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Hots News

Voice of Conscripts



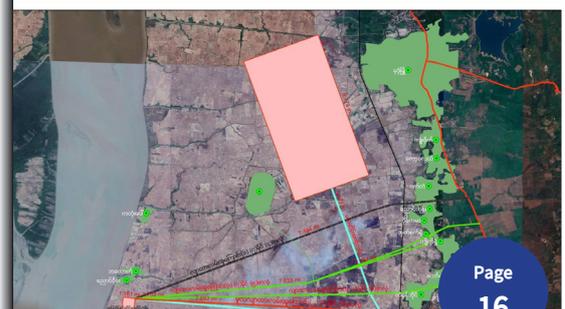
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MILITARY JUNTA INCREASES AIR ASSAULTS TARGETING INNOCENT CIVILIANS

(Editorial for the Mon Forum March, 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. 3, Vol. 10 was recently published.

HURFOM routinely reports on between 40 to 50 human rights violations each month. In March, 2025, there were more than 40 articles documenting human rights violations spread across 16 townships.

From January to the third week of March, 2025, the military junta has been launching constant and frequent air assaults on villages especially in Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division and Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State, according to local reports.

The junta's artillery attacks and air assaults have been forcing the entire population of Yebyu, Htone Khar, Chaung Hna Pauk, Thane Khun, Chaung La Mu and Kun Tea Taw villages to flee home and the displaced community has been facing food shortage, according to social workers who helps displaced villagers.

Villagers reported to HURFOM that since early 2025, the military junta has been increasing air assaults to Tenasserim, Long Lone, Dawei, Myeik and Pu Law Townships of Tenasserim Division.

“There was no recent active armed clash. They intentionally launched an air attack. They also dropped bombs on March 3rd and there have been aerial patrols every day. The situation isn't good,” said one resident.

On March 4th and 5th, 2025, the military junta launched airstrikes targeting villages in Southern Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State. The air assaults injured five villagers including a child.

The military junta continued with artillery, drone and air assaults resulting in at least 100 houses from Kaw Nwelve, Ta Tan Kuu, Yan Kote and Sin Kone villages being burnt and destroyed.

“At noon yesterday (March 4th), we saw three fighter jets flying over our village. Then, we heard the sound of an explosion. The aircraft shot three rockets but only one of them exploded. Two local villagers were injured and a motorbike was damaged,” said a neighboring villager.

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

March, 2025



“At noon yesterday (March 4th), we saw three fighter jets flying over our village. Then, we heard the sound of an explosion. The aircraft shot three rockets but only one of them exploded. Two local villagers were injured and a motorbike was damaged,”

Junta's Armed Force Day recalls grievances for Dhammasa's residents



Dhammasa village, Kyikemayaw Township, Mon State is located on the border separating Karen and Mon states and is surrounded by a green forest. The village is situated beside the Gyaing River and has big wood and brick houses. The village has a good economy and villagers celebrate the “Ta Saung Tie Festival” – a famous religious festival every year.

Dhammasa village had more than 1,000 houses but on March 7th, 2024, military junta torched many of the homes. That day of fire and destruction coincided with the 79th Armed Force Day.

The wanton destruction of the village by junta forces, was linked to the loss of the Kaw Bane Police Station to revolutionary forces. In retaliation, the junta launched a series of reckless attacks on Dhammasa village. The junta's navy ship targeted the village with artillery attacks while military aircraft dropped bombs. The entire village burnt down to ash.

Over the course of the two-day artillery attacks, 362 houses were destroyed and burnt down to ash and more than 1,500 residents became fire victims. Nearly 6,000 residents of the Gyaing River community had to flee their homes immediately.

Today, March 27th, 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the Armed Force Day of the junta and the 1st anniversary of the day that the junta torched the entire Dhammasa village.

Just prior to this year's Armed Forces Day, the military junta has reinforced their troop presence in Dhammasa village and set up artillery weapons in the village monastery. Navy ships have been patrolling the Gyaing River. The junta also launched an indiscriminate artillery attack on a nearby village where they assume the members of the revolutionary forces are housed. In the evening of March 26th, 2025, villagers heard the sounds of artillery attacks and were reminded of the junta's 2024 attacks.

“When this day (March 27th) comes, we're worried about what will happen to us. The soldiers are stationed in the village. The number is even greater. We don't know if they will attack us with artillery and bombs,” said a Dhammasa resident.

There have been no armed clashes between revolutionary forces and the junta along the Gyaing River area for nearly a year; however, junta troops have stationed themselves in nearby villages and launch indiscriminate artillery attacks on residential areas, as well as preventing displaced villagers from returning home.

Since the third week of March, 2025, the junta's navy ship in the Gyaing River has been launching indiscriminate artillery attacks, and residents must be careful with their movements.

“There are artillery attacks again. Armed Force Day is about to come. I returned to my village days ago and found the junta had set up artillery weapons in the village monastery,” said a Dhammasa villager.

The destruction of Dhammasa has occurred more than once. The military junta burnt the village to ash 30 years ago. After that incident some villagers fled to Thailand for work, while some worked their farmland. Eventually residents re-established their village community.

However, since the destruction of the village in 2024, no one knows when Dhammasa or if it will be rebuilt, due to the worsening political and economic situation in Burma.

