

**STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS & SANCTIONS IN MYANMAR**

**APRIL 2020 REPORT**

**Summary.** This report reviews the April 2020 developments relating to human rights in Myanmar. Relatedly, it addresses the interchange between Myanmar’s reform efforts and the responses of the international community.

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## **I. Political Developments**

### **A. Rohingya Refugee Crisis**

On April 8, the Bangladesh refugee relief and repatriation commissioner issued a directive that restricts services and facilities in the Rohingya refugee camps to those deemed “critical.”<sup>1</sup> This lockdown of Cox’s Bazar occurred as the official number of COVID-19 cases in Bangladesh continue to increase, and experts warn that COVID-19 could spread quickly through the camps.<sup>2</sup> The Bangladesh government’s directive does not affect “critical” services such as health, nutrition, water, food, gas, hygiene, sanitation, waste treatment, identification of new arrivals and “ensuring quarantine.”<sup>3</sup> While the lockdown measures were adopted to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 in the camps, 14 aid workers interviewed by Human Rights Watch stated that the drastic reduction in operations capacity has affected their ability to perform critical services.<sup>4</sup> The lockdown measures restricted the movement of aid workers, which reduced their numbers in refugee camps by 80 percent.<sup>5</sup> The restrictions on aid workers, coupled with an internet blackout, are obstructing aid workers from providing core services and effectively responding to the COVID-19 threat. Staff reductions have led to a halt of some vaccination programs, including the measles vaccine.<sup>6</sup> Some camps have serious food and water shortages – refugees from four settlements told Human Rights Watch that food rations haven’t been replenished and that some areas have no drinking water.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, the lockdown measures cease access to child and woman-friendly spaces and gender-based violence case management.<sup>8</sup> The United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, has urged governments to ensure that critical services for survivors of gender-based violence are designated as essential and remain accessible to those forcibly displaced during the pandemic.<sup>9</sup>

In early April, Malaysian authorities detained over 200 Rohingya refugees after intercepting a boat off the coast of the island of Langkawi.<sup>10</sup> The authorities stated that the refugees would be handed over to Malaysia’s immigration department. In mid-April, Bangladesh authorities rescued 400 Rohingya refugees from a boat that had been at sea for over two months as they attempted to sail to Malaysia.<sup>11</sup> One of the rescued refugees said that they had reached Malaysia but had been turned away.<sup>12</sup> The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees confirmed that approximately 30 or more refugees on the boat died at sea after running out of food and water. The rescued Rohingya were returned to Cox’s Bazar, where they were quarantined to ensure that they did not bring COVID-19 into the camps. Multiple boats attempting to reach Malaysia have been rescued, as many Rohingya refugees grow desperate in Bangladesh due to recent restrictions on movement and internet blackouts.<sup>13</sup>

### **B. Corruption**

There have been no updates since the last report.

### **C. International Community / Sanctions**

On April 9, the Myanmar President’s Office ordered Union-level ministries and the Rakhine State government to preserve evidence related to the alleged human rights violations against the Rohingya in northern Rakhine State.<sup>14</sup> In January, the International Court of Justice

ordered Myanmar to protect Rohingya from killings and other atrocities and to refrain from destroying evidence related to the alleged crimes committed against the Rohingya.

More than US\$25 million is being provided by the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund, the European Union, the United States, and Australia to support Myanmar's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>15</sup> The assistance includes funds to provide cash grants to workers who have lost their jobs, internal migrant workers and those returned from abroad, mothers, the elderly, and people displaced by conflicts.<sup>16</sup> The assistance also includes technical support and medical equipment.<sup>17</sup> The United Nations ("UN") also provided support in the form of 50,000 test kits, as well as living supplies and food assistance to people quarantined in Yangon.<sup>18</sup> Myanmar had previously appealed for help from the international community for medical equipment and supplies.<sup>19</sup>

On April 15, the UN affirmed that it will work with the Myanmar government to protect women's rights and opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic, which the UN noted is having "devastating social and economic consequences for women and girls, in particular."<sup>20</sup> UN agencies provided training to over eighty social workers of the Department of Social Welfare on the gender dimension of COVID-19 as well as psycho-social counseling training.<sup>21</sup>

