



Kachin Human
Rights Watch - KHRW

"Inhumane Acts"

A Report by Kachin Human Rights Watch



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Introduction

Since the attempted coup on 1 February 2021, the human rights situation across Myanmar has sharply deteriorated. The military junta's dismantling of democratic principles and institutions has eroded basic human rights and made a mockery of the rule of law. Innocent people continue to be detained, while scores of political prisoners remain behind bars and an environmental crisis persists in the country's resource-rich lands. In Kachin State, thousands have been impacted by the ongoing attacks.

Over the past five years, the military has persistently increased the violence against innocent civilians nationwide. This has led to a humanitarian crisis, pushing half the population into severe poverty. Millions have fled their homes as junta troops attack villages, setting fires and stealing possessions, including at least 244,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kachin State. Critical infrastructure like hospitals, clinics, and schools have frequently been targeted by air and ground strikes, putting women and children at serious risk. Limited access to healthcare, education, and employment has shattered hope and prospects for a future without war. The situation remains unstable and complicated, with no clear resolution to the ongoing conflict.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) controls most of the state, including hubs of valuable resources such as jade and rubies. The junta has launched aggressive counterattacks in these areas to gain access to the wealth generated by these rare gems.

Daily labourers working in these mines are paid low wages and work in extremely dangerous conditions, where landslides and mine collapses are common. Critically, there has been an environmental toll, with the scale of degradation affecting families and communities in Kachin State. Mining leaves water supplies dangerously contaminated with heavy metals and radioactive elements.¹ In response to these concerns, there have been locally-led efforts against forcibly resuming the stalled Myitsone Dam project, which would not only destroy water sources but also the biodiversity of the area.²

It is important to note that while the junta attempts to gain legitimacy, widespread attacks are taking place across Kachin State with alarming frequency. Throughout 2025 alone, Kachin Human Rights Watch (KHRW) reported that a total of 133 people were killed across Kachin State due to airstrikes, drone attacks, and artillery shelling by the junta.³ Among the dead were 7 children and 10 women, underscoring a rise in violent attacks compared with previous years.⁴ The junta's aggressive pursuit of territory in Kachin State includes up to 50 airstrikes each day in the strategic city of Bhamo.⁵

The military's sham pre-election campaign period in particular, saw an increase in violence across the country, with Kachin State listed alongside Rakhine State as experiencing the highest death tolls from airstrikes, with at least 20 people killed in a single wave of air raids.⁶ Just days before voting in late January 2026, a deadly military airstrike hit a village in Bhamo Township where displaced people were sheltering, killing 21 people and injuring 28 others.⁷ Again in February, the junta carried out 85 airstrikes in four days on KIA controlled territories, resulting in at least 100 bombs dropped.⁸

"These acts are deeply inhumane. Innocent people are dying daily because of the military's brutality - this is injustice, and it fuels resistance. People are being injured and killed. It's a systematic slaughter. Justice under the law is the only way forward," said a local civilian, Naw Naw.

¹ Policy Brief: Widespread Environmental and Human Rights Damages from Rare Earth Mining in Kachin State, Myanmar, Linked to Green Energy Industry, EarthRights International, 1 May 2025

² Joint Statement of Opposition to efforts to resume the Myitsone Dam Project by 49 Civil Society Organizations and Kachin residents, Kachin Human Rights Watch, 5 May 2026

³ Junta's terror campaign in Kachin State kills 7 children, 10 women in one year, Burma News International, 20 January 2026

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Junta launched 100 deadly airstrikes during election, The Irrawaddy, 4 February 2026

⁷ A Myanmar military airstrike on a village sheltering displaced people killed 21, rebels say, The Associated Press, 23 January 2026

⁸ Junta carries out 85 airstrikes in four days on KIA-controlled territories, BNI, 27 February 2026



“These acts are deeply inhumane. Innocent people are dying daily because of the military’s brutality - this is injustice, and it fuels resistance. People are being injured and killed. It’s a systematic slaughter. Justice under the law is the only way forward”

— Naw Naw, local civilian

The prolonged conflict has led to a fully fledged humanitarian crisis that has left thousands displaced in Kachin State and northern Shan State. Civilians fleeing are frequently trapped in the crossfire of the violence that has consumed their homelands. Concerns on the ground stem from uncertainty about their futures, as the faltering economy, due to the regime’s mismanagement, has resulted in few job opportunities.

Fears of increasing militarization are increasing as the regime seeks to expand its presence in Kachin State. Currently, the KIA and its affiliated People’s Defence Forces (PDFs) have reportedly captured more than 300 military installations since the 2021 coup, with five townships that the KIA fully controls, and the remaining ones in contested areas.⁹

Further, this report by KHRW was compiled to highlight the frequency of human rights violations and the alarming lack of accountability. Between August 2025 and May 2026, KHRW documented at least 34 violations, including 6 airstrikes, 2 arbitrary arrests, 4 incidents of property damage, 13 persons executed after being arbitrarily arrested, 8 killed by artillery shelling, and 27 injured by artillery shelling, and two incidents of drone strikes. Overall, the human rights violations took place in five districts and nine townships, including Mohnyin District, Hpakan Township, Mohnyin Township, Danai (Tanai) District, Danai Township, Myitkyina District, Myitkyina Township, Waingmaw Township, Bhamo District, Bhamo Township, Momauk Township, Township and Putao District, Sawlaw Township.

⁹ The Importance of Kachin State to Myanmar’s Revolution, The Center for Strategic and International Studies, 22 July 2025

The human rights violations that were documented by KHRW represent only a small fraction of those occurring daily. Due to fear of reprisals and targeting of human rights defenders, journalists, aid workers and religious figures, many crimes against innocent people go unreported. In addition, there remain challenges on the ground, including safely accessing conflict zones and verification limitations.

The perpetrator in all cases was the military junta, which often dropped bombs weighing up to hundreds of pounds onto unsuspecting civilians below. Those sheltering in temporary camps and displacement shelters were not spared, nor were women, children, the elderly or the disabled. KHRW emphasizes that the documented cases are both deliberate and happening at a concerning rate. Unless the international community acts swiftly, these attacks will continue to occur unchecked.

*“The military junta is the one bombing and killing people every day, including during the election. They need to be stopped by the international community, and those responsible for the atrocities they have committed must be brought to justice as soon as possible,”*said another villager named Ah Din.

Further, this report will present findings, analyze the collected data, and contextualize the broader impact if these violations continue without immediate action and accountability. The military junta has continued to commit atrocity crimes across the country with impunity. Our report will conclude with recommendations that prioritize the protection of civilians and ensure their dignity and rights are upheld.

Fieldworkers Note

Kachin Human Rights Watch (KHRW) collects documentation from community leaders on the ground in Kachin State. Since the coup in 2021, risks have increased as the military junta targets civilians and field workers for sharing the truth about the violence they face. Among the many challenges are communication blackouts that deliberately disrupt and intercept the flow of information. People are constantly fleeing their villages to seek safety in remote and rural areas.

After receiving updates, KHRW fieldworkers speak with the community to confirm reported cases and gather testimony and photos from survivors and victims. Though it is not always possible, KHRW makes every effort to share the experiences of communities affected by the ongoing conflict. The data and evidence presented in this report are a testament to the courage of those who spoke to us in their desire for justice.

