



# Hang Onto Hope

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An Overview of the  
Human Rights Situation in  
Karenni State in 2025



**KARENNI HUMAN  
RIGHTS GROUP**

## ***About the Karenni Human Rights Group***

*The Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) is a grassroots, independent, Karenni-led human rights organization established on 18 May 2016. It operates in all seven townships in Karenni (Kayah) State and partly in the Kayan region (southern Shan State), Burma.*

*Local Karenni people from Burma formed KnHRG and experienced young and active people who are long-standing human rights activists, land issue activists, women activists, and community development perspective persons. The vision of KnHRG is to promote a society which respects and upholds human rights and Karenni culture.*

This report was researched, written and designed by the Karenni Human Rights Group.

We extend our appreciation to donors who have supported our publications and advocacy. We dedicate this report to the resilience of the Karenni people.

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## Introduction

Throughout the year 2025, the human rights situation in Burma was marked by instability and violence as the military junta intensified its attacks against unarmed civilians. The most vulnerable individuals caught in these assaults are often women, children, and the elderly. Throughout the country, more than 3.6 million people have been displaced as the conflict forces communities to flee, deepening the disruption of their daily lives. Access to education and livelihoods has been severely restricted, with essential community spaces, such as schools and farms, deliberately targeted by the junta. Consequently, fears and instability are growing.

The levels of violence impacting local communities are increasing. KnHRG has identified a concerning frequency of airstrikes being deployed by the military junta, often during times when there is no conflict or armed groups present. Meanwhile, the junta has received additional fighter jets and war planes from countries including Russia and China, which are then used to drop bombs on civilians.<sup>1</sup> Schools, hospitals, and temporary displacement sites and camps are routinely targeted. These attacks aim to create deep fear among those most affected by the war, including women and children.

**Currently, there are at least 250,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Karenni State who urgently need emergency humanitarian aid.**

The gendered impacts of the displacement crisis cannot be overlooked. Women and children, especially new and expectant mothers, are bearing the brunt of the conflict. The Department of Women and Children of the Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC) reported 102 cases of gender-based violence over the last two years.<sup>2</sup> The reported cases include 35 incidents of sexual violence, 31 of physical violence, 21 of psychological abuse, 17 of socio-economic violence, and 8 cases related to harmful traditional practices, totalling 102 cases.<sup>3</sup> Among these, there are also six cases of sexual violence and two cases of physical abuse involving children under the age of 18. The troubling number of these cases underscores the need for more actions to end impunity and protect survivors.

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<sup>1</sup> Russia Completes Delivery of Warplanes to Embattled Myanmar Junta, *The Irrawaddy*, 8 January 2025

<sup>2</sup> 102 Gender-Based Violence Cases Reported in Karenni State Within Two Years, *Sexual Violence Most Prevalent*, *Kantarawaddy Times*, 27 October 2025

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

In addition, according to the records of the Women’s League of Burma (WLB), from the attempted coup until May 2025, there have been 365 cases of sexual violence and gender-based violence in Karenni State, the highest in the country.<sup>4</sup> Women-led organizations, including the Karenni National Women’s Organization and Kayan Women’s Organization, along with many others, are working tirelessly to address the rising rates of conflict-related sexual violence as the war escalates—placing women at greater risk of rights violations. The absence of reliable justice referral pathways has made accountability efforts by junta soldiers even more difficult. Nonetheless, women have continued to challenge gender stereotypes and rise to leadership positions.

Adding to the distressing situation was a 7.7 earthquake that struck Burma on 28 March 2025. The natural disaster was the latest in the challenges local people were forced to endure, as infrastructure, including hospitals and clinics, collapsed, as did people’s homes. Two churches in NeeDuKhu and HohWam Upper Village in Demoso Township also collapsed. The IEC supported the relief effort. Natural disasters are just one of the many factors contributing to food insecurity, which continues to be a significant issue as economic instability impacts communities.

By the end of 2025, about 15.2 million people—almost a third of the population—were predicted to experience severe food insecurity, up from 13.3 million in 2024.<sup>5</sup> Complicating the situation on the ground are growing concerns about climate change, including flooding and extreme weather events. Worryingly, despite the widespread destruction caused by the earthquake, the junta did not hesitate to carry out airstrikes in emergency areas. Additionally, the regime targeted journalists trying to reach the impacted regions.

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<sup>4</sup> Are Violence Against Women Still Being Suppressed?, Burma News International, 24 November 25

<sup>5</sup> Myanmar: Death, destruction and desperation mirror 2017 atrocities – UN report, 2 September 2025

*Those who managed to escape the worst of the destruction were not spared from the junta's terror. The escalation of attacks against civilians saw airstrikes just two days after the quake; the military conducted airstrikes in Hpruso Township using 500-pound and 300-pound bombs.*

Of additional concern is how the forced conscription mandate is being unlawfully enforced, leading to separated families and forced farewells without any assurance of safe reunification. In January 2025, during the first month of the year, the junta carried out arbitrary arrests that resulted in the unlawful detention of two men in the Loikaw township. Following military arrests of civilians, many individuals have either disappeared without a trace or have been coerced into military enlistment.

There has also been a worrying increase in surveillance in Karenni State, especially amid the junta's plan for a sham election. The military has intensified its attacks to reclaim lost territory. It has also increased troop movements and targeted assaults in areas where people depend on their livelihoods and income. Due to these targeted operations, displaced individuals are facing significant challenges in securing their livelihoods and supporting their families. Food shortages are a daily concern for those affected by the ongoing conflict.

Amid the ongoing escalation of attacks by the junta, the IEC issued a warning to civilians about “coordinated and systematic airstrikes involving both military and civilian targets.”<sup>6</sup> Locals have experienced significant distress as the humanitarian crisis worsens. The IEC reported that during April 2025 alone, junta airstrikes in Karenni State injured 29 civilians. Additionally, the military conducted five airstrikes in the Mawchi area, where mining operations are ongoing: one in March, two in April, and two in May.

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<sup>6</sup> Quarterly Newsletter: Karenni Human Rights Group, Volume 8, Issue 6: April–June 2025

In June 2025, the IEC also issued an urgent appeal to war-affected communities in Karenni State amid intensified military offensives.<sup>7</sup> There were further calls to the international community to recognize the challenges faced by displaced civilians and to increase support for their safety and food security through humanitarian assistance. Since early June 2025, the junta has intensified its operations against civilians, including artillery and airstrikes. By October 2025, the military had increased its deliberate targeting of civilians and displaced communities, especially those harvesting paddy rice on their farmlands.

