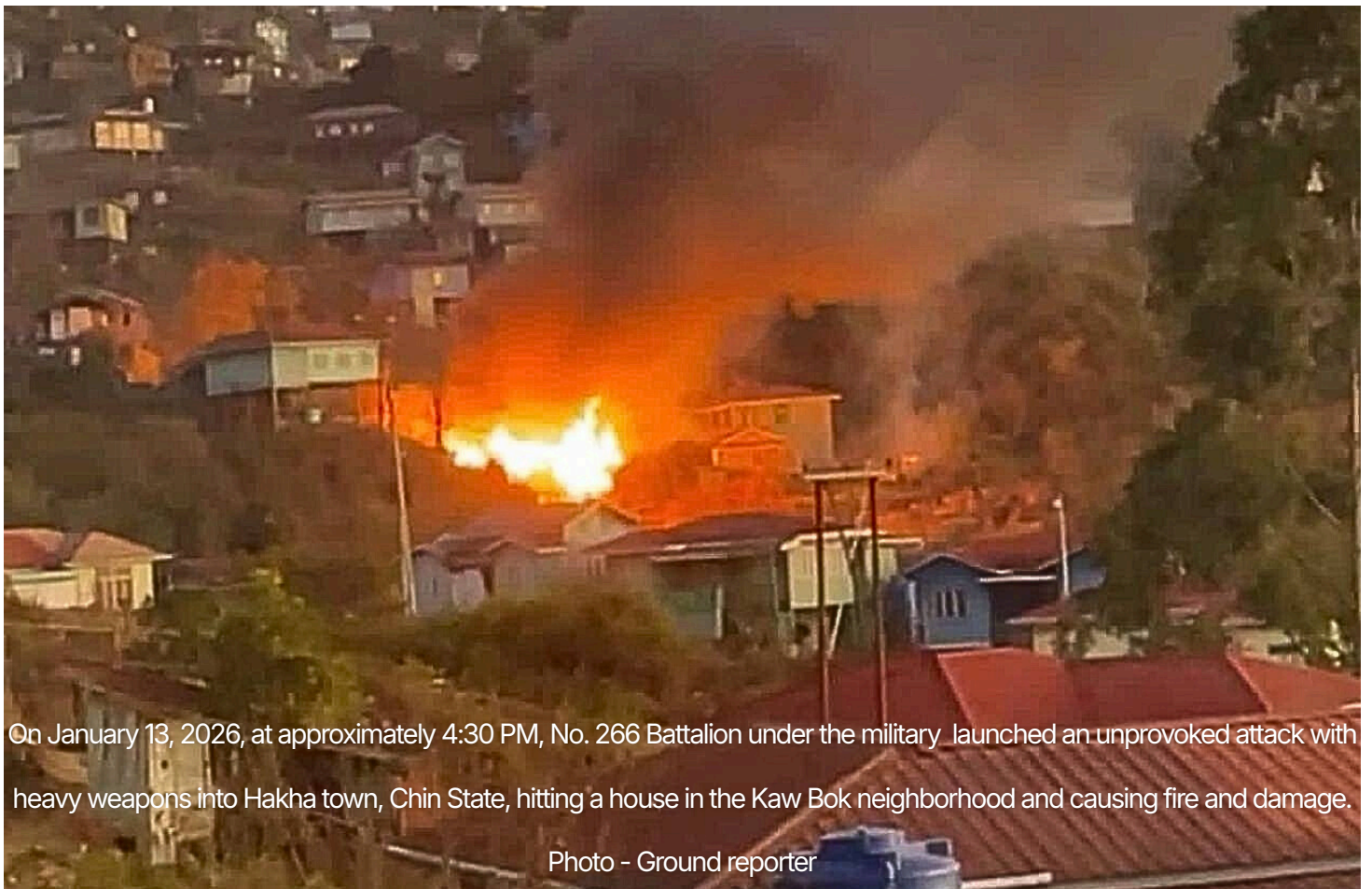


2026
January

Human Rights Brief

Human Rights Program



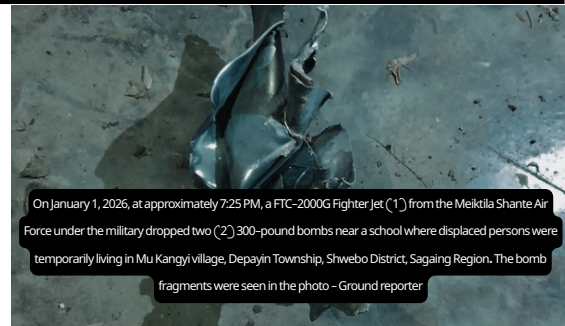
On January 13, 2026, at approximately 4:30 PM, No. 266 Battalion under the military launched an unprovoked attack with heavy weapons into Hakha town, Chin State, hitting a house in the Kaw Bok neighborhood and causing fire and damage.

