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WHEN THE SKY ENABLES ATROCITIES

Ministry of Human Rights

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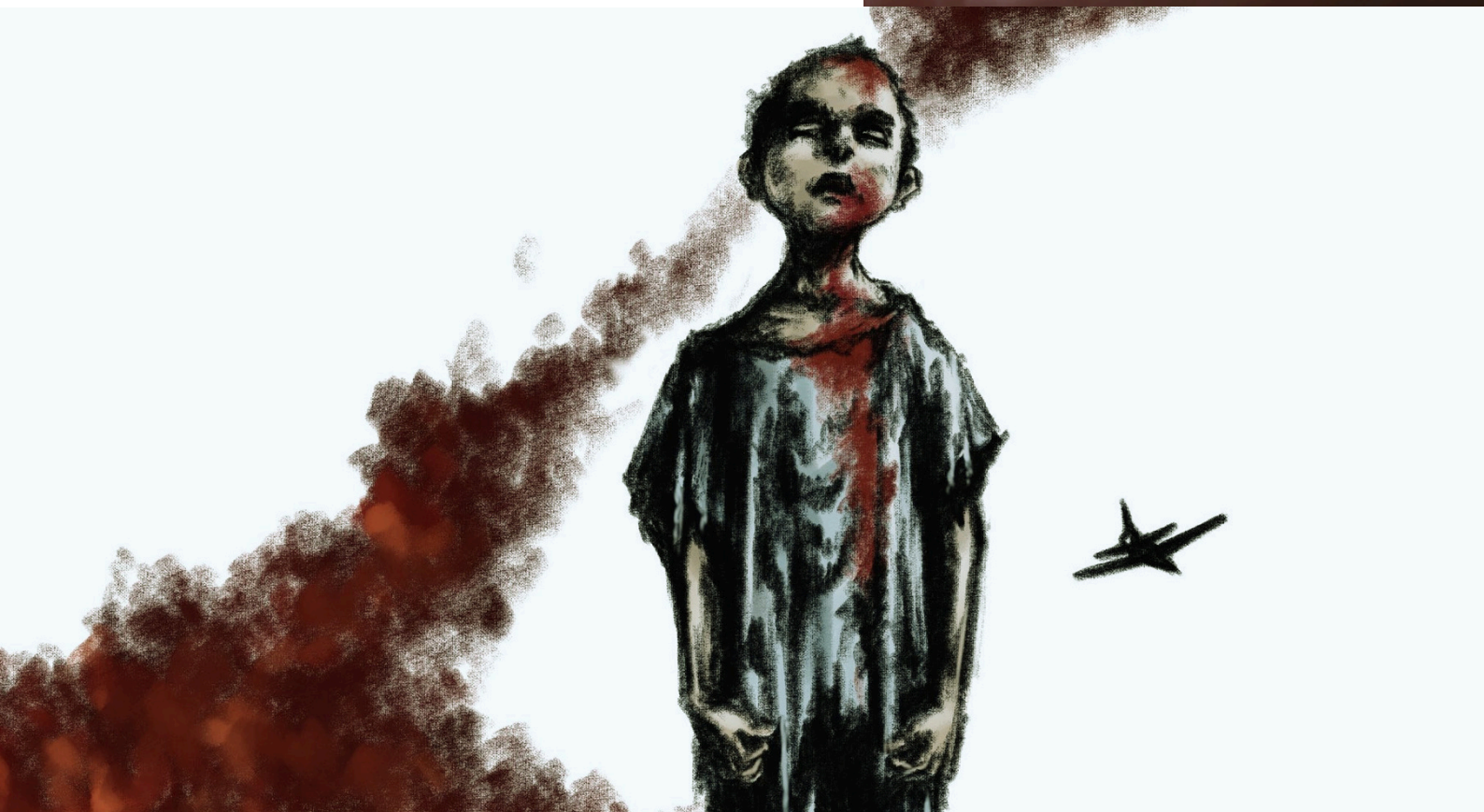


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the Myanmar military's attempted coup in February 2021, the country has experienced an unprecedented escalation in aerial warfare characterized by systematic attacks against civilians and civilian-populated areas. This report by the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), National Unity Government (NUG), documents the growing use of air power as a central military strategy employed by the junta to regain territorial control, suppress resistance movements, and intimidate civilian populations. Drawing upon verified documentation collected by the Documentation and Research Department, including field-based evidence, survivor testimonies, human rights focal person networks, and incident verification processes, this report presents findings from more than four years of systematic monitoring of aerial attacks across Myanmar.

As of May 2026, MOHR has documented more than 5,500 aerial attack incidents and over 12,000 individual strikesconducted using jet fighters, helicopters, drones, paramotors, gyrocopters, and other aerial platforms. These attacks have resulted in the deaths of more than 5,700 civilians, including at least 760 children, while over 9,500 people have been injured, including more than 1,000 children. More than one million people have also been displaced due to aerial attacks and associated military operations. Evidence demonstrates that aerial bombardments increasingly target civilian-populated areas, including schools, hospitals, religious compounds, displacement sites, public gatherings, and villages located far from active frontlines.The findings reveal consistent patterns of attacks concentrated in areas where the military has experienced weakened territorial control, particularly in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Rakhine, and other conflict-affected regions.

This report concludes that aerial attacks are not isolated incidents but constitute an increasingly institutionalized strategy of warfare with devastating humanitarian consequences.

Documented evidence indicates that aerial bombardments are frequently coordinated with artillery attacks and ground offensives to depopulate civilian areas, create fear, and facilitate territorial reoccupation. Such attack patterns have transformed air power into a mechanism of coercion and collective punishment directed against civilian communities.

