

Summary:

Situation of Civil and Political Rights in Myanmar (January – April 2024)

1. State of Emergency and Martial Law

- The junta announced a **fifth six-month extension** of the state of emergency in late January 2024.¹
- The junta declared martial law in **five additional townships between 1 January and 30 April 2024**.² As of the end of April 2024, a total of **60 townships have been placed under martial law since the 2021 coup**,³ affecting more than **8 million people countrywide**.⁴

2. Extra-Judicial Killings of Civilians

The junta continued indiscriminate aerial bombing, including on hospitals, schools and places of worship, heavy artillery attacks, raids of villages and brutal extra-judicial killings of civilians and hostages. Civilians were deliberately targeted by the military in retaliation for the attacks and damage caused by resistance forces.

- At least **684** civilians were reported to be **killed by the junta between 1 January and 30 April 2024**.⁵ Overall, an estimated total of **4,957 civilians** have been killed by the junta since the 2021 coup as of 30 April 2024.⁶

3. Forced Displacement

- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that there was a total of **over 2.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) nationwide as of early April 2024**, of which **2.5 million since the coup**.⁷
- According to *Data for Myanmar*, the junta is believed to have burned down approximately **9,636 civilian houses** across the country between **1 January and 30 April 2024**,⁸ out of the total estimated **88,373** houses burned by the junta between **1 May 2021 and 30 April 2024**.⁹

The junta is also **attacking IDP camps**. The situation in IDP camps and other places where people are taking shelter remains dire, as basic facilities and services are lacking. There were also reports of a number of deaths from heat-related causes. IDPs nationwide are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance amid escalating conflict between the junta and resistance forces.

4. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention

- At least **932 people were arrested** by the junta between **1 January and 30 April 2024**.¹⁰
- Overall, **at least 26,588 people** were arrested since the coup, of whom **20,375 (77%) were still detained** (as of April 2024).¹¹

5. Torture, Ill-Treatment, and Death in Detention

Torture is rampant in detention, as well as death in custody.

- **At least 189 people died in detention between 1 January and 30 April 2024**, representing **28%** of those killed by the junta during that period.¹²
- Overall, an estimated **1,736 people died in detention since the coup** (as of April 2024).¹³

6. Independence of the Judiciary and Due Process Error! Bookmark not defined.

Junta-controlled courts continued handing down hefty prison sentences through unfair trials that completely lack due process.

- **At least 147 persons were sentenced between 1 January and 30 April 2024** by the junta-controlled courts, the majority of whom were convicted under the Counter-Terrorism law and handed down imprisonment with hard labour, life sentence or the death penalty.¹⁴
- Overall, **at least 8,980 people** have been sentenced by the junta-controlled courts **since the coup** (as of 30 April 2024).¹⁵

7. Death Penalty

- The junta-controlled courts sentenced **at least nine persons to death between 1 January and 30 April 2024**.¹⁶
- Overall, **at least 166 people** have been sentenced to death by courts under the control of the junta since the coup (as of late April 2024), including 43 in absentia.¹⁷
- A court under the control of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) **sentenced some of its soldiers to death, of whom three were executed**.¹⁸

8. Freedom of Movement

Freedom of movement within Myanmar remained severely restricted due to the ongoing and intensifying armed conflicts, whereby in certain areas civilians are trapped in the fighting or prevented from moving. Following the enactment of the conscription law, the junta also tightened checks on the road, restricted or banned travel in certain areas.

9. Freedom of Expression, including Press Freedom and Access to Information

- *Data for Myanmar* reported that a total of **1,480 persons were detained by the junta between February 2022 and 30 January 2024 for criticizing the regime and supporting its opponents on social media**.¹⁹
- As of March 2024, the licenses of **19 media outlets, publishers and printing houses** have been **revoked by the junta since the coup**.²⁰
- An estimated total of **194 media personnel have been arrested, 34 sentenced, and 4 killed since the coup** in 2021 (as of April 2024).²¹
- **Restrictions or shutdowns of phone and internet connections** have been imposed on about **80 townships in 11 Regions and States since the coup** (as of February 2024).²²

10. Human Trafficking

Myanmar and foreign nationals have been **trafficked into online scam and gambling centers** run by criminal gangs in several places in Myanmar.

