



“LIVING IN FEAR”

**The Civilian Impact of the Junta’s
Attacks Against Civilians in Southeastern Burma
January – June 2025**





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January - June 2025*

The Human Rights Foundation of Monland
August 2025

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For civilians in Burma, the hardships and harrowing circumstances they have been forced to endure are mounting as the junta continues to evade accountability for their ongoing crimes. In the four and a half years since the attempted coup, the regime has killed at least 6900 people and unjustly arrested more than 29,000. In addition to the millions of people displaced, there remain growing gaps in services for those suffering and in urgent need of psychosocial support. Worse yet, despite the ongoing attacks, which are increasing in scale and frequency, the international community has failed to respond in any meaningful way to hold the junta accountable.

The military has spearheaded a campaign rooted in greed and a blatant disregard for human rights. Immediately following the failed coup, the junta quickly moved to dismantle the pillars of law. These ‘reformed’ laws criminalized peaceful protests and enabled violations of the right to privacy, arbitrary arrests, and detention.¹ Doing so extended the junta’s brazen attempts to expand its reach into all areas that questioned or challenged their unjust rule. Local organizations have amplified efforts to bring visibility, attention, and action to the rapidly deteriorating state of human rights.

The military actively targets individuals, including human rights defenders, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and leaders of various pro-democracy affiliations, particularly since 2021, in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). Women-led organizations often face reprisals for their advocacy efforts. A report by the Women’s League of Burma titled ‘*Building the Triple Resistance*’ highlights that the demands of their work as WHRDs cause significant stress and anxiety due to ongoing safety and security concerns.²

Since the illegal and unsuccessful coup, the inequalities faced by civilians have worsened. Decades of military impunity and a lack of international condemnation or sustained intervention have enabled the regime to routinely evade accountability. This has created further barriers to accessing political arenas and leadership positions for marginalized groups, including ethnic women who face misogyny and are undermined in their participation in political spaces and related sectors.

There has also been an increase in sexual violence and exploitation, especially in ethnic areas.³ Despite this, local women’s organizations are responding to the need to tackle sexual violence, providing hope for survivors. Nonetheless, significant obstacles remain in ensuring the success and continuity of their operations, particularly the United States government funding freeze of USAID and the devastating effects on life-saving infrastructure, including clinics and relief centers, which are increasingly critical in the current context.

¹ Myanmar: Post-Coup Legal Changes Erode Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, 2 March 2021

² Building the Triple Resistance: Women Leaders’ Perceptions of Changes and Challenges a Year and a Half After the Coup in Burma, the Women’s League of Burma, 4 January 2024

³ Statement by Wai Wai Nu at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, UN Women, 24 October 2024

As the regime struggles on the battlefield, it has deployed retaliatory strategies that isolate and impact the most vulnerable. Women, children, and the elderly are being targeted in unprovoked airstrikes and indiscriminate attacks, as the junta aims to use violence as a tool of terror.

Ma Myint Mu, 37, a resident of Bilin Township, Mon State, told HURFOM:

“They say home is a place of safety, but for us, our homes have become traps. We’re too scared to stay, but we have nowhere else to go. There was one night when the artillery hit, and I was holding my baby and crouching in the corner, hoping it wouldn’t be our house. It’s not the first time they’ve done this. The military fires into our village like we are nothing; like we don’t matter. They don’t see us as people, just targets. My husband tried to comfort the children, but even he was shaking. We don’t have bomb shelters. We don’t even have proper roofs. It’s like living under a sky that could kill us at any second.”

Among the many additional challenges inside Burma is the digital environment in which freedom of expression continues to decline. The direct assault on people’s fundamental freedoms has hindered their capacity to feel safe, as virtual and online spaces are subject to ongoing censorship. The Association of Progressive Communication noted that the people of Burma ‘face ongoing digital repression and face challenges including surveillance, doxing and security threats.’⁴ In urban areas, some digital access, including the use of virtual private networks (VPN) and tunnelling technologies for communication, still exists, although it is closely monitored and heavily surveilled. By contrast, in conflict zones, including more rural areas, mobile internet provided by various internet service providers (ISPs) is often completely cut off.

A 30-year-old Paung Township, Mon State resident, on his feelings regarding the decline of freedom of expression in Burma, said:

“This is what fear does. It doesn’t just silence people—it makes us question whether we’re even allowed to feel. Should we laugh? Should we cry? Should we ask questions? The answer is always: no. Keep quiet. Stay invisible. That’s the only way to stay safe. Even now, I hesitate. I’m looking over my shoulder, wondering if this will come back to hurt me. That’s how fragile everything has become. The right to speak, to share a thought, and even to joke about how unfair things are are basic freedoms. But the junta doesn’t allow that. They want obedience. They want silence. And if you break that silence, they punish you until others are too scared to even whisper.”

According to data collected by Athan Myanmar, by the end of March 2025, the junta had cut off phone and internet lines in 107 townships.⁵ Mobile and internet connections had already been severed in some of the hardest-affected areas of the earthquake, such as Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, and southern Shan State. There have been additional calls to the military to

⁴Digital struggle and resistance in the Myanmar revolution, the Association of Progressive Communication, 21 November 2024

⁵ Strong earthquake and communication shutdown, Athan Myanmar, 11 April 2025

lift Internet restrictions immediately. However, they have not adhered to this request, putting the lives of survivors and their families at even greater risk, while showing a complete lack of concern for the people and the power of digital access in crisis.⁶

The mounting challenges are immense for communities targeted by the junta forces in an ongoing test of their resilience and ability to exist with all the uncertainty. Survival has become paramount as healthy coping mechanisms are increasingly out of reach for the thousands of conflict-affected groups across the country who rely on food assistance amid the erosion of livelihood pathways and dwindling funding within the donor landscape. The funding cuts have been detrimental to the sustainability of local organizations and have significantly undermined the longevity of projects that have long filled gaps in services that the junta and previous military regimes have failed to implement effectively.

In 2024, military spending surged to an estimated \$5 billion—the highest rate of increase in Asia and Oceania, representing a 66% rise driven by the intensification of conflict.⁷ This clearly indicates that, despite having the apparent funds to restore social services like health and education to operate effectively for all people, there is a lack of will by the regime to allocate the necessary budget, which is needed to save lives and educate youth.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis facing communities along the Thai-Burma border has reached a critical point. In an urgent joint appeal, 20 Karen human rights organizations—including civil society groups, ethnic health providers, and refugee service networks—issued a statement calling on the international community to respond immediately to life-threatening aid cuts that affect more than 108,000 people living in displacement camps.⁸

Amid the attacks by the junta, civilians across the country are also facing challenges brought on by climate change, to which Burma is particularly vulnerable, including flooding, considering that 40% of the population resides in low-lying and coastal areas.⁹ The ongoing conflict has made these realities of higher risk for rural communities, as local farmlands are destroyed in the constant barrage of artillery shelling by the junta, thus having detrimental impacts on the agricultural sector and food security.

The military junta has repeatedly weaponized relief efforts for natural disasters, including most recently this year, during the devastating earthquake, which took place on 28 March 2025. In addition to delaying and denying access to affected areas, the junta also continued to carry out a barrage of assaults, despite declaring and extending an apparent ‘ceasefire’ which was repeatedly violated.¹⁰

⁶ Joint statement: Myanmar must lift internet restrictions following devastating earthquake, Athan Myanmar, 1 April 2025

⁷ Unprecedented rise in global military expenditure as European and Middle East spending surges, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 28 February 2025

⁸ See X: Human Rights Foundation of Monland

⁹ Policy Brief: Blue Economy in Myanmar, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, 14 January 2024

¹⁰ Beneath the Cracks: Devastation and Destruction by the Junta in the Earthquake Aftermath, the Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, 28 April 2025

The Karen National Union (KNU) strongly condemned the junta's ceasefire, calling it a deceptive move intended only to attract humanitarian aid flows through Naypyidaw while continuing brutal attacks on civilians. In a statement released on April 26, 2025, the KNU accused the junta of deliberately targeting civilian populations in towns and villages controlled by resistance forces, despite their ceasefire claims.

Between April 2 and April 22, 2025, during the junta's supposed unilateral ceasefire, the KNU documented violations revealed that the junta carried out at least 110 separate human rights abuses across KNU-administered areas. These included:

- **63 aerial bombings using fighter jets, helicopters, and drones, resulting in the deaths of 14 civilians and one novice monk, injuries to three monks and 34 civilians, and the destruction of five monasteries and seven homes.**
- **43 artillery attacks, killing five civilians, injuring 18 others, and damaging at least 16 houses.**
- **The deliberate burning of homes and religious buildings, with four houses and one pagoda destroyed by arson.**
- **The arbitrary arrest of two civilians and landmine injuries to another two civilians from junta-planted explosives.**

The KNU emphasized that, far from seeking genuine peace, the junta is engaging in false and deceptive practices to manipulate the international community, donors, and humanitarian organizations. The military regularly exploits the humanitarian situation and conflict that they have fueled to engage with high-level representatives of ASEAN and the UN, directly undercutting and undermining the access that local organizations have to safe and accessible funding pathways.

Refugees already facing insecurity and food shortages are now having to survive on daily rations worth as little as 5 to 10 US cents. For children under five, monthly food allocations have dropped to 53 Thai Baht (about \$1.50). It is only 87 Baht (around \$2.40) monthly for adults—barely enough for survival. These cuts have been driven by long-term funding reductions from major donors, including the United States.

Meanwhile, in areas across Burma where many of these refugees originate, junta forces continue to escalate their military offensives. Communities in Kawkaik, Bilin, Kyaik Hto, Mon State, and Dawei townships have come under near-daily assault through brutal airstrikes, indiscriminate artillery shelling, and other forms of aerial attacks. HURFOM field reports have confirmed widespread displacement, fear, and destruction in these areas.

In Kawkaik Township, for example, junta battalions have repeatedly targeted civilian zones with no ongoing clashes. Entire towns have been emptied overnight due to fear of incoming shells. Meanwhile, humanitarian convoys are blocked from reaching those who are most in need, and security concerns continue to mount along key roads, such as the Union Highway in southern Burma. On 13 May 2025, HURFOM also released a statement condemning the ongoing violence against innocent civilians and calling for an urgent response to the widespread and systematic atrocities committed by the junta, as well as for locally-led humanitarian aid pathways.



Photo: *On June 14, without any active fighting in the area, two local women from Bilin Township were injured after junta troops fired artillery shells into civilian areas.*

Many displaced families are not in formal camps but are instead sheltering in nearby forests, monasteries, or with relatives. As weeks stretch into months, they face growing challenges—limited access to food, clean water, medical care, and safe shelter. The crisis began to escalate significantly in mid-April 2025, when tensions rose between junta forces and local resistance in the Minthar tract, in Yebyu Township, Dawei District. Since then, over 1,000 people from at least surrounding five villages, including Natkyisin, fled. A clash on June 15 near Paya village—located close to Zardee—sparked further artillery shelling, with junta forces continuing to fire toward populated areas even after the fighting subsided.

The collective fabric of rural and urban communities is under immense strain due to the fear and trauma that loom amid attacks from the air and ground strikes by the military junta. There is no safe place in Burma, as civilians are fired upon in temporary shelters, internal displacement camps, and even schools, hospitals, and tea shops. Many documented cases by rights groups indicate that attacks carried out by the regime have occurred, despite a lack of ongoing conflict or the presence of armed opposition groups. The junta is targeting the most innocent in coordinated attempts to weaken any form of support for the revolutionary forces and evoke widespread fear and trauma.

A mother, Naw Mu, 40, a resident of Paing Yap village, Mon State, faced with the decision to risk sending her child to school, remarked:

“How can we think about farming, about feeding our children, or sending them to school, when the army can fire shells into our homes without warning? We heard the loud blast and

saw smoke rising. Then the news came that it was one of our neighbours. He had a wife and kids. We knew him. He used to help my family during harvest season. His death has shattered our whole community. And it's not just the dead—we now have injured friends, damaged houses, and a fear that never leaves us. We don't talk about the future anymore. We just pray to survive today."

It has long been the case that the Burmese Military punishes civilians not involved in conflict or war to send a message of terror and to urge ethnic armed groups to stand down. The military has increased its use of "four cuts," a strategy it has long employed against ethnic minorities in the country's border areas, which seeks to starve resistance groups of food, funds, intelligence, and recruits by targeting their civilian support base.

A key human rights concern and driver of displacement was the unilateral implementation by the military of the "2010 People's Military Service Law" that resulted in thousands of individuals being

"We don't talk about the future anymore. We just pray to survive today."

conscripted and forcibly recruited, including members of the Rohingya community. This caused widespread fear and led tens of thousands of youths to either go into hiding or flee abroad, creating additional protection concerns due to uncertain legal statuses in foreign countries.

The forced conscription law has not only infringed on the fundamental rights of individuals but has also spread fear and intimidation throughout communities, leading to the mass displacement of civilians. Throughout southeastern Burma and much of the nation, the junta's aggressive conscription efforts have faced strong resistance. Those who have courageously opposed the military are met with severe consequences such as imprisonment, torture and even death.

Since passing a resolution on Burma in December 2022, the UN Security Council has taken little action beyond issuing a few statements. The military has continued to ignore the resolution, and the council has taken no further concrete or meaningful actions; it has not instituted a global arms embargo, referred the country's situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC), or imposed binding targeted sanctions on the junta leadership and military-owned companies.

Further, this report, *'Living in Fear,'* by the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) will present case studies from January to June 2025, which demonstrate that while the military junta has failed to defeat the armed opposition movement, including ethnic revolutionary organizations (EROs), People's Defence Forces (PDFs), and their allied revolutionary forces, the junta is instead directing its rage and vengeance towards ordinary people—those who are powerless and caught in the crossfire of a war they never chose.



Photo: A tragic airstrike carried out by the junta claimed the lives of a father and his young son in Taung Pyauk Sub-township, Tha Yet Chaung Township, Dawei District, despite no fighting taking place in the area.

HURFOM has fieldworkers in Mon State, Karen State, and Tanintharyi Region, as well as in various human rights networks. Several reporters work from Mon and Karen States in areas controlled by ethnic revolution organizations. Given the extreme daily risks, our fieldworkers continue to document human rights violations to the best of their ability without compromising their security.

The growing threats to their safety only speak to the society of fear the junta has created. HURFOM's documentation and data are sourced from our network of field staff, who report on the ground. The restrictions imposed by the junta have made it much more challenging to access our target areas freely and without repercussions. HURFOM field staff face severe risks to their physical and digital security. Secure communication methods, such as encrypted technology, have been adopted. However, there are still many challenges to ensuring that the Burma Army does not infiltrate our work and documentation.

The Burma Army is known for intimidating and harassing fieldworkers documenting human rights violations. Soldiers often threaten survivors who share their stories with rights groups as well. At the moment, HURFOM can safely operate in ceasefire areas and the territories controlled by the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party. Recording events and testimonies is extremely high-risk outside of these areas, and the military's movement restrictions limit the documentation possible.

In addition, the military junta has directly sought to target human rights documentation organizations and has attempted to hide evidence of their crimes through the razing of villages and the killing of witnesses. Furthermore, these circumstances suggest an environment that seeks to suppress the voices and documentation of human rights organizations and discredit their reporting, thereby shielding itself from accountability.

HURFOM collaborates with international organizations such as the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) and the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to provide credible data that supports legal and justice frameworks. As an active member of the Network for Human Rights Documentation (ND-Burma), HURFOM also works with other organizations to acknowledge the truths about what communities in Burma have endured and advocates for justice for victims. We address funding constraints and resource limitations by prioritizing essential documentation areas and maximizing HURFOM's partnerships for additional support.

The information outlined in this report includes HURFOM data and cases from the ground by local fieldworkers. Given the challenges we face in collecting this data, many of our estimates are likely significantly higher.

