## Dismissed & Denied:

Civic Rights Undermined In the 2020 Pre-Election Landscape



BURMA'S 2020 GENERAL ELECTION



**NEARLY 40 MILLION PEOPLE VOTING** 



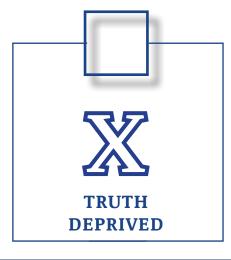
**5 MILLION FIRST TIME VOTERS** 

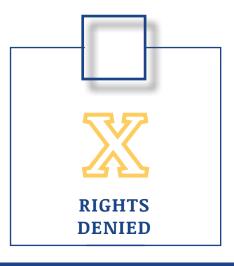
1,171 NATIONAL, STATE & REGIONAL SEATS TO WIN

90+
political parties



#### **VIOLATIONS OF CIVIC RIGHTS**







1966





# Violations of Articles in the ICCPR & ICESCR:

### **During the 2020 Pre-Election**

#### **GENDER DISCRIMINATION**





Out of 6,200 candidates in 2015, just 13% were women. In 2020, it's slightly more with 15% out of just over 7,000 candidates. Article 3 of both the ICCPR and the ICESCR maintains the need to uphold the rights of men and women.

#### ABUSE OF RIGHTS & FREEDOMS





Both Article 5 of the ICCPR and the ICESCR state that there should not be an abuse of power in relation to the freedoms set forth. While parties have been given restrictions on campaigning, disregarding them for the sake of the power one candidate holds over another is problematic.

#### SAFETY & PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS UNDERMINED





The UEC announced a 60-day campaign window beginning from 6AM on September 8 2020 to midnight on 6 November 2020. Despite the unilateral ceasefire in place, as announced by the Burma Army to extend to the end of October 2020, conflict has been particularly active in northern Shan and Rakhine States.

#### **KEY ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS**

National League for Democracy (NLD) government
The Burma Army,
Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs),
Union Election Commission (UEC)
International governments & organizations

#### CENSORSHIP & SHRINKING SPACES FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION





The NLD's record on upholding safe spaces to freedom of expression has been called into question over the government's first term. With a civil war in conflict-torn Rakhine State, the government has been hostile to protesters.

#### ACCESS TO VOTE & RUN AS A CANDIDATE IN ELECTIONS BLOCKED





The UEC has explicitly demonstrated prejudice through racial bias in their selection of candidates allowed to run in the 2020 general election.

#### RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION SUPPRESSED



Violation of Article 1 of the ICESCR



The rights of various ethnic people in Burma has been undermined greatly by the state across many decades of war. Despite Article 1 of the ICESCR declaring that civilians are able to 'freely determine their political status,' this has not been the case in several ethnic areas.