



AID WORKER SECURITY DATABASE

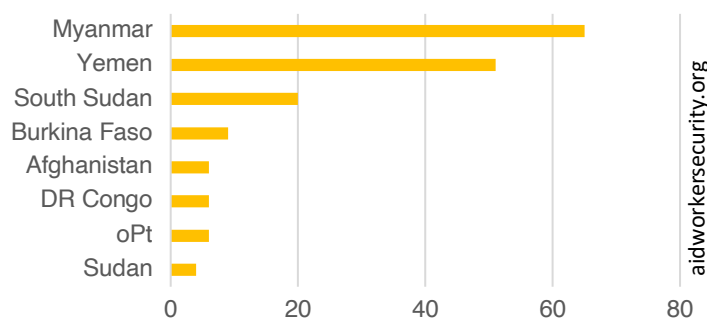
SIGNAL ALERT

OCTOBER 2025

Aid workers face high risk of detention in Myanmar

State forces in Myanmar have increased the use of detentions and arrests to control and intimidate aid workers. The new detention category in the AWSD records 242 aid worker arrests and detentions over the past five years, though the real figures are likely much higher. Shrinking civil society and the persecution of journalists and human rights monitors since the 2021 coup have made documenting abuses extremely difficult, resulting in artificially low incident numbers. [Human Rights Watch](#) reports that 27,500 civilians have been detained since 2021, and the number of local aid workers detained is estimated by security professionals to be in the hundreds.

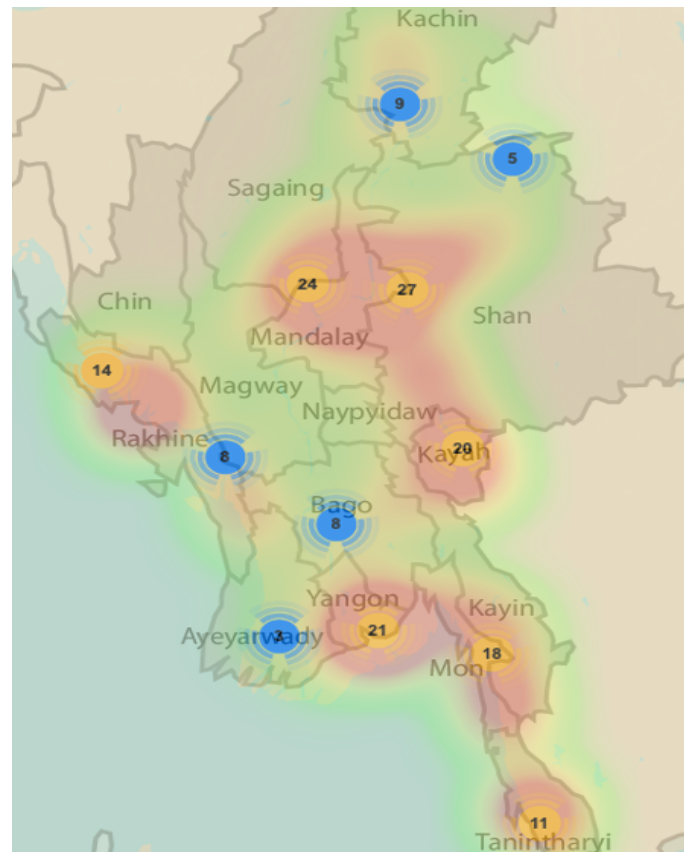
Aid workers detained 2024-2025*



*2025 data pending verification

Since January 2024, Myanmar has had the highest number of aid worker detentions globally, with Yemen a close second. While threats to all humanitarian organisations are growing, local NGO first responders who transport and care for conflict victims face the greatest risks. Since the earthquake in March 2025, local organisations have met with tightening access restrictions and continued attacks by armed forces. International NGOs continue to have their registrations revoked and travel authorisations denied, limiting their ability to support national partners.

Based on available data, most detentions since 2021 are recorded in Shan, Saging, Yangon, Mandalay, and Mon.



In July 2025, the de facto authorities enacted new laws permitting the arrest of anyone seen as impeding the upcoming elections. This is one of many legal tools recently adopted by the military to investigate, interrogate, and detain individuals. As international organisations opt for remote management, expertise for assisting detainees and their organisations is scarce. Many worry these laws and their brutal application will intensify as the December 28 elections approach.

Other Resources: [ICRC](#) [Human Rights Watch](#) [UN Human Rights Office](#)

To anonymously report violence against aid workers or wrongful detention fill out [this form](#)

Signal Alert is an occasional publication of the Aid Worker Security Database to inform the humanitarian sector of a statistically significant trend, change, or outlier detected in the security environment for aid operations.

www.aidworkersecurity.org

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