

“We have lost our private sphere”

The infringement of privacy rights under the military junta in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region



Situation Overview

Fundamental rights to privacy and protection are under attack in Burma by the military junta. Since the regime staged a coup on 1 February, civilians have experienced a wide range of sweeping violations as a result of increased surveillance. Consequently, the space for basic human rights and freedoms has been unequivocally censored and suppressed. A culture of fear is being propagated through state legislature and problematic amendments to legal frameworks in a flawed attempt to justify the military's actions.

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the following: *No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.*¹ And yet, the junta has taken steps to change the legal landscape by modifying several privacy related laws in Burma to give the illusion that their actions are acceptable.

The junta is trying to control the digital ways in which people in Burma communicate. Even before the military launched the coup, they were collaborating with foreign agencies which allowed them to infringe on civilian privacy rights. This included ISP location service providers. The hijacking of telecommunications has been a long-desire of the junta who was already investing in these types of surveillance technology ahead of 1 February. Their efforts have extended to the Southeast Command in Mawlamyine and in Thanbyuzayat.

Violations of privacy and security since the coup include warrantless intrusions, property confiscation and destruction, arbitrary arrests and abductions. Public transportation routes have been intercepted by state backed security forces who have deployed 'stop and frisk' tactics to confiscate civilian mobile devices with evidence of anti-coup activities. These searches target young people and are used to seek out those leading protests and organizing pro-democracy activities. As of 31 March, the junta declared the following as illegal possessions:

- o Thai Satellite Sim cards
- o Virtual Private Network or other bypassing applications
- o Information of protester's contact addresses
- o Protest photos, video footage and graphic posters

External actors have also been complicit in the regime's quest for power and disregard for privacy. Informers are often the source of how police and security forces come to know the locations of those in hiding and lead to the arbitrary arrests of dissidents. Corporations are also responsible for their surrender to military orders. In July 2021, popular mobile company, Telenor, sold their Burma operations to a military-affiliated Lebanese company, called M1, who received access to data records of 18 million civilians.² Though contents of messages could not be retrieved, the time and date of call were accessible. The situation left activists who use Telenor in a precarious position and fearful of being exposed to the junta.

The General's exercise in control and intimidation has resulted in hundreds of people being unlawfully detained. Families have been left without information of their loved one's locations and legal counsel has largely been denied to those incarcerated. The situation has made for an environment in which the junta seeks to make a profit by extorting civilians in exchange for their possessions and loved ones to be returned.

It is no surprise that the junta is using fear mongering tactics and draconian policies to demand compliance with their illegal seizure of power. While these tactics are not new, it does not diminish or reduce the significance of those who have been arrested, detained, injured and even killed for what they possess on their phones or in the solitude of their own homes. These violations of privacy are serious and mandate widespread condemnation. It is illegal and unethical for state powers to access anyone's privacy, data and information to preserve their power and authority.



Introduction

How amended laws by the junta have eroded privacy rights and regulations

Security concerns from civilians across Burma are driven by the fact that no one is safe with military informers who are ‘everywhere.’ Newly appointed pro-military village and township administrators are using their illicit authority to check resident homes at any time, and are persecuting those who fail to cooperate. For the military commanders and their affiliates, it is all about earning a profit through any means, including the extortion of civilians and bribery by higher-ranked military officials. This is in violation of the Electronic Transactions Law and the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law, which was also amended by the junta after the coup. The military effectively made it legal to extort the personal data of anyone they deem a suspect.

In this briefing paper, the Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) will provide an overview to the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens (referred to as the ‘Privacy Law’) as well as various sections of the Penal Code, the Electronic Transactions law and the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law. Since the coup, the junta has made several unlawful amendments to the following laws, in addition to many others. HURFOM will outline how several of the cases documented between the reporting period of March 2021 to August 2021, are in violation of international norms and principles and are further evidence of the junta derailing democracy in Burma by using case-study evidence from Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region.

Based on cases HURFOM collected between March and August 2021, the following laws were violated by the junta in Mon State, Karen State and Dawei:

Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 89 cases

Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 62 cases

Penal Code: 35 cases

Electronic Transactions Law: 14 cases

These findings collectively indicate that privacy violations of the Burmese military are widespread and to the detriment of civilian rights and freedoms. HURFOM’s documentation of human rights violations in our target areas is ongoing, and seeks to share the realities of those on the ground. Following the conclusion to this briefer is a graph of all the cases which HURFOM has documented, corresponding to the relevant privacy laws which were violated.

Fieldworkers Note

HURFOM has fieldworkers in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi Region, as well as human rights networks across the country. Within this team, we will continue to monitor the human rights situation in our target areas as closely as possible. Given the new limitations that civil society organizations now face in the post-coup environment, we have found that the human rights situation is an even greater concern.

Fieldworkers continue to document human rights violations as best as they can, given the extreme risks they face on a daily basis. The growing threats to their safety only speak to the society of fear the junta has created. HURFOM's documentation and data is sourced from our network of field staff reporting on the ground. The restrictions imposed by the junta have made it much more difficult to access all of our target areas freely and without repercussions.

The Burma Army is known for intimidating and harassing fieldworkers documenting human rights violations. Security forces often threaten survivors who share their stories with rights groups as well. At the moment, HURFOM is safely able to work in ceasefire areas and armed controlled territories of the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party. Recording of events and testimonies is extremely high-risk outside of these areas.

The movement restrictions and curfews in place due to COVID-19 have also limited the amount of documentation possible, for security reasons. Therefore, the information outlined in this short briefing paper includes HURFOM data from the ground. Many of our estimates are likely significantly higher given the challenges we face collecting these data. Our team is immensely grateful to those who shared their fears and hopes for the future with us.

The Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens



"As you know, privacy is a fundamental human right. It also supports and reinforces other rights, such as freedom of expression, information and association. Now, under this military regime, we have lost everything. We have lost our private sphere."

—A young lawyer from Hpa-an on the state of privacy in Burma since the military coup

Overview of the Law

On 8 March 2017, the Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens (the Privacy Law) under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was enacted by the National League for Democracy (NLD).³ Across six chapters, the law outlined the protection rights of civilians related to privacy and the responsibilities of relevant ministries to ensure 'there is no damage to the privacy and security of the citizen.'⁴ Among the prohibitions, it states that no one shall be detained for more than 24 hours without permission from a court.⁵

Section III of the law clearly states that every citizen has the right to enjoy the protection of his/her privacy.⁶ This includes that the authorities must not enter a person's residence or a room used as a residence, or a building, compound or building in a compound, for the purpose of search, seizure, or arrest, unless accompanied by minimum of two witnesses who should comprise Ward or Village Tract Administrators, Hundred- or Ten-Householder Head.⁷

The law was enacted to protect civilian privacy and property rights and to ensure there were restrictions rightfully placed on the authorities. The government has a responsibility to uphold the right to privacy regardless of gender, socio-economic background, religion or other factors tied to identity, which can be used to discriminate against tenants. The law also exists to protect personal data from the government corporations.

Privacy rights are fundamental to civilian safety in Burma because it prevents the authorities from spying on them without just cause under democratic clauses, and further holds those who infringe on those rights accountable. They also represent social boundaries and protection of personal and political boundaries.

Amendments by the Junta

Following the military coup, the junta reversed protections in several sections of the Privacy Law.⁸ Included in their changes was the removal of basic protections such as, “the right to be free from arbitrary detention and the right to be free of warrantless surveillance and search and seizure.”⁹ In addition, the following sections have been suspended: Section 5, Section 7 and Section 8.¹⁰

Section 5 of the law requires that there must be two witnesses when police arrive at a location to search or seize property.¹¹ This ensures that there are others present to report any abuse of power by the authorities and to ensure the seizure is done without force. The suspension of Section 5 basically gives the junta the will power to conduct their raids however they see fit, including with violence. Given the Burma Army’s repertoire of tactics, this now legitimizes their seizures without consequences.

Additionally, Section 7 demands that anyone who is detained for a period of 24 hours has a court order to legally do so¹² and Section 8 prohibits search and seizure, surveillance, spying, or any investigation which has an impact on the privacy, security and dignity of a person without a court order.¹³

The implications of the suspensions and amendments by the junta deliberately deny civilian rights to privacy. In limiting and undermining the agency of the people within their own homes and on their own devices, the Burma Army is showing no restraint in their attempts to stifle dissent in the name of ‘security.’

Impacts on HURFOM Communities

Civilians in HURFOM communities feel they have lost their privacy completely. The Privacy Law, and in particular the amendments by the junta, have failed to protect them. With the military armed with weapons, all residents can do is stand by and witness the raids of their homes and arbitrary arrests of loved ones. ‘Dalan’ or informers are a major concern in Mon State, Karen State and Tanintharyi region. Backed by state authorities, informers can be anywhere and work quietly with the junta to reveal the locations of those wanted by the military; many of whom are leaders in the community, and have been vocal against the regime. Their presence only adds another layer of fear and paranoia. It has become practically impossible to trust anyone, with the majority feeling like they have a target on their backs.

