



QUARTERLY DOCUMENTATION REPORT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

COMMITTED BY THE MILITARY AND ITS AFFILIATES

MARCH 15-JUNE 30, 2023



PREPARED IN COLLABORATION WITH:





NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION
Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info
Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

Quarterly Report on Documentation of Human Rights Violations Committed by the Military and its Affiliated Forces from March 15th to June 30th, 2023

Date: July 14th, 2023.

1. Introduction

2. Narrative Report of Documented HRVs and Atrocities

- 1. Massacres**
- 2. Airstrikes**
- 3. Death Penalty**
- 4. Persecution**
- 5. “Human Shields” or Hostages**
- 6. Violence against Political Prisoners**
- 7. Sexual Violence**
- 8. Violation of Workers’ Rights**

3. Summary of Statistical Findings

4. Conclusion



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

1. Introduction

Since the military coup on February 1st, 2021, the junta military and its affiliated forces' human rights violations against Burmese civilians have been getting worse daily.

New Myanmar Foundation is initiating the Human Rights Program in February 2023 and the Human Rights Documentation Unit started documenting the military's human rights violations on 1st February 2023. In this report, human rights violations committed by the military during the second quarter, from March 15th to June 30th of 2023, have been systematically documented according to States and Regions and types of violations.

The information on human rights violations in this documentation was collected from the online news media and the informants from the partner organizations of the NMF on the ground. The information can be slightly discrepant since there might be some incidents that were not expressed in the news media and some that the victims did not want to reveal to the public, for example, sexual violence.

Please contact the following Email address and Signal number for suggestions and more information on Human Rights Violations.

New Myanmar Foundation – Human Rights Program

seraphina15609@gmail.com

hrd.dataeditor.nmf@gmail.com

Signal - +66808986684



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

2. Narrative Report of Documented HRVs and Atrocities

1. Massacres

A massacre among numerous human rights violations perpetrated by the military forces against civilians in May 2023 has been documented. The junta forces brutally killed and immolated 19 innocent civilians including children from Nyaungpinthar village, Htantabin Township, Bago Region on May 10th, 2023. This violent incident provided evidence that the junta forces have been perpetrating vicious and serious crimes against civilians without the exclusion of children.

2. Airstrikes

During the second quarter of 2023, the military launched several atrocious airstrikes that resulted in mass casualties. The most fatal case was the targeted airstrike on Pazigy village, Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Region, which massacred 168 civilians including 40 under 18-year-old children. After that sudden attack, the military's air forces intentionally continued airstrikes on that location, trying to local people not to conduct emergency evacuations and resettlements.

Moreover, the airstrikes consecutively launched by the military forces targeting healthcare facilities and public places caused numerous casualties and endangered the lives of many civilian communities. The following is a summary of the most fatal attacks and targeted attacks on designated civilian facilities:

- **April 5th** : Airstrike on Sithar hospital in Shwegu Township, Kachin State.
- **April 8th** : Airstrike on the clinic in Talaing village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, injuring a total of 5 civilians including 2 elders.
- **April 10th** : Airstrike on the school in Webula village, Falam Township, Chin State, killing 9 civilians including a 12-year-old child and injuring another 4 civilians.
- **April 18th** : Airstrike on the hospital in Magyi Kan village, Myaing Township, Magway Region, killing 2 civilians.
- **April 20th** : Airstrike on the administration office in Htilin Township, Magway Region, killing 3 civilians and injuring another 12 civilians.
- **April 25th** : Airstrike on Saung Phway Hospital in Phekon Township, Shan State, injuring 5 civilians including a postpartum woman who has just given birth.
- **June 1st - 2nd** : Consecutive airstrikes, involving a bombing attack, in Yanbo village, Mabein Township, Northern Shan State, killed 7 civilians and caused significant damage to a school, a village clinic, and various civilian homes.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

- **June 25th** : Airstrike in Hnitkayin village, Ye Township, employing two Mi 35 P helicopters. This attack led to the death of an 18-year-old woman due to a severe head injury, while a minimum of ten civilians sustained injuries. Additionally, the strike resulted in the destruction of five civilian houses and various other properties.
- **June 27th** : Airstrike on the monastery in Nyaungkone village, Pale Township, Sagaing Region resulted in the loss of 10 civilian lives, including a monk, and inflicted injuries on at least 10 other people.

3. Death Penalty

The Burmese military labeled those who opposed them as "terrorists" and has imposed cruel punishments on pro-democracy activists under the guise of "counterterrorism." Moreover, disregarding objections from the international community, the junta military has been flagrantly imposing death sentences on civilians. These death penalties have been a violation of fundamental human rights proclaimed in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. During the second quarter of documentation work, 2 cases of death sentences have been recorded:

- **April, 2023:** Despite Kaung Sett Paing, a member of the North Okkalapa Township Students' Union (ABFSU), having already received a life imprisonment sentence on March 22nd, 2023, under Article 505 (a) and 50 (j), the military court at Insein Prison subsequently issued a death sentence for him on April 25th, 2023.
- **May, 2023:** A civilian court issued the death penalty for the first time since the coup. Kaung Pyae Sone Oo, Zayar Phyo, San Lin Maung, Kyaw Soe Lin, and Myat Phyo Pwint, who were under sections relating to terrorism and weapon, have been sentenced to death by Khin Ni Ni Aye, a judge of Ahlone District Court, Insein Prison.

4. Persecution

Persecution Based on Religion

The genocidal military has been continuously committing not only the destruction of religious buildings but also attacks targeting religious minorities. The incident in which the military forces and some Pyu Saw Htee members burned down 50 houses of Muslim families in Ngaryarne village, Kantbalu Township on **April 30th** highlighted the military's persecution based on religion.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

Retaliation against Activists

In addition to unlawful arrests, brutal tortures and death penalties, the military has been increasingly committing retaliatory acts of violence against anti-military activists. Two incidents in June 2023 revealed a disturbing pattern of violence committed not only by the military itself but also by their affiliated groups such as Pyu-Saw-Htee and other pro-military groups:

- **June 6th** : Members of Pyu-Saw-Htee and Ma-Ba-Tha, nationalist groups armed by the military, subjected the mother and sister of Kaung Zarni Hein to a brutal beating and fatal shooting at their home: No. 90, Aye Myittar Street, Yoe Gyi village, Htantabin Township, Yangon. Kaung Zarni Hein was one of the two youths who had been accused by the military of killing a pro-military ultranationalist, Lily Naing Kyaw. His mother and sister were scapegoated and killed in the retaliatory attack after his arrest.
- **June 7th** : At 10:30 p.m., U Than Myint, the brother of the Rohingya human rights advisor of the National Unity Government, was brutally stabbed to death near the Nwe Aye Mosque in Yangon. Disturbingly, the military supporters openly took credit for the killing on social media, celebrating it as a triumph.

The two cases in June show how impunity has enabled the military and its affiliates to blatantly murder their dissidents, and how human rights defenders and activists in Myanmar are being threatened with the lives of their family members.

5. “Human Shields” or Hostages

Taking hostages or human shields is a serious war crime prohibited by the Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute. However, the military is increasing this practice during their raids of civilian areas. Generally, it is found that the military usually detains villagers as hostages to abduct them alongside their troops to “shield” themselves and to force them to labor as ushers or carriers. Therefore, it is often observed that cases of hostage-capturing are paired with other crimes such as forced labor, torture, and even killing. One of the most atrocious cases was the massacre of 17 locals from Tar-taing Village in Sagaing by the military’s “Ogre Column” after using them as human shields and raping the women. After the case, the military continued to use the same techniques of terror in the past 3 months.

From March 15 to June 30, 2023, 1814 civilians have been captured as hostages or used as “human shields” in conflict areas by the military. Most of the subjected civilians are from Sagaing and Kachin. Some involve the simultaneous capture of tens of civilians, many



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

of whom go missing without any trace – devastating the families. Some of the documented cases are summarized as follows to illustrate the military's tendency to objectify and endanger the lives of civilians.

1. Hostages Suffer Mistreatment and Torture.

Hostages abducted and detained by the military during the raids often go through severely distressing situations such as sensory deprivation, psychological abuse and, in many cases, physical torture. The following cases give a glimpse into the grave mistreatment endured by the subjected civilians:

April 18th: Magyikan village, Myaing Township, Magway Region - The military carried out an airstrike on a hospital located in Magyikan village, Myaing Township, using two Mi 17 helicopters and a Mi 35 helicopter. Subsequently, over 30 civilians were taken hostage by the soldiers. Hostages were subjected to torture during interrogations.

May 6th : Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region - Approximately 40 individuals from Nyongone village were arrested and forced to march at the forefront of the soldiers' column, serving as "human shields" for protecting the soldiers and deterring ambushes. The majority of those arrested were young boys, specifically targeted and subjected to physical abuse in the form of beatings.

