



# The Human Rights Foundation of Monland

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**August 2021 Situation Overview**



**Monthly Overview of Violations in Target Areas**



**Overview and Field-Based Insights**



**Data Visualizations**

# AUGUST 2021

4

U Aung Sein, a former member of the House of Representatives from Dawei, was arrested by the Junta Security Forces from his home. His family has been unable to contact him.

21

A witness reported a group of six plainclothes Military Intelligence Officers handcuffed a young woman in front of No.2 High School in Mawlamyine at 3:30 pm.

26

Two young men were abducted by the joint troops of the junta and Border Guard Forces near the entrance of Kyain Seik Town in Karen State.

[more >>](#)



**72%**

**OUT OF 102 CASES ARE  
YOUTH ARRESTED IN  
MON STATE, KAREN  
STATE AND DAWEI**



**29**

**STAFF DISMISSED FROM  
THEIR JOBS FOR  
ANTI-COUP ACTIVITIES.  
THE MAJORITY FROM THE  
EDUCATION SECTOR.**

# PROTESTS



Protests are happening daily. Most of those arrested by the junta have been detained for their involvement in demonstrations such as guerilla strikes, biker strikes, night protests, well as white shirt campaigns and red paint campaigns.

**23**

**Dawei, Thayet Chaung, Long Lone  
and Yebyu**

**4**

**Hpa-an, Kyainn Seikyi, Kawkareik  
and Three Pagodas Pass**

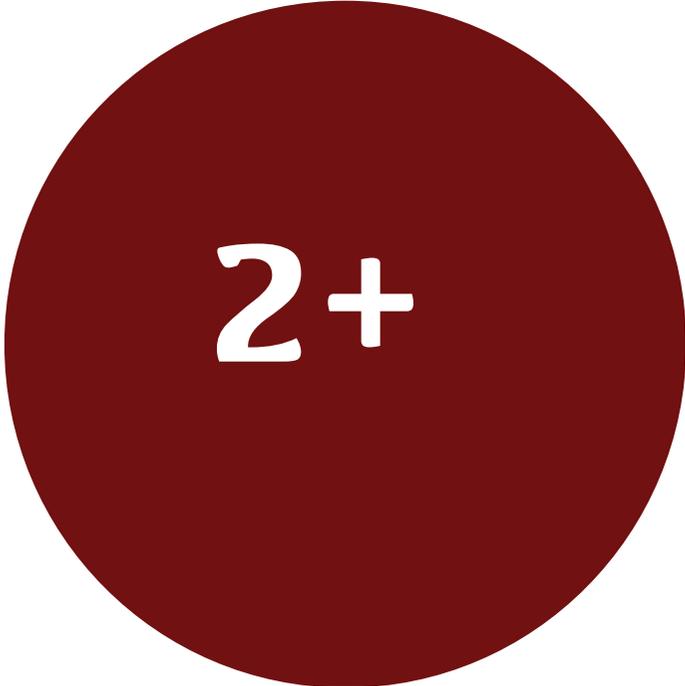
**5**

**Paung, Bee Lin, Kyaik Hto  
and Mawlamyine**



