

## Junta conducts mass arrests to collect conscripts



In what appears to be a reckless and desperate move, the military junta is now conducting mass arrests of young men in the 20-40 age range in Mon and Tenasserim regions. This development appears to be the next step to forcefully collect conscripts for the 16th batch of military training for conscripts.

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# HURFOM focus on its goal despite threats and challenges

(Editorial for the Mon Forum – August, 2025)

HURFOM has a long-standing history of documenting human rights violations in Mon, Karen, and Tenasserim Regions in Southern Burma. This information is disseminated to the public via its website and social media platforms. HURFOM releases the Mon Forum on a monthly basis and issue No. 8, Vol. 10 were recently published.

HURFOM routinely reports on between 40 to 50 human rights violations each month. In August, 2025, we produced more than 30 articles documenting human rights violations spread across 15 townships in Mon, Karen and Tenasserim Regions.

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Burma has been largely ruled by authoritarian or military regimes since its independence. Democracy activists, human rights defenders and reporters are considered to be the most dangerous professions in Burma.

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HUFOM) was established in 1995 and it works to protect and promote human rights in Southern Burma. HURFOM works directly with human rights activists, reporters and volunteers.

The junta's army is present in many residential areas while revolutionary armed groups are active around village centers. Civilians are often threatened and abused by armed groups, and junta forces, HURFOM members face the same challenges.

Whether it is the junta's army or revolutionary armed groups, neither side prioritizes human rights.

After the 2021 attempted coup, the rule of law has failed and numerous new armed groups have emerged. In the early days of the military coup, when HURFOM's office was located in Mawlamyine, a village Administrator threatened a local woman who had shared a photo related to human rights violations with HURFOM. At that time, we had to stop reporting on human rights abuses in the Burmese language for years to protect the woman who shared that photo.

Despite moving its office to the Thai – Burma border, HURFOM still faces threats and restrictions from armed groups and junta forces. HURFOM has had to remove or redact some news stories of human right abuses from its website, to prioritize the safety and security of the organization, the reporters and those who share information with the organization.

Now in August, 2025, more than 4 years after the first incident of retribution directed at a civilian for sharing a photo of human rights violations, an armed group arrested and threatened another woman who had shared a photo with HURFOM. HURFOM did its best to secure the safety and security of the woman.

Despite threats and challenges, HURFOM has never given up its ultimate goal of protection and promotion of human rights and ending impunity for crimes against humanity.

HURFOM remains committed to documenting and disseminating human rights violations in the region, with the hope that this information will contribute to ending the impunity of the military junta and can contribute to bringing about a genuine peace and federal democracy to Burma.

Editors' Team

Human Rights Foundation of Monland

August, 2025





## Junta conducts mass arrests to collect conscripts

In what appears to be a reckless and desperate move, the military junta is now conducting mass arrests of young men in the 20-40 age range in Mon and Tenasserim regions. This development appears to be the next step to forcefully collect conscripts for the 16th batch of military training for conscripts.

On July 26th, 2025, the junta arrested more than 40 young men in the 18-50 age range in Pu Tane Yoe village, Thaton Township, Mon State. The men were detained at the Thaton Twon Police Station, Thein Sake Police Station and the 9th Military Training Camp in Thaton Township.

“When we went to the police station and made an inquiry, they said the arrested were sent to the 9th regiment. They continued if we wanted them to be released, we must provide substitutes for conscripts. That is all they could say,” said a source close to one of the victims’ families.

At about 10 am on August 9th, 2025, about 30 members of the junta’s joint forces raided the office of the “Lo Yar Phyate” Organization for Social and Funeral Services in Thein Za Yet Town, Kyike Hto Township, Mon State and

arrested 15 displaced men who had taken temporary shelter in the office.

They have been detained at the Thane Za Yat based 207th Light Infantry Battalion and not allowed to have contact with their family members.

The military junta arrested more than 30 young men on the Bilin – Taung Zune Motorway in Bilin Township, Mon State, and forced them to join the military training for conscripts.

“They’ve conducted more arrests in the evening when young men return from work. They don’t conduct arrests at any one single place. They have a mobile team to conduct arrests. Sometimes, they beat those arrested,” said a Taung Zune villager. The arrested are from Taung Zune, Thit Toe Kyune, Zoke Toke, Ah Nile Pon and Hpwal Ka Lar villages, and most are being detained at the 6th Military School of the Mawlamyine based Southeast Military Command.

At about 10 pm on July 28th, 2025, the junta’s army and administration team conducted a check on visitors in 8-Mile, 11-Mile and 12-Mile villages, 10-Mile village track, Kaw Thaung Township, Tenasserim Division and arrested 16 workers after accusing them of failing to file “visitors’ report”.

There was also visitors’ check in 9-Mile and Tar Nyone Par Da villages and the “Nyaung Yoe Stone Mine” on July 30th. Workers from the mine and nearby plantations were arrested. HURFOM has not yet been able to confirm how many individuals were arrested.

In addition, undocumented young men who were sent back to Burma from the Ranong Detention Camp, Thailand were not allowed to return home and have been detained at the Kaw Thaung based 431st Light Infantry Battalion.

“The authorities released those who were over 35. Those who were under 35 were detained for conscription. The detainees who could pay 25,000 or 30,000 Baht were released. The amount didn’t include the fee for brokers,” said a local source. The junta’s security gate in the “Ka Myaw Kin” Bridge at the entrance of Dawei City has been arresting young men. Soldiers and the administrators have also been conducting mass arrests in Wards in downtown Dawei claiming they are checking the “visitors’ list”.

Seven young men from Long Lone Township were arrested on July 8th while four other young men were arrested on August 5th at the “Ka Myaw Kin” Bridge Security Gate. HURFOM was informed that all of them were sent to the military training for conscripts.

On August 4th, the junta conducted a “check on visitors’ list” in Shamma Lell Swell and Oak Tha Ran Ward of Dawei City and arrested 11 young men. They had been forced to have a medical checkup at the Dawei based 12th 100-bed military hospital and forcefully collected as conscripts.

“They sent the “summon letters for conscripts” to the families only after they arrested them. They said they wanted to check the “visitors’ list” and arrested young men at their homes,” said a local source.

As of July, 2025, the military junta has organized 15 military trainings for conscripts, and Batch #10 trainees have finished their training. All those who finished military training were immediately sent to the front lines.



**“The authorities released those who were over 35. Those who were under 35 were detained for conscription. The detainees who could pay 25,000 or 30,000 Baht were released. The amount didn’t include the fee for brokers,”**

# Armed conflict kills 20 Pu Law residents: Thousands of villagers flee



Since the third week of July, 2025, there has been an intense battle between the junta's army and the People's Defense Force and its allies near Pu Law Town, Myeik District, Tenasserim Division.

The army responded with heavy and small weapons fire and drone attacks. They also launched air assaults killing at least 20 residents including two monks and destroying 40 houses.

*"The army indiscriminately attacks the villagers. As far as I know, at least two villagers were killed by indiscriminate shooting. The number of casualties is much greater than the number in the official statement. Many families are stuck in the battle in Pu Law but we don't know the exact number,"* said a witness.

More than 5,000 residents from Pa La Town and nearby villages have fled due to the intense conflict. The prolonged fighting has left at least 3,000 displaced villagers from Mi Jaung Thike, Thar Myine Pyin and Kyauk Phyu villages in urgent need of food and shelter.