Amid the erosion of protections, basic access to clinics has been undermined due to the conflict, leading to various health and skin diseases that are having a devastating impact on local communities, especially children who struggle to access treatment without the threat and likely possibility of targeted attacks. In two IDP camps in eastern Demoso, children under the age of 18 were suffering from skin-related ailments and the flu, as there remains a lack of clean water and nutritional food, as well as a lack of readily available medicine.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore, the Karenni Human Rights Group (KnHRG) has documented human rights violations and identified several serious concerns over the past year that threaten fundamental rights. If these issues are not addressed, the safety and security of innocent civilians will continue to be at grave risk. The international community has a moral and political obligation to intervene effectively and ensure that the perpetrators, particularly the military junta, are held accountable for their crimes against innocent people.

This report will present an overview of the challenges faced by civilians in Karenni State throughout 2025, as documented by KnHRG, including our calls and recommendations. Justice has long been denied and dismissed, and the people of Burma have been stripped of their humanity. As instances of injustice increase, there is an urgent need for immediate action.

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<sup>7</sup> Indiscriminate and Targeted Attacks by the Military Junta Threaten Survival of Local Communities Across Karenni State, The Karenni Human Rights Group, July 2025

<sup>8</sup> 40% of Children in Two IDP Camps from Eastern Demoso Affected by Seasonal Flu and Skin Irritations, Kantarawaddy News, 21 November 2025

## Situation Overview

Since the failed coup on 1 February 2021, local people have been forced to endure widespread hardship. Over the last five years, thousands have been killed, with over 30,000 arrested for their pro-democracy activities.<sup>9</sup> In Karenni State, civilians have suffered under the military junta for decades. The consequences following the coup have deepened existing inequalities and caused alarming rates of malnutrition and displacement, as war renders it impossible to avoid the worst of the Burma Army's imminent attacks.

The escalation of fighting in Karenni State has exhausted many people from the war, and the number of displaced individuals has grown. An estimated 20,000 people were displaced in July and August 2025. The increase in displacement is driven by their urgent need for food and shelter. The military has intensified its attacks in an effort to regain lost territory amid plans for its sham election. It expanded troop movements and targeted assaults in areas where people rely on their livelihoods and income. Towards the second half of the year, the displacement figures continued to rise. In September 2025, an additional 30,000 IDPs were reported.<sup>10</sup> By October, the number of those in urgent need of emergency food assistance and shelter increased by 1,000.

The fighting intensified in Karenni State as the military advanced. The military has used more advanced weapons, while threatening civilians and those displaced through physical and mental sabotage. In addition, the military and the Pa-O National Army continue to destroy civilian houses, while threatening displaced communities to return to their villages, despite the unsafe conditions.<sup>11</sup> The attacks come as villagers, once again eager to harvest crops, have been collecting their rice from the fields. The nonstop firing, despite the absence of fighting, has posed additional threats.

The junta's assaults on the most vulnerable, including those sheltering, persist with ongoing blockades hindering access to vital support. Meanwhile, thousands continue to face killing, arrest, and forced confrontations with harsh realities such as limited livelihood opportunities and restricted educational access.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Karenni State Sees 30,000 More Displaced in 2025, Escalating Humanitarian Needs, Burma News International, 12 September 2025

<sup>11</sup> Displaced Pekon Township residents face hardships upon return, Burma News International, 11 August 2025



Earlier in the year, students in a village in Demoso township had to take their final exams in the forest due to safety concerns from artillery and airstrikes by the junta.<sup>12</sup> Despite these immense difficulties, young people continue to show resilience.

Throughout 2025, KnHRG has closely monitored developments on the ground and documented human rights violations. There were 61 airstrikes, 140 mortar attacks, and 480 properties damaged. During the reporting period of 2025, this led to 143 civilians killed and 474 wounded. There were 21 cases of drones, 140 artillery attacks, 16 of landmines, 20 arbitrary arrests and 7 people shot on sight.

In 2025, Phekon Township, Demoso Township, and Loikaw Township experienced the highest number of human rights violations. Phekon Township experienced the highest number of artillery attacks, and Demoso Township experienced the highest number of airstrikes.

The following section presents the figures and human rights violations outlined by KnHRG.

<sup>12</sup> Due to Security Concerns, a School in Eastern Dee Maw Hso Held Its Final Exams in a Forest, Burma News International, 7 March 2025

## Airstrikes

The ongoing escalation of airstrikes across Burma requires an urgent response to halt the supply of weapons to the military junta. Air attacks are killing innocent civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. The junta's brutality is evidenced by the targeting of villagers during traditional holidays and ceremonies. In total, between January and December 2025, KnHRG documented at least 61 airstrikes throughout Karenni State.

KnHRG reported that airstrikes killed two men and three women in January 2025. Airstrikes also injured one man, two women and a child. Airstrikes damaged eight buildings, and drone strikes destroyed one building. The attacks came without any active fighting in the area, including an attack on the Daw So Phay IDP camp. Additional airstrikes occurred on the evening of 14 January near the Padanyay and Phayarni villages in Loikaw Township. Junta-backed Deputy Commander-in-Chief Soe Win visited the area at the time of the attacks.

On 13 February 2025, the junta launched an airstrike in western Demoso and dropped four bombs. A school, a medical office and two residential houses were damaged. Twenty bombs were dropped on Bawlakhe within a day on January 20th, targeting innocent villagers. Fears of drone surveillance and airstrikes conducted by the military junta are an ongoing concern for IDPs in Karenni State. The KnHRG Co-founder, Ko Banya, has repeatedly warned against drone technology and its devastating impacts on displaced communities.<sup>13</sup>

By the end of 2025, there were 21 incidents of drone strikes that affected a child, six men, two women, and one person of unidentified gender. A total of 10 people were injured, including 7 children, 10 men, 9 women, and 6 people of unidentified gender, for a total of 32 people.

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<sup>13</sup> Junta drones: A grave danger for Karenni people, Burma News International, 15 September 2025

KnHRG documented that three airstrikes by the junta in February 2025 led to the death of a woman and a child. Airstrikes also resulted in injuries for two women and a child, and four buildings were destroyed by airstrikes, including fourteen homes, in addition to two latrines, one church, two motorcycles and one rice mill. In March 2025, a woman was killed in an airstrike and airstrikes by the junta led to injuries for two women and a child.

