CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
School of Law

Frederick K. Cox International Law Center
Henry C. Clark Building
11075 East Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7148
http://law.case.edu/ilnews

Brian Finucane, Principal Editor
Jeffrey Gow, Editor
Yoshiko Ito, Editor
Ryan Mitchell, Editor

Editors-in-Chief
Ryan Mitchell
Yoshiko Ito
Northwestern University School of Law
Class of 2012

Faculty Advisor
Jeffrey Gow
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Class of 2012

PILPG
PEACE AND JUSTICE THROUGH LAW
www.pilpg.org

Human Rights Watch is a widely recognized but rarely consulted source of information and analysis that ranges from country-specific human rights reports and recommendations to the investigation and reporting of human rights violations around the world. To subscribe, please send **rapportsinternationaux@hrw.org** in the subject line of an email to Marie-Claude Bomsel, Director, Rapports Internationaux, Human Rights Watch, 350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10118-3299 USA, Tel: 212-290-4700, Fax: 212-736-1300, E-mail: bomselm@hrw.org

Contributors: Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Human Rights First, Human Rights Brief, Human Rights Law Network, Human Rights Law Group, Human Rights Institute, International Commission of Jurists, International Crisis Group, International Federation for Human Rights, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, Reporters Sans Frontières, Rutgers University Human Rights Institute, Transnational Radio and Television Network of Africa, Washington Office on Haiti, Women's Human Rights Net, Women Living Under Muslim Laws

Contents

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA

Central African Republic
- Human Rights Watch: Central Africa: Prosecutions of the Central African Republic to be commenced by International Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (Human Rights Watch)
- Rebels threaten to overturn peace after amnesty law is adopted, (Human Rights Watch)

Burkina & Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leone Government and rebels of Burkina Faso at times Liberian

Democratic Republic of the Congo
- U.N. Refugees Called On to Engage Two Peacekeepers Injured (IRIN)

WEST AFRICA

Lake Chad Region – Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon
- Nigeria: Nigeria's Military Forces Must Stop Abuses in Fight against Boko Haram (Human Rights Watch)

Mali
- Mali grants amnesty to rebels and suspended rebels (Reuters)
- Mali: Rebels Release Hostages, Lift Siege (Human Rights Watch)

Liberia
- Young Liberians Form PRL Presidential Respect Pact, The Establishment Of Peace Corners Used by Liberia Human Voice Network Liberia (Liberian Human Voice Network Liberia)
- Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Pledges Support to Ivorian Peace Process (Liberian Observer)

EAST AFRICA

Uganda
- War Crimes Trial Continues in Uganda After Long Delays (Human Rights Watch)

Kenya
- Kenya's Bank Cartel Under Bad Heating the northern Kenya Pastoralists Are Left Out (Kenya Human Rights Commission)
- Kenya: Rape Victims Need Medical Care (Human Rights Watch)

Rwanda
- 10 years to punish killers in Rwan 2010 survey, Hajj rebels Shabaa Fire Ethio (Reuters)
- Rwanda: Rwandan Genocide Suspect Arrested (Human Rights Watch)
- Rwanda: Rwandan Genocide Suspect Arrested (Human Rights Watch)
- Rwanda: Rwandan Genocide Suspect Arrested (Human Rights Watch)

Sudan
- Sudan Delegation Leaders only seen in authorities in Khartoum (The Sun Newspaper)

Somalia
- Al-Shabaab Forced Out Of Strongholds (Human Rights Watch)
- Al-Shabaab Forced Out Of Strongholds (Human Rights Watch)
- Al-Shabaab Forced Out Of Strongholds (Human Rights Watch)

EUROPE

Council of Bosnia & Herzegovina, War Crimes Chamber
- Bosnia: Prosecutions of Wartime Sexual Violence Must Continue (Human Rights Watch)

Romania Prosecutions Under Communist Dictatorship
- Dark Highway Between Iasi Oradea Romania: Bucharest Bypass (Balkan Insight)

Turkey
- Turkey to visit Turkey in February, Kosovo says (Trabzon Times)

Azerbaijan
- Armenia Portrayed Anita 99 (Trabzon Times)

