



Defying a Dictatorship

An Overview of the Human Rights Situation in Burma



2025

July-December

Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma)



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March 2026

Photo by : Human Rights Foundation of Monland(HURFOM), Ta'ang Women's Organization(TWO)

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 documented human rights abuses and advocated for justice on behalf of victims. The network consists of nine full members and four affiliate members.

FULL MEMBERS

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

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

1. All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress
2. East Bago – Formerly Political Prisoners Network
3. Pa-O Youth Organization
4. Progressive Voice

Fieldworker Situation

Under Burma's current political context, armed conflict and related human rights violations are occurring on a large scale. Security concerns are high for our fieldworkers, and human rights monitoring cannot take place 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 help members document human rights violations effectively. It is impossible to document the full extent 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 prevailing conditions. Each organization handles and manages its own data. Data collection technologies, online and offline communications, and security measures have been implemented to collect data through voice interviews with victims and by leveraging existing, reliable local networks. We strive to accurately represent the victims and interviewees, preserving their original intent.

It is worth noting that the data in this report reflects the documentation and information collected by ND-Burma members. It does not aim to limit the situation, but to provide analysis and context based on the access our members have in their respective areas. Therefore, the report should not be considered an exhaustive overview of all human rights violations, but rather a summary of those that occurred across the country during the reporting period, as reported by our members.

Data Management

Our network member organizations collaborate to document human rights violations through a secure central platform, Uwazi, which serves as a reliable source of information on abuses. We gather and record all cases of human rights violations in the database to support ND-Burma's member organizations. Fieldworkers send documents, case studies, and field-collected information to their organizations, which 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
- Attacks by the Deployment of Military Weapons
- 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 documents human rights violations by ND-Burma members and affiliates from July to December 2025. The figures presented are totals compiled by our partners across each state and region. Our findings will be contextualized through desk research and cases documented by ND-Burma members. The injustices committed by the junta are undeniable and require a coordinated, effective international response.

ND-Burma and its partners use case studies, interviews, relevant partner reports, and eyewitness testimony to document the total number of human rights abuses committed by the Burmese Army, its junta-backed militias, including various security forces, and all Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), as well as People's Defence Forces (PDFs) in Burma. However, the military junta carried out the overwhelming majority of the crimes and violence recorded in this report.

Throughout the reporting period, ND-Burma members observed the Burmese military increasing their assaults on civilians with greater ferocity and brutality. Our members are trusted allies and work closely with local communities in both urban and rural areas to monitor the human rights situation on the ground. Although ND-Burma is committed to examining the specific aspects of human rights, the broader conflict continues to intensify.

The victims of the human rights violations reported by ND-Burma and its partners under the Controlled Category List serve as a stark reminder that each number represents a human life uprooted, irrevocably changed, or extinguished by the Burma Army's four-cuts campaign and the civil war. We honour each of these human rights victims. ND-Burma regularly produces reports and briefing papers to address and draw attention to the worsening human rights situation across the country, with a focus on atrocities occurring in our members' regions and states. Despite facing significant threats, they remain dedicated to sharing evidence of these crimes in pursuit of justice and accountability.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The human rights situation in Burma has rapidly worsened since the attempted coup on 1 February 2021. The military junta's hijacking of democratic principles and institutions not only sent shockwaves across the country but also delivered a violent message of disdain to anyone who dared challenge its rule. The people's response was clear - the military dictatorship must not succeed. Collective resolve from the ground sparked a spirited campaign of protests demanding a decisive end to the junta's stolen victory and the release of all political prisoners. These calls were met with a barrage of bullets, the first of which killed a young woman.

Over the last five years, the military has continued to wage violence against innocent civilians across the country. As a result, a humanitarian crisis has plunged half of the population into devastating levels of poverty. Millions nationwide have been forced to flee their homes as junta soldiers have descended upon villages, setting homes alight and stealing possessions left behind. Key infrastructure, such as hospitals, clinics, and schools, has been regularly targeted by the junta in air and ground strikes, posing serious life-threatening risks to innocent children. The limited pathways to healthcare, education, and employment have led to the near abandonment of hope and prospects for a future free of war. The current situation remains volatile and complex, with no clear end to the prolonged conflict, especially with the justice system being weaponized as 'an instrument of repression.'¹

The military junta's deployment of airstrikes has led to widespread devastation across the country. In 2025, fighting took place in all 14 of Burma's states and regions² with the National Unity Government (NUG) reporting that there were 8,821 strikes between January and December 2025, with the highest intensity recorded in October, December,

1. [Myanmar: Five years after the coup "justice system" remains an instrument of repression](#), International Commission of Jurists, 31 January 2026
2. [Myanmar: Events of 2025](#), Human Rights Watch

and September.³ As battles rage across the borderlines, the most vulnerable are left the least equipped to defend themselves against the tyranny that has engulfed their everyday lives. According to a September 2025 report by the UN human rights office (OHCHR), nearly half of all verified civilian deaths between April 2024 and May 2025 were caused by aerial attacks.⁴ The military has increasingly relied on its air power to strike opposition-controlled areas, resulting in high casualties among non-combatants.

The escalation in airstrikes is primarily due to the military shifting from ground attacks to indiscriminate firing, with many such attacks designated through coordinated airstrikes that prey on civilian lives. These attacks have taken place in schools, local markets, places of worship such as churches, mosques, and monasteries, as well as in camps where internally displaced people are sheltering. The increase in the scale and frequency of airstrikes led to the number of events tripling from 2023 to 2024, with more than two events recorded per day in 2024.⁵

A briefing paper by ND-Burma further examined the impact of airstrikes on innocent civilians from July to October 2025 in which members documented 272 airstrikes occurred in four States, including Chin State, Kachin State, Mon State, Shan State, and three regions, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi, resulting in the deaths of 75 women, 72 men and 60 children, in addition to 31 of unknown identity killed.⁶ There were 88 wounded women, 158 wounded men and 80 injured children, as well as 117 of unknown identity. At least dozens of properties were damaged, including 554 houses, 13 schools, one hospital, four clinics, two churches, 35 monasteries, two private schools, and one nursery school.⁷

For women and girls, the impacts of the airstrikes are catastrophic and long-lasting. Women face immense risks in the aftermath of the aerial deployments. In a statement released by the Burmese Women's Union, it was reported that at least 70 women were killed across Burma in October 2025 alone, due to the military junta's airstrikes, mortar

3. See NUG on [X](#)

4. [UN decries deadly Myanmar airstrike, amid mounting military attacks on civilians](#), 8 October 2025

5. [Four years after the 2021 coup in Myanmar, violence against civilians is still increasing](#), ACLED, 31 January 2025

6. ["No one Feels Safe" Airstrikes Perpetrated in Burma from July to October 2025](#), the Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma), 10 December 2025

7. Ibid

shell attacks, and other acts of violence.⁸ The junta has ramped up its airstrikes and increased violent operations in recent months, further worsening the security situation for women and children across the country. Between February 2021 and May 2025, at least 1,409 women and 810 children were killed by the military regime.⁹ The proportion of women among civilian casualties has risen significantly, from 6% in 2021 to nearly 22% by 2024.¹⁰

Given the worsening circumstances surrounding mass displacement, the restrictions on humanitarian aid—further complicated by communication shutdowns—are increasing the challenges faced by women and girls. According to the “Global Freedom Index” published by Freedom House, Burma is considered “not a free nation.”¹¹ The country scored just 7 out of 100 for basic freedoms and 9 points for internet freedom.¹² Moreover, the 2023 Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders ranked Burma 173rd out of 180 countries.¹³ The press continues to be arrested for undemocratic and unreasonable reasons. In stark contrast to state media propaganda, which provides a platform to stream the military’s lies, those reporting on the crimes by the junta are put behind bars and charged. In addition, the junta has enforced surveillance operations, including the revocation of passports, in its ongoing targeting of the people.¹⁴

Blockades of life-saving emergency assistance have made it more difficult for conflict-affected communities to access food, water, shelter, and medical supplies. The absence of secure shelter and basic services heightens their risks, especially concerning gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual assault. Women and girls, unprotected, risk encountering dangers when seeking sanitation facilities. The safe provision of humanitarian aid has been weaponized by the military junta as a tool to appease the international community through statements and calls for support, while the realities

8. [Junta Airstrikes and Attacks Kill 70 Women in October](#), Mon News, 10 November 2025

9. [Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities](#), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Human Rights, September 2025

10. [July - December 2024 Situation Update of Burma/Myanmar](#), The Women’s League of Burma, 7 March 2025

11. [Freedom of Expression Index in Myanmar Survey Report](#), Athan, December 2025

12. Ibid

13. Ibid

14. [Myanmar junta revoking citizenship of actors, singers and other celebrities](#), ABC, 23 September 2025

on the ground starkly contrast the military's messaging, as local aid workers are targeted for their relief efforts.¹⁵ The weaponizing of aid was especially clear in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquake in March 2025, in which, despite announcing a ceasefire, the military junta deployed at least 550 attacks in the two months which followed.¹⁶

Contributing factors related to climate change added additional challenges, as heavy rains in early July led to widespread flooding and landslides, causing further displacement, information blackouts and damage to key infrastructure. The funding cuts created additional obstacles to an effective humanitarian response, thereby exposing vulnerable people to desperate and dangerous situations as the military continued to fire upon innocent civilians suffering in the aftermath of the floods and destruction to their homes and communities. Expanding militarized operations were routinely carried out in an evident ongoing disregard for civilian lives and their struggle.

The funding cuts earlier in 2025 and declining donor support contributed to growing gaps in the ability to provide services and relief for community-based organizations working locally to provide emergency aid and implement programs.¹⁷ Though limited in capacity and resources, locally led organizations have persisted in filling the increasing gaps in service delivery because the junta cannot be trusted as a reliable partner in aid distribution. The cuts, notably to USAID, have had life-threatening impacts on vulnerable communities, with women bearing the brunt of the humanitarian crisis. The cancellation of more than 10,000 humanitarian contracts meant specialized services for women – decades in the making – disappeared within weeks.¹⁸ The aftermath and consequential ripple effects of this decision continue to have devastating and lasting impacts on those who relied upon the services for life-saving treatments and operations.

15. [Myanmar junta accused of systematically weaponizing humanitarian aid, new briefing warns](#), Progressive Voice, 11 December 2025

16. [Myanmar: Events of 2025](#), Human Rights Watch

17. [Myanmar: Implications of the US funding freeze and cuts on humanitarian response and health needs](#), ACAPS, 21 March 2025

18. [The agony and death left by USAID's exit from Myanmar](#), Asia Times, 8 August 2025.

Burma remains one of the world's most underfunded humanitarian operations.¹⁹

Conflict and displacement have further limited women's income opportunities, heightening their vulnerability to abuse, gender-based violence, and starvation. The long-term psychological trauma caused by witnessing airstrikes and relentless attacks on innocent civilians has led to sleep deprivation, shock, crying, and panic. Children, in particular, struggle with trauma and the loss of normalcy, with their futures and education significantly disrupted. These circumstances are part of a wider pattern of human rights abuses and war crimes committed by the military junta in their attempt to suppress resistance movements and keep control.