*"Now, the armed conflict has lasted for nearly a month. The army asks lots of questions if they find us carrying food. As we aren't allowed to transport a big amount of rice, the displaced villagers are facing a tough livelihood. They are also in need of medicine as it is the rainy season now,"* said a social worker helping the displaced community.

Currently, nearly 200 military junta troops are stationed in empty houses in Pa La Town and revolutionary forces are active around the town. This situation leads to ongoing armed conflicts, according to a Pu Law resident.

From 2021 to August, 2025, approximately 18,500 villagers in Pu Law Township have been displaced, and most remain unable to return to their homes.

## Number of victims of extrajudicial killing rises in Mon State



From March to the first week of August, 2025, according to data collected by HUMAN RIGHTS Forum Monland (HURFORM) there were at least 12 extrajudicial killings in Mon State, with 16 residents being murdered.

Extrajudicial killings occurred 4 times in Mudon Township; two in Thanbyuzayat Township; two in Thaton Township; one in Bilin Township; one in Kyike Hto Township; one in Mawlamyine Township and one in Ye Township.

Six local men from Mudon Township; two men and a woman from Thanbyuzayat Township; three men from Thaton Township; a woman from Bilin Township; a man from Kyike Hto Township, a man from Mawlamyine Township and a man from Ye Township were killed in these incidents making a total of 16 residents that were extrajudicially killed.

On August 6th, 2025, a couple from Htin Shuu village, Thanbyuzayat Township were found dead between Htin Shuu and Lin Ma Thar villages with gunshot wounds.

“On that day, they were riding motorbikes when they encountered and were stopped by an armed group. They were shot and killed at that place. The armed group also took their motorbike,” said a local woman.

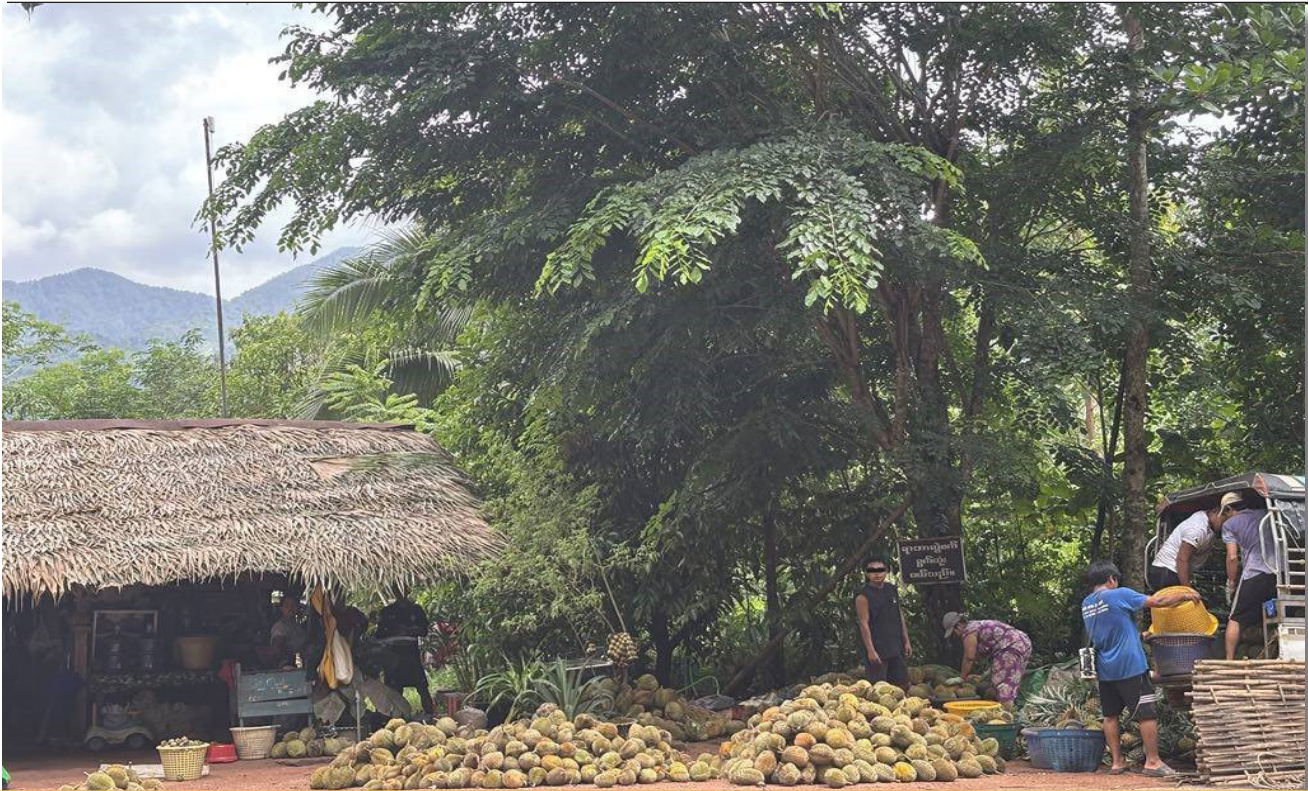
The locals said the couple were the main organizers of local gambling events in the area and also worked as informants for the junta; however, HURFOM is unable to verify the allegations.

“I’m sure that the YPDF (Ye People’s Defense Force), the MSRF (Mon State Revolution Forces), the KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) and the RMA (Rehmonnya Army) didn’t commit the killing. We also visited the place of incident to check the situation,” said Captain Yan Nile, the Commander of the YPDF.

Since the 2021 coup, the rule of law in Burma has deteriorated and a growing number of new armed groups have emerged. While extrajudicial killings frequently occur, no one knows who is responsible. Both the junta and the revolutionary forces accuse and blame each for the killings.



**“On that day, they were riding motorbikes when they encountered and were stopped by an armed group. They were shot and killed at that place. The armed group also took their motorbike,”**



## NMSP increases annual tax rates by tenfold

The New Mon State Party (NMSP) has increased annual taxes from three to ten times on local businesses in their controlled villages in Ye Chaung Pyar area, Ye Township, Mon State. This massive tax hike is creating a huge burden on local businesses and residents.

In 2024, a betel nut distributor had to pay 100,000 MMK annually in taxes, while a motorbike repair shop had to pay 30,000 MMK. A snack shop had to pay 20,000 MMK and a chewable betel nut shop had to pay 10,000 MMK. However, in 2025, a betel nut distributor pays 500,000 MMK annually, while a motorbike repair shop has to pay 100,000 MMK. A snack shop had to pay 200,000 MMK and a chewable betel nut shop had to pay 100,000 MMK.

“Before, a small snack shop had to pay around 20,000 MMK while a restaurant had to pay 30,000 MMK. This year, commodity prices have risen sharply and the political crisis creates economic instability, but we have to pay 200,000 or 300,000 MMK in annual tax,” said a villager.

Besides taxes on “fruits”, the NMSP additionally collects “fruit transportation tax” on plantation owners creating more hardship on them.

“We have to pay 10,000 MMK for a durian plant and they also collect a certain amount of tax per 10,000 nuts. They already collect tax on fruits, they should collect “fruit transportation tax” only from merchants but they also collect “transportation tax” on plantation owners,” said a Ye Chaung Pyar resident.

Besides taxes on local businesses and products, the NMSP also collects tax on imports in other areas.

