

Findings by MHRDC (Mayu Region Human Rights Documentation Centre) Regarding the Mass Killing and Enforced Disappearance of 9 Rohingya Families, Along with Many Other Civilians, by the Arakan Army (AA) in Maung Ni Ward on August 4, 2024

Date: September 8, 2024

- **"Our house is surrounded by AA troops. We have no way to escape."**
 - o *This was the last statement heard from a woman trapped with 35 others in her home, surrounded by Arakan Army troops.*
- **"My sister and her husband were killed, and two children have also been killed, while the other two are injured."**
 - o *Statement from an uncle who managed to escape, carrying the two injured children.*

1. During the Arakan Army's operation in and around Maungdaw downtown, both the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military deliberately targeted Rohingya civilians. According to MHRDC's close monitoring, this targeted assault led to the massacre of **at least 500** Rohingya civilians from June through the early hours of August 6 in downtown of Maungdaw and nearby villages.

2. On June 16, 2024, the Arakan Army issued a "Precautionary Warning and Emergency Announcement" regarding Maungdaw. Following this, on June 17 at around 6:00 p.m, the Arakan Army seized control of the Pantaw Pyin Rohingya village, making it their base and launching regular attacks on Rohingya wards in downtown of Maungdaw since Jun 20. These attacks, using mortar shells and drone bombs, led to numerous civilian casualties. MHRDC believes that the Arakan Army used the "emergency announcement" as a pretext to drive out or massacre Rohingya residents in the town.

What Happened in Maung Ni Ward on August 4, 2024?

According to a statement released by the Arakan Army on August 18, its troops launched an attack on the Maung Ni area on the morning of August 4, marking the beginning of the operation to capture the downtown of Maungdaw. The statement also mentioned that on the same day, they successfully took control of the Maung Ni police outpost.

1. According to an investigation by MHRDC, on August 4, at around 4 a.m., the Arakan Army troops entered the Maung Ni ward from Pantaw Pyin, targeting and killing neighborhood residents while attacking the Maung Ni Border Guard Police outpost. On that day, **Arakan Army troops surrounded and attacked several Rohingya houses located in the southern part of the Maung Ni ward**, closest to Pantaw Pyin village. The investigation found that Arakan Army indiscriminately killed children, the elderly, and women. Some houses were attacked with RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades), leading to the deaths of most who were trapped inside.
2. Maung Ni Ward is the closest neighborhood to Pantaw Pyin, which the Arakan Army seized on June 17, 2024. Since then, the area has been bombarded with mortars and drone bombs, causing many deaths. Most of the residents, who had no means to escape, were forced to relocate to robust buildings within their neighborhood to endure the bombings. Maulvi Sha Alom's two-story house hosted at least 8 other families from the surrounding area on the night of the attack.
3. Due to reports that the Rakhine Army had surrounded and blockaded Maulvi Sha Alom's house, relatives made intense efforts to establish contact with those trapped inside. At 4:53 AM, they were able to speak for 3 minutes and 18 seconds, and again at 5:05 AM for 10 minutes and 49 seconds. The trapped individuals reported that **"their house had been completely surrounded and blockaded by the Rakhine Army, and they had no way to escape."** Further attempts to reach them were unsuccessful as the phone rang but went unanswered. By around 8:00 AM that day, one phone call was briefly answered, during which a Rakhine saying a few words in Rakhine language was heard before the call was abruptly ended. It was later discovered that all five phones in the house had been turned off.
4. MHRDC conducted an investigation and waited for nearly a month, hoping to determine whether these 9 Rohingya families were forcibly relocated to areas under Arakan Army control or driven out to Bangladesh. However, no trace of them has been found in either the Arakan Army-controlled areas or in Bangladesh.

5. The evidence, including phone conversations where residents stated they were surrounded by AA troops, Rakhine language spoken during the final contact, and eyewitness testimonies, serves as strong proof that the Arakan Army besieged Maulvi Sha Alom's house. (During that period, Myanmar phone lines were cut off, and only Bangladeshi lines were operational in Maungdaw. Call records and location data of the calls are likely held by relevant telecommunications operators in Bangladesh.)
6. In addition to these 9 families, the Arakan Army also carried out massacres of many other civilians in Maung Ni Ward on the morning of August 4. MHRDC has received credible evidence of these atrocities, and some injured survivors are currently receiving treatment in Bangladesh.
7. The Myanmar military junta have cut off phone and internet services in Maungdaw and Buthidaung to impose a news blackout. Taking advantage of this, both the AA and the Myanmar military carried out mass killings of tens of thousands of local Rohingya civilians in these areas. In particular, the Rakhine Army has carried out mass killings in various locations. Among these, the massacre in Maung Ni ward, where 36 Rohingya from nine families were killed, stands out as one of the most prominent and egregious examples of their mass killings. This incident foreshadowed the mass killings that the Arakan Army perpetrated on the banks of the Naf River on August 5 and 6.
8. Although MHRDC has raised the issue with the Arakan Army via email and requested an explanation for the August 4 massacre in Maung Ni Ward, the Arakan Army has not yet responded.

MHRDC urgently calls on the international community to investigate these and other mass killings perpetrated by the Arakan Army and Myanmar military junta including the massacre of 36 Rohingya civilians from 9 families in Maung Ni Ward, and to hold the perpetrators accountable.

Note: MHRDC have documented Relevant call logs, phone numbers, and photographic evidence of the family members who sought shelter at Maulvi Sha Alom's house, personal details and some photos of the victims. For further information, please contact hrdc-mayuregion@proton.me