

INTRODUCTION

This factsheet complements the report prepared by the Myanmar Team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights monitoring developments in the human rights situation in Myanmar with a specific focus on accountability and the human rights situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities. Covering **1 April 2024 to 31 May 2025**, it draws on over 289 victim and witness interviews, consultations with NGOs, UN entities, and experts, and analysis of satellite imagery, official documents, and credible open sources. Financial constraints during the period limited verification capacity, reducing the scope of incidents documented.

CONTEXT

This report examines human rights violations in Myanmar, highlighting violations and protection concerns of the civilian population due to military violence and abuses by anti-military armed groups. It specifically details crimes and violations committed against the Rohingya and other ethnic communities, as well as violations perpetrated across the country, specifically in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Shan emblematic of those suffered throughout the country. It raises concerns on relentless attacks against civilians, restrictions on humanitarian access, including after the March 2025 earthquake, forced recruitment, food insecurity, a rampaging economic crisis, and other human rights violations and abuses documented during the reporting period.

VIOLENCE, CONFLICT, AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Over four years since the military coup, the human rights situation in Myanmar remains dire, marked by the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian objects, including markets, schools, homes, places of worship, and camps for displaced persons. Atrocities such as extrajudicial killings, mutilation, and widespread destruction of property have been documented, alongside the use of airstrikes with no discernible military objective, raising serious concerns of war crimes. Repeated attacks on the same sites appear aimed at instilling fear, driving displacement, and preventing the return of affected communities.

Between 1 February 2021 and 31 May 2025, credible sources verified that the military killed a minimum of 6,764 civilians, including 1,409 women and 810 children. The military had arrested 29,209 individuals on political grounds, of which 22,074 remained in detention, including 4,234 women and 235 children. Military-controlled courts sentenced 172 detainees to death without respect for due process, fair trial rights, or judicial guarantees of independence.

Figures between 1 February 2021 and 31 May 2025

	6,764	Killed by the military and their affiliates
	29,209	Persons arrested on political grounds
	22,074	Persons still detained on political grounds
	481	Killed after military ceasefire announcements
	15.2M	Projected to face acute food insecurity
	12.9M	Requires emergency food assistance

Fig.1 Civilian deaths by year

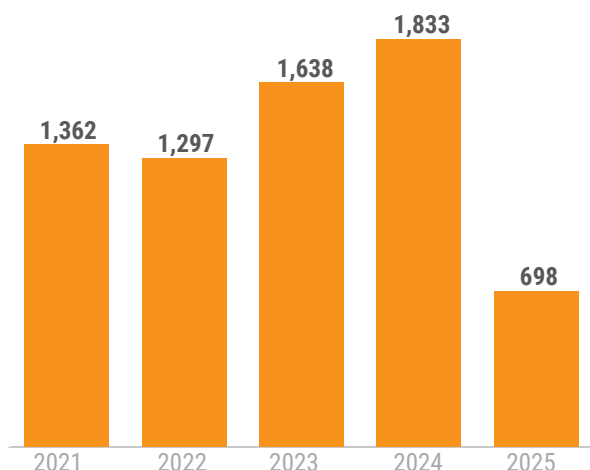
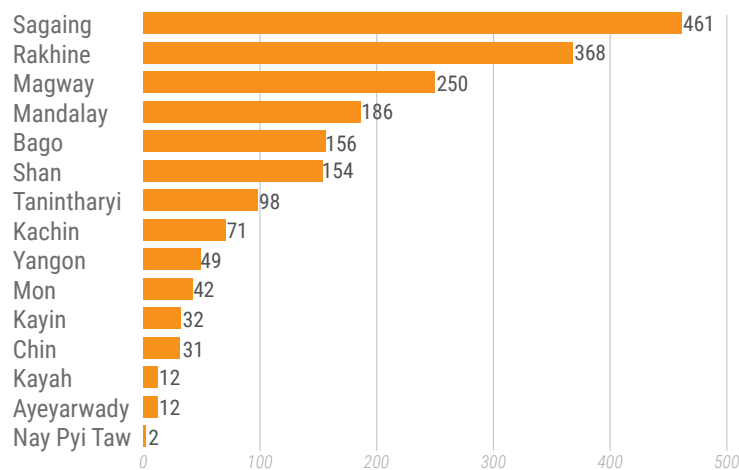
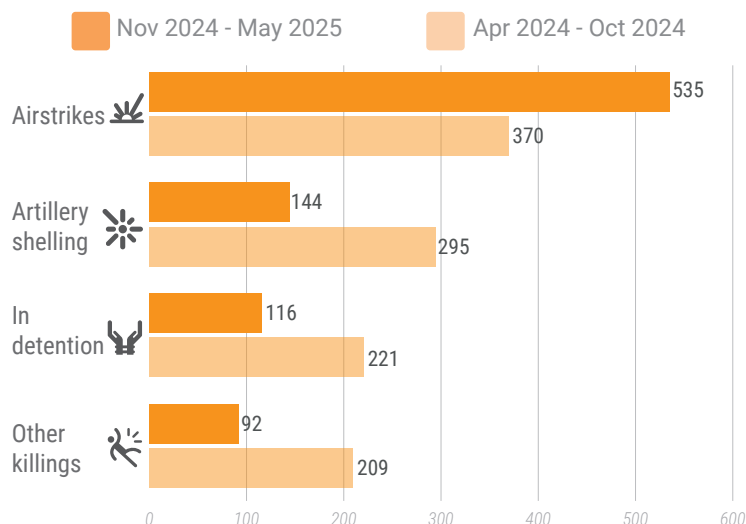


