
THEMATIC INVESTIGATION

Killing Spree: Evidence of mass killings in Myanmar

September 2021 to September 2022

REPORT BY MYANMAR WITNESS, 2 November 2022

Executive Summary

Myanmar Witness (MW) has investigated and verified footage relating to seven incidents in which over 100 civilians and persons hors de combat were reportedly killed by the Myanmar military between September 2021 and September 2022. 20 of those killed were under the age of 18.

The killings were reported to be retaliation by the Myanmar security forces for local People Defence Force (PDF) activity in the surrounding area. They took place in the context of raids against villages in areas where PDF forces were active, or in the aftermath of PDF attacks against military forces in the local area.

According to eyewitness testimony, those killed were either civilians, or (in two cases) civilians and a small number of men with light arms who had stayed to protect villages from attack. With the exception of one case involving Border Guard Force personnel, all the bodies in the footage verified by Myanmar Witness were in civilian clothing. The majority were reported to be unarmed. Arms not linked to the military were visible in only one piece of footage linked to the killings. In three incidents, it was reported that those killed were internally displaced people (IDPs) who had fled fighting.

In six of the cases, attacks appear to target men and boys. The vast majority of reported deaths were male. All identifiable corpses in footage verified by Myanmar Witness were male. In the seventh case, women, children and aid workers were among the casualties.

In six of the seven incidents, those killed were reported to be under military arrest at the time they were killed. In two cases, Myanmar Witness verified footage showing individuals or bodies bound with rope at the scene of the incident. In three other cases, the bodies were

too badly burnt to visually determine whether they were bound, as reported by local residents and in post mortem evidence. In the sixth case, verified footage was consistent with eyewitness reports of civilians being shot in the back.

In four of the incidents, bodies in footage verified by Myanmar Witness showed serious injuries, including those consistent with bullet wounds. In the other three incidents, eyewitnesses and medical professionals who examined the bodies reported severe injuries, but the bodies were too badly burnt to visually confirm these reports through examination of available footage.

In six of the incidents, Myanmar Witness verified fires at the location of the killing, where bodies and/or buildings (including homes, agricultural buildings and a religious compound sheltering IDPS) and vehicles were burnt. This is consistent with the pattern of fires being used against communities in Myanmar, as documented in Myanmar Witness' report [Burning Myanmar](#) and on Myanmar Witness' [Fire Map](#).

Videos from one incident shows a group of soldiers detaining men in civilian clothing. The same soldiers are then seen standing over corpses and boasting about violently killing 'dozens of individuals'. In a second case, Myanmar Witness verified images of spent ammunition compatible with standard-issues military rifles, photographed next to packaging from Myanmar military defence equipment factories. In the other cases, verified footage is consistent with eyewitness accounts of military involvement and reports of military operations in the area at the time.

These incidents of mass killing and violence, while inexhaustive, provide an insight into the modus operandi of the Myanmar military. It provides further evidence to support the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)'s [conclusion](#) that 'there are ample indications that since the military takeover in February 2021, crimes have been committed in Myanmar on a scale and in a manner that constitutes a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population'... including "crimes against humanity of murder ...and intentional attacks against the civilian population".

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Table of Contents	3
Introduction and Context	4
Methodology	5
Limitations	6
Myin Thar, Gangaw Township, Magway - 9 September 2021 (partially verified)	7
Background	7
Verification	7
Don Taw, Salingyi Township, Sagaing - 7 December 2021 (fully verified)	9
Background	9
Verification	9
Moso, Hpruso township, Kayah - 24 December 2021 (fully verified)	11
Background	11
Verification	12
Thit Sein Gyi, Wetlet township, Sagaing – 29 January 2022 (fully verified)	17
Background	17
Verification	17
Yay Yo, Loikaw, Kayah - 25-27 January 2022 (fully verified)	20
Background	20
Verification	20
Mon Taing Pin, Ye-U Township, Sagaing - 9 May 2022 (fully verified)	24
Background	24
Verification	24
Kan Pyar, Myinmu Township, Sagaing - 6 June 2022 (fully verified)	30
Background	30
Verification	30
Conclusion	33

Introduction and Context

Following a joint [investigation](#) with the BBC into killings in Kani Township, Sagaing in July 2021 Myanmar Witness identified and investigated a number of incidents involving the discovery of significant numbers of corpses. Each of these followed reports of anti-regime protests and clashes between the security forces and local defence forces in the surrounding area. The report sets out Myanmar Witness' verification of seven separate reports of extrajudicial killings allegedly committed by the Burmese military. These include reports of up to:

- 18 dead in Myin Thar, Gangaw Township, Magway, September, 2021 (partially verified)
- 11 dead in Don Taw, Salingyi Township, Sagaing, December 2021 (fully verified)
- 35 dead near Moso, Hpruso township, Kayah, December 2021 (fully verified)
- 6 dead in Thit Sein Gyi, Wetlet township, Sagaing, January 2022 (fully verified)
- 6 dead in Yay Yo, Loikaw, January 2022 (fully verified)
- 37 dead in Mon Taing Pin, Sagaing, May 2022 (fully verified)
- 6 dead in Kan Pyar, Myinmu Sagaing, June 2022 (fully verified)

