



**Network for Human Rights
Documentation - Burma**

Documentation in Darkness: An Overview of the Human Rights Situation in Burma

January - December

2024

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma) is deeply grateful to the interviewees for their courage in speaking out against the violations committed against them. We also appreciate our member organizations and fieldworkers, who continue to gather invaluable testimonies at their own personal risk. This report would not be possible without the work and contributions of ND-Burma members, the bravery of victims, and their coordinated efforts to collect evidence of human rights abuses despite the threats to their safety and security.

The voices of civilians in this report remind us that there is still a long way to go for peace in Burma. We are motivated by their resilience to continue in the face of abject human rights abuses and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Burmese Army and its various militias and accomplices on the ground. We sincerely thank our supporters and institutions offering unwavering support in making this report possible.



ABOUT US

ND-Burma is a network of 13 member organizations representing a range of ethnic nationalities, women, youth, and former political prisoners. Since 2004, ND-Burma member organizations have been documenting human rights abuses and advocating for justice on behalf of victims. The network consists of ten full members and three affiliate members.

FULL MEMBERS

1. All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress
2. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners
3. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
4. Future Light Center
5. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
6. Kachin Women's Association – Thailand
7. Ta'ang Women's Organization
8. Ta'ang Students and Youth Union
9. Tavoyan Women's Union
10. Chin Human Rights Organization

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

1. East Bago – Formerly Political Prisoners Network
2. Pa-O Youth Organization
3. Progressive Voice



Fieldworker Situation

Under Burma's current political context, armed conflict and related human rights violations occur on a large scale. Security concerns are high for our fieldworkers, and human rights monitoring cannot occur openly. Documenting human rights violations, particularly in ethnic areas and conflict zones, may result in arbitrary arrest under increasingly repressive laws, harassment, or even violent retribution.

Fieldworkers from ND-Burma's member organizations put themselves at significant risk of imprisonment, kidnapping, forced disappearance, torture, rape, and murder in documenting human rights violations. These are the same litany of abuses that the interviewees face.

Documentation of Human Rights in Burma

ND-Burma developed a documentation manual series based on our controlled category list to support members in effectively documenting human rights violations.

It is impossible to document the true breadth and scope of all violations in Burma. Junta-backed security forces intimidate and threaten victims to remain silent. Documentation of abuses presents a significant challenge for human rights defenders. The situation has become even more complex since the post-coup war. As the junta intensifies its campaign of terror, soldiers target those who attempt to collect evidence of their crimes.

The quality of the data varies depending on the conditions on the ground. Each organization handles its data. Data collection technologies, online and offline communications, and security efforts have been implemented to collect data through voice interviews with victims and by relying on existing, reliable local networks. We strive to represent the victims and interviewees accurately and with their original intent.

Data Management: ND-Burma and Spring Revolution Archive

Fieldworkers send documents, case studies, and information gathered in the field to their organizations, whose staff then upload the information to ND-Burma's database.



ND-Burma's data management team organizes each document and selects case studies for each report during the reporting period. All other information collected during this period regarding current or past human rights violations is cataloged, and adjustments are made to continue developing a robust record of Burma's history of human rights violations.

CONTROLLED CATEGORY LIST

ND-Burma developed a documentation manual series to support its members in effectively documenting human rights violations, which includes the following:

- Killings and Disappearances
- Arbitrary Arrest and Detention
- Forced Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers
- Rape and other Forms of Sexual Violence
- Torture and Other Forms of Ill-Treatment
- Obstruction of Freedom of Movement
- Obstruction of Freedoms of Expression and Assembly
- Forced Relocation
- Forced Marriage
- Forced Prostitution
- Human Trafficking
- Forced Labour
- Property Rights Violations
- General Documentation



INTRODUCTION

This report covers human rights violations documented by ND-Burma members and affiliates between January and December 2024. The numbers presented in this report are the totals collected by our partners in each state and region. Our findings will be contextualized with desk research alongside cases documented by ND-Burma members. The injustices perpetrated by the junta are undeniable and demand a coordinated and effective international response.

ND-Burma and its partners use case studies, interviews, relevant partner reports, and eyewitness testimony to document the overall number of human rights abuses committed by the Burmese Army, its junta-backed militias, and all Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROS) as well as People's Defence Forces (PDFS) in Burma. However, it is critical to note that the military junta perpetrated the overwhelming majority of the crimes and violence documented in this report.

ND-Burma members have witnessed the Burmese military escalating their assaults on civilians with greater ferocity and brutality. The member organizations of ND-Burma work closely with local communities in urban and rural areas to closely monitor the human rights situation on the ground. Although ND-Burma is dedicated to scrutinizing the individual aspects of human rights, the broader conflict continues to escalate. The victims of the human rights violations reported by ND-Burma and its partners under the Controlled Category List are a stark reminder that each number represents a human life uprooted, irrevocably changed or extinguished under the Burma Army's four-cuts campaign and civil war. We honour each one of these human rights victims.

ND-Burma regularly produces reports to bring attention to the human rights situation across the country, with a focus on the atrocities taking place across our members' regions and states. Despite their immense threats, they remain committed to sharing evidence of the crimes committed.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The worsening human rights situation in Burma has been deemed ‘an invisible crisis’ by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tom Andrews, citing the lack of urgent attention to the crisis unfolding inside the country, where innocent civilians are bearing the brunt of the conflict.¹ Worse yet has been the complicity of various international actors who are supplying weapons to fund the junta’s war and legitimizing their illegal coup through various diplomatic engagements.

It has now been over four years since the military junta attempted its coup on 1 February 2021, during which the regime claimed election fraud without evidence before declaring itself the rightful leader of the country. What has followed has been a growing movement of widespread majority opposition to the junta and the extensive devastation and harm it continues to inflict with impunity. There has been fierce opposition to the military’s assertions of its right to rule, including peaceful protests and a growing armed resistance movement.

Students have been a driving force in the momentum of the Spring Revolution and are leading calls for an end to the junta’s failed power bid. Their advocacy has been pivotal in amplifying the voices of a younger generation that refuses to let history repeat itself. Women are among the many involved in the campaigning and underground advocacy efforts. Indeed, the work and contributions of women human rights defenders have been crucial in ensuring that the needs of conflict-affected communities are met. Their agency and rapid response efforts are at significant risk as the junta targets first responders, including local relief organizations led by women.

The Burmese Army has launched indiscriminate and unprovoked attacks, particularly in rural areas where millions of civilians have been forcibly displaced and sought shelter. During the January and December 2024 reporting period, ND-Burma members continued their documentation efforts by collecting evidence, including witness and survivor testimonies and photos, which are included in this report and attest to the crimes

1. [UN expert: Myanmar’s military carries out beheadings, rapes, torture](#), 23 November 2024, Voice of America



committed against them and their communities.

Airstrikes have increased fivefold as the military has lost key outposts, territory, and troops to resistance forces.² The junta increasingly relies on foreign sources, particularly weapons, funds, and surveillance technology from countries such as China, India, and Russia, to sustain and maintain its attacks. On the battlefields, the junta has suffered historic losses to the armed opposition, prompting them to escalate their aerial assaults.

Civilians, including those in temporary shelters and camps for internally displaced people, have been killed by the junta's cruel airstrikes. Children have been traumatized, and families have been devastated by the ongoing suffering.

Civilian protection concerns are rising as conflict expands across Burma. Pervasive landmine contamination, explosive hazards, fighting with heavy weapons, and aerial bombardment continue to drive displacement and worsen already severe humanitarian needs. The crisis and ongoing civil war following the 2021 coup in Burma, which includes a growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), have been complicated further by unprovoked shelling and bombing campaigns targeting local people. These attacks have reached alarming new levels, resulting in over 3 million displaced individuals, compared to an estimated 289,00 displaced before February 1, 2021.³

More than 90 percent of those currently displaced fled their homes due to violence that erupted in the aftermath of the coup. In addition, from November to July 2024, the junta deployed over 1000 airstrikes, with more than a fifth of them taking place in conflict-torn Rakhine State. These atrocious human rights violations are not only occurring with entrenched military impunity but are contributing to nationwide suffering for the people of Burma, where 18.6 million people require urgent life-saving support, including 6 million children.⁴

2. [Banking on the Death Trade: How Banks and Governments Enable the Military Junta in Myanmar](#), Human Rights Council Fifty-sixth session, 18 June–12 July 2024

3. [Myanmar UNHCR displacement overview 01 Jul 2024](#)

4. [Statement by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. for Myanmar](#), 3 May 2024

The reporting period was also devastatingly violent for women. The Burmese Women's Union noted that at least 474 women were killed by the regime, in addition to 412 injured, in 2024.⁵ The Women's League of Burma released several situational overviews, which also provided evidence for the worsening situation facing women and girls in Burma and the risks to their safety and well-being, including conflict-related sexual violence.⁶ In addition, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) released four reports in a quarterly series titled *Voice Up*, focusing on the abhorrent violence being faced by women across their target areas of Mon State, Karen State and the Tanintharyi region.⁷

The details of the atrocities committed by the Burmese Army and pro-junta militias reveal an alarming trend of impunity. The international community's lack of consequences and accountability has shielded the regime from punishment for decades, and yet several regional⁸ and global stakeholders have frequently engaged with the Burma Army in recent years.⁹ Moreover, as the focus shifts to more reported worldwide conflicts, international involvement in Burma has decreased, including substantial funding cuts and reduced pressure to hold the junta accountable. This has further allowed the terrorist regime to freely commit human rights violations against civilians.