A UN World Health Organization worker was killed when his UN marked vehicle was fired upon in Minbya township, Rakhine State on April 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>22</sup> The marked UN vehicle was transporting COVID-19 swab samples from the capital of Rakhine State to Yangon for testing.<sup>23</sup> Both the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw have denied responsibility for the attack.<sup>24</sup> The Myanmar government has formed a committee to investigate the attack.<sup>25</sup> A member of the Rakhine Ethnic Congress expressed concern that most of the committee members are part of the government, saying, "How much transparency can this committee have when it examines the facts related to the Tatmadaw? There should be a third party. However, we must wait and look at the actions of the committee."<sup>26</sup> The Deputy Asia Director for Human Rights Watch separately urged the government to provide UN investigators with "unfettered access" to Minbya township so they can conduct an independent and impartial investigation.<sup>27</sup>

## **II. Civil and Political Rights**

### **A. Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Association**

Freedom of movement and assembly have been impacted by the spread of COVID-19 in Mon State, Kayah State and Kachin State. In Mon State, the local government has threatened legal action against those who return to the region from abroad without quarantining for 14 days.<sup>28</sup> Violators will be charged with criminal offenses under the anti-contagious disease law and the disaster management law, according to the director of the Mon State government.<sup>29</sup> The stakes are high in Mon State, a region that sees high numbers of incoming travelers from Thailand passing through. Meanwhile, in Kayah State, the government has extended its mandatory curfew for 15 more days as of April 30.<sup>30</sup> Due to the curfew, various tourist attractions are closed to the public. Furthermore, there is a ban on workshops and training sessions. The Kayah State government will reevaluate the curfew as of May 15.<sup>31</sup> In Kachin State, the government has restricted traffic entering Hpakant township amid fears of spreading

COVID-19 from travelers returning from Thailand and China.<sup>32</sup> Referring to incoming traffic, one Kachin State official noted, “We are going to check if they are local and holding Kachin State ID or laborers for jade companies. We are not allowing anyone to enter without a recommendation letter from their village or ward headman.”<sup>33</sup>

Various townships in Rakhine and Chin States—totaling roughly 1.1 million people—continue to experience a government-sanctioned internet blackout.<sup>34</sup> As previously reported, the internet blackout has left some townships without internet for as long as ten continuous months. Critics continue to note that the blackout has deprived activists of the means to shed light on human rights violations. Khaing Kaung San, director of a Rakhine humanitarian organization, said, “We have seen many human rights violations in both Arakan and Chin States after the internet blackout. Clashes have been getting more aggressive, such as bombing of houses, villages and civilians.”<sup>35</sup> As COVID-19 infections continue to rise in Myanmar, there is also growing concern that the affected townships will be unable to access important information to stop the spread of the virus. It remains challenging for activists to reach the affected townships to build awareness of safety measures, as many of the affected areas are considered to be in a state of active conflict.<sup>36</sup>

Four political prisoners were released from Sittwe prison on April 17 as a result of the mass presidential pardon coinciding with the Thingyan holiday.<sup>37</sup> The political detainees include one person from Buthidaung Township charged under the Unlawful Associations Act. One of the political prisoners commented, “I am quite sad the public is being attacked. They don’t bear any arms but they lose their lives. Their houses aren’t military camps but are being destroyed. The government should take responsibility for that.”<sup>38</sup>

The Arakan National Party (“ANP”) issued a statement condemning threats made by the Tatmadaw against their parliamentarians for commenting on the ongoing conflict in Rakhine State.<sup>39</sup> The statement was in response to televised comments made by the Tatmadaw and others shared by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief on April 13. The Tatmadaw and Office of the Commander-in-Chief accused the parliamentarians of supporting Arakan Army propaganda and threatened to report them to the elections commission.<sup>40</sup> One ANP spokesperson stated, “Villages have been burned down. Many people have fled. Many people have been arrested by soldiers. Many people have been tortured. This is the truth about the situation we have seen on the ground in Rakhine State. Everybody knows which organization has committed these acts.”<sup>41</sup>

