

# MONTHLY SITUATIONAL BRIEF REPORT

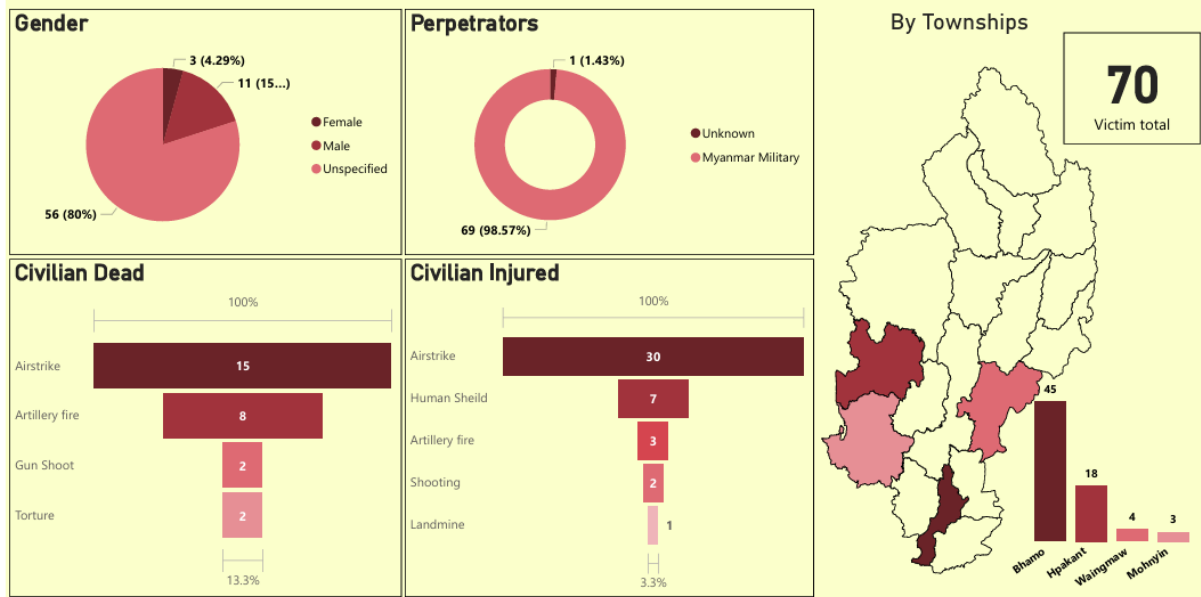
KACHIN HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

May, 2025

KACHIN STATE

[www.kachinhumanrightsinsight.org](http://www.kachinhumanrightsinsight.org)

## Civilian Casualties In Kachin State – May 2025 Snapshot



In May 2025, Kachin State recorded a total of 70 civilian casualties, highlighting the ongoing security crisis in the region. Among the victims, males comprised the majority at 80% (56 individuals), while females accounted for 15.7% (11 individuals), and 4.3% (3 individuals) were of unspecified gender. The Myanmar military was identified as the primary perpetrator in 98.57% (69 cases) of incidents, with only one case (1.43%) attributed to unknown actors. Airstrikes emerged as the deadliest tactic, causing 15 civilian deaths and 30 injuries, followed by artillery fire with 8 deaths and 3 injuries. Additional causes of fatalities included gunfire and torture, each resulting in 2 deaths, while human shield tactics caused 7 injuries, and isolated incidents of shooting and landmine explosions caused 2 and 1 injuries, respectively. Geographically, the highest concentration of casualties occurred in Hpakant Township, which accounted for 45 cases, followed by Bhamo with 18, Waingmaw with 4, and Mohnyin with 3. This distribution suggests that conflict intensity remains concentrated in certain hotspots, particularly in mining and militarily strategic areas, with airstrikes continuing to be the dominant driver of civilian harm. The data underscores both the scale of military violence against civilians and the urgent need for targeted protection measures in the most affected townships.