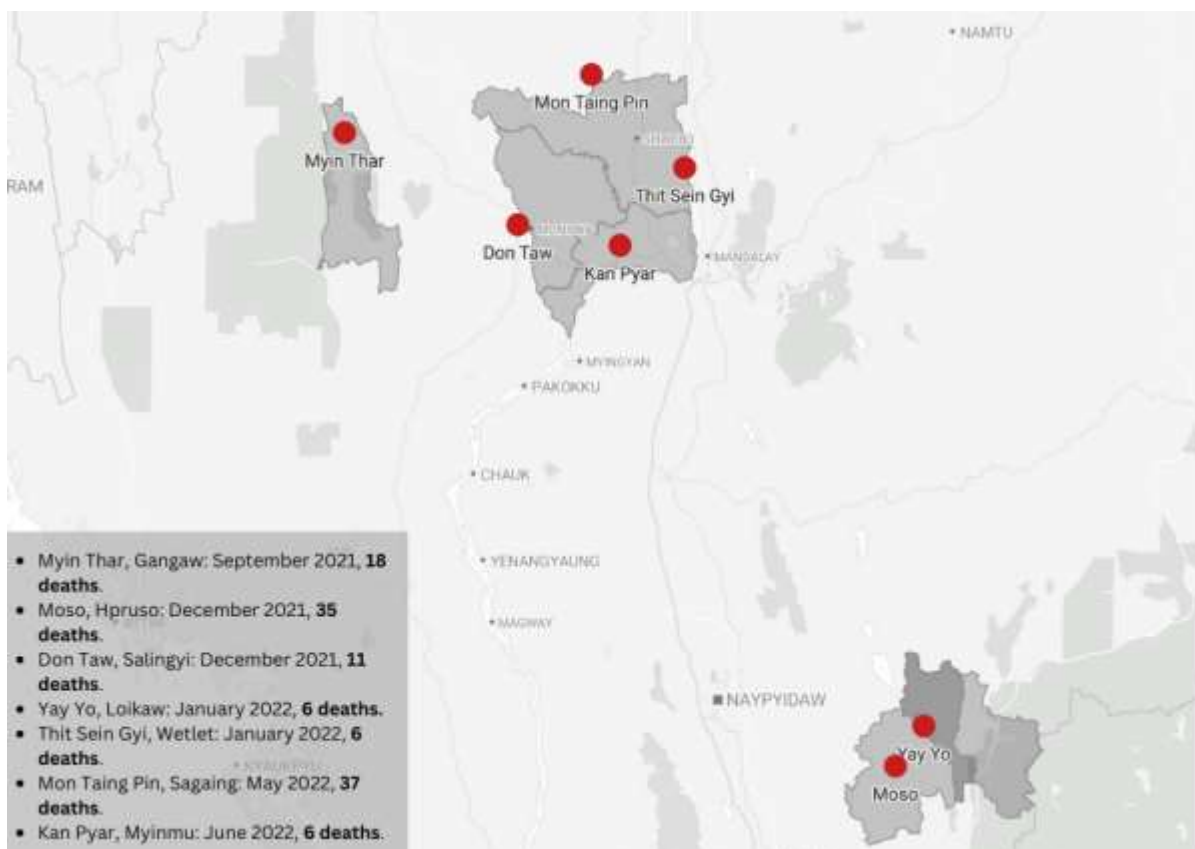


Figure 1: Map of Myanmar depicting the events in this report which have been partially or fully verified by Myanmar Witness between September 2021 and September 2022. Number of deaths are as reported by eyewitnesses and official reports.

It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive of all mass killings or violence in the country during this time frame. The examples included in this report are those which have been partially or fully verified by Myanmar Witness.

Methodology

Myanmar Witness follows a methodology of digital preservation and rigorous, replicable analysis. Digital evidence is collected and archived in a secure database and preserved with hashing to confirm authenticity and prevent tampering.



Myanmar Witness applies a four-tier classification system to describe the extent to which footage has been independently verified by Myanmar Witness. This is as follows:

- **Fully verified:** Footage independently geolocated and chronolocated by Myanmar Witness.
- **Verified:** Footage has been geolocated by Myanmar Witness. Other sources concur on the time and date of the footage, with no evidence following to suggest that the footage was taken earlier or later. However, it has not been possible for Myanmar Witness to independently chrono-locate the footage.
- **Unverified / Under investigation:** Myanmar Witness has not been able to geolocate or chronocate footage at the present time.
- **Inauthentic:** The geolocation and chronolocation process has shown the location or timing of the footage to be inaccurate.

For the avoidance of doubt, this verification system only refers to Myanmar Witness' ability to independently geolocate or chronocate footage. Incidents marked as unverified may still be substantiated by multiple eyewitness reports. Sources are cross-referenced in this report to indicate where this is the case.

This report contains a number of images showing how footage has been geolocated. In these images, white lines are used to represent the left and right arcs of vision. Coloured boxes are used to show how landmarks or distinguishing details in each piece of footage or data correspond with each other.

Geolocation is conducted using a variety of open source online tools such as Google Earth to match satellite imagery with visual features identified in the footage or images. Geolocations are cross-checked and peer-reviewed before they are credited as verified.

Chronolocation is typically conducted by analysing UGC timestamps to determine hard end limits for the possible time frame. This can then be followed with contextual analysis, for example comparing against known indicators such as events or clocks visible, weather, and shadows. Shadow angle is determined after geolocation and its orientation is used to

determine the position of the sun and thus time. Chronolocation is included as specifically as possible without incorrectly attributing time in order to account for limitations with some of these methods.

