

Joint Statement by 240 Myanmar and International Organizations call for coordinated sanctions on the Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

15 July 2024

Since it launched a coup attempt on 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military junta has [killed over 5,000 civilians](#) and over 3 million people have been displaced by conflict and junta human rights violations. [Volker Türk](#), the UN High Commissioner, told the Human Rights Council last month that “we are hearing stories of horrific war tactics, such as beheadings. Midnight drone attacks. The burning of homes as people sleep. People being shot at as they flee for their lives.” It comes as the junta increasingly uses air strikes to target civilians.

Since the coup attempt began, the junta has used state-owned enterprises, particularly state-owned banks and revenues from the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), to fund its atrocities, purchase weapons and aviation fuel and access international financial markets.

The [EU sanctioned MOGE](#) on 21 February 2022, cutting the junta off from at least USD 500 million without stopping gas exports to China. The U.S. has, however, only [partially sanctioned MOGE](#) and PTT Group, the Thai state-owned fossil fuel conglomerate, continues to pay tens of millions in monthly gas revenues to MOGE accounts controlled by the junta.

On 21 June 2023, the U.S. belatedly heeded calls from Myanmar civil society to [sanction](#) the state-owned Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB). While these banking sanctions were a welcome step forward, it came with warnings that the junta would switch to Myanma Economic Bank (MEB) and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (MADB). The EU and U.K. have failed to sanction any of these banks while Canada and Australia have sanctioned only MFTB and MICB.

A [report](#) published on 26 June 2024, by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar shed further light on how weapons and military supplies continue to make it into Myanmar, including identifying the financial institutions responsible for facilitating military procurement transactions and confirming the continued outsized importance of gas revenues.

The Special Rapporteur’s report also shows two things. First, international actions can effectively disrupt the military junta’s supply chains – the report identifies a 33% drop in military procurement from the junta’s FY2022 to FY2023 and shows a major decline in the amount of military supplies sold by Singapore-registered companies and facilitated by Singaporean banks.

However, the report also shows how the junta has used gaps in sanctions and moved procurement to countries willing to leave routes open for it to get around these actions. Specifically:

- As Singapore banks have cut their ties with the junta, Thai banks have stepped in to fill the gap. In particular the *“Siam Commercial Bank facilitated just over US\$5 million in transactions related to Myanmar military procurement in FY2022, that figure leaped to over US\$100 million in FY2023.”*
- MEB has become a key conduit for the junta’s access to international financial services which it uses to buy weapons.
- Thai companies, using Thai banks, sold USD 80 million of aviation fuel in 2023 that could be used by the junta to increase its attacks on civilians.
- Gas revenues flowing PTT Group, through Thai banks to MOGE, via MEB, remain the largest single source of revenue for the junta.

In response to a previous [report](#) from the Special Rapporteur and subsequent pressure from the Singapore government, Singapore banks have largely cut ties with the junta. The UN Special Rapporteur sets out how Thai banks have stepped in to fill the gap. While ASEAN continues to rely on its failed 5-Point plan and its so-called policy of non-inference, Thailand is allowing PTT and Thai banks to fund the junta and ensuring that Thai banks and companies grant the junta access to weapons and aviation fuel. While the international community has gone some way to improve sanctions coordination, huge gaps remain.

We call on the international community to follow the recommendations of Special Rapporteur, in particular, to coordinate targeted sanctions on Myanmar's state-owned banks, gas sector and aviation fuel. The U.S. must **immediately sanction MEB and MADB and fully sanction MOGE**. The U.N. Security council and individual member states, including the U.K. and EU, should sanction MFTB, MICB, MEB and MADB and follow the EU's lead on sanctioning MOGE.

We call on ASEAN member states to address Thailand's apparent policy of allowing PTT Group and Thai banks to back the Myanmar military junta.

We call on the Thai government to support sanctions that cut off the junta's access to international financial services and gas revenues and follow Singapore's lead in ensuring that its banks are not helping the junta procure weapons and aviation fuel.

We call on Thai banks to comply with their obligations under the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights cease all transactions that support Myanmar's military junta.