The report further demonstrates widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, including 752 religious buildings, 502 schools, and 170 healthcare facilities damaged or destroyed during the reporting period.Survivor testimonies illustrate severe physical and psychological harm, particularly among children, displaced communities, educators, and healthcare workers.

Repeated attacks against monasteries, schools, hospitals, and displacement camps have severely undermined access to education, healthcare, shelter, and community protection mechanisms while contributing to long-term humanitarian crises and social fragmentation.

MOHR critically addresses that the documented patterns raise serious concerns under international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international criminal law. The principle of distinction under Article 48 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions requires parties to distinguish between civilians and military objectives. Repeated attacks against schools, hospitals, religious sites, and civilian-populated areas raise concerns regarding violations of Articles 51 and 52, which prohibit indiscriminate attacks and protect civilian objects. Furthermore, attacks on medical facilities and humanitarian spaces undermine protections afforded under customary international humanitarian law and relevant protections recognized under international humanitarian frameworks.

The findings also indicate potential violations of international human rights standards, including the right to life under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protections afforded to children under Articles 6 and 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The scale, frequency, and systematic nature of these attacks further raise serious concerns that documented acts may amount to war crimes and potentially crimes against humanity under Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute.

This report concludes that aerial attacks are not isolated incidents but constitute an increasingly institutionalized strategy of warfare with devastating humanitarian consequences. The evidence presented underscores the urgent need for coordinated international action to protect civilians, restrict the junta's capacity to conduct aerial operations, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and support pathways toward justice for affected communities. Without immediate and decisive international measures, civilians across Myanmar will remain exposed to escalating patterns of violence from the sky and ground.

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) under the National Unity Government has been actively engaged in the research, monitoring, and documentation of human rights violations committed the Myanmar military's attempted coup in February 2021. Through its Documentation and Research Department, MOHR systematically collects, verifies, and preserves evidence relating to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law across conflict-affected areas in Myanmar. In addition to documenting individual cases, MOHR produces thematic human rights reports and analytical briefings for the international community, governments, United Nations mechanisms, and other accountability bodies in order to strengthen international awareness, evidence-based advocacy, and future justice processes.

Since the military's attempted coup in February 2021, Myanmar's military junta has increasingly relied on coordinated aerial bombardments and ground offensives as a central strategy to consolidate territorial control, suppress resistance movements, and exert coercive pressure on civilian populations living in resistance-influenced areas. Evidence collected by MOHR indicates that these operations have evolved into systematic patterns of violence in which aerial attacks frequently precede ground incursions, particularly in regions such as Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and other conflict-affected areas.

. Military forces have increasingly deployed drones, paramotors, jet fighters, and other aerial platforms in coordination with heavy artillery and ground troops to weaken local resistance structures, forcibly displace communities, and facilitate territorial reoccupation. These tactics reflect a broader militarized strategy that prioritizes battlefield objectives while exposing civilian populations to heightened risks of death, injury, displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Air power remains one of the military junta's most significant strategic advantages. However, its use has resulted in extensive civilian harm, including deaths, injuries, mass displacement, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure such as homes, religious buildings, schools, and healthcare facilities. The scale and persistence of these attacks indicate a pattern in which civilian protection concerns are consistently subordinated to military objectives. According to verified data collected by MOHR, more than 5,500 aerial attack incidents involving approximately 12,000 individual strikes have been documented to date. Given ongoing access constraints and communication disruptions in conflict areas, these figures are likely to underestimate the actual scale of attacks occurring on the ground.

For the purpose of this report, aerial attacks refer to military operations in which weapons are deployed from aerial platforms—including aircraft, helicopters, drones, and other airborne systems—against ground targets through bombing, shelling, or direct fire. Civilians are defined as individuals who are not members of armed forces or organized armed groups and who are not directly participating in hostilities. Conflict-affected areas refer to locations experiencing armed violence, military operations, or sustained insecurity that place civilian populations at heightened risk of harm.

DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In response to the increasing scale of violations, MOHR's Documentation and Research Department has established a systematic documentation mechanism to record incidents on a daily basis. This process combines continuous monitoring of media sources with verified information collected through networks of human rights focal persons operating in conflict-affected areas. All cases are securely documented and stored within the UWAZI database system to ensure data integrity, accessibility, and long-term preservation for accountability processes.

To strengthen evidentiary standards, survivor and witness interviews have been conducted for numerous incidents. Audio testimonies are transcribed, verified, and analyzed as part of the documentation process. Furthermore, verified cases have been submitted to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) to support future accountability efforts. As of the publication of this report, MOHR has prepared and submitted 556 documented cases for future judicial and accountability processes.

OVERVIEW OF AERIAL ATTACKS IN MYANMAR

Documented findings indicate that aerial attacks have killed more than 5,700 people, including 760 children under the age of 18, and injured over 9,500 individuals, including 1,095 children.In numerous cases, victims suffered severe blast-related injuries, including traumatic amputations and fatal injuries caused by explosive weapons. Beyond direct casualties, aerial attacks have displaced more than one million people.

Preserving these records remains essential for advancing transitional justice, strengthening evidence-based advocacy, and supporting future accountability mechanisms. MOHR also shares verified findings with international partners to raise awareness and encourage coordinated international action to protect civilians in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) initiated systematic and advanced documentation of aerial attacks in January 2022 in response to the increasing scale and frequency of air-delivered violence across Myanmar. Since then, MOHR's Documentation and Research Department has compiled detailed information on each incident, including the types of aerial platforms and weapons used, civilian casualties and injuries, destruction of civilian property, and displacement patterns. This evidence base provides critical insight into the evolving tactics and operational patterns of the military junta's aerial warfare campaign.

