



MYANMAR WITNESS

A project by



CENTRE for
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AIR ATTACKS CLOSE TO THINGYAN

Myanmar Air Force Allegedly Damages Mahasi Sasan
Meditation Centre on 13 April 2026

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29 April 2026

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1 OVERVIEW

On 14 April 2026, via Facebook, [Red Peacock](#) reported that, at roughly 15:00 local time on 13 April 2026, a military airstrike hit the Mahasi Sasan Meditation Centre (မဟာစည်သာသနာရိပ်သာ) and monastery in Seik Khun village (ဆိပ်ခွန်), Shwebo Township (ရွှေဘိုမြို့နယ်), Sagaing Region (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း). The incident reportedly resulted in the deaths of two people and injured eight others.

Myanmar Witness analysed and verified images showing damage to the monastery compound and civilian infrastructure. Local media outlets have connected the timing of the reported airstrike to the Thingyan, Myanmar's major Buddhist New Year festival, including [Myanmar Now](#) and [Mizzima](#), which have highlighted the incident during the religious holiday.

KEY FINDINGS

- Myanmar Witness geolocated images to [22.557946, 95.583952], confirming damage to the monastery
- Damage patterns analysed suggest it was caused by a blast impact from an aerial incident, though at the time of writing, no aircraft footage or available material on aircraft channels exists.

- Some User-Generated Content (UGC) has been chronolocated to 16:00 - 17:30 local time, which supports the timing of the aftermath
- At the time of writing, satellite imagery lacks conclusive date verification, and thus, a date cannot be independently verified for this incident.
- Myanmar Witness has noted that Seik Khun has a history of conflict and has been a contested area for power, which could explain the potential targeting.

This report presents key analytical findings and geolocations related to activity in Seik Khun village on 13 April 2026, as well as contextualising it within broader patterns.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 GEOLOCATION (HIGH CONFIDENCE)

Myanmar Witness geolocated several images to the northern Seik Khun village, at [22.557946, 95.583952], aligning with the location of the claimed monastery compound (figure 1). Key sites analysed include a damaged internal building at [22.558029, 95.583815], showing tea tables among the debris, as well as an external shaded area with what appears to be monks' robes hanging from a beam at [22.557953, 95.583804], and perimeter walls breached at [22.558501, 95.583812] (figure 2).



Figure 1: Myanmar Witness geolocated the monastery tied to the Seik Khun incident and cross-referenced with UGC (Sources: Satellite imagery © 2025 Vantor, UGC [Red Peacock](#) via Facebook).



Figure 2: Myanmar Witness geolocated images of damaged walls at the compound at [22.55850], 95.583812]. (Sources: [Red Peacock](#) via Facebook).

These findings align with visual markers, such as signage and layout, from [Red Peacock](#) and [Karenni People's Voice](#)'s reporting, and thus rule out misattribution. Additionally, the clustered damage pattern identified suggests there was a single impactful event focused on the main structure, and this is consistent with eyewitness accounts of a targeted airstrike captured in local reports.

2.2 CHRONOLOCATION (MEDIUM CONFIDENCE)

Myanmar Witness conducted a shadow analysis via Suncalc on User-Generated Content (UGC), which dates the aftermath imagery between 16:00 and 17:30 local time on 13 April 2026 (figure 3). These photos were taken after the reported incident (15:00 local time) following a morning ceremony. This timeline also aligns with [Red Peacock](#)'s description of novice monks resting post-observance at around 15:00 local time.

