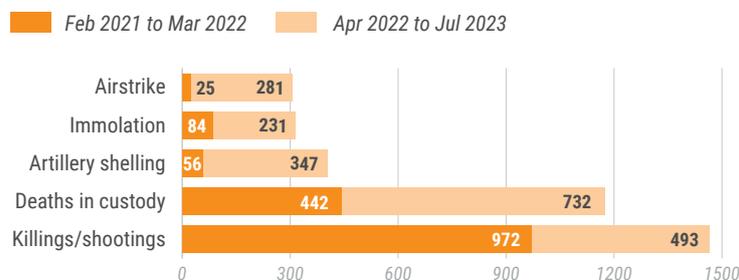


This report, prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, examines trends and patterns in violation of international law from **1 April 2022 and 31 July 2023**. The Office does not have access to Myanmar; findings are based on over **161** interviews with victims and survivors, corroborated by satellite imagery, verified multimedia files, credible open-source information, and regular collaboration, data and information exchanges with local and international organizations and duty-bearers. **Figures of casualties likely represent an underestimation of the reality on the ground.**

## Between 1 February 2021 and 31 July 2023



## Killed by tactics



## AIRSTRIKES

Military use of airstrikes has significantly increased in the reporting period with some **687** attacks carried out compared to the **301** between **1 February 2021 and 31 March 2022**. Credible sources verified that military airstrikes have killed at least **281** individuals, instilling terror in the civilian population, who now reasonably fear they could be bombed in their homes, at schools, hospitals, and religious buildings, and when gathered as a community. While previously the north-east and south-east, particularly in Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin, were the most targeted areas, the report notes a **330** percent increase in airstrikes in the central regions with figures raising from **79** to **344**. Sagaing alone accounts for **258** of the **344** airstrikes and **36** percent of the total nationwide. Of further concern is that airstrikes have repeatedly been combined with measures that systemically deny the ability of those injured to access medical care.

