



MYANMAR WITNESS

A project by



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INFORMATION
RESILIENCE

AIRSTRIKES ON RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS: CASE STUDIES FROM MAGWAY AND SAGAING REGIONS

An Analysis Of The 25 And 26 February 2025 Airstrikes On
Religious Sites

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31 March 2025

WARNING: This report contains graphic information and imagery. While efforts have been made to blur details, the report includes information which some readers may find distressing.

KEY EVENT DETAILS

- **Location of Incidents:**

1. Son Kone (ဆုံကုန်း), Pauk (ပေါက်) Township, Magway (မကွေး) Region.
[21.6514492, 94.65138245]
2. Me Oe (မဲအို) Village, Ye-U Township, Sagaing (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း) Region
[22.79737091, 95.35263062]

- **Date/Time of Incidents:**

1. 25 February 2025, 10:00 local time
2. 26 February 2025, 11:00 local time

- **Alleged Perpetrator(s) and/or Involvement :**

- Myanmar Air Force (MAF)
- State Administration Council (SAC)

- **Summary of Investigation:**

1. Two reported airstrikes on religious compounds in Magway and Sagaing Regions.
2. **Case Study 1 (25 February, Son Kone village, Magway Region)**
 - Airstrike reportedly hit a monastery where a wedding was allegedly taking place
 - Casualties: 11 reported killed, over 22 injured.
3. **Case Study 2 (26 February, Me-Oe village, Sagaing Region)**
 - A reported fighter jet dropped bombs on a pagoda compound where a wedding was allegedly taking place
 - Casualties: no available reports mentioning fatalities or injuries

4. **Aircraft movement analysis:** Flight tracking data shows MAF aircraft activity near both locations around the reported times.
5. **Weapons & Munitions:** Some fragments are visible in user-generated content (UGC) but it is not distinct enough to verify the type of weapon used.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Myanmar Witness has investigated two reported airstrikes that struck religious sites in Magway and Sagaing Regions on 25 and 26 February 2025 (figure 1). In both cases, several reports suggest that wedding ceremonies were taking place at the time of the incidents. This raises concerns about the potential targeting of civilian gatherings. Notably, this incident follows a similar pattern observed in Myanmar Witness's investigation on [another airstrike](#) in Mingin, where a wedding was also hit. However, Myanmar Witness was not able to conclusively confirm that weddings were the intended targets in either of these incidents in February.

The first [airstrike](#), reportedly carried out by the Myanmar Air Force (MAF), took place in Son Kone village, Madway Region, on 25 February 2025, allegedly hitting a monastery site where a wedding ceremony was said to be taking place. Reports indicate that at least 11 people were killed and more than twenty others were injured as a result. Myanmar Witness geolocated and verified structural damage to the religious compound, and this also included the destruction of a kitchen building and a reception area. Moreover, a wedding invitation uploaded (source redacted due to privacy concerns) on the same day of the reported incident was identified as matching names from a welcome board seen in user-generated content (UGC). This supports the claim that a wedding was held at the location during the time of the incident. However, despite this information, Myanmar Witness was unable to confirm that the wedding was targeted. The same social media post suggests an SAC informant may have shared details of the event, including the data, time and location before the airstrike, though the motive for doing so remains unclear.

The second [airstrike](#) allegedly occurred in Me Oe village, Sagaing Region, on 26 February, where a fighter jet reportedly dropped two 100-pound bombs on the Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda compound. Unlike the first case, there were no available reports or visual evidence confirming casualties. Despite Myanmar Witness verifying the structural damage at the site, there was no available UGC at the time of writing to confirm that a wedding was taking place around the period of the airstrike.

Aircraft movement analysis suggests that the Myanmar Air Force (MAF) was active in the area around the time of both incidents. Although flight monitoring data from the observed Telegram channels indicate the presence of military aircraft near the locations, there is no direct imagery or radio signal data determining their role in the attacks. Moreover, the absence of flight data from alternative airbases, potentially closer to the religious sites, further limits verification of the aircraft movements.

In addition to these incidents, Myanmar Witness has previously documented claims of airstrikes damaging religious sites, as stated in our report on [conflict-stricken churches](#), focusing on the impact of aerial bombardment on religious buildings in Myanmar. In 2024, Myanmar Witness documented a total of 109 claims of religious sites being damaged by airstrikes in 87 separate incidents throughout 2024. The regions most affected by airstrikes on religious buildings were Shan State (22 incidents), Rakhine State (17 incidents), and Sagaing Region (13 incidents). This pattern suggests that religious sites are frequently affected by aerial bombardment, though intent does remain difficult to determine.

Therefore, while Myanmar Witness cannot confirm whether these specific incidents deliberately targeted weddings, the broader pattern of religious buildings being impacted by airstrikes highlights a concerning trend that requires further investigation and continued monitoring.

