

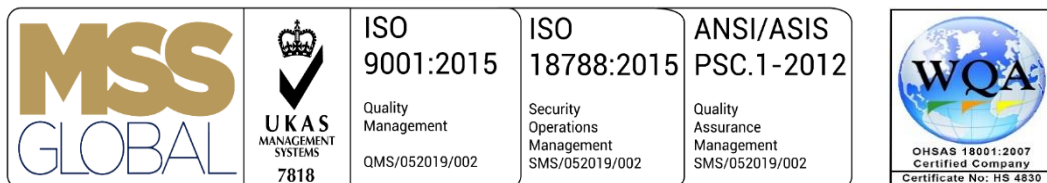
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1200 hours (UTC+6:30) 2 April 2020.

EXERA

Weekly Security Review

Safety and Security Highlights for Clients Operating in
Myanmar

Dates covered: 26 March – 1 April 2020



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SITUATION UPDATE

In the area of Northern Rakhine and Southern Chin State: Tatmadaw cleared some AA positions and troop settlements in the adjacent area of Kyauktaw township (Rakhine State) and Paletwa township (Chin State) since last week. Confirmed that both sides had fatalities and injuries. The severe fighting occurring in the area for more than two months, impacted the villagers who abandoned their homes and have been displaced to IDP sites in near towns. Therefore, the villages are empty and AA troops have not enough space and support to stay in that area. AA troops retreated away to more remote areas, likely most of them moved to Buthedaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung township area, where the terrains are very good for native Arakanese AA troops. There are several Arakanese villagers situated there and most of the villagers usually support to AA troops.

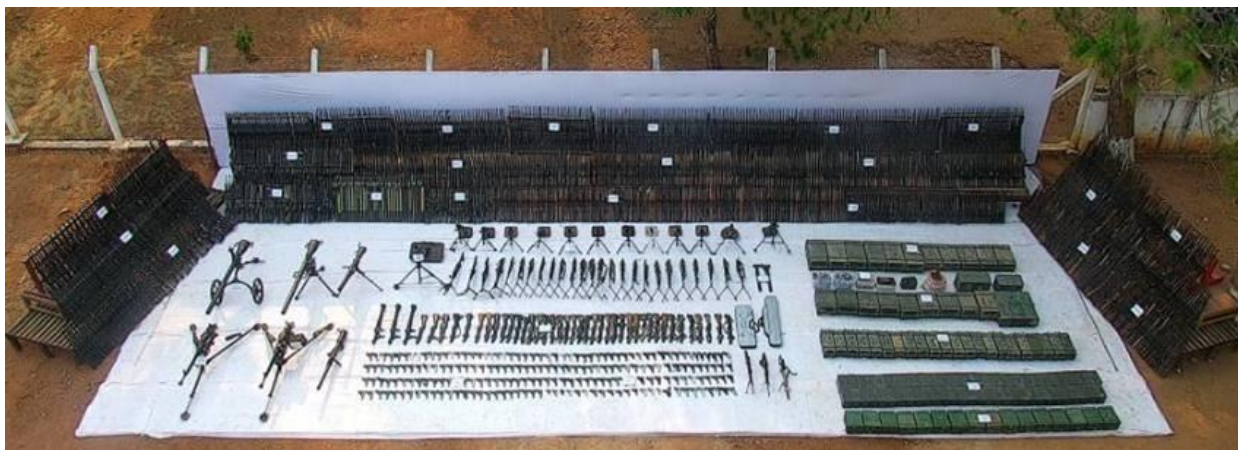
In the area of Northern Myanmar: Tatmadaw ordered Kachin Independence Organization / Kachin Independence Army (KIO/KIA) on 30th March not to allow for AA troops in Laiza and La Zar Yang area. It is reported that high ranking officers from Northern Command of the Myanmar Military would come to Peace-Talk Creation Group (PCG) situated in Myitkyina and gave the above orders for KIO/KIA. If they let AA troops, Leaders and training grounds in Laiza and La Zar Yang town areas, Tatmadaw would conduct the attack to these two towns areas. They claim the right now that United League of Arakan / Arakan Army (AA/ULA) have been officially declared as Terrorist Group and Unlawful Associations in accordance with the existing laws and orders since 23rd March. For the background situation, AA started organizing and training in that Laiza area and all the leaders live in Laiza Town since long ago. AA and KIO/KIA troops have been allied as a group. From unconfirmed sources, KIO/KIA denied the instructions that came from Tatmadaw.

