



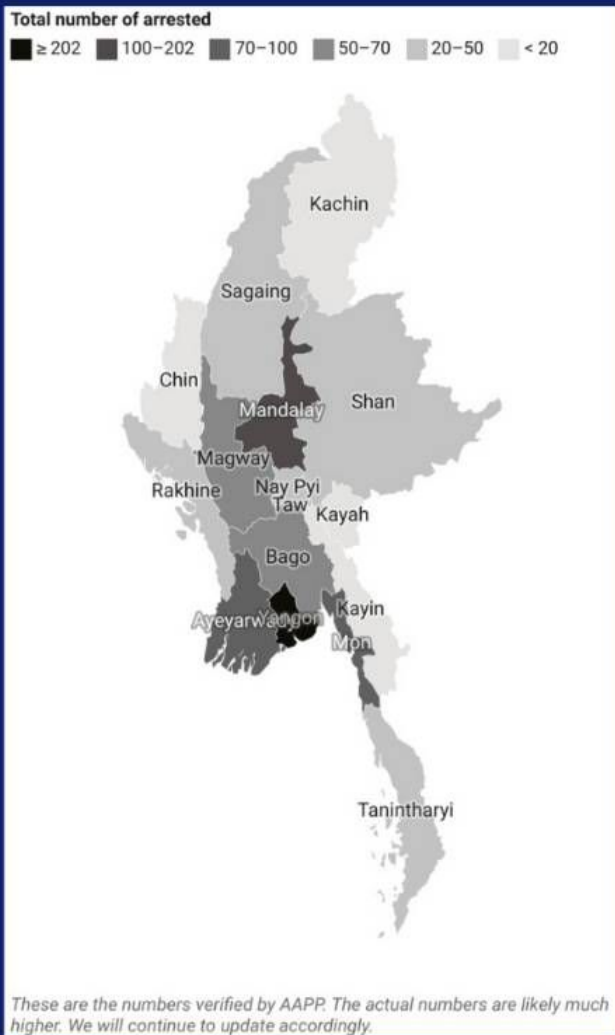
## Life behind BARs

It has been over three years—now approaching its fourth—since the junta began its attempt to seize state power in Burma. However, their coup attempt has not been successful, and they have lost control of many areas to ethnic resistance organizations (EROs). In response, the junta has become increasingly brutal, particularly against political prisoners, who are arrested and detained under political pretexts. While committing heinous crimes across the country, the junta is also systematically and widely perpetrating severe human rights violations in prisons and interrogation centers.

Political prisoners are held in police stations, interrogation centers, and prisons under the junta's control, where they are subjected to various forms of mental, physical, and sexual torture. Former political prisoners face significant challenges rebuilding their lives after their release. Hardships, that begin from the moment of their arrest, persist long after their time in prison.

The number of political prisoners who have lost their lives has steadily increased since the coup. Political prisoners die due to various reasons, including torture during detention. Injuries and health issues resulting from torture, are exacerbated by the lack of adequate medical care. Hence, some political prisoners have tragically died due to the health complications suffered during their imprisonment.

## Map showing the number of arrests during 2024 by region and state



State_Region	Number of arrests
Yangon	202
Mandalay	118
Mon	84
Ayeyarwady	73
Bago	67
Magway	57
Sagaing	44
Rakhine	29
Shan	23
Nay Pyi Taw	22
Tanintharyi	20
Kayin	4
Kachin	3
Chin	3
Unknown	2
Kayah	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>753</b>

According to information collected by the AAPP, a total of (753) people were arrested under political pretexts between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Of this total, (748) remain in detention.

The AAPP also documented that, during this year, a total of (406) people were killed after being arrested in various parts of Burma. Among these, (12) died in the junta's official detention centers, including police stations, (15) died in interrogation centers, and (31) died in prisons. However, the actual number of deaths in the junta's detention facilities may be higher than the recorded figures.

### Number of political prisoners who died in the junta's official detention centers from January 1 to December 31, 2024

**Died in police stations**  
12

**Died in interrogation**  
15

**Died in prisons**  
31



In 2024, the junta carried out two instances of prison releases, framing the release of political prisoners as an act of amnesty. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) confirmed and documented that a total of (602) political prisoners were released during these two rounds of prison releases.

**In one case, a political prisoner was severely tortured during interrogation after his arrest and later died while in detention, during a prison protest. According to his wife:**

“ I was told he suffered terribly during interrogation. His thigh was slashed with blades. He was kicked with military boots and beaten. He also mentioned being sexually violated, but I do not know any more details about that. He was dunked in water, and [the interrogators] threatened to shoot him at the count of three with a loaded gun placed in his mouth. Then, they pointed a gun at his temple, shaved patches of his head, and pressed a lit cigarette against his skin. During that time, he passed out for two days. He said he was even more terrified at night. The soldiers and police were constantly intoxicated, and the torture became worse when they were drunk. He told me he felt so depressed that he almost wanted to die. He became extremely frightened whenever he heard the sound of footsteps, fearing someone was coming for him.

As soon as we heard the news of his death after the prison riot, his parents went to the prison, asking for a meeting with the Jailor to confirm whether it was their son. Instead, a prison staff member came, asked for [their son's] personal information, and left. While the parents were waiting at the crematorium, [personnel] arrived, including someone they assumed to be a police major. He informed them that they had five minutes to view the body. When his parents removed [the cover], they were allowed to see the upper body but could not inspect the rest of the body. The neck and stomach had been stitched up, and [the skin on] his head had also been peeled away and stitched back up. Once the five minutes were up, [the personnel] forcibly put [the cover] on again, and told the parents to stop, telling them that the viewing time was sufficient for them to confirm their son's death. ”

There are currently 50 prisons and detention centers in operation in Burma, almost all of them hold political prisoners. Additionally, information suggests that four more prisons and detention centers are under construction.

Once arrested by the junta, every prisoner faces a serious threat to their life. The deliberate denial of healthcare for political prisoners has resulted in an increase in disease outbreak in prisons. The junta releases political prisoners with pre-existing health conditions, who are unlikely to survive without proper medical care. This is merely a façade, carried out to conceal its atrocities.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) therefore urges the international community to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners, including President U Win Myint and State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and refrain from granting any form of legitimacy to the junta. Additionally, the international community must apply substantial pressure on the junta and take decisive action, in order to hold it accountable for its international crimes.

### **Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)**