



NEWS LOG

Last update:
03/08/2026

OVERVIEW - 2026



- **January 11:** The military junta holds the second phase of the legislative elections, which are widely denounced by the UN and international observers as “a sham”.
- **January 13:** The Gambia presents graphic evidence at the ICJ of systematic killings, gang rapes, and village burnings during the 2017 large scale persecution of the Rohingyas.
- **January 22:** A junta airstrike in Bhamo, Kachin State, kills at least 50 civilians in a populated area.
- **January 30:** The junta's proxy party, the USDP claims victory in disputed elections marred by forced voting and the exclusion of opposition parties.
- **April 30:** Former leader Aung San Suu Kyi is moved from prison to house arrest to serve the remainder of her 27-year sentence.
- **June 17:** A military air strike in Kyauktaw kills 7 civilians, including a child.
- **June 22:** The UN reports that the Myanmar military killed at least 702 civilians between August 2025 and January 2026, with over half in airstrikes.
- **July 16:** International agencies report that over 500 Rohingya refugees are feared dead following shipwrecks off the Myanmar coast.
- **July 29:** Myanmar and Malaysia reach a deal to repatriate 5,000 refugees, including Rohingyas. Rights groups warn this could expose the returnees to genocide risks and forced military recruitment.

All information was verified and sourced from OSINT, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

Most of the information are from Franceinfo with Agence France Presse, Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Please note that victims mentioned in the articles are individuals who are not directly participating in hostilities, unless explicitly stated otherwise. In principle, the DCCI-ICCD does not record KIA and WIA, when engaged validly under IHL.

DCCI-ICCD – MYANMAR – NEWS LOG

Most of the information mentioned in the news review are from Franceinfo with Agence France Presse, Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Please note that victims mentioned in the articles are individuals who are not directly participating in hostilities, unless explicitly stated otherwise. In principle, the DCCI-ICCD does not record KIA and WIA, when engaged validly under IHL.

Last update : 03/08/2026

MYANMAR AGREES TO REPATRIATE 5,000 REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA

On July 29, 2026, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced that Myanmar has agreed to take back 5,000 refugees. The leader stated that the improved relations between the two countries allowed for this repatriation deal after Myanmar had previously refused to accept the exiles. This agreement comes after Malaysian authorities arrested asylum seekers who had gathered at the UN refugee agency in Kuala Lumpur. There are over 215,000 refugees in Malaysia with Rohingyas representing the majority of the exile population. Human rights organizations warned that refugees are being targeted by waves of online disinformation that fuel xenophobia. **On July 30, 2026, the Ethnic Rohingya Human Rights Organization in Malaysia warned that returning refugees to Myanmar would endanger their lives.** The group requested that Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim consult with the UN refugee agency before proceeding with any repatriation initiative. The activists stated that safe return is impossible while the Rohingya minority continues to face genocide risks in their country of origin. The organization expressed fear that the Myanmar military would force repatriated men to fight in the civil war as untrained soldiers or human shields.

110 ROHINGYA REFUGEES ARRESTED IN MALAYSIA

On July 28, 2026, Amnesty International reported that Malaysian police detained 110 Rohingya men and women and children after they sought protection at a UN office. The group was transported in trucks to the national police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur after being threatened with eviction from their camp in Penang. The UN agency expressed deep concern for the refugees who originally fled violent repression by the Myanmar military. Amnesty International criticized the Malaysian government for rounding up and placing refugees in detention instead of providing a credible protection system. Most of the detainees were seeking assistance from the High Commissioner for Refugees before their arrest. Malaysia has not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and does not officially recognize refugee status.

HATEFUL DISINFORMATION FUELS ANTI-ROHINGYA HOSTILITY

On July 21, 2026, rights groups warned that Rohingya refugees in Malaysia are being targeted by waves of disinformation fuelling xenophobia ahead of elections next year. Malaysia hosts more than 215,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR, over 126,000 of them Rohingya, who fled a bloody crackdown by Myanmar's military and Buddhist militias. The Malaysian Advisory Group on Myanmar stated that refugees have become “convenient scapegoats” for broader anxieties over the economy, migration and national identity, expressed in “violent and hateful language.” Hostility intensified in May after a video falsely accused Rohingya of dumping waste from Eid al-Adha livestock slaughter. A subsequent online petition demanding Rohingya to be sent to “another country” gathered nearly 500,000 signatures before being withdrawn. Malaysia's human rights commission voiced “deep concern” in June over the “growing hostility” and “discriminatory discourse” targeting the community. According to the UN refugee agency, more than 6,500 Rohingya attempted the crossing of the Indian Ocean in 2025, with nearly 900 killed or missing, the deadliest year on record. UNHCR official Astrid Castelein said departures from the camps rose from 1,180 in January-May last year to 2,300 over the same period this year, attributing the surge to overcrowding, restrictions on movement and work, and shrinking aid.

