



MYANMAR WITNESS

A project by



CENTRE for
INFORMATION
RESILIENCE

AN EPICENTRE OF VIOLENCE

A Sagaing Region Anthology

AN EPICENTRE OF VIOLENCE

A Sagaing Region Anthology

31 October 2024

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines the situation in Myanmar's Sagaing region since the 2021 coup and this is based on data collected and analysed by Myanmar Witness. Through this vast reporting of Sagaing, Myanmar Witness has aimed to emphasise themes and tactics that show extreme violence and repetition. Moreover, through each thematic focus, the Sagaing region represented the highest reported affected region and state across Myanmar.

The purpose of this report is not only to summarise findings and data on the Sagaing region but also to emphasise its critical importance in the ongoing internal conflict. Despite the Sagaing region showing the highest levels of violence in the country, it isn't widely reported by the international community. By highlighting these issues, Myanmar Witness aims to raise awareness about the urgent humanitarian crisis facing civilians in the Sagaing region.

This report analysis focuses on the following key themes:

1. **Fire Incidents:** Documented incidents of arson and their impact on communities
2. **Airstrikes:** The frequency and effects of airstrikes in the region
3. **Attacks on medical facilities:** The impact on healthcare sites and implications for civilian health
4. **Schools damaged:** Incidents involving educational institutions and their consequences for access to education
5. **Fear campaigns:** Reports of tactics used against civilians, including harassment and extreme violence such as beheadings and burnt bodies

The report also includes four case studies highlighting specific incidents in Sagaing that highlight the severe impact of military actions on local communities. These examples focus on civilian deaths, violent killings, internal displacement, restrictions on movement and infrastructure damage.

Through this detailed overview, Myanmar Witness seeks to raise awareness and understanding of the complex dynamics in this area of Myanmar and advocate for increased international focus and support.

2. INTRODUCTION TO SAGAING

Through rigorous monitoring, Myanmar Witness has observed that the Sagaing Region, located in central Myanmar, is often the epicentre of violent reporting within Myanmar.

The Sagaing Region is believed to hold [high strategic](#) importance due to its geographical and economic attributes. It is located between two rivers - the Irrawaddy to the east and the Chindwin to the west - both of which are critical to the regional economy and military logistics. These waterways serve as vital routes for transporting goods, people, and military supplies for the State Administration Council (SAC) in the [dry zone](#). Moreover, control of these waterways may have positioned Sagaing as a central point of contention for both military and resistance forces.

Situated within Myanmar's arid central region (shown in figure 1), Sagaing is said to be predominantly inhabited by Bamar Buddhists. Before 2021, it was generally considered peaceful, known for its [agricultural productivity](#) and apparent [lack of large-scale armed resistance](#). However, following the military coup in February 2021, reports suggest it has become a centre of [resistance](#) against military rule, with local youth forming People's Defence Forces (PDFs) to oppose the Myanmar Military.



Figure 1: The southern portion of the Sagaing Region within the northern Dry Zone (highlighted yellow) (source: [MIMU](#)).

Furthermore, the geography of the region reportedly poses challenges for local groups, particularly in its southern areas. Unlike the dense rainforests in [northern Sagaing](#) or neighbouring states like [Kachin](#) and [Shan](#), much of southern Sagaing features more open landscapes. This [characteristic](#) is thought to potentially impact the [movement](#) and concealment of various groups. Additionally, unlike ethnic resistance groups along Myanmar's borders, or those in northern Sagaing near

India, the resistance forces in southern Sagaing do not have [foreign borders](#) across which they can attempt to retreat.

The conflict has led to a severe humanitarian situation in Sagaing. By late 2022, over [28,000](#) houses were reportedly destroyed, resulting in massive displacement and [limiting access](#) to basic necessities.

3. THEMATICS AND TACTICS - MAPS, GRAPHS, AND STATISTICS

Numerous incidents have reportedly occurred within Myanmar since the 2021 coup, with aggressive and violent tactics impacting villages and individual civilians. The following thematics, statistics, and information underscore how Sagaing- particularly its southern portion- has been reported, investigated, and documented as the most affected region or state in the country.

3.1 FIRE DATA

Arson has reportedly emerged as one of the most prominent tactics of violence across Myanmar. Reports of fires in Sagaing have been rampant since 2021 and continue to rise. Myanmar Witness has continuously gathered data on fire claims within the country, with additional work on verifying as much information about each event shared online. This has led to the creation of a [fire map](#), that has been updated through to May 2024, with plans to add future data. From September 2021 to January 2023, Myanmar Witness's latest [fire report](#), published in August 2023, indicates a disproportionate amount of fire claims and verified fire events within the Sagaing region compared to other regions. This trend suggests a targeted campaign of destruction in Sagaing, possibly linked to military operations or conflict in the area. The use of fire as a weapon has led to extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and livelihoods. Additionally, the concentration of fire events in Sagaing underscores both the region's strategic importance in the ongoing conflict and the urgent need for increased measures to safeguard civilians.

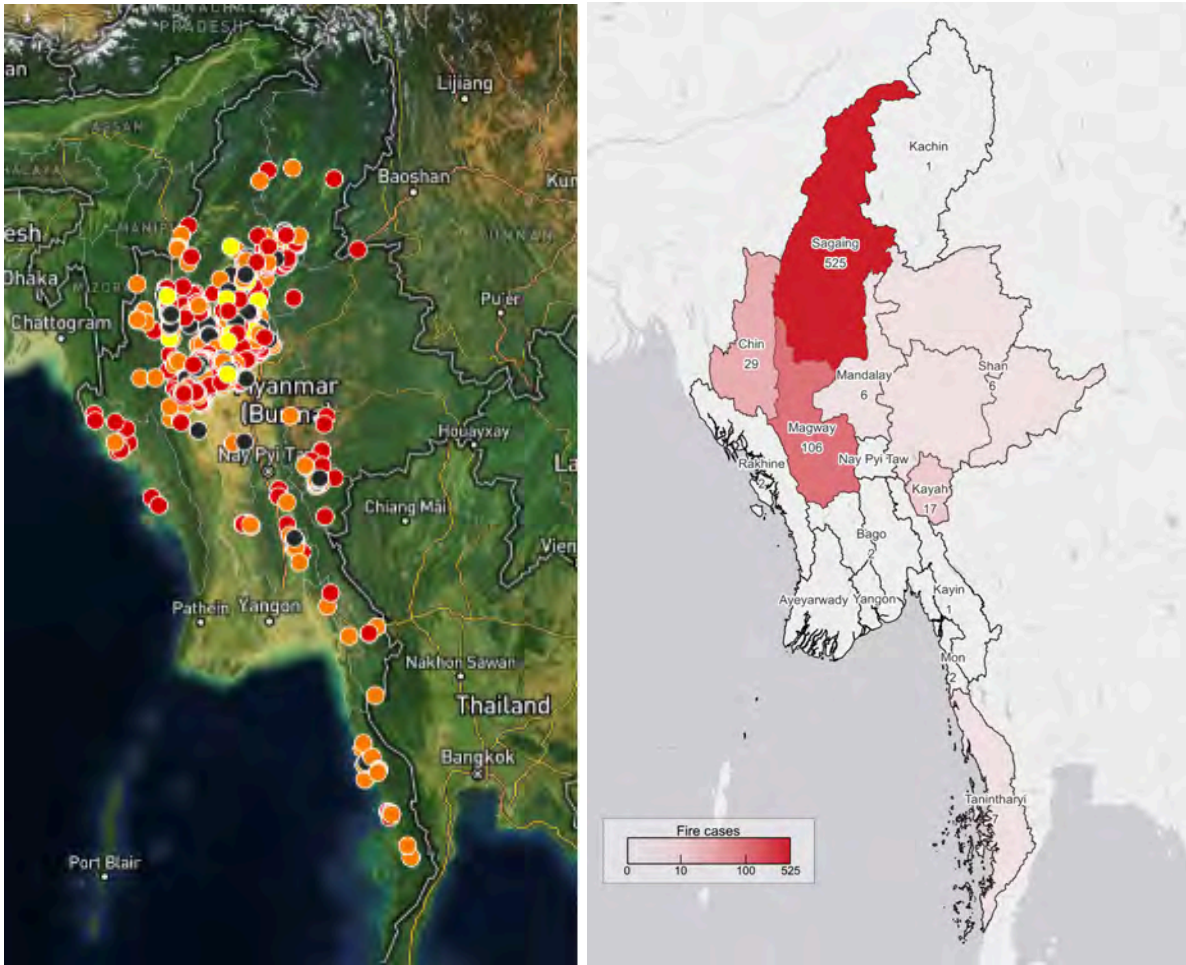


Figure 2: [Left] Screenshot of Myanmar Witness’s fire map which is up to date to May 2024 (source: Myanmar Witness); [Right] A Myanmar Witness fire map that highlights Sagaing region as the highest recorded fire event location within Myanmar (source: Myanmar Witness).