In addition to the violence inflicted upon innocent communities, freedom of expression is also under attack. According to Freedom House, an organization that tracks the most pressing threats to democracy worldwide, internet freedom in Burma has reached a historic low, placing the country's information environment among the worst globally.¹⁰ This ranking emerges amid increased assaults against journalists and citizen reporters. Calls for greater protection for media personnel have been ongoing, particularly in August 2024, after the deaths of two reporters at the hands of the junta and alarming rates of journalists imprisoned.¹¹

5. [At Least 478 Females Killed by Myanmar Junta in 2024](#), 22 January 2025, The Irrawaddy

6. [July - December 2024 Situation Update of Burma/Myanmar](#), The Women's League of Burma

7. [Voice Up: September - November 2024](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland

8. [ASEAN's continued engagement with Myanmar junta risks legitimizing illegal regime](#), ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, 19 March 2024

9. [Russia and Myanmar junta to host ASEAN counter-terrorism exercises despite boycott by dialogue partners](#), 22 June 2023, Myanmar Now

10. Freedom House: [Key Developments, June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024](#)

11. [Media call for greater protections after Myanmar junta raid kills two journalists](#), 27 August 2024, Voice of America



As well-documented by the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP), activists, human rights defenders, and advocates of the press are targeted in junta-controlled prisons and are treated more harshly by staff and other inmates.¹² They are also frequently denied medical attention, leading to preventable deaths that could have been avoided with immediate assistance.¹³ Political detainees endure harrowing forms of torture and are denied visits from their families. Civil society organizations, including AAPP, have long called for an immediate investigation into the conditions of prisons nationwide.

The junta continues its bid to censor information and punish those seeking alternative access pathways, such as virtual private networks (VPNS). According to HURFOM, since the 2021 military coup, millions of Burmese citizens have relied on VPNS to access social media platforms like Facebook, which the junta has blocked. In late 2024, the junta escalated its crackdown by deploying Secure Web Gateway (SWG) technologies, reportedly with support from Chinese tech firms, to strengthen digital surveillance and block VPN access.¹⁴

While the law claims to target cyber crimes and illegal online activities, its real intention is to suppress free speech, restrict access to independent news, and isolate the public from the international community. Due to successive information blackouts, people have been forced to rely on VPNS. The junta's response has involved arbitrary arrests, extortion, and lengthy prison sentences, all of which violate fundamental human rights.

Further, culminating in the junta's widespread and systematic attacks are the ongoing engagement with several international actors, notably government representatives from Russia and several countries within ASEAN. Worryingly, there have also been engagements with various UN affiliates.¹⁵ These meetings only seek to lend unearned legitimacy to the junta. The regime must face consequences for its actions, not dialogue.

12. [Unsung Heroes: Stories of Detainment](#), 21 November 2024, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners

13. [Challenged by Uprising, Myanmar Junta Cracks Down Harder](#), 6 April 2024, The New York Times

14. [Junta Implements Cybersecurity Law with Severe Penalties for VPN Use and Online Infractions](#), 3 January 2025, Human Rights Foundation of Mon-land

15. [UN Envoy Says She Met With Myanmar Junta Boss](#), 30 October 2024, The Irrawaddy



Pro-democracy stakeholders and civil society must be actively engaged to advance locally driven solutions to the multiple crises unfolding on the ground in Burma.

Further, the cases presented in this year-long report will highlight the documentation efforts of ND-Burma members and their commitment to preserving evidence to ensure justice.

KEY DOCUMENTATION FINDINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

**Table: Human rights violations by state and region
January - December 2024**

Violations	Kachin	Karenni	Karen	Chin	Mon	Rakhine	Shan	Sagaing	Magway	Mandalay	Bago	Tanintharyi	YGN	Total
Attack by Large Weapons														
Airstrike	1	11	8	6	5	4	33	3	3	2		10		86
Drone attack			2		2		5				1	8		18
Shelling	6	12	12	4	50	9	23	8	2	1	5	32		164
Shooting	2	3	1	4	21	2	8	3	1			25		70
Landmine	2		2	10	13	1	13					5		46
Unexploded Ordnance			1	1	1		2							5
Arbitrary Arrest and Detention	12	3		12	49	2	10	1	13	1	1	43	35	182
Extrajudicial Killing	5	9	12	12	34	11	44	11	4	1	6	51		200
Mass Killings					1		6	1	1	1		1		11
Torture and Other Forms of ill Treatment	6	2	1	2	6	1	10	1	6		3	5		43
Forced Relocation					4	1								5
Set on fire			2		1		2	1	1		1	1		9
Violations of Property Rights	13	17	7	9	8	5	33	3	8	2	3	15		123
Extortion		1		1	3		10		2			4		21



Violations	Kachin	Karenni	Karen	Chin	Mon	Rakhine	Shan	Sagaing	Magway	Mandalay	Bago	Tanintharyi	YGN	Total
Theft					2							1		3
Enforced Disappearance		1		1	1		1	1			1	3		9
Human Shield	1				1									2
Forced Labor	1			5	1		3					2		12
Obstruction of Freedom of Movement				2	3		2					2		9
Obstruction of Freedom of Religious Belief														0
Obstruction of Freedom of Expression and Assembly					1									1
Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence					1		2							3
Forced Recruitment				1	2		3					1		7
Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers				1										1
Intimidation by Junta Troops in Local Areas					2									2
Total	49	59	48	71	212	36	210	33	41	8	21	209	35	1032

Number of Victims By Human Rights Violation

Type of violation	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
Arbitrary Arrest and Detention	238	50	35	85	408
Extrajudicial Killing	41	22	22	58	143
Violations of Property Rights	4	3	0	1	8
Mass Killings	0	0	0	8	8
Torture and Other Forms of Ill Treatment	46	36	4	4	90
Forced Relocation	0	0	0	70	70
Extortion	4	2	0	0	6
Enforced Disappearance	7	0	0	0	7



Type of violation	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
Forced Labor	4	0	1	3	8
Human shield	3	0	0	10	13
Forced Recruitment	156	0	0	0	156
Obstruction of Freedom of Movement	0	0	0	0	0
Obstruction of Freedom of Religious Belief	0	0	0	0	0
Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence	0	1	1	0	2
Total	503	114	63	239	919

Number of Victims Killed by Military Weapons

Attack by Military Weapons	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
Air strike	28	25	44	90	187
Drone attack	14	9	2	0	25
Shelling	22	21	10	11	64
Shooting	62	6	4	7	79
Landmine	8	4	4	0	16
Unexploded Ordnance	1	0	5	0	6
Total	135	65	69	108	377



Number of Victims Injured by Military Weapons

Attack by Military Weapons	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
Air strike	39	29	69	155	292
Drone attack	5	3	3	17	28
Shelling	20	34	25	25	104
Shooting	11	5	7	2	25
Landmine	26	8	4	2	40
Unexploded Ordnance	1		4		0
Total	102	79	112	201	494



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the failed coup on 1 February 2021, the human rights situation has worsened due to the military junta's violent actions. The Burmese Army is violating the rights of civilians daily through ongoing indiscriminate firing, including artillery and mortar shells, as well as through air strikes. As a result, ethnic people have suffered immensely. This type of violence has been ongoing for over 70 years in Burma.

However, there has been a significant shift on the battlefield, with the junta losing ground. The junta's forced conscription efforts are a direct response to the declining morale and mass defections within the Burmese military, exacerbated by intensified offensives from EROS and PDFS. In Mon State alone, more than 2,100 to 2,300 civilians have been subjected to forced military training under various "People's Militia" programs. The junta's practice of targeting local communities for forced conscription has fueled fear and outrage, as many families are left without their primary income earners, leading to growing instability within communities. In a deeply troubling turn of events, the military has begun forcibly recruiting the long-persecuted Rohingya in Rakhine.¹⁶

According to documentation by ND-Burma members, between January and December 2024, 528 civilians were killed, including 176 men (two of whom were monks), 87 women, 91 children (two of whom were novices), and 174 individuals of unknown gender and age. Additionally, there were 494 people injured, among them 102 men (1 of whom was a monk), 79 women, 112 children (11 of whom were novices and 2 were nuns), and 201 individuals of unknown gender and age. The primary perpetrators were the military junta. There have been no reparations for any of the cases, as victims and survivors in Burma continue to be denied access to pathways for justice.

The junta has also increasingly enforced its conscription mandate, despite it being illegal and unlawful, with both men and women being made to enlist through fear-mongering

16. [Myanmar: Military Forcibly Recruiting Rohingya](#), 9 April 2024, Human Rights Watch



tactics and extortion.¹⁷ Additionally, there was an alarming rate of airstrikes and attacks against civilians that occurred without any active conflict. The targeting of civilians, unprovoked, is considered a war crime. By international standards, accountability for the junta is long overdue. Further, the following are detailed accounts of the human rights violations documented by ND-Burma members across their respective target States and regions between January and December 2024.

Torture

Torture is an illegal and inhumane practice that the military junta continues to use against civilians. Examples of torture include violent beatings, deprivation of food and water, forced labour and many others. The regime attempted to instill fear and isolation through torture and to weaken support and morale for the Spring Revolution. Despite the grave nature and severity of this act, ninety civilians were subjected to torture and inhumane or degrading treatment. This included 46 men, 36 women, four children, and four of unknown gender and age. One man was tortured to death.

Thirty-three men, two women, and two children were tortured and released at a later date. Thirty female prisoners were beaten with rubber and wooden sticks and poles after they were transferred to Dike Oo Prison in Pegu Division from Kyaikmayaw Central Prison, Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State. They were beaten in the aftermath of a protest against the junta-backed security forces for ignoring the symptoms of a prisoner who had fallen unconscious. This case was documented in detail by HURFOM members AAPP and HURFOM.

There were two cases of torture in Kachin State, one case in Chin State, two in Shan State, four in Magway, two in the Tanintharyi region and two in Yangon. This resulted in the deaths of eleven men and one woman. The regime uses torture to instill fear and force confessions. Many families are denied access to the burials of those killed in custody, adding further strain on grieving families.