It is worth noting that, while this report seeks to provide an overview of the scenario as described by KHRW fieldworkers and the affected communities who shared their experiences, there remain issues outside its scope. For example, rising criminal and drug-related incidents pose protection concerns in urban areas, and ongoing road and flight closures create access and mobility constraints that affect humanitarian operations and aid delivery. There are also concerns surrounding the trafficking of both illegal substances and people, which constitute international crimes and warrant scrutiny.

While substantial and worth investigating, this report specifically seeks to highlight the injustices perpetrated within the designated time period across targeted areas.



Background

While the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC), referring to the junta-backed and led administration, seeks legitimacy, the state of human rights has become increasingly dire. The regime's campaign of violence has led to over 3.7 million displaced, depriving people of their basic needs, including health, education and shelter. Livelihood pathways have also eroded as rural communities are unable to farm on land damaged by the ongoing bombing. The junta's forced conscription enactment has also separated families as young men and women are made to fight on the frontlines.

Malnutrition has led to the spread of preventable illnesses, particularly in camps for internally displaced people and temporary shelters, where young children and the elderly are more susceptible to illness. The lack of reliable access to clinics and shortages of medicine have made treatment even more difficult. With limited economic opportunities, families are going further into debt and are unable to recover. There are millions in need of support and civil society organizations are also facing increasing funding cuts, which directly undermine their capacity to respond to growing gaps in protection and service provision.¹⁰ Children are being denied safe pathways to education, where a generation of conflict-affected youth risk growing up illiterate and with inherited trauma.

The junta's increasing reliance on airstrikes and drone attacks has robbed people of their right to live freely and safely. In Kachin State, data collected by the Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT) on airstrikes on civilian targets shows that the number of airstrikes from December 2024 to November 2025 almost tripled compared with the number during the fifteen-month period from May 2022 to July 2023.¹¹ There has been no justice or accountability for the crimes committed.

Civilians that KHRW spoke to during the reporting period repeatedly called for consequences for the military junta. One villager, Kai, remarked:

“I want to take effective action against those who violate human rights. There must be practical assistance, not just announcements and meetings. The people's suffering should not be written on paper or measured by numbers, but met with full humanity and the protection of civilians' lives.”



¹⁰ Aid interrupted: what Myanmar's crisis reveals about humanitarian system's fragility, Alternatives Humanities, 13 November 2025

¹¹ Air terror expands in Kachin State, The Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT), 23 December 2025



Systematic challenges have been consequential in the delay of emergency relief efforts as aid is routinely blocked, and humanitarian assistance is weaponized by the terrorist regime. The earthquake in 2025 saw the military deliberately deferring and denying affected communities the support they needed.¹² The junta's unlawful attacks on healthcare facilities and first responders also significantly obstructed the response. Although a ceasefire was announced during this period, the military conducted more than 550 attacks in the two months after the earthquake.¹³ Throughout Kachin State, active fighting has resulted in aid blockades, and the growing number of checkpoints has slowed access to life-saving supplies.

As the crisis worsens, additional challenges have emerged in the digital suppression of news and information.

¹² Beneath the Cracks, The Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma, 28 April 2025

¹³ Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, Human Rights Council Sixtieth session 8 September–3 October 2025, 29 August 2025

Beginning on July 21, 2024, mobile/internet services across all townships in Kachin State were shut down.¹⁴ The communication blackouts are an attempt by the junta to hide evidence of its crimes and prevent resistance groups from coordinating. It is local communities who suffer from this, especially during emergencies when they are unable to contact outside help or their families. The blackouts have also led to delays in emergency assistance.

As the crisis worsens, additional challenges have emerged in the digital suppression of news and information. Beginning on July 21, 2024, mobile/internet services across all townships in Kachin State were shut down. The communication blackouts are an attempt by the junta to hide its crimes and prevent resistance groups from coordinating. It is local communities who suffer from this, especially during emergencies when they are unable to contact outside help or their families. The blackouts have also led to delays in emergency assistance.

While there are critical processes taking place to ensure accountability, the junta continues to abuse the rule of law and has dangerously continued to deny and dismiss the accusations they are facing. The UN Human Rights Council has maintained its commitment to continuing to investigate the crimes against civilians and in pursuing international accountability.¹⁵ In addition, legal authorities in Timor-Leste have initiated proceedings against the military junta for war crimes and crimes against humanity.¹⁶ The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), established in 2018 by the UN Human Rights Council, has also served as an entity for collecting, preserving and analyzing evidence of crimes perpetrated in Myanmar since 2011.¹⁷

Civilians have been forced to endure horrific levels of violence, with women and children bearing the brunt of the assaults and their aftermath, their lives shattered. Yet the junta is insisting on a pathway forward in which regional and international stakeholders recognize the results of its sham election. The way forward must acknowledge that the junta is a perpetrator of human rights violations and is carrying out an illegal coup, in which thousands of rights defenders continue to be detained. Without meaningful intervention and coordination to hold the junta accountable, the regime will only be more emboldened to commit more atrocity crimes.

The preservation and protection of civilians are at stake and thus demand urgent intervention.

¹⁴ 365 days of internet shutdown in Kachin State, Kachin Human Rights Watch

¹⁵ February 2026 - Summary of Monthly Situation Update, Burma Human Rights Network, 16 March 2026

¹⁶ Timor-Leste Opens Legal Proceedings against Myanmar's Military Junta, International Center for Transitional Justice, 3 March 2026

¹⁷ See Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar

Main Findings and Analysis

Throughout the reporting period, KHRW observed that many of the human rights violations occurred in areas rich in natural resources, such as jade. As the junta increases its presence in these areas, the security of civilians is directly undermined, with many local men in particular being arbitrarily arrested and detained, and then either forcibly disappeared or later found by their families with signs of torture on their bodies.

Orders and commands from the regime's top-level commanders and authorities for junta soldiers on the ground to expand their presence in Kachin State have resulted in a climate of fear. Military-imposed curfews and roadblocks have restricted the transportation of goods, further impeding access to livelihoods, health, education and social services. Ongoing telecommunications shutdowns have further burdened villagers by depriving them of information.

Ahead of the sham election and during the reporting period, KHRW observed intensified attacks throughout Kachin State, particularly in resource-rich areas. The junta deliberately used the sham election as a tool to control and extract resources from local communities, aggressively targeting the KIA and civilian areas with ongoing airstrikes, heavy artillery, and coordinated ground offensives. In fiercely contested zones, such as the jade-mining hub of Hpakant, ground troops routinely use heavy artillery when advancing on or losing positions. This is a strategic and coordinated effort by the region to recapture towns and mountain shields.

With backing from countries such as China, economic interests and security are being prioritized over civilian rights and freedoms, most notably through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has displaced communities and forged ahead, with national security prioritized over civilian rights. China has been a reliable ally for Myanmar and has also supported the sham election process and its outcomes. China relies heavily on pipelines that run through Myanmar's conflict zones, including massive energy projects such as the \$3.6 billion Myitsone Dam on the Irrawaddy River and the Dapein dam. In a desperate bid, the military junta has sought to assure Chinese officials that these projects can still be carried out, despite ongoing conflict and strong opposition from local communities.