Furthermore, data collected from September 2021 to January 2022 and September 2022 to January 2023 shows the Sagaing region having the highest number of fire events in Myanmar. This trend persists despite the limited collection timeframe, which excludes several months due to the [rainy season](#) (May to October) affecting satellite imagery availability. The consistent pattern across both datasets, even with these limitations, underscores the severity of the situation in Sagaing.

Fires by State

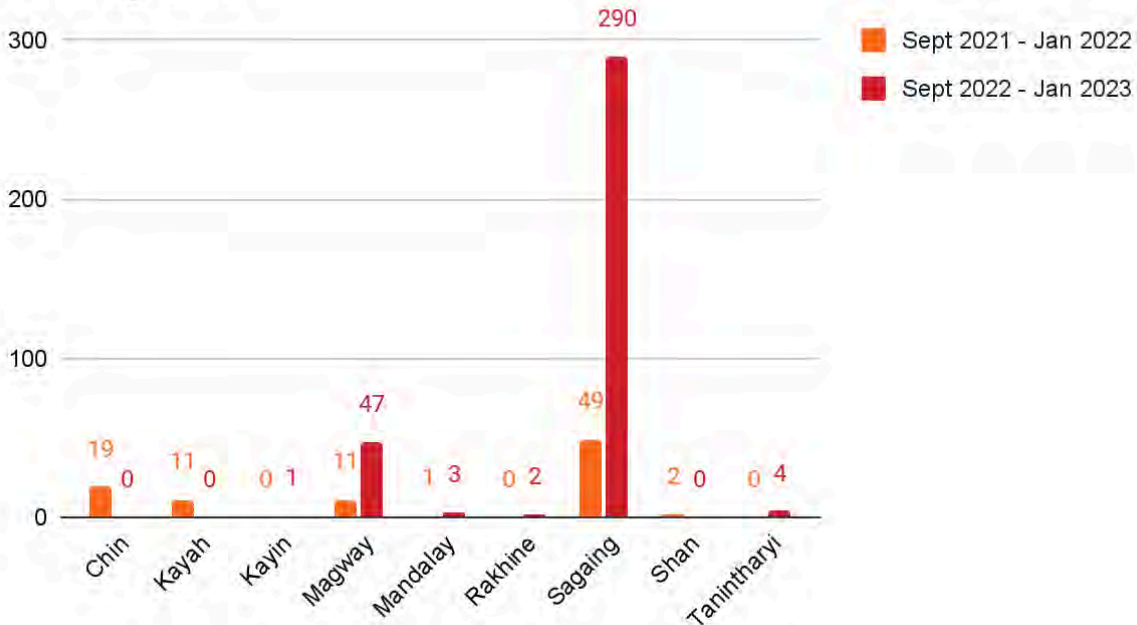


Figure 3: Comparative data between two fire data reports from September 2021 to January 2022, and September 2022 to January 2023 highlights fire event reports across Myanmar. The Sagaing region consistently shows the highest number of claims in both datasets (source: Myanmar Witness).

It is important to note that not all fire reports are reflected in the statistics listed above. [Internet cut offs](#) and [VPN bans](#) have also limited reporting within Myanmar, with Sagaing residents stating these limitations affecting the region.

3.2 AIRSTRIKE DATA

Another tactic reportedly used prominently by the Myanmar military is the deployment of airstrikes. From what is known, the Myanmar Air Force (MAF) is the only entity in Myanmar that can conduct airstrikes within the country using fighter jets and attack helicopters (note: drone attacks have not been included in this study). Airstrikes are known to cause extensive destruction, often leading to fires in the impacted area. These fires may result from weapon detonations or damage to objects on the ground. Figure 4 presents a map of 135 reported airstrike incidents documented in a Myanmar Witness [investigation](#) from July to December 2022, with Sagaing showing a higher number of claims. The use of airstrikes using weaponised aircraft and its relation to fire has caused substantial further damage to civilian infrastructure and increased violence within Myanmar, with reports of airstrikes emerging nearly daily.