**6+**

**Activists and protesters  
sentenced in August**



**2+**

**Cases of Disappearances  
in August**



**12**

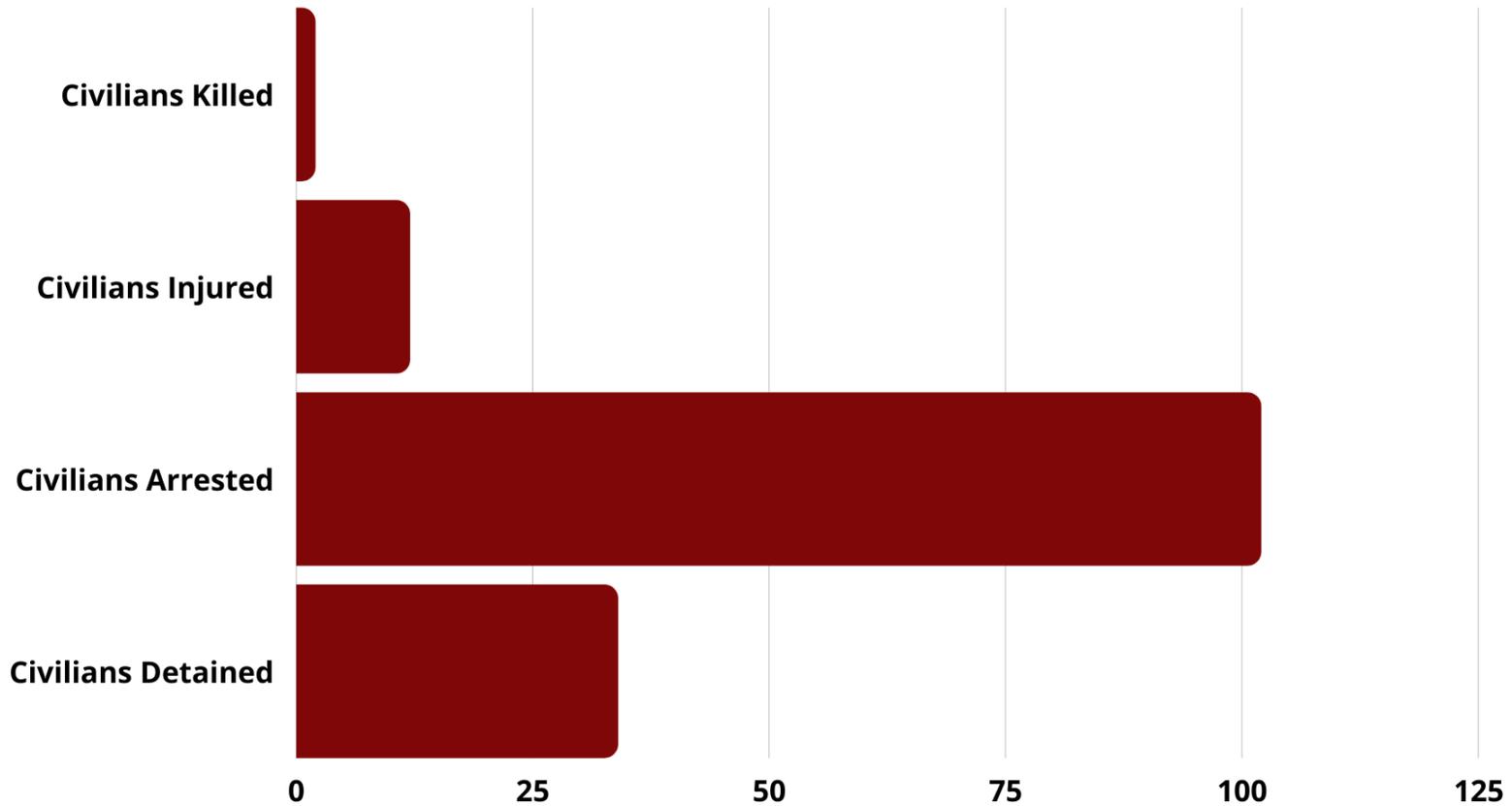
**INJURED**



**2**

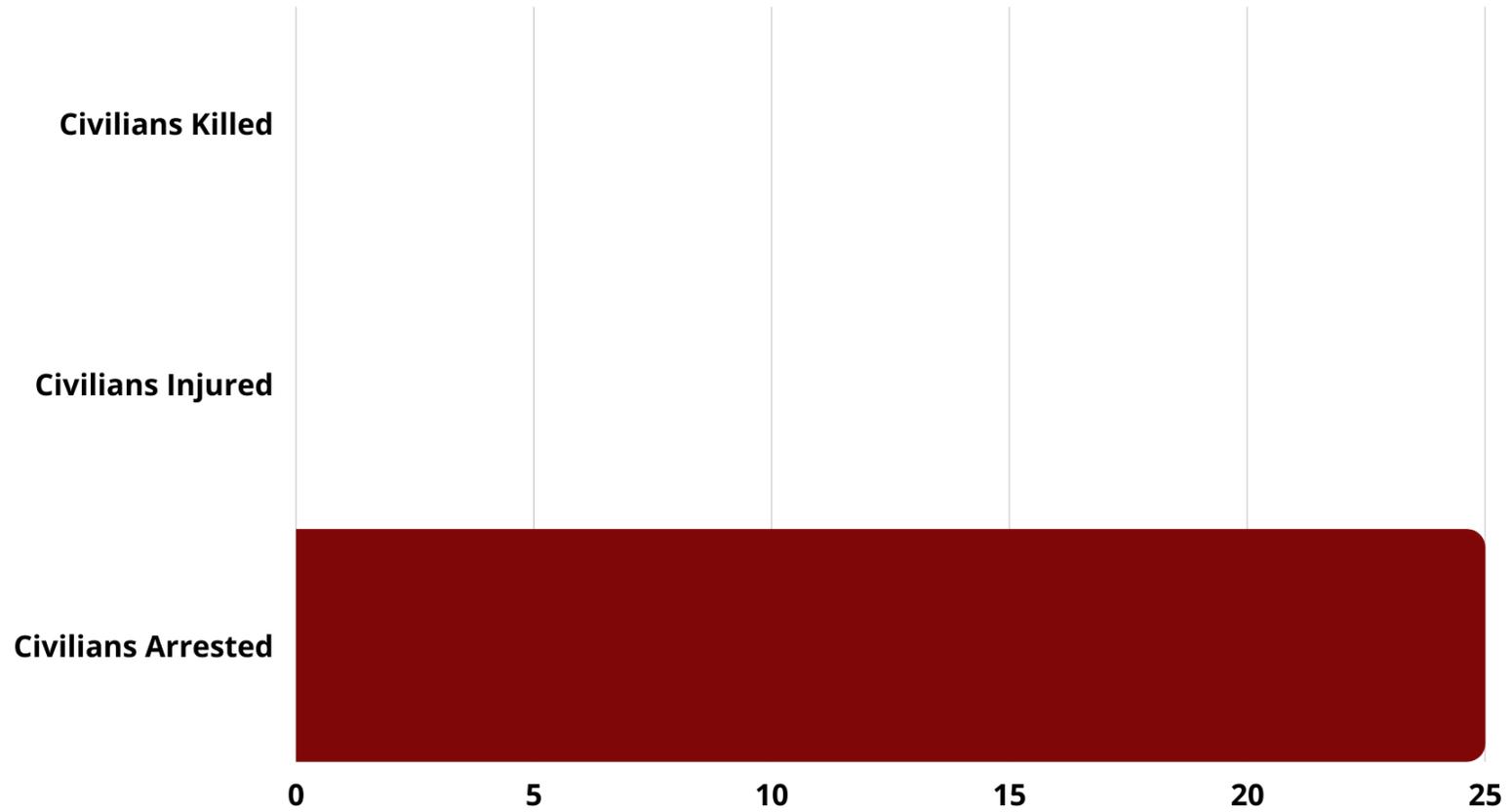
**KILLED**

## August Human Rights Violations Overview

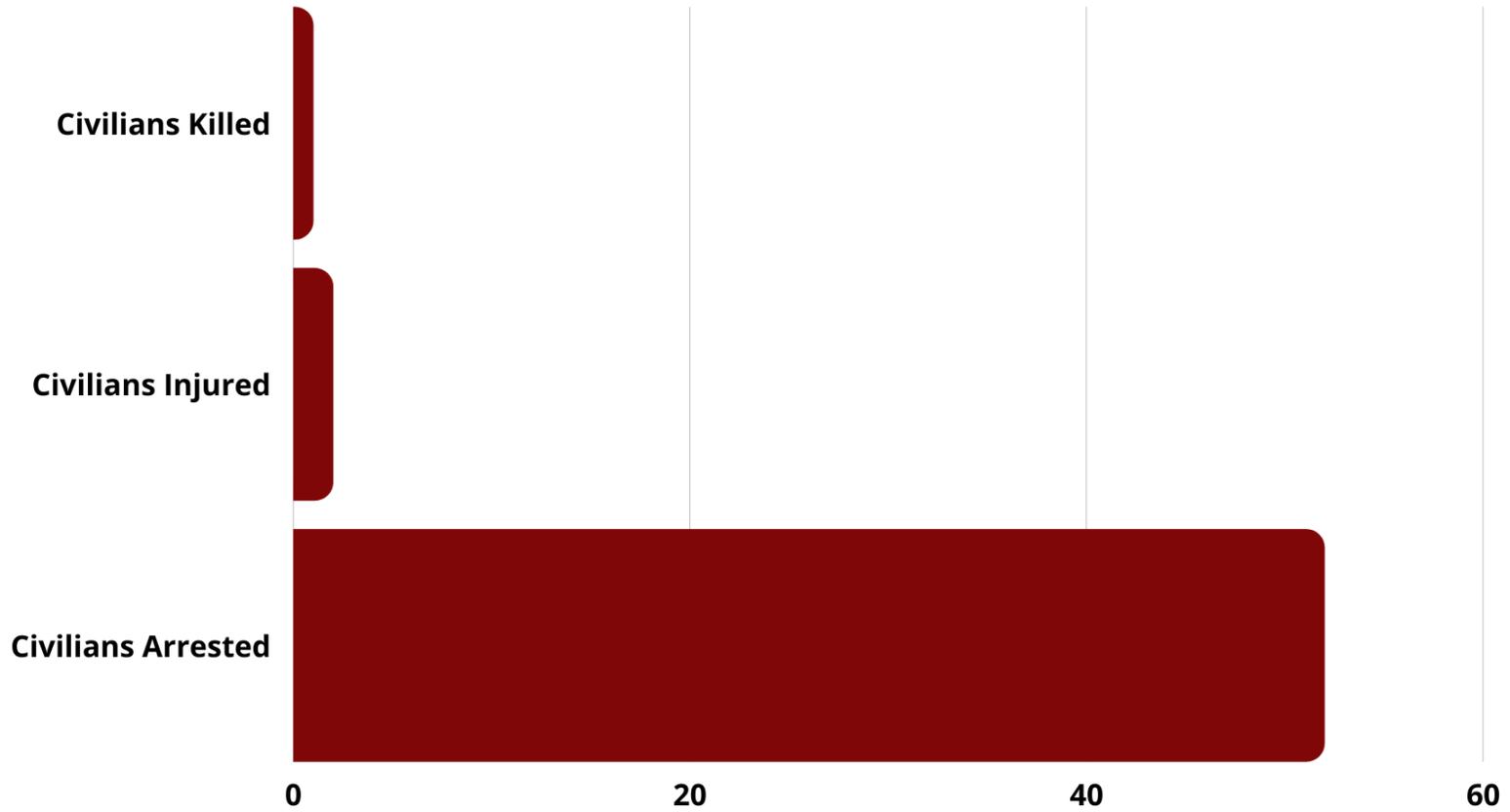


\*Civilians arrested include young protestors, civil servants, activists, social workers, and medical doctors.

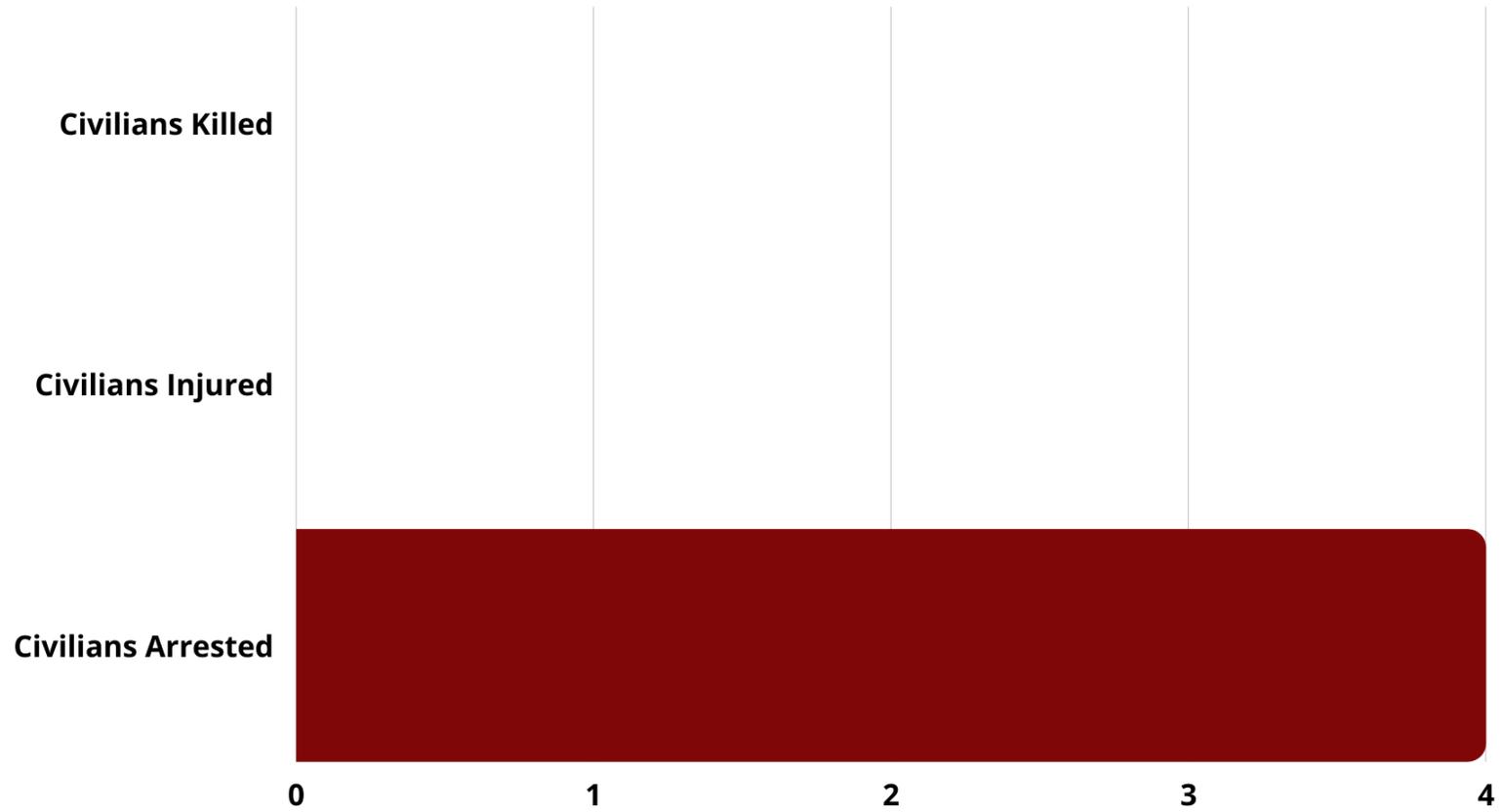
## August Human Rights Violations in Mon State