During the peak of the anti-coup protests in Burma which took place in the weeks immediately after the coup, joint security troops were exceptionally violent and invasive. In an incident recorded by HURFOM fieldworkers on 1 March, township police, police forces of the Special Branch and military intelligence forces stopped and searched young protestors in Thanbyuzayat town, Mon State. They also interrogated each individual. Their wallets were searched along with their mobile phones and motorcycles. The ordeal lasted an hour and was intended to intimidate. Others who were interrogated the same day were searched and seized. Six protestors, including Ko Toe Lwin and Ko Kyaw Thura Han who led the strike were included.

Forced stops, searches and robberies are taking place in many places in Mawlamyine, Mudon and Thanbyuzayat townships in Mon State. Fences and blockades have been set on fire, civilian properties destroyed and homes completely looted. The violence has led to growing numbers of injuries and death.

On 10 April at 9:35 AM, a Karen villager was shot to death at the Byaw Taw Wa security checkpoint by the junta after he refused to be searched and turned around at a checkpoint in Dawei. The same troops stopped a group of 5 youth, looted their mobiles and money.

Warrantless arrests are violently taking place. On 5 March, police raided civilian homes and destroyed and confiscated properties in Thiri Myaing, Mawlamyine. They targeted those who were involved in the anti-coup strikes. HURFOM received several photos of families who were beaten and injured including 2 killed, 9 injured in Mawlamyine, Mon state. The next day on 6 March in the middle of the afternoon, riot police and state backed thugs raided the home of a family providing free food to protestors in Dawei. Two young men were beaten on their heads and injured. Three canisters of teargas exploded to disperse crowds before the police raided the house.

Protests are still ongoing in Mon and Karen States as well as in the Tanintharyi region. State backed security troops are increasing their presence at the toll gates and continuing to stop and search all travelers. HURFOM has reported weekly seizures of property including motorcycles and mobile devices since the coup. If soldiers find evidence of protest activities and internet bypassing applications such as Virtual Private Networks, residents can be arbitrarily detained or forced to pay extortionate bribes. A 20-year-old man who spoke to HURFOM said that four of his friends were forced to pay 30,000 MMK (18 USD) each to get their phones back from the junta. Warnings have also been issued that those who record and take photos of the junta security can be arrested and punished. On 13 April, HURFOM documented the arrest of a 34-year old man from Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, who was arrested at the Ah-bit Checkpoint after troops found protest-related photos on his phone.

The Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code



“We don’t care about the authority’s threats. We know they can’t arrest all of us. These threats cannot stop our fight for genuine freedom and restoration of democracy.”

— 30-year-old Bee Lin resident who marched in front of the crowds

Overview of the Law

The Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code,¹⁴ is a controversial law which has problematic roots. Even before the military coup, the law had been used against human rights defenders. Amended in 2016, the law includes articles on defamation, sedition, offense, religion and incitement.¹⁵ The law has been criticized for being outdated in today’s context of democratic principles. In 2017, pressure from civil society called on the NLD to reform the law.¹⁶ However, it was deemed to not be a priority for the government at the time.

The Penal Code has become notorious for being used against journalists to defame them for publishing content that discredits or criticizes the ruling government. Even under the NLD, civilians were prosecuted for exercising their rights to free speech including criminal defamation and section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which made it a crime against any speech which caused ‘fear or alarm in the public.’¹⁷ If convicted, those found guilty could face imprisonment up to two years, a fine or both.

The law has been problematic for decades with a turbulent history of simmering tensions between civilians and the government. Civil society organizations in Burma have long appealed for reform of the defamation laws, which uses broad language to disparage dissent.¹⁸ Among their calls have been to try complaints against critics as civil cases, rather than criminal.¹⁹

However, the NLD turned a deaf ear to calls for reforms. At the end of the elected government’s first term in 2020, there were still nearly 600 political prisoners detained, with many being imprisoned under the Penal Code for speaking out against decisions made by the democratically elected party. Under the military junta, the rights to peaceful assembly and speech are under even greater attack, with civilians and ousted senior officials standing to have much more to lose.

Amendments by the Junta

Two weeks after the coup, the Burma Army announced amendments to the law to sustain their grip on freedom of expression, including two existing articles. Vague terminology is flooded throughout the changes in a deceitful attempt to protect the junta and hold anyone accountable who 'sabotages or disrupts' the military or government, or knowingly causes fear to spread 'fake news.'²⁰

Among the modifications is Article 121 which defines high treason. A new clause has been added which makes anyone seeking to use unconstitutional means to overthrow the junta a crime.²¹ Article 124A has been expanded to bring on a two decade sentence against anyone who brings 'hatred of contempt' or 'excite disaffection.'²² Article 124C is a new provision which can sentence anyone up to 20 years for any type of damage to the Defense Services or authorities 'engaged in preserving the stability of the state.'²³

Notably, one of the biggest changes has been the addition of Article 505A of the Penal Code which penalizes anyone who "causes fear to a group of citizens or to the public," who spreads "false news," or "agitates a criminal offense against a Government employee."²⁴ Carrying a prison term of up to seven years, 505A is a direct hit in retaliation for free speech and press freedom. Interconnected is 505B of the Penal Code which deems it illegal to issue "any statement, rumour or report" likely to induce members of the public to "commit an offence against the state."²⁵

Even more worrying was the addition of a 'Genocide Law' to the Penal Code by the junta, which include provisions that include a death sentence, "for murders committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group."²⁶ The Genocide Law is an insult to ethnic people in Burma who have suffered from state-sponsored violence and a slow genocide of their existence. It also attempts to deceive the international community as Burma's generals face genocide charges at the United Nations for its hate-filled campaign against the long-persecuted Rohingya.²⁷

Amendments by the junta to the Penal Code have been done to purposefully discourage protests from taking place and to legitimize their arrest of journalists. With an absence of human rights protection and effective remedies, civilians were left to fend for themselves as members of the press, and protesting civilians were taken away, at times by force, by state-backed junta forces.

Impacts on HURFOM Communities

Since March 2021, eighteen individuals have been charged under 505(a) of the Penal Code in HURFOM areas. The situation has forced activists to remove the license plates from their motorcycles, which stems from a fear of the junta recording their movements and arresting them based on their CTV records. Sweeping cyber security laws are making it impossible for residents to protect themselves. Under the constant monitoring and surveillance of the junta, citizens have had to make many adjustments in their everyday lives to protect themselves.

In reforming the Penal Code, the junta safeguarded their interests. By doing so, restrictions on media freedom and expression took a downward trajectory that has continued to have ripple-effects at every level of society in Burma. Civilians have felt the crushing side-effects of the junta's brazen rejection of the principles of free press – which have been eroded under military control. The application of Penal Code 505A and B in particular are making civilians increasingly nervous. Four journalists since the coup have been arrested in Tanintharyi region, according to HURFOM documentation. Since the very beginning of the coup, the junta made several attempts to legitimize themselves and their seizure of power to the press. No journalist nor publication agency not backed by the State appeased their wishes. Subsequently, journalists continue to be targeted. Nearly 100 media personnel have been arrested since the coup, and 46 remain in prison.

The Penal Code has been used across the country and in HURFOM target areas to silence dissent. On 10 March, ten key members of the emergency rescue team from Kyaikkami, Thanbyuzayat Township in Mon State who were arbitrarily arrested by police were being charged with the Penal code under Article 188. Ko Tayoke and Ko Watote served as volunteer ambulance drivers. According to Penal Code 188, anyone who defies a government order or instruction shall be sentenced to 1-6 months in prison or a fine.²⁸

Midnight raids, arbitrary arrests associated with anti-coup movements and those issued arrest warrants continued in Mudon Township, Mon State. At least four young protesters were charged under the Penal Code 505 and issued arrest warrants by special police in Kyone Phite village, Mudon on 17 June. “We are following the names and numbers of people recently arrested by the junta. My colleagues Yin Yin Myint and Zaw Zaw Aung confirmed this abduction. They were all abducted in their hiding place,” a friend of the detainees told a HURFOM reporter.

On 10 May, at least 32 civilians were charged with Penal Code section 505 and issued arrest warrants in Mudon, Mon State. Most of them are young protestors who actively participated in anti-coup activities from the military.

It is unacceptable that the bounds of privacy and right to freely criticize the regime and their politics is not without consequence. The Penal Code amendments have brought waves of worry through HURFOM communities as family members and loved ones are arbitrarily arrested and detained for exercising their rights to freedom of speech. In the junta's attempts for coercion and control, the effect on the people has been the opposite. Further quests for assimilation are only discrediting the junta further.

The Electronic Transactions Law



“They are wrongfully using their power. The police are robbing us. They stop us, then open the bike seat and take valuable things like smartphones or money.”

— Mon civilian

Overview of the Law

The Electronic Transactions Law, also referred to as the “ET” law was originally enacted on 30 April 2004²⁹ and established for consumer protection by ‘supporting electronic transactions technology in building a modern, developed nation.’³⁰ In application, several Chapters and subsequent sections outlined certification authority and administrative action. If a central authority violates any condition, a penalty may be stipulated or the license can be subject to a time suspension or cancelation of the license.

