

***Amid Deadly Crackdowns On Urban Protests,  
Regime's Troops Commit Fresh War Crimes In  
Northern Burma***



**An update by the Kachin Women's Association Thailand**

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## Amid deadly crackdowns on urban protests, regime's troops commit fresh war crimes in northern Burma

While the media spotlight has focused on atrocities by the regime's security forces in urban areas since the February 1 coup, the Burma Army has been committing fresh crimes against rural villagers amidst escalating conflict in northern Burma. As villagers again flee for their lives, worsening the decade-long displacement crisis, KWAT calls urgently for concerted international pressure on the illegitimate coup regime.

This update summarizes and maps known violations committed by the regime's security forces from February 1 to March 30, 2021, in Kachin State and Muse District of northern Shan State, not only against anti-coup protesters in towns, but also against villagers in rural conflict areas.

### Violations by security forces against anti-coup protesters in Kachin State and Muse District of N. Shan State

Large-scale anti-coup protests have taken place in twenty-one towns in Kachin State, and four towns in Muse District.

Security forces, both military and police, have been arbitrarily arresting protesters, and using unlawful force to disperse the demonstrations. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used against protesters, killing eleven people, including a 15-year-old boy and a 36-year-old mother of two. Some were killed by snipers. At least 63 people have injured, including women and children, some of whom were bystanders.

KWAT has documented arrests of 410 civilians linked to the protests in Kachin State and Muse. 217 of these have been released, after detention of up to 27 days. The dead body of one protester, Thein Lwin, age 43, was returned to his family in Muse after five days, with signs of severe torture. Over 190 remain in detention, the majority in Myitkyina Prison. Some have been charged under Section 25 of the Natural Disaster Management Law (for breaching Covid restrictions), which carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and a fine. More recently, protesters have been charged under Section 505 of the Penal Code (for incitement against national security), which carries up to two years' imprisonment and a fine.

The largest mass arrest was in Myitkyina on March 8, when 91 protesters were arrested and taken to the Northern Region Military Command, where some were beaten by the military, including a 14-year-old boy. 19 protesters under the age of 18 were released, and the remaining 72 protesters were charged under Section 505 and transferred to Myitkyina Prison that night. Those detained in Myitkyina Prison have not been allowed visits by family members.

Women protesters have been targets of violence and sexual harassment. On February 19, two women teachers were seized during a protest in Myitkyina, and beaten, causing a broken arm. On March 6, police followed a woman protester home, and arrested and detained her in Myitkyina police station for one night. One policeman told her: "I can rape you to death."

Date	Towns	Type of violation by security forces	Details
Feb 1, 2021	Mohnyin	Arbitrary arrest, detention	2 MPs & 17 civilians arrested. 17 civilians released after one night; 2 MPs released on Feb 25.
Feb 11, 2021	Mansi	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 protester arrested, charged under Section 25
Feb 14, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	1 protester injured in leg at Buga power station
Feb 14, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention	5 journalists (2 from EPN, 1 from 74 Media and 1 from Mizzima) and 2 protesters arrested, detained for one night.
Feb 15, 2021	Mohnyin	Arbitrary arrest, detention	2 protesters arrested, charged under Section 25
Feb 18, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 driver arrested for carrying water to protesters, detained for one night
Feb 18, 2021	Muse	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 NLD member arrested. Released on March 15
Feb 19, 2021	Myitkyina	Beating of unarmed protesters	2 female schoolteachers seized and beaten, causing one to break her arm and the other to be scarred on her back.

