

Violence Against Protestors: Case Study, Hlaing Tharyar, March 14-17, 2021

Published: Monday March 14 2022

Executive summary

This report provides a detailed reconstruction of the military's harsh treatment of anti-coup protesters in the Yangon Township of Hlaing Tharyar (HTY), as well as other protest-related events happening in the township between March 14 and 17, 2021.

HTY was reported to be the site of particularly large and well-organised protests against the military coup in Myanmar. In the run up to March 14 2021, Myanmar Witness verified four anti-coup protests and the construction of road barricades in HTY. Myanmar Witness found no footage indicating that any of the protestors were armed or violent during this time. It was not possible to verify footage purporting to show violence by security forces or Security Administration Council (SAC) aligned individuals prior to March 14, despite claims of this nature.

Martial law was declared over HTY township on March 14, with the SAC transferring executive and judicial power to the Commander of the Yangon Command. Myanmar Witness verified two videos showing police officers, including individuals wearing the Lon Htein (riot police) insignia, on the morning of March 14 discussing plans to suppress protests in HTY. The videos – filmed inside and outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Yangon – included officers stating that ‘there is no mercy for Hlaing Tharyar’, discussing the types of guns they are going to use to suppress the protests and welcoming the deployment of Light Infantry Division 77 who are going “to fuck Hlaing Tharyar for sure”.

Verified footage at around 1230 on March 14 shows the heavy presence of security forces on Aung Zeya Bridge. The bridge is one of the main entry points to HTY from central Yangon. In the video, Myanmar Witness noted police officers setting up their guns pointing west toward HTY, and shouts of ‘go shoot’ and ‘shoot at them’. One of the barricades constructed by the protestors is burning; the cause of this fire is unknown.

Around the same time, verified footage shows protestors on Hlaing River Road, around 1km west of Aung Zeya Bridge, being forced to retreat east towards the bridge and north on Bogyoke Aung San Road away from tear gas and military vehicles approaching from the west, as the security

forces use a pincer movement¹ to contain protestors. Shots can be heard and at least one individual is killed during this time.

Between 1330 and 1430, Myanmar Witness have verified footage showing military forces confronting protestors at a series of barricades on and around Hlaing River Road, with protestors taking cover and dispersing against a backdrop of guns and bangs. This footage is consistent with a large security force presence in HTY, capable of confronting protestors in different areas in a similar timeframe. Myanmar Witness also verified footage from this time, showing what appears to be factories on fire in the Shwe Lin Ban industrial zone in HTY.

The violence continues into the late afternoon. At 1600, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing protestors on Hlaing River Road retreating and taking cover against a backdrop of gunshots, with smoke from fires visible in the background. In a further incident at 1700 protestors can be observed retreating from tear gas down Hlaing River Road and approaching security forces. Myanmar Witness has verified footage showing four individuals injured in this incident, two of whom are lying motionless. Another incident at around 1830 shows a mixture of police, Lon Htein riot police and military personnel approaching protestors – including one injured individual lying on the ground – who disperse and take cover.

At 0000 on March 15, cellular network connectivity was shut off, restricting the flow of information. Myanmar Witness was able to verify footage showing a number of factories which had been destroyed or partially destroyed by fire in the township during the night of March 14/15. At around 1330, Myanmar Witness verified medical vehicles and at least one coffin moving to and from Hlaing Tharyar hospital, consistent with eyewitness reports in Burmese media that the hospitals were full of injured civilians.

At around 1500 on March 15, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing a convoy of around 30 military vehicles heading across Aung Zeya Bridge into HTY. The sky is full of heavy grey smoke, likely indicating fires in the area. At 1700, Myanmar Witness verified images showing a gravely wounded man being driven away by ambulance from the site of a protest. Burmese media identified this individual who – according to family members – had not been protesting, but collecting cardboard for a living, when he was shot by security forces involved in the suppression of protests. Myanmar Witness verified footage showing this individual's body arriving at the hospital; media reports later confirmed his death. Verified images taken in the early evening at Hlaing Tharyar hospital show two further injured individuals arriving at the hospital. Unverified images reported to be – and consistent with the characteristics of - a morgue, show 10 visible bodies lying motionless or covered in sheets. There was at least one further factory fire on the night of March 15.

On March 16, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing a large number of military, construction and water vehicles on Hlaing River Road. While the original poster claims these vehicles were

¹ Mariam Webster defines a 'pincer movement' as a military attack by two coordinated forces that close in on an enemy position from different directions. This appears to reflect the security forces' actions on March 14, as they approach from opposite directions into Hlaing Tharyar to converge on protestors on Hlaing River Road.

being used to barricade HTY, this would likely be an ineffective place for a barricade. They may have been destroying protest blockades. A further factory fire was verified on March 16.

According to monitoring group AAPP, 72 people were killed in HTY as a result of military violence between March 14 – 17, 2021. Myanmar Witness was able to verify footage showing the death of two individuals, who are included in AAPP's list and the injuring of a further seven unnamed individuals. Myanmar Witness analysed images of a morgue board reportedly listing the names of 23 corpses in a HTY morgue on March 16 and were able to verify that all individuals appearing on the morgue board were recorded in AAPP's list. Eleven of these board names corresponded to social media memorial posts of people killed in HTY between March 14-17, 2021, while two belonged to individuals whose death appeared unrelated specifically to violence in HTY, with one having died in Yangon elsewhere between these dates at protests and another having disappeared a week prior to events in HTY. The last ten entries were untraceable to social media memorial posts. However, no named individuals in AAPP or on the morgue board could be linked to the visible bodies in the unverified images reported to be a morgue in HTY.

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Introduction and Context

According to the [United Nations](#) (UN) and multiple media reports ([BBC Burma](#), [VOA News Burma](#)) the actions of security forces in HTY on March 14 represented a marked escalation in the use of lethal force against the anti-coup movement in Myanmar. As detailed in this report, since at least early March, HTY had been the site of protests against the military coup. The UN details how, on the morning of March 14, hundreds of protestors gathered along the Hlaing River Road where – according to reports and eyewitness accounts – security forces deployed smoke bombs and lethal force to suppress the protests, including the indiscriminate use of live rounds at protestors, bystanders and those trying to assist the injured. In the late afternoon, a number of Chinese-financed factories were burnt down. While the cause of attacks is unknown, the UN describes this a perceptible pattern of attacks against Chinese businesses.

According to the same UN report, credible sources confirmed 62 deaths, including five children, with the actual number of casualties likely to be higher. [Human Rights Watch](#) puts the number of deaths on at least 65, and describes the events as having the ‘hallmarks of a planned attack on protestors’, marked by the deliberate ‘pincer movement’ used on protestors and firing with the intent to kill or maim without there being a threat to the lives of security forces. [AAPP](#) report that 72 people were killed in HTY between March 14 – 17, 2021. BBC Burma reported that the intention of the security forces on March 14 was to catch protestors off-guard, attacking while many retreated home for breakfast. [Myanmar Now](#) reported how the violence continued until March 18, targeting not just protestors but anyone who came into the vicinity of the security forces. The same report describes how a week later the township was largely subdued, with thousands of residents having abandoned it for their hometowns. In a statement published on March 19, a group of Ambassadors to Myanmar [described](#) the “brutal violence against unarmed civilians by the security forces in Hlaing Tharyar...[as] immoral and indefensible”

Myanmar state-owned media took a markedly different line on events. On February 21, in a public announcement broadcast on state television, the SAC accused protestors across the country of increasing ‘their incitement towards riot and anarchy mob’, stating that ‘protestors are now inciting the people... to a confrontation path where they will suffer loss of life’. On March 15, the state-owned Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) made no mention of deaths in HTY, instead [describing](#) the decision to impose martial law on HTY as a reaction to ‘rioters’ who set factories on fire and blocked access for fire engines. HTY is not mentioned again in the GNLM until April, when it [reports](#) on the arrests of individuals accused of setting fire to factories in the area in a ‘terrorist’ act, and [again](#) on the delivery of aid to HTY following the ‘reasonless’ fires and protests. This is consistent with broader SAC narratives on the protests.

Significant communication restrictions were imposed by the SAC during this time. Throughout March, the internet in Myanmar was cut-off from 0100 to 0630 local time (figure 1). On March 15, cellular network connectivity was also shut off from 0000 and remained cut off for at least 100 days, until on the May 11 where Netblocks stopped [reporting](#) on mobile data connectivity in Myanmar (Figure 2).

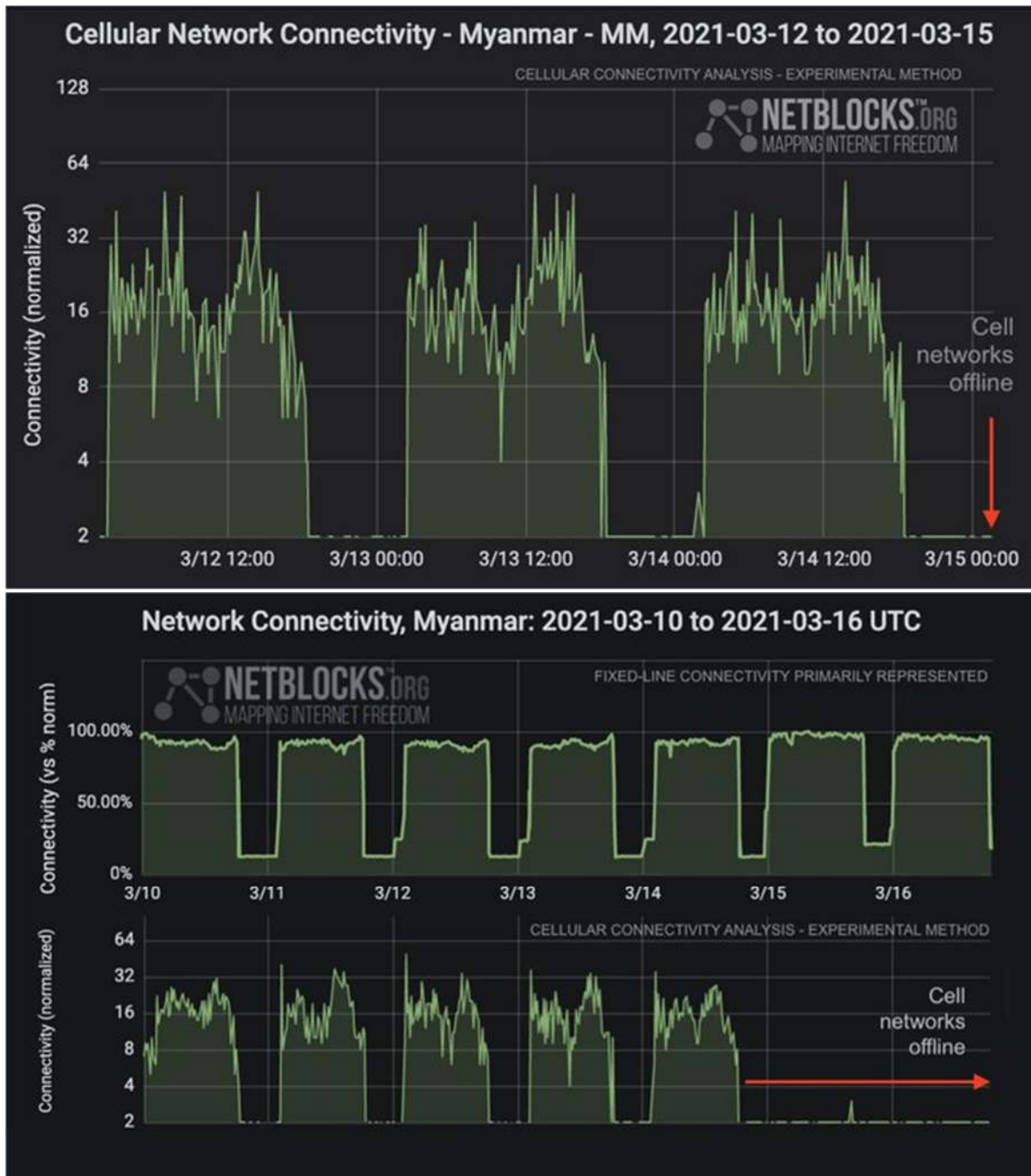
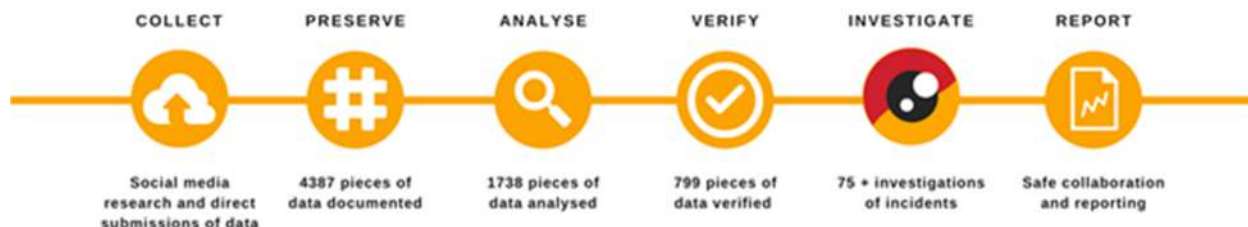


Figure 1 & 2: Netblocks data demonstrates that network connectivity and call networks in Myanmar being taken offline on March 15.

Notes on Methodology

Myanmar Witness ensures all information collected is preserved, verified, analysed, investigated and reported on in a manner consistent with best practises for human rights evidence safekeeping, and reliance for later judicial use. The diagram below illustrates this methodology



Myanmar Witness applies a four-tier classification system to describe the extent to which footage has been independently verified by Myanmar Witness. This is as follows:

- Fully verified: Footage independently geolocated and chronolocated by Myanmar Witness.
- Verified: Footage has been geolocated by Myanmar Witness. Other sources concur on the time and date of the footage, with no evidence following to suggest that the footage was taken earlier or later. However, it has not been possible for Myanmar Witness to independently chrono-locate the footage.
- Unverified / Under investigation: Myanmar Witness has not been able to geolocate or chronolocate footage at the present time.
- Inauthentic: The geolocation and chronolocation process has shown the location or timing of the footage to be inaccurate.

For the avoidance of doubt, this verification system only refers to Myanmar Witness' ability to independently geolocate or chronolocate footage. Incidents marked as unverified may still be substantiated by multiple eyewitness reports. Sources are cross-referenced in this report to indicate where this is the case. Full details can be found in our Summary of Methodology.

This report contains a number of images showing how footage has been geolocated. In these images, white lines are used to represent the left and right arcs of vision. Coloured boxes are used to show how landmarks or distinguishing details in each piece of footage or data correspond with each other. All footage cited in the report is archived within Myanmar Witness' database. Myanmar Witness has not included links to footage, when to do so would compromise an individual(s)' privacy or security.

[Warning: Graphic] has been inserted ahead of links to sources which show graphic and distressing images of injured or dead persons. Reference numbers in the format SMXXX refer to Myanmar Witness internal reference system.

Gender Analysis

It is very difficult to identify the gender of those engaging in protest, being injured or seen running away in footage taken in HTY at the time of the security forces presence between March 14-17. In footage verified in the build-up to March 14 2021, there appears to be both men and women partaking in anti-coup protests. It is not possible to make an accurate judgement on the proportion of women relative to men. In footage verified at the time of the military repression, both men and women can be observed at protests sites, filming what is happening and running from security forces.

