



Rape or any other form of sexual violence

Sexual violence is used by the Burma Army to humiliate and terrorize local ethnic communities and to “reward” its troops for fighting. Rapes often involve torture, including mutilation, and sometimes end with the perpetrator killing the victim.

Enslavement

Enslavement includes trafficking in persons and forced labour. The Burma Army regularly forces civilians from conflict areas to serve as porters, carrying supplies and serving as human minesweepers. It also forces them to work on the construction, maintenance and servicing of military camps, roads, railways and bridges.

Enforced Disappearance of Persons

In Burma, many individuals, such as human rights defenders, political activists, journalists, and ethnic civilians are arbitrarily arrested and often detained in secret places where their families are unable to find out what has happened to them, and whether they are still alive or not.

These violations continue to occur in Burma on a daily basis with the Burma Army as the primary perpetrator of crimes.

Impunity for members of the regime and the Burma Army who commit human rights violations is notorious and enshrined in the Constitution. **This lack of accountability makes further abuses inevitable and lasting change impossible.**

For more information about Burma, please visit:
www.burmapartnership.org



CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND WAR CRIMES IN BURMA

“Among the most tragic features of the military campaign in ethnic areas [of Burma] is the disproportionate effect on civilian populations... the killing, terrorizing or displacement of civilians is often part of a deliberate strategy.”

~ Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, 2006,
Former Special Rapporteur on Burma



Extensive documentation reveals a pattern of widespread and systematic human rights violations in Burma over a period of many years, likely amounting to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

War crimes are serious violations of international law that governs the behavior of all parties during an armed conflict, such as prohibiting intentional attacks against civilian populations, including schools and hospitals.

Crimes against humanity are grave crimes such as murder, extermination, rape, persecution and other inhumane acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population.

Crimes against humanity and war crimes are considered to be two of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

These crimes include:

Targeting Attacks Against Civilians

The law of war requires that a distinction be made between combatants and civilians and that attacks should not be directed against civilians.

The Burma Army completely disregards this principle and deliberately targets civilians through the laying of landmines in civilian areas, the shelling of human villages, forced recruitment of child soldiers, and the use of human shields, etc.

Deportation or Forcible Transfer of Population

The Burma Army uses force to relocate villagers by burning or otherwise destroying their homes and fields, seizing their property, and laying landmines around villages, forcing the population to flee.

Arbitrary Imprisonment

There are nearly 1,700 political prisoners in Burma who live under the most inhumane conditions. They are regularly tortured, transferred to prisons far from their families, and are not given access to proper nutrition, healthcare or legal assistance.

Torture

The Burma Army routinely uses torture to discourage civilians from supporting armed ethnic groups, to obtain information about their activities and as a coercive tool. Burma's regime also systematically uses torture in interrogation centers and prisons, particularly against political prisoners.

Murder

The Burma Army uses killings and its "shoot on sight" policy to spread fear among the population and as collective punishment against civilians living in conflict areas. It also did not hesitate to fire on civilians during peaceful demonstration.



THE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN BURMA MAKES FURTHER ABUSES INEVITABLE AND LASTING CHANGE IMPOSSIBLE.