2022, the U.S. Department of Defense [withdrew](#) from the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter Terrorism. The working group is co-chaired by Burma and Russia. DoD cited the co-chairs' violation of ASEAN values as the reason. Australia and New Zealand withdrew earlier in the month.
- o Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing [met with officials from the Russian Ministry of Defense](#) during his visit on the second week of July. He also met with the director general of Russian state energy company Rosatom and [signed an MOU](#) with the company to cooperate on nuclear energy skills development.
- o On July 13, 2022, the junta [forced Pete Vowles](#), the Chargé D' Affaires ad interim at the British Embassy in Yangon, to leave the country.
- o NUG's Acting President Duwa Lashi La virtually [met](#) with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on July 14, 2022.
- o According to Justice for Myanmar (JFM), Sandeep Metalcraft, an Indian arms producer, is [supplying the Burmese junta](#) with materials for bombs and artillery.
- **Business and Economy**
 - o The lengthy approval process by the junta's approving bodies and foreign exchange crisis are [creating shortages](#) in essential medical goods and raising their prices.
 - o Local media reported that there has been a [surge in illegal rare earth mining](#) in Kachin State in northern Burma since the coup. China imports a significant portion of its rare earth minerals from Burma.
 - o On July 13, 2022, the Central Bank of Myanmar ordered companies and individual borrowers [to suspend repayment](#) of foreign loans in an attempt to defend its foreign exchange reserve.