June 9th: Banlamut village, Tanintharyi Township, Tanintharyi Region - During the raid of the village, the soldiers arrested four male civilians who suffered distressing circumstances, with their hands tied behind their backs and their heads covered with black clothes.

2. Hostages may be abducted en masse.

In several cases, a large number civilians are held hostage inside a facility as soldiers raid the village, or they are taken as human shields alongside the troops to deter attacks and protect the soldiers against landmines and ambushes. The following cases exemplify the military's tactic of mass apprehension:

March 6th: Khin-U Township - Over 50 IDPs from various villages were taken as human shields by the military forces as they attacked the villages in Khin U and Kantbalu Townships. The hostages suffered beatings, according to the 7 survivors who managed to flee.

March 20th: Mee-Laung-Kyun Ywar Thit village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region - About 160 female and 70 male civilians were detained by the military at a monastery, and the male civilians were taken as human shields when the troops left the village.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

March 26th: Sone-Kone village, Butalin Township, Sagaing Region - About 40 civilians were forced to march in front of the troops, serving as human shields, as the soldiers entered Saingpyin, a neighbouring town.

April: Hpakant Township, Kachin State - About 50 civilians were detained by the military on April 19, and subsequently on April 25, additional 200 individuals were apprehended for the purpose of using them as human shields. Before these cases, in March, there had been a mass apprehension of more than 100 civilians in Hpakant.

June 1st: Nweni-Aing village, Katha Township, Sagaing Region - Over 50 civilians from Nweni-Aing village were taken hostage by the troops of around 80 soldiers to protect themselves amidst their ongoing battles with KIA and PDF in the area.

June 6th: Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region - A total of 45 civilians, 15 from Moe-Kyo-Pyin village and an additional 30 from Ya-Za-Kyaw village in Salingyi Township, were taken by the military to use as human shields. Arrestees include both men and women, ranging from 20 to 30 years old.

June 11th: Shwedon village, Mabein Township, Shan State - About 50 innocent civilians were taken by the military to be used as human shields along the way where they conducted raids on other villages.

June 16th: Yange village, Thayet-Chaung Township, Tanintharyi Region - Over 200 innocent civilians were apprehended as human shields during the military's raid. The troops also set houses on fire before they left the village.

May 2nd: Dunbang village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State - Over 30 residents were taken as human shields by the military near Dunbang village.

May 27th: Kan-Ma village, Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region - About 60 residents were forcibly held as hostages by the military.

3. Hostages Suffer the Dual Impact of Forced Labor.

Captured civilians are usually forced to labor as carriers and guides or take part in propaganda tactics of the military, as seen in these cases:

April 23rd: Kularkwe village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State. - 14 male civilians above the age of 30 were forcibly abducted to serve as unwilling carriers for the troops' weapons.

April 13th: Kyauk-maw Payagyi village, Kyauk Gyi Township, Karen State. - Five residents from Kyauk-maw Payagyi village and one individual from Kotha-Say village were apprehended on the morning of April 13. Unfortunately, out of the six people arrested, only



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

one person was released at 1:00 p.m. The remaining five individuals were used as guides and transported to the Baw-Khata military camp.

April 21st: Mawpone village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State.- Approximately 60 individuals were forced to shout slogans expressing their disapproval of the National Unity Government (NUG) while they were held hostage by the military.

4. Hostages include all genders and ages, including vulnerable groups.

Although men are more commonly subjected as human shields and hostages, the military do not intentionally spare women, children or elderly either. In the following example cases, vulnerable groups of civilians are indiscriminately abducted by the raiding troops:

April 27th: Masutyang village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State.- Over 100 civilians were taken with their hands tied behind their backs during the military's raid on the village. Among those apprehended were young and middle-aged individuals ranging from 20 to 40 years old, as well as elderly villagers.

May 17th: Hpakant Township, Kachin State- More than 40 individuals, including women and children, from three villages in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, were taken as human shields by the military.

March 16th: Ratein village, Launglon Township, Tanintharyi Region- Civilians attempting to flee the ongoing conflict were apprehended by the military and used as human shields. Shockingly, among those arrested were elderly individuals and children. Some of the arrestees were taken into custody with their hands tied behind their backs, adding to their physical distress and instilling a crippling sense of fear.

June 8th : Kanetthiri village, Thayetchaung Township, Tanintharyi Region- Over 40 individuals, including children and the elderly, were held as hostages during the raid by the military.

May 18th: Kanthar-Kone village, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region - The military troops not only burned down houses but also arrested 50 civilians in Kanthar-Kone village, Shwebo Township. These innocent individuals were then used as human shields. It is important to note that children were among those detained in this incident.

May 26th and May 28th: Yaelae-Kyun area, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region - During the military's raids, civilians, including elderly individuals and children, were taken as hostages or human shields.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

6. Violence against Political Prisoners

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right of every human to be free from torture, and the Rome Statute also prohibits the torture of prisoners as a Crime against Humanity. Yet, the military forces have been committing inhumane beatings against those arrested and detained whether in custody or in the areas they raided or on the street, or in public. Within the past 3 months, there have been a significant increase in violence against political prisoners, and even extrajudicial killings of prisoners such as the shooting and killing of two political prisoners, Kaung Zarni Hein and Kyaw Thura on July 7th.

From March 15 to June 30, the following cases of violence by prison authorities and the military have been recorded in 4 prisons: Myingyan, Tharawaddy, Daik-U (Kyaikzakaw), and Maubin Prisons. The series of attacks in the previous months resulted in the confirmed deaths of 2 political prisoners and the additional deaths of 4 more in early July.

Myingyan Prison (Mandalay Region) – Starting from May 21st, more than 70 political prisoners were forcibly removed from their cells and subjected to interrogation and torture. While others were beaten and interrogated at the jailor's office, 14 of these prisoners were taken to the interrogation center of the Light Infantry Battalion (Kha-Ma-Ya) - 15, where they were brutally tortured.

- **Extent of physical and psychological torture:** One of them, Soe Yarzar Tun Lwin, was tortured by cutting with a knife, causing several stab wounds on his body, and he was beaten until his teeth fell off. Consequently, his life was at great risk, but alongside other survivors, he has been denied access to medical treatment or any communication with his family.
Thirteen of those tortured by the LIB-15 were put in solitary confinement for over a month before being transferred to other prisons. According to the updated news from Myanmar Now on July 2, one of them, Toe Wai Aung, was missing which led to speculations that he had been killed.
- **Death in prison:** One political prisoner, 43-year-old Sein Win, died in Myingyan Prison. Although the prison authorities informed the family on July 2 that the cause of death was bleeding in the stomach, his body sustained bruises on the arms and neck, and his family was not allowed to take his body.
- **Aftermath:** The political prisoners, who had been interrogated in May and June, had been prohibited from communicating with their families and were transferred to different prisons. Among them, three have been imposed with additional charges for using mobile phones.

Tharawaddy Prison (Bago Region) – The prison authorities from Tharawaddy Prison illegally took out 9 political prisoners from their cells for interrogation and among them, a political prisoner named Pyae Phyto Win was killed on May 21st. Again, in early July, three more



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

political prisoners were confirmed to be killed: Aung Myo Thu, Pyae Phyo Hein, and Khant Lin Naing – a student activist from Bago District Student Union (All Burma Federation of Student Unions, ABFSU).

The jailor and other prison authorities have often threatened that they can easily kill the political prisoners in Tharawaddy Prison without consequences, and a group called “Soone Ye” organized by the prison authorities frequently committed beatings and torture. According to the media reports, at least 20 female and 11 male political prisoners were severely beaten and tortured by that group in May. They physically and mentally tortured the political prisoners not only by holding them in solitary confinement but also by making them hold stress positions for a long time, binding them with ankle cuffs, physically torturing them using slingshots, electroshock devices, and beating them. In addition, forced labor and extortion, using various pretexts, are also common.

Daik-U Prison (Bago Region) - On May 25th and 26th, approximately 15 political prisoners were taken out of prison and interrogated, and among them, a political prisoner called Thant Zin Win was killed. The prison authorities informed his family members that he died of heat stroke, but the body was never returned to his family.

Maubin Prison (Ayeyarwaddy Region) - During a meeting between Zaw Sitt Aung, the director of the Prison Department in Ayeyarwaddy, and prisoners from Maubin Prison on June 11th, five political prisoners were accused of talking impolitely to the director. As a result, they were taken out of their cells, tortured, and put in solitary confinement. Taryar Lin, a police officer known for joining the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) to oppose the military coup, was also placed in solitary confinement for advocating for the rights of the prisoners.