We call on PTT group to end its contribution to grave human rights abuses and divert gas revenues away from their junta in line with calls from Myanmar civil society, Myanmar's National Unity Government and Thailand's [Move Forward Party](#).

We call on investors in PTT Group to follow the lead of the [Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund](#) and [Robeco](#) and divest from PTT Group due to its links to human rights abuses in Myanmar.

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Signed by 240 Myanmar and International Organizations, including 63 organizations that have chosen not to disclose their names due to the junta's continued violence in Myanmar.

1. #MilkTeaAlliance Friends of Myanmar
2. #MilkTeaAllianceCalendar team
3. A NEW BURMA
4. Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)

5. Action Group for Democracy and Human Rights (AGDHR)
6. Ah Nah Podcast - conversations with Myanmar
7. All Arakan Students' & Youths' Congress (AASYC)
8. Alliance for democracy in Myanmar (ADM)
9. ALTSEAN - Burma
10. Anti Dictatorship in Burma - DMVPa
11. Anti-Junta Mass Movement (AJMM)
12. Arakan Rohingya Development Association - Australia Inc.
13. Arakan Rohingya Union (ARU)
14. Arakan Watch
15. Arakan Youth Peace Network
16. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
17. Association of Human Rights Watch and Documentation
18. Association Suisse-Birmanie (ASB)
19. Athan - Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
20. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation AWDO (Magway)
21. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation AWDO (Nagphe)
22. Blood Money Campaign
23. Boston Free Burma
24. Burma Action Ireland
25. Burma Büro
26. Burma Campaign UK
27. Burma Civil War Museum (BCM)
28. Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)
29. Burma Support
30. Burmese Canadian Network (BCN)
31. Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan (BRAJ)
32. Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK)
33. Campaign for a New Myanmar
34. Canadian Burma Ethnic Nationalities Organization (CBENO)
35. Chin Farmer Network (C.F.N)
36. Civic Voice Communications (CVC)
37. Coalition of Rohingya Organisations in Malaysia
38. CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland

39. CRPH Funding Ireland
40. CRPH Support Group, Norway
41. Dawkalu Network
42. Defend Myanmar Democracy
43. Democracy Movement Strike Committee (Dawei)
44. Democracy, Peace and Women's Organization
45. Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar
46. Dome Commoners Party, Thammasat University
47. Dragon Dawn
48. EarthRights International
49. Educational Initiatives Prague
50. Elected Yangon City Development Committee
51. Equality Myanmar
52. European Rohingya Council (ERC)
53. Extra-Territorial Obligations Watch Coalition (ETOs Watch Coalition)
54. Former ABSDF
55. Fortify Rights
56. Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC)
57. Freedom and Labor Action Group (FLAG)
58. Friends Against Dictatorship (FAD)
59. From Singapore to Myanmar (FS2M)
60. Future Light အမျိုးသမီးနှင့်ကလေးသူငယ်ကာကွယ်စောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့
61. Future Thanlwin
62. General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN)
63. General Strike Coordination Body (GSCB)
 - 1 Anti-Coup Forces Coordination Committee (ACFCC -Mandalay)
 - 2 General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC)
 - 3 Myanmar Labor Alliance (MLA)
 - 4 Mandalay Strike Force (MSF)
 - Samgha Sammaga-Mandalay
 - Mandalay Alliance Coalition Strike
 - Mya Taung Strike
 - Mandalay University Students' Strike
 - Chanmyatharzi Township People's Strike
 - Maharaungmyay Township People's Strike
 - Mandalay Youth Strike

