



BULLETIN

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE MECHANISM

Almost every day, the Mechanism collects reports of new atrocities committed against the people of Myanmar. It is clear that those perpetrating these crimes believe that they run no risk of being brought to justice. At the Mechanism, we are working to prove them wrong.

As detailed in our [Annual Report](#) and in my [Human Rights Council](#) statement last month, the Mechanism is making progress in identifying some of these perpetrators. We have particularly focused on those who have committed systematic torture in Myanmar detention facilities and those who have summarily executed captured combatants or civilians

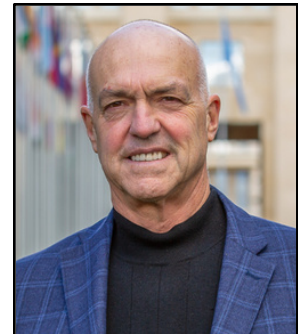
accused of being informers. We are analysing the structure of the Myanmar Air Force to identify those involved in the air strikes that continue to target schools, places of worship, hospitals and homes, and which terrorize civilians across the country.

The Mechanism has also progressed in identifying who benefited from the destruction and dispossession of Rohingya land and property in 2017. In a [report](#) published last month, the Mechanism's financial investigations team identified Myanmar security forces units, corporations and others involved in replacing destroyed Rohingya homes, farms, mosques and other property with Border Guard Police bases. While our analysis is produced for the purpose of criminal investigations and much of it must remain confidential, when there is information that is in the public interest that we can divulge without endangering sources or witnesses, we will share it.

I was in New York last month to launch the report and to attend the High-level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar at the United Nations Headquarters. I stressed that for Rohingya refugees to be able to return to Myanmar in a way that is dignified, safe and sustainable, the violence in Rakhine State must end and perpetrators of crimes against the Rohingya must be held to account. Rohingya will also need reparations or assistance to rebuild their homes, livelihoods and communities that have been destroyed. I hope that the Mechanism's work will help create the conditions necessary for Rohingya to one day return home.

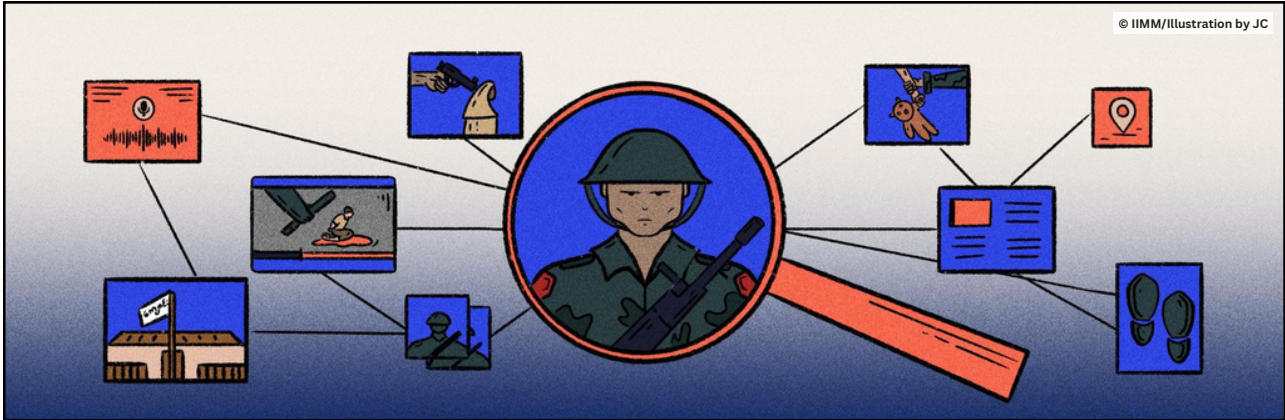
The Mechanism's progress over the past year would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of its personnel. Unfortunately, with the ongoing UN80 Initiative and liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations, combined with diminished voluntary funding from donors, the Mechanism risks losing over a third of our personnel, including some entire teams. We currently have no funding past the end of this year for our open-source specialists who find and forensically validate public available information that has proven to be valuable evidence, nor for several experts focusing on sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children.

As we navigate these very challenging times, we remain committed to ending impunity in Myanmar and helping to bring those most responsible to justice. Every perpetrator should be worried that the Mechanism has collected evidence about them and the crimes they have committed. We stand ready to share our evidence and analysis with national and international authorities who are willing and able to prosecute these crimes.



Nicholas Koumjian

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE



Serious international crimes in Myanmar are being committed ever more frequently, and the suffering of Myanmar's people continues to worsen. As highlighted in its seventh [Annual Report](#), the Mechanism has collected evidence of the military detaining thousands of perceived political opponents without fundamental due process, and it is identifying those who have systematically tortured detainees by inflicting beatings, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence.

The Mechanism has intensified its investigations into air strikes on homes, schools, hospitals and places of worship with no apparent military target in the vicinity. In Rakhine State, new investigations have been opened into allegations of very serious crimes committed by both the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army. These include aerial bombings of civilians, torture, rape, killings, the use of civilians as human shields and the obstruction of humanitarian aid.