AUNG SAN STATUES REMOVED ACROSS MYANMAR IN BATTLE OVER INDEPENDENCE HERO'S LEGACY

On July 18, 2026, statues of independence hero General Aung San, father of the nation and of ousted democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, are being removed across Myanmar, as the anniversary of his July 19, 1947 assassination approached. Many statues were installed while his daughter's party was in power before being toppled in a 2021 coup led by Min Aung Hlaing; several have since been quietly taken down, including a decade-old statue in Yangon's Thu Mingalar park, replaced by a patch of freshly planted grass. Myanmar analyst Moe Thuzar said the military, which triggered a civil war with its 2021 coup, is seeking to politically discredit Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) by removing symbols tied to her father.

OVER 500 ROHINGYA REFUGEES FEARED DEAD IN 2 BOAT SINKINGS OFF MYANMAR

On July 16, 2026, the UNHCR and the IOM said more than 500 Rohingya refugees may have died in two recent shipwrecks off Myanmar's coast. Both boats left Rakhine State, bordering Bangladesh, in late June carrying mostly Rohingya passengers, some from makeshift camps around Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, home to more than a million members of the Muslim minority who fled Myanmar's civil war. One boat, believed to be carrying around 250 people, lost all contact shortly after departure and the second, believed to have around 280 people aboard, is reported to have sunk off Ayeyarwady region on July 8. UNHCR says nearly 900 Rohingya refugees died or went missing in the northern Indian Ocean in 2025 among more than 6,500 who attempted the dangerous crossing toward Malaysia or Indonesia. Since January, 300 more people, including Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, have gone missing or are presumed dead in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

THE WAR REACHES 5TH YEAR

On July 10, 2026, pro-democracy rebels in the Myanmar jungle admitted a difficult operational situation. A People's Defense Forces commander noted that the revolution is a long-term struggle, while a 25 year old squad leader expressed frustration that some of his fighters feel their efforts will fail. Despite initial successes like the 2023 offensive near Mandalay, the army has regained the upper hand with support from China, which recently negotiated a ceasefire for the Ta'ang National Liberation Army. Rebel fighters mentioned the loss of the mining town of Mogok. Some analysts suggested the rebels are becoming a nuisance rather than a real threat for the government.

16 ROHINGYA REFUGEES KILLED BY LANDSLIDES IN BANGLADESH BORDER CAMP

On July 8, 2026, Bangladeshi authorities confirmed that torrential rains caused landslides that killed 16 Rohingya refugees, including students and a teacher. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, the head of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission, reported that 8 victims died when a mudslide buried a girls' Quranic school. Sayed Ullah, the president of the United Council for Rohingya, condemned the lack of coordination among agencies to ensure decent housing for the 1.2 million refugees living in these precarious hillside camps.

MYANMAR REJECTS ASEAN REQUEST TO MEET AUNG SAN SUU KYI

On June 30, 2026, Myanmar rejected a request by ASEAN's special envoy to meet former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, 81, who remains in captivity. Spokeswoman Khaing Khaing Soe told reporters in Naypyidaw that Aung San Suu Kyi “has been prosecuted and is currently serving sentences” and is “therefore not permitted to meet international representatives” such as ASEAN special envoy Theresa Lazaro. The exact location of detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi remained unknown even to some officials, with authorities saying she is under house arrest somewhere in Naypyidaw. With a million residents spread over an area nine times the size of New York City, Naypyidaw is a maze of anonymous districts linked by vast empty avenues. Pro-military lawmaker Thein Tun Oo said “not everyone can know where she is.” She has not been seen in public since her imprisonment on charges rights groups call fabricated.

MYANMAR MILITARY KILLED OVER +700 CIVILIANS DURING ELECTION PERIOD

On June 22, 2026, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that at least 702 civilians, including 224 women and 153 children, were killed by the Myanmar military between August 2025 and January 2026, more than half in airstrikes. UN spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani confirmed all 702 deaths were attributable to the Myanmar army. The report noted death spikes in August-September 2025 and December 2025-January 2026, coinciding with election announcements and military advances. At least 505 civilians were killed in airstrikes using fighter jets, drones, and other aircrafts. The UN recommended referral to the ICC and a halt to arms transfers to Myanmar.