“Before, they just collected a “wheel tax” but now, they collect a tax on the imports transported by trucks. They collect taxes from truck drivers, we have tried to transport goods by boat but they also collect tax from goods imported by waterway,” said a plantation owner.

The NMSP has not provided any explanation to local residents about their increasing annual taxes. Villagers only become aware when the NMSP’s administration officer informs them of the amount of the annual taxes.



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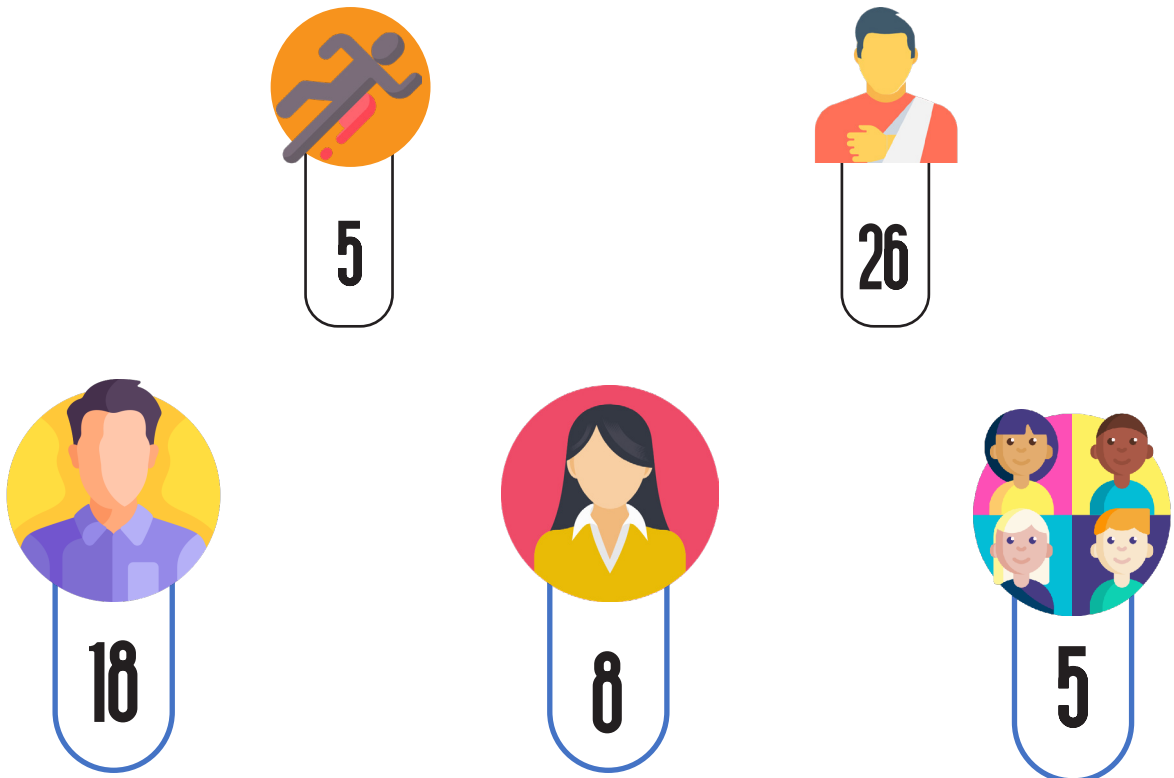
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# NUMBER OF LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS, INJURIES, AND FATALITIES IN MON STATE, KAREN STATE, AND TANINTHARYI REGION

From January to August 2025



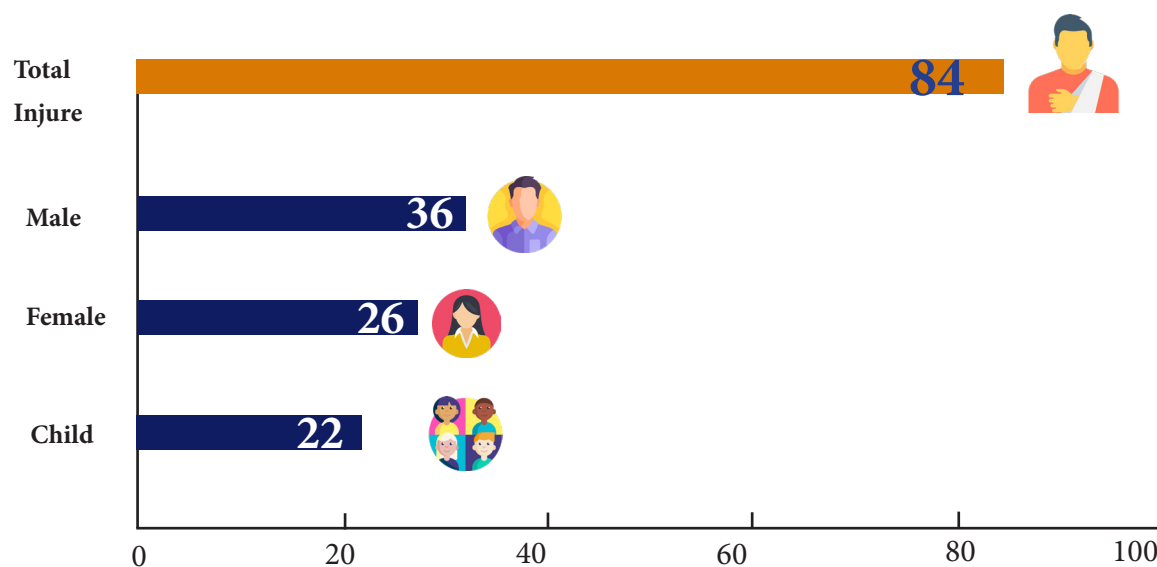
## NUMBER OF DEAD & INJURED



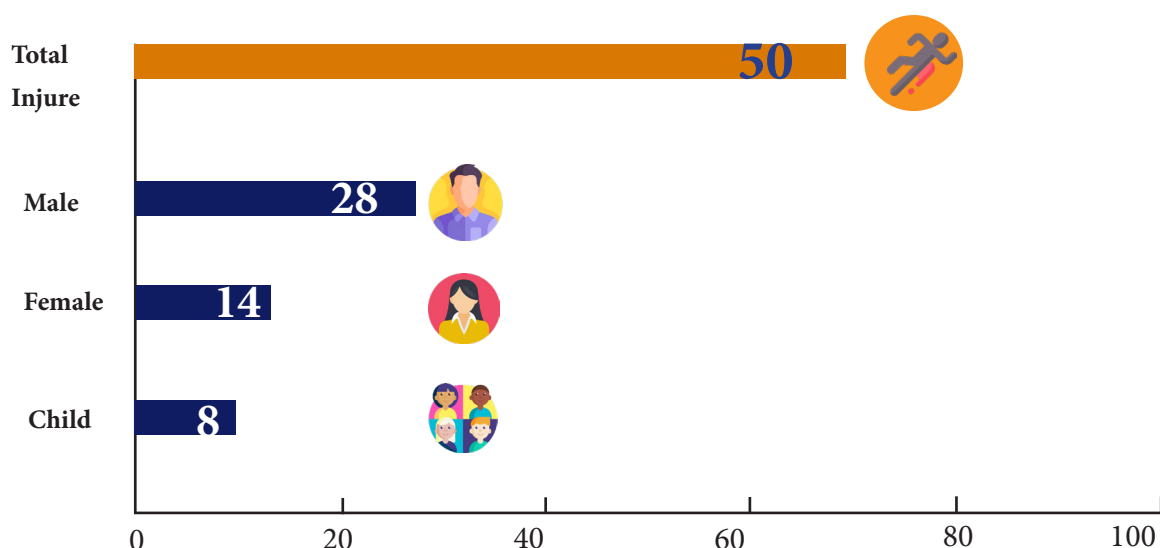
Male- 17( 14 injured/ 4 Killed) , Female – 8 ( 7 injured, 1 killed), Child - 5 injured