To date, the Mechanism has collected and analysed evidence from more than 1,300 sources, including more than 600 accounts from witnesses. Since July 2024, it has shared over 24,000 pieces of evidence and supporting analysis concerning crimes committed against the Rohingya with the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the Federal Prosecutor's Office No. 9 in Argentina. It is also responding to specific requests for information from authorities in the United Kingdom and other jurisdictions, including those concerning crimes committed after the military coup in 2021.

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

As of October 2025

6

sharing partners

96

requests for
assistance

127

packages of information
and analysis shared,
including 1.2 million
items

ELECTIONS PLANNED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

Conducting an election that is not free and fair, or which violates a country's constitution, does not constitute a serious international crime within the Mechanism's mandate. However, there is a heightened risk of international crimes being committed in the current election context and the Mechanism will be vigilant to collect evidence whenever such crimes occur. The laws of war prohibit targeting civilians not directly participating in hostilities, including those involved in the elections. The Mechanism will collect any evidence of arrests of persons without a legal basis and/or without due process of law, targeted attacks on political candidates or people involved in counting votes, and increased air attacks on civilian areas.

HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS

Nicholas Koumjian, Head of the Mechanism, presented the Mechanism's seventh [Annual Report](#) at the [60th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council](#), updating on progress in identifying perpetrators of torture and sexual crimes in detention, investigating increasing crimes in Rakhine State and aerial attacks against civilians, and sharing evidence with a new jurisdiction, the United Kingdom. During the interactive dialogue, many Member States and civil society organizations reaffirmed their support for the Mechanism.

Koumjian also participated in key events on justice and accountability for the Rohingya in August and September 2025. At the [Stakeholders' Dialogue on the Rohingya Situation](#) in Cox's Bazar, organized by the Government of Bangladesh, he stressed that a safe and sustainable return of the Rohingya to Myanmar is impossible without ending crimes against them and holding perpetrators accountable. At the United Nations' High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar in New York, he launched the Mechanism's report on the 2017 destruction and dispossession of Rohingya land and property at a side event co-sponsored by Australia, Finland, European Union, Legal Action Worldwide and Global Justice Center and emphasized the importance of reparations at the [Women's Peace Network event](#) co-sponsored by Denmark, Finland and Malta.

Koumjian will address the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on 28 October to provide his annual update on the Mechanism's work.



Cox's Bazar, 25 August: Stakeholders' Dialogue on the Rohingya Situation.



New York, 29 September: Women's Peace Network event during the United Nations High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar.

CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Mechanism is facing severe funding shortfalls that will significantly undermine its capacity to carry out its mandate to investigate serious international crimes. Cost-cutting measures introduced by the UN80 initiative, which will require the Mechanism to cut 20 percent of staff positions funded by the 2026 United Nations regular budget, are compounded by recent donor funding cuts announced by several Member States. This puts a number of the Mechanism's projects at serious risk.

Existing funding for open source investigations and specialists in sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children will be depleted by the end of 2025. The sole funder of projects focused on witness protection and support, and on evidence analysis has terminated its contributions.

The Mechanism is grateful for the support it has received from donors, and appeals to Member States, private entities and foundations to consider voluntary contributions, no matter how small, to sustain these critical initiatives and support accountability for the most serious international crimes committed in Myanmar.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITAL TOOLS

Since its inception, the Mechanism has harnessed advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation and secure technologies to make its evidence accessible, searchable and reliably preserved for use in legal proceedings. Its systems can be considered among the most advanced in the United Nations.

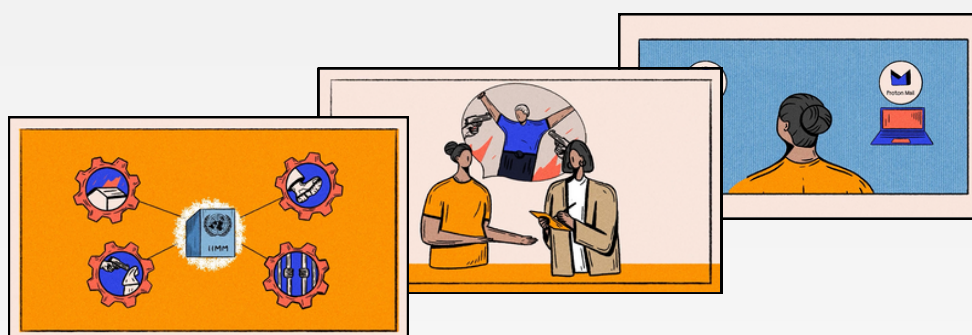
The Mechanism has automated the forensic processing of evidence, improving efficiency and accuracy. It has also developed a Case Analysis Platform to enable investigators to systematically extract, annotate and organize facts from over 28 million items of evidence to build comprehensive analyses needed to prove crimes.

The Mechanism is using AI tools, including Computer Vision technology, to de-duplicate millions of photographs and videos and to detect certain objects that would otherwise take weeks or months to do manually. It is also exploring AI-assisted translation of Burmese-language materials, which come in many formats and use unique character encoding, into English.

