

# Deadly Demonstrations: Fatalities From State Engagement on the Rise

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The number of fatalities from state engagement in demonstrations around the world this year already exceeds the total reported for all of 2020. ACLED Research Coordinator Elliott Bynum and ACLED Analysis Coordinator Timothy Lay review the latest global data and examine three key cases: Myanmar, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

# DEADLY DEMONSTRATIONS

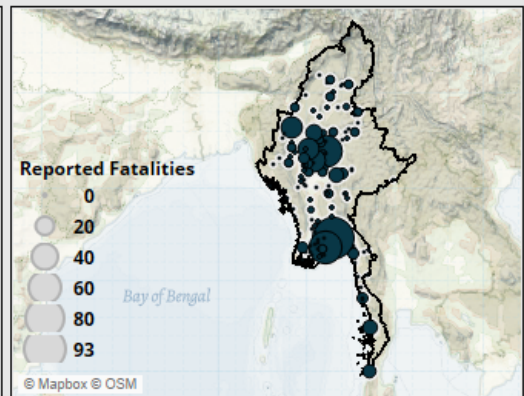
## State Engagement in Demonstrations Globally Has Become More Deadly in 2021



### MYANMAR

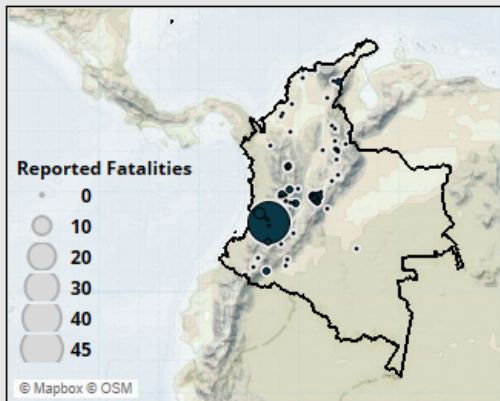
Thus far in 2021, Myanmar is the deadliest country for demonstrators. Over **60%** of demonstrators killed by state forces around the world so far in 2021 have been in Myanmar.

After the military staged a coup on 1 February 2021, demonstrators took to the streets to reject a return to military rule. Thousands of anti-coup demonstrations have been held across the country. The military responded to many of these demonstrations with lethal force, leaving hundreds dead. Despite the deadly crackdown, the people of Myanmar continue to resist the military coup.



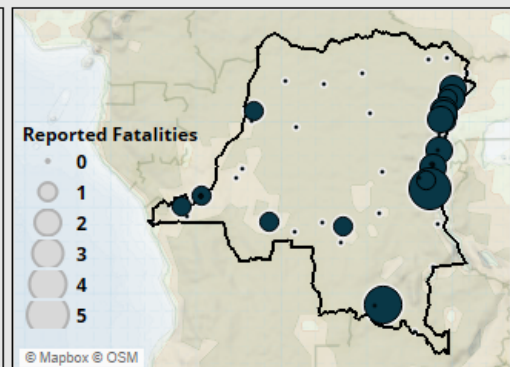
### COLOMBIA

Demonstrators in Colombia also face high risk, second only to Myanmar. Thus far in 2021, there has been a **58%** increase in demonstration-related fatalities in Colombia following engagement by state forces, compared to the entirety of 2020. Police have cracked down on months of popular anti-government demonstrations that began in late April 2021. The demonstrations started in response to proposed tax reforms, before expanding to encompass wider discontent with government policies on health, education, and other social issues. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated inequality in the country.



### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Demonstrations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have also turned deadly in 2021. So far in 2021, fatalities have been reported in **13%** of demonstrations with state engagement across the DRC. State forces have employed lethal force during a number of demonstrations against ongoing insecurity, particularly in the eastern provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, as well as South Kivu. In April 2021, several demonstrators were killed when state forces opened fire on demonstrators calling for the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from North Kivu over their alleged mismanagement of the security situation.



\*ACLED does not yet cover Canada or Oceania. Data shown for 2021 are current as of 30 September 2021. Demonstrations shown on the maps are only those in 2021 with state engagement. For more on ACLED's fatality methodology, see the Resource Library on ACLED's website.



ACLED is the highest quality, most widely used, real-time data and analysis source on political violence and protest around the world. Practitioners, researchers, and governments depend on ACLED for the latest reliable information on current conflict and disorder patterns. Data and analysis are found on [acleddata.com](https://acleddata.com).

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