At year's end, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made a concerning move in foreign policy by terminating temporary immigration protections for Burmese nationals, just as their homeland continues to be one of the most violent and unstable regions in the world. The change was announced on 24 November 2025, when DHS issued a draft notice in the Federal Register, attributing the decision to terminate the program to the new Homeland Security leadership as part of a broader review ordered by the Trump administration.²⁰ This decision was yet another in a long line of detrimental decisions that have continued to create havoc and uncertainty.

As this report by ND-Burma shows, members have courageously documented the ongoing attacks that have plagued their communities. The struggle and strife are the result of the regime's desperate attempts to secure legitimacy and power, further advanced on the national stage through a sham election designed to ensure no other candidate or competing party could succeed. The boycott that followed was met by junta officials who violently threatened and coerced local people into forcibly complying with the order to vote. The chaos and instability in the country led to the election only being carried out in 263 of 330 townships and predominantly in areas under junta control.²¹

19. [Myanmar - Humanitarian Update No. 49](#) | 23 September 2025, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

20. [Termination of Temporary Status Puts Burmese Nationals at Grave Risk](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 26 November 2025

21. [Myanmar: Türk says military-controlled ballot exacerbates violence and social division](#), 30 January 2026

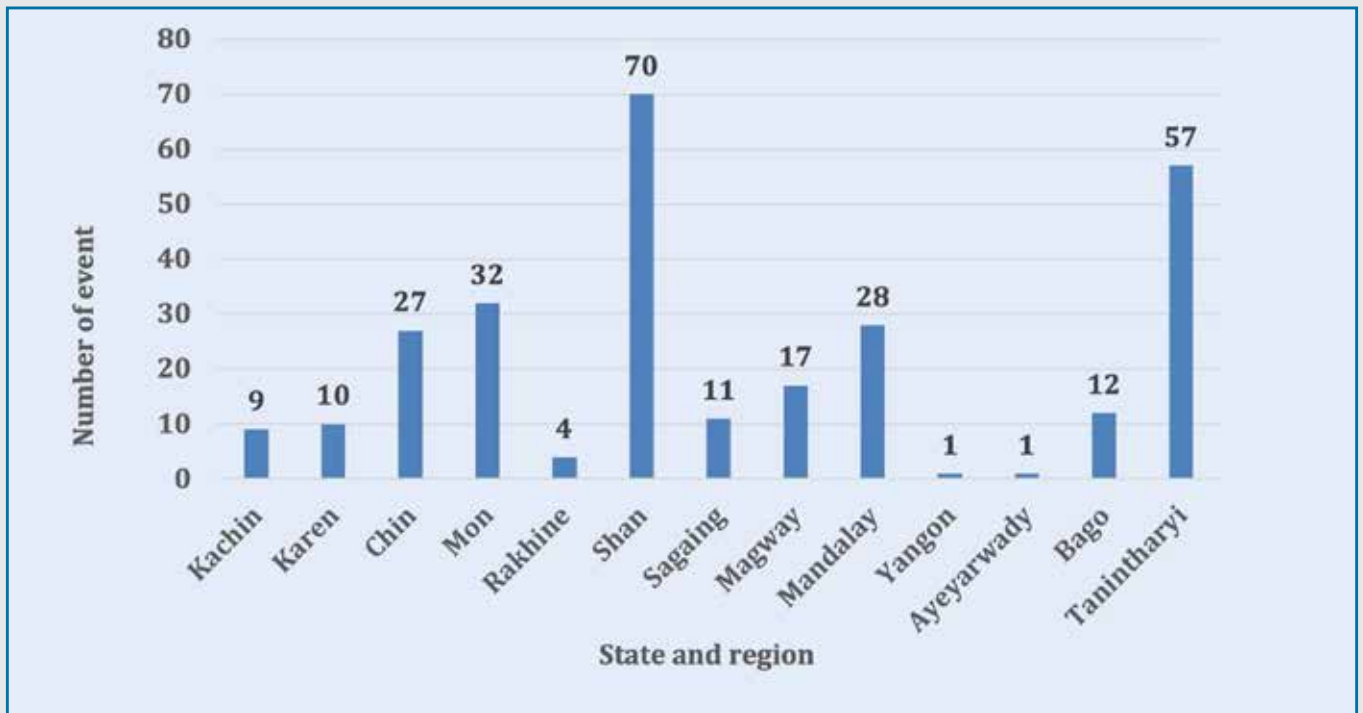
Additional concerns for local people include forced conscription, which puts the safety of both men and women at risk. Young people continue to be forced to fight on the front lines of a worsening conflict, leaving them with few options to avoid enlistment. The junta began enforcing the 2010 People's Military Service Law for the first time in February 2024, mandating military service for all men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27 for at least two years. A source told ND-Burma member HURFOM that, in Mon State alone, nearly 4,200 people have already been conscripted between Batch 1 and Batch 19, averaging about 230 per month.²² Due to this widespread targeting, young men say they no longer feel safe moving around the city. Many now avoid travel altogether, fearing arrest and conscription.

Survival, particularly in Burma's borderlands, is being met with resistance by the junta, while civil society organizations are working to protect and preserve the human rights of innocent people. Although many challenges remain, the foundational work of groups opposing the junta's authoritarian agenda is crucial for building a federal democracy in Burma.

22. [Monthly Overview: Hope Persists in Burma as the People Refuse to be Silent in the Wake of Violence, Despite the Junta's Sham Election](#), the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 5 January 2026

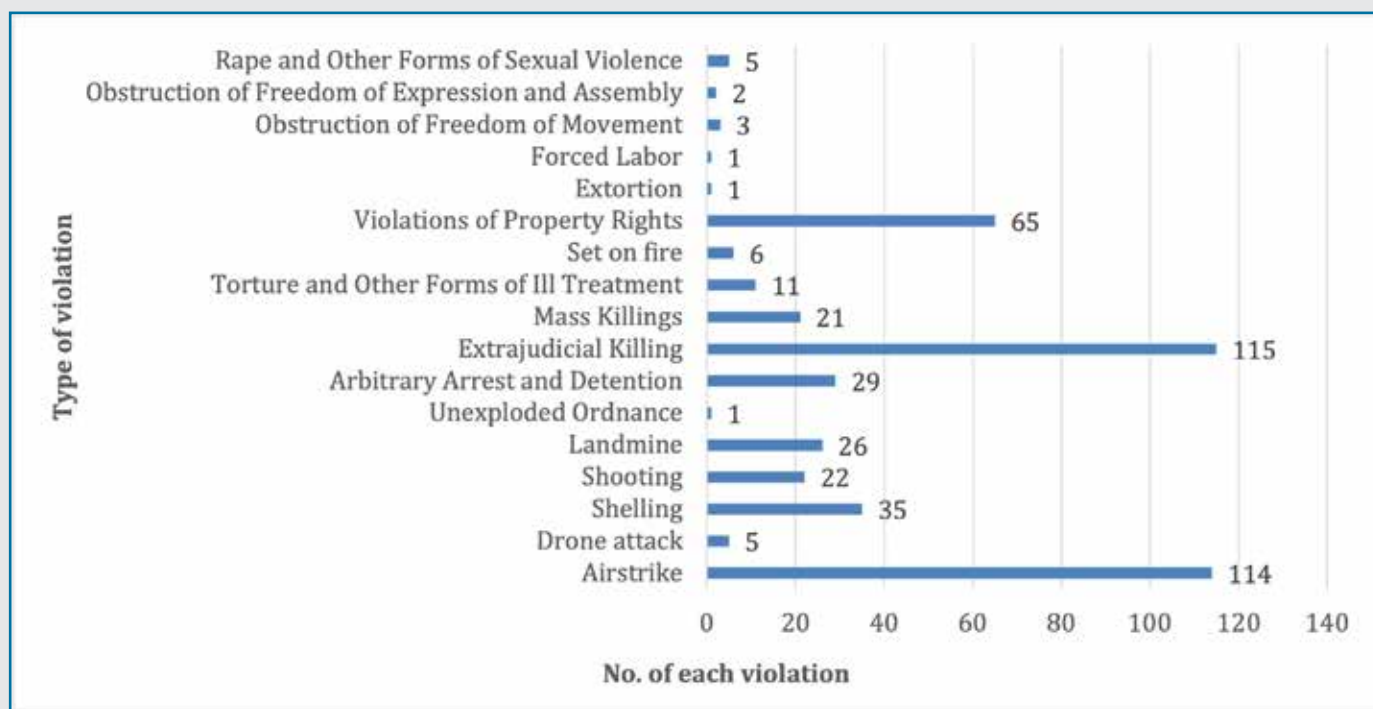
KEY DOCUMENTATION FINDINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION - BURMA

July - December 2025



Number of human rights violations by state and region.

According to documentation from ND-Burma members, between July and December 2025, ND-Burma's member organizations documented 462 human rights violations across 279 incidents in seven regions and six states in Burma. Of these violations, 271 were attributed to the military junta, 5 to Ethnic Revolutionary Organizations (EROs), and 3 could not be attributed to a perpetrator.



Number of violation within 279 events (462 human rights violations)

In total, 881 individuals had their rights violated, including 357 males, 187 females, 182 children, and 155 individuals whose gender or age could not be determined. Notably, 352 individuals were killed, comprising 173 males, 80 females, 82 children, and 17 individuals of unknown gender or age.

Type of violation	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
Arbitrary Arrest and Detention	37	7	4	40	88
Extrajudicial Killing	124	37	36	2	199
Mass Killings	49	43	46	15	153
Torture and Other Forms of Ill Treatment	6	1	1	0	8
Forced Labor	0	0	0	15	15
Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence	0	3	1	1	5
Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers	2	0	0	0	2
Injured	139	96	94	82	411
Total	357	187	182	155	881

Number of victims by type of violations

Mostly, they were killed by attacks such as airstrikes, artillery shelling, gunshots, and land mines, while some were killed by torture and ill treatment during interrogations and in prisons. A total of 411 individuals were injured in attacks such as airstrikes, artillery shelling, gunfire, and land mines. This includes 139 males, 96 females, 94 children, and 82 individuals of unknown gender or age. In addition, at least 357 houses, 9 monasteries and 16 vehicles were destroyed by airstrikes, drone attacks, artillery shelling, and arson.

Attack by Military Weapons	Number of victims killed					Number of victims injured				
	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total	Male	Female	Child	Unknown	Total
<i>Airstrike</i>	80	72	61	15	228	99	72	91	78	340
<i>Drone attack</i>	6	1	1	0	8	2	6	1	0	9
<i>Shelling</i>	17	6	10	0	33	16	11	1	4	32
<i>Shooting</i>	25	1	5	2	33	2	1	0	0	3
<i>Landmine</i>	7	1	0	0	8	20	6	1	0	27
Total	135	81	77	17	310	139	96	94	82	411

Number of killed and injured by military weapons.

