

## INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, describes the overall human rights situation in Myanmar with a particular focus on accountability for violations that occurred since 1 February 2021 and implementation on recommendations on the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities. The Office does not have access to Myanmar; these findings are based on over 155 interviews and meetings with victims, victim's advocates and witnesses and corroborated by satellite imagery, verified multimedia files, and credible open-source information.

## CONTEXT

Alleging electoral fraud in the November 2020 elections, the Tatmadaw launched a coup on 1 February 2021. Nationwide opposition to the military coup manifested through peaceful mass protests and a Civil Disobedience Movement.

Myanmar is now facing violence on a massive scale, including countrywide arbitrary detentions, unnecessary and disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters, extrajudicial killings, as well

## Between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2022

at least **1,400** people were killed by the security forces or their affiliates

at least **11,742** individuals were detained by the SAC and its affiliated armed elements

in and around **220** out of 330 townships saw armed clashes representing each state, region and union territory

as ill-treatment and torture in custody. In response to such mounting repression, individuals across the country formed community-based groups for neighbourhood watch, as others began launching attacks against security forces. Simultaneously, armed conflicts in Myanmar's border areas have continued and resurged, particularly in Kachin, Kayah and Shan states.

Armed resistance against violent military rule has increased and intensified, with armed clashes and attacks in each state, region and union territory, and in around 220 out of 330 townships.



## RIGHT TO LIFE

### KILLED DURING PROTESTS / RAIDS

Live ammunition to disperse and target demonstrators and perusing fleeing protestors, raids and searches to find suspected anti-military individuals

### KILLED IN CUSTODY

- Due to **lack of adequate medical care** for injuries obtained in raids
- Cruel and inhuman treatment and torture** especially during interrogation
- Increasing incidences** – average of 12 cases per month from February to June, July onwards average of 38, 70 deaths in December alone
- Frequently **relatives unaware of whereabouts of detainees**, remains disposed of without informing family or information not provided when requested
- Where returned **bodies showed signs of torture and ill-treatment**

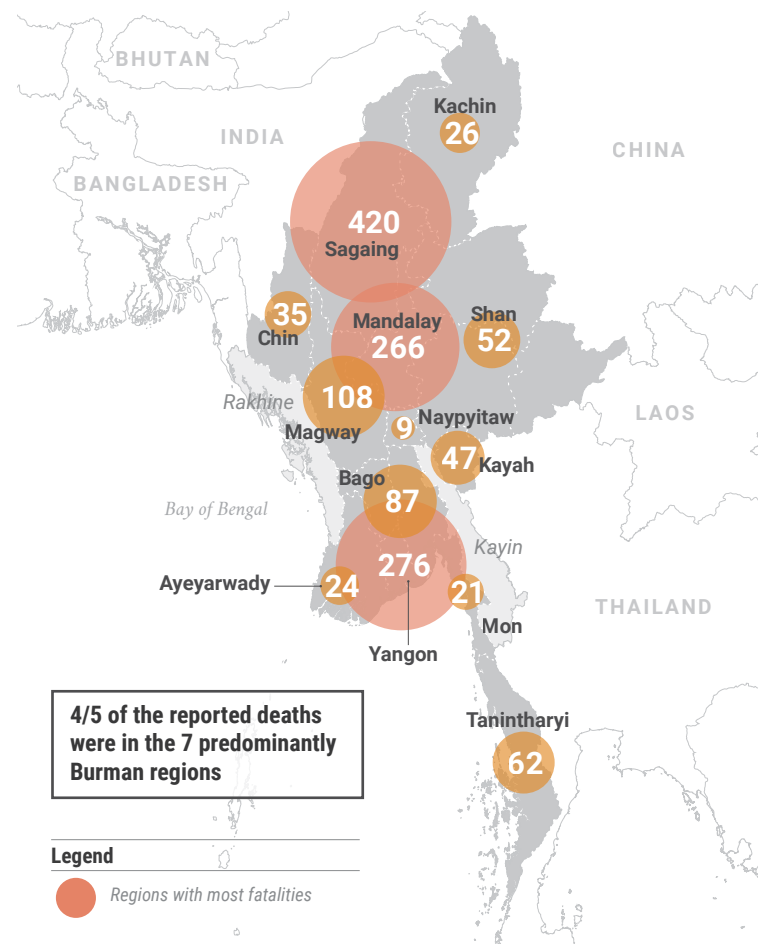
### KILLED IN "CLEARANCE OPERATIONS"