Feb 20, 2021	Putao	Arbitrary arrest, detention	9 protesters arrested by police and military. 4 were released on 21 Feb. 5 protesters, including 1 citizen journalist, detained until March 4 under Section 25. Each had to pay 100,000 kyat for release.
Feb 20, 2021	Mohnyin	Arbitrary arrest	10 youth protesters arrested, released in evening.
Feb 22, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of force against civilians	Around 8 pm, a child from Awng Nan block, Myitkyina was shot and injured in the head from a slingshot fired from a military car passing by.
Feb 23, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of force against civilians	A woman protester was hit by a slingshot during a motor bike demonstration in Myitkyina. She was injured in the forehead.
Feb 27, 2021	Waimaw	Arbitrary arrest, detention	2 women, including a high school teacher, arrested during demonstration, charged under Section 25
Feb 28, 2021	Muse	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters; arbitrary arrest, torture, killing	3 women and 3 men were injured as they ran from live gunfire at protest; Thein Lwin (age 43) was arrested by police, and his dead body returned to his family on March 5, with signs of severe torture.
Feb 28, 2021	Myitkyina	Torture; arbitrary arrest, detention	Military and police beat a man leading a protest; 72 protesters arrested: 63 released, but 9 still in Myitkyina Prison.
Mar 1, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 woman arrested for blocking the street with her car when police were arrested protesters.
Mar 3, 2021	Hpakant	Arbitrary arrest, detention	2 protesters arrested, and sent by police to Mohnyin prison under Section 505
Mar 6, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, sexual harassment	Police followed a woman who had taken part in a demonstration near Myitkyina University to her home. They arrested her and detained her in Myitkyina police station for one night. She was told by one policeman: "I can rape you to death." 1 man arrested for leading demonstration, and detained for one night in Northern Region Command.
Mar 8, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	At 11 am, police and military (from ID 77 and ID 99) began shooting peaceful demonstrators. Military snipers shot from high buildings, including from on top of a 5 -storey building under construction. 2 men were shot and killed: Ko Zin Min Htet (22 yrs) and U Cho Tar (52 yrs). 5 were seriously injured: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 20 years old male protester got serious injuries in his stomach, needing surgery.</li> <li>2. A woman's arm was ripped open by a bullet.</li> <li>3. A man was injured in his thigh.</li> <li>4. A man was injured in his chest.</li> <li>5. A man was injured in his stomach.</li> </ol>
Mar 8, 2021	Bhamo	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 protester, Nyi Nyi Teain Than (30 yrs) arrested under Section 25
Mar 8, 2021	Shwegu	Arbitrary arrest, detention	87 protesters arrested. 83 released, 4 still in Bhamo Jail (1 charged under Section 25, and 3 under Section 505).

Mar 8, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention, torture	91 protesters were arrested and sent to the military's Northern Region Command. At that night around 9 pm, 19 protesters under the age of 18 were released. The remaining 72 protesters were sent to Myitkyina Prison that night, charged under Section 505. A 14-year-old who was arrested said he was beaten by the military before being released.
Mar 9, 2021	Mohnyin	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters; arbitrary arrest, detention	1 male protester injured in the arm by live bullet; 1 female protester seriously injured by 3 rubber bullets in her back. Security forces in plain clothes arrested protesters. 1 male protester arrested and released on Mar 10. 1 female protester arrested and detained under Section 505.
Mar 9, 2021	Putao	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 protester arrested by the military, detained under Section 505
Mar 11, 2021	Mohnyin	Arbitrary arrest, detention	1 female protester arrested, detained under Section 505
Mar 11, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention	4 men arrested by police for making shields for protests; 2 women arrested by plain-clothed policemen while live-streaming a protest, released after 2 days.
Mar 13, 2021	Hpakant	Unlawful use of force against unarmed protesters	About 20 protesters injured by rubber bullets, 15 seriously injured.
Mar 14, 2021	Hpakant	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	A male protester, Kyaw Lin Htaik (30 yrs), was shot dead by live bullets by military and police
Mar 17, 2021	Muse	Arbitrary arrest, detention; unlawful use of force against unarmed protesters	9 protesters arrested; 3 protesters seriously injured by the military and police
Mar 19, 2021	Bhamo	Arbitrary arrest, detention	A male protester, Ba Ba Joe Phyu, arrested by the military and police.
Mar 21, 2021	Shwegu, Bahmo	Arbitrary arrest, detention	A male protester, U Chit Ko (41 yrs) arrested by the military and police, detained under Section 25, and sent to Bhamo Jail.
Mar 24, 2021	Hpakant	Arbitrary arrest, detention	2 men arrested by the military, detained under Section 505. U Maung Htay (60 yrs), U Myo (40 yrs)
Mar 24, 2021	Bhamo	Arbitrary arrest, detention	3 protesters arrested by the military and police
Mar 25, 2021	Mohnyin	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters; arbitrary arrest, detention	At 12 noon, police and military (from ID 33) began shooting peaceful demonstrators. 2 men were shot and killed: U Win Swe (40 yrs) and Ko Soe Naing Htun (20 yrs). 3 were seriously injured
Mar 27, 2021	Muse	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	2 protesters shot dead: Ko Myint Aung (15 yrs) and Ko La Htun (34 yrs), and 5 protesters seriously injured by live bullets fired by military and police.
Mar 27, 2021	Hpakant	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	At 2:30 Pm noon, a male protester, Ko Thant Zaw (19 yrs), was shot dead by live bullets by military and police.
Mar 27, 2021	Bhamo	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	At 11 am, a mother of two, Daw Shwe Myint (36 yrs) was shot and killed by the police and military