Among the most targeted areas during the reporting period was Bhamo, which has been contested by the junta because it lies in a strategically significant location near the Irrawaddy River, a key supply route to its lucrative jade mines. Waimaw has also been heavily targeted, though the KIA has seized almost all of it as of 2024.¹⁸ This area lies along the main trade highway that leads to Kanpeikti on the Chinese border. In August 2025, the junta launched an offensive to regain control, but it has remained unsuccessful.

To ensure the junta's survival and protect its assets, China has been providing both covert and overt military and technical assistance, including arms sales, drone technology, and digital surveillance equipment.

The terrorization of civilians has subjected the most vulnerable to deeply inhumane suffering. Women, children, and the elderly are being forced to live in rural areas where they are at risk of disease and malnutrition. The impending attacks by the junta have left conflict-affected communities traumatized and living in uncertainty, anticipating the next attack. Their minds and bodies are paralyzed with fear, trapped in an unending cycle of warfare that has subjected the nation's most innocent to debilitating harm. Of immense concern is the ongoing lack of accountability for the soldiers of the Myanmar Army, who continue to commit these crimes without consequences. Military impunity has shielded criminals and isolated survivors of the violence, who are denied pathways to reparations and justice.

As indicated in the cases documented by KHRW, patterns of systematic and widespread violence speak to the deprivation of the humanity of local people.



¹⁸ Air terror expands in Kachin State, The Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT), 23 December 2025

Airstrikes

The military junta relies heavily on air attacks and has acquired Russian- and Chinese-supplied aircraft, drones, and paramotors, which they deploy with bombs weighing hundreds of pounds to target resistance-held territories and protected civilian sites, such as schools, hospitals, and displacement camps.

Perhaps one of the worst documented cases of airstrikes in Kachin State was when the military junta unleashed a series of lethal airstrikes in Hpakant township on 23 October 2022, targeting civilians at an outdoor concert, and leading to the deaths of at least eighty people.¹⁹ Nearly a year later, on 9 October 2023, the junta once again attacked a village hosting hundreds of displaced people by carrying out an airstrike and then launching mortar and artillery on the ground.²⁰

¹⁹ Kachin Will Never Forget A Nang Pa Massacre, Burma News International, 23 November 2022

²⁰ Myanmar: Airstrike on Village an Apparent War Crime, Human Rights Watch, 10 October 2023



Twenty-eight people died, including 11 children, and more than 60 were wounded.²¹

During the reporting period, KHRW documented 6 airstrikes in 4 districts, including Bhamo District, Bhamo Township, Momauk Township, and Mansi Township, throughout the reporting period. There were also three cases of airstrikes in Hpakant Township, Mohnyin District. Bhamo District had two cases across different townships. Kan Pai Ti (Sadung area) and Sawlaw Township, both in Chipwi Township, Waingmaw District, had two cases. Tanai Township, Myitkyina District, had one case.

Three airstrikes occurred at the end of September 2025. On September 18, 2025, an airstrike in Mawshan village in Seikmu (Saing Taung) village tract, Hpakant Township, killed one child and injured 4 civilians. Then, on September 22, 2025, the military junta bombed Langse village, Sawlaw Township, using a military aircraft. As a result of the bombing, two children were killed.

Just days later, on September 29, 2025, the junta carried out two bombing attacks using two jet fighters on Sadung town, located on the Kanpaikti border trade road in Waingmaw Township. The attack killed 11 civilians, including 3 children, and seriously injured 6 others.

On November 11, 2025, at around 1:23 PM, a Y-12 aircraft based at Myitkyina Airport in Kachin State carried out bombing attacks on Ka Htan village, Lone Khin village Tract, Hpakant Township. It was reported that more than 36 bombs were dropped on the village, where civilians live, despite no active fighting. Two houses were damaged. During the incident, a mother and her young child, who were staying in the house, were affected. The mother was killed by bomb fragments, while the child (around 3 years old) suffered serious injuries to the left leg, hip, knee, and ankle.

The bombed area had no armed groups present. Locals say the attack was carried out intentionally by the military, targeting civilian areas. Ka Htan village and its newly expanded settlement areas are about 20 minutes by motorcycle from the mining area. The village is inhabited by Kachin and other ethnic groups, such as Bamar and Rakhine, as well as families working in jade mining.

²¹ Ibid

On December 14, 2025, at approximately 2:30 PM, during Vice Senior General Soe Win's visit to Myitkyina, the Northern Regional Military Command Commander, Major General Aung Zaw Htwe, and members of the SAC carried out a deliberate aerial bombing attack from Myitkyina Airport towards Waingmaw Township, despite no active fighting in the area. The target was the Naung Si Paw Kachin Baptist Church complex, located east of Shwe Nyaung Pin village. The bombing destroyed the church building, the pastor's residence, the church hall, staff housing, the kitchen, generator house, rice storage, church office, and various church properties, leaving them completely devastated and beyond recovery.

The Naung Si Paw Kachin Baptist Church had been built through more than 10 years of contributions from church members. Due to the political and military situation, the church had not yet been formally dedicated or opened for worship. Although it was newly built, its opening ceremony had not yet been held. However, it was destroyed by five bombs dropped from military aircraft, resulting in the complete destruction of the entire church compound.

Naung Si Paw Baptist Church is one of the local churches under the Waingmaw Zone Kachin Baptist Convention and is also under the Waingmaw Town Baptist Church. The church comprises more than 80 Christian households, while the Naung Si Paw village tract is predominantly inhabited by Shan people. Among the 43 churches within the Waingmaw Zone Kachin Baptist Convention, Naung Si Paw is one of them.

Following clashes between KIA and SAC forces, residents from Shwe Nyaung Pin village tract, including Aung Myay (1) and (2), Inn Lay village, Naung Si Paw village, as well as from Madin village tract (Laban, Mut Krait, Nant War, and War Shaung villages) were displaced and fled to various IDP camps in Nawng Ching village tract.

Despite the absence of civilians and church members, SAC forces accused the area of harbouring KIA and PDF forces and conducted an aerial bombing attack on December 14, 2025, at approximately 2:00 PM.

Arbitrary Arrests and Extrajudicial Killings

Two people were arbitrarily arrested during the reporting period in Myitkyina Township. Many of these abductions and unlawful arrests often resulted in enforced disappearances, causing fear and hardship for families. In additions, 13 persons were executed after being arbitrarily arrested.

A 30-year-old resident of Mazut Yang village, Lone Khin village tract, Hpakant Township, was arrested on June 6, 2025, by troops under Division 33, including Battalions (11), (47), and (76). It is unknown which specific battalion made the arrest. He was accused of being a PDF member and taken to the Mazut Yang detention camp.

The family sought help from the village chairman to explain that he was not a PDF member. On June 8, 2025, at around 10:30 AM, they were told to come and take him back. However, he was unable to go because he was following military columns. At around 5:00 PM that same day, when they went to retrieve him, they were told that he had escaped from the detention camp. This later proved false, as the family could not find him despite continuous searching.

With the assistance of a Chairman in gathering information, it was learned on June 10, 2025, that he had been taken back toward the military base area. The family now believes that he may have been tortured and killed on that same day (June 10). This account was shared by his elder sister, a church minister.

Hpakant Township in Kachin State is being targeted by the junta to expand its economic, political, and administrative control. According to orders from coup leader Min Aung Hlaing, Major General Aung Zaw Htwe (Commander of the Northern Regional Military Command) and militia leader Min Zin Thant were assigned to clear the area. They were given special responsibility to control the road to Hpakant and the entire gemstone-producing region, and to eliminate KIA forces.

