

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/04/12/asia/myanmar-junta-deadly-airstrike-aftermath-intl-hnk/index.html>

Relatives were still recovering the charred bodies and limbs of victims killed in a military airstrike on a village in central Myanmar Wednesday, a day after one of the [deadliest attacks](#) since the junta seized power in a coup two years ago.

An eyewitness, who hid in a tunnel during the attack, described a scene of horror as he approached the site of the military airstrike – of children dying, women screaming, and bodies heaped on the ground.

At least 165 people, including 27 women and 19 children, were killed after Myanmar's military junta bombed Kanbalu township in the central Sagaing region on Tuesday, the human rights minister of the ousted shadow National Unity Government Aung Myo Min wrote on Twitter, before confirming the figures to CNN.

A further 30 people were wounded, 20 of whom remain in a serious condition including a pregnant woman and an eight-year-old child. Of those who died, 158 bodies have been cremated, Aung Myo Min added in his comments to CNN.

First responders and medical teams haven't been able to return to the site of the attack because military planes have continued flying over the town, though there have been no further strikes, Aung Myo Min said earlier.

About 300 people had gathered in Pazigy Village early on Tuesday morning to celebrate the opening of a local administration office, an eyewitness told CNN on the condition of anonymity because he fears retribution. Families had traveled from nearby villages for the event, where tea and food was offered and which coincided with the start of the Thingyan New Year celebrations.

Like much of Sagaing, the area is not under the control of the military junta. The new town office was being opened under the authority of the shadow National Unity Government (NUG), for the people, as part of the anti-junta resistance.

"We didn't have any warning," the eyewitness said. "Most of the villagers were inside the event, so they didn't notice the jet."

Just before 8 a.m., a junta aircraft bombed the village where the ceremony was being held, the eyewitness and local media reported. An Mi35 helicopter then circled and fired on the village minutes later, the eyewitness told CNN.

“When I arrived at the scene we tried to search for people still alive,” he said. “Everything was terrible. People were dying (as they were being transported) on motorbikes. Children and women. Some lost their heads, limbs, hands. I saw flesh on the road.”

## MEANWHILE (🇨🇳)

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The eyewitness said he saw dozens of bodies after the attack, including children as young as five. He said he lost four family members in the strike, and a young child from his village was among the dead.

“I saw lots of people coming onto the scene to search for their kids, crying and screaming,” he said.

At around 5:30 p.m. the junta jets returned and shot the same place they had bombed that morning, he said.

CNN cannot independently verify the incident but the eyewitness’s account matches reports in local media and from the NUG.



This photo provided by the Kyunhla Activists Group shows the aftermath of an airstrike in Pazigy village in Sagaing region's Kanbalu township, Myanmar, on April 11.

### Kyunhla Activists Group/AP

Videos and images from the aftermath, shown to CNN from witnesses and a local activist group, also show bodies, some burned and in pieces, as well as destroyed buildings, vehicles and debris.

Myanmar's junta spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun confirmed the airstrike on Pazigy Village and said if civilian casualties occurred it was because they were forced to help "terrorists."

The junta has designated the NUG and resistance groups known as the People's Defense Force in the country as terrorists.

"At 8 a.m.... NUG (National Unity Government) and PDF (People's Defense Force) conducted an opening ceremony of the public administration office at Pazigy village," Zaw Min Tun said on the military's Myawaddy TV channel.

"We had launched the attack on them. We were informed that PDF were killed at that event under the attack. They are opposing our government."

The strike was condemned internationally, with one top UN official saying global indifference to the situation in Myanmar contributed to the attack.

"The Myanmar military's attacks against innocent people, including today's airstrike in Sagaing, is enabled by world indifference and those supplying them with weapons," said Tom Andrews, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar.

"How many Myanmar children need to die before world leaders take strong, coordinated action to stop this carnage?"

The US Department of State said it was "deeply concerned" about the airstrikes and called on the regime to "cease the horrific violence."

"These violent attacks further underscore the regime's disregard for human life and its responsibility for the dire political and humanitarian crisis in Burma following the February 2021 coup," it said, using an alternative name for Myanmar.



'Mom, please just kill me': A world looks away from Myanmar's descent into horror

It's been just over two years since the military seized power, ousting the democratically elected government and jailing its leader [Aung San Suu Kyi](#). In order to crush resistance, the junta regularly carries out [airstrikes](#) and [ground attacks](#) on what it calls “terrorist” targets.

