

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

APRIL 2026



SUMMARY OVERVIEW & ANALYSIS

Airstrikes and Drone Attacks Take a Devastating Toll on Civilians

April 2026

Over the last month, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) documented an alarming rise in airstrikes across targeted areas of Mon State, Karen State and the Tanintharyi Region. Beginning at the start of the month, on 1 April, between 12:10 PM and 12:17 PM, junta jet fighters dropped four 300-pound bombs on Lay Kay Village. The attack damaged 12 civilian houses and forced residents to flee in fear.

The attacks continued the following day. On 2 April at around 10:58 pm, despite no active fighting in the area, the junta targeted a monastery in Lay Kay Village, part of Myit Kyo Village Tract. Two 300-pound bombs were dropped from a jet fighter. One bomb exploded inside the monastery compound, while another struck within the village, leaving the entire monastery severely damaged.

At the same time, near a military base outside Win Ta Pan Village in Win Ta Pan Village Tract, the regime dropped two additional bombs. The explosions occurred in areas where villagers usually work, increasing fear among local communities.

Later that night, between 11:39 PM and midnight on 2 April, the junta escalated its attacks. A Y-12 aircraft carried out six aerial bombardments, while 32 rounds of 120 mm artillery were fired into Lay Kay Village and surrounding areas in Myit Kyo Village Tract. These attacks caused further destruction, damaging at least three more homes.

Local communities reported that there had been no clashes in the targeted areas during the time of the attacks, raising serious concerns about the deliberate targeting of civilian areas. The Karen National Union (KNU) stated that since the attempted coup in 2021, the junta has continued to carry out widespread and repeated airstrikes across the country.

These attacks have increasingly targeted civilians, homes, monasteries, churches, schools, hospitals, and other public and religious buildings.

An airstrike on Lay Kay village, Bilin Township, Thaton District in Mon State, also injured one male resident and damaged 12 homes, according to local sources. Residents said there was no fighting in the area at the time of the attack. The bombing took place at around 12:15 AM on 1 April, when a junta jet fighter dropped four bombs on Lay Kay village, including at least one 500-pound bomb.

“Around midnight, they bombed the village from the air even though there was no clash. One man was injured, and 12 houses were damaged. Five of the homes were badly destroyed,” a local resident told HURFOM.

Local sources said the number of casualties was lower only because many residents had already fled the village due to repeated junta artillery and air attacks in the area. Lay Kay village is located in Thaton District, an area administered by the KNU.

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Because of ongoing junta attacks, including artillery shelling and airstrikes, many local people have been forced to flee their homes and remain displaced. At the time of reporting, they had still not been able to return safely. The latest attack adds to a growing pattern of violence against civilians in Bilin Township.

Earlier this year, on 26 January, artillery struck Alu Gyi village, also in Bilin Township, Mon State, killing a grandmother and her grandchild and injuring two women.

In another incident, two women were killed and several other civilians, including a child, were injured after the junta carried out an airstrike in the Maka Tar area near Three Pagodas Pass, Kyainnseiki Township, Dooplaya District, Karen State, close to the Thai-Burma border.

The attack happened around midday on 31 March, when a military aircraft dropped two bombs on the Maka Tar area, which is in Brigade 6 territory under the control of the KNU. Residents said the bombs landed in a village area, causing civilian casualties and damaging nearby shops. Two women in their 30s were killed in the blast.

“A military aircraft came and dropped bombs into the village. When the bombs fell inside the village, local people were hit. Some shops were also damaged. Two women were killed,” one resident told HURFOM.

Local sources said the junta has repeatedly targeted the Maka Tar area with airstrikes. The area, located near Three Pagodas Pass,

is under KNU control and is also known for lead mining operations.

In April 2025, the military reportedly launched repeated air attacks on the lead mining site and surrounding areas near Maka Tar. Earlier, in 2022, the military also bombed a monastery in Maka Tar village, killing and injuring mine workers, including some Chinese nationals.

The latest attack adds to the growing fear faced by civilians living in conflict-affected areas, where airstrikes continue to place innocent lives at grave risk.

