

MONTHLY BRIEFING

The State of Freedom of Expression in Myanmar September 2026

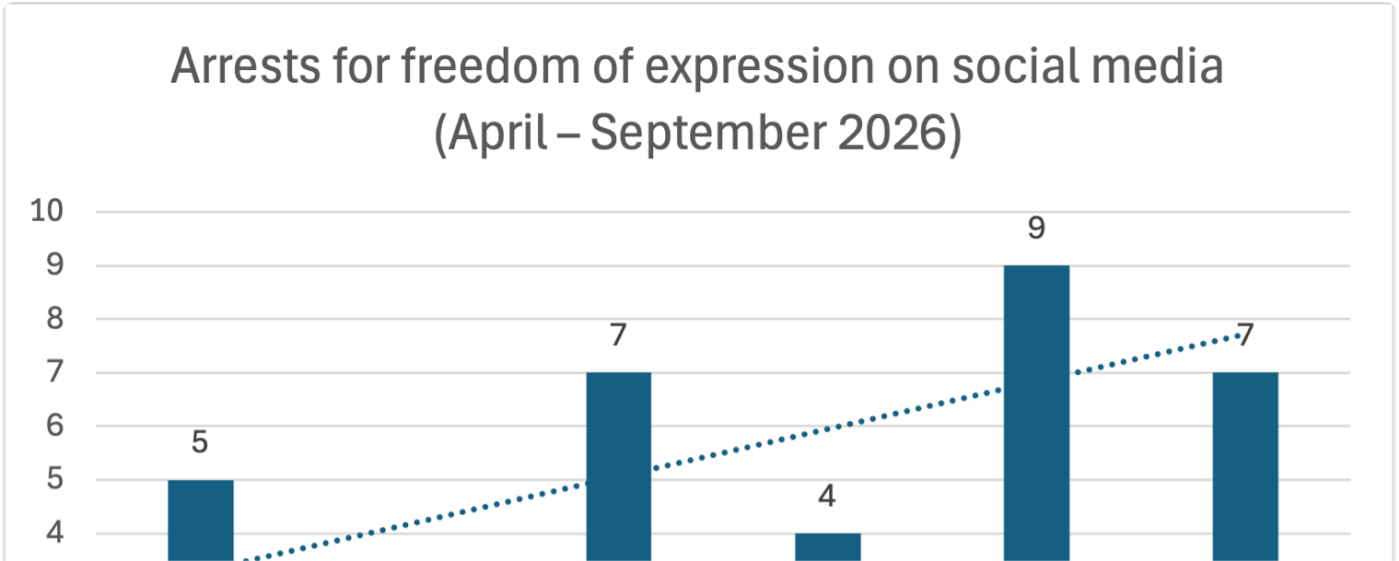
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The State of Freedom of Expression in Myanmar September 2026

Restrictions on communication, crackdowns, and violations of freedom of expression persisted throughout Myanmar in September 2026. According to data compiled by Athan, August and September saw the highest numbers of arrests related to online expression. In September alone, **seven** individuals were arrested and one was sentenced for posting content and videos on social media platforms such as Facebook and TikTok, following **nine** similar arrests in August.

Most of those detained had used social media to criticize or denounce the military conscription law and forced recruitment practices. Additionally, **six** people were arrested over alleged ties to the NUG and CRPH, facing charges for **“incitement and spreading propaganda on social media with the intent to disrupt state peace and stability.”** Meanwhile, Adam Castillo, an American businessman who authored a book on the Myanmar military coup and had been detained under Section 409 of the Penal

Code since June 2026, was **deported** by the junta during September.



Regarding telecommunications and internet access, MPT mobile network services were restored starting September 12 in Chin State’s Falam, Tedim, and Tonzang townships, as well as Tamu in Sagaing Region. Conversely, phone, mobile internet, and Starlink satellite services were disrupted around Lushae Village in Magway Region’s Saw Township after a military column entered Defense Equipment Factory No. 25.

On the night of September 15, Ko Soe Moe Naing (also known as Dain Daung), an ‘88 Generation activist from Mandalay serving a 15-year sentence under Section 50(j) of the Counter-Terrorism Law, passed away inside Myingyan Prison.

MONTHLY UPDATE

Freedom of Expression

In Myanmar In September 2026

CASE 1

7 arrests

For posting content on social media

- Criticizing the military conscription law
- Forced recruitment practices

CASE 2

6 arrests

Over alleged ties to NUG and CRPH

- Charged with “incitement and spreading propaganda” on social media

DEPORTED

Adam Castillo, American businessman and author of a book on the Myanmar military coup, was deported by the junta in September.



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