The attacks have killed civilians, including children, and targeted [schools](#), clinics, [hospitals](#) and other civilian infrastructure. Whole [villages have been burned](#) by junta soldiers and thousands of people have been displaced in the attacks, according to local monitoring groups.

Battles between the military and resistance groups unfold daily across Myanmar. These rebel groups, some of whom have aligned with some of the country's long-established ethnic militias, effectively control parts of the country out of the junta's reach.

Resistance groups and humanitarian organizations have repeatedly accused Myanmar's military of carrying out mass killings, air strikes and war crimes against civilians in the regions where fighting has raged, charges the junta repeatedly denies – despite a growing body of evidence.

“They’re losing control of the country. They’re losing ground. Things are much more unstable on the ground than they’ve ever been,” the UN’s Andrews told CNN on Wednesday. “As a result of that, they’re using air power more and more and, of course, as they do so, more and more civilians are being killed.”

On Monday, junta airstrikes hit a town in western Chin state’s Falam Township, killing nine people when bombs dropped on a school, according to local media Myanmar Now and The Irrawaddy.

Last week, 8,000 refugees in southern Karen state fled across the border to Thailand, escaping fighting in Myawaddy township, according to a statement from Thailand’s Tak provincial office public relations department, posted to Facebook.

In March, at least 22 people, including three monks, [were killed](#) at a monastery in southern Shan state. And a military airstrike on a school in Sagaing in September [killed at least 13 people](#), including seven children.

The eyewitness to Tuesday’s attack said the “situation in Myanmar is worse now.”

“People are dying like dogs or cows. We don’t have any weapons to compare with what the military has. We need the help of the international community,” he said.

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NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2023/04/11/1169380908/military-airstrike-myanmar-village-100-dead>

## As many as 100 people were killed after military airstrikes hit a village in Myanmar

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April 11, 2023 8:26 PM ET

By  
The Associated Press





This photo provided by the Kyunhla Activists Group shows aftermath of an airstrike in Pazigy village in Sagaing Region's Kanbalu Township, Myanmar, on Tuesday.

*Kyunhla Activists Group via AP*

BANGKOK — Airstrikes by [Myanmar's military](#) on Tuesday killed as many as 100 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony held by opponents of army rule, said a witness, a member of a local pro-democracy group and independent media.

The military is increasingly using airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 3,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed since then by security forces.

A witness told The Associated Press that a fighter jet dropped bombs directly into a crowd of people who were gathering at 8 a.m. for the opening of a local office of the country's opposition movement outside Pazigy village in Sagaing region's Kanbalu township. The area is about 110 kilometers (70 miles) north of Mandalay, the country's second largest city.

## ASIA

# Myanmar has been in chaos since the army seized power from the civilian government

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About half an hour later, a helicopter appeared and fired at the site, said the witness, who asked not to be identified because he feared punishment by the authorities.

Initial reports put the death toll at around 50, but later tallies reported by independent media raised it to about 100. It was impossible to independently confirm details of the incident because reporting is restricted by the military government.

"I was standing a short distance from the crowd when a friend of mine contacted me on the phone about the approach of a fighter jet," the witness said. "The jet dropped bombs directly on the crowd, and I jumped into a nearby ditch and hid. A few moments later, when I stood up and looked around, I saw people cut to pieces and dead in the smoke. The office building was destroyed by fire. About 30 people were injured. While the wounded were being transported, a helicopter arrived and shot more people. We are now cremating the bodies quickly."

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About 150 people had gathered for the opening ceremony, and women and 20-30 children were among the dead, he said, adding that those killed also included leaders of locally formed anti-government armed groups and other opposition organizations.

The United Nations strongly condemned the attack by the Myanmar armed forces and said those responsible must be brought to justice, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said, stressing that the injured must receive medical treatment, which is "often a challenge in these circumstances."





## ASIA

### **Resistance to military rule in Myanmar remains steady 2 years after army seized power**

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "condemns all forms of violence and reaffirms the primacy of protection of civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law and reiterates his call for the military to end the campaign of violence against the Myanmar population throughout the country" as called for by the U.N. Security Council in a resolution adopted last December, Dujarric said.