In Bilin Township, Thaton District, Mon State, the Junta carried out airstrikes and artillery attacks over two consecutive days, destroying a monastery and at least 15 civilian homes, according to a statement by the KNU.

In Tanintharyi Township, Myeik District, Taku Village Tract has been targeted for the seventh time by kamikaze drone attacks, even though there has been no active fighting in the area. At around 12:30 PM on March 26, the junta’s Light Infantry Battalion No. 556, based in Za Well Village, launched a drone strike on Ywar Ma Village within the tract. The attack damaged a two-story wooden house, particularly its upper floor, and caused additional minor damage to nearby homes.

“The upper part of the house was hit. The floors were pierced, and the roof and walls were badly damaged. Even the shrine room was destroyed,” a local resident shared.

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Residents report that this was the seventh drone strike targeting Ywar Ma Village. Each attack has typically involved one or two kamikaze drones. According to local sources, the junta first began using drone attacks in Taku Village Tract in December last year. Since then, repeated strikes have continued, including on February 12, February 21, March 10, March 16, and March 24 this year.

These repeated attacks, carried out in the absence of active clashes, have increased fear and insecurity among civilians, who continue to face ongoing threats to their homes and safety.

Airstrikes have also increased in Karen State. In Myawaddy Township, Karen State, near the Thai–Burma border, the regime has carried out repeated airstrikes in an effort to defend the Waw Lay strategic hill base located south of the town. Ongoing clashes and continuous aerial bombardments have forced many local residents to flee their homes, according to Karen news sources.

Since 31 March, joint revolutionary forces led by the KNU Brigade 6, together with allied resistance groups, have launched attacks on the Waw Lay base. Heavy fighting has continued between both sides, with the junta relying heavily on air support.

From 31 March to 6 April, the Burma Army conducted sustained attacks using airstrikes, artillery shelling, and drone bombings, both day and night, across the Waw Lay area. Several explosions were reported inside residential areas, increasing fear among civilians.

Htee Thae Lay village, located near the base, has suffered significant damage. In addition, a monastery in Htee Nya Li village (Shwe Pha Yong Htee) was hit by bombs and later destroyed by fire. As a result of the escalating violence, residents from Htee Thae Lay and surrounding villages have been forced to flee to safer areas, leaving behind their homes and belongings.

Local sources reported that as joint revolutionary forces continue to surround and block access to the Waw Lay base, the military has been delivering supplies by air to sustain its troops.

At the same time, fighting has intensified in the Phalu area, south of Myawaddy, where military forces are attempting to regain control and send reinforcements to Waw Lay. Clashes between the military and KNU-led joint forces were ongoing at the time of reporting.

According to local sources and residents, another airstrike was carried out on a KNU-administered hospital near the Thai-Burma border at around 11:00 AM on April 20. The attack took place on the Burma side of the border, near Mae Hong Son Province in Thailand. Local sources said the junta used Yak-130 and MiG-29 fighter jets and dropped around nine bombs on the hospital area.

One of the bombs reportedly landed on the Thai side of the border near Mae Sam Laep village along the Salween River, causing fear and panic among local residents. Thai villagers reportedly fled the area and were later evacuated for safety.

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The targeted hospital is located just across the river from Mae Sam Laep village in Mae Sariang District, Thailand, around 500 meters from the border. At the time of reporting, the number of casualties and the extent of damage on the Burma side were still not yet confirmed.

At the same time, fighting has also intensified in Myawaddy Township, opposite Mae Sot in Thailand's Tak Province. Local sources said the junta's Infantry Battalion No. 22 has been attacking KNU positions using artillery and small arms. Residents said the regime is stepping up its military operations with ground troops, airstrikes, and drones in an apparent effort to expand control before the rainy season.

Ongoing clashes have also disrupted border trade. The Friendship Bridge No. 2 between Mae Sot and Myawaddy remains closed by the Myanmar side, causing delays to daily trade and cross-border movement.