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. As stated by the ND-Burma member, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) stated, *“The Burmese Army must be swiftly brought before the International Criminal Court. The junta has provided no grounds for legitimacy, so international actors must denounce their actions and work with the National Unity Government to restore democracy in Burma. Moreover, ASEAN should adopt a strong stance against the military and hold them accountable.”*²³

23. [The Human Rights Foundation of Monland Commemorates Three Decades of Justice and Rights Work by Calling for Accountability for the Military Junta](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 10 December 2025

Executive Summary

Throughout the reporting period from July to December 2025, ND-Burma members continued to report harrowing instances of human rights violations across targeted areas. Across the country, the military junta continues to perpetrate widespread and systematic violations with impunity. In a report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tom Andrews, it was stated that, in response to the lack of accountability in the country, *“Every day of inaction and inertia costs countless lives.”*²⁴ The crisis has worsened so much that the circumstances have pushed it towards being deemed a ‘failed state.’²⁵

Indeed, the lives of the most vulnerable are increasingly at risk. There are currently at least 3.6 million people displaced, and nearly 22 million people require humanitarian assistance, according to UN estimates; figures documented by local groups on the ground are considerably higher. Worsening conflict between the junta and the ethnic revolutionary forces is contributing to a worrying increase in civilian casualties, with protection gaps widening. Schools, clinics, hospitals and places of worship have all been targeted in the ongoing violence, which has disrupted educational and livelihood pathways, causing further harm to families.

Fighting has only continued to escalate across Burma’s borderlands, leaving disarray and destruction in the aftermath of the junta’s attacks. Deprived of their humanity and fundamental freedoms, conflict-affected communities have repeatedly been denied protections enshrined in human rights doctrines. This disregard is evidenced by the many human rights violations being perpetrated on a daily basis.

The second half of 2025 also saw the junta advance its illegal and illegitimate claims to legitimacy through the guise of an election that was widely viewed as not credible.

24. [A/80/490: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar - Advance unedited version](#), 20 October 2025

25. [The State of Myanmar: ISP–Myanmar’s Annual Strategic Review and Foresight 2025–2026](#), ISP, 31 January 2026

The military's quest for power and control is based on claims that the 2020 election was riddled with widespread voter fraud, despite no evidence. In stark contrast and evidence-based opposition to this claim, the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) noted 15 aspects of the electoral process which demonstrated that "the elections staged by the junta in Myanmar do not align with international standards and cannot be considered credible or legitimate."²⁶

The first phase was held on 28 December 2025, with the second following on 11 January 2026. The process itself was designed to favour the junta through the intimidation and violent extortion of civilians, several cases of which were documented in a report by ND-Burma member, HURFOM, in its end-of-year report, "Voting under the barrel of a gun," A Country At War, Not At the Polls.²⁷ Testimonies from both EROs and civilians, as well as from first responders and humanitarian aid providers, attested that the junta was not holding the election with due process in mind, but merely to attempt to fool international actors into believing the country was normal, at the expense of civilian lives, safety and security.

According to the ND-Burma member, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) documented that on the day of the election, the junta deployed jets that bombed civilians in Thiphir Village in Falam Township, Chin State. More than twenty homes were damaged or destroyed. A church was struck while traumatized, and terrified communities were forced to flee.²⁸ In the lead-up, the UN warned that the elections would only 'deepen repression and instability.'²⁹ Additional attacks took place nationwide on 28 December, including artillery firing and airstrikes in the Sagaing Region, Karen State and Karenni State.³⁰ As stated by CHRO: *"The junta's so-called elections are nothing but a smokescreen to cling to power and whitewash their crimes. But the people of Myanmar have not forgotten. War criminals have no business running a country—let alone organizing elections."*³¹

26. [Myanmar Junta's Planned Elections: Falling Short of Democratic Legitimacy](#), The Asian Network for Free Elections, 30 September 2025

27. ["Voting under the barrel of a gun," A Country At War, Not At the Polls](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 13 November 2025

28. See [CHRO on X](#)

29. [UN warns Myanmar's planned elections will deepen repression and instability](#), 28 November 2025

30. [Myanmar Junta's Election Opens Amid Airstrikes and Sparse Turnout](#), The Irrawaddy, 28 December 2025

31. See [CHRO on X](#)

Despite the terror tactics deployed, local people remained resilient. CHRO reported that the streets in Hakha and Tedim – the only two townships where polling stations were opened on 28 December – were deserted.³² The people of Chin State delivered a decisive verdict through their absence, turning the junta’s sham exercise into a ghost election devoid of public participation or legitimacy, said CHRO.³³

In a report published in October 2025, ND-Burma members firmly denounced the election in a briefing paper that outlined the primary tactics used by the military junta to suppress voter freedom, including the weaponization of the law, increased violence against civilians, forced conscription, and restrictions on movement and information.³⁴

As will be referenced further in this report, military impunity has continued to thrive as accountability for the junta is long overdue. The following are detailed accounts of human rights violations documented by ND-Burma members across their target states and regions from July to December 2025.

Airstrikes

The military junta has relied on airpower to pursue control over key territories. Amid the junta’s sham election, which had its first phase at the end of December 2025 and second in early January 2026, airstrikes worryingly increased in scale in an effort to secure access to areas needed to conduct a safe vote. Although much of the population has overwhelmingly rejected the election, this has not prevented the regime from spreading information through its state-owned and controlled media outlet, the Global New Light of Myanmar, while vilifying opposing coverage.

Countries such as China and Russia have facilitated this effort by not only supporting the unjust election but also supplying weapons that are then used against innocent,

32. [Press Release: Sham Election Collapses on Day One, Junta Loses Control of Chin State as Boycotts, Violence, and Cancellations Derail Sham Polls](#), The Chin Human Rights Organization, 28 December 2025

33. Ibid

34. [Bombs to Ballots: Myanmar Junta’s Bloody Race for Recognition Exposing the junta’s campaign of terror to stage a sham election](#), The Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, 1 October 2025

unarmed, and displaced people.³⁵ The complicity of ASEAN and neighbouring countries has done little to quell the violence surrounding the lead-up to the vote. Neither the election campaign nor its unconstitutional results will end the suffering of civilians across Burma.

Since 2021, the junta has carried out over 5,000 airstrikes across the country. In August 2025 alone, at least 235 civilians died in 204 as a result, making it one of the deadliest months so far.³⁶ Air attacks increased sharply in 2024, rising by 104 percent compared with 2023, and by early 2025, Burma averaged nearly seven airstrikes per day.³⁷ After the devastating Sagaing earthquake on 28 March 2025, the military intensified its attacks. From 28 March to 16 June 2025, at least 982 strikes and artillery barrages were launched against towns, villages, and temporary displacement sites already suffering from disaster.³⁸ Since 2021, the junta has launched 961 airstrikes in Chin State — killing 145 civilians and injuring 313. Now they want elections.³⁹

The devastating impact of airstrikes continues to distress communities that have already endured immense hardship. The continued sale of weapons and jet fuel only encourages the Burma Army to persist with their campaign of warfare and relentless airstrikes with impunity. The regime has carried out 3,744 aerial attacks as of October 2nd, 2025, inflicting 4,135 fatalities, including 559 children, according to the parallel National Unity Government.⁴⁰ The attacks have also destroyed or damaged 374 schools, 129 hospitals and 576 religious buildings.⁴¹

Communities that see and hear junta-deployed aircraft overhead have no guarantee of safety or survival. Women, children, and older people—among the most vulnerable in conflict-affected areas—are left unprotected during these aerial bombings. Those who

35. [Myanmar: Towards a 'sham' election A country in need of peace, democracy, human rights, legality and humanitarian aid](#), EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service, December 2025

36. [Termination of Temporary Status Puts Burmese Nationals at Grave Risk](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 26 December 2025

37. Ibid

38. [Beneath the Cracks: Devastation and Destruction by the Junta Defencein the Earthquake Aftermath](#), The Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma, 28 April 2025

39. See CHRO on [X](#)

40. [Junta airstrikes kill over 4,000 since coup: NUG](#), The Irrawaddy, 6 October 2025

41. Ibid

survive are often deeply traumatized by such devastating attacks. For families already displaced by earlier clashes, the fear of returning home remains overwhelming, as the threat of airstrikes, artillery shelling, and drone strikes continues to loom.

In ND-Burma member areas, airstrikes were widely reported. During the reporting period, 114 cases were documented in areas covered by member organizations.

Arbitrary Arrest and Unlawful Detainment

Arbitrary arrests continue to be carried out by the junta as a way to signal that resistance will be met with unjust and violent retaliation. The reliable documentation of these arrests has been diligently compiled by an ND-Burma member, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), which continues to provide daily updates on those arbitrarily arrested and detained by the military regime.

Since conscription was enforced, there has been an alarming increase in reports of young men and women going missing or being illegally detained. Families face intense pressure to pay large bribes for their loved ones' release, or risk having them stay in regime custody and being forced to fight on the frontlines. In areas where the People's Defence Forces are active, ethnic resistance groups are reported to wield significant influence, raising concerns that civilians could be caught between opposing sides as the situation escalates.

Of the 29 cases of arbitrary arrest documented by ND-Burma members, 29 were in 7 Regions and States.

Bribery & Extortion

During Burma's economic downturn, worsened by the attempted coup, prices have surged, leaving many families struggling financially. Many are finding it harder to

afford sufficient food, worsened by limited job opportunities. The junta also extorts civilians by demanding bribes when a family member is detained illegally. This extortion, combined with inflation, has heavily affected local communities.

During the ‘campaign’ for the military-backed party before the sham election, the military junta often entered local villages to threaten residents into voting as the regime demanded. The military has exploited its authority to strengthen control, conduct searches on civilians, and fire into the surrounding areas it occupies. With inspections, roadblocks, drones overhead, and artillery strikes near homes, civilians report that daily life has become increasingly tense and uncertain.

HURFOM’s previous documentation from Kyaikmayaw Township shows a consistent pattern of forced returns, extortion, and militarization of civilian areas. By turning dangerous villages into political showcases, the junta is placing already traumatized communities at further risk while trying to project control.⁴² The practice violates both international humanitarian law and basic human rights, which prohibit the forced return of civilians to unsafe areas and require effective mine clearance before resettlement.

Destruction of Properties

Since the military coup in February 2021, civilian homes and properties in Burma have been destroyed, primarily by arson attacks and the junta’s expanding military operations. This destruction is concentrated in the Sagaing and Magway regions and has created a significant humanitarian crisis, resulting in mass displacement.⁴³

The military has employed “scorched earth” tactics, a counter-insurgency approach that aims to sever links between insurgents and their sources of food, funds, and recruits

42. [Monthly Overview: Displacement on the rise in Southeastern Burma as the Military Junta Increases Offensives Ahead of the Sham Election](#), the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 1 December 2025

43. [Myanmar: Over 50,000 exposed to forced evictions and housing destruction, say UN experts](#), UNOCHA, 2 December 2022

by burning entire villages. In addition to homes, military operations have damaged or destroyed community buildings, including schools, clinics, monasteries, and churches, affecting essential services and cultural life. The Burma Army has also carried out forced evictions and demolitions of properties, sometimes under the pretext of urban planning or the crackdown on illegal activities, such as online scam centres.