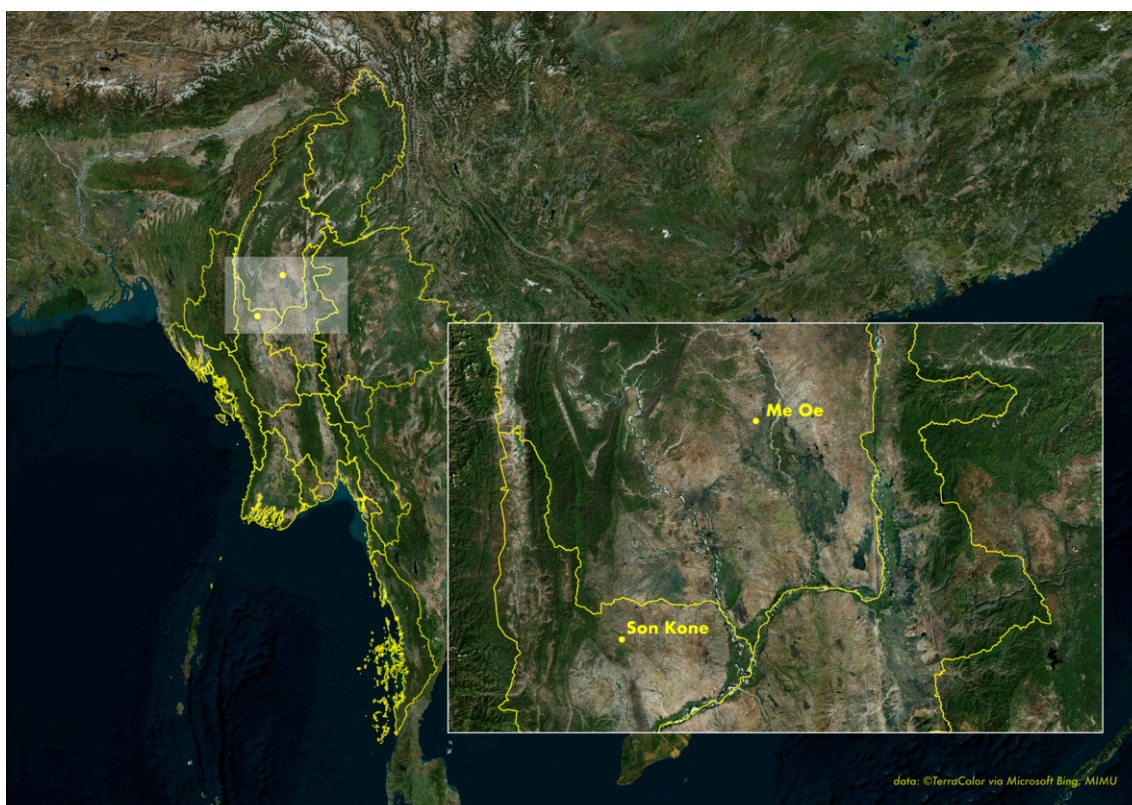


Figure 1: Case Study (1) Location of Son Kone village, Pauk township, Magway region at coordinates: [21.6514492, 94.65138245] (MIMU) Case Study (2) Location of Me-Oe village, Ye-U township, Sagaing region at coordinates [22.79737091, 95.35263062] (MIMU)

INVESTIGATION WALKTHROUGH

CASE STUDY 1 - SON KONE VILLAGE

According to media reports, the Myanmar Air Force (MAF) allegedly carried out an [airstrike](#) on a religious site at around 10:00 local time on 25 February 2025 (figure 2). The airstrike reportedly hit a wedding ceremony at the monastery in Son Kone (ဆုံကုန်း), Pauk (ပေါက်) Township, Magway (မကွေး) Region. [Media sources](#) state that at least 22 people, including a woman, were killed and more than 20 others were injured. Furthermore, reports claim that a kitchen building was destroyed, while other nearby structures sustained damage.

Location of the incident

An analysis of images published by news organisation [Mandalay Free Press](#) (MFP) on 25 February 2025, indicates that key features of the location, including the monastery compound and its surrounding areas in Son Kone village, Pauk Township, Magway Region, do align with the scene of the reported airstrike (figures 3, 4, 5 and 6).



Figure 2: Location of Son Kone village [21.6514492, 94.65138245], Pauk township, Magway region

User-generated content (UGC) uploaded by the MFP includes an image of a [wedding welcome board](#) placed in front of a monastery building (figure 3). The wedding board reads: **မောင်သက်နိုင်ဝင်း မဝေမာကျော် မင်္ဂလာဧည့်ခံပွဲ**, which translates to the names of the bride and groom's wedding ceremony. This suggests that a wedding ceremony was likely taking place within the monastery premises at the time of the reported incident.



Figure 3: Image of a wedding welcome board adorned with flowers, placed in front of the monastery building [21.650454, 94.651404]. (source: [MFP](#))



Figure 4 - An image of a destroyed building geolocated to [21.650608, 94.651880], reportedly the kitchen area (source: [MFP](#))



Figure 5 - An image of the damaged temporary tent reportedly used for the guest reception [21.650688, 94.651651]. (source: [MFP](#))

Moreover, Myanmar Witness cross-checked this information with satellite imagery and geolocated the damaged building to coordinates [21.650608, 94.651878], approximately nine metres east of the pagoda compound (figure 6).



Figure 6- Visualisation of satellite imagery showing the location of UGCs posted by MFP, with geolocated points labelled UGC 1 [21.650608, 94.651880], UGC 2 [21.650608, 94.651880], and UGC 3 [21.650688, 94.651651] (source: Maxar (vivid))

Additional imagery, also uploaded on the same day as the reported incident, shows damage to a [guest reception area](#), where food was reportedly being served to attendees (figure 7).



Figure 7: An image showing damage to a guest reception area, reportedly where food was being served. The building appears to be the main monastery (source: [People's Spring Post](#))

Date and Time of the incident

Myanmar Witness analysed Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, which provides high-resolution optical images useful for detecting changes in land cover, infrastructure, and damage over time. By comparing images taken on 23 February 2025 and 28 February 2025, Myanmar Witness investigators observed newly visible damage in the affected location (figure 8).

In the February 28 image, the location of the destroyed building appears charred, indicating fire damage that was not present in the 23 February imagery. This suggests that the attack likely occurred sometime between 23 February and 28 February, thus aligning with media reports such as [Myanmar Now](#) that the airstrike took place on 25 February.