17. [Forced to Fight](#), 10 December 2024, The Human Rights Foundation of Monland

Arbitrary Arrest and Unlawful Detainment

Arbitrary arrests by the junta have been used for many years in an attempt to force compliance. The documentation of these has been expertly collected by AAPP, which continues to provide a daily breakdown of those unjustly detained by the military junta.

Between January and December 2024, 408 people were subjected to arbitrary, illegal arrests and detentions. They included 238 men, 50 women, 35 children, and 85 of unknown gender and age. Forty-nine men, 18 women, 59 children, and 49 individuals of unknown gender and age remained detained. During the first half of the year alone, eight men, five women, and 24 children were released. Fifty-four men and four women (including two teachers from the Civil Disobedience Movement- CDM) are currently awaiting sham trials as the junta has weaponized the rule of law and replaced all judges and legal authorities with their supporters.

ND-Burma member, the AAPP, has well documented the treatment of political prisoners who face a denial of their rights and freedoms. There are 407 who have received life imprisonment, and 126 received death sentences. All the political prisoners are held in over 40 prisons across the country. In 2019, after being arbitrarily arrested, 2019 individuals were killed in junta custody, including 114 deaths in prisons, 134 in interrogation centers, and 43 in police stations.

The lack of necessities for political prisoners, including food, drinking water, and healthcare, is worsening. Family visits are facing increasing restrictions. The political prisoners are experiencing more oppressive measures, such as solitary confinement without justification. Prison authorities ignore instances of violence against them and extort money from them and their family members.

Airstrikes

The Burmese Army frequently conducts aerial attacks aimed at isolating and targeting civilians. According to data from Radio Free Asia, the junta carried out air and artillery attacks in 12 of the 14 regions and states in 2024, except for Yangon and Ayeyarwady,



where the military has maintained control.¹⁸ These catastrophic attacks led to 1,769 deaths and 3,720 injuries, which is more than the total of the previous three years and over 60% of the related casualties since 1 February 2021.

The military's assaults on displaced and conflict-affected communities expose their cowardice and apparent neglect for human life. The deployment of airstrikes has resulted in numerous long-term challenges for those targeted, including insufficient shelter, food, and medical supplies. The escalating offensives have also created barriers to the safe delivery and provision of humanitarian assistance, which the military consistently attempts to intercept and sabotage.

Throughout the year, ND-Burma documented that airstrikes killed 187 people: 28 men, 25 women, 44 children, and 90 individuals of unknown gender and age. Two hundred ninety-two people, including 39 men, 29 women, 69 children, and 155 individuals of unknown gender and age, were injured in these airstrikes. At least 1663 properties were damaged, including 13 schools, 1227 houses, 13 religious buildings, 400 shops, one medical center, one local factory, and eight vehicles.

Landmines

The surge in the deployment of landmines has been catastrophic for civilians and has affected more than half of the country's townships.¹⁹ The Landmine Monitor 2024 observed that during the first six months of the year, there were an estimated 692 deaths due to landmines, with approximately one-third being children.²⁰

According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Burma recorded the highest number of landmine casualties worldwide in 2023, surpassing Syria. Over 1,000 people have been killed or injured in Burma in 2024. The existence of landmines in the region, allegedly laid by junta forces during their operations and withdrawals, has led to serious safety worries among locals. Incidents involving landmines in the Tanintharyi region are increasing, with civilians often falling victim to these concealed threats.

18. [Air, artillery strikes set grim benchmark for civilian casualties in Myanmar in 2024, 31 December 2024](#), Radio Free Asia

19. [Myanmar: Surging Landmine Use Claims Lives, Livelihoods](#), 20 November 2024, Human Rights Watch

20. [Landmine Monitor 2024](#)

ND-Burma members reported that landmines were responsible for the deaths of 16 people: 8 men, four women, and four children. An additional 40 people were injured in landmine detonations, comprising 26 men, eight women, four children, and two of unknown gender and age. In addition, unexploded ordnance (UXO) killed six people: one adult and five children, while five others were also injured.

Indiscriminate Firing

The junta frequently fires into villages when there is no armed conflict. The likelihood that an attack by the junta could happen at any time, including on schools, clinics, and places of worship, has heightened anxieties among local people who are already living in a state of constant panic. Gunshot firing in 2024, as documented by ND-Burma, killed 79 people: 62 men, six women, four children, and seven of unknown gender and age. Twenty-five people were injured by gunfire: 11 men, five women, seven children, and two of unknown gender and age.

Survivors have voiced feelings of anxiety, trauma, and distress regarding the unpredictable and random nature of the attacks directed at them.

Enforced Disappearances

In the wake of the junta's forced conscription announcement in February 2024, cases of young men being detained by the regime and subsequently forcibly disappeared have been increasing.²¹ Families are left without answers as their loved ones are unjustly extorted, arrested, and then not heard from.

ND-Burma members reported that seven young men were forcibly disappeared by the junta. In contrast, in their custody, 13 civilians, including three men and 10 individuals of unknown description, were used as human shields by the military junta and were eventually released unharmed. However, they experienced significant trauma and suffering.

21. [Forced to Fight](#), 10 December 2024, The Human Rights Foundation of Monland



Sexual Violence

Women face serious threats to their overall well-being, safety, and security, particularly in conflict zones. Under various authoritarian regimes in Burma, women have feared for their safety and security due to the presence of military personnel, which poses an immediate threat to their well-being. Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have been denied their rights to protection and justice for the crimes committed against them.

Since the failed coup, cases of violence against women have increased. ND-Burma documented two instances of sexual violence in which soldiers from a local resistance group were found to have raped one woman. As noted by several ND-Burma members, these numbers are likely higher since women have experienced extremely concerning rates of domestic violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

Destruction of Properties

Amid the junta's ongoing artillery fire and shelling, infrastructure- including churches, monasteries, clinics, and schools- has been targeted. These attacks have made civilians feel insecure in their villages and have prompted a halt to livelihood opportunities. At the same time, parents have also felt discouraged from sending their children to school safely, for fear of fatal attacks.

Even camps for internally displaced people, where innocent civilians are seeking shelter from the violence in their homes, are being attacked. On 5 September 2024, the junta deliberately bombed the Bangkok IDP camp in La Ei village, Pekon Township, southern Shan State, killing at least ten people, including women and children and fourteen were injured.²² Several properties were also damaged.

Forced Labour

The military uses forced labour against civilians frequently after they are abducted. Forced labour is also commonly used against political prisoners in an abusive, illegal and

22. [Pekon Airstrike by the SAC](#), National Unity Government Ministry of Human Rights

exploitative practice. There were also cases of forced labour where civilians were made to carry the junta's weapons and supplies or face life-threatening consequences.

Twelve cases of forced labour, including actual events and ordered incidents, were documented involving four men, one child, and three individuals of unknown gender.

When civilians are abducted as human shields by the regime, they are often forced to act as porters and are threatened with their lives if they do not comply.

Bribery & Extortion

Armed resistance groups in various regions have been reported to collect taxes from villagers in their controlled areas. Junta soldiers demand money from anyone travelling at checkpoints. Extortion has significantly impacted local communities as prices soar amid rising inflation. The junta also extorts bribes from civilians when a family member is unlawfully detained. There has been a rise in bribery and extortion since the announcement of the forced conscription mandate. There were 21 reported cases of extortion, including identifying victims among four men and two women.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY STATE AND REGION

CHIN STATE

Over the past four years, a total of 963 Chin people have lost their lives due to attacks and shootings by the military junta.²³ Among them, 491 were civilians, and 474 were members of the resistance forces. During this same period, a total of 474 Chin resistance members (465 males and nine females) were killed. These young individuals initially participated in peaceful protests against the military's illegal takeover. However, when the junta violently attacked peaceful demonstrators, these youths were forced to establish resistance groups in various locations to oppose the military regime.

ND-Burma member, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) has repeatedly stated that civilian leaders and collaborators who enable the Burmese military's atrocities must be held accountable, both to deter future complicity and to uphold the fundamental principles of justice. CHRO has been a committed advocacy group for religious freedom, consistently keeping the issue at the forefront of the global policy agenda concerning Burma and engaging with institutions such as the European Parliament, the U.S. Congress, and UN human rights platforms.

There were 71 human rights violations in Chin State documented by CHRO and verified through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner and affiliate organizations between January and December 2024. Among these 35 cases are the following:

- Three airstrikes or bomb shelling over civilians, one use of heavy artillery, three instances of shooting, four landmine explosions, one detonation of unexploded ordnance, three instances of arbitrary, illegal arrests or detention, two cases of torture or inhumane degrading treatment, six killings, one disappearance, six accounts of confiscation or destruction of property, one unlawful taxation, three cases of forced labour, and one case of forced recruitment.

23. [Myanmar military's human rights abuses against Chins during the 4 years since the coup](#). (February 1, 2021 – February 1, 2025) Institute of Chin Affairs Inc.



- Four adults of unknown gender and two girls were arrested. Armed resistance groups detained five adult males, nine unidentified adults, and twenty-two children whose identities are unknown. Seven adult males, five females, four boys, and two girls lost their lives in events of human rights violations. Five adult males, one female, three unidentified adults, two boys, and two children whose identities are unknown were injured. There was one confirmed injury to an adult male caused by an armed resistance group. Two schools, thirty-two houses, and one church were destroyed.

One woman was injured by shelling, and landmines wounded three men. The danger from UXOS continues to grow as the weapons that do not detonate on impact remain unfound and partially covered in forests, fields, farms, and around villages.

The defence forces are not without their share of culpability in human rights abuses. On 9 March 2024, the Maraland Defence Force (MDF), based in Chin State, abducted the chief of public administration, U Kyaw Aung, and his brother, U Yar Khe, in Pasin (A) village, Matupi township, Chin State, and have since disappeared without news about their conditions or whereabouts.