Fig.2 Civilian deaths disaggregated by State and region



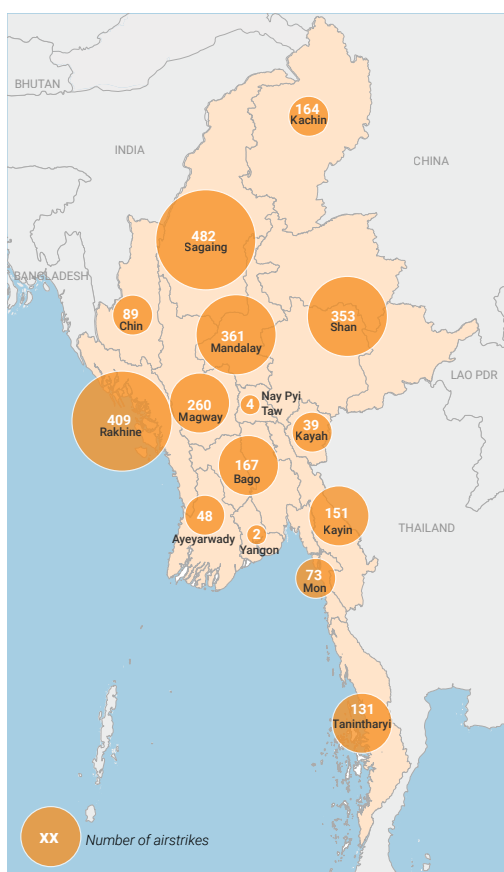
Increased military reliance on airstrikes continued to result in civilian casualties. Credible sources indicated that nearly half of all verified civilian deaths occurring during the reporting period – 838 out of 1,811 civilians killed – were directly caused by aerial attacks. While 2024 was the deadliest year for civilians due to airstrikes with 642 verified deaths, by the end of May 2025, the total civilians killed have surpassed over 67 percent of the previous year's total. Comparative analysis of available figures highlighted that aerial attacks increased by 63 percent in the second half of the reporting period, with 1,665 incidents compared to the 1,057 incidents in the first half.

Fig.3 Deaths by tactics within the reporting period



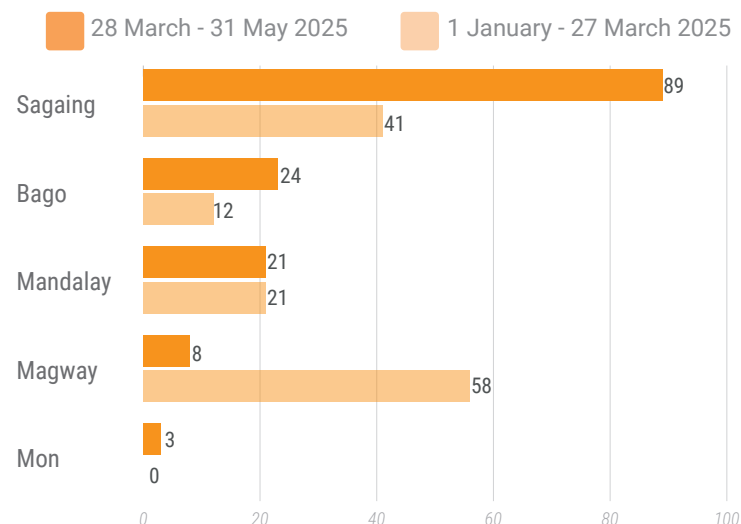
Geographically, Sagaing remained the area recording the highest number of airstrikes and civilian deaths although Rakhine recorded a surge in attacks and deaths, although verification has been severely hampered by restrictions imposed by the military and the Arakan Army on internet connectivity and telecommunications. Mandalay, Shan, and Magway also had high number of airstrikes reported.