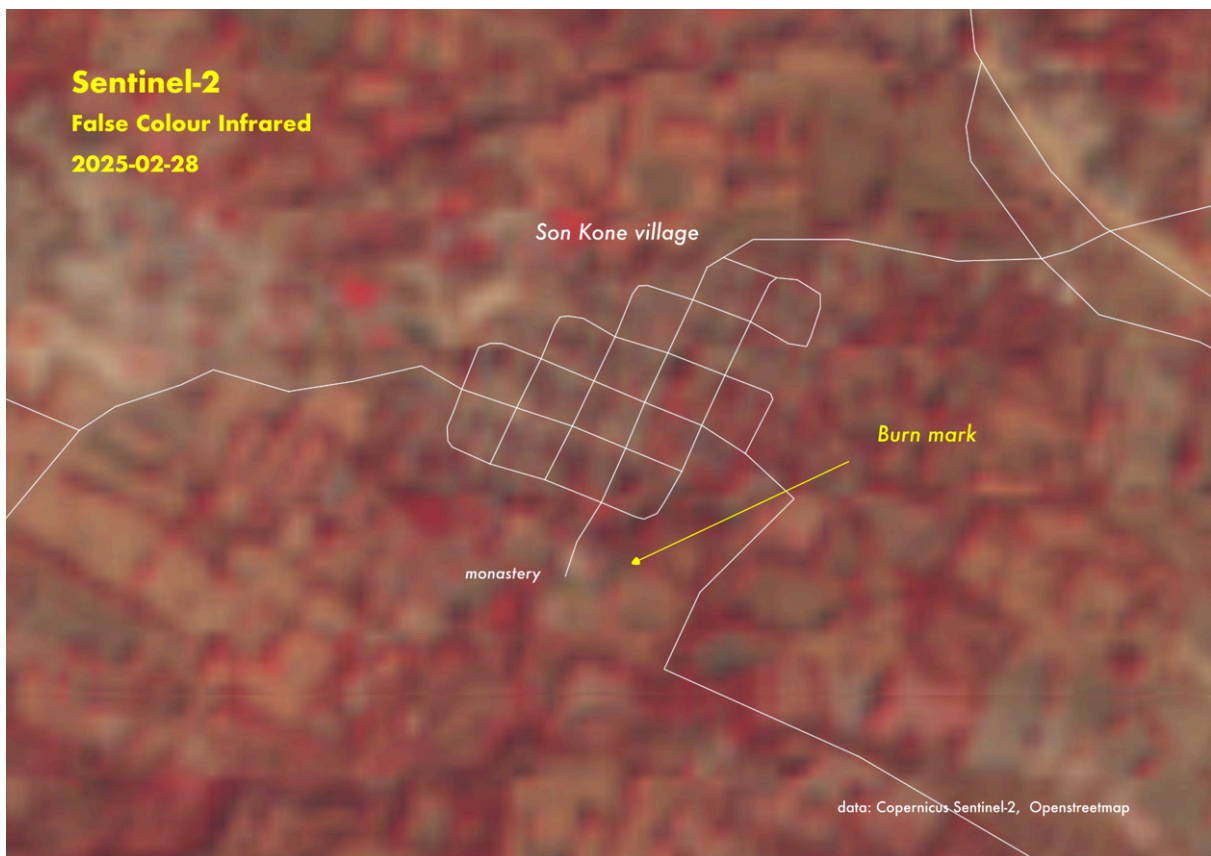
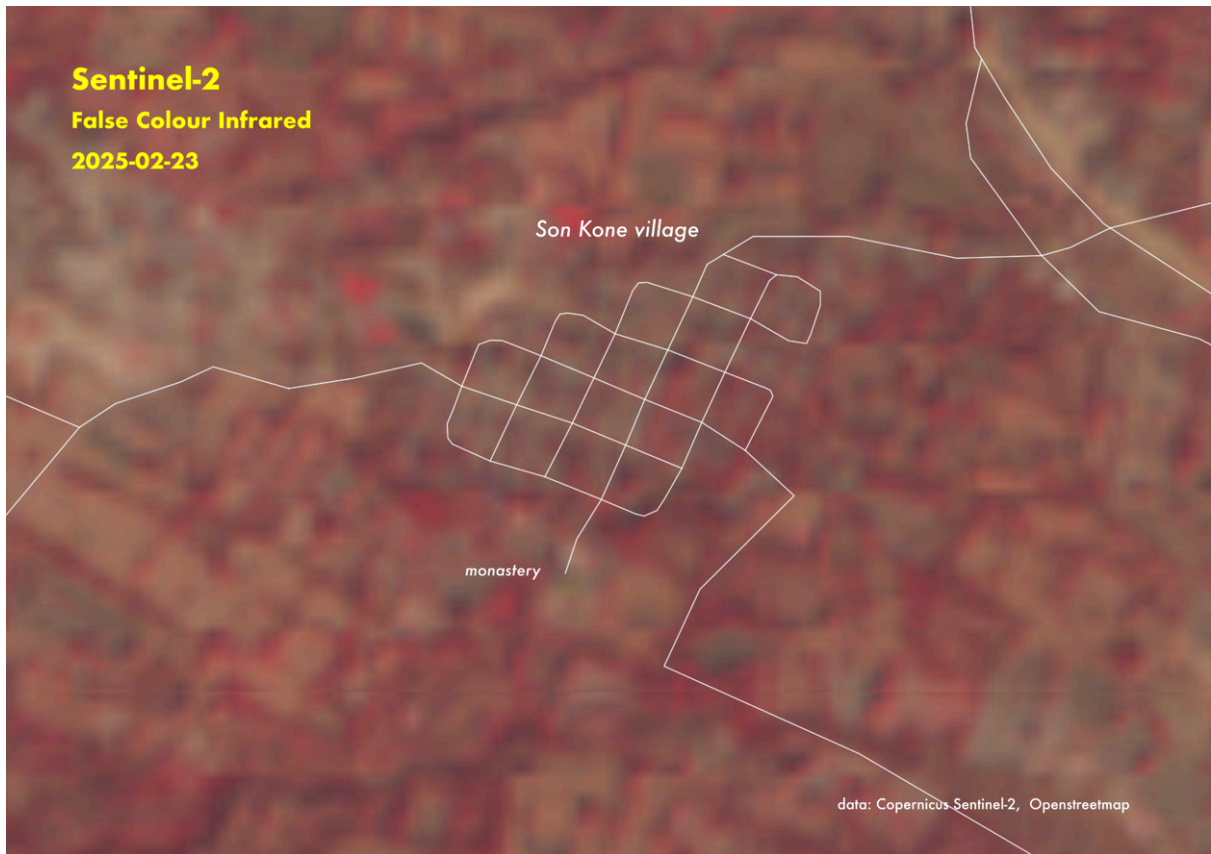


Figure 8: Copernicus Sentinel 2 imagery showing the differences between [23 February](#) and [28 February](#) 2025 at coordinates [21.650605, 94.651873]. The bottom image shows visible fire damage, which was not present in the top image on 23 February (source: Sentinel 2)

To estimate the time of the UGC imagery showing the destroyed buildings (figure 9), Myanmar Witness cross-referenced the data using [Suncalc](#) (figure 10). This tool analyses sunlight angles to approximate the time an image was taken. By appropriately comparing height and shadow length in the UGC (figure 9) with [Suncalc](#), Myanmar Witness determined that the image was likely taken at approximately 10:22 on 25 February 2025. This timeframe is consistent with reports stating that the airstrike happened around 10:00 local time.