The law extends to protections on electronic communications to ensure that electronic data exchanges are reliable and secured and not susceptible to outside interference by the government. In 2004, the law was established under the previous military government in order to expand their surveillance efforts over phone and Internet users.³¹ In 2014, it was again amended to reform several unethical provisions.³² When the law was reformed in 2021 under the junta following the coup, it was a rushed process which offered no timeline for consultation.

Just three weeks after the coup, on 21 February 2021, the junta amended the Electronic Transaction law to give authorization to the regime to confiscate personal data in matters related to the stability and security of the state.³³ The amendment to the law is once again intentionally broad as it fails to even define the scope of ‘personal data’ and is part of a pattern of the military to justify their arrests and charges against civilians. A new chapter of the law makes it acceptable for the government to confiscate any device which the junta determines could be evidence of a crime under their unlawful jurisdiction.

In addition, an amendment to Section 38-C declares: “Whoever, at the cyber space, commits creating false news or fake news with the intention to cause public panic, to lost trust, to lower the dignity by public or to destroy the unity of any association, on conviction shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of one year to a maximum of three years or with a fine not exceeding ten million Kyats or with both.”³⁴ Again, the terminology is loosely worded and exceptionally general, with no definition of false news, fake news and public panic.

The amendments to the law also target cyberattacks.³⁵ The junta has made it legal to arrest and detain anyone who engages in any online activity which attempts to “threaten and destroy the State’s sovereignty, security, stability, rule of law, or national solidarity, and install malware with the intention to harm someone.”³⁶ If convicted, citizens face a sentence between two and five years’ imprisonment. Further, the amended law gives authorities permission to access anyone’s data which is connected to “cyber-crimes,” “cyber misuse,” or any criminal investigation.³⁷

Included in the amendments is a new Chapter titled the “Protection of Personal Information” which outlines “a very basic system of data protection and assigns duties to data controllers.”³⁸ A lack of clearly defined terms including ‘cyber misuse’ is subject to interpretation at the junta’s will. Vague guidance on the law has been done to intentionally confuse the public and once again avoid accountability for their corrupt course of action. If data is intercepted by state parties, there is no longer protection by the user. Ambiguous language of the law does not provide any clear indicators of how the confiscated information will be used. However, given the military’s history of hunting down those who are against their politics, there is strong evidence to suggest data will be used to incriminate.

Changes to law seriously override basic rights to freedom of expression and privacy. In their war on the people, the junta has proclaimed any critique of their agenda as illegal.

Impacts on HURFOM communities

Civilians across Burma have had their daily lives interrupted to accommodate the paranoid, self-guided intentions of the military. Travel between regions has become an opportunity for the junta to extort civilians for financial and material gain. HURFOM fieldworkers have documented the confiscation of mobile phones by the junta to target the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and those supporting it. Civilians have reported that any evidence of being involved in protests has left them vulnerable to arrests by the military.

A resident from Mon State told HURFOM that security forces are everywhere now, including on the highway bus terminals, train stations, on the road and even on the bus. “They check everything on your mobile phone; the photo gallery, recent contacts, file directories, Facebook and other social media applications. If they find something related to the current revolution activities, we can be arrested immediately or asked for ransom anywhere from 5000 to 500000 Kyat or more,” said a 55-year-old Mawlamyine resident who was extorted by security forces in Bee Lin Toll Gate.

Extortion by the junta is one of the primary worries of residents, who fear confiscation of materials which the junta deems a threat. This is yet another deliberate tactic of the junta to isolate the population and make civilians feel as if they have no other choices but to obey.

Protesters who have information on their phones related to organizing efforts and campaigns can be targeted through the Electronic Transaction law. In seeking to protect the military and its subsequent institutions, the law makes it virtually a crime to criticize the regime on and offline. As a result of the harsh crackdowns, organizers have had to be creative and quickly adapt to the increasing limitations on their activities. Journalists who are covering the protest, despite being clearly marked ‘Press’ are also targeted. The junta has made anyone who supports the pro-democracy movement an enemy.

The work of human rights defenders is critical. While the targeting of activists through legal means is not new, what is worrying is the substantial efforts the junta has taken to squander the rights of anyone who has an opinion which differs from the military. It has become a race for their lives. Many human rights defenders in HURFOM areas are constantly on the run to evade arrest and having to adopt survival tactics including keeping their mobiles untraceable and free from any evidence of their activities.

Problematic loopholes in the law have set up activists in the junta’s legal system. Broad language makes it easier to condemn and charge those the military feels have violated their draconian way of policing the State. Infringing on the electronic rights of civilians is yet further evidence of their infringement of basic privacy rights, which all citizens are entitled to and must be preserved.

The Ward or Village Tract Administration Law



“Two of my close friends were abducted and their houses were raided in the last 3 days. They are activists with low profiles, but the ward administration knows who they are and were arrested. We’ll never kneel down under the military boots. We will fight until we win.”

— A young civil engineer from Dawei

Overview of the Law

The Ward or Village Tract Administration Law (2012) was enacted over a century ago, and provides a mandate to the administration and subsequent supervision of over 16,000 wards and village tracts.³⁹ The law basically stipulates an overview of the Village Tract leaders’ responsibilities including those related to security, local development activities and other pertinent local issues which need to be facilitated.⁴⁰ The law also allows for the provision of warrantless searches of homes. In the past, this has been deliberately done to curtail the rights of human rights defenders and to detain anyone affiliated with pro-democracy activities.

In light of the coup, the junta is using similar tactics to crack down on dissent and detain anyone suspected of being affiliated with the CDM or related engagements. In a 2015 investigation by rights-based group, Fortify Rights, found that the guest registration requirement is an infringement of civilian rights to privacy, freedom of movement, resident and association.⁴¹

The colonial-era law had been used for decades to expand the junta’s reach and control over the population for their own surveillance. Problematic in stature and application, the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law makes civilians ultimately accountable to the village wards appointed by the junta’s authority.

Amendments by the Junta

The Ward or Village Tract Administration Law has seen its own history of reforms over the last several years, under the military government and civilian government led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In 2016, the NLD proposed changes to the law which would no longer require citizens to report overnight questions to their local ward administration office.⁴²

At the time, there was concern the move would bring conflict with the military, who the NLD shared power with and who had used the law as part of their surveillance through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), which oversees the General Administration Department (GAD). At the end of 2018, the GAD was transferred from the MOHA to the NLD.⁴³ This was a pivotal move for the NLD and significant as it made clear that the hold which the military had used to exercise control over civilian populations through the GAD was coming to an end. Additional reforms to the law by the NLD included ‘good governance and people-centered regional development works.’⁴⁴

On 5 May 2021, the junta transferred control of the GAD back under MOHA to be under their oversight once again.⁴⁵ Included in the new amendments by the junta is Article 17 which requires residents to register overnight guests staying in their homes, making it harder for those on the junta’s wanted lists to evade arrest.⁴⁶ Violations of the law include a fine of ten-thousand Myanmar Kyat (6 USD) or a week-long prison sentence if the fine cannot be paid.⁴⁷ Section 13 of the amendments make it plausible to “take action” against those who fail to do so and section 27 reinstates criminal sanctions.⁴⁸

The military has extended their authority into civilian homes, as late-night inspections have increased at a steady rate since the coup. However, more recent assaults on village/ward leaders tied to the junta have witnessed a decline.⁴⁹ Even against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which put the soldiers and civilians at increased risk during home invasions, the regime is failing to show any restraint in their operations.

Impacts on HURFOM communities

Warrantless arrests and midnight raids by state backed security forces are undermining civilian safety and their rights under the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law. HURFOM communities have witnessed local ward and village administrators being replaced by those appointed by the junta. This has made it easier for the regime to target civilians working with the CDM or related pro-democracy activities. On 1 May in Mawlamyine, Mon State, 30 security forces abducted a young anti-military activist, Kaung Htet, from Ohn Taw No.3 Street at 10 PM. These security forces also conducted inspections of families and guest lists in Ohn Taw ward.

Formerly elected administrators have been forced to flee for their safety, despite the fact that residents overwhelmingly reject the military-appointed replacements. On 29 April, it was reported from Dawei that at least 20 former Village/Ward Admins were abducted by the junta troops. Most of them were detained in Myoma Police Station. In Dawei, there are over 30 Administrators with several in hiding, according to local sources.

The abuse of power is clearly mandated across the reforms to the Ward or Village Tract Administration Law. The junta was never comfortable with the idea of civilian government having jurisdiction over the GAD, as it threatened their reach and undermined their authority.

In HURFOM areas, the strict new amendments have made it more difficult for families who are trying to preserve the protection of their loved ones who are in hiding. In a recent case from 12 August, a group of six plain-clothed police abducted a civilian in Kyat Sar Pyin, in Dawei at 7 AM. The police forces came to arrest U Win Zaw's son who was involved in the recent moto strikes and in hiding. They could not find him so they kidnapped U Win Zaw.

