

# MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

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FEBRUARY 2026



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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

# Destruction of Properties by the Military Junta Leads to Increasing Levels of Displacement Across Southeastern Burma

### FEBRUARY 2026

Throughout February, the military junta employed tactics aimed at destroying civilian livelihoods, including their properties, homes, and land. This deliberate destruction of villages is intended to create a climate of fear and to break the spirit of innocent civilians. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) has been closely monitoring the devastating impacts of these actions and their aftermath, as the most vulnerable individuals suffer the most and urgently need protection.

Between February 10 and 16 in Lae Thit Village, Tanintharyi Township, Myeik District, advancing junta troops from Myeik town burned more than 100 civilian homes and carried out aerial bombings amid clashes with resistance forces. Arson attacks were reported on February 12 and 13, while troops remained stationed in the village as of February 14, preventing residents from safely returning.

On February 16, a military jet reportedly dropped two bombs near the western section of the village. Although fighting occurred along the village's outskirts, residents stated there was no active clash inside the village when homes were set on fire. The attacks have resulted in mass displacement and heightened insecurity, with the Karen National Union (KNU) confirming the large-scale destruction of civilian property.

In Pu Law Township, Tanintharyi Region, military troops have repeatedly set fire to

wards in Pala Town and nearby villages, destroying more than 110 civilian homes and forcing entire communities to flee.

On January 31, junta troops again set fire to Shark Pone Village, located close to Pu Law Town, burning down more than 40 houses. The full extent of the damage was not confirmed, as junta troops remained stationed inside the village, restricting access and information.

Local residents said junta troops were positioned on the eastern side of Shark Pone Village, closer to Pu Law Town, while resistance forces are located on the western side. Fires reportedly broke out in areas closer to the junta's position, leading residents to believe the houses were deliberately set alight by the troops.

*"The houses are very close together, so the fire spread very quickly. When villagers tried to put out the flames, the troops fired small arms at them. They did not allow anyone to extinguish the fire,"* one local resident told HURFOM.

However, a source close to resistance forces said some houses in the central part of the village caught fire after a military drone flew overhead, raising concerns that the fires may also have been caused by explosives dropped from the drone. These accounts could not be independently verified due to ongoing military presence and security risks.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

Junta troops have reportedly been stationed at War Tan Monastery in Shark Pone Village for more than a year, using the site as a base for military operations in the area.

Earlier, on the night of January 28, 2026, junta troops launched an operation into Toe Village near Pala Town and again set fire to civilian homes. The number of houses destroyed there remains unknown, as clashes with resistance forces were ongoing at the time of reporting.

Similarly, on January 27, 2026, junta troops stationed at the Pala Town police station set fire to civilian-owned homes across four wards in Pala Town, destroying at least 78 houses.

*“When the military set fire to Pala Town, 78 houses were burned to ashes. We still do not know how many homes were destroyed in Toe Village, but in Shark Pone Village, more than 40 houses have already been burned and destroyed,”* a local source said.

Residents across Pu Law Township report that the junta is carrying out daily indiscriminate shelling using artillery weapons, forcing civilians to flee repeatedly in search of safety. Throughout the final week of January 2026, junta troops have continued arson attacks on homes in towns and villages across the township, further deepening displacement, fear, and humanitarian need among already vulnerable communities.

Junta troops stationed in Shark Pone Village, Pu Law Township, Myeik District, have set

fire to the village at least five times during the first two weeks of February. Shark Pone Village, located across the river from Pa Law town, is currently deserted as residents have fled for safety.

However, troops remained positioned inside the village. On the nights of February 9 and February 11, soldiers again set fires in different parts of the village. On February 9, the blaze engulfed the central section of Shark Pone. The exact number of homes destroyed remains unknown.

*“Since the soldiers are stationed there, we do not dare to go and check,”* said one resident. *“We could only see from far away that the fire was burning intensely.”*

Two days later, on February 11, troops set fire near the village school in the southern section, reportedly destroying more than three houses. Full details remain unclear because residents cannot safely access the area. The wave of arson attacks began on January 31, when junta troops first burned Shark Pone Village, destroying more than 40 homes.

Further, during the first week of February 2026, at least two additional fire incidents reportedly destroyed between eight and twelve houses. On February 6, at 7 PM, troops carried out another arson attack, burning four more homes.

In total, more than 60 houses have been destroyed in Shark Pone Village within less than two weeks. Residents say that during the initial fire on January 31, when villagers

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

attempted to extinguish the flames, junta soldiers opened fire on them. Since then, people have been afraid to return to put out the fires, fearing for their lives.

Junta troops remain stationed within Shark Pone Village, while resistance forces remain outside the village. Civilians are caught in between, unable to return home. Local residents also report that in Pu Law Township, including Pala town and nearby villages, junta troops have been carrying out arson attacks since the sham election period, burning more than 250 homes.

Families who once lived in Shark Pone now remain displaced, watching from a distance as their homes are repeatedly reduced to ashes. HURFOM continues to monitor and document the situation as access allows, while civilians remain at serious risk amid ongoing military operations.

In Kha Maung Taung Village, Launglon Township, Dawei District, junta troops broke into nearly every house in the village and looted household belongings. Local sources said that on January 25, 2026, soldiers provided security for the ‘election’ in Sakhan Kyi Village Tract. Early the next morning, on January 26, the troops moved into Kha Maung Taung Village, where many homes had already been abandoned by residents fleeing earlier fighting. The soldiers reportedly occupied empty houses, forced entry into others, and took civilian property.

*“Almost the entire village was broken into,”* a local woman said.

*“They took clothes, rice cookers, and many household items. They stole the things people depend on for their daily lives.”*

The troops remained stationed in Kha Maung Taung Village for more than a day and withdrew at around 8 AM on January 27. During their presence in the village, the soldiers also arrested and beat a brick kiln worker who was reportedly drunk and wandering nearby, according to residents.

Ahead of the sham election, gunfire and clashes in the area forced most residents from Sakhan Kyi Village Tract, Kha Maung Taung Village Tract, as well as Htain Twin and Taung Min Pyaung villages, to flee their homes. Many displaced residents only began returning on the evening of January 27, 2026, after troops had left the area.