Other cases include the following deaths: three from airstrikes (one man and two women), two from mortar shelling (one man and one woman), one man from indiscriminate firing, and two men and one woman from landmines. In addition, eleven men were killed in junta custody. There were ten extrajudicial killings, with six men, three women, and a child killed. Lastly, there were three property rights violations and three cases of forced labour.

KACHIN STATE

ND-Burma member, the Kachin Women's Association -Thailand (KWAT) documented 49 human rights violations in Kachin State. The violations include one airstrike and shelling



attack against civilians, as well as the use of heavy artillery on four occasions. There were two cases of landmine detonation, 12 arbitrary or illegal arrests, six instances of torture or inhumane, degrading treatment, four killings, and 13 cases of confiscation or destruction of property. In addition, six people were injured by mortar shelling.

The impact of human rights violations on communities remains devastating. Thirteen adult males were arrested and detained, while three males and four females were killed. Ten adults were used as human shields, and eighteen men and five children were injured.

Clashes have intensified in several townships in Kachin State and are estimated to have reached within a six-mile radius of the state capital, Myitkyina. Ongoing conflicts between the junta, the Kachin Independence Army, and various armed factions have impacted civilians and their safety.

Many IDPS in Kachin have faced displacement for over a decade. Conditions in Kachin have worsened since the failed military coup, with thousands lacking access to essential supplies and being forced to flee continuously. Food prices have surged by 80 to 180 percent in high-conflict areas like Kachin State. In June 2024, the junta cut off Internet access in Kachin State to limit communication and reduce the ability of communities to resist oppression. The military has also attempted to impose surveillance and monitor citizens.

KAREN STATE

ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) and its affiliates documented 48 events of human rights violations in Karen State through eyewitness testimony, victim interviews, and partner confirmations. These included eight airstrikes and shelling against civilians, 12 instances of heavy artillery fire, one documented shooting, two drone attacks, two landmine explosion injuries or deaths, one unexploded ordnance incident, one case of torture or inhumane and degrading treatment, 12 killings, two properties set on fire, and seven instances of confiscation or destruction of property.



In total, seven males, one female, three children, and six unidentified adults were killed. Three males, six females, five unidentified adults, and three children, including two underage female nuns, were injured. Intensifying warfare and offensives in border regions inevitably lead to more migration and movement of asylum seekers. Between January and February 2024, IOM reported a 30% increase in border crossings.²⁴

By August 2024, the estimated number of IDPs across all Karen National Union (KNU) brigade areas exceeded 1.2 million.²⁵ The military junta committed 2,835 human rights violations in the territory controlled by the KNU in 2024.²⁶

Since December 24, 2024, the junta's forces have been conducting relentless aerial surveillance and attacks in villages in Karen state. On December 30, 2024, at least four bombs were dropped near Kya Taung Seik village and surrounding areas, causing widespread panic and destruction. Following the airstrikes, the junta continued its aerial patrols, leaving residents in constant fear for their safety.

On December 31, the KNU issued a statement strongly condemning the junta's airstrikes, which disrupted the celebrations of the Karen New Year—a day of cultural and spiritual significance for the Karen people.²⁷ The organization expressed deep outrage over the attacks and called for accountability.

According to HURFOM's data, areas in Karen State targeted by the junta have experienced a significant rise in extrajudicial killings. In 2024 alone, over 375 civilians have been killed across HURFOM's documentation zones, with Karen State accounting for a substantial portion of these deaths. Additionally, more than 1,200 civilians have been injured, and thousands have been displaced due to relentless attacks, forced conscription, and arbitrary detentions.

24. [Thailand Migration Report 2024](#), International Organization for Migration

25. [Number of IDPs exceeds 1.2 million across all KNU brigades: KHRG report](#), 27 August 2024, Burma News International

26. [Junta Committed 2,835 Human Rights Violations During 2024 in KNU Territory](#), 16 December 2024, Karen News

27. See X: [HURFOM](#)



Civilians in Karen State continued to be targeted during the second half of the year. Airstrikes conducted by the military junta resulted in the deaths of two men and three women. Artillery shelling also killed two men and several children, while civilians were further killed in extrajudicial killings, including four men and three children.

KARENNI STATE

ND-Burma's presence on the ground is limited due to a lack of partner organizations. Below, we have updated numbers from reports from human rights groups along the border in Thailand and inside Karenni State including Helping Hand - Burma and the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP).

Our partners reported 59 human rights violation events in Karenni State from January to December 2024. These included 11 airstrikes or shelling incidents, 12 cases involving heavy artillery and bombardments from ground forces, three incidents of indiscriminate gunfire, three instances of arbitrary or illegal arrest or detention, two cases of torture or inhumane and degrading treatment, nine killings, one documented case of enforced disappearance, 17 instances of property confiscation or destruction, and one case of unjust taxation.

As a result of these atrocities, four men were arrested, tortured, and sentenced. Eight men, two women, fifteen children, and four unidentified adults were killed. Three men were tortured. Human rights violations in total injured five adults, 40 children, and 31 individuals of unknown gender and age. One man disappeared. Five schools, 38 houses, and two churches were destroyed.

In 2024, the number of IDPs in Karenni State reached at least 210,000, reflecting an increase from 2023, when the Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) reported 180,000 IDPs, approximately 40 percent of the total population.²⁸ Civilians who are forcibly and

28. [Running Out of Time: The Escalation of Human Rights Violations in Karenni State in 2024, 10 December 2024](#), The Karenni Human Rights Group



repeatedly displaced due to conflict are facing severe water shortages, which directly undermine their health rights and have resulted in diseases and adverse health effects within displaced communities. Since February 1, 2021, over 500 innocent individuals have lost their lives in Karenni State, according to the Progressive Karenni People's Force (PKPF).²⁹

Three women and three children were killed after they were captured in the forest, fleeing the violent airstrikes. They were found to have been tortured, with wounds on their faces and legs, likely inflicted during interrogation. The junta-backed group responsible for their deaths was later captured after an offensive was launched in their village. By the end of the year, KnHRG estimated the death of 106 civilians, 235 wounded, and over 1200 damaged properties.³⁰ The majority of those killed and injured were due to airstrikes, as were more than 454 homes demolished by mortar shells, artillery and attacks from the air.

On November 15, 2024, a village in Moby Township was targeted in another airstrike, which destroyed three homes. On November 17 and 18, northern Shan State continued to be hit by military junta airstrikes. On the 17th, in Kutkai Township, a child and an adult were killed in an aerial bombardment, thirteen children were wounded, and houses were ruined in the aftermath. The same day, Kyaukme Township was targeted in Mongnaw Town, resulting in five adults being injured, with fifteen houses demolished in the airstrike. Finally, on the 18th, once again in Kutkai, a junta airstrike killed a child and two adults and injured ten children. More homes were destroyed in the explosion.

MON STATE

ND-Burma member organization, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), tracked 212 human rights violation events in Mon State through eyewitness accounts, testimony, and reports from partner organizations.

²⁹. Ibid

³⁰. Ibid



There were five airstrikes or bombings over civilian populations, 50 instances of heavy artillery, 21 shootings, 13 incidents involving landmines, 49 arbitrary or illegal arrests or detentions, six cases of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, 35 killings including one mass killing, one documented case of enforced disappearances, one property set on fire, eight instances of property confiscation or destruction, three cases of unjust taxation, two cases of robbery, seizure, or suspension, one report of forced labor, two cases of forced soldier recruitments, one case of civilians used as human shields, one case of sexual violence or rape, three instances of obstruction of freedom of movement, one case of obstruction of freedom of expression or the right to assemble, four instances of forced relocations, and two examples of junta troops stationed inside a civilian village.

These human rights violations have had dire impacts on the civilian population of Mon State. Thirteen men, twenty-five unidentified adults, and one boy were arrested and detained. An additional two boys were arrested and later released. Twenty-three men and two women underwent unfair trials. Two men and two women were arrested and subsequently sentenced. Thirty women were tortured while in prison.

Twenty-five men (including two monks), six women, nine unidentified adults, and two unidentified children were killed. Twenty men, twenty-seven women, eight boys, three girls, sixteen unidentified adults, and ten unidentified children were injured. Four men went missing. Two hundred men were recruited into the armed forces. Three men were used as human shields. Three hundred and thirty-five houses were destroyed. One hospital was closed. The human rights abuses led to six thousand new IDPS.

The targeting of innocent civilians during unprovoked attacks continues to cause devastation in Mon State, further illustrating the junta's blatant disregard for human life. Local communities remain gripped by fear as these assaults persist without warning. The repeated and indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas underscores the escalating violence faced by communities in Mon State, leaving residents fearful for their lives and struggling to rebuild amid the ongoing turmoil.

The ongoing crisis in Mon State reached alarming levels in December 2024 as the junta intensified its campaign of violence against civilians. According to the latest reports from the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 13 civilians were arrested, and nine were tragically killed within a single month.

Since 2023, ongoing military tensions have caused significant disruption in the Dhammasa, Ta Ra Nar, Kaw Swell, Kaw Thut, Kha Yone Gu, Than Ga Long, and Kyune Gone villages in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State. Villagers have been unable to return to their paddy fields due to unexploded bombs and landmines left behind after armed conflicts, resulting in a growing rice shortage in the region.

Drone strikes and artillery shelling have also wreaked havoc across the country, destroying homes, monasteries, and even public water ponds. Many villagers have been forced to flee, while others remain in their homes, seeking refuge in bomb shelters during the attacks.

HURFOM has reported on several instances of political prisoners being intentionally deprived of medical care while in prison, resulting in preventable deaths.³¹ Men, women, and children were also killed or injured in artillery attacks, including shelling and indiscriminate firing. Drone strikes resulted in the death of one man and one woman, and left four others wounded. Additionally, there were 35 extrajudicial killings involving 36 men, six women, and one child.

