



# Students for Free Burma

## OFFICIAL MEMO

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### SITUATION UPDATE: November 02, 2022

- **Political Developments**

- Ten ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) who have held peace talks with the junta recently including the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and United Wa State Army (UWSA) have [yet to condemn](#) the junta's airstrikes on civilians in Hpakant, Kachin State.
- In an address on the 62nd anniversary of the Kachin Independence Organization's (KIO) founding, General N'ban La, the chairman of KIO, announced that the KIO will begin a [new political movement](#) to eliminate the military dictatorship.
- Lieutenant General Myo Zaw and Lieutenant General Aung Soe from the junta forces stepped down from their military positions to take on [leadership positions](#) in the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).
- On October 26, 2022, the military junta [released](#) the former heads of the Union Election Commission under the NLD Government from prison. The two released were U Hla Thein who served as the chairman of the UEC and U Myint Naing who was a commission secretary.
- On October 25, 2022, the military regime published a statement stating [they were not responsible](#) for the airstrikes conducted at a festival in Hpakant Township, Kachin State on October 23, 2022.
- On October 25, 2022, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) [vowed](#) to use the losses they have endured during the junta's airstrikes in Kachin State to find courage for more revolutionary efforts.
- On the last week of October, the junta [closed down](#) The Irrawaddy, an independent media company, and revoked its license for alleged damaging of "state security, rule of law, and public tranquility."

- **Ground Situation**

- As of November 02, 2022, the [Assistance Association for Political Prisoners \(AAPP\)](#), a Burmese human rights advocacy organization, [reported](#) that 2,408 individuals have been killed. AAPP also reported that 16,040 individuals have been arrested and 12,830 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- Locals in Northern Rakhine reported that the junta forces are [pressuring IDPs](#) to return to their homes. There are significant security risks for IDPs to return home.
- On October 22, 2022, military junta forces [burned a village](#) called Shwe Pauk Pin in Myaung Township, Sagaing region. About 5,000 people were forced to flee.
- Local media reported that the junta is [using state funds](#) originally intended for development and disaster relief for funding pro-junta militia in their fight against the resistance forces in Sagaing Region.

- **International Responses**

- On October 27, 2022, ASEAN foreign ministers hosted an emergency meeting to discuss the Burma Crisis. The ministers [acknowledged](#) that efforts thus far have been unsuccessful but called for [“concrete, practical, and time-bound actions”](#) to strengthen the implementation of the five-point consensus.” Human Rights Watch implored ASEAN countries to [“support tougher sanctions”](#) and other measures to address abuses by the junta.
- The UN High Commissioner for Human rights, Volker Türk, urged Malaysia to [halt the forced returns](#) of refugees and migrants from Burma. The call came after Malaysia deported more than a hundred Burmese citizens on October 06, 2022.
- On October 28, 2022, the regime’s special operation commander, Lieutenant General Phone Myat, [visited](#) Bangladesh’s military chief General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed to discuss relations and regional security. Junta border forces also [met with Bangladesh border forces](#) to improve relations after shells landed in Bangladesh during the junta attacks in Rakhine State.

- **Business and Economy**

- Norway’s telecom company, Telenor, is working with 474 civil society organizations to [conduct a risk assessment and provide support](#) to its former users who may be at risk in Burma after Telenor exited the country.
- The junta-controlled Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) said that it will [implement](#) a draft action plan to increase compliance with FATF recommendations after it was put on the FATF blacklist earlier in October.