CHINA ADVOCATES FOR MYANMAR FULL INTERNATIONAL REINTEGRATION

On June 17, 2026, Beijing announced its support for Myanmar's full participation in international organizations including Asean and the United Nations. During a visit to China, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing met with Chinese President Xi Jinping to discuss regional cooperation.

7 CIVILIANS INCLUDING 5-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN AIR STRIKE

On June 17, 2026, a Myanmar military air strike killed 7 civilians and injured 15 others in the western part of the country. Local rescuers stated that 3 aircraft dropped 9 bombs around the town of Kyauktaw. The victims included a 5-year-old child. The Myanmar military, led by President Min Aung Hlaing, has frequently used Chinese and Russian jets against ethnic armed groups and civilians since the 2021 coup. Rakhine State is currently controlled by the Arakan Army which is also accused of committing war crimes.

AMERICAN AUTHOR ARRESTED IN MYANMAR FOR BOOK ON COUP

On June 13, 2026, American citizen Adam Castillo was placed in provisional detention in Myanmar. Adam Castillo is the founder of security consulting firm AGS Myanmar. A police source in Rangoon stated he was arrested on June 11 and is accused of breach of trust regarding real estate, an offense punishable by 10 years in prison. The book details his business dealings and confrontation with the White House regarding sanctions against the military regime.

PRESIDENT MIN AUNG HLAING TO CONDUCT VISIT TO CHINA

On June 12, 2026, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian announced that Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing will conduct a State visit to China from June 15 to June 19. Min Aung Hlaing will hold separate meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Li Qiang and Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Chairman Zhao Leji. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian emphasized deepening strategic cooperation and the “Pauk Phaw” family relationship between the neighbors. China provides military aid and significant investments to Myanmar, sharing a 2100-kilometer border. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi previously visited in April to support the development of the country after the 2021 coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi.

THAI WOMAN DETAINED IN MYANMAR FOLLOWING SUSPECTED HOMICIDE OF US DIPLOMAT

On June 11, 2026, an anonymous judicial official from the Kamayut District Court in Yangon confirmed that a Thai woman was placed in pre-trial detention following the death of a 43 year old American diplomat. The victim, described by the US Embassy as a regional security officer from New York, was found on May 11 at the Sakura Residence in the Golden Valley neighborhood with lacerations.

3 MYANMAR NATIONALS KILLED BY CROSS-BORDER DRONE EXPLOSION

On June 3, 2026, Thai police chief Anusorn Dungkong reported that 3 Myanmar nationals were killed when a drone from Myanmar exploded in Thailand, in Tak province near the Karen State border. Two other people were injured and taken to the hospital. While the Myanmar junta and rebel groups both use drones in the ongoing civil war, the origin of this specific device remains unknown.

MILITARY JUNTA RECAPTURES STRATEGIC BORDER POST

On May 20, 2026, the army announced the recapture of Mawtaung village located on the Thai border following two weeks of intense combat. This expands the network of border posts controlled by the military junta. The Global New Light of Myanmar reported that clashes killed at least 24 opposition fighters while an unspecified number of soldiers also died.

DEATH PENALTY PROPOSED FOR CYBER-SCAM CENTERS

On May 14, 2026, the Myanmar government published a draft law proposing the death penalty for individuals who force people to work in cyber-scam centers. This clandestine industry has developed in fortified complexes since the 2021 military coup. Criminal groups trap internet users through fraudulent investments. While some staff work voluntarily, others are victims of human trafficking and torture. The project mandates the death penalty for violence, torture, illegal detention or cruel treatment used to force online scams. Parliament will vote on the law during the first week of June. Analysts state that President Min Aung Hlaing uses these measures to restore diplomatic and commercial relations. Proliferation of these centers has caused tensions with China due to the high number of Chinese nationals among the victims of those scams.

MYANMAR ARMY RECLAIMS VITAL TRADE ROUTE

On May 07, 2026, the military announced the recovery of a strategic commercial route leading toward the Chinese border after 15 months of fighting. Army sources stated that insurgent groups were driven from the road connecting Mandalay to Myitkyina which is located 50 kilometers from China. The bureau of the commander in chief reported numerous clashes during the operation and the recovery of insurgents' bodies, while acknowledging losses among government troops.