## **B. Freedom of the Press and Censorship**

The Myanmar government has ordered certain data providers to block websites belonging to ethnic media groups to prevent the spread of misinformation.<sup>42</sup> Among the blocked websites are those belonging to Narinjara and Development Media Group, both based in Rakhine State. Data providers have also blocked English-language news from the Karen Information Center. Commentators have noted that this development is particularly concerning in a time when access to health-related information is of paramount importance.<sup>43</sup>

Two editors were recently charged under Myanmar’s Counter-Terrorism Law for conducting interviews with the Arakan Army, which has been labeled a “terrorist group.”<sup>44</sup> The

editors are currently in hiding to avoid arrest. The recent charges continue a disturbing trend, as Nay Myo Lin, editor-in-chief of Voice of Myanmar, was detained under Myanmar’s Counter-Terrorism Law for publishing an interview with a senior official from the Arakan Army in late March.<sup>45</sup> Charges under the law carry penalties up to a life sentence in prison. Nay Myo Lin was later released on April 9 after prosecutors cited insufficient evidence.<sup>46</sup> Following his release, he stated, “I don’t know what exactly the motive [of the arrest is], but it is a clear message that we, the journalists, could be arrested, charged and jailed at any point.”<sup>47</sup> In response to the recent arrests, Chin National Front spokesperson Salai Htet Nij stated, “I think journalists have been charged with violating the Unlawful Associations Act and the Counter-Terrorism Law under the National League for Democracy government. What I can say is that media freedom is getting weakened under this government.”<sup>48</sup> According to campaign group, Reporters Without Borders, Myanmar currently ranks 138<sup>th</sup> of 180 countries with respect to freedom of the press.<sup>49</sup>

### **III. Economic Development**

#### **A. Economic Development—Legal Framework, Foreign Investment**

The World Bank announced on April 20 a US\$50 million emergency loan for Myanmar which aims to support improvements to hospital systems and public health emergency preparedness in the battle against COVID-19 across the country.<sup>50</sup> The World Bank said the project will focus on scaling up the number of intensive care units at selected hospitals, along with community engagement activities and capacity building for health staff and officials.<sup>51</sup> Myanmar, one of the poorest countries in Asia, has reported a total of 119 COVID-19 cases as of April 21, including five deaths.<sup>52</sup> Yangon, the commercial hub of the country, has been hit the hardest by COVID-19, with a total of 91 patients.<sup>53</sup> The country has also experienced decades of underinvestment in public health. Insufficient numbers of doctors and beds are a common problem in hospitals across the country.<sup>54</sup>

The Japan International Cooperation Agency and Myanmar’s government agreed to official development assistance loans of up to a total of ¥47.94 billion (607.3 billion kyats) for two projects to contribute to economic and social development through improvements to the railway system and electricity supply.<sup>55</sup> Of the total, ¥40.6 billion will be used for the first phase of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project, while ¥7.33 billion will be for the third phase of infrastructure development in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (“MIC”) has approved more than US\$500 million of foreign direct investment (“FDI”) from 11 businesses and 50 billion kyats in local investment.<sup>56</sup> The approved projects include investment into sectors such as industry, construction and services, in addition to the expansion of 13 existing businesses. The investment is anticipated to create a total of 3,234 jobs. As of the end of March, Singapore, China and Thailand topped the list of permitted FDI in Myanmar.

Investors who wish to apply for permission to invest in the country will enjoy a 50 percent discount on application fees, the MIC announced on April 9.<sup>57</sup> The fee reduction applies

to both Myanmar and foreign investors. The new fee structure will take effect from April 20 and will remain effective until the authorities review and revise the fees.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications plans to build new port terminals with financial assistance from the Japanese Government, minister Thant Sin Maung said.<sup>58</sup> The country's ports handled around 890,000 twenty-foot equivalent units ("TEUs") in the fiscal year 2015-16. During the last fiscal year, Yangon ports handled 1.2 million TEUs. Thant Sin Maung said the rise in throughput during the current government's term is due to higher productivity at new port jetties constructed along the Yangon River. "Currently, we are negotiating on the terms for a loan from the Japanese government to build additional ports to support trading," he said.

South Korean Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa said loans and programs undertaken by the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the investment plans of Korean companies are now either suspended or postponed by the global crisis.<sup>59</sup> South Korea is among the top 10 sources of FDI approvals in Myanmar. Cumulative FDI commitments from South Korea reached US\$4 billion as of March 2020, according to MIC statistics. During the first quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal year, bilateral trade exceeded US\$337 million, with exports amounting to US\$178 million and imports amounting to US\$158 million.

