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MYANMAR NEWS, **NEWS**

Myanmar's junta engaged in systemic digital surveillance and discrimination, rights group warns

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Mizzima

Myanmar's military junta has constructed a "near-total surveillance state" using repressive digital laws, biometric monitoring, and AI-powered tools to erode privacy rights and target marginalized groups, according to a new report by Human Rights Myanmar (HRM).

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The submission, made to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights under Resolution 54/21, outlines how the junta has systematically dismantled privacy protections since the 2021 coup, enacting sweeping surveillance measures that disproportionately harm ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and political dissidents.

At the heart of this digital crackdown is the 2025 Cyber Security Law, which compels digital platforms to store personal user data – including names, IP addresses, and browsing logs – for three years and hand it over to the authorities upon demand. Appeals are processed by military-controlled bodies, eliminating any semblance of judicial oversight.

HRM highlights how Myanmar's junta further tightened its grip through the deployment of Deep Inspection (DPI) technology to block VPNs and encrypted communications. This technology has been primarily sourced from Chinese vendors.



humanitarian groups.

In a chilling development, the junta introduced a Person Scrutiny and Monitoring System (PSMS) in 2024, combining facial recognition, AI, and digital IDs to identify and detain individuals. This has led to over 1,600 arrests in just 10 weeks in 2025.

The system reportedly discriminates against ethnic minorities by relying on biased datasets and contributes to wrongful detentions. SIM card registration mandates and metadata harvesting have further excluded stateless Rohingya from digital access while facilitating surveillance.

Commercial spyware is also reportedly used to extract intimate data, sometimes weaponized to shame and intimidate women and activists.

Human Rights Myanmar calls for international sanctions on military-linked entities, suspension of technology sales to the junta, and urgent UN monitoring of digital repression in Myanmar.

Tagged HRM, [Human_Right](#), Myanmar junta

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