SON OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI DEMANDS PROOF OF LIFE

On May 05, 2026, Kim Aris requested that the French government help obtain a verified proof of life for his mother Aung San Suu Kyi. During a meeting in Paris with French Foreign

Minister Jean Noel Barrot, Kim Aris delivered a letter seeking guarantees for her fundamental rights and access to family. The 80 year old former leader has been held since 2021 and was recently transferred to house arrest by Junta Chief Min Aung Hlaing. Lawyers Francois Zimeray and Catalina de la Sota expressed concern about her health and the lack of independent confirmation regarding her location. While an undated photo was released by military services, her legal team questioned its authenticity.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI MOVED TO HOUSE ARREST

On April 30, 2026, President Min Aung Hlaing ordered that former leader Aung San Suu Kyi be moved from prison to house arrest for the remainder of her sentence. The 80 year old Nobel Peace Prize laureate has been detained for 5 years following the 2021 coup. Suu Kyi currently serves a 27 year sentence. Her lawyers François Zimeray and Catalina de la Sota noted she remains unjustly deprived of liberty. While the specific location remains secret, sources suggest she may be isolated in Naypyidaw.

CHINA STRENGTHENS TIES WITH MYANMAR

On April 26, 2026, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with President Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyidaw to promise firm support for “national sovereignty and security”. This visit served to present Beijing as a reliable partner in contrast to the unpredictability and customs fees of US President Donald Trump. Wang Yi stated that China supports and wishes to strengthen friendship. Min Aung Hlaing was invested as president in early April following controversial legislative elections, held in December and January.

ROHINGYA ACTIVIST FILES GENOCIDE COMPLAINT IN INDONESIA

On April 8, 2026, Rohingya activist Yasmin Ullah called on the Muslim world and Southeast Asian nations to oppose the Myanmar government following a genocide complaint filed in Indonesia. Yasmin Ullah is the founder of the Rohingya Maiyafuinnor Collaborative Network and is one of 11 participants in the legal action against President Min Aung Hlaing. The complaint was submitted to the office of the Indonesian Prosecutor General where spokesperson Anang Supriatna confirmed its receipt. Human rights jurist Feri Amsari noted this is the first case accepted under the universal jurisdiction provision of the new Indonesian Penal Code. Approximately 7,000 Rohingya refugees currently live in Indonesia, primarily in Aceh province.

CONTROVERSIAL PRO TRUMP LOBBYIST HIRED BY JUNTA

Reports confirmed that Roger Stone was mandated to provide public relations services for the Myanmar Ministry of Information. The former political advisor to US President Donald Trump accepted 50,000 dollars per month to rebuild relations between Washington and Myanmar despite the ongoing civil war since the 2021 coup. Collective Justice For Myanmar accused Roger Stone of profiting from a junta that commits crimes against humanity. His work for the government reportedly covers trade, natural resources and humanitarian aid. Roger Stone was previously sentenced to 40 months in prison for perjury before being pardoned by US President Donald Trump.

CZECH AIRCRAFT DELIVERIES TO MYANMAR JUNTA EXPOSED

An investigation by Le Monde revealed that the Czech company Aircraft Industries delivered at least 4 planes to the Myanmar military junta despite European Union sanctions. Open source investigator Leone Hadavi tracked aircraft deliveries from Kunovice to Yangon between September 2024 and October 2025. Although the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aircraft Industries claimed the planes were for civilian use by Myanmar Airways International, evidence showed them operating from military bases like Magway. Aircraft Industries is owned by parent company Omnipol. Social media posts from Aircraft Industries employee confirmed their presence in Yangon during deliveries. On November 7, 2025, Junta Chief Min Aung Hlaing received a commemorative plate featuring the aircraft silhouette. Each plane was sold for approximately 9 million euros. The military conflict in Myanmar has killed over 75,000 people including 6,000 civilians since 2021.

MYANMAR JUNTA'S PARTY WINS LANDSLIDE IN DISPUTED ELECTIONS

On January 30, 2026, Myanmar's election commission confirmed the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won 339 of 420 parliamentary seats (over 80%) in elections held in December 2025 and January 2026. The vote, canceled in dozens of constituencies due to civil war, was marred by forced voting, repression, and the exclusion of opposition parties.

UN REPORTS 170 CIVILIANS KILLED IN AIRSTRIKES DURING ELECTIONS

On January 30, 2026, the UN reported at least 170 civilians were killed in 408 military airstrikes during Myanmar's election period (December 2025–January 2026). UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence and Myanmar team head James Rodehaver warned the toll could rise due to communication blackouts and fear of reprisals. **On January 22, an airstrike in Bhamo, Kachin State, killed at least 50 civilians** in a populated area with no reported combatants. The UN also documented forced voting, including 100 villagers detained and coerced to vote in Sagaing Region. The junta's elections, boycotted by rebels and condemned internationally, are considered as unlikely to end the civil war.

