



**Human Rights Program**

# **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

## **Committed by the military and its affiliates**

**Quarterly Documentation  
Report**

**1st July to 30th September,  
2023.**

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**Prepared in collaboration with;**



Photo: Foxnews



# Quarterly Report on Documentation of Human Rights Violations Committed by the Military and its Affiliated Forces from July 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Date: Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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## 1. Introduction

Since the military coup on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the junta military and its affiliated forces' human rights violations against Burmese civilians have been getting worse daily. New Myanmar Foundation initiated the Human Rights Program in February 2023 and the Human Rights Documentation Unit started documenting the military's human rights violations on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. In this report, human rights violations committed by the military during the third quarter, from July 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 2. Narrative Report of Documented HRVs and Atrocities

### 2.1. Airstrikes

As the Myanmar military has been consistently launching air raids on the civilians and their residential areas by deploying various modern military facilities, the reporting period observed several atrocious airstrikes that resulted in extensive casualties. From July 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, the military's offensive air attacks had the deadly impacts on the civilians of all kind, including vulnerable group members such as children, women, the elderly, and the disabled.

Moreover, the military forces intentionally carried out the atrocious air campaigns on civilians designated areas such as education and healthcare facilities, and public places, that caused numerous casualties and endangered the lives of many civilian communities. In many cases, the attacks also contributed to the forcibly relocation of the local communities to other areas, leaving their homes and belongings. The following is a summary of the most fatal attacks and targeted attacks on civilians and their resident areas-

- **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Airstrike on Yardo village, Thandaunggyi Township, Karen State, resulting in forcibly displacement of over 2,00 villagers, and destruction of Catholic Church and houses.
- **July 16<sup>th</sup>**- Air bombing of city market, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region. Two heavy explosives dropped/thrown by the ground infantry regime-42 of the military caused at least 1 monk and 7 civilians including a child injured.
- **July 8<sup>th</sup>** – Airstrikes and heavy artillery shells by ground infantry regime unit 274 on Wan Kone village, Mindat Township, Chin State resulted in 3 civilians dead, and 1 injured with 10 houses and a school damaged. The profiles of dead victims were a 65 years old woman, a breastfeeding woman, and a 9 years old child.
- **Aug 11<sup>th</sup>** – Airstrikes on Tahlaing village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, killing a monk, 8-month-old toddler, 23 years old mother, and over 60s years old woman.
- **Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Airstrikes and artillery shelling on Nga Htwesute village, Kyaukgyi Township, Karen State, killing 12 years old child Saw Larr Khuwah, and injuring 5 villagers, with forcibly relocation of nearly 3000 local community members.
- **On Sept 7<sup>th</sup>**- Airstrikes of bombs dropped by 2 military jet fighters on schools, and residential areas, Htiwawhta village, Hpapun Township, Karen State caused a teacher and 4 young students dead, with 7 civilians including 5 students injured.



## 2.2. Extrajudicial Killing

### (a) Mass Killing

As one of the grave human rights violations committed by the military forces on the civilians, massacre continues to bring tremendous impacts on the lives of Myanmar people. In this reporting period, a total of 10 incidents of mass killings perpetrated by the military forces has been documented. The following cases exemplify how the military is attacking civilians as their enemies, with complete disregard of international laws.

a. **Massacre in Sone-Chaung Village (Sagaing Region) - July 21, 2023.**

At dusk of July 21, at about 2:00 a.m., the military stealthily raided Sone-Chaung Village in Yinmarbin Township of Sagaing Region. Fourteen villagers were detained, tortured, and killed by the soldiers during this attack. Although pro-military propagandists claim that six members of People's Defense Force were killed, only two among the fourteen victims were leaders of village defense teams. The victims include four teenage boys under the age of 18, and the bodies of victims sustained injuries of severe torture, such as stab wounds and burns.

b. **Massacre in Tha-Ma-Yoe Village (Sagaing Region) - July 6, 2023**

At around 4:00 a.m., the military troops raiding Tha-Ma-Yoe Village in Wetlet Township opened fire on civilians who were setting off to sell goods. The attack killed seven civilians and critically injured six others. The majority of victims were over 50 years old, and a pregnant woman was also severely injured. This case clearly shows that the troops of Myanmar military are targeting civilians without attempting to distinguish between military targets and civilians.

c. **Massacre in Min Kone Village (Mandalay Region)- Aug 4, 2023**

The military troops of 700 soldiers reportedly assigned to protect 9 naval ships along Ayeyarwady river raided and blazed some houses in Salzin Kone, Letpankone, Min Kone and Kyaukaik Villages, and murdered 6 individuals from Min Kone Village, followed by having the corpses worn in PDF uniform and distributing disinformation or propaganda stating that they killed 6 PDF members. This incident demonstrates that the military troops intentionally massacred civilians so that they can use in promoting their propaganda among the public.

### (b) Unlawful Killing of Anti-military Groups or Activists

In order to make its attempted coup successful, establish its rule and instill fear or terror among the public, the military has been increasingly conducting its terror campaigns against its



political dissidents across the country. A common method that the military deploys is extrajudicial killing anti-military individuals or groups. In this third quarter period, the military and its affiliated groups had detained, tortured and murdered numerous political activists, political prisoners, student union members, and CDM staff. The following three incidents in July 2023 revealed a disturbing pattern of how the military suppressed its opponents in various ways that are tantamount to grave human rights violation:

- a. **Budalin Township, Sagaing Region:** On July 28, the military raided the office of Budalin Township Students' Union, and they detained, tortured, and brutally killed three students. The victims were Kyaw Win Thant (the president of Budalin Township Students' Union (All Burma Federation of Student Unions)), Kyal Sin Nyein Chan (the vice-president), and Thuta Nay (the information officer).
- b. **Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region:** The prison authorities working under the military regime tortured a political prisoner, U Sein Win, in Myingyan Prison, which is notorious for prison violence. U Sein Win had been imprisoned under the Penal Code Section 505-A. The authorities informed his family only after he had died, claiming that the cause of death was "bleeding in the stomach". However, the family found bruises resulting from torture on his body, and they were not permitted to retrieve the body.
- c. **Singu Township, Mandalay Region:** In July, there were reports that the military tortured U Soe Thein, Ko Zaw Naing Win and Ko Aung Zaw Win at Let-Pan-Hla interrogation center by accusing them of associating with anti-junta organizations. U Soe Thein is a member of the NLD party who had been detained in June, and the other two victims are locals from Htone-Gyi Village who had been detained on July 4. This case points to the fact that the military's widespread use of torture against political activists continues inside prisons and interrogation centers.

The following cases also depict how the military and its affiliated groups unlawfully murder their opponents and the fact that human rights activists and defenders are at great risk of being executed for their participation in anti-military campaigns or movement.

- a. **Tharyarwady Township, Bago Region-** In August, the political prisoners U Than Thoe Aung and U Hla Soe were seriously beaten for their participation in the Martyrs' Day movement inside prison and died when receiving medical treatment at prison medical center.
- b. **Tamu Township, Sagaing Region-** On Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, the military troops raiding Kamyek Village, Tamu Township fired gunshot at 29 years old Ko Thar Nge (a CDM healthcare staff) and 48 years old U Thaug Koe Yan who has suffered from limb paralysis.



- c. **Athote Township, Ayeyarwady Region-** A former village administrator during NLD administration U Aung Myint Soe (40 years old) was forcibly abducted for allegedly having affiliation with PDF on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>. After 4 days, his family members were informed of his death from underlying disease, though he did not have any disease before being detained. His family members did not get dead body from the police station.

### 2.3. Torture and Other Inhuman Treatment

Myanmar military continues to heavily rely on torturing, beating, and other form of atrocious treatment on the civilian population in order to suppress anti-military movement, and instill terror among the public. During the atrocity campaigns, the military soldiers deploy various torturing methods that appears to be inhuman treatment to inflict unsufferable pains on their subjects or victims. The commonly found deadly methods include immolation, beheading, stabbing, bludgeoning, and dismembering. The following two incidents highlights how the military soldiers and their affiliated militias tortured or treated civilians inhumanly, disregarding the human dignity of all victims involved.

- a. **Immolation in Myin Gyan Tonwship, Mandalay.** On July 4<sup>th</sup>, a total of 50 soldiers and police arrested Daw Pharsi (50), U Kyaw Soe (55) and brought them to Shwe Paw Kyun Village. They kept them in a house, along together with its owner Daw Than Kyi (in her 80s) and burned them alive.
- b. **Killing by cutting throat in Yinmarbin Township, Sagaing.** On Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, four dead bodies that sustained deep wounds and whose throats being cut were found in the stream. The victims were 4 farmers from Lae Ngaik Village, being arrested by the soldiers on their way back to homes after grazing their cattle.