Documented data indicates that Sagaing Region has experienced the highest concentration of aerial attacks, followed by Mandalay and Magway Regions, while Rakhine State has also recorded a significant number of incidents. Importantly, these attacks have extended beyond active frontlines and have frequently targeted civilian-populated areas and protected civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, religious sites, homes, and public spaces. The geographic spread and repeated targeting patterns suggest that aerial attacks are not solely military operations but form part of broader strategies of coercion, intimidation, and territorial control.

Aerial warfare has increasingly become a central component of the junta's military doctrine because it enables force projection from a distance while minimizing direct battlefield exposure for troops. However, this strategy has generated severe humanitarian consequences for civilian populations. Repeated aerial bombardments have destroyed essential civilian infrastructure, disrupted education and healthcare systems, damaged places of worship, and caused large-scale civilian casualties and displacement. The frequency, geographic expansion, and intensification of attacks indicate a growing dependence on air power as a mechanism of territorial domination, population control, and violent repression against communities living in resistance-influenced areas.

Types of Aerial Platforms and Weapons Used

Documented evidence shows that the military has utilized a diverse range of aerial platforms, including jet fighters, helicopters, drones, paramotors, and gyrocopters. These platforms have been used alongside explosive ordnance and aerial-delivered munitions to conduct attacks across civilian-populated areas. Jet fighters and helicopters are commonly deployed for large-scale bombardment campaigns and direct-fire attacks, often resulting in extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure and high casualty rates. Drones have increasingly been used for surveillance, targeted strikes, and operational support due to their flexibility, mobility, and lower operational costs.

Paramotors and gyrocopters—less conventional aerial platforms—have also become increasingly prominent in recent operations, reflecting the military's adaptation of lower-cost aerial warfare tactics. For example, in December 2024, a school in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, was initially attacked by a jet fighter and later targeted again by a paramotor dropping explosives, damaging educational infrastructure and injuring civilians. Similarly, in July 2025, gyrocopters were reportedly used to bomb areas between villages in Natogyi Township, damaging a pagoda and monastery compound.

The use of multiple aerial platforms within a single operation indicates increasingly coordinated attack patterns and a diversification of aerial tactics. This evolution expands both the geographic reach and operational frequency of attacks while significantly increasing risks to civilians and civilian infrastructure. The growing reliance on varied aerial platforms demonstrates how air power has become embedded within broader military strategies aimed at territorial consolidation and suppression of civilian populations.

Patterns of Aerial Attacks

Documented evidence reveals recurring patterns of aerial violence targeting civilian-populated areas, particularly in the Dry Zone regions of Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway. Prior to launching ground offensives, military junta's forces frequently conduct aerial bombardments using drones and jet fighters, followed by artillery shelling and troop incursions into villages. These tactics appear designed to forcibly displace civilians, weaken local resistance structures, and reduce military casualties during territorial advances.

Findings from focus group discussions conducted by MOHR in April 2026 support these observations. Furthermore, human rights focal persons from Mandalay Region reported that coordinated patterns of aerial bombardment followed by ground operations have become increasingly common. Documentation further indicates that more than 80 percent of targeted locations were civilian-populated areas rather than active military positions.

The data also suggests that attacks involving paramotors and gyrocopters are frequently carried out at night or during early morning hours when civilians are resting or sleeping, increasing civilian vulnerability.

Religious buildings, particularly monasteries sheltering internally displaced persons (IDPs), have increasingly become targets of attack. One documented case occurred in March 2026 in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, where military forces reportedly used civilians as human shields while advancing through villages. During the operation, ***Figure 1*** shows an aerial strike targeted a monastery sheltering displaced communities, killing 26 civilians, including women and children.



Figure 1: The Injured Civilians displaced in the Monastery

Spatial mapping of documented incidents (***Figure 2***) further demonstrates that aerial attacks are concentrated in areas where military control has weakened, suggesting a broader pattern in which air power is used as a mechanism to reassert territorial control through violence and civilian displacement.

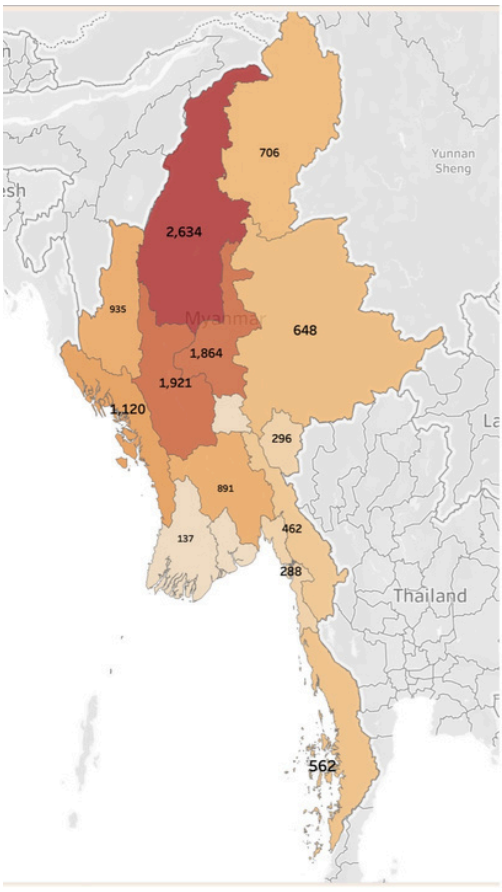


Figure 2: Heat Map shows that where the Highest Incidents

DEATHS AND INJURIES UNDER AERIALATTACKS

Testimonial interviews and documented evidence indicate recurring patterns of aerial attacks against civilian-populated areas and protected civilian infrastructure. Schools were bombed during class hours, displacement camps were attacked while civilians were sheltering, and hospitals, clinics, weddings, and religious gatherings were repeatedly targeted. These patterns raise serious concerns regarding the deliberate or indiscriminate use of air power in civilian-populated areas, resulting in severe civilian harm, widespread fear, and significant loss of life. The repeated targeting of locations with clear civilian presence demonstrates how aerial warfare has generated profound humanitarian consequences for communities across Myanmar.