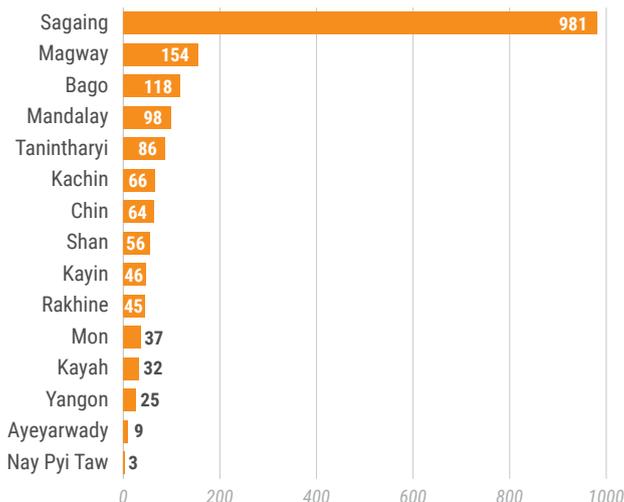
## Total number of Airstrikes



## Killed by airstrikes in regional areas

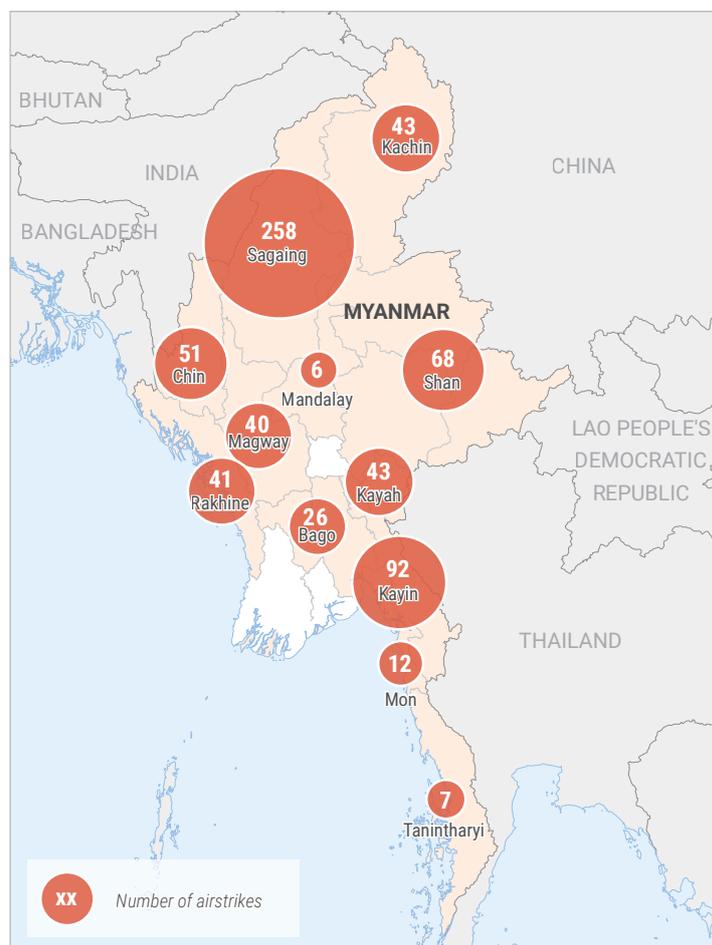


## Killed by State/Region in the reporting period



In the third year since the coup, the human rights crisis has continued to deteriorate mostly due to **systematic use by the military of airstrikes, mass killings, and burnings** against the civilian population. Emboldened by confidence in impunity, military actions have grown in intensity and brutality resulting in interconnected humanitarian, political, and economic crises. **Denial of humanitarian access to people in need of life-saving aid persisted**, even following the disastrous impact of Cyclone Mocha. A seemingly endless spiral of military violence has engulfed all aspects of life in Myanmar. Increasing protection concerns for the civilian population derived also from violence by anti-military armed groups. These acts, however, remain limited in scale, proportion, or scope compared to military violence.

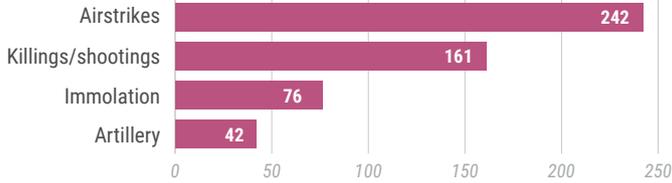
## Airstrikes by State/Region in the reporting period



## MASS KILLINGS

Ground operations continued to represent another major threat for the protection of the civilian population as the **brutality of the military** has continued to intensify. Military forces have repeatedly entered villages, rounded up residents, and executed them. Soldiers made use of an appalling selection of methods likely amounting to inhuman treatment to inflict unimaginable pain on their victims, including by **burning** them alive, **dismembering, raping, beheading, bludgeoning**, and using them as protection against attacks and landmines. A **mass killings** is considered an incident in which at least **10** civilians were killed.

### Civilians killed in mass killings by tactic

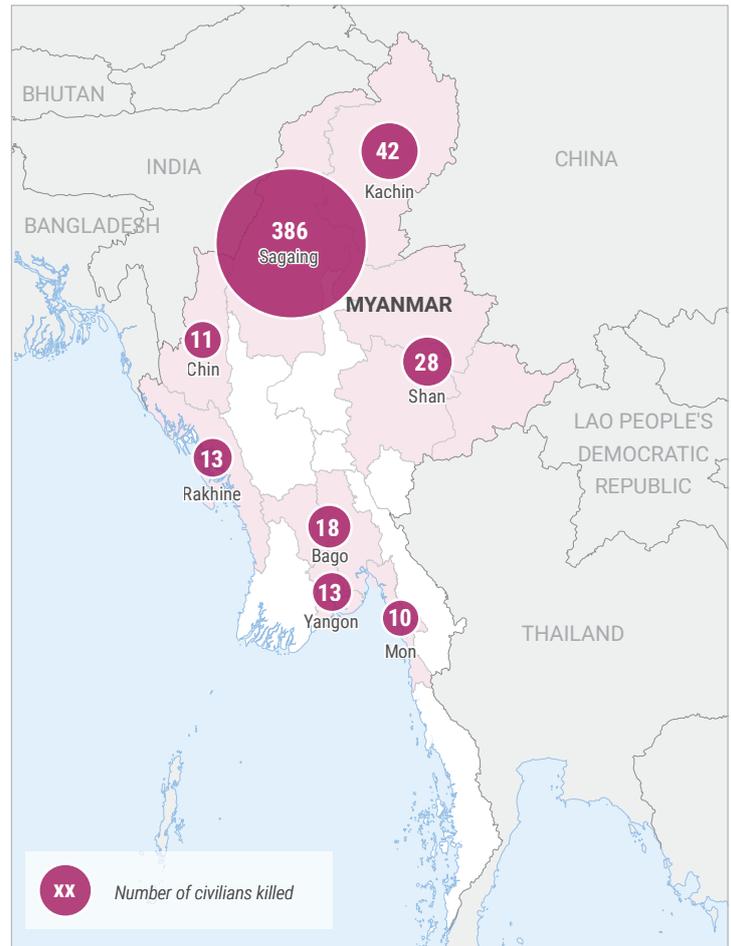


"After the bombings, there was a lot of chaos. There were body parts and blood everywhere. People were crying for help. We could not identify the people and just tried to collect all the wounded people in one place."