The military labels 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.

### 2.4. Arbitrary Arrest

As part of its campaign of terror on the people of Myanmar, the military continued to conduct forcibly detention of civilians across the country in this reporting period. The soldiers, police and its affiliated individuals or groups unlawfully arrested numerous individuals when they were raiding along the villages or urban areas, or when they implemented their so-called "counterterrorism" activities in which the anti-military individuals or groups, human right activist were labelled as "terrorists" and forcibly detained, tortured and (in many cases) murdered. Their arrestees included children, youths, the elderly persons, and CDM staff. The following cases



discuss how the military commits arbitrary arrests, revealing its intentions associated with various incidents.

#### **(a) Arresting Rohingya minority**

The military force members arbitrarily abducted 72 ( 67 males, and 5 females) Rohingyas in a boat sailing in sea 4 miles away from the KyingThaw Village, Pyinsalu Town, Latputta Township, Ayeyarwady Region on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 26 Rohingyas in a truck on Pathein-Monywa Road, Kyangin Township, Ayeyarwady Region on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 145 Rohingyas (127 males, and 18 females) including 7 children of under 10 years old in area between Kawami Village and Kaleinpadaw Village, Thanphyuzayut Township, Mon State on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Border Guard Police force of the military arrested 5 Rohingya including 2 children who were returning to their native town, Maung Taw Township from Bangladesh on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. These Rohingyas were reportedly arrested while they were voluntarily returning to their original place from the IDPs camps in Bangladesh. Similarly, on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> three Rohingya youths returning to Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State were arrested by the same force.

The military arresting Rohingya community members who are attempting to escape from the IDPs camps or to leave for another countries in Mon State, Rakhine State and Ayeyarwady Region demonstrates a blatant violation of Rohingya minority's rights such as freedom of movement.

#### **(b) Arresting religious community members and vulnerable group members**

The military forcibly abducted a Venerable Sayardaw managing Wunna Wudi Monastery, South Dagon Township, Yangon Region, on Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, and Venerable U Zawtika from Shwe-shyae monastery, Chanmya Tharsi Townsihp, Mandalay Region on Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. On Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, the soldiers and Pyu-Saw-Htee local militias members blazed 2 houses belonging to U San Nyunt, and U Win Swe, and abducted a daughter (30 years) and a grandson (8 years) of U San Nyunt in Tandar Anauk Village, Taungthar Township, Mandalay Region.

Such cases highlight the fact that the military commits arbitrary arrest on not only civilians but also on members of religious community who are peacefully carrying out the functions pertaining to the religion. The incidents also depict that the military abducted civilians without discriminating vulnerable group member such as children, women, and the elders.

#### **(c) Arresting activists and CDM staff**

- a. July 15<sup>th</sup> – At 10 am, 15 soldiers in mufti dress inspected some houses in No. 9 and 10 Ward, Lasho Township, Shan State and beaten and arrested 50 years old Daw Nan Mya Sein (a CDM education staff). They also abducted another 12 civilians



including 50 years old Daw Nan Aye Shwe (a CDM staff) and 30 years old Ko Jame (a CDM staff).

- b. July 27<sup>th</sup> – The military troop members came and arrested CDM teacher U Wai Yan Min Htike in Chan Mya Tharsi Township, and CDM teacher Daw Myint Myint Than in Mahar Aungmyay Township, Mandalay Region at their houses.
- c. At over 12 pm on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, the military force members came and arrested Daw Nyo Aye, a founder of Rakhine Women Network which is actively working to promote women rights and social welfare in Mingan Ward, Sittwe Townsihp, Rakine State.
- d. A political activists U Myo Sit Naing was arrested by soldiers, police and ward administrators in his home at Shweoak Gu-3 street, No-3 Ward, Tharketa Township, Yangon around 7 pm on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- e. On the evening of Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, the military arrested U Myint Than, his wife Daw Myint Myat Khaing (CDM education staff), and their son Ko Yan Naung Tun for allegedly supporting the PDF members and sealed off their condominium and a clinic they run.
- f. On Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Phochit Kone Ward, Moe Kaung Township, Kachin Sate, the military troops raided Zinyaw two filling stations and houses to arrest their owner for allegedly supporting the PDF, however, as the owner couple went away when raiding, the troops members arrested 20 staff and the elderly women who was a guest to the couple.

The aforementioned cases reflect that the military commits arbitrary arrest on activists, CDM staff and civilians for various reasons and through different accusation.

## 2.5. “Human Shields” or Hostages

Article 147 of the Geneva Convention IV (1949) strictly prohibited the capture of hostages. According to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, this act is also defined as one of the war crimes. However, the military is increasingly deploying its practice of detaining civilians, with different accusations and excuses, and using them as hostages in their raids of civilian areas and transport of military weapons and food commodities. Therefore, it is often observed that taking hostages are compounded by other abuses such as forced labor, torture, and even killing. One of the most atrocious cases was the massacre of 17 locals



From July 1 to Sept 30, 2023, 621 civilians have been arrested as hostages or used as “human shields” in conflict areas by the military. Majority of the case are observed in Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, and Kachin. In some incidents, it involves the simultaneous capture of tens of civilians, many of whom go missing without any trace – devastating the families, though some were released some day after. Some of the documented cases are summarized as follows to illustrate the military’s patterns of human rights abuse and its common intents:

#### **Kachin State**

- After being attacked with mines by the local defense forces, the military’s troops raiding Shwegu Township committed a retaliatory killing of two civilian hostages from Sintat Village. Afterwards, during their raiding of Moesit Village, they detained fifteen villagers as hostages and forced them to kneel in front of a monastery throughout the entire night in order to make sure that the troops would not be attacked.
- At night on Aug 23rd, the military soldiers arrested and took 40 civilians including IDPs, and passersby as human shields in Nanyar Village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State in their raids on the areas.

#### **Tanintharyi Region**

- On July 27, the troops carrying out “area clearance operations” in Ye-Phyu Township detained over thirty villagers from Khaung-Pyan and Tike-Takaw villages (Zardi Village Tract) and forced them to wear military uniforms as they were taken alongside the troops. According to locals, the hostages included children under the age of eighteen.
- On Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, the military column raiding the To Village, Pitak, and Myadaung Village, Pulaw Township reportedly murdered 30 years old villager from Pitak Village, and took 50 villagers as hostages as they raided along the villages in the areas which they assumed be controlled by the anti-military groups.

#### **Sagaing Region**

- On July 10, the military raiding Ma-U Village in Monywa Township forced commuters to defuse landmines, thereby endangering civilian lives and using them as “shields”.
- On July 16 and July 17, while raiding and looting villages in Myinmu Township (including Muu-Mandalay, Mel-Naw, Pe-Taung and Kin-Lay-Taw villages), the military dressed civilians in military uniforms and took them along with the troops as hostages.
- On Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, the soldiers forcibly arrested a 60 years old villager, and 4 villagers (around 30 years old) from Kyaukmaw Village, Htikyaing Township were taken as hostages as they took wounded soldiers in the fight with the anti-military groups to the hospital.



- On Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, the military troops raided streets in Myin Muu Township, and arrested some local people, and then on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, the soldiers took about 20 arrestees as they conducted raid operation in Myit Pauk Village, and other villages.

## **Mandalay Region**

- In Thagin Village, Ngazun Township, after having their base attacked by anti-military groups, the troop members arrested 70 villagers who were not part of the armed groups on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. After torturing and interrogating the arrestees at village administration office, the soldiers brought them to other villages. Though around 40 of the arrestees were released, the remaining civilians were taken as they raided other villages.

### **2.6. Indiscriminate Shelling**

During this reporting period, the artillery shelling remains a significant threat to the lives of the civilians, bringing tremendous destruction to civilians' homes and other properties. In various human rights abuse cases documented, the military heavily relied on artillery shells when they conducted raid operations in the civilian areas, and when they carried out its earth-scorched campaigns in various villages.

The military frequently launched the indiscriminate and targeted attacks on civilians designated areas such as homes, schools, clinics, and monasteries or church in order to instill fears among the public. The most recent and brutal incidents was the indiscriminate Howitzer shelling by the ground infantry regime unit-120 of the military's Light Infantry Division No.33 stationed in Wuntho Township on Kanthiwantharama monastery, Joetangywama, Butarsu ward, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region on 27 Sept, resulting that 1 teacher and 20 children who were studying in village-based public education school near the monastery were injured, with 6 among them being seriously injured. The following cases highlight that the civilians including children and women are injured or killed with having many relocated forcibly due to the military's artillery attack-

- July 14<sup>th</sup>- The military's artillery shelling, and incendiary attack on the Yinkare Village, Saw Township, Magway Region caused almost all houses being burnt, loss of 12 years old child life and forcibly relocation of over 1000 of villagers.
- Aug 29<sup>th</sup>- The ground infantry regime unit-264 launched the targeted shelling (with three 120 mm artillery shells) on Pyin Yegyi Village resulted in 7 years old Ma Thoon Yati Phoo and her mother Daw San Myo Oo (44 years old) dead, 3 civilians injured with 5 houses badly destroyed.



