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Letter dated 10 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to draw your kind attention to the horrible and helpless situation that the people of Myanmar are facing in Loikaw, the capital of Karenni State, also known as Kayah State.

Owing to the self-protection from and resistance against the brutal and inhumane acts committed by the military, there has been fighting between the Myanmar military and resistance forces, which intensified further in Karenni State at the beginning of this year. It has resulted in the suffering and injury of civilians, and has forced many innocent people to flee from their residential places.

According to information received on 8 January 2022, four men were killed and more than 1,000 civilians were forced to flee their homes during the bombardment by the military and the clashes in Loikaw, the capital of Karenni State.

A spokesperson for the Karenni Democratic Front said that one of the four civilians killed was struck by a military artillery shell at his home in the Maing Lone ward of Loikaw, and that the other three were shot dead by the military forces while they were walking near a stretch of railway track. It is also said that one Karenni Democratic Front member and one member of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force also died during the clashes. The military side suffered heavy casualties, but these cannot be verified at this stage.

Credible news has been reported that the military used tanks and helicopters and fired heavy artillery during its offensive attacks in Loikaw, and other villages and wards within Loikaw, Milestone 5 village, Milestone 6 village, Daw Poe Sie, Mong Lone and Pankan and Demoso township. The military forces also launched barbaric and horrible acts of shelling, bombing and torching of houses. Furthermore, the military forces committed inhumane and shameless acts, such as raiding houses and taking the property of civilians from those houses.

The tension owing to the clashes and the military's aerial attacks in Karenni State remains high, forcing people to flee from their residential areas. On the ground, innocent people are facing more and more suffering and difficulty. It is reported that displaced people are trapped in the fighting, many are waiting at their homes for rescue, and those who try to flee from Loikaw are also trapped on their way out.



Karenni State is home to a population of roughly 300,000 and Loikaw, the capital of the State, is where 90,000 people live. Due to the military's brutal acts of attacking with excessive use of force, helicopters and military tanks, innocent people are fleeing to seek safe places. It is estimated that around half of the population of Kayah State is currently displaced, and that there are no more safe places in Loikaw, as its wards are under attack by the military. It is imminent that the military will continue to conduct air attacks aggressively on the area of Loikaw in a disproportionate and indiscriminate manner.

According to the Karenni State Consultative Council, deaths, injuries and casualties among innocent people and the flow of displaced people will greatly increase for as long as the military's inhumane offensive attacks continue. Appealing for international protection for the innocent people of Myanmar, the Karenni State Consultative Council called upon the international community to support humanitarian assistance and to establish safe zones as quickly as possible. It is important that the declaration of a no-fly-zone over the area be made immediately.

The military's inhumane and indiscriminate offensive attacks, with the use of excessive force, and their vicious acts against the civilians in Karenni State and also across the country are a serious reminder to the whole world of how critically dangerous and unsafe Myanmar has become for its people since the military coup. It is also clear that the diplomatic efforts and repeated calls of the international community for the Myanmar military to stop the violence are not sufficient and not heeded.

The horrible situation that the people in Karenni State are facing is not an isolated case. There are many horrifying incidents committed by the military that are taking place all over the country, among others, the burning of many houses, including churches, in Thantlang, Chin State; massacres in Kani and Salingyi in Sagaing Region, as well as in Demoso in Karenni State; disproportionate and indiscriminate offensive attacks against people across Myanmar; and the ramming of military vehicles into peaceful protestors in Yangon. Such grave violations of human rights by the Myanmar military amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

It is crystal clear that the people of Myanmar need the help and protection of the international community to prevent further atrocities by the Myanmar military. Please do not let more people become the victims of crimes against humanity and war crimes by the Myanmar military. Therefore, we are of the view that the international community, through the United Nations, has the responsibility to use all possible means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to help protect all the people of Myanmar from crimes against humanity and war crimes by taking collective action in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council.

Stressing the horrible and helpless situation of our people in Karenni State, I would like to reiterate again that the entire people of Myanmar desperately need immediate and decisive action from the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to end the military's brutal and inhumane acts against its people in Myanmar.

Please save the lives of people in Myanmar without further delay.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 35 and 74 (c).

(Signed) Kyaw Moe Tun
Ambassador
Permanent Representative