

# Arakan Conflicts Update

An overview of November 13 to December 31, 2023

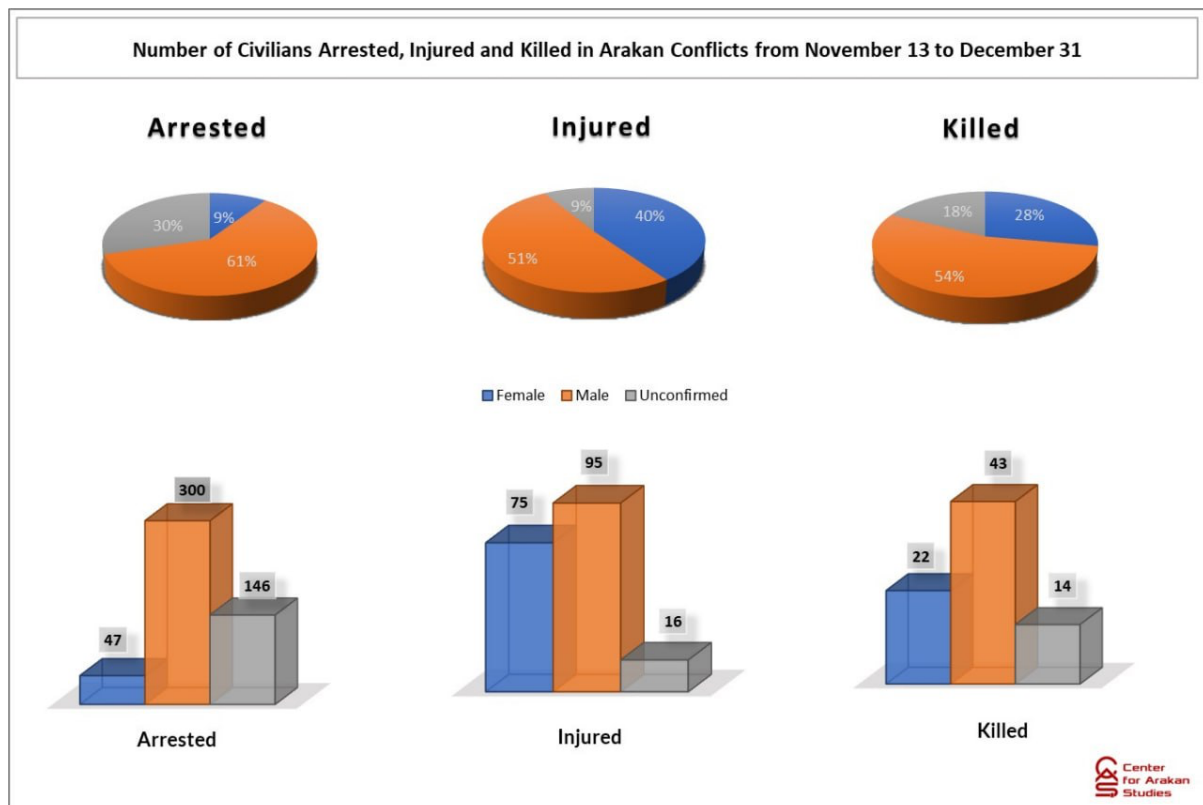
By Center for Arakan Studies

## Key Remarks

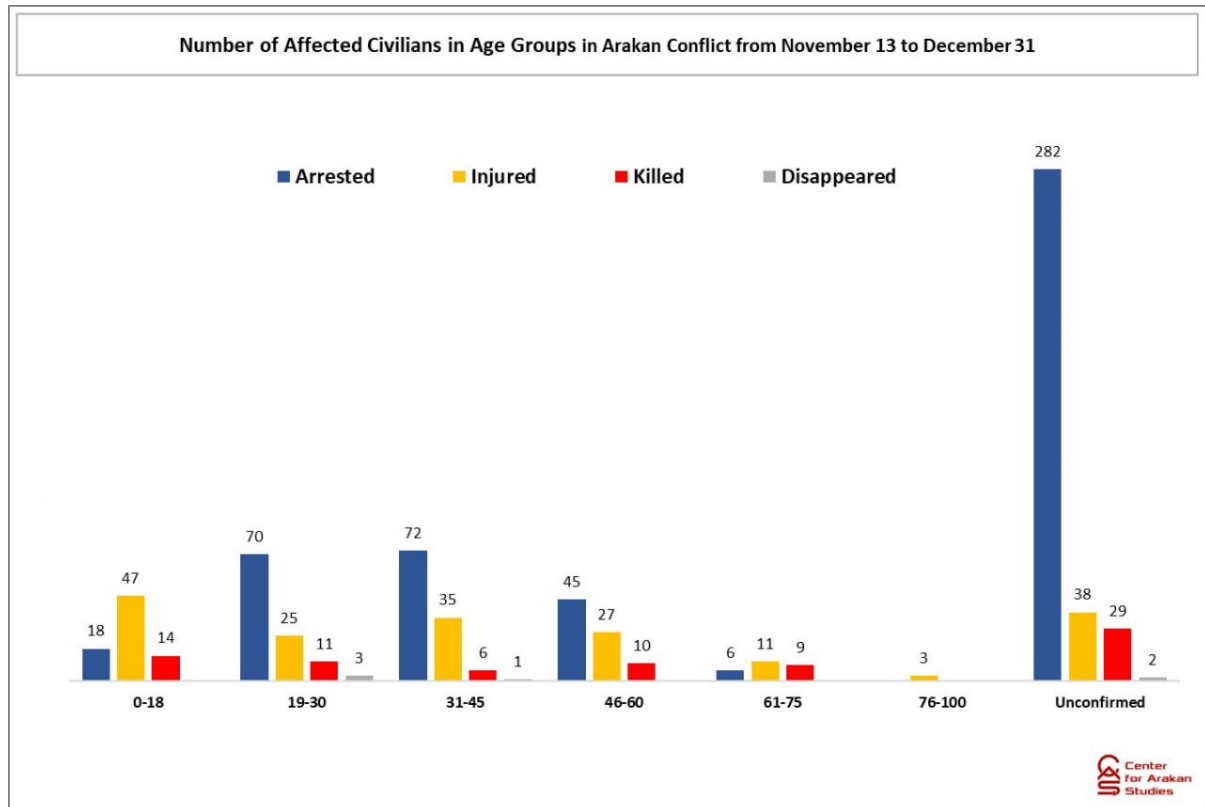
- The data reveals a stark gender disparity, with males constituting the majority of those affected in arrests, injuries, and deaths. This pattern suggests a specific targeting of the male population, warranting a closer examination of the motives behind such discriminatory practices.
- The age group under 18 emerges as the most vulnerable, experiencing the highest casualties. Moreover, individuals between 19 and 45 are primary targets for detention by junta forces. This highlights the vulnerability of the younger population, calling for urgent measures to protect the rights and safety of these individuals caught in the conflicts.
- The conflicts affect almost all ethnic and religious identities, emphasizing the widespread nature of the crisis. Rakhine and Rohingya communities, in particular, bear the brunt, underscoring the need for inclusive and comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of the tensions and to ensure the protection of all affected communities in the region.

## Part-I: Total Number of Affected Population

In line with the CAS reporting, the total number of civilians affected in the lists of arrests, injuries, deaths, and disappearances is 764. Of this number, 493 people have been arrested, while 186 and 79 persons are recorded as injured and killed, respectively. Additionally, six persons are listed as 'disappeared.' In terms of gender, the male population is the most affected among all killed, injured, and arrested populations, as illustrated in the following graphs.



The age group under 18 experiences the highest number of casualties in the conflicts, with both young and middle-aged individuals, ranging from 19 to 45, being the primary targets for detention by the junta forces. Unconfirmed groups are documented from media sources without individual identification. The impact spans across almost all ethnic and religious identities, with Rakhine and Rohingya constituting the highest proportions of the total affected.