## Narrative

In May 2025, Kachin State experienced a sharp escalation in armed conflict, civilian harm, and displacement, with incidents reported across multiple townships. On May 4, the Myanmar military council used a drone to bomb Lamyang village in Waingmaw Township, followed by two airstrikes on May 6 targeting Senghpra and Kapmaw Zup villages along the Hpakan–Myitkyina road. On May 8, a monastery in Bhamo sheltering over 400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) was hit by two airstrikes, killing 15 people, including children and the elderly, and injuring more than 30. Civilian insecurity extended beyond conflict zones—on May 11, a woman in Tapkon Ward, Myitkyina, was robbed of her purse by two men on a motorcycle.

The second half of the month saw intense shelling and landmine incidents. On May 16, a landmine near Mading village, Waingmaw Township, caused a 32-year-old man to lose his leg, followed by the shelling of Nihkudi village on May 18, which injured a 10-year-old boy. On May 19, heavy weapon fire from Hpakan military hill targeted Longhkyin-area villages. On May 24, a shell struck Hpa village in Mohnyin Township, killing an elderly couple and injuring another woman. Fighting escalated on May 26 when KIA and allied forces attacked Longkhin police station in Hpakan Township, injuring two civilians.

May 27 was particularly deadly, with multiple incidents reported. Two young brothers were killed in Senghpra village while playing with an unexploded artillery shell. Military advances into Lonehkyin village in Hpakan forced mass displacement, with over 1,200 people still sheltering in churches and forests. Shelling and gunfire during these advances killed at least five civilians, while seven civilians used as human shields were injured, one fatally. The following day, May 28, heavy shelling in Longkhin damaged homes and a bridge, with unconfirmed reports of civilian deaths. Throughout the month, the military council carried out repeated bombings of the Chan Gin Toe Camp hospital in Mohnyin Township, forcing the suspension of medical services. Heavy fighting in Tanghpree village, Myitkyina, also displaced residents despite a declared ceasefire. Additionally, a previously concealed killing came to light when it was confirmed that a drunken soldier had beaten a man to death in Waingmaw in March, originally misreported as a drowning.

## **Kachin State – May 2025 Fighting Overview**

May 2025 saw some of the fiercest fighting in Kachin State since the 2021 coup, with large-scale offensives, sustained air campaigns, and widespread displacement. In Hpakant Township, the military council advanced past Nam Yar into Kapmaw village on May 5 with thousands of troops and air support, occupying the Kachin Baptist Church compound. This was the largest offensive in the region since the coup, aimed at reclaiming areas under KIA control. On May 7, intense clashes erupted between military council and KIA/KPDF forces between Kapmaw Zup and Senghpra villages, with jet fighters bombing both villages the same day. Despite a declared ceasefire, fighting continued near Kawng Hmo, with the military seizing positions in Le Pyin and Mazup Yang hills. By late May, the military had carried out over 100 airstrikes in one week, including 69 with Y-12 aircraft, 9 with jet fighters, and 38 using drones, alongside 74 artillery attacks.

The KIA maintained control over most access routes to Hpakant but faced relentless assaults on multiple fronts from Kamaing, Indawgyi, and Sezin. On May 2, KIA drones targeted 80 troops in Khin Taung village near Nam Yar, and on May 19, fighting flared near Tataryi Naung. Near Nan Tein and Lonkhin, heavy weapons and small arms fire intensified as military columns advanced from the Yanchet factory and Kan Si hill. The Indawgyi front saw fierce clashes on May 14 in Sanwin Kone and Inthar villages, preceded by April airstrikes that caused civilian casualties. In Lawa village, fighting on May 2 followed earlier military occupation, arson of 100 houses, and the killing of a mentally disabled man in April. Civilians in Nam Yar reported systematic looting by military forces.

In Waingmaw Township, clashes occurred on May 4–5 near Lamyang and along the Wa Shawng–Sadon–Kan Paik Ti road, intensifying on May 22–23 with airstrikes on Lamyang and advances toward Wa Shawng. The KIA captured a camp on Prayer Hill in Lawa village on May 1, prompting military reinforcements and drone strikes.