Observers note that although villages can be rebuilt, the memory of grievances and doom will likely awaken every Armed Force Day and it will never be erased.





Junta's air strike kills two palm oil plantation workers and injures other seven

On March 24th, 2025, even there was no active armed clash in nearby area, the military junta dropped two 500-pound bombs into the palm oil plantation owned by the “Kyaw Maw 19 Palm Oil Company” in Chaung La Mu village, Tenasserim Township, Tenasserim Division.

The two bombs dropped and exploded on the barrack of the plantation workers in the premises of the company. The explosion killed 35-year-old and 40-year-old men on the spot and injured other seven workers.

“We haven't known if the injuries of the seven workers are serious or not but two workers were killed on the spot,” said a Chaung La Mu villager.

The “Kyaw Maw 19 Palm Oil Company” has more than 50 plantation workers and the workers have to flee from their workplace fre-

quently as the military junta has been launching artillery attack to nearby areas.

“The palm oil plantation is about two miles far away from where the armed clash took place. We can't confirm if they mistakenly dropped the bombs or intentionally launched the attack. There was no casualty after the first attack but the second attack killed two plantation workers on the spot,” said a resident.

Since March 17th, there have been intense armed clashes in Thane Khun village track, Tenasserim Township and the military junta has been launching indiscriminate artillery attacks and air assaults to nearby villages.



Voice of Conscripts

In order to realize the impacts of the forceful and unlawful conscription law in Burma HURFOM has interviewed three individuals who fled the junta's army and sought shelter with the armed revolutionary forces.

Interview #1 – Ko Chan Mon (Mon State)

I was born in Thailand and I have never been to Burma. It was in March, 2024. I returned to my native place (of my parents), Lamine Town, Ye Township, Mon State. I came back via the Kaw Thaug route when junta's soldiers arrested me because I had no Burmese ID card. They detained me for seven days. After a month, they applied for the ID card for me. At that time, everything seemed okay. But after getting the ID card, I was sent to the conscript collection camp in Myeik. That is when I realized I was being forced into military service as a conscript.

I was part of batch #5 of the conscripts receiving military training from September to November, 2024 in Dawei. Every day was disappointing during those three months. Because I had no intention to join the military and it had never been in my thought to do so. I wanted to run away on the first day of the training. My parents are in Thailand and I had to talk with them in the presence of the military

officials. I wasn't allowed to have conversations with them very often. Most of the conscripts were arbitrarily arrested or collected by the ballot system. None of us joined the military with our consent.

They said I would receive a salary of more than 200,000 MMK but I received only 104,000 MMK. They also said we would serve as security guards and not be sent to front lines after the training. We were first sent to the Mawlamyine military training school. Then, we were sent to the 208th Light Infantry Battalion in Kyike Kha Mi, Thanbyuzayat Township. Then, we were sent to the front lines in Ye Ta Gon village, Thanbyuzayat Township.

It was there that one of my friends from conscript training said he had connections with the Daw Na military column, a revolutionary armed force. We were able to establish a connection by phone and they told us to wait in a place. Then, they came to pick us up. After reaching the Daw Na Column, I felt I was totally free.

In conclusion, I want to advise young men that if you have to join the military training, please make contact with the revolutionary forces and find shelter with them. Don't waste your life for the military. It isn't worth sacrificing our lives for the military.

Interview #2 – Ko Kyaw Swar Win (Irrawaddy Division)

I'm from Pa Khoe Ku Town. I worked in an oil field in Myine Township. I was collected as a conscript with batch #5 by the ballot system. The village Administrator and my parents phoned me. I didn't know why I was collected. They said I must return. I replied I hadn't finished my work and I couldn't come back. I remained at my workplace for 15 days. The Administrator phoned again and forced me to come back. He threatened that if I didn't come back, they would arrest my parents. I explained the situation to my employer and returned to my village.

I stayed in my village for nine days. Then, I received a summons letter for conscripts from Ye Kyi Township. I was sent to the conscript collection camp with the 907th Light Infantry Battalion. I was detained at the camp for 28 days and then sent for military training with the 6th Light Infantry Battalion.

I had to join the military training for three months – from September 9th to November 29th, 2024. After finishing each day's training exercises, we had to do "night study" from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Only

then did we return to the barracks where they locked us inside. I wasn't allowed to have contact with my family during the military training. They seized all of our mobile phones at the beginning of the training. They do not allow any use of mobile phones. They forcefully blocked us from having any connections with family members. I was to be paid 204,000 MMK for the military training. They said after we finished the training and started our duty with a battalion, we would be paid another 370,000 MMK. That never happened, and it appeared that we would only receive 204,000 MMK. But then things changed again, and they reduced our salary. In the end we only received 100,000 MMK. It's just equivalent to the transportation fee. They said they cut our salary not because we breached the law. They used our money to buy uniforms and military equipment. Personal items, blades or swords, shovels and grass cutters were bought with our money. We also had to buy gasoline for use at night.

During the training, they delivered propaganda to us, saying for example, that other armed organizations had never defeated the military and we were not recruited to fight a battle. We would serve as security guards with the battalions.