Three Brotherhood Alliance made emergency Press Release on 1st April: This allied group consist of Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party/ Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNTJP/MNDAA), Palaung State Liberation Front/ Ta'ang National Liberation Army (PSLF/TNLA) and United League of Arakan/ Arakan Army (ULA/AA). In this statement it is mentioned that "they are ready to actively cooperate and work with neighboring countries along with our territories and international medical organizations to accelerate the COVID-19 prevention and response planning". And "In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have extended another period of a month-long unilateral ceasefire from April 1, 2020 till April 30, 2020 with the aim to build stability and security on the shared borders and to avoid public panic."

Kaung Hka Militia troops withdraw their arms to Tatmadaw on end of March 2020: Kaung Hka Militia group was once as a KIA Regiment under KIA Brigade (4). Separated from KIO/KIA on 24 Jan 1991, then named and reformed as Kachin Development Army (KDA), Special Zone (5). They are settled in Kutkai township area, Northern Shan State and allied with Military Peace Process. Again, they changed their name and reformed as Kaung Hka Militia on 29 Sep 2009. Their main task is conducting security and developments in the region. However, Myanmar Security Forces found out that some of their area leaders were involved in stimulants and drugs production and other activities that do not suit with the existing laws and orders. For example, seizures of drugs and

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related materials in the occurrences of August 23, Sept 12, Oct 15 2018 in the area of Kaung Hka village, and in July 25 to 28, 2019 drugs seizures at Shauk Haw village, near Kutkai Town. In addition, the last occurrences at the enormous seizures of drugs and related materials between Feb 28 to March 26 2020, worth of 345.15 Billion, where Arms and Ammunitions were included. Some area leaders were involved at these occurrences. Since the peace process lied with Tatmadaw, they have no aim to holding their arms for coming years and after several discussions with their leaders and Tatmadaw Officials, they agreed to withdraw their arms to Tatmadaw. These events hold on 24 to 26 March, 29 and 30 March 2020.



picture taken via Military Blog.

INTERNAL CONFLICT

The area between Northern Rakhine and Southern Chin state had severe clashes within this reporting period. The flashing points within this report are as below -

1. Incidents occurred on 26th March, in the area of Hpar Pyo village and Ramaung bridge in Minbya township – NFD.
2. Incident occurred on 27th March, in the area of Tin Ma village, Kyauktaw township – NFD.
3. Several Incidents occurred on 28th March, Tatmadaw attacked included calling in Air support to AA troops, hidden in the woods near Kyeik Chaung village and Dalet Chaung in Ann township. Additionally, 7 more clashes occurred on the same day at following places: 1.3 km North of Myanmar – Bangladesh Border Post No 71 (BP 71), Kan Ni village area and Khaung Laung Chaung village area in Minbya township, Pauk Taw Pyin village area in Ponnagyun township, Tin Ma village area and Mon Than Pyin village area in Kyauktaw township, Sa Hnyin village area in Myaypon township – NFD.
4. Incidents occurred on 29th March, AA troops conducted attack on Tatmadaw columns near the area of Hpar Hpyo village in Minbya township, reported that 2 civilians were killed and 12 houses were burnt down in the area of Hpar Hpyo village. A small group of AA launched attack on the Advance Military Training Depot in Minbya township area, and another Tatmadaw post situated near Zu Kaing village in Ann township area on the same day – NFD.

5. AA troops robbed 20 bags of rice from a civilian truck near Lar Mway Taung village on 29th March. The truck was loaded with total of 120 rice bags, heading from Kyauktaw to Paletwa. These rice bags were aimed to distribute for IDPs sites in Paletwa township.
6. Several incidents occurred on 30th March, Tatmadaw launched a massive attack calling in Air support to AA troops, where they deployed in the areas of May Lun village, Chaung Net village, Hpar Hpyo village, Kyein Chaung village, Kan Ni village in Minbya township. It is reported that some villages were hit by bombs, dropped from Tatmadaw's fighter planes and got burnt down, due to the airstrikes and fire spreading in the village, 2 villagers were killed during that Military operation. Another incident occurred near Mee Zar Wa village in Paletwa township, Chin State on the same day – NFD.
7. Incidents occurred on 31th March, in the area of Hpar Hpyo village, May lawn village, Kyein Chaung village, Kan Ni village, Tain Nyo village in Minbya township. Additionally, AA troops conducted 2 IED attacks to the Military troop movements, one was near Tatmadaw Regiment situated in Mrauk-U Town and another was near Nga Khu Ya village in Maungdaw township area occurred on the same day – NFD.
8. Incidents occurred on 1st April, AA troops conducted attack to Tatmadaw columns near Tha Yet Oke village and Thar Yar Kone village in Kyauktaw township area. These two villages were burnt down due to the attacks. Tatmadaw used airstrikes at Kun Taung village area, where the AA troops were hidden in Ponnagyun township. AA launched RPG attack from outskirts of Kyauktaw to 2 Naval ships anchored in Kaladan River. Naval boats conducted a defending attack to the place where the RPG was launched, causing 2 civilians killed, injured some and houses were hit by heavy machineguns – NFD.



