



Ta'ang Women's Organization



Human Rights Violation Situation in the Ta'ang Region

January to August 2026

Human Rights Violation Situation in the Ta'ang Region

January to August 2026

Introduction

The Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO) has conducted field research and documented human rights violations committed by the terror military council and armed groups due to the armed conflict in northern Shan State from January to August 2026.

Specifically, this data was collected only as far as TWO could reach within the northern Shan State townships of Momeik, Nawngkhio, Kyaukme, Lashio, Tangyan, Hsenwi, Kutkai, Muse, and Namhkam.

The purpose of this report is to help the public and relevant organizations understand the extent of human rights violations in the region over the past eight months, enabling them to provide necessary support. Additionally, it aims to compel the groups committing these abuses to take accountability for their actions, while urging relevant bodies to implement mechanisms that protect and promote civilian rights.

Ongoing Incidents

(1) Casualties and Injuries from the Explosion of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

According to data recorded by TWO over the 8 months, there were up to 35 explosions of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines, resulting in 7 deaths, including 3 children, and a total of 42 injuries, including 7 children.

In townships where armed conflict has occurred, landmines and explosive remnants of war present a massive threat to the daily survival struggles of the people. Landmines most frequently detonate in agricultural plantations, hillside farms, paddy fields, residential compounds, public main roads, and school premises.

Nawngkhio township is specifically the most heavily impacted by landmines. In other townships as well, casualties and deaths have occurred when local civilians picked up, stored, or threw unexploded war remnants left over from battles—such as rockets, heavy artillery shells, grenades, and improvised explosive devices—which subsequently detonated.



A local woman who had to have her right leg amputated after stepping on a mine within the compound of her home in Taung Yi Village, Nawngkhio Township, last January.



(2) Civilian Casualties from Heavy Artillery and Drone Bombardments

During March 2026, when the Kokang army (MNDAA) attacked Kutkai town—which is controlled by the Ta'ang army (TNLA)—the firing of heavy artillery and the massive use of drones into wards and villages resulted in 5 civilian deaths and 12 injuries (including 5 children), totaling 17 casualties. In addition, civilian homes and monasteries were also damaged and destroyed.



(3) Arrest, Torture, and Killing of Civilians

Over the 8 months, 8 incidents of armed groups arresting, torturing, and killing innocent civilians were documented. Records obtained from survivors who were released indicate that the terrorist military council unjustly arrested civilians, accusing them of having ties to revolutionary factions and ethnic armed groups, subjected them to long-term imprisonment, and tortured them in various ways. In March 2026, incidents included the MNDAA forcibly arresting civilians in Kutkai town who were not involved in the fighting, beating them with iron rods, and inhumanely torturing them. Additionally, during the clashes, a civilian who went to extinguish a fire when the MNDAA burned down a civilian home in Namhkam Village was shot dead by a sniper; there was also the intentional shooting death of the village head of Manpein in Kutkai township, which was justified with the excuse of mistaken identity.



A local man from Kutkai who was beaten during the fighting.





(4) Civilian Deaths and Mass Destruction of Homes from a Gunpowder Depot Explosion

Last May, a massive explosion occurred at a gunpowder depot in Kawng Tat Village, Namhkam Township. Due to this explosion, up to 43 civilians (including 18 children) were killed, and up to 182 villagers (including 55 children) were injured. A total of 397 homes and structures within the village were damaged or destroyed, including a school, religious buildings, a public hall, and libraries.



The scene of a gunpowder warehouse explosion in Kaung Tat Village, Namhkam Township.

(5) Violence against Women

Over the 8 months in the Ta'ang region, young girls and women have not only suffered the bitter impacts of the armed conflict but also face various daily abuses such as rape, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

A total of 34 incidents were documented in the region, consisting of 3 cases of rape, 1 case of attempted rape, 8 cases of marital infidelity/adultery, 11 cases of domestic physical abuse, 4 cases where the husband refused to grant a divorce, 5 cases of human trafficking, 1 case of assault/beating, and 1 case of sexual violence; these are the cases where TWO assisted by providing necessary services.

Amidst regional political instability, the proliferation of KTV

resource extraction projects has led to a widespread expansion of the sex entertainment industry, pushing young girls into life as sex workers. As a consequence, there is a rise in domestic problems, adultery, and disease transmission rates, leading to broken marriages. Regarding marital infidelity, there were 7 cases where victims came to TWO to request assistance. Although the necessary legal steps were pursued, the enforcement and actions by the relevant authorities remain weak.



A young woman who was unlawfully arrested in Kyaukme Township.



Furthermore, women face domestic physical violence, which is often dismissed and ignored by society as a normal occurrence; this lack of effective accountability emboldens perpetrators to commit further violence, posing a massive challenge to resolve. Consequently, even when situations escalate to life-threatening levels, complaints to the relevant authorities remain rare. Despite society dismissing these as normal occurrences, there were over 10 cases that sought services from TWO. Additionally, while support is provided to pursue legal action for cases where victims seek help regarding rape, some perpetrators remain at large and continue to evade justice to this day.

Data Collection Methods

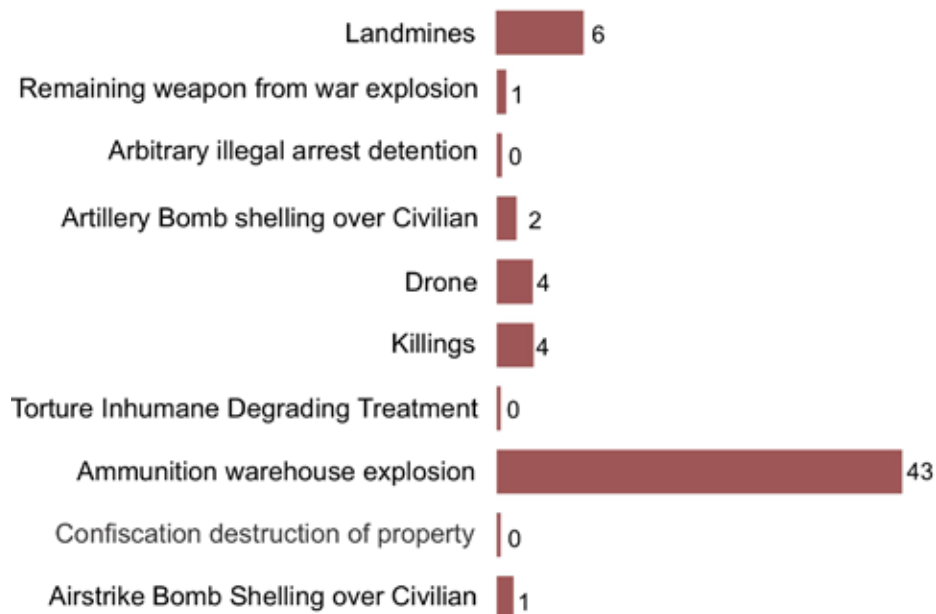
This data was collected to the extent possible through on-the-ground field visits by Ta'ang Women's Organization staff to interview survivors and eyewitnesses. Furthermore, in townships and areas where field data collection was difficult, information was received through online communication and inquiries. In areas inaccessible to the Ta'ang Women's Organization, the number of human rights violations may be far higher than reported here.

Total Case

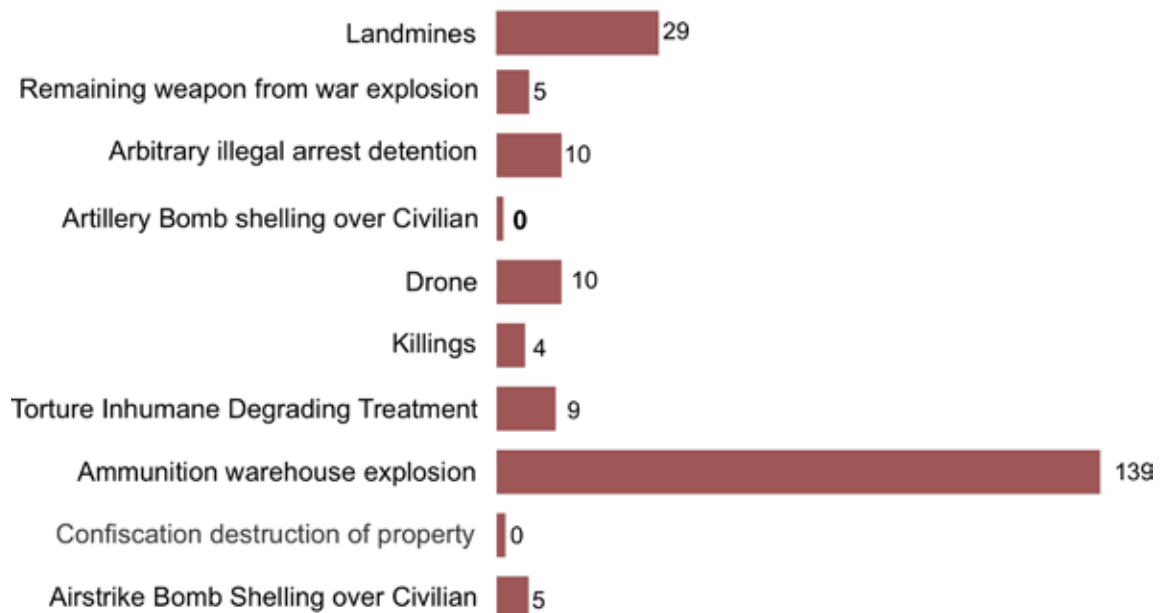
January to August 2026

98

Death due to human rights violations

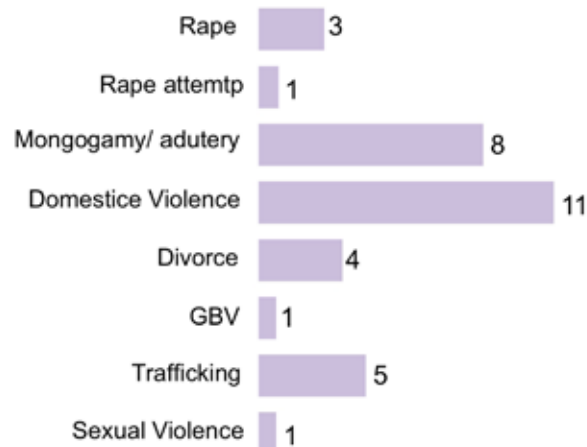


People injured by human rights violations

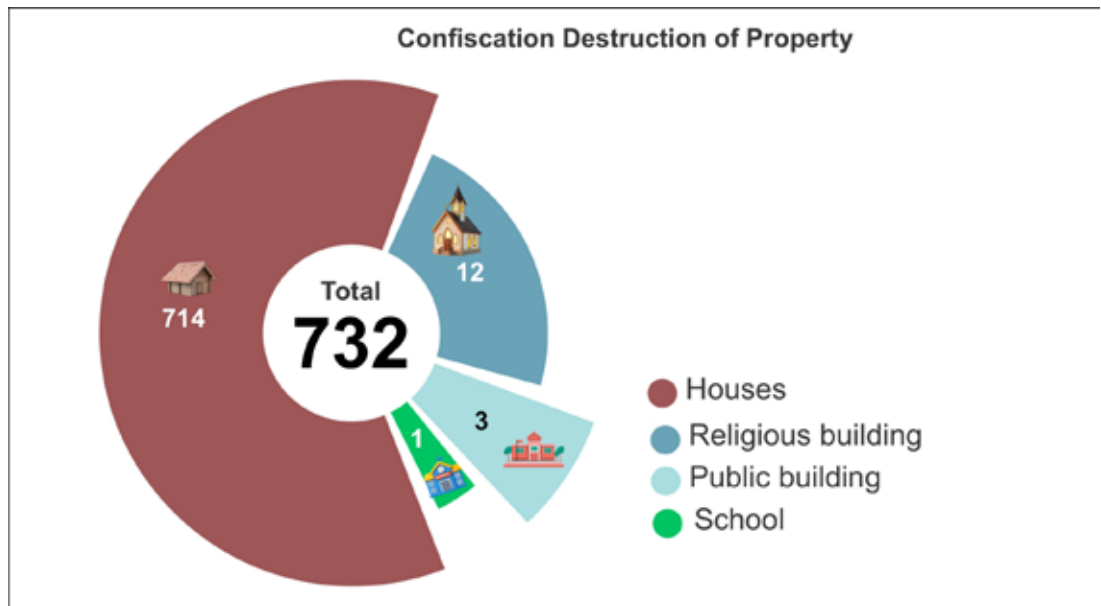


Total number of Dead & Injured (IDRD)											
Description			Dead				Injured				Total
No.	HRVs Topics	Total Case	18 < D_M (Child)	18 < D_F (Child)	18 > D_M	18 > D_F	18 < I_M (Child)	18 < I_F (Child)	18 > I_M	18 > I_F	
1	Landmines	35	2		2	2	1	2	24	12	45
2	Remaining weapon from war explosion	3	1				4		1		6
3	Arbitrary illegal arrest detention	3					1	1	7	1	10
4	Artillery Bomb shelling over Civilian	8		1	1	3	1	4	1	4	15
6	Killings	4			3	1			1		5
7	Torture Inhumane Degrading Treatment	4							9		9
8	Ammunition warehouse explosion	1	12	6	5	20	31	28	32	48	182
9	Confiscation destruction of property	4									0
10	Airstrike Bomb Shelling over Civilian	2				1	1	2	1	1	6
		64	15	7	11	27	39	37	76	66	278

2026 January to August Cases of children and women



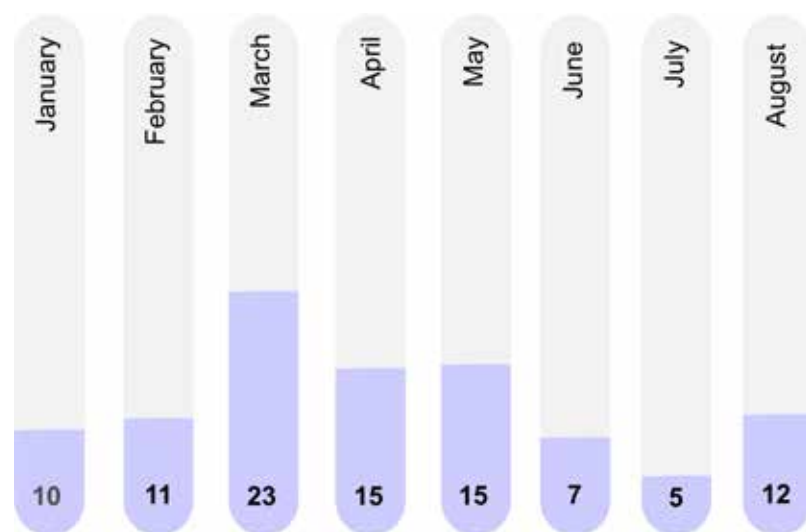
Cases of children and women in 8 months			(-18/F)	(+18/F)	Total
1	Rape	3	2	1	3
2	Rape attempt	1		1	1
3	Mongogamy/adultery	8		8	8
4	Domestic violence	11		11	11
5	Divorce	4		4	4
6	Gender Base Violence	1		1	1
7	Trafficking	5	1	4	5
8	Sexual Violence	1		1	1
Total		34	3	31	34



Confiscation Destruction of Property

No.	Description	Township	Houses	Religious building	Public building	School
1	Confiscation destruction of property	Namkham	714	12	3	1
		Kutkai	3			
		Moungmit	15			
			732	12	3	1

January to August total case



2026 January to August Total Case

98



Ta'ang Women's Organization

Despite the appearance of democratization in recent years, very little has changed for rural and remote communities in Myanmar. Ta'ang communities still face human rights abuses, and Ta'ang women continue to face further marginalization and discrimination based on gender. In this context, TWO continues the long-term implementation of many existing projects while adapting to new and developing community needs.



www.taangwomen.org



idrd@taangwomen.org