Verification of fires is conducted using [NASA's FIRMS](#) (Fire Information for Resource Management System) geothermal imaging and Sentinel Hub satellite imagery. FIRMS registers near real-time heat signatures from fires. Sentinel Hub is used to track ground damage or changes in terrain consistent with fires between given dates.

If dealing with unverified information, such as witness testimony or the inclusion of outside reporting, Myanmar Witness has made known that these inclusions are as reported and have not been independently verified by Myanmar Witness. Following ethical standards, Myanmar Witness has obscured identifying information about individuals involved, censored private information and images where appropriate, removed links to private individual accounts and archived said information securely. Where appropriate, Myanmar Witness has also blurred or excluded graphic imagery.

[Warning Graphic] is inserted in front of sections of the report or images which readers may find distressing.

Limitations

The information obtained by Myanmar Witness comes from an area of ongoing conflict. It is therefore assumed that there is a selection bias, due to factors including fear of repercussions for uploading, unavailability of information from official sources and availability, or lack thereof, the internet - which has also restricted the amount of media available to be verified by Myanmar Witness. Myanmar Witness strives to eliminate as much of this bias as possible by using both focussed and broad search terms in multiple languages as well as identifying media from multiple and diverse sources, such as social media and both pro and anti-regime news media.

There are some limitations to the use of NASA FIRMS data, which can fail to detect short duration fires, and can be affected by weather conditions. Myanmar Witness mitigates these limitations by combining FIRMS data with satellite imagery analysis where possible.

With the exception of one incident, Myanmar Witness was not able to identify or verify any footage showing the Myanmar military at the scene of the killings. However, Myanmar Witness was able to verify footage consistent with eyewitness testimony and media reports of military involvement.

Myin Thar, Gangaw Township, Magway - 9 September 2021 (partially verified)

Background

[Warning: Graphic] According to [local residents](#), military forces stormed Myin Thar village at around 1000 local time on 9 September 2021, with gunfire beginning at 1100 local time. [The Irrawaddy](#) reports that the military began setting fire to homes in Than Lin, on the opposite side of the river bank, before approaching the village. An anonymous witness from Myin Thar reported that individuals, upon hearing the military were heading towards Myin Thar, fled to the jungle while others fled to the sanctuary of the monastery.

18 people in total were reported killed on 9 September 2021, including 10 children. The first 17 bodies were said to have been discovered after the clash, with another found two days later, on 12 September, near Kone Ywar village. Local residents stated that none of these people belonged to an official PDF movement, but some were protecting the village - they would stand at the Myin Thar bridge to observe those entering the area and protect the village from thieves or outsiders.

Regime spokesman Major General Zaw Min Tun [confirmed](#) that fighting took place when troops entered Myin Thar in response to a tip that a local PDF was active there - something witnesses from the village refute. Zaw Min Tun also claims that security forces were attacked by around 50 men near the village and blamed the use of rifles for the hostility in Myin Thar. A [witness](#) reported that some of those killed in Myin Thar (those standing guard at the bridge) were armed with homemade weapons, but that they did not threaten or otherwise raise these arms against the military. Others killed were reportedly unarmed.

Verification

Myanmar Witness has verified images uploaded by [DVB English](#) on 10 September showing two corpses, including one which is of small stature and could be a child, to the edge of Myin Thar Bridge [22.590550, 94.123050] (Figure 2, bottom right image). This image is consistent with statements from local residents that these individuals were killed at their 'posts' by the bridge. Homemade weapons are visible in this image. Myanmar Witness was not able to verify further images (link available on request) of approximately 11 corpses reportedly also killed on 9 September - although bodies wearing the same clothes were visible in images of a funeral pyre. Myanmar Witness geolocated these images to Myin Thar [22.590369, 94.122914], with the bridge seen in the background (Figure 2, top right image).



Figure 2: Image of the Myin Thar Bridge connecting Thar Lin and Myin Thar village; compared to two images of dead individuals close to this bridge.

According to [local residents](#) around 18 houses were burned down by Myanmar security forces prior to their at circa 0600 on 10 September 2021. Myanmar Witness has verified [footage](#) dated 10 September 2021 showing fires burning to Myin Thar [22.587906, 94.117000] (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Geolocation of fires in Myin Thar

Footage that claims to be in Myin Thar shows burned buildings. Myanmar Witness was not able to verify this footage. Myanmar Witness was able to verify footage of fires being set alight nearby in Hnan Khar village, Gangaw on 10 September [22.551783, 94.084517] (available on request).

Further footage (available on request) also purports to show residents of Myin Thar fleeing from the area after the military attack. This footage is unverified. Further details of this incident can be found in Myanmar Witness' report [Civilian Harm](#).

Don Taw, Salingyi Township, Sagaing - 7 December 2021 (fully verified)

Background

[Warning: Graphic] On 7 December 2021, troops raided the village of Don Taw, Salingyi Township in Sagaing Region [22.138278, 95.055861]. According to reporting from [Myanmar Now](#), this followed a mine ambush by the Don Taw PDF on military vehicles on the Monywa-Pathein highway near North Yamar bridge, about 300 metres from the village.

Locals interviewed by Myanmar Now report military soldiers entering the village from near the Pathein-Monywa road at 0800. Don Taw has only one entrance and exit route, through the Shwe Myin Tin farm on the bank of the Chindwin river. According to villagers and a local PDF leader (reported in [Myanmar Now](#) and [The Irrawaddy](#)), 11 villagers were reportedly captured, set on fire and burned to death. A [video](#) uploaded to social media by various media outlets shows the aftermath of the attack, including the burnt remains of bodies. “They were shot and stabbed while forced to kneel, with their hands tied” a voice states in the voiceover.