# LIST OF CASUALTIES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY ARTILLERY SHELLING

From January to August 2025



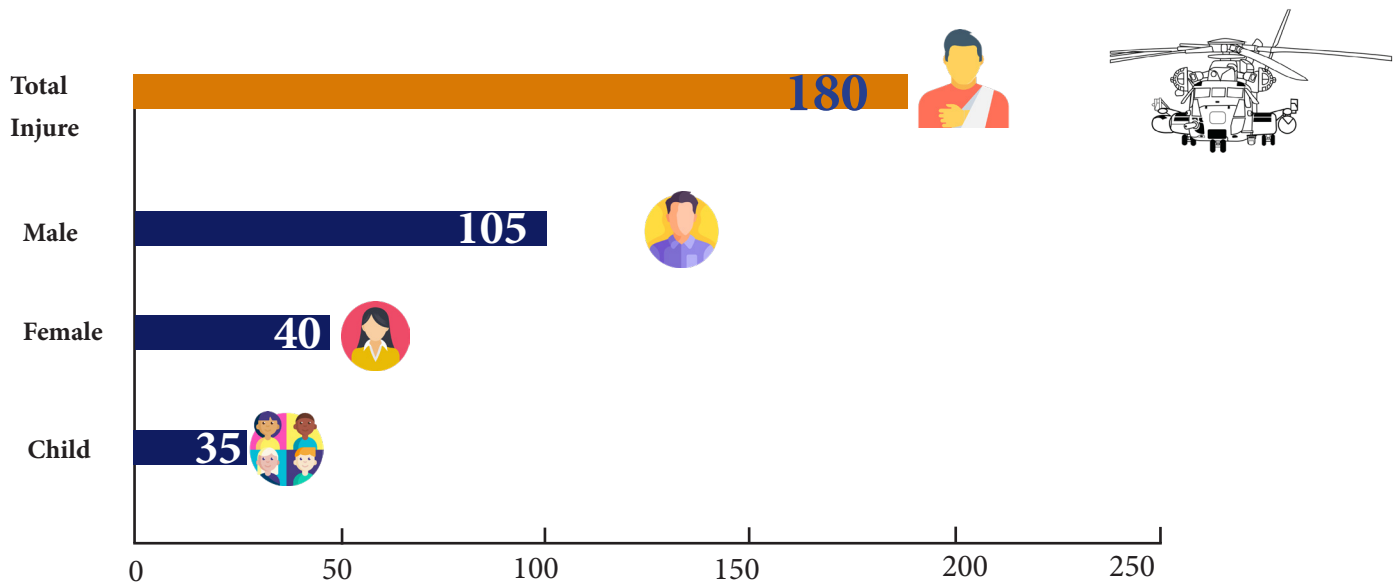
Total injured – 84, Female- 26, Male- 36 and Child – 22



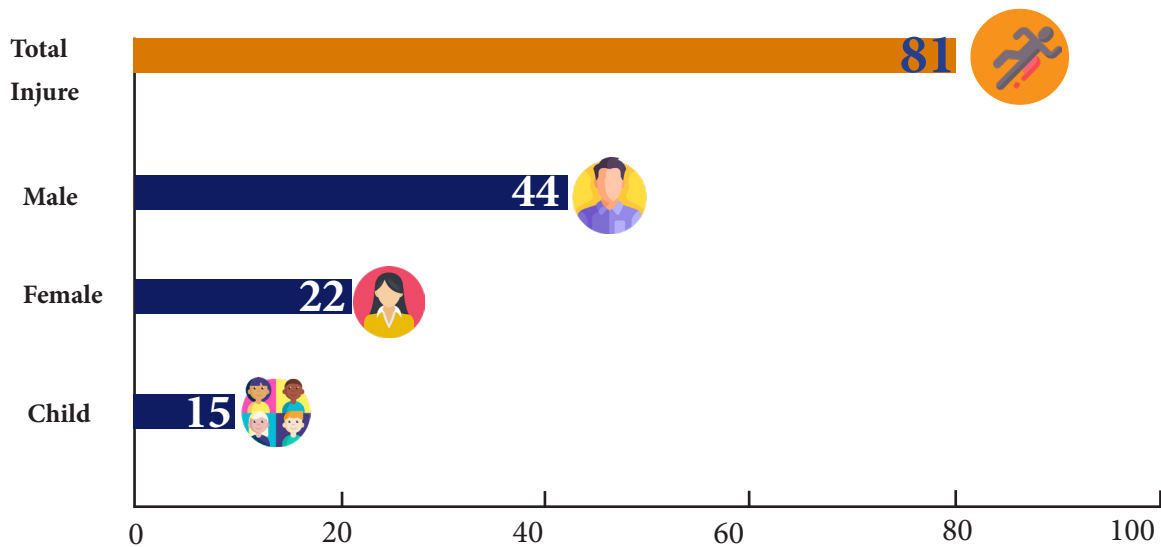
Total Killed – 50, Female- 14, Male- 28 and Child – 8

