

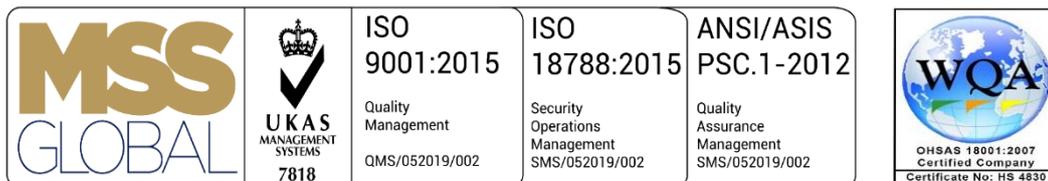
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1200 hours (UTC+6:30) 25 March 2020.

EXERA

Weekly Security Review

Safety and Security Highlights for Clients Operating in
Myanmar

Dates covered: 19 – 25 March 2020



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SITUATION UPDATE

Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) conducted some clearance operations against AA Troops and positions around Tatmadaw strong points at Mee Wa's. Tatmadaw have established a Field Command Centre and Artillery posts at Mee Wa hill. Before the clearance operations AA Troops had been dominating the ground Mee Wa hill, Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) had been blocked and encircled since the end of January. AA troops attempted several severe attacks to occupy that Mee Wa Hill. However, Tatmadaw's reinforcement columns penetrated into the area push back AA together with the AA Strong points on the hill. As a result, AA troops suffered many fatalities and retreated away to more remote areas. Tatmadaw used air strikes to support operations against AA troops following their routes of retreat. It confirmed that both sides suffered fatalities and injuries in addition the Tatmadaw rescued POWs held by the AA.

Due to the on going fighting that lasted several days, some houses were destroyed and burnt down, it had been reported that unknown number of villagers have been killed and injured in addition to displaced people.

Anti-Terrorism Central Committee officially issued the Order No.1/2020 on 23rd March, 2020, accordance with the Anti-terrorism Law Section 6, sub-section (e) and Section 72 (b), The United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) been declared as Terrorist Group. On the same day, Ministry of Home Affairs officially declared The United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) as an Unlawful Association accordance with section 15, subsection (2) from the Unlawful Association Act.

These two orders in details are as below –

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee
Order No. 1/2020

15th Waning of Tabaung 1381 ME
(23 March 2020)

Declaration of Terrorist Group

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the Union Government in exercise of the Anti-Terrorism Law Section 6, sub-section (e) and Section 72 (b).

1. The United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA), by organizing as well as using fear and threats to local people in northern Rakhine State, attacked military columns, members of Myanmar Police Force and security outposts using the local people as cover. They also arrested, killed and tortured village administrators, civil service staff and innocent civilians, in addition to shootings and landmine attacks in the villages.
2. These terrorist acts of the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) have caused serious losses of public security, lives and property, important infrastructures of the public and private sector, state-owned buildings, vehicles, equipment and materials. Moreover, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) also conducted terrorist attacks on the registered vessels, airplanes and motorized vehicles. They committed the acts of violence based in the country.
3. Therefore, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) which has been committing the above-mentioned terrorist acts has, been declared as a terrorist group.

Chairman
Anti-terrorism Central Committee
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Order No. 1/2020

15th Waning of Tabaung 1381 ME
(23 March 2020)

Declaration of Unlawful Association

1. The President is of the opinion that objectives and acts of the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA), its affiliated group and its related individuals have constituted a danger to law and order, peace and stability of the country and public peace.
2. Therefore, the President, as per Section 16 of the Unlawful Associations Act, has declared the above-mentioned group and its affiliated groups as an Unlawful Association in accordance with the stipulations in Section 15, subsection (2) of the Unlawful Associations Act.

By order
Lieutenant General Soe Htut
Union Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Documents taken via from Myanmar Newspapers.