Photo - Ground reporter

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

JANUARY 2026

January Monthly Brief



Introduction

Since the military coup on 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar have endured overwhelming human rights violations more pervasively than before. These violations have intensified and continued without interruption till **31 January 2026**. In response, the New Myanmar Foundation has initiated the Human Rights Program on 1 February 2023. This program collects verified reports of human rights violation incidents through news media sources, networks of grassroots partner organizations and states classified data reports. It collaborates with both domestic and international human rights organizations to provide support, protection, and advocate for justice.

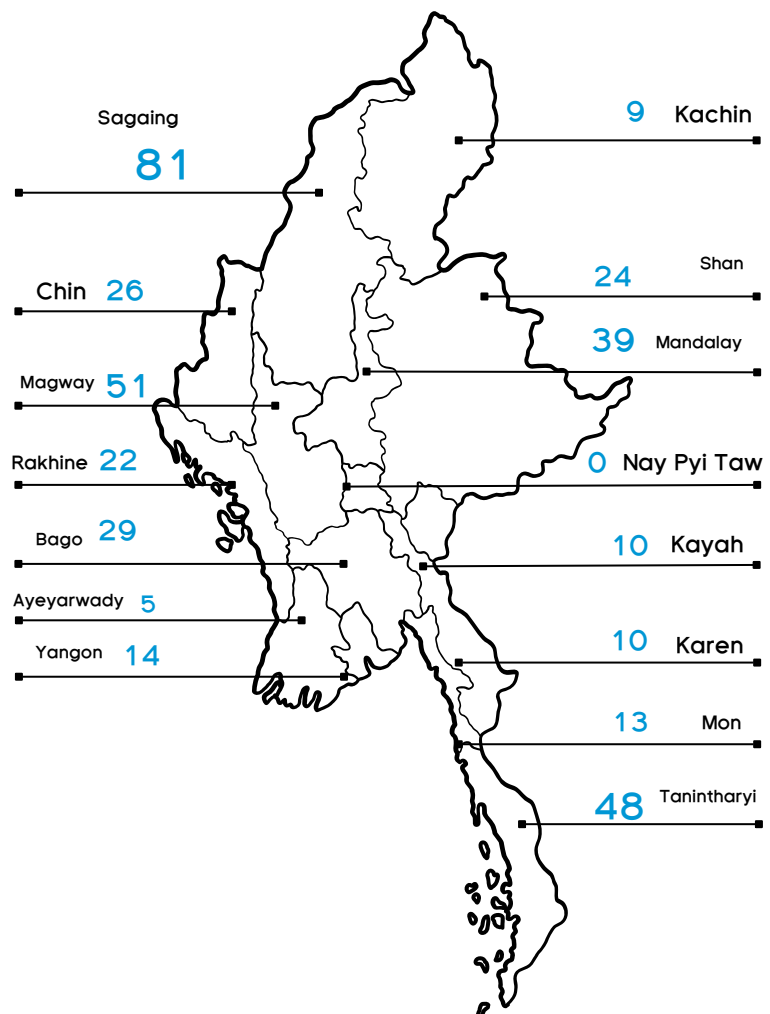
Disclaimer

Referring to and adhering to international human rights and humanitarian law standards, the New Myanmar Foundation (NMF) has classified and analyzed 19 categories of human rights violations. In this Monthly Brief, incidents and information—both online-sourced and ground-verified—are systematically documented based on these 19 categories of violations.

However, due to challenges in data acquisition and information access, the cases presented here may not fully reflect all situations occurring on the ground.

During the period from January 1 to 31, 2026.

376 cases of human rights violations were documented.



