

ARAKAN NOW: 10-DAY REPORT is a summary of all the news, updates and stories published on Arakan Now over the past 10 days. It helps you catch up on everything we've covered—briefly. From major headlines to local reports, this program brings together our work in one place for easy access and review.

What is Arakan Now?

arakannow.com

Arakan Now is your trusted source for on-the-ground news from Arakan, Myanmar, and the surrounding region. We focus on real stories, verified facts, and the voices of local people. From breaking news to in-depth reports, we aim to keep you informed and connected—no matter where you are.



Rohingya refugees walk on the muddy path after crossing the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Teknaf, Bangladesh. [Mohammad Ponir Hossain/Reuters]

AA ORDERS ROHINGYA IN BUTHIDAUNG TO LEAVE VILLAGES FOR RELOCATION

Arakan Now, April 21, 2025

The Arakan Army (AA) ordered Rohingya villages in Buthidaung Township to leave their homes. AA said they will be relocated to other villages. The affected villages include **Mee Chaung Zay, Hpaw Taw Ahr Li, Bo Gyi Chaung, Dar Paing Sar Yar, Maung Gyi Taung, Choo Bu Village, Kyee Hnoke Thee, Myit Nar, Zar Ti Pyin, and Pale Taung.**

AA gave them one week to leave. The order was first made during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in early March. Villagers asked to delay it because they were fasting. AA agreed at that time.

On April 20, AA gave a final order. They must leave their villages within one week. They were told to live wherever they can or in empty paddy fields near Hpaung Taw Pyin. These are areas where no one lives. They must build their own shelters there.

According to our report, around 15 households fled to Bangladesh. They did not want to live in camps. Each household reportedly paid around 20 lakh Myanmar kyats to AA to cross the border.

Arakan Now interviewed a 22-year-old villager from Kyee Hnoke Thee. She said, "Those who have money are giving money to AA and fled to Bangladesh. Most people don't have money, so they have no choice." She added, "AA wants to remove Rohingya homes and lands from these areas. They told us to destroy our houses so we can't say we lived there."



A Muslim woman walks by in front of the local mosque in the Aung Mingalar quarter in Sittwe, Myanmar. Photo: Nyein Chan Naing/EPA

ARAKAN ARMY DESTROYED FOUR MOSQUES IN NAN YAR KONE VILLAGE OF BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP

Arakan Now, April 21, 2025

The Arakan Army destroyed four mosques in Nan Yar Kone village, Buthidaung Township, according to local residents. The mosques included Arabic religious school and mosques used by Rohingya.

Fighting between AA and junta forces that began in January 2024 forced over 1,000 people from Nan Yar Kone fled to nearby villages. They have not been allowed to return home, even though more than a year has passed. While AA allowed some residents in downtown Buthidaung to return, Nan Yar Kone village remains off-limits.

In late January 2024, Myanmar military retreated from Nan Yar Kone village and moved to a defensive position near the Panzin Bridge of Buthidaung downtown. They resisted AA attacks until late April, then fully withdrew. AA took control of the village afterward.

Locals of this village reported to Arakan Now that after taking control, AA forces looted Rohingya's property. They reportedly took rice mills, machinery, vehicles and motorcycles belonging to the villagers.

After clearing the village, the AA allegedly built a temporary central market for Buthidaung town on land owned by displaced Rohingya villagers. The original

market in the town had burned down during fighting. AA is said to be renting out shops in the new market built on this private land.

Despite repeated calls from displaced villagers, no one from Nan Yar Kone has been allowed to return. Many are still living in shelters or with relatives in different villages, facing ongoing hardships with no clear information about when they can go back to their homes



People cross a broken bridge at the Khaung Dote Khar Rohingya refugee camp in Sittwe, on May 15, 2023

ARAKAN ARMY FORCING YOUNG ROHINGYA UNDER 18 FOR FORCED LABOR IN MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP

Arakan Now, April 21, 2025

On the road construction site near Kyawt Leggar village in the Thephyu Chaung area of Maungdaw Township, the Arakan Army is forcing Rohingya children under 18 to work as labpr

Most of these children come from poor families in Kyawt Leggar village and nearby areas in Maungdaw Township. In many households, only elderly people and children remain. Many Rohingya from Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships have already fled Arakan due to the Arakan Army's persecution. Because of this, there are very few adult men left in these villages.

Due to financial problems, the families that remain are sending their children to work. These children are working under difficult conditions, even though they are too young for such labor.

Four months ago, the Arakan Army started rebuilding a bridge in Kyawt Leggar village, Maungdaw Township.