After the training, 80 out of 252 conscripts from our batch were sent to the military interrogation camp in Yangon by six trucks. We spent two nights there before being sent to Mawlamyine by ship. We had to stay with the 208th Light Infantry Battalion in Kyikemayaw for two months. The battalion had no soldiers as all of them were sent to the front lines in the Japanese Mount in Ye Ta Gon village, Thanbyuzayat Township.

At first, I wanted to run away alone, but later, I talked with friends and urged them to leave the army. I told them we didn't protect our people but just sacrificed our lives for the power and profit of the army. It wasn't worth sacrificing our lives. Then, six other friends agreed with me and one had a connection with the Daw Na Column, an armed revolutionary force. Then, we ran away.

During the training, the Major warned us not to run away and join the PDF. He said the PDF could treat us well for just two or three days and then, they would kill us after getting information from us. He spread fear amongst us.

But we already knew the real situation. We didn't trust anything they said. The revolutionary side welcomed us warmly from the first day of arrival and they treated us with brotherhood. I feel I'm free.

Everything is okay now since we met with them. We have had contact with our families. We are still worried that the junta will threaten our family members.

Finally, to all conscripts, majors and soldiers, if you want to defeat the military dictatorship, just come and cooperate with us. Please don't kill people to strengthen the power and personal interest of the army. I urge all conscripts to join us.

Interview #3 – Ko Wine Chit (Tenasserim Division)

I was sleeping at my home on September 8th, 2024 when the soldiers arrived by military truck. They arrested me for abusing drugs. Upon reaching the police station, they threatened me with jail or joining the army. I replied I would go to jail and they gave me a document and forced me to sign it, but I refused. My mother couldn't reach me, I was forcefully collected as a conscript on October 4th.

I was sent to the 12th military training school in Pu Law District. There were 387 conscripts there as part of batch #5. They gave us 11 military items at the start of the training. We're paid 180,000 MMK in the first month. In the next two months, we got 240,000 MMK per month. But then they cut our salaries, to only 150,000 MMK.

During the training, they delivered propaganda to us, saying the PDF would torture us and post videos on the internet before killing us. They also encouraged us that everybody must fear us.

The military training finished on December 29th, 2024. I was transferred from the 558th battalion to the 208th Light Infantry Battalion in Kyikemayaw, Mon State. I stayed there for about 20 days and then was sent to the front lines in Ye Ta Gon, Thanbyuzayat Township.

Previously I had contact with the revolutionary forces. Upon reaching the front line, they allowed us to use mobile phones at 7 am but they seized the phones in the evening. But I secretly kept my phone. I have had a brotherhood relationship with four members of the resistance forces. I requested help from them and they gave me a contact number and I was able to get help. I also urged my friends to leave the army and told them to take responsibility if they were recaptured. I had a bit of fear after running away from the army but later, I wasn't afraid of death.

Since our arrival to the revolutionary forces, they have treated us like brothers and sisters. I felt like I was living in my mother's house. I am in contact with my family once a week. As of today, there has been no intimidation by the army to my parents. I told them if the army asks my whereabouts, they should say that I was dead.



I was sleeping at my home on September 8th, 2024 when the soldiers arrived by military truck. They arrested me for abusing drugs. Upon reaching the police station, they threatened me with jail or joining the army. I replied I would go to jail and they gave me a document and forced me to sign it, but I refused

Arrest of undocumented Burmese citizens on Thai – Burma border reaches record levels



Since February 1, 2001 the date marking the military junta’s attempted coup, Burma has faced political and armed conflicts, economic crisis and unemployment hardships. On February 10th, 2023, the military council enacted an unlawful and forced “**public conscription law**”, which has made a bad situation much worse.

In order to avoid the socio-economic problems and the conscription law, hundreds of thousands of young Burmese men have been fleeing abroad to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Korea.

At the end of 2024, the junta blocked young men from going abroad and many young migrant workers are using irregular routes to go abroad, especially to Thailand.

The Thai authorities have tightened their security along the border to crack down the “**call scam gangs**” and hundreds of undocumented Burmese citizens who have tried to enter Thailand using irregular routes are being arrested on a daily basis.

According to data collected by HURFOM, in January, 2025, more than 300 undocumented Burmese citizens who made an irregular crossing at the border via Three Pagoda Pass – Kanchanaburi route were arrested by the Thai authority and in February, 346 undocumented Burmese citizens were arrested by the Thai Border Guard Force.

On March 11th, 23 undocumented Burmese citizens including children were arrested by the Thai Police Force and on March 19th, other 19 undocumented Burmese citizens were arrested.

“The Thai authorities are conducting more arrests these days. The junta is very strict on conscription and has blocked young men from going abroad. So going abroad via an irregular route is the last option. The brokers are making lots of money. They’re demanding more service fees but don’t take any responsibility if their clients are arrested,” said a source who knows the matter.

Most undocumented Burmese citizens used a land route from a hillside road nearby Three Pagoda Pass to enter Kanchanaburi, Thailand while some entered Thailand by boats from Sangkhlaburi (locally called Mon old village) on the Thai – Burma border.

“They believed what the brokers said and entered Thailand. More than 100 undocumented Burmese citizens enter Thailand every day via irregular routes,” said a driver from Mawlamyine – Three Pagoda Pass route.

The Thai government has been conducting a six-month special operation with three foci – i) to crack down on “call scam gangs”, ii) to stop human trafficking and iii) to end illegal border crossing.