## 2.7. Violence against Vulnerable Groups

As the military has been intensifying its atrocities and violence against the civilians across the country, there increased tremendous casualties and destruction of civilian property. The military's earth-scorching campaigns and commission of other violences had devastating impact on the civilian, especially on vulnerable group members such as children, women, the elders, the disabled, pregnant women, and mental disordered persons.

### (a) Killing and Injuring Children

The following cases reveal how the military conducted violence against children-

**Yesagyo Township, Magway Region-** About 14:00 on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the military troop of 50 soldiers launched the artillery attack with 6 LM-60D mm to the Pauk-U Village from the Yelekyun area, Yesagyo Township, Magway, and the attack resulted in death of a child of 2 years who is playing inside house in Pauk-U Village.

**Billin Township, Mon State-** On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the military artillery attack directed to the Shweyaungpya Village, Billin Township, Mon State caused injuries to 5 years old Saw Sin Min Oo and 9 years old Naw Thingyan Phaw.

**Paruso Township, Kayah State-** At noon of Aug 23rd, the bombing dropped by drone from No. (14) military advanced training school, based in Paruso resulted in 3 children of 8, 9, and 10 years old injured, one of who was in critical conditions.

**Gangaw Township, Magway Region-** After having some soldiers injured at confrontation with local defence forces on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, the troops launched 120 mm artillery shells on Tharlin and Myin Thar villages in the evening of that day. The indiscriminate shelling resulted in 2 dead and 7 including 3 children of under 10 injured.

**Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region-** At 15:00 on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of children playing in the Htaung Bohla Village accidentally happened to hit the unexploded artillery shell (60 mm) launched by the military, resulting that a 10 years old child was dead with his abdominal and brain parts destroyed, and other 6 children were injured.

### (b) 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. In this reporting period, July and August observed 3 sexual violence incidents in Sagaing Region and Shan State, with 3 victims being rape



and 1 victim sexually harassed. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the soldiers of the ground infantry regime unit-569 came and stationed in a monastery, Sunnlon Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, when majority of villagers were at their farms, a soldier raped 30 years old woman by forcing her husband and 2 children out, and 2 soldiers conducted sexual harassment behaviors to a 20 years-old pregnant woman before her husband being threatened by gun.

The military's artillery shelling on MaU Village, Monywa Township, Sagaing on July 29<sup>th</sup> caused 15 years old Ma Htet Ei dead, 3 women including a pregnant woman badly injured. This incident clearly portrays how the military conducted violence against women including pregnant women, disregarding the special protection status of the vulnerable group.

### **(c) Abuses against Rohingya Minority**

The military has been committing violations of ethnic and religious minority rights which include extortion from Muslim, Rohingya minority, arresting and killing Rohingya minority, and restricting of their freedom of movement. The military soldiers and police force members tortured a Rohingya ethnic Ko Shaw Pi (27 years old) in Kyauktan Checkpoint, Sittwe Township, Rakhine on July 23rd, and robbed his cash of 2 million MMK. Also, the ward administrators in Myaungta Township, Rakhine extorted 5000 MMK from Rohingya ethnic people who donated cattle and buffalo to others in an Islamic ritual on July 3rd.

On Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Rohingya community member Muharmatsawli (25 years old) and Larlu (24 years old) were arrested in Kan Myint joint checkpoint, Ann Township, Rakhine as they were leaving for Malaysia from their native town, Minpyar Township, Rakhine. These cases depict the abuses and violations committed by the military in this reporting period.



### 3. Summary of Statistical Findings

The number of documented cases has increased steadily since the beginning of February 2023. According to our data, 4473 cases of human rights violations (HRVs) against civilians have been committed by the military. Though there appears to be a slight decline in the number of incidents recorded in September, the military had extensively and consistently committed atrocious killing, indiscriminate artillery shelling, targeted airstrikes, and taking hostages or human shields in this reporting period. 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 (1655 cases in total). Mandalay and Magway have the second and third highest rates with 439 cases and 390 cases in total respectively. (*Chart 2*)

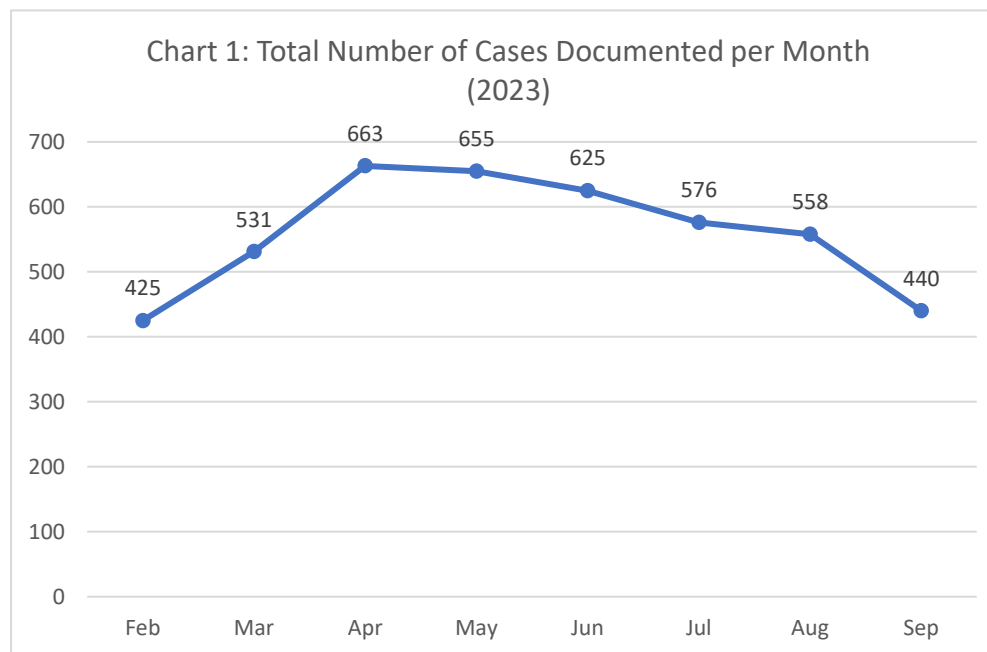
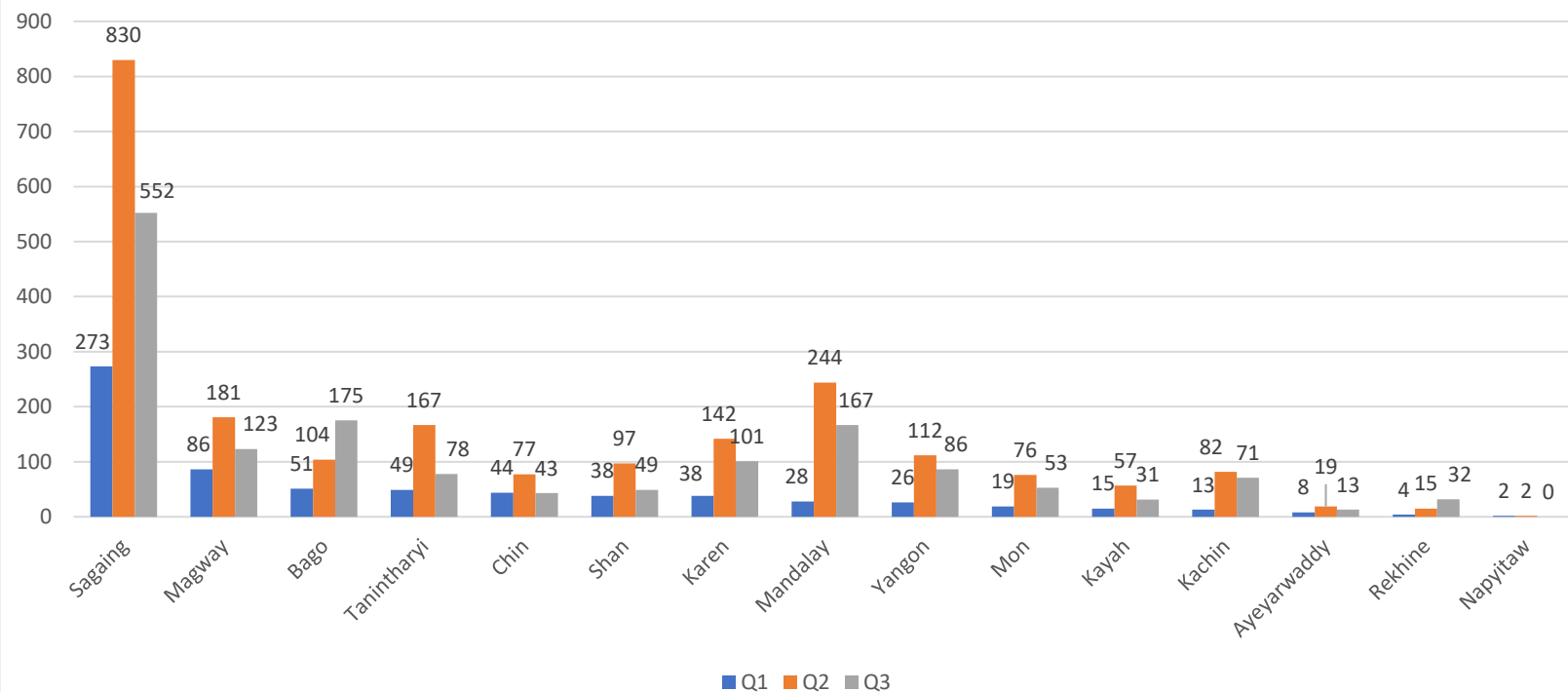