Starting from July 2021 several mass killings

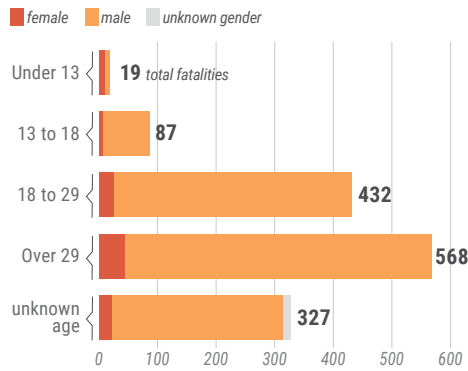
Some examples:

- 40 villagers in Kani Township** Sagaing Region in clearance operations in July including 9 corpses found in forest with bound hands and wounds consistent with knives and sticks
- Burnt remains of **11 individuals in Done Taw Village**, Sagaing Region in early December
- Burnt remains of **40 individuals in trucks in Hpruso Township** in Kayah State on 24 December

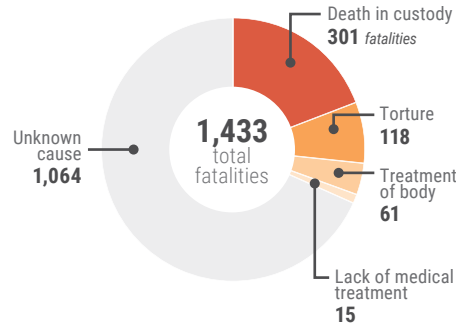
Fig. 1 Number of fatalities by region



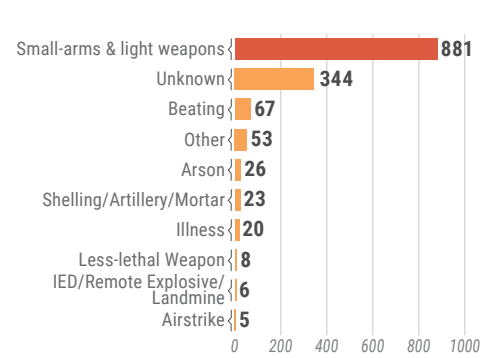
The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Fig. 2 Fatalities by age group and gender**

over **1200 men**, **100 children** and **200 women**  
**19 children under 13**  
 over a **quarter** of all victims were **aged 18-29**

**Fig. 3 Fatalities by cause**

over **20% killed in custody**, **14% other causes**  
 including torture, treatment of body and lack of  
 medical treatment

**Fig. 4 Fatalities by weapon**

over **60% killed by small arms and light weapons**, and **15% by other weapons** including shelling and IEDs



## LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON, TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

### DETENTIONS OCCURRED IN THE FOLLOWING CONTEXTS:

During protests

On the streets

In private residences

During "clearance operations"

Detention procedures evolved over time. In the first weeks, individuals were generally detained in police stations or prisons immediately following arrest. Over time, military authorities first sent detainees to military interrogation centres, prior to their transfers to police stations and onwards to prisons, or directly to prisons. Individuals spent varying durations at military facilities, and increasingly faced torture and other forms of ill-treatment during interrogations.

Following military custody, which likely amount to both arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, interviewees explained that the only way to find out whether a loved one was in prison was to send a food packet with the individual's personal details: if the packet was not returned to the sender, it meant the individual was being held in detention.