'This heinous act by the terrorist military is yet another example of their indiscriminate use of extreme force against innocent civilians, constituting a war crime," the opposition National Unity Government said in a statement. The NUG calls itself the country's legitimate government, in opposition to the army. The office being opened Tuesday was part of its administrative network.

The military government's spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, acknowledged in a statement phoned to state television MRTV that the ceremony had been attacked, but accused anti-government forces in the area of carrying out a violent campaign of terror. He said the People's Defense Forces — the armed wing of the National Unity Government — had terrorized residents into supporting them, killing Buddhist monks, teachers and other people, while the military sought peace and stability. He said there was evidence the attack had set off secondary blasts of explosives hidden by the People's Defense Forces around the site.

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### **NGOs have gathered evidence of large-scale human rights abuses by the army**

In response to accusations of abuses, the military government often accuses pro-democracy forces of terrorism. But analysts for the United Nations and non-governmental organizations have gathered credible evidence of large-scale human rights abuses by the army, including the burning of entire villages and displacement of more than a million people, triggering a humanitarian crisis.

The death toll from Tuesday's air attack, if confirmed, could be the highest in more than two years of civil conflict that began when the army seized power in 2021. As many as 80 people were killed last



October in another government air attack in northern Myanmar on an anniversary celebration of the Kachin ethnic minority's main political organization, which is also battling the military government.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army takeover triggered widespread popular opposition. After peaceful demonstrations were put down with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, and large parts of the country are now embroiled in conflict.

The army has been conducting major offensives in the countryside, where it has faced some of the toughest resistance in Sagaing, in Myanmar's historic heartland. The resistance forces have no defense against air attacks.

In videos of the devastated village seen by AP, survivors and onlookers stumble through the area of the attack amid clouds of thick smoke, with only the skeleton frame of one building still standing in the distance. The videos could not immediately be verified but matched other descriptions of the scene.

Some motorbikes remained intact while others were reduced to their frames or buried under tree branches. In one area, two victims lay close together, one of whom had only one arm still attached.

Another victim lay face down in a small grove by the roadside. A few meters (yards) away, a small torso missing at least one limb could be seen.

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In January, Myanmar's top leader told the military it needs to take decisive action against those opposed to army rule. Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said at a military parade on Armed Forces Day that those who condemned his government showed indifference to violence committed by its opponents.

Resistance forces have been able to prevent the military from taking firm control of large areas of the country, but have a great disadvantage in weapons, particularly in countering air attacks.

Critics of the military government advocate banning or limiting the sale of aviation fuel to Myanmar to cripple the military's advantage in air power. Many Western nations have imposed arms embargoes on the military government, and the United States and Britain recently enacted new sanctions targeting individuals and companies involved in supplying jet fuel to Myanmar.

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a statement Tuesday that "The relentless air attacks across Myanmar highlight the urgent need to suspend the import of aviation fuel. Amnesty reiterates its calls on all states and businesses to stop shipments that may end up in the hands of the Myanmar Air Force."

It also urged the U.N. Security Council to "push through effective actions to hold the Myanmar military accountable, including by referring the situation in the country to the International Criminal Court."

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Los Angeles Time

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2023-04-11/airstrikes-on-myanmar-village-feared-to-have-killed-100-including-many-children>

# Airstrikes on Myanmar village are feared to have killed 100, including many children



Ruins smolder after an airstrike in the Sagaing region's Kanbalu township in Myanmar on Tuesday.

(Kyunhla Activists Group via Associated Press)

BY GRANT PECK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

APRIL 11, 2023 10 AM PT

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## BANGKOK —

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The military is increasingly using airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it [seized power](#) from the [elected govern- ment](#) of [Aung San Suu Kyi](#). More than 3,000 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces since.

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Initial reports put the death toll at around 50, but later tallies reported by independent media raised it to about 100. It was impossible to independently confirm details of the incident because reporting is restricted by the military government.





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“I was standing a short distance from the crowd when a friend of mine contacted me on the phone about the approach of a fighter jet,” the witness said. “The jet dropped bombs directly on the crowd, and I jumped into a nearby ditch and hid. A few moments later, when I stood up and looked around, I saw people cut to pieces and dead in the smoke. The office building was destroyed by fire. About 30 people were injured. While the wounded were being transported, a helicopter arrived and shot more people. We are now cremating the bodies quickly.”