Chart2: Comparison of Number of Cases Documentation in Quater1, Quater2 & Quater3



*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 while the Q3 (Quarter 3) lasting from July 1, 2023 to Sept 30, 2023.*



Chart 4: Total Number of Cases in Quarter-3 for Each Type of HRV

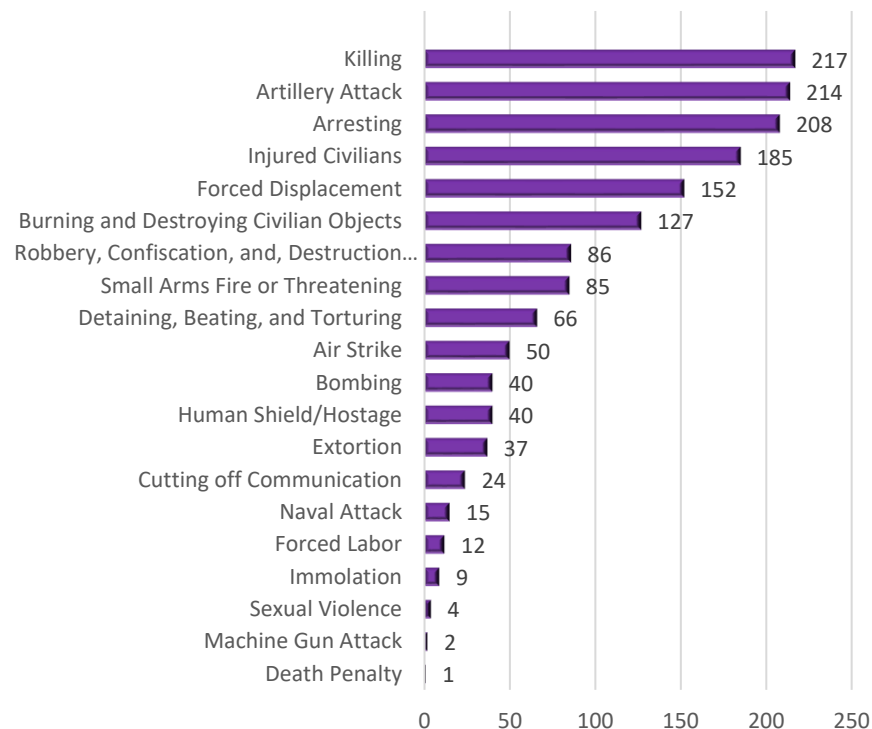
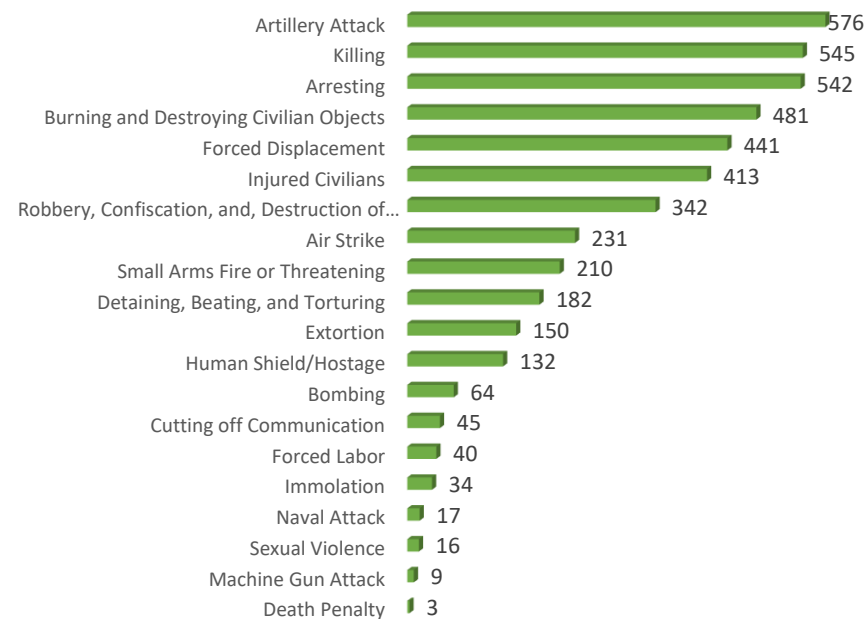


Chart 4: Total Number of Cases in 8 Months for Each Type of HRV



### 3.1 The Most Prevalent Categories of HRV

In this reporting period, the military had increasingly burned down civilian houses and other properties, and launched the targeted shelling on the civilians and their residential areas. A total of 217 cases in which the military perpetuated extraordinary killings on civilians either by firing

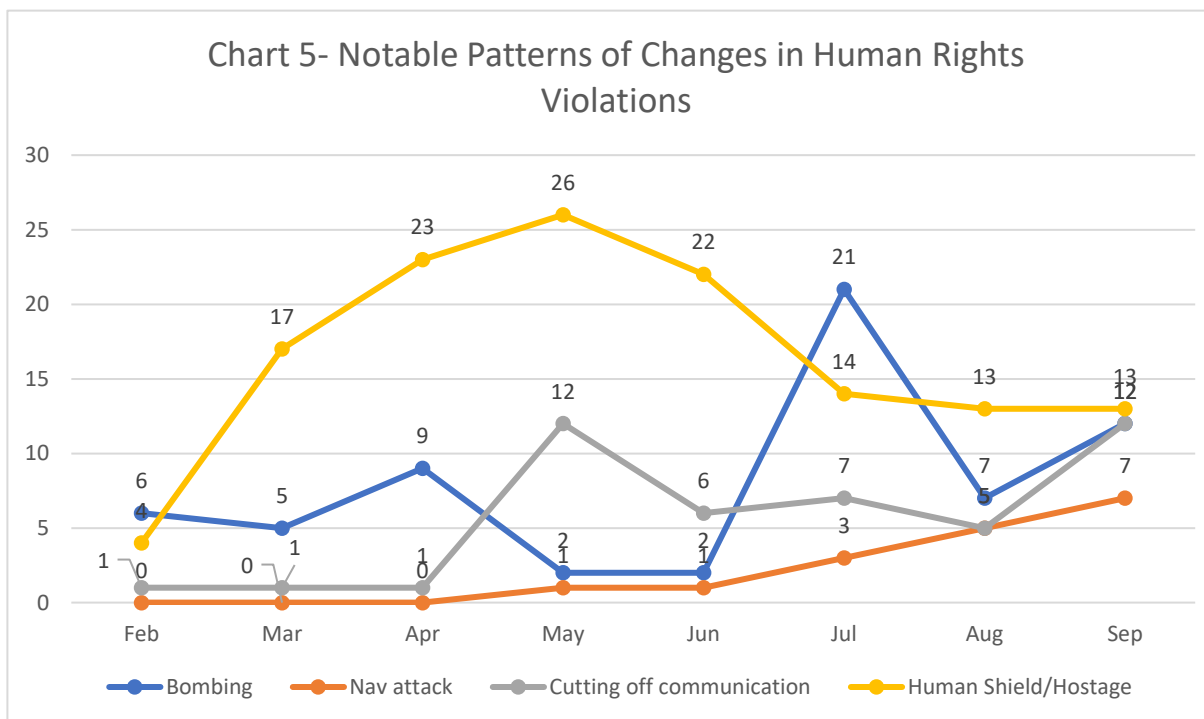


ammunitions or by torturing after raiding the villages in, making the most prevalent cases in this quarter. Heavy artillery is the most common weapon used by the military to terrorize civilian populations. This reporting period observed 214 incidents of artillery shelling with all the cases happened in the civilian areas. Other numerically prevalent types of HRVs include: unlawful arrests (208 cases) as the third most common incidents, and extrajudicial killings of civilians by means of military-grade weapons and atrocious methods of torture (185 cases). (*Chart 3*)