The number of foreigners buying shares on the Yangon Stock Exchange ("YSX") has been increasing since foreign trading was permitted for the first time in Myanmar last month.<sup>60</sup> The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar issued a notice in July 2019 announcing that foreign individuals would be permitted to invest in up to 35 percent of the shares of the companies listed on the YSX. Between March 22 and April 20, foreigners scooped up a total of 2,002 shares of First Myanmar Investment Public Co., Ltd. and 4,460 shares of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings.

## **B. Economic Development—Infrastructure, Major Projects**

Several businesses in Yangon have begun producing face masks and have ordered equipment and supplies from China as the price of face masks has risen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>61</sup> "Previously, a mask cost around 25 kyat [2 cents], but now the prices have risen to 1,000 kyats [70 cents]. The prices will fall if we can produce masks domestically. We intend to supply the domestic market when imports are unavailable," said Nay Lin Zin, the general secretary of Shwelinpan Industrial Zone management committee in Hlaing Tharyar Township.<sup>62</sup>

The European Union will provide 5 million euros (7.9 billion kyats) as an emergency fund to support female workers in Myanmar's garment sector who are impacted by COVID-19, starting in May.<sup>63</sup> The Myan Ku Fund will provide direct cash transfers to 100,000 or more female workers. The fund will transfer the deposits into the workers' mobile accounts through a Wave Money transfer, according to EU Ambassador to Myanmar Kristian Schmidt.<sup>64</sup> The support will begin on May 1 and last three months, with amounts ranging from 75,000 to 125,000 kyats. The fund will support garment workers employed in locally owned, joint venture and foreign-owned factories.<sup>65</sup> As of the end of March, according to the EU ambassador, over 25,000 workers from more than 40 factories have been laid off as Myanmar's formerly booming

garment industry grapples with the devastating economic impact of COVID-19.<sup>66</sup> According to estimates provided by the EU, half of the 700,000 garment workers in the country, most of whom are female, are at great risk of either being suspended without pay or losing their jobs permanently.<sup>67</sup>

The Myanmar government will allow only factories that have set up preventive measure to combat COVID-19 to resume operation on April 30, according to the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population.<sup>68</sup> Factories stopped operations from April 12-19 for the Thingyan New Year public holidays, and the government has currently ordered all factories to remain closed for 10 more days until April 30.<sup>69</sup> The health and labor ministries say they will mainly inspect factories making pharmaceuticals and health care goods, those processing food and any facility with more than 1,000 staff to assess whether they have adopted measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>70</sup> Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi says factories will face legal action if they defy COVID-19 instructions.<sup>71</sup> "The government's instructions are not issued for pleasure. We do not want factories to close. It creates a burden for the government and the workforce. We have only ordered factory closures when necessary," said the State Counselor.<sup>72</sup> The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will provide certain social security benefits for workers at factories that will have to close until April 30, according to director-general Nyunt Win of the ministry.<sup>73</sup> The government is still determining how to calculate the social security payments, said Nyunt Win.<sup>74</sup> However, only employees who are registered on the government's social safety net will be entitled to payments.<sup>75</sup>

### **C. Land Seizure**

There have been no updates since the last report.

## **IV. Peace Talks and Ethnic Violence**

### **A. Ethnic Violence**

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tatmadaw continued its attacks on ethnic armed groups in Rakhine, Chin, Kayin and northern Shan States.<sup>76</sup> In northern Shan State and in eastern Kayin State, where the Tatmadaw has for decades battled armed groups seeking more independence, reports of attacks and rights abuses by the military continued.<sup>77</sup> The unrest persists even as the United Nations urges an end to conflict worldwide, and despite calls for a nationwide ceasefire from armed groups, diplomats and civil society groups.<sup>78</sup> On April 1, major ethnic armed groups in Shan and Rakhine States, including the Arakan Army, offered to extend a unilateral ceasefire until the end of the month due to the coronavirus outbreak, while groups in Kayin State also urged the Tatmadaw to declare a nationwide ceasefire.<sup>79</sup> However, the Tatmadaw, which has declared the Arakan Army a "terrorist group," called the proposal "unrealistic," with Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun criticizing the groups for allegedly failing to heed the army's previous calls for ceasefires.<sup>80</sup> The Arakan Information Center, a Malaysia-based organization that has been monitoring the conflict in Rakhine State since it escalated last year, said it has documented 121 civilian deaths this year.<sup>81</sup> In the first half of April alone, it registered 45 deaths.<sup>82</sup>

