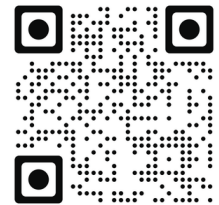


2026 May

Human Rights Brief

Human Rights Program



Damage to the Basic Education High School in Sanbong Ward, Matupi Township, Chin State, caused by a military airstrike on 9 May 2026, despite the absence of armed clashes in the area.



HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

MAY 2026

May Monthly Brief



Damage to the Basic Education Primary School in Talan Zar Village, Falam Township, Chin State, following a military airstrike on 4 May 2026.

Introduction

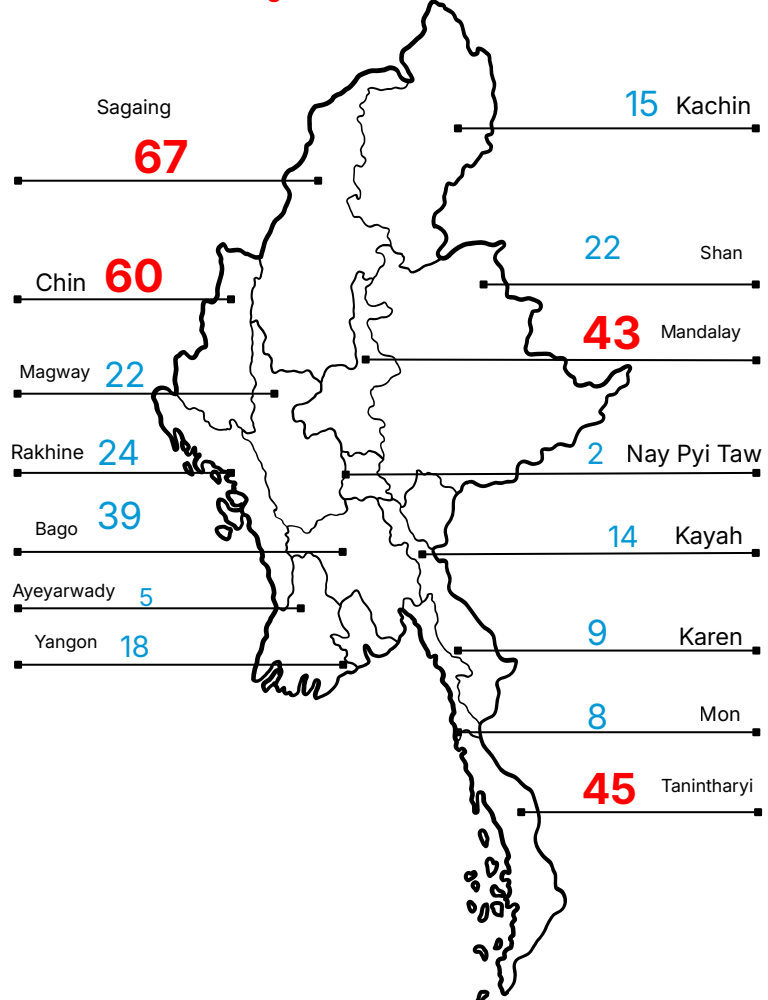
Since the military coup on 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar have endured overwhelming human rights violations more pervasively than before. These violations have intensified and continued without interruption till 31 May 2026. In response, the Blossom Future has initiated the Human Rights Program 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 blossom future team 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 May 1 to 31, 2026.

393 cases of human rights violations were documented.



Among all regions nationwide, the highest numbers of documented human rights violations were recorded in Sagaing Region (67 incidents), Chin State (60 incidents), and Tanintharyi Region (45 incidents). The total number of human rights violations documented during May increased by approximately 25 percent compared with April. Human rights violations were recorded across all states and regions of the country. With the exception of Kachin State, Kayah State, Karen State, Mon State, and Ayeyarwady Region, all other states and regions experienced a higher number of violations than in the previous month.

The principal perpetrators of these human rights violations were identified as the military junta and its affiliated forces. In addition, unidentified armed groups were also found to have committed human rights violations.

Most Frequently Documented Human Rights Violation Types

Based on the 19 categories of human rights violations defined by the Blossom Future organization, the following section presents the statistical overview of documented incidents and the key findings related to the three most frequently occurring types of violations.