Fig.5 Airstrikes, per State, during the reporting period



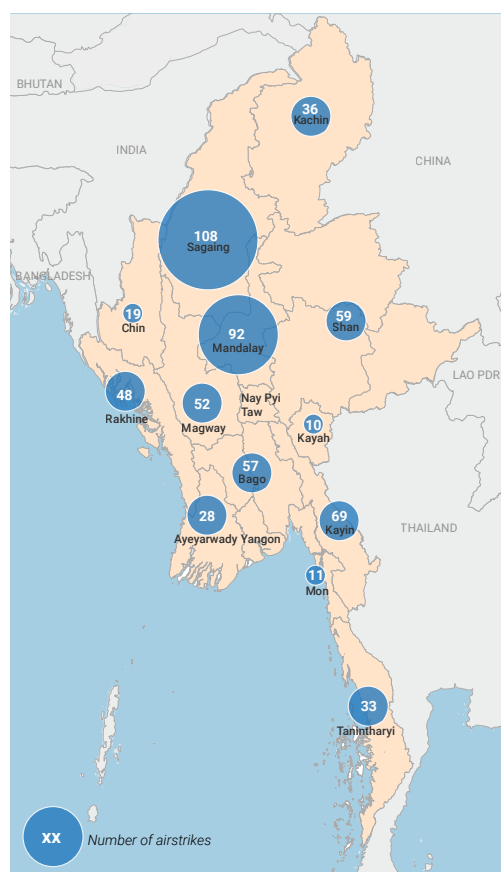
The military persistently used airstrikes and heavy weapons against civilian-inhabited and earthquake-affected areas despite its announcement of temporary ceasefires in April and May 2025 to allow for rescue operations. Military forces reportedly launched over 550 attacks between 28 March and 31 May 2025 and open sources indicated that since the earthquake over 481 civilians had been killed in these attacks. Among the numerous documented incidents, this report presents four, two from Sagaing, one in Mandalay, and one in Shan, that exemplify patterns related to protection of civilians as homes, villages, schools, and camps for displaced persons were systematically targeted.

Fig.4 Deaths by airstrikes by regions pre- and post-earthquake



These trends were confirmed in the months after the earthquake demonstrating the disregard of the military for civilian protection, humanitarian principles, and repeated demands from the international community and ASEAN for the cessation of hostilities and facilitation of access for the provision of life-saving assistance, in particular in areas outside military control.

Fig.6 Airstrikes, per State, between 28 March and 31 May 2025



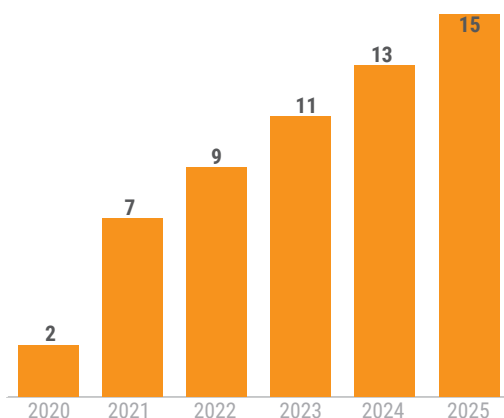


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND FOOD INSECURITY

Military violence continued to fuel fear and displacement with UN figures reporting that at least 3.3 million people have been displaced since the coup. Following the earthquake, an additional 2 million people became in need of assistance, bringing the total to nearly 22 million people. Fear of conscription has prompted flights to areas outside military control or abroad, while entire families have been uprooted to avoid retaliation.

