

# MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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## Human Rights Situation in Mon State, Karen State & Tanintharyi Region

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JANUARY  
2022



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## INTRODUCTION

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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## REFLECTING ON 2021

One year has now passed since the Burma Army's attempted coup on 1 February 2021. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) began documenting atrocities being perpetrated against civilians by the military junta in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region on 7 February 2021. The crimes that have been committed speak to the unrelenting horrors which continue to be forced upon innocent clusters of the population. The majority of the people in Burma strongly reject the military coup and have been collectively strengthened by a commitment to toppling the terrorist regime.

More than anything, the Burma Army craves legitimacy and has used violence as a tool to try and submit the people to their will. However, despite the grave horrors projected onto civilians, the Spring Revolution remains unbroken. It is a struggle that civilians feel they cannot step away from until their freedom and rights are restored. One year ago, the Burmese military made clear its disregard for

democracy and peace. They reaffirmed the reality that they would not follow the rules of international, democratic governance but would rather try to rewrite their own playbook which went even beyond the 2008 military drafted Constitution. By dismissing key pillars of a functioning, free and fair government in their refusal to accept the victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the people very quickly resisted – and have continued to show their strength through protests, underground organizing and even taking up arms to join local civilian defense forces.

Despite the mass momentum which has fueled the revolution, the Burma Army has only wielded more violence including air and ground strikes to force civilians to submit and for armed groups, including ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to surrender. However, the people remain vigilant and committed to ensuring that they are victorious in their long deserved quests for peace and security.

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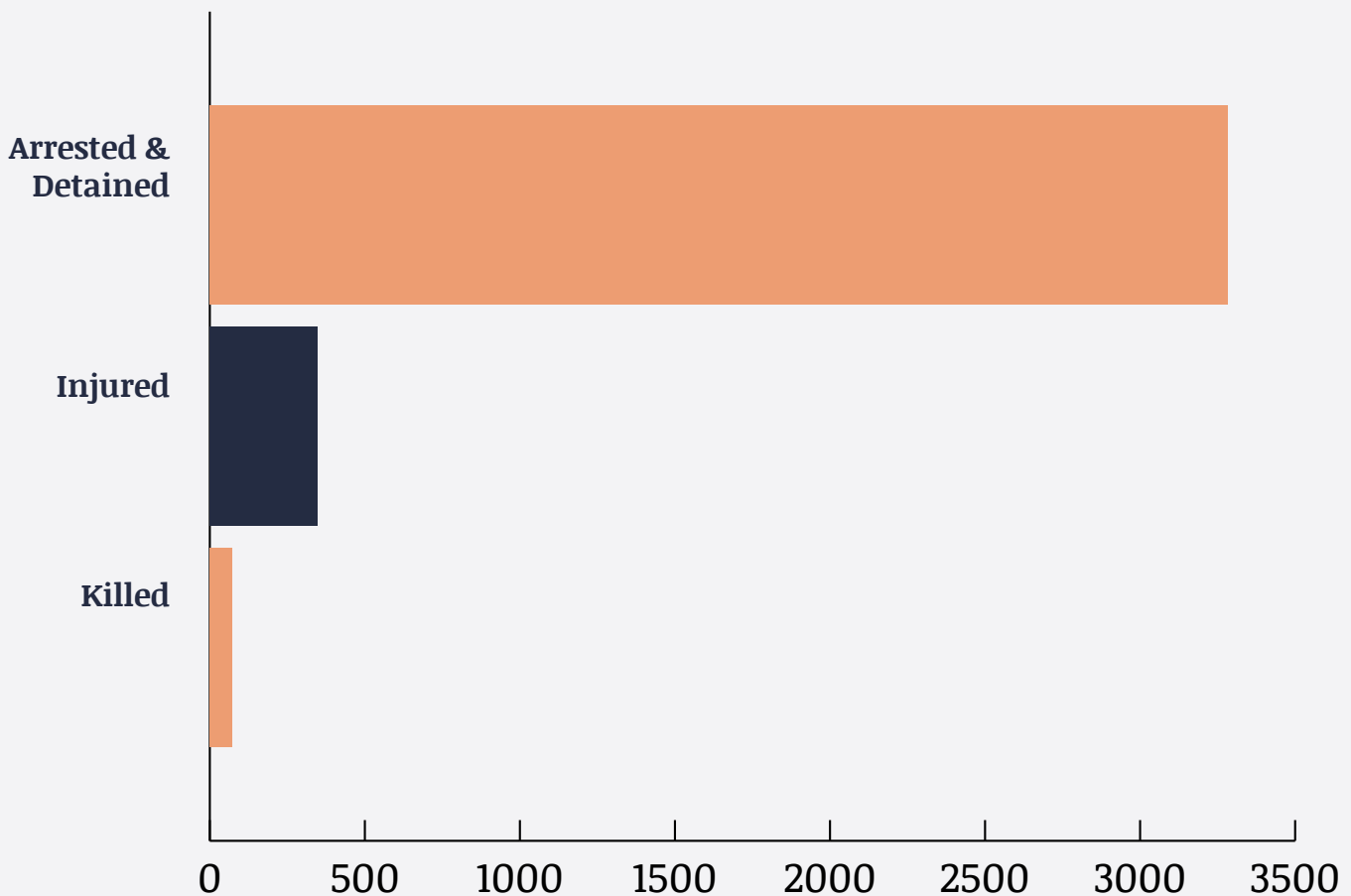
## 2021 SUMMARY