As a result, arrests and killings have frequently occurred along the conflict routes. Min Zin Thant's group has been conducting ground attacks alongside Division 33 at the Hpakant strategic hill. The military has also been carrying out heavy-weapons attacks, drone strikes, and air bombings in the Hpakant area 24 hours a day.

On July 10, 2025, at around 12:30 PM, in Maw Hsi Sar village (Lone Khin village Tract), a man about 30 years old, who was selling pickled food near SKY Hotel, was shot twice by a militia group and died. He was from Ward (1), Nyein Chan Thar Yar village in Lone Khin village Tract. The victim's wife is a street vendor who sells in front of the Phan Hlaing Mini Market in Maw Hsi Sar village. The couple had been living as tenants in Nyein Chan Thar Yar village for about three years, according to a social assistance group.

The Chairman of the military in Naypyidaw, for territorial control operations, along with the Northern Command (NC) Commander, Major General Aung Zaw Htay, Kamaing tactical units, and Battalion 120, have been stationed along the Kamaing–Hpakant road.

They had taken positions in and around villages such as Nanyaar, Kap Maw Zup, and Saing Hpra, as well as at the entrances and exits of villages, including Pyae Ohn and Nan Tin. Because of their deployment, incidents have occurred where local residents' belongings were taken, homes were entered and searched, and property was stolen. The area has also experienced armed clashes involving military council forces, militia groups, and the KIA.

On November 6, 2025, in Kap Maw Zup village, while going to check the farmland during harvest time, at approximately 2:40 PM, it was reported that a man was allegedly detained and taken away by military forces and Min Zin Thant militia members. While he was travelling alone to his farm, communication was lost en route, and he has not been seen since. About a week later, Kamaing tactical officers, church elders, local community leaders, and elders from Nanyaar village went to investigate. However, they were told not to continue the investigation, and the family believes he may have died.



Due to ongoing security difficulties, farming families in the Kamaing area have frequently experienced disappearances and deaths while travelling to their fields. In villages along the Kamaing–Hpakant road, where armed groups are active, residents face severe security and political difficulties while trying to carry out farming and cultivation, especially during harvest seasons.

According to family members, this incident began on November 6, 2025, when he went from home to his farmland and went missing. After about nine days without his return, the family began investigations. With deep concern, family members and church elders searched the farmland area and reportedly found evidence that military forces had searched and ransacked a hut on the farm.

After the military coup, the military intensified actions that promoted ethnic and religious hatred in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. The junta organized local Shanni militias and targeted Kachin ethnic minorities and Kachin Christians in the town through arrests, killings, and intimidation based on ethnicity and religion.

Under the direction of Northern Regional Military Command commander Major General Aung Zaw Htwe and Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Kyaw Thu Ya, the military reportedly gave strong support and authority to local Shanni militias. Many killings and arrests have occurred in Mohnyin Township. Rising tensions and militia-related military activities have left local people facing significant difficulties and security challenges. Kachin villages and Aung Thapyay Ward in Mohnyin Township were accused of supporting the KIA, and many local residents were arrested in various ways.

During a Catholic worship service, three young men in civilian clothes entered the church while the priest was preaching during Mass. One of the attackers shot him in the face, twice in the abdomen, once in the right arm, and once directly through the mouth area. The bullet passed through his mouth, breaking four upper teeth, five lower teeth, and his jawbone. The attackers also threatened church members with weapons and warned them not to shout or speak, saying they would shoot everyone. According to witnesses, the three armed young men were members of the local Shanni militia.

The attack was seen as a deliberate act targeting the Roman Catholic priest serving in Mohnyin Township during a religious service. The incident was viewed as an act connected to ethnic and religious discrimination and violence carried out by local

Shanni militias linked to the military junta. The targeted priest, age 55, is originally from northern Mindat Township in Chin State and is a Chin Catholic priest. Under the arrangement of Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, he served as a Roman Catholic resident priest in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, for about four years.

After being shot by the Shanni militia, the priest received treatment in Myitkyina. He underwent five surgeries because the gunshot severely damaged his jaw, requiring bone replacement surgery. During treatment, he also received seven injections as part of the reconstruction process. It has been only a little over one year since his recovery began. He is now resting in Myitkyina under the care of Bishop Mung Ngwi La Sam. After surgery, his tongue was affected, and he has had difficulty speaking normally.

Due to the political and military situation, he has not been able to return freely to his hometown in Chin State and continues to serve in the religious ministry to which he is assigned. He stated that he "leaves those who harmed him to God's judgment and plan."

In Kachin State, the Roman Catholic community under the Myitkyina Diocese includes more than 350,000 believers. In Mohnyin Township, there are more than 300 Catholics. The Myitkyina Diocese has around 63 priests, and Catholic administration is carried out under the leadership of bishops and archbishops serving dioceses such as Myitkyina, Bhamo, and the eastern Shan areas.

In Myitkyina Township, especially around the circular road areas of Tat Kone, Ingyan Dung, Jara Pati, and Nan Kway near Battalion 37, military units from the Northern Regional Military Command, including Battalion 21, Battalion 37, artillery units, and local militias under the junta, carried out security operations. Young people and middle-aged civilians were frequently arrested, extorted for money, and forcibly recruited for military service.

At checkpoints around the city, authorities checked phones, motorcycles, cars, and personal belongings. Kachin youth were reportedly targeted more frequently during these inspections.

The deceased youth mentioned in this case was believed to have disappeared on April 5, 2026. According to the family, the victim passed through the road near Battalion 37, where communication was often cut off and phone calls could not be received. The family also stated that military and militia checkpoints in the area frequently stopped and interrogated young people and civilians.

On Sunday morning at around 10:00 AM, the victim told his grandmother that he was going to church and left home. He did not return that evening or the following morning.

On April 6, 2026, garbage collectors discovered a plastic-wrapped body at a dumping site in Aye Mya Tharyar Ward. They informed the ward administrator, who then contacted Police Station No. 1. A social welfare funeral association transported the unidentified body to the public hospital.²² After hearing the news, the victim's mother went to the morgue and identified the body as her son.

The family estimated that he died around 3:00 PM on Sunday afternoon. During examination of the body, the victim was found to have two stab wounds in the abdomen, cuts on the chest area, and injuries on the wrists that suggested he had been tied up before death. The family believed the killing was intentional and reported the case to the Kachin State authorities and requested an investigation.

²² Mizzima News, 14 April 2026



However, they stated that even the police admitted that security conditions in Kachin State were poor and that people could not fully protect their own lives. The victim's motorcycle and phone have still not been recovered. The family also stated that the victim's clothes had been changed after death to clean away bloodstains before the body was wrapped in plastic and abandoned. The deceased was aged 19. Although the family has demanded justice and an investigation, no answers have been provided to date.

On April 8, 2026, local residents and church members held a Christian funeral service and buried the victim in a Christian cemetery. Residents stated that similar cases of abandoned bodies being found in garbage dumping areas have become more common in Myitkyina after the military coup. Relatives of the victim reportedly informed the Kachin State Chief Minister and the Border Affairs Minister about the case, but no response has yet been received. Reports also stated that arrests and forced recruitment activities continue at checkpoints around Myitkyina, including Nan Kway (Battalion 37 route), Palana Gate, Long Kha Zup militia gate, Akye, and Shadaw gates.