These actions by the prison authorities illustrate further mistreatment and violations of basic human rights within the prison system. There is no guarantee for the safety of political prisoners, especially because violence against political prisoners has been openly permitted and encouraged by the prison authorities- who have been emboldened by the lack of consequences for their acts.

7. Sexual Violence

The military is perpetrating various forms of sexual violence and using them as a weapon to suppress civilians, including their dissidents. Rape is a common tactic used by the military to terrorize people and to signify their ruthlessness. Early March saw atrocious cases such as the rapes and killings of a young woman, who was also a strong democracy supporter, from Taze Township of Sagaing, and of three women from Tar-taing Villlage – who were tortured to the point where they could not speak or eat, and were used as human shields before their death.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

The following is a summary of cases that took place from March 15 to 31, 2023:

Case 1: Rape and Immolation of “Khin”, Madaya Township

Between March 13th and March 17th, while the military raided villages in Madaya Township, a 28-year-old woman from Shwe Khepyan Village, fell victim to an unspeakable crime. She was not only raped but also brutally killed. Disturbingly, it was discovered that the perpetrators went to the extreme of burning her private parts.

Case 2: Rape and Killing of Two Sisters, Moby Township, Shan State.

On June 9th, in Ward 2 of Sikar, Moby Township, the bodies of two women and their father were discovered. It was found out that the two women had been subjected to rape and murder at the hands of soldiers.

Case 3: Rape and Killing of “Thet”, Okpho Township, Bago Region.

On May 19th, a group of 15 soldiers forced a couple from Okpho Township, whom they had forcefully arrested 9 days prior, to show them the locations of rebel camps in Pegu Range (Bago Yoma). The couple was shot and killed by the soldiers afterward. News media have cited local sources that the woman was raped by the soldiers before being killed.

Case 4: Rape and Killing of “Yin”, Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Region.

On June 9th, an unidentified man and woman from Wah-Pin-Su village in Kyaukkyi Township were fatally shot by the military. Subsequently, two bodies were discovered by local residents floating in the Sittaung River. While it cannot be definitively confirmed if these bodies belong to the aforementioned victims of the military shooting, it was discovered that one of the deceased, a woman, had been raped by the soldiers.

Case 5: Rape of Two Young Workers, Pakokku Township, Magway Region.

On March 23rd, around 3:00 PM, two female workers, approximately 20 years old, from Pakokku Township, were detained for bringing scissors when they were inspected at a checkpoint by the military. These two individuals, both approximately 20 years old, from Mankyisu village, were handcuffed and tied up respectively. Both women were later raped by a group consisting of soldiers and members of Pyu-Saw-Htee militia. After this incident, the young women reportedly lost their lives to suicide.

Case 6: Rape and Murder of Two Young Women, Sagaing Township

At 5:00 a.m. on June 25th, the military attacked the camp of a local defense group in Kingdaw village located in Sagaing Township. All of the defense force members present at the camp were killed – some of them getting killed after being captured alive as prisoners.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

During the raid, a total of 13 defense force members and 3 civilians were brutally murdered. Even more horrifyingly, two young women at the camp were reported to be raped before being subsequently killed by the military forces.

Case 7: Sexual Harassment, Yebyu Township

On May 15th, the military forces of the junta entered Mayinggyi village situated in Yebyu Township and captured 10 civilians, which included women. Later that same evening, the detainees were freed. Nevertheless, there are reports indicating that certain women among the detainees were subjected to sexual assault, as the military forces inappropriately touched their intimate areas, using the pretense of conducting examinations.

In addition to these recorded cases, there is likely to be a vast number of sexual violence and gender-based violence cases that remain in oblivion due to security threats in areas under the control of the military regime, in areas amidst armed conflict, and in prison cells silenced with utmost suppression.

8. Violation of Workers' Rights

Factory workers are also among those who are severely impacted by the deterioration of the human rights situation in Myanmar under the military regime. They have been deprived of their rights to receive fair pay for their labor, to participate in free associations, and to seek justice for exploitation and harassment. The following case reports collected in May and June testify to the human rights crisis faced by workers in Myanmar.

- **Case of Arrests in Hosheng Myanmar and Sun Apparel Myanmar:** Following their demand for an increase in basic wages, seven members of the labor union at the Hosheng Myanmar factory in Shwe Linpan Industrial Zone, Shwepyithar Township, were terminated from their employment. On June 14th, a 29-year-old union member named Thu Thu San was taken by soldiers for questioning. Subsequently, on June 18th, four labor union members, namely Aye Thandar Htay, Thandar Aye, May Thu Min, and Aung Aung, were arrested once again. Additionally, two women and one man who were associated with the arrestees were also detained. Similarly, two labor union leaders, Thida Win and Hlaing Win Htet, faced arrest for their involvement in the protest at the Sun Apparel Myanmar garment factory in Industrial Zone 5, Hlaingtharyar Township. Thida Win was detained on June 14th and Hlaing Win Htet on June 15th. These serial arrests marked a significant setback in the workers' pursuit of their rights.
- **Case of Gender-based Discrimination and Exploitation in Military-owned factories:** As reported by an online news source on May 2nd, female workers from a military-owned cotton factory in Hlaing Township were coerced into going to the residences



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

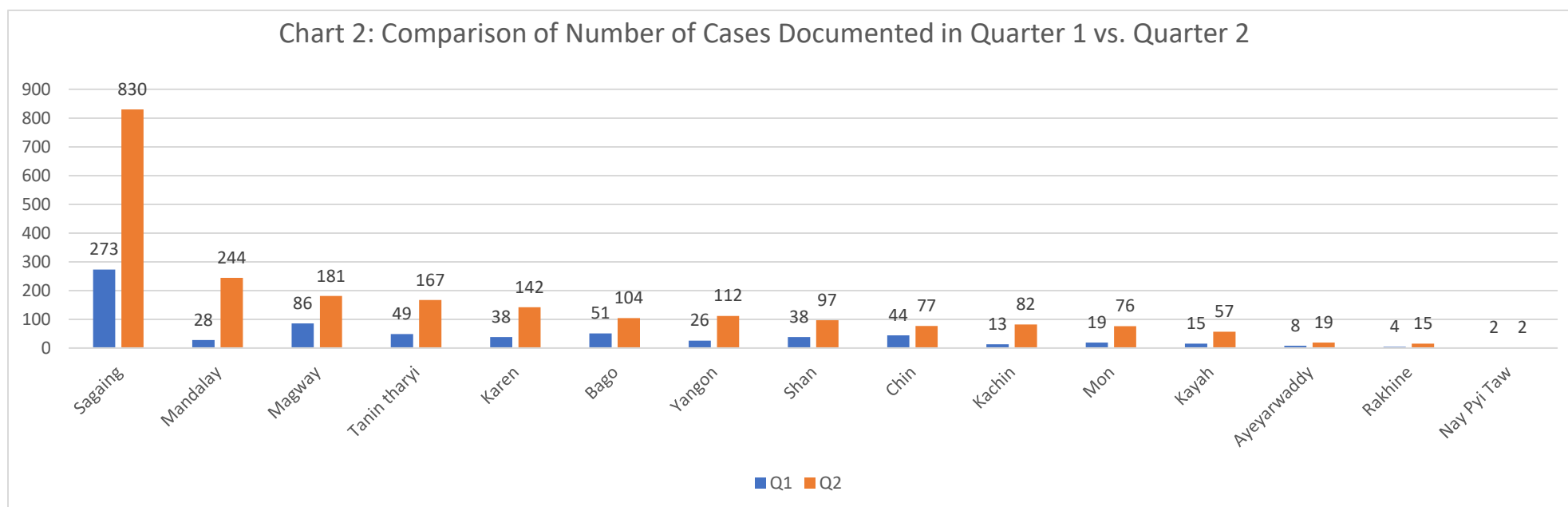
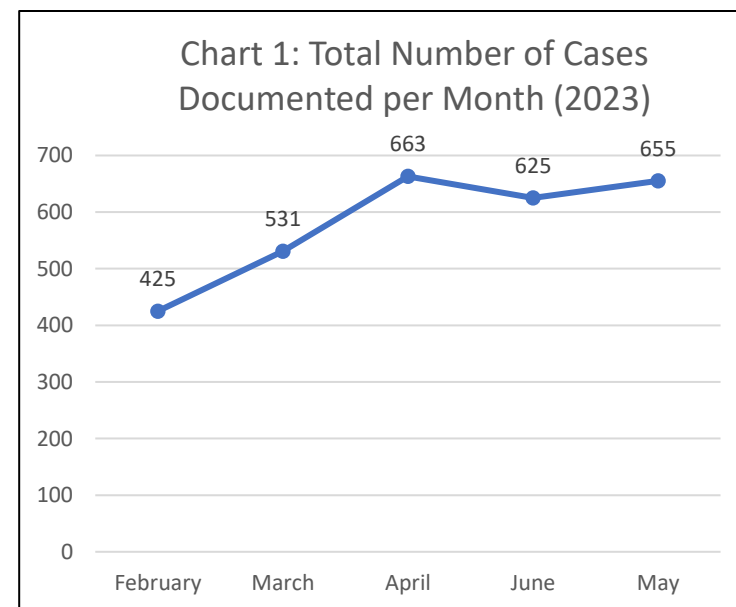
Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

of approximately 80 military officers in Nay Pyi Taw, where they were forced to perform domestic tasks for two weeks. The tasks they were pressured to do included washing the clothes of military officers, ironing, providing massages, and even engaging in sexual activities. Any dissent or resistance from the workers resulted in physical abuse by the military officers. Only unmarried female workers residing in the factory dormitory were selected and sent to these assignments. To ensure compliance, the female workers were threatened with termination of employment and expulsion from the dormitory if they refused to carry out the assigned tasks. Such forced labor and discriminatory acts against women oppose the UDHR, and they also defy the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

