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Myanmar

Cross-border crime between Myanmar and Thailand continues to escalate, with money laundering and online scamming at the heart of the illegal business. These ventures have led to an increase in kidnapping and forced labour, and victims are mostly from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. A recent UN investigation estimates that approximately 120,000 kidnapped persons are currently in Myanmar, and a small number of persons rescued in early 2025 spoke of repeated torture that included electrocution, caning, and beatings that resulted in broken bones.

In March 2025, a magnitude 7.7 earthquake hit the centre of the country killing more than 4,000 people. [Aid to date has been largely confiscated by the military government](#) and then distributed according to their wishes, and efforts to begin rebuilding infrastructure is minimal. There is risk of disease due to the presence of stagnant water in the rubble, including the threat of cholera.

As a result of the earthquake the Junta announced a ceasefire to hostilities, [yet it has since broken this ceasefire with over 120 attacks](#) reported across the country, resulting in the indiscriminate killing and maiming of civilians. On 12 May it was reported that the Tatmadaw had bombed a school in the Sagaing Region, killing 24 children and 2 teachers. This was one attack among [243 others](#) reported since the earthquake, of which 171 were airstrikes on both military and civilian targets. On 19 April one of these aerial attacks in the Mandalay Region killed 32 persons after the Junta dropped two large bombs on crowds that had gathered to celebrate the Thingyan Water Festival.

The country's access to free and independent news is hampered with the US government announcement that it [would cease funding](#) the US Agency for Global Media, affecting the programmes Voice of America and Radio Free Asia, both of which provided non-Junta regulated news to residents. This went hand-in-hand with US Government aid cuts that had already affected many civil society news outlets, resulting in a "troubling information vacuum."

427 Rohingya refugees drown after boats sink in Burmese waters

500 Indonesian troops deployed to highlands of West Papua

23 gold miners killed in West Papua

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

International efforts to address ongoing crimes against humanity in the DPRK have been hampered by [US funding cuts](#). At the same time, the DPRK may be [implicated in war crimes](#) in its military assistance to Russia in its war against Ukraine.

China

Many of the laws and policies linked to the Chinese state's systematic persecution of Uyghurs remain in place. In February, Thai authorities forcibly deported 40 Uyghurs to China, in contravention of the principle of non-refoulement and [despite warnings](#) that they could face serious human rights abuses.

Papua New Guinea

Tribal violence continues in PNG, with [7 persons reportedly killed](#) in clashes in the Enga Province in May 2025. Such violence risks escalation with sixty local frontline mediators - known as [Peace Officials - threatening to abandon their roles](#) in mediating peace across New Guinea's highlands. These mediators are calling for better legislation and widespread government reform that would formalise the work they are doing in regional peace efforts. This includes a need to adequately financially compensate those who help bring resolution to tribal conflict.

The reported violence in the Enga Province is just one incident in a series of violent clashes that, in 2024, resulted in the deaths of over 60 persons. A 2024 peace agreement between tribes in the Highlands had quelled fighting, yet this recent clash suggests that the terms of this agreement are no longer being adhered to. Groups are fighting over resources and land tenure, and the violence is erupting at mine sites, along tributary roads, and in villages.

Bangladesh

[Rohingya militant groups](#) in Bangladesh have killed, abducted, tortured, and threatened Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, which could amount to war crimes. Two rival Rohingya armed militant groups operating in Bangladesh, primarily the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), have carried out killings. The unrest and political instability in Bangladesh and the civil war in Myanmar are driving more Rohingya to risk dangerous boat journeys to safety.

[The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) expressed grave concern over reports that two boats carrying Rohingya refugees sank off the coast of Myanmar in May 2025, with an estimated 427 people dead. [The Rohingya on board](#) were either leaving Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar refugee camps or fleeing Rakhine state, Myanmar. This is a reminder of the importance for the international community to continue providing life-saving assistance to Rohingya refugees.

[Political unrest](#) in the country between the nation's interim government and the army and opposition parties poses to ignite violence, with a recent [UN report outlining](#) the capacity of the Bangladesh military to commit serious human rights violations, as exemplified in the lead-up to the ousting of the previous government.

Indonesia

In March 2025, the Indonesian government unanimously voted to amend the nation's Indonesian National Armed Forces Law (TNI Law). The law will now allow military and military-affiliated individuals more access to previously civilian-held governmental positions across various portfolios. The law also allows the Indonesian military a stronger policing role in responding to "domestic security threats," with commentators worried that this amendment could be utilised by the military to crush dissent under the guise of national security. This amendment allows any military intervention to rest with the President and his ministers, rather than it being a decision for the State and Parliament more broadly, as was previously the case. The law also incorporates provisions to counter cyber defence threats that "targets parties motivated to undermine public trust in defence institutions and the government - [a category that could easily be interpreted to cover civil society groups critical of the government](#)."

Indonesian police employed brutality and arbitrary use of force against May Day protestors. [In Jakarta](#), paramedics were reported to have been assaulted and four of these medical professionals were wrongfully arrested. Another 10 persons were arrested and these "sustained external injuries and bruises across their bodies. Victims reported being punched, choked, shoved, kicked, and even run over by motor vehicles." In Semarang, there were reports of the police beating [journalists and students](#).

Similar violence was seen earlier in the year, in March, when protestors took to the streets in response to the amended TNI Laws. [In Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, and Makassar](#), unlawful and excessive use of force by police and military was reported, with assaults and arbitrary arrest a commonality across these demonstrations.

In West Papua, violence has erupted in the highlands between the Indonesian military and West Papuan liberation fighters (KOMNAS TPNPB). In the North Papua Region, over 500 Indonesian forces are reported to have burnt both villages and "illegitimate" churches, with fighting between the liberation forces and the Indonesian army leading to the death of one member of the TPNPB.

This surge in Indonesian troop numbers comes as a response to the TPNPB reportedly killing as many as 23 gold miners in the Yahukimo and Pegunungan Bintang regencies across April. Those killed by the liberation army were, according to the group's spokesperson, conducting illegal pro-Indonesian activities such as spying. Other victims who survived these attacks suffered ["gunshots, machete slashes, and arrow injuries."](#)

There have also been reports of ["ethnic horizontal violence"](#) that have seen clashes between tribal and indigenous groups, with deaths reported as a result. This violence is what the Indonesian government has used to justify the deployment of their security forces to the region.

The Pacific

A recent [ABC article](#) has outlined extensive and widespread gender-based violence across the region, including in PNG, Fiji, and Solomon Islands. The problem is so severe that it has been described as "endemic" to the region, [with as many as 1.5 million](#) women in PNG experiencing violence every year, and approximately 79 per cent of women in the region experiencing violence in their lifetime, including rape, bashings, underage marriage, and murder. In Fiji, [a recent spate of domestic violence deaths](#) has led community leaders to call on government and community leaders for urgent reform to policy and community practices.

Climate change continues to affect the region, with whole communities such as the Walande community in the Solomon Islands, being relocated due to rising seas and intensifying weather. As a response to threats of this nature, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa formally requested that the International Criminal Court recognise ecocide as an international crime, meaning that individuals could be prosecuted for acts such as widespread deforestation or significant oil spills. This is seen as a needed step towards making company and government representatives accountable for actions that are exacerbating climate change conditions in the Pacific.