Organizations representing the Ta'ang minority in northern Shan State said that local communities were being threatened by both the pandemic and serious human right violations.<sup>83</sup> In Kayin State, human rights groups said they have also observed abuses, including the Tatmadaw burning agricultural land and threatening villagers in an area where the Tatmadaw wants to build a road.<sup>84</sup>

## **B. Peace Talks**

Ambassadors from 18 foreign missions in Myanmar have called for ending armed conflicts between the Myanmar military and non-state armed organizations amid the COVID-19 pandemic, urging both sides to focus on “protecting the most vulnerable communities from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.”<sup>85</sup> In their joint statement, the ambassadors said, “We are deeply concerned about the high level of fighting, casualties and civilian displacement occurring in Rakhine and Chin States, and the threat of further conflict in other areas.”<sup>86</sup> The statement was jointly issued by the ambassadors of Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.<sup>87</sup>

The Tatmadaw rejected calls for ceasefire on April 1, saying, “[Non-state armed groups] just have to follow the law.”<sup>88</sup> Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun, spokesperson for the Tatmadaw’s True News agency, noted that the government declared a unilateral ceasefire for nine months last year in some areas of the country, but the truce went unheeded and fighting continued.<sup>89</sup> However, three members of the Northern Alliance, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, the Myanmar Democratic Alliance Army, and the Arakan Army, which the government recently declared a terrorist organization, declared a one-month truce with the government on April 3 to enable them to focus on fighting the spread of COVID-19.<sup>90</sup> A spokesman for the TNLA said, “We declare a ceasefire, even though the Tatmadaw does not. That’s its business. We don’t want to add to people’s problems during this period.”<sup>91</sup>

The Myanmar government and ethnic armed groups agreed to push back the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong for three months to the end of July or early August, depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>92</sup>

Myanmar President Win Myint has appointed former Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Htein Lin as an adviser to the President’s Office on peace issues.<sup>93</sup> The appointment will be effective May 20.<sup>94</sup> Peace talks have been postponed until the end of April as Myanmar has restricted all mass gatherings in line with global measures to fight the spread of COVID-19.<sup>95</sup>



