

The Myanmar Military's Massacres and Airstrikes Against the People of Myanmar

Massacres

Since the 1 February 2021 failed coup, there has been a clear pattern of massacres and other heinous crimes committed against the people of Myanmar by the terrorist Myanmar military junta. Included below are emblematic examples of recent atrocities. They reveal military junta tactics that include the massacring of civilians, the burning of bodies, and the razing and torching of villages. They also comprise acts of terror – a hallmark of military operations over the decades. More can be found in “Anatomy of Impunity” briefing paper we produced.



65+ killed | 14 MARCH 2021 Hlaing Tharyar Massacre, Yangon

At least 65 peaceful protesters were killed by police and soldiers when they opened fire on crowds of peaceful protesters in Yangon's Hlaing Tharyar Township.

163+ killed | 27 MARCH 2021 Armed Forces Day Massacre, Nationwide

The Armed Forces Day was the single bloodiest day in 2021 with at least 163 people massacred by the military nationwide. The military violently cracked down on peaceful protesters using live ammunition, shooting in residential areas and killing at least 16 children between ages nine and seventeen years old.



82+ killed | 9 APRIL 2021 Bago Massacre, Bago City

At least 82 peaceful protesters were massacred in one day by the junta after 250 junta soldiers launched four attacks using heavy weaponry, including rocket propelled grenades and assault rifles, in four residential wards in Bago City.

43+ killed | 10,000 displaced | JULY 2021 Kani Massacre, Sagaing Region

In Kani Township, Sagaing Region the bodies of at least 43 people over the month of July, including a child and disabled person, were discovered massacred by military junta soldiers, with some partially burned, causing 10,000 residents from four villages to flee.

11 killed | 8 DECEMBER 2021 Done Taw Massacre, Sagaing Region

100 junta soldiers raided Done Taw Village in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region and captured 11 people including five children, bound and massacred them, burning their bodies.

42 killed | 24 DECEMBER 2021 Christmas Eve Massacre, Moso Village, Karenni State

On Christmas Eve, near Moso Village, junta troops stopped a convoy of villagers, tied their hands behind their backs, savagely tortured and killed them, and then doused their bodies in petrol burning the bodies of at least 42 people, including four children and two Save the Children staff members stationed in the area.



10+ killed | 4,500 displaced | JANUARY 2022 Matupi, Chin State

Between 6 and 7 January, 2022, 10 civilians, including a 13-year-old boy and the editor-in-chief of Khonumthung Media Group, were arbitrarily detained, beaten and killed by junta troops in Matupi Township, Chin State. The 13-year-old boy was found with his throat slit and the others with injuries consistent with being hit with rifle butts, slashes, cuts and bullet wounds.

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Airstrikes

The Myanmar military is failing to gain control of the country after its bloody failed coup, and is launching airstrikes, using fighter jets and helicopters to terrorize civilians. Non-military targets, such as schools, hospitals, places of worship and internal displacement camps, have been targeted with airstrikes and artillery shelling. Below are some of the many instances of airstrikes since the failed coup.



The UN Human Rights Council must immediately act to seek all possible ways for the UN to establish jurisdiction to prosecute grave crimes in Myanmar. The work of the IFFMM and IIMM must be put to use, perpetrators must be held to account, and end the cycle of impunity.

16+ killed | 15,000 displaced | MARCH - APRIL 2021
Mu Traw & Kler Lwee Htoo, Karen State

Starting on 27 March until 1 April, 2021, the junta killed at least 16 people including children and injured 25 during airstrikes in Mu Traw and Kler Lwee Htoo, in Karen State. These airstrikes led to the displacement of at least 15,000 villagers.

586+ houses burned | 10,000 displaced | SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021
Thantlang, Chin State

The Myanmar military launched an all-out siege on Thantlang in September, firing guns, artillery shells, conducting flyovers with fighter jets, and launching airstrikes nearby in Lungler Village. A local pastor was savagely killed by the military, severing his ring finger to steal his wedding ring. The junta burned a total of 548 houses, and returned to burn 38 houses in early December - displacing at least 10,000 people. More houses have been burned since.



20,000 displaced | DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022
Lay Kay Kaw, Karen State

From 15 December, 2021, the junta launched more than 100 artillery shelling into Lay Kay Kaw Town followed by airstrikes targeting displaced civilians, with airstrikes continuing through December and into January. Since 15 December 2021, a total of 20,000 people have been displaced from Lay Kay Kaw.

20 killed | DECEMBER 2021
Kale, Sagaing Region

On 23 December, 2021, the Myanmar military launched indiscriminate airstrikes from two helicopter gunships killing 20 civilians and triggering thousands to flee for safety in Nat Chaung, Kale, Sagaing Region.

800 displaced | JANUARY 2022
Gahe, Sagaing Region

On 4 January, 2022, two Myanmar military helicopters launched six rockets at residents of Gahe, Sagaing Region killing three children and two adults. Around 800 villagers from Gahe were displaced.

60,000 displaced | JANUARY 2022
Loikaw & Hpruso, Karenni State

On 6 January, 2022, 60,000 people from Karenni State capital Loikaw fled after the Myanmar military fired heavy artillery weapons, sent tanks and helicopters into the area. On 17 January, 2022, two girls and a man were killed after the Myanmar military launched airstrikes from fighter jets at Rakheebu IDP Camp, Hpruso, Karenni State. Displacement continue due to ongoing attacks in Karenni State.