In April 2025, KnHRG reported eight airstrikes that injured 29 people and killed 12. The targeted townships included Loikaw, three times in Hpsawung, twice in Hpruso, once in Phekon, and again in Mese. The military's airstrikes in MawChee, Hpsawung Township, resulted in the death of one child and injuries to seven civilians. Besides the fatalities, 14 homes, two public buildings, two vehicles, and a farm were also damaged. In total, 18 people were killed and 36 were wounded due to airstrikes. Mortar shelling resulted in three deaths and five injuries.

**Townships Targeted by Airstrikes (April 2025)**

<b>Township</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Loikaw	1	1
Hpasawng	3	26
Hpruso	2	-
Mese	1	-
Phekon	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>29</b>

In May 2025, airstrikes killed one child in Karenni State and among the civilians wounded were 24 of unknown gender from airstrikes. On May 6th, in the late evening between 10 and 11 PM, two military junta jet fighters dropped five bombs on western Demoso, destroying one building. These attacks threaten civilian safety and security as airstrikes happen frequently, leaving local people no time to flee.

On May 6, between 10 and 11 PM, two military junta jet fighters dropped five bombs on western Demoso, destroying one building. These attacks threaten civilian safety and security as airstrikes happen frequently, leaving local people no time to escape. Then, on May 14, at 8:40 PM, the military dropped two (500-pound) bombs on a location where refugees live in western Phekon. Three classrooms were damaged. Less than a week later, on May 12 at 4 PM, the military fired two (120mm) heavy weapons in residential areas of Phekon township. A man aged 35 was killed instantly, and three homes were damaged.

By contrast, in June 2025, eight people were killed in airstrikes, and twenty were wounded. Throughout June 2025, the military junta continued relentless attacks on civilians in Karenni State. Airstrikes resulted in the deaths of eight people, and mortar shelling killed one child. The current circumstances have caused a devastating cycle of trauma and uncertainty as conflict-affected groups and internally displaced people struggle with food shortages and livelihood insecurity.

Among the documented attacks, on June 9 at 10 PM, the military fired five large weapons at a civilian residence in Phekon Township. A 34-year-old man and a 10-year-old boy were injured in a mass shooting. Additionally, two residential houses and several other buildings were damaged.

On the morning of 21 October 2025, in Hpruso township, the military junta dropped bombs on IDPs harvesting rice.<sup>14</sup> One person was killed after being hit, and two others were seriously injured, in yet another case of brutal, unprovoked violence by the junta. On November 16, a woman in Hpruso township was also severely wounded while she was harvesting groundnuts, and the junta dropped a bomb which struck her. Days before 12 November, artillery shells fired by the junta exploded in a farm area, resulting in damage to homes and a monastery.<sup>15</sup>

According to the Kantarawaddy Times, between August and October 2025 alone, in Hpruso Township, two people were killed, and seven were injured due to drone and heavy artillery attacks by the military junta.<sup>16</sup> As needs continue to go unmet, families face dire realities and impossible choices. Sustaining livelihoods has become increasingly difficult, compounded by the military junta's relentless attacks. Relief groups have struggled to ensure the safe evacuation of individuals requiring relocation. Additional challenges include poor road conditions and limited communication.

Airstrikes are among the most common and violent attacks carried out by the Burma Army, often targeting innocent, vulnerable communities on the ground. These assaults occur without prior conflict and have caused fear and trauma in communities already suffering from the junta's criminal actions. On 7 July 2025, an airstrike on IDPs in Phekon township killed at least three civilians, including a child. KnHRG Co-Founder Ko Banya told Myanmar Now:

*“A 29-year-old man died on the spot. A four-year-old girl and a 26-year-old woman later died from their injuries.”* Three people, including a 30-year-old pregnant woman, were also wounded.

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<sup>14</sup> Military Junta Drone Bombed IDPs Harvesting Rice: One Killed, Two Seriously Injured, Kantarawaddy Times, 25 October 2025

<sup>15</sup> Civilian Homes Damaged by Artillery Shells Fired by Junta Troops, Kantarawaddy Times, 13 November 2025

<sup>16</sup> Military Junta Drone Bombed IDPs Harvesting Rice: One Killed, Two Seriously Injured, Kantarawaddy Times, 25 October 2025

*Photo: The military junta bombed civilians on 10 April 2025 and damaged homes in Phekon Township after dropping a 200-pound bomb. A man and a woman were injured, and two buildings were damaged due to the bomb blast.*



A couple of days later, on 9 July, another airstrike on Lehlohtee Village in the Mawchi area of Hpasawng Township killed five family members, with the military reportedly using a 500-pound bomb. All five victims were from the same household. Ko Banya told local Karenni media: *“As far as we know, they were all from a single family. The victims included a 3-year-old girl, an 8-year-old girl, a 28-year-old man, a 28-year-old woman, and a 57-year-old woman.”*

KnHRG condemned the onslaught of airstrikes in a statement on 16 July 2025.<sup>17</sup> As of then, KnHRG had already documented six airstrikes that killed 15 people, wounded 18 and destroyed 13 buildings, including three homes belonging to internally displaced people. In the two weeks before the attack, the junta had carried out airstrikes in West Demoso, Maw Chee, and Saung Cherry IDP Camp, Phekon Township. Safety concerns have particularly affected those living in Maw Chee, as civilians were forced to evacuate in July 2025, due to fears of looming airstrikes by the junta. The military has carried out at least nine aerial bombardments in the Mawchi region since the start of 2025. These attacks are a serious violation of international norms and clearly show a disregard for the sanctity of human life.

On August 8 2025, an airstrike on a Karenni school injured three children in Hpasawng Township. KnHRG Co-founder Ko Banya stated, *“A Y-12 aircraft dropped bombs on the school while students were taking their tests,”* adding that one of the victims, a 12-year-old boy, sustained a serious injury to his thigh and was in critical condition.<sup>18</sup> Deliberate attacks on civilians are considered war crimes and may also qualify as crimes against humanity. KnHRG’s previous reports have documented several cases where the junta targeted schools, leaving families distraught with loss and trauma.

Hpasawng township was targeted in a series of airstrikes that KnHRG condemned by stating, *“The lack of respect for the law or human life is evident in the military’s ongoing targeting of local infrastructure and communities.”*<sup>19</sup> The military junta carried out airstrikes on 17 and 19 August 2025 in Mawchi, Hpasawng Township. This assault of aerial attacks was the latest in the regime’s relentless terror from the skies, as innocent civilians are forced to face overwhelming fear in their final moments.