RAKHINE STATE

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Chin Human Rights Organization and the All Arakan Students' & Youths' Congress tracked 36 human rights violations in Rakhine State through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations. There were four airstrikes against civilians, nine instances of heavy artillery, two cases of indiscriminate firing, one injury from landmine detonation, 11 killings, five instances

31. [Prisoners denied medical treatment die](#), 23 January 2024. Mizzima News



of property confiscation or destruction, and one forced relocation. Five men, two women, six unidentified adults, and one child were killed. Additionally, two women and two children were wounded, and nine houses were destroyed.

In early 2024, long persecuted Rohingya were targeted in attacks between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military, mainly because the AA was strategically positioning itself in or near Rohingya villages to launch attacks on the military, especially in Buthidaung Township. With ongoing violence and limited access to essential services in both Rakhine and the camps in Bangladesh, many Rohingya have sought refuge elsewhere but have struggled to find safety. They undertook perilous overseas journeys to Malaysia and Indonesia. The UNHCR reported a significant increase, with over 7,800 Rohingya attempting to flee by boat, representing an 80 percent rise compared to 2023. At least 650 Rohingya have died at sea, with children making up 44 percent of the total.³²

The junta continues to rely on airstrikes, shelling, and bombing as its ground forces face resistance, while the junta's loss of bases, land, and personnel continues to rise. Rakhine State has experienced a disproportionate level of warfare since the launch of Operation 1027, a combined operation against the junta in partnership with the AA, MNDAA (Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). The AA has also been accused of targeting civilians, predominantly Rohingya, and setting fire to Muslim areas and towns.³³

The military's unlawful recruitment of Rohingya men and boys has heightened communal tensions between the Rohingya Muslim and Rakhine Buddhist communities. The crippling levels of violence in Rakhine State have had severely detrimental impacts on the communities targeted in this violence. For many civilians, there is a pervasive sense that nowhere is safe.

32. [Myanmar UNHCR](#)

33. [Rohingya civilians recall alleged Arakan Army abuses](#), 30 January 2025, The New Humanitarian



SHAN STATE

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters, the Kachin Women's Association Thailand, the Ta'ang Women's Organization, the Ta'ang Students and Youth Union and the Pa-O Youth Organization, tracked 210 human rights violations in Shan State through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations.

There were 33 airstrikes and bombs dropped on civilian areas. There was also an additional deployment of 23 instances of artillery, eight shootings, five drone attacks, thirteen instances of landmine detonation causing injury or death, two cases of torture or inhumane, degrading treatment, fifty killings including six mass killings, one enforced disappearance, two instances of property being set on fire, sixteen cases of confiscation or destruction of property, ten cases of unfair taxation, three instances of forced labor, three cases of forced recruitment of new soldiers, and two cases of sexual violence.

Consequently, 40 men, 28 women, 43 children, and 94 of unknown gender and age were killed. Twenty-eight men, 32 women, 25 children, and 95 of unknown gender and age were injured. There were twelve men and one child tortured. Two women were raped. Civilians living in northern Shan State felt the impact of the human rights violations committed in the territory. Armed resistance groups recruited 153 youths. Thirteen were arrested and detained, including seven arrested by armed resistance groups.

Since the coup on February 1, 2021, more than 40,400 IDPS have been continuously displaced in northern Shan State, where they face dire conditions and an increased likelihood of clashes with the junta and the various checkpoints established to control the flow of goods and monitor the actions of the people. Local villagers are at an ongoing risk of persistent violence and indiscriminate firing by the junta.

In the mountainous region of southern Shan State, in Meh Nel, Sangaw village, on 23 February 2024, a soldier at a checkpoint opened fire on a group of IDPS returning to town to retrieve warmer clothes from their abandoned residences, killing one with a shot to the head and seriously injuring another. The townspeople had fled their homes around 18



February 2024, when a new transfer of Burma Army soldiers arrived in their area.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance are becoming increasingly dangerous as the military flees and leaves behind landmines to disrupt movement and cause chaos. At the same time, the junta increasingly relies on aerial bombardment and bombing campaigns. Most often injured are locals going about their daily lives, such as farming and foraging, or children who do not understand the implications of playing with unfamiliar objects.

In northern Shan State, following the completion of the “1027 Operation” launched by the three allied groups, most townships were seized and can be considered partly a terrorist-free military area. After the operation ended, the military junta bombed the lost townships weekly or monthly using jet fighters and drones, resulting in hundreds of civilian injuries and numerous deaths.

In Northern Shan State, the IDPs is increasing, and there is a shortage of refugee camps to host those in desperate need of shelter. Therefore, many of those forced to flee their homes find it challenging to secure a place to live during the fighting. Most people seek refuge in public areas, such as religious buildings, schools, mosques, and relatives’ homes.

Many displaced individuals have returned to their homes and townships after the fighting ceased. However, hostilities may continue in Naung Cho township, with frequent airstrikes from the military junta. Additionally, the lack of mobile and internet access and connection hinders the registration of displaced people and the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition, thousands of homes, religious buildings, public markets, schools, and hospitals have been destroyed during the fighting or due to airstrikes, and the reconstruction process has not yet been completed.

Those sheltering from the violence in Shan State include individuals from Karenni State, where ongoing hardships persist, including a lack of access to food, water, medicine, reliable health care, and education. Civilians are struggling to survive due to a lack of livelihood opportunities. Due to this uncertainty, landmines in villages and farmlands have also strongly deterred IDPS from returning.



Throughout November 2024, ND-Burma observed an alarming rise in attacks against communities in Shan State and along the Shan-Karenni border, where the junta has increased its presence and assaults against civilians. Several airstrikes occurred in Pekon Township, located in southern Shan State, eastern Burma, near the border with Karenni State. Many of these assaults took place without any prior conflict or provocation. With no weapons or means of defence against the relentless airstrikes and other assaults, civilians were forced to endure repeated and ongoing terror from the sky.

ND-Burma member, the Pa’O Youth Organization (PYO), reported several airstrikes in southern Shan State, including in Pinlaung Township on November 2. There were also airstrikes in Hsi Hseng Town on November 8 and November 20, 2024, according to reports. However, there were no immediate injuries or deaths reported during these specific attacks.

The Ta’ang Women’s Organization (TWO), an ND-Burma member, reported cases of airstrikes across northern Shan State. On November 1st, in Kutkai, one person was killed, and three office buildings were damaged. TWO confirmed a second case on the same day in Nawngkhio township, Hsammahse village, where the junta deployed an airstrike that killed three people and injured six. Three additional reports of airstrikes by TWO, two of which were in Nawngkhio on the 2nd and 4th of November, destroyed 24 buildings. On November 5, in Lashio township, Mae Han village, ten homes were also ruined by airstrikes.

Nawngkhio township was repeatedly targeted throughout the month by the junta with airstrikes. On the 12th, a targeted attack on a local tea shop killed and wounded several civilians inside and in the surrounding area, as it was busy. On the 13th, more airstrikes were confirmed by TWO in Nawngkhio township, which injured four and destroyed more properties, including three houses, a court, and vehicles.

Between November 14th and 20th, further airstrikes in Nawngkhio township wounded one child and eight adults. One child was killed, and two adults died. More than 19 homes



were destroyed, and other properties sustained damage. These cases are documented in more detail in ND-Burma's December 2024 briefer.³⁴

BAGO REGION

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters tracked 21 human rights violations in the Bago Region through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations. There were five uses of heavy artillery, three cases of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, six killings, one event of property set on fire, and three instances of confiscation or destruction of property. These atrocities killed two men and four women and destroyed 20 houses.

The human rights violations that resulted in their deaths included drone strikes, shelling, arbitrary arrest and detention, extra-judicial killing, torture and enforced disappearances.

MAGWAY REGION

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters and the Chin Human Rights Organization tracked 41 human rights violations in the Magway Region through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations. These include two instances of heavy artillery use, 13 arbitrary or illegal arrests or detentions, six cases of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, five killings, including one mass killing, 13 cases of unfair trials and sentencing, one event of property set on fire, and eight instances of confiscation or destruction of property.

The attacks caused the deaths of four men, three women, three children, and five unidentified persons. Five men were tortured, and one was unjustly put on trial following the inhumane treatment. One man was also wounded. There were 172 houses destroyed.

34. [Attacks from the Air: Airstrikes Perpetrated by the Military Junta in Northern Shan State, Kachin State and Karenni State in November 2024, 10 December 2024](#), the Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma



MANDALAY REGION

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners – Burma, and the Ta’ang Students and Youth Union, documented eight events of human rights violations in the Mandalay Region: one case of arbitrary and illegal arrest or detention. A total of 22 people were killed in airstrikes, 20 died in mass killings, and two were victims of extrajudicial killings.

SAGAING REGION

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters, the Chin Human Rights Organization and the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand, tracked 33 human rights violations in the Sagaing Region through eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations. These included three cases of airstrikes or shelling over civilians, eight heavy artillery attacks, three shootings, one case of arbitrary or illegal arrest or detention, one case of torture or inhumane treatment, 11 killings, one mass killing, one enforced disappearance, and three instances of property confiscation or destruction.

These human rights violations resulted in the deaths of sixteen men, eight women, four children, and 14 of unknown gender and age. One male was tortured. Eight men and two of unknown gender and age were injured. One male was unfairly put on trial, and one male was forcibly disappeared. Nine houses were destroyed.

The Sagaing Region has seen some of the most egregious human rights abuses in Burma since the failed coup. The military and its partner militias are particularly active in the area, especially the notoriously violent Pyu Saw Htee militia. In what was referred to as one of the deadliest massacres of the war, on 11 May 2024, 32 civilians hiding in monasteries in the village of Let Htoke Taw village were hunted down and massacred by the junta and the pro-junta militia Pyu Saw Htee. The troops burned down village houses



and abducted more than 20 people, including children and women, the NUG confirmed. In a nearby attack on the same day in Tabayin township, seven people were killed and over 20 were injured in an airstrike in Ma Gyi Oke village.

