

# 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. [Ceasefires and Civilian Protection Monitoring in Myanmar](#). *Global Studies Quarterly* 2:1, 1-12.
2. Krause, Jana. [Civilian Protection Monitoring in War and Ceasefire Contexts: Evidence from Myanmar's Kachin and Karen States](#). In: Krause, Jana, Juan Masullo, Emily Paddon-Rhoads and Jennifer Welsh (eds): *Civilian Protective Agency in Violent Settings*. 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 political agency 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



<https://gisgeography.com/burma-map/>



# 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 adaptation 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