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# Burmese troops in border arms hunt

Mae Sot, Tak — Burmese soldiers will today begin house-to-house searches for weapons and contraband in Myawaddy township opposite this border town, the township's military commander, Lt-Col Thein Aung, told residents.

Residents said Lt-Col Thein Aung told them on Monday that soldiers plan to collect all pieces of sharp iron, knives and sling shots.

The commander also banned gatherings of more than three persons or the staging of protests. Violators face legal action, the residents were told.

They said they were given until yesterday to hand in any weapons.

Sources said that before last Sunday's coup by Saw Maung, more than 400 students and Buddhist monks from Rangoon and Moulmein helped residents in Myawaddy protest against the government.

But after the coup, most fled. Some are believed to be hiding in Thailand.

Six student leaders were arrested on Monday, the residents said, adding that their fate remains unknown.

Burmese security forces still allow residents to cross the Moei River and shop in Mae Sot. All searched when they