MONTHLY BRIEFING

The State of Freedom of Expression in Myanmar in October 2026

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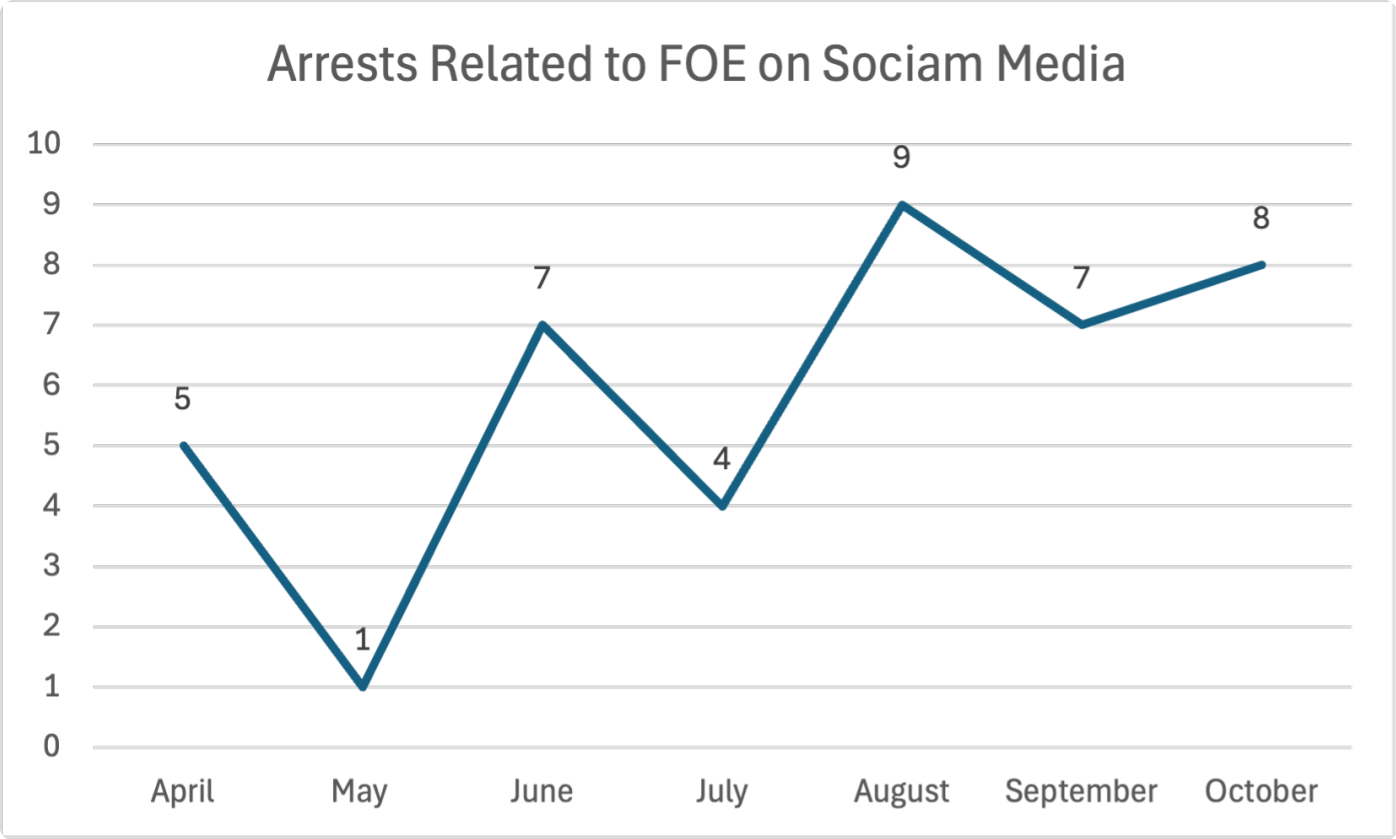
The State of Freedom of Expression in Myanmar in October 2026

In October 2026, the Myanmar military arrested eight individuals for exercising their freedom of expression and engaging in activism on social media. Among those detained was Ma Hnin Wut Yee, a non-CDM primary school teacher from Okpho Township, who was arrested on charges of inciting and spreading propaganda on social media. Additionally, two youths from Thaton Township who campaigned against sexual violence against women were also detained. Military-run newspapers reported that the remaining individuals were arrested for posting content and videos on Facebook and TikTok.



Graph: Arrests Related to Freedom of Expression on Social Media (April – September 2026)

In the telecommunications and internet sector, some MPT mobile network services were restored in Falam and Tonzang Townships in Chin State, as well as in Tamu and Khampat Townships in Sagaing Region, following blackouts lasting more than three years. However, due to the prolonged outage, existing SIM cards had expired, forcing residents to purchase new ones.

In Rakhine State, internet shutdowns in Thandwe and Gwa Townships continue to severely disrupt the socioeconomic lives of local residents. In Thayetchaung Township in Tanintharyi Region, the military junta conducted airstrikes while telecommunications and internet connections were cut off.

Key online public campaigns included the “Free Her Campaign,” which called for the release of women political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and a

campaign in support of Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, titled "OUR UN AMBASSADOR U KYAW MOE TUN, TRUE VOICE OF MYANMAR." In addition, memorial events were observed on the full moon day of Thadingyut, October 26, to commemorate the victims of the airstrike massacre at an oil-lamp protest in Bon To Village, Chaung-U Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, which took place on the full moon night of Thadingyut in 2025.

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