



# Students for Free Burma

## OFFICIAL MEMO

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### SITUATION UPDATE: April 17, 2023

#### Political Development

- On April 16, 2023, [the National Unity Government \(NUG\)](#) spokesperson claims they have made significant process since its establishment two years ago amidst numerous challenges.
- On April 12, 2023, the junta [justified](#) its deadly attack on Pazigy Village in Sagaing Region by stating that civilians were killed as they were being coerced to assist “terrorists.”
- On April 10, 2023, [the NUG](#) sent its regards to the Arakan Army (AA) on its 14th anniversary and urged for greater collaboration.
- The junta chief approved [military spending of around US\\$ 2.7 billion](#) for the new fiscal year.
- On April 07, 2023, a junta court in Kachin State [sentenced](#) 13 KIA/KIO soldiers to five years in prison on unlawful association and terrorism charges.

#### Situation on the Ground

- As of April 12, 2023, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) [reported](#) that **3,240 individuals have been killed**. AAPP also said that 21,348 individuals have been arrested and 17,460 individuals are still detained by the Burmese military since the coup.
- The junta conducted an airstrike on a civilian gathering in Pazi Gyi Village in Sagaing Region on April 11, 2023. The airstrike [killed 171 people including 38 children](#) as of April 15, 2023.
- Burmese new year celebrations have been [affected by bombings and violence](#) taking place in public areas. Several local PDFs have warned the public to stay away from the junta’s public new year celebration pavilion due to the risk of bombing.
- The CNDF [killed 11 junta soldiers and captured 14 soldiers](#) in an attack on the junta military camp in Falam Township, Chin State.

#### International Response

- US State Department Counselor Chollet traveled to Singapore and discussed [coordination on Burma issues](#) including US sanctions on Burma.
- On April 16, 2023, the ICJ [published](#) an order rejecting the junta’s extension request for a response to the Rohingya genocide trial. The court stated that the junta is not allowed to delay the proceedings “because of its own military coup.”
- On April 12, 2023, Human Rights Watch [reported](#) that Thai immigration officials forcibly returned three opposition activists to Burma. The activists were arrested on illegal entry charges in Mae Sot on April 1 and handed over to a junta-aligned Border Guard Force (BGF) on April 04, 2023. One of the three was [killed](#) in an attempted escape from the BGF.
- On April 11, 2023, the [US](#), [UN](#), and [ASEAN](#) condemned the junta’s airstrike on Pazi Gyi Village in Sagaing which killed more than 170 people. All parties called on the junta to stop further violence against innocent civilians.