11. Forced Military Recruitment

On 10 February 2024, the junta announced the activation of the 2010 *People's Military Service Law*, requiring all men aged 18-35 and women aged 18-27 to serve in the military. The junta started compiling lists of draft-eligible civilians and sending conscripts to military training in the weeks following the announcement. There were also reports of conscription through abduction, arbitrary arrests on the streets, and other forms of coercion.

- **About 14,000 civilians are eligible for military conscription** under the junta's conscription law, including **6.3 million men and 7.7 million women** - about **26% of the total population**.²³
- The junta is planning to **recruit 5,000 people per month** - or 50,000 people annually - for a minimum of 2 years, with civilians evading conscription or pretending to be sick or disabled to evade conscription facing between 3 and 5 years in prison.²⁴
- **At least 1,000 Rohingyas** are believed to be **arrested and forced to undergo military training** between **mid-February and mid-March 2024**.²⁵

12. Situation of Women

- **Between 1 January and 30 April 2024**, at least **218 women were killed and 333 arrested by the junta**.²⁶
- Overall, an **estimated total of 923 women have been killed and 5,483 arrested since the 2021 coup**, of whom **3,943 still detained** as of the end of April 2024.²⁷ **Estimated 1,466 women have been sentenced since the 2021 coup**, including **16 to death**.²⁸

Sexual and gender-based violence during ground raids and in detention, sexual exploitation, lack of access to adequate healthcare and support for pregnant women and nursing mothers, and lack of security and other needed facilities in IDP camps are also reported.

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13. Situation of persons with disability

Although **specific information and disaggregated data** about the situation of persons with disabilities remains **scarce**, they were not spared by the atrocities committed by the junta.

- At least **8 of the civilians killed between 1 January and 30 April 2024** had a **mental or physical disability**.²⁹
- According to the UN Child Fund (UNICEF), an estimated **864 civilians, including 225 women and 167 children, were maimed and 188 others, including 35 women and 59 children, were killed** by landmines or explosive remnants of war (ERW) in **599 incidents nationwide in 2023** - representing a 270% increase of compared to 2022.³⁰

15. Situation of Children

The lives and education of children are severely affected by the ongoing conflict.

- **At least 125 children were killed between 1 January and 30 April 2024**.³¹ Overall, an estimated **total of 630 children** have been killed since the coup (as of April 2024).³²
- **At least 20 children were arrested** by the junta between 1 January and 30 April 2024.³³ Overall, an estimated **726 children** have been detained since the coup (as of April 2024).³⁴
- An estimated six million children remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance across the country in 2024.³⁵
- In February 2024, the NUG stated that **199 schools have been damaged since the coup**, including **52 due to junta's airstrikes**.³⁶

16. Situation of Rohingyas

The situation is deteriorating in Rakhine State amid escalating fight between the junta and the Arakan Army (AA), leading to several deadly junta attacks on Rohingya villages and arrests of Rohingyas traveling without travel permission. It was also reported that Rohingya villages were attacked by the AA.

- An estimated **613 Rohingyas, of whom 20% were women and 46% children, embarked on risky sea journeys** from Bangladesh (50%) or Myanmar (50%) **between 1 January and 20 March 2024**, while **69 were reported dead or missing**.³⁷
- Overall, an estimated **8,656 Rohingyas embarked on sea journeys between early February 2022 and late March 2024**, of whom **833 were reported dead or missing**.³⁸

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¹ Junta's Ministry of Information, "Meeting 1/2024 of National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held," (1 Feb. 2024)

² SAC, Martial Law Order No.1/2024, (28 Feb. 2024); SAC, Martial Law Order No. 2/2024, (28 Feb. 2024); SAC, Martial Law Order No. 3/2024, (4 Mar. 2024); SAC, Martial Law Order No. 4/2024, (4 Mar. 2024).

