

+ Political and social
turmoil in
Bangladesh

+ Continuing atrocities
in Myanmar and
Rohingya at risk

+ Massacre in Papua
New Guinea

MYANMAR

Populations in Myanmar continue to face [brutal atrocity crimes](#) perpetrated by the Myanmar military (the Tatmadaw) and non-state armed groups more than three years after the military coup.

The Rohingya community is under threat of another wave of genocidal violence, with emerging reports of [civilians](#) being targeted by the Arakan Army as it continues its [fierce campaign](#) to take control of Rakhine State. Tensions between the ethnic Rakhine community and Rohingya Muslims have been inflamed partly by the [forcible recruitment](#) of Rohingyas into the Myanmar military.

The military junta has used scorched earth tactics as it flees, bombing towns and villages from the air, while some soldiers have [fled](#) over the increasingly porous border to Bangladesh.

Civilians in northern Myanmar face renewed threats after a Chinese-brokered ceasefire broke down in June, leading to [intensified fighting](#) between members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance and the Tatmadaw. In Shan State the violence [displaced](#) 5,000 people in July, while in Sagaing Region the junta killed [30 civilians](#) hiding in a monastery. There are increasing reports of women being [forcibly conscripted](#) under the [February 2024 law](#).

The likelihood of further atrocities by all parties to the conflict remains extremely high. Impunity for past atrocities, ethnic conflict, and an absence of mitigating actions from regional or international actors, means the risk of war crimes, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and potentially genocidal violence against the Rohingya community, is significant.

[32 children](#) among hundreds killed in Bangladesh protests

[26 people](#) killed in Papua New Guinea massacre

[5481 civilians](#) killed by Myanmar military junta



CHINA

China continues its campaign to eradicate the culture and identity of the Uyghur population in Xinjiang, with evidence of hundreds of [Uyghur villages](#) having been renamed and any religious, historical or cultural references removed.

China has rejected calls for [human rights reforms](#) relating to [crimes against humanity](#) linked to the detention of the Uyghur population, including those raised during its fourth [Universal Periodic Review](#).

DPRK

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues oppressive policies and abuses that could constitute [crimes against humanity](#), with renewed concerns that widespread and institutionalised forced labour practices could [amount to the crime of enslavement](#).

Pyongyang has [increased repression](#) under its 'reactionary ideology and culture' law that aims to prevent North Koreans from accessing outside information.

Papua New Guinea

At least 26 people, including 16 children, were [massacred](#) in Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province over two days in July by a group of 30 young men.

Some of the women and girls were subjected to sexual violence before they were murdered, some victims had been beheaded, and houses were torched. Villagers fled and hundreds remain displaced. This latest atrocity follows a [February 2024](#) massacre in Enga Province, and several over recent years. Massacres have become more frequent in PNG, with tribal violence - traditionally used for land and communal dispute resolution - becoming increasingly deadly due to access to modern weaponry and continued [under-resourcing](#) of police in remote areas

PNG continues to have among the highest rates of sexual and [gender-based violence](#) (SGBV) in the world, including sorcery accusation-related violence. SGBV and other forms of violence may be exacerbated by natural disasters, such as the May 2024 [landslide](#), and by associated displacement. PNG is at increased risk of frequent and more deadly intergroup violence, with the risk of gender-based atrocities against women and children extremely high.

New Caledonia

French security personnel maintain an increased [presence](#) in New Caledonia following a surge of violence in May which resulted in up to 10 deaths.

The protests had erupted over concerns about constitutional reforms to give voting rights to recent French migrants to the island. This was viewed as potentially reducing the voting power of the pro-independence Kanak population and [undermining](#) their political status. Early peaceful protests turned to violent riots, with armed clashes, looting, buildings set on fire and blockades set up by protesters to prevent movement. A nightly curfew and state of emergency were declared, the latter giving authorities [greater powers](#).

While the voting amendments have been [suspended](#), and the intense riots have subsided, isolated incidents continue, including the torching of two [Catholic churches](#) and desecration of a Kanak monument in July 2024. Further, the underlying issues around New Caledonian independence remain [unresolved](#). The 2021 referendum, carried out during the Covid period, remains contested by the Kanak community, and recent [advocacy](#) from regional bodies such as the Melanesian Spearhead Group and Pacific Islands Forum has been rejected by France. These underlying issues pose a risk factor for further civil unrest and potential atrocities by both protesters and security forces.

Indonesia (West Papua)

Violence and [human rights abuses](#) continue in Indonesia's Papuan provinces, including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and unlawful [detentions](#).

In June, a [security force raid](#) in Bibida and Paniai Timur District, carried out following the killing of a non-Papuan civilian earlier in the month, led to violence between security forces and members of the West Papua National Liberation Army. The raid and associated violence forced 5,000 people to flee and seek refuge in churches, forests, and nearby towns.

The West Papua Liberation Army killed a [pilot](#) from New Zealand after he landed in a remote village, a year and half after another was kidnapped. A prominent [human rights lawyer](#), Yan Chirstian Warinussy, was shot on 17 July. Forced displacement of Indigenous Papuans remains a concern, with significant [environmental](#) damage and cultural loss. The Indonesian Government continues to refuse calls for a UN human rights mission to West Papua.

Episodes of armed conflict, human rights violations, killings and kidnappings by armed groups, against the backdrop of unresolved issues related to West Papuan independence, fuel the likelihood of further violence and potential atrocities.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh faces massive social and political unrest with escalating violence, including attacks against religious [minorities](#).

In early August, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country after 20 years in power, amid an [increasingly tense situation](#) that saw 90 people killed in [anti-government protests](#). The unrest began in July with [student protests](#) opposing quotas for government jobs, during which at least 200 people were killed by security forces, including [32 children](#). Several police officers were killed when protesters attacked a police station during the latest demonstrations.

The government shut down mobile internet access and detained around 10,000 people, with accusations of torture

and disappearances coming from ex-military who support the protests.

The Bangladesh Army chief announced the formation of an interim [government](#) with Nobel Peace Prize laureate [Muhammad Yunus](#) as its head. There are increasing reports of [attacks](#) against the Hindu minority population, who are viewed as supporting Sheik Hasina's Awami League party.

The risk for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar camps, already vulnerable to violence by armed [criminal groups](#) and unable to return to Myanmar due to the conflict in Rakhine, is amplified by the current turmoil.

Given [unresolved historical conflicts](#), religious divides and political upheaval, the likelihood of further violence and risk of atrocities is high. Image Rayhan Ahmed