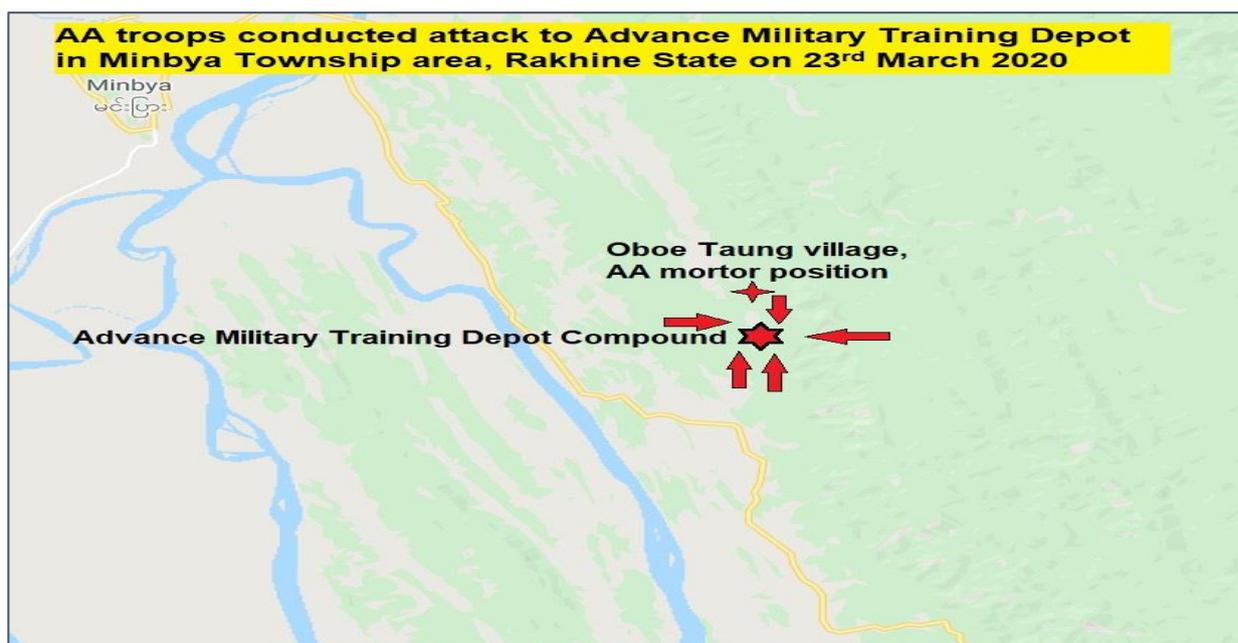
Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) press conference held in Nay Pyi Taw on 22nd March. The press conference was attended by High Ranking Officials from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and reporters and journalists from local news agencies, Locally based foreign news agencies. The officials from Tatmadaw True News Information Team briefed the press on the current situations about clashes in Northern Rakhine State, Southern Chin State, Drug seizures cases in Northern Shan State.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

The area between Northern Rakhine and Southern Chin state has seen fewer clashes within this reporting period. This is because Tatmadaw occupied some vital points around Mee Wa hill area in addition clearance operations in the surrounding area forcing AA out of the area. According to the released notes from Tatmadaw's Press Conference hold on 22nd March 2020 Myanmar Military are now trying to follow the retreated AA troops and continue rescue operations for Tatmadaw POWs. Although the AA activities are still ongoing in Southern Chin state area. However flashing points have now been diverted to Minbya, Maungdaw townships area within this reporting period.

The major flashing points within this report are as below -

1. AA troops conducted attack on the Military Training Depot in Minbya Township area, Rakhine State on 23rd March: Around 300 AA troops launched attack on the training depot from five directions in early on morning of the 23 March 2020. AA troops were reported using heavy weapon. attacks came from Oboe Taung Village to the north side of the training depot. Tatmadaw Military personnel conducted a defence of the location which included calling in Air and Artillery Support for two hours until the reinforcement columns. It was reported that AA troops started retreating at about 11 am leaving some dead fighters at the scenes. The Tatmadaw suffered some dead and injured. 2 days before the main attack it has been reported that that a group of seven armed approached the training depot, where the security check point challenge and fired warning shots the group fled the area- NFD.

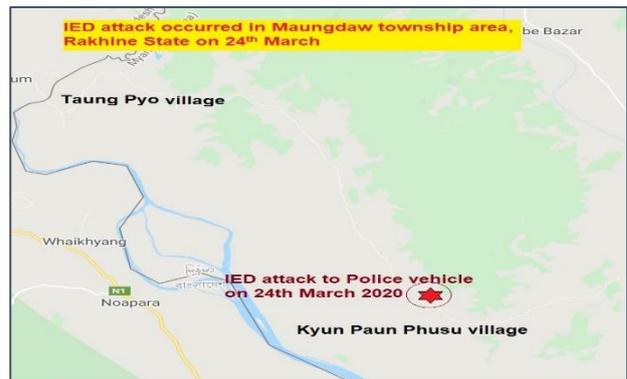


The map showed that the training depot area, that AA conducted the attacks from 5 directions



The seized Arms and Ammunitions from AA

2. IED attack occurred in Maungdaw township area, Rakhine State on 24th March. A Police vehicle travelling from Taung Pyo village to Kyee Kan Pyin village onboarded with Border Guard Police Regiment Commander and his staffs they were attacked by roadside IED near Kyun Paun Phusu village. The Commander, a Police Captain and driver were killed in addition to 5 Police were injured due to the explosion - NFD.