Refugees fleeing violence do not always find acceptance in their asylum destinations. India is planning to build a border fence along its border with Burma and has begun deporting refugees as of March 2024.

TANINTHARYI REGION

ND-Burma and its member organizations including the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, the Ta'ang Women's Organization and the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners – Burma, documented 209 human rights violations in the Tanintharyi Region, based on eyewitness accounts and reports from partner organizations. These violations include ten airstrikes or bombings on civilians, 32 uses of heavy artillery, 25 shootings, five landmine injuries or deaths, 43 arbitrary or illegal arrests and detentions, five cases of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment, 52 killings, including one mass killing, three enforced disappearances, one incident of property being set on fire, 15 instances of confiscation or destruction of property, four cases of unjust taxation, one case of theft or seizing, one forced recruitment of a new soldier, and two instances of obstruction of freedom of movement.

The impacts of human rights violations in the Tanintharyi Region led to the arrest and detention of 80 men, 37 women, one child, and 50 individuals of unknown gender and age. Among them, one man and five women were released. Twenty-three men and two women were unjustly put on trial. Two female CDM teachers were sentenced. On the other hand, 30 women prisoners were tortured in prison. Two men and one monk were recruited as new soldiers.

In addition, 43 men, including one monk, 20 women, 14 children, and 16 of unknown gender and age, were killed. Twelve men, 19 women, 18 children, and 19 of unknown

gender and age were injured. Three men went missing, and 409 houses were destroyed and 60,500 IDPS were newly displaced.

Due to safety concerns, many displaced villagers have sought refuge in forests and rural areas to avoid urban centers. However, life in these makeshift shelters has become increasingly complicated, with limited access to food and water. The health of the displaced residents has also deteriorated. Due to the lack of clean water and proper sanitation, severe illnesses such as colds, coughs, and diarrhea, sometimes accompanied by blood, have become more prevalent. HURFOM provides weekly and monthly estimates of the number of people displaced in the Tanintharyi Region.

The ongoing conflict along the Dawei-Myeik road has turned the area into an extended battlefield, resulting in travel restrictions, arbitrary arrests, and reports of missing family members. HURFOM's data revealed that from January to December 2024, indiscriminate artillery shelling in the Mon and Karen States, as well as in the Tanintharyi region, led to 74 deaths and 168 injuries. The continuing attacks underscore the devastating toll of the junta's military operations on civilian lives and livelihoods.

Ongoing military operations by the junta in the Tanintharyi Region have significantly heightened tensions in the area, leading to frequent clashes with resistance forces. Villagers continue to live in fear amid the escalating violence as artillery attacks and military offensives disrupt their lives and livelihoods. The Tanintharyi Region has witnessed widespread devastation, with over 40 civilians killed and 152 injured due to artillery fire, drone strikes, and landmines planted by junta forces, according to HURFOM.



CASE STUDIES

CASE 1: Airstrikes and Shelling over Civilian Village in Rakhine State - AASYC

On 3 January 2024, an airstrike by the junta killed one woman in Ah Lal Kyung village, Kyauktaw, Rakhine State. The bombing resulted in the death of Daw Nunu Than, a resident of Ah Lal Kyung village, due to a blast that caused an abdominal wound. Her 3-month-old infant, Mg Kyaw Htet Naing, sustained serious injuries to his nape from shrapnel, while her 7-year-old daughter, Ma Ngu Wa Khine, suffered injuries to her face and lips. Since December 25, 2023, the Arakan Army (AA) has clashed with the Burma military's Taungshae Byuha Hill, located five miles from Ah Lal Kaung village. In response, the junta has conducted aerial bombardments on Ah Lal Kyung village twice.

CASE 2: Airstrikes and Bomb Shelling over Civilians in Chin State - CHRO

On 15 March 2024, an airstrike by the military junta killed two civilians. It injured three, destroyed one religious building and one school, and burned seven houses in Ma Htaw and Ki Thar villages, Mindat Township, Mindat District, Chin State.



Destroyed house.



At around 12:30 PM, the military junta's air force used two fighter jets to drop two 500-pound bombs on the village, despite the absence of ongoing fighting or armed groups in that area. As a result, Daw Siang Hngel, aged 46, and her 6-year-old daughter, Lain Bu Lay, were killed, while U Tam Khaw, aged 46, Mg Tan Siam, aged 13, and U Shin Har, aged 73, were injured. One religious building (RC Church), one school, and one house affected by the bombings were empty, while six other homes sustained damage.

CASE 3: Airstrikes and Artillery Shelling over Civilian Village - HHB

On 5 February 2024, the military launched artillery shelling and airstrikes on Daw Seei village in the western part of Demoso Township, Karenni State, resulting in the deaths of four children and injuries to 29 others. From 10:10 AM to 11:40 AM, despite no active conflict, the military junta carried out shelling and airstrikes on the school in Dawsieei village, where IDPS and local children were present. Consequently, three 14-year-olds, Mg San Hlainsg, Khun Eal Doe Htoo, and Saw Eal Lal Tha, along with 12-year-old Mg Christopher, were killed. Additionally, up to 29 other children sustained injuries.



Khun Eh Doh Htoo (Killed)



Christopher (Killed)

Among the injured, a 6-year-old kindergarten (KG) student, Jasmine Shine, suffered a severe injury when shrapnel from an artillery strike penetrated her backpack and struck her back. She is receiving medical treatment. Two school buildings and one kindergarten



building were also damaged.



Khune Eh Le Tha (Killed)



Destroyed School

CASE 4: Women Killed in Shelling, Artillery Fire, and Shooting in Kachin State - KWAT

On March 9, 2024, three women were killed by gunfire. Two children sustained injuries during an armed confrontation with members of the junta army and the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Karenni People's Defense Force (KPDF) in Aung Myay (2) village, Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State.

Reports indicated that reinforcements from the military junta entered the area on March 7, prompting the combined forces of the KIA and KPDF to retreat into the surrounding forests. On March 9, the junta's reinforcements entered Aung Myay (2) village, where they fired heavy artillery, entered civilian homes, and indiscriminately shot at villagers.

As a result, Daw Nwan Daw Daw Byan, Daw Maran Kawt, and Daw Aye Kwan, who lived in Aung Myay (2) village, were killed by shrapnel from the shelling, while Mg Khaw Lan and Ma Zein Han Thoo Boo sustained injuries from the heavy shelling bombardment. Starting on March 9, the military junta attacked the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army and Karenni People's Defence Force (KIA and the KPDF), leaving civilians trapped in the village due to intense fighting. On 13 March, religious groups

assisted in evacuating the civilians.

CASE 5: Civilians Massacred by the Junta in Sagaing Region - HRDP

On 6 January 2024, the soldiers of the military junta massacred 19 civilians, including one woman, in Wuntho township, Kawlin District, Sagaing Region. On 5 January, Daw Khin Sein, Mg Tun Zaw Hlaing, Ko Hein Zaw Htun, Ko Thein Htay, Ko Maung Tun, and 14 other truck drivers from Mandalay were arrested by the military junta's Wuntho-based Infantry KaMaYa 120 near a monastery in Thintaw village, Wuntho Township, after returning from transporting rice from Pinlebu township. They were forced to drive their vehicles and taken, along with the soldiers, to the base of Infantry KaMaYa 120.



Some of those killed

On January 6, at 9 AM, all 19 civilians who were arrested at the “5 Mile” rest stop in Wuntho Township were taken away blindfolded, with their hands tied behind their backs and shot.

CASE 6: Unexploded Ordnance Detonates, Killing Four Children in Chin State - CHRO

On 23 May 2024, four children were killed. A blast from an unexploded ordnance injured one other while they were playing with an explosive device left from battles in Khawea Village, Paletwa Township, Chin State, residents told the Chin Human Rights Organization.





Mg Aung Min Htun (Killed)



Mg Aung Lin Soe (Killed)

The deceased children were U Nyan Soe's son, Mg Aung Min Htun (10 years old), U Ka Taw's son, Mg Aung Lin Soe (10 years old), U Kar Si's son, Mg Aung Lin Htun (8 years old), and U Kan Lin's son Mg Lin Myat (8 years old). The injured child was U Ka Taw's son, Mg Aung Soe Lin, aged 8 years. The resident added that the location where the artillery shell was found is near a former military junta base. Khawea Village has over 200 households.



Mg Aung Lin Myat (Killed)



Mg Aung Lin Htun (Killed)

CASE 7: Landmines Kill Two and Injure a Child in Separate Incidents in Northern Shan State - TWO

Between June 11 and June 17, 2024, two residents died, and one child was injured by inadvertently stepping on a landmine in Mantong Township, Northern Shan State. The child was receiving medical treatment at Namhsan Hospital.

On the morning of 17 June 2024 at 9:30 AM, five local women in Mantawk village were plucking tea leaves when 32-year-old Daw Eii Se was injured after accidentally stepping on a landmine. She lost both her legs and died on the spot. U Aik Sar, a 78-year-old from Longtauk village, was searching for cattle near the old military camp No. 130 when he accidentally stepped on a landmine. He lost one leg and suffered from hemorrhaging until his death.

Similarly, on the morning of 11 June 2024, at around 7 AM, 16-year-old Mg Yan Lay lost his left leg by accidentally stepping on a landmine while searching for mushrooms near the military camp. Between 11 June and 17 June, after the 10.27 military operation, there were a total of 3 landmine victims, including women and children (two killed and one injured) in Mantong Township.

CASE 8: Abduction and Use of Human Shields by Junta Forces - HURFOM

Residents of Hton Bo Gyi village in Thaton Township, Mon State, have been forcibly taken as human shields by the military junta, according to local reports and statements from the Karen National Union (KNU) Thaton district. On 11 February 2024, soldiers from the junta's No. 409 Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) entered the village from Wee Yaw camp. It abducted three villagers, using them to protect military personnel from potential attacks.