In another case, junta troops burned down more than 45 civilian homes over two days in Ya Laing Village and Thit To Htauk Village, both located within the Dawei Special Economic Zone in Yebyu Township, Dawei District. On February 3, more than 40 houses were set on fire and destroyed in Ya Laing Village. The following day, on February 4, junta troops burned an additional five houses in nearby Thit To Htauk Village.

*“More than 40 houses were burned in Ya Laing. People still don’t dare to go back into the village. Some only returned briefly to check on their homes,”* a local resident said.

The arson followed clashes on February 3, after resistance forces carried out a drone attack on junta troops stationed at

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

a monastery in Pa Gore Zun Village, Yebyu Township. Fighting between the two sides reportedly lasted several minutes. Shortly after the clashes, junta troops moved into two nearby villages connected to Pa Gore Zun Village and began burning civilian houses.

During the drone attack, several local residents who were sheltering inside the monastery in Pa Gore Zun Village were injured. Local sources also reported that five junta soldiers were killed in the incident.

On the morning of February 5, junta troops released local residents who had been detained in Thit To Htauk Village before withdrawing toward an oil palm plantation area west of Ya Laing Village. However, residents remain fearful because the military column remains positioned close enough to re-enter both Ya Laing and Thit To Htauk villages. Some villagers who had briefly returned to check their homes were forced to flee again, amid ongoing fears of renewed military raids and further attacks.

In another case, junta troops carried out a prolonged raid on Maungmagan Village, Long Lone Township, Dawei District, arresting civilians and looting property over a period of ten days. Residents said the troops entered the village following a drone attack by resistance forces on January 25, 2026, the same day the junta held its sham election in the area.

After the incident, junta soldiers launched house-to-house raids, detaining and interrogating more than 30 villagers.

Following questioning, around 20 people were later released, but more than 10 civilians remained in custody. On February 4, as the troops withdrew from Maungmagan Village, they took those detainees with them to Infantry Battalion (IB) 104.

During the operation, junta troops ransacked homes across the village and seized valuable property, including one Faw truck, several motorcycles, and household items, which were loaded onto military vehicles and taken away.

*“They took away more than ten civilians they had arrested, and they looted everything of value from the village,”* one local resident told HURFOM.

The raids in Maungmagan Village came amid a wider pattern of violence in southern Dawei District. In Yebyu Township, within the Dawei Special Economic Zone, junta troops burned down more than 40 houses in Ya Laing Village on February 3, 2026, followed by the destruction of five more homes in Thit Toe Htauk Village on February 4.

Residents from affected areas say the ongoing raids, arson attacks, and arrests have left communities living in fear, with many unsure when it will be safe to return home or rebuild their lives.

Since the second week of February 2026, the junta has intensified military operations in Tha Yet Chaung Township, Tanintharyi Region, carrying out airstrikes and artillery attacks that have forced thousands of civilians from at least ten villages to flee.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

FEBRUARY 2026

Following an attack by revolutionary forces on the Win Wa military base, the regime responded between February 10 and 20 with coordinated ground, naval, and aerial assaults. Residents reported that infantry units advanced on the ground while a navy vessel positioned along the Dawei River launched artillery fire, and Y12 aircraft conducted repeated bombing runs over surrounding villages.

Villages in southern Tha Yet Chaung Township, including Chaung Wa Pyin, Gone Nyin Sake, Sone Sin Hpyar, and Pyin Phyu Thar, as well as Thel Chaung Gyi, Min Dat, Thane Gone, Ka Net Thiri, and Win Wa villages along the Myeik–Dawei Highway, were heavily affected. Thousands of residents fled in fear as explosions echoed.

*“The navy ship anchored in the Dawei River was firing artillery,”* said one displaced villager. *“The Y12 aircraft kept flying overhead. Now they are using infantry, navy, and air forces together. The revolutionary forces are surrounding the Win Wa base, and the junta responded with heavy attacks.”*

On February 17, two bombs were reportedly dropped on Min Dat and Ka Net Thiri villages, destroying two houses. Residents said there had been no active fighting in those villages at the time.

*“We don’t understand why they attacked our village,”* another displaced villager said.

*“There was no clash here, but our homes were hit.”*

Win Wa military base is believed to be the last remaining junta base in Tha Yet Chaung Township. Military tensions remain high as the Burma Army intensifies its operations in an effort to defend and retain control of the base, leaving civilians caught in the middle and unable to safely return home.

### **Airstrikes**

Ongoing military offensives, ground clashes, and airstrikes in Tha Yet Chaung Township, Dawei District, have forced thousands of civilians from more than ten villages along the Myeik–Dawei road to flee their homes. Fighting reportedly broke out at 7:30 PM on February 15 between junta forces and resistance groups at a military checkpoint near Shwe Gu Taung Bridge. The following morning, February 16, the Myeik–Dawei road was closed amid heightened tensions.

*“Local people did not clearly understand what was happening,”* said a farmer from Saw War Village. *“Around 3 PM on the 16th, vehicles began passing again, but there was still fear.”*

Earlier, on February 12, a fighter jet reportedly dropped two bombs on Min Dat Village and fired machine guns toward nearby communities. Residents said the aerial attack caused panic, prompting widespread displacement.

*“They dropped bombs from the air in Min Dat, so everyone had to run,”* said a local man. *“More than ten villages have fled because of the fighting. We do not know the current location of the military column. Phone lines are cut, so we have to search for places where there is still a signal.”*

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

Since February 8, both the junta and opposition have restricted movement along sections of the Myeik–Dawei road, from Sin Kuu Village in Tha Yet Chaung Township to Myeik town. Communication has also been severely disrupted. Local sources report that the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) cut phone lines in parts of Tha Yet Chaung Township, further isolating communities.

The military junta has been conducting intensified operations in the lower part of Tha Yet Chaung Township since February 3. Clashes were reported in Thae Chuang Gyi Village on February 10, and as of February 17, tensions remain high along the roadway. Displaced families are now facing urgent humanitarian needs. Road blockages and communication disruptions are limiting access to food, medicine, and shelter.