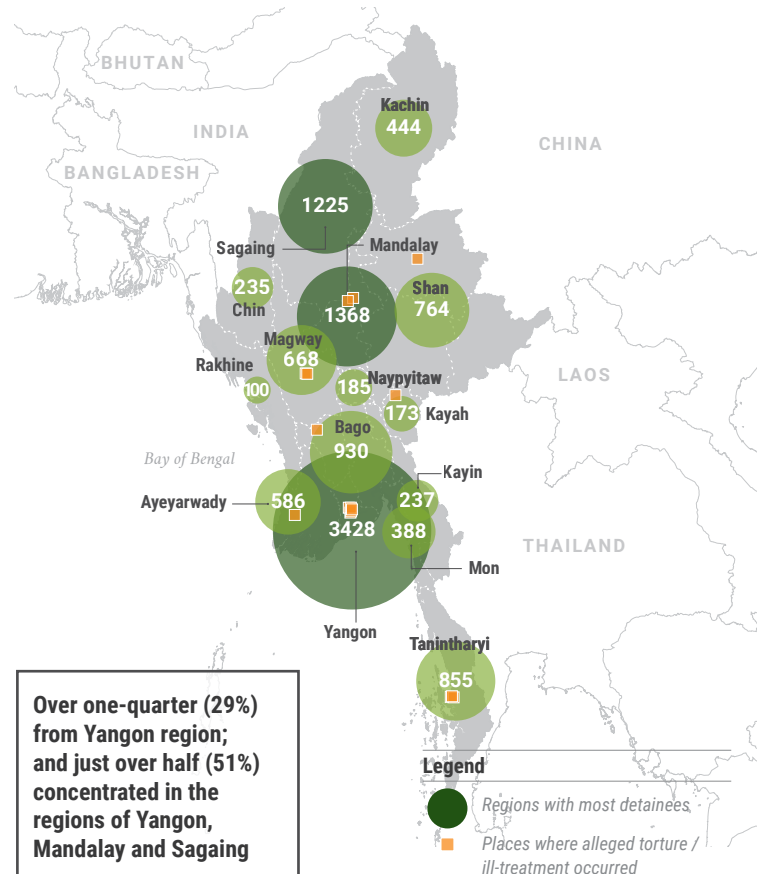
**"I was organizing some young people to protest against the military coup, asking for a return to power to the democratic government. ... It was International Women's Day and we had nothing in hand. We just had banners calling for eradication of dictatorship and empowerment of women. ... [W]hen the police came to arrest me, everyone ran into a nearby school. I was alone on the road. I knelt down and raised my hands. I thought they would handcuff me and take me to prison. But no, they ran to me and beat me. They put me into the truck and took me to prison. In the truck, the police beat me, pointed guns at me, and said they would kill me."**

– victim in Shan region

**"I think the police who arrested me was an army guy as the boots he was wearing were military boots. I told him, "You cannot beat me, I am a journalist, and there are laws in the country." That person said, "I don't care who you are and I will beat you."**

– victim in Yangon region

Persons released from detention described harsh prison conditions, including significant overcrowding. Physical distancing was impossible and there was no treatment for those who contracted COVID-19. Interviewees held in three different prisons across Myanmar also described a similar situation of some convicts given effective delegated authority by prison authorities to "discipline" political detainees leading to widespread extortion and abuse.

**Fig. 5 Number of detentions by region**

Over one-quarter (29%) from Yangon region; and just over half (51%) concentrated in the regions of Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing

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Fig. 6 Detentions by age and gender

Between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2022, the SAC and its affiliated armed elements detained at least:

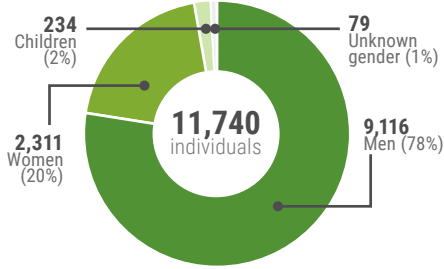
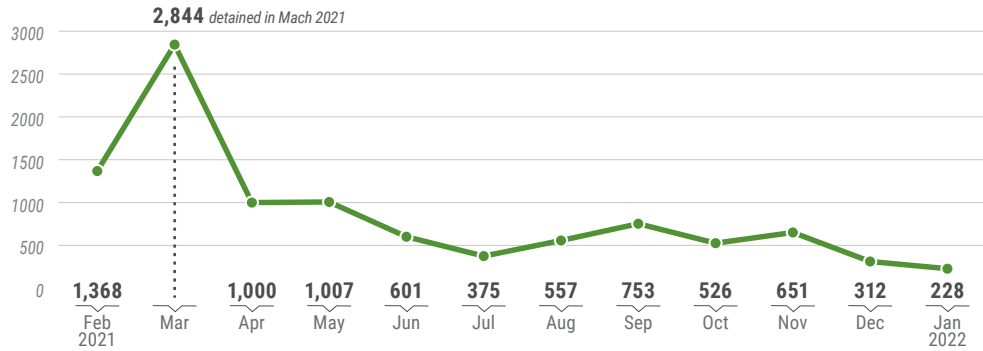


Fig. 7 Detentions by month



Another **1,971 individuals** were wanted by the SAC, forcing them to go into hiding

Furthermore, an additional **1,500 individuals** were detained between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2022 with an unknown month of arrest