- <sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch, April 28, 2020: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/28/bangladesh-covid-19-aid-limits-imperil-rohingya>.
- <sup>2</sup> RFI, April 9, 2020: <http://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20200409-rohingya-camps-in-bangladesh-in-complete-coronavirus-lockdown-risk-spread-covid-19>.
- <sup>3</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch, April 28, 2020: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/28/bangladesh-covid-19-aid-limits-imperil-rohingya>.
- <sup>5</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>6</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>7</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>8</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>9</sup> UNHCR, April 20, 2020: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/4/5e998aca4/displaced-stateless-women-girls-heightened-risk-gender-based-violence-coronavirus.html>.
- <sup>10</sup> Al Jazeera, April 5, 2020: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/malaysian-authorities-detain-202-rohingya-boat-langkawi-200406023553068.html>.
- <sup>11</sup> The Guardian, April 15, 2020: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/16/bangladesh-rescues-hundreds-of-rohingya-drifting-at-sea-for-nearly-two-months>.
- <sup>12</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>13</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>14</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 9, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-president-orders-officials-preserve-evidence-rakhine-atrocities.html>.
- <sup>15</sup> Frontier Myanmar, April 10, 2020: <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/workers-mothers-and-elderly-to-benefit-from-25m-in-covid-19-foreign-aid>.
- <sup>16</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>17</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>18</sup> Myanmar Times, April 3, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/un-provide-assistance-quarantined-people-yangon.html>.
- <sup>19</sup> Myanmar Times, April 4, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-appeals-foreign-help-covid-19-fight.html>.
- <sup>20</sup> Myanmar Times, April 15, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/un-helps-safeguard-myanmar-women-rights-amid-pandemic.html>.
- <sup>21</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>22</sup> Myanmar Times, April 21, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/armed-men-fire-un-vehicle-rakhine-two-injured.html>.
- <sup>23</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>24</sup> Myanmar Times, April 29, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-govt-forms-panel-probe-who-vehicle-attack.html>.
- <sup>25</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>26</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>27</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>28</sup> Burma News International, April 2, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/mon-state-govt-press-charges-against-returnees-who-do-not-quarantine>.
- <sup>29</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>30</sup> Burma News International, April 30, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/kayah-state-govt-extends-its-announced-curfew-15-more-days>.
- <sup>31</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>32</sup> Burma News International, April 13, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/govt-restricts-traffic-hpakant-fight-virus>.
- <sup>33</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>34</sup> Burma News International, April 7, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/internet-blackout-arakan-and-chin-states-nears-10-months>.
- <sup>35</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>36</sup> Burma News International, April 1, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/arrival-coronavirus-myanmar-restore-internet-save-lives>.
- <sup>37</sup> Burma News International, April 20, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/four-political-detainees-among-hundreds-released-sittwe-prison-presidential-pardon>.
- <sup>38</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>39</sup> Burma News International, April 22, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/anp-tatmadaw-threatening-mps-exposing-rakhine-state-military-violence>.
- <sup>40</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>41</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>42</sup> Burma News International, April 2, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/naypyidaw-telecoms-operators-block-websites-three-ethnic-media-groups>.
- <sup>43</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>44</sup> Mizzima, April 17, 2020: <http://mizzima.com/article/myanmar-editors-go-hiding-after-arrest-fears>.
- <sup>45</sup> Mizzima, April 1, 2020: <http://mizzima.com/article/myanmar-journalist-hit-terrorism-charges-over-interview>.
- <sup>46</sup> Anadolu Agency, April 10, 2020: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/myanmar-reporter-released-after-charged-over-interview/1800003>.
- <sup>47</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>48</sup> Burma News International, April 17, 2020: <https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/cnf-healthcare-media-freedom-weak-under-nld-govt>.
- <sup>49</sup> Mizzima, April 1, 2020: <http://mizzima.com/article/myanmar-journalist-hit-terrorism-charges-over-interview>.
- <sup>50</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 21, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/world-bank-loans-myanmar-50m-covid-19-response.html>.
- <sup>51</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>52</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>53</sup> *Id.*

- <sup>54</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>55</sup> Myanmar Times, April 2, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/japan-provide-y47-billion-two-infrastructure-projects.html>.
- <sup>56</sup> Myanmar Times, April 5, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/mic-approves-more-550-million-fdi.html>.
- <sup>57</sup> Myanmar Times, April 9, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/mic-halves-application-fees-investors-coronavirus-bites.html>.
- <sup>58</sup> Myanmar Times, April 20, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/government-build-new-ports-assistance-japan.html>.
- <sup>59</sup> Myanmar Times, April 20, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/south-korean-investments-myanmar-halted-pandemic.html>.
- <sup>60</sup> Myanmar Times, April 21, 2020: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/ysx-sees-more-foreign-trading-announces-measures-draw-more-listings.html>.
- <sup>61</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 7, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/myanmar-firms-make-face-masks-meet-covid-19-demand.html>.
- <sup>62</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>63</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 9, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/eu-pledges-support-for-women-garment-factory-workers-in-myanmar.html>.
- <sup>64</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>65</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>66</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>67</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>68</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 20, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/specials/myanmar-covid-19/myanmar-says-factories-must-take-covid-19-precautions-reopen.html>.
- <sup>69</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>70</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 21, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-workforce-promised-govt-payments-covid-19-factory-closures.html>.
- <sup>71</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 22, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-factories-ignoring-covid-19-rules-face-prosecution-suu-kyi.html>.
- <sup>72</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>73</sup> The Irrawaddy, April 21, 2020: <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-workforce-promised-govt-payments-covid-19-factory-closures.html>.
- <sup>74</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>75</sup> *Id.*
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- <sup>78</sup> *Id.*
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- <sup>94</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>95</sup> *Id.*