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<sup>17</sup> The Karenni Human Rights Group Condemns Airstrikes Targeting Civilians and Calls for Immediate Action, 16 July 2025

<sup>18</sup> Myanmar military airstrike on Karenni school leaves children injured and missing, Mizzima News, 10 August 2025

<sup>19</sup> The Karenni Human Rights Group Strongly Condemns the Airstrikes in Mawchi and Calls for Urgent Action and Condemnation by the International Community, 19 August 2025

KnHRG documented that thirty-two lives were lost in the airstrikes on 17 August 2025, with six bodies missing and unaccounted for. Among those killed were eighteen men and eight women. Seven were injured, including six men and one woman. On the morning of 19 August at 6 AM, Y12 jets fired on two areas in Mawchi, wounding four men, two of whom are critically injured. According to the Karenni Interim Executive Council (IEC), at the time, this was the 11th airstrike in 2025 in Karenni State. This serious violation of human rights demanded accountability.

In an op-ed following the series of attacks, Ko Banya penned, *“What made this brazen attack on civilians even more shocking was that it came at a time when there was no active fighting or military operations on the ground. But this has now become commonplace for the junta. Dropping bombs on civilians even when armed groups are nowhere to be found.”*<sup>20</sup>

### Airstrikes in August 2025

Gender	Deaths	Injuries
Men	18	14
Women	9	3
Unknown	6	7

In July 2025, there were seven airstrikes; as a result, there were fourteen people killed (three men, eight women and three children). There were 25 people wounded in airstrikes, including two men, four women, five children and fourteen unknown.

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<sup>20</sup> The Myanmar Military’s Airstrikes in Karenni State Demand An Urgent Response, The Diplomat, 28 August 2025

Sixteen men, eight women, and three children, along with three individuals of unknown identity, died in airstrikes in August 2025. In addition, ten men, two women, five children, and seven unknown individuals were wounded from airstrikes. In September 2025, KnHRG documented that there were two airstrikes in Demoso Township, resulting in the injuries of two women and a child. Drone attacks also hurt two unknown individuals.

In early September 2025, in the latest airstrike in Demoso Township, three children were among those injured when the junta bombed an IDP camp. Since early August, the military junta troops had been advancing into Demoso, leading to daily clashes with revolutionary forces. This was yet another attack that came at a time when there was no active fighting, leaving displaced communities increasingly fearful and concerned.

Frequent drone attacks by military junta troops during the harvest season have limited the ability of IDPs and locals to harvest, posing yet additional economic challenges and hardship amid the ongoing conflict. In October 2025, three men were killed by a drone while carrying rice during harvest in paddy fields. In addition, two men and one woman were injured in an airstrike, and drone attacks wounded six men and three women.

In November 2025, eight men and one woman were killed by airstrikes, and five men, two women, one child, and five unknown individuals were wounded. Drones killed one man, two women, and a child. Two women and three unknown persons were also injured in drone strikes. In the final month of the year in December, one man was wounded by an airstrike, as was one woman and a child. A drone strike killed one man who died on November 26 during rice harvesting in Hpruso Township. U Jo Wan Ni, 42, was hit in the neck, head, and both legs.

***Drone strikes pose serious risks to civilians, with the military intentionally deploying them more frequently with the intention of harming civilians, forcing civilians to flee repeatedly.***<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Death Messenger Drones and the Livelihoods of the Karenni People, The Kantarawaddy Times, 11 December 2025

### Airstrikes in September 2025

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	-	-
Women	-	3
Unknown	-	-

### Drone Strikes in September 2025

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	-	-
Women	-	-
Unknown	-	2

### Airstrikes in October 2025

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	-	2
Women	-	1
Unknown	-	-

### Drone Strikes in October 2025

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	3	4
Women	-	3
Unknown	1	3

### *Airstrikes in November 2025*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	8	5
Women	1	2
Children	-	1
Unknown	-	5

### *Drone Strikes in November 2025*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	-
Women	2	2
Children	1	-
Unknown	-	3

### *Airstrikes in December 2025*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	-	1
Women	-	1
Children	-	1

### *Drone Attacks in December 2025*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	-

## **Mortar Shelling**

KnHRG documented 140 mortar attacks in 2025. On the morning of January 9, 2025, the junta based in Loi Lin Lay, a village east of Loikaw, fired mortar shells, which killed a woman and two children under age 12. In addition, a 5-month-old baby and a 30-year-old woman were seriously injured. On the same day, the junta fired into a village in the eastern part of Phekon township. As a result of the indiscriminate attacks, one home was damaged, and two men were injured and experienced significant trauma in the aftermath.

Nearly two weeks later, on January 18th at 6 PM, two villages in the eastern part of Kon Township were attacked by the junta with heavy weapons, including 120 mm and 150 mm mortar shells. Four people were injured: two women and two men. Three houses and two motorcycles were also damaged.

Two large weapons exploded in a village on the east side of Phekon Township due to heavy weapon firing by the military junta at 9 PM on the evening of 20 January 2025. One man was hit and died due to severe injuries. Properties were also damaged. KnHRG documented that one man and two children were killed by mortar shelling by the junta in January, in addition to four men injured, as well as three women, three children and two unknown. Mortar shelling also damaged 20 properties.

In February 2025, there was a total of thirteen cases related to the firing of mortar shells. Seven people were killed, including two men, two children and one unknown. Three men, seven women and three children were also wounded from mortar shelling. Among the damaged properties, sixteen were destroyed by mortar rounds.

On 1 March 2025 at 2:30 PM, a youth under the age of 18 was killed by a mortar shell in Phekon township. The explosion also injured two adults and two children. KnHRG condemned this attack and demanded accountability for these unlawful actions by the junta, which targeted civilians. There were twelve cases of mortar shelling

in March 2025, leading to the death of one child and wounding three men, seven women and three children.

In April 2025, there were 13 mortar shell attacks in Karenni State. Five civilians were injured, including a child, and three civilians were killed. The attacks by the military have not only harmed civilians but have also damaged homes, buildings, vehicles, and animals. In May 2025, mortar shelling occurred thirteen times, nine in Phekon township, resulting in six civilian injuries and four deaths. Thirteen homes were destroyed, along with three fields, one road, one religious building, and seven livestock were also struck. The shelling resulted in the deaths of four men, and ongoing violence and junta attacks claimed the lives of a woman and four men and two women were injured by mortar shelling.

In another case, on May 2nd at 4 PM, the military targeted a residential area and fired heavy weapons in parts of Loikaw. A 20-year-old boy who was working in the field was hit by the mortar shelling and died. The tractor and the field were damaged. By June of 2025, the endless mortar shelling continued to pose serious livelihood and security threats, with nine people being wounded, including one child.