Meanwhile, the nationwide fuel shortages caused by the war in the Middle East continue to affect the most vulnerable in Southeast Asia. In Paung Township, Mon State, local farmers are facing growing difficulties in buying fuel, with many now forced to carry their water pumps to fuel stations and wait in long lines just to purchase small amounts, according to agricultural workers.

The difficulties have worsened since March 12, when the military introduced a barcode and QR code system and imposed restrictions on the sale and purchase of fuel

in containers and barrels. As a result, many farmers can no longer buy the fuel they need in the quantities they need for their work. Although the authorities reportedly allow farmers to purchase fuel with recommendation letters from township and village administrators, local sources say the amount available remains far too limited.

“Our livelihood depends on farming. Now in Paung Township, to get fuel, we have to take our machines and queue up. About two litres cost 10,000 kyats. Carrying the machines back and forth is very difficult. We are really struggling,” said a local farmer.

Because official supplies are so limited, many farmers have been forced to buy fuel on the black market at much higher prices, causing serious financial strain and reducing the already small profits they make from farming. Local residents said black market prices have risen to nearly 20,000 kyats per litre, putting fuel out of reach for many.

At fuel stations, farmers are currently required to queue with their machines, and each machine is allowed to buy only around 10,000 kyats worth of fuel per week, according to agricultural workers.

The shortage is already affecting farming operations. Some farmers are unable to pump water to their fields, causing crops to dry out and suffer damage. Others are struggling to harvest summer paddy on time, increasing the risk of further losses.

Fuel shortages in Mon State have now continued for nearly a month. Residents

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say they are unable to buy enough fuel, must wait for hours in long queues, and are increasingly forced to rely on high-priced black market supplies. At present, fuel prices in Mon State range from 3,765 to 4,825 kyats per litre for gasoline and from 5,030 to 6,420 kyats per litre for diesel.

Arbitrary Arrest

In Myeik Township, Tanintharyi Region, a mother and her elder daughter were arrested by junta forces after attempting to visit a young family member who had already been detained, according to local residents.

On 2 April, a woman in her early 20s was arrested at her home in Shwe Pyi Thar Ward, Myeik. A local resident from Yam Pho Village confirmed that the young woman had been living in Myeik for only about three months before her arrest.

The following day, on 3 April, her mother, around 50 years old, and her elder sister, aged over 22, travelled from Yam Pho Village to Myeik after hearing the news. When they arrived at the house in Shwe Pyi Thar Ward to inquire about her situation, they were also arrested by junta troops.

All three women are from Yam Pho Village, Myeik Township. At the time of reporting, none of them had been released.

“They went to see the younger sister after hearing about her arrest. But the mother and older sister were also taken when they arrived. Now all three are detained,” a local resident said.

The reasons for their arrests remain unclear, and their current whereabouts are unknown, raising serious concerns among family members and the local community.

Forced Conscription

At least four young men were forcibly conscripted into military service at the Ka Myaw Kin Bridge checkpoint. The checkpoint, which connects Dawei and Launglon Townships in Tanintharyi Region, has reportedly become a regular site for forced conscription, with such incidents occurring on a monthly basis.

On 3 April, from around 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, a military conscription team monitored travellers passing through the checkpoint. Young men were stopped, questioned, and in some cases detained. Witnesses reported that at least four youths were taken away by vehicle after being held and interrogated.

“I saw about four of them being made to sit and questioned. They were later taken away by car. Some others who were detained were released afterward,” a local traveller said.

According to local sources, the detained youths were transported to Dawei later that afternoon. The arrests come alongside wider military operations in the area. On the night of 2 April, junta troops entered residential neighbourhoods in Dawei and conducted house-to-house searches. During the operation, one young man was arrested and, as of 4 April, had not yet been released.

Local residents say the junta has been intensifying its conscription efforts, often

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targeting young people during the first and last weeks of each month, though in some cases operations continue throughout the entire month. Similar incidents were reported earlier in March, when at least eight youths were forcibly conscripted at entry and exit checkpoints in Tha Yet Chaung and Dawei Townships.

