

Myanmar's 'Safe City' AI Surveillance Network — Huawei-Built Facial Recognition Turned Against Pro-Democracy Protesters

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Myanmar

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

In Dec 2020 Myanmar activated 335 Huawei-supplied facial-recognition and licence-plate cameras in Naypyidaw; after the 2021 coup the junta expanded 'Safe City' networks to 10+ cities with no data-protection law, per HRW and Reuters reporting.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[Naypyidaw City Development Committee / Myanmar Police Force](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[Human Rights Watch: Myanmar Facial Recognition System Threatens Rights](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[Malay Mail / Reuters: Myanmar's junta rolls out Chinese camera surveillance systems in more cities](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

[Biometric Update: Facial recognition CCTV system goes live in Myanmar](#) — accessed 2026-08-01

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