Heavy artillery strikes and mortar shelling also significantly undermined civilian safety and security. In mid-July, junta forces shelled multiple villages in eastern Phekon Township, resulting in the deaths of at least five civilians. This is part of a continued offensive aimed at taking control of a crucial highway connecting Loikaw with military-controlled regions in southern Shan State.

In October 2025, two men and five children were hurt by mortar fire. Mortar shelling in November 2025 wounded two men, one woman, and a child, and in December 2025, mortar shelling also injured two men and a woman and resulted in one fatality.

**Mortar Shelling in August 2025**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	4
Women	-	3

**Mortar Shelling in September 2025**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	2
Women	2	3

**Mortar Shelling in October 2025**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	-	2
Women	-	-
Unknown	-	5

**Mortar Shelling in November 2025**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	2
Women	-	1
Unknown	-	1

**Mortar Shelling in December 2025**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injuries</b>
Men	1	2
Women	-	1

There were nine instances of heavy weaponry fire in July 2025, leading to the injuries of three men and one woman and two men were wounded when they were shot on sight. Mortar shelling also killed five people, including three men and two women. In addition, there were two men and one child shot on sight.

One man died from mortar shelling in August 2025, and mortar shells injured four men, two women, and one child. There were eleven instances of mortar shelling which occurred in Loikaw, Demoso and Hpruso in September, which led to the deaths of three people (one man and two women), in addition to two men, one woman and two children injured.

## **Property Damage**

Nearly 500 properties were destroyed in Karenni State in 2025. In January 2025, KnHRG recorded 29 damaged properties. Mortar shelling damaged 20 properties, airstrikes damaged eight, and drone strikes destroyed one building. The attacks came without any active fighting in the area, including an attack on the Daw So Phay IDP camp. In February 2025, there were twenty instances of property destruction. Among the damaged properties, sixteen were ruined due to mortar shelling and four from airstrikes.

In March 2025, 35 properties were damaged. The military junta destroyed eleven houses, twelve schools, two religious sites, and one public transportation route. A series of attacks damaged and destroyed local properties in April 2025, including 24 homes, two public buildings, three fields, two public transport routes, and eight livestock, totalling 39. Airstrikes destroyed 19 structures. The destruction primarily resulted from mortar shelling and airstrikes deployed by the military junta.

By May 2025, the attacks by the junta resulted in more than two dozen damaged properties, including 13 homes, one public building, one vehicle, four fields, two religious buildings, and three schools.

Seven animals for livestock were also killed in the junta's ongoing airstrikes and mortar attacks.

In June 2025, there were 28 buildings damaged, including 17 homes, one school, four vehicles, three fields, one livestock facility, and two religious buildings. In addition, approximately 50 homes were also set on fire by the junta in eastern Phekon township. In contrast, one month later in July 2025, there were 81 damaged properties due to firing by the military junta, including 62 homes, one school, two clinics, one religious building, one public building, four vehicles, five fields and five livestock.

In August 2025, it was also reported that joint forces of the military junta and the Pa-O National Army (PNO) deliberately set civilian homes on fire in Hsihseng Township, southern Shan State. They have also been driving villagers out of their homes and looting household belongings.

In addition, throughout August 2025, the attacks by the junta led to 45 houses damaged by airstrikes and seven by mortar shelling. One religious building was hit in an airstrike, and two schools were ruined by mortar shelling. Three clinics, one public building, and a vehicle were destroyed in airstrikes. Five other cars were ruined by mortar shelling. Three fields were ravaged by airstrikes, and six by mortar shelling.

In September 2025, there were 38 damaged properties, including 18 houses, six religious sites, two schools, one public building, two vehicles, five fields, and four livestock. By October 2025, 66 properties had been destroyed, including 53 houses, four religious buildings, one public transportation route, six vehicles, and two fields.



*Photo: On August 17, 2025, around 12 noon, the military bombed a location in Pha Saung city, Mawchi region, with two (500) bombs. Thirty-two people were killed, including 19 men, 8 women, and 5 unidentified victims. Five men were also injured in the blast. At least 6 buildings were damaged.*

In November 2025, 39 properties were damaged, including 18 homes, two religious buildings, five public buildings, seven vehicles, three animals, and four fields. Thirteen airstrikes caused the majority of the damage. Lastly, in December 2025, 75 properties were damaged, including 59 houses, nine vehicles, three fields, one public transportation road, and three animals.

On 19 December 2025, the military junta and the PNO arrived in Phekon township and Northern Sa Long village, where 30 homes were burned down. On December 29, they searched the house, stole valuables, and burned six homes.

### *Destruction of properties in September 2025*

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
House	18
Vehicle	2
Field	5
Religious building	6
Public building	1
School	2
Livestock	4

### *Destruction of properties in October 2025*

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
House	53
Vehicle	8
Field	3
Religious building	4
Public building	6
Road	1

### *Destruction of properties in November 2025*

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
House	18
Vehicle	8
Field	3
Religious building	2
Public building	5
Livestock	4

### *Destruction of properties in December 2025*

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Damaged</b>
House	59
Vehicle	9
Field	3
Road	1
Livestock	3

## Key Observations and Main Challenges

The following are key challenges and observations by KnHRG across Karenni State, all of which require an immediate cessation of violence and urgent intervention by the international community.



### *Lack of sustainable agricultural and livelihood pathways:*

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the people and refugees. Due to war, climate change, insecurity, and attacks on local infrastructure, agricultural yields are low, and there are few crops each year. Some agricultural efforts are successful, but most families face various difficulties in securing their livelihoods. Those who do not own farmland or plots have to rent from friends and relatives and plant corn, rice, and vegetables.

There are few successes in agriculture and livestock because they face weather risks and animal diseases each year—additionally, military attacks target areas where people depend on their livelihood and income. People are facing ongoing challenges in securing their futures, amid the daily fears regarding their survival.

An interviewee from Shar Daw Township refugee camp told KnHRG: *“We work in the field, but nothing less. We have to borrow rice. Our livelihood conditions are worse than others. We have no tent and no shelter. During this difficult time, I have to struggle to find food. When my daughter is sick, I can only cook jack fruit.”*

Several areas lack farmland, so people work as day labourers or hire labour to earn a living. They use income from day labour to cover food expenses in the short term. However, day labour and hired labour are available only seasonally, as such they are not reliable for a year-round livelihood.

Farmers face significant challenges in producing sustainable crops due to conflicts and climate change, including prolonged dry seasons and flooding. They encounter various obstacles, including water scarcity, climatic fluctuations, and inadequate food and shelter. Each household faces its own set of hurdles.