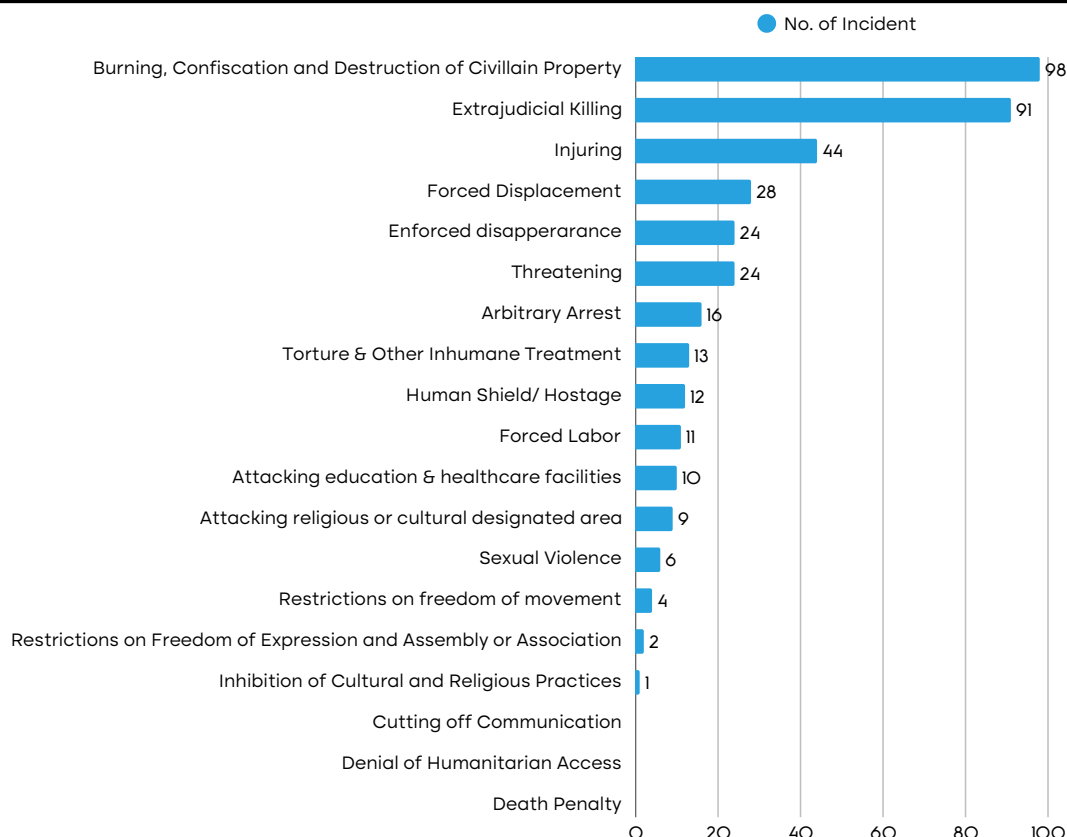


Figure 1. Human Rights Violations Across Myanmar in May 2026

1. Burning, Confiscation and Destruction of Civilian Property



Documentation of damage to the school building in Htan Taw Kone Village, Chaung-U Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, caused by an airstrike on 16 May 2026.



Photo: Ground Data Collector

Illustrative case

On 16 May 2026, at approximately 4:15 p.m., the Myanmar military carried out an aerial attack using a suicide drone launched from the Monywa Northwestern Regional Military Command (Na Ma Kha) against a school in Htantawgon Village, Chaung-U Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region. The attack occurred in the absence of any ongoing military column movement or armed clashes in the area. According to ground records, the strike took place while the school was accepting student enrollments for the upcoming academic year, and the resulting drone bomb explosion damaged five classrooms within the school building.

During May, the destruction of civilian property was the most frequently documented category of human rights violations, with a total of 98 recorded incidents nationwide. The areas with the highest number of reported cases were Chin State (30 incidents), Sagaing Region (15 incidents), and Mandalay Region (11 incidents). During the reporting period, it was found that approximately 3,215 civilian-owned buildings and houses were damaged or destroyed through various means. Ground documentation further indicates that 97 of the total recorded incidents were perpetrated by the Myanmar military and its affiliated forces, while one incident involved anti-military resistance forces.