The cases of deaths and injuries Myanmar Witness have been able to verify have been predominantly male. Female casualties from the security forces' repression have been reported by memorial sites and on social media. Memorial site [Heroes of Myanmar](#) identifies 3 females who were allegedly shot and killed by security forces during this time, including one sixteen year old. The same names also feature in AAPP's fatality list. Myanmar Witness was unable to verify these claims as there is no online associate media and Heroes of Myanmar don't include sources. It's also reported in AAPP and on memorial site [Nway Oo Myanmar](#) that a seventy year old female was shot by SAC forces accidentally while in her home. Similar to the above case, this cannot be verified. [Myanmar Now](#) reports on an incident on March 16 where, according to local sources, security forces were called into a wage dispute at a factory leading to "the police slapp[ing] a girl who was the leader of the workers. When she hit back, they shot her"

Build-up to March 14

[Myanmar Now](#) reports that HTY had faced a number of incidents with security forces after weeks of protests before March 14 and [VOA News](#) highlights one particular protest on March 11, where police in riot gear removed many HTY residents.

Through analysing footage, social media posts, and satellite imagery, Myanmar Witness are able to verify at least four anti-coup protests in HTY in early March 2021. Satellite imagery of road barricades in HTY recorded from March 9 – 22 also indicates protest activity in these areas. A timeline of these events is set out below. Myanmar Witness found no footage indicating that any of the protestors were armed, or violent during this time.

February 9 2021 (verified)

On February 9 2021, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing Aung Zeya Bridge (အောင်ဇေယျာ တံတား) - the largest of three routes into HTY from central Yangon - being blocked by security forces. In the footage, an ambulance with flashing lights heading out of HTY can be seen stationary at the barricade. The original post claims that ambulances were not allowed to pass the blockade and provide medical assistance (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Barricade blocks vehicles from exiting Hlaing River Road via Aung Zeya Bridge.

February 24 2021 (unverified)

There are reports that unknown armed assailants attacked civilians, wounding and possibly killing them around February 24, 2021. However, due to the unspecific nature of the claims and lack of visual evidence linking the footage to HTY, it was not possible to verify these claims.

March 6 2021 (verified)

On March 6, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing protestors carrying home-made shields and wearing helmets blocking Hlaing River Road, a few hundred metres to the west of the February 9th barricade (16.878199, 96.078511) (Figure 4). While the protestors appear prepared for a reaction by security forces, Myanmar Witness did not find any images showing a security force presence at these protests.



Figure 4: Geolocation of protestors on Hlaing River Road from Google Street View

On the same day, March 6, Myanmar Witness documented another protest (Figure 5) around 2km to the south-west on Kyan Sitthar Road (16.867090, 96.064470). Protestors were photographed seated, carrying anti-military and anti-coup banners. Again, there was no footage indicating a security force presence at this protest.



Figure 5: Geolocation of protest on Kyan Sitthar Road.

March 8 2021 (unverified)

In footage posted on March 8 2021, security forces are claimed to have fired rubber bullets at protesters in the night, leaving two injured. The injuries in the images appear consistent with skin breakages that can occur from rubber bullet injuries. The uploader of the content also attaches pictures of what appear to be rubber bullets. However, it is not possible to verify these injuries as being sustained in HTY, nor did Myanmar Witness find any footage of night protests taking place on March 8, 2021.

March 9 2021 (partially verified)

It is claimed that, on March 9, 2021, a group of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) members² broke into a house, attacking and injuring people at around 0810 in HTY. The images attached show two heavily wounded men. However, it was not possible to verify these reports or identify the victims in the photos.

By March 9, protestors had established a series of barricades on both sides of the Aung Zeya bridge, leading into the township, as illustrated in Figure 6 below.

² The USDP is a military-aligned political party in Myanmar who support the February Coup.



Figure 6: Overview of barricades in HTY Township as of March 9. Barricades on the opposite side of Aung Zeya Bridge appear to block access into the township.

One of these blockades, visible on satellite imagery, corresponds to a large protest site that Myanmar Witness note as taking place on March 9, 2021 (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Satellite imagery of SM2756; a large protest site on Hlaing River Road on March 9, 2021.

March 12 and 13 2021 (partially verified)

On March 12, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing protestors barricading the Hlaing River Road, just under 4km to the west of the Aung Zeya Bridge (geolocated to 16.873800, 96.050624) with homemade riot shields and sandbags (Figure 8).

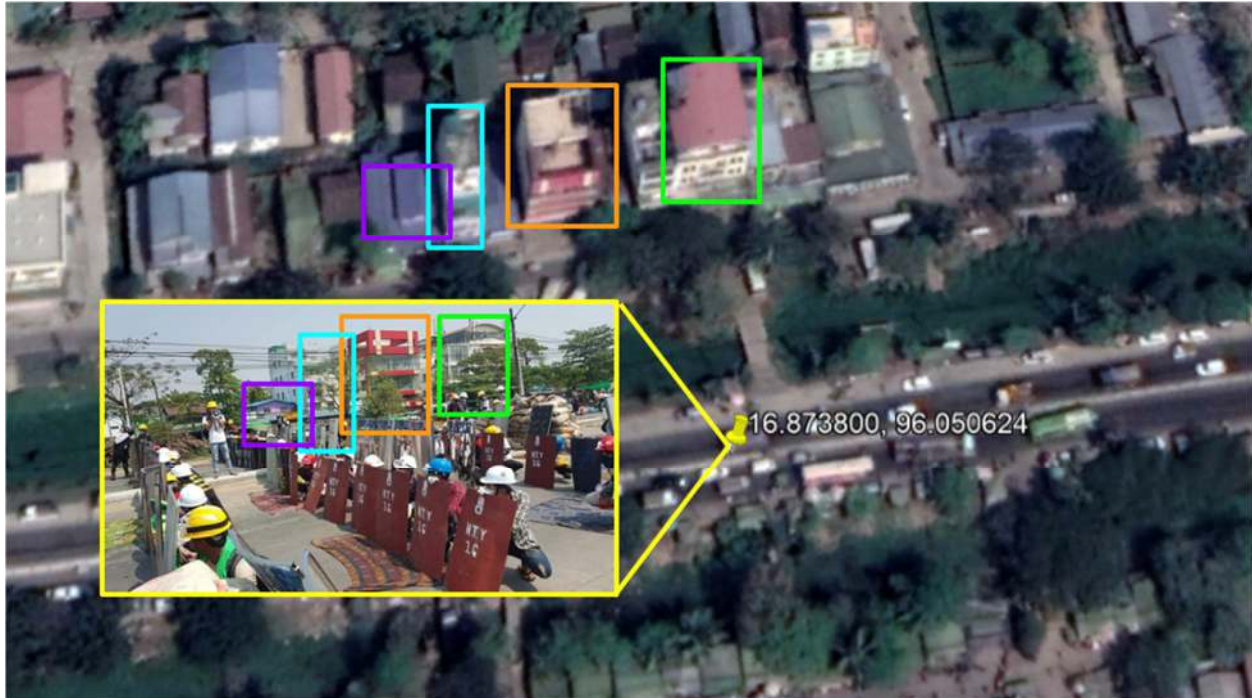


Figure 8: Geolocation showing location of protestors barricading Hlaing River Road.

In further media, the same blockade can be seen taking place on Hlaing River Road, shot from a slightly different location, 16.873693, 96.050220. This was posted by Khit Thit Media a day later on March 13. While this could have also been taken on March 12, the images appear to show the blockade having been reinforced - for example, through the addition of fencing, wooden pallets, flags, and more sandbags around the area - which could indicate it took place the day after the initial barricade, at the time Khit Thit Media posted it.

Images posted on social media on March 13 purport to show HTY residents protesting against the coup. *“If one of our Hlaing Thar Yar people dies, we will burn down one Chinese-owned factory”* reads the red banner (Figure 9). This image of the banner is difficult to locate but is likely somewhere close to the large tent protest area from March 9, specifically to 16.878155, 96.078545. Using other images of this area that purport to be from March 12 (Figure 9) this particular area is similar to the surroundings of SM1640. However, since there were many tents and signs similar to this in HTY at the time and, as can be seen in the figure below, they were easy to transport, this cannot be concretely confirmed.



Figure 9: Similarities between the picture of the banner and a protest site on the March 12 in HTY.

The message inscribed appears to be relevant to later reports ([here](#) and [here](#)) of specifically Chinese-owned factories being destroyed during the protests (discussed later in this report). This red flag banner can be observed being held by protestors in front of the approaching military at a barricade around 16.874177, 96.053127 (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Banner threatening Chinese-owned factories appears at protests in HTY.

March 14, 2021: Timeline of events

According to an announcement in the state-run newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar, martial law was declared over HTY township on March 14, with the SAC transferring executive and judicial power to the Commander of the Yangon Command.

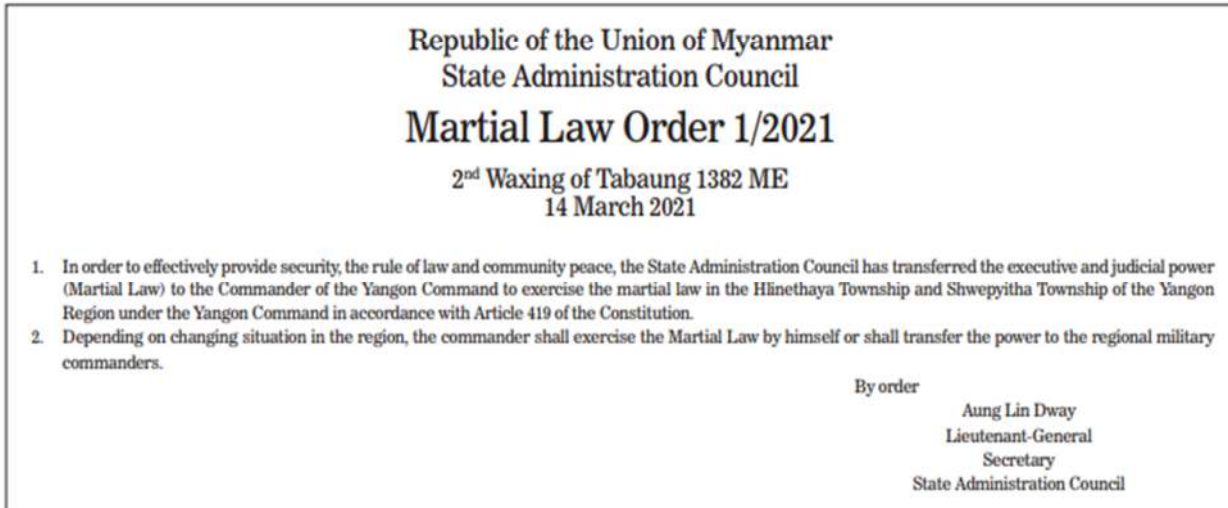


Figure 11: Announcement of martial law in HTY in the Global New light of Myanmar on March 15 2021.

Around 1130 (verified)

Two videos from the morning of the March 14 posted on TikTok show men in police uniform appearing to discuss plans to suppress protests in HTY that day. Both of those videos were posted by a later deleted account, which belong to a police officer whom Myanmar Witness has located the name and Facebook accounts of.

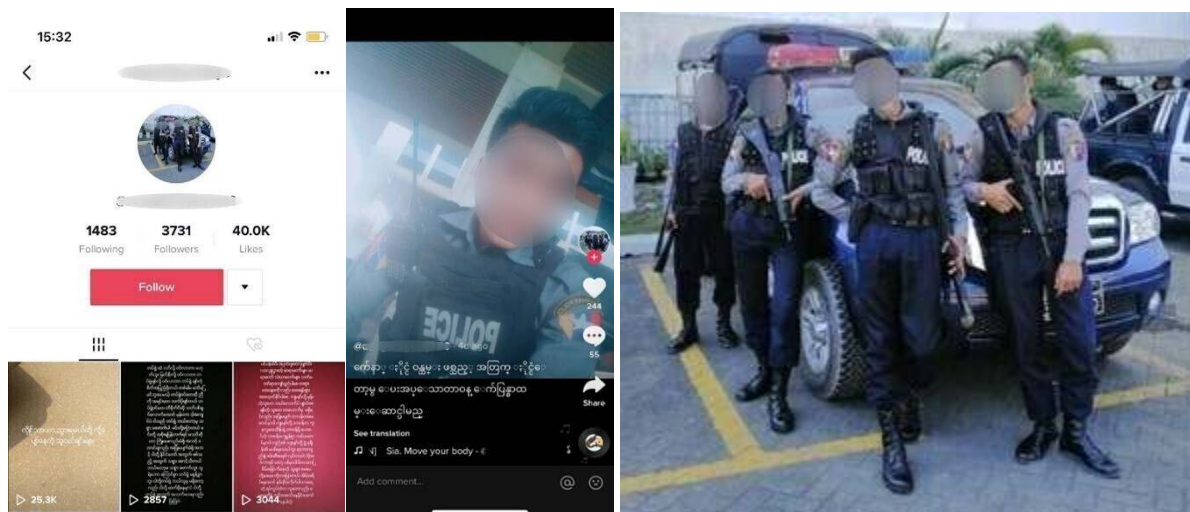


Figure 12: Screenshots of the Lon Htein police officer's Tiktok account and selfies/images featured.

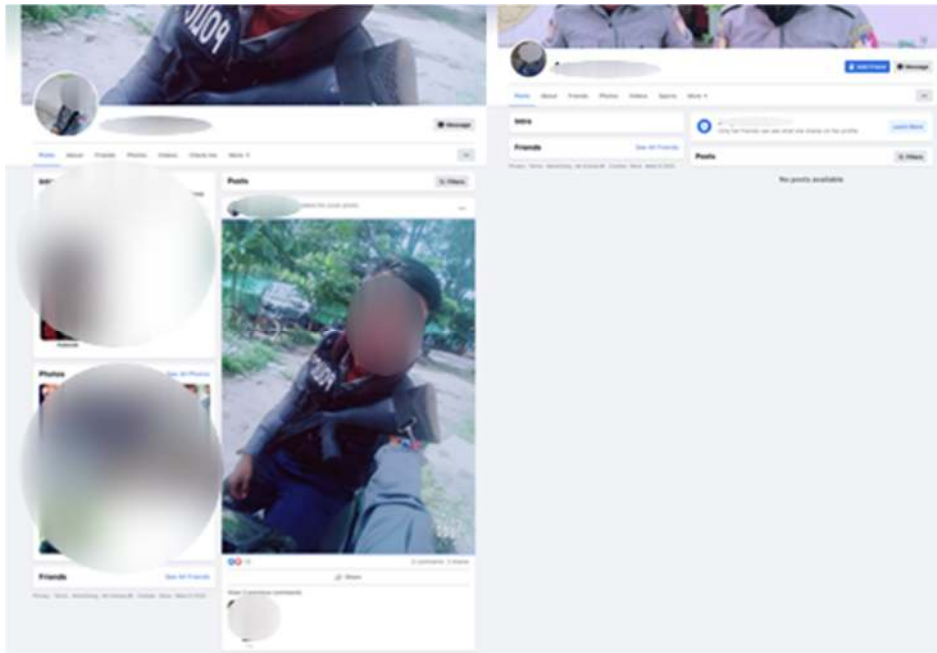


Figure 13: An old, unlocked profile for said officer, with matching images to the previous Tiktok account and a more recent locked profile.

