

Victims of violent crackdowns

What Matters No. 10

Following the February 1, 2021 coup d'état, Myanmar has seen mass protests erupted across the country. As of March 18, there have been at least 224 civilian deaths because of the violent crackdowns of the coup council, injuries inflicted during custody in the detention centers, and shot dead by the security forces during the nighttime self-patrolling of the civilians for community safety. Also, many more were injured during the mass protests and, at the same time, human rights and human dignity violations committed by the security forces have been widespread. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) collected personal data of the 186 deaths as of March 18, while the data of many more have yet to be collected.

Compared to the last week data, the death tolls increased by 150. March 14 has been the deadliest day recorded since after the February 1 military coup. On that day alone, the security forces shot and killed more than 90 civilian protesters, most of whom were residents of Hlaing Thar Yar township, western Yangon District where the defiant mass protests took place. This figure is the highest number of civilian casualties recorded in a single day (excluding the victims of natural disasters) in Myanmar due to the junta's violent crackdowns over popular protests since the September 1988 military coup.

In comparison to the figures mentioned in What Matters No. 7 (Burmese version published on March 12, 2021), the number of death tolls within this week has increased by more than 152. The age group of 18-30 years old are still at the top of the casualty list while that of the age group of 31-40 years old has kept increasing. Compared to the last week figures, with more than 22 additional headshot casualties this week, the number of victims of headshots reached to 42. By the end of this week, the victims of headshots accounts for 22 percent of the total death tolls since the February 1 military coup. By the end of the week, Yangon Region topped the death list with over 100 casualties in total and Mandalay has become the second deadliest Region of the cruel crackdown over the popular protests.

Why does it matter?

By studying the number of casualties and the remaining dead bodies and body parts of the victims because of the violent crackdowns, it can be justified whether the security forces of the coup council abided by the internationally agreed rules, regulations and standards in dealing

with the mass protests from the perspectives of human rights and transitional justice. Thus, it does matter to study the data collected and recorded by the AAPP.

Further readings:

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) has recorded detailed data about the anti-coup protestors, the number and cause of death, how the security personnel has dealt with mass protests, and the reports on violations of human rights and dignity. Daily logs are also available on the AAPP website and Facebook pages. Information can also be sent to AAPP for those who are not yet on the list.

• **What Matters**

ISP-Myanmar covers a section entitled "What Matters" that could benefit the current anti-coup mass movements through a series of research work. This section aims to introduce issues and data that should be addressed in a short, easy-to-read manner and accessible to everyone based on research findings. The introduced facts, cases, and data are intended to be a thought-provoking stimulus, but not as a definite view. The purpose is to make the data presented more accurate and complete.

In this series, ISP would try to answer three questions in general:

- 1) what is the issue of concern?
- 2) why does it matter?
- 3) is it relevant for Myanmar?

Addressing these questions does not involve an exhaustive examination but covers the relevant elements and claims. Thus, each issue of "What Matters" provides a list of suggested readings and references for further study.

In the current situation, this section will focus on research findings related to three research topics. These are:

- 1) research findings related to coup d'état
- 2) research findings on mass movements

3) research findings on how the international community (especially powerful foreign countries that can provide significant support) intervened in military coups and the authoritarian states.

The research will be based on comparative studies. Research data collected by local partner organizations will also be requested and respectfully presented in various forms from time to time.

WHAT MATTERS (10)
Victims of violent crackdowns
From February 1 to March 18, 2021

■ **Death Toll**

224+

Within this week 152 additional deaths, death rate doubled

During the mass protests between February 1 to March 18, 2021, there had been at least 224 deaths of civilians caused by the Coup Council's violent crackdowns on the protestors or the injuries sustained during the detention or the security forces' shootings to the civilian night patrols for the community. As of March 18, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports 186 identifiable deaths. Many more deaths and injuries could remain unrecorded in this list.

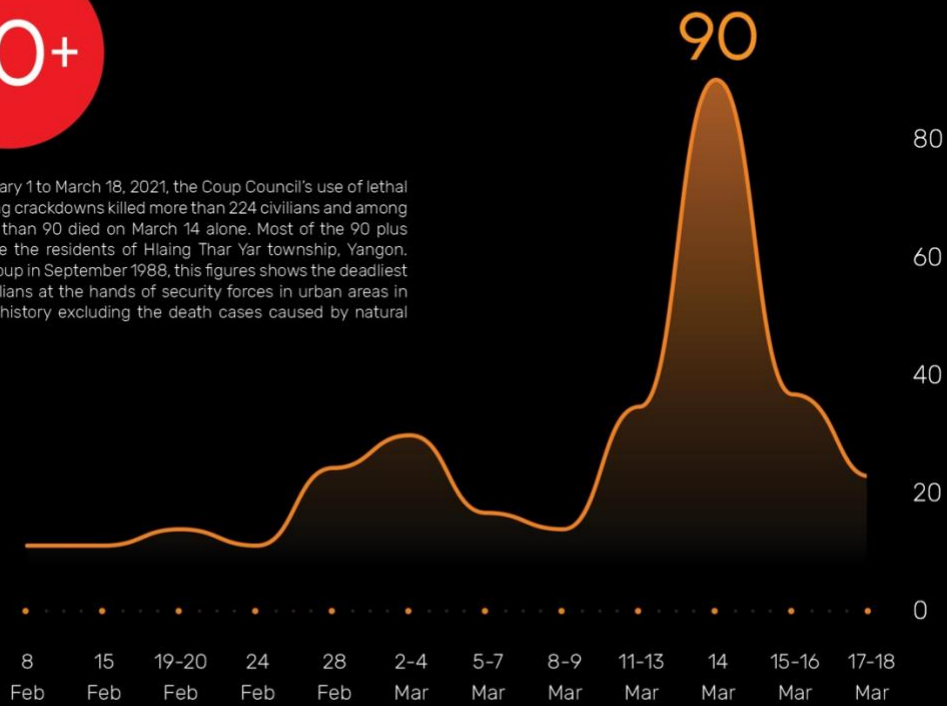
The total death toll since February 1 increased by 152 from over 72 by March 11 (Refer to What Matters No. 7) to more than 224 by March 18: the death rate doubled within a week.