Residents also reported that they were uncertain about when it would be safe to return home, as air and ground operations are ongoing in the area.

#### **Arbitrary Arrest**

Three young men from Tha Ka Dike Village, Mokanin Village Tract, Ye Township, Mon State, were arrested by junta troops and taken for forced military service, according to local residents. Since their arrest, their families have lost all contact with them and remain deeply concerned for their safety.

Local sources said the arrests occurred on January 21, after two soldiers from Infantry Battalion 106, based in Mokanin, fled their unit. While searching for the missing soldiers, troops encountered the three youths

from Tha Ka Dike Village along a road and detained them.

*“On January 21, two people from Mokanin Village were arrested, and three youths from Tha Ka Dike Village were also taken,” a local resident said. “The two men from Mokanin, including U Hein, were later released after their families paid money. But an officer from IB 106 told us the three youths had already been sent for military service.”*

According to another resident, the two fleeing soldiers had hidden their weapons in U Hein’s plantation. After troops discovered the guns, they arrested U Hein at his home in Mokanin Village. He was released only after his family paid 10 million kyats.

Arbitrary arrests have continued across Ye Township. On January 18, clashes broke out near Kanin Kamaw Village between junta troops and resistance forces. On the same day, five local men were detained by the junta forces. Later, on January 23 and 24, troops in Ye town arrested six more youths, accusing them of riding motorcycles together.

Those detained include residents from Kanin Kamaw, Sone Se Myaing, Kwan Kyaik, Ah Baw, and Duya villages. Local sources believe they may have been transferred to a battalion based in Ye Township, but the exact location remains unknown. Families have not been able to contact them.

Residents also reported that along the routes of military operations, troops have been arresting civilians, confiscating

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

valuables, and seizing and searching mobile phones, further heightening fear among communities.

Since the second week of January 2026, hundreds of junta troops have been temporarily deployed across northern Ye Township, including around Aung Thabyay, Aung Thayar, the Hnit Kayin road junction, Kanin Kamaw Village, and Kwan Kyaik Village. As of January 29, 2026, these troop deployments remain ongoing, leaving local residents living under constant uncertainty and threat.

Junta forces entering San Pya Village, Ye Township, Mon State, have arrested nine local youths and forcibly confiscated phones, cash, and other valuables from residents. At approximately 4:00 PM on February 15, troops from Infantry Battalion (IB) 106, based in Maw Ka Nin, entered the village and carried out house-to-house searches.

During the operation, soldiers arrested young men they encountered and seized personal belongings from homes and businesses along the main road.

*“They arrested nine youths. They still haven’t been released,”* said a local resident who requested anonymity for security reasons. *“They also took money. Around ten phones were taken.”*

Witnesses reported that troops looted mobile phones and valuables from phone shops, money transfer businesses, private homes, and even from civilians passing along the roadside.

The nine detained youths were reportedly transferred to Infantry Battalion (IB) 61 in Ye Township and have not been allowed to meet with their families.

Another resident said the troops left the village after 6:00 PM the same day, following internal disagreements among the soldiers. Local sources believe the raid may have been carried out in retaliation for a recent attack by joint resistance forces on a nearby military checkpoint along the road leading into San Pya Village.

In the days prior to the February 15 incident, the same military unit reportedly entered a monastery in Kanin Kamaw Village, where they forcibly took approximately 500,000 kyats and confiscated mobile phones from the abbot and civilians staying at the monastery.

The military base near San Pya Village along Union Highway No. 8 has frequently been targeted by joint resistance forces, leading to repeated clashes in the area. As a result of ongoing fighting and military operations, hundreds of local residents have been forced to flee their homes, living under continued fear and instability.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

FEBRUARY 2026

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### **Artillery Fire**

One civilian was killed, and three members of the same family were injured after junta forces fired artillery during a clash in Kyaung Ywar Village, Ye Township, Mon State. At 8 AM on February 22, troops from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 591, based in Kyaung Ywar, left their base on patrol.

They were reportedly ambushed by the Ye Bilu group at a location more than 110 meters from the military base, triggering an exchange of fire.

Following the clash, LIB No. 591 allegedly fired artillery indiscriminately into nearby areas. A shell landed in a plantation near the village where a family was working, resulting in the death of 48-year-old U Aung Myint Thein and injuries to his wife and two children.

*“We were working together as a family in our plantation,”* said Daw Ma Naw, 45, who sustained shrapnel injuries. *“A shell exploded around a little past 8 AM. I was hit. A few hours later, my husband passed away. Three of us, mother and children, were injured.”*

Daw Ma Naw suffered three wounds to her left arm. Her 15-year-old daughter, Ma Wint War Shwe, sustained injuries to her lungs, back, and waist. Their 6-year-old son, Aung Khant Phyo, was injured in his knee and upper thigh.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

With assistance from local residents, the injured family members were transported to Ye Township Hospital for medical treatment.

The fighting reportedly lasted around 30 minutes. According to a statement from the Ye Bilu group, four soldiers, including a sergeant identified as Lay Win Soe, were killed during the clash. The group also claimed to have seized one MA3 rifle, three ammunition boxes, and 100 rounds of ammunition.

As of the morning of February 23, LIB No. 591 was reportedly continuing military operations in and around Kyaung Ywar Village, raising concerns among local residents about further instability and risks to civilians.

#### *Forced Conscription*

Junta troops carried out overnight raids in several wards of Dawei city on February 8 and 9, arresting young residents for forced military conscription. Residents said soldiers entered homes after midnight, checking names against conscription lists and detaining young people.

During inspections on the night of February 9, the lists reportedly included not only young adults but also at least one high school student.

*“They came to the house saying his name was on the conscription list. After checking, they confirmed he was still a student and that he had not taken him. But other young people were abducted,”* a local source said.

On the night of February 8, junta forces also arrested several residents in Bom Mar Ward. Among those detained was a person with a disability who is missing one leg.

