

COUNTRY CONDITIONS

JANUARY-MAY
2025

Pages 1-10

BURMA CANCELS PASSPORTS OF TEENAGERS, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS DEPORT THEM; THEY ARE THEN FORCED INTO BURMESE ARMY

January 7, 2025



See Washington Post story on January 7, 2025:
“How Asian nations join to deport, jail dissidents” by Shirbani Mahtani

Many Asian nations assist the Burmese government to deport Burmese. The Asian nations “are effectively extending the repression meted out by Myanmar...[by cancelling] “passports belonging to politically active people in the diaspora.”

Many deportees from Thailand “have been forcibly recruited into the Myanmar military upon their return.”

“Some were younger than 15.”
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See also JUNTA STALKS BURMESE ABROAD December 13, 2024
<https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2024/12/13/impunity-across-borders-juntas-tnr-stal-ks-burmese-communities-abroad/>

The Junta has pressured governments to arrest and forcibly return dissidents; forcibly disappeared and/or attempted assassinations of anti- junta figures abroad; threatened and harassed individuals online; attacked and arrested family members of dissidents; and canceled passports of citizens abroad.



January 29, 2025

JUNTA BEGINS DRAFTING WOMEN INTO THE MILITARY

Myanmar's regime has started the process of drafting women for military service by registering Yangon Region females.

If someone fails to respond to their call-up, their family must explain their absence and register a substitute.

Ma Phoo, a Thaketa Township resident in Yangon, said: "Ward administrators cross-checked our household registration document with the guest list they have, verifying ages and trying to locate our conscription-age family members. They said they were conscripting men but would return in a month for women."

The regime has been also [abducting](#) healthy men from homes, streets and buses across the country, including in Yangon and Mandalay, to address its troop shortages.

[tps://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-registering-women-ahead-of-possible-conscription.html#google_vignette](https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-junta-registering-women-ahead-of-possible-conscription.html#google_vignette)



February 4, 2025

Conscripts barred from becoming monks

The junta has ordered monasteries across the country to bar young men who have received conscription summons from ordaining as Buddhist monks, known collectively as the Sangha.

“The township’s General Administration Department told us in a letter to find out if people who have requested to become monks have been summoned for conscription. And if they’re in the list, they should not be allowed to become monks.”

Khit Thit Media posting, as re-published by *Frontier Fridays*

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/5/#inbox/FMfcgzQZTCjfmRwNhZBfXDTBJQBpMZst>



February 28, 2025

IMPRISONED JOURNALIST PUNISHED FURTHER

Sai Zaw Thaïke, a photojournalist for the independent news website Myanmar Now, was arrested in May 2023, for reporting on damage caused by Cyclone Mocha, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

February 2025: he was visited in prison by a Human Rights Commission, and he told them about abuses inside his prison. He was then beaten, tortured, and harassed, including being forced to carry pots of human feces.

<https://apnews.com/article/myanmar-jailed-journalist-press-freedom-prison-torture-df5ae1a001105b1387f45f95cf5d6746>

Junta Blackmailing Parents to Enforce Conscription

by The Irrawaddy March 19, 2025



A mother in Mandalay was summoned to the administration office and asked where her son was. “They threatened to imprison me under the Conscription Law if I failed to bring him back.”

Another parent was told that if her children did not report for the military, she must find substitutes from her relatives. Officials telephone parents, visit their homes, and “advise” them against traveling.

When people find out recent conscripts were sent to “the front line,” they flee.

In some areas, teams of local administrators, soldiers, police, and Pyu Saw Htee militias have taken family members hostage if potential conscripts could not be located. Families are told that their relatives will only be released if the conscripts turn themselves in. In other instances, authorities have threatened to seal off houses if eligible individuals fail to report.

Some conscripts were forced to be “human shields.”



April 11, 2025

Young People Seized At Bus Stops and Forced Into The Military

“Over time, the authorities have had to resort to ever more draconian measures to get conscripts, including abducting young men from bus stops and other public places,” Horsey said.

“Local officials have been extorting money from potential conscripts in order to avoid the draft.”

Conscripts are used as “human shields- to step on bombs and to dismantle bombs.”