SITUATION OVERVIEW IN SOUTHEASTERN BURMA: MON STATE, KAREN STATE AND THE TANINTHARYI REGION

Since the 2021 coup attempt, the rule of law in Burma has continued to collapse. In the targeted areas of the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), including Mon State, Karen State and the Tanintharyi Region, local communities and field staff are facing immense challenges. First responders and field workers have shared the hurdles they face on the frontlines of the conflict, where they strive to serve and protect their communities. The stark reality is that morale among internally displaced people (IDPs) is exceptionally low as they try to survive without secure access to food, water, and shelter. **During the reporting period from January to June 2025, these challenges have continued to increase with 241 killed, 761 wounded, 1059 arrested, and 731 detained.**

Last year alone, HURFOM's data revealed that from January to December 2024, indiscriminate artillery shelling in Mon, Karen States and the Tanintharyi region resulted in 74 deaths and 168 injuries. The ongoing attacks highlight the devastating toll of the junta's military operations on civilian lives and livelihoods. Such indiscriminate shelling not only injures and displaces civilians but also destroys critical agricultural assets like rubber plantations, further worsening the humanitarian crisis in the region. Locals live in constant fear, unsure when the next attack might strike.

A humanitarian aid worker from eastern Dawei described the local community's concerns as follows: *"Nowhere feels safe anymore. We have to rely solely on our own instincts and limited information to survive. The junta has completely cut off food supplies, communications, and vital information, denying us our right to know and be informed. We are now living in fear and facing significant daily risks."*

The ongoing conflict in southeastern Burma has resulted in significant human rights violations, with widespread violence by the Burmese military targeting civilians. The last year concluded with an increase in forced displacement and a deteriorating humanitarian crisis, leading to millions being displaced. In HURFOM areas, at least 63,000 individuals were forced to flee their homes in December 2024. By the end of January 2025, that number had increased to 73,500.¹¹

In recent years, particularly since 2023, it has become clear that the junta is consistently losing control of territory, even in areas such as Karen State, Dawei, and parts of Mon State, including Kyaik Hto, Thaton, and southern Ye townships in Tanintharyi.¹² At the same time, the multi-ERO alliances and local resistance forces have been gaining ground, liberating new areas, army camps, and security tollgates almost every day. Even though the junta still has financial and political backing from Russia and China, it has not stopped them from using the sham election and the forced conscription in their most recent bids for legitimacy.¹³

¹¹ January 2025 Monthly Overview, The Human Rights Foundation of Monland

¹² "A shifting power balance" Junta control shrinks in southeast Burma, the Karen Peace Support Network, 26 September 2023

¹³ Forced to Enlist: The impacts of military conscription in Southeastern Burma, The Human Rights foundation of Monland, 10 December 2024

The military has responded to its widespread losses with indiscriminate attacks in civilian-populated areas, along with airstrikes and artillery shelling targeting civilians, arbitrary arrests and prosecutions, and mass displacement. A persistent aspect of any military operation, whether on the battlefield or elsewhere, is the attempt to instill fear in the civilian population to discourage resistance to military rule. In particular, the retaliatory nature of attacks against civilians across the country for their perceived support of anti-military armed groups remains a constant in efforts to control, intimidate, and punish the populace.

As the junta continues to lose territory to resistance forces, they appear increasingly reliant on air power to intimidate and punish communities they can no longer control on the ground. This pattern reflects not only military desperation but also a sustained campaign of collective punishment, which international actors and justice-seeking mechanisms have been addressing. Among the most frequently perpetrated human rights violations being perpetrated by the military junta are airstrikes. The junta is ruthlessly deploying airstrikes to target and assault innocent civilians, fuelling the worsening humanitarian crisis.

Heavy artillery and the firing of mortar shells also contribute to grave losses of life. The indiscriminate shelling is not just a military strategy; it is a form of collective punishment, stripping entire villages of safety, dignity, and hope. Families who once lived in peace are now trapped, afraid to send their children to school, work in their fields, or even leave their homes to buy food or medicine. Fear and uncertainty have replaced routine and stability.

On January 22nd, an airstrike by the junta claimed the life of a woman in Kyaik Don, Kawkaik Township, Karen State, according to a statement released by the Karen National Union (KNU). At 7 AM, a Yak-130 fighter jet from the Naypyidaw Air Force dropped bombs over Kyaik Don town. The attack resulted in the death of 51-year-old Daw Nyo Nyo Win, who was returning home after tapping rubber. Several unoccupied civilian homes were also damaged in the bombing.

In addition to this tragic incident, on January 21, an airstrike in Kyon Sein village, Hpa-an Township, destroyed approximately 300 rubber trees after bomb fragments scattered across the plantation. Similarly, on January 11, without any ongoing clashes in the area, a junta airstrike targeted Yohkadaw village in Kyainnseikyí Township, which is under KNU control. The bombing severely damaged a local school building. The junta has been intentionally targeting civilian villages with airstrikes and ground-based artillery attacks.

According to the KNU, these targeted assaults represent daily violations of human rights and war crimes. Likewise, in Mon State, the junta has used heavy artillery from bases in Ye Town and conducted airstrikes in the area. The violence has forced entire villages, including



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Kyone Laung, Kyauk Mi Chaung, and Wae Paung, to evacuate. Most displaced residents have fled toward areas controlled by the New Mon State Party (NMSP). At the beginning of the year, in January, HURFOM reported that the NMSP Humanitarian and Development Department had been providing emergency food aid to displaced villagers who had arrived in their territory. Since the second week of January 2025, the intensified attacks have caused injuries, destroyed homes, and forced villagers to either flee or seek shelter in makeshift bomb shelters.

Meanwhile, in the Tanintharyi Region, on January 9, junta forces carried out over 23 airstrikes on Zayat Seik village in Palaw Township, dropping more than 70 bombs, according to a report released by the local People's Defence Forces (PDF) Battalion 1 in Myeik District. The repeated airstrikes in the region have left many villagers displaced and living in fear, as homes, schools, and public spaces continue to be targeted. Ongoing military operations by the junta have significantly heightened tensions in the area, leading to frequent clashes with resistance forces. Villagers continue to live in fear amid the escalating violence, as artillery attacks and military offensives disrupt their lives and livelihoods.

These patterns of violence are indicative of the impunity that the regime continues to benefit from. Moreover, the situation in Burma is still fragile, with the risk of worsening as the military persists in attempting to leverage its presence in regional and international political arenas through force and repression. Ongoing documentation and advocacy are essential for keeping the international community informed and engaged in addressing the persistent crisis. Efforts for transitional justice, such as criminal justice, truth-seeking, reparations for victims and survivors, and fostering future institutional reform, are urgently required in Burma to avert a recurrence of such atrocities.

By March 2025, HURFOM has documented that attacks by the junta's airstrikes have repeatedly impacted at least 24 villages and communities across our targeted areas. Additionally, more than 40 drone strikes were documented. Since March 5, at least nine airstrikes and 60 artillery shellings have been launched by the junta forces. The attacks have also extended to Bilin Township in Mon and Kyainnseikyi Township in Karen. Consequently, three people were killed, and 19 civilians injured, with six in serious condition. Over 40 homes were destroyed. Farms, public infrastructure, and businesses suffered severe damage.

Ongoing arbitrary arrests also remain an ongoing concern in targeted areas of HURFOM, especially as young men are abducted and made to serve in military training camps. A 50-year-old barber from Bilin Township, Mon State, who was arrested by junta forces more than two months ago, has reportedly died in detention, leaving his family devastated and searching for answers.

U Myint Naing, a barber from Taung Sone Village, Ba Yint Naung Ward, was arrested on November 29, 2024, when junta troops raided his barbershop and took him away without explanation. Since then, his family has had no information about his whereabouts or condition. By January 31, 2025, after more than two months of detention, reports surfaced that U Myint Naing had died while under interrogation.

After his arrest, his family desperately searched for him, going to the local police station, where they were told junta troops had taken him away. However, they were given no further information about his condition or location.

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Before the coup, U Myint Naing was involved in charity work and dedicated his time to community service. He later became a barber. His family and residents still do not know why he was arrested or what happened to him in detention. The lack of transparency surrounding his death has raised serious concerns about the junta's continued use of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and torture in detention centers across Burma.

Three women from Thar Yet Chaung Township were also arrested by junta soldiers and plainclothes police while shopping in Dawei. The incident occurred on the morning of February 4, near the well-known A Hla Thit shopping center in downtown Dawei, near the city's central police station. The women had been returning from a wedding ceremony when junta soldiers, accompanied by plainclothes police, arrived in a civilian vehicle and detained them. The arrested women, identified as Ma Zin Mar Soe, Ma Mee Ei, and Ma Phyu Zin Phyo, are all between 20 and 25 years old and from Yan Taung village in Thar Yet Chaung Township.

Following their detention, the women were initially taken to the Dawei District Police Station before being transferred to the Dawei City Police Station. This incident is part of a disturbing pattern of arrests in the region. In January 2025 alone, junta forces arrested over 100 civilians, including children and pregnant women. Such actions continue to create fear and insecurity among the local population as residents struggle to cope with the worsening repression.

As of January 2025, the military junta has arrested over 50 people across Mon State. Throughout December 2024, the junta reportedly arrested 17 locals in Ye Township, 11 of whom were later released.

In addition, the escalation of assaults by the military junta has deprived children of safe pathways to education and seriously undermined livelihood opportunities for families. In a case documented by HURFOM at the beginning of March 2025, the junta's violent and unpredictable presence prevented 500 IDPs from returning to their villages.

Despite no active fighting around Kyone Long (Old) village in Ye Township, Mon State, junta troops remain stationed in the area, preventing 456 displaced villagers from going home. Junta soldiers set up camp at a monastery in Eye Poke village, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for those who fled.

“We don’t dare to return as long as the military is in the village. It’s simply not safe. Right now, going back home would mean risking our lives,” said a displaced villager.

For those still displaced, the uncertainty continues. As long as junta troops occupy their villages, returning home remains a distant hope, especially as enforced disappearances are on the rise, and IDPs are not guaranteed any form of safety in their plight. Eighteen displaced villagers from Thein Khun village, Tanintharyi Township, who the military junta arrested during its offensive operations, remained in detention for more than a week with no contact with their families. Local sources and aid workers assisting displaced persons have confirmed the continued disappearance of these individuals.

Another concern has arisen because junta forces and their affiliated departments have been using the Person Scrutinization and Monitoring System (PSMS) to inspect and detain individuals they consider suspicious at the entry and exit points of Mawlamyine. On March 15, a young man was arrested at a junta checkpoint near Attaran Bridge in the industrial zone after being screened through the PSMS system. Junta-controlled media and sources close to the regime confirmed the arrest.

Passengers travelling from Hpa-An to Mawlamyine on a Myat Yadanar Min white light truck were subjected to PSMS screening via a tablet. During this inspection, 33-year-old Swan Pyae Sone, a resident of Shwe Myain Thiri ward in Mawlamyine, was arrested.

“They used the PSMS system on a tablet to identify him. The system displays detailed personal information, including photographs,” a resident from Mawlamyine explained.

Although Swan Pyae Sone had no known criminal record in Mawlamyine, authorities claimed that he had an outstanding case under Article 50(j) of the Anti-Terrorism Act at the Meiktila Township police station in the Mandalay region. He was then taken into custody at the industrial zone police station.

The junta has been expanding its surveillance capabilities through the National Database System, which was first introduced on May 22, 2022, and later reorganized on August 19, 2023. As part of this system, the regime has been collecting personal data and biometric information while conducting extensive screenings. The system assigns Unique ID (UID) numbers and operates through a five-step verification process to track and monitor individuals. These arrests raise concerns over the junta’s increasing use of digital surveillance to target civilians, particularly those travelling through checkpoints in conflict-affected areas.

Amid the ongoing human rights violations, further challenges were encountered by civilians when a 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Burma caused the death of thousands on March 28, 2025, with many more remaining missing and others injured. The tremors were felt nationwide but were particularly catastrophic in Sagaing and Mandalay as century-



Photo: On March 29, at 10:45 PM, junta forces launched indiscriminate artillery shelling from Waw Township, Lat Pan village in Bago Region, near the Mon border. The shells struck Khaywe village in Monsu Ward, Kyaik Hto Township — areas already suffering from the earthquake's aftermath.

old buildings and religious sites collapsed. There was also considerable damage to several villages and buildings, as well as flooding due to rivers overflowing their banks.

Even during a harrowing natural disaster, the junta did not hesitate to deploy attacks against sheltering civilians or those seeking refuge in neighbouring states and regions, after the loss of their homes. Less than 48 hours after the earthquake, on the night of March 29, at 10:45 PM, junta forces launched indiscriminate artillery shelling from Waw Township, Lat Pan village in Bago Region, near the Mon State border, across the Sittaung River. The shells struck Khaywe village in Monsu Ward, Kyaik Hto Township, Mon State— areas already suffering from the aftermath of the recent earthquake. Despite this, the junta showed no regard for humanitarian principles and deliberately fired heavy artillery at civilian areas.

Two elderly civilians were injured in the attack: U Kappali (72 years old) and Daw Kyun, his wife. The couple sustained injuries when a shell landed near their home, with U Kappali suffering severe wounds to his right arm, which required 16 stitches. The shells were fired from Lat Pan village using 81 mm artillery. This incident is a heartbreaking reminder that even in the wake of a natural disaster, the junta continues to disregard civilian safety and international humanitarian law.

The attacks since the earthquake have been ongoing, even after the junta declared a ceasefire. As such, communities across the country continue to suffer from the devastating impacts of war and natural disasters. At 5:30 PM on April 1, the junta Battalion Light Infantry Battalion No. (12), positioned at a newly established artillery base, fired five rounds of 120mm artillery shells into Wait Sar Kone village, Kyon Doe Township, Karen—despite the absence of any active fighting in the area.

Tragically, a 57-year-old woman was killed. Witnesses say she was struck with such shock by the blast that she fell backwards, hitting her head and suffering fatal brain injuries. While thousands of civilians are already displaced and struggling to survive after losing their homes and possessions, the junta continues to target peaceful villages. Their attacks have not spared religious sites, hospitals, schools, or residential communities. This incident was yet another heartbreaking reminder of the dangers faced by innocent people every day.

Throughout May 2025 alone, HURFOM has confirmed over 110 artillery and air attacks, resulting in at least 25 civilian deaths and dozens more injured, including children, women, and elderly villagers. Entire communities are being terrorized, with thousands forced to flee for safety into forests and makeshift shelters, where they are exposed to hunger, illness, and trauma.

“These repeated attacks on villages where no fighting is taking place show a heartbreaking disregard for innocent lives,” said a human rights defender working with HURFOM’s field monitoring team. *“The junta is using fear and violence to control the population, and these actions are clear violations of international humanitarian law. This kind of impunity cannot be allowed to continue. We urgently need stronger efforts to hold them accountable, increased cross-border aid and real protection for survivors and their families.”*

Local humanitarian workers have repeatedly urged the international community to respond swiftly and decisively. They have emphasized that the needs on the ground are growing daily and that immediate support is critical to saving lives and restoring dignity to those affected. Since January 2025, HURFOM has documented a steady increase in similar junta-led attacks across Mon State and Eastern Bago Region, with artillery and airstrikes often deliberately aimed at civilian areas.

Throughout April alone, the junta launched 244 airstrikes. These killed at least 201 civilians and injured more than 300 others. Despite the claimed ceasefire, conflict has only intensified in May, especially in southern Burma, fueling new waves of displacement. The displaced communities of the Tanintharyi Region, Mon State and Karen States continue to bear the brunt of the consequences. Already traumatized by airstrikes and forced to flee, they now face hunger, sickness, and fear with little to no support.

Further, many ongoing challenges that local communities will be outlined in the following section, detailing the scale and intensity of the junta's attacks against civilians.



In Mon State, suffering is widespread as conflict-affected communities face an ongoing barrage of human rights violations against them daily. Their rights to life and fundamental freedoms are being regularly infringed upon without any objection, nor meaningful interference by the international community.

