



RECAP



WEEKLY COUP UPDATE BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

AUGUST 14-20, 2021

In the twenty ninth week since the coup, fighting between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Burma Army (BA) occurred in [northern Shan State](#), Waingmaw, and near [Danai](#), Kachin State. In other parts of the country, the BA (and/or its Border Guard Forces) clashed with the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA). Additionally, clashes between the BA and/or military action by the People's Defense Forces (PDF) were reported in Sagaing Region ([Pale](#)), Chin State ([Mindat](#)), and Shan State ([Moegoke](#) and [Pekon](#)). Violence against regime informants and collaborators was reported in [Madayar](#), [Saw](#), [Hpakant](#), [Kale](#), [Yekyi](#), and [Ye](#) townships, and [Mandalay](#). This week, there were several reports of the BA using civilians as human shields.

Humanitarian Crisis and Human Rights Violations

- On August 14 in Waingmaw, Kachin State, [locals reported hearing weapons](#) being fired starting at 10pm. Due to safety concerns, many villagers left their homes and took refuge at relative's houses that are farther away from the BA base.
- On August 14 in Mansi, Kachin State, [a landmine exploded and fatally injured a civilian](#) (age 38). He received medical care but died the following day.
- On August 15 in Yangon, the security forces [arrested two more journalists](#): a freelance journalist who is also an outspoken regime critic, U Sithu Aung Myint, and a reporter from BBC Media Action, Ma Htet Htet Khine. They were in a hideout at the time.
- On August 16, it was reported that villagers who recently fled fighting in northern Shan State were running out of food supplies because the BA troops prevented supplies from reaching their camp in Muse District. A villager stated that they [only have enough food for up to five days](#).
- On August 26 in Mandalay, [plain clothes officers arrested an anti-coup protest organizer](#) Kyaw Thiha.
- On August 17 in Mogaung, Kachin State, the security forces [arbitrarily arrested about 18 youths](#) after threatening them at gunpoint. The [youths were later released](#) on August 20.
- On August 17 in Waingmaw, Kachin State, it was reported that the BA troops [randomly searched houses near the battalion base](#).

COVID-19 AND FLOODING UPDATES

- On August 16 in Kachin State, [a woman was killed and an 80-year woman was wounded during a landslide](#) in Maga Yang IDP camp. Furthermore, at least 15 houses were washed away or destroyed.
- On August 17 in Mogaung, Kachin State, there was [flooding in lowland wards](#).
- On August 17 in Waingmaw, more than [60 individuals tested positive for COVID-19](#) at 2 IDP camps.
- On August 18 in Danai, Kachin State, it is reported that since the end of July [at least 4 or 5 individuals have been dying of COVID-19](#) everyday. A local man said that there are no state institutions providing any relief to residents. Even if there were, residents no longer have trust in these institutions. Therefore, many opt to stay at home even when they become sick. A source estimates that at least half of the town's population is infected.

- On August 17 in Minkin Township, Sagaing Region, a group of [coup collaborators killed three residents \(two 60 years olds and a 26 year old\) of Kyauk Khe Tat village.](#)
 - On August 17 in Kani Township, Sagaing Region, [thousands of villagers fled their homes](#) upon the arrival of the BA troops due to security concerns.
 - On August 18 in Kani Township, the BA troops abducted over 20 civilians from Thanaung Pakar village and [used them as human shields.](#)
 - On August 19 in Waingmaw, Kachin State, the [artillery from the night before exploded in residential areas,](#) destroying several houses.
 - According to a statement released by the Karenni National Defense Force, on August 19, the BA troops [abducted 10 civilians and used them as human shields](#) in Pekon Township, Shan State.
 - On August 19 in Mandalay, [plain clothes officers arrested an anti-coup protester](#) in his home and beat him.
 - On August 20 in Yinmarpyin township, Sagaing Region, the security forces [arrested the parents of a police officer who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement](#) (CDM).
- On August 18 in Panseng, Muse District, [flooding destroyed temporary shelters](#) of the civilians displaced by the armed conflict in the area.
 - On August 19, the city of Shwegu, Kachin State, saw [a rise in COVID-19 deaths](#) in recent days and the number of COVID deaths were projected to keep rising.
 - On August 19 in Bhamo, Kachin State, [residents in lowland wards evacuated](#) due to flooding of the Bhamo River.
 - On August 20 in Hpakant, Kachin State, [a landslide killed at least 3 men.](#) The exact number of deaths is still unknown.
 - The security forces reportedly [issued weapons to 50 coup-sympathizers](#) in Hpakant, Kachin State and instructed them to surveil political activists and political activities in the area.



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