Across the country, the regions with the highest number of human rights violations were recorded in Sagaing Region (81 incidents), Magway Region (51 incidents) and Tanintharyi Region (48 incidents). In January, human rights violations were recorded in all regions/states except Nay Pyi Taw, while the regions with the lowest number of human rights violations were Kayah State (Karenni State) and Kayin State (10 incidents each) and Kachin State (9 incidents). The main perpetrators of human rights violations were the military and its affiliates, with unidentified armed groups and anti-military armed groups also committing some violations.

Most Frequently Documented Human Rights Violation Types

Based on the 19 categories of human rights violations defined by the New Myanmar Foundation (NMF), the following section presents the statistical overview of documented incidents and the key findings related to the three most frequently occurring types of violations.

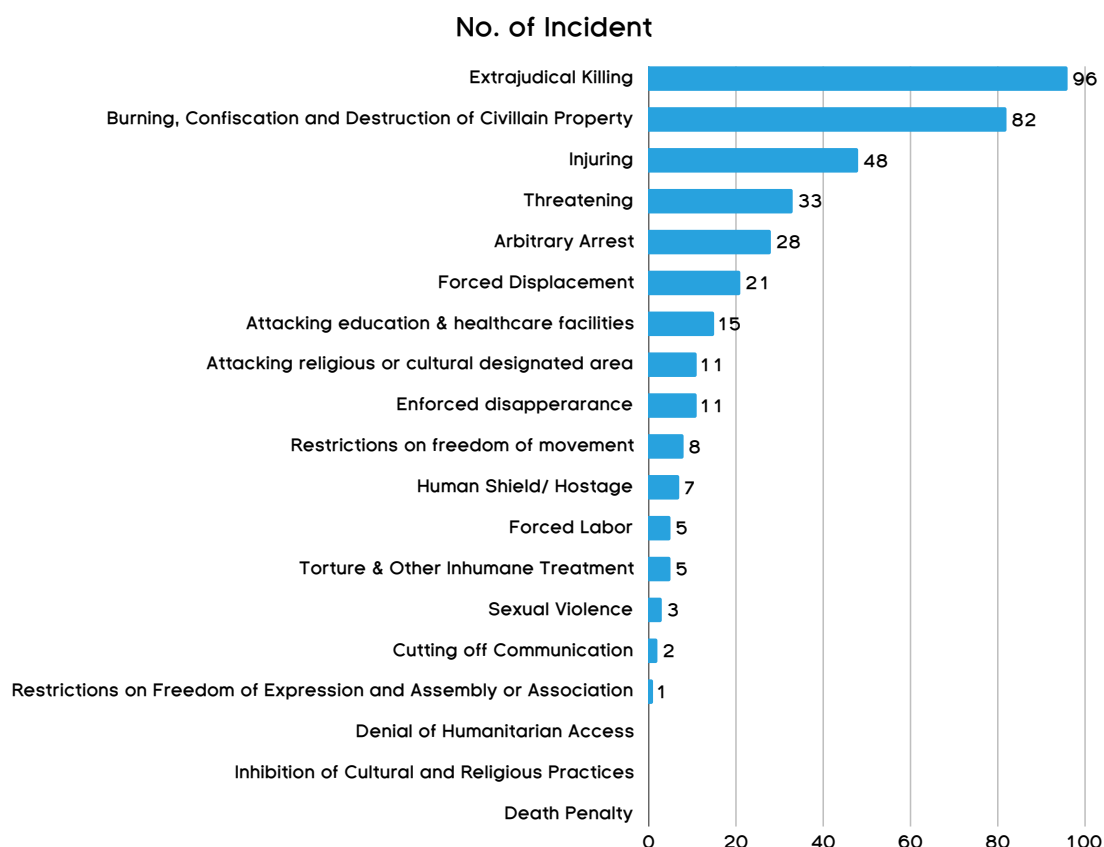


Figure 1. Human Rights Violations Across Myanmar in January 2026

1. Extrajudicial Killing

On 4 January 2026, at around midnight, Halta Village in Hakha Township, Chin State, was subjected to an indiscriminate airstrike carried out by the air force under the military junta. A bomb fell and exploded on a residential house, killing an entire family.