Mar 27, 2021	Myitkyina	Arbitrary arrest, detention	Around 50 protesters, arrested by the military and police, and detained
Mar 29, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of force against unarmed protesters; arbitrary arrest, detention	Police and military shot live bullets at protesters, seriously injuring a male protester in the cheek. 4 people arrested by police and military (including 2 journalists: 1 from 74 Media and 1 from Kachin Wave). A woman, Aye Mat Moon (28 yrs) arrested in her house by a plain-clothed soldier (with about 100 soldiers), at the Chyat Pound Chyen Block.
Mar 29, 2021	Muse	Arbitrary arrest, detention; unlawful use of force against unarmed protesters	20 protesters arrested; 3 protesters injured by military and police
Mar 30, 2021	Myitkyina	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters; destruction of property	At 12:30 noon, Ko Myo Minn Thu (23 yrs) was shot and killed by the police and military; 2 protesters were injured A motorbike repair workshop was burned down by the military, at Ram Bo Block, Myitkyina
Mar 30, 2021	Muse	Unlawful use of lethal force against unarmed protesters	At 10:40 am, Ko Nyo Minn Tu (34 yrs) was shot and killed by the police and military

### **Conflict-related violations by Burma Army troops against villagers in Kachin State and Muse District of N. Shan State**

During escalated conflict with the KIA since the coup, Burma Army troops of Infantry Divisions (ID) 99 and 33 have indiscriminately shelled villages, causing injury and death, and have carried out extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrest and torture of civilians, who have been used as human shields.

The Burma Army launched a new offensive against the KIA in northern Shan State on February 11, after the KIA sent a message to the Burma Army on February 9 warning them not to use force against civilian protesters. Troops from ID 99 attacked the KIA near Dima village, about 40 kilometers southeast of Muse town, firing 81 and 60 mm shells indiscriminately around Dima, causing villagers to flee to Namoon Baptist Church.

Over the next few weeks, as fighting between the Burma Army and the KIA spread across Muse District, ID 99 troops continued indiscriminately shelling civilian areas – killing a Chinese villager near Dima on February 20 – and targeting civilians for torture and abuse.

On February 24, two men from Jawn Jaw village were riding a motorbike to Muse town, when they were shot at by ID 99 troops. One man was killed instantly. The troops beat and kicked the other man, who was injured, to death.

Also on February 24, about 100 troops from ID 99 forced 6 men and one 15-year-old boy from Hpang Ngawn village in Kutkai, to walk in front and between them as human shields for three hours as they patrolled.