Civil society organizations are working to address these gaps in support; however, meeting the community's diverse needs is difficult due to limited funds and resources, while operating in a highly hostile and extremely risky environment amid ongoing junta attacks.

*“The rice production in 2025 was also low due to climate change, resulting in almost no self-sufficiency. This situation makes it more difficult for us. Some refugees have arrived in the village, but donors have not provided much assistance. Consequently, people have had to borrow food due to the insufficient rice supply. Some individuals work hard to improve their income; however, after working all day, they can't even afford a bottle of oil,”* said U Shwe Htoo, 38, of Hpruso Township.

Several families operate small businesses and open small shops in the village and in refugee camps. To start and run these small shops, some families borrow money from friends and relatives. However, there are only a few buyers. Goods are also expensive, and obtaining supplies entails significant risks because conflicts often disrupt main transportation routes. If they sell at lower prices, there is no profit. Families in charge these small shops struggle to earn a living.

Due to the lack of job opportunities, the public, refugees, and young people go to other cities and abroad to work. When they earn money, they can send it to their families, however this too is not without risks. Some face exploitation at work, and others are arrested en route to their workplace for lacking identification documents.



*“There is nothing to eat, no more rice; I have to borrow from others to eat. The food and living conditions are not good. We are refugees, so we have no shelter. In this challenging situation, I have to struggle to find food. I have no job and no income.*

*When my children are sick, I can only cook jack fruit seeds to feed them. I want my children to study, but I can’t afford their school supplies, such as uniforms, books, and pens. I try my best, but it’s not enough. There are many difficulties in the village that I have to avoid,”* said Daw Lu Meh, 47, from Shar Daw Township.

Due to drone attacks, civilians are afraid to go to the farmland, threatening their security and livelihood. Civilians face arrests, inhumane torture, and being used as human shields during the rice harvest. They also face threats, safety risks, and intimidation when harvesting their crops. The civilians who mainly rely on crop-growing areas in western Demoso are facing further displacement due to the military advancing their troops and difficulties in planting crops, which could lead to a shortage of raw materials and an increase in raw material prices.

As a result of the restricted supply of goods, the prices of basic food and consumer products continue to rise month after month. The military's new restrictions are reducing imports and the amount of goods into the state, which may lead to higher prices in the future, further contributing to the devastating cycle of inflation.

As the needs of local people continue to go unmet, families face dire realities and impossible choices. Sustaining livelihoods has become increasingly difficult, compounded by the military junta's relentless attacks. Relief groups have struggled to ensure the safe evacuation of those needing to relocate. Additional challenges include poor road conditions and limited communication.

Amid ongoing attacks on farmland and livelihood areas, KnHRG issued a statement warning of an impending famine as farmers struggle to protect their livelihoods due to continuous assaults. In October 2025 alone, junta troops shelled paddy fields and detained or beat several farmers who were harvesting their rice crops.

In addition to these direct attacks on local farmers and agricultural areas, KnHRG has observed that heightened military tensions between the two sides could disrupt internal trade routes, exacerbating food insecurity. Consequently, as junta troops continue to target farmers and advance military columns into agricultural zones, cultivable land in Karenni State has declined, resulting in lower yields. This directly impacts the food supply available to farmers, their families and their communities.



## Targeting of Vulnerable Groups by the Military Junta

There are elderly people, widows, orphans, disabled individuals (including injured people from war), sick people, pregnant women, and nursing mothers living in villages as well as in temporary shelters and displacement sites. A lack of sustainable income has led many to be forced to struggle alone. Some have no family members at all, and others have lost their families in war. Some elderly people have been abandoned by their children. They have no one to rely on.

Due to a lack of access to healthcare and nutrition, incidents of abortion, newborn death, and psychological trauma have increased. Ongoing attacks by the junta has increased displacement and forced people to flee. Consequently, the crops yielded cannot be harvested at the scheduled time, and no food can be brought in. This challenge has led to food shortages for both refugees and civilians notably because there is no market for harvested crops, especially rice, resulting in low rice prices. Additionally, blocking trade routes have made it difficult for people to access enough food.

*“Food is the hardest thing for us. I work on a farm, but in 2025, the paddy crop was poor, and we only got 4-5 bags. That isn’t enough for the whole year. We have to borrow rice regularly. We don’t have jobs. Sometimes I borrow money to feed my children. There are no jobs in this area.*

*It’s difficult to find ways to earn money. Many families are struggling, and no one can help because we are all refugees living in another village. I mainly think about getting food and don’t want my children to go hungry,”* said Christina, age 29.

Due to conflict and security issues, local people face an environment that makes it difficult to find jobs and secure livelihoods. Sustaining livestock, agriculture, and subsistence economies also face numerous challenges. This affects family income and basic needs, which could lead to more problems in the future.

A woman from a refugee camp in western Phurso who spoke to KnHRG shared her perspective amid the ongoing challenges in Karenni State: *“Currently, accessing education is very difficult for our children. The school building is in poor condition, so we need to build a new one. The village has done as much as we could with labour. We repaired the roof, but there isn’t enough coverage; if it rains heavily, the children can get wet. We cannot teach effectively because we often need to relocate. Parents are less supportive of their children’s education.*”

*The children are eager to learn and are doing well in school. They listen to their teacher. The main challenge is the lack of school equipment. We still need tables. There is only a small amount of pocket money for teachers, which is why some teachers do not want to teach and instead decide to leave.”*

Children have suffered the most due to the junta’s conflict, facing significant interruptions to their education and nutrition. Their well-being is increasingly at risk because of the junta’s airstrikes and ongoing artillery shelling, even in camps and local areas meant to protect civilians; however, this protection is not guaranteed.

*“I am always worried about my livelihood. There is no job, no income, and I can’t even buy rice. I am only waiting for aid from donors. The prices of goods are increasing every day. On the other hand, I worry about my health; there is no access to medicine, and there are not enough teachers. I also concern myself with my children’s education and their health. Our life is full of worries. I feel like there is no future. I can’t sleep well every night. I have to worry about airstrikes, mortar shells, and drones. I feel like there is no future,”* said Daw Yee Khim, age 49, from Gaung Ei village, Phekon township.

Given the extremely insecure conditions in their villages, IDPs have repeatedly stated they ‘dare not return’ due to fear of the junta’s presence. In response, the regime blocked urgently needed humanitarian aid to pressure them to go back, in yet another example of how the junta weaponizes aid.