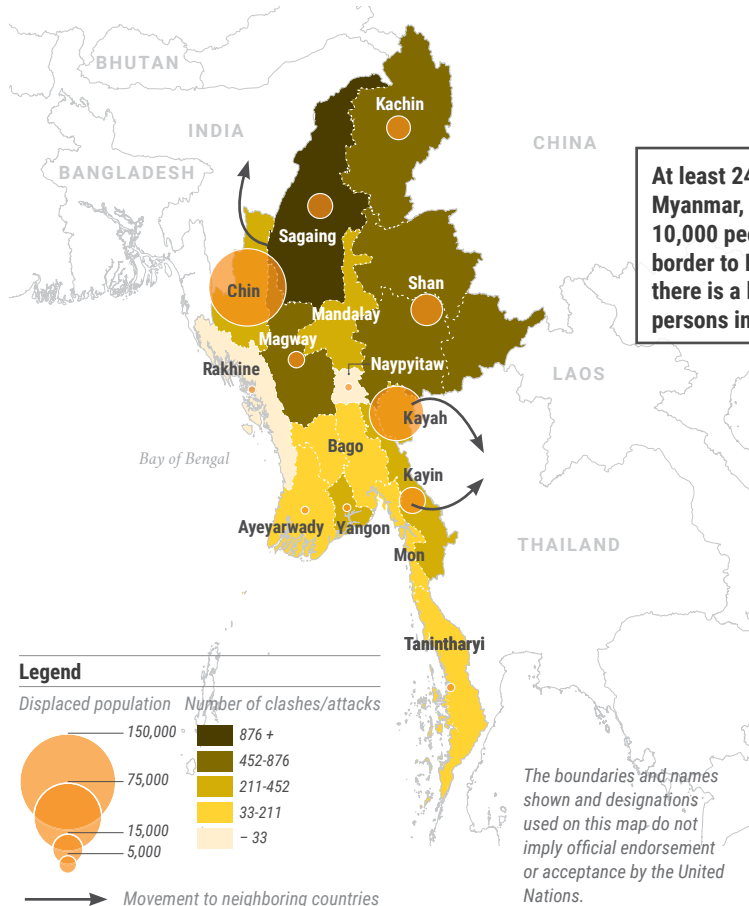
## INSECURITY, ARMED CONFLICTS, AND OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Myanmar is wrought with devastation that has destroyed the increasingly prosperous lives that many around the country had in recent years begun to enjoy. There have been armed clashes and attacks in each state, region and union territory, and in around 220 out of 330 townships.

Tatmadaw forces committed many violations during “clearance operations”, combing areas in search of members of armed groups and arresting, torturing, and summarily executing individuals, as well as looting and destroying property.

- Killings:** Small arms fire killed over 400 individuals; airstrikes, mortar and artillery shelling and other explosions killed approximately 150 persons; landmines or explosive remnants of war accounted for over 88 deaths.
- Forced labour and human shields:** At least 85 reported incidents involved the Tatmadaw forcing individuals to perform labour and act as human shields as their troops advanced.
- Displacement:** Over 441,500 people have been displaced from their homes around the country since February 2021.
- Property destruction:** Over 400 Tatmadaw attacks on populated areas involved property destruction, destroying thousands of houses and other buildings including churches and food stores.

Fig. 8 Incidents of clashes/attacks and displacement



At least 240,000 people in Kayah and Kayin states and other parts of south-east Myanmar, 191,500 people in Chin State, and Sagaing and Magway regions, as well as 10,000 people in Shan and Kachin states. More than 15,000 people have crossed the border to India or Thailand. Many more people have been temporarily displaced and there is a large, pre-existing protracted-displaced population including over 220,000 persons in Rakhine State and over 106,000 on Kachin and northern Shan states.

Fig. 9 Incidents by type

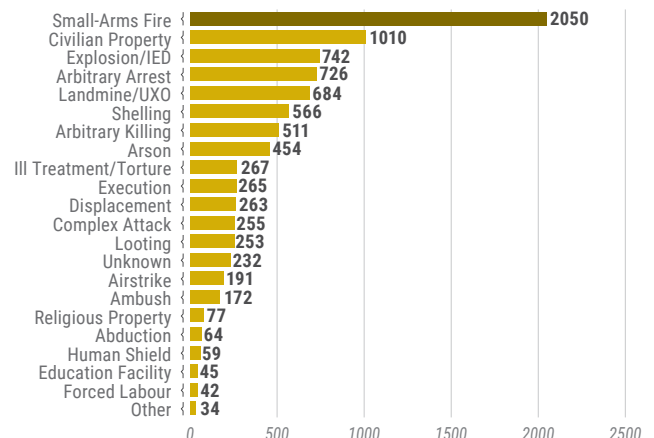
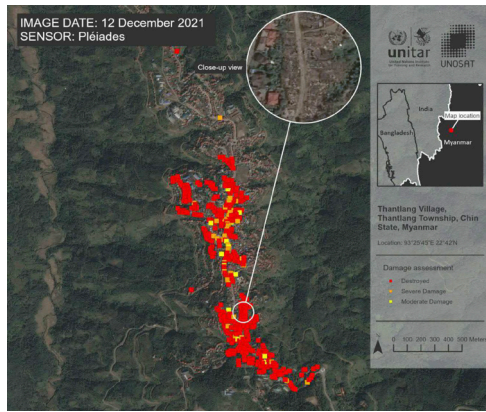
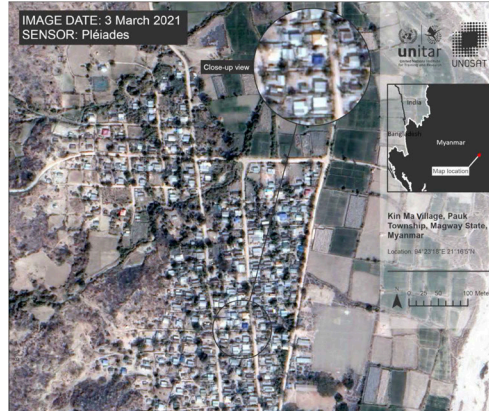