# LIST OF CASUALTIES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY DRONE & AIR STRIKE

From January to August 2025



Total injured – 180, Female- 40, Male- 105 and Child – 35

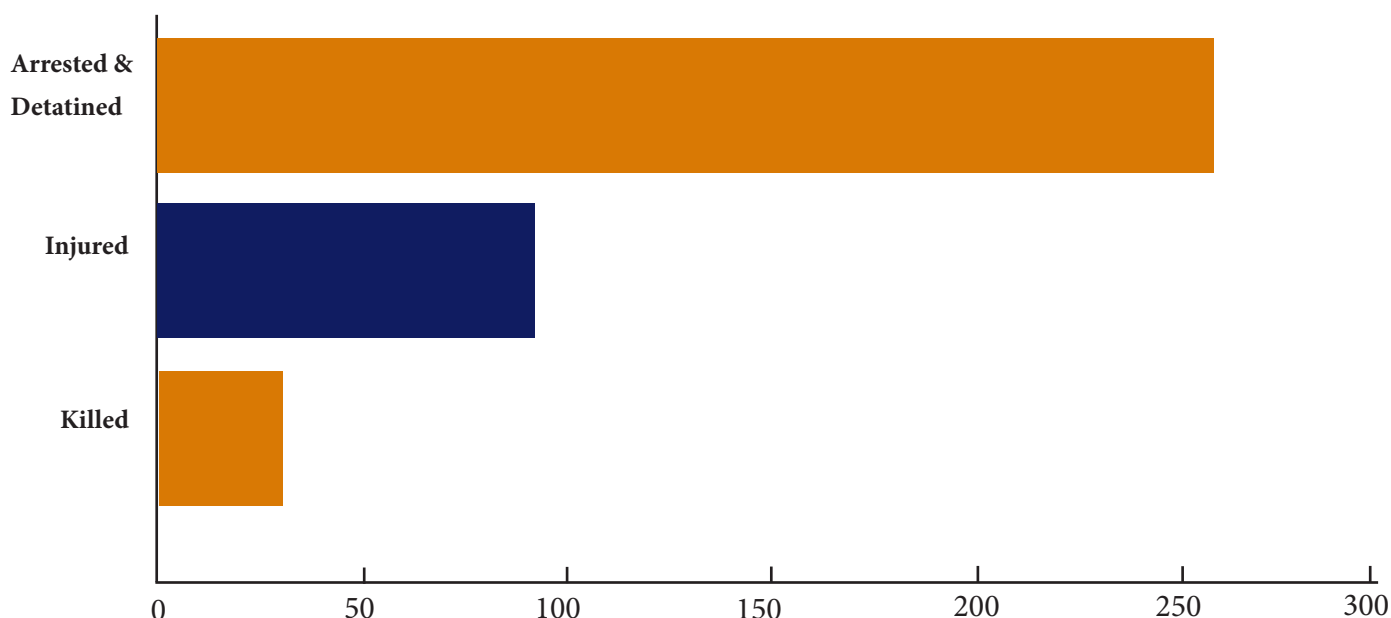


Total Killed – 81, Female- 22, Male- 44 and Child – 15

## SCALED UP HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HURFOM fieldworkers continue to take great risks to document the human right sviolations being perpetrated in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of August 2025, HURFOM recorded at least 152 people arrested, 105 detained, 92 injured, and 38 killed across all target areas.

August 2025



5+

Pro-Democracy Protesters, Politicians & Activists  
Sentenced by the Junta

# Human Rights Violation Data Records in Mon State

August 2025

## (A) Conscription law and arbitrary arrest

1. In Mudon Town, Mon State, the ward administration teams have extorted 10,000 MMK from each household to hire substitute conscripts. HURFOM has been unable to confirm if the extortion is based on monthly or batch bias.

On July 26 th , 2025, the ward administration team of Myo Ma #4 Ward called local residents to a meeting where they said they had to hire substitute conscripts and each substitute would cost five million MMK. The team said they do not have funds, so local residents must pay this amount.

The team explained they had to send two conscripts per batch till the 15 th military training batch for conscripts. Before, they were capable of managing the issue without collecting money from residents. However, it has become difficult to find enough substitutes. Residents must now pay to hire substitutes for the 16th batch.

2. Following the shooting deaths of two militia members, junta forces launched a brutal crackdown in Pu Taing Yoe village, Thaton Township, Mon State, arresting more than 40 local men, according to residents.

On the afternoon of July 30, around 2 p.m., a combined force of junta soldiers and police raided the village, reportedly arriving in seven vehicles.

“There were about 40 troops, soldiers and police combined. They went door to door, arresting people. If anyone tried to flee, they were shot at. More than 40 people were taken,” said a resident of Pu Taing Yoe.

Among those detained were over 20 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), while the rest were ordinary villagers, farm workers, shopkeepers, and local youth, according to sources.

The arrested men, all aged between 18 and 50, were reportedly transferred to multiple detention sites, including Thaton Township Police Station, Thein Seik Police Station, and the No. 9 Military Training Base for interrogation.

3. 9 August 2025, junta forces arrested fifteen displaced men sheltering at the “Lo Yar Phya Social Assistance Office” in Theinzayat Town, Kyaikhto Township, Mon State. Local residents reported that the arrests took place at around 10:00 AM, when a joint column of approximately thirty junta troops stormed the compound.

“When the military trucks arrived, everyone was terrified. No one dared to step outside to see what was happening. The soldiers then picked out fifteen men from among the displaced people and took them away,” said a Theinzayat resident.

The detainees, aged between 18 and 37, were reportedly taken under the pretext of “needing to be questioned.” They are currently being held at Light Infantry Battalion No. 207’s base in Theinzayat, where family members have been denied access to them. Relatives fear the men may be forcibly sent to military training for conscription.

4. Across Mon State, thousands of young people have been swept into the Junta’s People’s Military Service through intimidation, manipulation, and outright force. Many are now trapped in frontline battles, used as human shields in reinforcement operations. Locals say the urgent need for manpower to carry out ground attacks is driving this unlawful exploitation of Mon youths.

On August 13, the Junta’s Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, alongside state ministers and Southeastern Command officials, visited newly arrived conscripts from across the state at the Township Basic Training School in Mawlamyine. These young men and women are part of the 16th Batch of

the People's Military Service training. According to local residents, most had little choice but to comply once targeted by local administrators and conscription committees.

5. . On August 13, the Junta's Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, alongside state ministers and Southeastern Command officials, visited newly arrived conscripts from across the state at the Township Basic Training School in Mawlamyine. These young men and women are part of the 16th Batch of the People's Military Service training. According to local residents, most had little choice but to comply once targeted by local administrators and conscription committees.

"They're increasing troop numbers to secure their planned election later this year," said a resident of Thanbyuzayat Township. "It's not just for polling places — they're also filling the frontlines.

As the election gets closer, recruitment is constant, day and night. They don't slow down." Since June, ward and village administrators have been working with township conscription committees to register all eligible youths. Residents report that summons letters are now arriving, with instructions to report to the township General Administration Department offices.

6. HURFOM field reporters have confirmed a disturbing escalation in arbitrary arrests by pro-junta militias and Pyusawhti groups at the village and ward level, targeting young people for forced military service. These arrests, often conducted in coordination with junta soldiers and police, are leaving communities gripped with fear and young men with no safe place to go.

In townships including Kyaik Hto, Bilin, Paung, Kyaikmayaw, and Mudon, these militias have been setting up ad-hoc checkpoints on small connecting roads between villages, blocking travel, and targeting youth returning from work or simply passing through.

Eyewitnesses reported that those captured are quickly transported to the nearest military camp by militia trucks. The men are often dressed in plain clothes and carrying bags, giving the impression they are civilians, only revealing their

weapons when surrounding and arresting their targets.

In one recent incident in Paung Township two days ago, five young men were arrested on the outskirts of town. Families of two of them were able to secure their release by paying ransom amounts of three million kyat each. The remaining three are still in detention, with their whereabouts unknown.

The problem is not limited to these militias. In Kyaikmayaw Township, combined teams of junta troops, police, and pro-junta militias have been setting up toll gate-style checkpoints on key roads. On 13 August, six young men were detained near Chan Gone village and accused of being “porters” for the military.

7. The military junta arrested more than 30 young men on the Bilin–Taung Zune Motorway in Bilin Township, Mon State, and forced them to join the military training for conscripts.

The junta’s army is in desperate need of privates to reinforce troop numbers. According to local sources, they have frequently been conducting arrests of young men along the Bilin–Taung Zune Motorway and forcing those arrested to join the army.

## **(B) Extorting (Conscription Law)**

1. Military-appointed local administrative force and conscription enforcement teams are conducting forced registration of local young men for military service across villages in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State. Alongside this, families are being compelled to pay arbitrary fees, adding further pressure and fear among already vulnerable communities.

The forced registration campaign is being coordinated by township-level conscription teams working under the General Administration Department (GAD). All males between the ages of 18 and 35 are being listed, with households required to pay between 10,000 and 15,000 MMK, regardless of consent or willingness to serve.

2. In Thanbyuzayat Town, Mon State, the military Junta has continued its campaign of forced conscription, repeatedly issuing military summons letters to residents across multiple wards.

