

# COUNTRY CONDITIONS

AUGUST  
2025

Pages 1-12

## **SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT**

Released on August 12, 2025

*Dissidents die in custody*

*Activists are murdered*

*Proxy vigilantes target family members of dissidents*

*Militias chop off heads*

*Arrests for posting on Facebook*

*Arrested for wearing flowers on June 19th: birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi*

*Dissidents living abroad are harassed and monitored*

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE August 12, 2025**

**Burma 2024 Human Rights Report**

Executive Summary:

Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: arbitrary or unlawful killings; disappearances; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest or detention; transnational repression against individuals in another country;...

*Dissidents die in custody*

The regime's arbitrary detentions continued to claim lives, with senior National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders Zaw Myint Maung and U Win Khine dying in custody after failing to receive adequate treatment for health problems. Page 3 of 26

*Activists are murdered*

On February 8, 2024 regime security forces killed Nobel Aye (also known as Hnin May Aung), a prominent prodemocracy activist, and Aung Ko Hein, an anticoup protester, as they were returning from a court appearance in Bago Region.

*Proxy vigilantes target family members of dissidents*

The regime encouraged the development of proxy vigilantes to target prodemocracy groups and their families. Some groups – many operating under the name of Thway Thauk, or “Blood Comrades” – operated primarily in urban areas such as Mandalay, Sagaing, and the Magway Region. Others, such as the Pyu Saw Htee group, operated primarily in rural areas. These groups were reportedly responsible for the deaths of multiple NLD Supporters. Page 4

*Militias chop off heads*

As of August 16, the AAPP recorded 16 beheadings by regime-aligned militia groups. Page 4

In July, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, a UN entity established in 2018, stated it had evidence of rape and other forms of sexual crimes against civilians in connection with armed conflict. Civilians of all ages were subjected to rape and attempted rape, including with objects and by gangs; they were also subjected to sexualized torture, including mutilation, being stripped nude, and sexual slavery. Sexual assault was also

reported at military checkpoints. The evidence collected by the mechanism indicated the crimes were committed with the intention to punish and terrorize the civilian population and that victims were often targeted on one or more discriminatory grounds, including sex, ethnicity, religion, or perceived political affiliation. Page 7

The regime arrested and prosecuted individuals who criticized or opposed the regime on social media and increased efforts to block public access to independent information. Page 9

*Arrests for posting on Facebook*

In October, the regime arrested Nay Soe Maung, son-in-law of the former longtime military ruler, Than Shwe, for allegedly posting “inflammatory” statements on his Facebook account, according to state-run media. His arrest, reported by the Associated Press, followed a post criticizing the military regime and offering condolences for the death in detention of Zaw Myint Maung, a senior member of the ousted civilian government. Page 9

The regime also banned the use of certain terminology in reporting, such as “junta,” “coup d’état,” and “military council.” Page 11

April 2024: International reported Thet Hnin Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Industry Crafts & Services Trade Unions Federation, was sentenced to seven years in prison with hard labor following a secret trial and after five months of being forcibly disappeared. He was a prominent trade union leader who was arrested in July 2023 for unknown reasons shortly after being released Page 15

There were numerous reports of enforced disappearances allegedly committed by the regime. The Human Rights Foundation of Monland reported regime authorities threatened family members of those forcibly disappeared, telling them not to share information about the abductions or risk their own well-being. Page 18

*Arrested for wearing flowers on June 19th: birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi*

On June 19, 2024 supporters of imprisoned leader Aung San Suu Kyi organized “Flower Strikes” to commemorate her 79th birthday and advocate for the release of more than 20,000 political prisoners. Participants wore flowers, a symbol associated with Aung San Suu Kyi, to express solidarity. In response, authorities conducted random inspections on buses and in markets, arresting individuals seen wearing or carrying flowers. Page 19

On February 10, 2024 the military regime activated a 2010 law requiring eligible

men and women to perform compulsory military service. Page 20

*Dissidents living abroad are harassed and monitored*

The regime committed acts of transnational repression. In parallel with a worsening crackdown on civilians at home, the regime targeted nonviolent members of the opposition living abroad. Page 25

Credible reports indicated the regime retaliated against citizens abroad by revoking their passports...the regime canceled the passports of some citizens living abroad without prior notice or explanation. Page 26



The city of Yangon is divided into 33 Townships. Each Township has a “Township Official.”