According to [reporting](#) by Radio Free Asia, Myanmar military representatives denied the incident had taken place, describing it as ‘false news’

Verification

Myanmar Witness verified that the location where the burnt remains were found was just outside of Don Taw Village, in farmland located at 22.142916, 95.062057 (Figure 4). The bodies were too badly burnt to determine whether they had their hands tied, or whether they were dead before or after the fire started.



Figure 4: Geolocation of the original Don Taw video, from a background landscape.

The [Irrawaddy](#), as well as other online sources, reported that a Don Taw resident, Daw Win Yi, who was over 50, was also killed by security forces in farmland outside the village. While images of a killed elderly woman have been collected, Myanmar Witness could not verify where these particular photos were taken.

The NUG published a victim list of those killed in the incident (Figure 5). This included four victims under the age of 18: Arkar Soe, 14; Hsan Min Oo, 17; Than Myint Aung, 17; Kyaw Thet, 17; Chit Nan Oo, 19; Win Kaw, 20; Htet Ko, 22; Zin Min Htun, 22; Tin Naing, 30, and U Soe, 40. Most of the victims were unrecognisable from being so badly burnt, except for 17-year-old Than Myint Aung, who was identifiable from his ear piercing, according to [Myanmar Now](#).



**List of civilians burned to death alive
by Myanmar Military Forces**

Location – DonTaw village, Salingyi Township, Sagaing, Myanmar
Date - December 07, 2021

No.	Name	Age (Yrs)
1	Ko Arkar Soe	14
2	Ko San Min Oo	17
3	Ko Than Myint Aung	17
4	Unconfirmed Name	17
5	Ko Kyaw Thet	17
6	Ko Chit Nan Oo	19
7	Ko Win Kaw	20
8	Ko Htet Ko	22
9	Ko Zin Min Htun	22
10	Ko Tint Naing	30
11	U Soe	40

Figure 5: Names of dead individuals from the Don Taw incident as reported to the National Unity Government by the Triple Two PDF group.

Further details of this incident can be found in Myanmar Witness' report [Civilian Harm](#)

Moso, Hpruso township, Kayah - 24 December 2021 (fully verified)

Background

[**Warning: Graphic**] According to multiple news media sources, (including the [Irrawaddy](#), [Mizzima](#) and [Radio Free Asia](#)) on 24 December 2021, bodies were found burning in vehicles close to Moso village in Hpruso township. Local residents [reported](#) that the victims were civilians who had been arrested and killed by the military while fleeing fighting between armed resistance groups and Myanmar's military in the nearby area. On 26 December 2021, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths [stated](#) that credible sources confirmed at least 35 people, including at least one child, were forced from their vehicles, killed, and burned. Two of those killed were aid workers for the NGO [Save the Children](#).

Myanmar Witness identified numerous images on social media indicating military and PDF activity in Hpruso township in the days preceding 24 December (these are detailed in our full report [Moso Village Christmas Eve Killings](#)). The [Kantawaddy Times](#) and [Karenni Human Rights Group](#) reported that on the morning of 24 December 2021, soldiers had been seen close to Moso village, gunshots had been heard and that local residents fled the area.

[Khit Thit Media](#) reported that four Border Guard Force (BGF) members, who were acting as negotiators between the military and captured civilians, were shot in the head in Hpruso on the same day as the individuals were burnt in the vehicles.

The State Administration Council (SAC) released a [statement](#) claiming the incident commenced when seven cars failed to stop at a security checkpoint, shot at security forces with small firearms and ran away. They claim resistance forces on a nearby hill then attacked with heavy weaponry, forcing a counter-attack from the security forces. The SAC-owned newspaper [Global New Light of Myanmar](#) (GNLM) reported that the BGF deaths were caused by PDF members last seen requesting their assistance.

The National Unity Government (NUG) and the Karenni State Consultative Council (KSCC) shared the results of post-mortem examinations at an online press conference on 3 January 2022. According to [Myanmar Now](#) and further investigations by [Sky News](#), autopsy doctors reported that several of the bodies had their hands tied behind their backs, were gagged, had perforations to their chests and lungs and/or their skulls were smashed. Images posted by Myanmar Now and Khit Thit Media (link withheld due to their graphic nature) shows images of burnt bodies with their arms behind their backs and what looks to be material that bound the hands. It was not possible to determine through the post-mortem if the victims had been burnt alive.

On 21 February 2022, the European Union [sanctioned](#) two military commanders in connection with the murder of civilians in Moso on 24 December 2021.

Verification

Myanmar Witness geolocated footage of the incident to 19.425008, 97.100716, close to Moso village. [NASA FIRMS](#) fire data shows a heat signature at that exact location, recorded at 1318 local time, 24 December 2021. Satellite imagery taken in January 2022 also shows a clear burn mark in this location.



Figure 6: Geolocation of an image uploaded by the Kantarawaddy Times of the burnt out vehicles to 19.425008, 97.100716.