- No.12 Basic Education Branch High School (Maharaungmyay) Students' Union
- Co-operative University Mandalay Students' Strike
- Mandalay-based People's Strike
- Multi-Religions Strike
- Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Students' Strike
- Daung Sittthe Strike
- Seinpann Strike
- Industries Strike
- 5 Mandalay-Based University Students' Unions (MDY_SUs)
- 6 Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU)
- 7 Ethnic Youth General Strike Committee (Mandalay)
- 8 Mandalay Medical Family (MFM)
- 9 White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY)
- 10 CDM Medical Network (CDMMN)
- 11 Alliance of Students' Union – Yangon (ASU-Yangon)
- 12 Civil Information Network (CIN)
- 13 Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon-AJAY
- 14 University Students' Unions Alumni Force
- 15 Monywa People's Strike Steering Committee
 - All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Monywa District)
 - Network of University Student Unions – Monywa
 - National League for Democracy (Monywa Township)
 - The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Monywa)
 - Thakhin Kodaw Mhine Peace Network (Monywa)
 - Former Political Prisoners and New Generation Group – Monywa
 - Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee (Monywa)
- 16 Monywa-Amyint Road Strike Leading Committee
- 17 Yinmarpin and Salingyi All Villages Strike Committee
- 18 Pale Township People's Strike Steering Committee
- 19 Depayin Township Revolution Steering Committee
- 20 Latpadaung Region Strike Committee
- 21 Wetlet Revolution Leading Committee
- 22 Kachin Student Union
- 23 Coalition Strike Committee – Dawei
- 24 Dawei Youths Revolutionary Movement Strike Committee
- 25 Kalay Township Strike Committee
- 26 Magway People's Revolution Committee
- 27 Myingyan Civillian Movement Committee
- 28 Kyain Seikgyi Spring Revolution Leading Committee
- 29 General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education (GSCBHE)

- Basic Education Worker Unions - Steering Committee (BEWU-SC)
- Representative Committee of University Teacher Associations (RC of UTAs)
- Basic Education General Strike Committee (BEGSC)
- 30 Action Committee of Basic Education Students (ACBES)
- 31 Women Alliance Burma (WAB)
 - Mandalay Women Strike
 - Yangon Women Strike
 - Monywa Women Strike
 - Monywa-Amyint Road Women Strike
 - Chindwin (West) Villages Women Strike
 - Kalay Women Strike
 - Depayin Women Strike
 - Taze Women Strike
 - Dawei (Ashaetaw) Women Strike
 - Gangaw Women Strike
 - Thayat Chaung Women Strike
 - Wetlet Twonship Women Strike
- 32 LGBT Alliance
 - LGBT Union – Mandalay
 - Monywa LGBT Strike
 - LGBT Community Yangon
 - LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kalay Region)
 - LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kyaukse Region)
- 33 Pyi Gyi Tagon Strike Force
- 34 All Aung Myay Thar San Schools Strike Force
- 35 Twitter Team for Revolution (TTFR)
- 36 A-Yar-Taw People Strike
- 37 Chaung Oo Township Youth Strike Committee
- 38 Myaung Youth Network
- 39 5/ of Zaya State Strike
- 40 Shwe Pan Kone People`s Strike Steering Committee
- 41 MayMyo Strike Force
- 42 Taze Strike Committee
- 43 Yasakyo Township People`s Strike Steering Committee
- 44 Dhobama (2021 Generation)

- 64. Generation Wave (GW)
- 65. German Solidarity with Myanmar
- 66. Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (GMSR)
- 67. History Carrier (HC)

68. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
69. Inclusive Development International
70. India for Myanmar
71. Info Birmanie
72. International Association, Myanmar-Switzerland (IAMS)
73. International Campaign for the Rohingya
74. Iron Adventure Force
75. Justice & Equality Focus (JEF)
76. Justice For Myanmar
77. Justice Movement for Community - Innlay
78. Kachin National Youth Network
79. Kachin Women Network (KWN)
80. Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN)
81. Karen Peace Support Network
82. Karen Rivers Watch
83. Karenni Humanitarian Aid Initiative (KHAI)
84. Karenni Social Welfare & Development Center (KSWDC)
85. Kayah Li Phu Youth (KLY)
86. Kayan New Generation Youth (KNGY)
87. Kayan Rescue Committee (KRC)
88. Kyae Lak Myay
89. Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC)
90. League for Democracy Burma (Japan)
91. Let's Help Each Other
92. Magway Region Human Rights Network (MHRN)
93. Mata မာတုဒ်းတုဒ်း
94. Milk Tea Alliance Thailand
95. Min Hla Farmers Group
96. Minbu Farmers Group
97. Muslims of Myanmar Multi-ethnic Consultative Committee (MMMCC)
98. Mya Yar Knowledge Tree (Civil Society Organization)
99. Myanmar Action Group Denmark
100. Myanmar Cultural Research Society (MCRS)
101. Myanmar Ethnic Rohingya Human Rights Organization in Malaysia (MERHROM)
102. Myanmar Hindu Union
103. Myanmar Muslim Revolution Force (MMRF)
104. Myanmar Tourism Committee
105. National Alliance Bangkok
106. Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma (ND-Burma)
107. New Myanmar Foundation (NMF)