Figure 9: Shadow analysis using Suncalc suggests the UGC image was taken around 10:22 on 25 February 2025, aligning with reports of the airstrike happening at around 10:00 local time (source : [People's Spring Post](#))

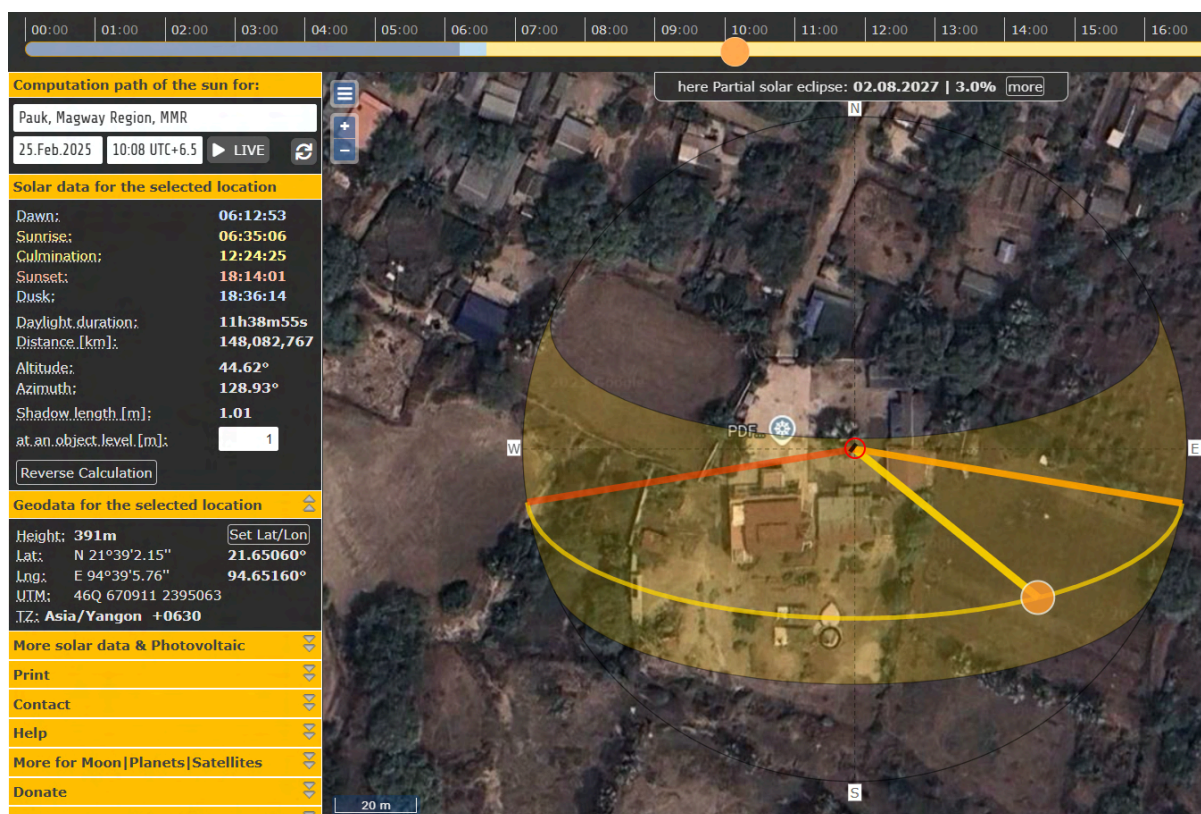


Figure 10: Suncalc data showing the shadow length of the object at around 10:08 AM on 25 February 2025, based on the incident location coordinates (source: [Suncalc](https://suncalc.org/))

Actors Involved and Possible Links to Resistance Forces at Wedding

The alleged airstrike, which was reportedly carried out by the MAF, has raised questions regarding the involvement of resistance forces at the event. While news agencies and resistance forces have claimed that this incident was an airstrike, no supporting UGC has been found to independently back up these claims.

Pro-SAC social media accounts (source removed due to privacy concerns) and Telegram channels (source removed due to privacy concerns) have claimed that the airstrike resulted in significant casualties among resistance forces at the wedding. According to a [BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/asia-myanmar-670911) report, many villages in townships across Magway Region are under the control of resistance forces, and the airstrike allegedly targeted the wedding of a People's Defense Force (PDF) member in Myaing Township. However, it is crucial to note that SAC-controlled media and the information department have not issued any official statement to confirm or deny responsibility for the incident.

In addition, pro-SAC social media accounts (source redacted due to privacy issues) circulated images of the deceased (initially published by the MFP) (figure 11) and claimed that at least 25 members of the resistance forces were killed in the strike.

Moreover, a news photo uploaded by [Shwe Phee Myay News Agency](#) on 25 February 2025 shows a man carrying an assault rifle on his back and another individual wearing guerrilla-style pants (figure 11). This suggests a possible connection between some individuals present at the wedding and local resistance forces. The [weapon](#) seen was identified as a knockoff of the Type-81 assault rifle, reportedly manufactured by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and United Wa State Army (UWSA) - a type commonly used by some resistance groups.