The map showed that the flashing points within this week.

2. IEDs seized and deterred by Security Forces in Maungdaw township on 27th March: Security patrol noticed that two suspicious individuals were travelling with a motorbike on the road from Pyin Phyu village to Kyee Kan Pyin village. Then the Security forces tried to stop them. They left two packages containing 2 IEDs and fled away.

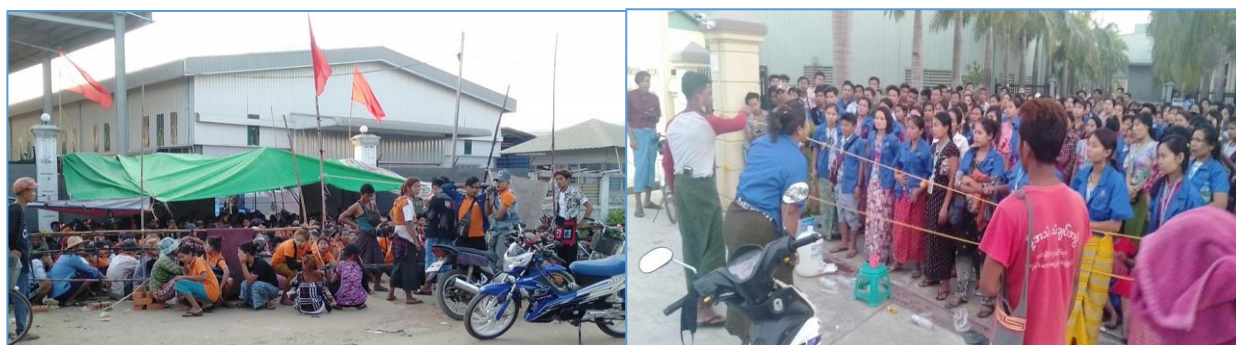
3. IEDs and firearms attack to villagers occurred in Maungdaw township area on 30th March. A dozen of villagers from Mingalar Nyunt village went on checking bird traps with motorbikes they stopped their bikes near Baw Tu Lar village junction and then proceed on foot in the woods, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) group triggered IEDs and shots with firearms from Hlaing Thi bridge area and their motorbikes were torched. 2 villagers were killed in that incident. 10 villagers including 3 injured managed to escape and later arrived back to their village by foot.

Assessment for Tatmadaw and AA Clashes

After the Tatmadaw controlled the Mee Wa area and AA troops retreated back, AA troops would conduct attacks to Military Posts or Police Stations in other areas of Rakhine and Chin State. AA troops, despite their several attempts to military headquarters and outposts in Rakhine State, were not able to occupy any headquarters and outpost to date. Moreover, the recent declaration of Terrorist Group and Unlawful Association to AA are the trigger points for increasing the tensions between AA and Security Forces as well as to the Authorities. Therefore, AA would like to target some other vital points, they can conduct attacks at any-time to Military posts and Police stations, where the strategic points are situated and also high risks and concerning for public transportation road and vehicles.

SOCIAL STABILITY

It is reported that due to the lack of raw materials in stocks and without receiving job orders from other countries within this COVID-19 pandemic period, some Garment factories shut down and some reduced their headcounts. The workers who were unemployed started the strike in Yangon Industrial zones. These strikes occurred in Dagon Seikkan and Hlaing Tharyar Industrial zones on 31st March. Thousands of unemployed workers demanding for jobs around in the area. Management teams from some factories promised to provide the compensation to affected workers as stipulated in Myanmar laws however some management teams are not. The government has undertaken measures to help companies survive in the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the garment industries, including providing loans of up to K100 billion with low interest rates.



TRANSPORTATION

1. **25th March – Mon State:** Vehicle accident occurred on Mawlamyine – Kyeikmaraw road, near Min Ywar, Mawlamyein township, resulting in 2 death.
2. **25th March – Southern Shan State:** Vehicle turned over accident occurred on near Wet Phyu Ye village, Kalaw Township resulting in 1 death.
3. **29th March – Mandalay Region:** Vehicle accident occurred in Mattya Township area, Mandalay Region resulting in 1 monk death and 13 injured.