"I know these guys; they are like my brothers. One of them is my former classmate. When I saw them, I went mad. I could not breathe."

"There were wounded people shouting, 'help me help me help me!' I took them out of the fire and brought them to the hostel of the monastery. I brought 7 wounded people. Their whole bodies got wounded, including their legs, arms, and faces."

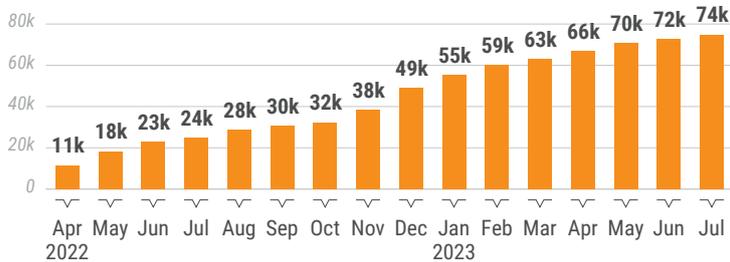
### Civilians killed in mass killings by region



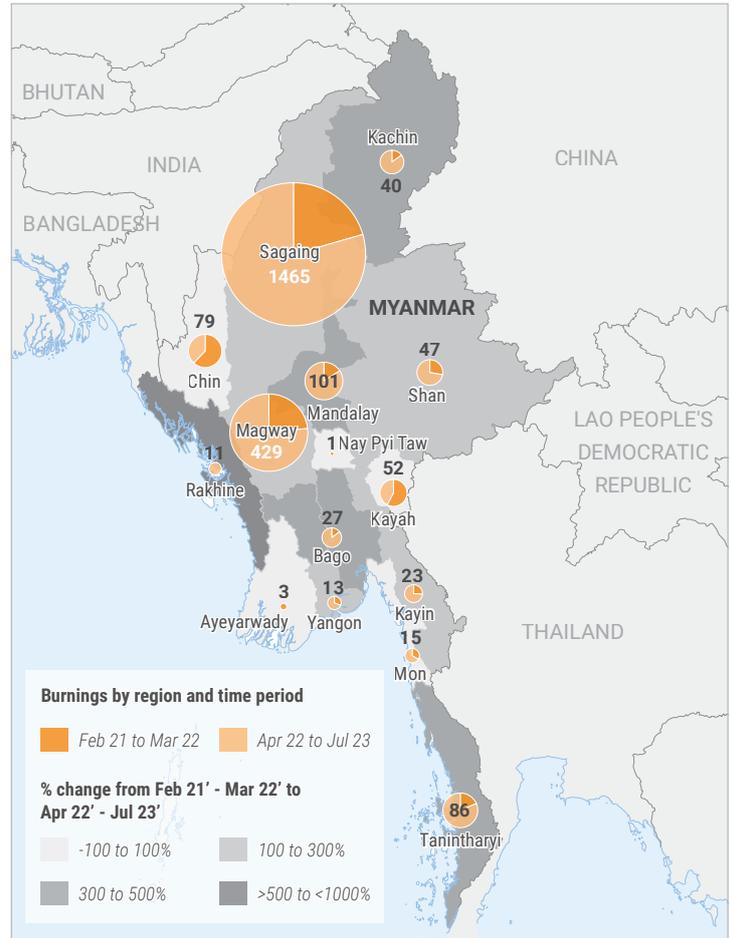
## BURNINGS

**Burnings**, which remain widespread and systematic, represent a further affront to civilian protection. Forming a key tactic of the **military's "four cuts" strategy**, the military burns not only homes, but also targets food stores, seed banks, and livestock, to punish a perceived hostile population and prevent access to food for its opponents. These acts cause **immediate and long-term harm** and force the civilian population to live in precarious conditions exposed to numerous man-made and natural hazards, including extreme weather conditions, snakebites, and landmines.

### Burnings: estimated civilian properties burnt or destroyed by month



### Burnings by region and time period



## Tint Tei, Shwebo Township, Sagaing

On 12 February 2023, in Tint Tei village of Shwebo Township, Sagaing, the Myanmar military troops and Pyu Saw Htee members set fire to houses in the area. A total of 400 houses were burnt in the area.



The analysis conducted using an image collected on 4 April 2023 show that the village of Tint Tei has been partially burned.