Illustrative case

Among the different categories of violations, extrajudicial killings was found to be the most frequent human rights violation in January, with a total of 96 incidents recorded. These included 15 cases of mass-casualty killings resulting from extrajudicial executions. The victims included various civilians, among them children, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the elderly—groups particularly vulnerable to harm. The regions with the highest number of violations were Sagaing Region (31 cases), Magway Region (18 cases), and Bago Region (14 cases). Nationwide, the military and its affiliated forces were responsible for the majority of extrajudicial killing violations, committing 85 cases, while anti-military armed groups were responsible for 7 cases, and unidentified armed groups for 9 cases, respectively.

On 22 January 2026, at around 4:00 p.m., in a non-conflict area of Bhamo Township, an airstrike by the State Administration Council (SAC) forces targeted Kone Jar Village, Ward (3), where internally displaced persons were residing. As a result, 23 people were killed—including 10 males, 6 females, and 7 persons of unidentified sex—and 28 people were injured. Among the 28 injured were two girls aged two months and seven years, as well as two persons with disabilities.

2. Burning, Confiscation and Destruction of Civilian Property

In January, this category became the second most frequent type of human rights violation, with a total of 82 incidents recorded nationwide. The regions with the highest number of violations were Tanintharyi Region (17 cases), Chin State (14 cases), and Magway Region (12 cases). During this reporting period, approximately 2,805 houses were damaged or destroyed through various methods. Of the total incidents, 79 cases were perpetrated by the military and its subordinate forces, while 3 cases were committed by anti-military forces and 5 cases by unidentified armed groups.



January 17, 2026, at around 5:00 a.m., an airstrike was carried out on Taung Ma Taw Village, Morywa Township, Sagaing Region, resulting in damage to civilian homes (left photo).

Photo - Ground reporter

January 13, 2026, at around 10:30 a.m., in eastern Bago Region, Toungoo District, east of Swar Town in Yedashe Township, Ye Kan Village was bombed by a SU-30 fighter jet operated by the junta's Air Force using a 250-pound bomb. The bomb fell and exploded on a civilian house, causing damage to the home (right photo).



3. Injuring

Violations that caused injuries to civilians amounted to 48 incidents, making this the third most common category of human rights violations. The highest number of such incidents occurred in Sagaing Region (14 cases), followed by Bago Region (10 cases) and Tanintharyi Region (7 cases). Among the perpetrators, the military was responsible for the majority with 44 cases, while some incidents were also committed by unidentified armed groups and anti-military organizations. During these incidents, children, internally displaced persons (IDPs), religious workers, and pregnant women were also injured.

On 13 January 2026, at around 2:00 PM, in Pinsi Khin (Ywar Thit) village, Ye-U Township, Sagaing Region, despite there being no fighting, the military conducted an airstrike using one YAK-130 fighter jet that took off from Tada-U Air Base. The attack involved two bombs—one 500-pound bomb and one bomb estimated at 300 pounds. As a result of the bombing, one 13-year-old child was killed, and four civilians (1 male and 3 females) were injured.

Illustrative Cases



January 13, 2026, at around 10:30 a.m., in the same attack on Ye Kan Village, Yedashe Township, eastern Bago Region, carried out by the military's SU-30 fighter jet using a 250-pound bomb, a 4-year-old girl was injured.

January 5, 2026, at around 11:30 a.m., in Hto Ma Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, joint forces of the military junta under the Kalay Tactical Command, which are stationed in the village, carried out an unprovoked drone attack near Tin Thar Village on local civilians who were harvesting rice. Two military drones dropped four bombs, injuring a woman.