[ljazeera.com/news/2025/4/11/myanmars-military-drafts-thousands-in-first-year-of-conscription-drive](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/11/myanmars-military-drafts-thousands-in-first-year-of-conscription-drive)



May 2, 2025

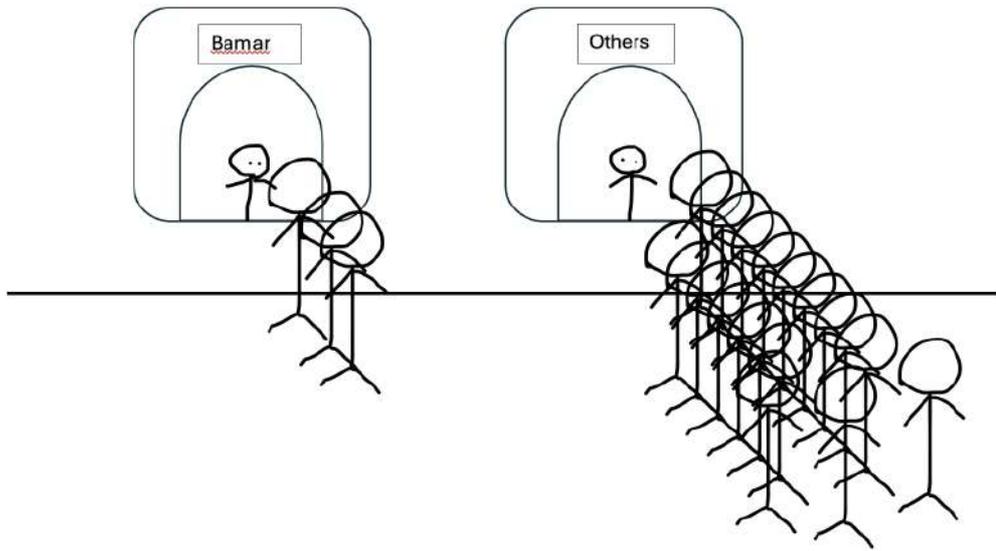
FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR HAVING CALL RECORDS ON HIS PHONE

Mr. Than Htike Myint, journalist, was arrested at his home on February 6, 2025. He was interrogated and tortured for one week. On April 3rd, sentenced to five years in prison.

He was “arrested for call records found on his phone.”

<https://www.rfa.org/english/myanmar/2025/05/02/myanmar-journalist-group-jailed/>

INSIDE BURMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICES



FORCED TO FIGHT: THE REALITY OF MILITARY
CONSCRIPTION IN MYANMAR April 28, 2025

Some excerpts from this 22-page report by the National Unity Government:

Systematic Abductions & Coercion: Young men, particularly from ethnic minority communities, are forcibly taken from homes, workplaces, and military checkpoints.



“[...] during the night, I was forcibly taken by a man disguised as a taxi driver to the Danyin Gone Military Recruitment Center, where I was threatened with death if I tried to escape”. Page 9

“Some trainees attempted to escape the training school, and around 20 of them died during the escape attempt stepping on landmines. Those who were recaptured were shot dead”. Page 12

“I witnessed the military taking supplies and belongings from civilians’ homes, setting them on fire, firing heavy weapons, and killing women”. Page 14

https://mohr.nugmyanmar.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Forced_to_Fight-Report_English-Version.

Burma (Myanmar) Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory
May 12, 2025

Burma (Myanmar) - Level 4: Do Not Travel

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Do not travel to Burma due to **armed conflict, the potential for civil unrest, arbitrary enforcement of local laws, poor health infrastructure, land mines and unexploded ordnance, crime, and wrongful detentions.**

Country Summary: The Burma military regime deposed elected leaders and officials in a February 2021 coup d'état. Protests and demonstrations against military rule can occur on significant dates. The military has responded to those protests with violence and by **arbitrarily detaining** protesters and bystanders.

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Wrongfully detained U.S. nationals have been held in prison for years, often in poor conditions and without fair and transparent treatment or consistent access to U.S. Embassy officials or their families.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/burma-travel-advisory.html>