Myanmar Witness geolocated one of these videos (Figure 14) to a location outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs building in Yangon (coordinates 16.823620, 96.160746). [Shadow analysis](#) shows that this was taken at around 1130 on March 14 2021. It features men wearing the insignia of the Lon Htein riot police. In the video, officers talk about the guns that would be used in HTY, “take 40 and M2 guns”. One officer says, ‘there is no mercy for Hlaing Tharyar, because there are a lot of squatters living there from all over the country’.³

³ Hlaing Tharyar is known as a largely working-class industrial area with a large immigrant and transient worker population.



Figure 14: Geolocation of SM0275 outside of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Building in Yangon.



Figure 15: Verification of the Lon Htein insignia on one of the individuals in the video.

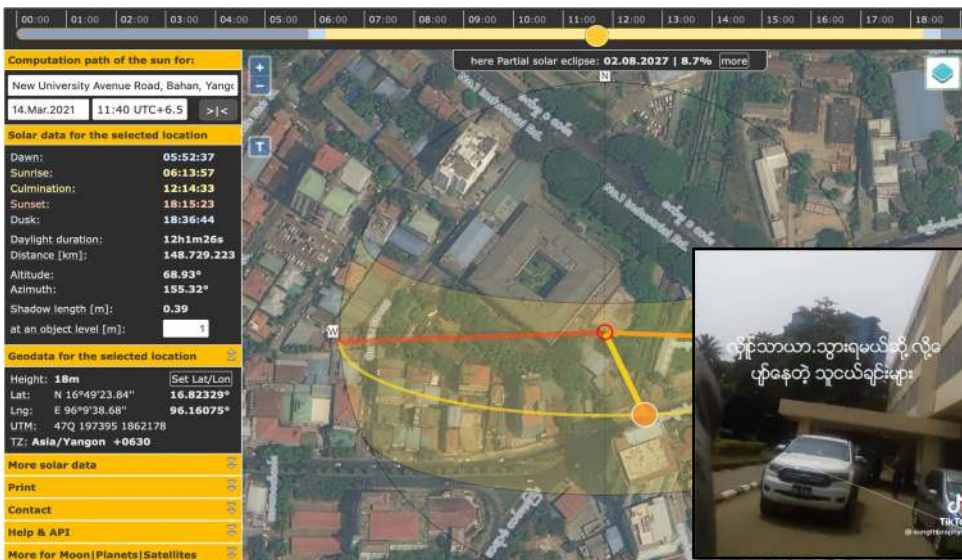


Figure 16: shadow azimuth corresponding to footage made between 11:00 and 12:30

Myanmar Witness was also able to geolocate the second video taken inside the Ministry of Internal Affairs building itself (Figure 17). One officer says ‘we are going to use MA2 guns, which are a bit shorter than MA3, mostly used by the military’. The officers cheer at the prospect of each car having one gun and they go on to discuss LID 77 being assigned to HTY whom, according to one member of the security forces “are going to fuck Hlaing Tharyar for sure”. The caption of SM0389 reads ‘my friends are happy because they shall go to Hlaing Thar Yar operation and they were even arguing about whether who should shoot the gun or not’.



Figure 17: Matching between one frame of SM0275, [a picture from the internet](#) and two frames of SM0276. There is a Lon Htein insignia visible, also.

Between 1200 - 1300

Myanmar Witness has verified a series of different pieces of footage showing an increasingly chaotic and violent situation within HTY between 1200 and 1300 on March 14 2021.

Footage from the perspective of security forces (verified)



Figure 18: Footage showing security forces on Aung Zeya Bridge

Footage (Figure 18), taken on Aung Zeya Bridge (approximately 16.879261, 96.084159), shows police officers and one individual who appears to be wearing military uniform seen next to military vehicles. Shooting is heard and police officers can be observed setting up their guns overlooking the bridge into the pedestrian underpass area underneath the Aung Zeya Bridge. In the video, shouts of "go shoot", "shoot at them" can be heard. While it was not possible to chronolocate this footage, video footage at around 1230 (Figure 19), showing a large number of security vehicles crossing Aung Zeya Bridge, appears to match the military vehicles in the background of this footage on Aung Zeya Bridge. Additionally, smoke seen in the background (at around 16.878654, 96.081852) corresponds to this 1230 footage and a Fire Information for Resource Management System ([FIRMS](#)) fire incident on March 14⁴ at around 1106 in HTY. FIRMS provides open-source near real-time active fire locations/data within three hours of satellite observation from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Aqua and Terra satellites, and the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) aboard S-NPP and NOAA 20. This fire incident is confirmed to be a barricade that had been set on fire at 16.878599, 96.082123, captured in a now-deleted Tiktok video by another Lon Htein riot policeman during the incident

⁴ Location of the FIRMS fire incident was logged at 16.8794, 96.0825. FIRMS data can produce an error margin of up to 200 metres, so the location of the fire fits the data with a small error margin - of about 100 metres.

(Figure 19). The same individual appears to have posted and then deleted several videos from March 14, of which only archived screenshots now survive (Figure 20).



Figure 19: Shows before and after satellite imagery of a barricade on Hlaing River Road set alight on March 14.

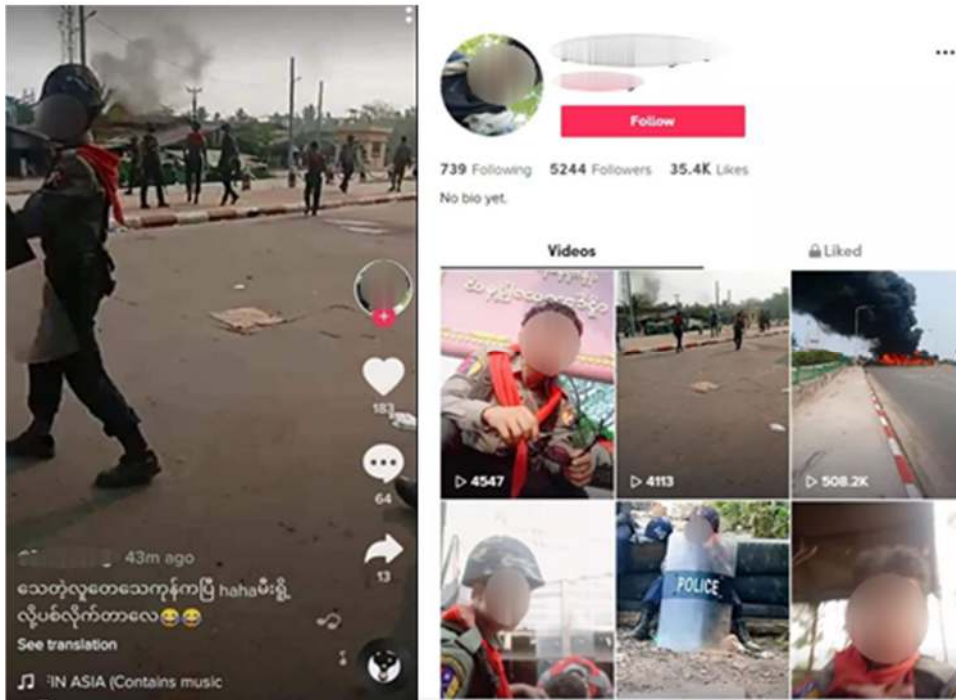


Figure 20 (left): Screenshot of one video from a Lon Htein officers' Tiktok account on Hlaing River Road. Screenshot with visual matches for HTY - the HTY Township sign at 16.878419, 96.079297 and images on Hlaing River Road and Aung Zeya Bridge.

Footage from the perspective of protestors (verified)

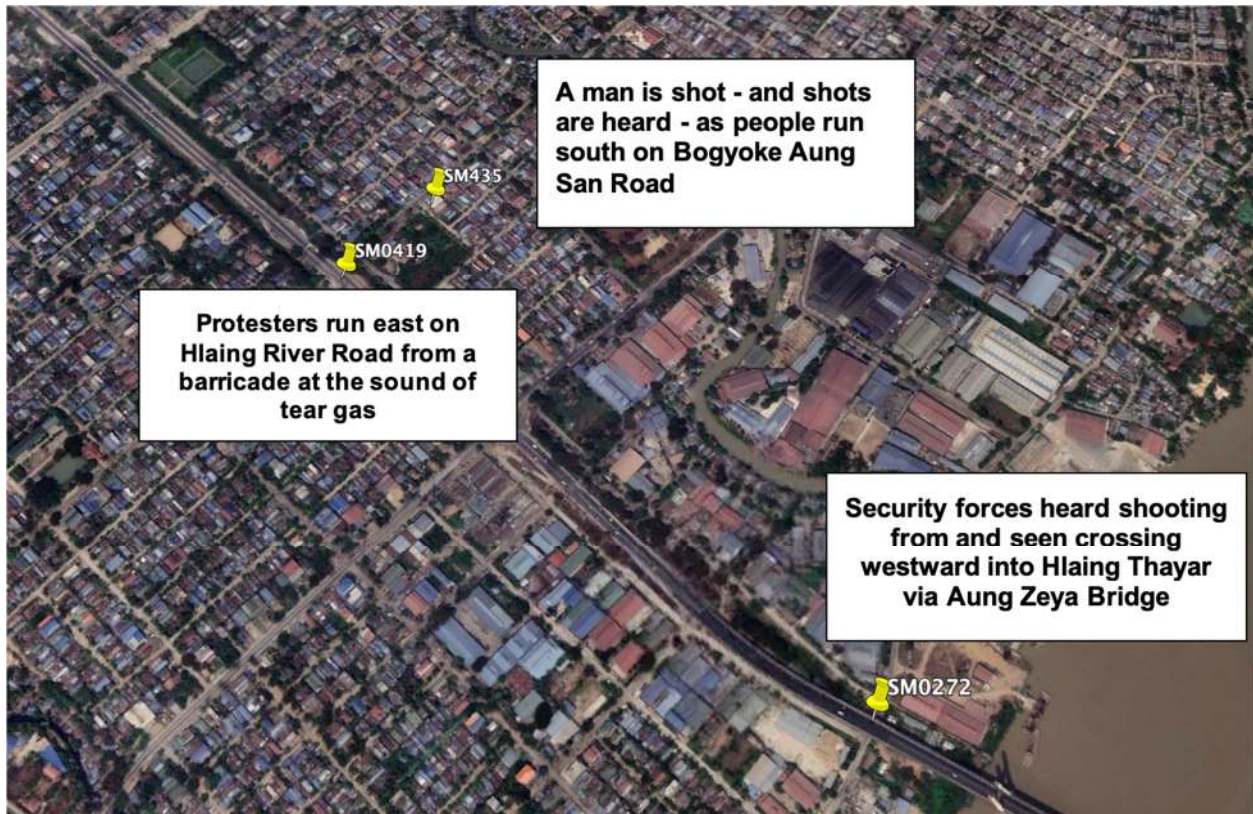


Figure 21: Incidents taking place from 1200-1300 on March 14.

In footage of a protest barricade on Hlaing River River 1km west of Aung Zeya bridge (16.877817, 96.076044), protestors can be seen retreating east away from tear gas and military vehicles moving towards protestors from the bridge (Figure 22). [Shadows](#) at 1:14s indicate that the video was made around 1220.

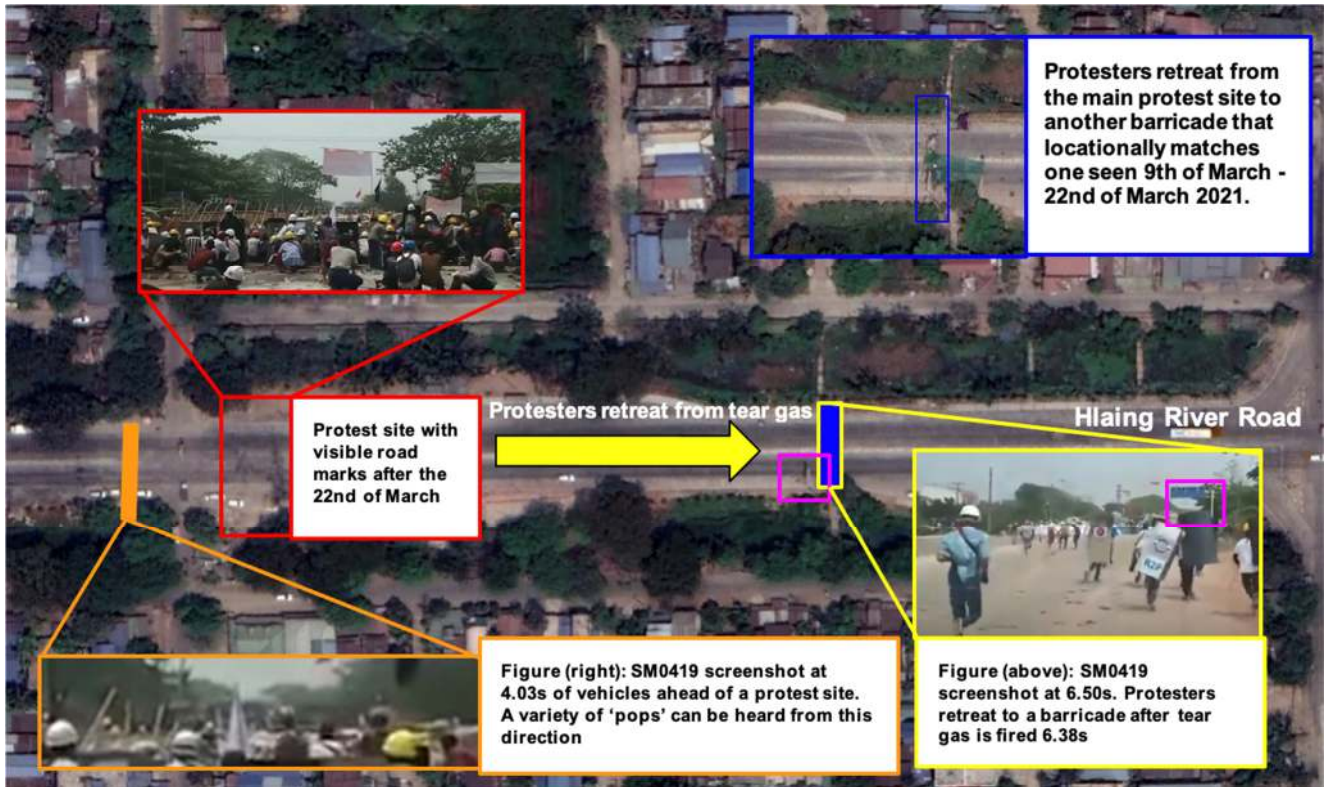


Figure 22: Satellite imagery of the SM0419 protest area and movements.