The soldiers are searching for CDM supporters and protest leaders. Many of whom are still in hiding for their own safety. On 21 April, it was reported in Dawei at least 20 civilians were arrested in three different wards. According to a witness, most of the detainees were protestors, activists, and supporters. A neighbor was abducted as well when the police tried to arrest a man in hiding. Late at night the same day, a school teacher and CDM activist was arrested at her hiding place at 11PM, as reported by a fellow human rights defender and network member of HURFOM. The Hpa-An based junta used 40 police and soldiers as well as five police trucks to arrest her, according to her colleagues: "At first, the police troops threatened her family with arrest if they did not give away her hiding place. Too many men were used to arrest her."

The prevalence of the cases taking place is all the more alarming. To deprive civilians of safety, security and privacy within their own homes sets an expectation that the people of Burma refuse to adhere to.

Conclusion

“Beware of the military informants. They are everywhere and newly appointed by the junta groups”

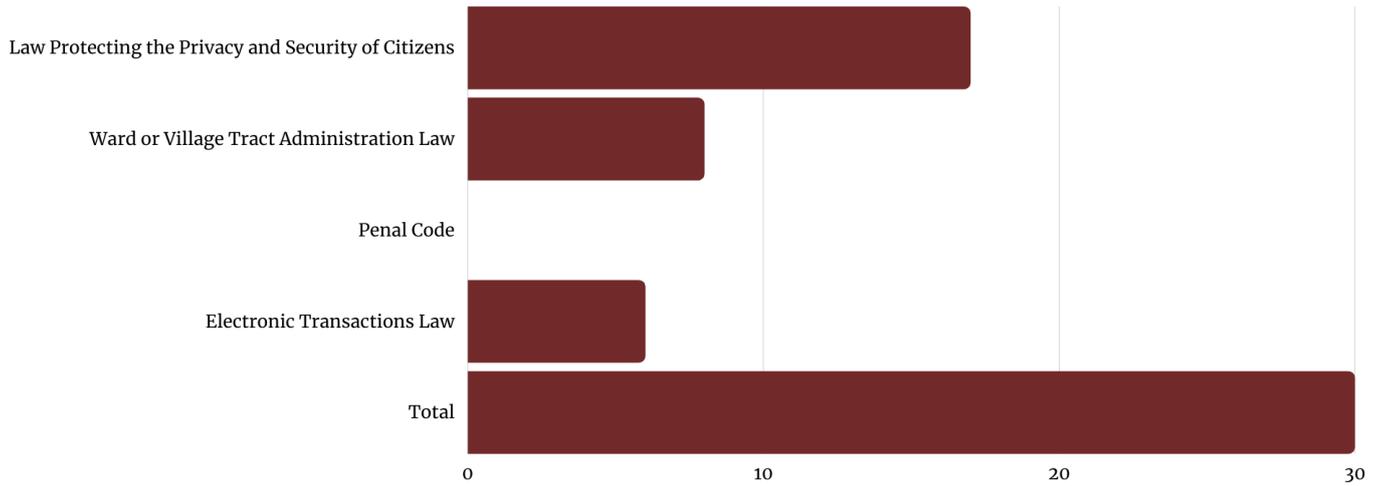
— local resident from Myaine Thayar ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State

The Burma Army has failed in their quest to make everyone in the country obey their demands. Civilian defense forces are showing their resistance through warfare. Teachers, doctors and nurses have aligned themselves with the CDM, which has had crippling economic impacts on the junta as civilians refuse to pay bills which generate an income to the General’s pockets. By refusing to go to work, they are challenging the junta’s narrative that it is ‘business as usual’ in the country. In Burma, politics have become personal as civilians refuse to forfeit their freedom for the junta’s gain.

It has been over seven long-months of state-wide violence. The military has attempted and failed to convince the country’s citizens and the international community that their coup was appropriate. In reality, their actions represent fatal flaws in the junta’s understanding of democratic processes. Motivated by power, profit and prestige is the reputation they’ve garnered. They will be remembered for putting their interests above what the people voted for in the 2020 General Election in which the NLD won by a landslide. Their abhorrent assault on civilian rights – including their safety seemingly knows no bounds.

Changing the laws to accommodate their ruthlessness is cowardly and shows signs of weakness, not strength. HURFOM’s extensive documentation of crimes against civilians since the coup is evident that no matter how brutal or harsh their policies are, the military cannot break the spirit of the people.

March 2021



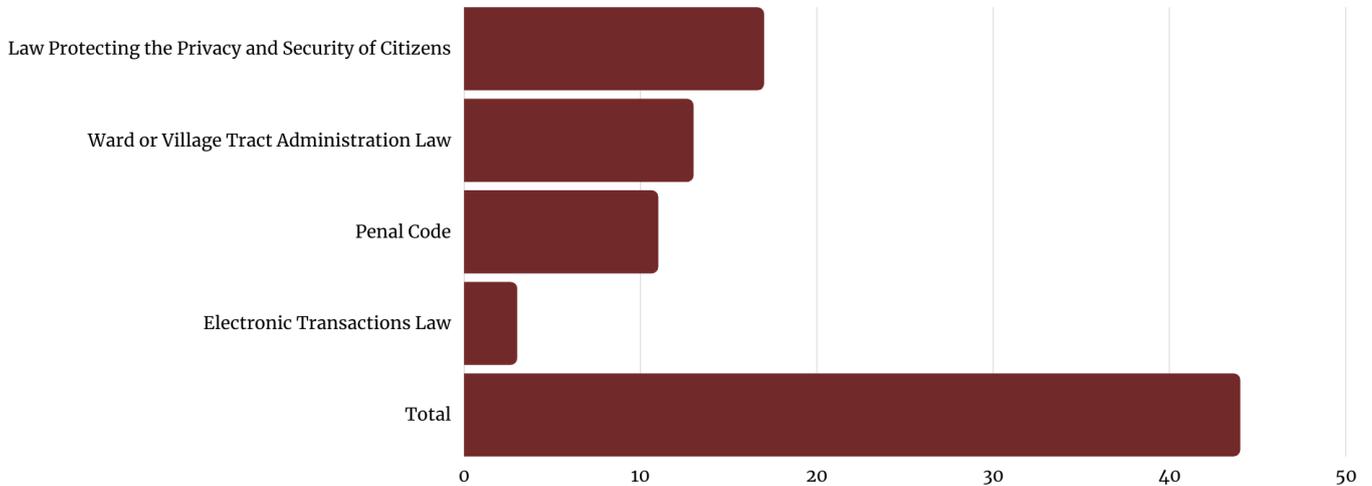
Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 16

Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 8

Electronic Transactions Law: 6

Total cases: 30

April 2021



Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 17

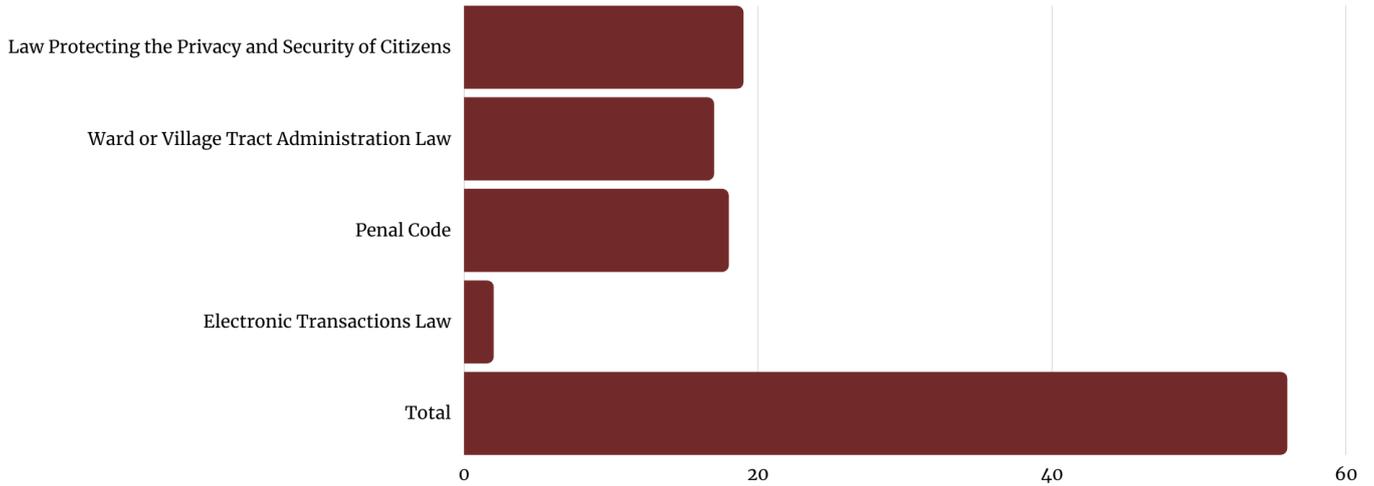
Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 13