JUNTA’S ELECTIONS DENOUNCED AS SHAM BY UN

On January 23, 2026, UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews called on the world to reject the results of Myanmar’s “sham” legislative elections, organized by the military junta. Andrews stated the junta designed the elections to ensure a landslide for its political proxy, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), by banning credible opposition, imprisoning popular figures, suppressing the press, and using coercion to force reluctant voters to the polls. He warned that international recognition of the results would delay a true resolution to Myanmar’s crisis and make governments complicit in legitimizing military rule disguised as civilian governance.

MYANMAR DISMISSES GENOCIDE ALLEGATIONS AT ICJ

On January 16, 2026, Myanmar dismissed genocide allegations at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), calling them “unfounded.” Presidential Minister Ko Ko Hlaing argued that the 2017 military operations were justified counterinsurgency measures against “terrorists”.

GRAPHIC TESTIMONIES OF ROHINGYA GENOCIDE AT ICJ

On January 13, 2026, The Gambia presented evidence at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, accusing Myanmar’s military of systematically killing, raping and burning Rohingya men, women and children during the 2017 crackdown in Rakhine State. Gambian lawyer Tafadzwa Pasipanodya described soldiers decapitating elders, gang-raping women and children, and throwing infants into rivers before burning villages. The Gambia accuses Myanmar of violating the 1948 Genocide Convention. Over 1.17 million Rohingya now live in squalid camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Myanmar’s legal team will respond starting January 16. A ruling could take months or years, with no enforcement mechanism, but a favorable decision would increase political pressure on Myanmar.

BANGLADESH SUMMONS MYANMAR AMBASSADOR OVER BORDER CLASHES

On January 13, 2026, Bangladesh summoned Myanmar’s ambassador to protest cross-border violence between Myanmar’s junta and rebel groups, which injured a 12-year-old girl and a fisherman in Cox’s Bazar. Bangladesh’s Foreign Ministry called the unprovoked gunfire a “flagrant violation of international law.” The ambassador pledged to prevent further incidents. Bangladesh also arrested 53 suspected Myanmar rebels.

MYANMAR HOLDS SECOND PHASE OF JUNTA-ORGANIZED ELECTIONS

On January 11, 2026, Myanmar held the second phase of legislative elections, widely seen as a sham to legitimize military rule. The junta’s proxy party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), won 90% of seats in the first phase. International observers and

the UN condemned the polls as neither free nor fair, with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi imprisoned and her party dissolved. Analysts say the junta seeks diplomatic cover and investment, while resistance groups dismiss the process.

SECRET TALKS FORM NEW REBEL ALLIANCE

Reports indicate that in late November 2025, 19 armed groups formed the Spring Revolution Alliance (SRA) to unify resistance against Myanmar's junta. Led by Khun Bedu of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), the alliance includes the Bamar People's Liberation Army (BPLA) and the National Unity Government (NUG). The SRA aims to coordinate regional forces without centralizing command, addressing past fragmentation. Key figures include Maung Saungkha (BPLA) and Zaw Wai Soe (NUG). The alliance seeks to pool logistics, intelligence and weapons, and resolve territorial disputes among rebel groups. The junta, backed and equipped by Russia and China, has recently regained some ground.

MYANMAR JUNTA FREES 6,000 PRISONERS IN ANNUAL AMNESTY

On January 4, 2026, Myanmar's junta released 6,134 local and 52 foreign prisoners in an annual amnesty, coinciding with Independence Day. Families gathered outside Yangon's Insein Prison, hoping for the release of political detainees. The junta claims the amnesty is humanitarian, but critics call it a move ahead of disputed elections. The military-backed USDP party won 90% of announced seats in the first phase, while Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD remains banned. Over 22,000 political prisoners remain detained, according to activists. Western observers and rights groups dismiss the elections as a sham.

ROHINGYA LEADERS PUSH FOR REPATRIATION FROM BANGLADESH

On December 29, 2025, newly elected leaders of the United Rohingya Council (UCR) in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar camps called for renewed efforts to repatriate over one million Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. The UCR, formed after July's first-ever refugee elections, aims to represent Rohingya interests in negotiations with Myanmar and Bangladesh. President Mohammad Sayed Ullah urged refugees not to forget the violence in Rakhine State, where many fled a 2017 military crackdown now under genocide investigation at the ICJ. While the UCR offers hope for many, analysts question its independence, noting close oversight by Bangladeshi authorities. Security threats from ongoing civil war in Myanmar complicate repatriation efforts.