Rohingya arrive in Bangladesh after crossing the Burmese border in September 2017. They walked for days to escape the violence that destroyed their families and homes. (Greg Constantine)

ARAKAN ARMY BLOCKS ROHINGYA VILLAGERS IN BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP FROM RETURNING HOME

Arakan Now, 22 April 2025

The Arakan Army (AA) has blocked Rohingya villagers from returning to their original homes in Boggon Taung Ywar, Htin Shar Pyin and Let Wae Det villages in Buthidaung Township. Most of these villagers are now staying in nearby villages like Sinyin Pya, Hpon Nyo Leik and Nyaung Chaung. They took refuge there during the fighting between the AA and Myanmar military in mid-2024.

On April 20, during a meeting in Buthidaung, AA officials told the villagers they cannot go back to their homes this year. Instead, they must stay in the nearby villages.

“We begged them to let us go home,” said one resident to Arakan Now. **“We have nothing left. Even the memory of our home is being taken from us.”**

Residents also report that the AA is now forcing one person from each family to do weekly unpaid labor. People are taken from their homes and made to work without any pay. This has left many families in fear and stress.



AA Brig-Gen Tun Myat Naing attends the ethnic armed organizations' peace conference in Kachin State in July 2016. / Hein Htet / The Irrawaddy

ARAKAN ARMY TELLS ROHINGYA IN MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP TO JOIN THEM

Arakan Now, 25 April 2025

On 24 April, Arakan Army (AA) officials held meetings in different parts of Maungdaw Township. During the meetings, they instructed Rohingya village administrators to mobilize 30 to 50 youths from each village to join the AA.

An AA commander based in Buthidaung held a meeting with all village administrators from northern Maungdaw. Another meeting took place at the Myaw Taung AA camp, also known as Sali Parang, with administrators from nearby villages. Similar meetings were held at Camp 6 in Pyin Phyu village and at the Alaythan Kyaw AA camp. Village administrators from surrounding areas were called to attend.

During these meetings, the AA commander said, **“Everyone has a duty to take part for the liberation of Rakhine.”**

The AA set age limits for recruitment. Males must be between 18 and 45 years old. Females must be between 18 and 35 years old. Recruits are required to undergo at least 45 days of military training before being deployed for defense and security operations.



Soldiers during a military exercise at Shwe Thauung Yan beach in Ayeyarwady Region February 2018 Photo EPA EFE

ARAKAN ARMY ABDUCTED FIVE ROHINGYA FROM BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP

Arakan Now | 25 April 2025

On 24 April 2025, the Arakan Army abducted five Rohingya men from Alay Chaung and Bagonna Taung Ywar of Buthidaung Township.

Four of them, who are from Alay Chaung village, are Mohamed Roshit, U Lalu (village chairman), Sayed Alom, and one unidentified man. The fifth person, Mohibbullah, is from Bagonna Taung Ywar village of Buthidaung Township. The reason for their abduction is still unknown. Their families have no information about where they were taken or their current condition.



A Maungdaw hut burning in Western Myanmar. (Photo: Steve Sandford / VOA)

ARAKAN ARMY BURNS ROHINGYA VILLAGES, BLOCKS RETURNING TO VILLAGES

Arakan Now, 23 April 2025

From mid-2024 to early 2025, the Arakan Army burned down several Rohingya villages in Buthidaung Township after taking full control of the area. These villages were not burned during earlier battles between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military, but were later burned by the Arakan Army themselves. The affected villages include Da Phyu Chaung, Tan Chaun Kan, Thayakun Manu, Kwan Daing Ywa Gyi and Ywa Nyo Taung of Buthidaung township.

Thousands of Rohingya residents were forced to flee their homes. Most of them took shelter in nearby villages. In recent months, the Arakan Army held several meetings with these displaced villagers and made it clear that they will never be allowed to return to their original homes. Instead, they were ordered to resettle in other villages like Maungnama Phlay Taung, Nanya Khone, and San Yan Wai.



Photo: Mr. Maung Tun/ FB profile

ARAKAN ARMY ABDUCTS ROHINGYA TEACHER MAUNG TUN IN BUTHIDAUNG

Arakan Now | 26 April 2025

On 24 April 2025, the Arakan Army (AA) abducted a 38-year-old Rohingya teacher named Maung Tun from Ward No. 5, also known as Ywar Htit Quarter, in Buthidaung Township.

A relative of the teacher told Arakan Now, “I got the news that he was abducted yesterday by AA without any reason.”

“They were often called to meetings by the Arakan Army. Based on my observation, it’s possible he was not allowed to return after one of those meetings,” he added.

The relative also said, “No one knows why he was abducted. They were just living a simple life in great hardship. There is no crime they would do.”

The 38-year-old Myanmarsar (Burmese language) teacher is the son of U Hla Aung, a well-known Myanmarsar teacher in Buthidaung. Like his father, Maung Tun has taught Myanmarsar to thousands of Rohingya and Rakhine students in Buthidaung Township over the years.