Each Township is divided into Wards.

For example, the “South Okkalapa Township” is divided into 13 “Wards.”

South Okkalapa has

Area	2.9 Square miles
Wards	13
Population	193,354

[http://www.yangoncity.com.mm/maps/townships\\_pro.asp?tname=south%20okkalapa](http://www.yangoncity.com.mm/maps/townships_pro.asp?tname=south%20okkalapa)

Each Ward has a “Ward Administrator.”

Ward #1 of South Okkalapa has perhaps a population of 15,000 persons. This is about 4,000 “households.”

The Ward is divided into “100 household groups.” There are about 40 of such groups. Each “100 household group” has a “100 household official.”

Each “100 household group” is further divided into “10 household group.”

Each “10 household group” has a “10 household official.”

=====

The main purpose of all of these officials is to conduct surveillance of the people. These officials are given very small salaries; each will supplement his income by extorting money from the people. To be hired as a “10 household official,” you must promise to give a kickback, or percentage, of the money you extort, to the “100 household official.” He, in turn, must give kickbacks to the Ward Administrator. He, in turn, must kick back to the Township Official. It operates the same way as the Mafia.

The “10 household group” official will conduct surveillance perhaps by driving a motorcycle around, or by his bicycle. He might hire a few street people to do special surveillance of certain families.

**United Nations A/HRC/60/18 General Assembly Distr.: General**



**ANNUAL REPORT released on August 12, 2025 by:**  
The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar

The Report also details the Mechanism's intensified investigations into air attacks on schools, homes and hospitals which have injured and killed civilians, including in the days following the deadly March 2025 earthquake when rescue operations were still ongoing. The Mechanism is analysing the composition of the Myanmar Air Force and its chain of command to identify the perpetrators involved.

[s://iimm.un.org/en/myanmar-mechanism-advances-its-identification-perpetrators-annual-report](https://iimm.un.org/en/myanmar-mechanism-advances-its-identification-perpetrators-annual-report)

# Myanmar junta forces shoot fleeing civilians, killing pregnant woman and daughter

The incident occurred east of Myingyan in Mandalay Region, where the regime is intensifying its efforts to regain control ahead of planned elections

August 6, 2025



<https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/myanmar-junta-forces-shoot-fleeing-civilians-killing-pregnant-woman-and-daughter/?tztc=1>

## JUNTA USES MILITIAS, PLAINCLOTHES SOLDIERS AND CCTV TO CONDUCT MASS SURVEILLANCE

August 6, 2025



Security checkpoints across Mandalay are now routinely using PSMS to screen travelers, according to residents. The regime has also deployed Pyu Saw Htee militias and plainclothes soldiers as part of mass surveillance in Mandalay, while installing CCTV cameras in key locations across the city.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-launches-street-phone-checks-as-cybersecurity-law-takes-effect.html>



## **Digital ID Scan at Checkpoint Leads to Arrest of University Student Under Terror Charges** *May 28, 2025*

Nang Cherry Htun, a fifth-year Information Technology student at Taunggyi University of Technology, was detained on May 25 while traveling from her hometown of Namsang, Shan State, to Taunggyi.

At a checkpoint, authorities scanned her ID using a tablet connected to the military council's Person Scrutinization and Monitoring System (PSMS), a surveillance tool.

<https://english.shannews.org/archives/28102>

# Digital Tyranny

20 July 2025

[Progressive Voice](#)



Since early 2025, the junta's Person Scrutinization and Monitoring System (PSMS), a combination of facial recognition, AI, and digital IDs to identify and detain civilians, has been weaponized to arrest over 1,600 civilians in just 10 weeks—a shocking statistic that underscores a systematic campaign of digital tyranny.

2 July 2025, junta soldiers arrested a 29-year-old woman at a Kalaw Township checkpoint after scanning her ID via the PSMS, despite her possessing all necessary documents and a travel recommendation letter issued by her ward administration

<https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2025/07/20/65773/>

# Junta shelling kills three near Myanmar jade centre of Hpakant

Min MaungMaung Shwe Wah August 5, 2025



<https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-shelling-kills-three-near-myanmar-jade-centre-of-hpakant/>