

— JULY 2025 —

Myanmar Institute Newsletter



Dear Readers,

July 2025 unfolds under the long shadow of remembrance and reckoning. As Myanmar marked Martyrs' Day on July 19, the absence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, now entering her fifth year in solitary detention, was palpable. For the first time since the 2021 coup, the military leadership took center stage at Yangon's official ceremony, attempting to recast the legacy of General Aung San. Yet across the country and in exile communities, alternative commemorations reclaimed the day's true meaning—honoring the fallen and refusing to forget the unfulfilled promise of freedom.

This month also saw a critical shift in public sentiment. Dr. Tayzar San, a leading voice of the Spring Revolution, publicly challenged the National Unity Government (NUG) to undertake urgent reforms. His call echoed a growing chorus from civil society, resistance fighters, and civilians: without structural change, transparency, and stronger coordination, the revolution risks faltering. Demands are no longer just for unity—they are for accountability, strategy, and leadership transformation. The NUG now faces its most significant moment of internal reckoning since its formation.

Meanwhile, the civil war grinds on with mounting devastation. The junta launched a major offensive to retake Nawnghkio in northern Shan State, displacing thousands. Armed resistance groups, despite holding ground in some regions, face dwindling resources and increasing pressure—military, political, and diplomatic. Civilian casualties, forced recruitment, and blocked humanitarian corridors continue to define the conflict's human cost. On all fronts—political and military—the need for recalibration is urgent. Contributions may be sent to newsletter@myanmar-institut.org.

Carolyn & Richard

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Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

Der Juli 2025 war ein Monat der Reflexion und der Neuausrichtung. Als Myanmar am 19. Juli den „Märtyrertag“ beging, war die Abwesenheit von Daw Aung San Suu Kyi deutlich spürbar – sie sitzt bereits seit fünf Jahren in Einzelhaft. Zum ersten Mal seit dem Putsch 2021 stand die Führung der Junta im Mittelpunkt der offiziellen Zeremonie in Yangon und versuchte, die Feierlichkeiten zu Ehren General Aung San's für sich zu instrumentalisieren. Jedoch wurden über das ganze Land hinweg und im Exil viele weitere Feierlichkeiten zu Ehren der Märtyrer abgehalten – im Sinne des Widerstandes, zum Gedenken der Gefallenen und der Weigerung das unerfüllte Versprechen von Freiheit zu vergessen.

Der öffentliche Diskurs erlebte im vergangenen Monat eine wegweisende Wendung. Dr. Tayzar San, eine führende Stimme der Frühlingsrevolution, forderte öffentlich die nationale Einheitsregierung (NUG) auf, dringende Reformen umzusetzen. Sein Aufruf spiegelt einen wachsenden Konsens wider – unter WiderstandskämpferInnen und ZivilistInnen: Ohne strukturelle Veränderungen, mehr Transparenz und eine stärkere Koordination droht die Revolution zu scheitern. Die Forderungen beinhalten die Verpflichtung zur Rechenschaft, eine klare Strategie sowie eine umfassende Transformation der Führung.

Die NUG befindet sich nun an einem der bislang wichtigsten Momente seit Gründung – dem Moment der internen Anerkennung. Zugleich schreitet der Bürgerkrieg mit zunehmender Verwüstung voran: Die Junta startete eine Großoffensive zur Rückeroberung von Nawnghkio im nördlichen Shan-Staat, wodurch Tausende Menschen vertrieben wurden. Während bewaffnete Widerstandsgruppen in einigen Regionen ihre Stellungen halten, sehen sie sich gleichzeitig mit schwindenden Ressourcen und steigendem Druck konfrontiert – militärisch, politisch und diplomatisch. Die Menschen in Myanmar leiden weiterhin unter zivilen Opfern, Zwangsrekrutierungen und der Blockade humanitärer Hilfe. Auf allen Ebenen – politisch wie militärisch – ist eine Neukalibrierung dringend notwendig.

Beiträge können an newsletter@myanmar-institut.org gesendet werden.

Carolyn & Richard



Events in August 2025

Art Exhibitions

“Ek Kha Ya” by Htein Lin

📍 West Eden Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

 17 20 August – 12 October 2025

Renowned Myanmar artist Htein Lin presents “Ek Kha Ya,” exploring the Myanmar script as a medium of memory, resistance, and identity. The exhibition delves into the political and cultural significance of the Burmese alphabet.

Taungbyone Nat Festival (Spirit Festival in Myanmar)

📍 Location: Taungbyone village, near Mandalay

 17 Dates: 8th to 16th August 2025 (approximate, based on the Burmese lunar calendar)



The Taungbyone Nat Festival is one of Myanmar's most significant spiritual celebrations, honoring the Taungbyone brothers—venerated spirits in Burmese tradition. The festival features vibrant rituals, spirit medium dances, music, and communal offerings. It's a time when thousands gather to pay homage, seek blessings, and partake in the lively atmosphere.