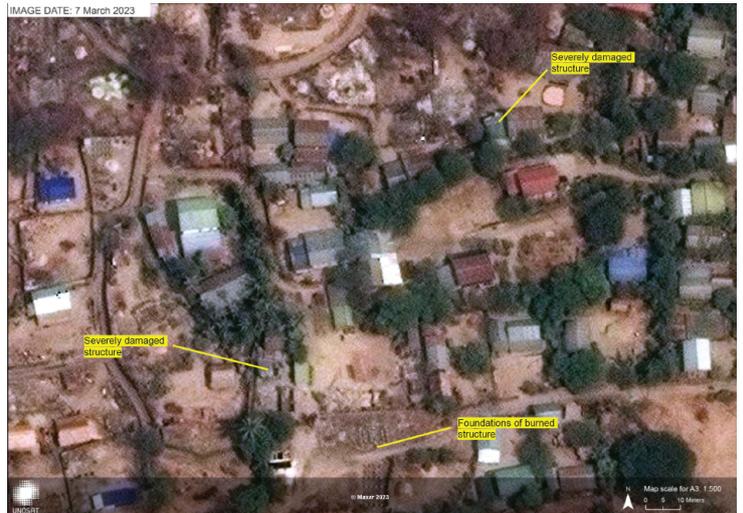
In the northern part of the village, several buildings have been severely damaged and burned. The damaged and burned structures have visible debris in the vicinity of the building footprint.

## Let Pan Hla, Khin-U Township, Sagaing

On 13 February 2023, in Let Pan Hla village, Khin-U Township, Sagaing, the military opened fire before raiding the village and set fire to about 200 houses and 1,000 rice bags in the morning, killing a 70-year-old nun in the fire.



The analysis conducted using an image collected on 7 March 2023 shows that the village of Let Pan Hla has been partially burned.



A close up view central part of the village showing several footprints from previous building indicating that the village have been partially burned.

## Military campaign in Kachin

Between 23 March and 11 April 2023, in Shwegu Township, Kachin, satellite images confirm testimonies indicating that **1,424 houses in 14 villages** were damaged or destroyed. According to interviewees, on 23 March, fighting occurred between the military and anti-military armed groups in Nawng Let

Gyi and Man Wein villages, where the first hundreds of houses were burnt. In the following days, hostilities spilled across nearby villages and soldiers arrived at Man Wein, Si Thar, Si Thaug, Si Mu Lay, Si Mu Gyi, and other villages, and torched houses.

### Man Wein



Between 12 March and 21 May 2023, of the 326 structures in the village, 217 of these structures were damaged or burned, which amounts to 67% of the total.



A close up view of the central part of the village on 21 May 2023 shows damaged and burned structures with some visible debris, indicating that the village has been burned.

### Si Thaug and Nam Lein



Between 12 March and 21 May 2023, of the 557 structures in the village, 350 of these structures were damaged or burned, which amounts to 62% of the total.



A close up view of the central part of the village show burned structures, some with debris. This indicated that the village has been burned.

## Si Thar and Man Nar



This image collected on 12 March 2023 shows the villages of Si Thar and Man Nar without any signs of damage or burning.

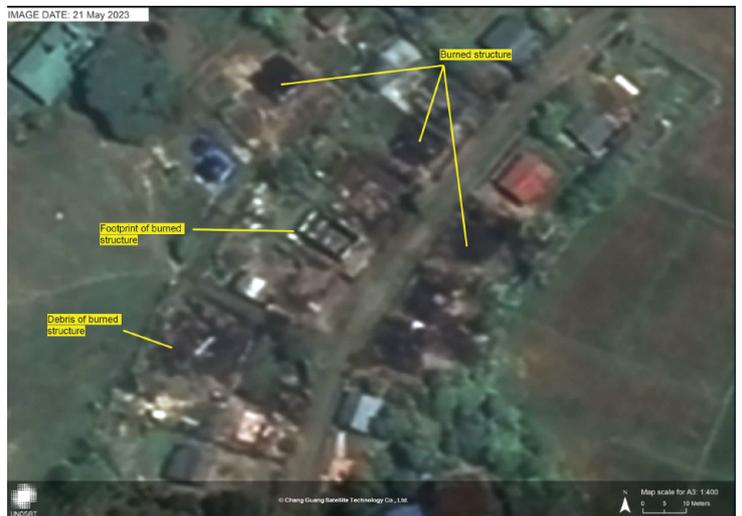


Between 12 March and 21 May 2023, of the 521 structures in the village, 207 of these structures were damaged or burned.

## Si Mu Lay



Between 12 March and 21 May 2023, of the 151 structures in the village, 105 of these structures were damaged or burned.