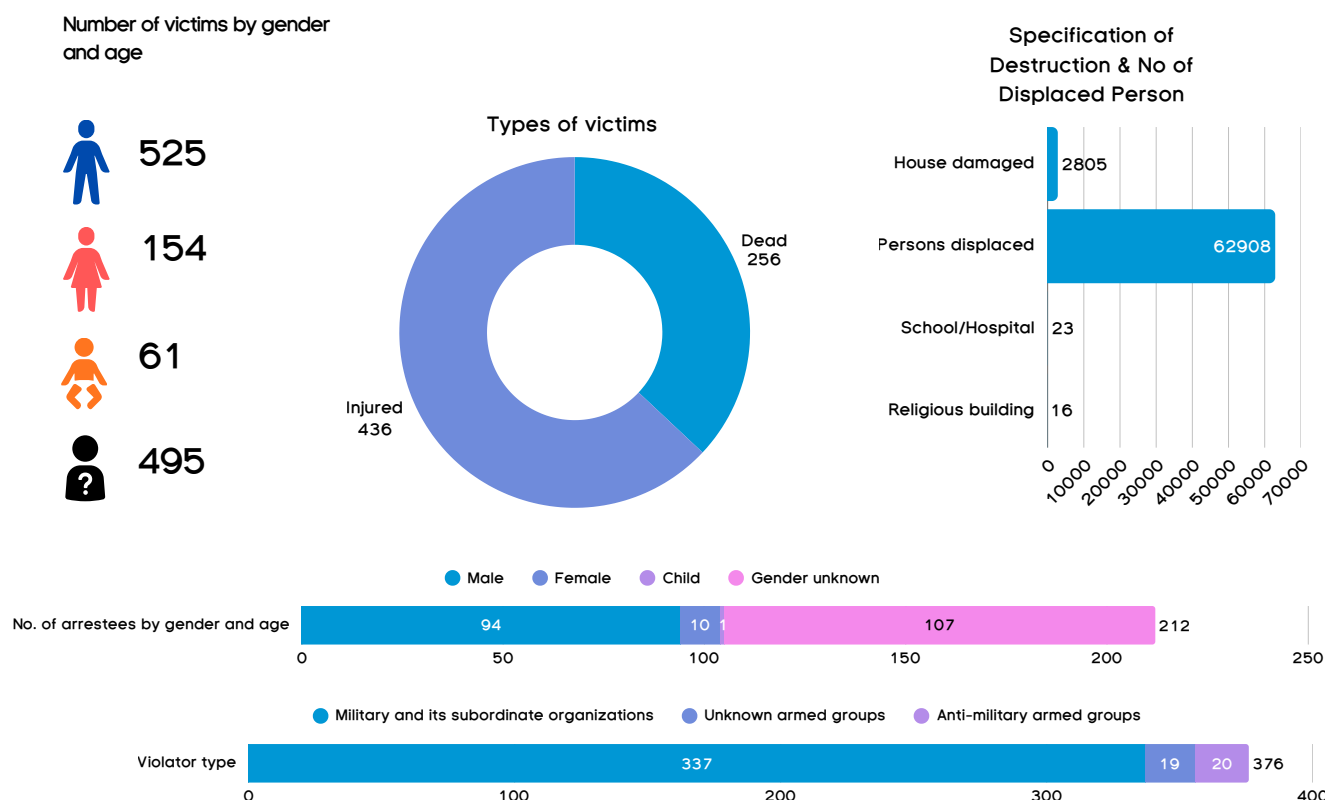
Photo - Ground reporter



January 25, 2026, at around 5:30 p.m., in Chin State, Tedim Township, a civilian from New Suang Pi (New Village named Suang Pi) was fleeing displacement. When he temporarily returned to the village to check on his home, he stepped on a landmine planted on a footpath by the junta troops. He was seriously injured and lost his left leg below the knee.

In January, human rights violations committed by various actors, including the military, resulted in 256 deaths and 436 injuries. Due to multiple methods of attack, including airstrikes and arson during military ground raids, approximately 2,805 civilian homes were damaged or destroyed, and nearly 63,000 people were displaced. During this reporting period, 212 people were arbitrarily arrested. Deliberate attacks targeting schools, hospitals, displacement shelters, and monasteries, as well as other educational, health, and religious buildings in non-conflict areas, led to damage to 23 schools and hospitals/clinics and 16 religious buildings.

Figure 2. Deaths, injuries, and material losses caused by various human rights violations in January.



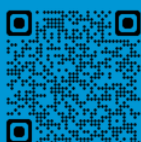
Conclusion

Throughout January, human rights violations continued across regions and states, and the military council carried out more airstrikes than in the previous month. Air attacks targeting civilian structures—including temporary displacement camps, monasteries, schools, and hospitals—resulted in 14 incidents of mass casualties, with a high proportion of victims being children, pregnant women, and the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable. To halt these conditions, it is strongly urged that effective sanctions be imposed on the military junta and those committing airstrikes and that civilian protection measures and humanitarian assistance be strengthened.

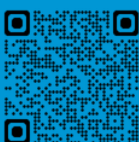
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- Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)
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