Veranstaltung im August 2025

Kunstaussstellungen

„Ek Kha Ya“ von Htein Lin

📍 West Eden Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

 20. August – 12. Oktober 2025

Der renommierte myanmarische Künstler Htein Lin präsentiert „Ek Kha Ya“ – eine Auseinandersetzung mit der birmanischen Schrift als Medium für Erinnerung, Widerstand und Identität. Die Ausstellung beleuchtet die politische und kulturelle Bedeutung des burmesischen Alphabets.



Taungbyone Nat-Fest (Geisterfest in Myanmar)

📍 Ort: Dorf Taungbyone, in der Nähe von Mandalay

 17 Daten: 8. bis 16. August 2025 (ungefähr, basierend auf dem burmesischen Mondkalender)

Das Taungbyone Nat-Fest ist eine der bedeutendsten spirituellen Feierlichkeiten in Myanmar. Es ehrt die Taungbyone-Brüder – verehrte Geister in der burmesischen Tradition. Das Fest umfasst farbenfrohe Rituale, Tänze von spirituellen Medien, Musik und gemeinsame Opfergaben. Tausende Menschen kommen zusammen, um die Geister zu ehren, Segen zu erbitten und an der lebendigen Atmosphäre teilzunehmen.

Publications

Economy & Society

- World Bank, 2025. Myanmar Economic Monitor – June 2025. [online] Washington, DC: The World Bank. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/5098a854-0586-45a9-a187-c47c04a4ad8b>.
- The World Bank's semiannual report outlines the macroeconomic situation. Myanmar is projected to grow by 3% in FY2026/27, but continued conflict and education loss may reduce future income levels by 7–15%.

Humanitarian Conditions

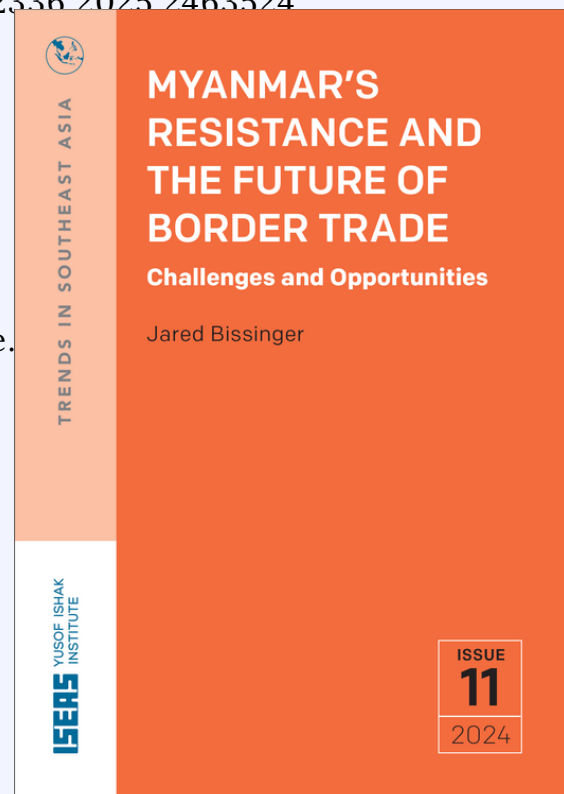
- OCHA, 2025. Myanmar Humanitarian Update No. 46 – 23 May 2025. [online] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Available at: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-46-23-may-2025>.
- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) highlights deepening crises driven by conflict, floods, and aid obstructions, affecting over 18 million people in need.

Human Rights & Political Analysis

- Ibrahim, A., 2025. Cascades of violence to genocide: Sovereignty, nationalism and the Rohingya. Third World Quarterly, [online] 46(4), pp.712–729. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2025.2518595>.
- Ashley South., 2025. Failing assumptions and the “post-Myanmar turn”. Journal of Contemporary Asia, [online] 55(3), pp.295–313. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00472336.2025.2463524>

Books & Monographs

- Bissinger, J., 2025. Myanmar's resistance and the future of border trade: Challenges and opportunities. In: Myanmar's resistance and the future of border trade: Challenges and opportunities. Trends in Southeast Asia. Singapore: ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.