Rohingya people visiting graveyards of their dear ones died in Bangladesh near refugee camp on 05 June 2019

AA CLOSES MOSQUES, TAKES ROHINGYA FARMS, AND FORCES WOMEN TO JOIN ARMY IN BUTHIDAUNG

Arakan Now, 28 April 2025

The Arakan Army held a meeting with Rohingya villagers in Kin Taung village of Buthidaung Township. During the meeting, they said that even Rohingya girls, aged 18 to 35, must join their forces. AA also ordered the closure of small mosques built in the village after the Arakan Army burned the main mosques.

A villager told Arakan Now, “When our mosques were destroyed during the fighting between AA and the Myanmar military, we built a few small mosques for prayer. But now AA ordered us not to pray in these mosques and told us to close or destroy them.”

AA has also banned the use of the village graveyard, stopping people from burying their dead. In addition, land near a local pagoda in Kin Taung Village, which was essential for Rohingya survival, has been seized by AA. “Regarding the graveyard, we spent much money to keep it safe and well. It is the graveyard we have been using for decades. Now, AA is controlling it,” the villager added.



Rohingya refugees gather after being rescued in Teknaf near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, April 16, 2020. © 2020 AP Photo

WHEREABOUTS OF ROHINGYA YOUTHS REMAIN UNKNOWN IN BUTHIDAUNG IN TOWNSHIP AFTER ABDUCTION BY AA

Arakan Now, 25 April 2025

The whereabouts of Rohingya youths abducted by the Arakan Army (AA) in Buthidaung Township remain unknown. AA claimed that these youths had links with ARSA, RSO and the Myanmar military.

Before the Arakan Army captured and took control of Buthidaung Township, the Myanmar military used Rohingya villagers in protests against the Arakan Army. The military forced the villagers to hold signs saying, “We don’t need Terrorist Arakan Army in Myanmar.”

The Myanmar military also used Rohingya villagers to burn houses belonging to Rakhine residents in Buthidaung Township. In addition, the military forcibly conscripted many Rohingya youths and sent them to the frontline to fight against the Arakan Army.

At the beginning of 2025, the Arakan Army released a small number of these detainees, nearly 5%. But the remaining 95% are still in the hands of AA. Their current location is unknown. Families of the arrested youths have not had any contact with them.



Asanka Brendon Ratnayake - Anadolu Agency

ONE MAN DIED BY POISON, THREE OTHERS SAVED IN SITTWE IDP CAMP

Arakan Now, 30 April 2025

A man has died after taking poison in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Sittwe, Rakhine State. Three other members of his family were saved. The case highlights the worsening food crisis in the camps

The incident happened on 20 April in Oh Taw Gyi North (OTG-N) IDP camp. A 50-year-old father took poison first, followed by his wife, 15-year-old son, and 10-year-old daughter. A local from Sittwe, who spoke to Arakan Now, said the family had only eaten taro root for several days due to the lack of food.

Neighbors rushed to help and tried to give treatment. Sadly, the father died—likely because he consumed the poison first. The rest of the family members survived.

Another case of distress was reported on 27 April in the same camp. A 70-year-old man lay down on the road and said he wished to be run over. When others tried to move him, he said it would be better to die than to keep living without food.

Camp leaders told Arakan Now they are under extreme pressure. Children are begging for food, and many families are starving. The people in the camps did not receive food rations for the month of March. The food shortage is also affecting people’s mental health. Some are showing signs of depression, and some are thinking about suicide as a way to escape their suffering.

TWO ROHINGYA YOUTHS MISSING AFTER JOINING ARAKAN ARMY IN THIN TAUNG VILLAGE OF BUTHIDAUNG TOWNSHIP

Arakan Now, 30 April 2025

Two Rohingya youths from Thin Taung village in Buthidaung Township have been missing for over a month after joining the Arakan Army (AA), a local resident told *Arakan Now*. The villager said that the two youths were among several villagers who were forced to join the AA about six or seven months ago. Since then, they had sometimes contacted their families. They even returned home a few times or met with other villagers. Everything seemed normal until about a month ago.

Now, it has been one full month since the families last heard from them. Their families are deeply worried. They have gone to the AA office several times to ask about their sons. But the AA keeps saying that the youths are fine. The families are not allowed to meet or talk to them.

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ARAKAN ARMY BURNED ROHINGYA HOUSES AND TIED UP VILLAGERS IN PADDY FIELDS IN MAUNGDAW TOWNSHIP Arakan Now | 1 May 2025

On 1 May 2025, around 1 PM, around 100 Arakan Army members burned five Rohingya houses, including the houses of Hf. Shamsu Ahmed and Nurul Amin, in Oo Sha Kya – Quarter 1, Maungdaw township, a resident from Maungdaw township told Arakan Now.

Arakan Army started checking the Rohingya houses in this village, accusing them of hiding ARSA members. Although there were no armed group members, Arakan Army started arresting everyone they found and beat them seriously. “Around 60 villagers were caught from the streets and from houses, accused of being ARSA or having links with them. People are being beaten very badly. The Arakan Army also started shooting in the sky, causing fear among women and children,” the resident added.