CRIME

1. **26th March, 2020 - Man was shot and killed by unknown men in Muse township area:** The victim is the manager from Mangokhan Company while he is working together with his teams in their compound. Two unknown men arrived with a vehicle and shot him to death then the gunners ran away.
2. **27th March, 2020 – Foreigner falls to death in Yangon:** A New Zealand National named Mr. Domoni Cassidy Rico Cruz stayed at Chan Mye Guest House, situated in No (2) ward, Kyauktada township since 23rd March. He fell to his death from 4 story high of that building on that early morning. Police and authorities went on investigation for the case found out that it was accidentally happened and no evidences found for as murder case, no one involved in this accident. The case was open filed as an accidental case in respective Police station.
3. **28th March, 2020 - drugs seized in Homalin and Tachileik:** Police and combined team from Waingmaw township searched a house at Nantaw Village, Homalin township and found some heroin blocks. They arrested 3 men related to the drugs from that house. On the same day following a tip, a combined team inspected a man riding with motorcycle on Kyuntaw Street, Parsat Ward, Tachileik Township and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets hidden in the cycle and arrested him.
4. **30th March, 2020 - Chief Editor from VOM arrested in Mandalay:** The chief editor from Voice of Myanmar (VOM) media, Mandalay based, was arrested by police at his home in Mandalay during the evening. It is reported that the Chief Editor made contact for interview with the spokesperson from AA, Terrorist Group. The government declared that United League of Arakan / Arakan Army (ULA/AA) been declared as Terrorist Group and Unlawful Associations on 23rd March.
5. **31st March, 2020 - Chief Editor from Narinjara News Agency was opened filed at Police station in Sittwe:** The authorities charged under a terrorism law to Chief Editor from Narinjara media at the Sittwe Police Office on that day. The Police made a search and raid to his media house, which is based in Sittwe. 3 journalists were taken to Police for interrogation and they seized laptops/documents from that office. IT is reported that the media used to make contact and published interviews with spokesperson from AA, Terrorist Group.
6. **31st March, 2020 – Khit Thit Media's Chief Editor's house in Yangon was searched by Police:** Police and Criminal Investigation Department personnel checked the house of Chief Editor from Khit Thit Media in Yangon.
7. **1st April, 2020 – Stimulants pills seizures in Northern Shan State:** While the security forces were conducting area clearance operations around Kaung Kha

village area, they found and seized several pack of stimulants tablets, hidden in the ground. That's total worth of 48 Billion in MMK.



Picture taken via Military blog.

ENVORIMENTAL HAZARDS

Earthquakes in Myanmar: There is no earthquake hit in within this reporting period.

Fire Broke-Outs: It is reported that (25) minor fires broke out throughout Myanmar. Below four were the biggest rages within –

1. **25th March 2020 – Eastern Shan State:** Fire broke out in Mat Mon Kye village, Nan Ywn Village Tract, Mongpyat Township, reported that 18 houses were burnt down.
2. **26th March 2020 – Yangon Region:** Fire broke out in Ne Thamin village, Htantapin township, it is reported two story building were burnt down and caused 7 injures.
3. **26th March 2020 – Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory:** Fire broke out in Lepheth Taung village, Pyinman township, one dead and one injured reported.
4. **Burning garbage area for 7 days in Kayin State:** The dump garbage area of the Myawaddy town was start burning since 25th March and can be controlled only at 30th March, 7 days of continuous burning made some health problems to the people who lives in Myawaddy Town.



Pictures show that during fires broke out in Htantapin township, taken from printed medias.

Health Hazards: Communicable Diseases, COVID – 2019 update situation in Myanmar, MoHS official released on 1st April 2020, 9:45 pm, is as follow-

- Total Person Under Investigation (PUI)/Suspected – 597
- Person Under Investigation (PUI) – 595
- Suspected – 2
- Confirmed – 16
- Laboratory Result Negative – 498
- Laboratory Result Pending – 83
- Death among Lab Confirmed – 1

To date, 16 confirmed cases of COVID – 19 reported in Myanmar. They are hospitalized as below hospitals-

- ❖ Tedim General Hospital, Chin State – 1
- ❖ Waibargi Hospital, Yangon – 11
- ❖ Kandawnadi Hospital, Mandalay – 1
- ❖ 1000 bedded Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital – 1
- ❖ Lashio General Hospital – 1
- ❖ Case no 005 patient died on 31st March at Waibargi Hospital in Yangon

Recommendations and Advice for the Public

Basic protective measures

- Wash your hands frequently: Regular and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain social distancing: Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth:
- Practice respiratory hygiene: Make sure if the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early: Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Stay informed and follow advise given by your healthcare provider: Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited (past 14 days) areas where COVID-19 is spreading

- Follow the guidance outline above.
- Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose, until you recover.

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- If you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek advice promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Call in advance and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers.

RISK REGISTER

Updated 2nd April, 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	HIGH	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	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
11	Mon	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
12	Rakhine	HIGH	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
13	Yangon	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	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	HIGH	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).
 - **Follow** the guidelines from Health Ministry and WHO.
 - **Make** sure to understand the BCP for all staffs and employees.

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