In Myitkyina, frequent overnight household registration inspections and surprise checks are carried out. Civilians found outside after 10:00 PM are reportedly arrested and released only after paying up to 1.2 million kyats. Those unable to pay are reportedly subjected to forced military recruitment.

Security forces stationed around the Nan Kwe junction on the Myitkyina circular road, near the Northern Regional Military Command headquarters, have set up checkpoints in public areas. At these checkpoints, they inspect motorcycles, phones, cars, and personal belongings, and arrest people they suspect. Victims are taken to military compounds, where they face threats, beatings, torture, and, in some cases, killings. Local residents say Kachin people in Myitkyina have frequently been arrested and killed since the military coup.

One victim explained that on October 12, 2025, around 4:30 PM, he was stopped by junta soldiers while dealing with work-related matters. Soldiers searched his car, phone, and money, then beat him and confiscated his vehicle, phone, money, and computer equipment. He added that five junta soldiers arrested him and took him to Nan Kwe Creek, where he was severely beaten with weapons, sticks, fists, and kicks. He suffered injuries to his back, head, face, and forehead. He stated that the soldiers beat him until they believed he was dead, then threw him into the creek.

He stated that since the military coup, human rights no longer exist in Myanmar.

Later that evening, soldiers searched the creek by boat for his body but could not find him. He survived by hiding in the water until around 2:00 AM. He said he repeatedly prayed to escape alive. Eventually, the soldiers stopped looking for him, and he managed to escape. He then walked through several villages and neighbourhoods, crossing roads, bridges, and railway tracks before reaching his sister's house in Jan Mai Kawng Ward around 2:40 AM.

The next morning, he tried to receive treatment at Mali Zup Hospital, but the staff refused to treat him after seeing his injuries and condition. He later received assistance at another clinic and continued outpatient care for more than five months. He suffered serious injuries, including wounds to his back, chest, arms, fingers, face, forehead, and eyebrows. Some injuries required six stitches, and he said he could not properly use his hands for a long time. To date, he continues to suffer from headaches, back pain, facial pain, and old injuries that worsen during rainy weather. He also said the trauma has deeply affected his mental health and family life.

Before the incident, he worked in computer and internet communication services for his livelihood. He stated that since the military coup, human rights no longer exist in Myanmar. He shared this testimony based on his personal experience.

Another victim was reportedly a displaced person from Shar Htawng village, Hpakant Township, who had been staying with his brother-in-law, a traditional medicine practitioner, after fleeing conflict from Kyauk Phyar village. While working for the NGO Medical Action Myanmar (MAM), the young man, a Rakhine woman, and an ethnic Bamar man travelled to villages to provide healthcare services to local communities. During one of these trips, near the Nan Paung chicken farm area in Nan Kwe group, they were stopped and questioned by junta soldiers and allied Shanni militia members led by Captain Myat Min Aung and Operations Officer (G-2) U Tun Lin.

After the inspection, the man was arrested while the other two workers were released. According to local accounts, the incident appeared to target him because of his Kachin ethnicity and religion. Following the arrest, the Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) organization reportedly requested assistance from the Peace-talk Creation Group (PCG) and appealed to Kachin State authorities, including the Chief Minister, Northern Regional Military Command commander Major General Aung Zaw Htwe, and Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Kyaw Thu Ya, asking for his release. His wife also submitted letters and requests for help.

A report was also sent to the UNOCHA office in Myitkyina. Despite the notifications, the Chief Minister reportedly told family members that he did not know about the case or the detainee's whereabouts. His wife said she also visited checkpoints and military units near the Nan Paung chicken farm area, but officials denied having him in custody.

A pastor from the Myitkyina Baptist Church, together with church members, reportedly met with the Chief Minister to seek information, but were told that none could be found. According to his wife, the victim and she had been married for more than five years and had a three-and-a-half-year-old son. She explained that he had worked for Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) since January 2015, serving in the Bhamo office, the Myitkyina office between July and December 2017, the Hpakant Township office from January 2018 to February 2023, and from March 2023 until the time of his arrest.

In Kachin State, Major General Aung Zaw Htway, commander of the Northern Command, and Colonel Kyaw Thu Ra, Minister of Security and Border Affairs, together with military units operating in Hpakant Township, including Divisions 33, 77, and 99, and local commanders, reportedly conducted security operations with pro-military militia groups.

During these operations, military forces frequently stopped, questioned, and arrested civilians in mining areas and residential wards. These incidents increased after heavy fighting near Mashi Ka prison around April 2–3, before the Thingyan festival, when the military reportedly suffered losses. Following the fighting, on April 14, 2026 (Thingyan 'New Year' festival day), security checks on civilians were intensified. Military forces reportedly blocked roads and set up checkpoints at several locations, including the Uru River bridge, Saing Taung exit road, Khin Group area, near the monastery in San Kywel village, and the road junction toward Phar Pyin and Maw Maung Layan. Civilians, vehicles, motorcycles, and phones were checked.

On the same day, four young men going out to celebrate Thingyan were reportedly arrested near a military base. According to reports, they were severely tortured and later killed. They were abandoned near the Shwe Myanmar oil shop, close to the intersection of Mashi Ka prison and the municipal road, in a gray four-wheel-drive vehicle. The bodies of the four young men were reportedly dumped on the roadside at around 2:00 p.m. and remained there until after 4:00 p.m., according to a local social organization. Local residents later contacted a funeral assistance group, which recovered the bodies.

No fighting was reported in Hpakant on April 14, 2026. However, local sources said that artillery shelling from a military unit near the Ram Chat factory, close to a military checkpoint in Lone Khin village tract, and drone attacks in other areas had taken place.

According to local information, the four young men arrested by military forces were from Bala Kha village (three people) and Taung Byo village (one person) in Aye Myit Thar Yar - tract, Hpakant Township. The reason for their arrest remains unknown. Reports stated that the young men were not members of any armed resistance group but were local gold scavengers.



Members of a funeral assistance group reported signs of severe torture on the bodies. Injuries included damage to the face, hands, and eyes, wounds on the legs, tied wrists, and gunshot wounds to the forehead and chest.

Military officials, including Major General Aung Zaw Htway, commander of the Northern Command, Colonel Kyaw Thu Ra, Minister of Security and Border Affairs, Brigadier General Win Ko Ko (Hpakant military strategy commander), Major Thet Paing Htun (ground operation commander), and Colonel Wai Yan Soe (G-1 of the Hpakant military unit), together with pro-military militia groups (Min Zin Thant People's Militia), have reportedly continued conducting checks, questioning, and arrests in mining areas and residential wards in Hpakant Township.

According to reports, the victim was returning from San Kar village when his motorcycle ran out of fuel. While pushing his motorcycle near the entrance of Aung Yar village, in front of Kaung Pyi fuel shop and close to a military

checkpoint operated by military forces and Min Zin Thant militia members, gunshots were heard at around 3:00 p.m. on April 22, 2026. Funeral assistance members told KHRW that he was shot and killed.

The victim was identified as being around 25 years old, an ethnic Chin man, married with a two-year-old child. Reports stated that he suffered two gunshot wounds to the chest. Residents from nearby wards and villages helped transport the body, and a local social welfare group in Hpakant assisted with funeral arrangements and transported the body to the cemetery.

