

Regional Overview: Southeast Asia 24-30 November 2019

acleddata.com/2019/12/04/regional-overview-southeast-asia-24-30-november-2019/

Elliott Bynum

December 4,
2019



ACLED

Bringing clarity to crisis

In Southeast Asia, key developments last week included: clashes between the Myanmar military and two signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement; separatist violence in Thailand and Indonesia; and continued clashes between state forces and Islamist armed groups in the Philippines.

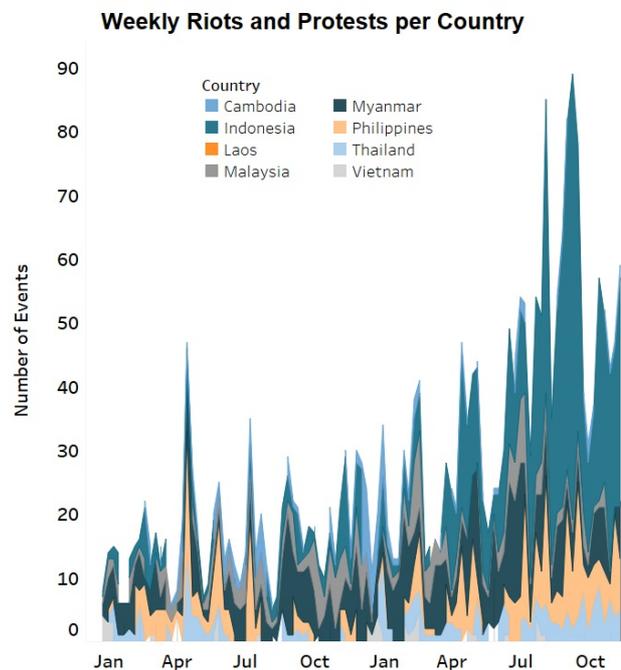
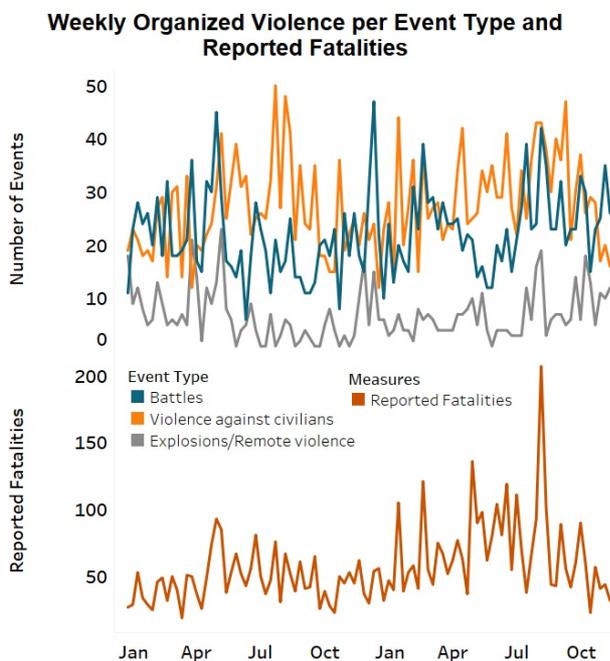
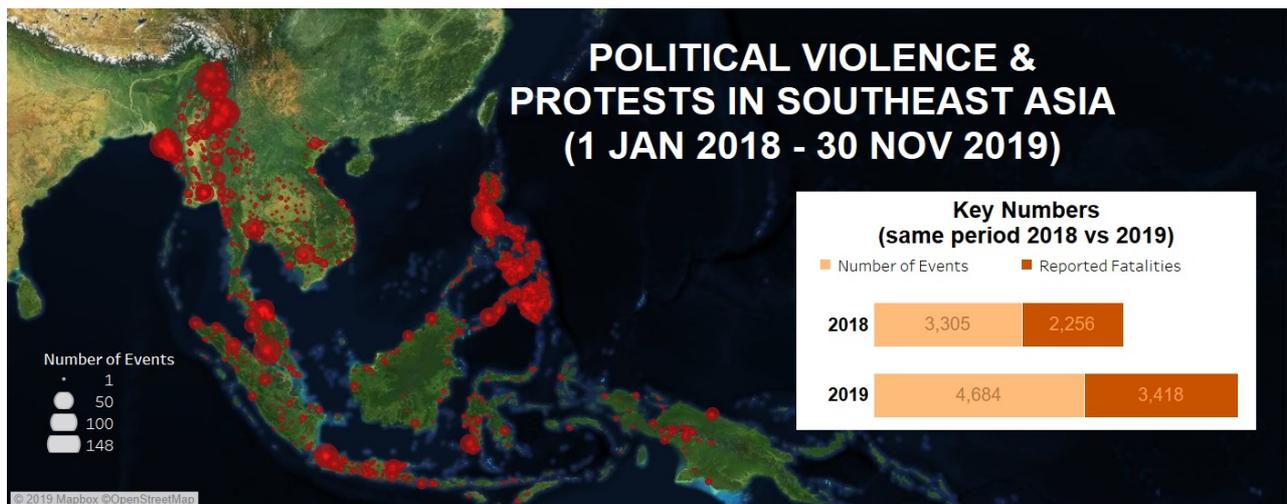
In **Myanmar**, protests in support of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were held in Yangon and Monywa regions. The protests come as the State Counsellor prepares to represent Myanmar in a case brought by Gambia before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violation of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Notably, the case has led several ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to announce they either support the government in defending the country against the charges or that they support the efforts to bring the case to the ICJ ([Irrawaddy, 2 December 2019](#)).

In addition to the ongoing fighting in Rakhine and Shan states, clashes between the Myanmar military and two signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement were reported last week. In Shan state, the military and the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army-South (RCSS/SSA-S) clashed in Namtu township. In Mon state, the military, along with the Karen Border Guard Force, clashed with the New Mon State Party/Mon National Liberation Army (NMSP/MNLA) near Three Pagodas Pass, sending hundreds of villagers across the border into Thailand. This is the first clash between the military and the NMSP/MNLA in many years.

Separatist violence was reported in **Thailand** and **Indonesia**. Ahead of 1 December, a day marked by West Papuans as their "Independence Day," the separatist West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) attacked a vehicle owned by a mining company in the Freeport mine area. While President Joko Widodo has recently signaled a willingness to meet with the separatist group ([Reuters, 1 October 2019](#)), disorder in the region has risen this year as West Papuans continue to face discrimination. Meanwhile, in Thailand,

suspected separatists detonated a bomb in Narathiwat province. The violence comes as the new chief negotiator for peace talks with the separatists held a press conference in which he spoke of his plan for addressing the ongoing violence in the deep south ([Benar News, 3 December 2019](#)).

In the **Philippines**, battles between state forces and Islamist armed groups continued in the southern part of the country. The week prior, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) had attacked a leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). BIFF is a splinter group of the MILF. As part of a 2014 peace agreement, the MILF has been in the process of decommissioning weapons and often aids the military in its fight against Islamist armed groups in the Bangsamoro region.



ACLED is the highest quality, most widely used, real-time data and analysis source on political violence and protest around the world. Practitioners, researchers, and governments depend on ACLED for the latest reliable information on current conflict and disorder patterns. Data and analysis are found on acled.com.