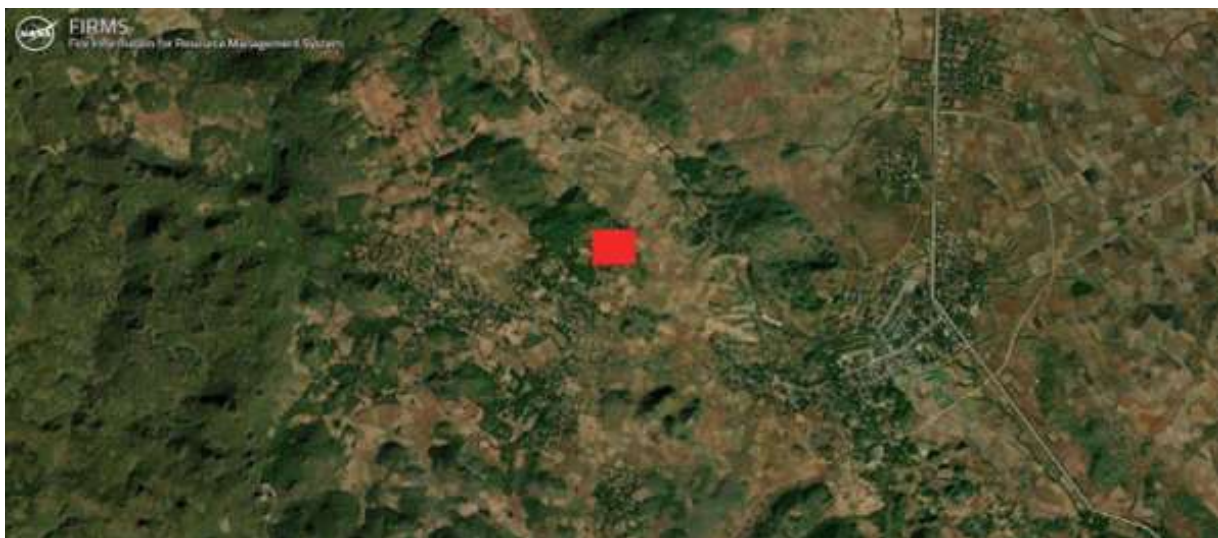


Figure 7: FIRMS records a fire in the same geolocated area as the burnt out vehicles at 1318, 24 December 2022



Figure 8: Satellite imagery update from January 2021 compared to January 2022, the month after the December 2021 incident showing burn marks at the same location

Drone imagery published online shows the fires burning at around 1130-1200 local time on 24 December 2021. This was calculated through [Suncalc](#) using the shadows present in the video. At this time the fire was still burning on all cars. It also shows individuals moving in a direction away from the fires (Figure 9). These individuals were walking along a footpath that leads in the direction of LIB military bases located by Myanmar Witness at around 2.7 kilometres (531 LIB) and 2.5 kilometres (428 LIB) away from the incident respectively.



Figure 9: Drone footage appears to show individuals walking from the scene of the fire at around 1130.



Figure 10: Demonstrating the direction individuals moved away from the fire site on 24 December 2021 in relation to the location of LIB 531 and LIB 428 military bases. Individuals were following a footpath which leads in the direction of the military bases.

Further footage shows individuals in camouflage fatigues, described in the footage as local PDF, investigating the incident. Shadow analysis of this footage shows that the fires burnt for several hours and by 1500 had ceased, leaving vehicles severely damaged.



Figure 11: Comparison of shadows in footage of the incident, demonstrating the duration of the fires.

An analysis of multiple images of the scene indicates that the fires within the vehicles were likely separate, targeted fires, rather than one continuous or accidental fire. This is evident through the lack of damage to the ground soil and areas of vegetation surrounding the vehicles. This analysis is consistent with reports that the vehicles were deliberately burned, and the individuals contained within the vehicles had been targeted. Video footage shows multiple explosions at the scene. This could be the result of the heat from one burning vehicle provoking the explosion of the others, or that each vehicle was set on fire separately within a similar timeframe.



Figure 12: Image from [Kantarawaddy Times](#) indicating that the ground lacks significant scorching and the vegetation is largely undamaged, inconsistent with accidental fires.



Figure 13: Drone images of separate fire points on the road, each emanating smoke.

User-generated content collected by Myanmar Witness purports to show the slain BGF members, found in a dived area of earth. Their bodies were lifted out by Demoso Township PDFs. The [KNDF](#) uploaded images of this scene which show that these individuals bear badges of the Myanmar flag on their uniforms and appear to have their hands tied with rope. Most of the images appear to show injuries to the head and face consistent with claims that members of the BGF were shot. The bodies also appear to be next to a bottle of brake fluid, (Figure 14). It was not possible to geolocate this footage.



Figure 14: Uninformed individuals alleged to be the BGF members who were shot lie with what looks like rope tied behind their backs, close to a bottle of brake fluid.

Thit Sein Gyi, Wetlet township, Sagaing – 29 January 2022 (fully verified)

Background

[**Warning: Graphic**] Burmese media ([Mizzima](#), [Irrawaddy](#) and [RFA](#)) reported that soldiers - alleged to be from the Myanmar military's Sagaing Division - entered Thit Sein Gyi village in Wetlet Township early on 29 January 2022 and arrested six villagers. The residents were claimed to have been used as human shields and subsequently killed.

Local residents reported there was a clash between the Wetlet PDF and the military forces on 30 January 2022. The bodies were discovered after the military left the area on the morning of 4 February 2022. According to reporting from [RFA](#), based on interviews with local residents, the victims were all male, and that they were “handcuffed and burned”. Through interviews with local residents, [the Irrawaddy](#) identified the victims as Myint Aung (58), The Tun Aung (28), Ko Ko Lin Maung (28), Thura Tun (20), Zaw Min Tun (43) and Min Min Tun (35).

