



# NEWSLETTER

## Special Edition for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

This newsletter brought to you by The Ministry for Women, Youths and Children's Affairs (MoWYCA) aims to provide regular updates about how the crisis in Myanmar is affecting the nation's people and how the MoWYCA and civil society groups are responding to their needs.

This addition of the MoWYCA newsletter focuses on the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and as a tactic of terrorism, currently be intentionally utilised by Myanmar's military Junta against the nation's people. Prime examples of the violence regularly inflicted on innocent citizens across the country include the stories of a pregnant woman and a postpartum mother who were raped by State Administration Council's soldiers in Ar Lywe village, Tee Tain Township, Chin State on 11th November 2021. That night three soldiers went to the house of a 35-years old pregnant woman, where they raped her several times and tortured her. At 10pm on the same night, SAC soldiers raided the home of a 29-year year old woman who had recently given birth. After forcing their way in to her home, they robbed the house of all its valuables and demanded additional money. They then beat the woman's husband with the butt of their guns, while two soldiers raped her several times. They left, but then returned a few hours later to rape her again.

On 20th February of this year, a new mother of a seven month old boy was beaten and raped by a SAC soldier in Kan Kalay Kone village, Shwebo District, Sagaing region after a soldier entered her family house and beat her and her father. Her father was forced to flee with the child, while his daughter was held by the soldiers and raped, while being told that if she ran she would not see her child again.

On 5th April, a 20-year old woman with psychological disabilities in Zagyan village, in the Mandalay region was raped by a SAC's soldier. When her parents visited the police station to complain, officers refused to accept the case and the ranking soldier in charge denied any evidence of rape, stating that the girl gave her consent.

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ချက်ချင်းရပ်၊  
ပြစ်ဒဏ်ကင်းလွတ်ခွင့် အလေ့အဖြစ်ဖြစ်



"TIME TO ACT, END SYSTEM OF IMPUNITY."

#ENDSEXUALVIOLENCEINCONFLICT  
#WHATSHAPPENINGINMYANMAR  
#ENDICTATORSHIP  
#ESVDAY  
#ESVDAY2022

# Demographics of women tortured, raped, sexually abused, sexually harassed by Military regime since Feb 1st 2021

## Demographic breakdown of young people killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021

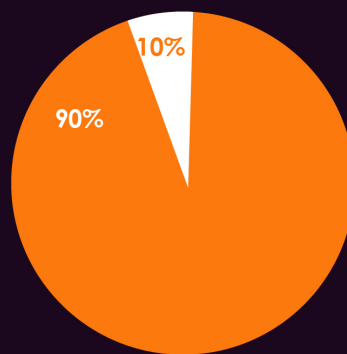
Number of young people killed

# 941

Young People account for

# 41%

of all fatalities



Young Women **82**  
Young Men **854**

### Monthly death toll

February	16
March	315
April	56
May	32
June	21
July	47
August	25
September	33
October	32
November	37
December	38
January (2022)	21
February (2022)	33
March (2022)	43
April (2022)	31
May (2022)	18
June (2022)	41
July (2022)	26
August (2022)	15

### Fatality rates by region

Sagaing	346
Yangon	158
Mandalay	151
Magway	66
Bago	42
Tanintharyi	38
Shan	30
Kachin	22
Kayah	21
Chin	14
Mon	17
Ayeyarwaddy	19
Kayin	4
Naypyitaw	4

# Demographic breakdown of women killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021



Number of women killed

# 254

Women account for  
**11%**  
of all fatalities

## Monthly death toll

February	3
March	33
April	10
May	7
June	4
July	8
August	8
September	7
October	6
November	6
December	10

## Fatality rates by region

Sagaing	100
Mandalay	36
Magway	24
Yagon	16
Kayah	13
Kachin	13
Kayin	10
Tanintharyi	9
Mon	8
Bago	7
Shan	7
Chan	6
Ayeyarwaddy	2
Rakhine	2
Naypyitaw	1

## Age

9 years old and below	11
10 - 19 years old	31
18 - 29 years old	44
30 - 39 years old	31
40 - 49 years old	27
50 - 59 years old	23
60 - 69 years old	20
70 years old and above	30
Age unidentified	37

# Demographic breakdown of children killed by the Myanmar military since February 1st 2021

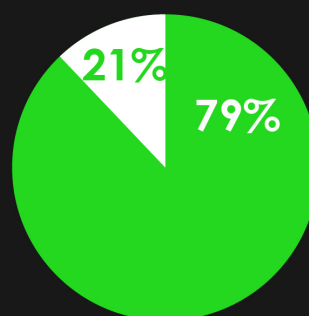
Number of children killed

# 178

Children account for

# 7.8%

of all fatalities



141 Boys  
36 Girls

## Monthly death toll

February	2
March	45
April	2
May	3
June	3
July	4
August	4
September	7
October	3
November	6
December	11
January (2022)	11
February (2022)	7
March (2022)	22
April (2022)	4
May (2022)	2
June (2022)	14
July (2022)	9
August (2022)	8
September (2022)	1

## Fatality rates by region

Sagaing	56
Mandalay	23
Magway	19
Yangon	14
Kayah	14
Chin	12
Tanintharyi	9
Shan	8
Mon	5
Kayin	5
Irrawaddy	4
Bago	4
Kachin	3
Rakhine	2

The mental and physical cost paid by women, children, young people and the LGBTQ+ community who are being systematically subjected to sexual violence by the military in the current conflict is incalculable.