The map showed that the IED explosion point

3. AA troop abducted 15 workers from road construction site in Paletwa township, Chin on 23rd March: A group of AA arrived at the compound of C&C Company, Paletwa – Zorampur road project site, situated on the bank of Kalandan river, east of Paletwa and abducted eight Indian citizens, two interpreters and five local workers. The hostages have been moved to the mountain area. The AA conducted questioning and then stole 10 Million MMK and personal belongings from the hostages before releasing them. In addition to 10 persons including five Indian citizens from EPI and RPP Companies abducted on the 4 November 2019 were released after 4 months in captivity. AA troops committing property damage in Paletwa Bridge Project and Paletwa-Zorampur Road Project for destruction in addition opened fire at transport ship, Sea Princess with small and heavy arms near Tin Ma Village of Kyauktaw Township on 1 December.

Assessment for Tatmadaw and AA Clashes

After operations conducted by Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) in Mee Wa area and the subsequent retreat of AA troops, our assessment is AA troops would want to conduct counter attacks on Military and Police posts in other areas of Rakhine and Chin State. AA long term aim is the reoccupy Mee Wa Hill area, because this is a key strategic point. As this is a center of Line of Communication (LoC), both transportation road to Paletwa via Kyauktaw and the waterways of Kalandan River too. The area has been of interest for many years to the AA and have made several attempts to push Myanmar Army (Tatmadaw) out of their Headquarters and outposts in Rakhine State, in order to control this area. Nevertheless, they have failed to achieve this aim.

COMMERCIAL-IN-CONFIDENCE

Moreover, the recent declaration that now classes Arakan Army AA as a Terrorist Group in addition to anybody assisting them could be charged with Unlawful Association. This now increasing tensions between the AA and the Security Forces and could be a trigger point for further escalating in conflict. We believe that attacks on Military and Police post could happen at any time, there is a threat to public transportation infrastructure.

SOCIAL STABILITY

There were no major Demonstrations and Protests in this reporting period. But the Labor organizations and Authorities are trying to mitigate and finding out the ways of getting raw materials for the Garment factories, which are now running out of raw materials and planning to shut down.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **23rd March - Yangon Region:** Vehicle accident occurred near 14/4 miles, Yangon – Nay Pyi Taw Highway road, Hlegu township, resulting five injured.
2. **23rd March – Sagaing Region:** Vehicle accident occurred near Chaung sone village, Kalewa township resulting 3 death.
3. **23rd March – Yangon Region:** A bus hit a pedestrian at the junction of Maha Bandoola and Sule Pagoda Road. Caused that pedestrian was killed on the spot.

CRIME

1. **21st March 2020 - stimulants pills seizures in Rakhine State:** Whilst security forces conducted inspections at outskirts of Maungdaw, road to Kye Kan Pyin village, found a vehicle loaded with over 68 thousand of stimulants pills together with 2 men onboard were seized and arrested. These pills worth of 13 million in MMK.
2. **20th March 2020 – stimulants pills and small arms seizures in Eastern Shan state:** On the tip of info, security forces searched and raid a house in from Whay Lay Lan village, Kengtung township captured more than 20 thousand of stimulants pills and arrested a female, owner of that house. According to the investigation, another 18 thousand of stimulants pills, 1 block of Heroin and a small arm with ammunition were found in another house.
3. **18th March 2020 – Illegal Chinese nationals with small arms were arrested in Northern Shan:** Security forces searched and found a house in Muse according to the reports of their neighbors, found out 7 Chinese citizens illegally staying in that house were arrested along together with 2 small arms were seized.
4. **21st March 2020 - IED explosion occurred near Kyauk Phyu:** Three children from Zay Ti Ya ward found a small IED from somewhere and the IED exploded while the children are playing with this. That happened in the ward close to Airport runway fences and caused one injured.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Earthquakes in Myanmar: There were 4 earthquakes throughout this reporting period. However, no casualties and damage were reported -

COMMERCIAL-IN-CONFIDENCE

1. **Slight earthquake**, 4.2 M, latitude 25.07°N, longitude 96.36°E, depth (10) Km, (61) Miles north of Katha, Sagaing Region, recorded at 18:51:26Hrs on 23rd March, 2020.
2. **Slight earthquake**, 3.3 M, latitude 18.24°N, longitude 96.19°E, depth (8) Km, (50) Miles south-southwest of Taungoo, Bago East Region, recorded at 09:08:37Hrs on 22nd March, 2020.
3. **Slight earthquake**, 3.8 M, latitude 23.03°N, longitude 94.69°E, depth (104) Km, (54) Miles west-southwest of Kanbalu, Sagaing Region, recorded at 14:28:40Hrs 21st March, 2020.
4. **Slight earthquake**, 3.7 M, latitude 22.39°N, longitude 98.62°E, depth (5) Km, (86) Miles east-southeast of Hispaw, Northern Shan State, recorded at 04:11:52Hrs on 19th March, 2020.