About 150 people had gathered for the opening ceremony, and women and 20 to 30 children were among the dead, he said, adding that those killed also included leaders of locally formed antigovernment armed groups and other opposition organizations.

“This heinous act by the terrorist military is yet another example of their indiscriminate use of extreme force against innocent civilians, constituting a war crime,” the opposition National Unity Government said in a statement. The NUG calls itself the country’s legitimate government, in opposition to the army. The office being opened Tuesday was part of its administrative network.

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**April 11, 2023**

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The death toll from Tuesday's air attack, if confirmed, could be the highest in more than two years of civil conflict that began when the army seized power in 2021.

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<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/airstrikes-on-myanmar-village-feared-to-have-killed-100-20230412-p5czpl.html>

## Airstrikes on Myanmar village feared to have killed 100

*By Grant Peck*

**Updated** April 12, 2023 — 3.20pm first published at 4.56am

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The aftermath of an airstrike in Pazigy village that may have killed more than 100 people.*CREDIT:AP*

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**Inside the Myanmar military's frightening new offensive**





Armed with Russian fighter jets and helicopter gunships, the junta's security forces have stepped up a campaign of air strikes and burning of villages.

"I was standing a short distance from the crowd when a friend of mine contacted me on the phone about the approach of a fighter jet," the witness said.

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About 150 people had gathered for the opening ceremony, and women and 20 to 30 children were among the dead, he said, adding that those killed also included leaders of locally formed anti-government armed groups and other opposition organisations.



Military officers march during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 78th Armed Forces Day in Naypyitaw last month.*CREDIT:AP*

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"This heinous act by the terrorist military is yet another example of their indiscriminate use of extreme force against innocent civilians, constituting a war crime," the opposition National Unity Government (NUG) said in a statement.

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Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told military broadcast channel Myawaddy the attack on the ceremony held by the National Unity Government (NUG), a shadow administration, for their armed People's Defence Force was aimed at restoring peace and stability in the region.

"During that opening ceremony, we conducted the attack. PDF members were killed. They are the ones opposing the government of the country, the people of the country," he said.



Residents from eastern Myanmar are seen after fleeing into Thailand's Tak Province from Myanmar's Myawaddy district.*CREDIT:AP*

"According to our ground information we hit the place of their weapons' storage and that exploded and people died due to that," he said.



Referring to accusations of civilian casualties, he said “some people who were forced to support them probably died as well”.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the attack and called for those responsible to be held accountable, his spokesperson said, adding that Guterres “reiterates his call for the military to end the campaign of violence against the Myanmar population throughout the country”.

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Zaw Min Tun claimed photographs showed some of those killed were in uniform and some in civilian clothes, accusing the PDF of falsely claiming civilian deaths when their forces were killed.

He also accused members of the PDF of committing “war crimes” and killing “monks, teachers and innocent residents” in the area who did not support the opposition.

Citing residents of the region, BBC Burmese, Radio Free Asia (RFA) Burmese, and the *Irrawaddy* news portal reported between 50 and 100 people, including civilians, had been killed in the attack by government forces.



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But analysts for the United Nations and non-governmental organisations have gathered credible evidence of large-scale human rights abuses by the army, including the burning of entire villages and displacement of more than a million people, triggering a humanitarian crisis.

The death toll from the air attack, if confirmed, will be the highest in more than two years of civil conflict that began when the army seized power in 2021.



Witnesses and independent media reports said dozens of villagers were killed in Pazigyí. *CREDIT: KYUNHLA ACTIVISTS GROUP VIA AP*

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I am horrified by reports of today's airstrikes by Myanmar fighter jets on a community hall in the Sagaing region, an anti-military stronghold in the northwest of the country, that killed dozens of people, including women and children.

It appears schoolchildren performing dances, as well as other civilians, attending an opening ceremony at the hall in Pazi Gyi village, Kanbalu Township were among the victims. A helicopter gunship then reportedly fired on those fleeing the hall. Media reported as many as 100 people may have been killed.

Despite clear legal obligations for the military to protect civilians in the conduct of hostilities, there has been blatant disregard for the related rules of international law.

I also call on all parties to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population that is under their control from the effects of attacks,

including by avoiding locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas.

As I have previously noted, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the military and its affiliated militias are responsible for an extremely broad range of human rights violations and abuses since 1 February 2021, some of which may constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.

I firmly believe the international justice processes now underway will one day hold the military leadership accountable for such crimes.