KEY FINDINGS

Civilian protection and safe returns in Myanmar

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1. The 28 September Kyauktaw market airstrike caused severe civilian harm. Around 50 deaths were reported, while Myanmar Witness identified visual indicators consistent with at least 33 deceased people. These are different methods of assessment, not figures to add together.

2. UNHCR could not meet the 1,476 people returned by Malaysia on 29 September or assess whether their decisions were free and informed. Reported arrival does not demonstrate safety afterward, and family accompaniment does not replace assessment of a child's individual needs.

3. Military forces and other armed parties must be assessed against their respective conduct and applicable duties. In Rakhine this includes the Arakan Army's treatment of civilians and humanitarian access. Evidence collection, individual criminal responsibility and State responsibility involve different international mechanisms.

Priorities for action

Armed parties must protect civilians and civilian objects, end torture and arbitrary detention and facilitate impartial relief. Donors should provide predictable support to local organisations with safeguards that do not transfer disproportionate administrative burdens to them.

The source report's October 2026 information limits remain applicable. Casualty estimates use different methods; later returns and subsequent public or confidential court decisions are not established by this summary.

SRL Swiss, Myanmar Civilian Protection and Human Rights Situation Assessment, 10 October 2026, pp. 2–8.

Source PDF