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MYANMAR

Across August to September 2026 the Myanmar military continued to conduct deadly airstrikes against civilians in the Rakhine state, Chin state and Sagaing region. According to the [Head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar](#), Nicholas Koumjian, the Myanmar military increasingly deployed paramotors and drones, which are more difficult to detect than planes and leave civilians with less time to seek shelter. There has also been a rise in double tap strikes in which a second-strike targets first responders and individuals assisting the injured.

The Myanmar military conducted [27 airstrikes](#) on Arakan Army-controlled towns across Rakhine and Chin states in July and August, killing and injuring more than 200 civilians. On 28 September, the military bombed [a market in Kyauktaw Township](#), Rakhine State, reportedly killing at least 50 people and injuring 58 others. On 21 August 2026, the military bombed a monastery where 14 civilians were killed during a Buddhist retreat in central Sagaing region. Airstrikes that are indiscriminate or deliberately target civilians may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity.

August 2026 marked [nine years](#) since the Myanmar military launched a genocidal 'clearance' campaign against the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The Rohingya population continue to live under constant threat of violence and persecution, and many remain without citizenship and protection. On 25 August 2026, a United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [report](#) covering the period from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026, documented deteriorating conditions for Rohingya under both the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army. Reported abuses include killings, torture, forced recruitment, forced labour, arbitrary detention, sexual and gender-based violence, land confiscation, and displacement. [UN experts](#) called for the international community to protect the Rohingya from ongoing violence, forced recruitment, displacement, and other serious human rights violations.

On 29 September, the Malaysian government deported [1,476 Myanmar Rohingya nationals](#)—1,370 men, 79 women, 20 boys, and 7 girls, ages 8 to 60—in coordination with the Myanmar authorities. The transfer was the first phase of an arrangement between the Malaysian government and Myanmar authorities to return 5,000 Rohingya currently residing in Malaysia. As the Myanmar military continues to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity, the forcible deportation of Myanmar nationals puts these people at real risk of persecution, torture, a threat to life, and other serious human rights violations.

Indonesia

Indonesia is experiencing an intensified period of forest and land fires linked to the deliberate use of ‘slash and burn’ methods to clear land for palm oil plantations and other agroforestry industries. Burning has continued for several months on the islands of Borneo, Papua, Kalimantan and Sumatra, and spread to other parts of Indonesia to reach a 7-year nationwide high, with significant consequences for Indigenous communities, wildlife, and public health. Nineteen [companies have been found to be linked](#) to the fires, and the government has so far arrested 113 persons, though the outcomes of these arrests are yet to be determined. The scale of the destruction, along with the deliberate role of corporate actors, places these fires within the growing international debate over whether ‘[ecocide](#)’ should be recognised as an international crime and included in [ongoing negotiations](#) of a new United Nations treaty on crimes against humanity.

Indonesia’s National Commission on Human Rights (*Komnas HAM*) recently described West Papua as an ‘[increasingly critical situation](#)’ for human rights. International concern has also intensified. During the General Debate of the 81st UN General Assembly in September, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands raised concerns over persistent human rights violations in West Papua and called on Indonesia to honour its 2018 commitment to facilitate a visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Melanesian Spearhead Group [also warned](#) that Indonesia’s associate member status will be reviewed at its 2027 summit if Jakarta does not allow the High Commissioner to visit West Papua and independently assess and report on the human rights situation.

Malaysia

Malaysian officials recently sent back nearly 1,500 Rohingya to Myanmar. Citing reports of an upsurge in violence against Rohingya in the country, Malaysia’s Home Minister described the refugees as a ‘[financial burden, a social threat, and a security threat](#).’ Although Malaysia has not ratified the 1951 UN Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, it remains bound by the principle of *non-refoulement* under customary international law, which prohibits the return of persons to countries where they would be at risk of serious harm. The return of Rohingya to Myanmar raises serious concerns under this principle, given the systematic persecution, widespread human rights violations, and ongoing risks of atrocity crimes facing Rohingya communities in Myanmar.

Papua New Guinea

PNG continues to be plagued with gang violence, with multiple reports of killings—including beheadings—by gangs across the nation. In Lae, the violence has escalated due to an influx of guns [with youths being recruited](#) into gangs such as Operation Brukim Tulait (OBT). There have also been retaliatory murders when family and community members of those victims seek revenge. Gang violence remains a constant threat in PNG with beheadings and murders across many regions including [the bashing death of a doctor](#) by seven men who mistook the doctor for a night-time robber. With the effects of El Nino beginning to manifest across all of PNG, there remains a greater risk of violence as communities suffer from lack of food, water and other much needed resources.

In the Enga Province in September, reports have emerged of [a mass killing](#) by the PNG Kumul 23 elite police unit. These reports, that have been substantiated by footage on social media, suggest eight persons were killed and others missing when police forces attacked villages suspected of illegal mining, with the villages razed by the police unit.

The Philippines

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) held its first parliamentary election in September. Although officials described the vote as ‘[generally peaceful](#)’, election-related violence left at least four people dead and around 20 injured. No party won a majority, and the Bangsamoro Federalist Party (BFP), a breakaway party from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) led by Interim BARMM Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, has since announced a 46-member coalition capable of securing leadership when the parliament opens on 30 October. The MILF’s own party, the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP), is set to be left outside government while the decommissioning of nearly 14,000 MILF combatants remains incomplete. Tensions between MILF-linked political rivals, compounded by clan conflict (*rido*), heighten the risk of localised post-election violence, particularly if the UBJP is perceived to be shut out of government.