The Thai authorities have already arrested more than 5,000 undocumented Burmese citizens within a week from February 18 to 24, 2025.

“Now, the Thai authorities are checking day and night. They’ve tightened security at the boat port in Sangkhalburi. I’m pregnant and I dare not go to hospital due to tightened security. If I can’t go to the Thai hospital, I have to return to Burma to give birth,” said an undocumented pregnant woman.

The brokers demand 15,000 to 25,000 Thai Baht as a service fee for an irregular entry into Thailand per client. Migrant workers activists are urging Burmese young men not to trust their work easily.

Thailand has around five million Burmese migrant workers and more than 400,000 of them are young men who fled from Burma during the era of the military junta, according to the activists working on this issue.



“They believed what the brokers said and entered Thailand. More than 100 undocumented Burmese citizens enter Thailand every day via irregular routes,”



Junta's air attack kills two local men in Kaw Ka Rate

On March 19th, 2025, the military junta used a Yak-130 fighter jet to drop bombs on Ta Ba Lu Kho Khee village, Kaw Ka Rate Township, Karen State. The village is under the control of the Karen National Union.

According to a statement released by the KNU, the air assault killed a 36-year-old local man and a 30-year-old man.

“They’re always dropping bombs by aircraft even when there is no armed clash. During these days, military tensions persist around Kaw Ka Rate Town and the junta launches both indiscriminate artillery and air assaults,” said a local source.

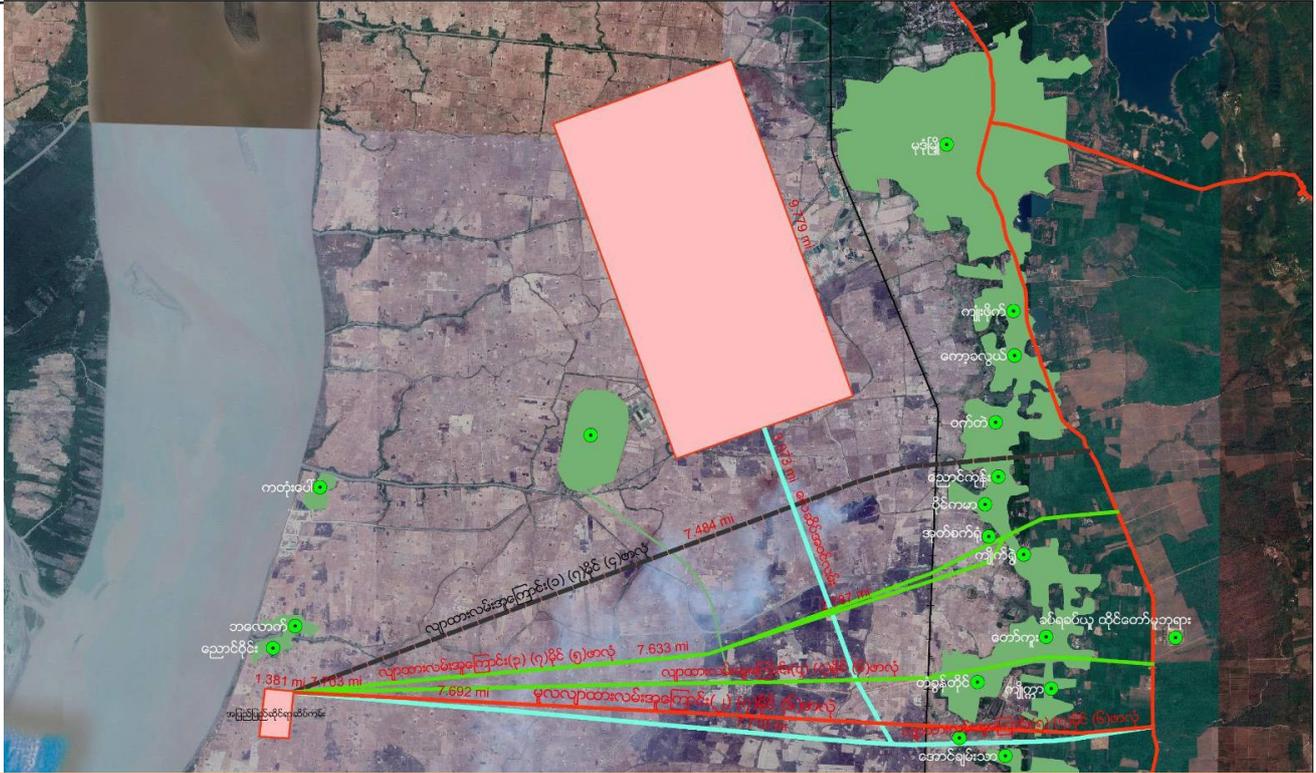
The air attack also destroyed a house and a warehouse, according to the statement.

On March 4th, 2025, the junta launched air attacks on Bot Die village, Kaw Ka Rate Township

injuring three local villagers including a child and destroying a school and a motorbike.

On March 5th, the junta also dropped a bomb on Ah Soon village, injuring two women and destroying three houses.

The KNU (central) stated that with military tensions around Kaw Ka Rate Town, the military junta has been attacking non-military targets such as religious buildings, hospitals and clinics, schools and residences of innocent villagers.