Russia
- Russia to Strengthen Ties with Iran (Fars News)
- Russia Rejects Accusations Of Human Rights Violations (Fars News)
- Russian Human Rights Ombudsman Calls for Amnesty for Jailed Oligarch (Fars News)
- Russian Human Rights Ombudsman Calls for Amnesty for Jailed Oligarch (Fars News)
- Russian Human Rights Ombudsman Calls for Amnesty for Jailed Oligarch (Fars News)

MIDDLE-EAST

Iraq
- 24 Strikes in Iraq and Syria KIB Alert (al, including Civilians Destroyed)

Syria
- 14 residential strikes on Syria Kurdish Regions in Iraq, Syria Kurdish regional Iraqi Kurdistan (Iraq Kurdish)

Yemen
- Yemen Kurdish Iraq Kurdish Regions in Iraq, Syria Kurdish regional Iraqi Kurdish Kurdistan (Iraq Kurdish)
- Yemen Kurdish Iraq Kurdish Regions in Iraq, Syria Kurdish regional Iraqi Kurdish Kurdistan (Iraq Kurdish)
- Yemen Kurdish Iraq Kurdish Regions in Iraq, Syria Kurdish regional Iraqi Kurdish Kurdistan (Iraq Kurdish)

Israel/Palestine
- Israel Kurdish Iraq Kurdish Regions in Iraq, Syria Kurdish regional Iraqi Kurdish Kurdistan (Iraq Kurdish)

ASIA

Afghanistan
- Kids soldier were transported for peddling war crimes in Afghanistan (Al Shaarkia English Edition), (Iraq

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
- Campaign aims to shed light on sexual atrocities (CAM Mirror Times)

Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal
- Fugitive war criminal held in Ar (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha)

Myat Khaung Massacre Investigation
- Burma Human Rights Commission Investigates Myat Khaung Massacre (Kaladan Press)
- Burma Human Rights Commission Investigates Myat Khaung Massacre (Kaladan Press)
- Burma Human Rights Commission Investigates Myat Khaung Massacre (Kaladan Press)

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA

Central African Republic

Official Website of the International Criminal Court
Situation in the Central African Republic

The Human Rights Section of the Central African Republic to be assisted by International Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (Human Rights Watch) October 26, 2010

Human Rights Watch: Central Africa: Prosecutions of the Central African Republic to be commenced by International Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (Human Rights Watch)

The Central African Republic's (CAR) Human Rights Section of the Prosecutor's Office, Fatou Bensouda, the Prosecutor, has stated that the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) will be assisted by the Central African Republic's (CAR) Human Rights Section of the Prosecutor's Office.

The Central African Republic is one of the countries in which the International Criminal Court (ICC) is investigating and prosecuting crimes. The ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, is the only permanent judicial body that can prosecute the most egregious crimes when national courts are unwilling or unable to do so.

The Prosecutor's Office, Fatou Bensouda, stated that it is "a matter of great regret" that the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) has been unable to commence the Central African Republic's (CAR) Human Rights Section of the Prosecutor's Office, Fatou Bensouda, the Prosecutor, has stated

Serious violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law, including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention, and other serious violations of the right to a fair trial, are committed with impunity in Ethiopia. Thousands have been killed and tens of thousands have been arbitrarily detained since the beginning of the armed conflict between the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in November 2020. The conflict has also been characterized by widespread sexual violence, including rape, committed by all sides to the conflict. Ethiopia's allies, including Eritrea, have also been implicated in the conflict. Ethiopia's partners have failed to adequately address the human rights crisis in the country, and have instead sought to maintain ties with the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has been in power since April 2018. The lack of accountability for human rights violations and abuses has contributed to the deterioration of the human rights situation in Ethiopia, including the ongoing armed conflict in the northern region of Tigray. The prospects of meaningful accountability are unlikely, particularly in the absence of a clear and robust regional response.