Across Dawei District, nearly 65 individuals have been forcibly recruited into military service between January and March, according to local sources and HURFOM field reporting. For many families, these arrests have created fear and uncertainty, as young people face the constant risk of being taken while travelling or even from their homes.

In Dawei Township, Tanintharyi Region, three local men were forcibly conscripted on the night of 2 April, according to local residents. The three men were arrested from their homes during nighttime raids and taken away by junta forces. They are from two different wards in Dawei. Two of them are under 35, while one is over 35.

According to local sources, the men are currently being held at Light Infantry Battalion No. 401, a military base in Dawei. They have not yet been transferred to the military training school in Myeik.

“They are being detained at Battalion 401. Their families are trying to arrange visits, but it is not easy,” a source said.

Members of the local Islamic community confirmed that all three men are Muslims, raising concerns among the community

about increasing targeting and vulnerability. Local sources reported that in Dawei, Yebyu, Launglon, and Tha Yet Chaung townships, those forcibly conscripted are typically detained at Battalion 401 under Military Operations Command No. 8.

Once a sufficient number of recruits is gathered, they are transported by sea from Sin Phyu Pyin port in Tha Yet Chaung Township to the military training school in Myeik. Afterward, they are sent to training sites in Palauk and Myeik Township for further military training.

This incident is part of a broader pattern of forced conscription in the area. In January, at least one Muslim man was also forcibly recruited in Dawei, according to local community members.

As of early April, at least ten people have been forcibly conscripted in the township. For families, these arrests have brought fear and uncertainty, as loved ones are taken without warning and with little information about their situation.

According to family members and sources close to those affected, more than 500 people forcibly conscripted from Tanintharyi Region and recently graduated from military training were transported by military vessel to Yangon, the Irrawaddy Delta, Mon State, and frontline areas in Rakhine State.

Sources said the group began departing from Myeik, Tanintharyi Region, by sea on April 17, 2026. They arrived in Mawlamyine, Mon State on April 18, where a large number

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of the conscripts were transferred to the Southeastern Regional Military Command. From there, the remaining group continued on and reportedly reached Yangon on April 19.

A source close to one conscript's family member said that most of those transported had completed the junta's weekly training batch 21, while others were from batches 19 and 20. The transfers took place after the Water Festival. According to the source, more than 500 people were moved in total.

More than 200 were reportedly left in Mawlamyine and are expected to be deployed in Mon and Karen States, while those sent onward are believed to be assigned to Yangon Region, Irrawaddy Delta, and Rakhine State.

While being transported to Yangon by Junta military vessels, many of the conscripts reportedly became ill. Sources said one conscript died after falling seriously sick and not receiving medical treatment in time.

According to reports released by the Junta, weekly training batch 21 in Tanintharyi Region was held at Military Advanced Training Depot No. 12 in Palauk Township and at Naval Training Base No. 57 in Thingan Aw village, Kyunsu Township. Photos published by the military suggest that around 400 trainees from Tanintharyi Region completed training at those two sites.

Local sources also said that previous batches of conscripts from Tanintharyi Region had already been sent to frontlines in Mon and Karen States, as well as to Rakhine State and

Irrawaddy Delta, where fighting against the Arakan Army has intensified. Reports from the area indicate that some of those deployed have already been killed.

Landmines

In Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region, five rubber plantation workers were injured after stepping on a landmine in Ya Phu village, Kalein Aung sub-township, on 11 April. The incident occurred while the workers were attempting to repair a water pipeline connected to the plantation.

Due to water shortages during the dry season, they had gone to fix a pipeline running from a nearby hill when the explosion occurred.