Verification

Myanmar Witness was able to geolocate [footage](#) showing a number of burnt bodies to a site just outside of Thit Sein Gyi village [22.423056, 95.949964] (Figure 5). In the footage, the peak of a pagoda can be seen in the background. Myanmar Witness was able to cross reference this with old footage uploaded by [Mizzima TV](#), to match the peak of the pagoda to another pagoda in the area. This can be located to the outskirts of Thit Seint Gyi, at: 22.421225, 95.951197. Features seen in those images match what is seen on satellite imagery at that location (Figure 15).



Figure 15: Pagoda in background of footage of the burned ground.



Figure 16: Geolocation of pagoda using satellite imagery from Google Earth.

Sentinel-2 satellite imagery of the site confirms that there were burn marks in the alleged location, acquired during the period of military occupation reported at this time. Sentinel-2 imagery shows no burn scars on 30 January 2022. Burn scars are visible on 4 February 2022, indicating the burning happened at some point in between those two dates (Figure 17).



Figure 17: Satellite imagery of the location from 30 January 2022 and February 4 2022 from Sentinel Hub.

The second burn scar, more to the west of the field, was by a small collection of sheds on the side of the road. Images taken from the location show fire damage. Further images identified by Myanmar Witness that were uploaded to social media by a private user show what appears to be bones in the burnt areas (available on request).

While the whole image is too graphic to show, the image does display specific features in the background that allow for geolocation, such as the pagoda that is visible in the background of the below image.



Figure 18: Image uploaded to social media on February 4, 2022 (cropping by Myanmar Witness).

This pagoda is seen here on [Google Maps images](#), and can be geolocated to 22.418694, 95.953889, about 500 metres away from where the burnt areas have been identified (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Geolocation of an image uploaded to social media on February 4, 2022.

The bodies were too badly burnt to identify the number of victims from the images, their injuries or whether they were bound.

Yay Yo, Loikaw, Kayah - 25-27 January 2022 (fully verified)

Background

[Warning: Graphic] On 25 January 2022, social media posts claimed SAC troops from the 55th and 99th Divisions launched an offensive in [Loikaw Township](#), Kayah State. Ongoing fighting in the area prompted residents to evacuate. According to [Than Lwin Khet News](#), the military was alerted by reports of men returning to Yay Yo village, entered the village and arrested a number of local residents, including four minors and two elderly men. Soldiers then beat and shot the returning IDPs, dumping six bodies into the outdoor toilet pit of a house. Upon returning from their evacuation on 27 January, a local from the Yay Yo area discovered the bodies in the toilet pit.

Local social help community group “Shwe Nyaung Pin” recovered the bodies and transported them to a burial site to be laid to rest. Members of this group documented the findings and posted images on social media (links available on request). “The legs and ankles of the dead bodies were broken, and also there were lacerations on the face and mouth, as well as puncture bullet wounds on the bodies” said the social help community. Four of the six bodies were said to be minors under the age of 18, based on witness testimonies posted on Facebook. They have been named in a post as Khu Yujin, Kyaw Kyaw, John Paul and Dale. In addition to the murders, at least one house was ransacked. This is believed to have been the house in the compound with the toilet, although this cannot be confirmed. Locals reported hearing gunshots and spent bullet cases were documented on the ground.

Verification

Myanmar Witness geolocated the imagery of bodies being recovered from the toilet pit to [this location](#) [19.709889, 97.189272] in Yay Yo village. Full details of this verification can be seen on the Myanmar Witness [website](#). Chronolocation was conducted using shadow angles and analysis in Suncalc, indicating that the images were taken between 1000 and 1015 local time on 27 January 2022.