Penal Code: 11

Electronic Transactions Law: 3

Total cases: 44

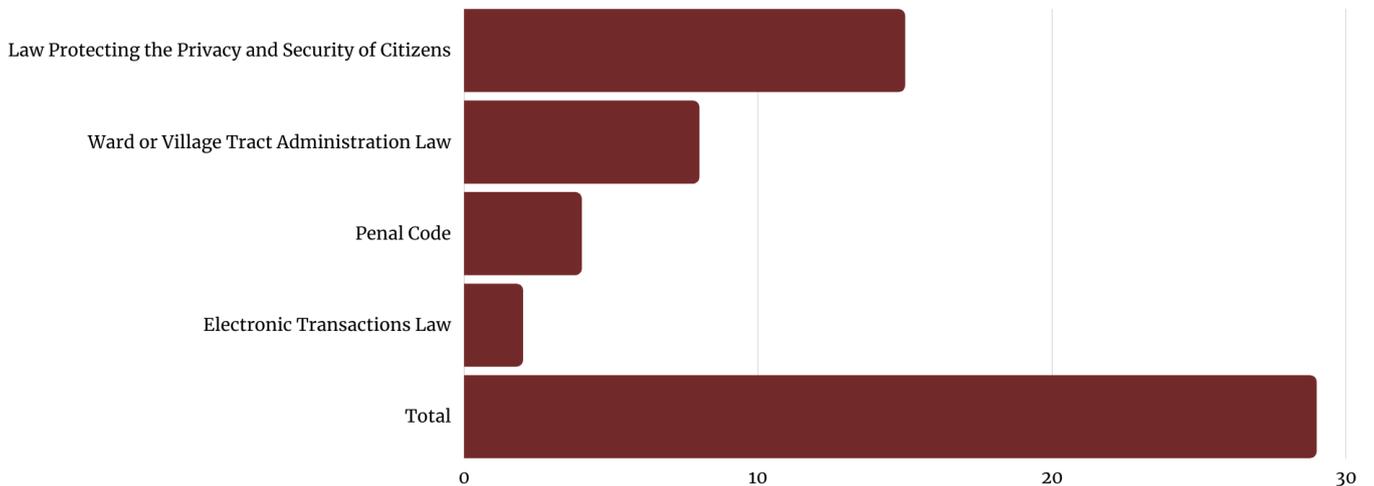
May 2021



Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 19
Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 17
Penal Code: 18
Electronic Transactions Law: 2

Total: 56 cases

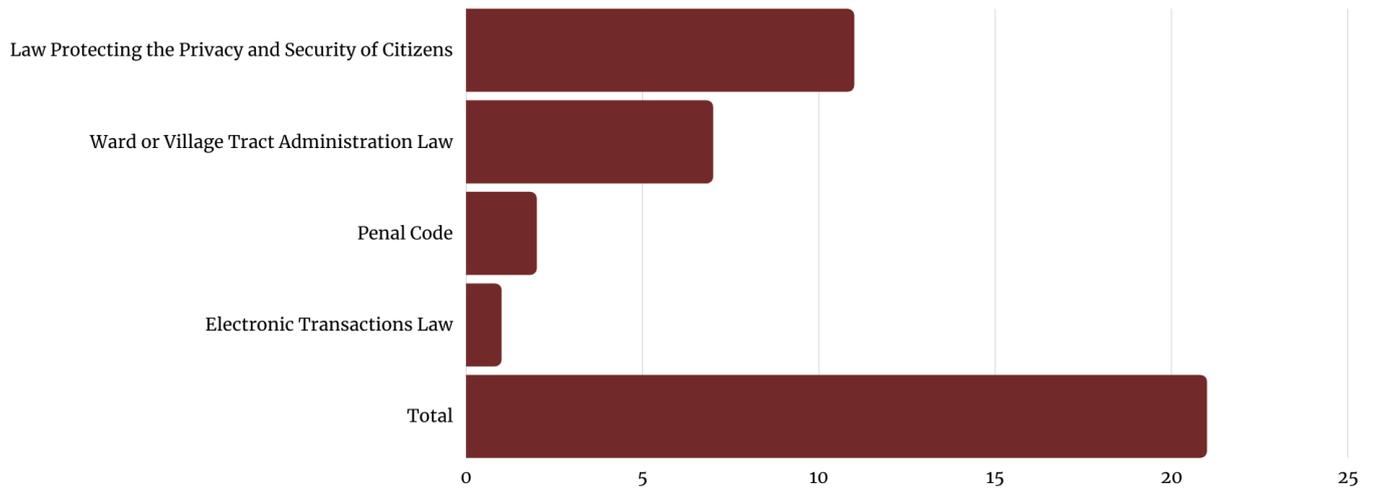
June 2021



Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 15
Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 8
Penal Code: 4
Electronic Transactions Law: 2

Total: 29 cases

July 2021



Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 11

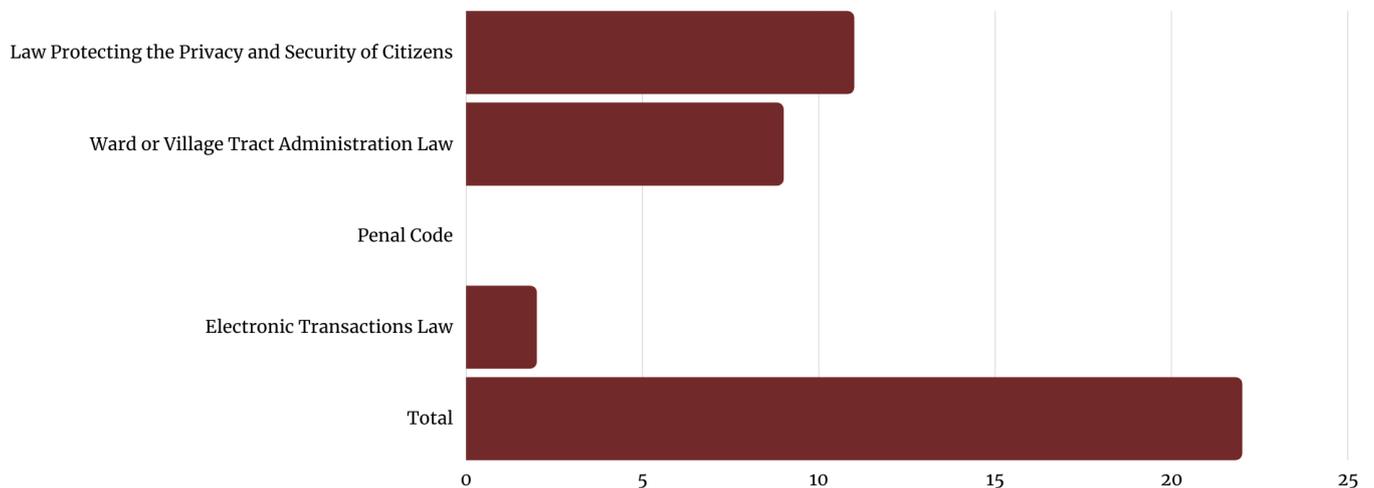
Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 7

Penal Code: 2

Electronic Transactions Law: 1

Total cases: 21

August 2021



Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens: 11

Ward or Village Tract Administration Law: 9

Penal Code:

Electronic Transactions Law: 2

Total cases: 22

March 2021

Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
1 March	Joint security troops of township police, police forces of the Special Branch and military intelligence forces stopped and searched young protestors in Thanbyuzayat town, Mon State. The joint troops interrogated and searched each person's wallet, mobile phone, and motorcycle. The search took about an hour-long but there were no arrests.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p>
2 March	At least 6 protestors were arrested by riot police forces in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. Among them, Ko Toe Lwin and Ko Kyaw Thura Han who led the strike were included. Their families have confirmed they still are unable to contact them.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p>
3 March	Approximately six riot policemen based on Shwe Myaing Third road broke into residents houses and fired several shots. Inhabitants say their possessions and motorcycles were shot at. People were ordered to turn off their phones and others had their phones seized. Three people were injured.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
4 March	Police and thugs raided civilian homes, destroyed and confiscated properties in Thiri Myaing, Mawlamyine. They targeted those involved in the anti-coup strikes. HURFOM received several photos of families who were beaten and injured including 2 killed, 9 injured in Mawlamyine.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration</p>

March 2021

		Law
5 March	Travel restrictions, searches and confiscations of travelers' belongings continued by junta security forces in Bee Lin, Paung and Thanbyuzayat Townships in Mon State. In Thanbyuzayat, the troops forcibly seized at least 5 mobile phones and money. Mostly young people were targeted.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
6 March	At 2:30 PM riot police and state backed thugs raided the home of a family providing free food to protestors in Dawei. Two young men were beaten on their heads and injured. Three canisters of teargas exploded to disperse crowds before the police raided the house	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
8 March	In Dawei, the junta security troops shot indiscriminately into civilian homes and areas. Houses, motos, bikes and properties outside were damaged.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
9 March	Large scale destruction of properties occurred in Kan Bauk, Yebyu, Tenasserim Region where more than 100 motorbikes were confiscated by riot police and soldiers from local battalions No. 282 and 273. A local resident from Kan Bauk sub-town said: "The protestors near my place, Kan Bauk, and villagers nearby came and gathered in Sat Gone football field yesterday afternoon. They parked their motorbike here and marched	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p>