From February 1, 2023 to Sept 30, 2023, artillery shelling is the most prevalent form of HRV committed by the military (576 cases within 5 months), followed by unlawful killing (545 cases) and arbitrary arrests (542 cases). (*Chart 4*)

### 3.2 Notable Patterns of Changes in Human Rights Violations

The illustrated 4 types of HRVs (*in Chart 5*) exhibit a remarkable pattern during the 8-month period although some of these are not numerically dominant. For instance, cases of bombing/mining have increased up to 40 cases in July, August, and September. Similarly, the quarter 3 saw a marked increase in the number of naval attacks, with 15 incidents. Furthermore, increasing cases of the military's cutting off communications have been recorded. Looking at the number of incidents, they had risen steadily from May to September, majority of



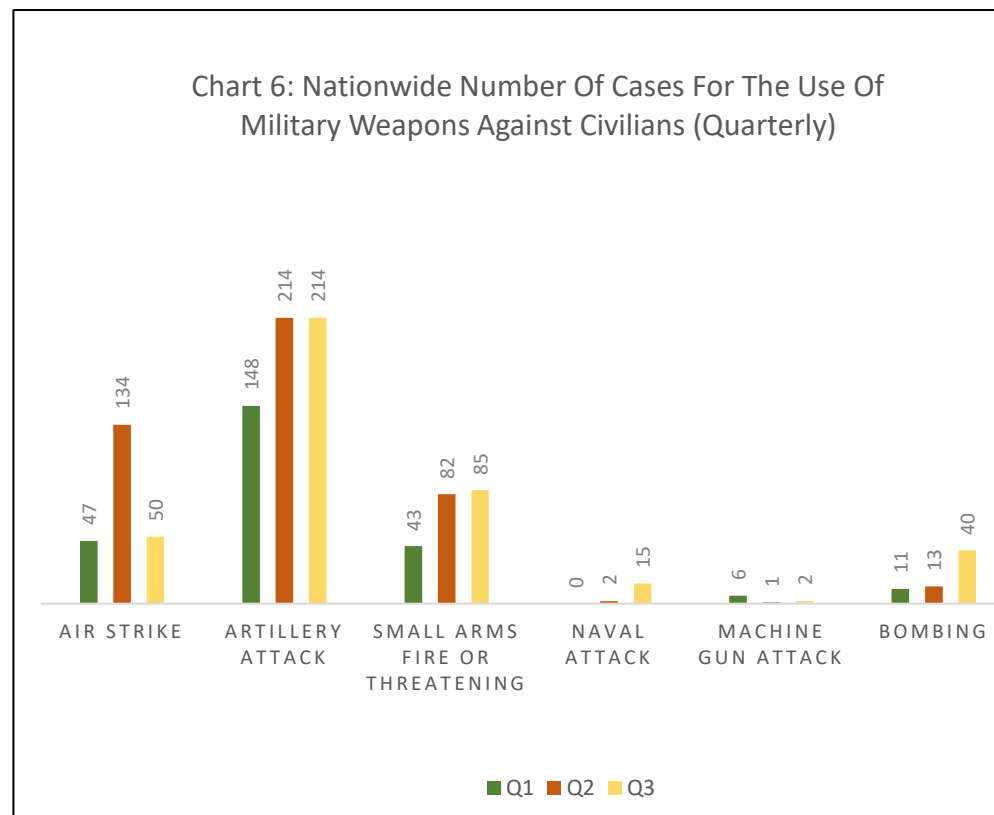


which were in the form of destroying roads and obstructing access of disaster-affected populations to humanitarian aid or procurement of essential supplies.

During this reporting period, there are a total of 40 cases of using civilians as human shields or hostages in armed conflicts or when raiding the villages or civilians' areas in different part of the country. (*Chart 5*)

### 3.3 Analyzing the Use of Military Weapons against Civilians

Airstrikes remain the most common method of mass killing by the military. During these attacks, it involves, but not limited to, shelling, artillery attacks, or machine gun attacks from fighter jets and helicopters, shelling from naval force, and setting explosive devices. Such brutal attacks are targeted intentionally against civilians, often in the absence of any nearby armed conflict. 231 cases of airstrikes on civilians have been documented during 8 months. At a glance, the most common type of attack using the heavy ammunition is artillery shelling, with 576 incidents in total across the three different quarters. Also, April and May saw the highest number of attacks – making the second quarter a deadliest one among the others. (*Chart 6*)





During the quarter-3 period, artillery shelling accounts for 80% (200 people) of civilian deaths caused by the military's weaponized violence and 73% (398 people) of injured civilians. (Chart 7; Chart 8)

Chart 7: Number of Civilian Deaths due to Weaponized Violence by Military (Quarter 3)

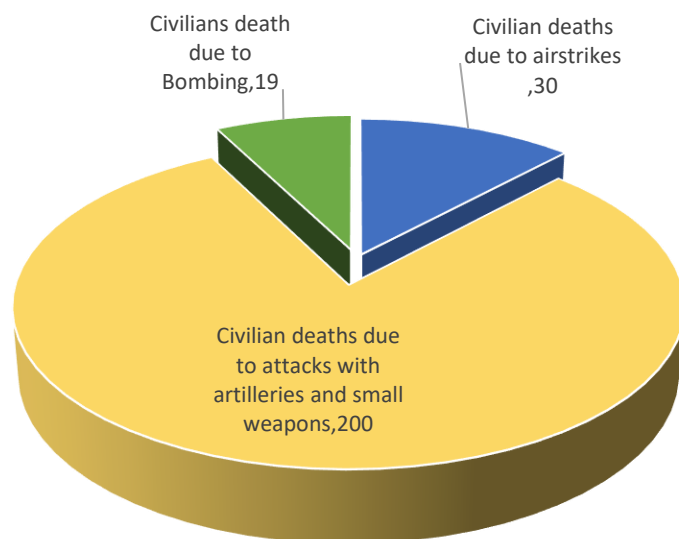
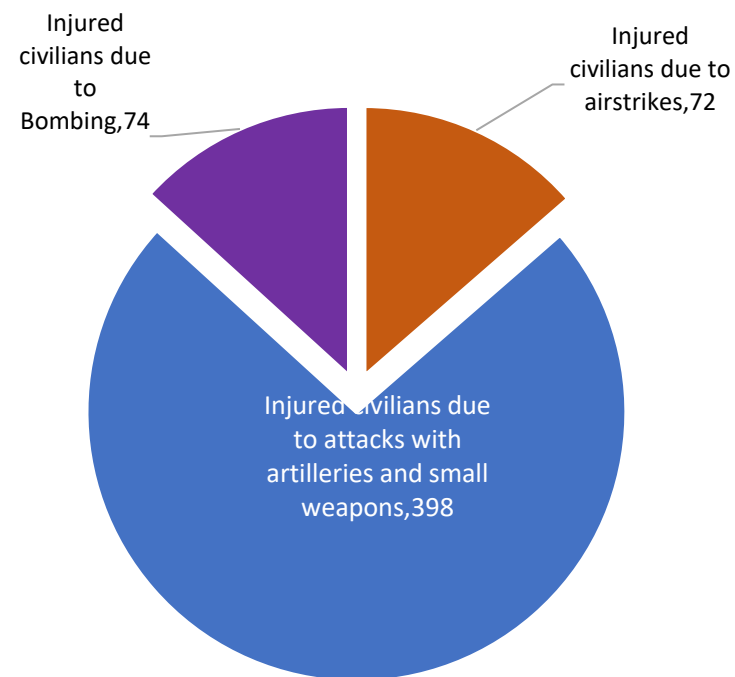