2. Extrajudicial Killing

Among the categories of violations documented, extrajudicial killings constituted the second most prevalent type of human rights violation during May, with a total of 91 recorded incidents. These incidents included nine cases of mass-casualty killings, and the victims comprised a wide range of civilians, including particularly vulnerable groups such as children, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the elderly. The highest numbers of violations were recorded in Sagaing Region (19 incidents), followed by Mandalay Region (15 incidents) and Chin State (10 incidents). Nationwide, the Myanmar military and its affiliated forces were identified as the primary perpetrators, responsible for 68 cases of extrajudicial killings, while unidentified armed groups were responsible for 18 cases, and anti-junta armed groups were responsible for five cases.

Illustrative case

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on 1 May 2026, the Myanmar military junta air force carried out an aerial bombardment of Khawpui Chhip Village, located in the western part of Falam Township, northern Chin State, despite the absence of any armed clashes in the area. A military fighter aircraft dropped two 500-pound bombs, which exploded in a volleyball court adjacent to residential houses in the centre of the village, causing damage to 12 civilian homes.

As a result of the attack, seven civilians were killed, including a father and his three children from the same family. Of those killed, six were children. In addition, 12 civilians sustained injuries, including eight men and four women.



Documentation of the deaths of children resulting from an airstrike on Khawpui Chhip Village, Falam Township, Chin State, on 1 May 2026.

Documentation of the death of a local resident following a military aerial bombing attack on Chaung Gwa Gyi Village, Okpho Township, Bago Region, on 27 May 2026.

Photo: Ground Data Collector



3. Injuring

Violations resulting in injuries to civilians constituted the third most prevalent category of human rights violations, with a total of 44 documented incidents. The highest numbers were recorded in Bago Region (11 incidents), followed by Sagaing Region (8 incidents) and Kachin State (5 incidents). Among the identified perpetrators, the Myanmar military was responsible for the majority of cases, accounting for 34 incidents, while unidentified armed groups were involved in 10 incidents. Most of the incidents involving unidentified armed groups were related to injuries caused by landmines. Victims of this category of violations included children, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and elderly civilians.

Illustrative case

At approximately 9:10 a.m. on 28 May 2026, the military forces carried out an aerial bombardment on Htanpinkone Village, Okpho Township, Thayarwady District, western Bago Region. During the attack, one of the bombs struck and exploded on a civilian residence. As a result, Ma Aye Lay (32 years old), the daughter of U Kyi Hlaing and the wife of Ko Phoe Chit, sustained severe injuries throughout her body, including a penetrating abdominal wound, and was reported to be receiving emergency medical treatment. Documentation further indicates that her residence was also damaged and partially destroyed as a consequence of the airstrike.



An injured woman receiving medical treatment after an airstrike on Htan Pin Kone Village, Okpho Township, Bago Region, on 28 May 2026.