International human rights bodies have noted that the systematic destruction of housing and displacement can constitute “domicide,” a potential crime under international law, including war crimes or crimes against humanity.⁴⁴

There were 65 cases related to the violation of property rights, as local people frequently have their homes, farms and lands confiscated or destroyed by the military junta.

Enforced Disappearances

Since the attempted coup, enforced disappearances in Burma have been on the rise.⁴⁵ The junta intentionally employs this tactic to target opposition members. Often, people are randomly arrested, taken into military custody, and then vanish without any contact. This frightening strategy causes great suffering for families, who are left worried and lacking information about the detention’s location or the detainees’ condition.

The New York Times noted that for decades, the military junta has actively engaged in the illegal practice of enforced disappearances by ‘nabbing’ villagers to help transport ammunition through hilly jungles and using convicts as human shields, and to trip land mines.’⁴⁶

44. [Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context](#), United Nations General Assembly, 19 July 2022

45. [Enforced Disappearances Rising in Southeast Asia](#), Asia Sentinel, 4 March 2025

46. [In Myanmar, Accounts of Disappearances Create a Climate of Fear](#), The New York Times, 19 December 2023

This terror tactic continues to be frequently used by the junta as a means of intimidation and suppression of dissent. While these cases are difficult to document, ND-Burma reports that enforced disappearances are widespread across Burma.

Forced Labour

Forced labour persists extensively in Burma, appearing systematically across conflict areas and numerous garment factories. Workers face illegal conditions, including unpaid overtime, high quotas, and wage deductions for minor mistakes. Women additionally face the dangers of sexual harassment and assault.

The military junta employs forced labour as a means to dehumanize unlawfully detained individuals, forcing them to perform strenuous tasks. This practice is often applied abusively, illegally, and exploitatively against political prisoners. There have also been cases where civilians were compelled to transport weapons and supplies for the junta under threat of severe consequences. Women and children have also endured these harsh conditions.

There was one case of forced labour documented by ND-Burma.

Indiscriminate Firing

Since the attempted February 2021 coup, the military has escalated its use of air power and artillery against civilians, particularly in areas with strong resistance movements. These attacks often occur without warning and have resulted in numerous civilian casualties, including many women and children. ND-Burma members regularly report on the military's offensives into local areas, putting the lives of innocent villagers at risk. Their blatant disregard for human life is clear in their failure to respect ceasefires and international frameworks aimed at safeguarding basic human rights and freedoms.

The military has bombed and shelled homes, monasteries, churches, schools, and clinics—these are vital to community life and often serve as shelters for displaced persons. Despite widespread condemnation from the UN and other international organizations, the military junta has largely acted with impunity, leading to demands for international intervention, such as a comprehensive arms embargo and targeted sanctions on aviation fuel.

In a case of indiscriminate violence, at approximately 9 PM on Sunday, a junta artillery shell hit Old Town Ward, Hakha, injuring Rev. Tha Sung of Hakha Thar Baptist Church, a 12-year-old girl, and a 15-year-old boy. They were being treated at Hakha General Hospital.⁴⁷

There were 35 cases of indiscriminate firing in 5 States and Regions.

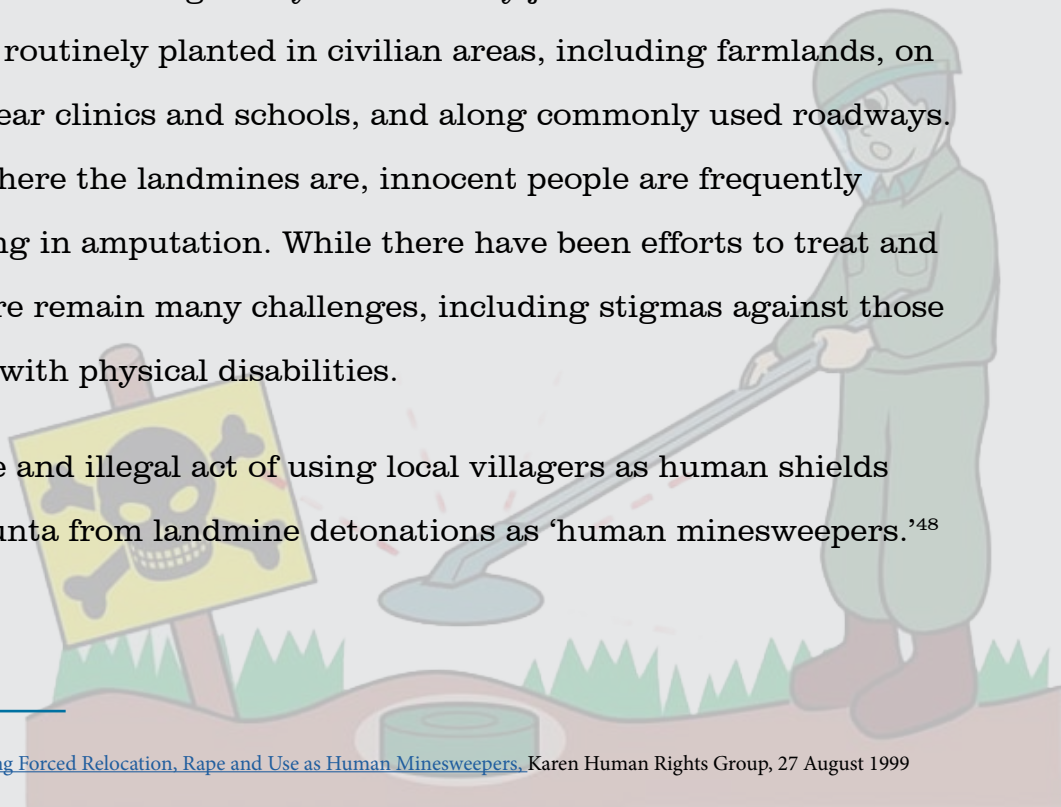
Landmines

The use of landmines in Burma has increased since the coup, as landmines remain among the leading causes of fatalities globally. The military junta manufactures its own landmines, which are routinely planted in civilian areas, including farmlands, on the outskirts of villages, near clinics and schools, and along commonly used roadways. With no visible traces of where the landmines are, innocent people are frequently killed or wounded, resulting in amputation. While there have been efforts to treat and rehabilitate survivors, there remain many challenges, including stigmas against those who are considered living with physical disabilities.

For decades, the inhumane and illegal act of using local villagers as human shields took place to protect the junta from landmine detonations as ‘human minesweepers.’⁴⁸

47. See CHRO on [X](#)

48. [Central Karen State: New Refugees Fleeing Forced Relocation, Rape and Use as Human Minesweepers](#), Karen Human Rights Group, 27 August 1999



In 2024, UNOCHA described Burma as “littered with landmines.”⁴⁹ This assessment comes as no surprise, as the country has recorded an unprecedented number of casualties, topping the global list with 1,003 documented civilian deaths and injuries from landmines and explosive remnants of war in 2023, almost three times the previous year.⁵⁰

Landmines were also notoriously used to force the displacement of the long-persecuted Rohingya amid the genocide that was taking place and being led and carried out by junta soldiers.⁵¹ By 2025, the number of mine victims near the Bangladesh border had increased, in part due to the movements of people attempting to return to their villages following armed conflict. Burma recorded the world’s highest number of landmine casualties for the second consecutive year (2,029), double the total reported the previous year. Syria had the second-highest number of casualties (1,015), followed by Afghanistan (624) and Ukraine (293).⁵²

Landmines left behind by retreating junta troops continue to claim civilian lives and limbs in newly liberated areas. On July 27, two women were injured near Mindat Town—one lost her right leg. The danger remains long after the frontlines have shifted, as reported by CHRO.⁵³ During the reporting period, 26 documented landmine incidents occurred in 6 Regions and States.

Sexual Violence

There remain many concerns due to the ongoing perpetration of sexual violence in Burma. HURFOM’s quarterly series, Voice Up, has documented specifically how women are impacted by various forms of gendered violence. Women-led ND-Burma members, including the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand (KWAT), the Ta’ang Women’s

49. [Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 Addendum](#), UNOCHA, 2024

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

51. [Burma: Landmines Deadly for Fleeing Rohingya](#), Human Rights Watch, 23 September 2017

52. [Myanmar - World's largest number of landmine casualties](#) (International Campaign to Ban Landmines) (ECHO Daily Flash of 4 December 2025)

53. See CHRO on [X](#)

Organization (TWO) and the Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU), have all extensively documented the many risks that young women and girls face, including conflict-related sexual violence.

Findings from a report released by the Women's League of Burma (WLB) in 2024, "If they had hope, they would speak:" remain relevant. The report states, *"Justice for survivors of ongoing state-sponsored sexual violence remains almost non-existent, owing to the lack of transparency which characterizes Burma's judicial framework, the complicity of public officials in providing the Burma Army with de facto impunity from prosecution, and the prohibitive cost of financing legal proceedings."*⁵⁴

WLB has unequivocally concluded that no leadership in Burma has led the policy and implementation needed to address the difficulties faced by women, particularly those in ethnic communities. Women-led organizations in Burma, including WLB members, continue to provide humanitarian assistance and safe housing for displaced and at-risk communities as incidents of gender-based violence increase. Since the coup, WLB has documented more than 550 cases of gender-based violence, with no justice or accountability; however, due to the pervasive fear, stigma, and barriers to reporting, the true number of cases is believed to be significantly higher.⁵⁵

Amid the 16-Day Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence, ND-Burma released a report detailing how women's peace and security have been under constant attack since the coup.⁵⁶ The military junta's violence has profoundly impacted young women and girls, seriously threatening their safety. Their rights and freedoms are increasingly being compromised as aerial and ground attacks, especially in areas with strong opposition presence, continue to escalate. Even five years after the attempted coup in Burma, women and girls remain at severe risk. The military has continued to blatantly dismiss concerns related to women's rights, their protection, and demands for legal reforms to address persistent discrimination and support their well-being.

54. ["If they had hope, they would speak:" The ongoing use of state-sponsored sexual violence in Burma's ethnic communities.](#) The Women's League of Burma, November 2014

55. [Seeking Justice and Accountability.](#) The Women's League of Burma, 3 November 2025

During the reporting period, 5 cases were documented across 3 Regions and States. Still, ND-Burma notes that this figure is likely much higher, given the immense stigma and entrenched gender stereotypes survivors face.