Bhamo, Kachin State's second-largest city, remained a major battleground. Fighting has raged since December 4, 2024, with the KIA capturing most of the city. On May 20, KIA forces shot down two of three helicopters carrying reinforcements to Strategic Command 21 (Sa-Ka-Kha 21). Renewed offensives on May 27 saw KIA capture several outposts, including the Win Light Hotel, a key military sniper and drone position. Fighting near Sa-Ka-Kha 21 was reported as some of the fiercest yet.

In Mohnyin Township's Indawgyi region, the Shan Ni National Army (SNA) and military council troops were reported forcibly recruiting residents—including nursing mothers—while blocking roads to restrict movement. This has triggered further displacement from the area.

### **Statistical Summary – May 2025 Fighting**

- Thousands of military council troops deployed; over 100 airstrikes in a single week (69 by Y-12 aircraft, 9 by jets, 38 by drones) plus 74 artillery attacks.
- Fighting concentrated in Hpakant, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Mohnyin (Indawgyi).
- Kapmaw–Senghpra corridor, Lamyang, Nan Tein–Lonkhin, Lawa village, Saiwan Kone, Inthar, Bhamo city.
- Capture of multiple outposts in Bhamo, including Win Light Hotel; seizure of Prayer Hill camp in Lawa; destruction of two helicopters.
- Heavy reliance on combined arms—airstrikes, drones, artillery, and multi-front ground offensives; occupation of religious compounds; looting of civilian homes.
- Mass displacement from at least a dozen villages; reports of forced recruitment by SNA/military in Indawgyi; widespread property destruction; civilian casualties from airstrikes and shelling.

### **Some statements and activities of SAC Statement**

Negotiations between the military council and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), mediated by China, have collapsed after the military council demanded the TNLA withdraw from most of the towns it had seized. In other developments, the council reported that 94% of students whose matriculation exam answer sheets were destroyed in a March 28 fire—caused by an earthquake at Mandalay University—have agreed to retake the exams scheduled for June 16–21. While students in Mandalay and Sagaing will take exams at new locations, those in Kachin State will return to their original exam sites. Meanwhile, military council leader Min Aung Hlaing traveled to Russia for World War II anniversary events, meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who reaffirmed support for Myanmar's post-earthquake recovery,

sovereignty, and stability. The military has denied bombing a provisional school in Ohteintwin village, Depayin Township, on May 12—an attack that killed 22 people, including 20 students—accusing the media of fabricating the incident. The Union Election Commission has announced that the general election will take place in four phases between December 2025 and January 2026, though exact dates are pending. In an interview with RT News, Min Aung Hlaing emphasized Myanmar’s balanced foreign policy between the US and China and criticized Western support for Ukraine, arguing it prolongs the war. The council also falsely claimed a May 20 helicopter crash in Bhamo was due to technical failure, despite evidence it was shot down by the KIA. Additionally, Min Aung Hlaing blamed Myanmar’s electricity shortages on the suspension of the Myitsone Dam project.

### **Statements and activities of NUG**

In May 2025, the National Unity Government (NUG) released key updates and policy statements addressing the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. In its four-year performance report, the NUG disclosed that 94% of its budget has been allocated to military operations, specifically to support People’s Defense Force (PDF) units and allied revolutionary groups active in all states and regions, including Naypyidaw. On May 10, the NUG, together with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) and the Committee to Oppose the Fake Election, called on political parties to boycott the military council’s planned election, reiterating that the 2020 election results remain legally valid and that organizing a new election violates democratic principles.