Food insecurity continued to increase, linked to armed conflict, economic instability, and natural disasters. In 2025, an estimated 15.2 million people, nearly a third of the country's population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity, a sharp increase from 13.3 million in 2024. This deterioration was the result of compounding shocks, including the devastating impacts of Typhoon Yagi in September 2024 and the March 2025 earthquake, persistent inflation, and military operations that have destroyed agricultural lands and displaced millions disrupting livelihoods across the country.

Fig.7 Number of people food insecure 2020 - 2025 (in millions)



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF THE ROHINGYA MUSLIMS

Rohingya in northern Rakhine continued to face grave abuses by both the military and the Arakan Army, including deadly strikes, killings, disappearances, torture, arbitrary detention, property destruction, and forced recruitment.

While conflict-related violence against Rohingya decreased in 2025, the Arakan Army reportedly committed numerous abuses with impunity, and actions by Rohingya armed groups, including ARSA, heightened protection concerns and displacement. Hostilities in Rakhine have escalated since November 2023, creating profound protection concerns for communities of all ethnicities, including the Rohingya. According to open sources, at least 1,633 conflict-related incidents occurred during the reporting period, including 409 airstrikes and 274 artillery barrages.

Severe communication restrictions hindered verification of civilian casualties though claims indicate over a thousand Rohingya have been killed and tens of thousands displaced. Rohingya were caught between opposing forces, with the military deploying Rohingya recruits since March 2024, exacerbating intercommunal tensions. As Rakhine-owned homes burned in Buthidaung, the Arakan Army burned as many as 25 surrounding Rohingya villages in the following weeks.

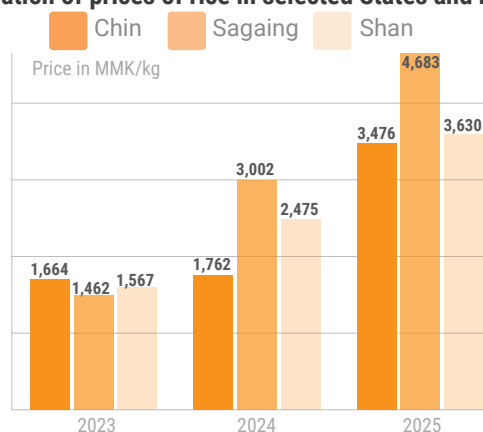
Fig.9 Rohingya awaiting rescue at sea



Female-headed households, often landless and dependent on daily labour, are among the most food insecure. Many resort to negative coping strategies, including debt, asset sales, reduced food intake, or sex work, heightening risks of exploitation. Conflict and displacement have further reduced women's income opportunities, increasing vulnerability to abuse, gender-based violence, and starvation.

In 2025, 12.9 million people required emergency food aid, and 11.5 million needed livelihood support, yet only 12 percent of the UN humanitarian response plan was funded by May 2025. Limited resources forced agencies to prioritize urgent life-saving needs, reaching fewer people, while conflict, political instability, and recent natural disasters threaten to worsen the crisis. In Chin State, food accessibility was particularly constrained and prices of such staples as rice, pulses and cooking oil have been among the highest in 2025 after Sagaing and Shan. Transport and logistics issues made it nearly impossible for many to obtain fresh produce and other staples.

Fig.8 Variation of prices of rice in selected States and regions

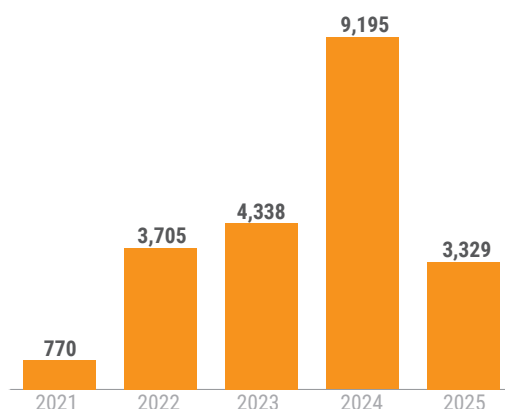


Mass displacement reached extreme levels, with an estimated 350,000 people displaced in Rakhine and Chin since November 2023, often repeatedly. At least 88,000 Rohingya remained displaced. Survivors relied largely on other Rohingya for support. Humanitarian conditions worsened with Rohingya facing emergency-level food insecurity, preventable diseases, and inadequate living conditions. Deaths from lack of essentials goods were reported, alongside harmful coping strategies. The Arakan Army maintained restrictions on movement, livelihoods, and communication, denied Rohingya identity, and imposed surveillance, curfews, and fees to travel.