Dump trucks of junta’s project create transportation hardship to local residents

Local villagers reported HURFOM that six-wheel dump trucks from the junta’s international airport and seaport in Mudon, Township, Mon State have been creating transportation hardship to local residents since early March, 2025.

The junta hired ten six-wheel dump trucks for the project operation and each truck earns from 60,000 MMK to 80,000 MMK depending on their number of transportations.

In order to get a greater number of transportations, the truck drivers are driving their truck recklessly and quickly creating transportation threat to local villagers.

“There are about ten dump trucks. If they can transport soil many times, they can earn more money. So they’re driving fast to get more times of transportation. They’re also driving the truck recklessly. The local villagers dare not travel on

the road and they have to drive their vehicles beside the road,” said a local villager.

Moreover, the dump truck drivers stole soil from the land plots of the local residents and sold it to the project companies.

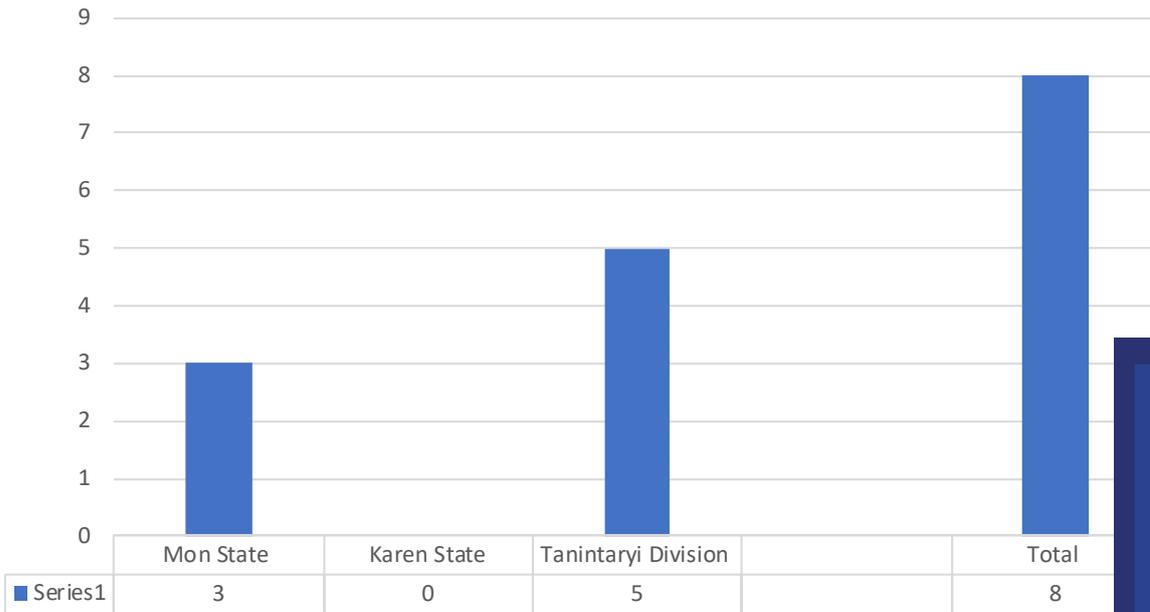
“Last month, the truck drivers dug soil from the nearby land plot and sold it to the companies’ staff. We don’t know how they handle the problem. Now, no one said about that,” continued the resident.

The airport and seaport project is located between Bloud Nyaung Wine and Well Ka Lee villages, Mudon Township and the project area is 4,626.29 acres. The project operation has started in November, 2024.

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

January to March 2025

Number of Landmine in Mon, Karen & Tanintharyi



Mon State - 3 times
 Karen State - 0
 Tanintharyi Division- 5 times



Male- 7(5 injured/ 2 Killed) , Female – 6 (5 injured, 1 killed), Child - 1 injured

LIST OF CASUALTIES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY ARTILLERY SHELLING

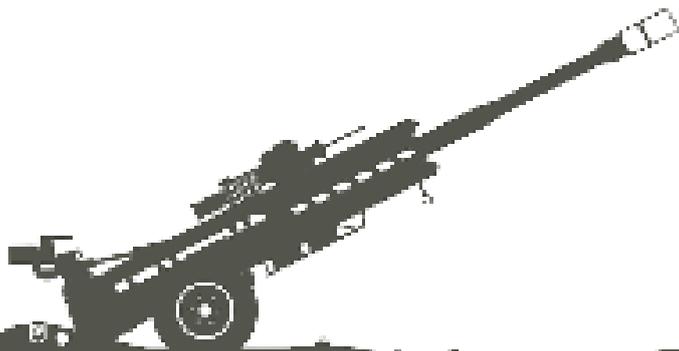
January to March 2025



Total injured – 33, Female- 14, Male- 10 and Child – 9



Total Killed – 14, Female- 7, Male- 7 and Child – 0



LIST OF CASUALTIES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY DRONE & AIR STRIKE

