



Students for Free Burma

OFFICIAL MEMO

SITUATION UPDATE: September 07, 2022

- **Political Developments**

- On September 06, the junta confirmed its [plan to change the country's electoral system](#) to a proportional representation (PR) electoral system at the Union Election Commission training session.
- On September 02, State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to [three more years in prison](#). This sentencing also comes with hard labor, unlike the previous sentences.
- On August 31, Japanese filmmaker Toru Kubota's hearing was [postponed](#) to September 06. He was arrested for his alleged involvement with resistance movements and was charged with a violation of immigration rules.

- **Ground Situation**

- As of September 06, 2022, the [Assistance Association for Political Prisoners \(AAPP\)](#), a Burmese human rights advocacy organization, [reported](#) that 2,267 individuals have been killed. AAPP also reported that 15,416 individuals have been arrested and 12,312 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- In its latest report, UN OCHA reported that [nearly 1.3 million people](#) are currently displaced in Burma. 974,000 of those displaced by the conflict and violence since the coup. More than 45,500 people remain in neighboring countries after fleeing since the coup.
- Chin National Front (CNF) reported that [at least 60 junta soldiers](#) were killed in fights with resistance forces in Hakha Township in Chin State in August. In Kayah State, it is reported that close to [1,500 junta troops and over 150 resistance fighters](#) were killed since May 2021.
- In recent weeks, the junta has been [strictly enforcing](#) the overnight guest list registration law with door-to-door inspections throughout some cities. Some local junta authorities are allegedly taking advantage of this by extorting money from civilians.
- A Sagaing Region-based PDF, the Bo Tiger PDF, called on the NUG [to investigate a recent clash](#) between the Bo Tiger PDF and the Shwebo District PDF. The two PDFs clashed with each other in Wetlet Township over allegations of Bo Tiger PDF demanding money from travelers.

- **International Responses**

- On September 05, junta leader Min Aung Hlaing [visited](#) Russia (his second trip in the last two months and third since the coup) for economic talks. Junta-controlled media [said](#) he is attending the Eastern Economic Forum to “further cement” economic cooperation between the two countries. Min Aung Hlaing will also [reportedly](#) meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 07, the first meeting between the two leaders.

- o On September 05, the UN Special Envoy to Burma, Noeleen Heyzer [said](#) that she would only visit Burma again if she is allowed to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. She [expressed](#) concern about Suu Kyi's health following the ousted leaders' sentencing and also said she "was told there would be a meeting eventually."
- o On September 05, Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah [reinforced](#) his call for ASEAN to act on the situation in Burma. Saifuddin said he wrote to the ASEAN Secretary-General asking for updates as no reports were given after the ASEAN meeting in August.
- o On September 03, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [denounced](#) the junta's new sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He [called](#) on other nations to "hold the regime accountable" for violence and arrests against elected leaders. The EU also [released](#) a statement calling on the regime to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and "all political prisoners."
- o On the morning of September 03, four junta fighter aircraft reportedly [crossed](#) into Bandarban near the Bangladesh-Burma border. The Bandarban Superintendent of Police [said](#) shells and gunshots were fired but no casualties were reported. Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign affairs [summoned](#) the junta's ambassador to Bangladesh, U Aung Kyaw Moe, for the third time in two weeks, and expressed their concerns again about air and artillery strikes in Bangladesh territory.
- o On September 02, Vicky Bowman, the ex-UK Ambassador to Burma, and her husband, Htein Lin were [sentenced](#) to one year in prison on potential "wider political" charges, rather than immigration offenses, "for which foreigners are rarely prosecuted." The UK [released](#) a statement expressing their concern while the junta has defended the arrest, saying the couple registered an address but were living elsewhere.
- **Business and Economy**
 - o NUG's Minister of Planning, Finance, and Investment U Tin Tun Naing said that the NUG is [pressing the US](#) to release Burma's US\$ 1 billion reserve in the US Federal Reserve to back its digital currency and its plan to create a new central bank.
 - o Sources close to the last foreign-owned telecom in Burma, Ooredoo, said that the company is planning [to sell its stakes](#) to Singapore-based tech company, The One Matrix Ventures (TOMV).
 - o Family members of the junta leadership have been awarded business contracts since the coup began. Local media reported that [lucrative business contracts](#) were given to companies run by family members of the junta circle.