JUNTA ACCUSES REBELS OF ATTACKS ON ELECTION DAY

On December 28, 2025, Myanmar's junta accused rebel groups of launching "malicious and brutal" drone, rocket, and bomb attacks during the military-organized elections and the day prior, injuring at least five civilians. The junta claimed attacks occurred in 11 of the 102 townships where the first phase of voting took place. The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) claimed a landslide victory, winning 82 of 102 lower house

seats, though official results were not yet released. The 2021 coup, which ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's party, sparked a civil war and led to the dissolution of her party, which was absent from the ballot. Analysts, including Morgan Michaels of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, dismissed the election as neither free nor fair, citing the exclusion of opposition parties and voter intimidation. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing defended the vote as "free and fair," though elections were canceled in nearly one-fifth of constituencies due to rebel control.

ROHINGYA REFUGEES DENOUNCE ELECTIONS AS MEANINGLESS

On December 26, 2025, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar camps rejected Myanmar's military-organized elections as irrelevant, citing their statelessness and ongoing persecution. Kabir Ahmed, 51, former mayor of a Rohingya town in Maungdaw, asked, "Who will vote, and why?" after the 2017 military crackdown forced 1.17 million Rohingyas into exile.

ELECTIONS TO CONCLUDE ON JANUARY 25 AMID SKEPTICISM

On December 25, 2025, Myanmar's junta announced the third and final phase of its tightly controlled elections will take place on January 25, 2026, following votes on December 28 and January 11. The Union Election Commission, controlled by the military, stated that 63 of 330 townships will participate in the final phase. International observers and the UN have dismissed the elections as a junta ploy to improve its image, noting the absence of Aung San Suu Kyi's dissolved party and the ongoing civil war. Critics argue the process is rigged, with only pro-military candidates allowed and harsh laws punishing dissent.

JUNTA USES VIOLENCE TO FORCE VOTER PARTICIPATION

On December 23, 2025, the UN condemned Myanmar's military junta for using "brutal violence" and intimidation to coerce citizens into voting in upcoming elections, while armed opposition groups employ similar tactics to deter participation. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated that authorities are arresting dissenters and imposing "extremely severe sentences," citing three youths in Hlainghaya, Yangon, jailed for 42 to 49 years for posting anti-election posters. Türk also reported threats against displaced persons in Mandalay, warning of attacks or property seizures if they fail to return and vote. Opposition armed groups have abducted election workers and bombed administrative offices in Hlegu and Okkalapa North. The elections, starting December 28, are widely seen as a junta attempt to legitimize its rule after the 2021 coup.

LANDMINES KILL ALONG MYANMAR-BANGLADESH BORDER

Bangladesh accuses Myanmar's military and insurgents of planting mines, which killed 28 people in 2025, including a border guard. Over 2,000 people were victims of AP mines in Myanmar in 2024, double of the 2023 toll. Locals say warning signs and red flags are ineffective as poverty drives them to work near minefields.

MYANMAR JUNTA CHARGES OVER 200 FOR “DISRUPTING” ELECTIONS

On December 17, 2025, Myanmar’s junta announced it is prosecuting 229 people for “disrupting” the upcoming elections under a law critics say silences dissent. Interior Minister Tun Tun Naung said those charged include activists and rebels, some for minor acts like “liking” critical Facebook posts. Three artists were arrested for “false and misleading” social media posts. The junta’s crackdown adds to over 22,000 political prisoners. The UN’s Tom Andrews called the elections an “imposture,” citing repression and lack of freedom. Results are expected by late January 2026.

MYANMAR JUNTA DISMISSES ELECTION CRITICISM

On December 14, 2025, Myanmar’s junta rejected international criticism of its upcoming elections, set to begin on December 28, 2025. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun stated the elections are “for Myanmar, not the international community,” and dismissed concerns about their fairness. He suggested junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, who has ruled since the 2021 coup, could take a leading role in the new government, citing his “state experience.” The UN, and foreign countries like the UK and Thailand have deemed the elections neither free nor fair. The National League for Democracy (NLD), which won the 2020 election, has been dissolved, and its leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains imprisoned. Residents of Shan State described living “in fear” as junta-organized elections approach. The town, a former rebel stronghold retaken by the military in July 2025 after 11 months of fighting, is surrounded by checkpoints and landmines. Former soldier Hein Htoo Hlaing, now running for office, said, “I want to work for peace,” acknowledging civilians are “caught in the crossfire.” The junta’s elections, starting December 28, are widely seen as a sham to legitimize military rule.