OUTREACH

EXPLAINING THE MECHANISM

[Download, watch and share](#) a new animated video explaining the Mechanism's mandate, how it operates and how to contact it securely. The video is available in English, Burmese and Rohingya.



EXPANDING AUDIENCES

The Mechanism continues to engage Myanmar audiences through its [Facebook Page](#), which reached a new milestone in October, reflecting growing public interest in its work.

 **77,000+ followers!**

The Mechanism will soon launch its official LinkedIn page to connect with legal and human rights experts, civil society, academics, journalists, NGOs, Member States, UN entities and others interested in justice for Myanmar.

CALLS FOR INFORMATION

Following devastating attacks on schools in [May](#) and [September](#), the Mechanism issued public calls for information, urging witnesses and others with direct knowledge of these or other aerial attacks to securely share evidence with it.



Q&A WITH AUTHORS OF THE LAND REPORT

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FINDINGS?

The Destruction and Dispossession of Rohingya Land and Property during the 2017 Clearance Operations – Public Summary is based on a confidential report prepared for judicial and prosecutorial authorities. It details the destruction and seizure of Rohingya homes, farms, mosques and other property in seven village tracts in northern Rakhine State in 2017, and identifies Myanmar security forces units, corporations, local companies, and others involved in repurposing the land, which erased all traces of the Rohingya's long presence there.

In all the village tracts that were analysed, Rohingya homes and properties were destroyed by the Myanmar military after residents fled the 2017 violence. Border Guard Police (BGP) bases were then constructed on the razed land. For example, the Mechanism's investigations found that in Myo Thu Gyi village tract, where Rohingya families had lived for generations, more than 800 homes, shops, markets and mosques existed before 2017. By 2018, over 411 acres of land had been burned and flattened, and a large BGP base was built on the site.

WHY ARE THESE FINDINGS IMPORTANT?

While pursuing accountability for killings and sexual violence committed against the Rohingya during the 2017 clearance operations in northern Rakhine State is a priority, there must also be accountability for the deliberate targeting of Rohingya land and property aimed at ensuring they had nowhere to return. Reparations for land and property are a crucial component of justice for the Rohingya, and are essential to restoring rights, rebuilding lives and enabling a dignified return to Myanmar.

This report shows that the destruction of Rohingya property and land can be economically assessed, and it identifies the entities that profited from this destruction. Our hope is that this can open legal avenues and inform reparations efforts alongside existing and future legal cases.

WHAT METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE?

Rohingya victims face systemic discrimination, displacement and limited access to property records. The report draws extensively on first-hand accounts, geospatial imagery, video footage and official records to help address these gaps.

The deliberate destruction of villages and the subsequent construction of BGP bases resulted in the burning of structures, property records and other evidence. This makes any future onsite investigations much more difficult. For this reason, the Mechanism is collecting other forms of indispensable evidence – such as aerial imagery, crime scene photographs, environmental spatial evidence and open-source material.

HOW WERE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS USED IN THIS INVESTIGATION?

Bespoke digital tools and workflows enabled the Mechanism to securely collect and manage vast amounts of evidence, analyze data in real time and collaborate across teams. This improved speed, accuracy and coordination, setting a new benchmark for complex and voluminous analytical work.

HOW WILL THIS REPORT BE USED?

While the full confidential report will be shared with judicial authorities, the Mechanism published the public summary to serve the public interest while maintaining the confidentiality needed to protect witnesses and preserve the integrity of evidence and ongoing investigations. Our hope is that this analysis can be used by others to ensure accountability and reparations for the most serious international crimes committed in Myanmar.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE REPARATIONS?

Reparations are measures that address serious violations of international human rights or humanitarian law. They help victims, survivors, families and communities recover from the often devastating and long-term impacts of these abuses, and they promote justice by acknowledging the harm done.

Reparations can be provided through court decisions, truth or reconciliation processes, or government and international programmes. They should be delivered by those found responsible for causing harm – whether individuals, corporations or States.

Under international law, victims of serious international crimes are entitled to full and effective reparations that reflect the seriousness of the harm suffered. Reparations can take five recognized forms: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. These might include providing a new home after one has been burnt down, providing medical care or education support, offering financial compensation for the destruction of a farm, issuing official apologies or memorials, or introducing reforms to prevent future violations.

While reparations cannot undo the victims' loss or suffering, they are a vital step towards restoring dignity, rebuilding lives and strengthening justice and reconciliation.

IS THE DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN AID CONSIDERED A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRIME?

Denial of humanitarian aid means deliberately blocking, restricting or attacking relief supplies such as food, water and medicine, or the people delivering them.

Under international humanitarian law, all parties in an armed conflict must allow civilians to receive aid quickly and safely, provided it is delivered impartially and without discrimination. Parties may have some control over how aid is delivered, such as coordinating delivery routes, but they cannot block or restrict it.

Additionally, humanitarian workers, whether international or local, must be allowed to freely and safely carry out their duties. Restrictions are only lawful if they are temporary, limited and for urgent military reasons.

Deliberately obstructing aid deliveries or attacking aid workers and vehicles can constitute a war crime. Impeding humanitarian aid or attacking relief supplies to starve civilians can also amount to the war crime of starvation under international criminal law.