Health Hazards: Communicable Diseases, COVID – 2019 update situation in Myanmar, MoHS official released on 25th March 2020, 9:45 pm, is as follow-

- Total Person Under Investigation (PUI)/Suspected – 276
- Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 274
- Suspected – 2
- **Confirmed – 3**
- Laboratory Result Negative – 253
- Laboratory Result Pending – 20

To date, 3 confirmed cases of COVID – 19 reported in Myanmar. They are hospitalized as below hospitals-

- ❖ **Tedim General Hospital, Chin State – 1**
- ❖ **Waibargi Hospital, Yangon – 1**
- ❖ **Insein General Hospital, Yangon – 1**

Government's actions on confirmed, suspected/recent incoming people: Ministry of Foreign Affairs released the **Additional Precautionary Restrictions for travelers from all countries visiting Myanmar**, these restricted measures will start taking effect on 25th March 2020. The details are as below –

Additional Precautionary Restrictions for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar

1. With a view to preventing importation and spread of COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is obliged to take additional precautionary measures to control and limit the risk that travellers from all countries may pose to the populations in Myanmar.

2. The following additional temporary restrictive measures will take effect for incoming travellers from all countries starting from **25 March 2020, 0000 hours** (Myanmar standard time) –

2.1. All incoming Myanmar nationals from any country will be subject to a 14-day **facility quarantine** on their arrival in Myanmar.

2.2. All foreign nationals travelling to Myanmar are required to present laboratory evidence of absence of COVID-19 infection issued no more than 72 hours prior to the date of travel before boarding any airline destined for Myanmar. They will be subject to a 14-day **facility quarantine** on their arrival in Myanmar.

2.3. All diplomats accredited to Myanmar and United Nations officials working in Myanmar are also required to present laboratory evidence of absence of COVID-19 infection issued no more than 72 hours prior to the date of travel before boarding any airline destined for Myanmar. They will be subject to **home quarantine** for 14 days on their arrival in Myanmar

3. This notification shall supersede the precautionary measures announced earlier.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 24 March 2020

The link for this precautionary restrictions on the Ministry's website - <https://www.mofa.gov.mm/additional-precautionary-restrictions-for-travellers-from-all-countries-visiting-myanmar/>

Recommendations and Advice for the Public

The basic principle to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- ✓ Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- ✓ Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- ✓ Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- ✓ People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).
- ✓ Avoid crowded areas or gatherings, if necessarily please be remember to be follow the guidelines.

RISK REGISTER

Updated 25th March, 2020

STATE/REGION	Internal Conflict ¹	Protest and Demonstrations ²	Road Traffic Accident ³	Crime ⁴	Health ⁵	Infrastructure	Environmental Hazard
1 Kachin	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
2 Kayah	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
3 Kayin	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
4 Chin	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
5 Sagaing	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
6 Tanintharyi	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH
7 Bago (East)	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM
8 Bago (West)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
9 Magway	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW
10 Mandalay	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW
11 Mon	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
12 Rakhine	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
13 Yangon	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
14 Shan (South)	LOW	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
15 Shan (North)	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
16 Shan (East)	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
17 Ayeyarwady	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH
18 Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW	LOW

Notes for Mitigation (Key notes for reducing the Risks)

- 1**
 - **Avoid** all but essential travel to Rakhine and Shan state.

- 2**
 - **Avoid** all known areas of planned events.
 - **Report** any suspicious activities to respective Security Focal Point.
 - **Ensure** drivers are fully briefed and plan appropriate secondary/alternative routes.
 - **Do not** associate yourself with the demonstration – Keep your distance - Do not take photographs.

- 3**
 - **Always** use well trained experienced drivers, and vehicles that meet the minimum set of safety standards.
 - **Continued** assessment of competence and training of all drivers (if possible).
 - **Continued** assessment of road condition(s).
 - **Avoid** speeding.

- 4**
 - **Take** normal precautions of not carrying large amounts of cash, taking extra care when approaching or leaving a bank, money changer, or ATM.
 - **Ostentatious** displays of wealth in a public setting should be avoided in order to further lower the risk of being targeted by criminal elements.

- 5**
 - **Avoid** close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
 - **Frequently** hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
 - **Avoid** unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
 - **People** with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

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