The Ethiopian government has been unwilling to allow independent and impartial investigations into the conflict in Tigray, including by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council-mandated International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, which was established in December 2021 and which has been denied access to the country since its inception. The government has also been unwilling to allow independent and impartial investigations into other human rights violations and abuses committed in other parts of the country, including in the regions of Amhara, Oromia and Afar, where the ENDF has been fighting other armed groups, including the Fano militia and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). The government has also been unwilling to allow independent and impartial investigations into the conflict between the ENDF and the OLA in Oromia, which has been ongoing since 2018. The government has also been unwilling to allow independent and impartial investigations into the conflict between the ENDF and the Fano in Amhara, which has been ongoing since 2019.

Amnesty International is concerned that, while the ongoing conflict in Tigray has been the most intense and widespread, the government's lack of accountability for human rights violations and abuses has also contributed to the deterioration of the human rights situation

Despite claiming to treat both genders equally, women were coerced into marriage and sexual intercourse through threats of execution, the article added.

"When they refused, their husbands or the Khmer Rouge officers raped them as a form of punishment."

The campaign 'Speak Out, Sisters' fosters awareness among Cambodian youth about the condition of sexual and gender-based violence survivors, both past and current, as a catalyst for positive change.

Even in modern Cambodia, 25% of women are SGVB survivors, comprising students, female journalists and teachers, the Meta House added in its statement.

[**back to contents**]

Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal

Fugitive war criminal held in city (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha) February 1, 2024

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested a warranted fugitive war criminal from Uttara area in the city on Wednesday.

The arrested was identified as Md. Abul Khair,70, son of Dana Mia from Char Fakira village under Companiganj police station of Noakhali District, Deputy Director of RAB-10 Aminul Islam told BSS Today.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of RAB-10 conducted a drive in Sector-14 area of Uttara west police station in the city and arrested the war criminal Md. Abul Khair around 1pm on Wednesday, he said.

On November 12 in 2017, a case was filed against him at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

On December 5 in 2021, the International Crimes Tribunal issued an arrest warrant against Md. Abul Khair for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

During the preliminary interrogation, the detainee admitted that he had been hiding in various parts of the country under disguise.

The arrested accused has been handed over to the concerned tribunal today, the RAB officials added.

[**back to contents**]

War Crimes Investigation in Myanmar

Myanmar: Military Abuses Against Civilians Intensify (Human Rights Watch) January 30, 2024

— Myanmar's military junta has increasingly carried out unlawful airstrikes harming civilians in its military operations against a coalition of opposition and ethnic armed groups, Human Rights Watch said today. Governments that provide transfers or assistance of arms or materiel to the junta forces risk being complicit in war crimes.

Three years since the February 1, 2021, coup in Myanmar, the junta's widespread and systematic abuses against the population — including arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians — amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. In 2023, Human Rights Watch investigations found that the military's unlawful airstrikes in Sagaing Region and Kachin State were apparent war crimes.

"Concerned governments should be doing more to curb the junta's capacity to commit appalling laws-of-war violations," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "United Nations member countries should urge the UN Security Council to impose an arms embargo on Myanmar, including sanctions on jet fuel that facilitates unlawful air attacks on civilians."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said in a statement on January 30 that Myanmar's deteriorating human rights situation was now in "free fall."

"The people of Myanmar have been suffering for too long," Türk said. "Since the end of October last year, their situation has deteriorated even further as a result of the long-established tactics of the military to target them."

On October 27, 2023, the Three Brotherhood Alliance — an anti-junta coalition of the Arakan Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army — began Operation 1027, an offensive that seized Myanmar military outposts in northern Shan State. The offensive also triggered opposition attacks on Myanmar security forces elsewhere in the country.

The junta responded to the attacks with military operations that have involved serious violations of the laws of war.

Amnesty International determined that junta forces most likely used cluster munitions during attacks on the town of Namkham in Shan State in early December. The use of cluster munitions, large weapons that include dozens of smaller weapons known as submunitions, is inherently indiscriminate and constitutes a war crime.

The renewed fighting within weeks displaced about 600,000 people across Myanmar. Humanitarian agencies and local organizations have struggled to respond to the surge in displacement.

An unknown number of civilians have been killed and injured in recent airstrikes. An aid worker in Mase township near the China border told Human Rights Watch that his friend fled from Namkham after his wife was killed in a junta airstrike on December 1, an incident reported by the Shan Human Rights Foundation.