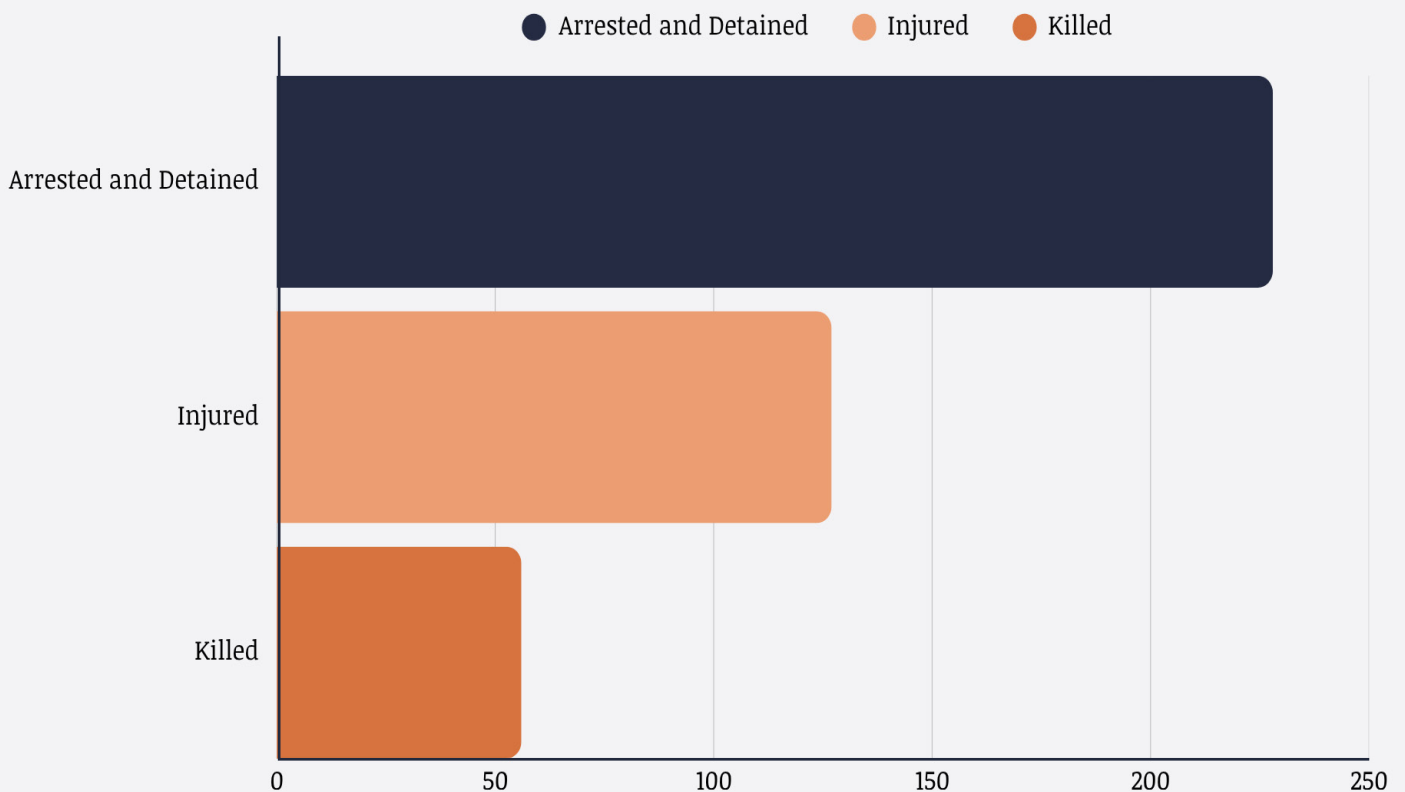
“They stepped on the mine while going to repair the water pipe. There were five workers. Two of them suffered serious injuries to their legs, while the other three were less severely injured,” said a local rubber plantation worker. The injured workers are employed at a rubber plantation reportedly owned by a former junta major.

Local residents also reported that earlier this month, during the first week of April, a couple from nearby Thar Yar Mon village stepped on a landmine while travelling by motorbike to their plantation. Although the motorbike was damaged, both individuals escaped without injury. The situation in the area remains dangerous.

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 April 2026, HURFOM recorded at least 132 people arrested, 96 detained, 127 injured, and 56 killed across all target areas.