## August Human Rights Violations in Tanintharyi Region



## August Human Rights Violations in Karen State



# AUGUST 2021

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Security forces abducted two villagers in Hnee Padaw village, Mudon, Mon State. A sister of one of the detainees confirmed her brother and another villager were accused of being associated with the assassination of junta appointed Village Administrator, Nai Mehm on July 31.

“We still could not contact these arrested villagers. There has been no further information received yet. I hope they are safe,” a Hnee Padaw Villager told a HURFOM reporter.

2

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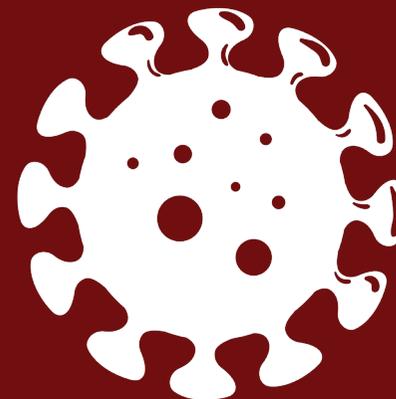
# AUGUST 2021

3

Junta Security forces in Paung Township, Mon State, abducted two Mawlamyine University (MUSU) students from their homes as confirmed by the Student Union: “Ma Nan Sandar Win and Ma Su Paing Hpu were arrested in the evening of August 3rd. The soldiers brought them to Kyaikmayaw Prison. The reason for the abduction was not apparent but it might be linked to their anti-coup posts, as was suggested by a member of MUSU. They are now being charged with 505a and held in Kyaikmayaw Prison.

4

U Aung Sein, a former member of the House of Representatives from Dawei, was arrested by the Junta Security Forces from his home on July 31. Since then, his family has not been able to contact him.



**The death toll from COVID-19 has increased in Mawlamyine with 50 to 60 bodies per day since the beginning of August, according to information leaked from the local rescue team members. Civilians are still struggling with a shortage of medical oxygen.**

# AUGUST 2021

5

Authorities from Kyaikmayaw Prison informed families that Ko Pyay Thein, 29, passed away with diabetes. However, the family could not accept this because the victim never had diabetes. Ko Pyay Thein was arrested in Ye on March 22nd.

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# AUGUST 2021

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Reporters said locals are struggling to build community-led oxygen plants after facing restrictions, such as access to oxygen: “Currently, more than 20 health facilities across Mon State have been under occupation by security forces. Until now, at least half of those facilities remain occupied. People are struggling to get oxygen tents every hour. They stop breathing and die due to oxygen shortages. We are facing both limitations to access and funding right now. That is why we decided to build with donations from communities and hopefully, the junta will not disrupt our work. We need assistance and contributions from all of you because the right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and understanding of a life in dignity,” said a monk who led an Oxy Plant project in Kyaikmayaw.