Human Rights Violations by State and Region

BAGO REGION

The human rights situation in Bago Region has worsened considerably since the failed 2021 military coup, reflecting the wider crisis in Burma. Various human rights groups and the UN report persistent violence, airstrikes, arbitrary arrests, torture, and killings carried out by the military junta. According to ND-Burma data, 14 people were killed in the Bago Region, including 10 men, 3 women, and 1 child, and 3 were wounded. The rising atmosphere of fear in the Bago Region is driven by the junta's expanding presence and its intimidating tactics, including a range of methods to enforce conscription.

HURFOM continues to monitor human rights in this area. Among those caught in the violence are elderly civilians. A senior woman from Win Kan Village, Kyaikhto Township, Mon State, was injured when artillery shells fired by junta troops exploded near her home, despite no fighting occurring in the area.⁵⁷ Around 10 AM on October 22, soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 598, based in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region, launched artillery shells at Win Kan Village without provocation or armed clashes.⁵⁸

The explosion injured Daw Met Kee, a 62-year-old woman from Win Kan Village, which is under the administrative control of the Karen National Union (KNU). These ongoing attacks continue to target areas without active fighting and have caused multiple civilian injuries and mass displacement.

56. [Under Attack: Women's Peace and Security in Burma](#), The Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, 25 November 2025

57. [A Gendered Overview of the Human Rights Situation in Southeastern Burma](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 23 December 2025

58. Ibid

CHIN STATE

The human rights situation in Chin State, Burma, is a long-standing crisis that has significantly worsened since the February 2021 military coup. The military junta's actions, which local and international human rights organizations argue may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, have led to widespread violence, mass displacement, and a severe humanitarian disaster.

ND-Burma member the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) has repeatedly called for action to end the junta's unlawful actions. CHRO works with international accountability partners, including the UN Special Rapporteur, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, Legal Action Worldwide, and the Myanmar Accountability Project, to seek justice for crimes committed by state and nonstate actors. It draws on its own field-based documentation and evidence to advocate for human rights, inform and brief key policymakers, and engage stakeholders on critical issues affecting the Chin people and other communities — including religious freedom and indigenous rights.

ND-Burma members documented 27 cases of human rights violations in Chin State, including 9 airstrikes, 1 shelling, 2 shootings, 3 landmines, 1 unexploded ordnance, 10 extrajudicial killings, 4 violations of property rights, 1 forced labour, and 2 obstruction of freedom of movement.

KACHIN STATE

ND-Burma member Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) has extensively documented the suffering of Kachin people who were wounded or killed in attacks by the military junta. In a briefing paper released in 2022, 'New Threats from the Air,' KWAT released a new and deadly trend of airstrikes over populated villages in Kachin State, which were occurring as retaliation for conflict losses along strategic transport

routes.⁵⁹ Much of the impunity documented in the findings continues.

The ongoing fighting in Kachin State has made everyday life for local people a constant struggle to survive. In their most recent briefing paper, KWAT documented 26 airstrikes on civilians in nine Kachin State townships during the twelve-month period between December 2024 and November 2025, causing at least 112 civilian deaths and 165 civilian injuries.⁶⁰

At the end of July 2025, an artillery shell exploded in Hmaw Si Sa village, killing two children and their mother. In Kutkai Township, a junta airstrike on July 30 targeted the New Century Hotel, leading to the deaths of six people, including a child, and injuring eight others. In October 2025, several incidents were recorded, including a case where a Y-12 aircraft bombed territory held by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) Battalion 6 near Kansai village, roughly 16 kilometres north of Hpakant town.⁶¹ The plane dropped dozens of bombs over about half an hour, resulting in thirty deaths and thirty injuries.

The Kachin Human Rights Watch (KHRW) reported in a statement that at least 12 civilians have been killed in Hpakant and Kutkai Townships in northern Shan State due to attacks by the junta and unidentified armed groups.⁶² The group also highlighted several incidents of violence, including a drone strike on July 3 that hit a monastery in Ah Hmat Pone village, Hpakant Township, resulting in the deaths of a woman and a man, while injuring 12 others.

In Kachin State, 15 cases of human rights violations were documented, including five airstrikes, three shootings, one instance of arbitrary arrest and detention, five extrajudicial killings, and one violation of property rights.

59. [New Threats from the Air](#), the Kachin Women's Association Thailand, 1 June 2022

60. [Air terror expands in Kachin State](#), the Kachin Women's Association Thailand, 25 December 2025

61. [Airstrikes Rock Kachin State as Myanmar Junta Battles for Jade Hub](#), The Irrawaddy, 23 October 2025

62. [Civilian casualties mount in Hpakant and Kutkai as Myanmar](#), Burma News International, 6 August 2025

KAREN STATE

During the second half of the reporting period in 2025, data from ND-Burma members indicated that six men were killed in Karen State. Additionally, twelve people were wounded, including six men, two women, and four children. Most of the casualties resulted from shelling conducted by the military junta. Other documented human rights violations included the arrest of one man and one woman, as well as the rape of one woman.

Among the members covering the situation in Karen State is the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), which has documented alarming rates of attacks against civilians, as well as the worsening impacts of climate change. Community leaders, religious groups, and humanitarian networks appealed for assistance in July when rains triggered deadly landslides in Than Taung Gyi Township, northern Karen State.⁶³

Many lives were lost, homes destroyed, and families left with nothing. Relentless heavy rains pounded the region, and by 9 August, landslides had swept through multiple areas, including Wards 1, 3, and 4 near Naw Bu Baw Pray Hill in Than Taung Gyi Town.⁶⁴ Several villages, including Leikpyar Lay and Kho Wae, were also severely affected. By the night of 9 August, at least 13 people had been confirmed dead, including a two-year-old child.

Children in Karen State are among the most vulnerable to conflict, suffering from limited educational opportunities and poor nutrition. People's safety continues to decline due to the junta's airstrikes and artillery attacks, even in camps and areas meant to protect civilians. The junta's persistent violations of international law have deepened frustration among affected communities, who are disappointed by the lack of response from global stakeholders.

63. [Monthly Overview: Forced Conscription in Southeastern Burma is Devastating and Destroying Families as the Junta Increases Unlawful Tactics to Recruit Young Men and Women](#). The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 1 September 2025

HURFOM also reported that residents in Kyon Doe Township, Kawkareik District, Karen State, faced yet another wave of displacement as junta forces continued to launch heavy assaults on civilian areas along the Kyon Doe–Nabu road. Local sources reported that indiscriminate shelling, airstrikes, and drone attacks have devastated villages, forcing thousands to flee their homes in fear.⁶⁵

In mid-August, fighting erupted daily between junta troops and resistance forces led by the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA). The clashes have been concentrated around Chaung Phya village and surrounding areas, where at least eight villages, including Ohn-Tabin, Yay-Pu-Gyi, Ngar-Tai, Koh-Wa-Lae, Win-Pya, Lay-Taing, Nyinyar-Thar-Lin, and Inn-Gyi, were emptied as residents fled for safety.⁶⁶ On September 13, the junta launched indiscriminate artillery attacks on Than Pa Yar village, Kyarinnseiky Township, Karen State.⁶⁷ The shelling killed 50-year-old U Win Aung, who was fishing in a nearby stream. His body was discovered by villagers the following morning.

The attacks also left others injured and damaged homes, prompting residents from Than Pa Yar and surrounding villages to flee in fear. The humanitarian impact of the junta's offensives in Karen State has been severe, with thousands of displaced civilians urgently in need of food, medicine, and shelter.

Civil society groups such as the Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) and the Karen Women's Organization (KWO) have been monitoring the human rights situation in Karen State and sharing updates on the attacks against civilians. Karen civil society groups have consistently demanded accountability for the persistent crimes committed by the military junta.

64. Ibid

65. Ibid

66. Ibid

67. [Monthly Overview: Destruction of Properties by the Military Junta Forces Thousands to Flee as the Displacement Crisis in Southeastern Burma Worsens.](#) The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 29 September 2025

KARENNI STATE

The human rights situation in Karenni State has also escalated. Over 80% of Karenni State's population is forcibly displaced, with at least 210,000 people living in temporary shelters and internal displacement camps, facing severe shortages of food, clean water, and healthcare. Attacks, including airstrikes, have been on the rise, with innocent civilians targeted. The military frequently conducts airstrikes, drone bombings, and artillery attacks on civilian areas, including IDP camps, schools, and religious buildings.

The Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) strongly condemned the airstrikes deployed by the military junta on 17 August and 19 August 2025 in Mawchi, Hpasawng Township.⁶⁸ The series of aerial attacks was the latest in the regime's relentless terror from the skies, as innocent civilians are forced to face overwhelming fear in their final moments: "The lack of respect for the law or human life is evident in the military's ongoing targeting of local infrastructure and communities," said KnHRG.⁶⁹

The Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC) remarked that these attacks are systematic, stating: *"the military has a pattern of labelling areas outside its control as enemy territory. Areas held by resistance forces, like Mawchi, are particularly targeted with little or no regard for civilians."*⁷⁰

The situation on the ground has led to mass displacement, including 30,000 newly displaced persons by September 2025.⁷¹ The surge in displacement is a direct consequence of the junta's renewed territorial offensives.⁷² Those displaced and sheltering in fear have not been spared by the junta's brutality, as artillery and mortar shelling continue to strike and kill those in hiding. Three displaced women were killed

68. [The Karenni Human Rights Group Strongly Condemns the Airstrikes in Mawchi and Calls for Urgent Action and Condemnation by the International Community](#), The Karenni Human Rights Group, 12 August 2025

69. Ibid

70. [Junta airstrikes kill at least 28 over deadly weekend](#), Myanmar Now, 18 August 2025

71. [Karenni State Sees 30,000 More Displaced in 2025, Escalating Humanitarian Needs](#), Burma News International, 12 September 2025

72. Ibid

by the Burma junta and the Pa-O militia shelling near the Karenni border in Pai Khun.⁷³ Forced to flee their homes, civilians' safety has consistently been under attack by the military junta, including through the increasing deployment of drones.⁷⁴

Residents in Karenni State are fearful of their futures as attacks against them have created many more uncertainties, including eroded pathways to education and livelihood support. Crippling inflation has also been yet another symptom of the junta's devastating conflict. Economic mismanagement has left impoverished communities unable to work or afford the rising prices of basic food and consumer goods. These realities have prompted fears concerning the disappearance of cultural customs and traditions, losses that come as ethnic people face increasing oppression of their rights and freedoms.⁷⁵

ND-Burma has no active member organizations on the ground in Karenni State. There were no cases documented by partners during this period, though ND-Burma acknowledges the immense struggle and strife that communities in Karenni State are facing.

MAGWAY REGION

In the Magway Region, innocent civilians have been met with widespread violence and abuses committed by the military junta and allied militias. Reports from various human rights organizations and news outlets document ongoing atrocities, including extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual violence, forced recruitment, and airstrikes targeting civilians.