WHAT MATTERS (10)
Victims of violent crackdowns
From February 1 to March 18, 2021

Record Deaths

90+

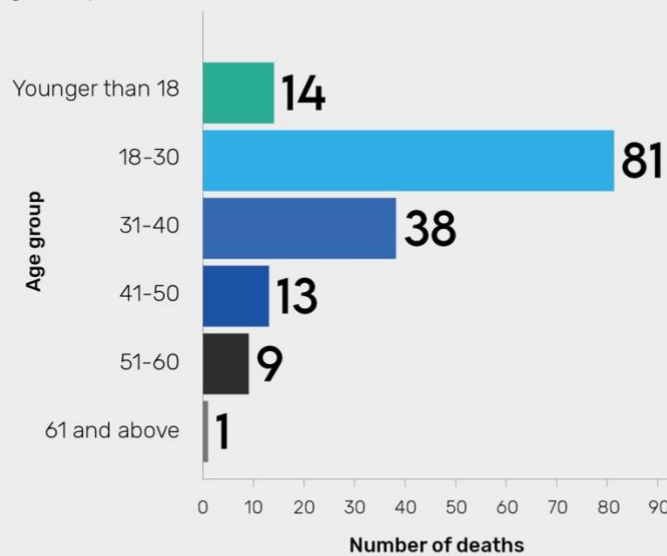
From February 1 to March 18, 2021, the Coup Council's use of lethal forces during crackdowns killed more than 224 civilians and among them more than 90 died on March 14 alone. Most of the 90 plus deaths were the residents of Hlaing Thar Yar township, Yangon. Since the coup in September 1988, this figures shows the deadliest case of civilians at the hands of security forces in urban areas in Myanmar's history excluding the death cases caused by natural disasters.



Source: The confirmed data from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) are used for this graph and analysis.

WHAT MATTERS (10)
Victims of violent crackdowns
From February 1 to March 18, 2021

■ Death Toll by Age Group



From February 1 to March 18, 2021, over 224 deaths of civilians were caused by the Coup Council's violent crackdowns on the protestors or the injuries sustained during the detention or the shootings to the civilian night patrols for the community. However, the age analysis only included 156 people whose personal data were available. The analysis indicates that the young people group between the ages of 18 to 30 has the highest number of deaths among the other age groups. It is followed by the age group of 31-40 years with 38 deaths.

Source: The confirmed data from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) are used for this graph and analysis.

WHAT MATTERS (10)
Victims of violent crackdowns
From February 1 to March 18, 2021

■ **Victims of headshots**

42+

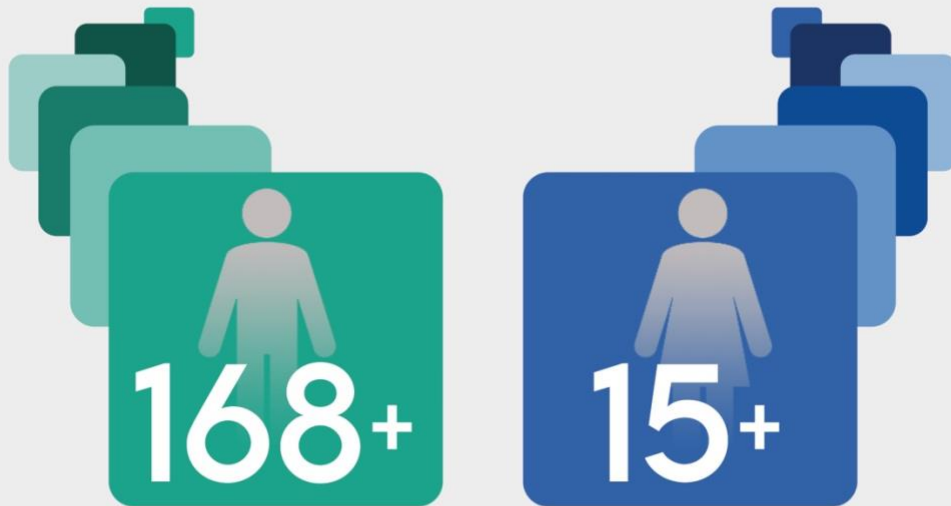
From February 1 to March 18, 2021 there had been over 224 deaths of civilians caused by the Coup Council's violent crackdowns on the protestors or the injuries sustained during the detention or the shootings to the civilian night patrols for the community, among them at least 42 victims were due to the deliberate headshots.

Among the over 70 deaths recorded from February 1 to March 11, 2021, more than 22 victims were due to headshots (Refer to What Matters - 7). By March 18, the number of deaths due to the headshots went up to more than 42. Thus, 22 percent of the total deaths were due to deliberate headshots.

Source: The confirmed data from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) are used for this graph and analysis.

WHAT MATTERS (10)
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From February 1 to March 18, 2021

■ Deaths by Gender



From February 1 to March 18, over 224 people casualties were caused by the Coup Council's violent crackdowns on the protestors or the injuries sustained during the detention or the shootings to the civilian night patrols for the community, among them personal details of 168 were identified and 168 were male, and 15 were female. Among over 70 deaths recorded from February 1 to March 11, 2021, 66 were male. Therefore, within one week, the number of male deaths had increased by more than 100. At the same time, nine female deaths increased.

Source: The confirmed data from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) are used for this graph and analysis.