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



3+

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

6+

Protests and Campaigns Against the Sham Election in April 2026

2+

MON STATE

0+

KAREN STATE

4+

**TANINTHARYI
REGION**



50,550+

CIVILIANS NEWLY DISPLACED ACROSS TARGET AREAS

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

2+

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

2+

**ACTIVISTS
SENTENCED IN
JUNTA COURTS**

11+

**ENFORCED
DISAPPEARANCES
BY THE JUNTA**

120+

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

115+

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



37+

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

40+

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

260+

**IN APRIL 2026, AT LEAST 260 YOUNG PEOPLE
WERE FORCIBLY CONSCRIPTED INTO
MILITARY TRAINING**



KAREN STATE

23,500+ Newly Displaced
50 Injured, 29 Killed

Mon State



Tanintharyi Region



Residents in Hpa-an Township, Karen State, say junta forces have resumed night-time arrests targeting young men for forced conscription, raising fear among communities as more young people are detained and sent to military training.

Local residents report that young men who travel at night or pass through checkpoints near town entrances and exits are increasingly being stopped and arrested. The arrests are part of the junta's ongoing efforts to forcibly recruit new soldiers as the armed conflict continues to intensify across the country.

A resident said that after 10 PM on March 2, a military vehicle stopped three motorbikes carrying five young men along the road between Hpa-an Traditional Medicine Hospital and Thiri Hpa-an Hotel. Soldiers detained the young men and seized their motorbikes before taking them away.

“These arrests often happen near town entry and exit points,” a resident of Hpa-an said on March 4. “That night, a military vehicle stopped the motorbikes and took both the young men and their bikes. It happened inside a neighbourhood where people were simply travelling through the town.

When the arrests happen, soldiers are often accompanied by ward administrators.”

A female eyewitness in Hpa-an also reported that some of the detained young men are later transferred to military training facilities in Karen State, where they are prepared for conscription.

Local villagers have also criticized what they describe as selective enforcement, noting that young people near gambling venues operating under the protection of Border Guard Force (BGF) and KNU-PC security are often ignored, while ordinary young men travelling through the town are targeted for arrest.

The pattern of arrests is not limited to Hpa-an town. A young resident said that forced recruitment operations are also taking place along roads connecting Karen State to Mon State, particularly in areas where young people frequently travel.

“Recently, around 12 young men from Koh-Kadaik-Pyin village and Kaw Kyaik village went missing,” the resident said.

“When their families searched for them, they later learned the young men were being held at a military training school,

and preparations were underway to send them to training.”

According to the same source, the families of four of the detained young men secured their release after paying approximately 5 million MMK per person, while the remaining detainees were reportedly still being prepared for military training.

Residents say the arrests have created widespread fear among young people and their families. Many young men now avoid travelling outside their homes, especially at night, out of fear that they may be detained and forcibly recruited.

According to documentation gathered by HURFOM reporters based in southern Karen State, the pattern of forced conscription has intensified across several townships over the past year.

Between March 2024 and February 2025, HURFOM field reporters received 68 field reports documenting the impacts of the junta’s forced conscription practices in Kawkareik, Myawaddy, and Hpa-an Townships.

Based on these verified reports, HURFOM confirmed that at least 380 young individuals and villagers were forcibly recruited into the junta’s military, including some who were above the official conscription age limit. Residents said many of those taken were detained at checkpoints, seized during nighttime patrols, or arrested while travelling

between villages. Families often face pressure to pay large sums of money to secure their relatives’ release, while those unable to pay are sent to military training and deployed as new soldiers.

Local communities say the growing use of forced conscription, combined with ongoing clashes and insecurity, continues to deepen fear and instability across Karen State.

On March 14, 2026, junta forces carried out kamikaze drone attacks targeting Pa Law Ta Poe Displaced Persons Camp in the Pha Luu area, located south of Myawaddy Town, Myawaddy Township, Hpa-An District, Karen State.

The attack killed one displaced villager and left two others seriously injured. According to a source close to the camp, a 40-year-old man was killed in the attack, while another man and a woman, both in their 40s, sustained critical injuries.

“There were four drone attacks. Two of the drones dropped bombs that exploded near a clinic inside the camp. They were kamikaze drones. The injured were in critical condition and had to be transferred to a hospital in Thailand,” the source said.