Although resistance forces claim significant casualties among their ranks, there is no independent UGC that confirms this. Moreover, Myanmar Witness cannot verify whether the deceased individuals were affiliated with resistance groups or were simply civilians attending the wedding. The presence of military-style weapons and guerrilla gear seen near the deceased bodies have led to the suggestion that resistance groups may have been present at the ceremony, but this remains speculative.



Figure 11: A man with a gun who appears to be a resistance fighter seen at the potential location [21.653069, 94.650080] of the dead bodies (source: [Shwee Phee Myay News Agency](#))

Casualties

[MFP](#) reported that 11 people, including one woman, were killed and more than 22 people were injured. The majority of the casualties were reportedly individuals who were helping at the wedding ceremony.

Myanmar Witness analysed available [UGC](#) and counted 11 bodies covered with blankets and clothing (figure 12). However, the imagery lacks any distinct or notable characteristics that allow for precise geolocation. While one analysis suggests that the bodies were located west of Son Kone at approximately [21.653069, 94.650080], this conclusion is disputed due to conflicting information.

Key limitations include the lack of clear reference points in the footage, and there are questions about the site where the deceased individuals were placed. Specifically, if the deceased individuals were casualties of the Son Kon airstrike, it is unclear why they were transported to this particular site rather than a closer or more logistically appropriate burial location. Verifying whether the victims in the footage match those reported from the incident remains challenging. Geospatial analysis of known burial sites within a 10–20 km radius suggests that the location [21.653069, 94.650080] is the most plausible match; however, this assessment requires further corroboration. Consequently, Myanmar Witness has not been able to independently verify that the individuals in the footage were directly killed by the airstrike.

Reports from [MFP](#) provide additional details on the deceased individuals:

- Ages of the deceased: One was over 60 years old, one was over 50 years old, seven were around 35 years old, and one was 17 years old.
- Among the deceased, one female was approximately 35 years old.
- Based on UGC, it is highly likely that the individuals were dressed in ordinary civilian clothing.



Figure 12: An image showing that 11 dead bodies could be counted in the UGC posted by MFP on social media (source: [MFP](#))

While available UGC strongly suggests that all 11 casualties were civilians, Myanmar Witness cannot fully verify this due to the limitations in UGC location confirmation. As mentioned, conflicting reports, including claims circulated by pro-SAC social media accounts, suggest a different narrative. Myanmar Witness could also not verify the number of injured.

Flight Channel

According to the air route monitoring channel WaiHin on Telegram, an aircraft took off from Shante Airbase near Meikhtila at 09:00 local time, heading west. This flight path was tracked through four townships, confirming that the aircraft passed over Myaing town, located east of Son Kone village, at 09:47 local time (figure 13). This aligns with media reports that the airstrike occurred around 10:00 local time, thus making it highly likely that this aircraft was involved in the incident.

While there is a strong consistency between the aircraft's takeoff, flight direction, and the reported time of the airstrike, Myanmar Witness cannot verify what happened after this point, as there was no tracking data on whether the aircraft returned to its base or continued elsewhere at the time of writing.

One Telegram channel (WaiHin) did report an FTC-2000G Jet Fighter in the area. The [FTC-2000G](#) is a light multi-role combat and trainer aircraft capable of reaching speeds of up to 1,470 km/h with a range of approximately 1,650km. It is designed for both training and combat missions. However, Myanmar Witness cannot independently verify the specific aircraft model involved in the airstrike or confirm that all reported sightings refer to the same aircraft.

Posts from the WaiHin Telegram Channel identifying the flight path of a jet fighter on 25 February 2024 are shown below:

Time	Messages
09:30 local time (25 Feb 2025)	A FTC-2000G Jet Fighter from Shante Tale Base (Meiktila) flew west.
09:36 local time (25 Feb 2025)	A jet fighter from Meiktila Air Base flew north over the northern part of Mahlaing township.
09:37 local time (25 Feb 2025)	A jet fighter from Meiktila Air Base flew northwest over Taungtha township.
09:40 local time (25 Feb 2025)	A jet fighter from Meiktila Air Base flew northwest over Yesagyo township.
09:41 local time	A jet fighter from Meiktila Air Base flew northwest over Myaing township.

(25 Feb 2025)	
09:47 local time (25 Feb 2025)	A jet fighter from Meiktila Air Base was seen circling at a location in the northern part of Myaing Township.



Figure 13: Reconstruction of the reported aircraft trajectory via Telegram channel messages (sources redacted due to privacy concerns).

Wedding invitation

A social media post (source removed due to privacy concerns), published on 25 February 2025, includes an image of a wedding invitation (figure 14) that matches the names seen on the wedding welcome board in previous UGC (figure 3). A translation of the post suggests that information regarding the wedding may have been shared with the SAC ahead of the airstrike. Moreover, the post claims that an SAC informant took a photo of the invitation and sent it via an online chat platform, reportedly including details about the groom.

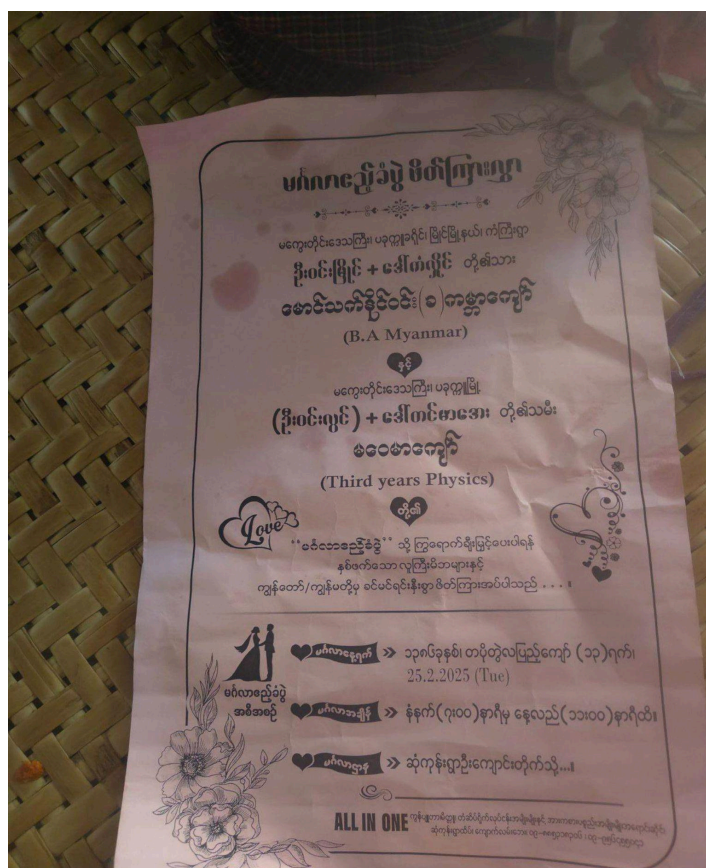


Figure 14: A screenshot taken from a Facebook post showing a wedding invitation (source redacted due to privacy concerns)

