



## Situation Room

### **\*\* COUP D'ETAT IN MYANMAR \*\***

**Period under review:** from 13 March 2021 to 18 March 2021.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

### **Situation analysis recap:**

- Documents obtained by the VOA news agency reveal that in late February, China called on the Myanmar military government to tighten pipeline safety during ongoing protests, indicating growing tensions in what appears to be pleasant relations between neighboring countries.
- On Saturday, March 13, security forces killed four people and the next day over 50. In response to the deaths and in opposition to Chinese unresponsiveness, protesters attacked 32 Chinese-owned businesses. China immediately demanded military leadership increase safety around factories.
- On Sunday evening, a martial law came into force banning movement in two industrial cities in Yangon Province. The internet was also blocked. Nevertheless, protests continued overnight Monday.
- UN Human Rights Office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said at least 11 people were killed on Monday. Because of the violence against ethnical Chinese, they are also protesting and accusing the Chinese government of supporting the military leadership of Myanmar.
- There have been over 200 deaths since the beginning of the protests. Over 2,000 people were arrested and 37 journalists detained. News agencies report they are unable to make contact with them.
- While India has supported the position of its allies on paper by demanding a return to democracy in Myanmar, its actions on the ground show otherwise. New Delhi has recently launched deportation proceedings against more than 150 members of the Rohingya ethics group, as well as refugees fleeing military attacks in Myanmar.
- Six prominent Southeast Asian politicians have called on countries in the region to impose sanctions on Myanmar if the military government there does not release political prisoners, restore an elected government that overthrew it in a coup last month, and prosecute those responsible for killing civilian protesters.

### **Sources/Further Reading:**

*At least 59 killed, 129 injured in Sunday's protest crackdown in Myanmar. (15. March 2021). Bernama. Available at: <https://www.bernama.com/en/world/news.php?id=1941671>*

*Chinese factories attacked in Myanmar. (15. March 2021). Asia times. Available at:*

*<https://asiatimes.com/2021/03/chinese-factories-attacked-in-myanmar/>Leaked Documents Suggest Fraying Of China-Deadly violence follows peaceful protests in Myanmar. (17. March 2021). Los Angeles times. Available at:*

*<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-03-16/deadly-violence-resumes-in-myanmar-after-peaceful-protests>*

*India Will Harm Its 'Strategic Interests' by Backing Quad Allies on Myanmar Coup: Ex-Envoy to Yangon. (17. March 2021). Sputnik News. Available at: <https://sputniknews.com/india/202103171082365628-india-will-harm-its-strategic-interests-by-backing-quad-allies-on-myanmar-coup-ex-envoy-to-yangon/>*

*Myanmar Ties. (15. March 2021). Eurasiareview. Available at: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/14032021-leaked-documents-suggest-fraying-of-china-myanmar-ties/>*

*Protests Force Myanmar's Ethnic Chinese to Distinguish Themselves From China. (17. March 2021). Radio Free Asia. Available at:*

*<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/ethnic-chinese-03162021181531.html>*

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