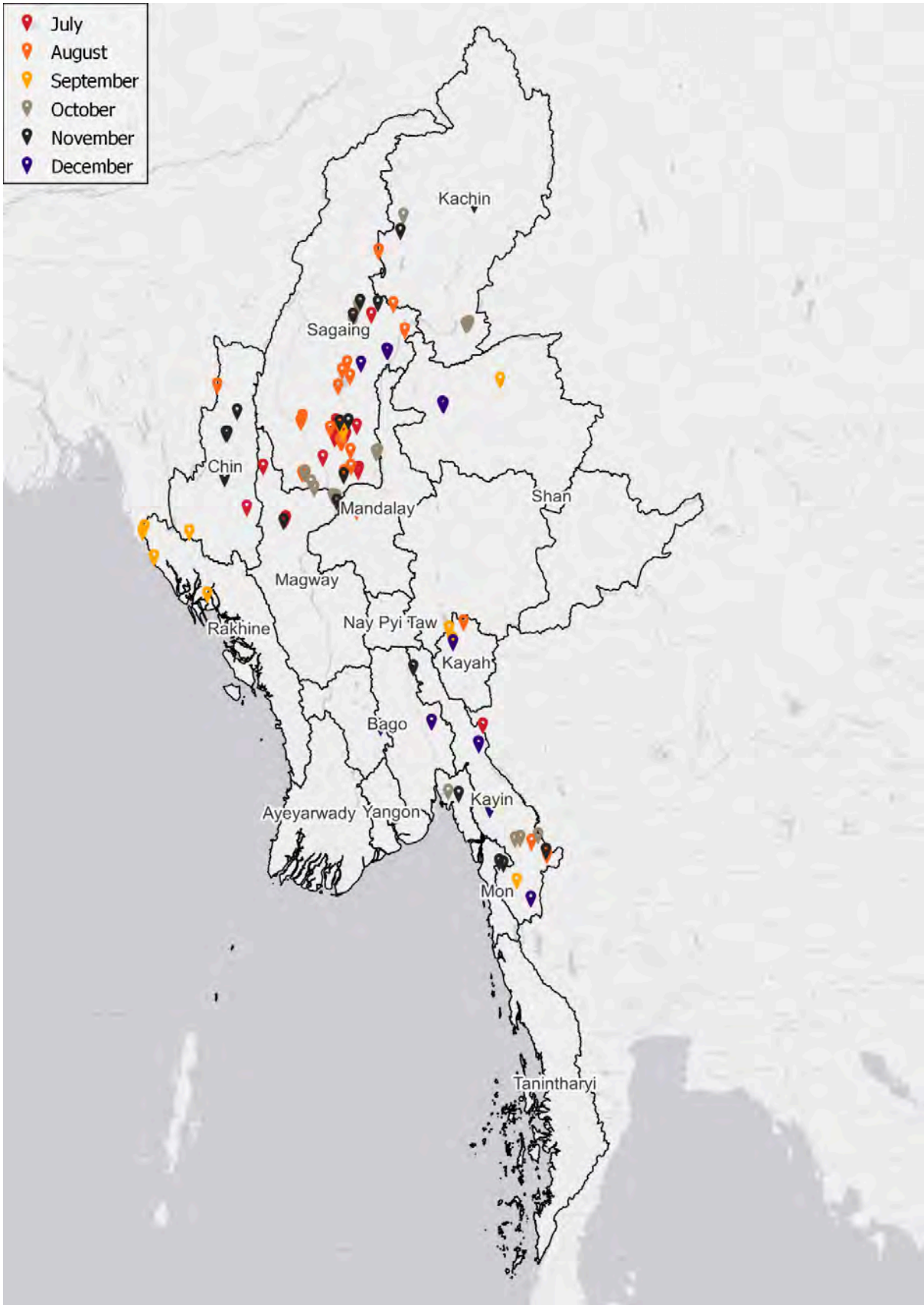


Figure 4: A map showing the 135 reported airstrikes collected by Myanmar Witness from July to December 2022 (map created by Myanmar Witness).

The pie chart in Figure 5 further breaks down the airstrike claims, revealing that 43% originated from the Sagaing region. Each state is broken down and can be compared with this dataset. This visual chart emphasises that Sagaing is likely subjected to disproportionately more incidents than any other state or region in Myanmar, by a significant margin.

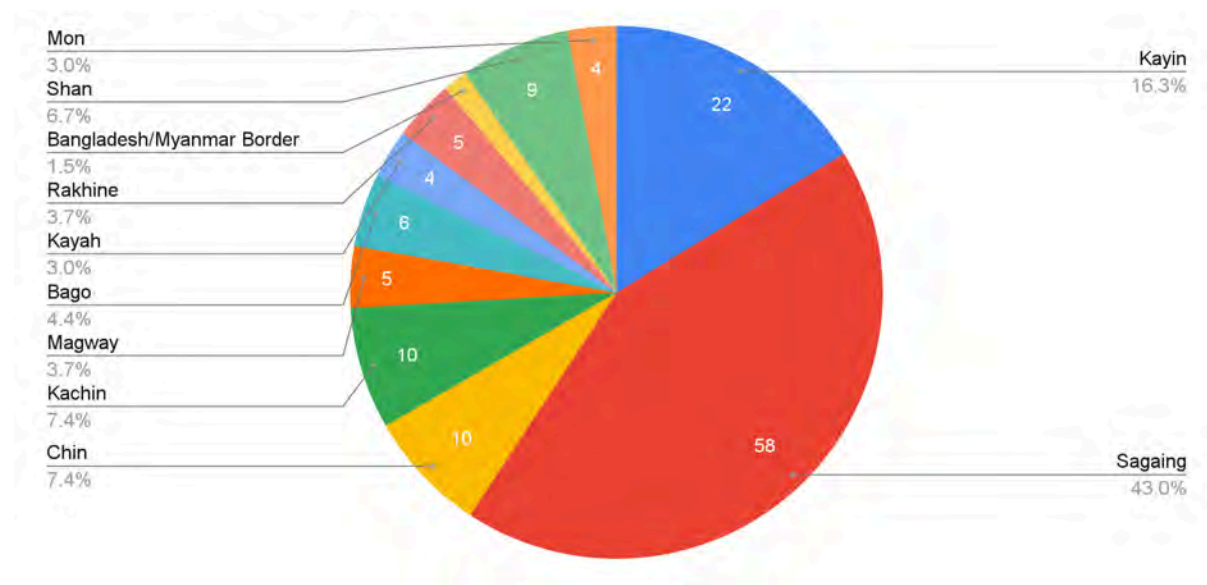


Figure 5: Pie chart showing the geographic split of airstrike events (count and proportion) established by Myanmar Witness from the airstrike thematic dataset (chart created by Myanmar Witness).

Unfortunately, this six-month limited investigation has not been updated with new statistics since reporting in January 2023. Myanmar Witness has been monitoring and plans to continue monitoring airstrikes in Myanmar and will follow up with new statistics as they become available.

3.3 MEDICAL FACILITIES DATA

Medical facilities have been significantly affected by various attack tactics. Myanmar Witness investigated [attacks on medical facilities](#) from February to April 2023. Of the 16 specific case studies analysed and mapped, 50% originated from the Sagaing region, encompassing both official and unofficial medical care sites. The fact that half of the data comes from one region in a country with 13 different regions or states is extremely significant, suggesting that Sagaing is not only experiencing attacks but may also be specifically targeted at these locations within the region. While it was impossible to prove intentional targeting due to the limited available footage of these events in Sagaing, analysis indicates that intentional targeting could be inferred in several instances, such as the airstrike in Pekon township

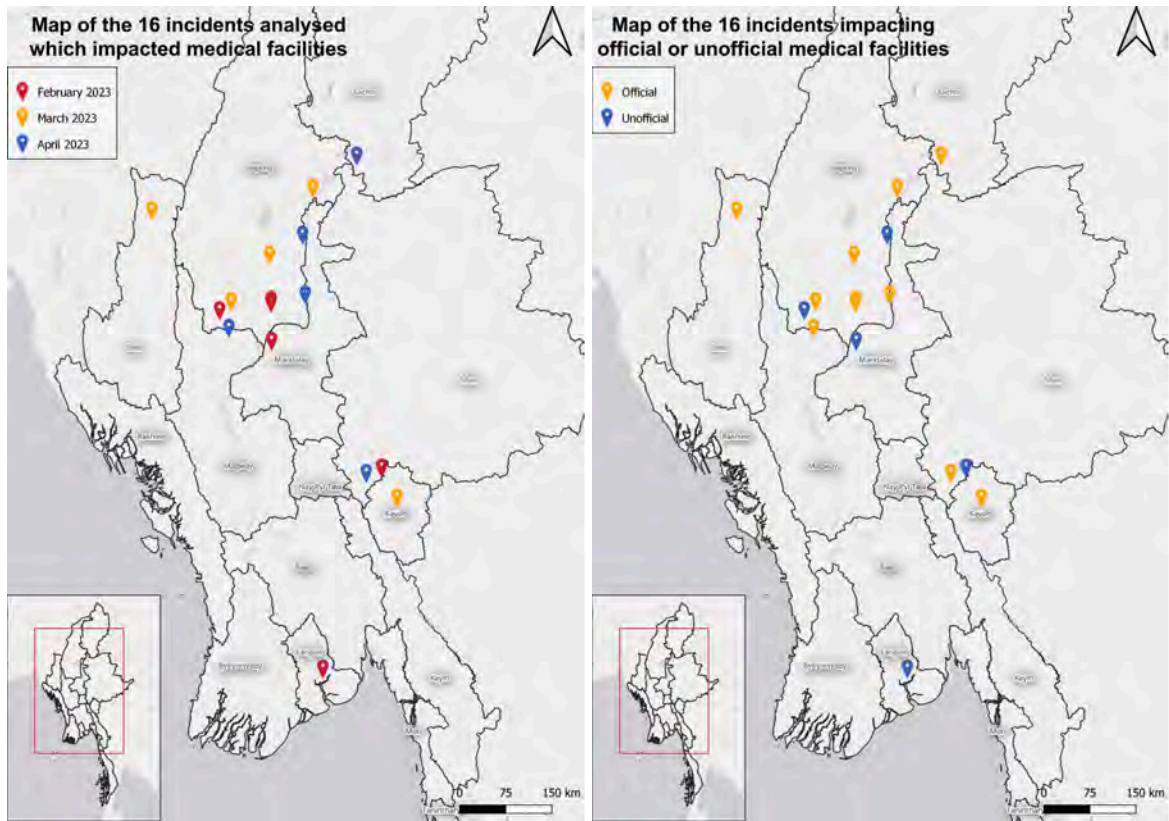


Figure 6: [Left] map showing the 16 incidents analysed by Myanmar Witness which impacted medical facilities. [Right] map shows how each of these 16 incidents was reported as - either being an officially recognised medical facility or an unofficial one (Maps created by Myanmar Witness using QGIS).