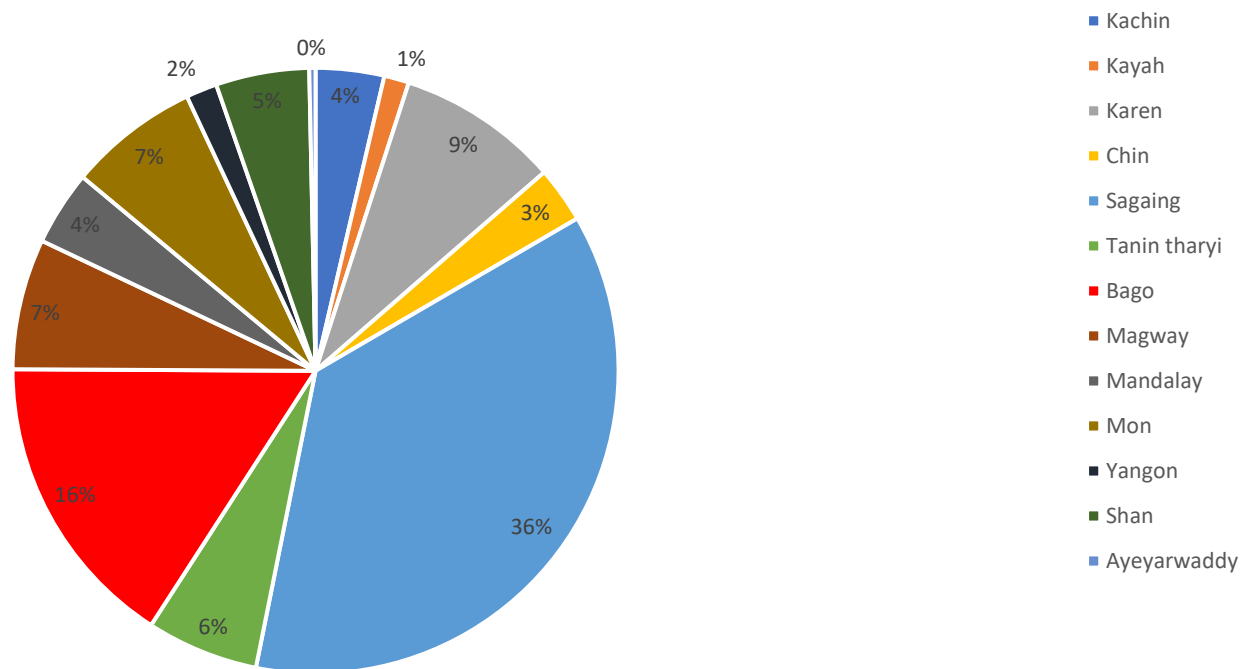
Chart 8: Number of Injured Civilians due to Weaponized Violence by Military (Quarter 3)





Geographically, Sagaing (36%), Bago (16%) and Karen (9%) are the regions most affected by artillery shell and small arm fire. (Chart 9)

**Chart 9: Percentage of Artillery and small arms fire per State/ Region (Quarter 3 )**





Moreover, artillery shelling and small-arm firing account for more than 70% of civilian deaths caused by military weapons in Sagaing (106 individual), Bago (22), Magway (27) and Mandalay (23). The deadliest form of attack that Karen and Kayah Sate observed is airstrike with a lot of civilian casualties. (Chart 10) The civilians of Bago and Sagaing are also more commonly dead or wounded by the military's air-bombing and explosive mines. (Chart 11)

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.

Chart 10: Geographical Analysis of the Causes of Civilian Deaths  
(Quarter 3)

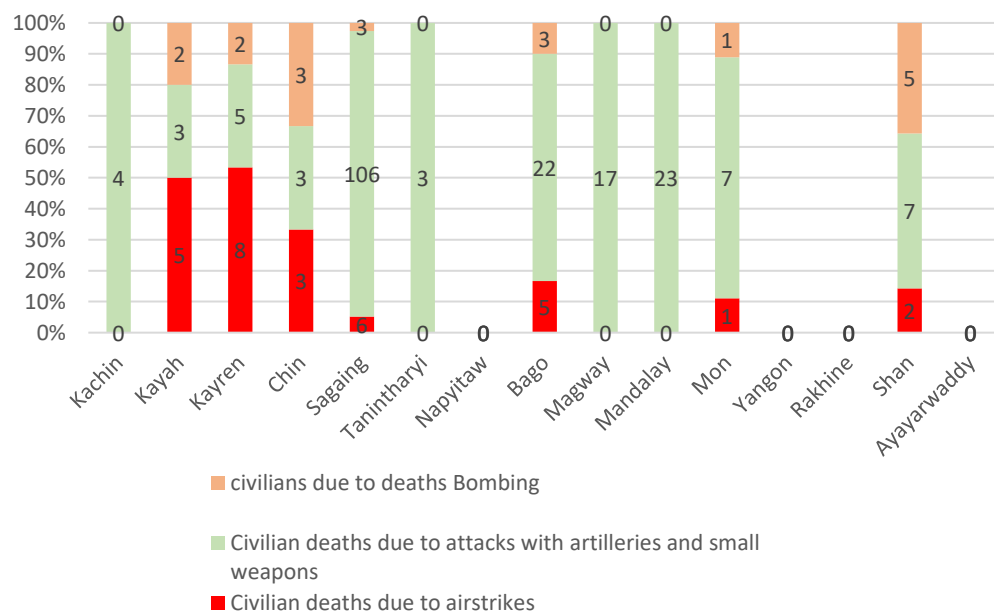
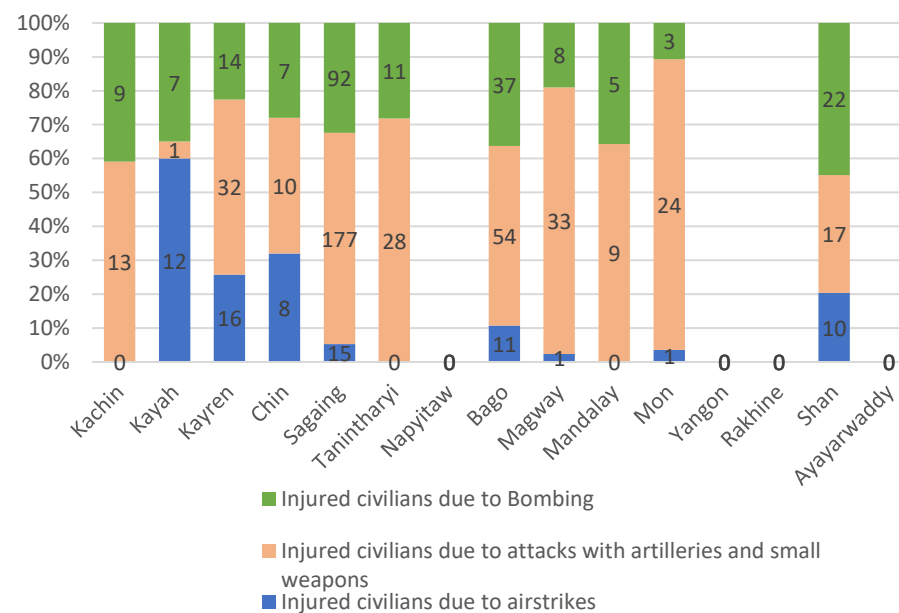


Chart 11: Geographical Analysis of the Causes of Civilian Injuries  
(Quarter 3)





### 3.4 Analyzing the Different Forms of Detainment committed by the Military

From Feb to Sept 30, 2023, a total of 764 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. For instance, since there was a significant increase in number of arbitrary arrest case from 38 in Feb to 86 in March, and then 69 in September, the military seems to increasingly terrorize innocent civilians through arbitrary arrest and interrogation by torture or beating across the country. (*Chart 12*)

Alarmingly, at least 20% of all detainment cases involve physical abuse and torture. (*Chart 13*) Another notable finding is that in 12% of cases, the military used the detained civilians as human shields in armed conflict or held them as hostages. (*Chart 13*) Although the military tends to take men as hostages, survivors occasionally include children and the elderly as well. 1824 civilians have been arrested and tortured with 586 individuals held hostage or used as human shields by the military in this three-month period. (*Chart 14*)

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 - Changes in the Number of Different Forms of Detainment Committed  
by the Military (Feb - Sept 2023)