3. Summary of Statistical Findings

The number of documented cases have increased steadily since the beginning of February 2023. According to our data, 655 cases of human rights violations (HRVs) against civilians have been perpetrated by the military. This is a 54% increase from our documented number of cases in February of this same year, 2023. During our 5 months of monitoring, April of 2023 saw a peak of 663 HRV cases. These finding shows the military's increasing boldness in committing violence against civilians. ([Chart 1](#))

Geographically, Sagaing suffers the highest frequency of HRVs throughout the 5-month period (1103 cases in total). Mandalay and Magway have the second and third highest rates with 272 cases and 267 cases in total respectively. ([Chart 2](#))



Note: Q1 (Quarter 1) spans from February 1, 2023 to March 14, 2023. Q2 (Quarter 2) includes data collected from March 15, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

Chart 3: Total Number of Cases in 5 Months for Each Type of HRV

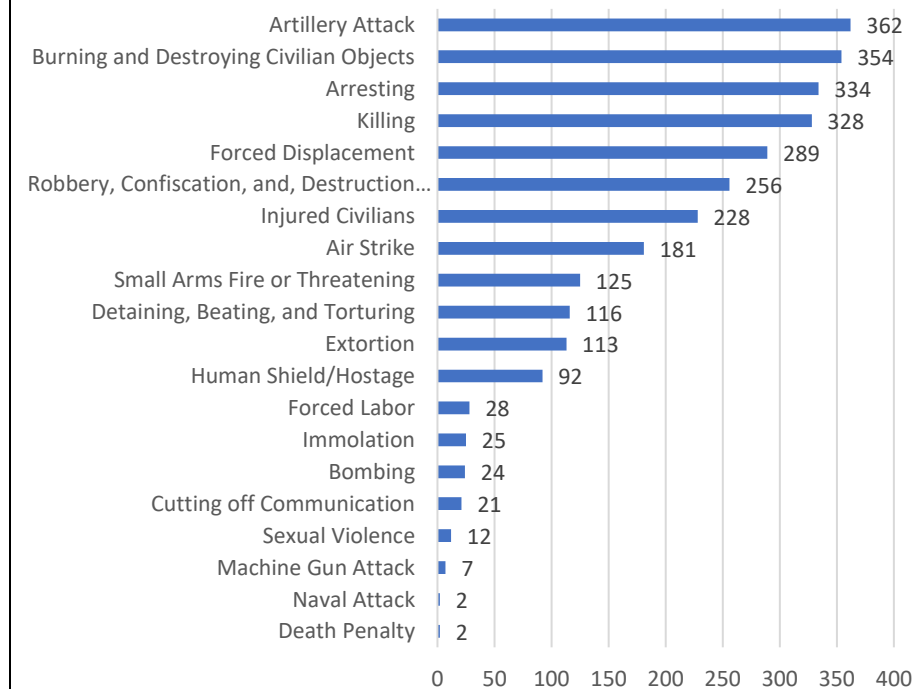
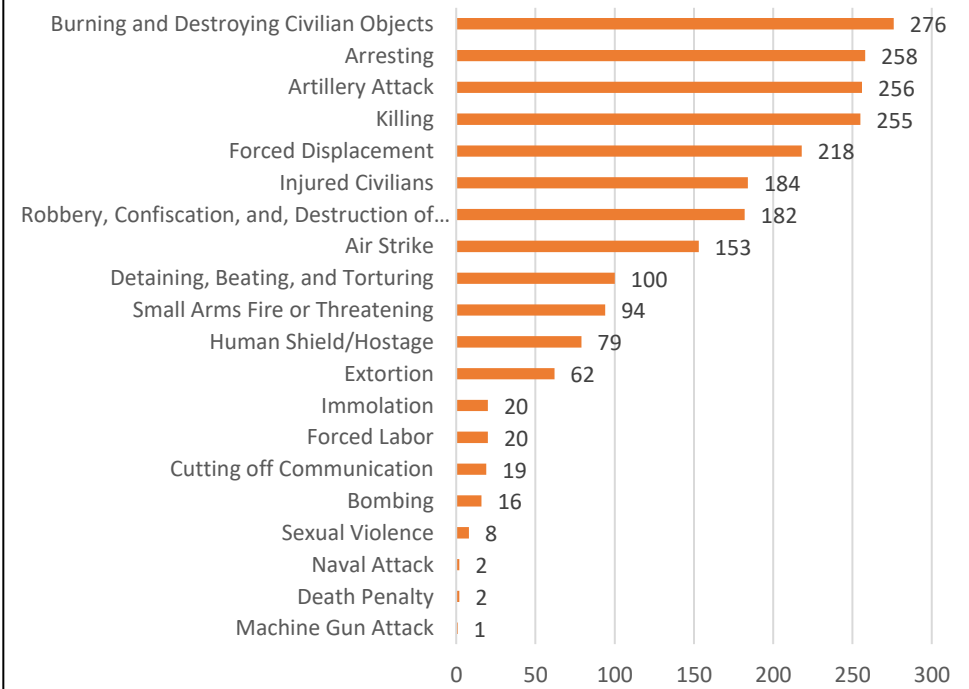


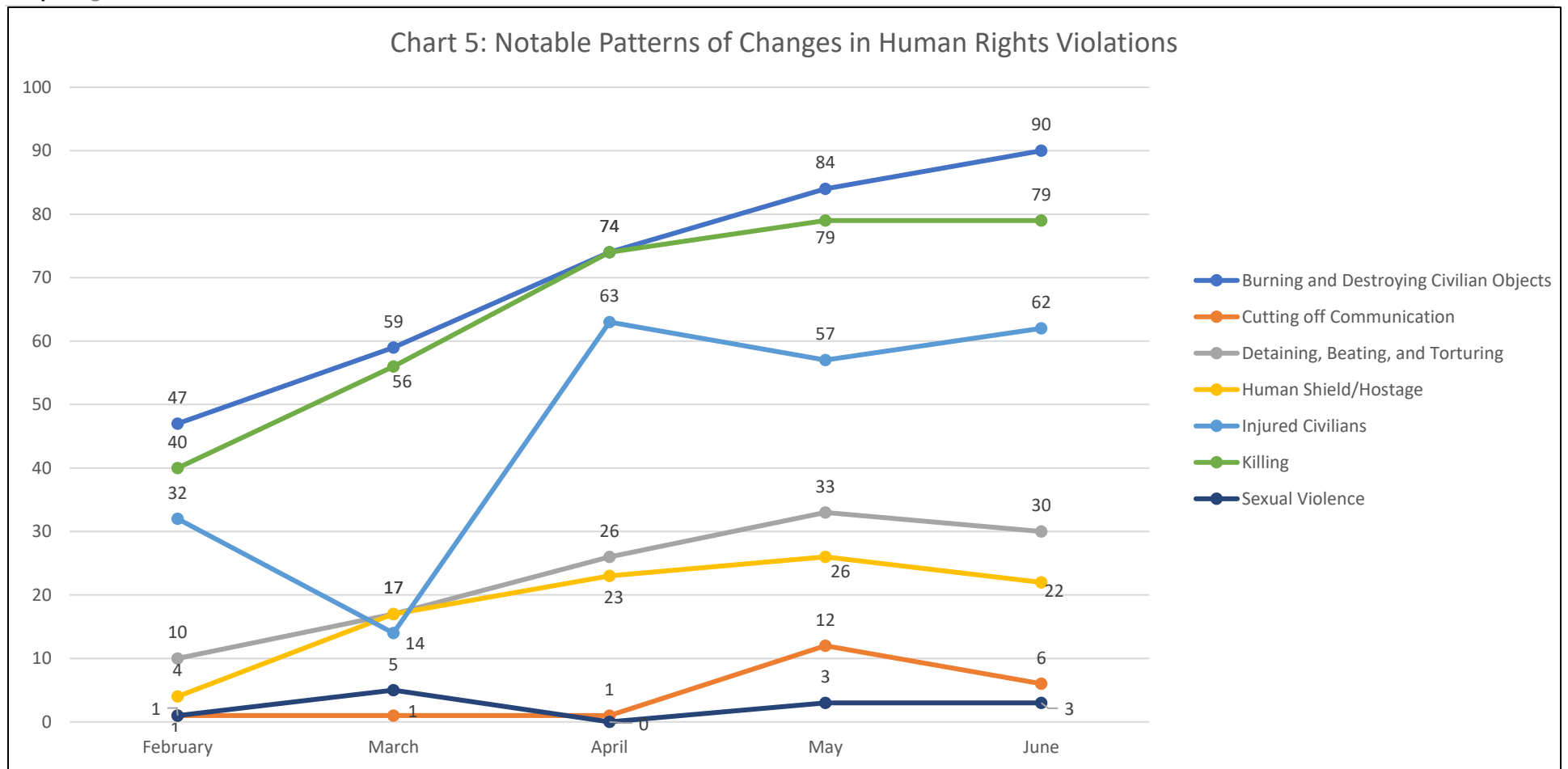
Chart 4: Total Number of Cases in Quarter-2 for Each Type of HRV