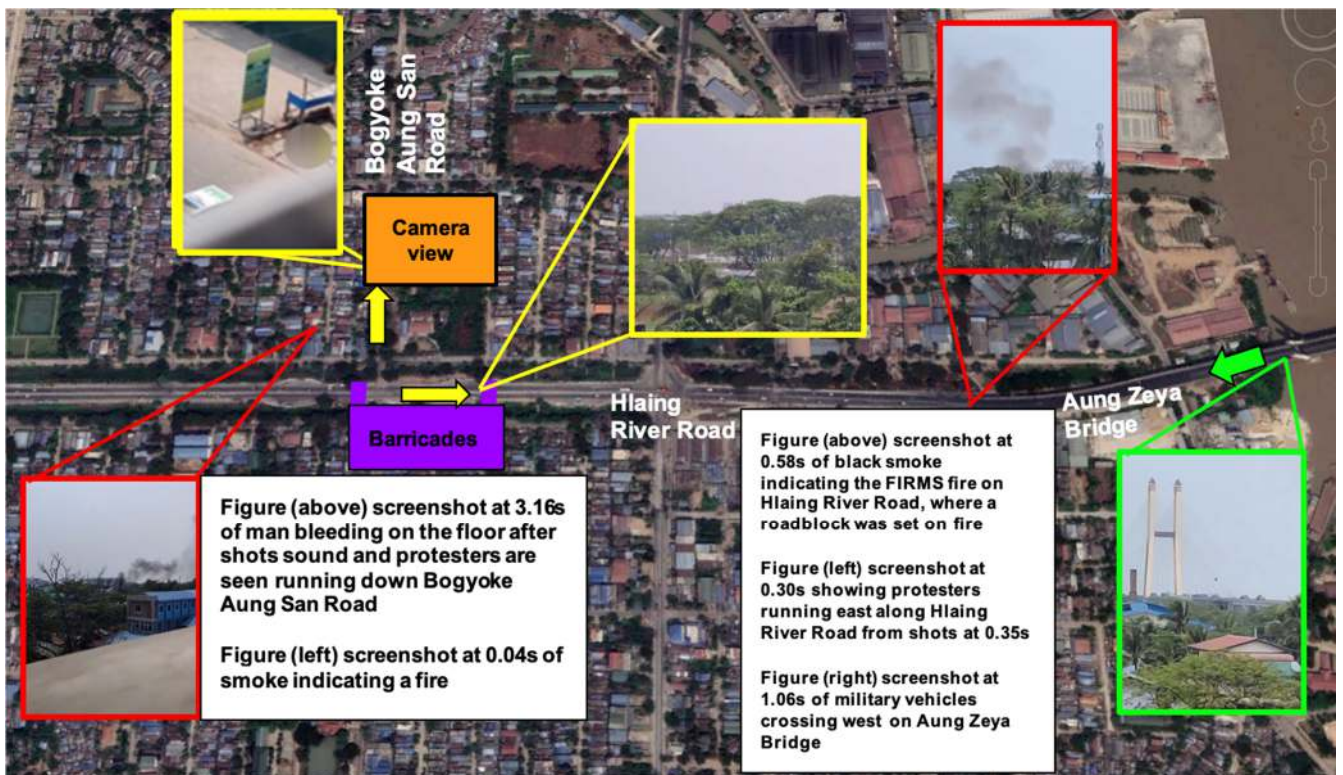


Figure 23: Satellite imagery of video SM0435.

[Warning: Graphic] Another video taken at around 1230, based on [shadows](#) at 03.12s, from the roof of a building, provides an elevated view of the situation inside HTY (Figure 23). In the foreground, close to where this footage was taken, individuals can be observed running down Bogyoke Aung San Road (16.879231, 96.075819), followed by what sounds like gunshots. At 2.26s the videographer then ducks for cover, presumably to avoid the gunshots that are heard. With the videographer remaining in cover but looking through gaps in the wall at 2.36s a body can be observed lying on the ground on Bogyoke Aung San Road (at 16.879109, 96.075635). They remain unmoving while another individual shakes them. The camera pans away as what sounds like shots are heard, and then looks back down through the wall onto Bogyoke Aung San Road at 3.12s. There is now a pool of blood surrounding the individual on the ground. By matching the clothing in the video to later images showing his corpse and reports of his death, Myanmar Witness could identify this individual as Sai Si Thu, who died of the injuries sustained in this footage, and whose family is later seen grieving over his body.

In the same video, protestors are seen running on Hlaing River Road at 0.30s, followed by the sounds of shots at 0.36s. While what looks to be heavy-duty military vehicles are seen crossing the Aung Zeya bridge at 1.06s in the background, heading towards protestors retreating from the sound of shots. These sounds don't appear to bother individuals on Bogyoke Aung San Road initially, they continue walking towards Hlaing River Road and going about their business. However, after the sound of shots, at 1:52s, individuals begin running north down Bogyoke Aung San Road. The volume of the shots sound closer to where the footage is being filmed as the footage continues and the reactions of people on the street running north suggest that those firing were heading into Bogyoke Aung San Road. Smoke can also be seen, indicating a fire - one of these is in a similar location to the smoke billowing in earlier footage, the footage of the security forces shooting from the bridge and has been linked to a barricade set on fire. It is likely, from this information, that the footage here corresponds with that of security forces shooting from the bridge due to the location of fire, as well as the military vehicles which are present on Aung Zeya Bridge. More smoke appears to be on the right side of the camera operator.

Myanmar Witness can ascertain that the perpetrators of this violence appear to be police and military present in the area due to a range of factors. In this video, members of the military can be observed arriving into HTY on Aung Zeya Bridge, to the right of Bogyoke Aung San Road, which corresponds with military movements as documented in the video showing officers on the bridge (Figure 24). Many military vehicles appear to also be present on Hlaing River Road at a protest barricade around 1220 where tear gas was being used on protestors (Figure 24) on the left of Bogyoke Aung San Road. Images taken later, by [shadow indication](#) around 1230-1300, confirm that there was a strong military presence on the left of Bogyoke Aung San Road (Figure 24). These instances of military and police in the area, as well as this footage, demonstrates military presence in the area from different sides, crossing the bridge, coming down from the west of Hlaing River Road and into Bogyoke Aung San Road, using a 'pincer movement' before firing tear gas and, apparently, real bullets at those retreating.

A journalist for The Frontier who was present in HTY on March 14 reported that military forces also crossed Bayint Naung Bridge, the southmost access bridge into the township. They then

doubled back around from the west onto Hlaing River Road, while other military vehicles approached from Aung Zeya Bridge. This was supposedly in order to catch protesters off guard; grouping them in when shooting began. This cannot be confirmed, but this information would explain how military vehicles and personnel, facing into Hlaing River Road from the west, were present in the area at around midday, when Myanmar Witness first began to see verified [footage](#) of protests on this day.



Figure 24: It is claimed that military vehicles, crossing Bayint Naung Bridge to the south of HTY and Hlaing River, manoeuvred west through the township and, eventually, pivoted east from this direction to catch protesters unawares.

A photo from [Getty Images](#) also provides a picture of real bullet casings apparently taken in HTY on March 14. It was not possible to verify this image.

Around 1330 (verified)

Footage of a barricade on Hlaing River Road approximately 1 mile to the west of the bridge (16.877072, 96.071617 (Figure 25) begins at 1330, according to a shadow indication at 00.20s a few metres down from the barricade. At 0.08s the first of what sounds like shots is heard and at 0.12s an individual uses their shield as cover. From then on lots of sounds can be heard, such as shots, banging, shouting; at 8.34s the sounds of an ambulance can also be heard. At 15.16, the footage shows people running back from Bo Ba Htoo Road and nearer the end of the video, at 16.56s, the sound of shots is heard again, which appear to have an effect on protesters, as they appear to turn and move elsewhere.



Figure 25: Geolocation of the road protest at 1330.

Around 1400 (verified)

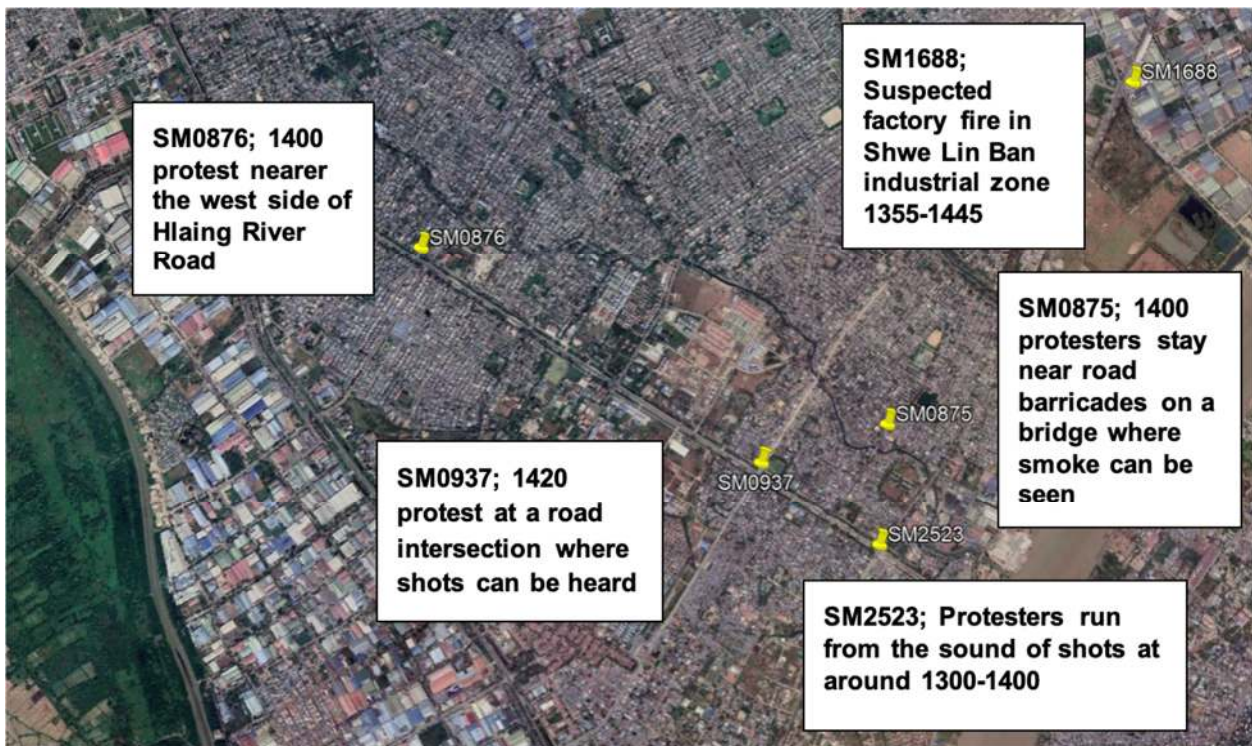


Figure 26: Map of occurrences at around 1400 on March 14, 2021.

Footage from around 1400 - indicated by [shadows](#) at 2.00s - shows a protest taking place further down Hlaing River Road (approximately 3.75km west of the bridge at 16.873846, 96.050929 (Figure 26). Protesters can be heard chanting at 3.51s near a barricade. At 16.51s protesters start

moving backwards from the barricade, possibly in relation to the distant bangs that can be heard at 16.37s and 16.42s. This could be from military action, but it is not possible to verify this.

In further footage (Figure 26, 27) at around 1400 - [based on shadow indication](#) - located along Bogyoke Aung San Road, at 16.882602, 96.075111, more protesters and citizens walk around HTY. At a bridge on Tapin Shwe Htee road, smoke can be seen billowing in the distance which is locationally linked to the fire recorded by FIRMS at 16.87947, 96.08259. This is important to show that this fire is still billowing hours into the recorded violence in HTY and situates events that cannot be precisely chronolocated, as occurring sometime after this particular road barricade had been destroyed.



Figure 27: SM0875 captures smoke that locationally matches FIRMS data and a barricade being burned in the road

There is also video footage geolocated to the location of the earlier protest from 1330 (16.877062, 96.071528) beginning around an hour later, at 1430 by shadow indication at the beginning of the video (Figure 28).

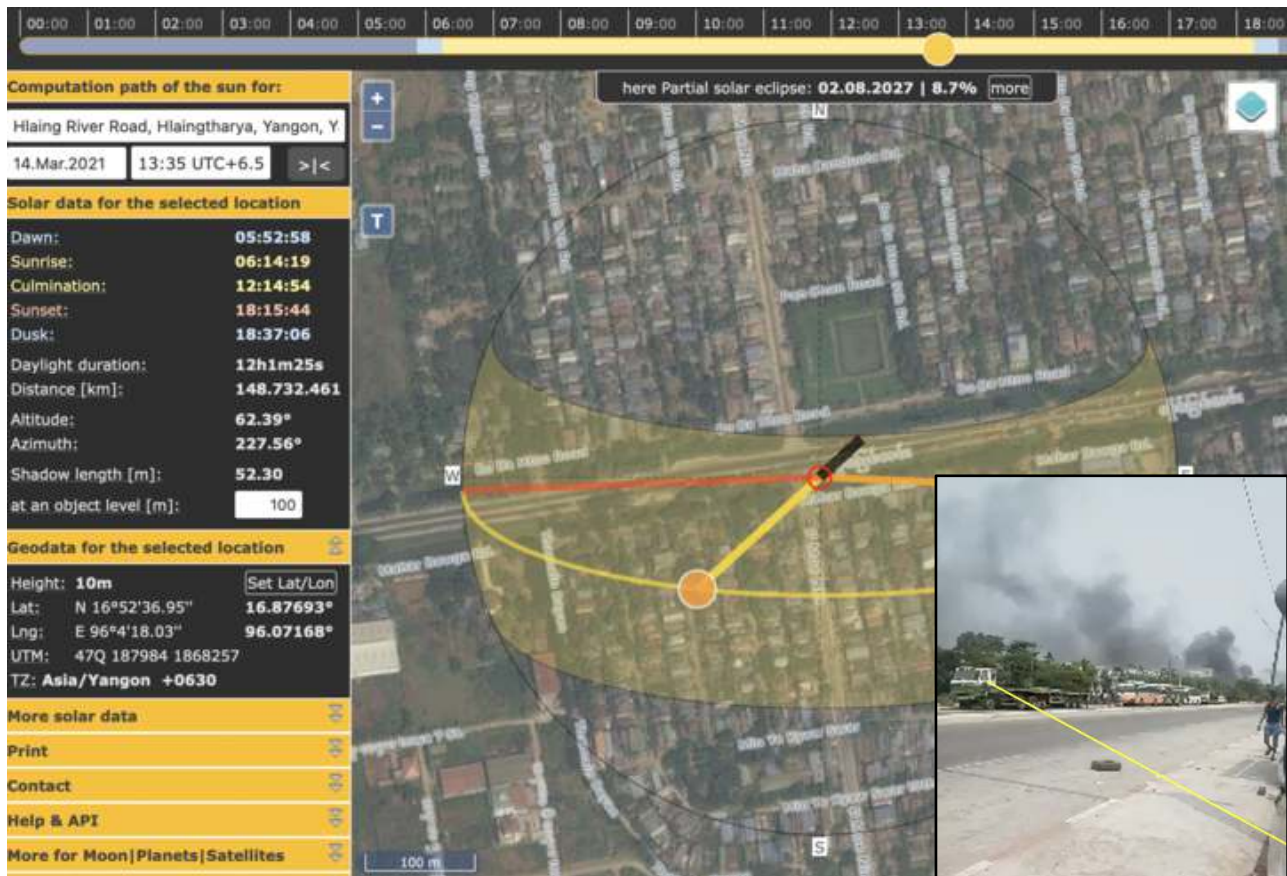


Figure 28: Shadow calculation of SM0937.