It was also stated that military forces had entered villages and taken positions in elevated civilian houses, reportedly using security reasons as justification. At present, Min Zin Thant militia groups continue to be stationed in many areas inside and outside Lone Khin village. Local residents reportedly face frequent questioning, phone and vehicle checks, arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment, and forced entry into homes by security forces and militia members. In addition, beginning on April 21, 2026, the KIA/KIO reportedly issued restrictions on travel along the Nant Yar–Karmaing (Hpakant road) route.

In Hpakant Township, Kachin State, the Northern Regional Military Command (Pa Ma Kha) commander, Major General Aung Zaw Htwe, and the Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Colonel Kyaw Thu Ya, together with military divisions operating in the area (Infantry Divisions 33, 77, and 99 in the battle zones of Hwe Kha, Lone Khin, and Hpakant), along with Brigadier General Win Ko Ko (commander of the Hpakant strategic base), ground operation commander Major Thet Paing Htun, and Colonel Wai Yan Soe (G-1 of Hpakant command), and junta-backed militia groups, have reportedly carried out operations involving searches and questioning in mining areas and wards.

They reportedly conduct inspections in public areas and detain young people suspected of involvement, using accusations to confiscate phones, vehicles, and other belongings. The militias are supported and supplied by the junta forces and are said to be involved in discriminatory practices based on ethnicity and religion. There are reports that they receive military assistance, including air support, weapons technology, logistics, and financial resources, in efforts to reassert control over Hpakant.

It is further reported that junta-backed militia groups frequently arrest and take civilians away from public areas, leading to repeated incidents of shootings. Some detainees are accused of being KIA members and are subjected to torture, including binding and other forms of abuse.

There are also reports of ethnic profiling, including restrictions on wearing Kachin traditional clothing at checkpoints such as Moe Nyin gate and Kamaing–Lawa gate.

In a separate incident in Lone Khin village tract, two young men were reportedly shot dead by junta forces on September 20, 2025, at around 3:20 PM. One was shot near the junction between Lone Khin village and Maw Si Sar village, near Pauk Oo tea shop, and the other near a construction site for a Rakhine cultural office in Maw Si Sar village.

According to the Lone Khin funeral assistance association, the victims were later identified as a young man, age 33, from Sagaing Region, and another man, age 36. Their bodies were left in the Maw Si Sar mining area.

Artillery Fire

KHRW documented 13 cases of artillery fire in two districts in Kachin State, resulting in the deaths of 8 civilians and injuries to 27.

In the Hpakant area, military offensives and attacks are occurring almost every day, and heavy weapons are also being fired daily. As a result, many local residents are fleeing to Myitkyina for safety. The renewed military offensive by the military and militia groups in Hpakant began in the first week of May 2025. Since then, fighting has occurred daily along the Hpakant road and in many parts of Hpakant town, including Lone Khin, the Seng Tawng area, Mashi Ka Htaung Village, Sharaw Hka village, Maw Maung Layan, San Kwel, Maw Wan Gyi, Maw Wan Kalay, and other surrounding areas.

During the first week of August 2025 in Hpakant Township, on a rainy morning, artillery fire by the Myanmar Armed Forces was launched from the strategic hill in Maw Wan Ward into civilian areas. As a result, a young boy, who was living in a rented house in Mrauk Phyu village with his parents, was killed.

His mother was injured and taken to a clinic for treatment. At least five other people from nearby houses were injured by the shelling. The military has continued to attack civilian areas with heavy weapons, small arms, and drones, even when no fighting is taking place.

According to funeral assistance groups, civilians are being killed daily because artillery shells fired by the military during clashes continue to strike residential villages.

Due to the military's inhumane actions, countless innocent civilians, including children, have lost their lives across the country. Before burying her son, the child's mother reportedly wept while placing her hands on his body and embracing his face in grief.

In a case that occurred the same week, a young woman who resided in Myoma Ward, Sut Jat village, was struck by heavy artillery while having her meal at 9:00 AM on 6 August 2025. An artillery fragment struck the top of her head. She was transferred from Hpakant Hospital to Myitkyina for further treatment, but she died at 3:00 AM a few days later on 9 August.



Within Hpakant Township, military junta forces and the militia led by Min Zin Thant of Shaduzup, operating under the military, have launched offensives against the KIA under the title of “area clearance operations.” Fighting continued throughout the day on 26 August 2025. During the clashes, the Myanmar Armed Forces fired artillery shells from the Hpakant strategic hill into civilian areas, causing houses to catch fire.

Soldiers from the military and militia were also reported to have looted property, arrested civilians, taken people away, and used them as human shields. At around 7:15 p.m on the same day, the military launched a drone bomb attack on the Buddhist Moni Zeya Monastery. The attack damaged the monastery's roof and brick walls. One monk and three novice monks were seriously injured. According to reports, the injured were taken to Lone Khin Public Hospital for medical treatment.

Politically and economically, Hpakant Township is an important natural resource area and has produced jade and gemstones for many years. It is one of the country's most significant economic regions, generating substantial tax revenue for the state and for armed resistance groups.

On September 8, 2025, at around 9:40 PM, heavy weapons were fired from the Hpakant strategic hill into Ba Zan Chaung village, Seik Mu village, and Hseng Taung village Tract. One shell exploded inside a jade mining site, and another 120 mm shell exploded in a residential house.

As a result, two men and two women were seriously injured. According to a social assistance group, four people working at a company site were also injured, and nearby buildings were slightly damaged. Residents say that the military often fires both heavy and small weapons into civilian areas at any time.

Ahead of the sham elections and the expansion of administrative control, the military increased its forces in Hpakant. Local people reported more arrests, forced recruitment, money extortion, and strict phone checks.

In Kachin State, military operations have been carried out by the Northern Regional Military Command under the leadership of Major General Aung Zaw Htwe, together with the Tanai Regional Operations Command (ROC-86), Light Infantry Battalions (238) and (297), and local militia forces led by Min Zin Thant (based in Shaduzup village), in coordination with the military junta. Since July 2025, they have re-established control along the Hpakant–Danai road.

From early 2026, junta forces and allied militias have launched renewed offensives against KIA Brigade 2, Battalion 14, and Battalion 20 areas. In Danai Township, militia forces led by Min Zin Thant burned more than 320 houses. In addition, Christian churches and the homes of pastors in Lawar village were destroyed by fire. More than 30 buildings of a Roman Catholic church (RCC) complex were burned. Over 120 houses in Khun San Zup village and 26 houses in Warra Zup village were also destroyed. These acts of arson were reportedly carried out deliberately by junta troops and militia groups.

In Lawar village, restaurants operated by Kachin Baptist Christians were looted by militia members, who took furniture and materials from inside the buildings. Ongoing clashes between KIA forces and militia groups continue within Tanai Township. Due to offensives by Danai-based military units and militias targeting gold-mining areas such as Aung Lut and Nam Byu, an incident occurred on January 6, 2026, at the Yekyi Chaung gold-mining site. While going to sell goods at the market, a 14-year-old girl was severely injured by artillery shelling from the State Administration Council (SAC) forces. She sustained serious injuries to her head, face, eye area, and body.

