Ceasefires and Civilian Protection Monitoring

Evidence from Myanmar

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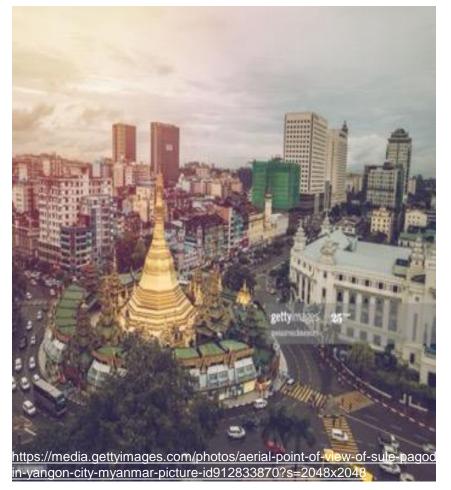


Myanmar Peace Process, 2011-2021

A complex conflict landscape

Yangon, Myanmar





This presentation is based on:

- 1. Krause, Jana and Erin Kamler. 2022. <u>Ceasefires and Civilian Protection Monitoring in Myanmar</u>. Global Studies Quarterly 2:1, 1-12.
- 2. Krause, Jana. <u>Civilian Protection Monitoring in War and Ceasefire Contexts: Evidence from Myanmar's Kachin and Karen States</u>. In: Krause, Jana, Juan Masullo, Emily Paddon-Rhoads and Jennifer Welsh (eds): <u>Civilian Protective Agency in Violent Settings</u>. Oxford University Press (available online).
- 3. Krause, Jana, Juan Masullo, and Emily Paddon Rhoads. Civilian Protective Agency An Introduction. In: Krause, Jana, Juan Masullo, Emily Paddon-Rhoads and Jennifer Welsh (eds): Civilian Protective Agency in Violent Settings. Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Civilian Protection Monitoring

- Civilian protection monitoring emerged from civilian ceasefire monitoring networks
- Civilian protection monitoring: Civilians and CSOs
 - Monitor conflict dynamics, civilian harm, and human rights violations
 - Report to state, humanitarian, and peacebuilding actors
 - Provide humanitarian actors without access with crucial information
 - Train civilians in self-protection practices
 - Support civilians in 'safer' displacement practices
 - Seek redress for civilian abuse

Arguments

- 1. Civilian capacity and conflict conditions shape and constrain civilian protection monitoring (Krause & Kamler 2022)
 - Civilian capacity: Knowledge, networks, institutions, experience (Arjona 2016; Kaplan 2017; Krause 2018)
 - Conflict conditions: Armed group sensitivity to civilian preferences, armed group institutions, restraint (Kaplan 2017; Hoover Green 2018; Stanton 2015)
- 2. Civilian protection monitoring can effectively contribute to the immediate protection of civilians in contexts of open conflict but is less impactful in 'no war-no peace' situations (Krause forthc.)
- 3. Civilian protective agency is <u>political agency</u> and may generate resistance among armed/political actors and population groups (Krause forthc.)

Research Process

Civilian monitoring was seen as an innovative ceasefire monitoring and civilian protection tool





Civilian Protection Monitoring in Conflict and Ceasefire Contexts

KACHIN STATE

- Failed ceasefire
- Rapidly shifting frontlines
- Civilian monitors contributed to protecting civilians from immediate consequences of war
- Adaption of ceasefire monitoring knowledge for civilian protection monitoring

KAREN STATE

- Ceasefire
- Militarized environment
- No institutional mandate for civilian monitors in ceasefire monitoring structures
- Civilian monitors unable to protect civilians from (non)-lethal abuses by armed actors and businesses during a stalled peace process

Conclusion

- Civilian protection monitoring *can* make important contributions to the protection of civilians
- International peacebuilding actors can strengthen civilian capacity but are often less effective at changing armed actor preferences and conflict conditions
- Civilian <u>adaptation</u> of external peacebuilding knowledge to local circumstances can mitigate risks and moral hazard
- Adopting a focus on local peacebuilding is important but does not guarantee that international actors can 'scale up' local civilian protection and conflict mitigation practices