On March 4, troops from ID 99 and IB 287 arrested three men (two of them elderly and deaf) from Man Dau village, and forced them to walk to the deserted village of Mannywi, where they were tied up for the night and given no food or water. All residents of Man Dau have now fled their homes.

On March 11, the fighting spread to Kachin State, when the KIA launched an attack on an ID 33 outpost at Saezin, near Hpakant. The Burma Army retaliated by firing shells into Hka San village and Kamaing town, injuring 2 women and 3 children.

When villagers fled fighting north of the Myitsone area on March 16, the Burma Army initially blocked them from accessing IDP camps in Myitkyina, making them wait for a day before the Peace Creation Group persuaded the Burma Army to let them pass.

On March 28, troops of ID 33 fired shells into Pha Wa Maw village in Hpakant early in the morning, injuring a husband and wife in their bed.

Date	Village, township	Type of violation	Burma Army battalion	Details
Feb 11, 2021	Dima, Muse	Shelling of civilian area	ID 99	Troops fired 81 and 60 mm shells at Dima village, causing people to flee to Namoon Baptist Church
Feb 20, 2021	Dima, Muse	Shelling of civilian area, causing death	ID 99	Troops fired shells at Dima village. 1 Chinese man cutting bamboo near the village was killed.
Feb 23, 2021	Hu Nawng, Kutkai	Looting	ID 99	3 houses looted, smart phones stolen, chicken and pigs killed and taken for food
Feb 24, 2021	Near Muse town	Torture, killing	ID 99	2 male villagers from Jawn Jaw village, were riding a motorbike to Muse, when they were shot at by Burma Army troops. 1 was killed instantly, the other was injured, then beaten and kicked to death.
Feb 24, 2021	Hpang Ngawn, Kutkai	Use of human shields	ID 99	About 100 troops from ID 99 forced 7 male villagers (including a 15-year old boy) to walk in front and between them for 3 hours as they patrolled
Mar 4, 2021	Man Dau, Muse	Arbitrary arrest, torture	ID 99, IB 287	3 male villagers (2 elderly and deaf) were arrested and forced to walk to deserted village of Mannywi. The troops tied their hands behind them to a pole. They were given no food or water. They were released at 8 am the next day. The military took a photo of them and told them: "We did not torture you." One cell phone was confiscated.
Mar 4, 2021	Between Dima and Daknai, Muse	Destruction of property	ID 99	Troops burned down a sugar cane farm, destroying crops worth 30,000 yuan (USD 4,600)
Mar 12, 2021	Kamaing	Shelling of civilian area, causing injury	ID 33	Troops fired shells into Hka San village and Kamaing town, injuring 2 women and 3 children in Kamaing
Mar 15, 2021	Sanpya, Hpakant	Shelling of civilian area	IB 297	Troops fired shells into Sanpya village, damaging three houses
Mar 16, 2021	Tang Pre, Myitkyina	Blocking IDPs from seeking refuge	IB 226	Troops blocked 146 IDPs from Gwi Htau, Tang Bau, Pasi Sut, and Sani Tu Yang from travelling to IDP camps in Myitkyina, from the morning till 10 pm, when they were allowed to pass after intervention from the Peace Creation Group.
Mar 28, 2021	Pha Wa Maw, Hpakant	Shelling of civilian area, causing injury	IB 33	Troops fired shells into Pha Wa Maw village at 3.10 am, injuring two people (a husband and wife) in their bed.

## **Urgent need for concerted international pressure on Burma's illegitimate regime**

While the coup has plunged the entire country into insecurity and chaos, the escalation of conflict in northern Burma will have especially dire consequences. Our communities remain ravaged by the Burma Army's renewal of war against the KIA since 2011. Large swathes of countryside remain deserted, and 120,000 villagers remain in IDP camps, already with insufficient aid. New upheaval and displacement will worsen the existing humanitarian crisis.

