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## Prevention of armed conflict

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

### Letter dated 29 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am referring to my letters, dated 16 and 19 March 2021, respectively, regarding a horrible situation and communication restrictions in the form of Internet blackouts that the people of Myanmar are facing. In this connection, I am writing again to apprise you of a worsening situation in Myanmar to bring urgent attention to taking necessary action to save the lives of innocent civilians from atrocities and crimes against humanity committed by the illegitimate military regime.

After the military coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021, peaceful protests against the illegitimate military group have continued all over the country and gained momentum accordingly despite the escalation of human rights violations, as well as vicious and irrational brutalities and killings by the security forces of unarmed innocent civilians. The security forces in Myanmar, including both the military and the police force, started their brutal acts and killings as early as 9 February. The number of deaths has been rising day by day and reached over 500 on 29 March 2021. Thousands of people have been injured, and more than 2,500 people have been detained.

On 27 March 2021, the seventy-sixth Armed Forces Day, Myanmar experienced the bloodiest and deadliest day since the military coup on 1 February 2021. In more than 40 cities and towns across the country, at least 114 people, including the underage, were murdered by the military on 27 March 2021 alone. The youngest victim of the military massacre was a 5-year-old boy from Mandalay. Other underage victims include a 13-year-old boy and a 14-year-old boy and girl. In Yangon's Mayangone Township, a 1-year-old boy was shot in the eye by soldiers with a rubber bullet.

In Dawei, in Tanintharyi Region, there were reports of soldiers and police utilizing ambulances as disguises and shooting protesters and pedestrians from the



ambulances. According to closed-circuit television footage from one of the houses in Dawei Su, in Mandalay, soldiers shot three people on motorbike who were riding past military vehicles and took their bodies.

The security forces open fire on people and peaceful protestors in an unproportionate and indiscriminate manner. They open fire at funerals and even on diplomatic facilities, such as the American Centre in Yangon. Heavy artillery, such as rocket-propelled grenades, has been used on civilians in populated urban areas.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank you, the United Nations and the international community for your condemnation of the killing of civilians, including children and young people, by the murderous military and security forces.

The unproportionate and indiscriminate attacks by the military have forced civilians to leave places and created the displacement of a large number of people. The brutality and mass killing by the fascist military is no doubt an existential threat of epic proportion to global peace and security.

The people of Myanmar feel helpless and are seeking urgent help from the international community to save the lives of innocent civilians. I wish to refer to the telephone conversation we had today. I would like to call upon you and, through you, the international community to take necessary and effective action without delay to protect the people of Myanmar and save our lives from the atrocities and crimes against humanity committed by the illegitimate military regime that calls itself the State Administrative Council. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Myanmar, I wish to appeal to you and the international community as follows:

- Protection should be immediately extended to the people of Myanmar from crimes against humanity committed by the military
- Humanitarian assistance should be urgently provided through all means to people in need
- No-fly zones should be declared in relevant areas in Myanmar to avoid further bloodshed caused by bombing from warplanes
- Necessary shelter should be provided on humanitarian grounds to those seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and elsewhere
- An arms embargo should be imposed immediately against the military
- Targeted, coordinated and tougher sanctions should be applied against the military, its businesses and their families and businesses
- Bank accounts associated with the military and its members should be frozen, and financial inflows into the military regime and its associates should be cut off instantly
- No recognition should be made, under any circumstances, of the murderous fascist military regime
- Foreign direct investment should be suspended until such time as the democratically elected Government is restored in Myanmar

Saving lives is a noble task for humankind. Therefore, I wish to stress that the international community has the responsibility to use necessary means to help to protect the people of Myanmar from atrocities and crimes against humanity committed by the military through collective action in a timely and decisive manner. We will always remember the help and support extended by the international community to the people of Myanmar at this difficult time and time of need.

I transmit herewith information sheets dated 26 and 28 March 2021 for your kind perusal (see annexes I and II).\*

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Kyaw Moe **Tun**  
Permanent Representative

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\* Circulated in the language of submission only.

## Annex I

### Weekly Updates on Current Situation in Myanmar (26-3-2021)

#### Deployments of Military troops in Public Properties

Since 6 March 2021, the military troops have been deployed at many public buildings – hospitals, university campuses, and religious compounds all over the country, including Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Tanintharyi, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions and Mon, Kayah, and Kachin States. (The list of public properties are attached as Annex). These acts violate international laws and the commitment that Myanmar made.