11

On August 11, the junta security troops also arrested five young men accused of participating in the various guerrilla strikes in Dawei. They are now in the detention center and all confirmed facing severe torture during police interrogation.

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**“Health is a fundamental part of our human rights and understanding of a life in dignity.”**



# AUGUST 2021

12

Arbitrary arrests continue to target local youth with the suspicion of being linked to People's Defence Forces in Mawlamyine, Mon State. Two young men, Min Htike and Ko Zaw were abducted by the Junta security forces operating in Taung Paw Dan Rd, Mawlamyine at 8PM.

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A group of six plain-clothed police abducted a civilian in Kyat Sar Pyin, in Dawei at 7 AM: "These police forces came and arrested U Win Zaw's son who was involved in the recent moto strikes and in hiding. They could not find him so they kidnapped U Win Zaw."

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# AUGUST 2021

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The junta police in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State, opened a case against 15 detained Thae-Eain-Su villagers under the Counter-Terrorism Law, Article 50(a),\* for associating with the Karen National Union, which the local junta battalion designated as a terrorist group. These villagers include 14 men, of which one is an underage boy and women who are originally from Thae-Eain-Su village. Most of them are rubber plantation workers. They were arrested on August 11.

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Deaths in the custody of the junta police are ongoing. Ko Aung Yu, 35, a resident of Daung Ngu Ward, Dawei, was abducted by junta security forces on the accusation of associating with those who shot a Police Corporal on the afternoon of August 11th: “My husband is not associated with any violent actions related with to the armed groups in the area. He is a peaceful man and a good husband to us. I was shocked when I got a phone call of his death from the Police Station” the victim’s wife expressed. Five young men, including Ko Aung Yu, from Dawei were arrested by the security forces on August 11th. All detainees were believed to suffer severe torture during investigation in custody, according to their relatives.



\*Article 50 (a) carries a prison sentence of 10 years to life and a fine for causing severe damage to the security or the life and property of the public, or for forcing the government or any organization to commit an unlawful act or to refrain from following the law.

# AUGUST 2021

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Security forces are everywhere now. In the highway bus terminals, train stations, on the road and even on the bus to check mobile phones, such as in the gallery, recent contacts, file directories, Facebook and other social media applications. If they find something related to the current revolution activities, civilians can be arrested immediately or asked for ransom anywhere.



# AUGUST 2021

19

## CONTINUED

The fines civilians are forced to pay are between 5000 to 500000 Kyat or more, said a 55-year-old Mawlamyine resident who was extorted by security forces in Bee Lin Toll Gate said.

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Junta troops from two police trucks (Toyota Vigo truck) opened fire on two young men about 8 PM, said a witness from Shanma-Lae-Swe Ward, Dawei. “These young men ran with their motorcycles. Police trucks followed them and shot from behind. I think the bullet hit them but I could not confirm their condition,” another witness from Kyauk Yet Ward, Dawei, said. Another local source assumed that the case might be linked with offensives tied to the local People’s Defense Force.

# AUGUST 2021

19

## CONTINUED

Three young villagers from Asin Village, Ye Township, Mon State were abducted by the Junta security forces at 11 pm last night: “They entered the village with three Army trucks and said they needed to check the guest registration door to door. When they departed, they arrested three villagers who included a 15-year-old boy,” said a villager who witnessed the incident. A source close to the Village Admin said the arrests were inked with the murder of former USDP member who was accused of being an informer.



**“They entered the village with three Army trucks and said they needed to check the guest registration door to door. When they departed, they arrested three villagers.”**

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# AUGUST 2021

21

A witness reported a group of six plainclothes Military Intelligence Officers handcuffed a young woman in front of No.2 High School in Mawlamyine at 3:30 pm. The reason for her arrest is unknown. Another local source assumed the woman led a student protest in March with Mawlamyine University.

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Travel restrictions, inspection of personal belongings, various properties and money extortion persists in Mon State: “The junta said they do this because of COVID-19. But, their primary purpose is to check individuals to target the PDF in urban areas and extort money from civilians.”

# AUGUST 2021

24

The junta's battalion under the Military Operations Command MOC 13 arrested two ethnic Karen villagers, Saw Kyaw Thein and Saw Kyaw Boe, from their village in Kaw Tha Naw, Kawkareik Township, Karen State, a local witness reported.