March 2021

	along with local protestors. Then, the protests were broken up by the troops and they had to run from being arrested. The troops then came back to the football field and lifted the motorbikes to their army trucks. I saw that at least 100 bikes were seized during yesterday's crackdown in Kanbauk."	Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i>
10 March	<p>Around 10AM, twenty riot police raided a tea shop located in front of a Hindu Temple in Taung Paw Dan Road, where some protestors were hiding. The junta troops destroyed their properties and arrested three young men. Their motos were also confiscated.</p> <p>--</p> <p>A group of over 50 soldiers raided Thiri Myaing housing, Mawlamyine to investigate apartments and houses without warrants. Reports from Thanbyuzayat and Wae Thon Chaung village confirmed that three people were arrested including a 16-year-old girl.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
11 March	Five motorbikes were also confiscated in Daiwon Kwin junction. Money was taken from young travellers. Two motorcycles were taken by riot police at about 10AM at the entrance of the toll gate of Thanbyuzayat, according to a HURFOM source.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
17 March	'Stop and search and interrogation' tactics continued on Sittaung bridge, at the entrance to Mon State by junta's security groups, say local sources who suspect the military is looking for new ways to generate an income.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p>

March 2021

		Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i>
18 March	A group of security forces raided Dawei Su Ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State. Five young men who had joined protests were arrested. In the morning, the parents were asked for a ransom for their release by the Military Officers. The amount the officers demanded was 1 million Myanmar Kyat per detainee, the source said. Some families can afford to pay but others cannot.	Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i>
20 March	Five villagers from southern Ye Township were arrested. After their mobile phones were searched, they were freed after paying 300,000 MMK each to the LIB #31 military checkpoints. The troops separately asked to pay 500,000 each for their motos. These young men couldn't afford to pay and left them.	Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i> Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i>
25 March	Junta forces raided suspected strike leader homes, arbitrarily arrested people, and looted properties including motos. As of 4PM, seventeen people had been arrested in Kyet-Sar-Pyin Ward, Dawei, including a 2-year-old child. Seven motos were confiscated.	Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i> Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i> Ward or Village Tract Administration Law
26 March	Three teenagers were arrested and their motos confiscated. Later, they were released after paying money to the police in the Dai-Won-Kwin junction	Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i>
29 March	Junta security forces raided civilian homes located on Gway-Kone street in Mawlamyine. A witness reported that at least 12 people were arrested in 4 quarters, and their motos and properties were looted.	Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i>

April 2021

Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
1 April	A member of the Mawlamyine student Union, Min San Thein Win, had his home raided by junta security troops and was arbitrarily arrested. His family has not been able to communicate with him since his arrest.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
2 April	A young man, Myo Min Aung, was arrested by the junta and accused of owning an air rifle in Hpa-An, Karen State. His three friends who led the March 27 protests in Hpa-An and Eain Du were arrested on 29 March and detained in Taung Kalay Prison	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
5 April	Reports from Yebyu Tsp that troops launched more 'stop & frisk' in many areas. Our source said: "it is very frustrating to go out with restrictions and stops everywhere." The reporter also heard that some young residents were asked for money.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p>
6 April	Security troops raided a local cigar distribution business and arrested 2 staff who were accused of being linked with financially supporting the Civil Disobedience Movement in Dawei. A local witness also reported that the troops are searching for protest organizers, many of whom are in hiding.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>

April 2021

		<p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
7 April	<p>At 10 pm in Hpa An, Karen State, security forces abducted four civilians and confiscated their motos in Shwe Kin street. One man was severely beaten when he refused to get in the Army truck. A source said forces were searching homes and checking guest lists on the main road.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
8 April	<p>Junta security forces forcibly removed the PSI satellite dishes to blackout Mizzima and DVB TV news across Mon state.</p>	<p>Electronic Transactions Law</p> <p><i>Government access to personal data</i></p>
10 April	<p>At 9:35 AM local time, a Karen villager was shot to death at the Byaw Taw Wa security checkpoint by the junta after he refused to be searched and turned around at a checkpoint in Dawei. The same troops stopped a group of 5 youth, looted their mobiles and money.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
13 April	<p>Arrests are increasing and becoming more severe. A 34-year-old man from Thanbyzayat, Mon State, was arrested at the Ah-bit Checkpoint after troops found protest-related photos on his phone.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Two Civil Disobedience Movement supporters from Myine Tharyar ward had their homes raided and were arrested. Local inhabitants said they witnessed some plainclothes people involved in the junta, where security forces released criminals tasked with raiding suspected houses.</p> <p>--</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law</p> <p><i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>

	<p>Two sisters, Su Mon Thet and My My Thet, one a teacher and the other was a nurse who were both abducted by Dawei junta forces after they found Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) related evidence on their phones. The soldiers are searching for the CDM supporters and protest leaders. Many are still in hiding.</p>	<p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
<p>21 April</p>	<p>It was reported in Dawei that at least 20 civilians were arrested in three different wards. According to a witness, most of the detainees were protestors, activists, and supporters. A neighbor was abducted as well when the police tried to arrest a man in hiding.</p> <p>--</p> <p>A school teacher and Civil Disobedience Movement activist was arrested at her hiding place at 11PM, as reported by a fellow HRD and network member. Hpa-An's junta used 40 police and soldiers, and five police trucks to arrest her, according to her colleagues: "At first, the police troops threatened her family with arrest if they did not give away her hiding place. Too many men were used to arrest her."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
<p>22 April</p>	<p>Five civilians were arrested during midnight raids in Mawlamyine, Mon State: "The police troops came and raided my neighbor's home at 10:45 and grabbed him," said a witness from Mupon ward who saw what happened by looking through the small hole in a bamboo wall.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p>

April 2021

		<p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
23 April	<p>A doctor affiliated with the Civil Disobedience Movement was arrested in his hiding place, Shwe Than Lwin Guest House, in Hpa-An. He was issued an arrest warrant and charged with 505(a). Two police trucks and a jail van reached the Guesthouse where he was hiding and abducted him.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505a</p>
25 April	<p>A group of junta forces raided a tea shop and checked the customer's smartphones. At least seven young civilians in Gone Htake ward, Mawlamyine were arrested. A social worker and protestor, Htet Ko, is confirmed among the arrests. All motos had been confiscated.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
26 April	<p>A group of over 22 protesters and Civil Disobedience activists were brought to the Southeast Command, located in Mawlamyine, Mon State. Most detainees are young women including school teachers. At least 15 were taken with two Army Trucks yesterday at 2PM.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p>
27 April	<p>Strike leader, Saw Aung Khine Myo, was arrested from his home by junta forces in Hpa An, Karen State. A protester said: "Activists need to remove their moto license plates. The junta may be recording us, and can see our motos and then arrest us based on their records."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration</p>

April 2021

		<p>Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
29 April	<p>At least five young protesters and Civil Disobedience Movement activists were abducted in their hiding place, Mogok Vipassana Meditation Center, in Mawlamyine, Mon State at midnight. A monk who wished to remain anonymous confirmed these arrests committed by junta security.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>

May 2021

Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
1 May	<p>An estimated 8 protest organizers, including Village Administrators, were arrested by security troops in Myei. In Lon Lone Township, another protest leader was grabbed by security troops on 30 April and detained at the police station.</p> <p>--</p> <p>In Mawlamyine, Mon State, 30 security forces abducted a young anti-military activist, Kaung Htet, from Ohn Taw No.3 Street at 10 PM. These security forces also conducted inspections of families and guest lists in Ohn Taw ward.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
5 May	<p>Junta troops raided civilian houses and abducted at least two protesters in Shwe Taung, Mawlamyine. The Thae War, 32, was arrested in her shop. Another arrested was a guerrilla striker.</p> <p>--</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p><i>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p><i>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p>

May 2021

	<p>Junta security forces abducted four civilians in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State: “A couple, the owner of the doll-shop were caught and accused of being linked with the Civil Disobedience Movement by plain-clothed police officers,” said a witness.</p>	<p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
6 May	<p>Three civilians were arrested by security troops at midnight in Mudon, Mon State: “Ko Ko Oo, the NLD member, and Yee Yee Htay, a school teacher involved with the Civil Disobedience Movement, were grabbed in a night raid in their houses by a group of 15 soldiers and police,” a friend of Koko Oo confirmed.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
8 May	<p>According to one of the motorcycle shop owners located in Out-Larn, a large amount of two wheeled and three-wheeled motorcycles were confiscated by the Mawlamyine junta authorities, stating they were taken for not having licenses: “Over the last week, including today, they seized approximately 240 motos. The majority are two wheeled motos and there are about 40 with three wheels motos from seven shops here in Mawlamyine. Usually, the process of applying for the licenses starts when a customer purchases the moto. Then, from the company shop, we levy selling (income) taxes to the Land & Transportation Department and apply for the licenses for each vehicle. But now, the junta came and checked the claims and confiscated them. This act is the destruction of our business and is unlawful.”</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p>
9 May	<p>Reporters from Dawei received cases of junta troops forcibly confiscating money and extorting motos from showrooms in Dawei: “Joint forces of police and soldiers inspected 3 moto showrooms and confiscated at least 100 motos for not having vehicle licenses,” a witness from Lon Lone, Dawei said. They confiscated 10 new motos and a list of motos applying for licenses. Some are big bikes, imported from Thailand, and some are equivalent to 20,000 USD. Shop owners claimed they already levied imports taxes.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p>
10 May	<p>At least 32 civilians were charged with Penal Code section 505 and issued arrest warrants in Mudon, Mon State. Most of them are young protestors who actively participated in protests. The raids and destruction of properties are ongoing in Mudon. They came and arrested Member of Parliament Ma Khin Kyawt Phyu, but she was in hiding. Then they destroyed the house. Police are raiding the homes of high-profile politicians and activists. Families are interrogated as well.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>