*“At night, military vehicles arrived and carried out arrests along Nyaung Bin Gyi Road and Mya Sabal Road in Bom Mar Ward. They took several young people and even a mobile phone shop owner,”* a local resident said.

While some residents have been forcibly conscripted, the exact number of those detained remains unclear, as detailed information is still difficult to obtain.

In January 2026, more than 50 young men who had been arrested in Dawei city and at city entry and exit checkpoints were reportedly transported by waterway to Myeik to attend the junta’s 21st military training batch.

According to announcements from the junta’s Information Department, military training courses in the Tanintharyi Region have reached the 21st batch since January 2026, with training reportedly completed through the 18th batch. The Information Department also stated that on January 16, the coastal regional commander met with conscripts assigned to the 21st batch at a military unit in the Myeik area.

Four young men from Kaw Thaung Township, Tanintharyi Region, were arrested by the Burma Army and forcibly sent to a military recruitment unit earlier in February 2026.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

At approximately 11 PM on February 7, two 20-year-old men from 12-Mile Village and two young men from Par Sel Par Nyan Village were returning home from a local gambling event when they were stopped and detained. Residents reported that the arrests were carried out by soldiers in coordination with the acting village administrator and a hundred-household leader.

Although the junta officially permits gambling events in 7-Mile, 10-Mile, 12-Mile, 14-Mile and 15-Mile villages, claiming they are linked to spiritual worship ceremonies, residents say these events have increasingly become traps for young men of conscription age.

*“The army, together with a hundred-household leader and administrator, waited on the street with eight motorbikes. Four young men were arrested that night,”* said a resident from 10-Mile Village. *“They also conducted arrests after midnight on February 8, but we do not know how many were taken.”*

The detained young men were transferred to the recruitment department of the Light Infantry Battalion No. 431 based in Kaw Thaug. According to HURFOM’s field sources, family members attempted to secure their release by offering money, but the soldiers refused.

*“The family tried to pay a bribe, but the army did not accept it. The detainees are within the conscription age range and are strong young men, so the army decided not to release them,”* a local source explained.

Residents in Kaw Thaug Township are reportedly required to pay a monthly “conscription fee” ranging from 10,000 to 30,000 MMK. Despite these payments, arbitrary arrests for forced recruitment continue to take place, often on a monthly basis.

In the second week of December 2025, Burmese Army soldiers arrested more than 100 young men from downtown wards and nearby villages in Kaw Thaug Town and forcibly conscripted them. Local residents say fear has become part of daily life. Many young men now avoid public gatherings, travel only when necessary, and remain alert at night, worried that they could be taken at any time.

Junta troops in Kaw Thaug Township, Tanintharyi Region, have forcibly arrested five young men in separate nighttime operations and transferred them for military recruitment. On February 15 at 10 PM, junta soldiers stopped a motorcycle carrying two young men and detained them on the grounds that two males were riding together. Residents said the arrest was made under the pretext of enforcing conscription.

Earlier, on February 7 at 11 PM, three additional young men were arrested while returning home from a gambling event.

Local sources reported that such gatherings, which are officially permitted under the justification of traditional events, have increasingly become locations where young men of conscription age are targeted.

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

### FEBRUARY 2026

*“All the arrests happened at night,” a Kaw Thaung resident told local reporters. “They were sent to Light Infantry Battalion No. 431 and forced into military service. Most families cannot secure their release. Only those with strong connections may have a chance.”*

The arrested youths are reportedly in their early twenties. Two are from 12-Mile Village, two from Baan Kachon Village, and one from Kaw Thaung town. All five have been transferred to Light Infantry Battalion No. 431, based in Kaw Thaung, for military training.

Family members attempted to negotiate their release by offering money, but local sources confirmed that junta troops refused to accept payments in these cases.

Residents say that in recent months, junta troops and local administrators in Kaw Thaung Township have intensified forced conscription operations. Young men are regularly detained at night under military service regulations and transferred directly to recruitment units.

According to local reports, over the past two months alone, the junta has arrested at least 100 young men from wards and villages in Kaw Thaung Township and forcibly recruited them into military service. Communities now live under constant fear, with families worrying that their sons could be taken at any time, particularly after dark.

#### **Landmines**

At least 41 civilians have been killed or injured by landmine explosions across Mon State, Karen State and the Tanintharyi

Region between January 2025 and the first week of February 2026, according to data compiled by HURFOM. During this period, landmine incidents were reported nine times in Mon State, three times in Karen State, and eleven times in Tanintharyi Region. In total, six civilians were killed, and 35 others were injured.

Among the victims in 2025 were five children, eleven women and seventeen men who sustained injuries. One child, one woman and four men were killed in separate incidents. In early 2026, two men from Ye Township and Tanintharyi Region were seriously injured by landmine explosions.

HURFOM field sources report that many of these incidents occurred in rubber and fruit plantations near military bases, as well as along village roads that residents use daily to travel to work. Landmines have also been reported along the Thanbyuzayat–Ye–Dawei Union Highway Road, further increasing risks for civilians.

An elderly woman and a child were injured after stepping on a landmine in Sin Hto Gyi Village, Pu Law Township, Myeik District, Tanintharyi Region, bringing the total number of landmine victims in the village to 17. The incident occurred at around 7 AM on February 2, on the eastern riverside of Sin Hto Gyi Village, which lies along the Myeik–Dawei highway.

A 66-year-old woman stepped on a buried landmine inside the compound of a house and sustained serious injuries. Local residents said the woman was visiting a friend’s home together with three other

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## SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

FEBRUARY 2026

women, including a 10-year-old girl. While they were at the back of the compound picking Marian plums, they unknowingly stepped on a landmine hidden beneath the ground.

*“There were four of them. Since it was their friend’s compound, they went in to pick Marian’s plums when they saw the tree. As they went under it, they stepped on a mine,”* a local resident said.

As a result of the explosion, the 66-year-old woman, identified as Daw Sein Than Kyi, suffered severe injuries to her heel. The 10-year-old girl sustained minor injuries and did not require hospitalization.