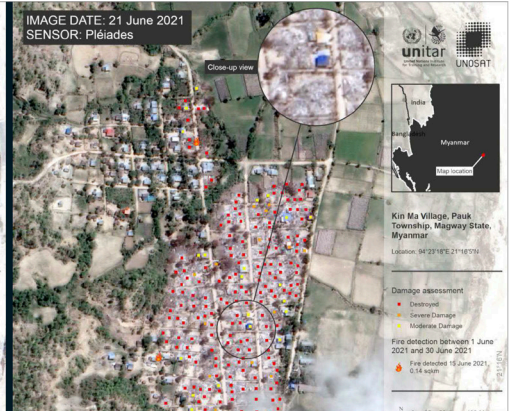
Fig. 10 Satellite imagery of select incidents involving property destruction



Damage assessment of Thantlang Village, Chin State



Damage assessment of Kin Ma Village, Pauk Township, Magway State



## ROHINGYA

- » Situation in Rakhine state relatively stable but the overall human rights situation of the Rohingya community has seen no improvement.
- » Further deteriorations in some aspects for example new restrictions on freedom of movement for Rohingyas in some areas with additional travel authorisations or permits.
- » A COVID-19 vaccination campaign is being rolled out but effective coverage for Rohingya is hindered by travel and authorization costs and access and availability issues
- » Conditions in Rakhine State remain unconducive for safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable returns of refugees and IDPs
- » Some who chose to return due to security concerns in the camps in Cox's Bazar were arrested, charged and prosecuted for illegal entry
- » Security situation has worsened for Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh with criminal groups fighting daily to gain control in the camps and threatening, beating, kidnapping, and killing unaffiliated camp residents

### Outstanding issues that remain:

- ▶ **deprivation of citizenship rights and civil documentation**
- ▶ **restrictions on freedom of movement**
- ▶ **lack of access to health and education services and livelihood opportunities**
- ▶ **lack of right to return for refugees and displaced persons**
- ▶ **lack of justice and redress for past violations**
- ▶ **humanitarian access is time-limited, location specific and restricted**

## ACCOUNTABILITY / CONCLUSIONS

- » **Acts by the Tatmadaw were carried out in the context of a widespread and systematic attack directed against civilian populations, and in apparent pursuance of a policy.** These include, murder, forcible transfer of population, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law, torture, persecution against any identifiable group or collectively on political grounds, enforced disappearances, and other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.
- » **When linked to an armed conflict, some of these acts may also amount to war crimes.** Additionally, in the conduct of hostilities, attacks against civilians and civilian objects, using human shields and forced displacement, constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law amounting to war crimes.
- » **Action is urgently needed to stem the pace at which individuals are being stripped of their rights, their lives and their livelihoods.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

▶ **To the military authorities:** cease all violence and attacks against the population, release all prisoners detained for exercising their rights and discontinue politically-motivated prosecutions

▶ **To all parties in Myanmar:** facilitate unrestricted humanitarian access, fully respect human rights norms and, where applicable, international humanitarian law, cooperate fully with Special Envoys of the UN and ASEAN and accountability mechanisms

▶ **To the international community:** protect and assist individuals crossing international borders including the Rohingya population and ensure any returns are dignified and voluntary, refer the situation to the International Criminal Court, ensure any political solution respects transitional justice measures, prevent the supply of arms, apply targeted sanctions as appropriate, encourage businesses to cease working with military owned or affiliated entities