Banging and other noises are heard from protesters, as part of their protest. At 2.30s an ambulance can be heard in the background - the siren gets closer and then quieter, indicating it was near this area and then passed into a new area. From the cameraman and others looking behind them into a new stretch of road, it could be assumed that the ambulance has driven down P Moe Nin Road. At 12.10s chants and singing from protesters begins. At 19.12s people are seen running up and down Mana Bawga Street. At around 27.39s a shot is heard, with another shot following at 31.58s, protesters duck on the floor. At 33.20s, an ambulance vehicle with its trunk open can be observed reversing at speed backwards down P Moe Nin Road, perhaps the same vehicle heard earlier in the video (Figure 29). Protesters run towards the vehicle, crowding it and appear to be speaking into/taking pictures of those inside. Another ambulance drives down the road behind the first. At 43.09s, another shot is heard, and protesters are seen ducking/covering their ears, this happens again at 46.28s and protesters begin moving about the structures they are taking cover around. At 52.54s, distant shots can be heard.



Figure 29: Protesters are seen at a protest site on Hlaing River Road when an ambulance reverses into this area.

Around 1400 (verified)

More video footage provides imagery of protesters at a barricade on Hlaing River Road, running away south of Hlaing River Road from the sound of shots at 0.20s, past another barricade that matches up with barricades seen on satellite imagery between March 9 – 22. These protesters run into Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road. This incident occurred at around 1300-1400 with some room for error (Figure 30). Having confirmed that, at 1230, there were military vehicles crossing Aung Zeya Bridge into Hlaing River Road, it could be the case that these protesters are running away from military presence at the barricades

This fits in with the knowledge Myanmar Witness already have about protests on this day and demonstrates that the military confronted protesters at various barricades, as protesters can be seen in this footage running from the main barricade set up on the start of Hlaing River Road past smaller barricades on KaNaung Min Thar Gyi road, and Myanmar Witness have verified footage of military forces advancing further down Hlaing River Road and confronting protesters at different barricades. This demonstrates a large military presence in HTY on the March 14, able to split off and confront protesters in different areas in a similar time frame.

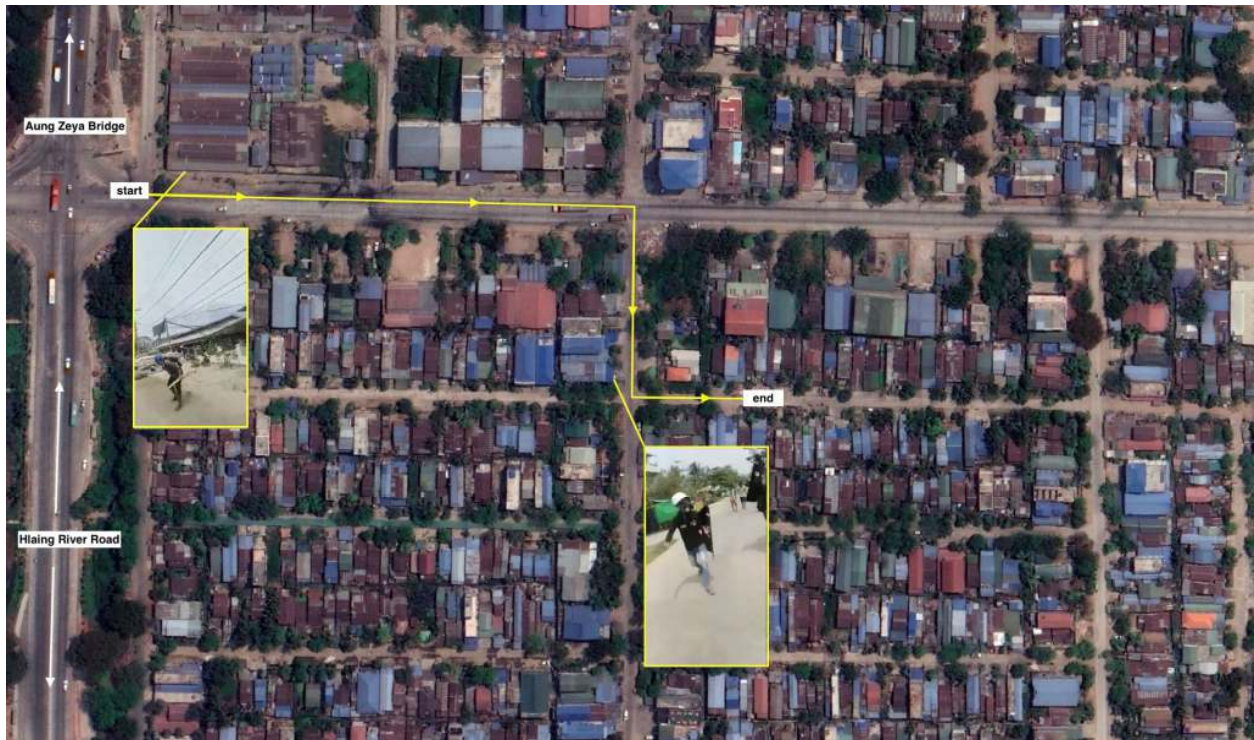


Figure 30: The path the protester took in SM2523, 16.875853, 96.078424.

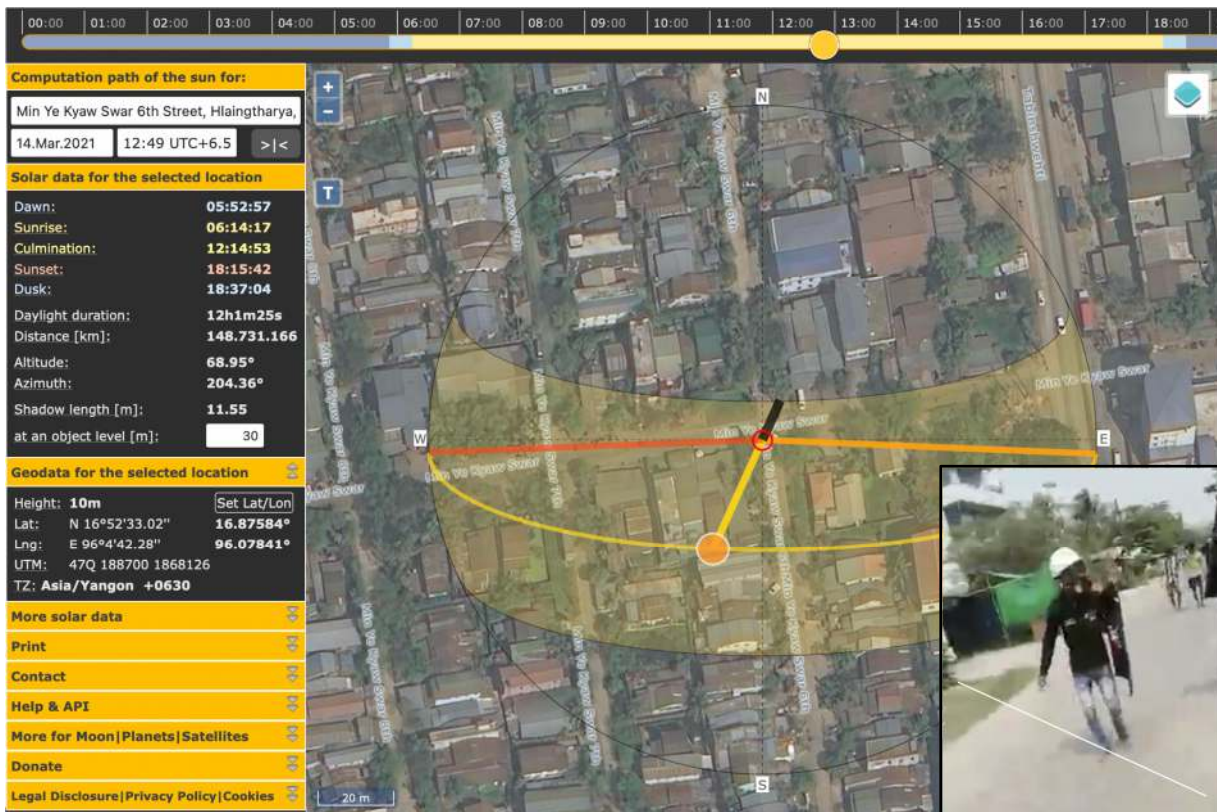


Figure 31: Approximate chronolocation of a SM2523 frame corresponding to 16.87584, 96.07841.

Myanmar Witness geolocated footage showing what appears to be factories on fire to around 3km north of Aung Zeya towards the Shwe Lin Ban industry zone in HTY (16.903335, 96.072942) (Figure 32). These can be cross-referenced with fires seen on FIRMS. The time is harder to chronolocate as there is a shadow but only in one direction. If that shadow is around 63 degrees vertically, which is what was computed, then the picture was made around 1355. However, if it was 58 degrees instead it would have been made around 1445; this small precision error in measurement can change the time significantly - so this cannot confidently be chronolocated aside from around 1400.

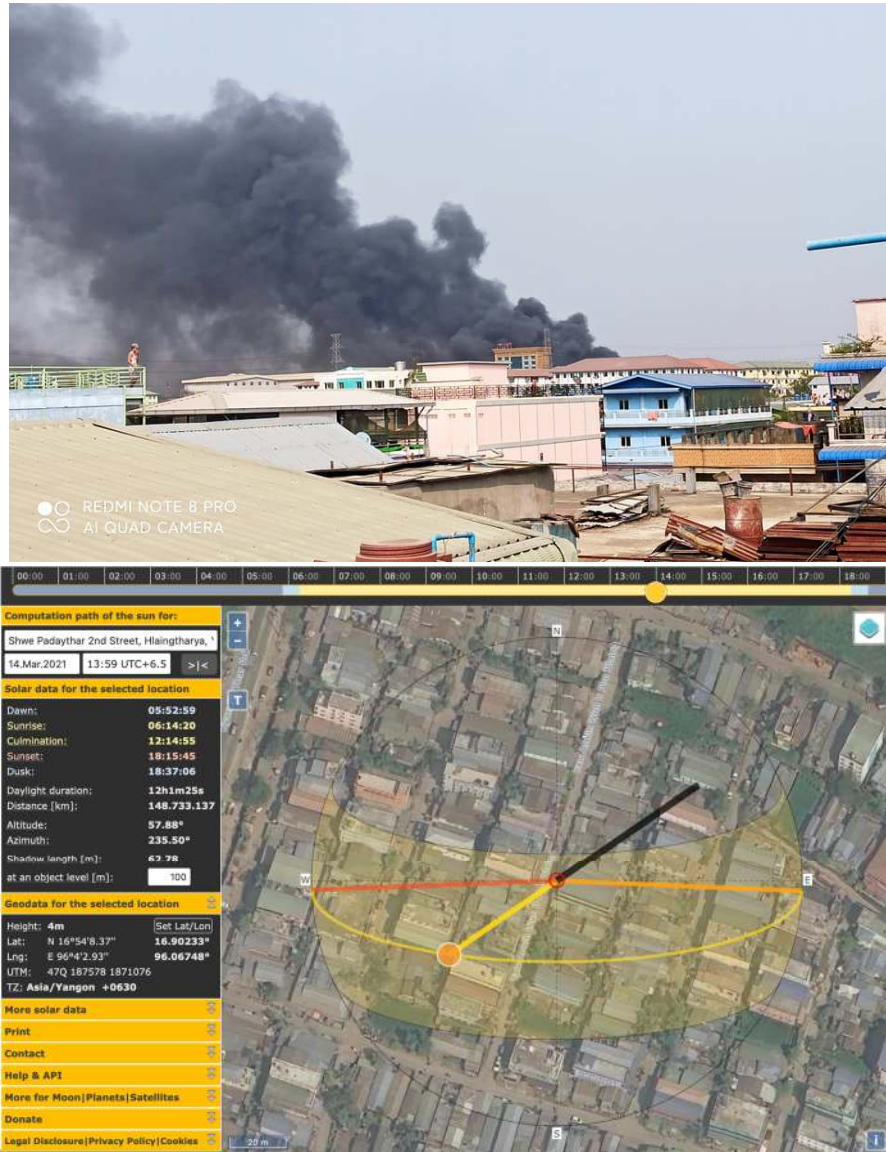


Figure 32: Shadow indication of the time SM1688 was taken, around 1400.

Around 1600 (verified)



Figure 33: Satellite imagery of SM0434; Protesters moving along to view events on Hlaing River Road, until they are shot at and retreat into a shaded area.

The repression appears to continue into the afternoon of March 14. In footage lasting thirty-six minutes, shot at around 1600 - based on [shadow indication](#) at 1.05s - a camera person travels about 300 metres, mostly around 16.877670, 96.072524 (Figure 33). At 2.15s, the camera person stops to view events taking place on Hlaing River Road, where people, presumably protesters, are. At 2.42s, citizens run along the east of Bo Ba Htoo road, likely to get a better look at what is occurring but the camera view is slightly obscured so it is hard to tell what exactly is being watched. Shots are heard. At 8.05s after hearing shots, protesters on Bo Ba Htoo Road retreated west and back behind protest barricades on Anawrata Road. Here, they hide behind large bottles and structures intermittently and shots are heard occasionally. The camera person sounds audibly distressed. Smoke, indicating a fire, is also present in the distance at 32.56s.

Around 1630 (verified)

In the caption of one of the Tiktok videos posted by Lon Htein riot policeman, it appears to show black smoke, indicating a fire on Ka Naung Min Thar Gyi Road (Figure 34). The poster also accompanies this video with the caption 'some people are dying and already dead' followed by 'crying with laughter' emojis. In the same caption they say, 'it was shooting but because they set fire'. This could imply that protesters were setting fires to barricades at this time - such as the one documented to be a barricade on fire, recorded on FIRMS at 11.00. This caption could also be unreliable, having been posted by a member of the riot police in the area at the time. Social media and news sites like [BBC Burma](#) report that barricades were set alight by police officers, but neither version of events can be concretely verified. Shadows in this captioned video indicate footage was made between 1530 and 1700 - perhaps around 1630.



Figure 34: Screenshot of one video from a police officers' Tiktok account on Hlaing River Road, with the aforementioned caption.