Total incidents per state

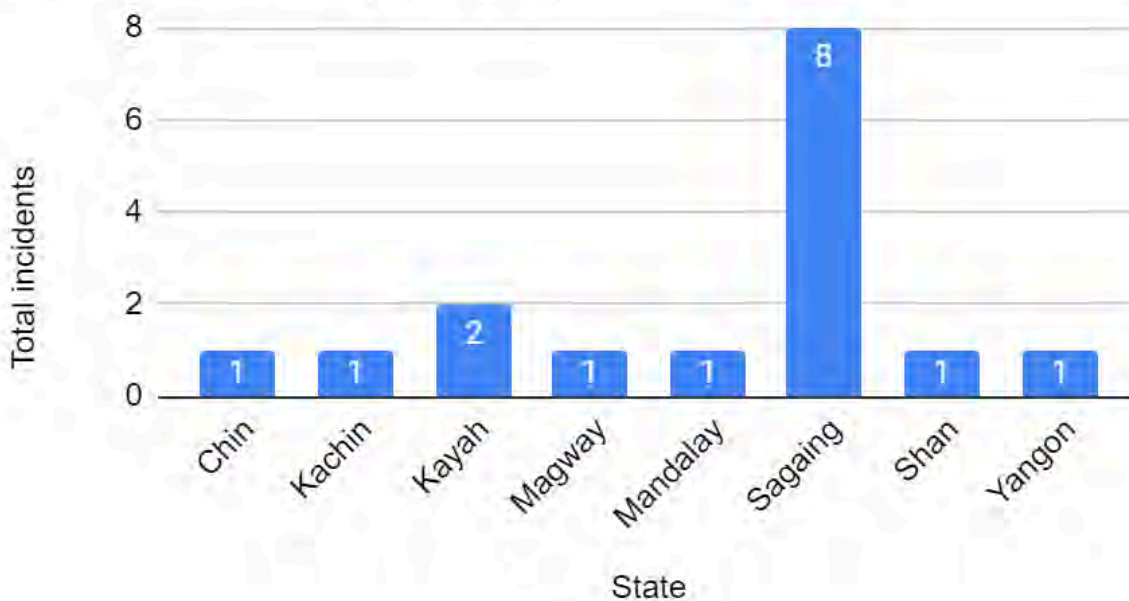


Figure 7: Breakdown of the 16 incidents by state between February and April 2023.

Attack tactics on medical facilities can vary from ground troop raids and arson to airstrikes. While it remains unclear if resistance forces were using these locations for cover, or as a base, the SAC often justifies attacks on protected sites by alleging connections to [pro-democracy/anti-SAC movements](#). Nevertheless, these apparent aggressive measures and lack of care used by the Myanmar military and MAF appear to demonstrate a disregard for local medical facilities essential for community health. While these sites hold special protections under [international humanitarian law](#), the provision of public health services continues to be impacted by the ongoing conflict.

3.4 SCHOOLS DAMAGED DATA

Education facilities are another major category impacted by violence in Myanmar. From 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2024 a total of 174 distinct incidents of violence involving schools were documented by Myanmar Witness. Of these, 113 incidents make up the primary dataset and 61 incidents are related to drone-specific events. The Myanmar military is reportedly implicated in 90 of the 113 in the primary dataset. Reports of violence involving schools have shown a steady increase since February 2021, peaking in March 2024, and there are concerns that these sites may continue to be affected in the future.

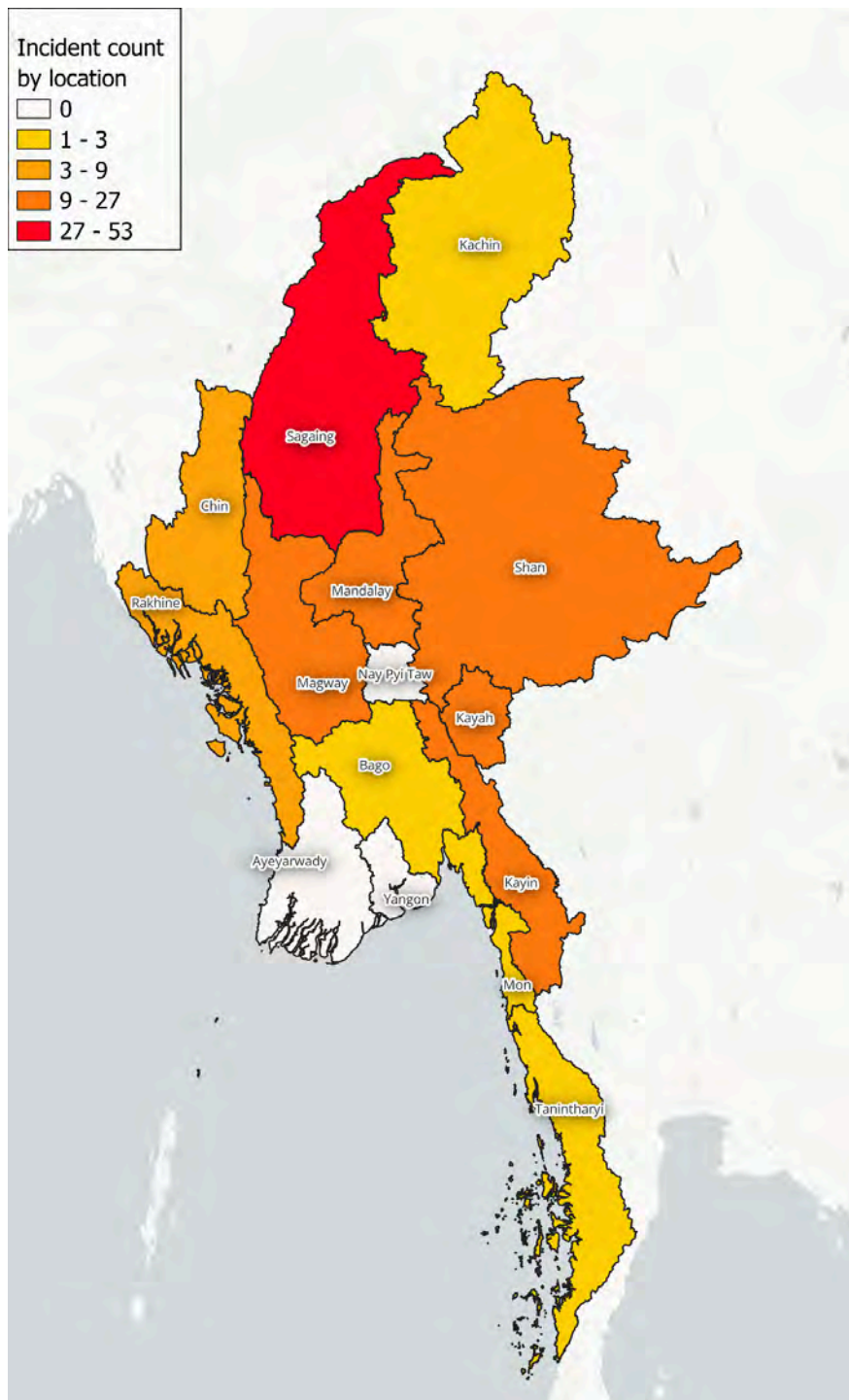


Figure 8: A map of Myanmar comparing the various regions and states that reported school attacks, highlighting Sagaing as the most impacted region (Map created by Myanmar Witness using QGIS).