The Most Prevalent Categories of HRV

During Quarter 2, the military has increasingly burned down civilian objects as a way of collective punishment and sometimes as a form of retaliation against anti-military political activists. A total of 276 cases have been observed from March 15, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Other numerically prevalent types of HRVs include: unlawful arrests (258 cases), artillery attacks directed against civilian populations (256 cases) and extrajudicial killings of civilians by means of military-grade weapons and atrocious methods of torture (255 cases). ([Chart 4](#))

Throughout February 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023, artillery attacks are the most prevalent form of HRV committed by the military (362 cases within 5 months), followed by burning (354 cases) and unlawful arrests (334 cases). ([Chart 3](#))



Notable Patterns of Changes in Human Rights Violations

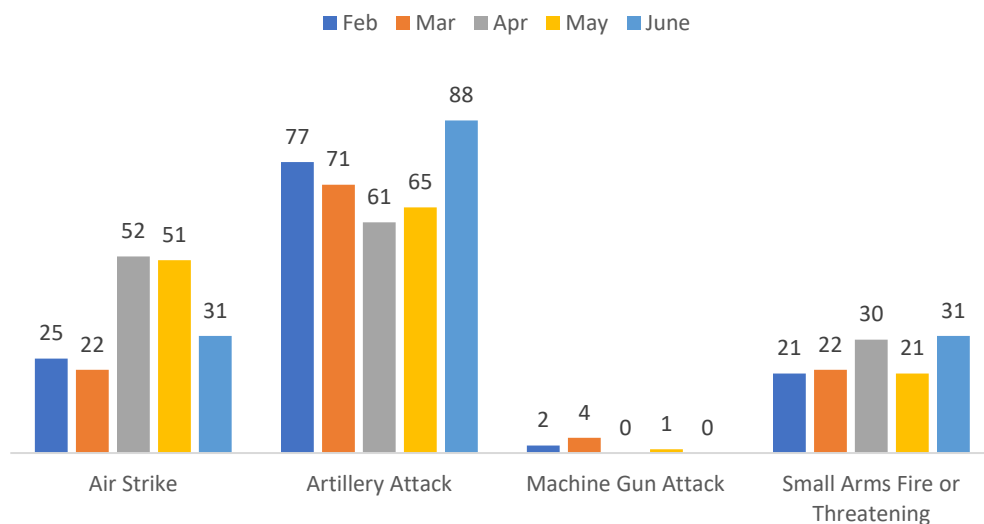
The illustrated 7 types of HRVs exhibit a remarkable pattern during the 6-month period although some of these are not numerically dominant. For instance, cases of sexual violence have increased up to 3 cases in June. Yet, this number may not fully represent the actual cases as there can still be many underreported cases. This shows the need for reinforced efforts to protect the survivors and encourage their participation in accountability mechanisms.

Likewise, compared with the initial months, the recorded cases for detainment with torture (10 cases in February- 130 cases in June) and using civilians as human shields or hostages in armed conflict (4 cases in February – 22 cases in June) have constantly increased over time. ([Chart 5](#))

Increasing cases of the military cutting off communications have also been documented. This has been observed in the form of destroying roads and obstructing access of disaster-affected populations to humanitarian aid or procurement of essential supplies. Such cases have been especially frequent during May which saw the superimposed impacts of Cyclone MOCHA and the military's armed violence. Significant casualties have resulted from this type of indirect violence by the military. ([Chart 5](#))

Analysing the Use of Military Weapons against Civilians

Chart 6: Nationwide Number of Cases for the Use of Military Weapons against Civilians (per Month)



Heavy artillery is the most common weapon used by the military to terrorize civilian populations. Most recently, there have been 88 cases of artillery attacks within a single month of June – all targeted toward civilian settlements. [\(Chart 6\)](#)

Airstrikes remain the most common method of mass killing by the military. During these attacks, it involves either shelling, artillery attacks, or machine gun attacks from fighter jets and helicopters. Such brutal attacks are targeted intentionally against civilians, often in the absence of any nearby armed conflict. 181 cases of airstrikes against civilians have been documented during 5 months. Notably, April and May saw the highest number of attacks – amounting to over 50 cases in a single month. [\(Chart 6\)](#)

During Quarter-2, airstrikes account for 49% (261 people) of civilian deaths caused by the military's weaponized violence and 29% (176 people) of injured civilians. [\(Chart 7; Chart 8\)](#)

Chart 7: Number of Civilian Deaths due to Weaponized Violence by Military (Quarter 2)

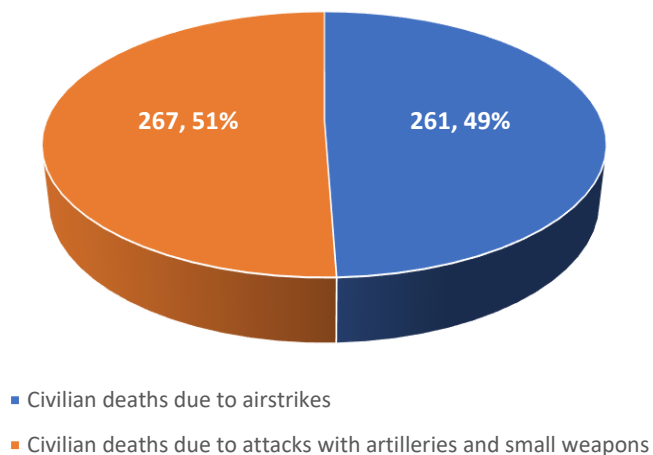


Chart 8: Number of Injured Civilians due to Weaponized Violence by Military (Quarter 2)

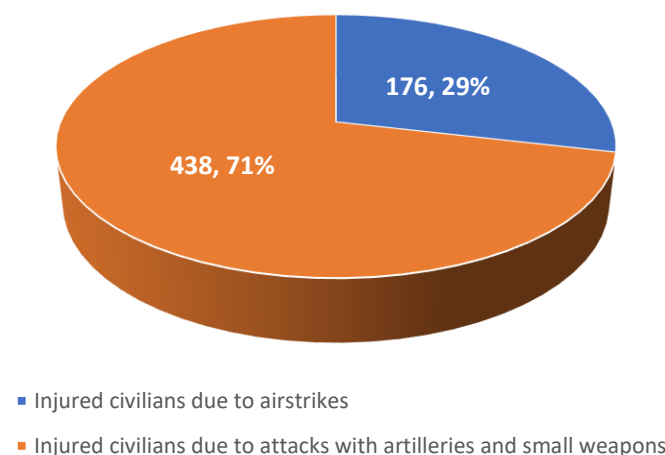


Chart 9: Geographical Analysis of the Causes of Civilian Deaths (Quarter 2)