Case Studies of Civilian Casualties

Survivor and witness testimonies reveal the severe human suffering and long-term impacts caused by aerial attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. During the attack on Let Yet Kone School, ***Figure 3***, teacher Daw Aye Mar Swe recalled: “The aircraft kept firing for about 45 minutes. They only targeted the school. Later, the soldiers entered the compound and continued shooting with machine guns and heavy weapons. At that moment, I thought all the children were dead.”

She also recounted what one surviving child later told her: “One girl’s stomach exploded and her intestines came out. Another child’s head was badly injured. The child said she became so frightened that she jumped over the wall and hid inside a bunker to survive.” This testimony demonstrates not only the immediate physical consequences of aerial attacks but also the profound psychological trauma experienced by children, teachers, and surrounding communities.



Figure 3 : Textbook, Exercise Book, Bag, and The Blood of Student after Let Yet Kone School Attack



Figure 4: The Students' Properties after Ohe Htein Twin (Wiki: Oehteinkwin) incident



Figure 5: The Dead Body after the Mung Lai Khyet Airstrike

A local resident involved in rescue efforts following the October 2023 airstrike on IDP Camp No. 2 near Mung Lai Hkyet Village, ***Figure 5,*** Kachin State, recalled: "The child was shouting alone in the dark with a flashlight, crying, 'Mother, Father.' We could not bear it, so we went to rescue the child. Then we heard another woman calling for help. When we removed the soil and debris, she said her son was still buried underneath her."

Similarly, volunteer teacher Zaw (pseudonym) from Bangkok IDP Camp, ***Figure 6,*** in Pekhon Township described the September 2024 attack: "One bomb fell directly into the middle of the camp. A whole family of six hiding inside a bunker died instantly."



Figure 6: Bangkok IDP Camp Airstrike



Body Parts getting from Bangkok IDP Camp Airstrike

These testimonies suggest that attacks against displacement sites frequently occurred during nighttime hours, when civilians had limited opportunities to flee or access protection mechanisms, thereby increasing civilian vulnerability and casualty risks.







Figure 7: Aerial Attack to Wedding Ceremony in Pauk Khaung Township

Testimonies further indicate that civilian social gatherings and community events have not been spared from aerial violence. In November 2025, an airstrike targeted a wedding ceremony in Kyoe Pin Wine Village, Pauk Khaung Township, Bago Region, ***Figure 7.*** A witness, Daw Khin Khin (pseudonym), recalled: “The bomb fell very close to the wedding house. Many nearby houses were destroyed. Ko Zaw was welcoming guests when the explosion happened, and he suffered serious injuries to his head, arms, and legs. Moe Moe Win could not escape from her house. Her hand was severed, and the lower part of her body was badly injured. She died at the scene.” This incident illustrates how civilian celebrations and social spaces have increasingly become sites of violence, further expanding the humanitarian consequences of aerial warfare beyond conventional conflict settings and increasing civilian deaths, injuries, and displacement.

DAMAGE TO CIVILIAN INFRA-STRUCTURE

Documented evidence collected by the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) demonstrates that aerial attacks have caused widespread destruction to civilian infrastructure across Myanmar. As military forces increasingly rely on air power to compensate for weakened territorial control and battlefield losses in multiple regions, the use of overwhelming force has intensified both civilian casualties and infrastructural destruction. In addition to bombardments carried out by jet fighters and attack helicopters, military forces have also conducted attacks using rockets, heavy weapons, and aerial gunfire. In some cases, transport helicopters have reportedly been used to deploy troops immediately following aerial bombardments, enabling rapid ground incursions into affected communities.

The destruction of civilian infrastructure extends beyond physical damage and has significantly undermined civilian survival systems and community resilience. Religious buildings, schools, healthcare facilities, homes, and other civilian properties have repeatedly been damaged or destroyed during military operations. Many of these sites functioned not only as public service facilities but also as shelters for civilians seeking protection from conflict. Documented evidence further indicates that attacks frequently occurred in locations where no active armed clashes were taking place at the time, raising serious concerns regarding compliance with the principles of distinction and proportionality under international humanitarian law. Repeated attacks have accelerated displacement, disrupted local economies, and deepened long-term humanitarian vulnerabilities. Moreover, damage to culturally and historically significant sites has contributed to the erosion of community identity, social cohesion, and cultural heritage in several parts of Myanmar.

Case Studies of Attacks on Civilian Infrastructure

Religious Buildings and Places of Worship

Religious buildings are often constructed with stronger materials than ordinary homes and are widely perceived by civilians as safer locations during periods of armed conflict. Across Myanmar, internally displaced persons frequently seek refuge in monasteries, churches, mosques, and other religious compounds based on the assumption that such sites will not be intentionally targeted. However, documented evidence indicates that places of worship and religious compounds have increasingly become sites of aerial attacks. These incidents have occurred not only during periods of armed confrontation but also during religious ceremonies and public gatherings when large numbers of civilians were present. Such attacks raise serious concerns under international humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilian objects and places dedicated to religion.