Out of all datasets in the school investigation, both primary and drone incidents, Sagaing reports the highest number of incidents involving damaged schools compared to any other region or state in Myanmar. A total of 36 incidents (33%) from the primary dataset, were recorded in Sagaing, further underscoring its status as a significant conflict zone. Additionally, the drone-specific dataset

indicates that 36.8% of drone incidents occurred in Sagaing. A number of these incidents may be linked to military use of school buildings, though Myanmar Witness cannot fully verify these claims. Regardless, these actions impact educational facilities, reducing students' access to learning materials and resources. Myanmar Witness recommends that international lawyers investigate these events to determine the status of these school buildings as protected sites under [international law](#).

Geographical distribution of MW primary dataset

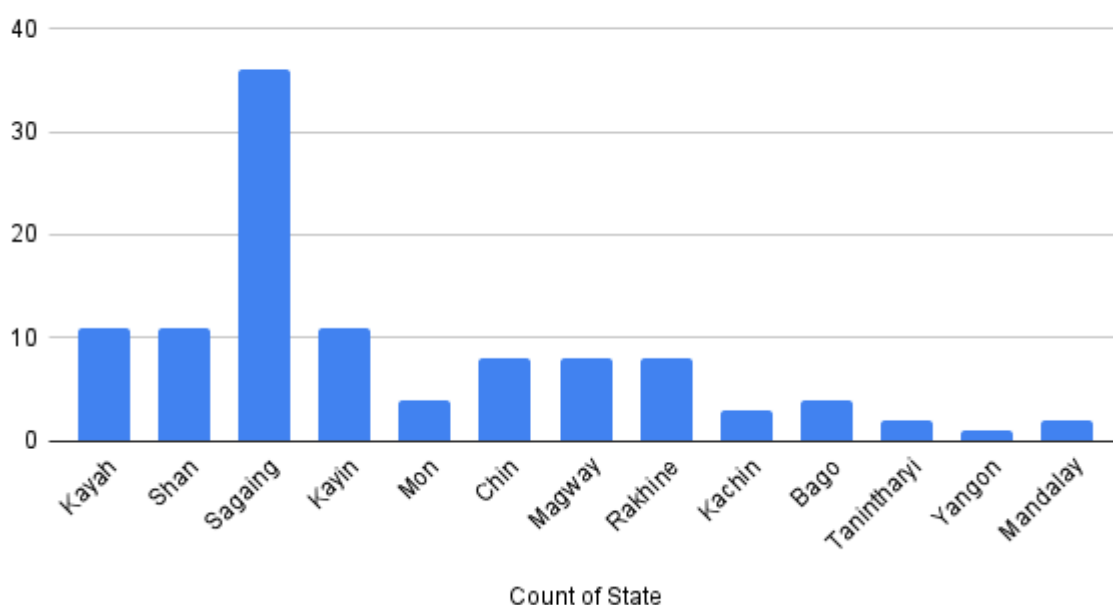


Figure 9: Bar chart showing the breakdown of incidents by region, collected and analysed by Myanmar Witness.

3.5 FEAR CAMPAIGNS

Reports suggest that some of the most severe actions in the region involve what have been described as fear campaigns. These [campaigns](#) allegedly include operations in villages where locals are reportedly subjected to various forms of violence, such as harassment, torture, killings, dismemberment, beheading, or burning. According to these reports, similar tactics may be repeated in multiple villages. While the exact motivations behind these actions are not definitively known, some analysts and observers have suggested that the [military's campaigns](#) appear to be aimed at suppressing pro-democracy sentiment and resistance in the region. The Myanmar military has not explicitly stated this.

Myanmar Witness has conducted investigations into various types of violent incidents, publishing reports specifically on mass killings, beheadings, and a thematic report on burnt bodies.

The investigation into [burnt bodies](#) uncovered 146 events involving 444 claimed victims between March 2022 and September 2023. Of these, 160 were photographed and shared online. The percentage of incidents involving burnt bodies is particularly high in Sagaing: 73% of all identified cases in the visualised victims' set and 77% in the claimed victims' set were located in Sagaing, as shown in the table in Figure 10.

count per state	seen	claimed	events	event%
Ayeyarwady	0	0	0	0.00%
Bago	7	17	1	0.70%
Chin	2	8	2	1.40%
Kachin	0	1	2	1.40%
Kayah	4	4	2	1.40%
Kayin	0	0	0	0.00%
Magway	20	40	21	14.69%
Mandalay	9	17	6	4.20%
Mon	0	3	1	0.70%
Naypyidaw	0	0	0	0.00%
Rakhine	1	1	1	0.70%
Sagaing	115	338	104	72.73%
Shan	0	4	2	1.40%
Tanintharyi	0	2	1	0.70%
Yangon	0	0	0	0.00%

Figure 10: Table of incidents per state, emphasising the differences between bodies seen in User Generated Content, bodies only claimed, and the numbers of total burnt body events (graph created by Myanmar Witness).

Figure 11 below presents a heat map illustrating the spike in reports from the southern portion of Sagaing, highlighting this area as a volatile hotspot in the region.

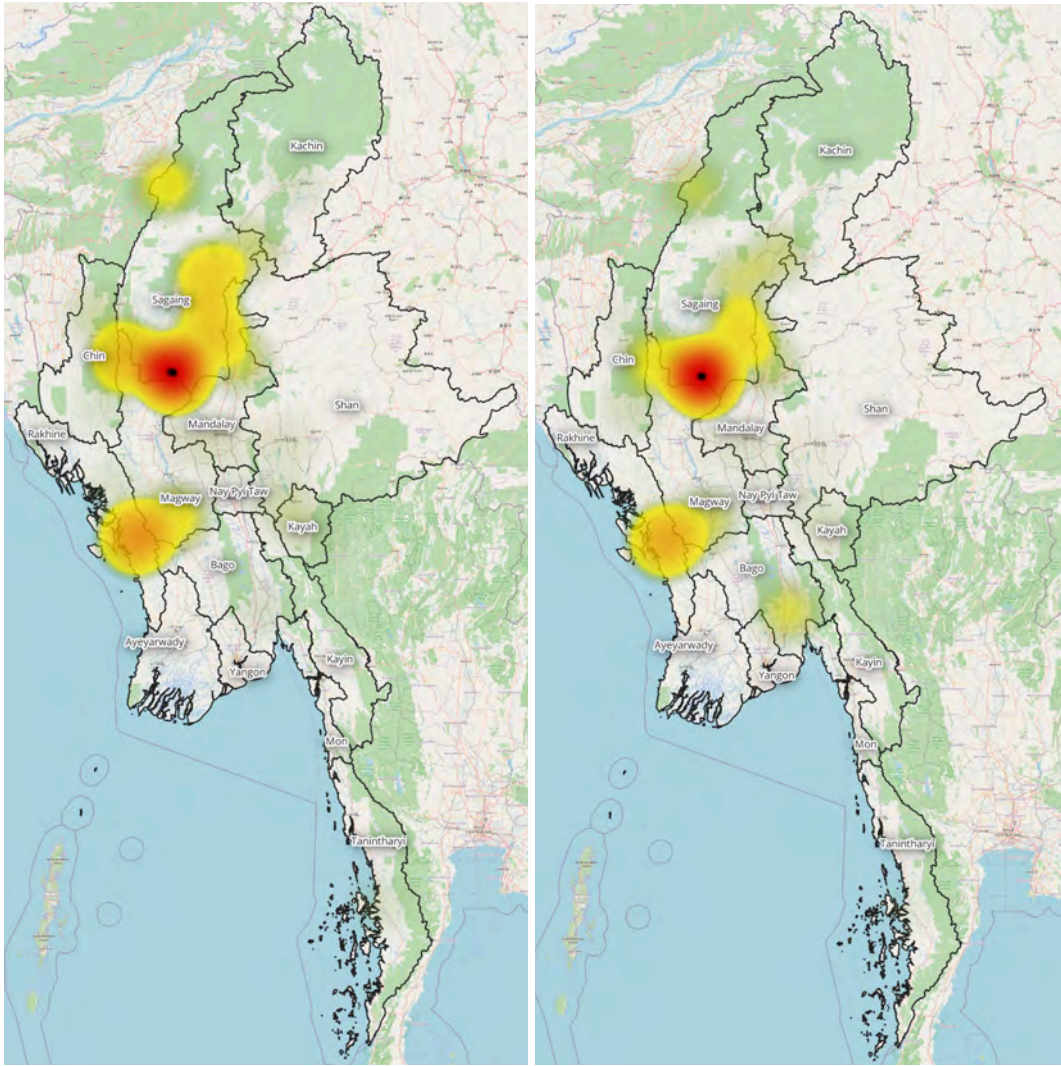


Figure 11: [Left] Heatmap of events where burnt bodies were seen. [Right] burnt bodies were claimed within Myanmar, showing a spike in the southern portion of the Sagaing region (Map created by Myanmar Witness using QGIS).