Daw Sein Than Kyi was transferred from Palauk Public Hospital to Dawei General Hospital on February 3 for further treatment. Sin Hto Gyi Village has around 300 households and is located in an area where the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) Battalion 12, Subcommand 3, is active.

Although the battalion commander has permitted displaced villagers to return to the village, many residents remain afraid to do so due to the ongoing risk of landmines.

Since 2025, more than ten families have been living outside the village. However, landmine incidents continue to occur as residents temporarily return to check on their homes or tend their gardens.

Local residents have repeatedly called for urgent landmine clearance in and around the village.

According to community members, at least 17 people have stepped on landmines while moving through residential compounds and garden areas in Sin Hto Gyi Village. Among them, two civilians have been killed, and most survivors have suffered leg amputations.

During clashes between armed groups in 2024, all residents of Sin Hto Gyi Village were forced to flee their homes. Many now remain displaced, unable to return safely due to the ongoing threat posed by unexploded landmines.

Since the attempted coup, the use and presence of landmines in civilian areas has intensified, placing ordinary villagers at constant risk. Farmers, plantation workers, and travellers face uncertainty each time they leave their homes, unsure whether the path ahead is safe.

Local residents say the growing number of landmine incidents has created an atmosphere of fear, restricting movement and undermining livelihoods in already conflict-affected communities.

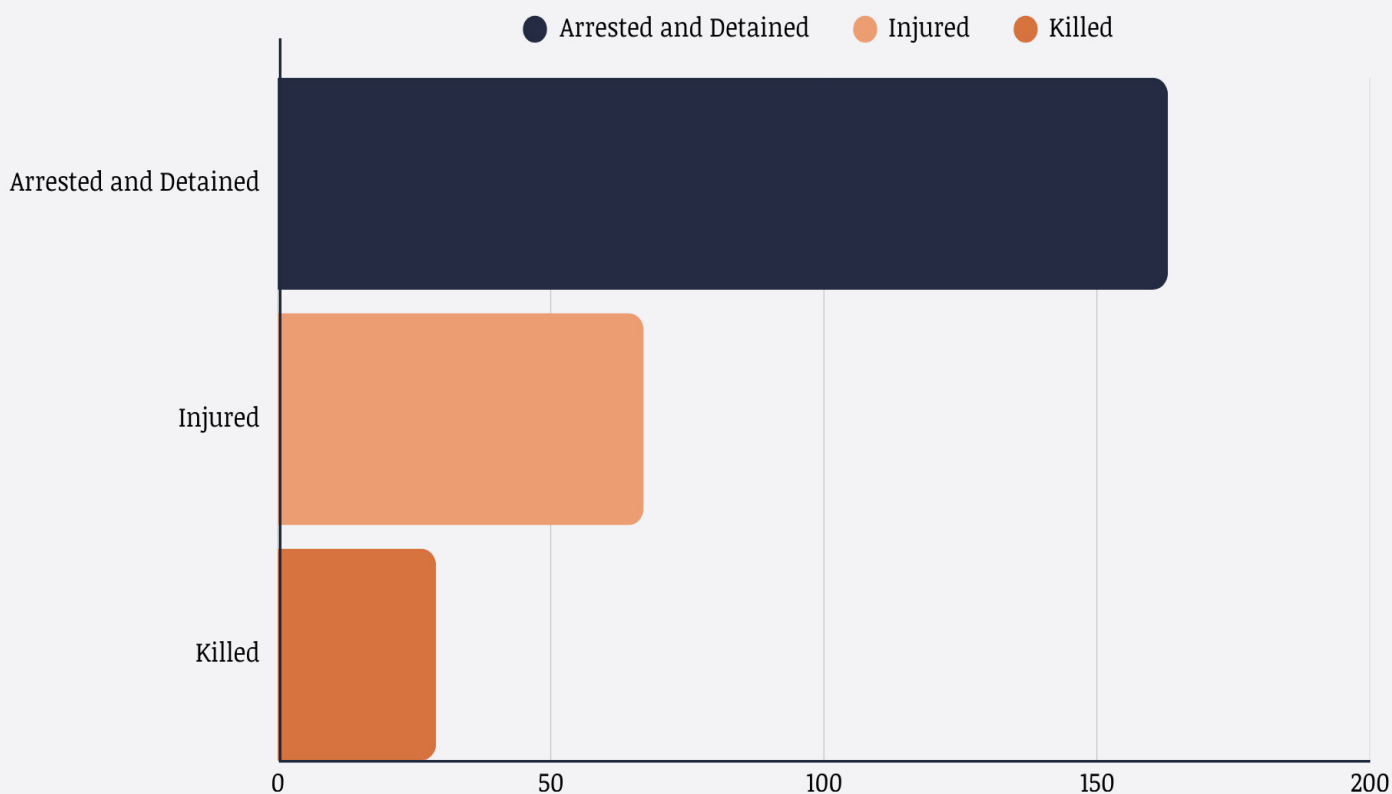
The 2025 Landmine Monitor report stated that Burma had the highest number of casualties worldwide in 2024 from landmines and explosive remnants of war, adding that deaths and injuries more than doubled within a year, as conflict expanded.

The report found that 2,029 people were killed or injured in 2024. This is an increase from 1,003 in 2023 and 545 in 2022, and marks a sharp escalation since the military coup.