Local sources confirmed that over 40 individuals received conscription notices between early July and early August 2025. The affected wards include Kyan Khine Yae, Aung Chan Thar, Set Thit Paing, Aung Tharyar, Kyaung Paing, Hintharwadi, Aung Zeya, Aung Zeya Extension, Aung Mingalar, Kyakan, and Phaung Sein.

At least 12 men from Kyakan, Phaung Sein, Aung Zeya, Aung Zeya Extension, Kyan Khine Yae, and Aung Kuthoe wards have already been forcibly recruited into military service. Among those summoned, eight individuals are currently living abroad. In one case, a family was forced to pay 6 million kyat to the Junta's conscription team in order to hire a substitute.

3. Since July, 2025, the “Da Dar Phyu” Security Gate in Ye Township, Mon State and the “Ma Hwelve Taung” Security Gate in Dawei Township, Tenasserim Division have been extorting from 5,000 to 20,000 MMK from travelers and drivers using the highway road.

The “Da Dar Phyu” Security Gate has been extorting 20,000 MMK from each truck; 2,000 MMK from a “minivan” and 5,000 MMK from each traveler.

4. The military junta is opening their 16th Batch of the Military Training for Conscripts and it has ordered each village or ward to send two young men to the training.

The Administrators from Ta Ra Nar, Kaw That, Kaw Doon, Kyune Kone, Kaw Ka Line, Kha Yone, and Kyike Pa Ran villages, Kyikemayaw Township, Mon State called a meeting and informed villagers that each household must pay 15,000 MMK monthly to hire substitutes for conscripts.

“The junta has demanded two young men from each village. There are no young men in the village. So, the Administrator has collected money and hired substitutes to join the training,” said a Kyikemayaw resident.

For the 15th Batch, Administrators in Kyikemayaw Township did not collect

money for a “conscription fee”; however, they have started collecting money for the 16th Batch.

## Arrest & Extorting

On June 21st, 2025, the junta’s army arrested three men who were abusing drugs at a betel nut plantation in Kyoe Tha Dar village nearby Maw Ka Nin village, Ye Township, Mon State.

After the arrest, the three men were detained in the Mawlamyine based South-east Military Command. The army said, those who could pay a ransom would be released, and those who could not would be sent to the military training for conscripts. Among three detainees, two were released on August 2nd after paying more than 50 million MMK to the army, according to local sources.

## (D) Air Strike

1. On the morning of 9 August 2025, a junta airstrike struck Pein Nae Gone village in Kyaikhto Township, Mon State, killing one civilian and injuring five others. Residents described the attack, which occurred at around 9:00 AM, as sudden and without warning, leaving the community in shock and fear. A junta jet fighter dropped a bomb on Pein Nae Gone despite there being no active clashes in or near the area at the time. The airstrike killed 62-year-old U Kyaw Thein and injured Ko Gyn, Ko Hpa Gyi, Ko Aung Phyo Wai, Ko Phyo Gyi, and Ko Aung Soe Moe, all of whom are local villagers.

2. August 9th to 11th, 2025, despite there being no active armed clashes in the area, the military junta launched air assaults and small and heavy weapon attacks on villages in Kyike Hto Township.

The Karen National Union (KNU) released a statement on August 19th stating that the military junta’s attacks killed a villager and injured five others.

At 9 am on August 9th, a YAK-130 aircraft dropped a bomb on Pane Nell Gone village, Pyin Ga Doe village tract, Kyike Hto Township even though there was

no active armed clash at the time of attack. That attack killed a villager and injured four others.

The junta's airstrike destroyed five houses, three family vans and three motor-bikes, according to the KNU statement. Pane Nell Gone village is under the control of the Brigade #1 of the Thaton District KNU and the air assault has forced hundreds of villagers to flee.

. On 24 August, junta fighter jets launched an airstrike on Chan Myae Monastery in Chan Myae village, Kyaikhto Township, Mon State. The strike directly hit the dining hall where monks were preparing for their morning meal.

According to local residents, eight monks were present inside the hall at the time of the attack. Two monks were killed instantly, and another monk, who had sustained severe injuries, died about 45 minutes later. Of the injured, at least another three are reported to be in critical condition. The monastery's dining facility was completely destroyed.



Injure

12



injure

1



Dead

5

## (E) Artillery Attack

1. Residents of Ywa Thit village in Ye Township, Mon State, were forced to flee their homes after the military Junta launched an intense artillery attack and deployed a ground column into the village, according to local sources.

On the morning of 4 August 2025, the Junta's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 343, based in Ye, fired more than 10 rounds of heavy artillery toward Ywa Thit, a Mon village located in the Ayuthaung village tract, near Highway No. 8 on the

eastern side of the Ye–Mawlamyine road. The shelling occurred without any active armed clashes in the area. Although no civilian injuries were reported as a result of the shelling, local residents expressed fear and concern for their safety. Following the attack, a column of around 80 junta troops entered the village and stationed themselves inside the local Buddhist monastery, according to a female resident.

2. Ye Township, Mon State – An elderly villager was seriously wounded after artillery shells fired by junta forces struck his home in San Pya village.

On the evening of August 24, at around 7:30 p.m., Infantry Battalion No. 106, based in Ye Township, launched at least four artillery shells. One shell exploded directly inside San Pya village, hitting the home of 72-year-old U Maung. He was struck by shrapnel and suffered a broken knee as well as minor injuries to his face, hands, and feet. His house was also badly damaged.

“We dare not send him to hospital immediately as we’re afraid of breaching curfew. We sent him to the Lamine General Hospital the next morning (August 25th),” said a local woman.



injured

2

## (F) Torture and Killing

1. A truck assistant was killed and another person injured when fighting broke out between junta forces and Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)-allied troops along the Yangon–Mawlamyine Highway near Aoo Lay village, Bilin Township, Mon State, on the morning of 9 August 2025.

The clash began at around 11:00 AM when KNLA joint forces ambushed junta troops returning from a military operation in Aoo Lay. As the two sides exchanged fire, passing civilian vehicles were caught in the crossfire.

## (G) Livelihood

1. Since August 4th, 2025 when the junta announced martial law in Kyarinn-seikyi Township, Karen State, the junta's army has reinforced their troops in their military bases in the area and tightened security check alongside the Ah Bit – Three Pagoda Pass Road which connects the Mon and Karen State. The travelers and drivers have been delayed by the heavy check. "They stopped every vehicle and ordered the passengers to come down. Then, they checked the ID cards. The passenger had to walk if there is a heavy traffic. The young men shouldn't use that route if possible. But those who go to Thailand mainly use that route. Now, there are lots of soldiers and the security is tightened more and more. We can't travel easily like before," said a traveler. As the check is tightened in the Ah Bit route, the drivers alternately use "Khun Hna Khway" route in Kyune Yaw village; however, the junta has also tightened security on that route since August 7th.

## (H) Rape and Killing

On July 17th, 2025, a man who raped and killed a 13-year-old girl from Kaw Sein village, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, has been charged with legal action.

The girl was lost from her home on May 26th and found dead on May 28th. Locals suspected she was raped and killed and two male suspects were arrested on the same day.

After two months of detention and interrogation in the police station, it was revealed that 32-year-old Maung Yan Nine Soe aka Kaung Ngae committed the rape and murder.

## (I) Rule of Law

In recent months, the junta has deepened its assault on freedom of expression and the right to information in Mon State and across southern Burma. As the military prepares for a widely condemned sham election, vast sums of money and human resources are being poured into sophisticated technology

and surveillance tools designed to cut off the last remaining lifelines civilians rely upon to access the outside world.