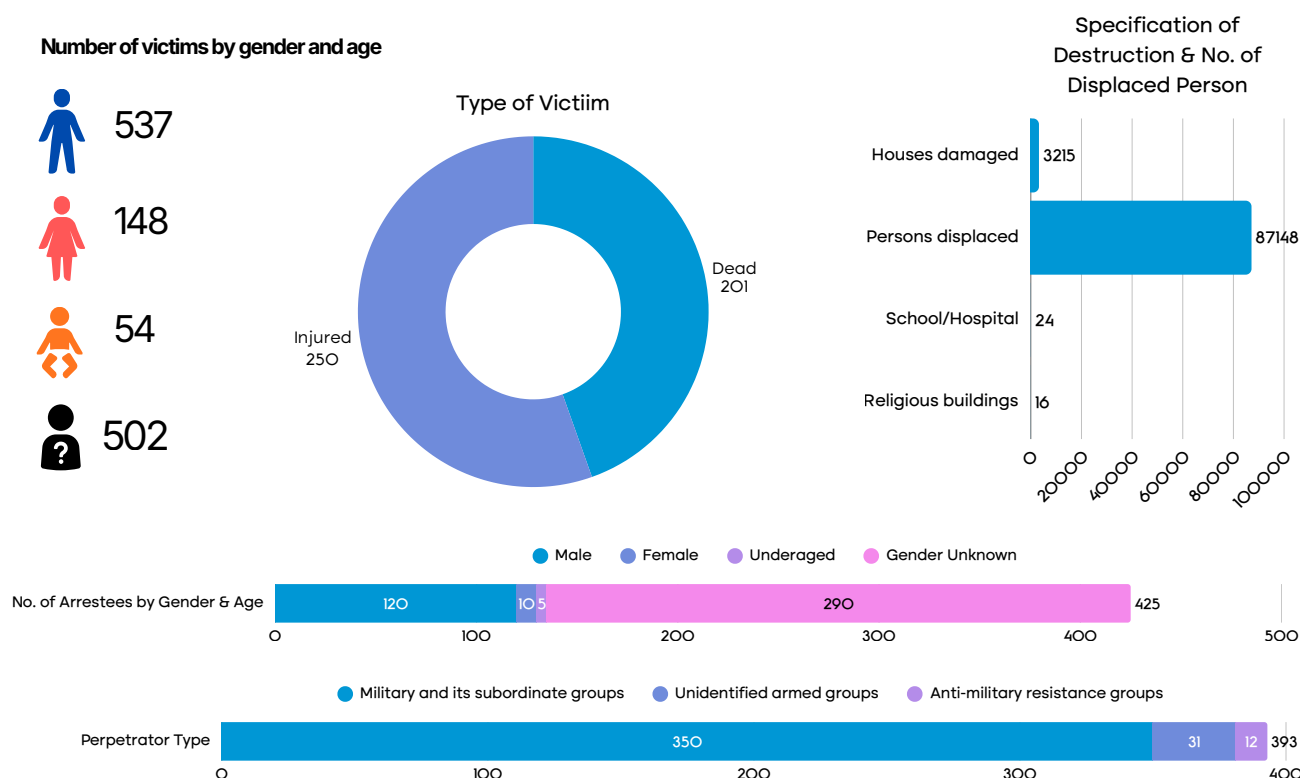
Photo: Ground Data Collector



The abbot of Yangon Monastery sustained injuries following an aerial bombing attack on Chin Kone Village, Letpadan Township, Bago Region, on 25 May 2026

During May, various actors, including the military, committed human rights violations through a range of methods, resulting in 201 fatalities and 250 injuries. Owing to a variety of causes, including airstrikes and arson attacks carried out during military operations, approximately 3,215 civilian homes were destroyed or damaged, and nearly 90,000 people were forcibly displaced. During the reporting period, a total of 279 individuals were found to have been subjected to arbitrary arrest. Educational, healthcare, and religious facilities—including schools, hospitals, displacement shelters, and monasteries located in areas where no armed clashes had occurred—were deliberately targeted in intentional attacks. As a result, 24 schools and hospitals/clinics, as well as 16 religious buildings, sustained damage or destruction. The extent of such damage and destruction recorded in May was greater than that documented in April.

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



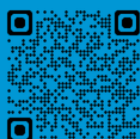
Conclusion

Throughout May 2026, civilians, particularly those in vulnerable situations, continued to suffer severe harm as a consequence of airstrikes, village burnings, and arbitrary arrests. In addition, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including residential homes, schools, and religious buildings, intensified, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes. Furthermore, torture, enforced disappearances, and forced conscription have continued to exacerbate the human rights situation across the country. In light of these circumstances, it is imperative to call for the implementation of effective sanctions and accountability measures against aerial attacks, as well as the strengthening of civilian protection mechanisms and the expansion of humanitarian assistance.

Source from :

- DVB
- Shwe Phee Myay
- Burma-Associated Press (BAP)
- Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)
- Western News
- Independent Mon News Agency
- Tachileik News Agency
- Karen Human Rights Group-KHRG
- Myanmar Now
- Shan News Agency
- Border News Agency
- Narinjara
- Mizzima
- Kachin News
- Burma News International
- People's Spring
- Dawei Watch
- Thanlwin Khet
- Kantarawaddy Times
- Myanmar Press Photography-MPA
- Mekong News
- Myaelatt Athan
- Tanintharyi Times
- Kachin News Group
- Khit Thit Media
- Karen Information Center
- Ayeeyarwaddy Times
- Mandalay Free Press-MFP

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