Further reports on mass killings and beheadings have also been widely reported on by Myanmar Witness, with a significant portion of them occurring in the Sagaing region. You can find these reports and others on the Myanmar Witness website.

4. IMPACT ON CIVILIANS

Given the tactics and methods used during conflict events, and considering that Sagaing appears to be among the most affected areas, it is reasonable to infer that civilians in this region may be significantly impacted. [Reports](#) indicate a significant presence of mass internally displaced people (IDPs) camps, along with claims of, food scarcity and shortages circulating on social media. Additionally, graphic User-Generated Content (UGC) showing harrowing events has emerged from Sagaing. Myanmar Witness has included four case studies below where specific tactics and violent events have been singled out to demonstrate how each incident has negatively impacted local lives and infrastructure within Sagaing. Broader trends on IDPs, food scarcity, and restrictions on movement are also highlighted in this section.

4.1 CASE STUDIES



Figure 12: Map showing the four case studies highlighted in this report, all located within the southern (dry zone) portion of the Sagaing region (Map created by Myanmar Witness using Datavrapper).

4.1.1 MYAUNG TOWNSHIP VILLAGE ATTACKS

Cluster village fires, where multiple nearby villages experience attacks within a given timeframe, have become a recurring theme in Sagaing. In Myaung Township, between 7-13 November 2022, there were [reports](#) of a military column passing through the area, firing heavy weapons, burning, and raiding eight villages in seven days, leading to civilian displacement. Myanmar Witness was able to confirm that the eight village fires occurred within that week. The attacks reportedly began over claims of an attempted food raid off of a military vessel on the Chindwin River by resistance fighters near Kyauk Tan village on 6 November 2022. The villages of Pa Rein Ma (ပရိမ္မ), Shwe Ta Chaung (ရွှေတချောင်း), Na Nwin Kaing (နန္ဒင်းကိုင်း), Su Lay Kone (ဆူးလေကုန်း), Myit Thar (မြစ်သာ), Thu Ka Di Pa (သုခဒီပ), Myit Son (မြစ်ဆုံ), and Shwe Hlan (ရွှေလှန်) were all reportedly attacked in connection with the attempted food raid, with two of the villages reportedly experiencing attacks twice within that week. Attacks on villages before November were reportedly rampant, suggesting that tensions in the region were already very high at the time of the incidents.

Incidents like this in Myaung township are unfortunately common and not only result in the destruction of homes and infrastructure but also instil fear among local civilians, potentially leading to the establishment of IDP camps. The attacks [reportedly](#) began due to claims of food being taken, with little evidence of violence or ill intent attributed to the resistance fighters. While the full extent of the impact is difficult to verify, [reports](#) suggest that these incidents may have exacerbated IDP, likely adding further pressure on food scarcity issues. These patterns of violence have been interpreted by some [observers](#) as tactics employed by the Myanmar military to control and instil fear in the surrounding region, aiming to suppress resistance movements.

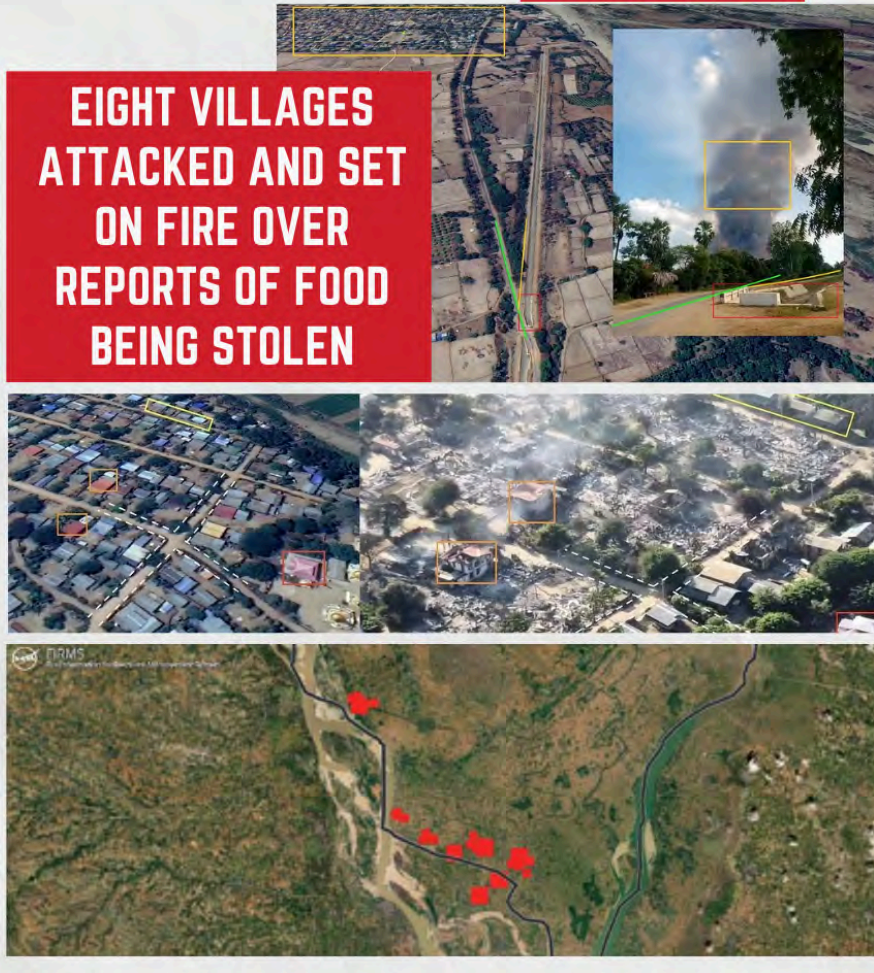


Figure 13: A PICINTSUM depicting two fire events shown in imagery and geolocated to [top] Pa Rein Ma village [21.744253, 95.227316] and [middle] Na Nwin Kaing village [21.670406, 95.256117] in Sagaing. The bottom image is from FIRMS showing fire events in the eight villages between 7-13 November 2022.

4.1.2 TABAYIN SCHOOL ATTACK

One of the most reported violent airstrikes to affect children throughout Myanmar was the [airstrike on a Tabayin township school](#). On the afternoon of 16 September 2022, Let Yet Kone village (လက်ယက်ကုန်း), Tabayin Township, Sagaing Region, was attacked by two helicopters for approximately one hour. A school and monastery [22.679376, 95.400381] were affected during the attack. Reports suggest that

between 11 and 14 people were killed, including volunteers at the school and at least six children. (Anti-SAC channels reported that seven children were killed).

This incident marked a notable case where the SAC acknowledged the attack and issued an apology, stating that they had received information about resistance forces in the vicinity. This admission demonstrates the devastating consequences of the actions taken by the MAF and the SAC in response to claims of resistance activity, which can severely impact innocent civilians, particularly teachers and children.