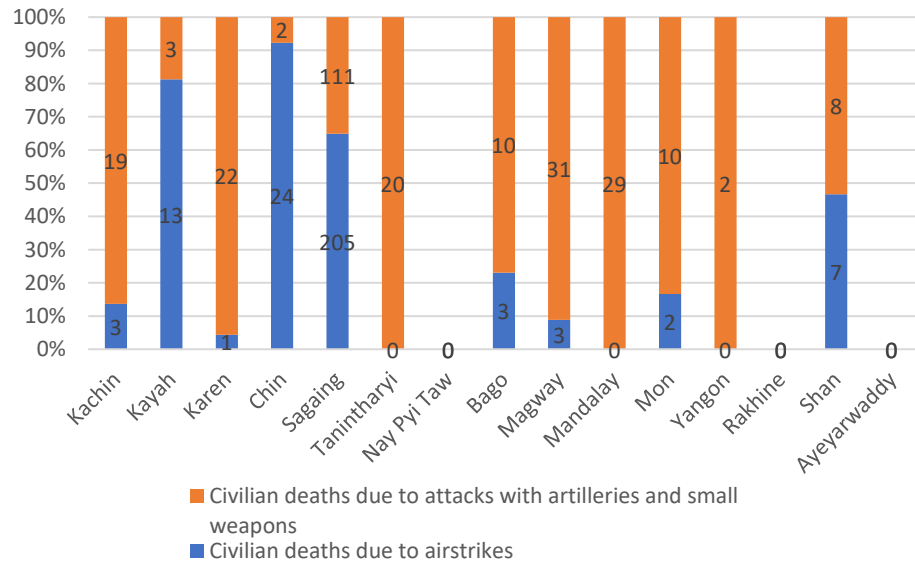
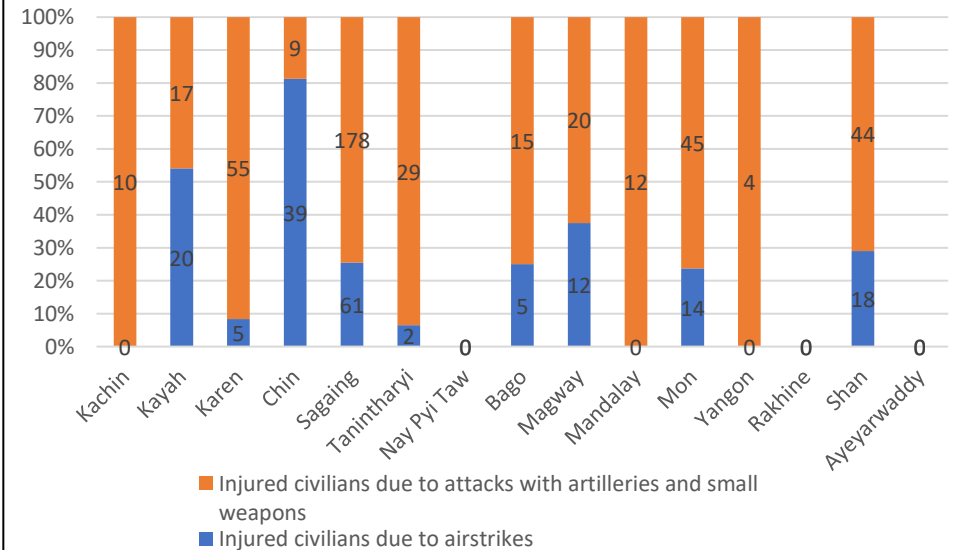
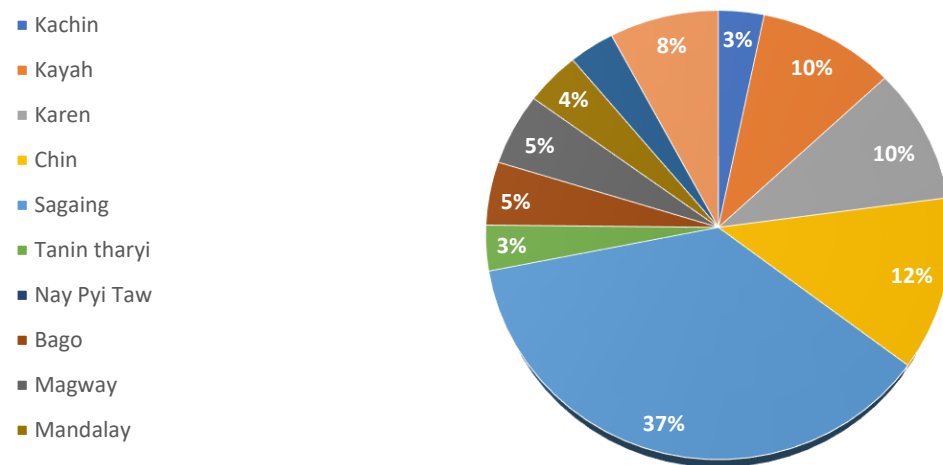


Chart 10: Geographical Analysis of the Causes of Civilian Injuries (Quarter 2)



Geographically, Sagaing (37%), Chin (12%) and Karen (10%) are the regions most affected by airstrikes. (Chart 11) Airstrikes account for more than 50% of civilian deaths caused by military weapons in Chin, Sagaing and Kayah. Meanwhile, artillery attacks and small arms fire cause relatively more fatalities (over 90%) in Karen, Tanintharyi, Magway, and Mandalay. (Chart 9) The civilians of Mon and Shan are also more commonly injured by the military's attacks with heavy artillery and smaller weapons. (Chart 10)

Chart 11: Percentage of Airstrikes per State/ Region (Quarter 2)



All these findings are evidence that the military shows no restraint in terrorizing unarmed non-combatant civilians by using various firearms and mass-killing techniques such as airstrikes. Failure to impose an effective arms and fuel embargo, as well as emboldening the military's use of weapons with diplomatic incentives, will add more and more to civilian casualties.

Analysing the Different Forms of Detainment committed by the Military

From March 15 to June 30, 2023, a total of 457 cases of detainment and forced labor by the military have been recorded. All of the four categories of detainment have significantly increased within the documented period.

Alarming, at least 22% of all detainment cases involve physical abuse and torture. [\(Chart 12\)](#) Another notable finding is that in 17% of cases, the military used the detained civilians as human shields in armed conflict or held them as hostages. 2419 civilians have been held hostage or used as human shields by the military, accounting for up to 40% of all detainees. [\(Chart 13\)](#) Although the military tends to take men as hostages, survivors occasionally include children and the elderly as well. Cases of forced labor have also increased gradually over time, and these are perpetrated not only by the military but also by their affiliates such as “Pyu-Saw-Htee”, an ultranationalist militia sponsored by the military junta.

This is another clear example of the Myanmar military blatantly perpetrating serious war crimes, and it also highlights the lack of safety for Myanmar people in their day-to-day life.

Chart 12: Number of Cases for Different Types of Detainment and Forced Labour (Quarter 2)

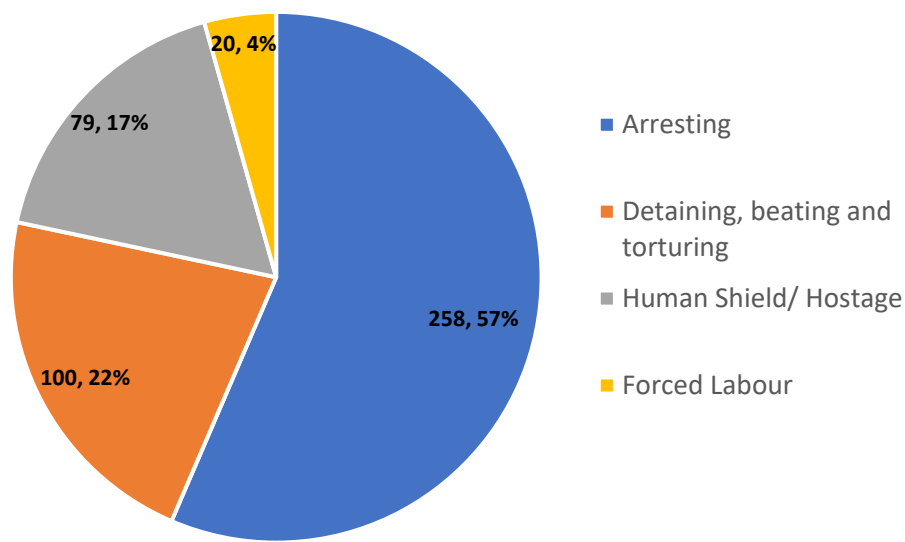


Chart 13: Number of Civilians for Detainment, Torture and Hostaging (Quarter 2)