Figure 8: Paramotors Attacked to Bon To Village Primary School in the Full Moon Day of Thidingyut

One significant incident occurred in October 2025 during the full moon day of Thadingyut in Bonto Village, ***Figure 8*** , Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region. During a candlelight protest against the military's planned election process, paramotors operating under the Northwestern Regional Military Command reportedly dropped two 120 mm bombs near a primary school where civilians had gathered. As a result, 21 civilians, including children and protest organizers, were killed and 64 others injured. Several victims reportedly died from severe blast injuries and traumatic amputations.

Another incident occurred on 15 April 2025 during the Thingyan Akyat period in Kawkareik Township, Karen State,***Figure 9***, where a monastery compound in Kamni Village was bombed by a YAK-130 aircraft. The attack killed six civilians, including children and elderly persons, and injured more than 20 others, including monks and novice monks. These incidents demonstrate that monasteries and religious sites, including locations sheltering civilians during culturally significant periods, have increasingly been exposed to aerial violence.



Figure 9: Airstrike on the Monastery from Kamni Village in Thingyan Akyat

Schools and Education Facilities

Among documented attacks on educational institutions, one of the most severe incidents occurred in Let Yet Kone Village, Depayin Township, Sagaing Region. In September 2022, at approximately 1:00 PM, military forces conducted an aerial attack on a school compound while children were attending classes. Six children were killed, while 15 students and civilians were arrested and taken away following the attack. According to documented accounts, military personnel reportedly found no armed resistance members during subsequent searches, only students and local civilians. Injured children were later returned after receiving medical treatment.

Another major incident occurred in Ohe Htein Twin Village, also in Depayin Township, in May 2025. At approximately 10:00 AM, an aerial attack targeted a school during active class hours, killing 22 students and teachers, including two female teachers, and injuring around 50 others, ***Figure 10.*** These incidents raise serious concerns regarding attacks against educational institutions and children, who are afforded special protection under international human rights and humanitarian law.



Figure 10: Airstrike on a School located in Ohe Htein Twin Village

The consequences of attacks on schools extend beyond immediate casualties. Children across conflict-affected areas are increasingly losing access to safe learning environments and experiencing prolonged psychological distress. Documented accounts indicate that the sound of aircraft has become associated with fear and survival rather than education, forcing many children to prioritize escape and shelter over learning. Repeated attacks on schools therefore not only destroy infrastructure but also undermine educational continuity, psychosocial well-being, and the future prospects of younger generations

Healthcare Facilities

Documented evidence indicates that healthcare facilities have increasingly become targets of aerial attacks despite their protected civilian and humanitarian status. One of the most serious incidents occurred on 10 December 2025—International Human Rights Day—when military aircraft conducted an airstrike on Mrauk-U District Public Hospital in Rakhine State, ***Figure 11***. The attack killed 35 civilians and injured 76 others, including children, pregnant women, elderly persons, Muslim civilians, healthcare workers, and patients receiving treatment.

The bombing caused extensive damage to the hospital's main building, surgical ward, orthopedic ward, operating rooms, staff accommodation, and nearby residential areas. Attacks against medical facilities raise serious concerns regarding the protection of healthcare infrastructure under international humanitarian law and further weaken already fragile healthcare systems in conflict-affected communities. The incident illustrates how aerial attacks have compounded humanitarian crises by targeting civilians at moments of greatest vulnerability while restricting access to life-saving medical care.



Figure 11: Mrauk-U Hospital (Source – One Nation News)

Analysis of documented cases further indicates repeated attacks against healthcare facilities serving internally displaced persons (IDPs) and remote communities. In April 2025, a hospital located near Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State, which reportedly provided treatment for displaced civilians and more than 1,000 malaria patients each month, was bombed three times within a single week. Although no casualties were reported, the attacks forced the temporary closure of the facility and disrupted treatment for patients suffering from tuberculosis, cancer, and other serious illnesses. These incidents suggest a pattern of attacks that significantly undermines access to healthcare services in conflict-affected areas and raises serious concerns regarding the protection of medical facilities under international humanitarian law. Combined with shortages of healthcare workers and medical supplies following the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), repeated attacks on hospitals and clinics have further weakened Myanmar's already fragile healthcare system and intensified humanitarian suffering among civilians with limited access to assistance.

Cultural Heritage Loss

Aerial attacks have also caused significant destruction to cultural and historical heritage sites across Myanmar. During fighting around Tagaung Town in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, airstrikes reportedly damaged the historic Lay Myet Hnar Pagoda, an ancient cultural site located within the Tagaung archaeological zone. According to local resistance members, despite expectations that the site's historical significance might provide protection, military aircraft continued attacks during clashes on 11 August 2024. Local sources further reported that military forces stationed troops within the pagoda compound and used the ancient structure for defensive purposes while resisting attacks from revolutionary forces. Such actions increased the risk of damage to irreplaceable heritage sites and exposed culturally significant locations to direct military confrontation. These incidents raise concerns regarding the protection of cultural property during armed conflict and the militarization of protected sites.



Figure 12: Damage to Yadanar Mar Aung Pagoda Caused by Helicopter Gunfire (Source – DVB)

Similar destruction was documented in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State, on 13 December 2023 following clashes between military forces and the Arakan Army (AA). According to local residents, attacks carried out by Mi-35 helicopters damaged multiple ancient pagodas and monastery compounds, including Thetkya Marn Aung Pagoda, Yadanar Marn Aung Pagoda, ***Figure 12***, and historic temple structures. Residents reported that sections of the pagodas were broken or destroyed by aerial gunfire. As an important historical and archaeological site seeking UNESCO World Heritage recognition since 2019, Mrauk-U represents a significant component of Myanmar's cultural identity. These incidents demonstrate that aerial warfare not only threatens civilian lives but also negatively contributes to the irreversible destruction of cultural heritage and collective historical memory.