JUNTA AIRSTRIKE ON HOSPITAL KILLS 33

On December 10, 2025, a junta airstrike on Mrauk U General Hospital in Rakhine State killed 33 people and injured 76, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Arakan Army (AA) rebel group. The attack destroyed a hospital wing, leaving a large crater and debris over beds. Among the dead were patients, medical staff, and family members. Maung Bu Chay lost his wife, daughter-in-law, and father-in-law. The UN called for investigations, warning the strike could constitute a war crime. The AA, which controls most of Rakhine, condemned the attack as “inhumane.” The junta, intensifying airstrikes ahead of elections, has blockaded Rakhine, causing severe hunger and malnutrition.

JUNTA HUNTS TEN ANTI-ELECTION PROTESTERS

On December 10, 2025, Myanmar’s junta issued arrest warrants for ten activists, eight men and two women, accused of distributing anti-election flyers and chanting slogans in Mandalay. The group, including prominent pro-democracy leader Tayzar San, faces up to 10 years in prison under a new junta law criminalizing election opposition. Tayzar San, long evading authorities, posted a video on Facebook (blocked in Myanmar) calling the military

dictatorship the “common enemy.” Opposition groups had urged a nationwide “silent protest” on Human Rights Day, but markets in Yangon remained open, with shopkeepers fearing reprisals. The UN reports systematic violent repression of peaceful assemblies since the 2021 coup. The National Unity Government (NUG), composed of ousted lawmakers, called for a total boycott of the “illegal and rigged” elections.

RESISTANCE LEADER KIDNAPPED

On December 10, 2025, U Kon Min, deputy interior minister and civilian intelligence chief for Myanmar’s shadow National Unity Government (NUG), was kidnapped by the Pa-O National Organisation (PNO), a junta-aligned ethnic militia in southern Shan State known for summary executions and opium trafficking. His disappearance, confirmed by multiple resistance sources, marks the highest-ranking capture since the 2021 coup. The NUG is investigating whether he remains with the PNO, was handed to the junta, or killed. His Signal account was accessed, likely by captors. The PNO, accused of killing civilians and displaced persons, operates in opium-producing areas. The NUG, formed by exiled and underground democrats, has been urging members to relocate to liberated zones, now covering nearly half the country.

CIVILIAN DEATHS IN HOSPITAL AIRSTRIKE

On December 10, 2025, Myanmar’s military junta denied killing civilians in an airstrike on Mrauk U Hospital in Rakhine State, after being accused by the WHO, which said it killed at least 33 people and wounded at least 20, including medical staff, patients, and families. The junta’s media, Global New Light of Myanmar, claimed those killed or injured were “terrorists and their supporters.” The Arakan Army (AA), which controls most of Rakhine, reported 33 dead and 76 wounded. The UN called for investigations, warning such attacks could constitute war crimes.

AIRSTRIKE ON TEA SHOP KILLS 18 IN CENTRAL MYANMAR

On December 6, 2025, a junta airstrike on Tabayin, Sagaing Region, killed 18 civilians and injured 20. Two bombs hit a crowded tea shop during a Friday night boxing match, a traditional gathering spot. A village official and a rescuer, both anonymous, confirmed the toll: 7 died instantly, 11 later in hospital. The tea shop and a dozen nearby homes were destroyed. A woman described seeing dogs feeding on human remains amid the rubble. Funerals were held the next day. The junta did not comment. Tabayin had suffered a deadly airstrike in April, despite a junta-declared ceasefire for earthquake relief.

JUNTA BARS 1,600 VILLAGE CLUSTERS FROM SHAM ELECTION

On December 6, 2025, Myanmar’s junta-controlled Union Election Commission (UEC) announced that 1,600 village tracts, out of about 13,500 nationwide, would be excluded from the upcoming December 28 elections, citing concerns over “free and fair” conditions.

The junta, which seized power in a 2021 coup, frames the vote as a step toward reconciliation, but critics and rebel groups dismiss it as a farce. Rebel-held areas and excluded parliamentarians plan to boycott. The UN called the election “unthinkable” given ongoing civil war and mass surveillance risks. Some overseas Birmans, like Moe Moe Lwin in Bangkok, voted early for “peace,” while others, like student Van, refused to participate in a “sham” process. The junta recently criminalized election protests, with penalties up to 10 years in prison.