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The Junta deployed several troops near Kyay-Zu-Daw, Hnan-Kyae, Shin-Ta-Vee, and Mine-Thone-Zae villages under the KNU's Brigade No.4 controlled areas in northeastern Yebyu township yesterday. The Coastal Regiment Command and MOC 19 directly command these troops, according to a KNU warfare source. A local villager who witnessed the deployment in the areas said some personnel were plain-clothed with weapons. Due to these threats by the junta battalions, approximately 130 families have fled their homes.

# AUGUST 2021

25

Two young men were abducted by the joint troops of the junta and Border Guard Forces near the entrance of Kyain Seik Town in Karen State: “It seems like they suspected the two men as PDF members and arrested them. Their motos also taken,” a local witness reported.

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Teen girls organized protest in Long Lone, Dawei. The majority of the protestors are women and young men from different wards and quarters of Long Lone Township joined. “Young people-led strikes are continuing almost every day, exposing their desire to end dictatorship.”

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**“Due to these threats by the junta battalions, approximately 130 families have fled their homes.”**

# AUGUST 2021

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## CONTINUED

Four local women villagers from Sit-Pyae village, Long Line Township, Dawei, were abducted by the local Army Battalion. The reason for their arrest is still being investigated by the HURFOM field workers team.

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Dawei reported that at least 35 local civilians of Kyet-Sar-Pyin Ward, Dawei were abducted by the Junta Security forces. Local sources said these arrests are linked with the murder of a Vice Managing Director of the Ministry of Border Affairs on 28 August.

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Between 20 and 25 people were arrested, including several women in Thayet Chaung, Kenat-Thiri village in Dawei. The increase in PDFs has been met with many innocent people being arrested. At least 50 people were targeted in the same area within one week.

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Photo: Teen girls who organized the Long Lone protest.

# OPEN LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ENDORSEMENTS & REPORTS

21 AUGUST

**HURFOM joined 443 civil society organizations in signing a petition to demand the UN Secretary General, lead UN efforts to respond to the coup and COVID-19 crisis in Burma.**

<http://ow.ly/ljKW50G0xaj>



24 AUGUST

**On Rohingya Remembrance Day, HURFOM joined 43 civil society organizations in calling on the international community calls to immediately pursue justice and accountability for the genocide committed against the Rohingya.**

[ow.ly/YWMz30rRYu5](http://ow.ly/YWMz30rRYu5)



# ANALYSIS

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Across the month of August, civilians in Mon State, Karen State and Dawei have experienced mounting levels of widespread human rights violations.

The paranoia of the Burmese military amidst the emergence of Peoples Defence Forces (PDF) has led to an increase in arbitrary arrests against civilians with alleged ties to the armed groups. During the last week of August alone in Dawei, between 25 and 30 civilians were arrested, including several women. The situation has put residents on high alert where many remain fearful of even leaving their homes because of the threat of being targeted. Midnight abductions and raids include the confiscation of mobile devices. The military is constantly seeking out evidence of pro-democracy activities and are using unjust practises to detain those with such. Travel has become a headache for civilians who are extorted and harassed on their journeys.

Alongside the human rights crisis, is the public health crisis. COVID-19 continues to ravage the country, including HURFOM communities. Locals are struggling to build community-led oxygen plants after facing restrictions, such as access to oxygen. They've been forced to rely on donations given the lack of support by government institutions.

Alongside the grievances and burdens, civilian resistance is still ongoing, particularly among women who are leading protests across HURFOM target areas. HURFOM reiterates our calls for the release of all political prisoners and for an end to the junta's violence. The National Unity Government of Myanmar must be recognised as the legitimate governing body of the country.

## **ABOUT HURFOM**

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HURFOM was founded by exiled pro-democracy students from the 1988 uprisings, recent activists and Mon community leaders and youth. Its primary objective is the restoration of democracy, human rights and genuine peace in Burma. HURFOM is a non-profit organization, and all its members are volunteers with a shared vision for peace in the country.

## **WEBSITE**

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<http://rehmonnya.org/>

## **SOCIALS**

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[facebook.com/Rehmonnya-Human-Rights-Foundation-of-MonLand](https://www.facebook.com/Rehmonnya-Human-Rights-Foundation-of-MonLand)

<https://twitter.com/HURFOM>