KEY FINDINGS FROM DOCUMENTED DATA

Documented evidence reveals a significant escalation in aerial attacks across Myanmar, with civilians and civilian infrastructure increasingly becoming primary targets of military operations. Schools, religious buildings, hospitals, displacement camps, and civilian gatherings were repeatedly attacked, resulting in extensive casualties, displacement, destruction of essential infrastructure, and long-term psychological trauma. The geographic distribution of attacks also demonstrates strong concentration in conflict-affected areas, particularly Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway Regions, where military operations have intensified. These patterns raise serious concerns regarding repeated attacks against civilian populations and protected civilian objects under international humanitarian law.

Loss of Lives and Livelihoods

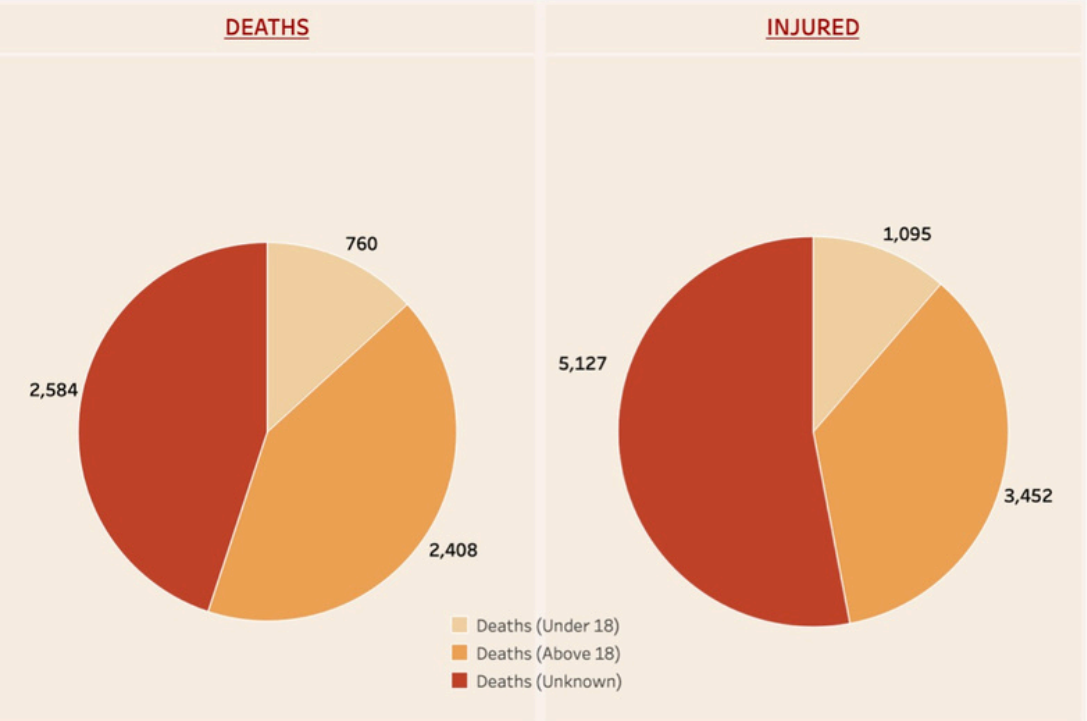


Figure 13: Total Numbers of Deaths & Injured by Aerial Attack

As of the end of May 2026, children accounted for approximately 13 percent of total deaths and 11 percent of total injuries resulting from aerial attacks, ***Figure 13***. Sagaing Region recorded the highest number of deaths and injuries, followed by Rakhine State. A substantial proportion of victims were categorized as "unknown age," reflecting persistent documentation challenges caused by internet shutdowns, communication disruptions, insecurity, and restricted access to conflict-affected areas. These limitations suggest that documented figures may underestimate the actual scale of civilian harm.

Increasing Use of Aerial Attacks Across Myanmar

Data collected by the Documentation and Research Department of MOHR demonstrates a sustained increase in aerial attacks across Myanmar since systematic documentation began in January 2022. Both the number of incidents and the frequency of attack operations have increased annually, indicating growing military dependence on air power as a strategy of territorial control and coercion. According to documented records, more than 5,500 aerial attack incidents and over 12,000 attack operations were recorded during the reporting period. These attacks repeatedly affected civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools, religious compounds, and healthcare facilities.

The data further identifies several significant spikes in attack patterns, ***Figure 14.*** The highest number of incidents was recorded in April 2025, shortly after the major Sagaing earthquake on 28 March 2025, when communities were already experiencing severe humanitarian losses and displacement. This timing raises concerns that ongoing military operations further exacerbated civilian vulnerability during a period of heightened humanitarian need. The highest number of attack operations was recorded again in March 2026 during a period associated with political developments surrounding the junta's planned parliamentary process and vice-presidential selection. Overall, these trends suggest that aerial attacks have increasingly functioned not only as military operations but also as instruments of territorial consolidation, political coercion, and population control.

