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## Myanmar

Myanmar conducted [elections](#) from the 28 December 2025 to 25 January 2026. On 31 January 2026, Myanmar state media reported that the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) had won an overwhelming majority in Myanmar's two legislative chambers

As a result, the junta announced that parliament will convene in March to elect a president, and that the new government will take up its duties in April 2026. Many, including the [UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar](#), the [EU](#), and various [human rights groups](#), have condemned the Myanmar elections as lacking credibility and legitimacy.

These elections triggered new waves of attacks and violence against civilians, according to a [UN report from January 2026](#). The military launched 408 military air attacks in this period, killing at least 170 civilians. [The junta](#) also arrested 324 men and 80 women to suppress dissent.

There are also reports that [people cast their votes under coercion and out of fear of the junta](#), with the junta threatening forced conscription, denying people access to food, and denying border passes, passport renewals or university

registrations. [People](#) were also threatened by armed groups and told not to vote. As a result, civilians were scrutinised, coerced, punished, harmed, and even killed, caught between the junta who were determined to secure elections, and opposition forces who rejected and contested the voting.

From 12 to 29 January 2026, [the International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) held hearings on a genocide case](#) brought by The Gambia against the Myanmar government, on the breach of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. [Rohingya victims](#) travelled to The Hague as witnesses. The Gambia filed the case in 2019, accusing the Myanmar government of deliberately seeking to destroy the country's minority Muslim population, the Rohingya, in whole or in part, through Myanmar's 'clearance operations.' It is widely regarded as a [landmark case](#) as this is the first time ICJ judges are set to rule on a dispute brought by a country not impacted by the alleged crime.

[During the hearings](#), The Gambia's legal team presented evidence that Myanmar military officials incited violence through hate speech, referring to Rohingya as 'Muslim dogs' and calling for their extermination. Myanmar continued to

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Over 500 persons injured and 4 killed in the lead-up to elections in Bangladesh

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10,000 more Cambodian troops deployed to Thai-Cambodia border region

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170 persons killed during Myanmar's election period

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refer to the Rohingya as 'Bengalis,' a word that is deeply offensive to the Rohingya, during the ongoing ICJ proceedings. The Bangladesh government strongly rejected Myanmar's portrayal of the Rohingya as 'Bengalis.' Such efforts, as stated by the Bangladesh government on 23 January 2026, denied the Rohingya's inherent right to self-identify and formed the core of the efforts to destroy the community by evicting them from Rakhine and rendering them stateless. [The ICJ is expected to deliver a ruling in late 2026](#) on whether Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya breached the Genocide Convention.

## The Philippines

Fighting broke out in the region of Occidental Mindoro on New Years Day, 2026, [when four battalions](#) of the Armed Forces of The Philippines came into conflict with the New People's Army, resulting in the wounding of a soldier. While the causality list was minor, this outbreak is evidence that tensions remain between the overseeing army and rebel groups, even when public ceasefire declarations and agreements are in place. There was criticism over the excessive force the army employed during the skirmish, including heavy gunfire and helicopter gunships, which local politician Renee Co said ['do not protect communities. They terrorize them.'](#)

The Confirmation of Charges hearing for Former President Duterte was held from 23 – 27 February at the ICC, thereafter giving judges 60 days to determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a full trial of Duterte for [crimes against humanity](#) that includes the charges of murder and attempted murder.

# Indonesia

The current Prabowo Administration remains under scrutiny by news agencies and CSOs who believe the government continues to revive 'draconian' laws that date from the Suharto era. Recently, President Prabowo requested the drafting of 'The Combating Disinformation and Foreign Propaganda Bill' that is aimed [at curtailing the spread of so-called misinformation and disinformation](#), alongside foreign interference.

The bill is ostensibly aimed at filling a legal gap in identifying and addressing foreign disinformation and 'influence operations'—a concern shared by other countries. However, critics of the bill argue that there is already existing legislation in place and the timing of the bill, which follows President Prabowo's claims that the nationwide protests in August 2025 had foreign backers, raises concerns that it is part of a broader crackdown on civic space. Experts [warn](#) that the bill's definition of 'foreign propaganda' and restrictions on 'foreign capital' could be used to target locally based civil society groups or media outlets with international affiliations and restrict Indonesian CSOs from accepting foreign funding. The introduction of this bill risks further governmental control of media and civic space alongside a heightened campaign aimed at government critics.

In West Papua tensions continues to increase with the Indonesian military accused of [employing drones to drop bombs](#) on local villages and a makeshift refugee camp used by those already displaced by Indonesian presence. In a separate incident, two Indonesian commercial pilots were executed in South Papua when armed gunmen, supposedly from a separatist group, opened fire on their plane that had just landed. While the passengers and pilots initially escaped the gunfire, [the two pilots were later captured and then murdered on the runway](#).

## Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby has been the site of forced evictions with two settlement camps being demolished and with those affected, including women and children, having no recourse to other shelter. The most notable of these evictions occurred at Two-Mile and Four-Mile sites in the nation's capital in February 2026, with further evictions said to occur in the very near future. Two police were shot and killed at the Two-Mile clearance, and there has been unrest reported elsewhere. It was estimated that [5,000 persons](#) were left homeless as a result of the evictions at Four-Mile, with risks to those evicted including child sex trafficking, increase in domestic violence, and mental and physical health problems from living on the streets of Port Moresby.

[Local government officials](#) state that this clearance was needed to reduce criminalisation, yet some families located in the settlements have been living in these locations for three to four generations, including some who fled to Port Moresby from West Papua when Indonesia took control of the province. More recently, the PNG Prime Minister, the Hon. James Marape, apologised to residents of these settlements and said that a permanent relocation plan will be in place by mid-year 2026.

In the Oro Province 5 people were beheaded and 13 others injured by a regional gang known as the 'Don't Care' gang in early March 2026. The deaths and injuries were reportedly carried out as [retaliation against communities](#) that resisted the gang's criminal activity. Recent Facebook footage shows members of the gang arrested by local police. [The leader of the gang was shot dead by police on March 3, 2026](#). This gang had been responsible for widespread murder and rape in the past, with 50 persons killed by the gang in June 2024, including 16 children. [The violence reportedly started over land rights and rights to a local lake](#).

# Bangladesh

On 12 February 2026, Bangladeshis went to the polls in the first general election since the July 2024 uprising that overthrew Sheikh Hasina. [The Bangladesh Nationalist Party \(BNP\)](#), led by the new prime minister Tarique Rahman, has returned to power after winning a landslide victory in the country's [parliamentary elections](#). The Awami League, which had held power for 15 years prior to Sheikh Hasina's ousting, was banned from contesting the elections. [Jamaat-e-Islami](#) became the main opposition party for the first time after winning the second-highest vote share.

Alongside the election, there was a [referendum](#) on the [July National Charter](#), which was approved by [60.26 per cent](#) of voters. [The July National Charter](#) outlines a roadmap for constitutional amendments, legal changes, and the enactment of new laws. A Constitutional Reform Council is expected to execute these reforms within 270 working days.

In the months preceding the elections, human rights groups expressed concerns over increased violence against [women and girls and attacks on minorities](#), particularly Hindus and ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. On 18 December, Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu, was [lynched and burned by a mob](#) outside the factory where he worked, for allegedly insulting the Prophet Muhammad. The attack followed warnings of [increasing risks of sectarian violence](#) due to the expanding influence of Islamist factions and rising anti-Hindu sentiment.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh faced increased restrictions and security measures in the lead up to the elections. The Election Commission issued [a series of strict security directives](#) that barred Rohingya from participating in any election-related activities. Rohingya were prohibited from leaving camps during the election period, and [law enforcement agencies](#) were ordered to increase patrols, strengthen identity checks, and intensify searches at checkpoints. On February 5, 2026, security forces detained [345 Rohingyas, including 176 men, 86 women, and 83 children and adolescents](#) during a late-night operation in the district of Chandanaish Upazila and transferred them to a nearby camp that homes Rohingya. Such movement restrictions and increased security measures raises risk of human rights violations, particularly sexual and gender-based violence.

There has also been an [uptick in political violence](#) surrounding the elections. On 15 February 2026, [Ain o Salish Kendra \(ASK\) voiced concerns](#) over [incidents of violence](#), fatalities, and attacks on political opponents in the aftermath of the national election and referendum, urging political parties to exercise restraint and for those authorities concerned to ensure accountability. For example, [a local BNP leader](#) in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of Dhaka, while sitting at a neighbourhood election office.

## Cambodia /Thailand

While the second Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire negotiated on 27 December of last year remains in place, there is a risk of renewed conflict. On 24 February, Thai and Cambodian forces [exchanged fire](#) across the border, allegedly in response to a grenade launched by Cambodian forces at Thai patrols near the border. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet has also accused Thailand of breaching the ceasefire agreement, recently publicly stating that [Thai troops were still occupying parts of Cambodia](#). Along the border, Thai troops have blocked roads with shipping containers and barbed wire, resulting in as many as 80,000 persons not being able to return to their villages. There is a growing military presence along the border, with Cambodia recently shifting an extra 10,000 troops to a border region.

Tensions are heightened by accusations made by both countries. The Cambodian government [formally protested](#) that Thai navy boats crossed into Cambodian waters when detaining a Cambodian fishing boat on 22 February 2026, in a 'a clear violation of Cambodia's sovereignty.' Thailand is investigating [whether wildfires have been deliberately lit](#) by Cambodia to interrupt military presence in the area. [The Thai prime minister also accused Cambodia of harbouring online scam syndicates](#), suggesting that these criminals are causing widespread global damage.

The heated rhetoric and ceasefire violations raises the prospect of reigniting the conflict and places border populations at continued risk of war crimes.