All of the victims were civilians who had previously been displaced from the Lay Kae Kaw area. Pa Law Ta Poe Displaced Persons Camp is located near the Thaung Yin River along the Thai-Burma border and shelters approximately 3,000

displaced people across around 1,000 households. Most residents fled from Lay Kae Kaw, Min Latt Pan, Ya Tae Gu, Melt Htaw Ta Lay, and Pa Luu areas due to the ongoing conflict. The attack has further deepened fear among displaced communities already living in fragile and unsafe conditions.

Just one day earlier, on March 13, junta forces carried out an artillery attack targeting a compound reportedly linked to a “call-scam” operation near the camp. The explosions killed three people, including a foreign national, and injured at least ten others.

According to HURFOM frontline sources, fighting between junta forces and resistance groups continues to intensify in the northern part of Kawkareik Township, Karen State. Ongoing clashes, combined with repeated airstrikes, have forced local communities to flee their homes in search of safety.

Residents from villages including Mi Pale, Naung Kaing, Kwee Maw Tai, Htee Phoe San, Kaw Hpan Yat, Kaw Thar Su, Naung Mi, and Mya Pa Taing have been displaced for months as the situation remains unstable. Many families are now living in temporary shelters or hiding in nearby forests, facing growing hardship and uncertainty.

Local sources report that junta troops have established positions in several villages, setting up ambush points and advancing through the area in three

military columns. A splinter group of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), led by Bo Bi, is reportedly supporting these operations.

Since September last year, junta forces have continued their offensive in northern Kawkareik, with clashes persisting into March. The military is attempting to regain control over key areas, including villages along the old Dawna mountain road connecting Kawkareik and Myawaddy.

On March 20, junta forces carried out aerial bombing in the area. While resistance forces reported no casualties from the airstrike, the ongoing attacks continue to place civilians at serious risk.

Throughout the fighting, junta troops have repeatedly targeted civilian villages along their routes with artillery shelling, drone strikes, and air attacks. These actions have further deepened fear among residents and contributed to ongoing displacement in the region.



MON STATE

9,500+ Newly Displaced

32 Injured, 12 Killed

Karen State



Tanintharyi Region



In Ye Township, Mon State, three fishermen were killed, and another was injured after an artillery shell fired by junta forces exploded near Mi Taing Thet village, in Kyone Nyae village tract, according to local residents.

The incident took place on the night of 5 April, when joint Mon resistance forces launched an attack on Infantry Battalion No. 31, based in Khawza town. During the clashes, junta troops fired artillery shells, one of which landed and exploded close to the village.

Local sources said the three victims, believed to be in their 40s, were fishermen working in the area at the time. They were not from Mi Taing Thet village but were migrant workers from other regions, including Myawaddy.

Residents said the situation remains tense, with ongoing military activity increasing risks for civilians. Many people in the area continue to live in fear, as artillery shelling has caused casualties even among those not involved in the fighting.



TANINTHARYI REGION

17, 550+ Newly Displaced

45 Injured, 15 Killed

Karen State



Mon State



Two civilians, including a three-year-old child, were injured after stepping on a landmine in Hpapun Township, Karen State. The explosion happened on the morning of 30 March, when a father and his son were returning to Hek Gyi Chaung village from Hlaingbwe Township.

Local sources said the landmine exploded near Ta Khaw Kho village as they were walking home. The injured were identified as U Than Htwe, 31, and his three-year-old son, Maung Axel Taw. Both are currently receiving medical treatment at Kama Maung Hospital in Hpapun Township.

Residents said the growing presence of landmines has made daily life and livelihoods much more dangerous for families across Karen State. As fighting has intensified again in recent months, the threat to civilians has also increased, with more people being wounded while travelling, working, or gathering food near their villages.

“Those injured by landmines do not receive enough support. At the moment, all armed groups are planting landmines,” said one local resident.

During the attempted coup period, landmines were widely used not only by

the Burmese military but also by armed resistance groups. Civilians have been injured while collecting bamboo shoots and other forest products near their communities, and in some cases even in or near towns.