MON STATE



Arbitrary Arrests

Two young men were forcibly arrested by junta forces in Kyaik Hto Township, Mon State, under accusations of having ties to local armed resistance forces. At 5:00 AM on May 8, junta troops raided the home of 18-year-old Zwe Marn Oo in Taung Kalay village and arrested him without presenting any warrant. Just two days earlier, on the night of May 6 at approximately 11:00 PM, 20-year-old Minn Khant Ko from Zayar Mon Ward was also arrested in a similar raid at his home.

A resident shared: *“From what we heard, they arrested Minn Khant Ko first, and then came for the second boy. The junta troops claimed it was part of a chain of arrests linked to resistance activities.”*

The two detainees were reportedly taken to the junta’s Military Division No. 44 base in Kyaikto, where they were interrogated. Family members were not allowed any visitation or communication with the detained young men. In Kyaik Hto Township, where local resistance forces remain active, arbitrary arrests of civilians, especially young people accused of involvement with resistance groups, have been occurring frequently. The junta often uses such accusations as a tool to intimidate and suppress local communities.

In another disturbing case of arbitrary arrest and suspected forced conscription, four young construction workers were seized by junta forces in Ye Twin Kone village, located in Taung Soon village tract, Bilin Township, Thaton District, Mon State. The incident occurred in the late afternoon of May 14. According to local eyewitnesses, at 4:00 PM, three vehicles carrying more than 20 junta soldiers and police officers arrived at the home of Daw Myint Myint Win, where the four young men were working on house decoration. Without explanation or warrant, the troops stormed the house and arrested the four workers at gunpoint.

“They didn’t speak a word. They pointed their guns and dragged the boys into the vehicles. It happened so fast. Everyone was in shock. We still don’t know where they’ve been taken. It’s likely linked to forced conscription,” said a resident of Ye Twin Kone who witnessed the arrest.

The four young men had been working in Ye Twin Kone for less than a month, helping with construction tasks. After their arrest, the homeowner went to the Bilin central police station to inquire about their whereabouts but received no response and was not allowed to meet with any officials.

Since April 2025, HURFOM has documented an alarming rise in arrests of young men across Bilin and Thaton Townships under vague or unfounded accusations. These arrests are part of a broader conscription campaign tied to the junta’s preparations for the 13th batch of military training. Those detained are often transferred without due process and sent directly to military bases or training centers.

A 60-year-old woman with two sons, mother from Thaton Township, Mon State, stated:

“I don’t sleep well anymore; not since the junta began rounding up young men. Every time I hear a motorbike stop near our gate or boots on the road, I freeze. I have two sons, aged 19 and 22. They’re good boys. One helped me in the betel nut fields, and the other studied carpentry. But now, we’ve stopped letting them go to town, even for small errands. We’re too afraid.”

She added:

“These young men and women will be forced to fight, to kill, or be killed. Most of the time, they end up as human shields on the frontlines. It’s the same story, over and over. The most painful part is how helpless we are. There’s no law here, only fear. The junta issues the orders, and we must obey or face the consequences. Some people say, ‘just hide your sons,’ but for how long? The soldiers know who lives where. They know which houses have young men. And if they don’t find them, they punish the family.

One of my neighbours had her son taken. He was barely 20. She cries every night. No word, no letter. Just silence. This is no longer a life; it’s survival, one day at a time. And for what? Our boys didn’t choose this war. But now they’re being dragged into it, used by a military that has no shame, no mercy.

These may sound like just numbers of the ones we’ve lost, but to us, these are our children. Our hearts. Our future. And they’re being stolen from us, one by one.”

In Thaton District, HURFOM’s documentation shows dozens of similar cases. Young men riding motorbikes in pairs have been detained in public places, on their way to work, or even at checkpoints. Families are often asked to pay exorbitant bribes—up to 1 million kyats per person—for the release of their loved ones. Those who cannot afford to pay are sent to training camps against their will.

On May 30, over 100 junta soldiers arrived at the Win Tar Pan base in Win Tar Pan village. While moving through the area, they detained a 50-year-old man named Saw Lar Hto, who was encountered along the road. On June 3, villagers discovered his body between Pa Yit Kho and Inn villages, abandoned by the roadside near the forest:

“His face and body were covered in bruises and serious injuries. It was clear he had been tortured. Everyone in our village knew the soldiers had taken him,” said a resident from Pain Nal Taw, Saw Lar Hto’s hometown. Saw Lar Hto leaves behind a grieving wife and three children. His death has left the community shocked and devastated. This particular incident is part of a growing list of junta abuses in Mon State, where arbitrary arrests, violence against civilians, and military raids continue to fuel fear and displacement.

The ongoing crackdown and military recruitment drive are fueling fear among youth and working-class communities, especially in rural Mon State. Many are avoiding travel or staying in hiding, and communities report heightened stress and anxiety. The Mon State junta’s continued use of force and fear to meet its military recruitment goals further reveals the regime’s desperation and disregard for human rights.

HURFOM reiterates its call for international actors to closely monitor these abuses, support protection efforts for targeted communities, and demand an end to arbitrary arrests and forced conscription across HURFOM's targeted areas in lower Burma.

Airstrikes

At the start of the year, in Mon State's Bilin Township, ongoing airstrike threats by the junta forced nearly 5,000 residents from 15 villages to flee their homes, according to officials from the Karen National Union (KNU). The ongoing crisis in Mon State reached alarming levels in December 2024, as the junta intensified its campaign of violence against civilians. During the six-month reporting period, a growing sense of urgency persisted regarding the protracted conflict.

Among the main challenges has been the junta's frequent blockade of life-saving humanitarian assistance. Following ongoing fighting near Kyone Laung Old Village in Ye Township, Mon State, junta forces have tightened their control over the township's main entry and exit routes, imposing strict inspections on both local civilians and travellers. These restrictions have also extended to a ban on transporting essential goods, especially staple items such as rice and cooking supplies, even between neighbouring villages. This blockade has led to growing concerns over severe food shortages and the inability to access daily necessities and medical supplies for displaced villagers.

Local shops in Kyaung Ywa village have run out of essential goods, forcing many to close due to a lack of stock. Due to the ongoing conflict, residents remain cautious about their movements, and children are kept at home for safety reasons. The food crisis has been exacerbated by the military regiment stationed in Kaw That village, Kyikemayaw Township, which has banned the transportation of rice and confiscated food supplies from anyone attempting to transport them.

Airstrikes carried out by the junta threaten not only civilians but also the infrastructure they occupy. Religious sites have also been targeted. A junta fighter jet dropped a 500-pound bomb on a monastery in Tagaelaung Village, Bilin Township, Thaton District, an area controlled by KNU Brigade 1, at midday on February 9. According to monastery caretakers, the attack destroyed the main monastery building and seven other structures.

The airstrike levelled multiple buildings, including:

- **The main monastery hall**
- **A Dhamma hall**
- **The monastic dining hall**
- **A living quarters for monks**
- **Three additional school and shelter buildings**
- **The explosion also damaged several homes nearby, as the blast impact and debris tore through roofs and walls.**



Photo: A woman was killed, and four others were injured after the junta's air force bombed Knit Wah village in Kyarinnseikyi Township, Mon State, despite no ongoing clashes in the area. The attack also damaged three houses.

The junta's airstrike on a religious site follows a disturbing pattern of attacks on civilian infrastructure, including villages and homes, schools and hospitals, monasteries and other religious sites. Human rights groups have condemned the deliberate targeting of non-military structures, calling it a clear violation of human rights and an escalation of the junta's terror tactics against civilians.

Another airstrike took place days later on February 8, when the junta conducted aerial bombings in Nat Kyi and Ah Suu Chaung villages, located in Beilin Township, Mon State, using a Y-12 aircraft. These strikes caused significant destruction to homes and schools. The bombings began on February 7, at approximately 2 PM, with three bombs dropped on Nat Kyi village and seven bombs on Ah Suu Chaung village. As a result of the airstrikes, two homes in the Shan Su area of Nat Kyi village and a high school in Ah Suu Chaung village sustained severe damage.

These airstrikes are part of an ongoing assault by the military junta, which has escalated its attacks in the Thaton District. Over a period of just three days, junta air raids have killed three civilians and injured at least 15 others in the region. Since late last year, the Thaton District has faced relentless airstrikes despite no reported active clashes between resistance forces and the military. HURFOM's field reports strongly condemned the attacks, highlighting the junta's indiscriminate bombing campaigns and their devastating impact on civilians.

Since the beginning of 2025, the military junta has been consistently launching airstrikes in KNU-controlled areas of Thaton District. The latest attack forced more than 200 residents of Pain Nae Kone village to flee their homes in search of safety. This marks the first time the junta has carried out airstrikes in Kyaikhto Township, signalling an alarming escalation in its military aggression against local populations.

Junta forces have recently intensified military operations in Thaton Township, western Mon State, and the eastern Bago border region. Dozens of villages have faced artillery shelling, arbitrary arrests, and now aerial bombings. Civilians, including children, religious leaders, and medical workers, are among those most affected. These deliberate strikes violate the Geneva Convention, which prohibits attacks on protected civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and religious sites. Despite months passing since the initial attacks, more than 5,000 displaced villagers from six communities across Bilin and Kyaik Hto Townships remain unable to return to their homes, citing daily aerial threats and surveillance by the junta forces.

Displaced families from Min Saw and Tagaylaung villages, among others, continue to shelter in territories controlled by Ethnic Resistance Organizations (EROs), too worried to go back due to frequent flyovers by junta spy aircraft and drones. Field reports confirm that access to food, safe shelter, and necessities has become increasingly difficult, especially with the onset of the rainy season fast approaching. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) face not only physical displacement but also emotional trauma, as fears of sudden attacks loom over them daily.

According to a 56-year-old Karen villager displaced from Min Saw:

“The last major aerial attack occurred on April 19, 2025, when the junta bombed Min Saw village in the Tagaylaung village tract of Bilin Township. This was the second time the area was targeted — the first attack was on February 9, 2025, when a junta jet fighter dropped a 500-lb bomb, damaging a monastery, homes, and killing civilians.”

Due to these repeated assaults, more than 2,600 residents from the Tagaylaung village tract, which had over 700 households, have fled to ERO-controlled territories and remain displaced. Similarly, in Kyaik Hto Township, survivors from villages around Painae Gone were unable to return home since an aerial attack on February 13, 2025. More than 2,400 civilians from three nearby villages remain displaced. A local service provider explained:

“The junta dropped 500-lb bombs, killing three civilians and injuring at least ten others. Since then, junta aircraft continue daily aerial surveillance over Min Saw and Tagaylaung villages, making it impossible for people to feel safe enough to return. Families are struggling to survive in makeshift shelters.”

Due to these repeated assaults, more than 2,600 residents from the Tagaylaung village tract, which had over 700 households, have fled to ERO-controlled territories and remain displaced.

Another local volunteer, herself an IDP, shared:

“At first, building shelter was already difficult. We had to rely on bamboo and thatch to build small huts. Now, with the rainy season approaching, it will only get harder. The junta’s constant air threats make it impossible to farm or rebuild our lives. Humanitarian aid is also extremely limited. We don’t know how we will survive the coming months. We can only pray that our children won’t fall sick when the rains bring new diseases.”

Most IDPs sheltering KNU’s Brigade 1 areas were formerly self-sufficient farmers, rubber plantation workers, and small-scale livestock owners. Before the military coup, they lived stable lives in their home villages. However, since the coup and escalating military offensives, they have become victims of relentless aerial bombings and indiscriminate artillery attacks.

An Emergency Response Team member working with displaced communities reflected:

“If we cannot work safely or live securely, we cannot sustain our lives here in the long term. The junta’s military pressure grows stronger every day, and even now, we haven’t found a truly safe place to rebuild our futures.”

Nai Chit Maung, 55, a farmer from Kyikemayaw Township, reflected on the loss of land and livelihood:



“I’ve been a farmer my whole life. My parents were farmers, too. For generations, our family lived off this land. But now, I can’t even walk into my field without wondering if I’ll come home alive. After the fighting, the army left behind explosives. We see metal fragments, unexploded bombs, and sometimes half-buried landmines near our fields. Some farmers stepped on them in the past—lost legs, hands, or worse. These things don’t disappear after the guns go quiet. They stay hidden in the soil, waiting.

This year, I didn’t plant anything. Neither did most of my neighbours. Out of ten farms near us, maybe two people are still working, and even they are terrified every day. We have no machines to detect landmines. No safety gear. Just bare hands and old tools. It’s not worth the risk.”

The situation in Bilin and Kyaik Hto Townships highlights the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe facing thousands of civilians in southeastern Burma, with urgent calls for increased international support to reach displaced communities before conditions deteriorate further. Attacks once again served as further evidence that the junta lacks the capacity to adhere to any type of agreement that includes a cessation of violence, including its ceasefires, which are repeatedly violated.

Field documentation teams confirmed that starting from the last week of April, junta forces escalated both artillery shelling and aerial bombings across several villages located between Kyaik Hto Township in Mon State and Shwe Kyin Township in the Eastern Bago Region. These assaults targeted areas without active fighting and caused multiple civilian injuries and mass displacement.

According to local monitors, a clash broke out on April 23 between the junta. It combined Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) troops near Kwin Seik Village in Shwe Kyin Township, Eastern Bago. Following this, junta forces indiscriminately shelled and bombed several nearby Mon State villages, including Kha Ywe, Pyin Kadoe, and Painnae Gone, as well as villages in the conflict-adjacent zone — Nyaung Chay Htauk and Win Kan.

At approximately noon on April 23, the Artillery Regiment Command No. 310, based in Kyaik Hto, fired at least nine artillery shells toward the area surrounding Khaywe Village.

“The shells landed across our village — two in the Mon Su section, three near the football field, and four just outside the village. The fighting had just happened earlier that day in Shwe Kyin, but we had no time to escape before the shells started falling. Two people from our ward were hit,” said a resident from Khaywe Village.

According to witnesses, two civilians from the Mon Su section of Khaywe, Ko Chat Gyi (age 34) and Daw Moe (age 47), were seriously injured by shrapnel from the shelling. The artillery attacks forced approximately 500 villagers from Khaywe to flee. Most have sought safety in makeshift bomb shelters or nearby forested areas.

Junta forces launched a second consecutive day of airstrikes against Win Kan village, leaving two more civilians injured and causing widespread destruction to civilian homes. At 10:40 AM on May 11, 2025, two junta-operated jet fighters dropped a 500-pound bomb and a 200-pound bomb onto the heart of Win Kan village. The explosions directly struck the homes of villagers, resulting in serious injuries and further displacement of terrified residents.

U Maung Naing, aged 53, sustained severe injuries to his left arm, and 13-year-old Maung Myint Myat Htwe suffered a back injury from the blasts. Tragically, at least 13 homes were heavily damaged. A second 200-pound bomb exploded near the house of Saw Mya Htoo, causing significant destruction. Villagers, already reeling from the attack, once again scrambled for safety, with many now displaced into the surrounding forests without basic shelter, food, or medical assistance.

Win Kan village, situated under the administration of the KNU’s Brigade No.1, had previously been a quiet community. However, it has now been turned into a battleground as junta forces continue indiscriminate bombings with no regard for civilian life. The attacks on Win Kan village are yet another tragic reminder of the suffering faced by civilians in Mon State and across Burma. It highlights the urgent need for immediate protection, humanitarian assistance, and stronger global measures to halt the junta’s ongoing war crimes.

The latest twin airstrikes are part of a growing pattern of brutal assaults across Kyaik Hto Township. According to HURFOM’s field documentation, the junta has increasingly targeted civilian areas, including monasteries, schools, religious buildings, and homes, even where

no active fighting is taking place. Over the past few months, airstrikes and artillery shelling have displaced thousands, leaving families to shelter in jungles or makeshift huts without access to food, clean water, or healthcare. Regional administrators and local leaders urge civilians to remain on high alert. Despite repeated calls for international condemnation, the junta's violence continues unabated.

HURFOM fieldworkers have documented numerous cases of junta forces targeting civilian areas, including monasteries, schools, religious buildings, and entire villages. Airstrikes have become increasingly frequent, even where no active clashes occur. The destruction of vital community infrastructure has left thousands displaced and living under constant threat.

