



**The Human Rights Foundation of Monland Releases a New Report Ahead of the
Junta's Sham Election Plans: *"Voting under the barrel of a gun,"*
A Country At War, Not At the Polls**

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For Immediate Release

Today, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) releases its latest report: *"Voting under the barrel of a gun,"* A Country At War, Not At the Polls. Ahead of the military regime's planned election, our findings, including interviews and case studies, clearly show that the sham effort is just another attempt at legitimacy, nearly five years after the attempted coup. HURFOM condemns this election and urgently calls for strong regional and international support to reject it.

In several interviews conducted for this report, civilians, civil society organizations, and resistance groups repeatedly stated that the junta has deliberately used violence to silence opposition and to terrorize those who do not support the regime.

"To avoid being forced [to vote], many civilians will flee their homes, moving to liberated zones or across the border. Local security groups must prepare their own protection plans for that time. Everyone must be ready," a local security member from Dhamma Pala area, Ye Chaung Phya region, who spoke to HURFOM shared, adding: *"The revolutionaries will not participate, and the people will not listen to the junta's propaganda. Still, the military has implemented laws to suppress anyone who resists. During the election period, the fighting has intensified. The junta will try to force people to vote."*

The impacts of daily violence, combined with election terror, are causing immense stress across the country. In HURFOM's targeted areas of Mon State, Karen State, and the Tanintharyi Region, uncertainty is widespread, with the possibility of another decade of harsh military rule looming. These concerns are rooted in generations of people in Burma

who have endured great force and trauma throughout their lives, often forced to vote under the barrel of a gun.

Therefore, HURFOM, in firm alliance and committed to our community and their unwavering courage to stand against the junta and its illegitimate campaign of voter exploitation and manipulation, calls on all regional and international stakeholders to denounce this election and to stand with the same courage as those on the ground in Burma. The terrorizing campaign launched by the regime will only continue if meaningful and long-term consequences are not implemented, including a long-overdue referral of the human rights situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

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The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HUROM) was founded by exiled pro-democracy students from the 1988 uprisings, recent activists, Mon community leaders, and youth. Its primary objective is to restore democracy, human rights, and genuine peace in Burma. All its members are volunteers, united by a shared vision for peace in the country, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to our cause.