RUSSIA SECRETLY BOOSTS MYANMAR JUNTA’S DRONE WARFARE

Ukrainian military intelligence revealed that Russia recently supplied Myanmar’s junta with RB-504A-E anti-drone systems and Orlan-30 reconnaissance drones, already deployed against rebel groups in Kachin and northern Shan States. The equipment, delivered via Rosoboronexport, is used to jam commercial drones (DJI Mavic, Autel) and coordinate artillery strikes. Ukrainian sources also reported negotiations for Zala Lancet kamikaze drones, with initial shipments expected for field testing. The junta’s new capabilities coincide with increased GPS and radio disruptions reported by ethnic armed groups. The move follows China’s pressure on rebel factions to sign ceasefires, allowing the junta to regain territory ahead of the December 28 elections.

MAN ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL CRITICISM

On December 3, 2025, Myanmar’s military junta announced the arrest of Khaing Soe, 58, from a village near Yangon, for sending anti-election messages in a private Facebook Messenger conversation. Authorities accused him of attempting to “disrupt the electoral process and mislead the public” under a new law that punishes election criticism with up to 10 years in prison. Two other men were also detained: one for a Facebook post, another for vandalizing an election billboard. 11 additional cases were opened against individuals or groups. The junta did not explain how it accessed Khaing Soe’s private messages. The UN Human Rights Office previously warned of increased electronic surveillance to target dissidents ahead of the widely criticized December 28 elections, which opposition groups and rebel factions are boycotting.

PRO-DEMOCRACY ARTISTS ARRESTED

On October 30, 2025, Myanmar’s state media reported three artists, a filmmaker, an actor, and a comedian, were arrested at their homes for allegedly violating a law banning criticism of the upcoming December 28 elections. The junta’s Global New Light of Myanmar accused them of spreading “false and misleading” social media posts. In Myanmar, the “July law” prohibits any speech, organization, or protest aimed at disrupting the electoral process, with penalties ranging from three to seven years in prison, or five to ten years if committed in association with others. Campaigning for the junta-approved parties began on Tuesday. Opposition groups controlling key areas have vowed to boycott the vote, while rights advocates decry restrictions on freedoms in junta-held zones.

NO ASEAN OBSERVERS FOR MYANMAR'S ELECTIONS

On October 27, 2025, diplomatic sources told that the ASEAN will not send official observers to Myanmar's December legislative elections. The decision deals a blow to the military junta's bid for international legitimacy, as the ASEAN leaders, meeting in Malaysia, expressed "deep concern" over the ongoing civil war and lack of progress toward peace.

JUNTA RAIDED CYBERFRAUD SITE, EXPLOITED WORKERS ESCAPED

On October 20, 2025, the Myanmar junta raided the KK Park complex near the Thailand-Myanmar border, one of the country's largest cyberfraud hubs, seizing 30 Starlink satellite receivers and accessories, according to the state media The Global New Light of Myanmar. AFP investigations had revealed that these devices, owned by Elon Musk's Starlink, were being used to bypass Thai internet restrictions and facilitate large-scale online scams, including romantic and commercial frauds, operated by networks largely controlled by Chinese criminal groups in collusion with Burmese armed groups. About 7,000 exploited workers from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were reportedly freed, many showing injuries allegedly inflicted by their captors. Starlink is not authorized in Myanmar, and the network had previously been too small to appear among local internet providers. Experts note that the junta often tolerated these operations in exchange for armed groups control over border regions.

AID FOR ROHINGYA CAMPS ON A "FINANCIAL CLIFF"

On October 14, 2025, the UN warned that aid for Rohingya children in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar camps is on the brink of a "financial cliff," with schools and health services closing due to lack of funding. The UNICEF representative reported rising child recruitment by armed groups (685 cases in 2025), record levels of severe acute malnutrition, and a looming crisis as traditional donors, including the US, have drastically cut assistance. The camps host about one million Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar's 2017 crackdown, and the UN fears the situation will deteriorate further in 2026 without immediate action.

OCT. 4TH-10TH 2025

In northern Myanmar, schools have moved underground to protect students from airstrikes by the military junta. In Thabeikkyin, near Mandalay, students like Phyo Phyo (18) now attend classes in bunkers after a nearby school was bombed, killing 20 students and two teachers. The junta has intensified airstrikes ahead of December elections, which rebels seek to disrupt. Analysts say the military targets civilians to spread fear and undermine resistance.