"He managed to hide their two children in the bunker when they first heard the sounds of a jet," the aid worker said. "But his wife was showering as it was morning. … She didn't make it to the bunker and died right there when the junta dropped the bomb. He was injured too, and luckily the children are safe but now they don't have a mother."

A spokeswoman from a local ethnic and women's rights group, the Ta'ang Women's Organization, said she fled Namkham township on December 2 after repeated junta airstrikes in her village. "At first, I hid with my family in a dirt bunker we had dug near our home," she said. "There were so many explosions … it was hard to tell whether it was all the same attack or many planes dropping bombs. The planes came day and night, and they also circled around us repeatedly even if they weren't dropping bombs."

The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, which reports data on the Myanmar military's air and drone strikes, found strikes to have substantially increased since early 2022. This data is compiled from media reports and may significantly undercount the military's total air and drone strikes.

Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States have imposed and expanded sanctions since the coup, but sanctions on jet fuel have been inconsistent.

Canada is the only country to have imposed comprehensive sanctions on the export, sale, supply or shipment of aviation fuel to Myanmar. In 2023, the EU, UK, and US also introduced some sanctions that targeted private actors supplying fuel, arms and funds to Myanmar. However, five British companies are still providing insurance cover for deliveries of aviation fuel to Myanmar.

Governments in the region have not sent a clear message to Myanmar's junta concerning ongoing rights violations, Human Rights Watch said. Laos, as the 2024 chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), should work with other ASEAN member countries to take a more robust approach that pressures the junta to end its abuses and remove restrictions on humanitarian assistance.

The European Union, whose foreign ministers will meet with ASEAN foreign ministers on February 2, should urge ASEAN members, in particular Thailand and Singapore, to cooperate in enforcing sanctions in their jurisdictions.

The UN Security Council should meaningfully follow up on its December 2022 resolution on Myanmar by imposing an arms embargo, including jet fuel, and refer the country situation to the International Criminal Court. Russia and China, which both abstained from the 2022 resolution, should not block stronger measures by the council.

Russia and China have continued to sell weapons to Myanmar's junta since the 2021 coup, according to the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

"Myanmar's people have been suffering for years under a junta that shows them no regard," Pearson said. "A stronger international response is still needed to press for an end to the military's abuses."

Burma after the coup: "The human rights situation is appalling" (Civil Rights Defenders) January 31, 2024

Three years ago, on 1 February 2021, the military seized power over Burma by overturning the election results and detaining State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. The military has used force to attempt to control the country and uses brutal violence against human rights defenders, civil society groups, and journalists in order to silence all forms of protest and dissent. Since the coup, more than 4,400 people have been killed by the military and over 25,800 people have been arrested.

During the November 2020 elections in Burma, the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won a landslide victory. This triggered a reaction from the military, which claimed that there had been widespread election fraud. This claim, however, was turned down by the election commission. On 1 February, as the parliament was scheduled to hold its first session since the elections, the military launched a coup to try to take control over the country.

Despite the military's brutal response, people have come together to fight the dictatorship. Nationwide mass protests, boycotts, strikes, and coordinated civil disobedience movements have taken place. Human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists from across the country have continued their work despite severe attacks by the military.

Junta accused of war crimes Since February 2021, the military junta has launched over 1,000 airstrikes and torched at least 77,274 houses. Over the last year, the junta's violence has become more targeted on civilian populations with blatant attacks on villages, towns, internally displaced persons' camps, religious sites where internally displaced persons were seeking refuge, schools, and hospitals. Over 2.6 million people have been displaced.

The military junta has been accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and needs to be held to account.

Attacks on civil society have also increased. The arrests of human rights defenders and journalists continue to have a chilling effect. Nearly 20,000 political prisoners remain in detention, and over 160 people are subject to the death sentence.

"The situation for human rights in Burma is appalling. For three years now, the military junta has cracked down violently on civilians, democracy activists, human rights defenders, and peaceful protesters. This needs to stop, and the junta must be held accountable for their actions," said Rosanna Ocampo, Director Asia Department at Civil Rights Defenders.