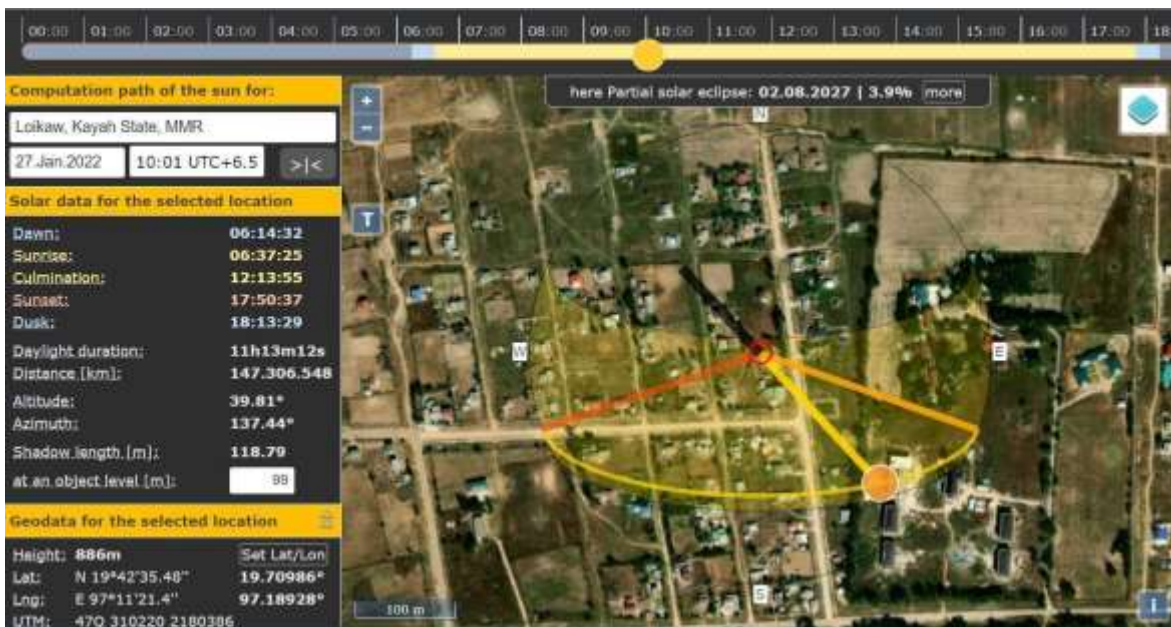


Figure 20: SunCalc analysis of shadows to determine time of image.

Images of the bodies extracted from the toilet show that the victims were bound with light green rope, with visible injuries and blood on the bodies (see [full report](#) for detail). KA PA SA bullet cases were seen in the footage of the site – the majority of these were spent, with dents indicating contact with the ejection port. Using pixel-ratio measurements, they were deemed likely to be 7.62 millimetre NATO rounds – commonly chambered in the BA-63, BA-64, and MA-12 rifles. The BA-63 and BA-64 are commonly used by police officers, while the MA-12 is more commonly used by the military. The rounds appear to be photographed next to their original factory packaging. Translation of the text on the packaging shows the contents were "Manufactured in defence equipment factories" and that they were Ka Pa Sa (ကပေ) bullets produced for the military (Figures 21-23).

The geolocation of the burial site was based on two images featured in reporting by [Khit Thit Media](#), with the location being [19.6241764, 97.2487802](#). [SunCalc analysis](#) suggests the most likely time window for the burial was between 1045 and 1130.



Figure 21: Pixel-ratio analysis indicates a rough specification of the cartridge. The calculation was based on standard playing card dimensions, where 111 pixels = 64mm; 1 pixel = 0.5766mm; therefore Cartridge length = 56.5mm and Cartridge shell width = 7.5mm. Minimum error is +/- 0.5766mm though due to perspective, will be greater.



Figure 22: Top: [BA-63](#), Middle: [BA-64](#), Bottom: [MA-12](#). These are the most likely weapons responsible for the cases left on scene, all chambering 7.62mm NATO rounds. The BA-63 and BA-64 are commonly equipped by police officers, while the MA-12 is more commonly used with the military.



Figure 23: A cluster of spent cartridges at the scene of the incident. Close-up of the packaging shows the text "Manufactured in defence equipment factories."

Mon Taing Pin, Ye-U Township, Sagaing - 9 May 2022 (fully verified)

Background

Radio Free Asia ([first report](#), [second report](#) and [third report](#)) reported that, late on 9 May 2022, a military column from Taze Township raided Mon Taing Pin village in Ye-U Township, Sagaing. According to local residents, two PDF members guarding the village were killed in gunfire as the military entered the village. Soldiers then rounded up men from the village; detained them in the monastery; beat them; killed them and put them inside houses in the village which were set on fire. Residents returning to the village on 12 May 2022 having fled the raid found 17 corpses in Mon Taing Pin and a further 10 dead bodies in nearby In Pin. Residents told [RFA](#) that the men killed were civilians. 30 houses were reportedly burnt.

A cache of data - reportedly found on a soldier's cell phone in Sagaing's Ayadaw Township several weeks after the incident and obtained by [RFA](#) - was reported to include further footage of the incident. This included images of: a number of handcuffed men in civilian clothing detained by soldiers; five bodies with hands bound in a pool of blood and soldiers standing over them; and, videos of soldiers boasting about killing dozens of people.

Verification

Myanmar Witness geolocated footage showing the handcuffed men to the Mon Taing Pin Monastery, located at around 22.883705, 95.457162.



Figure 24: Geolocation of photo of detained men to Mon Taing Pin Monastery.

According to metadata on the phone, from which the images of the detained men were extracted, these images were taken on 10 May 2022.

A head count shows that there were 30 individuals detained at the site. Shown in the red boxes below, at least seven individuals appeared to be armed and in military fatigues, some of whom are later identified as members of the Myanmar military.



Figure 25: visual count of arrested villagers and Myanmar military.

Myanmar Witness was not able to geolocate the image of the five corpses. However, Myanmar Witness was able to match two of the soldiers seen standing over these corpses to soldiers present in later footage obtained by RFA, boasting that they had “killed a lot by slitting their throats”. The bodies can be seen with hands tied behind their backs and appear to have been killed with significant injuries to the neck or chest, consistent with the description of the deaths. Metadata from the data caches shows that this image was taken on 11 May 2022. Myanmar Witness was also able to identify the same soldiers in video footage of the detained prisoners. Full analysis will be detailed in Myanmar Witness’ upcoming report on units involved in the Mon Taing Pin killings, and is summarised below



Figure 26: soldiers standing over the bodies of executed civilians. Images blurred by Myanmar Witness for privacy reasons.



Figure 28: indication of matches in imagery connecting the same individuals to the footage of detained men. Facial features match across the images, but have been blurred for privacy reasons. For further analysis, see Myanmar Witness' forthcoming report on the Mon Taing Pin massacre.

