



# Students for Free Burma

## OFFICIAL MEMO

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### SITUATION UPDATE: April 10, 2023

#### Political Development

- On April 08, 2023, a junta court sentenced prominent pro-democracy leader, [Ko Wai Moe Naing](#), to an additional 20 years in prison, bringing the total number of years he has been sentenced to 34 years.
- As of April 07, 2023, [63 political parties have registered](#) for the junta's election.
- On April 05, 2023, the NUG and the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) urged political parties [to not contest in the junta's election](#).
- The junta-appointed National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held [informal talks](#) with seven ethnic armed groups that were signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on March 28 and March 29, 2023.
- On March 28, 2023, the military junta [dissolved](#) the NLD and 39 other political parties after they refused to register for the junta's elections.
- On March 25, 2023, former NLD Tanintharyi Region Chair U Aung Soe and Lower House lawmaker U Win Myint Aung [visited ousted State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi](#) in Naypyitaw prison to seek advice from her regarding concerns that the NLD would be dissolved. However, a prison official reportedly told them that she refused to meet them.
- From March 15 to March 21, 2023, approximately [60,000 students took matriculation exams](#) administered by the National Unity Government (NUG) in its Southern Military Region 3 area.

#### Situation on the Ground

- As of April 10, 2023, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) [reported](#) that **3,229 individuals have been killed**. AAPP also said that 21,300 individuals have been arrested and 17,421 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- Nearly [1.8 million people were displaced](#) in Burma as of March 27, 2023. More than 1.4 million of those have been displaced by violence and conflict since the 2021 coup.
- A corporate lawyer accused of laundering money and helping evade Western sanctions for the junta was [shot and killed](#) by local PDF in Yangon.
- A PDF in Hlaing Tharyar [bombed](#) the local junta-election commission office on March 25, 2023.
- The junta [arrested 15 teachers](#) in Mandalay Region in connection with a NUG online school.
- The junta outpost at the Yangon Airport was [bombarded](#) by PDFs on April 06, 2023.
- KNLA [captured a major junta base](#) in Karen State on March 28, 2023.
- Recent satellite imagery of Great Coco Island in the Indian Ocean reveals that the junta may be [militarizing the island for surveillance purposes](#).

## International Response

- On April 04, 2023, the NUG [called on](#) Taiwan, Japan, and other Asian democracies to reject the junta's planned elections. This followed the junta's dissolution of 40 political parties.
- On April 03, 2023, a UN Panel of Experts report [stated](#) that the junta may have purchased weapons from North Korea, going against sanctions barring arms trade with the country. Royal Shune Lei Company Ltd. allegedly served as a broker between the junta and the UN-sanctioned Korea Mining Development Trading Corporation.
- On March 30, 2023, the US, UK, Japan, and Australia [condemned](#) the junta's decision to dissolve 40 political parties, including the National League for Democracy. A State Department spokesperson stated further objection against the junta's planned election.
- On March 29, 2023, US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet [stated](#) that he met with the Indonesian government to discuss Burma. He shared that the Indonesian foreign ministry established a special office to address the crisis and that sanctions "have had some effect."
- On March 27, 2023, the UK [announced](#) further sanctions against arms dealers and aviation fuel suppliers to the junta. This marks the UK's 15th round of targeted sanctions against the junta.

## Business and Economy

- The junta-controlled DICA reported that Burma attracted [over US\\$1.64 billion in FDI](#) in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Thailand were the largest foreign investors.
- On April 02, 2023, [China signed an agreement](#) with the junta to purchase power from Dapein 1 Hydropower Plant in Kachin State.
- The World Bank predicted [a three percent growth in the economy](#) for Burma in the fiscal year ending in September 2023. Uncertainties and disruptions due to coup-related conflicts will largely affect this slow growth.