The translated text states:

“How did the SAC receive the exact date, time and location of the wedding? An SAC informant took a photo of the wedding invitation and sent it through a chat box. The information was likely sent before the 25th. Along with the photo, the informant also sent messages about the groom.”

The social media post further alleges that the groom, identified as “Kabar Kyaw”, was the youngest brother of Captain Letya (also known as Kyaw Naing), a CDM police officer and leader of a resistance force in the region. It claims that Captain Letya arranged the wedding invitation under a different name and attended the event briefly before leaving. The airstrike reportedly took place after he had already departed.

Additionally, the post refers to 25 deaths and describes a payment linked to the sharing of target information:

“Because the information provided precise target information, leading to the deaths of 25 people, a reward of 30,000 MMK was reportedly paid.”

While Myanmar Witness cannot independently verify the authenticity of the Facebook post or confirm whether the wedding was a target, the available information suggests that details of the event were passed to the SAC in advance. A screenshot included in the post allegedly shows the informant's report, converted from a different font format in Messenger on Facebook. The language and style of the writing appear informal, and the post mentions the practice of reporting locations for airstrikes.

Finally, however, it remains unclear whether the payment mentioned was a direct reward from the SAC for target reporting or whether the resistance forces offered money for information about the informant.

Was a wedding targeted?

Based on these findings, Myanmar Witness has high confidence that an airstrike occurred on or before 25 February 2025, causing damage to the monastery compound. Satellite imagery, UGC and flight tracking data help support this assessment.

There is credible evidence, including UGC, indicating that a wedding was indeed taking place. A wedding invitation matching names on a welcome board in UGC further supports this claim. However, Myanmar Witness cannot independently verify whether the wedding was in progress at the exact time of the reported airstrike.

The presence of military-style weapons and guerrilla gear near the scene has led to speculation about the involvement of resistance forces. While some reports and social media sources suggest the wedding was for a resistance-linked individual, there is not enough conclusive evidence to confirm this detail. Myanmar Witness does not have enough confidence to determine whether the wedding was a deliberate target.

Moreover, although UGC confirms 11 fatalities, Myanmar Witness cannot confirm whether those killed were civilians, wedding guests or even affiliated with the local resistance forces.

Finally, although the analysis strongly suggests that a military aircraft did carry out the airstrike, Myanmar Witness cannot confirm the type of aircraft or munitions used in the incident. Future monitoring is advised to assess whether there is a trend and if similar strikes targeting civilian gatherings do occur in the future.

CASE STUDY 2 - ME OE VILLAGE

On 26 February, 2025, an alleged airstrike hit the religious compound in Me Oe (မဲအို) village in Ye-U (ရေဦး) township, Sagaing (စစ်ကိုင်း) region (figure 15). Reports from multiple sources, including a local people's defence force (PDF) (source redacted due to safety concerns), and [Khit Thit Media](#) claimed there was a wedding ceremony being held.

Additionally, an individual on Facebook (source withheld for security reasons) stated that the wedding was for a CDM member from the Ministry of Electricity. The source also claimed there was no active fighting nearby on the incident date.

According to [Khit Thit Media](#), the airstrike was reportedly carried out by a MiG-29 fighter jet, dropping two 100-pound bombs while the wedding was being held in the Pagoda's compound, destroying the Pagoda.



Figure 15: Location of Me-Oe village, Ye-U township, Sagaing region at coordinates: [22.79737091, 95.35263062] (MIMU location)

Location of the incident

The religious compound at Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda Hill in Me-Oe village, Ye-U

township, Sagaing region, was reportedly hit during an alleged airstrike on 26 February 2025. According to the local PDF group, a bomb was allegedly detonated in a small lake next to the Buddhist temple compound, with shrapnel reportedly causing damage to surrounding structures (figure 16).



Figure 16: A UGC image of a damaged temple, located at [22.799783, 95.349656], Phaung Taw Oo temple in Me Oe village, Ye U Township. (Source: [Khit Thit Media](#))

Myanmar Witness analysed various images depicting the incident and geolocated them to Phaung Taw Oo Pagoda Hill at Me Oe village [22.799683, 95.34964] (figure 17). By cross-referencing satellite imagery with available UGC, the following elements have been geolocated:

- A damaged pagoda with an apparent ammunition impact (figure 18)
- The precise location of the pagoda that was reportedly hit (figure 19)



Figure 17: Google Earth imagery showing the location of Phaung Taw Oo temple in Me Oe village, Ye U Township, with the red-roof building between the two temples at coordinates [22.799683, 95.349645] (source: Google Earth)