At the international level, Myanmar’s Ambassador to the UN, U Kyaw Moe Tun, urged the UN to halt assistance to the military council following the May 12 airstrike on a school in Oat Tein Twin village, Depayin Township, which killed 20 students and two teachers. In response to ongoing airstrikes, the NUG pledged to use all available means to protect civilians, pursue legal action against perpetrators of war crimes—including military leaders, commanders, pilots, and propaganda agents—and urged the international community to reject the junta’s false narratives. Data from the NUG’s Ministry of Human Rights indicates that between January 1, 2023, and May 12, 2025, the military conducted nearly 2,700 airstrikes across 13 states and regions, killing 3,043 civilians, including 441 children.

Amid escalating attacks, the NUG’s Ministry of Education ordered the temporary closure of all interim education schools, higher education institutions, and vocational schools to safeguard

students, teachers, and civilians, while calling on organizations to help implement protective measures. Addressing regional diplomacy, NUG spokesperson U Kyaw Zaw urged ASEAN to go beyond issuing statements and take concrete action against the junta's targeted attacks on civilians, noting that the first principle of ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus—cessation of violence—has been consistently ignored by the military council. The NUG further recommended that ASEAN coordinate directly with revolutionary forces, including the NUG, for humanitarian aid delivery, arguing that these groups control nearly 80% of the country. The NUG also called for cross-border humanitarian assistance through neighboring countries, welcoming ASEAN's recent call for an immediate end to violence against civilians at its May 26–27 summit.

### **KIO/KIA statement**

During the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and its allied revolutionary forces have maintained significant military resistance against the military council. Over the course of the four years following the coup, the KIA confirmed that it has successfully shot down five military aircraft—four helicopters and one jet fighter—most recently in coordinated attacks in Bhamo, Kachin State. The latest incident on May 20 saw the downing of a helicopter carrying reinforcements, resulting in 18 confirmed fatalities among military personnel. In response to heightened threats, the KIA has ordered the temporary closure of entertainment venues in its administrative capital, Laiza, amid concerns over potential drone strikes.

As military movements intensified, the KIA issued evacuation warnings to residents in Lapin villages, near the entrance to Phakant, due to the arrival of hundreds of military council troops. The KIA anticipates clashes should the troops attempt to advance into the area. Meanwhile, fighting continues in the Indawgyi region of Mohnyin District, where joint military council and Shan Ni National Army (SNA) forces have engaged KIA and KPDF units, accompanied by sustained airstrikes and artillery fire. Reports also indicate ongoing recruitment and militia training by the military council in Nawngmun town, with plans to deploy new forces to Khaunglanphu.

Beyond military activities, the KIA also engaged in humanitarian and social initiatives. On May 7, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) organized a group wedding for three KIA

soldiers who lost limbs in combat, as part of a program for disabled veterans. Additionally, two SNA soldiers defected to the KIA in April, bringing their weapons and receiving monetary rewards from the KIO. The Kachin community also mourned the loss of U Labang Zawng Hra, former KIO/KIA chairman, who passed away at the age of 87 on May 7 after decades of service to the organization.

## **International statement**

### **World Bank Says Earthquake Damage Could Be Around \$11 Billion**

The World Bank estimates that the damage from the March earthquake, which heavily damaged buildings, could be around \$11 billion, or 14% of Myanmar's GDP. The World Bank's May 7 report states that the damage from the earthquake, which was centered near Mandalay and Sagaing, exceeded \$11 billion.

The earthquake, the strongest in over a century, measured 7.7 on the Richter scale. It killed nearly 4,000 people and damaged countless buildings in the Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyidaw, Bago, and Shan regions. The estimated damage amounts to 14% of the country's total economic output.

Justice For Myanmar (JFM) has released a report stating that 54 companies in ASEAN member countries continue to maintain business ties with the military council after the coup.

The JFM report, dated May 24, names seven companies that continue to have business ties with the junta and its controlled companies.

These companies are Thailand's partly state-owned PTTEP; Malaysia's oilfield services company ENRA Group; Singapore-based Interra Resources; Vietnam's state-owned Viettel Global Investment; Singaporean timber companies Greenply Alkema, Natural Forest, and Valency; Malaysia's MAMEE-Double Decker; Thailand's CP Group; and Singapore's Krislite Group.