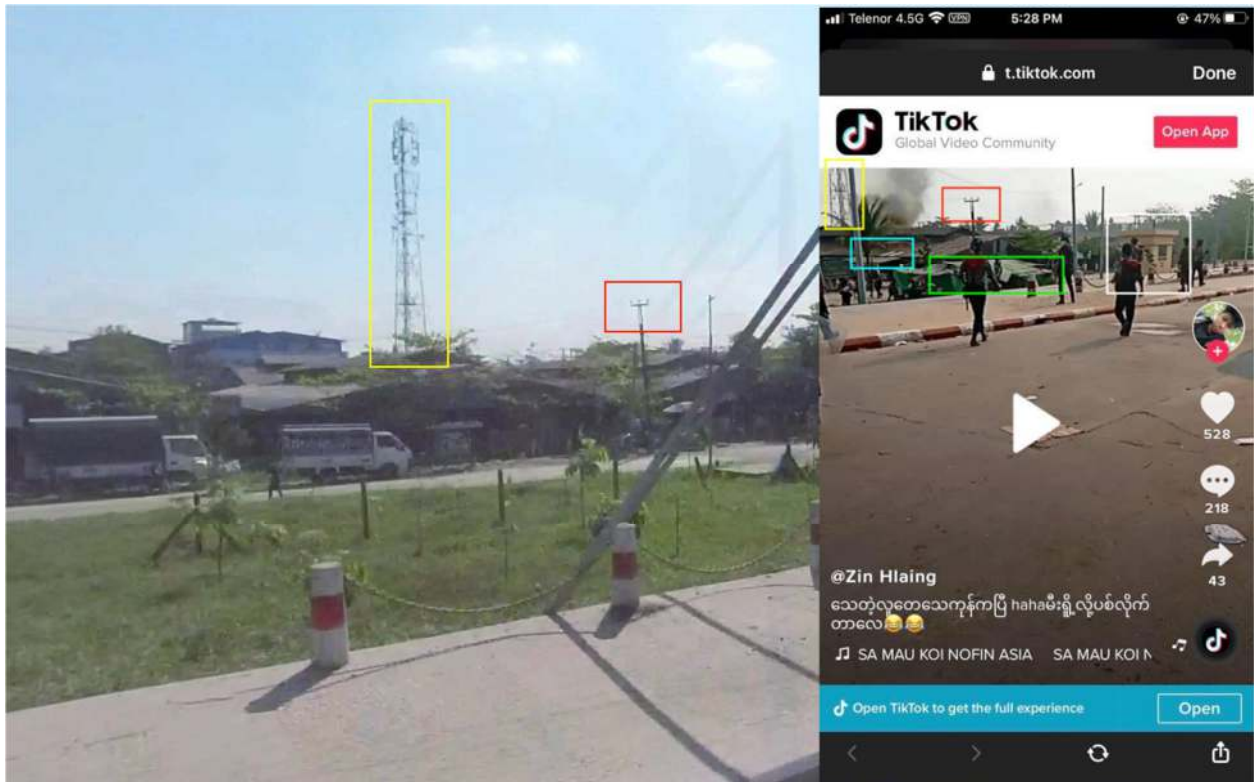


Figure 35: Geolocation of another frame of a police officers' Tiktok video on Hlaing River Road to Google Street view.



Figure 36: Satellite imagery geolocation of the police officer's Tiktok video on Hlaing River Road.

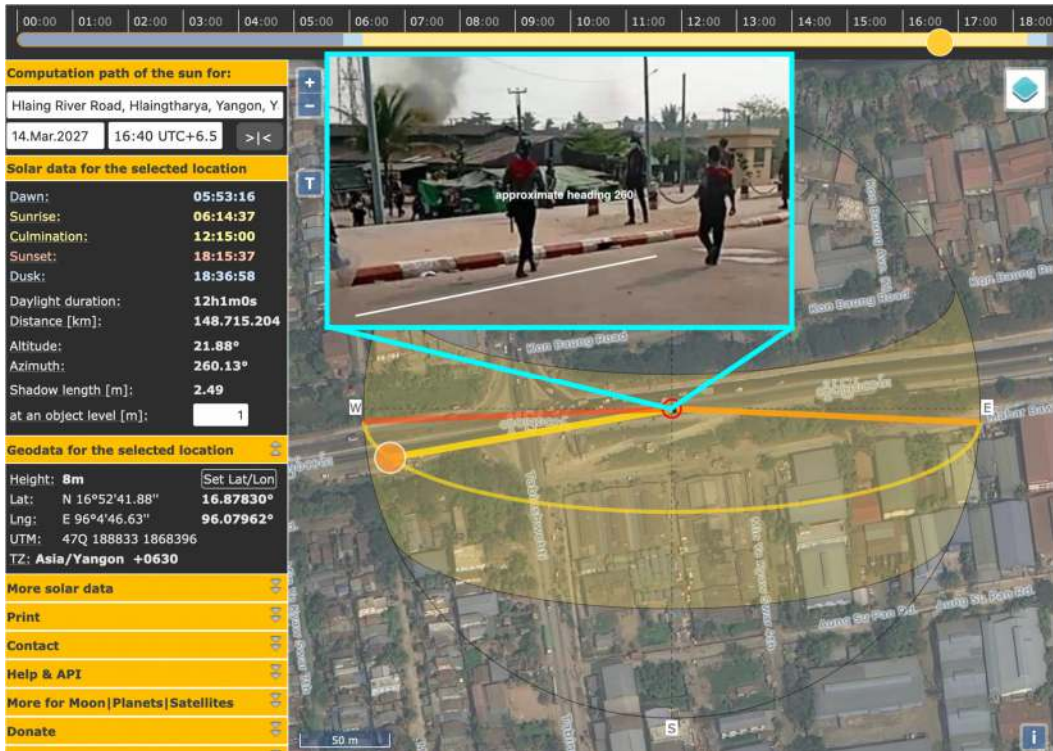


Figure 37: Chronolocation of the police officers' video on Hlaing River Road.

Side note: Images from Kyauktada Township, 16.776832, 96.163180, at around [midday](#) on March 16 (Figure 38) shows police officers filming themselves setting sandbag barricades alight, indicating this is behaviour the police in Yangon appear to have been exhibiting at the time and could have been committed by police officers in HTY.



Figure 38: Images of police officers setting a sandbag protest barricade on fire and filming it.

Around 1700 (verified)

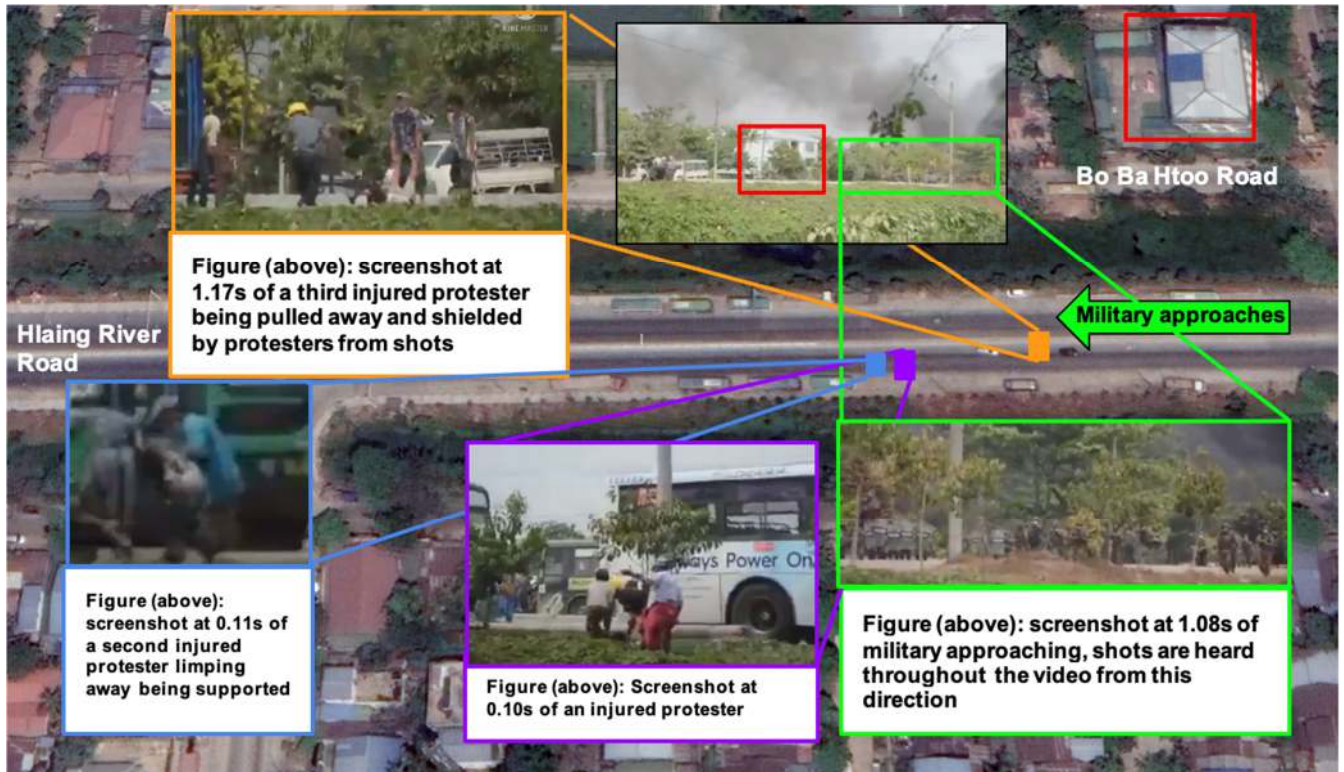


Figure 39: At least three injured protesters are seen in SM0144, with approaching military forces following up the road and the sound of shots heard from this direction.

At around 1700, by shadow indication, footage filmed on Hlaing River Road around 1.5km to the west of Aung Zeya bridge (Figure 39) shows further incidents between security forces and protestors. This occurs in the same area where, around an hour earlier, protestors appear to be attempting to view events in Hlaing River Road from Bo Ba Htoo Road. The footage commences with what appears to be a wounded person being carried off west down Hlaing River Road by protestors and - to their left side - a limping individual can also be seen being supported away from the scene, amidst the sounds of shouting. What sounds like a gunshot is heard at 0:27s and the camera pans right to show protestors retreating west from smoke, likely tear gas, along Hlaing River Road behind shields. At 0.41s a second wounded person can be observed lying on the ground, protestors quickly move around to shield him.

A hundred metres away, military and police forces advance west along Bo Ba Htoo Road towards the scene of injured people and protestors. Shots are heard at 01.12s and 01.19s and protestors flee west away from the approaching security forces. Black smoke from a fire rises nearby. Following this footage, are an assortment of photos, some featuring individuals with graphic injuries. While some of these photos could be from the same incident, it has not been possible to verify this, and some appear to be unrelated to the location completely. There is one picture that is a visual match for the location at the time and features another seemingly injured protester -

they are lying on the ground surrounded by others (Figure 40). They are wearing different clothes to those injured seen in SM0144 and therefore represent another injured person at this location, bringing the total of visually injured individuals at this location to around four.



Figure 40: Geolocation of injured protester being shielded by other protesters matches the location in SM0144.

Around 1800 (verified)

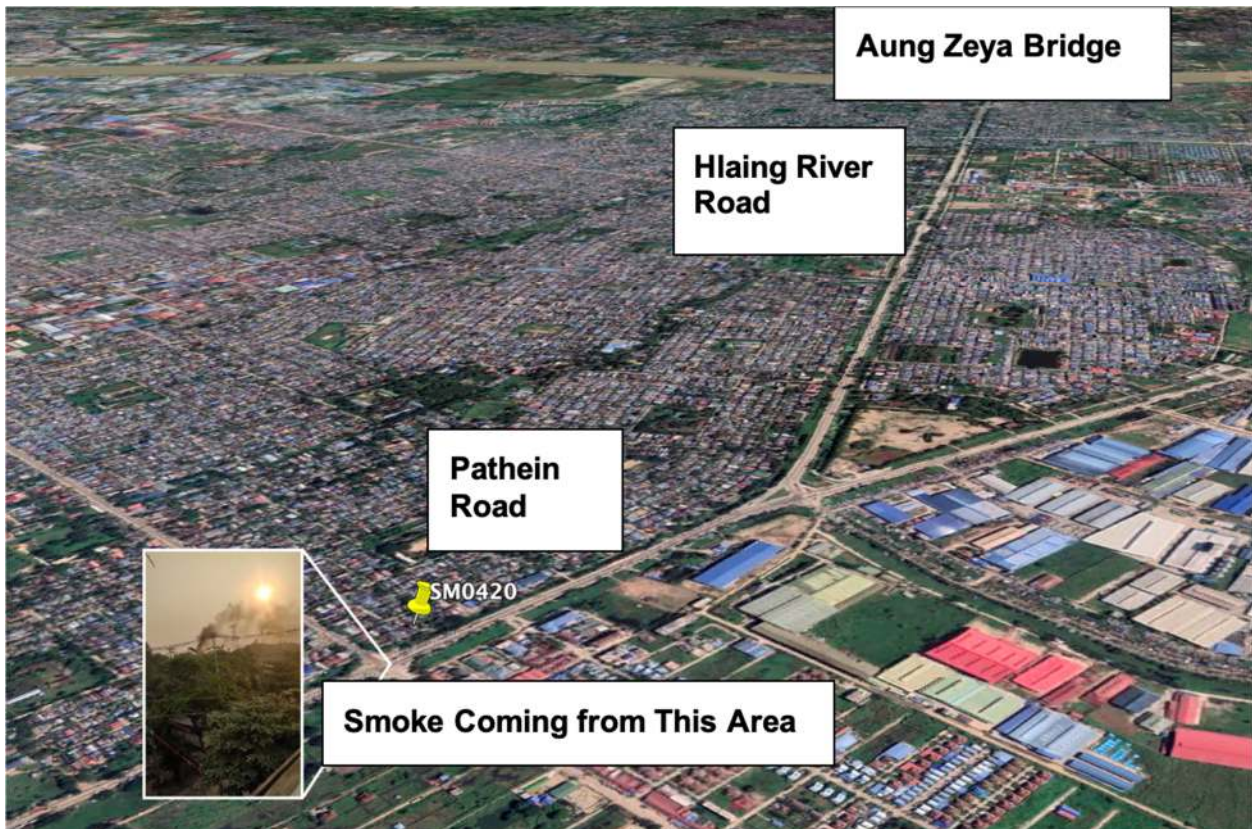


Figure 41: Satellite imagery of SM0420 camera view and smoke, indicating a fire on the west side of Hlaing River Road.

Video footage filmed from a viewpoint west of Hlaing River Road, on Pathein Road (16.874724, 96.033722) (Figure 41) shows smoke rising and a view of Magway Street. What sounds like shots can be heard both in the distance and nearby the location. Based on the sun's positioning in this video, it is assessed the video was taken at around 1800. The shooting is likely coming from the end of Hlaing River Road approaching Aung Zeya bridge, where the earlier incidents were filmed, but full certainty cannot be established on this point.

Before 1830 (verified)

[Getty Images](#) records another instance of violence perpetrated against protesters, taken on the March 14. These images show protesters taking cover behind objects in the road from approaching security forces and their vehicles (Figure 42). Images featuring one of these protesters, now lying on the floor being shielded by another, in the same location is also recorded (Figure 43). The time cannot be confirmed; however, what appears to be burn marks in the road indicates this incident took place in the evening, after the barricade that was still on fire at around 1400 had been put out, but the sun has not yet set (around 1830 on March 14). The security forces in these images appear to be a mix of police, Lon Htein riot police and the military (Figure 44), and the fact more heavy duty vehicles are crossing into HTY at this time indicates a significant amount of security force in HTY, with reinforcements still being deployed late into March 14.