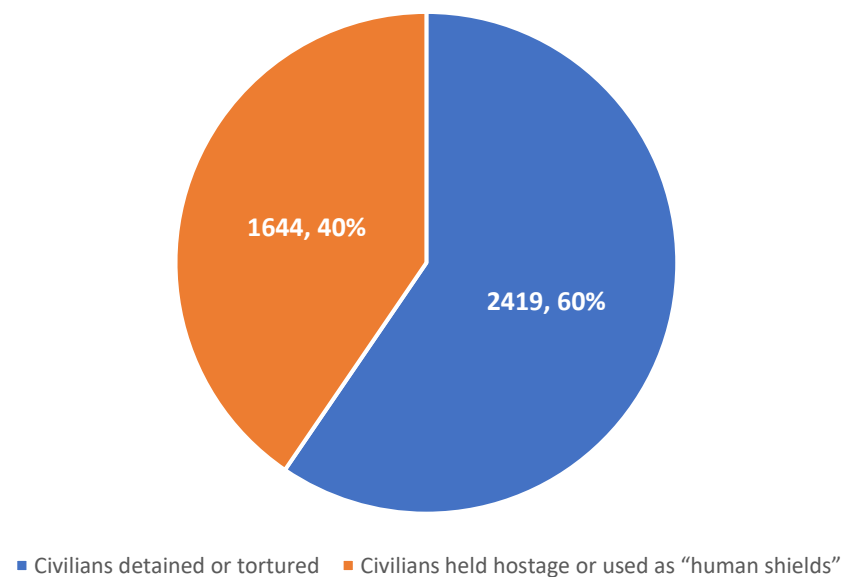
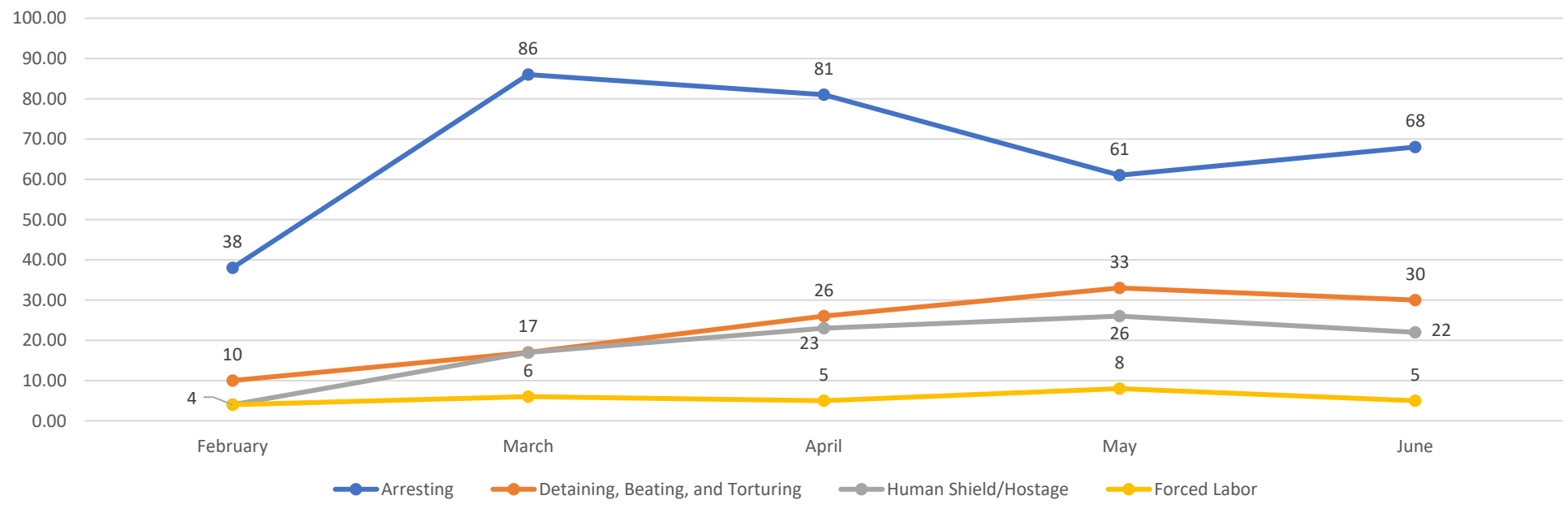


Chart 14: Changes in the Number of Different Forms of Detainment Committed by the Military (Feb - June 2023)



Civilian Houses and Buildings Lost due to the Military's Violence

Due to the military's arson during raids and other acts of violence such as artillery attacks and airstrikes, millions of civilians are made homeless, and severe damage is inflicted on other socioeconomically essential infrastructure, including buildings for healthcare, education and religion. Within Quarter-2, over ten thousand homes and buildings (13,558) have been burned down due to various acts of violence by the military. About 70% of burned buildings (9092 buildings) are from Sagaing region alone. Magway (1442 buildings) and Kachin (1134 buildings) are also areas subjected to the highest extent of burning. ([Chart 17](#))

In addition to this, airstrikes have caused varying degrees of damage to 699 homes and buildings nationwide. Again, the most severely affected region is Sagaing, alongside Kachin and Magway. Among them, over 30% of damage caused by airstrikes (239 buildings) is attributed to Sagaing. Other areas such as Kayah (123 buildings), Shan (106 buildings) and Kachin (101 buildings) have also suffered significant damage. ([Chart 17](#))

Chart 15: Civilian homes and buildings damaged by airstrikes

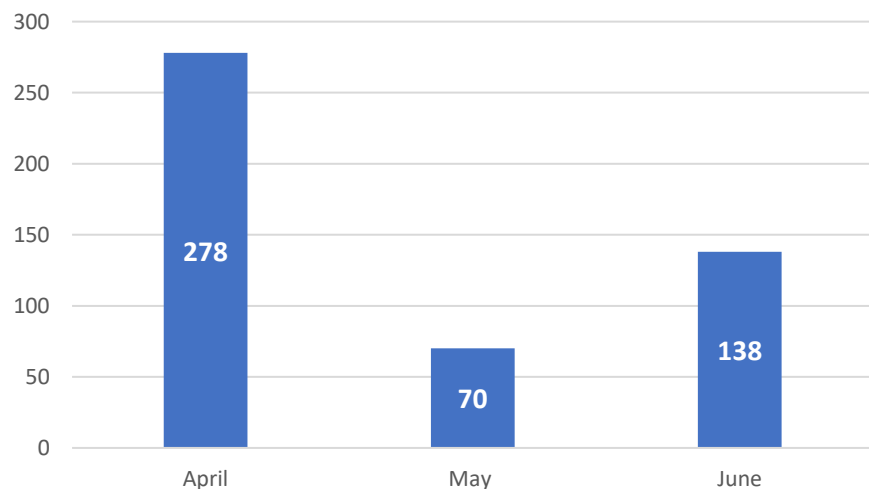


Chart 16: Civilian homes and buildings burned down due to the military's arson and other forms of attack

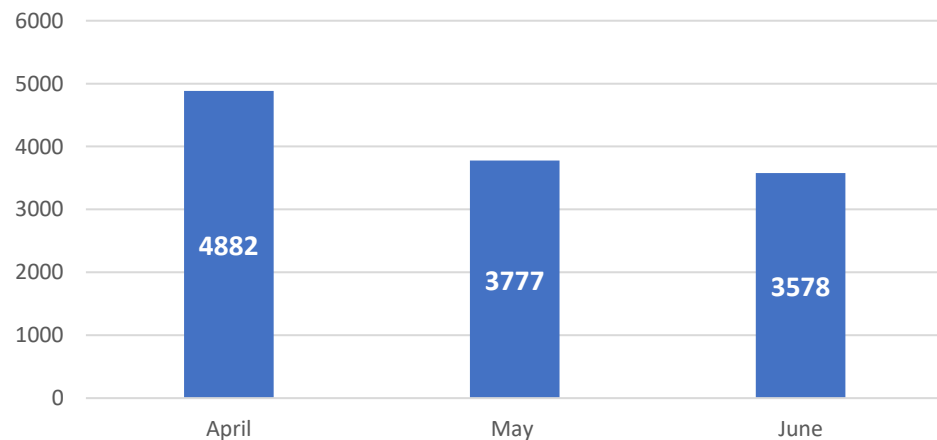
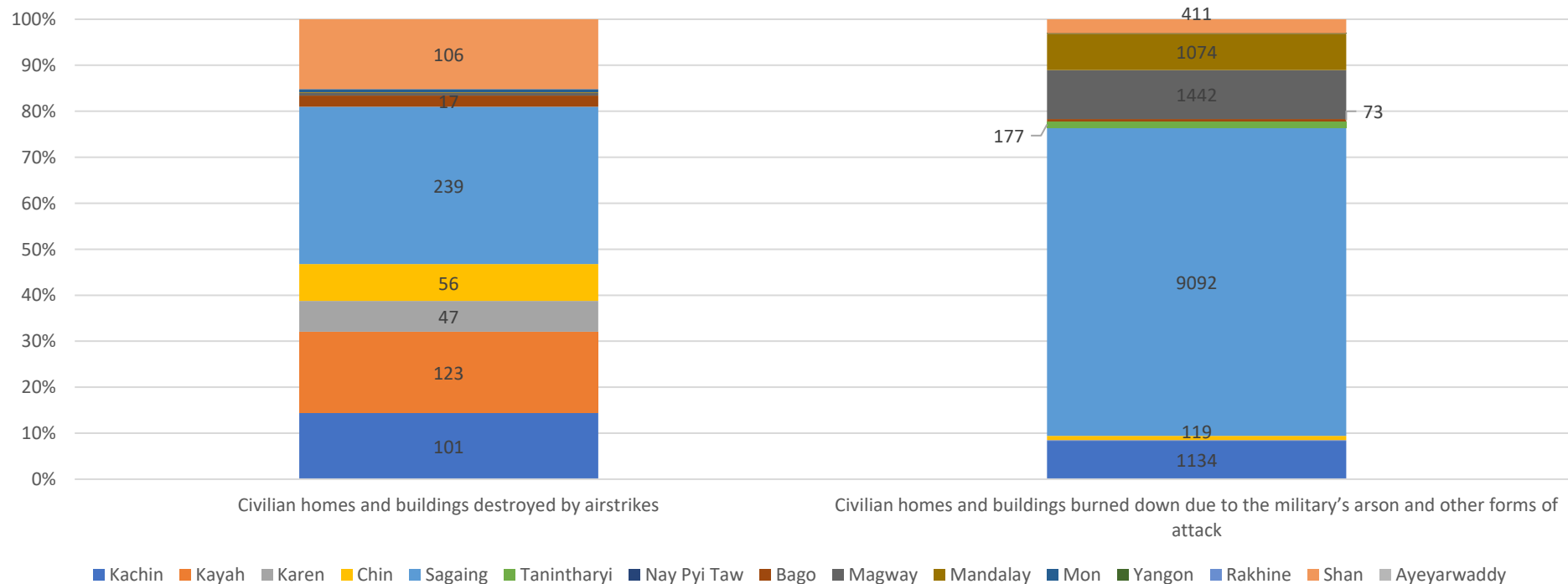


