

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 18 JUNE 2025

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

MYANMAR – HUMAN RIGHTS

In January 2025 the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* points out that: “...2024 was the worst year for civilians since the coup, with increases in casualties recorded in every single sphere.”¹

This document also states that the: “...military continued to use arrests and prosecutions to silence opposition and punish those perceived to oppose their attempt at imposing their rule.”²

Amnesty International in January 2025 notes that: “Since the 2021 coup, Myanmar’s military junta has killed more than 6,000 people, arbitrarily detained more than 20,000, and renewed judicial executions. More than 3.5 million people are internally displaced. Human rights groups have documented the military’s torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, indiscriminate attacks, and the denial of humanitarian aid, which may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.”³

A report issued in February 2025 by the *Global Protection Cluster* states that: “Since the 2021 coup, people have continued to face diverse, widespread, and acute protection risks, driven by escalating conflict, systematic human rights violations...”⁴

In March 2025 *Human Rights Watch* states that: “Widespread repression, including the arbitrary detention of opposition politicians and the dissolution and criminalization of their political parties, has created a climate of fear that makes free and fair elections impossible. Military abuses are rampant in areas contested by ethnic armed groups and anti-junta forces.”⁵

¹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (January 2025) Update on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar; Overview of developments in 2024, p.3

² *ibid*, p.9

³ Amnesty International (31 January 2025) *Myanmar: Four years after coup, world must demand accountability for atrocity crimes*, p.1

⁴ Global Protection Cluster (20 February 2025) *Myanmar Protection Analysis Update: Update on Protections Trends, Risks and Protection Situation*, p.1

⁵ Human Rights Watch (11 March 2025) *Myanmar Junta’s Farcical Plans for Elections*

A report issued in March 2025 by the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* notes that: “Since the February 2021 military coup and prolonged states of emergency in Myanmar (Burma), the military – known as the Tatmadaw – has perpetrated widespread violations against the population, compounding an existing human rights and humanitarian crisis in the country. The junta has relentlessly targeted civilian areas with airstrikes, scorched earth campaigns and other attacks and systematically denied or blocked humanitarian aid to civilians, particularly in the anti-military strongholds of Magway and Sagaing regions and Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Karen states.”⁶

In March 2025 the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* points out that: “The people of Myanmar are confronting two major challenges in 2025: oppression and violence by an increasingly desperate military junta at home and now the sudden withdrawal of critical support from abroad. As the military junta's control of Myanmar continues to shrink, its forces have doubled down on familiar patterns of violence and oppression, escalating aerial assaults on villages, executing villagers en masse, and perpetrating widespread sexual violence against women and girls. More than 100,000 homes and civilian structures have been torched by junta forces since the coup.”⁷

This report also notes that: ““The junta has arrested more than 28,000 people on political grounds since the coup, of whom more than 21,000 remain behind bars...”⁸

This document also states that: “Political prisoners include peaceful protesters, politicians, teachers, entertainers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, activists, humanitarian workers, religious leaders and many other people from all walks of life.”⁹

The *Associated Press* in March 2025 comments on the: “...National Unity Government, which coordinates the popular struggle against the ruling military.”¹⁰

In April 2025 the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* notes that: “Myanmar’s judicial system is highly politicised, and judges are typically not independent or impartial, a situation that has become particularly acute since the 2021 coup.”¹¹

This document also states that: “In September 2021, the NUG announced an armed revolutionary struggle against the junta, which has continued since, along with renewed fighting between the Myanmar military and various ethnic armed organisations (EAOs).”¹²

This document also states that: “Party leaders, members of the NUG and members of the National Unity Consultative Council are at high risk of official violence and arbitrary detention.”¹³

⁶ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (14 March 2025) *Myanmar*, p.1

⁷ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (14 March 2025) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, p.2

⁸ *ibid*, p.15

⁹ *ibid*, p.15

¹⁰ Associated Press (30 March 2025) *Myanmar quake death toll rises to 1,644 as resistance movement announces partial ceasefire*

¹¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (7 April 2025) DFAT Country Information Report Myanmar, p.41

¹² *ibid*, p.6

¹³ *ibid*, p.26

A report published in May 2025 by the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* comments on the: "...dire human rights situation..."¹⁴

In June 2025 the *Associated Press* states that: "A widespread armed struggle against military rule in Myanmar began in February 2021 after generals seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. More than 6,600 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces, according to figures compiled by nongovernmental organizations. The military takeover triggered intensified fighting with long-established armed militias organized by Myanmar's ethnic minority groups in its border regions, which have struggled for decades for more autonomy. It also led to the formation of pro-democracy militias that support a national unity government established by elected lawmakers barred from taking their seats after the army takeover."¹⁵

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¹⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (26 May 2025) *Situation of human rights in Myanmar: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (May 2025) (Advance unedited version)*, p.2

¹⁵ Associated Press (10 June 2025) *UN envoy to Myanmar warns that violence puts country on 'path to selfdestruction'*

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UNHCR Refworld
UN Treaty Body Database
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