A close up view of the central part of the village show damaged and burned structures with some visible debris.

## Nam Land



This image collected on 12 March 2023 shows the village of Nam Lang without any signs of damage or burning.



Between 12 March and 21 May 2023, of the 312 structures in the village, 180 of these structures were damaged or burned.

"Some of the bodies were not burned completely. We saw the throats cut on some of the bodies. We saw marks of blood coming out of their bodies. We saw two bloody pools, lots of blood near the bodies. Before they died, they might have been tortured. We also saw some of the brain parts on the ground, which means their heads were severely damaged before their bodies were burned."

"It started at 10.00am, they came to the village and burned down the village. Around 60 soldiers and 20-30 Pyu Saw Htee came three times in three days. The first day they came, they burned 149 houses. They returned the day after and burned down one more house. The third day, they burned 12 more houses. The village used to have 220 houses before."

"Around 8:30am, 80 soldiers arrived from Budalin Township, reached Sone Kone village, and started burning houses. They burned to death elderly people including a blind person and someone who is paralyzed. Those are 7 elderly people. They perished by burning. Also, 175 houses were burned to ashes. They destroyed the food storage and the rice storage as well as the motorbikes. Goats, sheep, and cows were also burned alive."

"They did not burn only the houses but also the garden where we grow vegetables and food. Now we live nearby the village, where there are trees and we can get water. We use palm tree branches as shelter. Some people donate food, but we can only survive for 2-3 months – in the long-term there will be problems. Farmers don't dare to go out and work on farms because they are too afraid of the military."

"They dropped another bomb like a firebomb. It looked like when you put gasoline into a fire. The firebomb created a huge fire and burned down the houses and the monastery."



## ROHINGYA

**116 Rohingya** have been reported by the military as dead as a consequence of the landfall of **Cyclone Mocha** in Rakhine on 14 May 2023. While initial figures claimed some 400 deaths, the military threatened legal actions against individuals and outlets reporting figures different than those provided by them, effectively preventing any further documentation. The military stated that 148 people lost their lives, clearly demonstrating the **disproportionate impact suffered by the Rohingya community**.

**Key contributors to these tragic events are the persistent conditions of confinement in camps** for over **150,000** Rohingya, most of which were located near the sea or in **low-lying areas prone to flooding, flimsy dwellings, limited available evacuation options, and inadequate information and advanced warnings**. Some reported on the impossibility for Rohingya to freely move to seek refuge. Some did not heed warnings due to the lack of trust in military.

**Denial of humanitarian access by the military** prevented the provision of life-saving medical assistance and treatments, shelter materials, food, and clean water. Restrictions on humanitarian access affected the Rohingya and all communities in Rakhine. Due to the already disastrous living conditions of the Rohingya community, persisting military actions denying aid pose a serious threat to their survival. Victims are unable to feed daily their children and widowed women are forced to beg for food, exacerbating risks of exploitation and abuse.

**Conditions for dignified and sustainable returns do not exist.** Despite this, the military insisted on returning approximately **1,000** Rohingya from Bangladesh. None of the key human rights issues, including citizenship, security, fundamental rights and freedoms, were addressed in the repatriation plan of the military.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### To the military

- ▶ Immediately implement Security Council resolution S/RES/2669(2022) ceasing all violence
- ▶ Allow for full, unrestricted, predictable humanitarian access to all those in need by international and national organizations
- ▶ Support inclusive and transparent political processes to return Myanmar to a path of democratic development
- ▶ Take all necessary measure to ensure that members of the Rohingya community are not further victimized
- ▶ Provide OHCHR with meaningful access to Myanmar

### To all parties in Myanmar

- ▶ Protect civilians in full respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law
- ▶ Allow for full, unrestricted, predictable humanitarian access to all those in need by international and national organizations
- ▶ Cooperate with relevant international human rights and accountability mechanisms to support evidence-gathering processes on crimes committed in Myanmar against the civilian population
- ▶ Ensure that allegations of human rights abuses against the civilian population are promptly and transparently investigated and that perpetrators are held accountable

### To the Security Council and Member States

- ▶ Refer the full scope of the current situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court and continue to support documentation and accountability efforts
- ▶ Ensure that no direct and indirect supply of weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, dual-use goods, and jet fuel is provided to the military
- ▶ Collaborate with the private sector to avoid providing revenues to the military that may be used to commit human rights violations and other crimes under international law
- ▶ Ensure that Rohingya in Myanmar, Bangladesh, and elsewhere have access to sufficient food, medicines, and shelter and take concrete actions to process voluntary resettlement, while granting asylum to Rohingya victims of human rights violations