### FEBRUARY - DECEMBER 2021

Throughout 2021, HURFOM fieldworkers took great risks to document the human rights violations being perpetrated in target areas of Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of the year, HURFOM had recorded at least 2,292 arrested and detained, 324 injured, and 65 killed.

Below is a summary of the main human rights violations perpetrated by the military junta across 2021.

#### Civilians Arrested, Injured & Killed in 2021 in Target Areas



**3,695**

People dismissed from their jobs for joining the Civil Disobedience Movement

**444**

Youth arrested for joining and participating in the anti-coup movement

**Over 300,000 people have been forcibly displaced since 1 February 2021 due to violence by the Burma military.**

**500+**

### **MOTORCYCLES & PERSONAL ITEMS CONFISCATED**

There are growing direct threats to people's personal safety, including the confiscation of phones, money, motorcycles and property. At least 500 motorcycles have been stolen by the military junta, in addition to millions of Myanmar kyat extorted from civilians during 'stop and frisk' tactics deployed at checkpoints. Mobile devices were also regularly taken if evidence of pro-democracy activities were found.

**272+**

### **PROTESTS**

In Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi, there were almost 275 protests which continue to take place in the face of fierce opposition of the military junta. Students in particular are regularly abducted for organizing pro-democracy activities and providing moral or monetary support to the various resistance movements.

**38+**

### **FORCED DISAPPEARANCES**

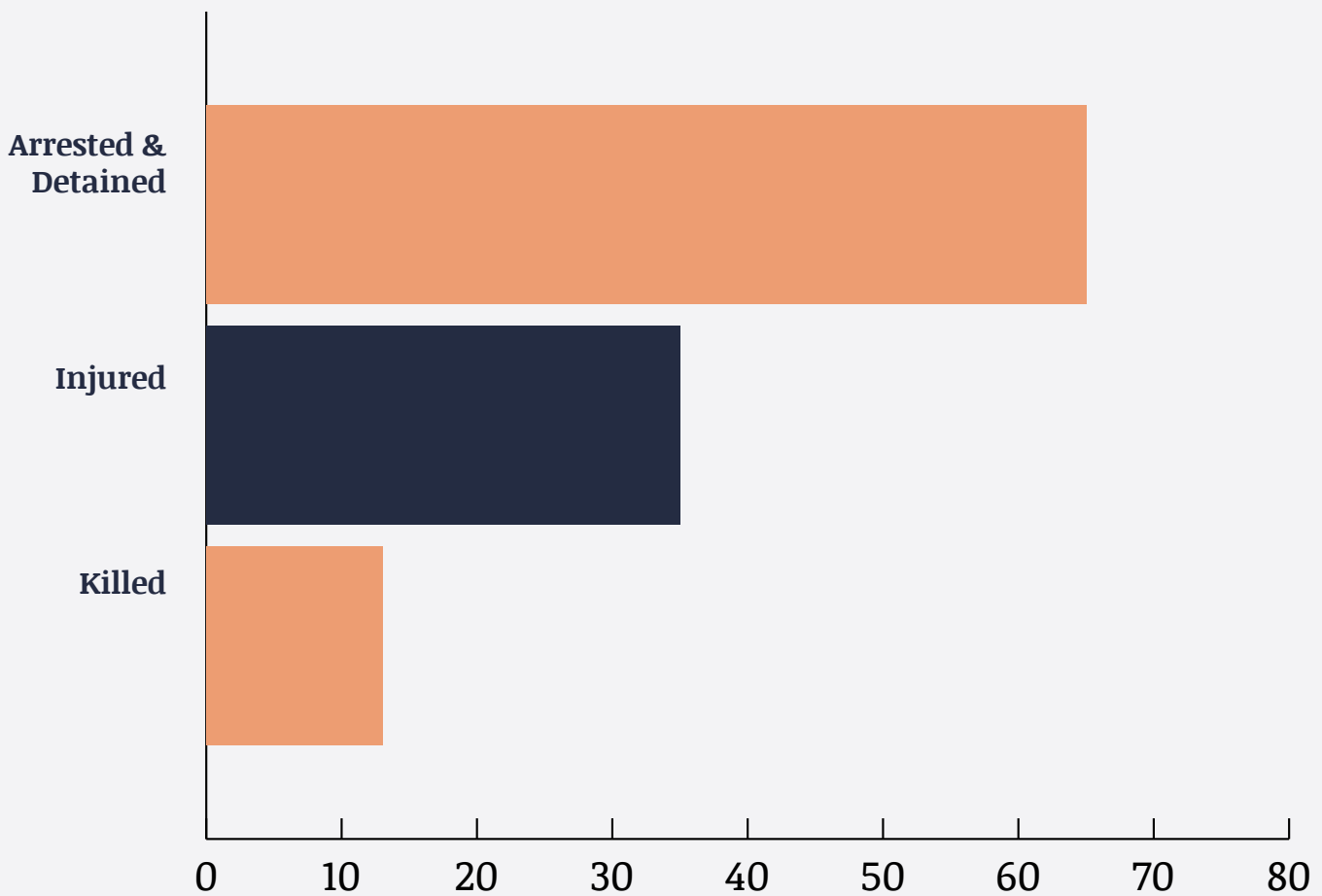
HURFOM found that almost 40 people forcibly disappeared in 2021. These disappearances were at the hands of the military junta. Of those in custody, over 180 activists and protesters have been sentenced to prison in junta courts.