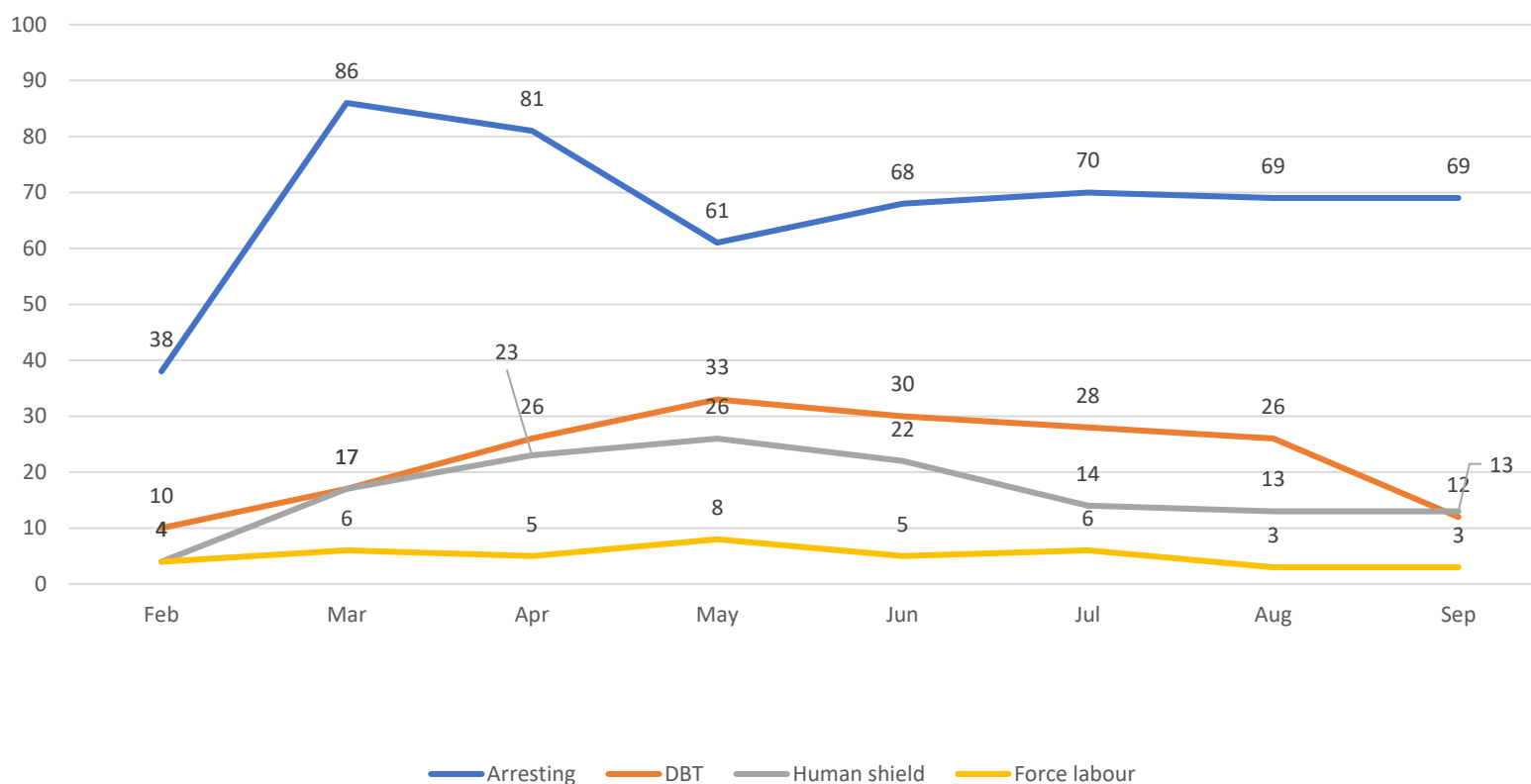


Chart 13: Number of Cases for Different Types of Detainment and Forced Labour (Quarter 3)

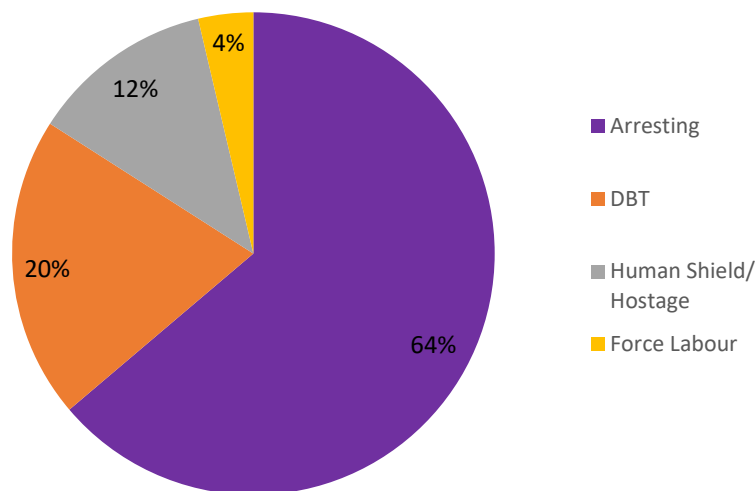
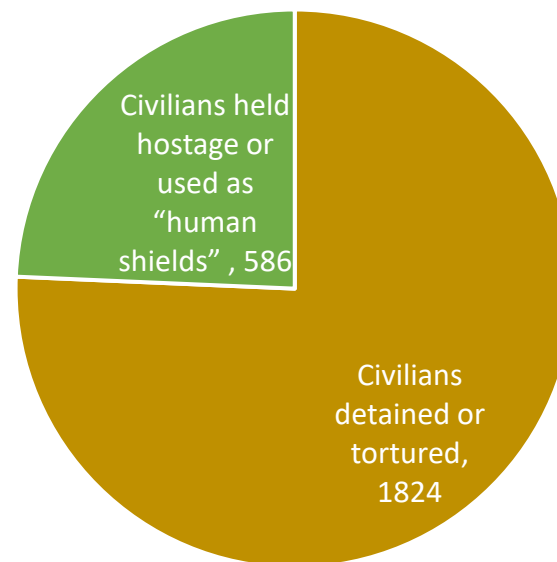
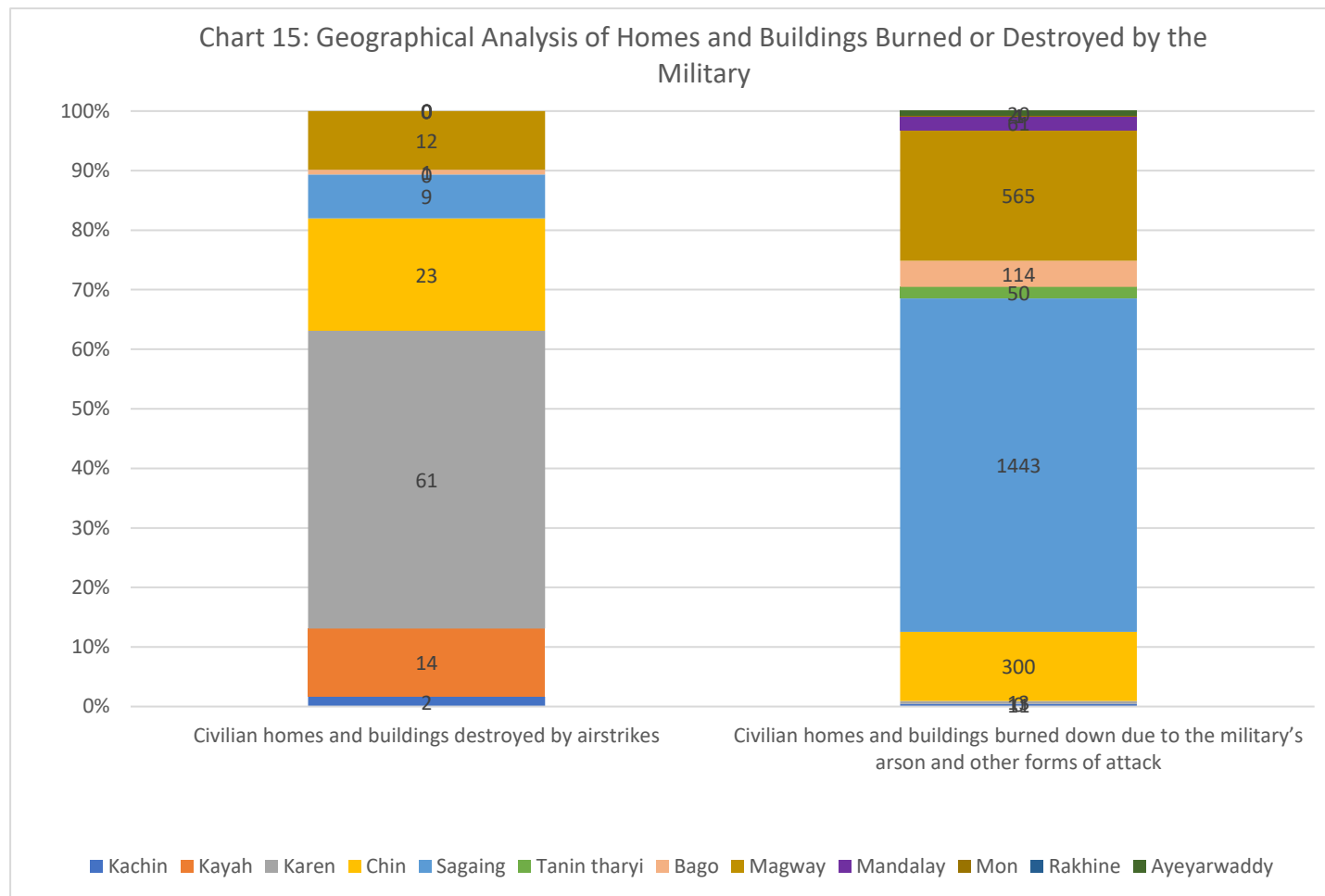