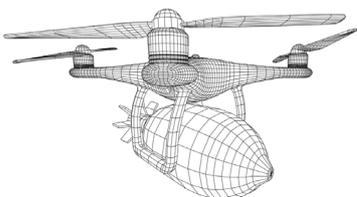
January to March 2025



Total injured – 34, Female- 11, Male- 18 and Child – 5



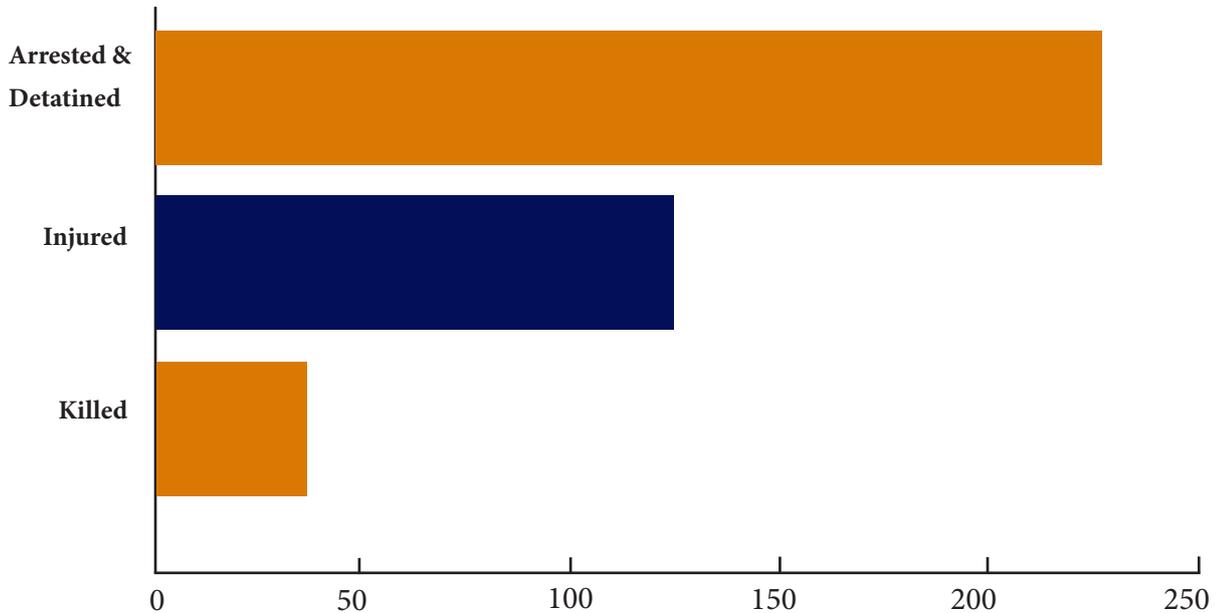
Total Killed – 2, Female- 0, Male- 2 and Child – 0



SCALED UP HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HURFOM fieldworkers continue to take great risks to document the human rights violations being perpetrated in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of **March 2025**, HURFOM recorded at least **127 people arrested**, **107 detained**, **125 injured**, and **44 killed** across all target areas.