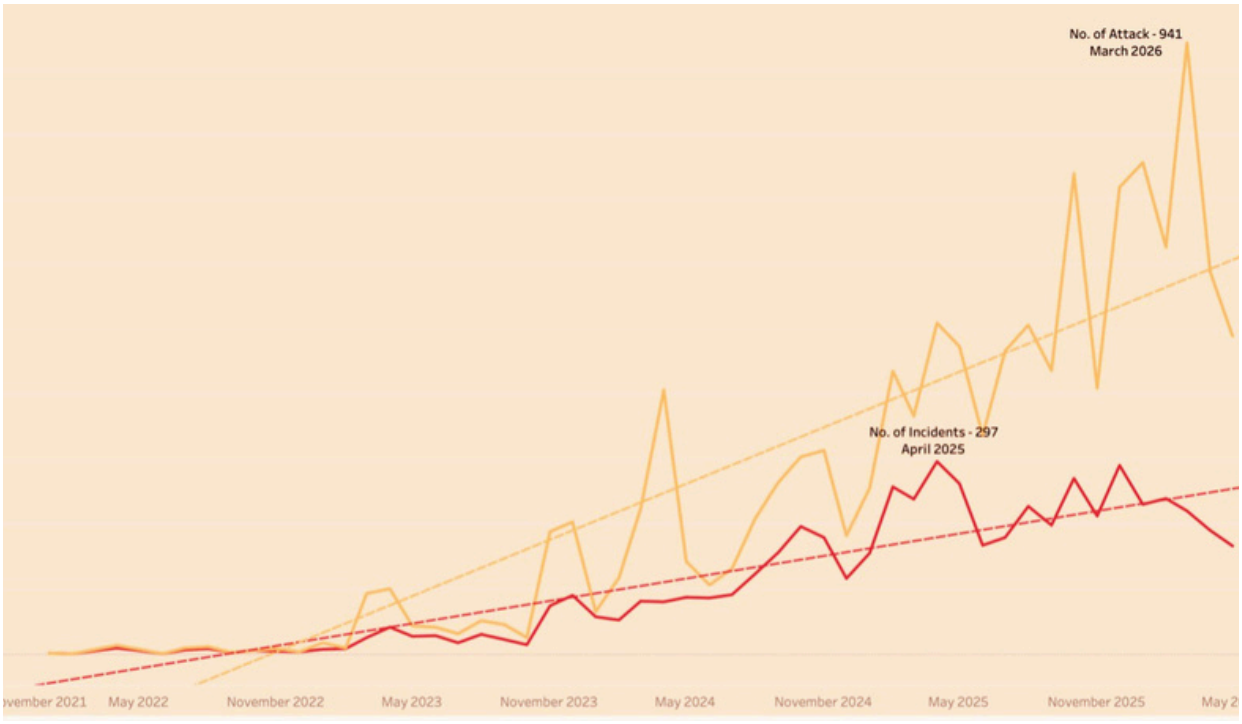


Figure 14: Frequency of Aerial Attacks Increased over Time

Civilian Areas and Infrastructure as Major Targets

Documented evidence demonstrates that civilian areas and public infrastructure have increasingly become primary targets of aerial attacks throughout Myanmar. Religious buildings, schools, and healthcare facilities were repeatedly damaged or destroyed during military operations, including in locations without active armed confrontations. During the reporting period, 752 religious buildings were destroyed, with the highest number of incidents recorded in April 2025. Sagaing Region experienced the greatest destruction among all geographic areas. Many monasteries, churches, and mosques functioned as shelters for displaced civilians, yet attacks continued against these locations. Photographic evidence further shows extensive damage to religious compounds during important public and religious events.

Educational infrastructure has also been heavily affected. A total of 502 schools were destroyed, with the highest number of attacks recorded in April 2025, primarily in Sagaing Region. These attacks disrupted access to education, generated long-term psychological trauma, and undermined children's right to learn in safe environments. In addition, 170 hospitals and healthcare facilities were destroyed, with the highest level of destruction recorded in February 2025, again concentrated in Sagaing Region. Repeated attacks against medical infrastructure further restricted access to healthcare services for populations already affected by conflict and displacement. These destruction trends are illustrated in ***Figure 15*** and demonstrate how aerial warfare has systematically weakened civilian protection systems across multiple sectors.

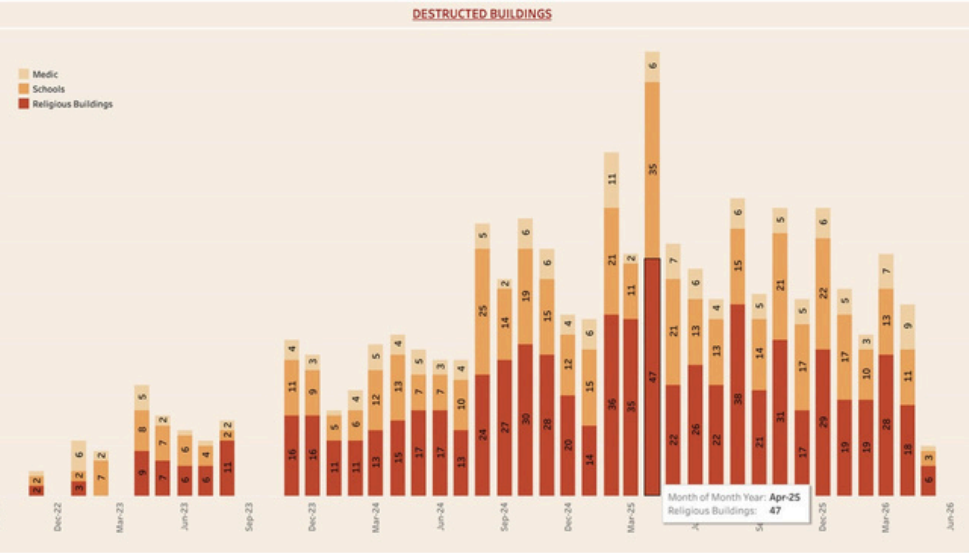


Figure 15: Destruction of Religious Buildings, Schools and Healthcare Facilities by Aerial Attacks

Regional Concentration and Patterns of Attacks

Analysis of documented aerial attacks indicates a significant geographic concentration of atrocity by the military junta in Myanmar's central Dry Zone and other contested territories. Sagaing Region recorded the highest number of attacks, with more than 2,600 documented incidents during the reporting period.