## SCALED UP HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

*HURFOM fieldworkers continue to take great risks to document the human rights violations being perpetrated in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. By the end of February 2026, HURFOM recorded at least 93 people arrested, 70 detained, 67 injured, and 29 killed across all target areas.*

### Civilians Arrested, Injured & Killed in February 2026 in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region



5+

**Pro-Democracy Protesters, Politicians & Activists  
Sentenced by the Junta**

**9+**

**Protests and Campaigns Against the Sham Election in February 2026**

**2+**

**MON STATE**

**7+**

**KAREN STATE**

**0+**

**TANINTHARYI  
REGION**



**25,200+**

**CIVILIANS NEWLY DISPLACED ACROSS TARGET AREAS**

**CIVILIANS TARGETED IN MON STATE, KAREN STATE  
AND THE TANINTHARYI REGION**

**3+**

**SENTENCED FOR  
PARTICIPATING  
IN THE CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE  
MOVEMENT**

**2+**

**ACTIVISTS  
SENTENCED IN  
JUNTA COURTS**

**11+**

**ENFORCED  
DISAPPEARANCES  
BY THE JUNTA**

**75+**

**CASES OF RANSOM PAYMENTS REPORTED IN  
HURFOM TARGET AREAS**

**60+**

**DESTROYED HOMES BY THE  
JUNTA'S INDISCRIMINATE  
ARTILLERY SHELLING,  
DRONES AND AIRSTRIKES**



**15+**

**CASES OF THE JUNTA USING CIVILIANS AS  
HUMAN SHIELDS IN TARGET AREAS**

**40+**

**CASES OF CIVILIAN VEHICLES CONFISCATED  
FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS**

**270+**

**IN FEBRUARY 2026, AT LEAST 270 YOUNG  
PEOPLE WERE FORCIBLY CONSCRIPTED  
INTO MILITARY TRAINING**



## KAREN STATE

**11,200+ Newly Displaced  
22 Injured, 12 Killed**

Mon State



Tanintharyi Region



Local residents in southern Myawaddy, including areas around the Phalu and Min Lat Pan villages in Kawkareik Township, Karen State, have begun relocating to safer areas amid increased deployments of junta troops.

The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) joint forces first issued a warning on February 3, advising civilians to relocate within 3 days for safety. However, residents later learned they must leave within 2 days, prompting urgent and widespread displacement.

*“We started relocating from Phalu early in the morning. We already understood we would have to move when we learned that junta troops were reinforcing their forces and advancing toward this area daily. But moving an entire family from one village to another on short notice means you cannot take much with you. In the days before, we moved only the most essential items.*”

*We first sent the children and elderly family members to safety, and later, my wife and I followed. It has been very difficult. This area has already been affected by conflict for more than four years.”*

According to Karen military sources, the junta has been attempting to push troops into southern Myawaddy since late 2025. Ongoing clashes have forced thousands of civilians to flee, with many now sheltering along the Thai–Burma Moei River border and in displacement sites and camps.

An official from the Pala Thapo displacement camp, which currently hosts more than 1,000 displaced people, said villagers from Min Lat Pan had been instructed to relocate there. *“We heard about it the night before. They are preparing space for those arriving from Min Lat Pan,”* the camp official said.

The escalating military situation has also affected Thailand. Residents of Mae Ko Kin Village in Thailand, located opposite Min Lat Pan Village along the Moei River, reported that Thai authorities have advised villagers living near the riverbank to relocate temporarily due to concerns about possible artillery fire.

Resistance sources further reported that since January, the junta has been reinforcing its positions by transporting large numbers of troops and weapons by military vehicles from the Yangon–Thaton road toward Mon State and military bases in Karen State.

These convoys have also included vehicles for road and bridge repairs, suggesting efforts to reopen the Kawkaik–Myawaddy Asian Highway. Local sources warned that the continued military buildup is increasing the risk of further clashes and displacement, leaving civilians on both sides of the border facing growing insecurity and uncertainty.

The military junta has continued a series of airstrikes and artillery attacks on villages in Nyaung Lay Bin District, under the control of KNU Brigade 3, destroying homes and damaging schools while forcing tens of thousands of civilians to flee, according to a statement released by the KNU central committee.

Between February 9 and February 20, 2026, daily artillery shelling and aerial bombings were reported across Kyauk Gyi, Mone, and Shwe Gyin townships. Local sources confirmed that at least 20 civilian homes were damaged during the attacks. Two schools, including a primary school, were also struck and sustained serious damage.

At least four civilians, including children, were injured during the airstrikes. Residents described living under constant fear as aircraft circled overhead and explosions echoed across their communities.

As the bombardment intensified, tens of thousands of civilians were forced to flee their villages in search of safety. Many families were left with only what they could carry, uncertain when they would be able to return home.

The airstrikes are not limited to Brigade 3. Similar bombing incidents have been reported in areas under the control of KNU Brigades 1, 4, 5, and 6. In response to the continued aerial attacks, the KNU has urged civilians to follow air raid safety precautions to reduce casualties.

Communities in these areas remain deeply concerned as military aircraft continue to target villages, homes, and schools, leaving civilians to bear the consequences of escalating conflict.



## MON STATE

**5,380+ Newly Displaced**  
**20 Injured, 6 Killed**

Karen State



Tanintharyi Region



Large-scale military offensives launched by the junta in early February across Thaton District, Mon State, have triggered continuous clashes with KNLA-led resistance forces in Thaton, Bilin, and Kyaikhto townships, displacing tens of thousands of civilians.

Since the first week of February 2026, multiple junta columns advanced into villages previously under the Karen National Union (KNU) control, particularly near the Yangon–Mawlamyine highway and surrounding rural areas.

On February 10, in Kyauk Ye Twin Village, Kyaikhto Township, junta troops detained more than 20 civilians, including children and elderly residents, and reportedly used them as human shields while stationing themselves in the village.

Fighting also occurred near Mok Kha Mot and Kha Ywal villages between February 9 and 11, forcing further displacement. The offensives have intensified insecurity and deepened humanitarian concerns across the district.

Junta troops from Light Infantry Battalion No. 106 forcibly confiscated mobile phones and other valuable belongings

from civilians in San Pya Village, Ye Township, Mon State.

At approximately 4:00 PM on February 15, troops based in Maw Ka Nin entered San Pya Village and carried out house-to-house searches. Residents reported that soldiers moved through the village inspecting homes and businesses along the main road.

During the operation, troops seized mobile phones and valuables from phone shops, money transfer shops, private houses, and from civilians encountered along the roadside. Witnesses described the actions as arbitrary and carried out without explanation or legal basis.

*“People were too afraid to object,”* said one local resident. *“When the soldiers came into the village, they took whatever they saw. Even the village administrator could not intervene. At first, they planned to stay overnight, but after arguing among themselves, they left at 6 PM.”*

Residents say Battalion No. 106 frequently enters San Pya Village and has repeatedly threatened and intimidated villagers. The incident has further deepened fear among community members. Local sources believe the raid may have been linked to an attack by joint resistance

forces on a nearby junta checkpoint the previous week.