March 2025

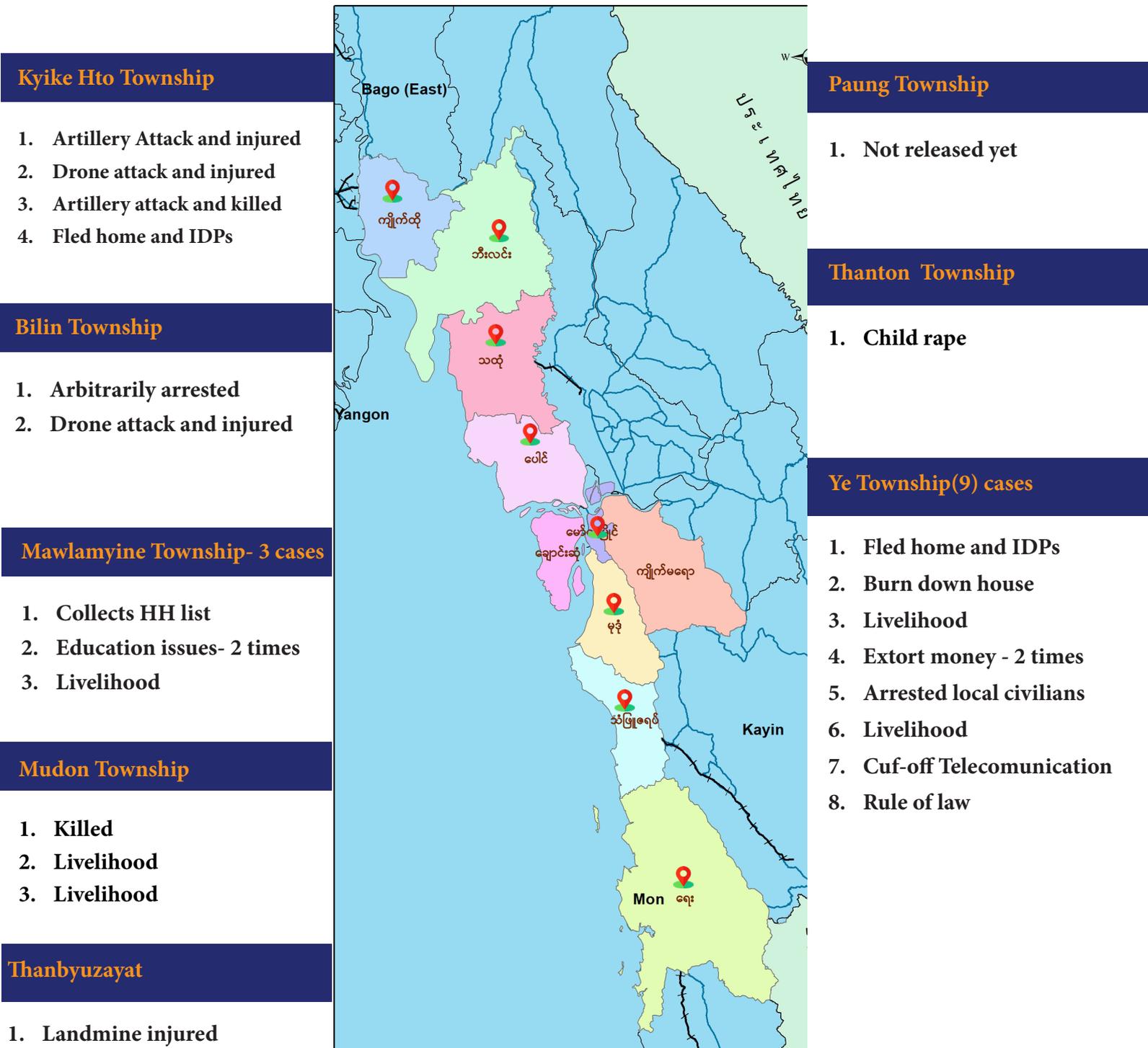


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Pro-Democracy Protesters, Politicians & Activists
Sentenced by the Junta