Audio & Visual Media

Myanmar: The Merciless Crackdown

Produced by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Directed by: RSF Media Team

Released: March 15, 2025

Duration: 19 minutes

Link: <https://rsf.org/en/new-rsf-documentary-highlights-courage-and-resilience-myanmar-journalists-four-years-after-military>

In a gripping 19-minute exposé, Myanmar: The Merciless Crackdown lays bare the raw testimonies of journalists who risked everything to report from inside a country shrouded in fear. Released four years after the 2021 coup, the film captures the escalating repression, the silencing of truth, and the unshakable courage of Myanmar's media under siege. This short documentary is both an homage and a chilling reminder: journalism in Myanmar is a frontline of resistance.

With Nagas

Produced by: Naga International Support Center (NISC)

Directed by: NISC Documentary Collective

Released: February 20, 2025

Duration: 42 minutes

Link: www.withnagas.nl

With Nagas is a hauntingly powerful 42-minute documentary that delves deep into one of South Asia's most overlooked and protracted conflicts—the struggle of the Naga people spanning India and Myanmar. Through intimate footage and firsthand accounts, the film unravels the layers of political suppression, cultural erasure, and the enduring fight for identity and self-determination. Premiered in early 2025, it stands as a visual testament to a shadow war few dare to confront.



**Contributions may be sent to
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Noteworthy News

Martyrs' Day 2025 – A Divided Nation Remembers

On 19 July 2025, Myanmar marked its 78th Martyrs' Day amid a climate of repression and symbolic defiance. For the first time since the 2021 coup, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the official ceremony in Yangon, while Aung San Suu Kyi—still imprisoned—remained absent. Parallel to the junta-led observances, the National Unity Government (NUG) and resistance groups held virtual events and local commemorations across liberated territories.

📌 Source: AP News, 19 July 2025

apnews.com/article/0e3c89a7cb8e8005899057e94bf5a987

Dr. Tayzar San Calls for Urgent NUG Reform

In a forceful interview published on 10 July 2025, prominent activist Dr. Tayzar San issued a public appeal for leadership reform within the NUG. He criticized its weak command structure, lack of unified strategy, and inadequate transparency in financial management. "Without change," he warned, "the revolution may lose its momentum." His remarks sparked a wave of debate across opposition networks.

📌 Source: The Irrawaddy, 10 July 2025
[irrawaddy.com/in-](https://irrawaddy.com/in-person/interview/reforms-are-not-optional)

[person/interview/reforms-are-not-optional](https://irrawaddy.com/in-person/interview/reforms-are-not-optional)

Junta Forces Recapture Nawnghkio, Northern Shan State

On 6 July 2025, state media and independent outlets confirmed that junta forces had retaken Nawnghkio, a key town in northern Shan State, after months of fighting with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). The offensive reportedly involved over 500 clashes and mass displacement. The military declared it was re-establishing administrative control, though civilian access remains highly restricted.

📌 Source: AP News, 6 July 2025

apnews.com/article/105c19ae525948f9c7a0a7000a2f2e4d

Rohingya Face Starvation Amid Junta Blockades

In July 2025, worsening humanitarian crisis for the Rohingya population in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The ruling junta has imposed blockades on overcrowded internment camps, leading to severe shortages of food and medical supplies. At least 25 adults have died from starvation, and seven from untreated medical conditions this year. International aid cuts, including reductions from the U.S., have exacerbated the situation, prompting calls for renewed humanitarian assistance.

📌 Source: The Washington Post, 20 July 2025

washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/07/20/myanmar-rohingya-bangladesh-yangon-civil



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Proposals and Jobs

Call for Proposals

UNESCO: Young Financial Empowerment Program

- Deadline: 4 August 2025
- Location: Nationwide, Myanmar
- Overview: This program seeks proposals to empower youth with financial literacy and management skills, fostering economic independence and resilience.
- Source: UNESCO & MIMU, 2025

Consultant for Baseline and Value Chain Assessment

- Deadline: 5 August 2025
- Location: Amarapura and Sintgaing Townships, Mandalay, Myanmar
- Focus: World Concern Myanmar is seeking a consultant to conduct a baseline and value chain assessment for their development programs in the specified townships. The assessment aims to inform program strategies and interventions.
- Source: World Concern Myanmar / MIMU

Jobs

Operations Assistant – Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Location: Yangon, Myanmar
- Deadline: 5 August 2025
- Overview: The Asian Development Bank is seeking an Operations Assistant to support administrative tasks, project implementation, technical assistance processing, database management, and logistics at its Myanmar Resident Mission.
- Source: UNjobnet, 2025

Deputy Project Director – FHI 360

- Location: Yangon, Myanmar
- Deadline: 30 July 2025
- Overview: FHI 360 is recruiting a Deputy Project Director to oversee the implementation of health and development projects, manage teams, and ensure compliance with donor requirements.
- Source: UNJobNet, 2025



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