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INTERNATIONAL SOS

Myanmar: Urban centres: Continue to minimise non-essential movement amid ongoing anti-military protests


OVERVIEW




Level:



Location:



Category:



Active:

Advisory

Myanmar - Myanmar

Political unrest, Protest/Rally, Strike, Transport disruption

19 Feb 2021 - 24 Feb 2021

Last Updated: 19 Feb 2021 05:20 (GMT)

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Affected cities	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

EXPOSURE BY COUNTRY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Myanmar (Medium Risk)	0	0	0	0

Protests are underway in several cities, including the capital Naypyitaw, Mandalay (Mandalay region) and Yangon (Yangon region). On the morning of 19 February, the security forces in Yangon closed all roads surrounding [Sule Pagoda](#) – a key protest site in recent days. Amid heightened security, protesters have gathered near the UK embassy, at the Myay Ni Gone Junction and on Mahana Bandula and Sule Pagoda roads. Further protests and associated transport disruption can be expected in the coming hours. Clashes between protesters and the security forces cannot be ruled out.

MORE DETAIL

Demonstrations are expected to grow in size in the coming hours, particularly in major cities. While major rallies continue to take place in Yangon, protests in many other locations across the country are also likely. These include Dawei (Tanintharyi region), Hpa-An, Myawaddy (both Kayin state), Monywa (Sagaing region), Myitkyina (Kachin state), Patheingyi (Ayeyarwady region), Tachileik, Taunggyi (both Shan state) and Taungtha (Bago region).

Despite tight security in key locations, protesters continue to disrupt traffic by blocking roads and driving slowly. The police may use tough crowd-control measures in response, including tear gas, water cannon, rubber bullets and, in some cases, live warning shots. This, in turn, may further fuel anger among protesters.

Late on 18 February, the security forces used rubber bullets to disperse crowds in Dawei, leaving at least two people injured. Tensions remain high in Dawei and other cities where the security forces were heavily deployed and made dozens of arrests on 18 February. These include Mandalay, Myitkyina and Naypyitaw. Gatherings by supporters of the military also continue to occur regularly, and may result in clashes between rival activists if held in proximity to anti-military rallies.

Other developments

The trial of former state counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi began ahead of schedule on 16 February, allegedly without the presence of her lawyer. Her next court hearing is scheduled for **1 March**. On 17 February, arrest warrants were issued against local celebrities for encouraging civil servants to join the protests. Related protests can be expected in the coming days.

Additionally, internet connectivity was suspended from 01.00 to 09.00 (local time) on 15-19 February. According to our local source, further disruption to internet services is likely during these hours **until 21 February**.

WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE

Continue to minimise non-essential movement. Any essential movement should be conducted with a robust risk assessment. Unrest may occur with little warning. Should protesters or the security forces begin to gather

in your vicinity, vacate the area to minimise the risk of incidental injury, return to your accommodation immediately and remain there until the situation stabilises.

Before conducting any intercity movement or travel outside major urban centres, seek a profile- and itinerary-specific risk assessment from security professionals to ensure appropriate precautions. This should take into account the potential for short-notice imposition of restrictions on road movement, access to certain areas and communications services.

Expect heightened security on the streets and around government buildings, especially in Naypyitaw, Mandalay and Yangon.

Continue to monitor developments closely. All information circulating on social media and news channels should be verified via reliable sources.

Be prepared for further short-notice disruption to telecommunications services. Maintain a list of emergency contacts, both electronically and on paper. Always keep copies with you. Register all contacts on your mobile phone. In case you do not have access to alternative means of communication, check your organisation's incident management protocol.

Check in or communicate your status and whereabouts during and after any period of communications disruption.

Ensure you have access to cash and liaise with local contacts to ascertain which banks are operating for cash withdrawals.

Ensure you have the ability to stand fast for at least one week and access to secure accommodation, essential supplies (food, water and essential medication), fuel and communications devices. Ensure you have the ability to stand fast for longer periods in rural areas.

While we do not assess there is an imminent need to leave the country, international assignees wishing to depart should contact their embassy to inquire about the availability of repatriation flights, and co-ordinate plans with their organisation's management accordingly.

ASSISTANCE



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