Figure 14: A PICINTSUM showing damage to the school, accompanied by children's shoes left outside one building. The graphic also displays geolocated damage in the area. [22.679376, 95.400381] in Let Yet Kone village.

4.1.3 MA LE THAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL ATTACK

Attacks on medical facilities may serve multiple purposes in conflict situations, potentially including area clearance before troop deployment. On 23 February 2023, MAF reportedly launched [airstrikes against Ma Le Thar](#) (မလဲသာ) village in Ayadaw township, Sagaing, with an Mi-35 helicopter. According to these reports, this incident was followed by or coincided with, a Mi-17 helicopter delivery of ground troops who reportedly conducted a raid on Ma Le Thar District Hospital (မလဲသာကျေးရွာတိုက်နယ်ဆေးရုံ) [22.113646, 95.451554]. Footage that emerged in the subsequent days appeared to show damage to the hospital structure, multiple fire locations, and destroyed medical equipment. Further reports suggest that these troops moved on to several villages after the hospital incident, allegedly engaging in [beheadings](#) and instilling terror along the way.

The reported shortage of medical personnel and supplies can have significant consequences for a community affected by the conflict. Damage to medical facilities may further compromise the ability to provide safe and adequate healthcare. Ma Le Thar's hospital was not just a local community medical centre but served the entire district potentially affecting thousands of lives. The reported attack on this regional hospital appears to be part of a [broader series](#) of incidents that may have left locals with limited access to safe medical treatment.

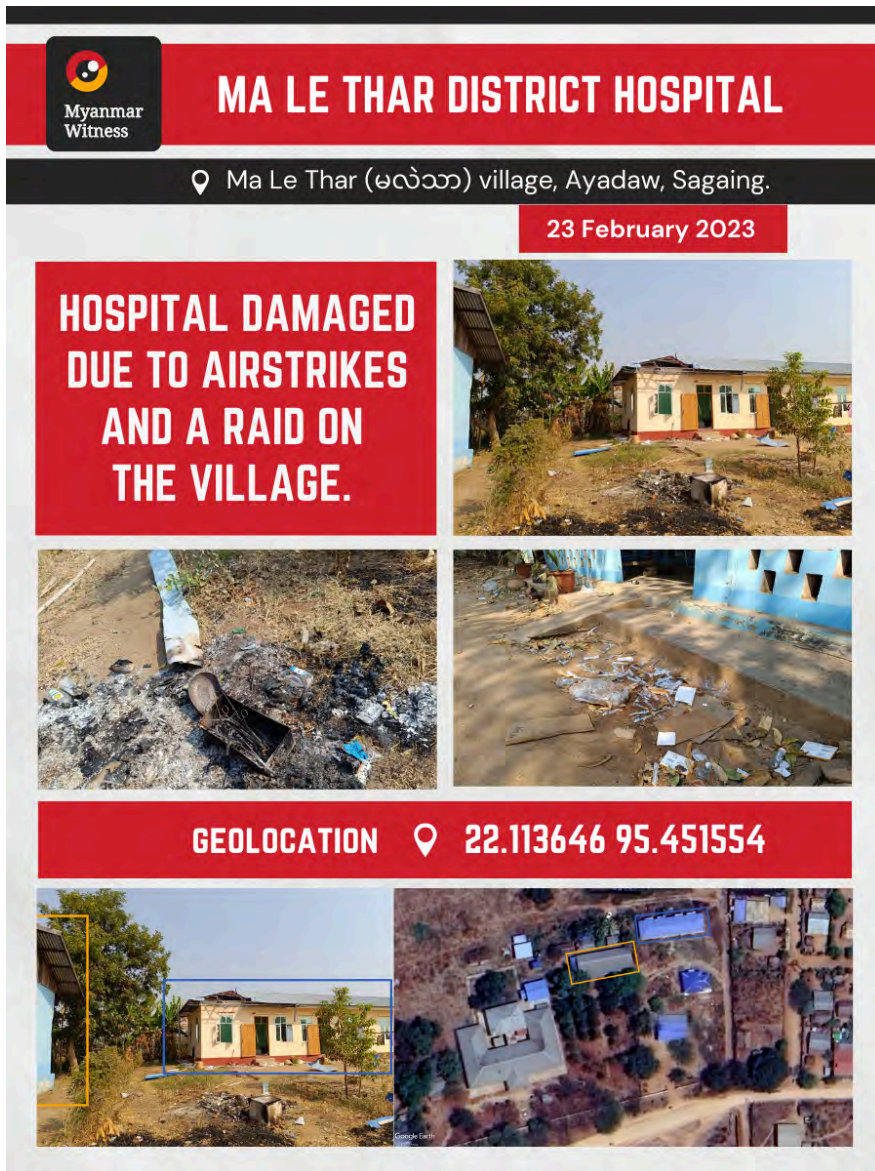


Figure 15: A PICINTSUM showing alleged airstrike hospital damage as well as raid destruction from Myanmar military ground troops in Ma Le Thar village [22.113646, 95.451554].

4.1.4 MON TAING PIN MASSACRE

The Mon Taing Pin massacre stands out as one of the most widely reported violent events in Sagaing and across Myanmar since the 2021 coup. On 10 May 2022, [reports](#) of mass detainment by Myanmar military soldiers surfaced, declaring that at least 30 villagers were being held in Mon Taing Pin (မုန်တိုင်ပင်) village, Ye-U township, Sagaing. Further claims stated that these villagers were violently tortured and killed the following day, 11 May 2022. Video footage found online reportedly shows what appeared to be Myanmar military soldiers discussing how they killed the villagers recently. While the authenticity of this footage cannot be independently verified by Myanmar Witness, its content, if genuine, raises serious

concerns about the conduct of military personnel during the conflict. Both villagers and soldiers reportedly used two public village buildings during this incident. First, a local monastery was allegedly being used by the villagers as a place of refuge right before the soldiers found them and arrested those inside. This monastery was geolocated [22.883705, 95.457162] by Myanmar Witness and is shown in Figure 16 below. Secondly, a local high school was reportedly used as a detention location for the villagers. This verification of determining the use of the monastery and further claims of a local education facility being used by the military provides strong evidence that not even non-military locations within Myanmar are deemed safe, expanding on the harrowing conditions that civilians face.



Figure 16: PICINTSUM showing the outer monastery building where the reported 30+ villagers were detained before they died in Mon Taing Pin village [22.883705, 95.457162].

4.2 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

The most reported post-attack impact on civilians after the fires, airstrikes and other aggressive tactics is the creation of IDPs and IDP camps through mass displacement. These [camps](#) are usually makeshift shelters where fast infrastructure has popped up in various locations. While Myanmar Witness has confirmed and verified the existence of many IDP camps, specific locations are often not disclosed due to safety concerns for the displaced populations. IDP camps have been reportedly attacked, but many have not been confirmed due to a lack of satellite imagery updates to verify. Despite this limitation, it does not take away from the fact that IDP camps remain unsafe residences for civilians within Myanmar.

The Sagaing region has been identified in various reports as the most affected area in Myanmar, contributing significantly to the creation of IDPs. An initial report published by United Nations [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OSHA) in August 2024 stated that there were an estimated three million IDPs in Myanmar with a map indicating that the Sagaing region contained the most IDPs, representing over one million IDPs since 1 February 2021.

Another UN source, the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR) also published an updated report on IDPs in Myanmar, which showed similar data to OSHA. As of 21 October 2024, the estimated number of total IDPs in Myanmar was stated to be 3,457,300, with Sagaing region containing 1,242,900. That estimate in Sagaing represents 36% of the total IDPs in Myanmar (figure 18). A further table from [UNHCR](#) updated on 30 June 2024 indicated that the total returned IDPs in each state or region was the lowest in Sagaing. This suggests that IDPs in Sagaing are less likely to return home compared to those in other regions or states in Myanmar.