Chart 14: Number of Civilians for Detainment, Torture and Hostaging (Quarter 3)



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

Due to the military's arson during raids and other acts involved in its atrocity campaigns against civilians 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 this quarter, well over 2 thousand homes and buildings (2,579) have been burned down



due to various acts of violence by the military. About 50% of burned buildings are from Sagaing region alone. Magway (565 buildings), Bago (114) and Chin (300 buildings) are also areas subjected to the highest extent of burning. (*Chart 15*)

In addition to this, airstrikes have caused varying degrees of damage to 112 homes and buildings nationwide. Among them, over 50% of

damage caused by airstrikes (60 buildings) is attributed to Karen State. Other areas such as Chin (23 buildings), and Kayah (14 buildings) have also suffered significant damage. (*Chart 15*)



## 4. Conclusion

The findings in this report reflect that the military continues to perpetrate atrocities and human rights violations against the people with complete disregard of international laws. They continue to reinforce their tactic of instilling fear and imposing collective punishment by using mass-killing strategies, holding hostages, launching retaliatory attacks, and increasingly committing 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 for ending 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 hold accountable for the crimes committed by the military, ending the vicious circle of impunity culture it has enjoyed historically. With this quarterly report, the Human Rights Program would like to urge local and international alliances to strive for this ultimate goal.



## 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.

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- 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 July 1 to Sept 30, 2023)**

| Types of Human Rights Violations                               | Kachin    | Kayah     | Karen      | Chin      | Sagaing    | Tanin tharyi | Nay Pyi Taw | Bago       | Magway     | Mandalay   | Mon       | Yangon    | Rakhine   | Shan      | Ayeyarwaddy | Total Number (per HRV Type) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Killing                                                        | 6         | 6         | 12         | 6         | 85         | 8            | 0           | 30         | 24         | 16         | 7         | 5         | 1         | 9         | 2           | 217                         |
| Immolation                                                     | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 5          | 0            | 0           | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0           | 9                           |
| Death Penalty                                                  | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0          | 0            | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1           | 1                           |
| Injured Civilians                                              | 7         | 9         | 9          | 9         | 63         | 11           | 0           | 32         | 15         | 10         | 7         | 4         | 2         | 7         | 0           | 185                         |
| Arresting                                                      | 11        | 0         | 11         | 3         | 34         | 11           | 0           | 13         | 11         | 49         | 7         | 37        | 14        | 4         | 3           | 208                         |
| Detaining, Beating, and Torturing                              | 4         | 0         | 1          | 3         | 12         | 5            | 0           | 5          | 2          | 15         | 2         | 11        | 2         | 3         | 1           | 66                          |
| Sexual Violence                                                | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 2          | 0            | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0           | 4                           |
| Robbery, Confiscation, and, Destruction of Civilian Properties | 5         | 0         | 4          | 0         | 23         | 4            | 0           | 8          | 8          | 17         | 4         | 8         | 4         | 1         | 0           | 86                          |
| Burning and Destroying Civilian Objects                        | 5         | 2         | 3          | 1         | 73         | 5            | 0           | 6          | 14         | 15         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1           | 127                         |
| Forced Displacement                                            | 9         | 0         | 7          | 2         | 91         | 7            | 0           | 7          | 11         | 14         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 1           | 152                         |
| Air Strike                                                     | 2         | 4         | 13         | 5         | 17         | 0            | 0           | 6          | 2          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0           | 50                          |
| Bombing                                                        | 0         | 6         | 6          | 3         | 10         | 0            | 0           | 6          | 2          | 0          | 2         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 0           | 40                          |
| Naval Attack                                                   | 2         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 7          | 1            | 0           | 0          | 0          | 5          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0           | 15                          |
| Artillery Attack                                               | 8         | 2         | 22         | 9         | 71         | 14           | 0           | 37         | 18         | 3          | 15        | 0         | 0         | 15        | 0           | 214                         |
| Machine Gun Attack                                             | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 2          | 0            | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0           | 2                           |
| Small Arms Fire or Threatening                                 | 3         | 2         | 4          | 0         | 37         | 4            | 0           | 11         | 3          | 9          | 6         | 5         | 0         | 0         | 1           | 85                          |
| Human Shield/Hostage                                           | 6         | 0         | 3          | 0         | 10         | 4            | 0           | 2          | 8          | 7          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0           | 40                          |
| Forced Labor                                                   | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 6          | 0            | 0           | 2          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 1           | 12                          |
| Extortion                                                      | 1         | 0         | 3          | 1         | 2          | 1            | 0           | 3          | 0          | 6          | 1         | 13        | 5         | 0         | 1           | 37                          |
| Cutting off Communication                                      | 2         | 0         | 3          | 1         | 2          | 3            | 0           | 6          | 3          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 3         | 0         | 1           | 24                          |
| <b>Total Number of Violations (per Region/ State)</b>          | <b>71</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>101</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>552</b> | <b>78</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>175</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>167</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>13</b>   | <b>1574</b>                 |



**Table 2: Total Number of Casualties and Material Losses suffered by the Myanmar People due to the Military's Violence (From July 1 to Sept 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                                               | 0      | 5     | 8     | 3    | 6       | 0           | 0           | 5     | 0      | 0        | 1    | 0      | 0       | 2    | 0           | 30                        |
| Injured civilians due to airstrikes                                             | 0      | 12    | 16    | 8    | 15      | 0           | 0           | 11    | 1      | 0        | 1    | 0      | 0       | 10   | 0           | 74                        |
| Civilians subjected to immolation                                               | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0    | 8       | 0           | 0           | 3     | 0      | 3        | 0    | 0      | 0       | 0    | 0           | 14                        |
| Civilian deaths due to attacks with artilleries, small arms fire and bombings   | 4      | 3     | 5     | 5    | 108     | 3           | 0           | 22    | 17     | 23       | 7    | 0      | 0       | 10   | 0           | 207                       |
| Injured civilians due to attacks with artilleries, small arms fire and bombings | 13     | 1     | 32    | 11   | 188     | 28          | 0           | 57    | 33     | 9        | 24   | 0      | 0       | 35   | 0           | 431                       |
| Civilians subjected to sexual violence                                          | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0    | 2       | 0           | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0        | 0    | 0      | 0       | 2    | 0           | 4                         |
| Civilians detained or tortured                                                  | 19     | 0     | 15    | 11   | 182     | 68          | 0           | 153   | 148    | 184      | 157  | 313    | 75      | 19   | 99          | 1443                      |
| Civilians held hostage or used as "human shields"                               | 107    | 0     | 17    | 0    | 96      | 110         | 0           | 8     | 53     | 195      | 0    | 0      | 0       | 0    | 0           | 586                       |
| Civilians subjected to forced displacement                                      | 8200   | 0     | 6220  | 2170 | 319800  | 5300        | 0           | 22286 | 11400  | 12400    | 4392 | 0      | 0       | 2800 | 0           | 394968                    |



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|------|----|---|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|----|------|
| <b>Civilian homes and buildings destroyed by airstrikes</b>                                           | 2  | 14 | 61 | 23  | 9    | 0  | 0 | 1   | 12  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 122  |
| <b>Civilian homes and buildings burned down due to the military's arson and other forms of attack</b> | 11 | 0  | 13 | 300 | 1443 | 50 | 0 | 114 | 565 | 61 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 2579 |



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

| Month Documented                              | 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                             |
| July                                          | 18         | 16         | 38         | 23         | 240         | 14          | 0           | 43         | 41         | 56         | 30         | 24         | 13        | 17         | 3           | 576                             |
| Aug                                           | 26         | 12         | 26         | 9          | 178         | 35          | 0           | 79         | 41         | 66         | 12         | 38         | 10        | 21         | 5           | 558                             |
| Sept                                          | 27         | 3          | 37         | 11         | 134         | 29          | 0           | 53         | 41         | 45         | 11         | 24         | 9         | 11         | 5           | 440                             |
| <b>Total Number of Cases per Region/State</b> | <b>166</b> | <b>103</b> | <b>281</b> | <b>164</b> | <b>1655</b> | <b>294</b>  | <b>4</b>    | <b>330</b> | <b>390</b> | <b>439</b> | <b>148</b> | <b>224</b> | <b>51</b> | <b>184</b> | <b>40</b>   | <b>4473</b>                     |