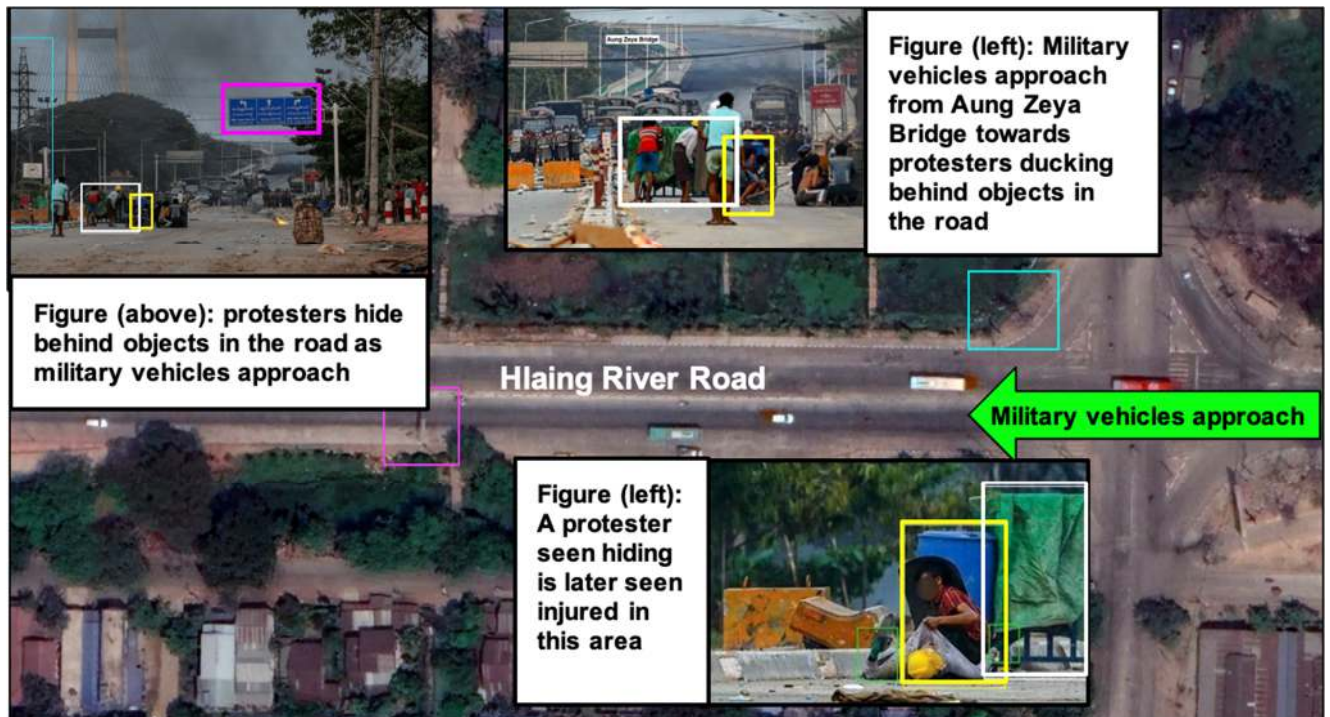


Figure 42: Protesters hide and shield themselves on Hlaing River Road from oncoming military vehicles on Aung Zeya Bridge.



Figure 43 (left): A protester first seen ducking behind objects on Hlaing River Road; Figure 44 (right) is later seen on the floor being shielded by another distraught looking protester in the same area.



Figure 45: Police, Lon Htein riot police and military soldiers are seen on Aung Zeya Bridge (Getty Images)

Around 0000 March 14/15 (verified)

Further fires were recorded in HTY on the night of March 14. Footage of one such fire (Figure 46), located at 16.845436, 96.079968 is shot around midnight on March 14/15. Given its location in an industrial zone in HTY, it's likely that this footage is of a factory fire.



Figure 46: A fire captured at around midnight in an industrial zone.

March 15, 2021: Timeline of events

Information available on March 15 becomes much more limited, as a result of the previously noted communications blackout.

Around 1030 (verified)

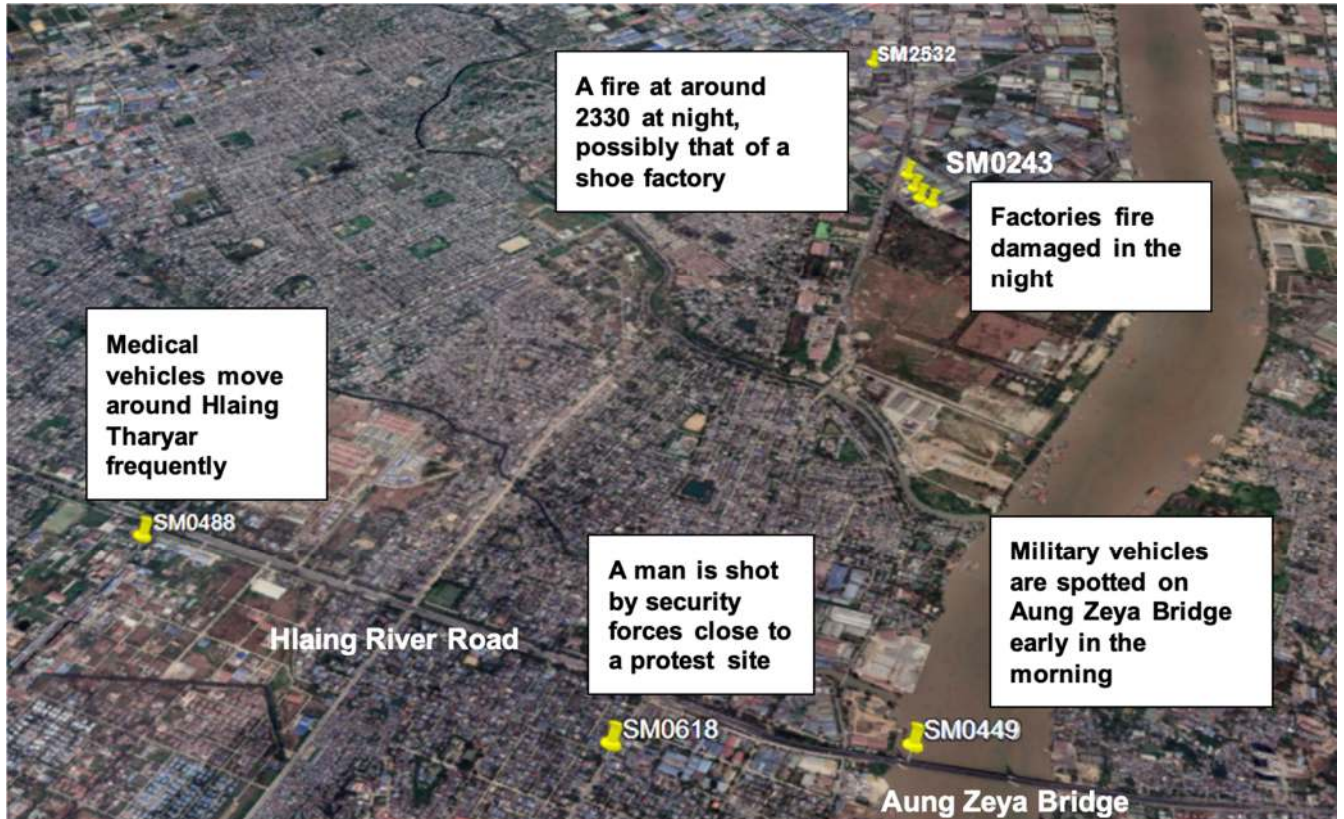


Figure 47: Incidents that took place on March 15, labelled with SM numbers.

Photographs of factories destroyed or partially destroyed by fire appear on social media from the morning of March 15, 2021. Myanmar Witness geolocated footage showing fires at factories located on Ka Naung Min Thar Gyi Street (16.904214, 96.072173) and U Poe Hlaing Road (16.90337950, 96.073094), with shadow analysis placing the time these pictures were taken at around 1030 on March 15, 2021. Myanmar Witness also geolocated footage showing fire-damaged property at Global Fashion Co Ltd, located at 16.903283, 96.072809. Analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery confirms that these factories sustained fire damage at some point between March 9 – 22, 2021. (Figure 48)



Figure 48: Satellite imagery of visibly fire damaged factories corresponding to SM0243.

Around 1330 (verified)

Footage located at 16.874503, 96.063199 SM0448 shows medical vehicles and what appears to be at least one coffin moving to and from the Hlaing Tharyar hospital, indicating deaths or injuries occurring around HTY on March 15 - though this cannot be explicitly linked to violence perpetrated by SAC forces. This is consistent with eyewitness claims that the hospitals were full of injured civilians and their family and friends reported by [Myanmar Now](#).



Figure 49: Medical vehicles and a coffin at Hlaing Tharyar Hospital.

Around 1500 (verified)

Myanmar Witness geolocated footage posted on social media showing a convoy of around 30 military vehicles headed into HTY through Aung Zeya Bridge (Figure 49). In the footage the sky is full of heavy grey smoke, indicating fires in the area. A separate piece of footage (Figure 50) shows the same scene from a similar angle based on the time of day, smoke, buildings and vehicles.



Figure 50: Military vehicles crossing Aung Zeya Bridge as the sky is clouded by black smoke, indicating the fire incidents recorded on March 14 and 15.

Around 1700 (verified)

[Warning: Graphic] In footage posted on social media, a woman grieves and holds the hand of a man, lying motionless on the street with what appears to be a gunshot wound to the side of his head (Figure 51). Burmese media [identified](#) this individual as U Tun Tun Oo, a fifty-nine-year-old man with his wife apparently pictured beside his body. According to family members interviewed in the same media report, U Tun Tun Oo had been out collecting cardboard for the family livelihood, when he was shot by security forces and died on the spot. Later, this same woman is pictured in an ambulance with the injured man and bystanders in the background posted by Getty Images (Figure 50 and images of an ambulance which is visually confirmed to be the same one). The ambulance drives away from what appears to be a group of protestors. Myanmar Witness geolocated this footage to 16.875803, 96.079217, by the intersection of Min Ye Kyaw Swar and Ka Nuang Min Thar Gyi road. Further Getty images, geolocated by Myanmar Witness at

16.875890, 96.079169, shows protesters in the same area as the ambulance picking up the injured man, holding up finger signs. It is possible to identify at least one identical person in three images, holding up finger signs and helping in the ambulance, indicating the ambulance pick-up happened in this area. [Shadows](#) at this location also indicate that the time this incident took place was around 1700, so it can be assumed U Tun Tun Oo was killed a short time before this.

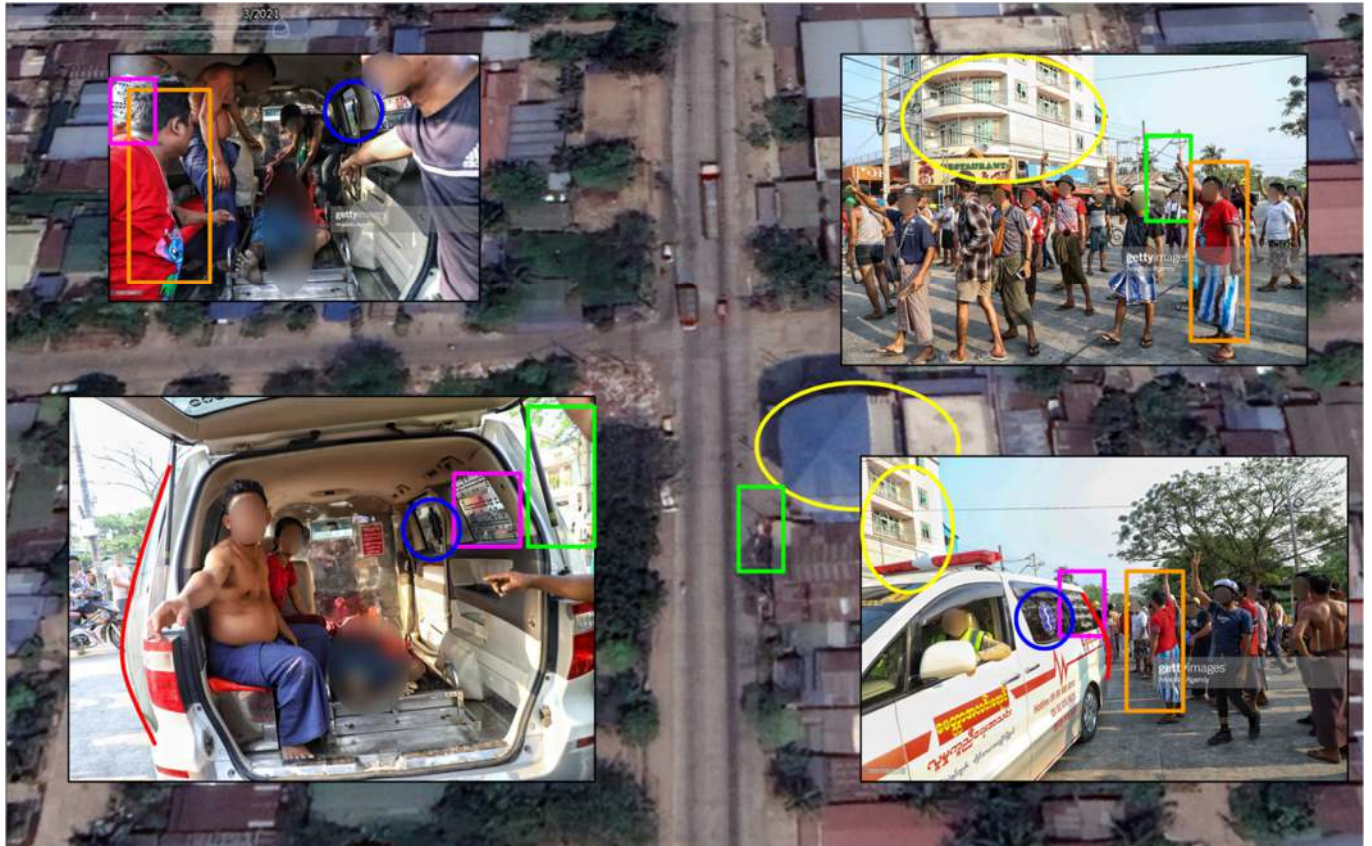


Figure 51: Matching of this ambulance vehicle to that which carried U Tun Tun Oo away from this area using visuals of the ambulance (unreliable as most ambulances in HTY are visually similar) and protester present in the area of protest, saluting the ambulance away as well as in the ambulance photographs.

Time unconfirmed, but likely after 1700 (verified)

It can be assumed that pictures of U Tun Tun Oo's body arriving at the hospital were taken after his body was collected at 1700. Images also show other injured parties, arriving at Hlaing Tharyar Hospital emergency service in the evening based on shadow indication of these images, located at 16.875341, 96.064098 (Figure 52).