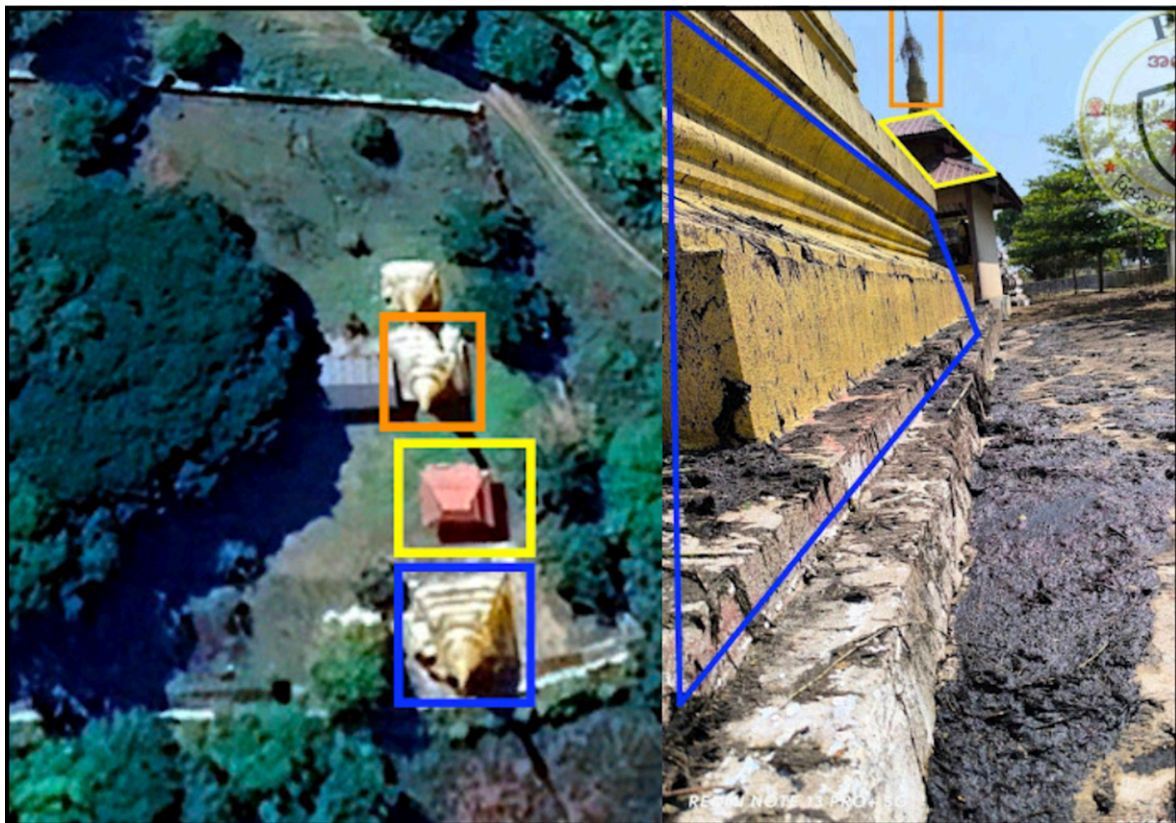


Figure 18: [Left] Google Earth imagery showing the location of the temple. [Right] UGC of the temple (Source: [Khit Thit Media](#))



Figure 19: [Left] Google Earth imagery highlights the building with a red roof between the two temples and an arrow pointing to a building. [Right] damaged area shown in UGC imagery located at [22.799683, 95.349645], Phaung Taw Oo temple in Me Oe village, Ye U Township (Source: Google Earth and [Khit Thit Media](#))

Date and time of the incident

[Khit Thit Media](#) reports that the airstrike happened on 26 February 2025 at 11:00 local time. While Myanmar Witness cannot independently verify the exact time, UGC uploaded on the same day contains timestamps (figure 20), confirming the incident happened on or before 26 February 2025.

Additionally, air routing tracking data supports the reported date (source redacted due to privacy concerns), which is addressed later on in this report. Based on the consistency of multiple sources and flight activity in the area, Myanmar Witness has high confidence that the airstrike took place on or before 26 February 2025.



Figure 20: UGC uploaded on the same day as the reported attack, containing timestamps, supports the event occurring on or before 26 February 2025 (Source: [Khit Thit Media](#))

Analysis of the airstrike claim

Multiple sources, including [Khit Thit Media](#) and a local PDF group (source redacted due to privacy concerns), reported that the MAF dropped two 100-pound bombs on the site.

While the damage and the fragments can be [visible in UGC](#), the footage lacks visibility of the remaining munition fragments, making it impossible to verify the airstrike conclusively. However, imagery of the damaged pagoda does not indicate an ammunition impact, suggesting that an explosion did occur at the site. Myanmar Witness has high confidence in the exact location but cannot verify the precise cause or whether the incident was an airstrike or another form of heavy weaponry.

Analysis of Aircraft Path

Myanmar Witness investigated claims of aircraft activity around the time of the incident by analysing data from two Telegram channels that track MAF aircraft routes (source redacted for privacy concerns). While the channel reported multiple aircraft takeoffs from Magway and Meiktila airbases, the data does not suggest a single direct route to Me-Oe village.

Moreover, available flight data on this date (26 February 2025) is scarce, and there is

no information on whether aircraft took off from closer airbases, such as Tada U Airbase. While the observed flight activity may suggest the possibility of an airstrike, the lack of comprehensive flight data means that Myanmar Witness could not verify whether aircraft from closer airbases, such as Tada U, were involved.

Casualties

Unlike in the case of the Son Kone airstrike, there are no available reports or UGC indicating there were casualties from the alleged airstrike. Local sources mainly focused on the destruction of the pagoda and surrounding structures and did not mention any fatalities or injuries. Therefore, while Myanmar Witness can confirm damage to the religious compound, there is no available information confirming the potential human impact of the incident.

Weapons

Although sources such as Khit Thit Media and People's Defense Comrade claimed that the MAF dropped two 100-pound bombs, the fragments visible in UGC (figure 21) are indistinct, making it impossible to verify the type of weapon used. Myanmar Witness does not have sufficient confidence to determine whether the fragments are remnants of an airstrike or heavy weaponry.



Figure 21: Images of remnants. Despite some sources claiming the MAF dropped two 100-pound bombs, the indistinct fragments in UGC make it impossible to verify the weapon type or confirm an airstrike (source redacted due to privacy issues)

Was a wedding taking place, and was it a target?

The alleged airstrike has raised concerns about whether a wedding was intentionally the target. Reports indicate the strike occurred at a location where a wedding ceremony was reportedly taking place, and some sources further claim it was for a member of the PDF/CDM (source redacted).