We strongly urge concerted international pressure on the military coup leaders to immediately end violence against civilians across Burma, release all political prisoners, and withdraw troops from ethnic conflict areas. The 2008 Constitution must be abolished, a new federal constitution approved, and a new federal democratic government elected.

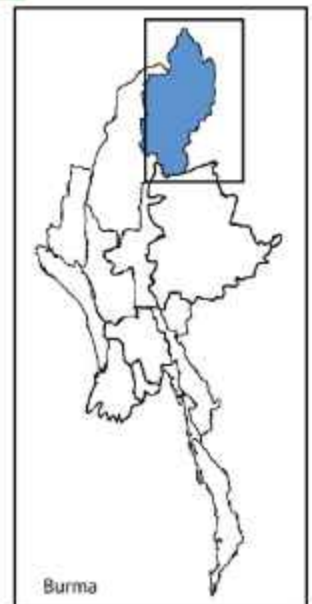
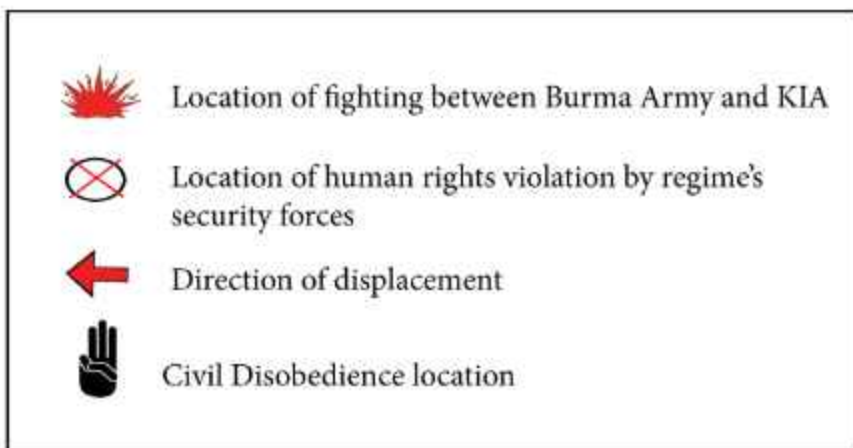
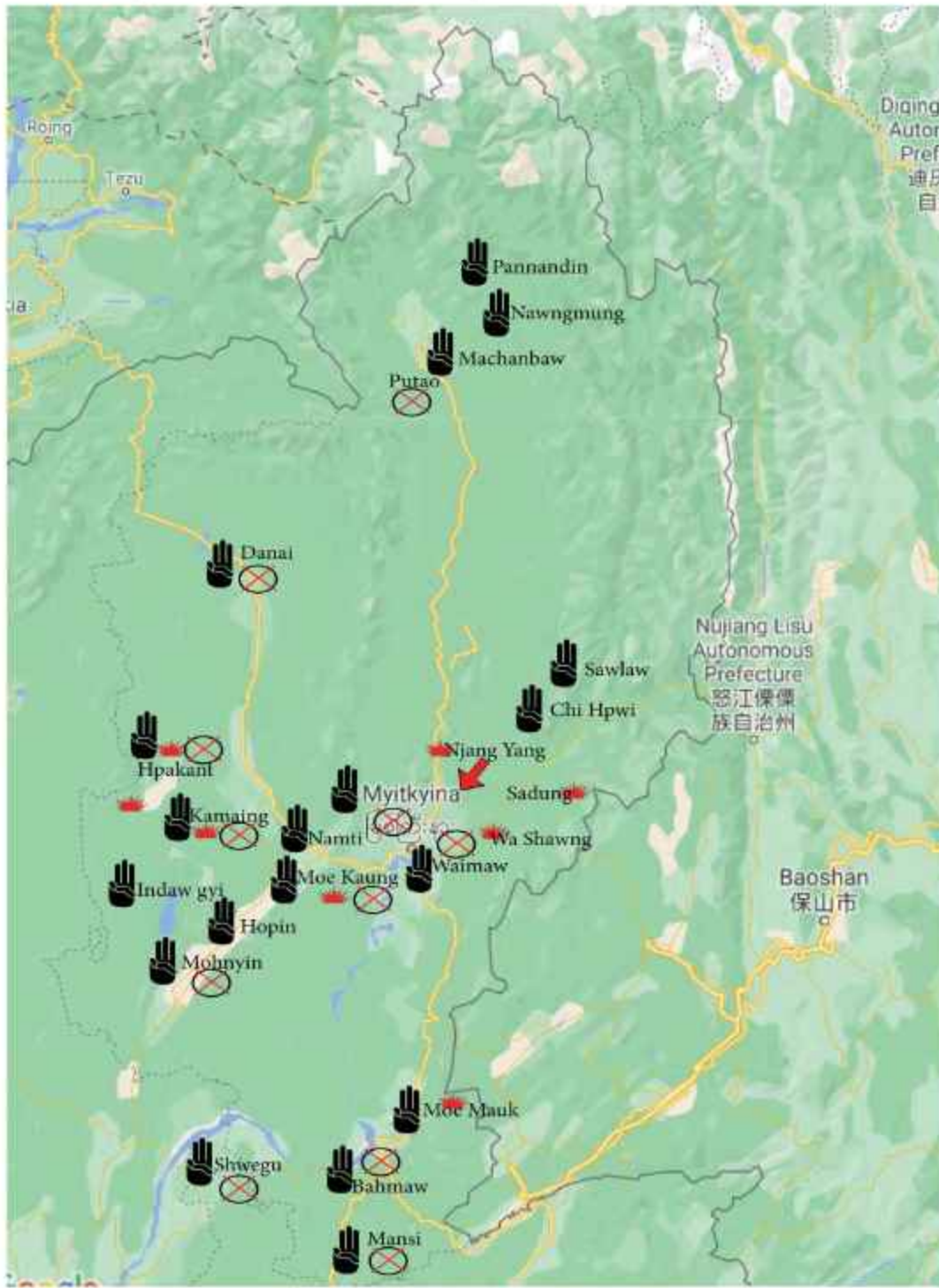
We support calls to the UN Security Council to impose a global arms embargo on Burma, and to refer the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