Mandalay and Magway Regions also experienced high frequencies of aerial operations, indicating that the military junta has strategically concentrated air power in areas where armed resistance movements and anti-junta activities remain strong (Figure 2).These regions have increasingly become sites of protracted conflict, where military offensives, territorial contestation, and civilian displacement continue to intensify.The data further demonstrates that aerial violence has not been confined to central Myanmar. Rakhine State, where the military has experienced substantial territorial losses and declining ground control, also recorded frequent aerial bombardments. This pattern suggests that air power has increasingly functioned as a substitute for weakened territorial control and reduced military presence on the ground. The growing reliance on aerial warfare in contested territories reflects a broader strategy of coercive violence aimed at disrupting civilian support networks, restricting local governance structures, and reasserting political and military dominance.

Among documented attack methods, airstrikes conducted by military aircraft remained the most frequently used tactic. This pattern indicates sustained dependence on aerial capabilities to inflict large-scale destruction while minimizing direct battlefield exposure. The concentration of attacks in civilian-populated and contested areas raises serious concerns regarding compliance with international humanitarian law principles, particularly distinction, proportionality, and precaution in attack. Furthermore, the upward trend illustrated in Figure 14 demonstrates that aerial attacks have continued to increase despite international efforts to restrict aviation fuel supply chains and reduce military air operations. This trend suggests that existing accountability and sanctions mechanisms remain insufficient to effectively constrain the junta's aerial warfare capacity.

CONCLUSION

This report critically reflects the lived realities faced by civilians across Myanmar, where the sky is no longer associated with safety or protection but has increasingly become a source of fear, destruction, and death. Findings documented by the Ministry of Human Rights demonstrate that aerial warfare has evolved into a central component of the military junta's strategy to regain territorial control, suppress resistance, and exert coercive pressure on civilian populations. The evidence presented throughout this report indicates recurring and systematic patterns of aerial violence directed against civilian-populated areas and civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, religious buildings, displacement camps, homes, and public gatherings.

The documented patterns reveal that aerial attacks have generated extensive civilian casualties, widespread displacement, severe psychological trauma, and the destruction of essential social infrastructure. Children exposed to repeated airstrikes during school hours increasingly associate education spaces with insecurity and fear, while displaced communities living in camps and religious compounds continue to face persistent threats to their safety. Simultaneously, repeated attacks against healthcare facilities have disrupted access to life-saving medical services, while the destruction of religious and cultural sites has damaged community cohesion, collective memory, and cultural heritage. These findings demonstrate that the impacts of aerial violence extend beyond immediate casualties and have produced long-term humanitarian, social, and developmental consequences across multiple generations. The evidence further suggests that many documented attack patterns raise serious concerns under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Repeated attacks against civilian-populated areas, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and displacement sites may violate the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution, which require parties to armed conflict to distinguish between military objectives and civilians. Attacks directed against protected civilian infrastructure and objects indispensable to civilian survival may constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and warrant further investigation under international criminal law frameworks. The documented scale, frequency, and systematic nature of attacks against civilian populations also raise concerns regarding potential war crimes and other serious international crimes that require independent investigation and accountability processes.

The findings presented in this report demonstrate that aerial attacks are not isolated incidents but form part of broader patterns of violence that continue to deepen humanitarian suffering and civilian vulnerability across Myanmar. As the military junta expands its reliance on aerial warfare, stronger international action is urgently required. International governments, United Nations bodies, regional institutions, and accountability mechanisms must strengthen efforts to protect civilians by increasing pressure on the military's operational capacity, supporting accountability initiatives, and expanding protection mechanisms for affected communities. Immediate measures to restrict access to aviation fuel supply chains, military equipment, and dual-use technologies that facilitate aerial operations should be prioritized alongside support for survivor-centered justice mechanisms and humanitarian responses.

The Ministry of Human Rights, National Unity Government, reiterates that documenting these violations is not only necessary for understanding the scale of harm inflicted upon civilians but also for ensuring future accountability and justice. The evidence preserved through documentation, survivor testimony, and verification processes represents an important foundation for future judicial mechanisms, transitional justice initiatives, and international accountability efforts. Without decisive international action, accountability, and sustained protection efforts, civilians across Myanmar will remain exposed to escalating risks of violence. Protecting civilians, advancing justice, and ending impunity must therefore remain urgent priorities for the international community.



Recommendations

The Ministry of Human Rights of the National Unity Government (NUG) urges the international community to take stronger and more coordinated actions to prevent the situation in Myanmar from further deteriorating.

- International organizations, including the United Nations, should act to end the ongoing aerial attacks of the junta targeting the civilian population in Myanmar, and provide effective support for the protection of civilians.
- International community, including governments, is strongly encouraged to sanction all entities and individuals who are responsible for aerial attacks which claims lives of thousands of civilians including children. Instead, they should engage and cooperate with the National Unity Government to ensure the affected population were provided with necessary support for civilian protection, including but not limited to early warning systems, emergency medical care and humanitarian assistance.
- ASEAN and neighboring countries should also recognize the serious regional security threat of the junta's deadly airstrikes which forced civilians to flee violence and destruction and spillover to neighboring countries. They should continue to provide protection and humanitarian support to those seeking safety from junta's atrocities.
- Finally, international humanitarian organizations and partners should strengthen cooperation with the NUG and civil society to protect affected communities with civilian protection, early warning systems, emergency medical care and humanitarian assistance.
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