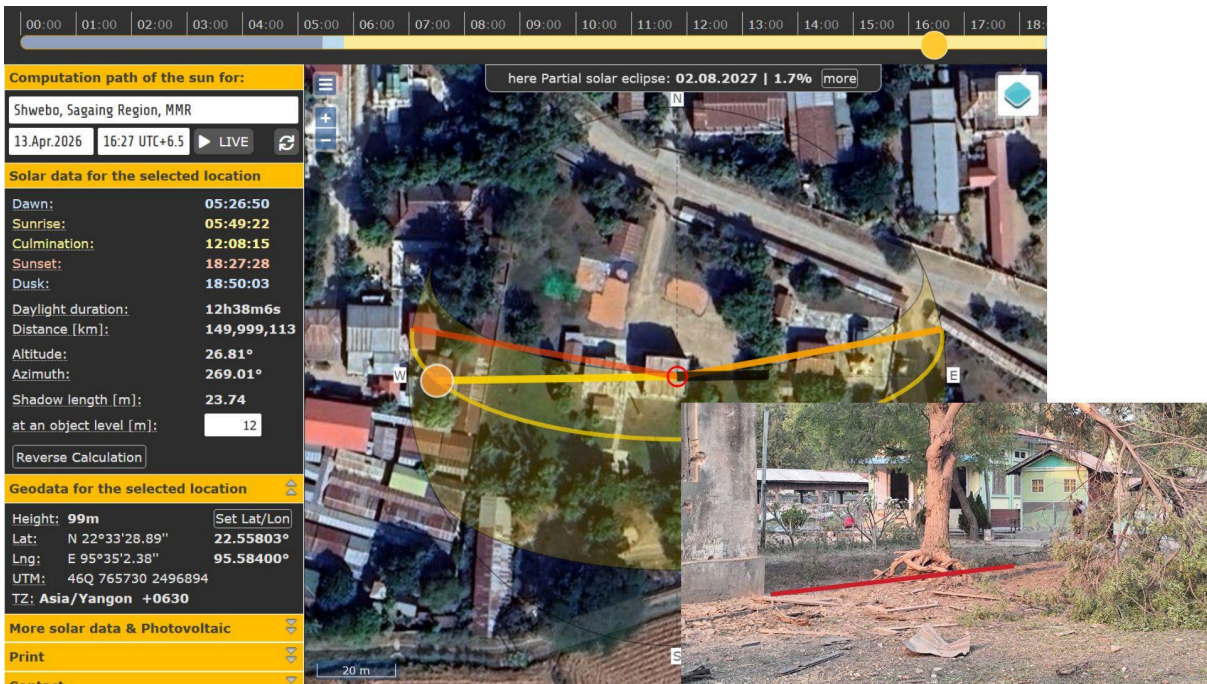


Figure 3: Myanmar Witness carried out a shadow analysis using SunCalc on UGC, which dates the aftermath imagery between 16:00 and 17:30 local time on 13 April 2026. While this aligns with reports that the incident took place on 13 April 2026, Myanmar Witness cannot conclusively verify that the airstrike occurred on that date. (Sources: [Suncalc.org](https://www.suncalc.org/), [Bottom Right] [Red Peacock](#) via Facebook).

Additionally, Myanmar Witness utilised low-resolution Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, dated between 11 April and 14 April 2026, which does show subtle ground changes (figure 4). However, due to low resolution, Myanmar Witness could not confirm the extent of blast damage.

11 April 2026

14 April 2026



Figure 4: Myanmar Witness analysed low-resolution Sentinel-2 imagery from the Copernicus browser, but the difference is insubstantial to qualify as a confirmation that any ground changes

were made between 11 and 14 April 2026. (Sources: Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data [2026]).

While the analysis aligns with reports regarding the airstrike on 13 April 2026, Myanmar Witness cannot conclusively verify that the incident occurred on that date.

2.3 IMAGERY ANALYSIS

Damage patterns identified in the imagery include an inward-collapsed roofing at [22.557952, 95.583810], but without significant burn marks (figure 5). This type of damage is consistent with an aerial blast rather than an incendiary impact, which is common in Myanmar's conflict.



Figure 5: Myanmar Witness analysed the roofing of the external area at [22.557952, 95.583810], which shows indications of a potential aerial attack, due to the inversion of the roofing structure. (Source: redacted).

Additionally, civilian artefacts such as robes and tea tables were depicted among the debris, suggesting the area was of non-military use, and the presence of monks' robes indicates the site was used for religious purposes (figure 6).



Figure 6: UGC reportedly from the Seik Khun incident demonstrates damage to the inside of a building [22.558029, 95.583815], tea tables and robes are observed among the debris (Source: [Karen People's Voice](#) via Facebook).

[Mandalay Free Press](#) published an image of an alleged deceased monk, which was published after the reported incident; however, at the time of writing, it lacks full verification, and Myanmar Witness could not confirm whether this image can be tied to the event (figure 7).



Figure 7: Myanmar Witness analysed an image of an allegedly deceased monk, which was published after the reported incident. (Source: [Mandalay Free Press](#) via Facebook).