## Part-II: Causes of the Incidents

The table below shows the causes of the civilian casualties: killed and injured. It can be uncovered that the highest number of civilians is killed due to the heavy artillery attacks numbering 34 followed by the gunshots of the junta soldiers in 29. Civilians are mainly killed by the artillery attacks in Mrauk-U (11) and Buthidaung (9) townships while Pauktaw alone occupied 22 incidents of deaths by the gunshots.

Township	Heavy Artillery		Gunshot by SAC Forces		Airstrike		Drone Bomb Drop		Mining		Airstrike & Heavy Artillery	
	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed
Pauktaw	1	1	0	22	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Ann	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Buthidaung	19	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Kyauktaw	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Maungdaw	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Minbya	35	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Mrauk-U	25	11	4	3	7	3	1	5	0	0	0	0
Myebon	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Paletwa	4	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Ponnagyun	6	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ramree	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rathedaung	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sittwe	3	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	130	34	12	29	19	3	17	5	7	2	1	4

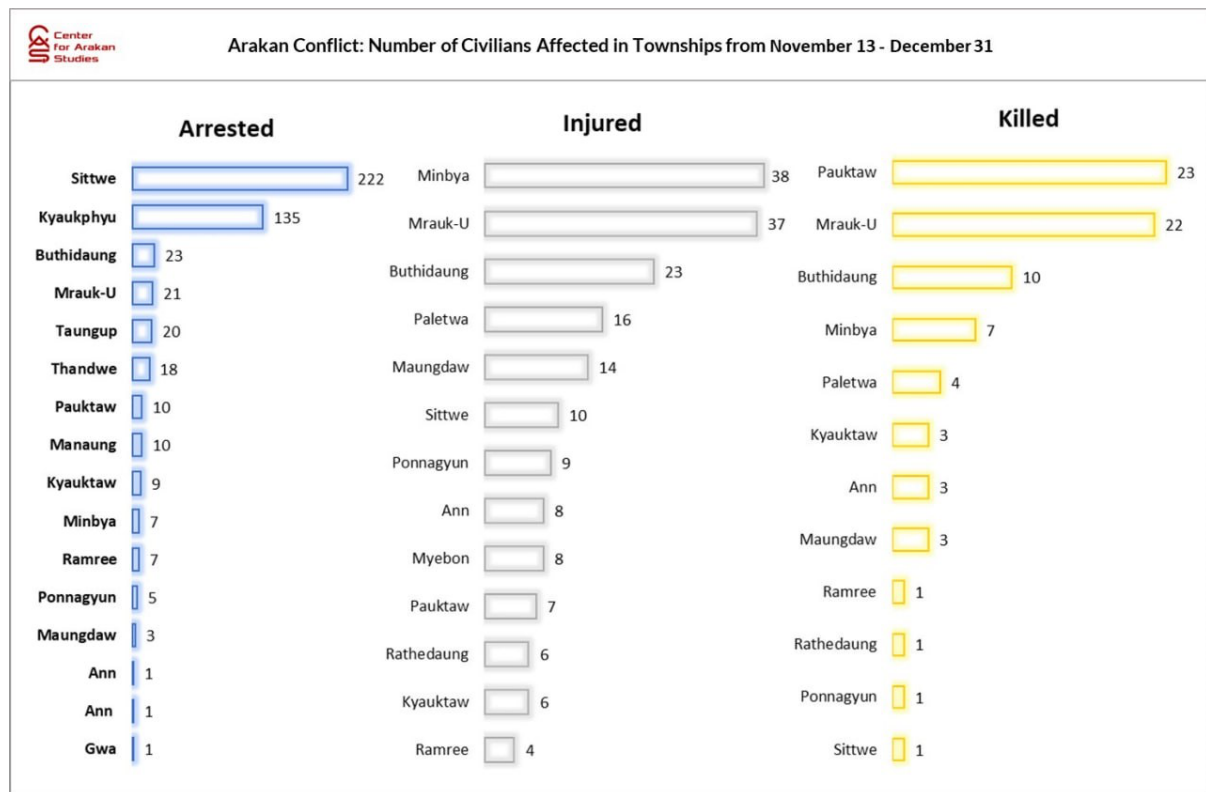
Similarly, when it comes to the injured population, the highest cause is due to the heavy artillery shellings followed by air strikes and drone bomb attacks in 19 and 17 respectively. For air strikes, the civilians are mostly injured in Paletwa (11) and Mrauk-U (7) townships while drop bomb attacks mainly injured people in Sittwe (7) and Pauktaw (5) townships.