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JANUARY 2022 MONTHLY DATA

CURRENT SITUATION

Civilians Arrested, Injured & Killed in 2022 in Target Areas



CIVILIANS TARGETED IN MON, KAREN STATE & TANINTHARYI REGION

15+

DISMISSED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CDM

12+

PROTESTERS/ACTIVISTS SENTENCED IN JUNTA COURTS

4+

FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

21

## PROTESTS ACROSS TARGET AREAS IN JANUARY 2022

15

TANINTHARYI REGION

4

MON STATE

2

KAREN STATE



20 000+

DISPLACED IN KAREN STATE FROM MILITARY JUNTA VIOLENCE

### Situation overview in Karen State

#### 1 JANUARY

Six youth abducted in Hpa-An, Karen State.

#### 9 JANUARY

At least 1 died and 4 four were seriously injured by the junta's indiscriminate firing in Sakawet and Kado Hta villages, Kawkareik Township. There were 700 people displaced.

#### 10 JANUARY

Junta army fighter jets and helicopters launched airstrikes on a village called Ywa-Thit, in Kawkareik Township.



**14 JANUARY**

Landmines planted by the junta battalions were found in some Mae Htaw Thale villages in Kawkareik Township.

**17 JANUARY**

At 3AM, 2 civilians were injured by indiscriminate firing by the junta in Kawkareik Township.

**20 JANUARY**

The military council arrested and detained five youths in Hpa-An, Karen State. Two were beaten, and one was hospitalized.

**25 JANUARY**

According to relief and health service providers on the ground, an estimated 27 villages in southern Kawkareik were evacuated due to military offensives and airstrikes leading to over 20,000 IDPs.

**26 JANUARY**

Junta military forces raided and eradicated a village called An-Pha-Gyi village in the southern part of Kawkareik Township, Karen State.

**28 JANUARY**

The junta forces are building bunkers on and surrounding the campus of the Basic Education High School No. 1 and 3 in Hpa-An, Karen State.

# KEY OBSERVATIONS

1. The military junta increased surveillance and security of civilians and new problematic draft cyber law which could see people imprisoned for having a Virtual Private Network. The regime has blocked several websites to try and stop anti-coup organizing.
2. Violence fueled by the military junta in Karen and Mon State forced thousands of innocent people to flee to safety to Thailand.
3. Arbitrary arrests and abductions of civilians continued as the Burma Army cracked down on those suspected of being involved with civilian armed defense forces.
4. Family members confirmed several loved ones are still missing after being abducted and detained by the military junta, including senior officials affiliated with the National League for Democracy. Their locations are largely unknown.
5. Junta military troops and the General Administrative Department forced village heads and local villagers in Hpa-an Township to hold pro-military rallies in response to planned Silent Strike activities to commemorate the failed coup on 1 February.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Urgent referral of the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court

Targeted sanctions against the military junta

A global arms embargo and halt in the supply of weapons & aviation fuel



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