Reports indicate a surge in extrajudicial killings, with victims often tortured and executed. The military junta has also frequently launched airstrikes and dropped bombs

73. [Three Displaced Women Killed by Junta–PNO Shelling in Pai Khun Township](#), Shan Herald Agency for News, 25 November 2025

74. [Local Residents and IDPs Unable to Harvest Groundnuts Due to Military Junta's Drones](#), Kantarawaddy Times, 19 November 2025

75. [The Coup and a Diminishing Ethnicity Group: A Language and Culture at Risk of Disappearing](#), Kantarawaddy Times, 8 December 2025

in the region, causing numerous civilian deaths and injuries and damaging civilian infrastructure, including hospitals. Individuals are arrested on political grounds and face torture and inhumane treatment in detention centres and prisons, including Thayet Prison in the Magway Region. In a harrowing case of torture, the military junta amputated the fingers and ears of 4 young men in Magway Region.⁷⁶ Following the mutilation, the terrorist army used the four young men as “human shields” at the front of their column as they moved north into Pauk Township.⁷⁷

Militarized violence also continues to have detrimental impacts on young women. The Burmese Women’s Union reported that 73 women were killed in August 2025, including fourteen in Magway.⁷⁸

According to documentation by ND-Burma members, notably the Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters and the Chin Human Rights Organization, which monitor human rights violations in these areas, 24 people were killed, including 18 men (1 monk), four women, and two children. The main cases from the Magway Region involved two airstrikes, one artillery shelling, four shootings, and one landmine. Additionally, nine houses were destroyed by air strikes.

MANDALAY REGION

The Mandalay Region continues to be marked by military violence and systematic repression following the 2021 coup. By mid-2025, it was documented as the region with the highest number of human rights violations in Burma.⁷⁹ In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in March 2025, Mandalay has been a primary target for airstrikes. In June 2025 alone, the region experienced 55 airstrikes targeting civilian areas, including schools, hospitals, and religious sites.⁸⁰ The violence has contributed

76. [Myanmar junta army amputates fingers, ears of 4 young men in Magway Region](#), NarinJara News, 7 December 2025

77. Ibid

78. [BWU reports 73 women killed in August due to Myanmar junta attacks](#), Mizzima, 9 September 2025

79. [Human Rights Violation Dashboard](#), National Unity Government, 11 July 2025

80. [Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations](#), 3 December 2025

to widespread poverty levels, with four out of five people in Burma now living near or below the poverty line as of 2026.⁸¹

In addition, several infrastructure projects with foreign investors have recently been abandoned, such as the off-take station for Chinese oil and gas pipelines in Mandalay Region, which was halted following eight resistance attacks.⁸²

There were 85 people killed in Mandalay during the reporting period, including 38 men, 31 women, and 16 children. Eighty-eight were wounded, including 25 men, 29 women, 11 children, and 13 of unknown status. The human rights violations recorded were 25 air strikes, and one person was arbitrarily arrested and detained. There were twelve extrajudicial killings, five mass killings and five violations of property rights.

MON STATE

In Mon State, ND-Burma members documented that 27 civilians were killed, including 14 men, five women and eight children. There were 41 civilians who were wounded, including 29 men, 11 women and one child. The highest number of cases was due to 14 extrajudicial and mass killings, with 14 cases reported, and ongoing arbitrary arrests and unlawful detention by the military junta, with nine cases. Since the start of 2025, junta attacks in Mon State have escalated, involving heavy weapons and airstrikes. Civilian casualties have also increased.

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) regularly documents and reports on the attacks against civilians in Mon State. Artillery and mortar shelling have destroyed communities that are just trying to lead their lives, with even a marginal sense of normalcy. Between June 25 and 29, 2025, the military junta fired at least ten artillery shells into four villages—Kyauk Yay Twin, Pane Nell Gone, Zee Pyaung #1, and Win Kan—in Kyike Hto Township, Mon State.

81. [Myanmar's Enduring Polycrisis: Four Years into a Tumultuous Journey](#), UNDP, January 2025

82. [Status of Human Rights & Sanctions in Myanmar: May 2025 Report](#), Human Rights Now, 1 August 2025

According to the Thaton District Karen National Union (KNU), there were no armed clashes in the area at the time of the attacks.⁸³ In addition, from July 8 to 16, 2025, the junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 282, based in Ka Lane Aung, launched repeated and indiscriminate artillery attacks on Ma Yan Chaung and Mile Chauk Sell (60-Mile) villages in Yar Phu village tract, Yebyu Township.⁸⁴ The shelling left communities in fear, forcing many residents to abandon their homes in search of safety.

HURFOM also reported that in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State, life along the Gyaing River has become a daily fight for survival.⁸⁵ The military junta's artillery shelling is no longer simply a tactic of war; it has become an intentional and systematic strategy to dismantle the fabric of everyday life. Each day, villagers face the terrifying reality of mortar shells falling on homes, farms, monasteries, and schools, often without any sign of active conflict nearby.

Indiscriminate shelling isn't merely a military tactic; it functions as collective punishment, depriving entire villages of safety, dignity, and hope. Families that once enjoyed peace are now trapped, fearful of sending children to school, working in fields, or leaving homes to buy food or medicine. Routine and stability have been replaced by fear and uncertainty.

Forced conscription also remains a threat. On July 26, more than 40 young men were rounded up in Pu Tane Yoe village, Thaton Township, Mon State. They were taken to Thaton Town Police Station, Thein Sake Police Station, and the 9th Military Training Camp.⁸⁶ The arrests have continued relentlessly. On August 9, around 30 junta personnel stormed the office of Lo Yar Phyate, a local social and funeral service group in Thein Za Yet Town, Kyike Hto Township. At least 15 displaced men sheltering there were detained and transferred to the 207th Light Infantry Battalion. Family contact has been completely denied.⁸⁷

83. [Monthly Overview: Artillery Fire by the Military Junta Threatens the Safety and Security of Innocent Civilians in Southeastern Burma](#) the Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 4 August 2025

84. Ibid

85. Ibid

86. [Monthly Overview: Forced Conscription in Southeastern Burma is Devastating and Destroying Families as the Junta Increases Unlawful Tactics to Recruit Young Men and Women](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 1 September 2025,

87. Ibid

These actions followed a series of sweeping, arbitrary arrests. In Bilin Township, more than 30 young men were seized along the Bilin–Taung Zune Motorway and forced into military training. Villagers reported that junta units are operating mobile arrest teams.⁸⁸ Those arrested include residents of the villages of Taung Zune, Thit Toe Kyune, Zoke Toke, Ah Nile Pon, and Hpwal Ka Lar. Most have been sent to the 6th Military School under the Southeast Military Command based in Mawlamyine.

Meanwhile, the extractive practices by the military junta continued as junta-backed militia members providing security for Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) campaign teams dined at small restaurants in Thit To Kyawn Village, Bilin Township, Mon State, without paying and threatening the shop owners at gunpoint when asked for money.⁸⁹ These are among the many harsh realities of extortion and violence being experienced by civilians in Mon State.

RAKHINE STATE

In Rakhine State, civilians continue to be targeted by militarized violence. The severe and ongoing crisis has been characterized by grave violations against the Rohingya Muslim minority and other communities. These abuses, which constitute crimes against humanity, war crimes, and possibly genocide, are carried out by both the military junta and the ethnic armed group, the Arakan Army. There were several cases of harrowing violence that took place during the reporting period.

On December 10, the military junta launched an airstrike on a hospital in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State, which treats injured civilians. The attack, on Human Rights Day, killed at least 33 people, including an infant, and wounded dozens.⁹⁰ This incident is another stark example of the junta committing crimes against humanity.

88. Ibid

89. [Monthly Overview: Hope Persists in Burma as the People Refuse to be Silent in the Wake of Violence, Despite the Junta's Sham Election](#), The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 5 January 2026

90. [Dozens killed in hospital strike in Myanmar's western Rakhine state](#), The Guardian, 12 December 2025

“Bombing a medical facility where innocent civilians seek treatment is a clear violation of international humanitarian law and a direct attack on the fundamental right to life,” said HURFOM Program Director, Nai Aue Mon.

With the attacks in Rakhine State increasing, there remain growing concerns over the rise in attacks on health care, in which innocent people are deprived of their humanity upon being bombed while receiving treatment. Insecurity Insight identified 1703 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Burma between 1 February 2021 and 9 June 2025.⁹¹ During these incidents, health facilities were reportedly damaged or destroyed 401 times, 153 health workers were killed, and 885 were arrested.⁹²

Rohingya still living in Rakhine State face systematic abuses, which include conditions that have been described as crimes against humanity, such as apartheid, persecution, and deprivation of liberty.⁹³ They experience strict movement restrictions and lack access to essential services, as they are confined to camps and villages, unable to move freely, and are cut off from sufficient food, healthcare, education, and livelihoods. Rohingya civilians in Rakhine State have been forcibly recruited by both the Arakan Army and the military junta to fight in the conflict there, and they have reportedly been used as ‘human shields.’⁹⁴

The ongoing violence has been worsened by the military junta, which has imposed deadly blockades on humanitarian aid as a form of collective punishment, creating acute food insecurity and health crises. Worryingly, despite extensive UN and human rights organizations’ documentation of atrocities, those responsible have largely enjoyed impunity within Burma. The calls for justice persist, and civilians have demonstrated remarkable resilience in their fight for democracy and freedom from military rule despite facing adversity.

91. [Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar: 25 June - 08 July 2025](#), Insecurity Insight, 18 July 2025

92. Ibid

93. [Myanmar: No Justice, No Freedom for Rohingya 5 Years On](#), Human Rights Watch, 24 August 2022

94. [Country policy and information note: Rohingya including Rohingya in Bangladesh, Burma](#), January 2026 (accessible), GOV UK, 8 January 2026

ND-Burma members documented four cases of six violations, with seven people wounded and nineteen killed.

SAGAING REGION

In the Sagaing Region, ND-Burma members documented that 25 civilians were killed, including 16 men, one woman, three children, and five unknown. There were eight people injured. Those killed in Sagaing died from two airstrikes and one case of indiscriminate fire, while those wounded were affected by the two airstrikes.