Following that clash, troops reportedly entered the village, placing civilians at risk of retaliation.

In the days before the February 15 incident, soldiers from the same battalion reportedly entered a monastery in Kanin Ka Maw Village, where they confiscated money and mobile phones from the abbot and several civilians staying at the monastery.

*“It was also Battalion 106,”* the same source said. *“They even took money belonging to the monks. They took 400,000 kyats from the abbot’s niece. Others also lost their phones and personal belongings.”*

The military outpost near San Pya Village is strategically located to control Highway No. 8, making the surrounding area a site of recurring clashes between junta troops and resistance forces. However, civilians continue to bear the consequences of these confrontations.

Residents say the repeated entry of troops into villages, combined with arbitrary confiscation of property, has created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. Many villagers now worry that their homes and livelihoods could be targeted at any time, with little protection or recourse.

Large-scale military offensives launched by junta forces across Thaton District, Mon State, have led to continuous clashes

in Thaton, Bilin, and Kyaikhto townships, displacing tens of thousands of civilians and escalating humanitarian concerns. Since the first week of February, multiple junta columns have advanced into villages previously under the control of the Karen National Union (KNU), triggering frequent fighting with the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allied resistance forces. Clashes have intensified in villages along the Yangon–Mawlamyine highway and in surrounding rural communities.

In Kyaikhto Township, junta troops who entered Kyauk Ye Twin Village on the evening of February 10 reportedly detained more than 20 local residents, including children and elderly individuals, and used them as human shields.

Those detained include Daw San Kyi, a woman over 60, a schoolteacher renting a house in the village, local resident Ko Zaw Min Latt, children aged approximately 10, and other villagers who were unable to flee.

As of February 12, junta troops remained stationed in Kyauk Ye Twin Village, thereby heightening military tensions in the area. Local sources reported that residents who had not escaped during the initial advance were forcibly detained and compelled to remain with the troops.

Clashes were also reported on February 9 and 10 near Mok Kha Mot and Kha Ywal villages in Kyaikhto Township, where junta forces engaged in fighting

with KNLA-led joint resistance groups. Fighting resumed on February 11, forcing additional residents to flee their homes.

In Bilin Township, clashes broke out on February 7 in Nyaung Htauk Village as junta forces advanced toward Alu Gyi, Pho Wa Thein, and surrounding villages. Since late January, repeated clashes have occurred in villages along the Yangon–Mawlamyine highway in Thaton Township, accompanied by sustained artillery shelling from nearby junta battalions and military bases.

Residents describe an atmosphere of constant fear: *“Fighting is happening everywhere. Artillery weapons are continuously landing and exploding. Even village guards are fleeing. No one dares to stay,”* said a woman from Thaton Township.

Local sources report that the Burma Army has deployed significant manpower, weapons, and ammunition during these offensives. Casualties have reportedly occurred on both sides, though exact figures remain unconfirmed due to limited access.

As a result of the intensified offensives and ongoing artillery attacks, tens of thousands of civilians from at least 15 villages across Bilin, Thaton, and Kyaikhto townships have been displaced. Many families fled without adequate time to gather belongings, seeking temporary refuge in nearby forests or safer villages.

The situation remains highly volatile, with civilians caught between advancing military columns and ongoing clashes.

Young men across Mon State are being forcibly arrested as part of preparations for the 22nd batch of the People’s Military Service training, which is scheduled to begin in the third week of February 2026. In the townships of Thaton and Mawlamyine, arrests have intensified. Parents, relatives and local residents say fear is spreading as youths are taken from streets and homes, often at night.

On February 10, junta joint forces raided Pago Su Ward in Thuwunnawati town and Naung Bo Village in Thaton Township, arresting more than 20 young men. Two days earlier, on February 8, Police Officer Kyaw Wunna from Kyaikkaw Thein Seik Police Station, together with the village administrator of Taung Kyar Village, led raids across several wards in Thaton Township and detained nearly 30 youths.

Those arrested, reportedly aged between 25 and 40, are being held at a military base in Thaton Township. A local source told HURFOM: *“In Thaton, including Thuwunnawati new town, Kyaik Taw and Pago Su Ward, young men were taken away in two pickup trucks. They are now at Training Battalion No. 9.”*

Similarly, from February 7 to 9, forced recruitment operations were carried out in Mawlamyine, including in Maung Ngan Ward. Residents say more than 20 youths were detained.

The ward administrator, Thant Htike, together with members of the Pyu Saw Htee militia, reportedly led the arrests.

*“The Maung Ngan ward administrator and the Pyu Saw Htee group are acting aggressively,”* said a resident of Mawlamyine. *“They are also collecting military service fees from households, at least 10,000 to 60,000 kyats per month. Even so, young men in the city are continuously being taken.”*

Local residents say arrests are being conducted according to a recruitment plan, and they expect operations to continue until quotas are met. Many people now avoid going out at night, especially young men. In some areas, two men riding together on a motorcycle are prohibited. If found travelling together, they risk arrest. Authorities have also been conducting house-to-house searches, claiming certain names are on recruitment lists.

Ward and village administrators are reportedly under pressure to comply with recruitment orders. Some have been required to sign pledges guaranteeing that they will provide the required number of recruits.

In Mudon Township, including Kama Wet village tract and Kama Haung Village, households are being forced to pay monthly military service fees ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 kyats. A local woman from Mudon told HURFOM that families who cannot pay are threatened with arrest.

*“If we cannot pay, they say our names are already on the list, and they will take someone from the house,”* she said.

According to local monitoring, from Batch 1 through Batch 21 of the People’s Military Service Training, more than 4,400 youths in Mon State have reportedly been recruited into the military. As forced recruitment continues, families across the state are living in fear, uncertain whether their sons, brothers, or husbands will be taken next.