However, while there is such evidence suggesting a wedding was happening, there is not enough conclusive information that supports it was specifically targeted by an airstrike.

FUTURE MONITORING

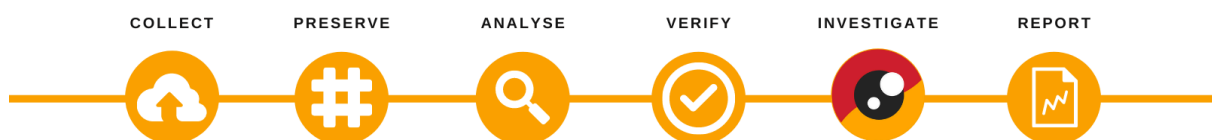
This report highlights how religious buildings continue to be affected by airstrikes in Myanmar, thus raising concerns about the protection of civilian spaces and cultural heritage sites. For example, the damage sustained by the religious sites in both case studies, as well as the 109 recorded cases of religious compounds being damaged in airstrikes over 2024, does suggest that these locations are increasingly at risk during military operations.

However, whether weddings were targeted in these incidents remains inconclusive. In the case of the Son Kone airstrike, UGC provides strong indications that a wedding did take place at the site, but there is not enough to indicate it was the reason for the attack. Secondly, in the Me Oe airstrike, there is even less supporting information to determine the presence of a wedding ceremony; thus, it is more difficult to verify this claim.

Even though the available data can not conclusively confirm that weddings were specifically targeted, the damage and potential destruction of these religious buildings as a result of airstrikes does require continued scrutiny. Therefore, going forward, Myanmar Witness will continue to track airstrikes affecting religious buildings to determine whether there are emerging trends and patterns, and whether this type of airstrike represents an intentional strategy by the military.

METHODOLOGY

Myanmar Witness follows a methodology of digital preservation and rigorous, replicable analysis. Digital content is collected and archived in a secure database and hashed to confirm authenticity and prevent tampering.



Myanmar Witness uses a confidence judgment system to describe the extent of independent verification:

- **Very High:** Myanmar Witness is 85-95% sure that the event took place as described in the claims. Digital content is independently geolocated and mostly chronolocated, with strong corroborating evidence on details of the claim.
- **High:** Myanmar Witness is 70-80% sure that the event took place as described in claims. Digital content is geolocated. Other reliable sources

confirm the time and date, but it cannot be independently chronolocated. Other details of the claim have not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

- **Medium:** Myanmar Witness is 50-60% sure that the event took place. The event is somewhat verified, but significant gaps remain.
- **Low:** The geolocation and chronolocation process has shown the location or timing of the digital content to be inaccurate.
- **Unknown:** There is insufficient evidence for the investigator to make a judgment.

For the avoidance of doubt, this verification system only refers to Myanmar Witness's ability to independently geolocate or chronocate footage. Incidents marked as unverified may still be substantiated by multiple eyewitness reports. Myanmar Witness also collates and assesses unverified information, including claims on social media. This information is presented as claims, rather than verified facts.

This report contains figures showing how footage has been geolocated. In these images, coloured lines are used to represent the left and right arcs of vision. Coloured boxes show corresponding landmarks or distinguishing details in each piece of footage or data. Geolocation is conducted using an array of open source tools such as Google Earth and Sentinel-2 to match satellite imagery with visual features identified in the footage or images. Geolocations are peer-reviewed.

Chronolocation is conducted using metadata such as Suncalc, contextual analysis, weather patterns, and shadow analysis. Through this, possible time frames are deduced. For example, by orienting geolocated content and identifying the sun's position, time can be determined.

Myanmar Witness follows rigorous ethical standards: obscuring identifying information about individuals involved; censoring private information and images where appropriate; blurring graphic imagery; removing links to private individual accounts; and archiving digital content securely.

COLLECTION OF CLAIMS

Myanmar Witness collected 109 claims of religious sites being damaged due to airstrikes in 2024. These claims are attributed to 87 unique attacks - each defined by a distinct date and township.

While the monthly breakdown of attacks does not reveal a significant trend, October 2024 stands out with up to 13 unique attacks. A regional analysis shows that airstrikes damaging religious sites were concentrated in Shan (22 attacks), Rakhine (17 attacks) and Sagaing (13 attacks), making up almost 60% of these attacks in 2024.

To compile the data, Myanmar Witness filtered its database to identify claims of airstrikes affecting religious sites. It ensured accuracy by reviewing and categorising entries by date, location and type of damage. The final date for data collection was 19 March 2025. However, Myanmar Witness will continue monitoring the situation to gain more information on these events.

LIMITATIONS

Myanmar Witness obtains information from an area of ongoing conflict and therefore selection bias may occur due to internet outages, lack of connectivity, fear of reprisal, or restrictions on media. Myanmar Witness strives to eliminate bias by collecting digital content from multiple sources, including pro and anti-regime news and social media.

For Case Study 1, Myanmar Witness was unable to determine any munitions or remnants present, making it impossible to identify the type of munitions used. Additionally, there is no available footage of the aircraft involved. While geolocation analysis suggests the deceased individuals were located west of Son Kone at approximately [21.653069, 94.650080], conflicting data raises some uncertainty about the specific location. Finally, although a Telegram channel (WaiHin) reported the presence of an FTC-2000G jet fighter in the area, Myanmar Witness cannot independently verify the aircraft model involved in the reported airstrike or confirm whether any reported sightings refer to that same aircraft.

For Case Study 2, Myanmar Witness was unable to obtain footage of the victims or confirm whether the event was a wedding. Moreover, although flight tracking data does support reports of aircraft activity, there is not enough detail to verify all possible movements or understand the full scope of operations.

ABBREVIATIONS

• Civil Disobedience Movement	CDM
• Kachin Independence Army	KIA
• Mandalay Free Press	MFP
• Myanmar Air Force	MAF
• People's Defence Force	PDF
• State Administration Council	SAC
• United Wa State Army	UWSA
• User-generated content	UGC