Since the coup, women, young people and members of the LGBTQ+ community have bravely assumed prominent roles on the front lines of the anti-military and civil disobedience movements (CDM). Thousands have been detained in interrogation camps across the country, where they have been subjected to beatings, starvation, rape, mental abuse and in the worst cases death. Under SAC rule survivors of the violence rarely have no avenue to share their stories or access the rule of law for accountability of their experiences and the resulting trauma.

From 25th November to 10th December 2022 UNWOMEN in partnership with the Center for Women's global Leadership is launching a 16 day activism campaign. Through global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge, it will call for the end of violence against women and girls now! Ahead of this MoWYCA will submit a report to UNWOMEN detailing the impact of sexual violence resulting from the coup on the lives of women, young people and the LGBTQ+ communities of Myanmar. The report will further outline ways in which the needs of these vulnerable populations are being met by MoWYCA on the ground.

## MoWYCA Response to the rise in GBV

The National Unity Government (NUG) under MoWYCA and in partnership with other Ministries and departments is running programs that provide GBV survivors with emergency shelter, food, water, basic healthcare services, support group meetings and counselling (in person and online). MoWYCA is also running programs which record and collate the experiences of victims of GBV with the view to taking legal action. These initiatives also support CDMers in prison with basic provisions and legal support, where possible.



Women in Myanmar are bravely marching on the front lines of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) in full knowledge of the risk of sexual violence and or death they likely face, if detained by the Myanmar military.

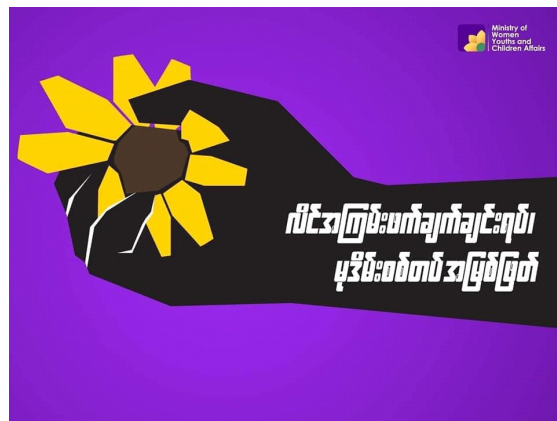


Photos from a social media campaign lead by MoWYCA Deputy Minister. The campaign goal was to galvanise UNWOMEN to take action in support of women and girls in Myanmar subjected to violence.

MoWYCA ran a social media campaign called “End Sexual Violence in Conflict”. Key messages included:

“End Sexual Violence, Stop Rapist Army”

“The Tatmadaw have perpetrated sexual violence for years. Those responsible are yet to be brought to justice. Join us to bring global attention to the gross violence perpetrated against our women and girls. Help call for the swift persecution of these criminals.”



MoWYCA is collaborating with other NUG Departments and Ministries to produce and run the following support services to women, youth and children affected by the conflict:

- Basic healthcare services and nutrition supplements.
- Vocational and professional training support their survival in a post-coup Myanmar.
- Development of laws and policies that protect women, youth, and children.
- Social and traditional media campaigns with supporting events which increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge about the current situation for women, youth and children to enable positive change.

**MoWYCA Vision** - A people-led, holistically developed Federal Union of Myanmar in which all women, young people and children can enjoy equality of opportunity and a prosperous, secure life.

**MoWYCA Mission** - Protect, enable and fulfil the rights of women, young people, and children in Myanmar. MoWYCA works with local civil society organisations networks, and individuals to set specific policies which address current problems and meet the immediate needs of the nation's most vulnerable.

**MoWYCA Objectives:**

1. To protect women, young people, and children from human rights violations, and to ensure their full enjoyment of human rights throughout this period of transition,
2. To provide the safety, basic needs and survival of women, youth, and children, and
3. To promote women, young people, and children's meaningful participation in building of federal democracy nation.