Sagaing Region continues to be one of the most crime-affected and hardest hit by attacks by the military junta. One catastrophic incident that claimed civilian lives was an attack on a Buddhist festival on 6 October, resulting in at least 24 deaths and dozens of injuries.⁹⁵ The strike hit Chaung U township in Sagaing Region, where roughly 100 people had gathered in a field after sunset. The UN decried the attack as a “disturbing pattern” of indiscriminate attacks by the country’s military.⁹⁶ According to the UN human rights office (OHCHR), Sagaing has recorded the highest number of airstrikes and civilian deaths nationwide. Between 28 March and 31 May 2025 alone, over 108 airstrikes were reported there, killing at least 89 people.⁹⁷

Sagaing is a stronghold of armed resistance (People’s Defence Force). In response, the military has increasingly relied on air power to strike civilian areas, including villages, schools, and places of worship. ND-Burma reported that the military junta deployed several airstrikes, including on July 11, when the junta carried out an overnight airstrike on a Buddhist monastery in Lin Ta Lu village, where people were seeking shelter. The attack killed at least 23 people, including children.⁹⁸

95. [Myanmar Military Paraglider Bombs Buddhist Festival, Killing Dozens](#), The New York Times, 8 October 2025

96. [UN decries deadly Myanmar airstrike, amid mounting military attacks on civilians](#), UN News, 8 October 2025

97. Ibid

98. [No One Feels Safe, Airstrikes Perpetrated in Burma from July to October 2025](#), The Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, 10 December 2025

Given the unsafe circumstances, the ongoing conflict in Burma, particularly in the Sagaing Region, has severely disrupted traditional schooling, forcing students and teachers to use alternative and informal education pathways outside the military junta's control. Attacks on educational facilities by the military have made traditional schools unsafe, leading to a dual education system in some areas. Attacks on schools rose sharply after the military takeover in February 2021. The highest number occurred in May 2021, when Save the Children reported that over 100 schools and educational facilities were attacked, mainly with explosive weapons.⁹⁹ Further analysis revealed that Sagaing Region was one of the most affected in May 2021.

Civilians have faced harrowing levels of violence and uncertainty, as the junta leaves nothing but destruction and chaos in the wake of their attacks. The struggle for territorial and regional dominance in Sagaing Region, an area recently affected by conflict, creates significant stress and instability for communities seeking to return home, secure safety, and rebuild peace in their villages.

SHAN STATE

In Shan State, ND-Burma members recorded 65 deaths, including 20 men, 23 women, 12 children, and 10 unknown. There were 142 individuals injured, including 31 women, 50 men, 34 children, and 27 unknown. The number of human rights violations included 70 cases, comprising 51 airstrikes, 15 landmines, 19 extrajudicial killings, 6 mass killings, 1 torture, and 27 violations of property rights. ND-Burma has several member and affiliate organizations that have documented human rights violations in Shan State, including the Pa-O Youth Organization (PYO), the Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO), and the Ta'ang Students and Youth Union (TSYU).

99. [The Impacts of Attacks on Education and Military Use in Myanmar](#), Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 22 September 2025

Among the many ongoing human rights violations are arson and arbitrary arrest. According to the Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF), from the last week of August to late September 2025, arson attacks by junta troops destroyed 60 houses, 90 rice granaries, one IDP camp and several farm huts in Ywangan township. The destruction of rice granaries resulted in losses totalling 150 million kyat.¹⁰⁰ Additionally, five civilians, including an 8-year-old girl, were arbitrarily arrested.

SHRF also documented several cases of resource extraction, particularly by Chinese state-backed companies. They reported that new satellite images showed the expansion of rare earth and gold mines along the Kok River in Mong Yawn, southern Mong Hsat township, eastern Shan State.¹⁰¹ The expansion poses worrying ecological threats to communities living along both the Thai and Burmese sides of the border, with SHRF previously warning of contamination prior to this specific incident.¹⁰²

Airstrikes and heavy artillery shelling of schools, markets, and IDP camps have increased dramatically. In late 2025, air and artillery attacks in Mongmit Township alone killed 12 civilians between 6 and 11 December 2025.¹⁰³ The majority of the casualties were IDPs from the towns of Mogok and Mongmit who had fled fearing the re-entry of junta troops into the towns.¹⁰⁴ Military units have been documented summarily executing civilians, often with signs of torture. In 2024, Shan State recorded the second-highest number of female fatalities in the country with 92 deaths.¹⁰⁵

Displacement has been a leading cause of distress amid ongoing hostilities in the State. Those from Pekon Township who have attempted to return have faced immense struggles, including the destruction of their homes by the military junta. According to the Pekon Shan Youth Network, junta troops burned 27 houses in Nargon Village, Narhee Village Tract, Pekon Township, and about 30 houses in Hsantswea Village,

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100. [Arson attacks and arbitrary arrest by junta troops in Ywangan township, southern Shan State](#), The Shan Human Rights Foundation, 16 October 2025
 101. [Chinese state-backed company behind expanded rare earth and gold mines along Kok River in eastern Shan State](#), The Shan Human Rights Foundation, 28 October 2025
 102. [Myanmar: Increase in Chinese-invested rare earth mines in Shan State risks environment and public health, warns rights group](#), Business and Human Rights Center, 23 June 2025
 103. [12 civilians killed, 9 injured in junta air and artillery attacks in Mongmit township, northern Shan State](#), The Shan Human Rights Foundation, 16 December 2025
 104. Ibid
 105. [478 Women Killed During 2024 in Violent Incidents](#), Burma News International, 22 January 2025

Bantpyin Village Tract, Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State. The attacks displaced an estimated 200 people.¹⁰⁶ In addition, airstrikes have continued to claim civilian lives. Since July, the junta's air force has conducted continuous airstrikes in Kyaukme Township, northern Shan State, destroying and burning civilian homes, leaving many residents trapped or killed.¹⁰⁷

Nonetheless, despite the challenges communities on the ground in Shan State face, their calls for justice persist, and in their pursuit of democracy and freedom from military rule, they have demonstrated remarkable resilience.

TANINTHARYI REGION

Member organizations documented 57 cases in the Tanintharyi Region. There were 41 men killed, 6 women, and 14 children. There were 11 men wounded, as well as 15 women and 9 children. Twenty-five of those injured were due to airstrikes and shelling, as the majority of those killed were as a result of eight airstrikes and 15 shellings.

HURFOM has actively documented cases of increasing violence in the Tanintharyi Region, where some of the most harrowing instances of violence have taken place. Ahead of the sham election, the attacks escalated. According to HURFOM, the junta has intensified its air and ground offensives ahead of the vote.¹⁰⁸ These actions are not random: they are part of an effort to regain control of constituencies and establish authority before the first phase of voting. In late August 2025, HURFOM documented shelling of displacement sites in Yebyu and Dawei Districts, along with increased drone surveillance over villages in Mon State.¹⁰⁹

106. [Displaced Pekon Township residents face hardships upon return](#), Burma News International, 11 August 2025

107. [Airstrikes Kill Civilians, Destroy Bridges, and Displace Thousands in Shan State](#), The Shan Human Rights Foundation, 25 August 2025

108. ["Voting under the barrel of a gun." A Country At War, Not At the Polls.](#) The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 13 November 2025

109. Ibid

The escalation has caused whole communities to flee. Humanitarian workers warned that the number of internally displaced people in the Tanintharyi Region could double. Experts stated that they believed the military is increasing attacks to recover territory and intimidate civilians. Residents also report that the junta has intentionally targeted civilian villages, making daily life impossible. Roads remain blocked, and food and rice supplies into Tanintharyi have been cut off, leaving families hungry and vulnerable. Local humanitarian noted that civilians are now facing severe shortages of food, medicine, and shelter materials.

In Tanintharyi Region, HURFOM field teams documented a sharp rise in violence, with airstrikes tripling in July 2025 compared to June, and over 82,800 civilians displaced by late August.¹¹⁰ This combination of armed militias on the ground and relentless aerial bombardment from above has left people living in constant fear. These repeated attacks on civilian homes and communities once again demonstrate the junta's systematic pattern of collective punishment, destroying lives and livelihoods to instill fear and regain control over resistance-held areas.

Airstrikes are also continuing to pose imminent threats to civilian security. At least ten civilians, including a young student, were injured when the junta launched an airstrike on Ta Ku Village, Tanintharyi Township, on the morning of October 10, 2025.¹¹¹ A fighter jet dropped two bombs near the local fire brigade office and market in the morning, destroying buildings and wounding several villagers.¹¹² Ta Ku Village is located in a zone under the control of the joint revolutionary forces. The junta has imposed a blockade on essential supplies, banning the transport of food, medicine, fuel, and household goods into the area, worsening hardship for already vulnerable communities.

HURFOM has observed a disturbing pattern in the Tanintharyi Region, where repeated airstrikes, ground assaults, and shelling by junta forces have turned homes, religious sites, and schools into targets. Entire communities are displaced, with civilians frequently forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods. Each attack increases

insecurity, poverty, and trauma. The humanitarian situation is urgent. Displaced families—many women, children, and the elderly—require immediate aid such as food, medical care, and safe shelter. As the conflict continues to escalate, civilian suffering is also worsening.

YANGON

While rural areas in Burma continue to bear the brunt of the worsening conflict, theft and arbitrary arrests, as well as criminal activity, continue in Yangon. Without the rule of law, there are no mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable. The military has also bolstered its control in major urban centres like Yangon and Mandalay by arming “People’s Security and Anti-Terrorism” teams. These militias, often composed of men over 35, carry firearms to enforce junta directives within communities.

An additional threat is the rise of surveillance. Biometric e-IDs are now mandatory for individuals seeking to leave the country. Junta-backed authorities in Yangon use these e-IDs and a nationwide census to identify activists and potential recruits for forced conscription. There are also persistent reports of torture, sexual violence, and deaths in custody at interrogation centers and prisons.

CASE STUDIES

1.Landmine Explosion Claims Civilian Life (Kachin Women’s Association Thailand)

U Zahkung Hkawng Lum lost his life after stepping on a landmine planted by the Myanmar military while walking to his hillside farm.

On September 19, 2025, U Zahkung Hkawng Lum, a resident of Ward 2 in Par Ka Htawng, Manton Township, Mongmit District, Shan State, was working on his hillside farm located about two miles from Myanmar military Battalion Camp 130. While walking along the path to his farm, he stepped on a landmine planted by the military camp. Immediately after the explosion, he shouted, “Please help me, I’ve stepped on a mine!” Nearby farmers heard his cries and attempted to rescue him, but they discovered that landmines had also been planted along the path, preventing anyone from approaching the area where his voice was coming from.

After some time, when his cries could no longer be heard, they presumed that U Zahkung Hkawng Lum had died. His family members and the villagers have not dared to go to the site, and as of today, they have not been able to retrieve his body.

On October 2, 2025, a memorial prayer ceremony was held in his honour.

2.Six Civilians, including Two Children, Killed by Shelling by the Junta (Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters)

In Kyaukkyi Township, Taungoo District, Bago Region, six civilians were killed due to shelling by the military, including a 1-year-old and a 6-year-old child.

On July 5, 2025, at approximately 5:50 PM, the military, stationed in Natthankwin, Kyaukkyi Township, conducted a drone attack, dropping a 120 mm bomb. The bomb landed and exploded at a school in Taokyaungpauk Village, Kyaukkyi Township. Consequently, six civilians, including two children who had sought shelter from the conflict at the school, lost their lives.