## TANINTHARYI REGION

8,620+ Newly Displaced

25 Injured, 11 Killed

Karen State



Mon State



Fighting broke out in Pa Gore Zun Village, Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region, injuring at least four local residents after junta troops advanced into the area. Residents said junta forces entered Pa Gore Zun Village, located within the Dawei Special Economic Zone area, on the evening of February 2 and remained stationed in the village overnight.

The following day, on February 3 at 11 AM, clashes erupted on the eastern side of the village between junta troops and resistance forces. Heavy fighting continued for nearly forty minutes, while the sound of artillery fire could still be heard until after 2 PM.

*“At least four villagers were injured during the fighting. Even this afternoon, the military continued firing artillery, and shells landed inside the village. One elderly person was seriously injured,”* a local resident told HURFOM.

Local sources said some residents were wounded by bombs dropped from military drones, while others were injured by shrapnel from artillery shells. Although direct clashes subsided after a short period, junta forces reportedly continued launching drone attacks and firing heavy weapons

As artillery shells continued to land close to homes, most residents from Pa Gore Zun Village and nearby areas were forced to flee and seek safety elsewhere. Prior to the clashes, resistance forces had reportedly carried out a drone attack targeting junta troops stationed inside Pa Gore Zun Village.

Residents also reported seeing emergency ambulances from Dawei Town travelling toward the village following the fighting. HURFOM continues to monitor the situation as civilians remain at risk from ongoing military operations in the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

In an especially violent case, a 35-year-old woman from Tha Boot Chaung Village, Thae Chaung Village Tract, Kanbawk area, Yebyu Township, Dawei District, died after being arrested and allegedly beaten by members of the Pyu Saw Htee militia.

The victim, Ma Khaing, was detained on February 12 by members of the Pyu Saw Htee group led by U Su Nge, also known as U Naung Gyi, who serves as both the village tract administrator and the head of the militia in Tha Boot Chaung Village. Ma Khaing was also his sister-in-law.

Residents reported that at approximately 8:00 AM on February 12, militia members

went to her home, accusing her of stealing three kyat of gold from the house of the village administrator's family. She was taken from her home and detained in a rubber shed beneath a house in the village.

*“The administrator’s family said some gold was missing and accused her of stealing it,”* said a local man familiar with the case. *“Naung Gyi ordered his followers to arrest her. They detained her in a rubber shed for questioning.”*

On February 13, villagers learned that Ma Khaing had died while in custody. At approximately 2:30 AM, her husband was contacted and informed of her death.

Members of the Pyu Saw Htee group reportedly told villagers that she had taken her own life by hanging herself with a scarf. However, residents who saw her body during funeral preparations said they observed visible injuries, including a wound above her eyebrow, bruising on her head, injuries to her palms, and marks across her back.

On the morning of February 13, police officers from the Kanbauk area police station transported her body to Kanbauk Sub-Township Hospital for examination.

According to a person close to the family, the medical findings indicated head trauma and multiple external injuries consistent with severe beating. Family members believe she died as a result of torture.

Ma Khaing was buried at the Tha Boot Chaung village cemetery on February 14.

This is not the first fatal incident involving the same militia group. In April 2024, members of the Pyu Saw Htee reportedly beat a mentally ill villager, U Win Kyaw, to death in the same village. No accountability followed that case, and as of February 16, no action has been taken regarding Ma Khaing's death.

Following the attempted military coup, U Su Nge assumed the role of village tract administrator and formed a Pyu Saw Htee militia group of approximately 20 members. Residents report that the group operates with support linked to the nearby Mawrawaddy Naval Base.

A naval training school is also located in Thae Chaung Village Tract, near Thingan Taw and Kin Taung villages, placing the area under heightened military influence.

Local residents describe growing fear and a lack of protection under local authorities. The death of Ma Khaing has left many in the community distressed, as villagers question whether any independent investigation or accountability will follow.

## MONTHLY FEATURE

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### More Than 10,000 Displaced Civilians in Kyeik Hto Township Urgently Need Humanitarian Assistance

More than 10,000 civilians who have fled ongoing military offensives and indiscriminate artillery attacks in Kyeik Hto Township, Mon State, are in urgent need of emergency humanitarian assistance, according to individuals supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) on the ground.

Since February 8 2026, junta troops have launched large-scale operations into villages in Kyeik Hto Township, particularly in areas previously controlled by resistance groups. As clashes intensified, more than 12,000 residents from 19 villages across Nget Pyaw Taw, Kha Ywel, and Win Kan village tracts were forced to flee to safer areas.

Field sources reported that junta troops have also broken into homes in several villages and burned down at least four houses in Chaung Wa and Win Kan villages. Civilians who were unable to evacuate immediately have been living under constant fear as artillery shelling continues.

Although resistance groups, including the Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 1 in Thaton District, have been providing initial support to displaced families, humanitarian needs are rapidly increasing. After more than ten days of displacement, many families are facing shortages of food, medicine, and basic supplies.

*“We are trying to help as much as we can,”* said a local humanitarian worker assisting displaced communities. *“But the needs are growing every day. People have left everything behind.”*

As of February 19, 2026, junta troops remained active in Kyeik Hto Township and continue to carry out indiscriminate artillery shelling, preventing many displaced families from returning home.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## *To the International Community*

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Support Cross-Border Aid Delivery:** Work with humanitarian organizations to provide cross-border aid, as many areas in conflict zones remain inaccessible. Direct resources to trusted local organizations that are capable of reaching these communities.
- 5. 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 Humanitarian Donors*

- 1. Increase Funding for Local Organizations:** Allocate funds to communitybased organizations (CBOs) like 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Provide Resources for Civilian Protection Measures:** Fund initiatives that assist local communities in constructing bomb shelters, securing safe spaces, and implementing early warning systems to protect themselves from sudden attacks

## *To the National Unity Government*

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Establish Civilian Safe Zones:** If and when possible, the NUG must work with ethnic armed organizations to designate and protect civilian safe zones in collaboration with international observers. This could help mitigate displacement and casualties from ongoing military actions.

## *To Other Stakeholders*

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.

# MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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## Human Rights Situation in Mon state, Karen state & the Tanintharyi Region

FEBRUARY 2026

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