The individuals taken were identified as Saw Phoe Thet, 40, from Hton Bo Gyi village; Saw Maung Bay, 50; and U Aung San, 63, from Hton Bo Lay village. These residents were reportedly used to guide the troops through the area, exploiting them as human shields.



Fortunately, there were no reports of torture, and they were released the following day, February 12th.

CASE 9: Villagers in Hsi Hseng Township, Southern Shan State, Subjected to Daily Forced Labour - PYO

As of 14 February 2024, the Pa-O National Army (PNA), a militia group, has been forcing villagers to provide five people daily to guard their checkpoints, which are coordinated through the village administrator in Hsi Hseng Township, Southern Shan State. The other wards have to provide 15 food packages per day on a rotating basis. Although the villagers were unwilling to comply, they followed the orders due to the threatening words: “Take responsibility or else.”

“No one wants to go to checkpoint duty, and the village administrator also doesn’t want to follow it, but they are afraid of their threatening words. Under the current situation, PDFS are also threatened with not fulfilling their duty in PNA. They are faced against each other, and we, as the villagers, don’t know what we should do. Then Burma soldiers also made daily shelling attacks on Hsihseng, and we were concerned for our security,” said locals from Hsaikawkawng who were forced to start their duties for the PNA on 14 February 2024.

CASE 10 Villagers Forced Into Paying Taxes, or Risk Having their Properties Seized - TSYU

In March 2024, Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) collected 62 lakhs from each village in the Ta-Ang villages within the Mong Kung Township, Southern Shan State. They threatened to seal the house if the villagers could not pay and fled. One local woman stated that they called for the forum with the village administrators from Nawngsanhpui, Hkayongaway, Hpankawng, Sonlaw, and Yanloi in the Ta-Ang villages of Mong Kung township, Southern Shan State. The due date for the 62-lakh payment was March 24th,

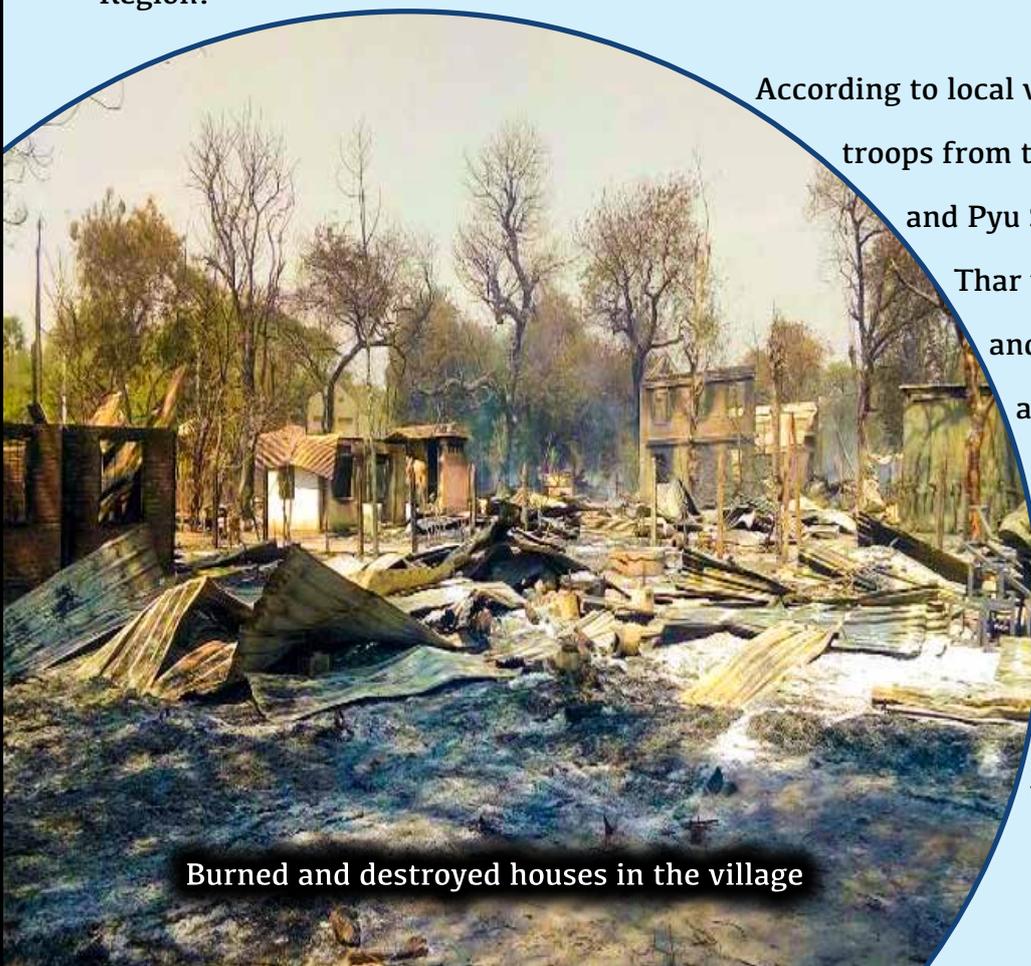


and they also threatened that if the payment were not made, they would take over the villagers' properties.

One local person reported that on 20 March 2024, the PNA seized some families' household properties and cars because they could not pay. On 16 March 2025, the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) asked for 200 lakhs to provide food to the village groups. They also threatened to kill anyone who disclosed this situation to others. The SSPP collects funds from the villages in Mong Kung townships every year and is actively recruiting new soldiers. They have sealed off houses and taken control of property from those who have fled.

CASE 11: The Military Junta and Pyu Saw Htee Set Fire and Destroyed Over One hundred and Fifty Civilian Homes, Killing Three - HRDP

On 27 February 2024, the military junta's soldiers and Pyu Saw Htee burned and destroyed 153 civilian houses, and three civilians were killed in the fire in Chaing village, Chaing village group, Pakokku township, Pakokku District, Khan Ma Tite Nal, Magway Region.



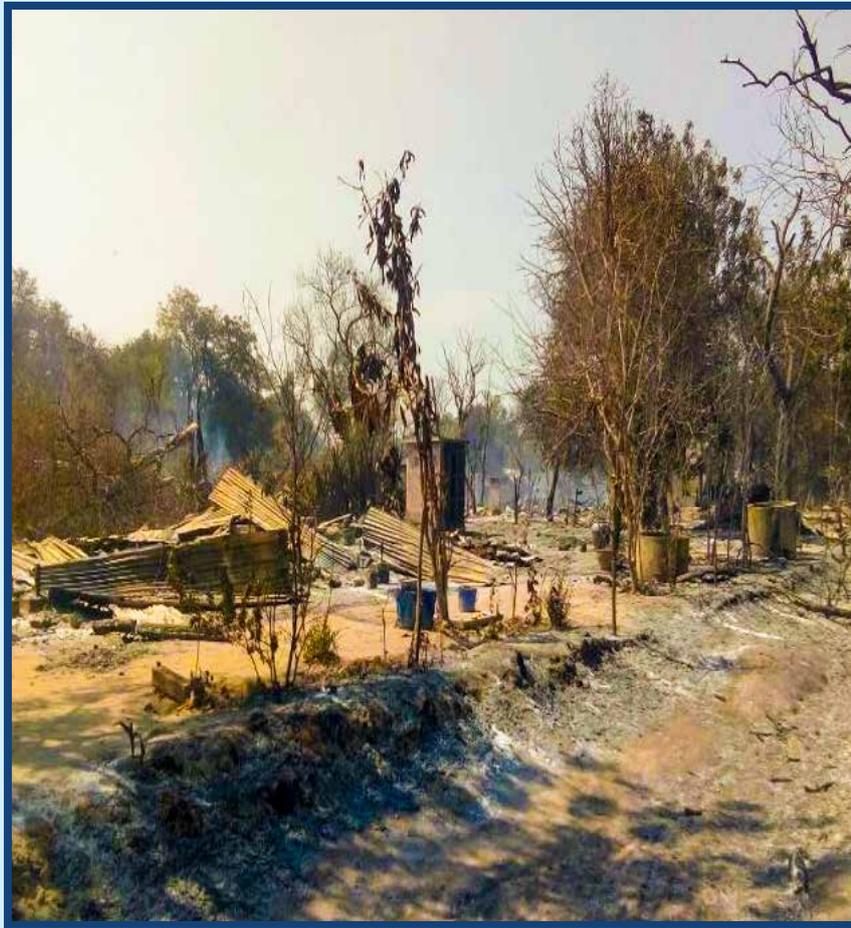
Burned and destroyed houses in the village

According to local villagers, more than 800 troops from the military council (101) and Pyu Saw Htee entered Aung Thar village, Magyikan village, and Zeekone village without any ongoing fighting and indiscriminately set fire to the area. The villagers said that before setting the homes on fire, the troops looted



valuable items such as gold, silver, motorcycles, and phones from civilian homes.

Chaing village has 300 households and a population of around 900. Due to the fire, 153 homes were burned down; currently, only 147 remain. The villagers are now living in temporary bamboo shelters in the forest. It has also been reported that the military took hostages among the internally displaced persons in those areas. Some have been released, but four remain detained in the military camp.



Burned and destroyed houses in the village

Case 12: Local Man Missing After Being Stopped at Military Junta Checkpoint - HRDP

U Khaing Win (a pseudonym) is a grocery store owner from Kyauk Lone Gyi Village in the Taungoo District of the Bago region. He was returning from purchasing rice when he was stopped by a military junta at a checkpoint. He then disappeared, leaving no trace. This information comes from one of his relatives, who uses the pseudonym U Ba Chit.