According to HURFOM's latest findings, villagers in Mon State are struggling to survive amidst near-daily artillery shelling and aerial bombardments. The junta's deliberate attacks have dismantled the fragile lives of civilians, forcing many into the jungles and nearby areas with no basic services such as food, clean water, or medical care. Regional administrators and local leaders in Kyaik Hto have continued to urge residents to stay on high alert due to the unpredictable nature of the junta's air assaults. Despite calls for international condemnation and action, the junta's violence shows no sign of slowing down.

Drone Attacks

The military junta in Mon State has intensified its drone attacks on villages in Kyaikhto Township despite no active clashes in the area. These targeted strikes have led to civilian injuries, the destruction of homes and public infrastructure, and significant damage to livelihoods, including farms and businesses.

The main perpetrators of these assaults are troops who are stationed at the Light Infantry Battalion No. 207 and Artillery Regiment Command No. 310, based in Kyaikhto Township. These units are responsible for issuing and executing the majority of attack orders. As of March 15, at least seven villages in Kyaikhto Township were repeatedly attacked, with over two dozen strikes recorded.

"More than 20 homes were destroyed, and at least 14 people were injured, four of whom are in serious condition. The attacks have been particularly severe in Pyinkadone Kone, Khayae, Sitkwin, Mokekha Moh, and Thone Kwa villages," said a resident.

The junta justifies these attacks by claiming resistance forces are hiding in these areas, but in reality, it is civilians who bear the brunt of the violence. Many families were forced to flee their homes, while others remain trapped in fear. A 45-year-old man from Kyaikhto Township shared his firsthand experience:

"Our home was hit by a drone attack on March 1 in the afternoon. I grabbed my three children and my wife, and we ran as soon as we saw the shells dropping. We left everything behind and haven't returned since. My children are still traumatized by what happened," he said.

Another villager from Sitkwin confirmed the severity of the situation: *"In the first week of March alone, the junta carried out at least eight separate attacks on our villages,"* he said.



Photo: *The military junta in Mon State has intensified its drone attacks on villages in Kyaikhto Township, Mon State, despite no active clashes in the area. These targeted strikes have led to civilian injuries, the destruction of homes and public infrastructure.*

Indiscriminate Firing

Indiscriminate firing also continues to threaten civilian livelihoods. A local man was shot and killed during a raid conducted by junta troops in Malawt Chaung village, Kyaik Hto Township, Mon State. On the evening of February 12, at 5:00 PM, junta troops stormed the home of 50-year-old U Kyaw Aung, a resident of Malawt Chaung village, and attempted to arrest him. When he tried to flee, the troops opened fire, hitting him with three gunshot wounds, which led to his death.

U Kyaw Aung was a landowner, and his arrest was reportedly linked to a land dispute. After killing him, the junta troops took his body and refused to return it to his family. This incident has instilled fear and uncertainty among residents as arbitrary arrests and killings by the junta continue to escalate in Mon State.

At the beginning of February 2025, in Ye Township, Mon State, three women, including two internally displaced persons (IDPs), were injured when junta troops indiscriminately fired heavy artillery into Wapathae Village, Baelamu Village Tract, despite no active fighting in the area. On the night of January 24, troops from the Junta's Artillery Regiment No. 317, based in Ye Township, launched five artillery shells into Wapathae Village. The shells exploded inside the village, injuring:

- **Naw Mu Tin (28 years old) – sustained injuries to her neck;**
- **Naw Mu Chi (18 years old) – suffered injuries to her lower jaw and neck;**
- **Naw Mu Paw (25 years old) – hit by shrapnel in her lower back**

The situation in Ye Township has had a volatile trajectory. On January 9, after clashes erupted in the area, junta troops advanced towards Kyon Laung Village, killing two men near Ai Poke Village and detaining multiple villagers at Bokalay Monastery. Local communities are continuously on high alert, fearing further indiscriminate attacks and forced displacements as the junta continues its military operations in the region.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), the junta's indiscriminate firing, including airstrikes and artillery firing, killed at least 10 civilians nationwide within just one week. Between February 1 and February 7, the attacks claimed the lives of 10 individuals, including three women and a 16-year-old girl. HURFOM's field network reported that junta forces carried out airstrikes on Kaw Hae village and its surrounding areas in Bilin Township, Mon State, injuring at least five civilians and causing widespread destruction.

Attacks on innocent people in Burma continue unabated. Despite the overwhelming evidence of the junta's brutality, there has been a regrettable lack of effective action to halt the violence inflicted upon local communities. Two civilians were injured and a home was destroyed after junta troops launched artillery shells into a village in Mon State's Thanbyuzayat Township. The attack occurred on the evening of April 5, at 6 PM when artillery fired from the Waekalee-based military command exploded inside the residential area of Kalaing Padaw village. There was no active fighting in the area at the time.

The injured were identified as Nai Kin, aged 38, and his wife, Mi Tin, aged 36. Nai Kin reportedly sustained severe injuries to his right hand and abdomen, while Mi Tin was hit on her left arm and right leg. Their home was also completely destroyed in the fire, and five family members were displaced as a result.

Since the beginning of this year, junta attacks in Mon State have increased, including the use of heavy weapons and aerial bombings. Civilian casualties have also been on the rise. Resistance groups report that junta forces are targeting not only homes, but also schools, churches, monasteries, and religious sites with these indiscriminate attacks. Local communities remain in fear, as even areas far from conflict lines are no longer safe from these brutal assaults.

In yet another tragic incident of violence against civilians, the military junta launched an artillery attack on Pandeik Kone village, part of Kadipu village tract in Bilin Township, Thaton District, Mon State. On the night of May 21, between 8:18 and 8:20 PM, two 120mm mortar shells exploded in the village, causing multiple casualties among residents.

According to HURFOM's field documentation and local eyewitnesses, Ma Aye Naing, 48 years old, was killed on the spot due to the blast. Mi Nu, also 48 years old, sustained serious shrapnel injuries to her right side. A young girl, Ma Khin Pa Pa Lin, aged just 11 years old, suffered a direct wound to her right thigh.

These attacks occurred despite there being no clashes in the area at the time, pointing again to the junta's continued pattern of indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations. The use of heavy artillery in residential villages like Pandeik Kone is part of a growing pattern of escalating assaults to target civilians and deprive them of their rights.

On May 7, a tragic incident unfolded in Shamma Twin village, Dawei District, after junta troops launched artillery attacks in response to an earlier attack on a military checkpoint. A 10-year-old boy was killed, and an 8-year-old girl was injured when an artillery shell struck a house, according to local sources. The violence began early that morning when a resistance group attacked the junta's checkpoint at Pauk Taing Bridge—the main entry and exit point of Dawei town. The exchange of fire between the two sides, including the use of heavy artillery, lasted nearly an hour. In retaliation, junta forces began shelling nearby villages, including Shamma Twin. A military column was advancing on foot through Kyauk Yat village toward Shamma Twin.

“One of the shells landed directly on a home. The house was destroyed. A young boy died instantly, and a little girl was badly hurt,” a local woman recounted. In the aftermath, many residents from Shamma Twin, Kyauk Yat, and Wa Maw villages were forced to flee for safety. Additionally, six local men were reportedly arrested by junta troops during their advance. Junta soldiers then stationed themselves in the surrounding forests, raising further fears among the displaced communities.

In the second week of May, a HURFOM reporter interviewed a 40-year-old female villager from Kan Ni village, Kyon Doe Township, in Karen State. Most Kan Ni villagers chose to return home after being displaced for a long time to safer areas; however, they mentioned it was unsafe: *“We returned home because we had no choice,”* said a mother of three from Kan Ni village, speaking softly as she swept away debris from the corner of her broken porch.

“This isn't peace. Every night we still hear distant artillery, and each loud noise makes our hearts race. The soldiers may not be marching through now, but the fear remains. Our children flinch at thunder, thinking it's another airstrike. We've come back, but we are not living, we are surviving.”

Another villager, an elderly man who helped carry back what little belongings they had, said:

“We stayed in the monastery for nearly a month. It wasn't easy, but at least there was a roof and safety. Now that we are home, we sleep with one eye open. The scars of the airstrikes are still fresh. We lost friends and neighbours; six of our own. The ground we walk on still holds their blood. The quiet is not comforting, it feels like waiting for the next tragedy.”

Many IDPs have sought shelter in nearby KNU-controlled villages or hidden in caves along the Kaung Taung mountain range. Others are taking refuge in makeshift camps without access to clean water or proper medical care. Local community-based groups are organizing humanitarian relief efforts, but the needs far exceed available resources.



Photo: *Thousands of civilians remain trapped in Kawkareik Township as fierce fighting between junta forces and resistance groups continues for over a week. Junta troops have sealed off all entry and exit points, leaving residents without safe passage.*

Hundreds of civilians in Thaton District, Mon State, were forced to flee their homes as the military junta intensifies its deployment of troops, heavy weaponry, and hidden patrols along the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway. The growing military presence and widespread fear of human rights abuses have driven communities into renewed cycles of displacement.

According to HURFOM field reports, the junta's movements are particularly aggressive near the Mon-Bago border as it attempts to tighten territorial control in preparation for its planned 2025 election. Analysts warn that the junta is "clearing" key areas to ensure domination over voting districts by the end of the year. Over a period of two days, HURFOM documented the deployment of approximately 200 soldiers into villages in Kyaik Hto Township, including Kha Yawe, Chaung Wa, Win Kan, Mokka Maw, and Thone Khwa. Hidden patrol troops have also been stationed along major roads, severely restricting residents' freedom and safety.

Since the powerful earthquake that struck Burma on March 28, HURFOM has documented a surge in junta-led artillery attacks across southeastern Burma, including in Kyaikhto. According to data gathered by HURFOM and partner networks, junta troops stationed in the area have launched at least five rounds of shelling per day, despite no ongoing clashes in many locations. This tactic has caused fear, injury, and further displacement, especially among women, children, and the elderly.

Nearly 1,000 civilians from other parts of Kyaikhto have also fled toward Theinzayat town. Locals report that many are struggling with severe food and medicine shortages. With ongoing insecurity and no sign of military de-escalation, humanitarian needs are only expected to worsen. In addition, HURFOM estimates that, due to junta-led airstrikes and militarization, more than 10,000 villagers from over 20 villages along the Mon State-Bago border were forcibly displaced in recent weeks. Humanitarian needs are growing urgently as food, shelter, and medical care become increasingly scarce.

Since May 21, 2025, junta troops have launched repeated artillery assaults and aerial attacks targeting civilian areas, despite the absence of any armed clashes in the vicinity. The shelling has primarily been carried out by units under the 207th Artillery Battalion and the 310th Artillery Division based in Theinzayat and surrounding areas. On May 21, the junta's forces fired two rounds of 120mm heavy artillery into a civilian work site near Kanni village (Upper), part of the Zee Pyoung village tract. No fighting was reported in the area at the time. The next day, May 22, another round of shelling occurred at 11:00 AM, again without provocation or any armed resistance nearby. The shells landed close to civilian areas, further escalating fear and tension among residents.

Again, a few days later on May 23, the attacks spread even further. At 10:00 AM, junta forces stationed in Sin Ywar, Waw Township, Bago Region, launched two rounds of 122mm artillery that exploded near Khaywe village in Kyaikhto Township. Less than an hour later, at 10:54 AM, more than 120mm shells were fired from Theinzayat toward Winkan village, landing dangerously close to residential zones and farming areas. Later that afternoon at 3:45 PM, the junta continued its offensive with another round of shelling between Thone Khwa and Kyauk Pon Gyi villages, again targeting areas where civilians were working. One resident, visibly shaken by the ongoing bombardments, said:

“We are constantly living in fear. Our daily lives are surrounded by danger. We just want to survive, but we feel like we are being hunted.”

On May 24 at 9:00 AM, the situation escalated further when junta forces carried out an aerial bombing raid using a military jet. A 500-pound bomb was dropped on Moe Baw and Nat Sin villages in the Kyauk Phyar village tract. The explosion caused heavy damage to a civilian home and sent shockwaves through nearby communities already traumatized by the ongoing artillery fire.

These repeated attacks have led to widespread displacement. Villagers who once lived peacefully in their homes are now scattered across the jungles and informal shelters, with limited access to basic necessities. Local sources confirm that at least 3,900 civilians have been newly displaced since mid-May due to the attacks in Kyaikhto alone.

On the evening of June 11, at 5:30 PM, junta forces based in Bilin Township launched an indiscriminate artillery attack that struck Aloo Gyi village, resulting in the death of one civilian and injuries to at least three others. Local sources confirmed to HURFOM that the shelling was unprovoked and occurred in the absence of any active fighting. The shell was fired from Light Infantry Battalion No. 3, stationed in Bilin town. One of the artillery shells landed directly on a house in Aloo Gyi village, killing 35-year-old Saw Ngwe Lar, a resident.

“We are constantly living in fear. Our daily lives are surrounded by danger. We just want to survive, but we feel like we are being hunted.”

He died on the spot after being hit by shrapnel. The victim left behind a wife, Daw Nyo Nwe, and two young children. In addition to the fatality, three other villagers sustained injuries: Aung Bo Bo, 28, suffered serious injuries. Jit Too, 21, was also wounded. Chit Shwe, 45, sustained less severe injuries.

The artillery blast not only caused casualties but also damaged several homes and destroyed two vehicles. Community members report that this is not the first time junta troops have fired heavy artillery into residential areas from their base in Bilin town. *“The military keeps firing into villages without warning. People are terrified. It can happen any time, day or night,”* said another resident.

These acts, carried out without provocation and outside of combat situations, are likely to constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law, including war crimes.

On 14 June, soldiers from the 14th Infantry Battalion No. 264 based in Painzaloke, Kyaukkyi Township, fired two 120mm artillery shells into Hpan-talin village and one shell into Thamin Inn Gone village. The shelling injured 26-year-old Naw Gee Lah Paw from Thamin Inn Gone, 42-year-old Naw Mu Mu, and 11-year-old Saw Daung Pyuk from Hpantalin village.

On 17 June, junta forces launched another round of 120mm artillery shells—three in total—into Thamin Inn Gone village, causing further panic and displacement among residents. Just days later, on 20 June, junta soldiers based in Than Kwin, Mu Township, escalated their campaign. Twelve bombs were released over Ohnshik Gone village. Meanwhile, Yaele and Laekwinpyin villages were hit with several more 120mm artillery shells. These attacks left at least four civilian homes in Ohnshik Gone and Yaele villages destroyed. Among the damaged structures were a Buddhist monastery and a Christian church in Ohnshik Gone, which had once served as safe spaces for spiritual and communal refuge.

Local residents told HURFOM that these villages are not conflict zones and were not experiencing clashes at the time of the attacks.

“What the junta is doing here is not just wrong—it’s illegal under international law. These attacks are hitting our homes, schools, and even our places of worship. That’s a direct violation of the Geneva Convention, which clearly states that you cannot target civilians or religious buildings. They’re supposed to protect life, not destroy it.”

Dropping bombs on villages where there’s no fighting, where people are just trying to survive, is a serious crime. International humanitarian law is obvious—civilians must be protected at all times, and there must be a clear distinction between soldiers and ordinary people. But the junta doesn’t care. They’re breaking the laws of war, and they’re doing it openly. It’s cruel, it’s calculated, and it’s meant to terrorize us into silence,” said a human rights educator and community leader from Brigade 6 under KNU administration.



As the violence persists in Karen State, families continue to live in uncertainty, hoping for safety and a chance to rebuild their lives. Since mid-2024, the ongoing clashes have driven most residents from nearby villages to seek refuge. Many have rented apartments, purchased homes, or found temporary shelter, causing real estate prices to soar. Rubber plantation owners, unable to run their operations, are selling off their land and businesses to escape the risks.