### Part-III: Locations of the affected population

The locations of the affected population vary, and in some cases, a discernible pattern emerges. Regarding fatalities, the townships of Pauktaw and Mrauk-U recorded the highest numbers, with 23 and 22, respectively. Buthidaung follows closely with 10. The scenario is slightly different for injuries, where Minbya and Mrauk-U take the lead with 38 and 37, respectively, followed by Buthidaung with 23.

In terms of arrests, Sittwe, the capital city of Rakhine state, tops the list, experiencing 222 incidents, followed by Kyaukphyu, the second most significant township, with 135. These two townships account for over 60 per cent of all arrests in Arakan within nearly two months.

In summary, the total number of affected individuals in the categories of arrests, killings, and injuries in November was 330, increasing to 434 in December 2023. In November, 49 and 92 people were killed and injured, respectively. However, these numbers changed to 30 and 94 in December. The number of people arrested increased from 187 to 306 over the approximately two-month period since the resumption of the conflicts.



### Conclusion

In conclusion, the data presented in this comprehensive report sheds light on the alarming impact of conflicts in Arakan, revealing a total of 764 civilians affected in arrests, injuries, deaths, and disappearances. The gender disparity is evident, with males bearing the brunt across all categories. The most vulnerable age group, those under 18, experiences the highest casualties, while young and middle-aged individuals face increased risks of detention by junta forces.

Ethnic and religious diversity does not shield any community, as Rakhine and Rohingya identities constitute the highest proportions of the total affected. Examining the causes of civilian casualties, heavy artillery attacks and gunshots by junta soldiers emerge as leading factors, with specific townships like Mrauk-U, Buthidaung, and Pauktaw experiencing concentrated incidents. The report also highlights the prominence of air strikes and drone bomb attacks in causing injuries, further exacerbating the complexity of the situation.

The geographical distribution of affected populations showcases distinct patterns, with Pauktaw and Mrauk-U recording the highest fatalities, while Minbya and Mrauk-U lead in injuries. Sittwe and Kyaukphyu are hotspots for arrests, comprising over 60 percent of all incidents in Arakan. Notably, the data reflects a concerning escalation in conflict, with the total number of affected individuals rising from 330 in November to 434 in December 2023. These findings underscore the urgent need for international attention and intervention to address the escalating humanitarian crisis in the region.

### **Background of the Report**

This report is a part of the 'Conflict Update Monitoring Report' from the Center for Arakan Studies (CAS), primarily focusing on conflict scenarios and civilian casualties. Its purpose is to document the state of civilian casualties resulting from armed conflicts, encompassing death, injury, and arrests of the civilian population while monitoring the trends and impacts of armed conflicts in Arakan. The report provides details on the number of civilian deaths, arrests, and injuries, along with their locations and causes.

The data collected for this report primarily relies on information from local media agencies and phone communications detailing on-the-ground situations. The report covers the period from November 13 to December 31, 2023.

### **About Center for Arakan Studies (CAS)**

The Center is an independent, non-partisan research institution established in December 2021 by a group of young professionals, including journalists, political analysts, researchers, and social workers. The Center aims to promote understanding of human rights, political, economic, and social dynamics in Arakan and related issues within Myanmar and beyond. Through rigorous research and reporting, the Center seeks to address the policy gaps with analysis and recommendations to support democratic change and collective solutions.

Contact: [info@arakanstudies.org](mailto:info@arakanstudies.org)  
[www.arakanstudies.org](http://www.arakanstudies.org)