She was initially treated at Danai Hospital, but due to the severity of her injuries and a lack of adequate medical supplies, she was transferred to Myitkyina Hospital with support from church organizations. Doctors later indicated that surgery would be difficult there and recommended transfer to Mandalay Hospital.



Militia forces led by Min Zin Thant have been conducting offensives since December 10, 2025, targeting areas including the Tanai gold mines, Aung Lut, Nam Byu, and jade-mining regions, in coordination with operations against KIA Brigade 2 and Battalion 14. Military tensions have remained high.

The Tanai-based Regional Operations Command (ROC-86), has issued orders for civilians to evacuate from multiple mining areas, including Nam Byu, Aung Lawt, Wela, San Lun, Lamung Hka, Yekyi Chaung, Ton Mani, Dalu, Daka, and jade mining regions, while continuing offensive operations.

In Myitkyina, Kachin State, a drone attack occurred near the Northern Regional Military Command and the residence area of the Kachin State Chief Minister in Sitapu Ward. The location is also linked to military officials, including Major General Aung Zaw Htwe and Colonel Kyaw Thu Ya, as well as the Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

The attack damaged two houses, and an elderly person was injured in the face by broken glass from the explosion. At the same time, former military general U Tin Aung San, council member Daw Dwe Bu, the Minister of Electric Power, and other officials were reportedly in Myitkyina to discuss restarting the Myitsone Dam project.

As they prepared to fly from Myitkyina to Mandalay, a drone reportedly hit an aircraft at the airport around 8:00 PM. After the incident, junta forces fired heavy weapons toward civilian areas.

Destruction of Properties

The destruction of local villages and properties is an impact of the ongoing firing by the regime into areas frequented by civilians. KHRW documented that 5 homes were destroyed by artillery fire in Kachin State and 5 villages were deliberately burned to the ground.

In Kachin State, Hpakant Township, at Bu Yat Hill, troops from Military Commission Division-33 reportedly carried out heavy artillery and airstrike attacks from June 16 to 18, 2025, resulting in the destruction of the Kyaung Thwe Taung Pagoda in Sai Taung village tract.

Light Infantry Division 33, and militia groups under the SAC launched heavy artillery attacks toward Sai Htaung village tract (Sei Hmu village tract) in the early morning of 9 September 2025 at around 1:20 AM. As a result of the artillery shelling, shells landed and exploded on the school building of Seihmu village, Ward 3, in front of a Chinese temple, as well as on the Seihmu-3 middle school compound. The teacher's residence was also hit and damaged, and one house adjacent to the school was destroyed.

Due to this artillery attack, three people were injured, and school buildings and civilian homes were severely damaged. It was also reported that more than 20 rounds of artillery were fired by SAC forces that night. According to the Sangha Social Assistance Association, the three injured people were treated at Hpakant Hospital.

On 8 November 2025, in Yuma village, Seng Tawng village tract, a monks' offering hall (donation hall) within the compound of a Buddhist monastery, donated by the public, was completely destroyed. The damage was caused by artillery shelling from the Myanmar Armed Forces, with a shell striking and exploding on the roof of the building. The ceiling, wall bricks, tiles, wooden structures, furniture such as chairs, and many other interior belongings were extensively damaged.

At the time, the military had imposed regional orders in the towns of Myitkyina and Hpakant, Kachin State, prohibiting movement along main roads, streets, and alleys from 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM. Under Section 144, a shoot-on-sight order was in effect during these hours. Due to this order, there have been significant difficulties with daily livelihoods, particularly for wage labourers, affecting their ability to sell goods and engage in other economic activities.

Major General Aung Zaw Htwe, commander of the Northern Regional Military Command in Kachin State, and Colonel Kyaw Thu Ya, Minister for Security and Border Affairs, together with military units operating in Hpakant Township, including Divisions 33, 77, and 99, as well as Brigadier General Win Ko Ko from the Hpakant strategic command base, ground operation commander Major Thet Paing Htun, and Colonel Wai Yan Soe (G-1) of the Hpakant strategic command, along with junta-backed militia groups, reportedly carried out heavy artillery attacks that struck a family home in Sut Ja New Ward, an extension area of Myoma Ward in Hpakant Township.

As a result of the artillery explosion, two brothers, aged 13 and 7, were killed. Other family members and civilians also suffered serious injuries. Residents stated that such incidents frequently occur because junta forces fire heavy and small weapons toward civilian areas even when there is no active fighting.

The incident reportedly took place on February 4, 2026, at around 2:40 PM in a village near the Hpakant strategic military hill base. Due to the artillery shelling, the two brothers died, and many civilians were seriously injured. Funeral assistance groups stated that no medical support or compensation was provided by the junta authorities for the deaths and injuries.

The explosion affected six families and injured fourteen people. On February 6, 2026, at around 9:00 AM, funeral services were held with support from relatives and religious organizations. The Hpakant Baptist Church led the prayer service and later accompanied the bodies to the cemetery. Social and religious organizations, including the Hpakant Baptist Social Group, Kun Foundation, Manaw Metta Association, and various churches, also participated in the funeral arrangements.



The destruction of local villages and properties is an impact of the ongoing firing by the regime into areas frequented by civilians.

Drone Strikes

Drone strikes present a new and emerging threat to civilians. Reliance on motorized paragliders to target local communities is increasing, and they are being deployed more frequently in residential areas, resulting in high casualties. KHRW documented 2 cases of drone strikes, which injured seven and killed one.

On August 14, 2025, at around 1:00 PM, a drone bomb attack seriously injured five (5) civilians, and was carried out on the residential area of Rawan Hill, Sharawkha village, Hpakant township.

Civilians who had previously been resettled in the former relocation area were attacked on 14 August 2025 at around 1:00 p.m. in Rawam Kone, Sharaw Hka village, Hpakant Township. Forces from the military base and the strategic hill in Maw Wan Ward launched a drone and heavy weapons attack, seriously injuring five people.

The injured were transported to Hpakant Township Public Hospital by a local social welfare association. Military forces also fired artillery shells from the Hpakant strategic hill into civilian areas, causing houses to catch fire. In addition, soldiers from the military junta and militia groups stole property and frequently arrested civilians they encountered.

The military has imposed restrictive security orders in Myitkyina Township and Hpakant Township, Kachin State, as a form of intimidation against the civilian population. These orders prohibit travel on major roads, side roads, and in shaded or public gathering places, and ban gatherings of more than five people.



A curfew under Section 144 has also been imposed from 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. The junta has made civilians feel unsafe by stating that violators may be shot or prosecuted under the announced regulations. These orders took effect on 28 October 2021 in only Myitkyina township, which was later expanded to the whole of Kachin State on 23 January 2023.

Security in Hpakant Township has become increasingly strict. Arrests and detentions have been on the rise, and trucks and other transport vehicles have been extorted under various pretexts. Travellers from Hpakant to Myitkyina reportedly must pass through 44 checkpoints operated by militia groups, local defence forces, and military troops, creating serious difficulties for travellers. The transportation fare from Hpakant to Myitkyina is reportedly 300,000 kyats per person, and transporting a motorcycle on the vehicle costs an additional 300,000 kyats.

On September 17, 2025, at around 4:30 PM, a drone bombing attack by the military hit a residential area in Upper Maw Shan, Seik Mu village Tract. A 9-year-old schoolgirl was killed. Three others, including her younger sister and two teenage girls, were seriously injured and taken to the hospital by a social assistance group.