Myanmar Witness geolocated the RFA footage of the soldiers boasting about the killings to a high school in Pone Ta Kar village [22.869224, 95.413727], around five miles from the Mon Taing Pin monastery. According to metadata in the data caches, this footage was taken on 13 May 2022.



Figure 29: [Top] The background of the video of SAC soldiers talking about killing individuals. The faces and clothing of the two of the individuals (blurred by Myanmar Witness) match those seen in the earlier footage standing over the corpses and detained men. This image has been altered by Myanmar Witness, mirroring the image to reflect an accurate background layout of the buildings. [Bottom] Google Earth satellite imagery from 2022 update. The red box highlights the building which is visible in the background and the orange box highlights where SAC troops were based.



Figure 30: Image highlighting the background of footage uploaded by [Khit Thit Media](#), of a SAC soldier taking a video. This was geolocated by Myanmar Witness

MW conducted in-depth visual analysis of the soldiers in the data cache, which shows that the soldiers at the scene, linked to the execution of the villagers, were members of the 708 Light Infantry Battalion (LIB), under the command of Brigadier General Kyi Thaik, head of the 4th Military Operations Command. Further details can be found in the forthcoming report.

Kan Pyar, Myinmu Township, Sagaing - 6 June 2022 (fully verified)

Background

According to eyewitness testimony reported by [Myanmar Now and Mandalay Free Press](#), six unarmed internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering in the Myat Saw Nyi Naung pagoda compound near Kan Pyar village [22.034370, 95.613166] were shot by military forces on the afternoon of 6 June 2022.

A convoy of around 80 Myanmar soldiers reportedly approached the compound at 1330 local time. The soldiers asked those present to escort them to the nearby village of Pe Ku [21.973579, 95.522476]. This request was refused. Analysis of PDF posts by Myanmar Witness in the run-up to the incident includes multiple reports of attacks on the roads between Kan Pyar and Pe Ku. These could explain the request for an escort. This practice of escorting is also consistent with [reports](#) of the use of human shields by the Myanmar military.

After failing to identify the owner of a gun found under the back seat of a motorbike, the soldiers reportedly herded 30 of those present to the base of the pagoda. They ordered them to run to the monastery, launching a countdown which caused panic. The soldiers then opened fire, killing six individuals as they fled.

The victims were reported to be between 16 and 50 years old, shot in the back and head. Named among the dead were Hla Soe (50) Myint Oo (50), Nezar Aung (a CDM teacher in his 30s), Ko Yu Pa (age not reported), and Aye Min Naing (a 16-year-old boy allegedly suffering from mental illness). 30 people reportedly fled the area following the incident.

Verification

Images of bodies found at the scene were posted by [Myanmar Now](#) and on a local PDF group channel (link withheld for privacy reasons). Myanmar Witness was able to geolocate footage of four dead bodies, two with severe injuries consistent with bullet wounds, to the pagoda compound just outside Kan Pyar where the incident reportedly took place. The bodies were in civilian clothes; no weapons were visible. Myanmar Witness was not able to geolocate footage of one further casualty. Myanmar Witness also geolocated images showing a funeral pyre at the same compound, with bodies visible.

The images show possible exit wounds on the fronts of two of the bodies; consistent with eyewitness testimony that they were shot in the back. The precise details of their deaths cannot be confirmed through open-source methods.

Using satellite and NASA FIRMS fire data, Myanmar Witness was able to geolocate and chronolocate footage showing burnt motorcycles and buildings to the compound. NASA

FIRMS fire data shows fires at the location at 1345 on 6 June, 15 minutes after soldiers allegedly entered the area.



Figure 31: Map of the Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda compound near Kan Pyar village. The squares demonstrate images that have been geolocated to these areas. Orange is the location of some of the bodies, purple is the location of burned structures, red and blue corresponds to burned motorbikes and yellow demonstrates the location of the funeral pyre.



Figure 32: FIRMS in the area of Myat Saw Nyi Naung Pagoda on 6 June 2022.

While there was no verifiable footage of the military at the site at the time of the incident, there are multiple reports on social media of an active military presence in the area surrounding Kan Pyar before and after 6 June 2021. This includes third party reports of military movements consistent with eyewitness testimony regarding the military presence in Kan Pyar on the day of the incident. In the months preceding the incident, Myanmar Witness verified large-scale fire damage in two villages in the area, allegedly set by the military. This is detailed in our forthcoming in-depth report on this incident.

Conclusion

Since the February 2021 coup, the Myanmar military has sought to maintain its control across the country, with often brutal tactics. The seven events outlined in this report reveal the modus operandi of the Myanmar military. There is a clear pattern of retaliation against local communities in areas of resistance to the military coup, where PDF groups may be active.

While Myanmar Witness was not able to definitely attribute any of the killings to the military, verified footage is consistent with eyewitness accounts of military involvement. Civilians were overwhelmingly impacted by these attacks, with women, children, IDPs, and aid workers among the casualties. Of the 119 people reported killed in these attacks, 20 were under the age of 18.

Many of those who were killed were brutally injured, had their hands bound, and in some cases the bodies were burnt beyond recognition. Footage allegedly found on the phone of a member of the Myanmar military reveals the pride of soldiers, as they recount the number of people they killed, by slitting their throats.

Violent deaths and the use of fire has been a trend reported on in multiple investigations. Myanmar Witness will continue to monitor attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure within Myanmar.