

Burma

Myanmar Junta Troops ‘running wild’ in Mandalay Region

Student Tortured to Death

Thursday 20 May 2021, by [The Irrawaddy](#) (Date first published: 20 May 2021).

Junta forces have been harassing and looting from locals in Talokmyo village-tract in Mandalay Region’s Myingyan Township since they raided the area on May 11, according to local residents. Thousands of villagers have now fled Talokmyo.

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Hundreds of junta soldiers raided the village-tract, which is seven miles from Myingyan, on May 11 and 12, and around 100 junta troops are still deployed in the area.

“They took away anything from the village that they saw: sacks of rice, peas or whatever, they put it in their vehicles. They have been ransacking shops,” a local told The Irrawaddy.

Regime soldiers have allowed only women and elderly persons to return to the village, with male residents required to report to the troops if they want to enter.

Of some 6,000 residents in Talokmyo, over 4,000 have now left, with most residents fleeing to distant villages, as junta forces are searching for them in the forest and nearby villages.

“Women are allowed to return to the village, but they dare not as the junta troops are running wild. They are also forcing villagers to carry rice and pea sacks for them. So female residents dare not return to the village. Some of the junta soldiers are riding around the village on motorbikes they have stolen from villagers,” said another resident.

“Some villagers raise cattle, so they have had to return to their homes,” said a resident. The villagers who have fled from Talokmyo are in need of basic foodstuffs and medicines, he added.

Junta troops also raided nearby villages in their attack on Talokmyo, but have not deployed in those villages and so their residents have been able to return to their homes.

Scores of people were arrested during the May 11 and 12 raid, including six university students from Myingyan who were helping the Talokmyo resistance movement against the junta. One of the six students, Ko Zin Ko Tun from Myingyan Technical College, was tortured to death in military custody.

The Irrawaddy

• The Irrawaddy 20 May 2021:

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-troops-running-wild-in-mandalay-region.html>

Myanmar Junta Forces Detain Dozens of Civilians in Village Raid

Junta troops detained between 50 and 100 civilians in a raid Wednesday morning in Talokmyo village-tract, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, according to the latest figures confirmed by the villagers.

“Talokmyo was surrounded from all directions by the junta forces. The villagers ran to the west of the village and were cornered in the graveyard,” said a local resident.

“The detained villagers were taken away in two military trucks. I am sure at least 50 to 100 people were arrested,” he added.

Six young people, including a woman from Myingyan, who were helping the residents of Talokmyo in their resistance movement against the junta forces were among those arrested, said villagers. Media outlets controlled by the military regime reported that M-16 rifles, traditional firearms, air guns and grenades were seized from the six.

The clash between the villagers and junta forces began on Tuesday afternoon when more than 100 regime troops attempted to enter Talokmyo, which is made up of a number of villages. Faced with unexpected resistance from the villagers, some 400 more soldiers were brought in on Wednesday morning to attack Talokmyo.

Junta forces reportedly used drones to make an aerial reconnaissance and opened heavy fire on villagers as they raided the villages, forcing the residents to flee.

Over 5,000 people including elderly persons, women and children have fled from their homes, according to local residents.

“Nine in ten households have fled after junta troops raided the village on Wednesday morning. Junta forces took chickens and pigs left behind by villagers as well as liquor from the village bar, and drank at the village monastery the whole day. In the evening, the drunken soldiers wandered around the village,” said one resident.

Two junta troops died and three were injured in the shootout on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to local sources. Two civilians were injured in their arms, and a university student from Myingyan was hit in his thigh.

The Irrawaddy

• The Irrawaddy 13 May 2021:

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-forces-detain-dozens-of-civilians-in-village-raid.html>

Student Tortured to Death After Myanmar Junta Forces Raid Mandalay Village-Tract

A university student was tortured to death in military custody after being detained during a raid by junta forces on Talokmyo Village-tract in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region on Wednesday, according to sources close to him.

Family members were told on Thursday morning to collect the body of Ko Zin Ko Tun, who was arrested with five other students during the raid on Talokmyo on Wednesday afternoon.

“He was struck by a bullet in Talokmyo and arrested. And he died in military custody,” a source said.

Ko Zin Ko Tun, a first-year IT student from Myingyan, had only an arm wound when he was taken away by the junta forces. “He was still alive when he was arrested. All six were beaten with rifle butts as junta forces arrested them. He died during interrogation. Another one who was hit in the leg also reportedly had his leg amputated,” said a source close to Ko Zin Ko Tun.

Junta forces planted weapons on the six when photographing them immediately after their arrest to make the crime look more serious. When the military’s mouthpiece, Myawaddy TV, reported the news, Ko Zin Ko Tun was not shown, and more arms and ammunition were displayed instead.



The six detained by the military regime

“In the first photo, they [junta forces] intentionally added their weapons. And more weapons were added in the photo published by Myawaddy. They are attempting to make it appear as if a more serious crime occurred,” a source close to Ko Zin Ko Tun said.

“The pictures published by Myawaddy intend to make the crime look more serious. It was unnecessarily cruel of the junta forces to use more than 400 troops to launch a violent crackdown on unarmed civilians,” a Talokmyo resident said.

Of the six, five including a woman are university students from Myingyan. The identity of the sixth is still unknown.

They were in Talokmyo to help villagers with their resistance movement against the military regime.

Junta troops detained between 50 and 100 civilians in the raid Wednesday morning in Talokmyo. The clash began on Tuesday afternoon when more than 100 regime troops attempted to enter Talokmyo. Faced with unexpected resistance from the villagers, some 400 more soldiers were brought in on

Wednesday morning to attack the village-tract.

Two junta troops were killed and three injured in the shootout. Three civilians were injured. Locals have fled their villages following the raid, but junta forces are searching for them in nearby forests.

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