Chart 17: Geographical Analysis of Homes and Buildings Burned or Destroyed by the Military





NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

4. Conclusion

Findings in this report point to the fact that the military continues to perpetrate atrocities and human rights violations against the people with complete ignorance of international laws. They continue to reinforce their tactic of instilling fear and imposing collective punishment by using mass-killing strategies, holding hostages, staging retaliatory attacks, and increasingly normalizing violence inside prisons. They have used sexual violence as a method of signifying their power against their dissidents in conflict-affected areas, and even the militias sponsored by the regime have been armed and encouraged to partake in these atrocities. Moreover, they have suppressed any form of free expression by violently arresting civilians involved in peaceful demonstrations, and by consecutively detaining workers who have advocated for their rights. In areas affected by natural disasters such as Cyclone MOCHA, the humanitarian crisis has been further exacerbated by the military's accelerated acts of violence.

The Human Rights Program of New Myanmar Foundation is striving to stop the impunity culture of the military and its affiliates by extensively documenting the human rights violations across the country and collaborating with various partners to catalyze effective actions against the military. The documentation unit collects, analyses, and publishes regular reports on the human rights situation of Myanmar in order to contribute to accountability mechanisms.

The only way for Myanmar people to have safe and peaceful lives, with their human rights protected, is by implementing collective efforts to end their impunity and bring them to justice. With this quarterly report, the Human Rights Program would like to urge local and international alliances to strive for this ultimate goal.



NEW MYANMAR FOUNDATION

Building A Strong Foundation For Our Society

Email: info@newmyanmarfoundation.info

Website: <https://newmyanmarfoundation.info>

Partner Organizations

- Magway Human Rights Network (MHRN)
- Pyi Taw Win (ပြည်တော်ဝင်)
- Women Lead Resource Center (WLRC Women)
- Youths for Community (YFC-Myaung)
- An anonymous organization.

References

- DVB
- Myanmar Now
- Mizzima
- BBC
- VOA
- Khit Thit Media
- RFA
- Zalen
- Kho Phyu
- Shan News Agency
- Kachin News
- Thanlwin Khet
- Myaelatt Athan
- Karen Information Center
- Burma-Associated Press (BAP)
- Tachileik News Agency
- Border News Agency
- Mekong News
- Kantarawaddy Times
- Tanintharyi Times
- Ayeyarwaddy Times
- Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)

Table 1: Total Number of Human Rights Violation Cases Committed by the Military (From March 15 to June 30, 2023)

Types of Human Rights Violations	Kachin	Kayah	Karen	Chin	Sagaing	Tanin tharyi	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Mandalay	Mon	Yangon	Rakhine	Shan	Ayeyarwad dy	Total Number (per HRV Type)
Killing	13	5	16	5	99	26	0	18	24	25	5	7	1	11	0	255
Immolation	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	20
Death Penalty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Injured Civilians	3	8	22	9	68	14	0	8	9	9	13	3	0	18	0	184
Arresting	14	0	7	0	39	27	0	13	16	76	4	45	4	6	7	258
Detaining, Beating, and Torturing	3	2	3	0	22	8	0	5	9	28	1	13	1	2	3	100
Sexual Violence	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	8
Robbery, Confiscation, and, Destruction of Civilian Properties	8	6	6	11	52	9	2	5	13	32	10	13	1	7	7	182
Burning and Destroying Civilian Objects	6	4	3	9	170	15	0	2	45	15	2	2	0	3	0	276
Forced Displacement	7	2	11	5	115	15	0	15	21	10	4	2	4	7	0	218
Air Strike	5	15	15	19	56	5	0	7	8	6	5	0	0	12	0	153
Bombing	1	0	2	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	16
Naval Attack	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Artillery Attack	5	13	47	13	83	23	0	16	12	7	19	0	0	18	0	256
Machine Gun Attack	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Small Arms Fire or Threatening	9	1	0	1	48	11	0	0	9	4	4	4	0	3	0	94
Human Shield/Hostage	7	0	1	0	38	6	0	2	8	13	1	0	0	3	0	79
Forced Labor	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	4	0	4	0	2	0	20
Extortion	1	0	7	1	6	7	0	9	0	7	2	16	2	2	2	62
Cutting off Communication	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	1	2	2	5	0	2	0	0	19
Total Number of Violations (per Region/ State)	82	57	142	77	830	167	2	104	181	244	76	112	15	97	19	2205

Table 2: Total Number of Casualties and Material Losses suffered by the Myanmar People due to the Military's Violence
(From March 15 to June 30, 2023)

Types of Human Rights Violations	Kachin	Kayah	Karen	Chin	Sagaing	Tanintharyi	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Mandalay	Mon	Yangon	Rakhine	Shan	Ayeyarwaddy	Total Number per category
Civilian deaths due to airstrikes	3	13	1	24	205	0	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	7	0	261
Injured civilians due to airstrikes	0	20	5	39	61	2	0	5	12	0	14	0	0	18	0	176
Civilians subjected to immolation	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	19	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	57
Civilian deaths due to attacks with artilleries and small weapons	19	3	22	2	111	20	0	10	31	29	10	2	0	8	0	267
Injured civilians due to attacks with artilleries and small weapons	10	17	55	9	178	29	0	15	20	12	45	4	0	44	0	438
Civilians subjected to sexual violence	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	9
Civilians detained or tortured	367	28	100	2	644	280	0	223	324	358	152	280	17	26	199	3000
Civilians held hostage or used as "human shields"	430	0	2	0	445	283	0	12	397	178	0	0	0	67	0	1814
Civilians subjected to forced displacement	19600	1270	14590	6550	648200	48900	0	76654	39800	26700	4600	428	2205	17505	0	907002
Civilian homes and buildings destroyed by airstrikes	101	123	47	56	239	0	0	17	4	1	5	0	0	106	0	699
Civilian homes and buildings burned down due to the military's arson and other forms of attack	1134	0	24	119	9092	177	0	73	1442	1074	5	7	0	411	0	13558

Table 3: Total Number of Human Rights Violations Documented for Each Month (2023)

Documentation Timeframe	Kachin	Kayah	Karen	Chin	Sagaing	Tanintharyi	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Mandalay	Mon	Yangon	Rakhine	Shan	Ayeyarwaddy	Total Number of Cases per Month
February	4	10	34	37	155	23	2	49	49	10	14	15	3	16	4	425
March	18	19	9	13	202	50	0	12	81	48	13	24	4	27	11	531
April	25	28	49	48	222	47	0	17	37	85	17	35	2	48	3	663
May	35	6	48	18	230	25	0	51	71	88	24	32	5	17	5	655
June	13	9	40	5	294	71	2	26	29	41	27	32	5	27	4	625
Total Number of Cases per Region/State	95	72	180	121	1103	216	4	155	267	272	95	138	19	135	27	2899