May 2021

12 May	<p>A teacher from a government technical high school and two Civil Servants and Civil Disobedience Movement leaders were abducted yesterday in their hiding places: "Sithu Htwe, 40, was arrested by soldiers and police joint forces from his house in the school compound. He is the third teacher who the military government has arrested."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
14 May	<p>Residents in Kanbauk, Dawei claimed their motos were confiscated by the police. Some of them disappeared at local police stations, according to owners who lost their motos during the protests in April, where at least 350 motos were confiscated in Kanbauk.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Junta forces raided the home of a Civil Disobedience Movement activist and arrested two women in Three Pagodas Town: "Ma Zinmar Oo, Naw Wagay Htoo are high profile activists. But they did not hide," said a friend.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
17 May	<p>A 22-year-old, Ma Aye Su, resident of Mudon Mon was abducted from her hiding place by security forces and charged with 505(a) penal code. The junta accused her of supporting the Civil Disobedience Movement activists and school teachers.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
18 May		<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p>

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	<p>Eight students from Mawlamyine University were abducted from their hiding place in Zayarmyine ward, as confirmed by a member of the Student Union: "The special forces raided their homes and abducted them. Three are seniors from Mawlamyine University, and five are from GTI," said a colleague.</p>	<p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
20 May	<p>Two protest organizers, including Soe Thet Maung, 22, were arrested at their temporary home in Taung Kalay at midnight. Another activist was grabbed by Special Forces a few hours earlier.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Security forces arrested six civilians, including two doctors in Paung Township. Another doctor and four villagers who are residents of Yin Nyein, Katon, and Paung. They are believed to be linked with the Civil Disobedience Movement and the bike protests.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
22 May	<p>A 17-year-old boy, Minn Myat Htut Thu, who lives in Kyaing housing of Hpa-An, was abducted from his home in a raid: "Soldiers accompanied with special police came to arrest him. There were two men in their truck. It seemed like more detainees."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
23 May	<p>A group of 10 junta forces raided the home of a former village Administrator searching for weapons. They arrested him arbitrarily on accusations of being linked</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p>

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	with the People's Defense Force. They destroyed, and looted the property and took gold, phones and 3,000,000 MMK.	<p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law</p>
29 May	A young man was arrested for owning a pro-NLD shirt and 2 Chinese fireworks in Myeik, according to his family: "At first, they entered my house and said they wanted to inspect the guest registration and family lists. Then, they entered the room of my nephew, Thet Lwin and found an NLD T-shirt and two fireworks. These fireworks are not illegal. We can purchase in the market legally. But they abducted him and myself. They released me yesterday but my nephew has been detained since he was arrested on May 26," said the uncle of the victim	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
31 May	Junta forces abducted four strike leaders and demonstrators from Kyet-Sar-Pyin Ward, including Ko Waiyan Phyoe and Ko Nyan Win. They both suffered from injuries due to soldiers opening fires at the hut they were hiding in. According to a strike committee member, when the Interior Ministry announced the arrests, they forced the detainees, Ko Waiyan and Ko Nyan Win to take a photograph with prearranged evidence	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights.</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>

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Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
1 June	Security forces abducted at least eight young protesters including Ko Zaw Zaw, a strike organizer, from his house at 12:00 AM in Kaw Thaug, Tanintharyi region: "Midnight raids, surprise guest inspections are carried out every night since March in KawThaug," said a resident	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
2 June	Four young activists and two university students were abducted from their homes by the security troops on June 2: "Junta troops are relying on their informers located in each quarter. They came with lists. It is essential to get rid of the informers first," said a 30-yearold man. "My sister was abducted on June 2. She received warning messages from the informers a few days ago, but she did not care and did not try to hide," said the brother of Ma Nge Lay who was arrested and detained in Kyaikmayaw prison.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-</p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
4 June	At least five civilians were abducted after junta security troops raided the homes of suspected Civil Disobedience Movement activists. "About five people have been arrested since May 28. Some were arrested for no reason. U Chit Win, 60, and U Hla Wai from Sar Sin Ward were abducted from their homes. In some cases, when the security troops cannot find the targeted person, they arrest the families." Kyaw Thu Myo was arrested instead of his sister, who was involved in CDM" said his friend. He is a Seaman. The junta arrested him after they did not find his sister.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
9 June	At least three young villagers were abducted from their houses by the police forces in Yebyu Township. They are Zin Myo Paing, Ye Lin Oo and Aye Naing. All are residents of Thit Tho Htauk village, Yebyu Township, Dawei. Their mobile phones were confiscated: "I think these arrests are a sequence of the recent nightstrikes. Most young people are involved in the guerrilla strikes over the past few weeks," one of their neighbours confirmed the arrests. Four days ago, two villagers from Thi THo Htauk village were shot dead and cremated by security forces in Yebyu.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p>
11 June	Junta officers abducted two villagers involved in last month's bike strikes from Hlaing Bwe, Karen State: "Both Ko Thein Htun and Saya Sue are from Kwan Bee village. The SAC came and arrested them. We still don't know where they are," said a co-striker.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p>

		<p>Section 7: Indefinite detention</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p>
13 June	<p>Security troops abducted 20 villagers in Kanet Thiri village, Thayet Chaung Township, Dawei according to local sources: "These arrests were not explained. Due to the increase in the number of soldiers last week, we have faced more movement restrictions and feel like we are in a risky situation," said an anonymous villager who confirmed the arrests.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p>
14 June	<p>It was reported that seven villagers were abducted after a Police Inspector from the local police station was killed by two unknown gunmen in Maung Ma Ngan village, Dawei at 10 AM: "A group of 10 soldiers came and arrested these young villagers. Among them, one villager was shot by the security troops on his left calf and injured. We heard that he was accused as one of the gunmen who killed the police Inspector. He is just an ordinary villager, with no ties to any armed group," said Maung Ma Ngan villager</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p>
17 June	<p>At least four young protesters were charged under the Penal Code 505 and issued arrest warrants by special police in Kyone Phite village, Mudon. "We are following the names and numbers of people recently arrested by the junta. My colleagues Yin Yin Myint and Zaw Zaw Aung confirmed this abduction. They were all abducted in their hiding place," a friend of the detainees told a reporter.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Dr. Phone Wai Oo, a key member of NLD in Kaloh Thot village, Mudon, was arrested by Security Forces, according to a witness: "The soldiers and policemen came from Mawlamyine with four military trucks, raided his house, and abducted him."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 7: Indefinite detention</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</p> <p>Section 7: Indefinite detention</p> <p>Section 8: Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>

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18 June	Junta troops abducted five more young protesters who led guerrilla strikes over the past 3 weeks in Hpa-an, Karen State: "Among the detainees, Aung Pai Soe is the youngest. He is a student at Hpa-An University as a history major. All arrested students were sent to Taung Kalay Prison.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
19 June	During a Guerrilla strike from Paing-Taw Village, Thayet Chaung, Dawei, protesters were violently dispersed by the junta. It was confirmed that 4 young women protestors were arrested. The junta forces confiscated approximately 35 motorcycles left by the protesters.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
24 June	U Sein Lwin, a former NLD Township's information Officer was abducted from his house by Security Forces in Paung, Mon State on June 20. His family said they have been unable to contact him since he was arrested.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
25 June	The Youth Development Institute, based in Ye Phyu village, Lon lone Township, was raided by security troops this afternoon. At least 30 youths were attending the training there. No arrests were reported. But the training center's properties and the motorcycles were confiscated.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
29 June	Two young civilians from Shwe Myaine Thiri ward, Mawlamyine, were abducted in a midnight raid on suspension of being a part of the People's Defence Forces: "I saw the soldiers grab them. They have increased security in our ward since last week," a local witness said.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>

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		Ward or Village Tract Administration Law Penal Code section 505
30 June	Travelers are forced to queue for permission from the junta security tollgate to continue to destinations, a Dawei resident reported: "They asked the host address in detail if you are from other areas, as well as the purpose of the journey, and personal info as well as ID cards. No one is allowed to pass the toll roll without ID." These kinds of movement restrictions are also operating on the border between Mon and Tanintharyi, the reporter said.	Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i>

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Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
4 July	State security forces arrested two Civil Disobedience Movement activists in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State at midnight. "They've been involved in this Spring Revolution as CDM activists and fled in April. There's been more than two dozen abductions since the coup from Mottama," said a local resident	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
6 July	A 68-year-old woman and her 13-year-old grandson were abducted by the special forces in Pyin Gyi village, Long Lone Township, Dawei. The mother of Zay Myo Sat, a young victim, said her son and son-in-law were kidnapped when junta troops came to arrest her husband. "We confirmed that my son and mother, Daw Saw Kyi, are detained in Maung Ma Kan Police Station," said the mother of a detainee who appealed for help for their unlawful arrests	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
7 July	In the evening, military soldiers abducted three villagers from Saw Pyar village, Thayet Chaung, Dawei. "The victims are Ko Min Swe, Ko Thar Nge, and U Sein Ngwe, originally from Saw Pyar village. They have been accused of the killing of a former village administrator. I think they are ordinary villagers and are innocent," one of the friends of the detainees said. According to a witness, the soldiers entered the village and indiscriminately fired several gunshots in the village and arrested those three villagers.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
11 July	Junta troops tightened up security and restrictions in response to the guerrilla strikes. The Special forces raided a Civil Disobedience Movement lawyer's house and a school teacher's house, but no arrests were reported.	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>