³ SAC's Martial Law Orders No. 1/2021; 2/2021;4/2021; 1/2023; 2/2023; 3/2023; 4/2023; 5/2023; 6/2023; 8/2023; 10/2023; 11/2023; 1/2024; and 3/2024.

⁴ [Data for Myanmar](#), "Myanmar: townships under Martial Law," (5 Mar. 2024).

⁵ [AAPP](#), "Graphs of arrest and death data as of December 31, 2023 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup," (1 January 2024); [AAPP](#), "Graphs of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup," (1 May 2024).

⁶ [AAPP](#), "Graphs of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup," (1 May 2024).

⁷ [OCHA](#), "Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.37," (5 Apr. 2024).

⁸ [Data for Myanmar](#), (20 Jan. 2024); [Data for Myanmar](#), (3 May 2024).

⁹ [Data for Myanmar](#), (3 May 2024).

¹⁰ [AAPP](#), "Graphs of arrest and death data as of December 31, 2023 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup," (1 January 2024); [AAPP](#), "Graphs of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup," (1 May 2024).

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- ¹³ [AAPP](#), “Graphs of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected and compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) since the February 2021 military coup,” (1 May 2024).
- ¹⁴ [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 13 May 2024).
- ¹⁵ [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 13 May 2024).
- ¹⁶ [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 13 May 2024).
- ¹⁷ [AAPP](#), “Daily briefing in relation to the coup – 30 April 2024,” (30 Apr. 2024).
- ¹⁸ [The Irrawaddy](#), “Ethnic army executes three men after public trial in Northern Myanmar,” (25 Apr. 2024); [RFA](#), “Video shows rebel group sentencing own fighters to death for ‘abuse of power,’” (25 Apr. 2024).
- ¹⁹ [Data for Myanmar](#), “People detained for criticizing the junta and supporting the opposition forces online,” (31 Jan. 2024).
- ²⁰ [The Irrawaddy](#), “In Myanmar, citizen journalism is connecting news to its revolutionary roots,” (18 Mar. 2024).
- ²¹ [AAPP](#), “Database of arrested people,” (last accessed on 10 May 2024); [AAPP](#), “Database of killed people,” (last accessed on 10 May 2024); [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 10 May 2024).
- ²² [Athian Myanmar](#), “2024, townships where the internet was cut off in February 2024,” (5 Mar. 2024).
- ²³ [The Irrawaddy](#), “Myanmar’s conscription law in numbers,” (16 Feb. 2024).
- ²⁴ [The Irrawaddy](#), “Myanmar’s conscription law in numbers,” (16 Feb. 2024).
- ²⁵ [RFA](#), “Rohingya ordered by Myanmar officer to ‘fight for our faith,’” (9 Apr. 2024); [Aljazeera](#), “How is renewed violence in Myanmar affecting the Rohingya,” (22 Mar. 2024); [RFA](#), “Village heads quit in anger over military recruitment in Myanmar’s Rakhine state,” (19 Mar. 2024).
- ²⁶ [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 8 May 2024).
- ²⁷ [AAPP](#), “Graph of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected by the AAPP since the February 1, 2021 military coup,” (1 May 2024).
- ²⁸ [AAPP](#), “Database of sentenced people,” (last accessed on 8 May 2024).
- ²⁹ [AAPP](#), “Database of killed people,” (last accessed on 7 May 2024).
- ³⁰ [UNICEF](#), “Myanmar Landmine/ERW incident information 2023,” (Mar. 2024).
- ³¹ [AAPP](#), “Graph of arrest and death data as of December 31, 2023 collected by the AAPP since the February 1, 2021 military coup,” (1 Jan. 2024); [AAPP](#), “Graph of arrest and death data as of April 30, 2024 collected by the AAPP since the February 1, 2021 military coup,” (1 May 2024).
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