



# Students for Free Burma

## OFFICIAL MEMO

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### SITUATION UPDATE: March 20, 2023

#### Political Development

- The junta [distributed](#) propaganda pamphlets to students who were taking their university-entrance exams to boost its recruitment efforts.
- On March 16, 2023, the Federal Political Negotiation and Consultative Committee (FPNCC) which includes some ethnic armed organizations in northern Burma, [called for China's](#) aid to help settle the country's crisis.

#### Situation on the Ground

- As of March 20, 2023, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) [reported](#) that 3,146 individuals have been killed. AAPP also said that 20,703 individuals have been arrested and 16,837 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- Junta forces [killed more than 28 people](#) including Buddhist monks in Pin Laung Township in southern Shan State on March 11.
- Two local resistance fighters were [killed](#) by junta forces in Sagaing Region on March 13. One fighter was beheaded and the other was shot dead.
- Junta troops [raided](#) the Kachin literature and culture office in Hparpyin Village in Kachin State and detained 40 people including a KIO officer.

#### International Response

- On March 17, 2023, the Myanmar Accountability Project (MAP) [accused](#) the UNHCR of participating in a junta initiative to return Rohingya refugees under military supervision. Leaked communications allegedly showed the UN helping transport junta officials to meet with refugees in Cox's Bazar for the pilot project.
- On March 16, 2023, UN Special Envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer [stated](#) she saw "no prospect" for a political settlement with both sides "intent on prevailing by force." She also highlighted recent reports of the junta's atrocities on PDF fighters and civilians in southern Shan State.
- On March 10, 2023, the UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific [announced](#) a new package of funding for the Rohingya totaling £5.26 million (\$6.4 million). The funding will be distributed through the WFP and the UNHCR.
- US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet [said](#) Japan and other Indo-Pacific partners should engage with the NUG on the Burma crisis.