Overall, the available material supports the probability of an airstrike on a religious site.

3 ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS

3.1 GENERAL PREVIOUS INCIDENTS IN SEIK KHUN SINCE THE COUP

Myanmar Witness's documentation of Seik Khun's conflict history since the military coup in 2021 suggests it is a contested anti-military hub in Sagaing Region.

Key events include:

- 5 May 2021: protests at a Seik Khun Basic Education High School [22.547349, 95.584420] with graffiti suggesting the principal at the time was aligned with the military (Source: [Myanmar Now](#)) (figure 8)
 - From late 2021 to early 2022, ongoing protests were documented around the school.



Figure 8: Myanmar Witness geolocated UGC of protest graffiti on the walls of Seik Khun Basic Education High School at around [22.547349, 95.584420] (source: [Myanmar Now](#)).

- 8 February 2022: the Myanmar military reportedly raided the village, and homes were burned. Three individuals were reportedly killed, with 10 people arrested. (source: [DVB](#)). This remains unverified (figure 9).



Figure 9: Myanmar Witness identified images alleged to have been associated with the DVB report of Myanmar military setting fires to civilian homes in Seik Khun in February 2022. Myanmar Witness has been unable to geolocate these videos at the time of reporting. (Source: redacted for privacy).

- 24 June 2022: According to a People's Defence Force Group on Facebook called [Snake Eyes](#), the military was reportedly stationed in the village until July 2023. The [BBC](#) also reported internal displacements as a result. Myanmar Witness could not verify this event (figure 10).



Figure 10: Myanmar Witness geolocated UGC of People's Defence Forces members taking cover and firing weapons at around [22.549201, 95.583977]. (Source: [Left] [Sagaing Scout Network](#), [Right] Google Maps, © 2023 Airbus, PeakVisor).

- 9 February 2025: [ကနိသားမား၏ရူဠိဝှမ်းအသံ](#) (The inner voice of the Kanis) reported shelling in the area, which contributed to further displacement. However, Myanmar Witness could not verify details related to this incident.

3.2 SPECIFIC THINGYAN INCIDENTS (LOW-MEDIUM CONFIDENCE)

Reports published from 13 April 2025, the eve of Thingyan festival, reveal several alleged airstrikes and drone attacks across Myanmar. This suggests there were continued operations despite the holiday's religious and communal importance.

Myanmar Witness has collected, but at the time of writing, has not fully verified these incidents in parallel to the festival, but they align temporally and thematically with the Seik Khun incident.

3.2.1 HPAKANT TOWNSHIP, KACHIN STATE (LOW CONFIDENCE)

[Mizzima](#) reported two fighter jets dropping five bombs near Ma Shi Ka Htaung prayer hill (မရှိကထောင်ဆုတောင်းတောင်) at around 13:00 local time on 13 April 2026. This was reportedly followed by a drone strike two hours later. Myanmar Witness observed smoke plumes rising from a mountain in UGC, and this is consistent with explosions or fires in a known Kachin Independence Army (KIA) area (figure 11). This also follows [Irrawaddy's](#) claims of military detentions at Hpakant hospital on 23 April 2026, and bodies left as a result of alleged post-interrogation by the military, as stated by [Mizzima](#).



Figure 11: UGC claiming to be from the incident in Hpakant Township on the eve of Thingyan. (Source: [Left] [Mizzima](#), [Right] [Kachin News Group](#)).

3.2.2 YINMARBIN TOWNSHIP, SAGAING REGION (MEDIUM CONFIDENCE)

[Myanmar Now](#) reported a gyrocopter incident that resulted in the death of a 14-year-old girl on 13 April 2026. With Sagaing's reputation and status as an anti-military stronghold, Myanmar Now documented thousands of people displaced during this year's festivities, with residents hiding rather than celebrating the religious event.

3.2.3 BROADER UNVERIFIED CLAIMS

Social Media users cited that there have been 26 airstrikes involving Y-12 transports, Mi-35 helicopters, and drones across Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine States on or around Thingyan. These records match [Myanmar Now](#)'s pattern of military assaults disrupting supply lines and the bid for territorial control in resistance-dominated areas. At the time of writing, Myanmar Witness did not come across pro-military denials of the events.

These collected reports are important to note as Thingyan is often [considered Myanmar's most important holiday](#) and is typically marked by religious and community public events.