In accordance with the Press Release by the UNICEF on 19 March 2021, security forces have been deployed in more than 60 schools and university campuses in 13 States and Regions. Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF called on security forces to leave those buildings and premises.

#### Deaths and Arbitrary Arrests

Since the military coup, almost 3,000 people have been arbitrarily detained and arrested by the military. As of 25th March 2021, more than 300 people have been ruthlessly murdered by the military. Many of the detainees are children under the age of 18. Moreover, underaged are among the victims of military shooting. The youngest victim, Khin Myo Chit, was a seven years old girl from Mandalay. Khin Myo Chit was in her house when the soldiers kicked in the door and came into her house. One soldier shot her in the abdomen for no reason while she was sitting in her father's lap.

#### Different types of peaceful protests

**Beating pots and pans** – Since the military coup on 1st February 2021, beating pots and pans has become a ritual everyday at 20:00 hours. People from all walks of life in every corner of the country beats pots and pans as a way of peaceful protest against the military. In Myanmar culture, people traditionally beat pots and pans to chase monsters and ghosts away. In recent weeks, the military has started arresting people who beat pots and pans, and shot live ammunitions into the houses that beat pots and pans. There are several videos of soldiers and police threatening people that they will shoot and kill them if they beat pots and pans. Notwithstanding the threats, arrests and shooting, people continue the ritual everyday at 20:00 hours.

**Sit-in** – As a way to avoid brutalities and shooting by the military, protestors organize sit-in protests in the neighbourhood. Since the military deployed more troops to crack down protestors at their assembly area and pick-up points, protestors started sit-in protests in their own neighbourhoods.

**No-human Strike** – ‘No-human strikes’ have been increasingly popular across the country to minimize the risk of oppressing by the military. Lining up signboards and dolls in the streets and public areas as proxies for protests are involved in ‘No-human strikes’.

**Night protests** – After violence crackdown by security forces to arrest protesters at nights in major cities like Yangon and Mandalay, people have joined the night protests in these cities and other small towns to prevent the security forces coming and shooting in the streets and arresting people. In some places, people hold the candles to pray for those who lost the lives during the strike and shape the candle of three-fingered protest sign to express their disappointment with the military coup.

**Dawn protests** – Doctors and Nurses initiated the peaceful protests at dawn in Mandalay on 21 March 2021 to avoid a confrontation with security forces. They were in white-duty coats and chanted slogans.

**Silent Strike** – Silent Strike across the country to express sadden to those who have sacrificed their lives in fighting for democracy and freedom after the military coup happened on 24 March 2021. On that day, several shops and business set to close, vehicles were rarely seen on the roads and people didn't come out on the streets either to protest or even to go shopping.

### **Response by the International Community to the Military**

**The European Council** imposed targeted sanctions, including a travel ban and an asset freeze, on eleven individuals related to military coup on 22 March 2021. Ten of eleven individuals are from the high ranks of the Military; belong to Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy-Commander-in-Chief Soe Win and the Chairperson of the Union Election Commission.

**The U.S Department of the Treasury's Office** sanctioned, on 22 March 2021, two high-rank officials including Chief of Police Than Hlaing and Bureau of Special Operations Commander Lt. Gen Aung Soe, and two units of Military (33rd Light Infantry Division and 77th Light Infantry Division) in response to the military's continued atrocities and intimidation against peaceful protesters.

### **Restriction on freedom of expression**

On 9th March, the military revoked the license of 5 local media outlets including Mizzima, DVB, Myanmar Now, Khit Thit and 7 Day News. Starting from 17 March 2021, all the private local daily newspapers have totally stopped the functions.

As of 18 March 2021, the number of journalists from the local news media who were arbitrarily arrested by the military has reached around 40.

Most of them were arrested while reporting protests against the military coup. In a few cases, the journalists were arrested at midnight at home by force.

### **The Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)**

The Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) was established on 5 February 2021 after the military coup. The Committee is composed of the elected representatives (parliamentarians) from the 2020 General Elections. It closely cooperates with the respective stakeholders to implement (1) to eliminate the military dictatorship; (2) to immediately release President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other detainees; (3) to restore democracy and; (4) to abolish the 2008 Constitution and to adopt the new Constitution which is based on the Federal democratic System.

The CRPH has appointed Mahn Win Khaing Than as an Acting Vice-President and Acting Ministers for President Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

### **Fleeing to Neighbouring Countries**

Since the end of February, in order to avoid the brutalities, killings, arbitrary arrests, hundreds of people including civil servants, politicians and celebrities have fled to India and Thailand. Most of people who fled to Indian Borders are officials

from Myanmar Police Force and their families and some are civil servants who are targeted for joining the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).