The following residents from Ward No. 6, Natthankwin Village, Kyaukkyi Township, Nyaunglebin District, Bago Region, were killed in the military drone bombing:

- ✓ Maung Saw Kyaw Naing Htoo, age 1
- ✓ Maung Saw Kaung Thant Zaw, age 6
- ✓ U Thee Maung Than Sein, age 65
- ✓ U Nyar Kyi Myint, age 64
- ✓ Ko Saw Kyaw Naing Win, age 35
- ✓ Ma Nan Oo, age 30

Additionally, three individuals were injured due to the military's shelling, according to an anonymous aid worker displaced by the war from Kyaukkyi Township: Naw Thoo Yay Say, a 30-year-old pregnant woman from Alinsu Village, Nyar Win Soe, age 38, from Wapinzu Village and Naw Hla Ya Min Khine, age 25, from Taokyaungpauk Village.

3. Airstrike in Bago Region Kills 45-Year-Old Villager (Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters)

On December 6, 2025, at 3:20 PM, the military conducted an airstrike involving three fighter jets, which dropped nine bombs on Aye Ywar Lay Aung Chan Thar Village and its school in Gyobingauk Township, Thayarwady District, Bago Region.

As a result of the bombing, a 45-year-old villager named U Lin was killed instantly. The village school was also damaged; however, since the attack occurred after school hours, no children were injured.

An anonymous political activist from Gyobingauk Township commented, “Three fighter jets took off from Thayagon and conducted the attack, dropping nine bombs on Aye Ywar Lay Aung Chan Thar Village and its school. A villager named U Lin was killed after being struck in the head by bomb fragments. He died on the spot. This bombing took place despite there being no ongoing fighting in the area.”

4. Monk Injured After Stepping on Landmine in Shan State (Ta’ang Students and Youth Union)

A monk was injured after stepping on a landmine while clearing bushes in Kyaukme in Shan State within the Brigade (2) area at Natsitlin Monastery in Ward (2) of Kyaukme Town. One monk sustained injuries from a landmine explosion while clearing bushes.

The incident occurred on August 2 at 2:30 PM, when Venerable U Nanda stepped on a landmine within the monastery compound, resulting in the loss of his right leg. The injured monk was subsequently transported by a charitable organization to Lashio Hospital for medical treatment. Earlier, on July 15, in Mine Ngaw Township, Daw Aye Win stepped on a landmine near a banyan tree while on her way to her tea plantation. The mine exploded, leading to her death.

5. Junta Troops Deliberately Shoot and Kill Civilians in Pala Town, Palaw Township, Tanintharyi Region (The Human Rights Foundation of Monland)

Junta troops have continued their campaign of terror in Pala Town, Palaw Township, Tanintharyi Region, by deliberately shooting and killing civilians, according to

testimonies from local residents. Four civilians, including a woman with a mental health condition, were killed during a recent military operation.

On 2 August 2025, three men and one woman were shot and killed by junta soldiers who were reportedly targeting anyone they encountered in the town. The victims were identified as U Aung Oo, U Mae Pya, U Soe Lin, and Daw Thi Win. All were residents of Pala town and believed to be in their early 30s.

Eyewitnesses said the woman, Daw Thi Win, who was mentally unwell, was shot directly in the chest. Her body has not yet been retrieved, and residents remain uncertain about her whereabouts.

“Soldiers were shooting at anyone they saw in Pala Town. It is no longer indiscriminate; they are intentionally targeting civilians. Even the woman with mental health issues was killed. Her body is still out there somewhere, but no one knows for sure where it is,” said a resident who spoke on condition of anonymity due to safety concerns.

Clashes between the junta forces and local resistance groups have intensified since 24 July in Palaw and surrounding villages. Residents report that the military is employing excessive force, including ground assaults, naval attacks, and airstrikes. As a result, civilian casualties have been rising rapidly.

6. Local Man Injured After Junta Column Shoots at Him in Dawei (The Human Rights Foundation of Monland)

A local man was seriously injured after being shot by a Junta military column during a military operation in Kha Maung Chaung Village, Yebyu Township, Dawei District.

Local sources said that on December 16, a column of more than 100 Junta troops entered Kha Maung Chaung Village, west of Yebyu town. During the operation, the soldiers shot a man in his 30s after accusing him of trying to flee.

“He ran into the troops and tried to escape, so they shot him,” a local woman told HURFOM. “After the troops withdrew, he had a gunshot wound to his right arm, and his abdomen was badly injured. He was still able to speak. The soldiers also detained his mother and took 400,000 kyats from her. They mocked him, calling him ‘bald head,’ and treated his wounds themselves.”

On the same day, resistance forces reportedly carried out a drone bomb attack on the troops while they were inside the village. Following the drone attack, Junta troops set fire to two houses in Kha Maung Chaung Village and detained seven villagers, including three men and four women, taking them as hostages, according to sources close to those detained.

The troops remained stationed in Kha Maung Chaung Village for four days, from December 16 until around midnight on December 19, before withdrawing toward Yebyu town. The seven villagers who had been detained were released when the troops left the area.

Residents said the operation in Kha Maung Chaung Village was part of a wider military offensive launched by junta forces into villages west of Yebyu town, following attacks and arson carried out by resistance forces on government department offices in Yebyu town during the second week of December.



Houses burned by military junta troops in Kha Maung Chaung Village (Photo credit: HURFOM)

7. Chin Man Beaten and Killed by the Military Junta After Checkpoint Shooting in Hakha, Chin State (The Chin Human Rights Organization)

On August 20 in Hakha town, Chin State, military forces fired upon a civilian during an arbitrary inspection at a military checkpoint. The victim was attempting to escape on his motorbike when he was shot. As a result, he suffered serious gunshot wounds to his waist and leg. He was taken to Hakha Public Hospital but succumbed to his injuries around 9:00 PM.

The individual who was shot and killed was Salai Sang Khia, a 30-year-old from Tisen village in the Lautu area of Thantlang, who had travelled to Hakha town for business. In addition to Salai Sang Khia, two other young women were injured during the gunfire, but their conditions are not life-threatening.

After shooting Salai Sang Khia, military forces reportedly continued to beat and kick him while he lay injured and bleeding on the ground. A close relative of Salai Sang Khia recounted, “He was taken into surgery at the hospital. At around 8:30 PM, he had not yet emerged from the operating room when we were informed that he had passed away. Later, the doctors mentioned that he regained consciousness for a brief moment. They did everything they could to save him, providing emergency treatment and monitoring him for about an hour. Then, they informed us that there was nothing more they could do and asked us to prepare for the funeral. He passed away at around 9:00 PM.”

8. Chin Man Displaced by Conflict Arrested and Killed by the Military in Falam Township (The Chin Human Rights Organization)

On December 8, a Chin man named U Khrih Nun Thang, aged 39, was arrested and killed by the military junta after fleeing conflict from Thayar Kon Village in Kalay Township to Phaizawl Village in Falam Township, according to local sources. He leaves behind a wife and two children. Residents reported that his body was buried at the

location where he was killed by junta forces.

In a separate incident on the morning of December 9, a local resident from Bualkhua Village in Falam Township died after stepping on a landmine planted by the military. Local communities are increasingly concerned about the deteriorating security conditions, as military operations, landmine threats, and arbitrary arrests and killings continue to escalate in the area.

9. Internally Displaced People Shot and Killed by the Military Junta (Assistance Association for Political Prisoners)

In the first week of November 2025, a military column of junta forces, departing from the Directorate of Defence Industries No. (22) in Seikphyu Township, Magway Region, entered an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Pauk Township, Magway Region. They apprehended, tortured, and shot dead two individuals, including a local woman and a student, both of whom had sought refuge in the camp to avoid serving as Pyu Saw Htee militiamen. The woman was killed by a gunshot wound to the head, while the student was shot in the neck.

10. Five People Held Captive, Used as Human Shields and Killed by Landmines (Assistance Association for Political Prisoners)

In the first week of September 2025, junta forces launched an offensive into villages in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region. During the attack, they captured several individuals. While leaving the area, the junta forces forced the five captives to walk across a minefield, using them as human shields. Tragically, all of them were killed in landmine explosions. That same day, a local who rode into the village on a motorbike without realizing the junta forces were present was also apprehended. He had his hands tied behind his back and was executed with a gunshot to the temple.

11. Six Killed, At Least Seven Injured in Kwan He Village Airstrike by the Military (Ta'ang Women's Organization)

The military junta launched an airstrike bombing at 8:36 PM on 18 October 2025 on Kwan He village in Nam San Township, instantly killing six villagers. A source said, "There are about four deaths. Two houses were hit."

The investigation later revealed that the airstrike bombing killed five women and one man in the village, injured at least seven others, and destroyed more than 10 houses. In addition, an aerial bombardment was launched at 9 PM on 11 Mile Village on Mong Ngao Road in Kyaukme Township, killing one monk. The damage is still being investigated by the Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO).

A woman from Kyaukme said, "I heard a loud noise from the village. I don't know exactly where it was, whether it was just in Nyaung Maung village or not. I heard it before 9 a.m. Last time it was in Nyaung Kone, the houses shook. I wasn't that scared before, but I'm really scared."

Similarly, at 5:30 PM on the same day, an airstrike bombing was carried out in the jungle between Loi Su Village and Pan The Pyay Village in the Nam Khone Village Tract, Monglon Township, which is controlled by the Ta'ang National Liberation Army - PSLF/



TNLA. Daw Aye Pwint, 32, was injured in the hip.

On the 18th of October, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army - PSLF/TNLA-controlled Ta'ang region saw three (3) airstrikes on civilian areas where there was no fighting.

CONCLUSION

Generations in Burma have been forced to live under authoritarian rule, resulting in the loss of their rights and their fight for fundamental freedoms. The worsening situation and conditions on the ground demand a response from international actors that has not been urgent enough. Women and girls face daily risks to their safety. They are likely to face even greater dangers without coordinated interference and a clear course of action that makes it evident that no one, especially the military junta, which has evaded accountability for decades, is above the rule of law. Suffering throughout the country and borderlands has affected too many for too long.

International actors, including ASEAN, have faltered, resulting in human losses. The junta has continued to act with disregard for the rule of law in response to the absence of consequences. In doing so, the regime has attempted to create a false sense of normalcy in the country, even though people are losing their lives every day. This is not a sustainable future, nor one aligned with rights-based norms or principles. Grippled by uncertainty and hope for change, there is a better way forward for democratic Burma.

While the challenges of the Revolution persist, there is a strong call to urgently refer the human rights situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court. The time to act is now.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the 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. Dispatch a monitoring team immediately 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 Burmese civilians outside the military junta. ASEAN must end its dialogue with the junta if it is serious about pursuing and supporting prospects for peace in the country.
3. The problematic '5-Point Consensus' must be abandoned immediately, and a new approach must be adopted to ensure reforms progress.
4. ASEAN must support restrictions on the use of foreign currency for arms purchases and on the purchasing power of arms and other military equipment.
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 Burmese 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 Burmese 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 various borders, including Thailand and India and inside Burma.
6. Take more transparent, 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 local people's desires, 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.

Defying a Dictatorship

An Overview of the Human Rights Situation in Burma:

2025

July-December

Photo by : Ta'ang Women's Organization



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 documented human rights abuses and advocated for justice on behalf of victims. The network consists of nine full members and four affiliate members.

Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma)