place, elections subcommissions are reported to enjoy a greater level of confidence and trust among the local stakeholders.

Data Privacy and Protection

On Sept. 29 the UEC published information via an app providing candidates details, including their religious affiliation and ethnic identity. International human rights instruments c [10] Inherent to the protection of this right is the principle that only essential information required is collected about a person to fulfill legal rem0gmemes

Out-of-country voting took place abroad at Myanmar embassies and consulate general offices between Sept. 24 and Oct. 27. On Oct. 22, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reported in the media that nearly 70% had cast ballots in 45 countries around the world, with 80% turnout in South Korea, 89% in Singapore, and 72% in Japan.[13]

Out-of-

township in Rakhine State, where three NLD candidates were abducted by armed men on Oct. 14, for which the Arakan Army later claimed responsibility.

Social Media

Political parties and candidates continued to campaign actively on Facebook as an alternative to in-person campaigning. Facebook post activity across political party pages in October was similar to that observed during the first part of the official campaign period in September (Figure 1), although engagement rates have decreased by an average of 30% in October. Candidates t is more difficult to assess, with some having opened Facebook campaign pages to run paid ads,[15] while many others were using their private profiles for campaigning or did not have identifiable accounts. Overall, based on Carter Center analysis to date, election-related activity on Facebook has been substantially higher during this campaign than in 2015. However, at the same time,
Credible Elections (PACE) found that traditional media and institutions remain the main source of news for a sizable portion of citizens.[16]

Figure 1: Posts and Interactions Across 20 Political Party Pages on Facebook[17]

The Carter Center continued to observe posts on Facebook that were reviewed and confirmed by its social media monitoring unit as disinformation: deliberately making false, misleading, or unverified claims. These posts often attacked a political party or candidate (mainly NLD or USDP) and frequently included hate speech directed at ethnic or religious minorities. Several instances of election-related disinformation going viral (i.e., reaching a large audience quickly) were also documented during this period,[18] and a network of accounts sharing disinformation attributed to a fake media outlet was uncovered by journalists and civil society

[15] See the Facebook Ad Library Report at www.facebook.com/ads/library/report/?source=archive-landing-page&country=MM to review ads purchased by candidates and political parties.
[16] See www.pacemyanmar.org/pre-election-2020/?fbclid=IwAR3xUjG5QHBDiGl4rM-WEsl1Y7NNemf1xMN51XAqFS0pp-D3xW-m-xfteBo (accessed Oct. 25, 2020). pre-election survey, television (56%), Facebook (38%), radio (29%), friends and neighbors (20%), online (19%), newspaper/journals (18%

actors.[19] On Oct. 8, Facebook announced that the company had removed 17 pages and 50 [20] including for posting about topics related to the elections.[21]

Election Observation

The period to apply for the accreditation of domestic, diplomatic, and international election