HURFOM spoke with both local technology experts and victims of these policies in Mon State. Their testimonies confirm what Burmese media agencies and HURFOM’s own field reports have long warned: the military is weaponizing technology to repress communities, punish dissent, and erase truths from reaching the public.

At the heart of this crackdown are powerful gateway firewalls installed at the country’s main internet entry points. Described by one IT professional as “digital gates at the border,” these systems filter every connection and can detect and block VPNs or encrypted applications, such as Signal. Technical sources confirmed that the system is reportedly supplied by Geedge Networks (Jizhi), a Chinese company linked to the architect of the Great Firewall of China.

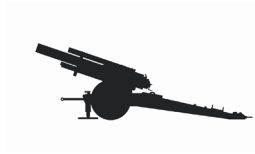
Additionally, the junta deploys Deep Packet Inspection (DPI), a method that inspects the contents of internet traffic—even encrypted traffic—to identify VPN patterns. “It’s like opening every letter before it’s delivered,” one expert told HURFOM. Investigations revealed DPI equipment installed inside local internet service providers such as Frontier, where junta cyber teams are believed to have remote access to monitor and intercept civilian web activity.

Beyond the high-tech controls, repression reaches the streets. Civilians report being stopped by soldiers or police in towns across Mon State, their phones inspected for VPN applications. Fines, intimidation, and even arrests follow. According to HURFOM’s monitoring, dozens of such incidents have been documented since the Junta announced its new Cybersecurity Law, which came into force on 1 January 2025.

# Human Rights Violation Data Records in Karen State

August 2025

## (A) Artillery attack (Field IDPs)



1. Since the third week of July 2025, the military junta has been reinforcing its troop presence and launching constant artillery attacks along the Kaw Ka Rate – Kyone Doe Highway Road, Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State, forcing residents from 13 villages to flee their homes.

The junta sent more than 200 troops to the area. Thousands of residents from Kyune Ka Lay, Nyi Nyar Thar Lin, Lay Tie, Ngar Tie, Ye Bu Gyi, Taung Phyar, Koe Tie, Kaw War Lell, Kaw Pha Low, Kaw Ka Mar, and Kaw Pha Lan villages and Kyone Doe Town had fled their residences.

2. Residents in Kyon Doe Township, Kawkareik District, Karen State, are facing another wave of displacement as junta forces continue 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.

3. Over the past two weeks, fighting has 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, have been emptied as residents fled for safety.

## (B) Landmine

(1) At about 6 pm on July 29th, 2025, a 40-year-old local man from Yaw Thit Pine Ward, Hline Bwel Town, Hpa-An District, Karen State stepped on a landmine and sustained severe injury by the landmine explosion, according to local sources and emergency and rescue team.

Saw Kyall Sue stepped on landmine while going to toilet behind his house. He had a serious injury at his left foot and had to amputate his lower leg.



injure

1

## (c) Livelihood

1. Since late July, relentless heavy rains have 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. 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. Local sources said the death toll could rise further, as there are still missing persons and search efforts are ongoing.

Community leaders, religious groups, and humanitarian networks are urgently appealing for help as heavy rains have caused deadly landslides in Than Taung Gyi Township, northern Karen State. Many lives have been lost, homes destroyed, and families left with nothing. They are calling on all domestic and international donors to act now with safe shelter, food, and medical support for survivors whose needs are growing by the day.

2. Since August 18th, 2025, the military junta has closed the “No. 2 Thai – Burma Friendship Bridge” in Myawaddy Town, Karen State. Now more than 500 trucks carrying imports into Burma are stuck in Mae Sot, Thailand.

The one-sided closure of the bridge has created a scarcity of commodities and gasoline and prices have sky-rocketed.

“The army has closed the No. 2 bridge and many lorries are stuck. The commodity and cosmetics imported from Thailand didn’t reach the market and prices are now increasing,” said a cosmetic seller.

On August 13th, the junta arrested gasoline importers in Myawaddy Town which led to a shortage of gasoline. The price of a liter of gasoline has risen to 10,000 MMK.

# Human Rights Violation Data Records in Tanintharyi

## Division August 2025

### 1. Arbitrarily arrested (Conscription law)

a. More than 15 young male workers were arrested in Kawthaung Township, Kawthaung District, Tanintharyi Region, on the night of July 28, 2025, by junta troops citing “guest registration violations” as the reason, according to local sources.

Around 10:00 p.m. on July 28, joint forces composed of junta soldiers and local administrators carried out coordinated nighttime inspections in several villages under the 10-Mile Village Tract, including Kan Maw Gyi (also known as 8-Mile Village), 11-Mile, and 12-Mile villages. They went door to door and detained male workers between the ages of 20 and 40, accusing them of failing to register their presence as required by military-imposed guest list rules.

According to residents, five men were taken from 8-Mile Village. From 12-Mile, workers from several local companies were targeted, including four from the Nyunt Hlaing Company, one from the Aung Ko Lwin natural stone company (which produces granite and limestone), and one from Tin Aung Moe Company. Additionally, five workers from a brick kiln in 10-Mile Village and one local resident from the same area were also arrested. In total, approximately 16 men were rounded up.



b. On July 30, around 10 youths were arbitrarily arrested by junta forces at the Ka Myaw Kin Bridge checkpoint, one of the main entry points into Dawei town, according to local sources.

The youths were reportedly traveling from Long Lone Township to Dawei when they were stopped and arrested individually at the checkpoint. Among the 10, two were later released on the same day, according to one of the released individuals and someone close to them. Of those arrested, four were originally from Long Lone Township, while the others were from different parts of Mon State and had relocated to live in Long Lone, a local source said.

c. At least eight residents from Paradat village, Yebyu Township, Dawei District, remain in detention after a raid by junta troops earlier today, despite the release of most others initially arrested, according to local sources.

The raid occurred early in the morning on August 2 in Paradat village, located within the Dawei Special Economic Zone. Troops reportedly entered the village at around 6:00 a.m. and arrested approximately 30 villagers, including both men and women.

d. On July 31 st , 2025, Thai authorities sent back 162 undocumented Burmese citizens who had already served their jail term in the Ranong Detention Camp, Thailand to the Burmese authorities in Kaw Thaug Town, Tenasserim Division. The military junta forcefully collected these detainees as the military conscripts. Those who wanted to avoid conscription had to pay from 25,000 to 30,000 Thai Baht to the army. A 29-year-old young man from Ban Ka Choon village paid 25,000 Thai Baht with the assistance of the village Administrator and was released.

e. Between the night of 3 and 4 August 2025, at least 14 young people were forcibly arrested and taken by junta forces for military conscription in Dawei Town, according to local residents. The arrests were carried out both in public and during late-night home raids under the pretext of checking guest lists.

On 5 August, at least five more individuals were reported to have been arrested in Kyet Sar Pyin Ward and along Strand Road. Residents also reported that on the night of 4 August, junta soldiers arrested four young women, all around the age of 20, during home raids in Kyet Sar Pyin Ward.

f. Since August 15th, there have been intense battles between the junta's regiment and the Mon and Karen joint revolutionary groups between Kaw Hline and Ma Yan Chaung village, Yebyu Township.

Then on August 19th, 2025, an 18-year-old young man from Thar Yar Mon village, Yar Phu village tract, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division was returning home from Nat Inn Taung village by bike. He encountered a junta regiment that had advanced into Kaw Hline village when he was arrested.

e. Since early August, 2025, there has been constant military tensions and intense armed clashes along the "Ma Hwelve Taung – Ka Lane Aunge" motorway of the 8th Union Highway Road in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. As a result, more than 4,000 residents from six nearby villages have had to flee their homes.

25 displaced villagers were arrested on August 28th when they attempted to return to their homes. "15 villagers from Thar Yar Mon, seven villagers from Mile-60 and three villagers from Yar Phu Yaw Thit, 25 in total, have been arrested. Five women are among the arrested," said a local source. The source continued the army had detained the 25 arrested villagers at the Yar Phu Yaw Thit monastery.

## (2) Artillery Attack and killing

A. A local civilian injured by an artillery shell during intense fighting in Pan Tin Inn village has died while receiving treatment at Dawei General Hospital, according to residents. The man, one of five people wounded by artillery fire, passed away on the morning of 5 August 2025. The clash occurred on 29 July, when heavy fighting broke out between junta forces and local resistance groups in Pan Tin Inn village. The battle lasted more than 10 hours. According to eyewitnesses, U San Oo, a villager in his 60s, was hiding near his home when an artillery shell exploded nearby, causing serious injuries.

b. August 13th, 2025, an armed clash broke out between the junta's regiment and the joint forces of the revolutionary armed groups in 60-Mile village, Yar Phu village track, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division and the Ka Lane Aung based 282nd Artillery Regiment indiscriminately launched four artillery attacks to the village. One of the artillery shells dropped and exploded into a creek nearby the village and the artillery explosion injured 50-year-old Daw Chway who was fishing in the creek. Daw Chway have had an injury at her arm and currently, been receiving treatment in the Ye Township General Hospital.

c. Since the third week of July, 2025, there has been an intense battle between the junta's army and the People's Defense Force and its allies near Pu Law Town, Myeik District, Tenasserim Division.

The army responded with heavy and small weapons fire and drone attacks. They also launched air assaults killing at least 20 residents including two monks and destroying 40 houses.

"The army indiscriminately attacks the villagers. As far as I know, at least two villagers were killed by indiscriminate shooting. The number of casualties is much greater than the number in the official statement. Many families are stuck in the battle in Pu Law but we don't know the exact number," said a witness.

### (3) Killing

a. On July 30 th , 2025, military junta soldiers shot and killed a local man from Pa La Town, Pu Law Township, Tenasserim Division.

According to local sources, 50-year-old Lin Htike Zaw encountered junta's soldiers who were on patrol at about 8 pm while he was wandering the street alone. The soldiers arrested and tied him with rope. They also tortured him before shooting and killing him, said a local man.

"He used an excessive amount of methamphetamine tablets and his mind wasn't normal. He wandered the street like a mad man and was arrested by the soldiers. The soldiers tied him with rope and hit him with their rifle butts. Then, they shot and killed him," said the source.

b. Since the second week of August, 2025, military junta's regiments have advanced into villages in Tha Yet Chaung Township, Tenasserim Division. According to local sources, their incursion has killed two villagers and destroyed 76 houses.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the regiment destroyed a car and a house in Oak Tu village and on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, it torched 60 houses in Saw Phyar village. The regiment also burnt down and destroyed 15 houses in Moe Shwe Gone village on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

On the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>, villagers found two bodies of Moe Shwe Gone villagers near the village monastery and school.

c. Since early August, 2025, there has been constant and intense confrontations between the junta's army and the Mon and Karen joint revolutionary armed groups along the Ka Lane Aung – Ma Hwelve Taung Road, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. Villagers have had to flee their homes.

The entire Thar Yar Mon village fled on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and a 96-year-old woman who lived outside the village was found dead.

#### **(4) Extortion**

a. Since early July 2025, the 12th regiment of the 4th Brigade operating under the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) has been extorting 80,000 MMK per tank of gasoline from the gas stations in Pyin Bu village, Pu Law Township, Tenasserim Division. The Sin Toe, Boat Taung and Inn Ma Security Gates which operate under the 12th KNLA regiment, have been applying a heavy taxation regime on gasoline transported from Myeik Township.

#### **(5) Fled and IDPs**

a. August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there have been constant battles between the junta's army and the joint forces of the Mon and Karen revolutionary groups in Kaw Hline and Ma Yan Chaung villages, Yar Phu village tract, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. The junta's indiscriminate artillery attacks forced nearly 900 residents from Kaw Hline, Ma Yan Chaung and 60-Mile villages to flee their homes.

“The battle is really intense this time. There has been a constant shooting of both small and heavy weapons. No one is left in the village. All villagers have fled their home. There have been lots of artillery attacks targeting the village,” said a displaced villager from Ma Yan Chaung village.

b. Since the third week of July, 2025, there has been an intense battle between the junta’s army and the People’s Defense Force and its allies near Pu Law Town, Myeik District, Tenasserim Division.

More than 5,000 residents from Pa La Town and nearby villages have fled due to the intense conflict. The prolonged fighting has left at least 3,000 displaced villagers from Mi Jaung Thike, Thar Myine Pyin and Kyauk Phyu villages in urgent need of food and shelter.

c. Since early August, 2025, there has been constant military tensions and intense armed clashes along the “Ma Hwelve Taung – Ka Lane Aunge” motorway of the 8 th Union Highway Road in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. As a result, more than 4,000 residents from six nearby villages have had to flee their homes.

## 6. Livelihood

Tensions remain high in Yebyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, as clashes continue between junta forces and the allied resistance groups of Mon, Karen, and Tanintharyi. In response, junta personnel have tightened inspections at the Ma Hlwe Taung checkpoint near Kaw Hlaing village, leaving travelers and local residents facing increasing restrictions and uncertainty.

According to residents, the fighting has intensified since July, with no fewer than five armed encounters along the Ma Hlwe Taung road in August alone. A local man from Yebyu Township, who frequently travels the route, explained:

Since late June, junta troops stationed at the checkpoint have been particularly focused on seizing rice, medicine, and other basic commodities. Residents said soldiers regularly confiscate supplies, worsening shortages for displaced villagers

## 7. Arrest and Torture

On August 9th, 2025, a junta's regiment advanced into Pyin Htein village, Long Lone Township, Tenasserim Division. The regiment arrested four villagers and robbed two homes, taking cash and mobile phones. "They stole a phone and 100,000 MKK cash from one house and 80,000 MMK cash from another house. They arrested four men. A 40-year-old man said he was unable to follow them, so they beat and kicked him and abandoned him in a canal," said a Pyin Htein villager. The man beaten by the regiment has been admitted to the Dawei General Hospital. The three other men were released on August 11th.

## Human Rights Violation Data Records in Mon State, Karen State, and Tanintharyi Region by the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) August 2025

Number of IDPs, Killed and Injured

### Mon State



9500



15



25

### Karen State



17500 +



13



27

### Tenasserim



22500



14



17

## INFORMATION ON HURFOM AND INVITATION FOR FEEDBACKS FROM READER

Dears Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people. The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- Monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and other areas in southern Burma.
- Protecting and promoting internationally recognized human rights in Burma.

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM produces the monthly “Mon Forum” newsletters. If publication is delayed it is because we are waiting to confirm information, and it comes with our heartfelt apologies.

We encourage you to write to us if you have feedback or if you know someone who you think would you like to receive the newsletter.

Please email or email a name and address to:

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With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland



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