The next day, according to local residents, the military carried out an airstrike on a jade mining site in Hseng Taung village. The junta also used heavy weapons, drones, and airstrikes targeting areas such as Maw Maung Lyan, Shar Htaw, Maw Tawng, and Yu Ma, where civilians live and work. Due to these continuous attacks, civilians have been suffering daily casualties.

Near the end of the year, amid the junta's campaigning for its sham election on December 7, 2025, at around 10:50 PM, a drone bombing attack took place in Ward (6), Ma Laung village, Maw Hsi Sar village Tract, Lone Khin area. As a result, three members of a family were killed.

Witnesses reported hearing three drone bomb explosions. Two houses were burned down, and the bodies of the victims were severely burned. A 7-month-old daughter and another son survived the attack because they were away searching for jade in the mining area. When they returned, they found their house burned and their family members dead. On the same night, another drone attack by the military hit a monastery in the Aye Mya Thar Yar area, North Phyu Monastery. The dining hall was damaged, and one person was injured.

Indiscriminate Firing

The firing into local areas in Kachin State has put civilians on high alert. A young man, aged 17 and a Grade 9 student, was shot and killed on 4 July 2025, while locking the gate of his home in Maw Maung Layan village. The shooting was carried out by soldiers from Division 33 of the junta forces during a military column advance. A few days later, on 12 July 2025, a man was killed while driving a Land Cruiser. Military forces reportedly opened fire on his vehicle, causing him to fall inside the car and die.

After fighting near the Lucky Men Hotel in Seik Mu village Tract, retreating military troops reportedly set up a temporary camp at a gold mining site operated by the Ever Winner Company in Yuma village, along the Seik Mu–Hpakant road in Seng Tawng village Tract.

According to reports from funeral assistance groups, relayed by local sources, these troops arrested civilians passing through the area, interrogated drivers, and in some cases detained or shot them. The deceased was a jade broker, a shareholder associated with the Lucky Men Hotel. Local residents commonly referred to him as “boss.” He was said to be around 55 years old.

On the same day at around 9:00 p.m., an artillery shell exploded near Jade Land Company on the upper road of Maw Maung Layan village, west of Ashin Gyi Nat Sin Kone in Aye Mya Tharyar Ward, Hpakant. As a result, one house was burned down.

Landmines

Landmines have severe, long-lasting impacts on victims. In Myanmar, the country is currently the deadliest in the world for landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties.²³ The junta has planted landmines in local areas where unsuspecting villagers have lost limbs while traveling to work, or farming in their areas. Children have also been killed or severely injured by mistaking landmines and explosive devices as toys.

In Hpakant District, Kachin State, Brigadier General Win Ko Ko (commander of the Hpakant strategic base), ground operations commander Major Thet Paing Htun, and Colonel Wai Yan Soe (G-1), along with affiliated personnel and Min Zin Thant militia groups under the junta, have been active on the ground.

Landmines have been planted on public roads used by civilians. On November 8, 2025, at around 9:30 AM, between Sai Htaung village tract and Yuma village in Hpakant Township, a husband and wife riding a motorcycle were injured after a landmine exploded in front of the Shwe Myanmar fuel station.

The injured were identified as a man, aged 41, who sustained injuries to his left leg and ankle, and a woman, aged 32, who sustained minor injuries to her right arm and leg. In another incident, a passing motorcycle was also affected by an explosion, causing severe head and leg injuries and destroying the motorcycle.

²³ Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, Myanmar

According to the funeral assistance association, the most seriously injured person was a man, age 35, from Kyaik Taung village in Sai Htaung village tract.

Civilians continue to be harmed by landmines placed in public areas. From May to November 2025, approximately 24 people were injured due to accidental landmine explosions, according to data collected by a funeral assistance association. The injured were transported to Lone Khin hospital by funeral assistance vehicles.

Landmines have severe, long-lasting impacts on victims. In Myanmar, the country is currently the deadliest in the world for landmine and explosive remnants of war casualties.



Conclusion

As evidenced by the data and findings in this report, the human rights situation in Kachin State is rapidly deteriorating and urgently needs attention. The region is experiencing widespread violations of international law, such as lethal airstrikes targeting civilian structures, arbitrary arrests, forced recruitment, and obstructions to humanitarian aid.

Despite the harsh realities on the ground, the military junta has sought to fool the international community into believing in normalcy, a claim this report unequivocally rejects. Ethnic communities have borne the brunt of the nation's decades-long war and are increasingly at risk of being killed, wounded, or displaced in relentless assaults. With their humanity under attack, the impacts are long-lasting and catastrophic, particularly for future generations who are inheriting a history of violence.

“We call on the international community (especially the UN Security Council) to take more effective decisions and to apply pressure to immediately stop air defence and aerial bombardment of civilians. We also call for effective action to be taken against those who commit war crimes and crimes against humanity, which are being committed every day, through the International Criminal Court or other international courts, and for justice to be sought for the people,” said a local, Rawt Malan Jah, who called for urgent action to KHRW.

A federal movement is needed in Myanmar and must evolve through a bottom-up approach that centers on civilian needs. Their positions, calls and messages should be integrated into policies that govern with human rights in mind.

All stakeholders should immediately sever all ties with the terrorist military junta, including all meetings and engagements that could legitimize the regime. We also encourage donors and international funders to support locally-led organizations with decades of experience and trusted in communities to deliver programmes swiftly and reliably.

Recommendations

To ASEAN

1. We call upon the international community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to politically isolate the military council by refusing to invite their representatives to international summits and dialogues, thereby denying them any claim to legitimacy.
2. Cease inviting all junta representatives (political and non-political) to ASEAN meetings, summits, and mechanisms.
3. Maintain and strengthen the exclusion of the junta from ASEAN processes until violence stops and democratic transition begins.
4. Cease clinging to the failed Five-Point Consensus. Instead, it must adopt a new, effective strategy that includes engagement with all key stakeholders/representatives.

To the International Community and the United Nations

1. Take effective action through judicial mechanisms against those responsible for war crimes, including perpetrators of attacks on civilians in Kawng Ja Village, Bhamo Township.
2. Urgently implement coordinated and effective targeted sanctions to cut off supply chains of aviation fuel and munitions used in attacks against civilians.
3. UN member states exercise “Universal Jurisdiction” within their national legal frameworks to initiate legal proceedings and issue arrest warrants for Myanmar military generals responsible for war crimes.
4. Publicly acknowledge that the Myanmar military is responsible for widespread and systematic crimes.
5. Support international accountability pathways, including cooperation with UN mechanisms and evidence-gathering bodies.
6. Reject any ASEAN initiatives that normalize impunity or treat the junta as a legitimate stakeholder.

Recommendations

Recommendations to Humanitarian Aid Organizations

1. Provide timely emergency medical treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation support for children and civilians injured by airstrikes and heavy artillery shelling.
2. Collaborate to ensure unhindered humanitarian access for the delivery of essential food, shelter, and assistance to conflict-affected and displaced populations.
3. Shift from junta-controlled aid channels to direct cross-border humanitarian assistance through local CSOs, ethnic service providers, and community networks.
4. Ensure aid reaches conflict-affected areas without military interference.
5. Establish transparent monitoring mechanisms led by independent humanitarian actors.

"Inhumane Acts"

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