108. New Power Generation
109. New Rehmonnya Federated Force (NRFF)
110. New York Burmese Community
111. NLD International Network
112. NLD-OC (International) Norway Branch
113. NOK Information & Scout Echo
114. North Dagon & East Dagon News
115. Nyan Lyann Thit Analytica
116. OCTOPUS (Youth Organization)
117. OKYG Karen youth group
118. Open Development Foundation (ODF)
119. Overseas Irrawaddy Association -OIA
120. People Defense and Supporting Force
121. People Goal
122. People's Hope Spring Revolution (PHSR)
123. Political Prisoners Network -Myanmar (PPNM)
124. Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA)
125. Progressive Voice (PV)
126. Purple Window Counselling
127. Pwint Phyu Development Organisation
128. Rainbows in the Storm - မုန်တိုင်းကြားက သက်တံများ
129. Rights for Women Welfare Society (RWWS)
130. Rohingya Action Ireland
131. Rohingya Arakanese Refugee Committee, Malaysia
132. Rohingya Canadian Community
133. Rohingya Community in Japan (RCJ)
134. Rohingya Organisation Norway (RON)
135. Rohingya Society in Malaysia
136. Rohingya Women Development Network
137. Rohingya Youth Development Forum, Arakan - Burma
138. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
139. Save Myanmar
140. Shan Woman's Action Network (SWAN)
141. Shizuyouth for Myanmar
142. Sisters2Sisters
143. Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
144. Skills For Humanity-SFH (S4H)
145. Southern Monitor
146. Southern Revolution Support

147. Southern Youth Development Organization
148. Spring Revolution Myanmar Muslim Community (SRMMC)
149. Suan Kip Phawng
150. Support Group for Democracy in Myanmar (Netherlands)
151. Supporting Brothers - ထောက်ပံ့ညီနောင်
152. SYNERGY Social Harmony Organization
153. Tamar Institute of Development
154. Technological Teachers' Federation (TTF)
155. THAI for Palestine
156. Thammasat University Student Union
157. The Ladies Organization
158. The Mekong Butterfly
159. Thint Myat Lo Thu Myar Organization
160. United Front of Thammasat and Demonstration
161. Volunteers in Myanmar
162. Wellington Myanmar Community
163. Women Advocacy Coalition- Myanmar
164. Women Lead Resource Center (WLRC)
165. Women's Peace Network
166. Women's League of Burma (WLB)
 - 1 Burmese Women's Union (BWU)
 - 2 Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT)
 - 3 Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)
 - 4 Karen Women's Organization (KWO)
 - 5 Kayan Women's Organization (KyWO)
 - 6 Women's for Justice (WJ)
 - 7 Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)
 - 8 Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)
 - 9 Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)
 - 10 Ta'ang Women's Organization (TWO)
 - 11 Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)
 - 12 Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization (KWHRO)
167. Yangon Deaf Group
168. Yangon Medical Network
169. Youth Empowerment (YE)

170. Zomi Christian Fellowship of Norway

171. ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် (LIOH)

172. ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်

173. မြင်းမူလူငယ်ကွန်ယက်

174. မြန်မာ့မွတ်ဆလင်မ်အစည်းအရုံး BMA

175. ရောင်နီသစ်ဆီတက်လှမ်းချီ

176. သောင်ရင်းသတင်းလွှာ

177. အညာလွင်ပြင်ရပ်ဝန်း