



## အမျိုးသမီးများအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ပြန်ဟန်ခုံ) WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

16 May 2025

### Statement on the Military Junta's Deliberate Airstrike on Civilians in Depayin and Rathedaung

Women's League of Burma (WLB) strongly condemns the military junta's continued and systematic use of airstrikes against civilian targets in Myanmar/Burma. On the morning of 12 May 2025, a fighter jet dropped bombs on a school in Ohehteindwin village, Depayin Township, [at least 22 civilians dead including students and two teachers, and injuring over 50 others](#). Victims were students ranging from primary to high school levels, and teachers [operating under National Unity Government \(NUG\)](#). This deliberate targeting of a civilian education facility is a war crime and a direct violation of international humanitarian law. According to the reports from the ground, [three nearby houses were also destroyed, and the actual death toll may yet rise](#) due to the severity of injuries and lack of medical access.

Tragically, the very next day, on 13 May around 10 a.m, [at least 13 civilians](#), including women and children, were killed and over 20 others injured when a junta fighter jet bombed Tun Yawai village in Rathedaung Township, Rakhine State. The airstrike involved two 500-pound bombs that completely destroyed 12 houses. Khaing Thukha [reported](#) that 13 bodies had been recovered, with fears that more victims may be trapped under the rubble, potentially increasing the death toll.

These atrocities, carried out despite the [ceasefires announced](#) extending a post-quake April 2-30 ceasefire until May 31, demonstrate the junta's utter disregard for civilian lives and international norms. Schools, homes, and places of refuge have become primary targets in the junta's terror airstrike attacks.

The international community has more than enough credible evidence to act decisively. Continued silence and inaction only serve to embolden a military junta that has already taken uncountable lives of civilians since the 2021 coup. The military junta has consistently escalated its violence against civilians with total impunity, carrying out widespread and systematic killings across Burma particularly in ethnic areas where entire communities have been subjected to brutal military offensives, airstrikes, and mass atrocities aimed at suppressing resistance and instilling fear.

**Women's League of Burma (WLB), urgently call action on the United Nations, international organizations, and humanitarian aid providers:**

1. Refer the military junta to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and establish an ad hoc international tribunal to investigate and prosecute war crimes;
2. Enforce a comprehensive global arms embargo on the brutal military junta. This must include an immediate suspension of jet fuel supplies, aircraft parts, and military technologies used to carry out aerial attacks against civilians; and
3. Provide direct Humanitarian Aid funding to CSOs, CBOs, women organizations, ensuring that assistance is delivered in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian standards.

Women's League of Burma (WLB) mourns the loss of the children, teachers and civilians killed in Depayin and Rathedaung. We stand with the civilians, with all resistance forces defending our communities, and with every mother and father mourning their child today. We demand action not just words from the international community.

#### Contact

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