What we do Civil Rights Defenders continue to monitor the situation in the country. We are also working to let the international community know what is happening in Burma and to support the efforts to reinstate democracy.

Civil Rights Defenders has been providing flexible and emergency funds to human rights defenders and their families to improve their security. Since the coup, over 750 Burmese human rights defenders and members of their families from various regional and ethnic backgrounds have received support from Civil Rights Defenders emergency fund. We clearly saw their commitment to upholding democracy in their country, and initial requests were about safe ways of doing that work. In Burma, most of the support has been to provide safe accommodation for human rights defenders. We have also offered secure office spaces and communication tools. The need for assistance is extensive.

[**back to contents**]

War Crimes Prosecution Watch Staff

Founder/Advisor
Dean Michael P. Scharf

Faculty Advisor
Jim Johnson

Editor-in-Chief
Lucas Katz

Managing Editors
Harper Fox
Arts Witty

Technical Editor-in-Chief
Jessica Chapman

Senior Technical Editors
Madison Turk
Lucas Katz

Associate Technical Editors
Madison Turk

Emerging Issues Advisor
Judge Rosemelle Mutoka
Contact: **warcrimeswatch@pilpg.org**

Africa

Libya
Kelsey Tschanen, Associate Editor

Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Central African Republic
Kelsey Tschanen, Associate Editor

Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Sudan & South Sudan
Emily Walling, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Emily Walling, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
Sophia Fisher, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Lake Chad Region
Nikita Joshi, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Mali
Nikita Joshi, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Liberia
Nikita Joshi, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Uganda
Margaret Crookston, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Kenya
Margaret Crookston, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Rwanda (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda)
Margaret Crookston, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Somalia
Margaret Crookston, Associate Editor
Madison Turk, Senior Editor

Europe

Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, War Crimes Section
Jacqueline Quander, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
Fatimah Elghanawi, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Domestic Prosecutions in the Former Yugoslavia
Jacqueline Quander, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Turkey
Anna Bucuck, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Kosovo Specialist Chambers
Fatimah Elghanawi, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Azerbaijan
Fatimah Elghanawi, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Kosovo Specialist Chambers
Fatimah Elghanawi, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Azerbaijan
Fatimah Elghanawi, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Russia
Xi Chen, Associate Editor
Carsen Thompson, Senior Editor

Middle-East

Iraq
Carsen Thompson, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Syria
Carsen Thompson, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Yemen
Xi Chen, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Special Tribunal for Lebanon
Annalie Buscarino, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Israel and Palestine
Katherine McBane, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Gulf Region
Jessica Chapman, Associate Editor
Sophia Fisher, Senior Editor

Asia

Afghanistan
Sophia Fisher, Associate Editor
Estefania Sixto Seijas, Senior Editor

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Anna Bucuck, Associate Editor
Estefania Sixto Seijas, Senior Editor

Bangladesh
Anne Bucuck, Associate Editor
Estefania Sixto Seijas, Senior Editor

War Crimes Investigations in Myanmar
Sophia Fisher, Associate Editor
Estefania Sixto Seijas, Senior Editor

Americas

North and Central America
Harper Fox, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

South America
Harper Fox, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Venezuela
Harper Fox, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Topics

Truth and Reconciliation Commissions
Jessica Chapman, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Terrorism
Lucas Katz, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Piracy
Annalie Buscarino, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Gender-Based Violence
Katherine McBane, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Commentary and Perspectives
Lucas Katz, Associate Editor
Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

Worth Reading

Lucas Katz, Associate Editor

Lucas Katz, Senior Editor

War Crimes Prosecution Watch is prepared by the
International Justice Practice of the **Public International Law & Policy Group**
and the **Frederick K. Cox International Law Center** of
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
and is made possible by grants from the **Carnegie Corporation of New York**
and the **Open Society Institute**.

Grotian Moment: The International War Crimes Trial Blog:
http://law.case.edu/grotian-moment-blog/

Frederick K. Cox International Law Center:
http://law.case.edu/centers/cox/

Cox Center War Crimes Research Portal:
http://law.case.edu/war-crimes-research-portal/

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
School of Law

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email ***warcrimeswatch@pilpg.org****.*