In Htaye Lyar Moe IDP camp, which shelters more than 400 people from 95 households, attacks are leading to more camp residents and increasing need, as those sheltering risk being killed while trying to retrieve their belongings.<sup>22</sup> The camp committee noted that, due to ongoing hardships and repeated displacement, seven displaced families have not yet been able to build shelters, leaving them in urgent need of roofing materials and additional support.



### *Lack of reliable access to health services*

The situation has harmed the availability of social services, making them harder to access amid the junta's attacks. As the struggle against the military regime grows each day, access to safe and affordable healthcare services becomes an even greater concern for Karenni communities.

A resident of Cekekaw village, in the Western part of Hpruso township, who spoke to KnHRG, said accessing health care is very difficult:

*“There is no clinic nearby. It is a long way to the clinic. It takes 3 hours to walk from the village to the Kekaw clinic. This is particularly difficult for patients with illnesses. Karenni health workers come from far away, so it is difficult for sick patients to obtain medication. There are many cases of seasonal fever in the village.*

*There are also patients with chronic conditions for whom medication is unavailable. Especially for seriously ill patients, transporting them to the clinic is challenging. There is no road to the highway, and even the village with a road cannot be reached by car during the rainy season. As a result, healthcare is very difficult. There are many children and pregnant women in the village. Some have not been vaccinated. Consequently, many children in our area are undernourished.”*

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<sup>22</sup> Displaced Civilians from Pruso Township in Urgent Need of Food and Shelter, Kantarawaddy Times, 11 October 2025

*“We also face many health challenges. Clinics are far away, expensive, and difficult to access due to the military junta. There are also shortages of medicine, life-saving assistance, and supplies,”* said U Shwe Htoo, 38, of Phurso Township.

*“There are many difficulties in my family. I have many children, and they are all students. Before the military coup, we could meet our children’s needs. Now we can no longer do that. With no jobs, we have to move to another village. We have to borrow money just to buy food. When we work and earn money, we have to pay it back, but even then, it’s not enough to cover our basic needs, such as food.*

*I am upset for my children because I can’t buy everything they need. I want to escape from this situation,”* said U Shar Sein, 55, from Hpruso Township.



### ***Funding Cuts and Dwindling Donor Support***

The devastation caused by the junta’s attacks across Karenni State is widespread, with many struggling to survive while holding onto hopes of returning home. During the first quarter of the year, civil society organizations faced additional challenges, including the suspension of USAID funding, which had devastating effects on vulnerable communities. Patients requiring critical care in refugee camps were discharged, and clinics quickly began to shut down.

Airstrikes, ongoing artillery fire and mortar shelling have made survival all the more difficult. Water shortages are widespread in IDP camps, and access to food, notably rice, is scarce. Reduced funding has had catastrophic and immediate impacts.

***The situation has harmed the availability of social services, making them harder to access amid the junta’s attacks.***



An interviewee from Phekon refugee camp expressed mounting concern over the funding crisis:



*“We rely on donors. In 2025, due to various difficulties, funding didn’t arrive where we are now. We have to borrow rations from our neighbours. There is also no work in the camp. Sometimes the local people call for day labour; however, our income does not cover our livelihood. Some people purchase food on credit and promise to repay, but we have no regular income, so our debt increases month after month. We grow rice and other crops, but not successfully due to weather risks. Some rice fields were completely destroyed.”*

Most people in IDP camps are unemployed and depend on food aid from donors. However, this aid does not meet all their needs, resulting in food shortages. Over time, their difficulty in obtaining enough food has increased; some borrow rice and oil from relatives and neighbours, while others return to their villages to gather rations, despite the dangers. Initially, with fewer refugees and more donors, they received adequate food; now, with more camps and limited funding support, sustaining these populations is challenging.

The elderly people living in the camps can no longer work and rely on their children for food. Some of them have no one to depend on, and as such many people borrow rice from one household to another, even when employed, due to inflated prices and limited financial means to purchase food. Some are unable to repay it and must deal with the stress of crippling debt.

These difficult circumstances have now created additional challenges for those who have already faced many hardships. Healthcare is vital for communities affected by conflict, especially those suffering from war-related injuries and trauma who rely on treatment from US-funded clinics. The suspension of aid has already impacted thousands and will likely cause further suffering for many more. In addition, funding for education and livelihood support has been temporarily suspended, further derailing the reconstruction of community infrastructure.

The worsening attacks have taken place amid a decline in funding and donor support for the over 100,000 refugees living along the Thai-Burma border, who are at serious risk of mass starvation due to sharp cuts to food rations. The new restrictions and aid cuts are having devastating effects on vulnerable communities. Immediate and long-term funding support is crucial for the survival of those in the camps, who have fled attacks in their homelands.

Additionally, increasingly targeted attacks by the military junta have undermined employment, healthcare, justice, and education opportunities. The junta's assaults are damaging educational access, creating fear among youth about attending classes. With rising school dropout rates in Karenni State, there is an urgent need to improve access to ethnic education and to motivate young people to continue their studies in the safest possible manner.



Finally, long-standing challenges remain in securing funding for local organizations, as donors and global actors struggle to sustain existing funding models. The loss of donor support has severely impacted displaced communities and refugees along the Thai-Burma border. Rice and other vital supplies are in short supply, and calls for increased assistance are essential to ensure the delivery of life-saving aid.

*“Before the military coup, I worked in agriculture and part-time in construction. The situation has changed: I am unemployed, and my income has decreased while prices of goods remain high. There are a few donors. In 2025, I received rice from IEC just once. Every year, we face more difficulties. I can’t buy meat or fish; I can only eat vegetables that we grow at home. I feel tired and want to give up. Moreover, I also have to worry about my children. I have three daughters, all of whom are students, and I struggle to meet their school-related expenses. There are few teachers’ salaries, so they no longer want to teach,”* said U Thel Reh, age 45, from Hpruso township.

Besides the violence, the situation in temporary shelters, including IDP and refugee camps, is quickly worsening. US funding cuts continue to harm local livelihoods, prompting activists to call on the Royal Government of Thailand to take action. *“The main issue is livelihood—food, shelter and survival. Without that, domestic issues will follow,”* a resident of Karenni Camp 2 expressed to local media.<sup>23</sup> The shelter crisis has deepened due to heavy monsoon rains and limited access to reliable, affordable healthcare. Ongoing attacks by the junta have caused a rise in illnesses among IDPs and conflict-affected groups.