Abuses persisted under Arakan Army control despite reduced hostilities by December 2024, including killings, arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and deterrence of returns. All parties engaged in conscription and forced recruitment, often involving torture, ill-treatment, and forced labour.

Desperation drove continued Rohingya flight abroad, with hundreds, possibly thousands, leaving Pauktaw and Kyauktaw for Thailand or Malaysia. Sea departures surged, with 7,800 attempting to flee in 2024, with 650 dead or missing and over 3,000 by May 2025, including 427 killed in two capsizings in May.

Fig.10 Rohingya refugee maritime movements, 2021 - 31 May 2025



CONCLUSIONS

Myanmar's human rights crisis has steadily worsened, even while attention to the crisis in media and in political spheres has waned. The devastating toll on the civilian population continued, with widespread and systematic patterns of the military indiscriminately attacking civilians and protected objects, forced displacement, forced recruitment, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, arson and property destruction, denial of humanitarian assistance, and repeated atrocities aimed at terrorizing the Myanmar people.

Military forces further escalated their reliance on airstrikes, often targeting schools, markets, religious sites, and camps for displaced persons. Disregard for protection of civilians by the military became even more starkly evident after the earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025. Despite declaring a unilateral ceasefire, the military persisted in bombing and attacking civilians in earthquake-affected areas and across the country. As in the aftermath of previous natural disasters, the military also acted to deny humanitarian access, particularly in areas outside their control.

Escalations in hostilities in Rakhine resulted in numerous civilian deaths and hundreds of thousands being displaced. Videos and pictures from the first part of the reporting period showed death, destruction and desperation, similar to images from 2017. Members of the Rohingya community were caught between the military and the Arakan Army and were systematically abused by both parties. As the Arakan Army took control of northern Rakhine, they became the main perpetrator of human rights abuses against the Rohingya. Killings, forced recruitment, displacement, disappearances, arrests, burnings, extortions, looting, and occupation of properties occurred regularly across northern Rakhine, causing hundreds of deaths and immense suffering.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the above findings, the High Commissioner reiterates his previous calls for a full referral of the Myanmar situation to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council and calls upon the Myanmar military:

- » To cease immediately all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects, including schools, hospitals, religious sites and camps for displaced persons, in compliance with Security Council resolution 2669 (2022);
- » To allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief to civilians in need, which is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, and lift restrictions on the delivery of food, medicine, essential supplies and telecommunications;
- » To release all political prisoners without further delay and ensure effective remedies for others arbitrarily deprived of liberty, including for evading or refusing conscription.

The High Commissioner recommends that the National Unity Government, ethnic armed organizations and anti-military armed groups:

- » Cease all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law;
- » Take specific steps to respect and guarantee the protection of civilians, including by refraining from extrajudicial killings and ensuring that violations and abuses are transparently addressed in a timely manner through fair and credible accountability mechanisms and that victims can obtain remedy and reparations;
- » Cease all practices of forced recruitment, particularly with regard to children, whose release they should immediately effectuate.

The High Commissioner also recommends that the Arakan Army:

- » Cease immediately all forms of forced recruitment of Rohingya and ensure the highest possible level of protection of civilians, including the Rohingya population;
- » Allow, in conformity with international humanitarian law, all displaced Rohingya to return to their places of origin and assist them financially to rebuild homes destroyed during military operations;
- » Immediately lift all undue restrictions on movement and access to services, for members of the Rohingya community;
- » Allow unimpeded access to independent human rights investigators to areas under its control in Rakhine State and allow and facilitate humanitarian relief for civilians in need.

Furthermore, the High Commissioner recommends that States Members of the United Nations:

- » Maintain specific political focus and attention on the human rights crisis in Myanmar, with particular emphasis on the situation of the Rohingya and other minorities, reflecting their voices and experiences in international policy responses;
- » Refrain from the transfer or authorization of the transfer of arms, jet fuel, surveillance equipment or technologies and dual-use items that risk contributing to violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of international human rights law;
- » Support efforts to protect refugees and displaced persons, including by implementing safe and dignified pathways for asylum and resettlement and avoid returning anyone to Myanmar in contravention of the principle of non-refoulement;
- » Increase humanitarian funding and support for emergency food, shelter and medical assistance, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, including the Rohingya and other minorities in both Myanmar and the camps in Bangladesh.