	<p>--</p> <p>According to victim families, four civilians were abducted by junta security troops. They were accused of having firearms in Ye Phyu village tract, Long Lone Township, Dawei. According to the reporter, the detainees are U Phoe Zaw, 40 years, Ko Soe Aung, 30 years U Nyi Nyi Aung, 55 years, and Ko Thar Gyi, 24 yrs. U Phoe Zaw is a well-known social worker in the Ye Phyu village emergency rescue team. "Approximately 45 soldiers have been patrolling my village since last night. They found an air gun from Ko Thar Gyi and arrested all four villagers. This air gun was only for bird hunting, and these villagers are not even associated with the armed group," a friend of Ko Thar Gyi explained on the arrests</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
<p>12 July</p>	<p>A key member of the Youth Affairs Committee (YAC), Ko Myo Min Oo and four of his colleagues were abducted in Thayet Chaung, Dawei: "All four were detained in the LIB #404. The Township junta came and took Myo Min Oo, Aung Myo Thet. Aye Aye Mon, and Pyay Son Oo to ask questions, but they were not released," confirmed a YAC member. Ko Myo Min Oo, one of the four detainees arbitrarily arrested by the Dawei SAC, is also a disability activist. He was leading a Committee of Youth Policy in Tanintharyi Region areas. According to his family, he used to receive many threatening letters from unknown procoup groups.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
<p>15 July</p>	<p>The junta abducted five civilians in Dawei. "Soldiers blocked streets and carried out door to door checks and arrested five people from Myo Thit 4th St and 8th St. There were no arrest warrants," said the source.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
<p>19 July</p>	<p>"It is not possible to go back home or to leave home without the ID card (which we never carried with us before). Even if you can prove you are a resident of Dawei, you still have to pay them to enter your native place. The junta administrators, soldiers and police make large incomes every day even though the country's system has collapsed," expressed a 55-year-old Dawei resident who had to pay 2500 Kyat to go back to his home.</p>	<p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data Internet Posts</i></p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
<p>22 July</p>		

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	<p>Security forces abducted two young activists in Dawei and one in Hpa-an and accused them of being associated with the local People's Defence Force. One of the detainees, Ko Chit Naing, is only 20 years old. "The junta makes accusations and unlawfully arrests people. My friends are only peaceful demonstrators. Neither are linked with armed groups nor supporting violent activities," according to a friend of a young detainee in Hpa-an</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p>
28 July	<p>Three villagers were abducted by LIB 406 who accused them of smearing red paint and handprints on the junta Village Administration Office wall and street. According to the reporter the incident happened when 20 soldiers from LIB #406 entered Ye Phyu village and arrested these three villagers, brought them to the village school, and beat them during interrogation. One was only 18 years old</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Penal Code section 505</p>
30 July	<p>Nine villagers were abducted by the Karen State junta, who accused them of being linked with the Karen National Union trained People's Defence Force (PDF) in Hlaing Bwe, Karen State. The military's Information Department announced that they could arrest the leader of the PDF led by Saw Kyaw Gyi. Among those arrested, two were young women.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>

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Date	Case	Type of Privacy Rights Infringed Upon
1 August	<p>Security forces abducted two villagers in Hnee Padaw village, Mudon, Mon State. A sister of one of the detainees confirmed her brother and another villager were accused of being associated with the assassination of junta appointed Village Administrator, Nai Mehm on July 31.</p> <p>"We still could not contact these arrested villagers. There has been no further information received yet. I hope they are safe," a Hnee Padaw Villager told a HURFOM reporter.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
3 August	<p>Junta Security forces in Paung Township, Mon State, abducted two Mawlamyine University (MUSU) students from their homes as confirmed by the Student Union: "Ma Nan Sandar Win and Ma Su Paing Hpu were arrested in the evening of August 3rd. The soldiers brought them to Kyaikmayaw Prison. The reason for the abduction was not apparent but it might be linked to their anti-coup posts, as was suggested by a member of MUSU. They are now being charged with 505a and held in Kyaikmayaw Prison</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
4 August	<p>U Aung Sein, a former member of the House of Representatives from Dawei, was arrested by the Junta Security Forces from his home on July 31. Since then, his family has not been able to contact him.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
12 August	<p>A group of six plain-clothed police abducted a civilian in Kyat Sar Pyin, in Dawei at 7 AM: "These police forces came to arrest U Win Zaw's son who was involved in the recent moto strikes and in hiding. They could not find him so they kidnapped U Win Zaw."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>

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<p>19 August</p>	<p>"Security forces are everywhere now. In the highway bus terminals, train stations, on the road and even on the bus when you travel. They check everything on your mobile phone, such as in the gallery, recent contacts, file directories, Facebook and other social media applications. If they find something related to the current revolution activities, we can be arrested immediately or asked for ransom anywhere from 5000 to 500000 Kyat or more," a 55 year old Mawlamyine resident who was extorted by security forces in Bee Lin Toll Gate said.</p> <p>--</p> <p>It was reported that three young villagers from Asin Village, Ye Township, Mon State were abducted by the Junta security forces at 11 PM: "They entered the village with three Army trucks and said they needed to check the guest registration door to door. When they departed from the village, they arrested three villagers who included a 15-year-old boy," said a villager who witnessed the incident. A source close to the Village Admin said the arrests were inked with the murder of former USDP member who was accused of being an informer.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i> <i>Internet Posts</i></p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
<p>23 August</p>	<p>Travel restrictions, inspection of personal belongings, various properties and money extortion persists in Mon State: "The junta said they do this because of COVID-19. But, their primary purpose is to check individuals to target the PDF in urban areas and extort money from civilians."</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Electronic Transactions Law <i>Government access to personal data</i> <i>Internet Posts</i></p>
<p>24 August</p>	<p>The junta's battalion under the Military Operations Command MOC 13 arrested two ethnic Karen villagers, Saw Kyaw Thein and Saw Kyaw Boe, from their village in Kaw Tha Naw, Kawkareik Township, Karen State, a local witness reported.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>

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<p>26 August</p>	<p>Two young men were abducted by the joint troops of the junta and Border Guard Forces near the entrance of Kyain Seik Town in Karen State: "It seems like they suspected the two men as PDF members and arrested them. Their motos also taken," a local witness reported</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>
<p>29 August</p>	<p>Four local women villagers from Sit-Pyae village, Long Line Township, Dawei, were abducted by the local Army Battalion. The reason for their arrest is still being investigated by the HURFOM field workers team.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Dawei reported that at least 35 local civilians of Kyet-Sar-Pyin Ward, Dawei were abducted by the Junta Security forces. Local sources said these arrests are linked with the murder of a Vice Managing Director of the Ministry of Border Affairs on 28 August.</p>	<p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p> <p>Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens</p> <p>Section 5: <i>Search, seizure, and arrest without civilian observation</i></p> <p>Section 7: <i>Indefinite detention</i></p> <p>Section 8: <i>Wide-ranging individual privacy rights</i></p> <p>Ward or Village Tract Administration Law</p>

Endnotes

- 1 [“Right to Privacy under UDHR and ICCPR,”](#) *Privacy Bytes*, 24 October 2017
- 2 [“Telenor will transfer call data records for 18 million subscribers to junta-linked company,”](#) *Myanmar Now*, 26 July 2021
- 3 See: [Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens](#), 8 March 2017
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Ibid
- 6 Ibid
- 7 Ibid
- 8 [“Myanmar: Post-Coup Legal Changes Erode Human Rights,”](#) *Human Rights Watch*, 2 March 2021
- 9 Ibid
- 10 [“Myanmar Amends Legislation on the Privacy and Security of Citizens amid State of Emergency,”](#) *Tilleke & Gibbins*, 23 February 2021
- 11 See: [Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens](#), 8 March 2017
- 12 Ibid
- 13 Ibid
- 14 See: [Myanmar Penal Code](#)
- 15 [Penal Code](#), *Free Expression Myanmar*, 1 January 2017
- 16 [“Penal Code not a priority,”](#) says NLD *Free Expression Myanmar*, 1 January 2017
- 17 [“Dashed Hopes: The Criminalization of Peaceful Expression in Myanmar,”](#) *Human Rights Watch*, 31 January 2021
- 18 [“Myanmar NGOs Urge Reform of Defamation Laws Used to Silence Critics”](#) *Radio Free Asia*, 11 December 2020
- 19 Ibid
- 20 [“Myanmar: Penal Code amendments portend long-term repression”](#) *Article 19*, 15 February 2021
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September 2021