Human Rights Violation Data Records in Mon State

March 2025

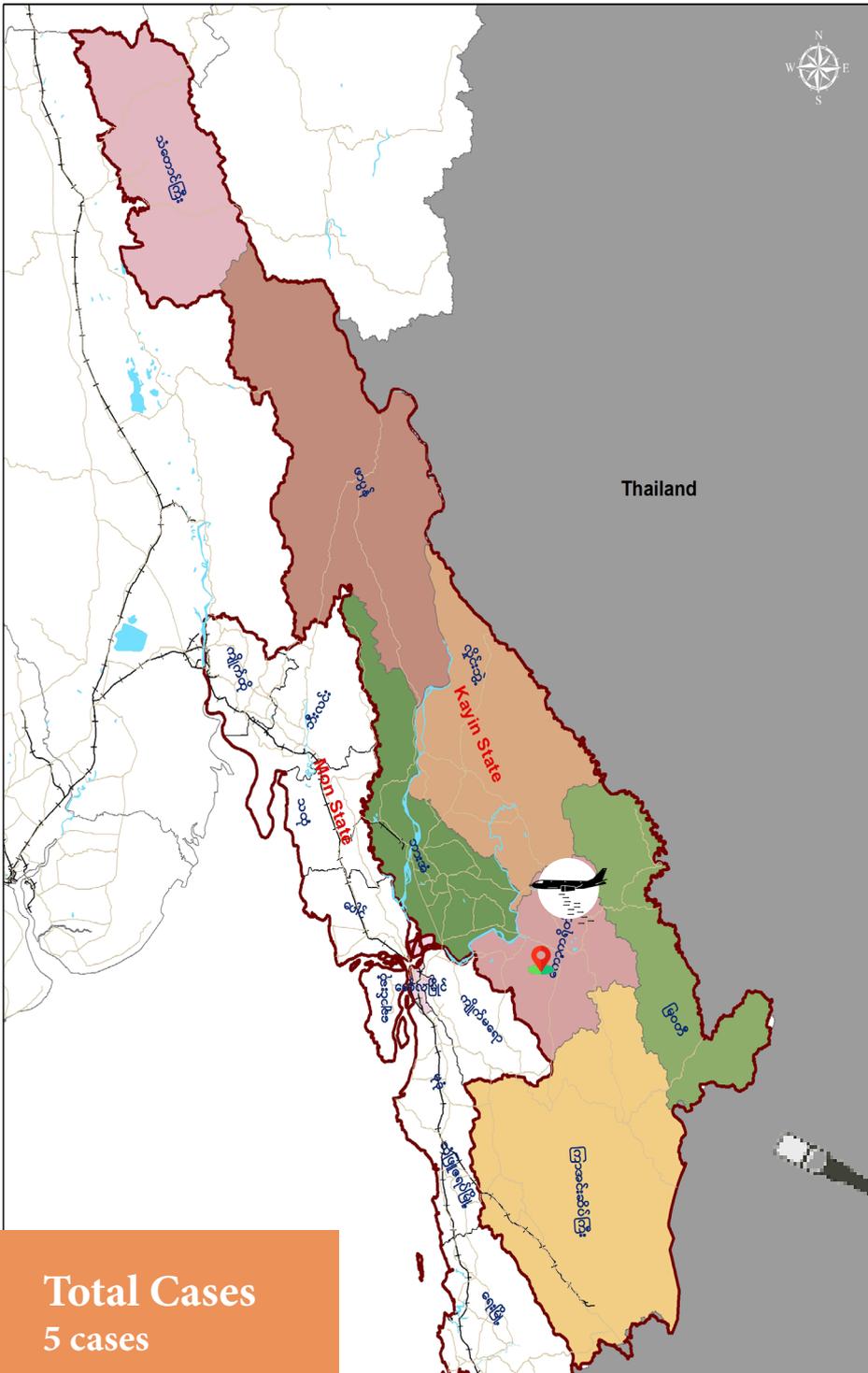


Total Cases in Mon State - 21 Cases

Human Rights Violation Data Records in Karen State

March 2025

Karen State



Kaw Ka Rate Township

1. Air assault and injured
2. Air assault and Killed
3. Artillery Attack and injured

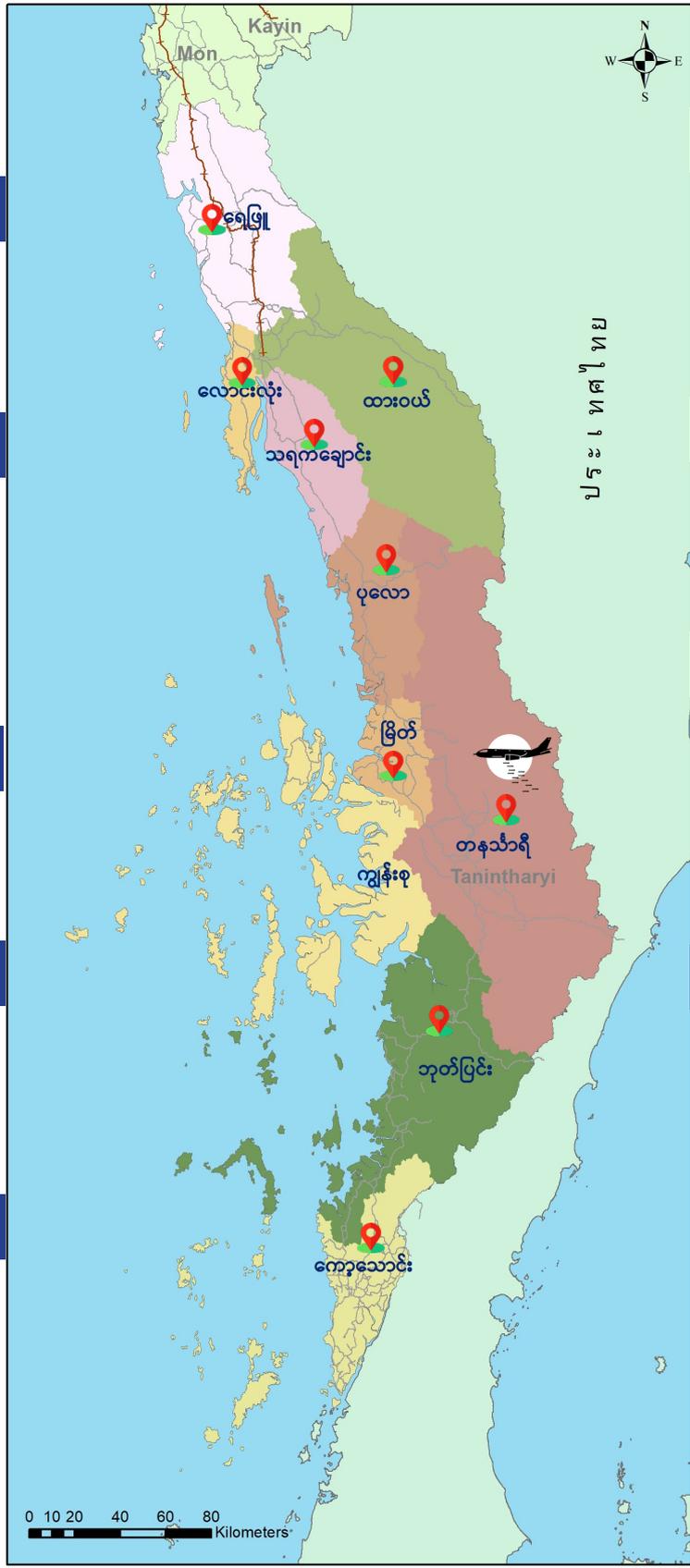
Three Pagoda Pass Town

1. Arrested local civilians
2. Arrested local civilians

Total Cases
5 cases

Human Rights Violation Data Records in Tanintharyi Division

March 2025



Yephyu Township

1. Collects HH list
2. Artillery attack and killed

Lon Long Township

1. Artillery Attack and injured
2. Fled home and IDPs
3. Arbitrarily arrested
4. Artillery Attack and injured

Myeik Township

1. Arrested local civilians

Tha Yet Chaung

1. Air assault and injured

Bondpyin Township

1. air assault and injured

Dawei Township-3cases

1. Fled home and IDPs
2. Fled home and IDPs
3. Arrested local civilians

Pulaw

1. Artillery Attack and injured

Tenasserim Township

1. Air assault and injured
2. Air assaults and burns house
3. Artillery attack and killed
4. Air assault and Killed

Kaw Thaug

1. Arbitrarily Arrested- 2 times

Total Cases - 18

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

Number of IDPs, Killed and Injured

Mon State



IDPs -36,000



Killed -11



Injured - 36

Karen State



IDPs -55,000



Killed -9



Injured -43

Tanintharyi Region



IDPs -67,000



Killed -22



Injured -46

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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Bangkok 10501, THAILAND

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With regards,

Director

Human Rights Foundation of Monland



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OF MONLAND (HURFOM)**
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