This incident occurred on 18 September 2024, when he was returning from buying rice in Kyauk Lone Gyi village, Kwan Bin village tract, Taungoo township, Taungoo district, Bago region. Ko U Khaing Win returned with a rice truck from Taungoo city, where military soldiers from the Taungoo Pagoda Base Gate (39) battalion beat him up and arrested him.

Many days have passed since Ko U Khaing Win went missing, and there has been no news or trace of him. The military junta arrested him without any reason. He held a valid grocery store license and had all necessary documents. He owned a large rice shop, a major supplier to the people from around six nearby villages, including Kyauk Lone Gyi village.

A witness shared: *“We used to carry rice this way before, and nothing usually happened. However, things later deteriorated significantly. Due to the strict checks at the Sit Taung gate and the 4-Mile checkpoint, we had to take the detour route, Pitauk Kone Road, to buy rice. However, during the flood season, travelling on that road wasn’t convenient, so people often bypassed the military checkpoint to purchase rice in Taungoo city. He was back on his way after loading rice onto the truck. Simultaneously, Pyu Saw Htee (Proxy-militia ultra nationalist group), his military informants, took a picture of Ko U Khaing Win and gave it to the military junta to arrest him, even though he had a rice shop license and complete documents.”*

“When the elders went to meet, they couldn’t find anyone. Person and vehicle are all missing,” said Ko Ba Chit, a close friend of Ko U Khaing Win and another relative of Ko U Khaing Win’s family. Currently, it is unknown where U Khaing Win, the owner of the rice shop, is being held, and it has become impossible to find any trace of them. Their family members are deeply concerned about them,” he continued.

Case 13: Unexploded Ordnance Device Detonation - HURFOM

On September 28, 2024, a tragic incident claimed the life of a 13-year-old child named Maung Phyo Aung in Kyauk Ye Twin village, Kyike Hto Township, Mon State. The boy was killed by an unexploded artillery shell, a remnant from the military junta’s operations in the area. The incident occurred after the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion, operating under the 44th Military Command, launched artillery shells during a military operation near



the “Aung Tha Byae” rubber plantation, situated between Win Kan and Kyauk Ye Twin villages. Some of the shells failed to explode on impact and remained scattered in the area.

According to local sources, Maung Phyo Aung discovered a 40-mm artillery shell and began playing with it, unaware of its danger. While striking the shell with a hammer at around 8 AM, it exploded, killing him instantly.

Case 14: Elderly woman with Alzheimer’s Died Due to Artillery Fire - TWU

A 73-year-old woman, Yadanar San (a pseudonym), who was suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, died as a result of violent military fire in Kadat Nge village, Awk Ye Phyu village tract, Laung Lone township, Dawei district, Tanintharyi region.

The incident occurred at around 10 am on 16 October 2024 when the military junta entered, and a gunshot was heard. The daughter and children fled to a safe place, leaving their father and mother, who are over 70 years old. The children thought the military junta would not do anything to the old people. The deceased Yadanar San, who was suffering from the disease, was left at home as it was difficult to carry her out. At that time, the military junta explained that someone had run into the house, and they opened fire around her home.

Yadanar San’s house is not on the main road but in an alley. When the bullets hit the house, her husband fled alone to the back of the house where his daughters were hiding.

A witness said, “After the gunfire stopped, I returned home and cleaned up the house. I sat down next to Yadanar San. I saw blood stains on the white shirt she was wearing, and I saw a bullet wound. The wound was between the left ribs, and blood was flowing down the back. She was still alive that day, but it was difficult to call the doctors in time because the terrorist army had not left yet. However, the people helped to get the doctor from wherever, so the doctor finally



arrived and injected her. But the operation could not be done, and she died in the afternoon on 17 October 2024, because the wound was not operated on. There were many bullet holes in the house and the trees around the house.”

Case 15: Junta Deploys Airstrikes, Killing One and Injuring Another - TWO

A woman was killed and another one was injured in an airstrike by the military junta without any fighting occurring. Without any fighting, the military junta airstrikes attacked Hu Mane village, Nam San township, in the morning at 00:15 on 22 October 2024, and a person died and another person was injured.

Ma Miemie (pseudonym) told the Ta’ang Women’s Organization about what happened to her. She said:

“On that night, I was just about to go to bed, and I heard the plane coming, but we didn’t have time to run. I just wrapped my children in a blanket. I thought the junta might bomb the school or a public building. However, the junta bombed my house, and it collapsed immediately. One bomb struck in front of my house. My mother-in-law died on the spot.”

Ma Miemie was injured due to the military junta’s airstrike, and she was hurt in the eyes, the left side of her head, the left hand on the wrist, and six stitches on the wrist and four stitches on the knee of the left leg. Her properties, such as two motorbikes, a car, and a Starlink Wi-Fi router, were damaged in the airstrike.

“If I were not on the bed, my 2-year-old son and 6-month-old daughter also could have died like her grandmother. We survived and are safe now because of our generous donation to the pagoda. However, we lost the house and can’t afford to rebuild it. We are staying at my husband’s brother’s house,” Ma Miemie said openly.



CONCLUSION

It is clear, based on the evidence and cases presented in this report, that the military and several armed resistance groups continue to ignore and undermine civilian security.

In response to its mounting losses of ground, troops, and territory, the junta has escalated airstrikes on civilian targets and increased acts of brutality against civilians and captured resistance fighters. Their intensified, indiscriminate airstrikes, shelling, and unexpected presence in civilian areas have raised fears among local villagers. Retaliatory strikes against civilian populations frequently follow attacks on military installations by EROS and PDFS.

War crimes proliferated throughout this reporting period. Most of the documented human rights abuses were committed by the military junta, while the EROS, affiliated with the NUG, faced accusations for a smaller number of isolated incidents. The military junta continues to benefit from decades of impunity, stemming from over 75 years of civil war, and is emboldened by a lack of accountability for its crimes in any significant way.

The overarching pattern of human rights violations, behaviour, and military tactics remains consistent, such as targeting civilians, gender-based violence, and the implementation of the four cuts policy. It is easy to become complacent in response to such long-standing patterns of abuse; only upon examining individual cases and the horrors faced by civilians do we regain our shared humanity.

The Burma Army cannot be trusted. Yet, foreign governments and international aid organizations continue to partner with and negotiate with the junta. This alarming pattern undermines the human rights and freedoms of the people. Following the coup and the pandemic, the reporting period has been complicated, and several devastating natural disasters, including flooding, have presented even greater challenges. Documentation from members shows that the failed seizure of power has led to spiralling economic and political conditions.



ND-Burma supports a United Nations Security Council resolution advocating for a global arms embargo, urgent UN-led humanitarian intervention to address ongoing famine and disaster zones caused by the junta, and increased cases brought before the International Court of Justice. We call for heightened diplomatic, political, and economic pressure on the military junta to cease its targeting of the civilian population in Burma immediately.



RECOMMENDATIONS

To United Nations bodies, the Human Rights Council, and the Security Council

1. Immediately refer the human rights situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court and further evaluate and consider all pathways to justice for victims of the military junta's mass crimes against civilians.
2. Impose and enforce aviation fuel sanctions to deter the ongoing use of airstrikes by the military junta.
3. Immediately adopt a resolution that acknowledges the worsening of the human rights crisis on the ground in Burma and impose strict repercussions following a global arms embargo halting the free flow of weapons into the conflict-torn country.
4. Support civil society organizations on the ground and respective human rights defenders by advancing documentation and evidence of mass crimes against humanity perpetrated by the military junta.
5. Immediately dispatch a monitoring team to assess the situation in Burma.
6. Child protection stakeholders, including UNICEF, must lobby for the young victims of the junta's crimes by calling for investigations into their unlawful murders. Mechanisms must be instituted to set a precedent that children are not targets.



To the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - ASEAN

1. Members of ASEAN must engage with members of the National Unity Government and other related democratic affiliates in the country who believe in a future in Burma that is free from violence, political prisoners, and ongoing conflict.
2. Support peace-driven solutions from Burma civilians outside the military junta. ASEAN must end its dialogue with the junta if they are serious about pursuing and supporting prospects for peace in the country.
3. The problematic '5-Point Consensus' must be immediately abandoned, and a new approach must be considered to ensure reforms make progress.
4. ASEAN must support restrictions on foreign currency revenues and the purchasing power of arms and weaponry.
5. ASEAN must show its solidarity with the people of Burma by supporting UN-mandated resolutions, including a global arms embargo, to put an effective end to the military junta's assault on innocent people.

To the International Community

1. Refuse to engage with the Burma junta and any representative the regime claims as legitimate. In doing so, the representation of any military junta official at international affairs, meetings, summits, and gatherings must be strictly prohibited. All efforts to engage with the country's leadership must be made with the National Unity Government.
2. Immediately pursue more effective sanctions on the Burma military junta leadership and soldiers, as well as their families.
3. Reinforce calls for lifting humanitarian restrictions so that aid can flow freely and safely to needy communities.



4. Strengthen international protection mechanisms to ensure that victims of human rights violations and organizations on the ground have access to ready and reliable accountability mechanisms.
5. Support local community-based organizations and the facilitation of cross-border aid as they work to support the crisis along the Thai-Burma border and inside Burma.
6. Take more transparent and concrete steps to collaborate with local organizations and ethnic political parties to achieve peace and find solutions to the country's longstanding challenges that align with the desires of the local people, rather than those of the military junta.
7. Maintain calls for the release of all political prisoners and for charges to be dropped immediately and unconditionally.
8. Cooperate with UN-mandated investigations to ensure justice for all people in the country.



ABOUT US

ND-Burma is a network of 13 member organizations representing a range of ethnic nationalities, women, youth, and former political prisoners. Since 2004, ND-Burma member organizations have been documenting human rights abuses and advocating for justice on behalf of victims. The network consists of ten full members and three affiliate members.



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