The continued use of landmines has added another layer of fear and insecurity for local people already living under conflict. Burma is now among the countries with the highest number of landmine casualties in the world, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has warned that urgent action is needed to better protect civilians.

In the Pha Lu area, south of Myawaddy, intense fighting broke out on the morning of 18 April between junta forces and joint forces led by the Karen National Union (KNU), according to Karen news sources. As clashes escalated, the regime carried out multiple airstrikes, dropping at least four bombs throughout the day.

Local sources reported that fighting intensified as advancing troops engaged with resistance forces, with the junta reportedly suffering heavy casualties. In response, airstrikes and artillery shelling have been carried out repeatedly, causing widespread destruction to civilian areas.

During the recent Thingyan period, Min Let Pan village was already heavily impacted by aerial attacks, with many homes burned down. In Pha Lu village, the situation has become even more severe, as continuous bombing and shelling have left nearly the entire village destroyed.

Residents said that airstrikes have been occurring almost daily in the area. On 18 April alone, four bombs were dropped by aircraft, further deepening fear and displacement among civilians. In addition to Pha Lu, Min Let Pan village continued to be targeted by airstrikes throughout the afternoon, with homes still burning at the time of reporting.

Civilians remain at serious risk, as ongoing attacks continue to impact villages across the area.

According to residents living along the Thai side of the Salween River, the junta forces carried out a jet fighter airstrike at around 11:00 AM on 20 April on an area along the riverbank in Butho Township, Hpa-Pun District, under KNU administration, near the Thai-Burma border.

A local resident from Thaw Lae Htar village, on the Thai side of the border, said the attack targeted the ‘U May Hta hospital’ area.

“Yes, the aircraft came and dropped bombs around 11:00 AM in the morning, near the Salween River along the Thai-Burma

border. It targeted the U May Hta hospital. I think around eight bombs were dropped. I have not heard of any casualties, but I did hear that some buildings were damaged,” the resident said.

This is not the first attack on the hospital. On the night of April 11, at around 11:00 PM, the junta also launched an airstrike on U May Hta hospital using a jet fighter and dropped two 500-pound bombs. One of the bombs hit and damaged the newly built OPD hospital building, while other nearby structures were also damaged by bomb fragments.

Junta Launches Land, Air, and Sea Attacks Near Win Wa Camp, Yebyu, Tanintharyi Region

In Yebyu Township, Dawei District, Tanintharyi Region, junta forces have carried out coordinated attacks by land, air, and sea near the Win Wa military camp along the Myeik–Dawei Union Highway No. (8), according to local residents and military sources.

On 7 April, following clashes between junta troops and joint resistance forces, a K-8W fighter jet dropped two 250-pound bombs on Sone Sin Phyar village at around 4:00 pm. Although the airstrike caused fear among villagers, no civilian casualties were reported.

The following day, on 8 April, a junta naval vessel positioned off the coast west of Kanet Thiri village fired nearly 20 rounds of artillery toward villages in the lower part of Tha Yet Chaung Township. At the time of reporting, it remains unclear whether the shelling caused civilian casualties.

Clashes have continued in and around the Win Wa camp, where joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army and People’s Defence Force have been carrying out frequent drone attacks. Residents said fighting has intensified, with civilians increasingly caught in the middle.

“They arrest civilians they encounter, interrogate them, and take their belongings. Because of the fighting, they are also firing artillery into villages where people live,” a local source said.

Residents also reported that junta troops have detained civilians, seized motorcycles, and demanded money for their return. After more than a month of fighting, joint KNLA and PDF forces captured the Win Wa camp on 11 March. However, around 20 days later, junta forces returned with nearly 300 troops and began redeploying and launching new operations in the area.

Between 10 February and 7 April, the junta reportedly carried out near-daily airstrikes on at least 13 villages in the lower part of Tha Yet Chaung Township. As a result, residents from around 20 villages have been forced to flee their homes, highlighting the growing humanitarian impact on local

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

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

APRIL 2026