### **Actions against the government staffs who joined Civil Disobedience Movement**

To protest against the military coup, civil servant medical doctors initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and CDM has gained momentum as the civil servants from other government sectors participated in the movement eventually. To date, tens of thousands of civil servants have joined the movement.

As the counteractions against the CDM, at first, the military group has ordered respective authorities to threaten and call back those staff. Later, the ministries temporarily suspended, or removed, or dismissed the CDM staffs who refused or ignored their notices and orders. Some were arrested by the military forces and charged with article 505 (b) of the Penal Code. All CDM staffs, especially staffs from Myanma Railways, have been forcibly evicted from the government housings/accommodation immediately or in short notice. According to the latest notice from the police, CDM staffs are notified to leave the government housings/accommodation by 25th March 2021 throughout the country. In addition to forced eviction, the military is targeting high level government officials, who are participating in CDM, and arresting them without any legal basis.

### **CDM-Diplomats**

As of 23 March 2021, in addition to some of the mid-level and junior MOFA staff in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Myanmar diplomats in New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Geneva, Berlin, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Ottawa and Paris have joined the civil disobedience movement so far. Actions taken against the Myanmar diplomats who have joined the CDM are quicker than normal procedures. Almost half of them are dismissed while the rest are being instructed to return to Myanmar.

### **Nomination of Civil Disobedience Movement to Noble Peace Prize 2022**

Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar has been nominated for the Noble Peace Prize 2022 on 22 March 2021 by six professors from University of Oslo, Norway.

### **Possible Recommended Actions by the International Communities against Myanmar Military to protect lives of the people of Myanmar**

- **Protection from the international community:** the international community should take without delay strongest possible measures/actions to protect the people of Myanmar and save lives of innocent civilians. Accordingly,
- **Targeted, coordinated and tougher sanctions against the military and their families:** the sanctions should not only target the top brass of the military and its family members but also for all ranks of the military and their family members. The sanctions should also target military owned business conglomerates and other businesses associated with the military and their family members.
- **Freezing bank accounts associated with the military and their members:** The bank accounts associated with the military, their family members and military-owned business conglomerates should immediately be frozen and any financial flow into the military regime and its associates should be cut off urgently.
- **Immediate suspension of development and technical aids to the military and the illegitimate government of Myanmar:** International development and

technical aids should be carefully channeled through INGOs, NGOs and CSOs to avoid benefiting the military regime.

- **Blocking visas for Myanmar diplomats:** In order to prevent the representation of illegitimate military group at the international level, the international community must immediately block the visa for the Myanmar diplomats, who are delegated after the coup.
- **Blocking visas to military and all government officials:** In order to disregard the military regime, it is essential to block/suspend issuance of visas to all levels of military members, their family members and all government officials from Myanmar.
- **Not recognizing and dishonoring the illegitimate military regime:** The international communities should take a firm stand against the military coup and the follow up crimes against humanity. In this regard, the international communities should publicly announce that they do not recognize the military regime.
- **Suspension of foreign investments in Myanmar:** We call for the international investors to sever all business ties with Myanmar. Foreign direct investments should be suspended until such time as the democratically elected government is restored in Myanmar.

## **Annex II**

### **Information Update on the situation in Myanmar on 27 March 2021**

After the Military Coup in Myanmar on 1 Feb 2021, the protests against the illegitimate Military group has continued and gained momentum day by day despite the escalation of human rights violations as well as vicious and irrational brutalities and killings of the security forces against the unarmed civilians. The security forces in Myanmar, including both the military and the police force, have started their brutal acts and killings as early as 9 February. The number of deaths has been rising day by day and reached to over 423 on 27 March 2021.

#### **Military's Propaganda on its controlled media before the Armed Forces Day**

Before the 76th Armed Forces Day of Myanmar, on 26 March 2021, the military junta notified the public through military controlled media (MRTV) regarding the protests. They stated that the protesters should take lessons learned from the possible scenarios that of being shot into the head or at the back if they took to the streets. It was a threatening message to the public and it clearly proves that the military and security forces/services deliberately shot the peaceful protesters.

#### **76th Armed Forces Day Ceremony on 27 March 2021**

The military junta celebrated the 76th Armed Forced Day with a parade in the morning and gala dinner at night on 27 March 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw while military and police forces were killing scores of people and oppressing the protesters in the deadliest and murderous actions.

Deputy Defense Minister of Russia and representatives from Embassies of Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand in Yangon attended the ceremony.