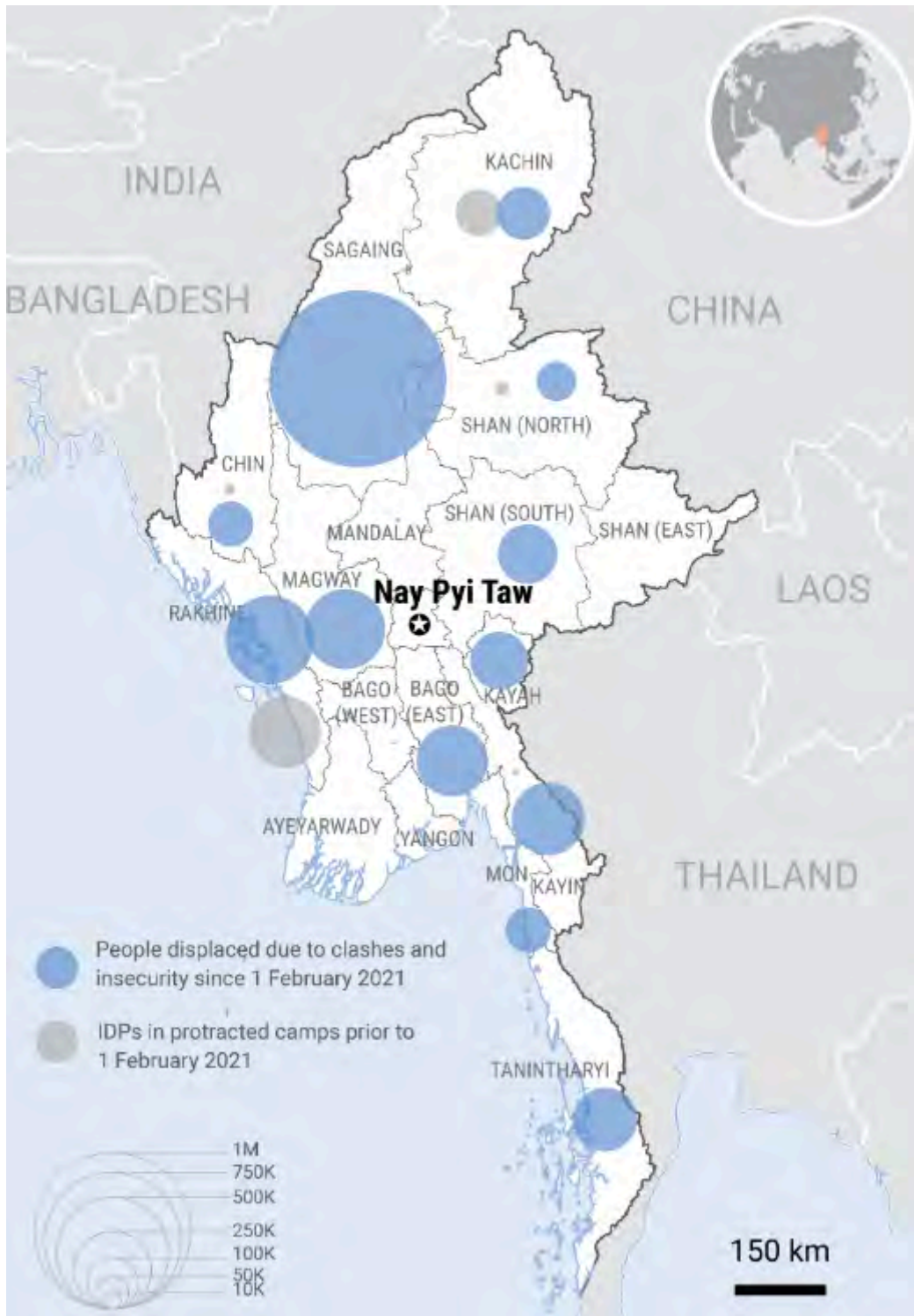


Figure 17: OSHA Map showing the Sagaing region containing the most IDPs in Myanmar since 1 February 2021, estimated to be over one million IDPs (source: [OSHA](#)).

IDPs by State/Region

JSON

Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Sagaing Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	36.0% 1,242,900
Rakhine State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	15.2% 526,800
Magway Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	7.3% 253,600
Kachin State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	6.5% 223,300
Kayin State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	6.4% 220,100
Bago (East) Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	5.9% 203,000
Tanintharyi Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	5.4% 187,500
Shan (South) State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	4.2% 145,700
Kayah State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	3.8% 131,600
Chin State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	2.6% 90,900
Mon State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	2.4% 82,800
Mandalay Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	2.4% 82,300
Shan (North) State	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	1.7% 57,200
Bago (West) Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	0.2% 6,100
Yangon Region	UN in Myanmar	21 Oct 2024	0.1% 3,500

Figure 18: A UN chart showing Sagaing region as the most reported location of IDPs in Myanmar (source: [UNHCR](#)).

The significant number of reported IDPs adds to the ongoing claims emerging from the Sagaing region. According to these reports, extreme violence, terror, and mass destruction of homes and livelihoods have left a lasting impact on the area. Many individuals are reportedly not ready to return home due to the considerable risks to their safety if they remain in their villages. The Sagaing region appears to reflect broader humanitarian challenges with Myanmar's conflict-affected areas.

4.3 FOUR CUTS STRATEGY

Further restrictions imposed on civilians by the Myanmar military include the use of the [“four cuts” strategy](#). This strategy focuses on restricting four key areas: food, funding, information, and recruits. These tight measures, often implemented through the use of tight checkpoints, further hinder freedom of [movement](#), [block aid](#), and put villages at risk of starvation. Additionally, the reported use of [fire](#) as a weapon further exacerbates the situation. Unfortunately, there lacks enough information and verified data to prove food scarcity effects indirectly show up in claims of incidents - such as the Myaung village fire attacks case study on pages 16-17. A report by [Human Rights Watch](#) writes that the military has impeded aid delivery, blocked access roads, and imposed travel restrictions on humanitarian workers in Myanmar. Actions such as this also add to the IDP crisis in Sagaing - with terrorised people reportedly not able to leave their region with ease. This suggests a potential intentional action that obstructs support for local communities and villages affected by these blocked regions, further trapping those who wish to leave and exposing them to violence and terror.

5. FINAL THOUGHTS / FUTURE MONITORING

Since the 2021 coup, Sagaing has reportedly experienced significant changes, with multiple sources indicating it has become one of Myanmar's most contested regions. Based on the case studies and thematic tactics discussed in this report, Sagaing appears to be heavily impacted by the ongoing conflict, particularly in its southern portion.

The report has documented various incidents in Sagaing, including arson, airstrikes, ground troop attacks and raids, as well as reports of civilian casualties. The presence of resistance forces in the region adds complexity to the situation. Many of those reportedly affected have been identified as civilians, including teachers, religious figures, women and children. This report has also highlighted how Sagaing has been disproportionately affected across various thematic areas, including fire incidents, airstrikes, attacks on medical facilities and school damage.

Moreover, the ongoing situation in Sagaing may have long-term implications for the region's development, education and recovery. Children's educational and career prospects could potentially be significantly impacted. There is also a possibility of spillover effects that could affect neighbouring regions.

It's important to note that the conflict dynamics in Sagaing are complex, involving various groups and a relatively recent history of armed resistance. This complexity, combined with reported restrictions on movement and challenges in accessing information from the region, may contribute to difficulties in fully understanding and reporting on the situation.

Myanmar Witness will continue to monitor and investigate reported incidents in Sagaing, aiming to provide verified information to support a clearer understanding of the ongoing situation in the region.

6. LIST OF COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

- Internally Displaced People IDP
- Myanmar Air Force MAF
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OSHA
- Open Source Intelligence OSINT
- People's Defence Force PDF
- State Administration Council SAC
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR
- User-Generated Content UGC