KAREN STATE



Airstrikes

The Karen National Union, Thaton District, reported on an airstrike by the junta that was deployed against Mae Thana and Htee Kyaw Khee villages in Hpa-An Township, Karen State, despite no active clashes in the area. The airstrike took place at 6:00 AM on March 1, when a jet fighter dropped at least four bombs on the two villages.

The attack damaged homes and religious buildings, including a monastery at the base of Mae Thana Hill. The airstrike also forced students to stop attending school, and many villagers were forced to flee their homes in search of safety. According to the KNU Thaton District, the bombs dropped included 120mm bombs and handmade cluster bombs, further escalating fears among local communities. This is not the first time the junta has targeted civilian areas in Hpa-An Township. On February 9, 2025, another airstrike hit Tagay Laung village, destroying ten buildings, including a monastery hall.

The junta's continued airstrikes on villages, schools, and religious sites have left thousands displaced and struggling to rebuild their lives. With no armed resistance reported in the area, these attacks appear to be deliberate attempts to terrorize civilians and drive them from their homes.

Since the start of 2025, fighting between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) resistance forces and the junta troops in southern Kawkaik Township, Karen State, has continued to escalate. However, despite the active clashes, the junta has increasingly targeted civilian villages with airstrikes, forcing thousands to flee their homes. The indiscriminate and systematic attacks on villagers reflect a clear strategy of targeting civilians under the pretext of military operations. As a result, families are being torn apart, livelihoods are being destroyed, and entire communities are being displaced.

In the early hours of March 5, at 1:30 AM, a junta fighter jet dropped bombs twice on Ah-Soon village in southern Kawkaik Township. The attack destroyed five houses and injured two civilians. A day earlier, on March 4, at around 1 PM, the junta launched another airstrike targeting Dauk Phalan village, where a school was hit and damaged. Reports from the ground indicate that there were civilian casualties.

Residents have also reported intensifying clashes in late February 2025 and early March near the Koh Nwah and Ywa Thit Gone villages, located near Kawkaik. The junta has launched repeated ground offensives, facing strong resistance from the KNLA and allied forces. As a result, the junta's troops, who suffered heavy casualties, retaliated by targeting civilian homes. Reports indicate that hundreds of houses in Koh Nwah and Ywa Thit Gone villages were set on fire by junta forces, forcing more families into displacement. Additionally, Boh Dai, San Phalar, and Ah-Soon—areas not directly involved in the ongoing clashes—have been repeatedly bombed by junta aircraft.

With the situation deteriorating rapidly, many residents have tried to stockpile food and supplies, fearing further displacement. However, locals stated that junta troops have imposed restrictions on the transportation of essential goods, making it increasingly difficult to access food and other necessities.

Although Kawkareik town was previously captured by resistance forces in 2024, the junta has managed to regain control through continuous air support and heavy offensives. As a result, junta troops are now stationed inside Kawkareik town, tightening their grip on the area. The continued targeting of civilian villages and the destruction of homes and schools have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in southern Kawkareik Township. With thousands displaced and food supplies dwindling, affected communities desperately seek refuge and urgent humanitarian assistance.

“The junta is deliberately attacking areas where there are no clashes. They are trying to terrorize civilians and weaken local resistance by making daily life impossible,” said a resident from Kawkareik.

A devastating airstrike by the junta targeted the Kyauk Kwin Monastery in the Kamamaung sub-township, Papun District, within the Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 5-controlled territory in Karen State, resulting in the death of a senior monk. The attack occurred at 4 PM on March 5, when fighter jets dropped bombs on the monastery, destroying the building. Tragically, 62-year-old Abbot Annanta Witunda, who had been ordained for 41 years, was killed instantly. A local woman who witnessed the aftermath described the severe impact of the explosion on the monk's body.



Photo: A devastating airstrike by the junta targeted the Kyauk Kwin Monastery in the Kamamaung sub-township, Papun District, within the KNU Brigade 5-controlled territory in Karen State, resulting in the death of a senior monk.

Since the third week of February, villages around Kamamaung have suffered repeated bombings and artillery shelling, destroying religious sites and civilian homes. The escalation of attacks has forced residents from at least five villages to flee their homes, with many seeking refuge in the Myaing Gyi Ngu area near Kamamaung Town.

The increasing airstrikes in the region have not only claimed lives but also shattered communities, leaving people displaced and fearful of further violence. In another case, two innocent lives were lost in Karen State when a junta jet fighter launched an airstrike on a peaceful village where no fighting had taken place. The attack has left local communities shaken, questioning the junta's increasing pattern of targeting civilian areas without provocation.

According to a field report released on March 21 by a human rights monitoring network, the military junta dropped bombs on Tabalukhokhee village in Kawkareik Township around 11:00 AM on March 19. The area lies within the Karen National Union's (KNU) controlled territory, and no armed clashes were seen during the strike. A Yak-130 jet fighter, flown from Naypyidaw, delivered the deadly payload that killed two local men, aged 36 and 30. Both suffered fatal injuries from the blast. In addition to the heartbreaking loss of life, a family home and a small storage building were also destroyed in the attack.

“There was no fighting here. We were just living our lives. Now two people are gone, and families are grieving,” said a resident, still in shock.

Locals and resistance fighters believed the attack was part of a growing pattern of fear tactics the junta uses. Following concerns that joint resistance forces may soon challenge junta control over Kawkareik town, the military has ramped up shelling and airstrikes on surrounding villages, regardless of whether clashes are occurring.

“In the past, they targeted areas closer to the town. But now they’re bombing villages further out, with no warning or justification,” said a member of the resistance in the area. *“No one knows where they’ll strike next.”*

This is not an isolated incident. Earlier in the month, on March 4 and 5, airstrikes were reported in Ason village and near a school in Dawplar (Baw Dine) village. Again, there were no armed clashes in those areas, yet civilians suffered casualties, and critical infrastructure was damaged.

Two children, aged six and eleven, were injured by artillery shelling in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The incident occurred at approximately 4:30 PM on March 23, when an artillery shell landed directly on the house of U Aung Myo Min, located in Ward No. 2 of Kawkareik.



“No one knows where they’ll strike next.”

The explosion seriously injured two children inside: Maung Sai Wai Yan Myo, an 11-year-old Grade 3 student, and Ma Lin Lae Nay Chi, a 6-year-old kindergarten student.

The children were initially taken to Kawkareik Hospital and later transferred to Taung Kalay Hospital in Hpa-An for more specialized care. Earlier on March 9, another serious incident occurred in Kawkareik Township. Between 5:30 AM and 8:20 AM, the Mon State Liberation Army's (MLA) Spring UAV Force-G3 Fixed-wing drones dropped three bombs targeting a bridge-opening ceremony organized by the military junta. According to the MLA's statement on March 10, three civilians were killed and at least five others injured during that drone attack on the Myawaddy-Hpa An road.

By April 2025, the junta had significantly increased the scale and frequency of attacks. Despite no clashes reported in the area, two civilians were injured and several homes destroyed after junta airstrikes hit villages in Hpapun Township, Karen State, according to a statement released by the Karen National Union (KNU) Headquarters. On the evening of April 8, at 5:30 PM, junta jet fighters dropped two bombs on Balaewor and Htee Thae Khlu villages. The sudden airstrikes forced many to flee their homes in fear.

As a result of the attack, residents Saw Pana Mu and Saw Dae Si were injured. Homes belonging to Saw Karnae Mu, Saw Pana Mu, and Saw Daw Ne in Balaewor Village were heavily damaged. In Htee Thae Khlu, the home of Naw Kyar Hae and several others was also hit and partially destroyed. This assault occurred despite the junta's announcement of a temporary ceasefire in response to the earthquake disaster. However, communities across several states and regions continue to experience daily artillery shelling and airstrikes.

As families fled deadly airstrikes and heavy shelling in Kawkareik Township, Karen State, junta troops from Light Infantry Battalion 545 and Infantry Battalion 546 stopped them at checkpoints and demanded money and valuables. These displaced villagers, already traumatized by ongoing attacks, have faced intimidation, harassment, and demands for money along the way.

The abuses reportedly began after heavy military assaults on April 15, when junta aircraft and artillery began targeting several villages in and around Kyon Doe Town. In response, hundreds of families fled their homes in terror. At least 80 people were stopped on their way to safety and forced to give money or belongings to junta soldiers on the road. One villager shared what happened:

“Our family fled on the 15th after our village was hit. We hid in a bomb shelter for four days with barely any food or clothes. I have three young children, including an eight-month-old. The baby’s mother was so traumatized that she stopped producing milk.

Eventually, we tried to escape to Mawlamyine, but were stopped by soldiers from LIB 546. They held us for three hours. Then, they demanded 50,000 kyat per person. Some families had to pay 100,000 to 300,000 kyat. If they had no cash, they were forced to hand over watches or jewelry. It was humiliating, terrifying. Those were some of the worst days of our lives.”

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Local rescue groups estimate that nearly 2,000 families from at least eight villages, including Koh Boh, Tadar Oo, Thayet Taw, Koh Khite, Koh Kyaik, and Kanni, have fled since April 15. Most have attempted to reach Mawlamyine or Hpa-an, relying on friends, relatives, and monastery shelters for refuge. Many report that junta soldiers have set up strict inspection points on key exit routes, demanding money or confiscating belongings under threat.

A humanitarian aid worker from a Mon rescue organization, speaking anonymously, confirmed the ongoing hardship.

“As of April 23, Kawkareik town remains under tight junta control. Fierce fighting continues on the outskirts, and airstrikes in surrounding villages like Kyon Doe and Kamanee are ongoing. Civilians cannot assist each other across villages because the roads are too dangerous. People mostly rely on their communities and organize their limited resources to help one another. There’s an urgent need for food and medicine, but the area is essentially under siege.”

From April 14 to 18, the junta carried out a wave of bombings across Kawkareik, displacing more than 10,000 people from at least 40 villages, according to independent local sources. Most of these civilians—primarily women, children, and the elderly—were scattered across temporary shelters in Mawlamyine and Hpa-an Townships. Monasteries, civic networks, and volunteer groups are coordinating to provide food, clothing, and basic health support, but the situation remains critical.

The extortion of civilians during armed conflict is a clear breach of international law. Under the Geneva Conventions, civilians must be protected from violence, threats, and coercion. The forced extraction of money and valuables from those fleeing conflict, mainly when conducted at gunpoint, constitutes a form of pillaging, which is explicitly prohibited.

A lawyer, Ko Moe Myint, remarked on the lack of accountability in Burma, and shared with HURFOM:

“As a lawyer who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement and now resides in an ERO area, I’ve come to deeply reflect on how the legal system in Myanmar has long been used as a tool to control and silence the people. Generations of military regimes have passed down oppressive laws designed to keep society in fear. These laws weren’t just meant to maintain order—they were explicitly crafted to erode basic freedoms and give legal cover to widespread abuse.

Right now, the people are still living in fear, not just because of bullets and bombs, but because the law itself has become a weapon.”

Fighting continues to rage in and around Kawkaik. By the end of April, HURFOM reported that airstrikes had targeted not only homes but also schools and monasteries. Local reports confirm that on April 15, junta airstrikes killed at least 15 civilians, including monks, and injured over 30 more in Kawkaik Township alone. The attacks have paralyzed humanitarian rescue efforts. Even aid organizations operating from Mawlamyine and Hpa-an have been unable to safely access rural areas due to the risk of renewed air attacks and ambushes.

“Every day, more people are trying to escape,” one health volunteer said. “But there are no safe vehicles to pick them up. Those who can afford it pay for their transport. Others try to slip through the forest when the shelling stops. It’s heartbreaking. They’re not just fleeing war—they’re running from extortion and fear.”

Meanwhile, on April 26, junta forces launched yet another aerial attack on Kanni Village, Kyon Doe Town, Kawkaik Township, Karen State. Despite no fighting in the area, a junta drone dropped a bomb directly onto a civilian home, seriously injuring a 50-year-old male resident whose leg had to be amputated. He is currently receiving urgent medical care.

This marks the third time the junta has deliberately bombed Kanni Village civilians without any active clashes, exposing a ruthless and escalating pattern of violence since the Burmese New Year period. Reflecting on the worsening crisis, a humanitarian worker from Brigade 6, providing relief in Karen areas, said:

“The crimes committed by the junta against innocent civilians must be brought before the International Criminal Court (ICC). No dictator escapes justice forever. It is time for international leaders, including ASEAN, to stop working through junta-controlled channels. Instead, they must directly support community-based organizations, ethnic service providers, and civil society organizations who genuinely serve the people on the ground.”

The situation for civilians continues to deteriorate as junta battalions intensify their assaults across Kawkareik and Kyon Doe Townships. For three straight days, indiscriminate artillery shelling and drone bomb attacks by junta forces killed at least two civilians, including a young child, and wounded five more.

On the morning of 11 May, Light Infantry Battalion No. 546, stationed in Kyon Doe, fired multiple artillery shells into Naung Tamarn village without any provocation. The shelling struck residential areas, killing a young child on the spot and injuring two adult villagers. Witnesses described panic and devastation as families scrambled for safety amid the barrage of gunfire.

Later the same day, junta troops escalated their violence by deploying drones to drop bombs on Naung Nine village in Kawkareik Township. A 50-year-old male villager was killed instantly in the drone attack, and three others suffered serious injuries. According to a local health worker, the wounded are now receiving emergency medical treatment, though access to care remains severely limited due to the ongoing fighting.

“The junta’s forces are using artillery and drone strikes indiscriminately,” said a Kyon Doe resident. “On May 11, a child in Naung Tamarn was killed, and two adults were injured by heavy shelling. Then, later that afternoon, they bombed Naung Nine village from the air, killing another civilian and injuring three more. It’s devastating.”

While junta ground forces have withdrawn mainly from direct patrols following heavy losses in late April, they have shifted to a brutal strategy of aerial and long-range attacks. Heavy shelling, drone bombings, and surveillance flights continue daily along the main Asia Highway and in surrounding areas.



Photo: In Kawkareik Township, Karen State, junta forces have continued their indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas using both artillery and drones. These brutal offensives have left at least eight innocent people—including young children—injured, and several homes damaged or destroyed.

Residents reported that jet fighters often strike villages at night, causing widespread fear and displacement. According to HURFOM sources, ongoing fighting between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) alliance forces and junta troops—including Infantry Battalion No. 97 and other battalions stationed in Kawkareik town—has severely destabilized the region. Exchanges of artillery fire could be heard throughout the morning of 13 May, particularly near key military outposts and camps.

“After the junta lost about 30 troops during battles in early May, their ground movements became limited,” a source in the conflict area explained. “Now they rely on airstrikes, artillery, and drone attacks. Every night we hear jets flying overhead, and every day, artillery shells land somewhere. It’s relentless.”

The deliberate targeting of villages, civilians, and community spaces is part of the junta’s intensified campaign of terror, aiming to punish and displace communities perceived to support resistance groups. Local humanitarian workers have described the situation as dire, with increasing numbers of newly displaced civilians unable to access food, clean water, or medical assistance. The Kawkareik and Kyon Doe areas have seen some of the most serious human rights violations documented by HURFOM in recent months. The junta’s attacks have forced thousands to flee their homes, compounding an already desperate humanitarian crisis.

In another brutal escalation of violence, junta forces carried out an airstrike targeting a civilian area in Bo Tae (Lower), on the old Kawkareik to Thingun Nyinaung Road, Kawkareik Township, Karen State, on May 14. Around 12:08 PM, a junta-operated jet fighter dropped bombs directly onto a local roadside food stall, killing three civilians and injuring at least five others, including a pregnant woman.

Initial reports confirmed that two civilians were killed instantly in the attack. Another critically injured victim later succumbed to their wounds. Local eyewitnesses said that the injured, including the pregnant woman, were transferred to an ERO-operated medical team for emergency treatment.

This attack is part of a pattern of intensified violence around Kawkareik, where heavy clashes continue between the Karen National Liberation Army and its allied resistance forces against the military. Junta forces have been relying heavily on airstrikes, artillery shelling, and drone bombings to suppress the growing resistance.