## Action taken to face down tyranny

### “Blue Shirt Day” Campaign

On 21st April, Myanmar's remembrance day for political prisoners, Union Minister of MoWYCA Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe and her team joined the annual “Blue Shirt Day” campaign. The campaign created by former political prisoner U Win Tin, before his death eight years ago, came about when he decided to wear blue shirt every day until all political prisoners in Myanmar were released.

This year, many people joined this campaign via social media. People also wore blue shirts with the hashtag #blueshirt4burma, #releaseallprisoners. There are over 9,900 recorded political prisoners in Myanmar. However, many men, women and children who have been arrested in remote areas of the country and those who have lost contact with friends and family have not been recorded. Therefore the number is likely much higher.

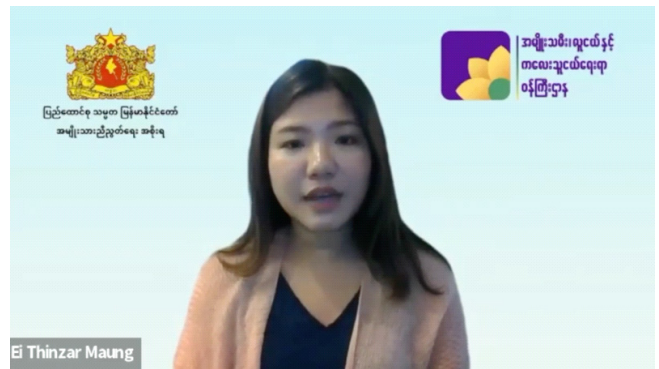
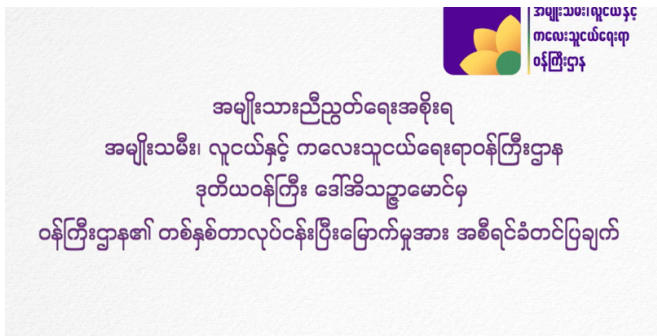
Those men, women and members of the LGBTQ+ communities and even children that are arrested at interrogation centres, often face rape, torture, sexual harassment, and abuses.



For many current political prisoners their family members don't know where they are being held and do not have contact with them. Political prisoners don't have rights to medical treatment and are brutally treated in prison. In some prisons women's cells are placed under 24 hours surveillance and CCTV, violating privacy, protection and human rights.

Annual Report of accomplishments of MoWYCA's activities

On (DATE?) the anniversary of its establishment, MoWYCA Deputy-Minister Daw Ei Thinzar Maung shared the Ministry's activities and achievements through PVTV. In addition to its extensive humanitarian responses (listed above), this included Academic Workshops (for Adobe illustration, English, Korea Language and Civic Education), cash assistance for over 2500 women to support childbirth and early life after care, as well as donations for vital household necessities.



Photos of donations of cash and household necessities from MoWYCA to local people.



MoWYCA provided donations of household utensils to people in need from Sagain region whose houses had been burnt down by SAC soldiers.



MoWYCA supported food and dry rations for people in need from Sagain region whose houses were burnt down by SAC's soldiers.



Engagement Highlights

1. ASEAN-US Special Summit 2022, Joint Vision Statement  
<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Final-ASEAN-US-Special-Summit-2022-Joint-Vision-Statement.pdf>



2. On 13th May, ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit 2022 published a Joint Vision Statement and they put a statement related to Myanmar issue. To read the full statement visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xuMGE>

3. On (DATE) The NUG released a statement on the “Response to the Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar.”

4. On 3rd May Union Minister of Foreign Affairs Daw Zin Maung and NUG Representatives met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Washington.



The Deputy Secretary underscored robust U.S. support for the people of Burma in the face of the regime’s brutal crackdown and pledged to continue providing support to all those working peacefully toward the restoration of Burma’s path to inclusive democracy.

5. On 5th April, Union Minister Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe was awarded an Excellent Service Award by the Karen Women Organization (KWO) in their 37th anniversary of establishment.



*Credit and acknowledgement of photos and images used In the newsletter goes to respective rights holder.*

## How you can help

- Donate to MOWYCA
- Pass this Newsletter on to friends, family, colleagues, and share what you’ve learnt about the situation in Myanmar and the vital work that MOWYCA is doing to support women and children
- Fundraise - kick start your own fundraising campaign to help MOWYCA
- Follow our work@ <https://mowyca.nugmyanmar.org>
- Email @ [mowyca@nugmyanmar.org](mailto:mowyca@nugmyanmar.org)
- Follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mowyca>

To learn more about our work and that of our partners, visit us for more at <http://mowyca.nugmyanmar.org>