We urge all foreign governments to announce that the coup regime is illegitimate, and to impose sanctions on any businesses giving revenue to the regime.

We also urge all foreign donors to ensure that their aid is not legitimizing or subsidizing the regime in any way, and to redirect humanitarian aid through cross-border channels, including for those fleeing the regime's crackdown and sheltering in ethnic-controlled areas.

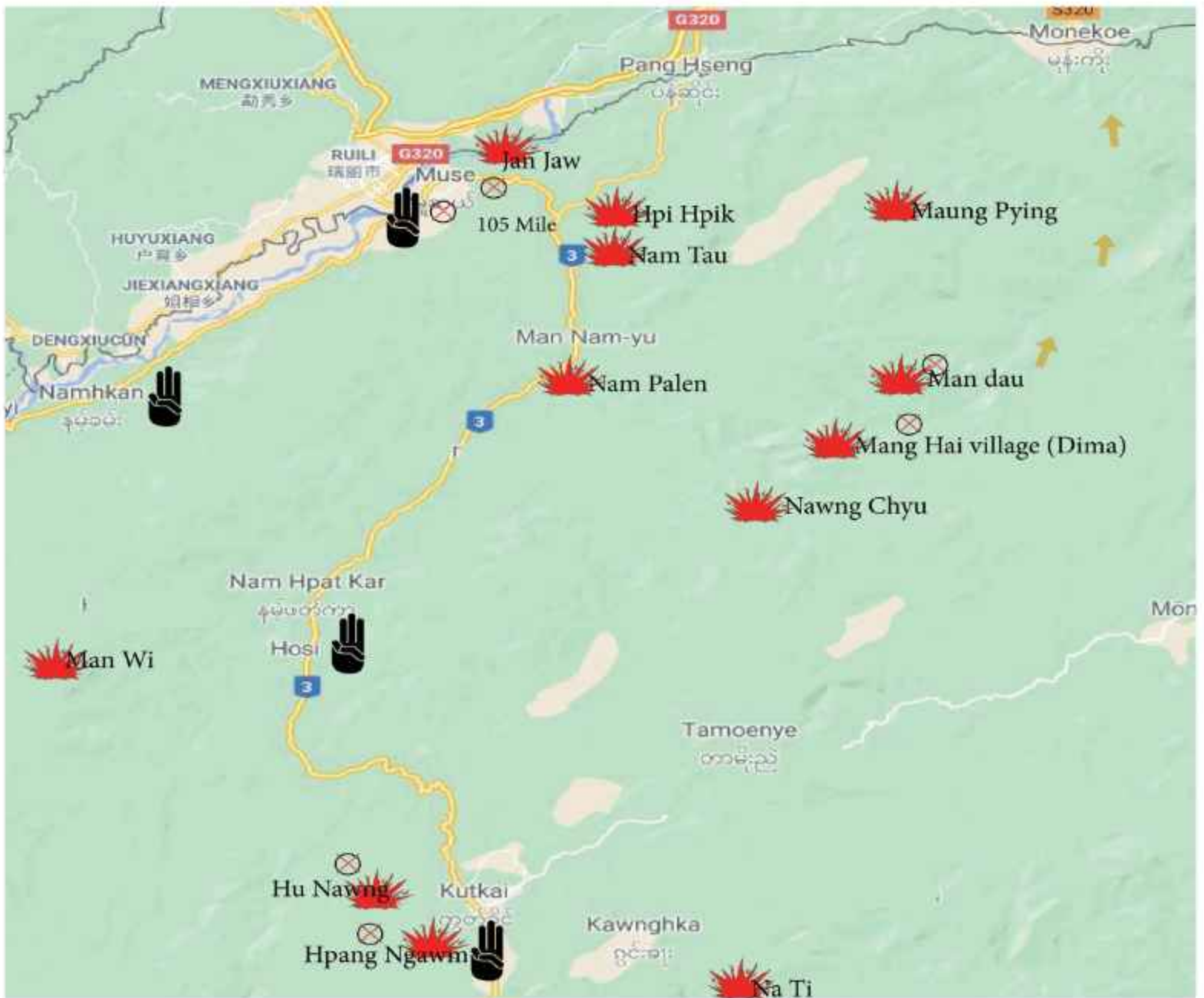
Finally, we urge all Burma's neighboring countries, including China, to provide safe refuge to those fleeing conflict and persecution, and allow them access to humanitarian aid.

# Human rights violations by regime's security forces in Kachin State

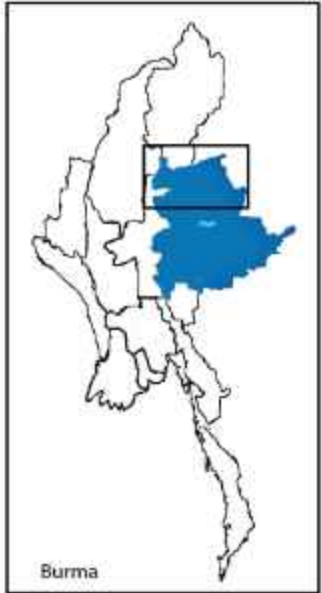




# Human rights violations by regime's security forces in Northern Shan State



	Location of fighting between Burma Army and KIA
	Location of human rights violation by regime's security forces
	Direction of displacement
	Civil Disobedience location



# Killing of anti-coup protesters by regime's security forces in Myitkyina on March 8, 2021



Ko Zin Min Htet



U Cho Tar

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