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<sup>23</sup> How Will People Sustain Their Livelihoods If They Become Long-Term Refugees? Kantarawaddy Times, 14 October 2025



## *Sham Election*

The election has also raised additional security concerns, especially for those seen by the military junta as opposing or challenging it. In Loikaw, the military charged five people, including three minors, with allegedly ‘disrupting and obstructing the election.’<sup>24</sup> They were charged under Article 23(a) of the Law on the Protection of Elections from Interference, Destruction, and Disruption. The law stipulates a minimum prison sentence of three years and a maximum of seven years, along with the possibility of fines.

Conflict-affected groups are being forced to return to their villages in Bawlakhe by the junta amid the sham election plans. This comes as the Burma Army desperately attempts to portray the situation as usual in the country, despite daily attacks. Civil society has repeatedly urged the international community to reject the election, which is declared a sham effort to legitimize the junta’s illegitimate rule.

Earlier in 2025, upon announcing its sham election plans, the junta also warned that anyone involved in activities intended to disrupt the 2025 multi-party general election—such as posting on social media, giving public speeches, organizing, protesting, writing, or displaying posters—will be prosecuted under the election law.

Local people are also being unjustly exploited as voters, with inaccuracies appearing on voter lists in Bawlakhe township, including the names of voters who were no longer living in the town.<sup>25</sup> The exaggerated figures are another part of the junta’s effort to distort the sense of normalcy in the country. The junta’s response to such allegations has been to issue threats, as freedom of expression is just another breach of the many fundamental liberties under attack.

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<sup>24</sup> SAC Files Charges Under Election Law Against Five Residents in Loikaw, Including Three Minors, Kantarawaddy Times, 24 September 2025

<sup>25</sup> Residents Report Inaccuracies in Posted Voter Lists in Bawlakhe Township, Kantarawaddy Times, 24 October 2025

The junta has relied heavily on the election as a false bid for legitimacy, at the expense of local people's protections, safety and security. The people of Burma and Karenni State can see the sham for what it is, and those forced to participate have done so 'at the barrel of a gun,' amid the junta's tyrannical agenda.<sup>26</sup> The scapegoating of civilians has been a long-deployed tool of the regime. Further, the fears surrounding the election effort have come as people struggling to survive are forced to endure ongoing mounting challenges that threaten their survival.

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<sup>26</sup> "Voting under the barrel of a gun," A Country At War, Not At the Polls, The Human Rights Foundation of Monland, 13 November 2025

## Conclusion

Despite the immense challenges faced by those displaced by the ongoing conflict and natural disasters, their hopes for the future have not wavered as they strive to remain resilient. Community-based organizations remain committed to providing support at various levels, including gathering and preserving evidence of crimes against civilians and offering trauma-informed care to help them. The international community must recognize and respond to this tested resilience, working with those inside Burma who have trusted knowledge and access to respond effectively. Furthermore, support for the democracy movement must include responding to civil society's calls, such as implementing an urgently needed global arms embargo and targeted sanctions on aviation fuel.

The Burma Army is denying people of their fundamental rights and freedoms. The international community must act swiftly to intervene and stop the junta's terror inflicted on innocent civilians. People in Karenni State live in constant fear, never knowing when an airstrike might occur or if they will survive. This has caused intense fear and trauma, worsened by the international community's lack of response to the ongoing crisis in Burma.

Achieving a peaceful and free Burma requires an immediate cessation of violence. The military junta must stop attacks on civilians, including women and children, with accountability measures at the international level. The junta consistently disregards the rule of law by harming innocent people. Regional and global actors must act now, implementing targeted sanctions and a worldwide arms embargo to prevent arming a regime that has repeatedly taken innocent lives.

## Recommendations

### *To the International Community and International Donors*

1. Direct and coordinate emergency humanitarian aid provision efforts, including through cross-border channels, for the aid to reach the vulnerable population of more than 200,000 Karenni IDPs resulting from the military violence and airstrikes, by providing resources and working in equal and meaningful partnership and collaboration with ethnic and community-based humanitarian and civil society organizations;
2. Impose further targeted sanctions against the military and its leadership and military businesses, including specifically targeting Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprises (MOGE), military-linked business partners and a network of arms dealers;
3. Impose a coordinated global arms embargo on the Burmese military;
4. Sanction the supply of jet fuel to the Burmese military to end airstrikes and impose a no-fly zone;
5. Recommend the International Criminal Court to accept the declaration lodged by the National Unity Government of Burma, under Article 12(3) of the Court's jurisdiction concerning international crimes committed in the territory of Burma since 1 July 2002;
6. Formally designate safe zone for internally displaced persons under the United Nations agencies' management, which the Burmese military is not allowed to have access to;
7. For international courts, including those in Argentina, to issue international arrest warrants for coup leader Min Aung Hlaing, who is responsible for genocide against the Rohingya. Additional international accountability pathways must be established and pursued to ensure justice and reparations for all victims and survivors of the junta's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

## ***To ASEAN***

1. Disregard the unsuccessful Five-Point Consensus and create a new strategy in collaboration with civil society organizations, community-based organizations, ethnic resistance groups, and the National Unity Government (NUG);
2. Implement coordinated, actionable measures through international bodies, such as the UNSC, UNGA, and UNHRC, to hold the military regime accountable for its crimes while facilitating the nation's shift towards an inclusive federal democratic state and ending military violence against civilians;
3. Bar all representatives from the Burmese military junta from all ASEAN summits and meetings. Suspend Burma's membership in ASEAN until the military regime acknowledges the NUG as the legitimate authority while engaging with an official NUG representative and supporting their participation at ASEAN summits or special meetings in Burma's place;
4. Thailand must restrict its airspace to prevent the Burmese junta forces from launching air strikes, aiming to safeguard internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in border regions. Thailand must also adhere to the principle of nonrefoulement and provide protection and support for refugees from Karenni areas and other parts of Burma seeking refuge within the borders of ASEAN Member States;
5. Establish secure humanitarian aid corridors managed by local civil society organizations, community-based organizations, ethnic resistance groups, and the NUG.

## ***To the National Unity Government and the National Unity Consultative Council***

1. Engage and collaborate with Karenni civil society organizations to gather the most current information on the region's humanitarian crisis and human rights conditions. Support conflict-affected communities;
2. In accordance with UNSCR 1325, ensure all armed groups fully adhere to international law and implement specific measures to protect women and children from sexual and gender-based violence while guaranteeing women's meaningful participation with a minimum 30 percent representation at all decision-making levels across sectors;
3. Establish a federal democracy that includes all stakeholders and ethnic nationalities throughout Burma

# **Hanging Onto Hope**

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An Overview of the Human Rights  
Situation in Karenni State in 2025



**KARENNI HUMAN  
RIGHTS GROUP**