“Fighting is happening everywhere and almost daily— in Yankote, Hlaing Wa, Tatangu villages, and along the Asia Highway. Every day, artillery shelling, drone strikes, and jet bombings conducted by the junta forces hit different parts of the region. There are no more ground offensives, only aerial and heavy weapon attacks,” said a source close to the conflict.

At least six civilians, including three children, were killed when junta aircraft dropped bombs on Pai Yap village in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The airstrike occurred at 2 PM on June 9, despite no ongoing clashes in the area. Eyewitnesses reported that five bombs were dropped directly onto the village, causing significant destruction. One of the bombs hit a house being used as a classroom, where students were attending lessons. Among those killed were three young children, a female teacher, and two other residents.

The injured were rushed to Kanyin Katai hospital with the support of local humanitarian teams and are currently undergoing treatment. Earlier that morning, junta aircraft were also seen attacking the Kyondoe area. The same day in the afternoon, they targeted Pai Yap again with airstrikes, villagers confirmed. Since June 6, the junta has increased its military presence in both Kawkareik and Kyondoe, launching continuous air and artillery attacks on civilian areas. Just two days prior, on June 7, the military bombed Ohntapin village in Kawkareik Township, injuring four civilians—one of them seriously. HURFOM condemned this attack in a statement on June 11.¹⁴

The calls for accountability and a shift in international humanitarian strategy are growing louder as the junta's systematic abuse of civilians continues unchecked. The indiscriminate nature of the junta's attacks highlights the failure of the international community to hold them accountable for the violent and systematic crimes committed against innocent people.

As documented by HURFOM and many other civil society organizations, most attacks against local civilians are unprovoked and target crucial infrastructure, including schools, clinics, and hospitals, where villagers attempt to redeem some sense of normalcy amid daily attacks that occur without warning.

The ongoing funding cuts and reductions in donor funds have also led to crippling levels of anxiety and uncertainty for refugees and conflict-affected groups who are barely surviving. The humanitarian crisis facing communities on the ground along the Thailand-Burma border has reached a critical point. In an urgent joint appeal, 20 core Karen organizations—including civil society groups, ethnic health providers, and refugee service networks—are calling on the international community to respond immediately to life-threatening aid cuts that are affecting more than 108,000 people living in displacement camps.

¹⁴ The Human Rights Foundation of Monland Condemns Ongoing Airstrikes Targeting Civilians in Southeastern Burma, 11 June 2025

Indiscriminate Firing

The junta's indiscriminate attacks include airstrikes, artillery fire and shooting into local areas. The military has been deliberately targeting civilian villages. According to the Karen National Union (KNU), these calculated and coordinated assaults constitute daily violations of human rights and war crimes. On January 22nd, an airstrike by the junta claimed the life of a woman in Kyaik Don, Kawkareik Township, Karen State.

On the evening of 10 April at approximately 6:00 PM, junta troops stationed in Kawkareik Town launched a drone strike on Maungma Ywa Thit village. The attack injured a 10-year-old girl, a 55-year-old man, and a 50-year-old woman—all local villagers. Just two days earlier, on the night of April 8, at 10:27 PM, the junta launched more artillery attacks using 120mm and 122mm heavy weapons. Shells landed in several villages, including Ankaung, Kyaiktalite, and Daukphalan in Kawkareik Township.

The shelling damaged civilian homes in Ankaung village, injuring five more people: a 40-year-old man, a 26-year-old man, a 14-year-old girl, a 9-year-old boy, and a 6-year-old boy. These targeted attacks on residential communities came in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in the country, during what should have been a time of rescue and

Photo: *The Karen National Union (KNU) Thaton District has reported that the military junta carried out airstrikes on Mae Thana and Htee Kyaw Khee villages in #Hpa-An Township, Karen State, despite no active clashes in the area.*



relief efforts. Instead, the military junta has continued its deliberate assaults on unarmed civilians, deepening the suffering of those already in crisis. Then, on the early morning of April 16, at 6:00 AM, junta forces launched a deadly airstrike using jet fighters and heavy artillery on Nwar Chan Gone village, near Kyon Doe Town in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. The bombs hit villagers and vehicles preparing to flee the area, killing at least 14 civilians.

Witnesses confirmed that junta jets and drones bombed areas where residents were organizing evacuation plans. Among the dead were a husband and wife whose bodies were recovered. Others remain buried under the debris.

“One of the victims is Ko Ganan, around 40 years old, and his pregnant wife. They were both killed. They were Hindu. At least 14 people were killed in total. Everyone else is still running for safety,” said a local aid worker supporting displaced villagers.

The deadly airstrike occurred during Burma’s New Year Water Festival (Thingyan), when many civilians were gathered in villages and monasteries. The same area had been attacked just a day earlier, on April 15, when the junta bombed Kanni village monastery in Kyon Doe, killing six civilians, including four children between the ages of 3 and 15. It reportedly involved jet fighters and Y12 bomber aircraft, which dropped approximately 15 bombs across multiple locations, including Koh Wah Lae, Tharyar Gone, Nwar Chan Gone, and surrounding areas. Homes and farmlands were directly impacted, resulting in severe damage.

“The air force dropped bombs twice in Kyon Doe, and three more times in Kawkareik Township using Y12 aircraft. The bombs hit residential areas,” said a local monitoring source.

At the same time, junta troops from Light Infantry Battalions 545 and 546 are reinforcing their bases in Kyon Doe. Soldiers from LIB 97 are shelling routes near the Asia Highway and the old Daungtaung road, preparing to launch ground operations in Kawkareik Township.

On April 16, just after 12:40 PM, the junta launched yet another airstrike targeting civilians in Karen State, this time dropping bombs on Myaukkanmayaik village, Kawkareik Township, using a Harbin Y-12 aircraft. A pregnant woman, just days away from giving birth, was tragically killed on the spot. At least six other civilians were seriously injured, including a 7-year-old child. The attack occurred during the traditional Thingyan New Year festival, when most villagers were home participating in religious and cultural ceremonies. Myaukkanmayaik is home to nearly 3,000 people and over 600 households.

“The woman, Ma Hnin Oo, who died was 37 and heavily pregnant. She had just been helping her three-year-old son when a bomb struck her back. She died instantly. The unborn child did not survive either. While the toddler was physically unharmed, he is now deeply traumatized and showing signs of emotional distress,” said a local man in his 40s.

A member of a frontline medical team, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed outrage:

“Even after Malaysia’s Prime Minister called for a ceasefire, the junta continues to target civilians, even during the Thingyan holiday. This isn’t just happening here; it’s a widespread problem. It’s now crystal clear that the junta does not intend to engage in real peace talks. ASEAN leaders, including Malaysia, must understand that continuing to engage the junta while turning a blind eye to these atrocities amounts to enabling war crimes and legitimizing impunity.”

Another local CBO staff member based in Kawkareik shared:

“This year’s Thingyan has become a painful and bloody memory. We won’t forget. One day, justice must be served. I also urge our ethnic resistance organizations—Karen and Mon alike—to take real responsibility in protecting civilians. They must ensure that civilian areas are not used as shields and must issue early warnings when military operations are expected. In addition to physical protection, we need collective efforts to provide humanitarian support—food, medicine, and safe shelters.”

Following the airstrike, more than 200 villagers fled Myaukkanmayaik, and sought refuge in nearby plantations and forest areas out of fear of further attacks. Junta forces—particularly Infantry Battalions 545 and 546 stationed in Kyon Doe, along with Battalion 97 based in Kawkareik—have continued escalating their military operations across the region, launching relentless artillery shelling and airstrikes on civilian areas.

The next day, at 8:00 AM on 17 April, the junta launched yet another devastating airstrike—this time targeting Thayettaw village in Kawkareik Township, Karen State. According to a field source from HURFOM’s human rights monitoring network, two bombs were dropped by a jet fighter directly onto the village. One male villager was killed instantly, and at least four others were seriously injured, including two men and two children.

“This happened without warning. The jet appeared suddenly, and within moments the bombs dropped—no time to flee, no time to hide,” said a 35-year-old local volunteer assisting displaced villagers. *“People scattered in panic, trying to take shelter in bomb shelters, irrigation ditches, or under homes. Many elderly people, women, and children were crying and screaming. It’s terrifying. We don’t know when the next strike might come—or why we are being targeted at all.”*

Thayettaw is a densely populated village with approximately 720 households and a total population of over 3,800. The vast majority of residents were still in their homes, as the attack occurred on the First Day of the Thingyan festival—a time typically marked by peace and community gatherings.

HURFOM’s documentation team confirmed that the two injured children, both around 10 years old, were rushed to Mawlamyine for emergency treatment by local rescue teams. The condition of the two wounded adult males remains unknown. This latest assault follows the horrifying pattern of recent attacks carried out by the junta in Karen State:

“The strike on Thayettaw village is part of the junta’s escalating pattern of violence against innocent civilians during what is supposed to be a peaceful holiday,” added a 40-year-old local humanitarian worker.

“No armed groups are operating in or near this village. This is not a battlefield—it is a deliberate attack on ordinary people. They are targeting families, homes, and children.”

The local inhabitants in Kawkareik Township, Karen State, targeted communities, already traumatized by natural disaster, now face additional hardship and fear under relentless military assault.

Despite the humanitarian catastrophe, cross-border assistance remains severely limited. The eastern Thai-Burma border remains largely closed, making it nearly impossible for vital supplies, like food, medical kits, tarpaulins, and baby formula, to reach displaced populations. The suspension of U.S. cross-border aid following the Executive Order has worsened the crisis, cutting off a crucial support line for local ethnic service providers and humanitarian responders.

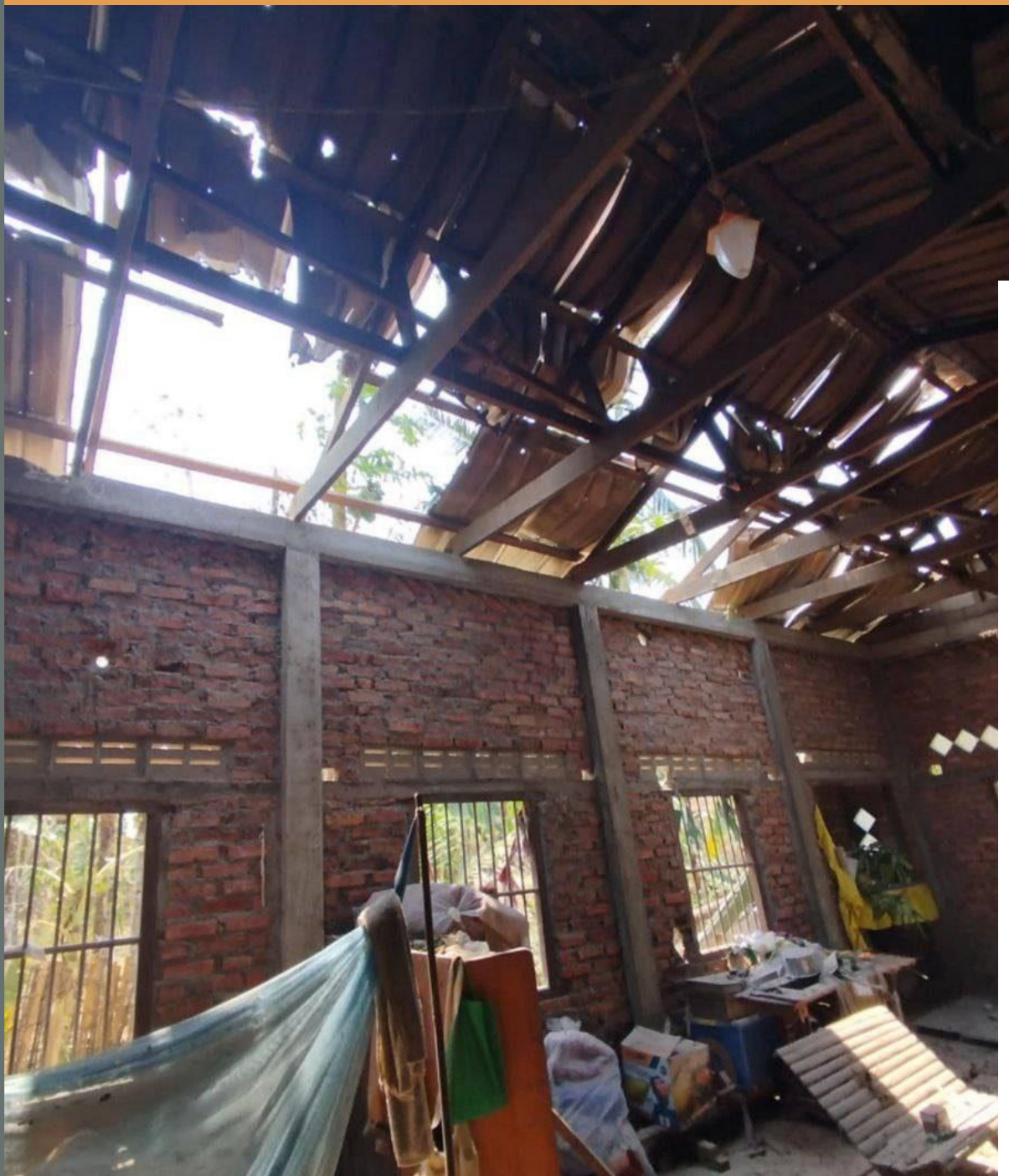
Humanitarian workers estimate that at least 42 villages in Kawkareik Township alone have been displaced, pushing the total number of newly displaced persons to nearly 100,000 in Karen State and surrounding areas. Needs for food, medicine, and emergency shelter have surged, but international response remains alarmingly absent.

“We need international humanitarian organizations to step in and help—urgently,” said a local aid volunteer. *“The junta has made it impossible for people to survive. No one is safe, and no one is getting the help they need.”*

Landmines

In Hpa-pun Township, Karen State, three young girls were injured in a landmine explosion while walking along the bank of the Salween River near Kamamaung Town. The incident occurred at 5 PM on April 10. The victims were identified as Ma Zin Myat Noe (12) Ma Kyae Zin Lin Thant (17), and Ma Zin Thida Theint (12), all from Ward No. 3 in Kamamaung Town. The girls were walking together near the river when the explosion happened.

Locals said the area where the landmine detonated is a frequently used path. Ma Zin Myat Noe stepped on the mine, suffering the most serious injuries, while the two other girls were also wounded by shrapnel from the blast. All three girls sustained injuries to their legs and hands due to the explosion. Zin Myat Noe, who was most severely hurt, is at risk of losing her leg and was transferred to the General Public Hospital in Hpa-an for urgent treatment.



Since the attempted coup, the junta has intensified its offensive in the Tanintharyi Region, leading to fierce clashes with local resistance forces. The ongoing conflict has significantly increased the number of displaced residents. The junta has increased its use of the 4 Cuts campaign, expanding military deployments and fortifying defensive positions while severely restricting the flow of essential goods, including food, fuel, and medicine.

TANINTHARYI REGION



Local communities face mounting hardship as heavy restrictions, arbitrary arrests, and harsh punishments are imposed on traders and civilians. As part of these measures, junta forces have forcefully blocked the transportation of daily necessities, causing severe shortages of rice and basic food items, soaring prices, and a major disruption to local trade and livelihoods.

Many displaced villagers have sought relief from the fighting in forests and farmlands to avoid urban areas due to safety concerns. However, life in these makeshift shelters has become increasingly complex, with limited access to food, water, and shelter. A member of the Ngwe Oo Mitta Humanitarian Aid Group, which has been assisting the displaced, described the challenges:

“As social workers, we have to cross conflict zones to deliver supplies, which makes it incredibly difficult to reach those in need. Even when we manage to transport food and medicine, the intensity of the fighting makes distribution nearly impossible.”

Military analysts and local human rights monitors have warned that the junta is rapidly escalating its operations in the southern Tanintharyi Region—particularly in areas surrounding the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a strategic investment zone backed by Russian interests. This includes intensified troop reinforcements and increased air operations.