The JFM report states that over four years after the adoption of ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus, which military leader Min Aung Hlaing agreed to, the junta has intensified its attacks on civilians with the involvement of companies and governments from ASEAN member countries.

Russia and the Myanmar military council, both of whom have been prosecuted in international courts, have signed an agreement to mutually protect each other. The military-controlled Myanmar Alinn newspaper announced that the coup-leading military council and Russia signed an agreement on May 23 at the Russian Supreme Court in Moscow to mutually protect each other from international prosecution.

## **International statement**

The World Bank has released an estimate valuing the damage from the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar in March at approximately \$11 billion, equivalent to 14% of the nation's GDP. The quake, the strongest in over a century, was centered near Mandalay and Sagaing and resulted in the deaths of nearly 4,000 people. Widespread destruction was reported across Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyidaw, Bago, and Shan regions, with countless buildings damaged or destroyed.

Meanwhile, a new investigation by Justice For Myanmar (JFM) has revealed that 54 companies based in ASEAN member countries continue to maintain business ties with Myanmar's military council, despite ongoing conflict and human rights abuses. The report names specific companies—including Thailand's partly state-owned PTTEP, Malaysia's ENRA Group, Singapore's Interra Resources, Vietnam's state-owned Viettel Global Investment, and several timber companies based in Singapore—as active partners with the junta. JFM criticized ASEAN for failing to enforce its Five-Point Consensus, noting that attacks on civilians have only intensified since its adoption.

In a further development, Myanmar's military council and Russia have entered into an agreement to mutually shield each other from international prosecution. The accord was signed on May 23 at the Russian Supreme Court in Moscow, with both parties—each facing cases in international courts—pledging reciprocal legal protection. This move underscores deepening ties between the two governments amid growing international isolation.

## **Summary**

In May 2025, Kachin State experienced a sharp escalation in armed conflict, resulting in a total of 70 civilian casualties. Males accounted for 80% of the victims, while females made up 15.7%. The Myanmar military was identified as the perpetrator in 98.57% of these incidents. Airstrikes were the deadliest tactic, causing 15 deaths and 30 injuries. The highest

concentration of casualties was in Hpakant Township, with 45 cases, followed by Bhamo with 18, Waingmaw with 4, and Mohnyin with 3.

The National Unity Government (NUG) reported that it has allocated 94% of its budget to military operations to support the People's Defense Force (PDF) and allied revolutionary groups. The NUG, along with the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC), called on political parties to boycott the military council's planned election, as they consider the 2020 election results to be legally valid. The NUG's Ministry of Human Rights reported that between January 1, 2023, and May 12, 2025, the military conducted nearly 2,700 airstrikes, killing 3,043 civilians.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) confirmed that it has shot down five military aircraft since the 2021 coup, including a helicopter on May 20. The KIA also ordered the temporary closure of entertainment venues in its capital, Laiza, due to concerns about potential drone strikes.

Internationally, the World Bank estimated that damage from a powerful earthquake in March could be around \$11 billion, or 14% of Myanmar's GDP. The earthquake measured 7.7 on the Richter scale and killed nearly 4,000 people. A report from Justice For Myanmar (JFM) revealed that 54 companies in ASEAN countries continue to maintain business ties with the military council. Additionally, the Myanmar military council and Russia signed an agreement on May 23 to mutually protect each other from international prosecution.

May 2025, Hpakant ,Kat Maw Zup& Seng Hpra Village

Artillery fire by Myanmar Military



26 May 2025, Mohnyin-He Par Village

2 Civilian dead by Myanmar Military's Artillery Fire



May 2025, Hpakant-Seng Hpra Village

2 Civilian (children) were killed by Myanmar Military's a remaining unexploded weapon





29 May 2025, Hpakant-Long Hkin Village  
5 Civilian were killed by Myanmar Military convoy





References ; Kachin waves, The 74 Media, LangJi, Kachin News Group, Myitkyina News Journal