Figure 52: Injured people arriving at Hlaing Tharyar Hospital

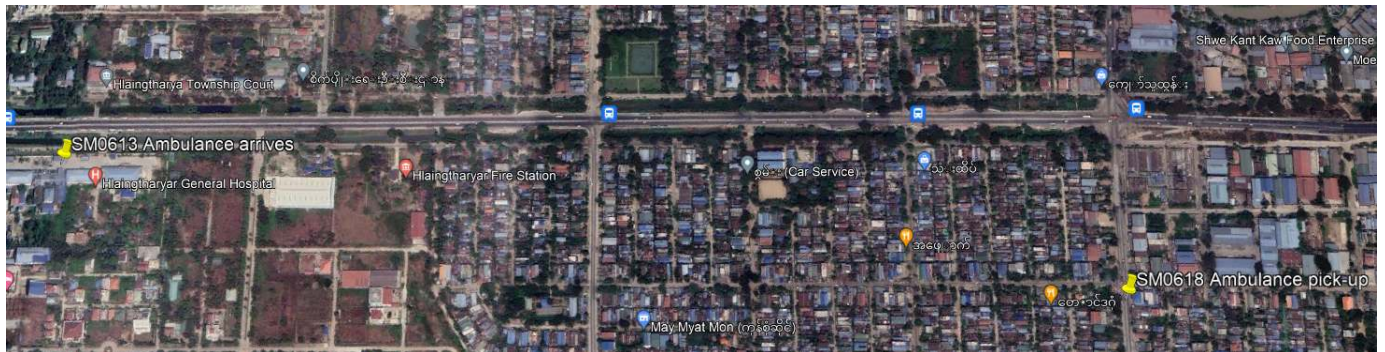


Figure 53: The path travelled by the ambulance carrying U Tun Tun Oo.

Images posted on this day document a clinical area according to the original post, likely a morgue due to the 10 visible bodies that can be seen crowding the floor. The signs on the walls behind are mostly related to Buddha's principles - writings such as 'နေမဝင်ခင် ရိက္ခာပြင် အနိစ္စ၊ ဒုက္ခ၊ အနုတု', translated by a Burmese investigator as 'Prepare yourself before sunset Death, Suffering and Vanity', which also indicates this area is related to the preparing or processing of corpses. This could be HTY's General Hospital morgue.

Around 2330 (verified)

On the night of March 15, 2021, there were reports on social media of fires taking place in Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone in HTY, apparently relating to a shoe factory fire. One piece of footage (Figure 54) taken via Facebook live at around 2330 local time shows a fire in the distance, corresponding to [FIRMS](#) data of a fire at around 16.91178, 96.06681, at 2324 local time.



Figure 54: Facebook live post captures a fire at 2330 corresponding to FIRMS data.

March 16, 2021 (verified)

At approximately 16.876953, 96.070739 on Hlaing River Road (around 1.6km west of the Aung Zeya bridge), images of a large number of military vehicles can be seen on both lanes of the main road, as well as construction and water vehicles. The original poster claims vehicles were being used to create a barricade and block access to and from HTY (Figure 55). The presence of construction vehicles being utilised by the military also suggests that road blockades previously erected by protesters could be in the process of being destroyed.



Figure 55 (left): construction vehicles in HTY. Figure 56 (right): military vehicles fill Hlaing River Road.

Throughout the military focus on and occupation of HTY, there are multiple claims online of fires being set in HTY, with one such image (Figure 57) appearing on March 16. The fire appears to be in HTY’s Industrial Zone 3.



Figure 57: geolocation of smoke, indicating a fire, in an industrial zone of HTY.

Images surfacing on social media on March 16 purportedly show the list of people from HTY who have died, possibly in relation to the protest events. It is alleged that this list was taken at a HTY morgue. A more detailed analysis of this list is available later in the report.

March 17, 2021 (verified)

In the morning of March 17, reports emerged that the work of local artist Win Pe Myint, whose *True Colour Studio* is located on Bogyoke Street in HTY,⁵ was destroyed when his studio was set on fire at about 0245 on March 17 (Figure 58). Myanmar Witness geolocated damage photos showing the studio that were posted online. These images show windows blown out from fire and what appears to be a missing rooftop area visible in undamaged photos of the studio.



Figure 58: Before and after damaged images on True Colour Studio, set alight in the early hours of March 17, 2021.

Satellite imagery shows three properties on Bogyoke Street (16.876824, 96.075833) that were visibly damaged by fire between the March 9 – 22, 2021. These buildings appear to match the exterior of True Colour studio and post-fire images of the other damaged housing (Figure 59)

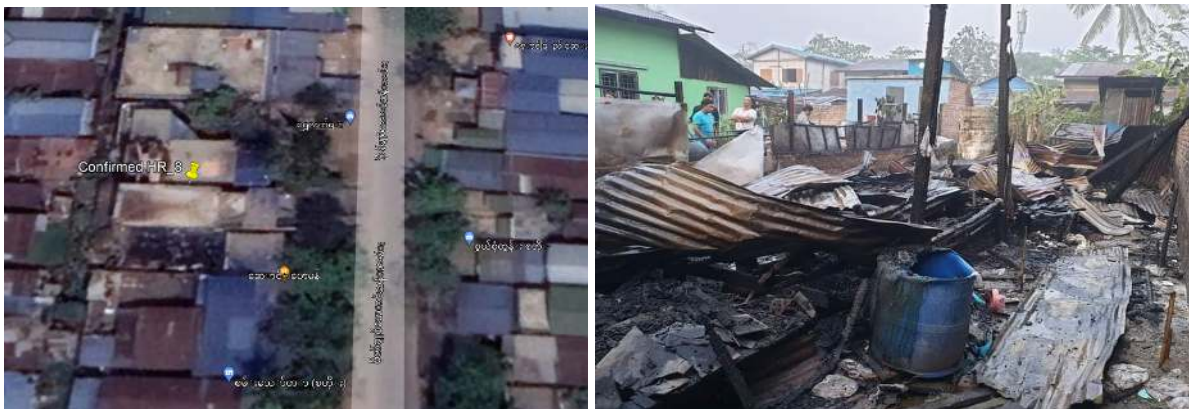


Figure 59: Location of burned-out backyard near True Colour studio visually match

⁵ <https://www.today-myanmar.com/gallery-in-yangon/>

Analysis of deaths and injuries during the HTY Protests

According to monitoring group [AAPP](#), 72 people were killed in HTY as a result of military violence between March 14 and 17, 2021. Information online on the deaths include memorial postings and footage of a morgue board apparently located in HTY listing a number of dead people, with associated information such as ages, gender and sometimes graphic media related to their deaths. Memorial sites for Myanmar citizens killed in the coup included detail on individuals whose names were also published by AAPP and Burmese media, as well as names of other individuals claimed to have been killed by security forces in this time. On March 20, a Twitter account uploaded pictures of dead individuals in Hlaing Tharyar's Hospital morgue, whose bodies had - as of posting - been unclaimed. These were two separate posts. This speaks to the violence level and confusion in HTY that so many citizens had died in such a short space of time.

စဉ်	နာမည်	အသက်	ခန်း	မိနစ်
1	အောင်မြင်	32	4	08:00-09:00
2	လှဌေး	89	5	"
3	မင်းဝေယံဇောက်	18	1	09:00-10:00
4	ကျော်မြင့်	75	2	"
5	နိုင်စည်သူ	31	3	"
6	သိန်းနိုင်	54	5	"
7	ရန်နိုင်ထွန်း	26	3	10:00-11:00
8	စိုးဌေးအောင်	24	4	"
9	ရင်ထွေး	25	5	"
10	နိုင်ကိုကိုလွင်	29	5	"
11	အောင်နိုင်ဝင်း	29	1	11:00-12:00
12	သန်းတိုးအောင်	17	2	"
13	ထွန်းဝင်းဟန်	87	3	"
14	ဝင်းကြည်	23	4	"
15	အေးမင်း	20	5	"
16	ကျော်ကို	25	5	"
17	ကျော်စွာ	78	1	12:00-1:00
18	ကျော်စွာ	73	2	"
19	ကျော်စွာ	73	3	"
20	ကျော်စွာ	79	4	"
21	ကျော်စွာ	82	4	"
22	ကျော်စွာ	61	5	"
23	ကျော်စွာ	35	3	1:00-2:00
24	ကျော်စွာ	48	4	"
25	ကျော်စွာ	30	4	"

32	အောင်မြင်	Aung Myint
39	လှဌေး	Hla Htay
18	မင်းဝေယံဇောက်	Min Wai Yan Mauk
75	ကျော်မြင့်	Kyaw Myint
31	နိုင်စည်သူ	Naing Sithu
54	သိန်းနိုင်	Thein Naing
26	ရန်နိုင်ထွန်း	Yan Naing Tun
24	စိုးဌေးအောင်	Soe Htay Aung
25	ရင်ထွေး	Yin Htway
29	နိုင်ကိုကိုလွင်	Naing Ko Ko Lwin
17	အောင်နိုင်ဝင်း	Aung Naing Wih
37	သူရိန်	Thu Rein
23	အေးမင်း	Aye Min
20	သန်းတိုးအောင်	Than Toe Aung
25	ထွန်းဝင်းဟန်	Tun Win Han
78	ဝင်းကြည်	Win Kyi
23	ကျော်ကို	Ye Ko Ko
19	ကျော်စွာ	Kaung Khant Ko
32	လင်းအောင်	Lin Aung
61	သိန်းထွန်း	Thein Tun
48	နီနီအေး	Ni Ni Aye
35	ချမ်းမြေ့လင်း	Chan Myae Linn
30	ဇော်ထက်	Zaw Htet

Figure 60: An alleged picture of a morgue board posted to social media (SM0628) and partial translation with ages of apparently deceased individuals highlighted in blue, purple and white.

The morgue board

Myanmar Witness sought to find corroborating data on each of the names listed on the HTY morgue board (Figure 60). The 11 blue entries on Figure 60 correspond to names on the board that were also found on social media memorial posts of people deceased in HTY in March - a match meaning the same name and the same (or very similar) ages. The 2 purple entities correspond to people whose name was also found on social media but seem to be unrelated to

the events in HTY in March. One of them has the same name as someone killed [outside](#) of HTY, apparently due to the violence of security forces in Yangon but not in HTY itself; the other is someone who had been missing from HTY a week before the events. The 10 white entries correspond to names Myanmar Witness could not trace elsewhere.

Killings verified by Myanmar Witness in this report

Sai Si Thu (San Gyi)

(Page 21) At around [1230](#) on March 14, in the location of 16.879231, 96.075819, individuals can be seen running down Bogyoke Aung San Road, followed by the sounds of gunshots; when they emerge, at 2.36s, there is an unmoving body of an individual lying on the ground - a pool of blood can be observed at 3.12s. In a further photo, the death of this same individual is confirmed, with them being mourned by their family. A [memorial website](#) for Myanmar citizen deaths names the deceased individual as Sai Si Thu/Shan Gyi.

U Tun Tun Oo

(Page 41) Shows a woman grieving over the body of a man who has sustained a head shot injury. This man is later identified as [U Tun Tun Oo](#) by his family. Later, this same woman is seen in an ambulance, escorting the injured man to the hospital at 16.875803, 96.079217. [Shadows](#) at this location also indicate that the time this woman and headshot injury victim were being transported to the hospital was around 1700.

Injured individuals verified by Myanmar Witness in this report

(Page 34) In this verified footage from the afternoon of March 14 a wounded individual can be seen being carried away by protestors; a second injured individual limping and being supported by protestors; and a third and fourth wounded person lying on the ground being shielded by protestors.

(Page 35) In the early evening of March 14, a protester shields another fallen protester in the middle of Hlaing River Road.

(Page 43) Two injured individuals arrive at HTY Hospital on the late afternoon of March 15. It is not possible to verify whether they were injured by the SAC.

Annex 1: Fires in HTY during the protests



Figure 61: Fires detected on satellite imagery of HTY from March 9 until March 22, 2021. Circles indicate confirmed fire damage and diamonds indicate suspected fire damage.

Satellite imagery data

Confirmed using HR sat imagery (March 9 – March 22)

16.844131, 96.081947 factory fire
16.845821, 96.080237 factory fire
16.904166, 96.072609 factory fire
16.903401, 96.073315 factory fire
16.902895, 96.073842 factory fire
16.902791, 96.074379 factory fire
16.900732, 96.077882 terrain next to factories
16.876824, 96.075833 building

Suspected using LR sat imagery (March 13 – March 18)

16.914499, 96.068695 factory fire
16.917765, 96.069770 factory fire
16.918813, 96.069497 factory fire
16.909732, 96.050900 factory fire

FIRMS DATA

FIRMS data has a precision error of a few hundred metres.

[FIRMS data March 14](#)

16.87947, 96.08259 0636GMT 1106
16.9054, 96.0731 1553GMT 1923
16.85064, 96.08069 1818GMT 2248
16.84431, 96.07993 1818GMT 2248
16.90552, 96.07162 1818GMT 2248
16.85844, 96.10879 1912GMT 2342
16.8477, 96.0805 2000GMT 0030

[FIRMS data March 15](#)

16.9131, 96.0705 1924GMT 2354
16.91178, 96.06681 1854GMT 2324
16.91408, 96.06585 1942GMT 2354
16.91291, 96.07168 1942GMT 2354

[FIRMS data March 17](#)

16.90232, 96.0782 0724GMT 1154
16.90298, 96.0768 0724GMT 1154



Figure 62: FIRMS data in HTY recorded from March 14 till March 17, 2021.

Social Media evidence of HTY fires March 14 – March 17

March 14, 2021

[SM0272](#): Footage taken at 16.879261, 96.084159 on Aung Zeya Bridge, HTY, shows smoke, indicating a fire, in the background of the video. This is located at around 16.878654, 96.081852; the same area where there appears to be visible fire damage to the road between March 9 – 22, 2021. This can further be linked to FIRMS data on March 14, at 16.87947, 96.08259.

[SM0435](#): Smoke, indicating a fire, is visible in the background of this video. The location appears to coincide with FIRMS data on March 14, at 16.87947, 96.08259.

[SM0875](#): Footage located along Bogyoke Aung San Road, at 16.882602, 96.075111, features the view of smoke at a bridge, which can be linked to the fire recorded by FIRMS at 16.87947, 96.08259.

[SM2589](#): Social media evidence of a fire on the other side of the bridge to HTY Township, which can be linked to FIRMS data on March 14, at 16.858442, 96.108795.

[SM0877](#): Footage of a fire located at 16.845436, 96.079968 is shot around midnight on March 14.

[SM1688](#): Images of a factory fire around Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone, appear to burn all throughout the day, at around 14:30, 16:00, 18:00 and 00:30 local time.

March 15, 2021

[SM0243c](#): Images of fire damage to a factory located at 16.904214, 96.072173, can be linked, with an error of margin

of about 100 metres, to FIRMS data recorded at 16.8477, 96.0805 at around midnight.

[SM0243d](#): Images of a fire damaged factory located at 16.90337950, 96.073094 is confirmed by satellite fire damage in HTY between March 9 – 22, 2021.

[SM0243b](#): Images of fire damage on the factory Global Fashion Co LTD, located at 16.903283, 96.072809, is confirmed by satellite fire damage in HTY between March 9 - 22, 2021.

[SM0449/SM0615](#): Social media footage, shot from 16.876108, 96.082927, features black smoke and indicates fires in the area. This cannot be linked to fire data

[SM2532](#): Facebook live footage at around 23:30 local time demonstrates a fire off in the distance, corresponding to FIRMS data of a fire at around 16.91178, 96.06681, at 23:24 local time.

March 16, 2021

[SM0620](#): Images taken from 16.860427, 96.082190 feature smoke, indicating a fire, in HTY's Industrial Zone 3.

March 17, 2021

[SM2526/SM2527](#) : Social media images of fire damaged buildings match confirmed satellite imagery of fire damaged residential areas from the between March 9 - 22 at 16.876824, 96.075833.