At the same time, all phone and internet services in those villages have been cut off by the junta, making it nearly impossible for locals to receive early warnings or updates on the unfolding conflict. This has left residents in a highly vulnerable situation, with no access to communication and at significant risk of being caught in attacks without any notice.

These events are part of a disturbing trend across the Tanintharyi Region. Repeated airstrikes, ground assaults, and shelling by junta forces have turned homes, religious sites, and schools into targets. Entire communities have been uprooted, with civilians forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods again and again. Insecurity, poverty, and trauma are growing with each attack.

The humanitarian crisis in the Tanintharyi Region is worsening, daily. According to the local field network FE5 Tanintharyi, an additional 5,500 villagers were newly displaced in May 2025 due to the junta’s ongoing airstrikes, artillery shelling, and drone attacks. This brings the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the region to approximately 81,800 by the end of May, up from 76,300 recorded in April 2025.

Since May 30, 2025, heavy clashes have persisted between resistance forces and junta troops in the vicinity of Long Lone and Lat Khat Taung. The junta is using artillery to shell Long Lone Town and nearby villages indiscriminately, forcing thousands of civilians to flee despite the ongoing heavy rain amid the monsoon season. Many have had to leave their homes and belongings behind, adding to the growing humanitarian crisis in the area.

On June 7, the military junta launched an aerial attack using a fighter jet on two villages—Kyauk Eye and Mell Kell—in the Taung Pyauk area of Tha Yet Chaung Township, Tanintharyi Region. According to the Karen National Union’s statement released on June 8, there were no armed clashes in the area at the time. Despite this, the junta’s fighter jet dropped two bombs on each village, killing a father and his young son, and injuring six others.

This incident is not isolated. On March 3, a junta fighter jet bombed the closing ceremony of a school operated by the National Unity Government, injuring four people, including another 10-year-old child. Troop movements and intensified ground operations by the junta’s Coastal Regiment Command in Laung Lon Township, Tanintharyi Region, have once again forced hundreds of civilians to flee their homes as fear and insecurity grow across multiple villages.

Local sources reported that the junta forces are using an aggressive village-by-village advance strategy, making neighbouring communities increasingly fearful that their village could be next. Many residents are packing up and fleeing preemptively, leaving behind homes, farms, and possessions. At the same time, junta troops operating in the southern part of Laung Lon Township have also continued troop deployments and arrests.

In a related concern, junta naval ships have been patrolling the Dawei River, firing artillery toward riverside villages. Some unexploded shells have landed in farmland, causing further anxiety for farmers as they fear for their lives while tending to their crops.

The humanitarian need is urgent. Displaced families—many of whom are women, children, and the elderly—require immediate support, including food, medical care, and safe shelter. As the conflict escalates, so too does the suffering of civilians caught in the crossfire. The international community must act swiftly to address this escalating crisis.

Airstrikes

On February 13, a military aircraft dropped 500-pound bombs in two separate attacks on Tagaychaung (Upper) village, damaging a church and 17 homes. Later, on February 15, at 11:30 PM, two bombs struck Kaw Hae village, injuring five civilians and destroying nine homes along with other community-owned properties. According to local sources, two of the injured suffered severe wounds and were taken to a hospital for emergency treatment.

Residents of Naung Pin Kwin village, Tanintharyi Township, reported that a junta airstrike on February 17 set fire to more than 20 homes, including a library building, leaving the area in ruins. At around 5 PM, junta aircraft launched four consecutive airstrikes, targeting the surrounding areas. Jets and helicopters dropped nearly 20 bombs, causing widespread destruction, but no casualties were confirmed.

Earlier that morning, intense clashes had erupted between junta troops and resistance forces near Naung Pin Kwin and Thein Khun villages. Following this, at 4:30 PM, a jet fighter carried out the first strike on the village's eastern side. Just 30 minutes later, a helicopter launched a second wave of attacks, destroying more than 20 homes, including a school.

Another airstrike took place at 1:30 PM on March 3, when a junta jet fighter dropped bombs on the village, causing injuries and destruction. Reports confirmed that four civilians were injured, including a 10-year-old boy, a woman in her 60s, a man in his 50s, and another man in his 40s.

“Based on the impact, we estimate the bomb weighed around 500 pounds,” said a resident.

A Thae Chaung Gyi village resident mentioned that only two injuries had been confirmed. However, further details remained unclear due to communication difficulties, such as ongoing power cuts by the junta, in further attempts to isolate conflict-affected communities.

In another brutal attack with no active fighting in the area, two civilians were killed after the military junta dropped two 500-pound bombs on a palm oil plantation in Chaung Lamu village, Myeik Township, in the southern Tanintharyi Region. The airstrike took place without any prior clashes or warning. At 4:15 PM on March 24, a junta aircraft dropped two bombs on the plantation operated by the Kyaw Maw-19 palm oil company in Chaung Lamu. The bombs exploded near the workers' housing area inside the company compound, killing two male workers, aged 27 and 33.

“There are over 40 workers at the plantation. Two died, and more than six others were injured. Their housing was also completely destroyed,” said a local man.

Witnesses said the jet came twice. The first bomb did not cause any injuries, but the second strike resulted in casualties. Local sources report that the junta's offensives in this area have continued for over three months. Airstrikes and indiscriminate artillery shelling near civilian villages around Thein Khun and neighbouring areas have already resulted in several civilian deaths and injuries.

Just days earlier, on March 21, four displaced civilians who had returned to Chaung Lamu village to retrieve food supplies from their homes were killed when junta forces fired heavy artillery into the area. These incidents reflect a growing pattern of violence where civilians, especially those in conflict-affected and displacement zones, are increasingly targeted, often with no warning and in areas far from the front lines.

In just one week, four civilians—including a pregnant woman—were tragically killed by artillery shelling from junta forces in Tanintharyi Township, Myeik District. Troops stationed in Thein Khun village reportedly fired heavy artillery toward nearby areas, with shells landing in Chaung Lamu village, located across from Thein Khun. The strikes resulted in multiple civilian casualties.

Since March 17, 2025, intensified artillery shelling and airstrikes have forced nearly all residents of Chaung Lamu to flee, seeking safety and emergency shelter elsewhere. Heavy fighting between junta forces and local resistance groups has continued in the Thein Khun village tract since late December. Thein Khun, Chaung Nya Pauk, and Chaung Lamu villages have been targeted by near-daily airstrikes, with junta aircraft carrying out at least 14 bombing raids.

The military junta has escalated its attacks in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei District, launching fresh airstrikes on multiple villages amid ongoing clashes. According to HURFOM's field-based human rights documentation team, the strikes have caused widespread panic, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee their homes in search of safety.

In April, a series of airstrikes targeted Minn Dat and Kamyang villages, Thayetchaung Township, which are located near but not directly involved in the recent clashes in Winwa village. *“The airstrikes didn’t hit the battle zones,”* said one local source. *“Instead, they dropped bombs on peaceful villages nearby. This is an indiscriminate attack—everything in the target area was hit.”*

Local villagers confirmed that Mi-2 helicopters were used in the recent attacks, dropping at least eight bombs on Minn Dat, Yange, and Chaungwa Pyin villages—all located near the Winwa area. The bombs struck civilian homes and farms, even though there were no clashes reported in those locations at the time.

Tragically, on April 19, junta forces also carried out an airstrike on Yange village, where two civilians, including a young child, were killed. *“There were no battles in our village. They just dropped bombs from the air,”* said a local from Thayetchaung Township.

The situation in the area had already been tense following a heavy battle on April 19, when anti-junta resistance forces attacked the Winwa police outpost. The fighting lasted from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. That evening, the junta responded with airstrikes at 4:00 PM and again at 11:00 PM, continuing their campaign of terror from the skies.

As a result of the air raids and ongoing battles, entire villages—including Winwa, Thae Chaung, Minn Dat, Waeyit, Chaungwa Pyin, and Yange—have been evacuated, with civilians fleeing en masse into forests, hills, and makeshift shelters. In another concerning development, residents in Dawei also reported that three Mi-17 military helicopters landed at the Dawei Airport on April 19, believed to be transporting additional junta troops.

“This kind of relentless aerial bombardment shows how little regard the junta has for civilian lives,” said one resident who fled from Minn Dat. *“We don’t know when or where the next bomb will fall. People are traumatized, and many have lost their homes.”*

Human rights documentation teams who visited the displacement sites reported heartbreaking conditions. People spoke of complete disconnection from their loved ones and no way to receive early warnings of incoming attacks. Without reliable communication, they said they don't know when to run or where to hide. Many families are doing their best to survive in improvised bomb shelters, and others are taking cover in the forest and remote areas, and are too frightened to move.



Photo: *Residents of Yebyu Township in Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region, have been forced to flee their homes following a renewed military offensive by junta troops into the Dawei Special Economic Zone.*

Although no martial law has been declared in the region, the presence of armed troops, the takeover of civilian structures such as schools and monasteries, and the forced displacement of entire communities have turned Yebyu into an open conflict zone. Families continue to scatter, food shortages worsen, and the silence of the disconnected villages becomes more chilling by the day.

Supplies are running low, especially food. There is growing concern about children and the elderly, who are now at risk of malnutrition and untreated health conditions. Some villagers shared that their greatest fear is not knowing what is happening around them, and being unable to escape if and when danger returns. As the humanitarian crisis intensifies, the need for urgent international action becomes increasingly pressing. Pressure must be exerted on the junta to halt these violations, restore essential services, and enable civilians to live and move safely.

According to HURFOM's documentation, the Winwa Security Base, a major junta outpost along the Dawei–Myeik highway between Sinku Village and Palauk Town, has been under pressure from drone and ground attacks by resistance forces since early April. Despite this, junta forces have increasingly expanded their aerial and artillery assaults beyond the immediate conflict area.

Between April 19 and April 29, the following airstrikes were confirmed:

- April 19: 1 airstrike
- April 21: 2 airstrikes (midday and 10:30 PM)
- April 25: 2 airstrikes (9:30 AM and 11:30 AM)
- April 27: 1 airstrike
- April 28: 1 airstrike
- April 29: 1 airstrike

These attacks impacted both the direct surroundings of Winwa Base (including Winwa, Thae Chaung Thar, and Minn Dat villages) and remote villages unrelated to active combat. As a result of continued airstrikes and fighting in the region, the Dawei–Myeik highway has been closed for 12 consecutive days, cutting off movement and access to essential goods. Displacement is rising, with many villagers from the southern parts of Thayet Chaung Township fleeing their homes to seek safety in nearby forests or areas controlled by EROs.

Indiscriminate Firing

The ongoing military offensives continue to devastate local communities, leaving families displaced, homes destroyed, and livelihoods ruined. On January 18, a junta artillery strike injured a woman. It destroyed two rubber plantations in Sein Bon village, Natkyisin village tract, Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region. The Kanbauk-based Mawrawaddy Naval Command reportedly fired two artillery shells into the area, allegedly after receiving information about the presence of local People's Defense Forces (PDFs) in Sein Bon village. The shells landed outside the town in nearby rubber plantations, causing extensive damage.

This incident is not isolated. A few days prior on January 15, the Mawrawaddy Naval Command also fired artillery shells at Natkyi village and surrounding areas, without any active clashes taking place. The attack injured an elderly disabled woman.

By mid-February, the situation in the Tanintharyi Region had led to worsening ongoing offensives in the eastern region of the Yangon–Dawei Highway, near the Dawei–Yebyu border in the Tanintharyi Region, forcing the entire population of six villages to flee. Since February 17, around 200 junta troops have been advancing toward Yay Wine village in Dawei Township. As part of their operation, on February 18, the troops seized and burned down a PDF camp near King Kone village.

The indiscriminate artillery shelling by junta forces on February 17 forced residents from three villages—Yay Wine, King Kone, and Khaung Taing Pyin—to flee. Residents from villages along the junta's offensive route, including Pa Dain Chaung, Ye Taing, and Pa Khap Inn, fled into nearby forests and mountains for safety.

Pro-junta Telegram channels claimed that during a “clearance operation” near King Kone village, a clash broke out, and the junta seized a PDF base, along with weapons, grenades, and a mine detector. They also claimed to have captured the body of a PDF fighter. However, locals disputed these claims, stating that the junta wrongfully accused a villager of being a PDF member and executed him. Resistance sources reported that PDF fighters had already withdrawn from their base before the attack, avoiding confrontation to minimize casualties.

With no end in sight to the fighting, approximately 1,000 villagers from Ye Ai, Pa Dain Chaung, Khaung Taing Pyin, Pa Khap Inn, King Kone, and Yay Wine remain displaced, without knowing when it will be safe to return home.

There continues to be a worsening trajectory of violence in the Tanintharyi Region with aerial assaults, indiscriminate firing and arbitrary arrests that have proved to be fatal in many cases. HURFOM remains alarmed at the deteriorating conditions civilians must endure as they struggle to survive. A 44-year-old man from Myeik, U Rama Zan Khan, succumbed to his injuries four days after being shot by junta troops in Yebyu village, Tanintharyi Township, Myeik District.

On the morning of March 11, U Rama Zan Khan and his son were travelling by motorcycle when they were suddenly fired upon by junta troops stationed in an ambush near the No. 3 Military Strategy Camp of the Coastal Region Military Headquarters. The attack took place on the Tanintharyi-Bote Pyin Union Road in Yebyu village. U Rama Zan Khan sustained gunshot wounds to his arm and abdomen. He was given immediate medical care before being transferred to the public hospital on March 12. Later that night, he was transported to Myeik Public Hospital for further treatment. Despite medical efforts, he passed away from his injuries on the evening of March 14.

With fears growing of further military operations, thousands of residents from Paya, Khwaemaphaw, Zardee, Khaung Pyan, Deiktakaw, and Khayin Chaung have been displaced, leaving their homes behind in fear of renewed violence. Although no active clashes have occurred yet, the junta has maintained a strong and regular presence in Zardee Village Tract. On March 18, they cut off electricity and communication lines in the area, followed by the large-scale military movement on March 31.



Photo: In a brutal attack with no active fighting in the area, two civilians were killed after the military junta dropped two 500-pound bombs on a palm oil plantation in Chaung Lamu village, Myeik Township, in the southern Tanintharyi Region. According to residents, the airstrike took place without any prior clashes or warning.

Since the morning of April 20, 2025, intense clashes have erupted between junta forces and resistance groups in the Minn Thar village tract of Kanbauk Sub-Town, Yebyu Township, Dawei District. Residents reported heavy exchanges of gunfire between the junta troops stationed in Minn Thar and resistance fighters, including pro-junta militias. Gunfire could be heard from 8:00 AM until at least 1:00 PM.

Around noon, the fighting escalated when junta troops from the Mawrawaddy Naval Command and Light Infantry Battalion No. 282 launched artillery strikes toward nearby villages, including Sinku and Yapu. Villagers said shells landed dangerously close to civilian homes in Sinku and within the gardens and farmland west of Yapu village. Fortunately, no casualties were initially reported.

“Junta forces — particularly units from Light Infantry Battalion No. 282, LIB 405, and the Naval Command — have been conducting military operations in this area for at least a week now,” said one local source, who added that the military has reinforced its troops with hundreds of additional personnel. *“They’ve been using heavy artillery to shell our villages in randomly,”* the villager explained.

“Mortar rounds keep landing inside our communities, and it’s becoming impossible for us to stay. Every time fighting breaks out, they deliberately target civilians. That’s why no one feels safe in their own home anymore. And after the clashes, they come in, loot our belongings, and sometimes even burn down houses. This is the cruel tactic they use. Our people are suffering deeply,” said a source from Yebyu, familiar with the situation.

According to documentation by HURFOM, the Mawrawaddy Navy Unit has arrested more than 20 civilians in recent months, many of them former civil servants and residents who joined the Civil Disobedience Movement in opposition to the military regime. The wave of arrests reflects ongoing efforts by the military to suppress dissent and punish those who stood on the side of democracy and nonviolence.

