

Open Letter

Joint Call for a Global Arms Embargo on Myanmar

An Open Letter to
the UN Security
Council and Individu-
al UN Member States

2021
February 24

“We, the undersigned organizations, call on the United Nations Security Council and UN member states to urgently institute a coordinated, global arms embargo on Myanmar in response to the February 1, 2021 military coup that has deprived the people of Myanmar of the right to democratically elect their government.”

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Joint Call for a Global Arms Embargo on Myanmar

An Open Letter to the UN Security Council and Individual UN Member States

We, the undersigned organizations, call on the United Nations Security Council and UN member states to urgently institute a coordinated, global arms embargo on Myanmar in response to the February 1, 2021 military coup that has deprived the people of Myanmar of the right to democratically elect their government. Our concerns are heightened by ongoing violations of human rights and the security forces' history of grave abuses against peaceful critics of military rule, as well as against the Rohingya and other ethnic minority groups.

Under the commander-in-chief, Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar military has detained the elected civilian leaders of the country, nullified the results of the November 2020 democratic elections, and installed a junta, the State Administration Council, under a manufactured "state of emergency." Since February 1, the junta has increasingly used excessive and at times lethal force at demonstrations; threatened and arbitrarily detained activists, journalists, students, and civil servants; and imposed rolling internet shutdowns that put lives at risk.

Days after the coup, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, "We will do everything we can to mobilize all the key actors and international community to put enough pressure on Myanmar to make sure that this coup fails." The UN special rapporteur on Myanmar has called for targeted UN sanctions on the military and an arms embargo, while the deputy high commissioner for human rights has voiced support for targeted UN sanctions on the coup leaders.

In that spirit, we urge the Security Council to immediately impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Myanmar. Such a resolution should bar the direct and indirect

Signature

Access Now

Advocacy Forum-Nepal

AFL-CIO

All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress

Arakan Information Center

Arakan Rivers Network

Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights

ARTICLE 19

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights

Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs

Asia Democracy Network

Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

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supply, sale, or transfer of all weapons, munitions, and other military-related equipment, including dual-use goods such as vehicles and communications and surveillance equipment, as well as the provision of training, intelligence, and other military assistance. The embargo should be accompanied by robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Any sale or transfer of military-related equipment to Myanmar could provide the means to further repress the people of Myanmar in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Until the Council acts, individual UN member states should adopt measures at the national and regional levels to block sales and other transfers of weapons and materiel to Myanmar, with the goal of extending an arms embargo to as close to a global scale as possible.

For decades, the Security Council's response to crimes by the Myanmar security forces has been inadequate, emboldening the military to continue committing abuses without fear of serious consequences. The current crisis demands a change in course.

On February 4, the Security Council [spoke with a single voice](#) to demand the release of all those arbitrarily detained and the protection of the country's democratic institutions. Council members should use that newfound consensus to take swift and substantive action. An arms embargo would be the centerpiece of a global effort to shield the people of Myanmar from a return to abusive and autocratic rule.

The time to act is now.

Signature

Asian Human Rights Commission

Asian Migrant Centre

Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL)

Asian Resource Foundation

Association of Human Rights Defenders and

Promoters

Association of Women for Awareness and
Motivation (AWAM)

Australian Centre for International Justice

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights

BALAOOD Mindanaw

Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan

Brotherhood For Democracy (BFD)

Burma Campaign UK

Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)

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Signature

Burmese Rohingya Association in Japan	Human Rights First	Never Again Coalition
Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia	Human Rights Foundation of Monland	New School for Democracy
Bytes For All	Human Rights Law Centre	No Business With Genocide
Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)	Human Rights Office-Sri Lanka	Nonviolence International
Cambodian Food And Service Workers Federation (CFSWF)	Human Rights Watch	Odhikar
Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)	Human Rights Without Frontiers	Olof Palme International Center
Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)	Info Birmanie	OutRight Action International
Canadian Rohingya Development Initiative	Innovation for Change Network	PAX
Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL)	Institute for Asian Democracy	Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand
Center for Peace Education, Miriam College	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion	Pax Christi Australia
Center for Social Integrity	International Campaign for the Rohingya	Pax Christi International
Centre for Human Rights and Development	International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS), Asia Pacific	Pax Christi Korea
Centre for Peace and Justice, Brac University	International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)	Pax Christi Philippines
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)	People's Empowerment Foundation
Climate Change Working Group-Myanmar	Jewish Alliance of Concern Over Burma	People's Watch
Colorful Girls	Jubilee Australia	Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
Community Resource Centre Foundation (CRC)	Justice for All/Burma Task Force	Progressive Voice
Cross Cultural Foundation	Justice for Myanmar	Prosecute; don't perpetrate
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	Kachin State Women's Network	Public Association "Dignity"
Dawei Pro Bono Lawyer Network	Karapatan Alliance Philippines	Pusat KOMAS
Democracy, Peace and Women Organization	Karen Human Rights Group	Refugees International
DHEWA (Development for Health, Education, Work, and Awareness) Welfare Society	KontraS Aceh	Restless Beings
Equality Myanmar	Loka Ahlinn Social Development Organization	Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Equitable Cambodia	Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN)	Rohingya Association of Canada
European Rohingya Council	MAP Foundation	Rohingya Human Rights Initiative
Federal Association of Vietnamese Refugees in the Federal Republic of Germany	Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)	Rohingya Today
Fortify Rights	Mekong Migration Network	Rohingya Women Education Initiative
Free Rohingya Coalition	Mennonite Central Committee	Rohingya Youth for Legal Action
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect	MeSheWe	Smile Foundation
Global Justice Center	Mother Nature Cambodia	Swedish Burma Committee
Global Witness	Myanmar Human Rights Alliances Network (MHRAN)	Taiwan Association for Human Rights
Htoi Gender and Development Foundation	National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal	Taiwan Forever Association (?????)
		Tampadipa Institute
		The Arakan Project
		The May 18 Memorial Foundation
		The PLAN: Public Legal Aid Network
		The Swedish Rohingya Association

Signature

Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria

and Tasmania

US Campaign for Burma

Viet Tan

Vietnamese Women for Human Rights

Voice of Rohingya

Win Without War

World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global

Policy

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

YMCA Mandalay

Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP)