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Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar

25 December 2024-07 January 2025



Echoes of Anger: Social Media Responses to Increasing Violence in Myanmar

This [brief](#) provides an analysis of sentiments expressed in 2,106 public comments in response to 13 Facebook posts published by news sources on social media in Myanmar between June and October 2024. It offers a unique insight into public reactions, the emotional responses to events of those posting the comments, and perspectives on key humanitarian issues.

The 13 Facebook posts covered events involving:

- **humanitarian blockades and resource restrictions**
- **the targeting of international and local NGOs [AP1] and health care workers; and**
- **looting by armed actors.**

The comments included opinions relevant to an acceptance-based security risk management strategy in the form of opinions related to aid workers or aid groups (6 comments) and blockades (237 comments). Overall, the social media space in Myanmar was highly polarised in the period that was studied, with most comments containing strong opinions rather than references to neutral facts.

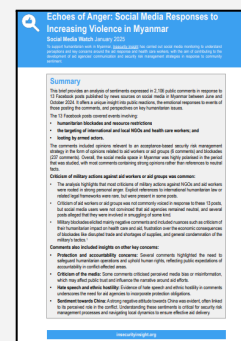
Criticism of military actions against aid workers or aid groups was common:

The analysis highlights that most criticisms of military actions against NGOs and aid workers were rooted in strong personal anger. Explicit references to international humanitarian law or related legal frameworks were rare, but were present in some posts.

- Criticism of aid workers or aid groups was not commonly voiced in response to these 13 posts, but social media users were not convinced that aid agencies remained neutral, and several posts alleged that they were involved in smuggling of some kind.
- Military blockades elicited mainly negative comments and included nuances such as criticism of their humanitarian impact on health care and aid, frustration over the economic consequences of blockades like disrupted trade and shortages of supplies, and general condemnation of the military's tactics.

Comments also included insights on other key concerns:

- **Protection and accountability concerns:** Several comments highlighted the need to safeguard humanitarian operations and uphold human rights, reflecting public expectations of accountability in conflict-affected areas.
- **Criticism of the media:** Some comments criticised perceived media bias or misinformation, which may affect public trust and influence the narrative around aid efforts.
- **Hate speech and ethnic hostility:** Evidence of hate speech and ethnic hostility in comments underscores the need for aid agencies to incorporate protection obligations.
- **Sentiment towards China:** A strong negative attitude towards China was evident, often linked to its perceived role in the conflict. Understanding these sentiments is critical for security risk management processes and navigating local dynamics to ensure effective aid delivery.



Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/25Dec-07Jan2025MMRHealth

Past incident briefs: [11-24 December](#); [27 November-10 December](#); [13-26 November](#); [30 October-12 November](#); [All SHCC Factsheets](#): Burmese: [2023](#). English: [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets, have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our [Myanmar](#) mailing list for regular updates.

Documented incidents

25 December 2024: In Bhamo town, township and district, Kachin state, a private clinic, a shop, and four houses were burnt by handmade electroshock rocket missile attacks during armed clashes between the Myanmar military and the Kachin Independence Army. **Source:** [Facebook](#)

As reported on 25 December 2024: In Kawlin town, township and district, Sagaing region, a township hospital (secondary-level, public), a high school, a police station and a general administrative office were occupied by the Myanmar military. **Source:** [People's Spring](#)

28 December 2024: In Launglon township, Dawei district, Tanintharyi region, the transport of medicine, rice, and cooking oil into the township was banned by the junta security forces. **Source:** [Tanintharyi Times](#)

As reported on 28 December 2024: In Twin Nge village and village tract, Thabeikkyin township and district, Mandalay region, a station hospital (primary-level, public) was damaged during armed clashes between the Myanmar military and a joint force of T'ang National Liberation Army, Mandalay PDF, People's Liberation Army, All Burma Students' Democratic Front, and other resistance forces. **Source:** [Mandalay Free Press](#)

As reported on 29 December 2024: In Bhamo town, township and district, Kachin state, a military hospital and other base camps of the Myanmar military were taken over by the Kachin Independence Army. **Source:** [Democratic Voice of Burma](#)

30 December 2024: In Sanchaung township, Ahlone district, Yangon city, Yangon region, a private clinic was damaged in an IED explosion planted by pro-democratic underground forces who targeted the military supporters living in that apartment building. The clinic was closed at the time of the blast. One passer-by was injured; two generators and two cars were damaged. **Sources:** [BBC Burmese](#), [Eleven Media Group](#) and [Tachileik News Agency](#)

31 December 2024: In Ban Mat village, Ka Du Gyi village tract, Mawmai township, Langkho district, Shan state (South), a local clinic and the office of the ethnic armed group Pa-oh National Liberation Army were damaged by bombs dropped by a Myanmar military fighter jet. **Sources:** [Kantarawaddy Times](#), [Khit Thit Media](#) and [Tachileik News Agency](#)

31 December 2024: At the Myanmar military checkpoint near Sagaing bridge, Amarapura township and district, Mandalay region, medicine cargoes and fuel were confiscated by the Myanmar military accusing that the cargoes were to be transported to the resistance forces. **Sources:** [Myanmar Now](#) and [Telegram](#)

02 January 2025: In Chaung Gyi village and village tract, Thabeikkyin township and district, Mandalay region, an LNGO office and five vehicles owned by the LNGO, 23 homes, a fire brigade office and a public building were damaged by bombs dropped by the Myanmar military fighter jets. Two people were killed and at least 20, including two LNGO workers, were injured in the attack. The LNGO offered ambulance services and blood donation services. **Sources:** [Burma Human Rights Network](#), [Khit Thit Media](#) and [Radio Free Asia](#)

02 January 2025: In Bhamo town, township and district, Kachin state, a district hospital, a technological university, a police station, and a general administrative office occupied by the Myanmar military were taken over by the Kachin Independence Army and allied forces. **Sources:** [Ayeyarwaddy Times](#) and [Shan News](#)

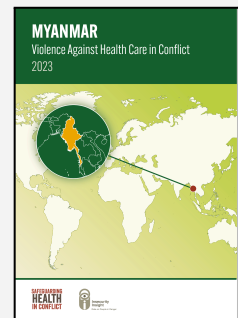
03 January 2025: In Kan Htaunt Gyi village and village tract, Myebon township, Mrauk-U district, Rakhine state, a station hospital and a high school were severely damaged by bombs dropped by a Myanmar military fighter jet. The hospital was not functioning at the time of the attack. One

person was killed. **Sources:** [Democratic Voice of Burma](#), [Narinjara](#) and [People Media Myanmar](#)

04 January 2025: In Khuanglung village, Darteti village tract, Falam township and district, Chin state, a sub-rural health centre and a school were damaged by bombs dropped by Myanmar military aircrafts. The health facility was not functioning and there were no casualties. Seven prisoners of war (the junta police force) and an armed personnel (an ethnic armed organisation Chin National Defence Force) living at the school were killed. **Sources:** [Facebook](#), [Mizzima](#) and [Zalen](#)

As reported on 06 January 2025: In Okpho town and township, Thayarwady district, Bago region, a private pharmacy, two retail shops, a library and a house were occupied by the Myanmar military. **Source:** [Khit Thit Media](#)

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) [418 incidents](#) of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2023, compared to 280 in 2022. Incidents increased by a third in 2023 and were widely dispersed. Most were recorded in the northern central areas surrounding the cities of Sagaing and Mandalay, and where Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions border one another, reflecting the overall concentration of fighting in these areas where opposition groups' resistance to military rule is high. Incidents also occurred in Shan state bordering Sagaing and Mandalay, especially after [Operation 1027](#). Cases adversely affecting health care continued in Rakhine state. Similar to previous years, most incidents were attributed to the Myanmar armed forces. EAOs that included the AA, the Chinland Defense Force, the Karen National Liberation Army, and Pyi-thu-sit, Pyu-saw-htee, and Swan-arr-shin militias were named in some incidents, but less often than the Tatmadaw.



SHCC Factsheets: Burmese: [2023](#). English: [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#).

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is supported by the H2H Fund which is supported by aid from the UK government. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the H2H Network or the UK government who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

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