On the afternoon of April 19, a junta reconnaissance aircraft was also spotted flying over villages along the Ye-Dawei road near Kanbauk Sub-Town, sparking further fear among the locals. Later, junta troops were seen re-entering Minn Thar village by water route after the fighting had quieted down. According to residents, the troops blocked villagers from leaving and began calling back those who had fled during the clashes.

The atmosphere remains tense. Many villages surrounding Minn Thar, along with those near the Ye-Dawei motorway, are on high alert, fearing that violence could break out again at any moment. While vehicles are still operating along the road, drivers and residents expressed deep concern over the lack of the rule of law and the threat of sudden military violence.

The instability caused by these ongoing attacks, especially the junta’s indiscriminate shelling and aerial threats, has displaced a large number of civilians in Yebyu Township. With no guarantee of safety, hundreds of families are now forced to abandon their homes, seeking refuge wherever they can. The humanitarian toll continues to rise as junta forces push deeper into populated areas, leaving fear, destruction, and displacement in their wake.

Since January 2025, HURFOM has documented multiple violations in Myeik District, with at least 45 cases of artillery shelling targeting villages where no clashes were reported. Among the victims, more than 10 women and children have been killed or seriously injured due to

indiscriminate attacks. These grave violations of international humanitarian law highlight the junta's persistent disregard for civilian lives, particularly the most vulnerable. With violence escalating and humanitarian needs growing more urgent, calls for international assistance and protection for displaced civilians are becoming increasingly desperate.

At least 5,000 civilians from eight villages in eastern Dawei Township, Tanintharyi Region, were forcibly displaced following an aggressive new military offensive launched by the junta on April 29. The incursion, led by over 260 junta soldiers operating under the Coastal Regiment Command—including troops from Light Infantry Battalions No. 406 and 408 based in Yebyu Township—has spread fear and panic across the region.

Thayet Ngote, Thingan Tone, Wa Kone, Thitkhet Chaung, and Pyinma Taw have become increasingly vulnerable, prompting mass evacuations as heavy troop presence and artillery fire intensified. The threat of sudden airstrikes has left little room for preparation, forcing entire families, many with small children and elderly members, to flee into nearby forests and toward the Thai border.

A local volunteer coordinating relief efforts said, *“In Dawei’s eastern region alone, we’ve now recorded over 5,000 displaced. Most of the affected villages are ethnic Karen communities, and many people have had to flee without any belongings. With the military situation worsening daily, those fleeing expect to remain displaced for a long time.”*

A mother who recently arrived in a temporary forest hideout shared her experience: *“There was no warning. We just heard the helicopters and saw the soldiers. Now we sleep under makeshift tarps near the stream. The children are cold and scared. The older people are sick. There’s no rice left. Just a handful came from others, but we’re all hungry.”*

Field teams and community networks observed a sharp rise in urgent humanitarian needs as displaced people are struggling to secure even minimal shelter. Those hiding in remote hills and forested areas are exposed to the elements without access to clean water, medicine, or food. Families with infants, young children, and elderly members are particularly vulnerable to illness and trauma.

According to local aid workers, the most recent mass displacement in eastern Dawei follows a brutal pattern of junta-led offensives across Tanintharyi Region. Since mid-April, similar waves of displacement were reported in Htee Khee, Metta, Taung Thon Lone, and Kyauk Mae Taung villages, where over 1,400 civilians were forced to flee after junta forces launched indiscriminate artillery and air attacks. The attacks came without active fighting in the targeted areas, underscoring the deliberate and punitive nature of the junta's campaign.

One humanitarian responder noted, *“We are doing everything we can, but people-to-people support is insufficient. Families are arriving with nothing. Children are showing signs of psychological distress, and older people are struggling in the rain without shelter. Without more support from outside, these people will face life-threatening conditions.”*

HURFOM's previous documentation from across Dawei, Yebyu, and Launglon Townships shows a consistent trend: the junta is increasingly targeting civilian areas with airstrikes and shelling, notably in resistance-held or contested zones. These operations have led to the destruction of homes, religious buildings, and farmland, and continue to cause injuries and deaths among civilians. Extortion at military checkpoints and supply restrictions along main roads have worsened the humanitarian crisis.

In northern Tanintharyi Region's Yebyu Township, nearly 800 civilians from the Min Thar village tract have been displaced for over two weeks. After fleeing their homes to escape fierce clashes and junta airstrikes, these families now face a second wave of suffering—food shortages, lack of clean water, and the spread of disease.

Fighting erupted on April 20 when joint resistance forces from Mon, Karen, and Tavoyan units launched coordinated attacks on junta bases in Min Thar. As airstrikes and heavy shelling followed, residents from at least five villages—Sinswe, Ye Ngan Gyi, Shin Kyi Eain, Sein Bone, and Kywe Tha Lin—fled into nearby forests, farms, and any location they believed to be temporarily safe. Many have yet to find stable shelter.

“Sick children are suffering from malnutrition and people with high fevers who need medicine,” said one local relief worker. *“They have no rice, no clean drinking water, and no way to access help. Most are hiding in fields or nearby forest shelters—some managed to reach Ye town, but not everyone has that option.”*

The displacement began around 22 April, as people fled villages along the Ye-Dawei highway corridor—Alae Sakhan, Kyauk Kadin, Yapu, and Kywe Tha Lin among them—seeking refuge anywhere out of reach of junta fire. Relief groups say the displacement crisis is deepening because most areas are inaccessible to humanitarian teams. *“It’s not just food and medicine they need now—water is running dry, and people are too afraid to move because of junta landmines and constant artillery shelling,”* one emergency responder added.

On June 20, at 12:00 PM, the junta troops based in Palaw fired two rounds of heavy artillery and dropped two bombs from drones into Taung Yar Kan village. The weapons directly struck civilian areas, destroying two homes and sending shockwaves through the few remaining residents. *“There was no fighting that day. The villagers had already fled because of the repeated attacks. But even though people weren’t there, their homes were hit and destroyed,”* a local witness told HURFOM.

The damaged houses were traditional wooden structures, and were reduced to rubble. Locals confirmed that the attack came without warning and had no apparent military justification, echoing a pattern of violence against civilian areas that has continued for over a year. Junta offensives have repeatedly targeted Taung Yar Kan and other nearby villages in Palaw Township. Since early 2024, HURFOM has documented escalating incidents of artillery shelling, drone bombings, arbitrary arrests, and looting by military troops under the Coastal Regiment Command and Navy-aligned units based in Mawrawaddy and Palauk.

Palaw Township—strategically located between Dawei and Myeik—has become one of the most heavily militarized areas in Tanintharyi. Junta forces frequently use civilian roads and villages as operational zones. Repeated attacks have also targeted places of worship and education. On June 4, junta forces fired artillery into Du Yin Pin Shaung village, damaging a Christian church. No fighters were present in the area at the time. Locals say this systematic pattern of intimidation and destruction aims to break the spirit of rural communities and prevent support for resistance forces, while asserting military control through violence.

“The junta is treating our villages like battlegrounds, even when no fighting is happening. They use fear to control us, and they destroy our homes to send a message of fear,” said one displaced woman from Palaw, now sheltering in an informal camp near the Thai-Burma border.

“The junta is treating our villages like battlegrounds, even when no fighting is happening. They use fear to control us, and they destroy our homes to send a message of fear.”

Landmines

Landmines continue to pose devastating risks for civilians. A 52-year-old woman suffered severe injuries after stepping on a landmine planted by junta troops at the Yuzana oil palm plantation in Bokpyin Township, Myeik District, Tanintharyi Region. The incident occurred around noon on March 12 while she was working at the plantation owned by Yuzana Company. A resident from Chaung Mon village reported that the explosion caused her leg bone to fracture and shatter.

The woman received emergency medical treatment before being transported to Bokpyin Hospital for further care. Amid ongoing clashes between resistance forces and junta troops in the region, local resistance groups have repeatedly warned villagers to stay away from unexploded military weapons and landmines. The junta forces in the area had reportedly planted at least 14 landmines around the Yuzana oil palm plantation when they established their base but failed to remove them afterward, leading to civilian casualties, including plantation workers.

In a related case, three family members, including an 11-year-old child, were injured in Lae Thit village, Tanintharyi Township, Myeik District, after a detonator exploded inside their home, according to local sources and resistance forces. The incident occurred at 6 AM on March 10 when the family attempted to connect the detonator—locally known as “Kit Thee”—to a battery, triggering an unexpected explosion.

“At the time of the explosion, five family members were inside the house. A 43-year-old woman, a 30-year-old woman, and an 11-year-old child sustained minor injuries, while the other two were unharmed,” said a resident.

Due to the presence of unexploded ordnance and remnants of war in the region, awareness campaigns on landmines and explosive devices are regularly conducted in Lae Thit village and surrounding areas. A detonator is an explosive component often used as a fuse for larger explosives. Some types require a battery connection, while others are ignited by flame. Accidental detonations continue to pose a serious risk to civilians in conflict-affected areas.

Raids

The presence of the military junta in the Tanintharyi region has continued to spark fears and alarm over the uncertainty of an attack or act of violence by the regime. Unlawful, arbitrary arrests are among the primary tactics used by the junta to exert control. In addition to routine guest registration checks, junta forces in Dawei are now specifically targeting the families and friends of those who have had arrest warrants issued against them.

Nighttime raids have intensified across several wards, where soldiers are searching for individuals connected to resistance groups, People's Defence Force (PDF) members, and others listed in their arrest records. These lists reportedly include full names, addresses, and details of those they intend to locate. Since mid-March, these operations have taken place in wards such as Kyet Sar Pyin, Bhom Maw, Daung Ngu, Kyauk Maw, and Byaw Taw Wa, as well as in Tha Pyay Chaung village.

“This isn’t just a regular guest registration check,” said one Dawei resident. “In Bhom Maw, they conducted a comprehensive search—blocking off areas, raiding homes of those with warrants, and inspecting all phones in the houses they entered.”

Some of these nighttime inspections are being carried out under secret orders to identify members of the resistance and their networks in the area. In the last week of March, raids were particularly aggressive in Kyet Sar Pyin and Bhom Maw. In some cases, troops reportedly broke down doors, entered homes without warning, and looted personal belongings.

Junta patrols move through the town in columns, stopping people on the streets, checking their phones, and questioning them. Warning shots have been fired to intimidate residents. Since mid-February, similar operations have been carried out in Dawei's remote bus station and new town wards. During these raids, guesthouses were searched, and at least 15 people were arrested for failing to register as guests. Locals also report being extorted for money during these encounters.

CONCLUSION

Military impunity in Burma has been rampant for decades. The lack of accountability and consequences that the junta has faced has resulted in the ongoing perpetration of violent crimes against an innocent population, forced to bear the brunt of war. The shocking lack of action from ASEAN, global leaders, and the international community highlights the mismanagement of the crisis and the lack of urgency in the global arena of preserving and protecting human rights.

At the highest level, some world leaders are actively prolonging Burma's war for their self-interest. China and Russia at the UN Security Council often shield the junta and support the military by repeatedly vetoing statements that express concern about the deteriorating situation. They have also remained steadfast allies of the regime by providing weapons and other resources, while inviting them to meetings on the national stage in sham efforts to assert the false narrative that the junta has any form of legitimacy.

A lack of moral conscience and political will has allowed the junta to routinely evade accountability at the highest levels of international justice. Meanwhile, coup-leader Min Aung Hlaing, who has been at the helm of issuing orders that have killed innocent women and children, continues to bring only more disaster and devastation.

As the military continues to suffer losses on the battlefield in southern Burma, the junta appears to be redirecting its anger toward unarmed civilians. These latest offensives are not only war crimes but calculated acts of oppression against communities. The absence of meaningful intervention by ASEAN and the broader international community only deepens the crisis. HURFOM urgently calls on international governments, humanitarian agencies, and cross-border donors to step in and respond to this escalating emergency. Civilians in southeastern Burma cannot afford to wait.

The people of Burma have waited too long for justice. Their stories of survival and fear merit a response from stakeholders who have the agency and capacity to advocate for change on the ground. This begins by recognizing the seriousness of the multiple unfolding crises and working closely with civil society organizations that have years of expertise rooted in understanding and compassion for the suffering of the millions displaced across the country.

As indicated in this report, conflict-affected communities in Burma are indeed, living in fear. The relentless campaigns of violence, including the deployment of large-scale weapons to target civilians, airstrikes, torture and conflict-related sexual violence, are contributing to an ongoing climate of uncertainty. Last year was the deadliest year on record for civilians in Burma, with 2025 on track to match or worryingly exceed this grave marker, unless the trajectory changes.¹⁵

HURFOM's calls to the international community, regional actors, and other key stakeholders, including NGOs and monitoring groups, are to stand with the people in the country who have long defied dictatorships and authoritarian rule in pursuit of democratic norms and values. Their courage and wavering commitment are a testament to the fact that the junta can never break the spirit of those determined to protect and promote their fundamental human rights.

Further, given the frequency and increasing scale of the attacks being perpetrated by the Burmese military, HURFOM reinforces its calls for a global arms embargo and targeted sanctions on aviation fuel as well as for the establishment of an international tribunal or support the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in investigating and prosecuting human rights violations committed by the junta.

Concrete and meaningful action must be taken to address the long-standing structural inequalities in Burma, while also recognizing the resilience of civil society organizations and their steadfast determination for a free, fair, and just future rooted in the principles of federalism.

¹⁵ See ALTSEAN Burma, Facebook: Junta Air/Drone Strikes, 4 February 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

To International Governments and International Agencies

Impose Targeted Sanctions

Increase sanctions against military leaders and entities directly involved in human rights abuses and target key financial sources supporting the junta's operations, including the extraction and sale of natural resources in Burma.

Advocate for a Global Arms Embargo

Support a comprehensive arms embargo on Burma to prevent the junta from acquiring weapons used in attacks against civilians and ethnic minority areas.

Promote International Accountability Mechanisms

Encourage the establishment of an international tribunal or support the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in investigating and prosecuting human rights violations committed by the junta. Engage with organizations like the UN Human Rights Council to advocate for independent investigations.

Support Cross-Border Aid Delivery and Local Humanitarian Initiatives

Collaborate with humanitarian organizations to deliver aid across borders, as many areas in conflict zones remain inaccessible and direct resources to trusted local organizations that are capable of reaching these communities.

Pressure for Independent Monitoring of the Census

Given the concerns regarding the current junta-led census, advocate for international monitoring to ensure transparency and to protect ethnic minority populations from being misrepresented or targeted.

To Donors

Increase Funding for Local Organizations and Ease Funding Restrictions and Limitations

Allocate funds to community-based organizations, such as the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM), which has on-the-ground access and established networks to support victims of forced conscription, displacement, and violence.

Support Mental Health and Trauma Services

Recognize and respond to the psychological toll of the conflict on civilians, particularly children. Donors must fund programs aimed at providing mental health support for trauma recovery.

Provide Resources for Civilian Protection Measures

Support initiatives that help local communities construct bomb shelters, secure safe spaces, and implement early warning systems to protect themselves from sudden attacks.

To the National Unity Government

Strengthen Diplomatic Outreach

Increase efforts to garner support from ASEAN countries and other regional partners. Position the NUG as a legitimate government committed to democratic values and the protection of ethnic minorities.

Enhance Communication with Ethnic Groups

Foster strong, unified alliances with ethnic armed organizations and civil society groups. Emphasize a commitment to federalism and respect for the rights of ethnic minorities in a future democratic Burma.

To Other Stakeholders

Raise Awareness and Advocate for Media Coverage of the Human Rights Situation in Burma

Encourage international media to continue reporting on the situation, highlighting the junta's actions, particularly the targeting of ethnic minorities, forced conscription, and restrictions on movement.

Promote Digital Literacy and Secure Communication

Provide resources for digital security training to help civilians and activists protect their communications and data from junta surveillance, especially as monitoring increases in southeastern Burma.

Support Education on Risks of Unexploded Ordnance Devices and Landmines

Fund educational initiatives to raise awareness about the dangers of unexploded artillery and landmines left in conflict areas, which continue to pose significant risks to civilians, especially children.



“LIVING IN FEAR”

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