#### **The Most Deadliest Day since the Coup**

On 27 March 2021, Myanmar experienced the bloodiest and deadliest day since the military coup on 1 February 2021. In more than 40 cities and towns across the country, at least 114 people including the underaged were murdered by the military.

The youngest victim of the military massacre was a five-year old boy from Mandalay. Other underaged victims include a 13 years old boy and 14 years old boy and girl. In Yangon's Mayangone Township, a one year old boy was shot in the eye by the soldiers with a rubber bullet.

In Dawei of Tanintharyi Region, there were reports of soldiers and police utilizing ambulances as disguises and shooting the protesters and pedestrians from the ambulances. According to CCTV footage from one of the houses at Dawei Su in Mandalay, soldiers shot three people on the motorbike who were riding past by military vehicle and took the body.

#### **Military Airstrikes in the Karen National Union (KNU) controlled areas**

On 27 March 2021, the military launched airstrikes in the KNU controlled areas, particularly the Day Bu No village of Lu Thaw Township in Mu Traw District. The airstrikes killed at least 3 civilians, injured many villagers and caused more than 10,000 people to flee and hide in the forest. In addition, more than 3,000 civilians crossed to the Thai borders to take refuge. The military continued its airstrike on 28 March 2021 in five areas in Lu Thaw Township and Mu Traw District.



### **Shooting the American Centre**

Shots were fired at the American Centre in Yangon on 27 March 2021. It was reported that a few glasses of the building were broken. According to the U.S. Embassy in Yangon, there were no injuries and the incident is now under investigation.

### **Shooting at the funeral**

At Phayargyi Township in Bago region, on 28 March 2021, at the funeral of one of the 114 people killed on 27 March 2021, the security forces opened fire into the crowd while people were singing the revolution song for the fallen heroes.

### **Statements by the United Nations and the international community**

In response to the brutal events and mass killings on the Armed Forces Day, the international community issued the statements on 27 and 28 March 2021 and condemned such inhumane acts of the military.

On 27 March 2021, the Secretary-General condemned the killing of dozens of civilians, including children and young people, by the Myanmar security forces, and pointed out that it was the highest daily death toll since the coup.<sup>1</sup>

On the same day, the United Nations Country Team in Myanmar, consisting of FAO, ILO, IOM, ITC, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, UN WOMEN, WFP, and WHO, issued the joint statement condemning the acts of military, for the horrible killings and the needless loss of life on this Armed Forces Day, and further described as “bloodiest day since the coup”.<sup>2</sup>

The U.S Ambassador to Myanmar issued a statement on 27 March 2021, expressing that Myanmar security forces are murdering unarmed civilians, including children, and called for an immediate end to the violence and the restoration of the democratically elected government.<sup>3</sup> The European delegation to Myanmar also tweeted “a day of terror and dishonor”.<sup>4</sup>

On March 28, the Chiefs of Defense from 12 countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the U.S, issued the joint statement condemning the use of lethal force against unarmed people by the Myanmar Armed forces and associated security services.<sup>5</sup> This joint statement urges the Myanmar Armed forces to cease violence, and adds “A professional military follows international standards for conduct and is responsible for protecting – not harming – the people it serves”.

Furthermore, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued the joint statement to condemn the “systematic attacks” of the military on the peaceful protestors, and send a clear warning of a heightened risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/statement%C2%A0attributable-the-spokesperson-for-the%C2%A0secretary-general-myanmar%C2%A0?fbclid=IwAR3ETeq1N6zQoaHVLqsnvYFNDG90YhcJxx4TTJvvpFslbjcBW4uUPwh3M>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://myanmar.un.org/en/123295-statement-un-myanmar?fbclid=IwAR1\\_FLb8RD1NnOYXn9mwzxEcqrkUU%20iD920h6HmX-y2hmsGbmra-ZupY5pM](https://myanmar.un.org/en/123295-statement-un-myanmar?fbclid=IwAR1_FLb8RD1NnOYXn9mwzxEcqrkUU%20iD920h6HmX-y2hmsGbmra-ZupY5pM).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/myanmar-coup-violence-dozens-killed/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/myanmar-coup-violence-dozens-killed/>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56547381>.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26954&LangID=E&fbclid=IwARG%20ozhuRIIVCInzzJ\\_Gx2AVvyFHiQGy40QySbg7qBFpXvm7bk0BQFAxS4](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26954&LangID=E&fbclid=IwARG%20ozhuRIIVCInzzJ_Gx2AVvyFHiQGy40QySbg7qBFpXvm7bk0BQFAxS4).