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Den Norske Nobelkomité  
v/sekretær Olav Njølstad  
Henrik Ibsens gate 51  
0255 Oslo

**To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee,**

We hereby nominate the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) in Myanmar for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The general election in Myanmar on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 was won by the National League for Democracy (NLD), which received a substantial majority of the seats in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament). The election was conducted in a peaceful manner without any major irregularities according to several international election observation agencies.<sup>1</sup> Despite national and international recognition of the integrity of the election, the military (Tatmadaw) challenged the results on the basis of undocumented voter fraud.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the Tatmadaw seized state power through a coup d'état. The NLD-government was removed and replaced by a military junta (State Administration Council). Several prominent members of government and NLD, including President U Win Myint and Nobel Peace Prize Winner and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, were arrested by the military. The military coup immediately sparked nationwide demonstrations. NLD-leaders called on people to resist the coup through non-violence; workers and their unions launched a civil disobedience campaign and declared a general strike; and mass public protests were organized by young people known as Generation Z. These public protests were joined by a broad range of groups that include ethnic nationalities, women's groups, workers, LGBT groups, artists, Buddhist monks and Catholic nuns. In the weeks after the military takeover, a large-scale and nationwide anti-coup resistance movement thus emerged across ethnic, religious, generational, class and gender divides. The Civil Disobedience Movement was born.

The military has reacted to this movement with escalating use of brutal force. As of March 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, 2181 individuals have been unlawfully arrested or detained, and 202 people have been killed, including children.<sup>2</sup> The use of deadly force is deliberate – several civilians were shot in the head – to create fear and provoke violent resistance that would in turn be used to justify military force. The systematic and illegal killings and torture of civilians by the Tatmadaw is a clear violation of human rights. It has been condemned internationally, including by the United Nations Security Council, and is being monitored by international institutions such as the United Nations' Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://merin.org.mm/en/publication/compilation-preliminary-findings-observer-interim-reports-november-2020>

<sup>2</sup> <https://aappb.org/?p=13709>

Despite the bloody crackdown on demonstrations, the people of Myanmar continue to protest through civil disobedience.

The civil disobedience protests have taken many forms, including general strikes, boycotts, peaceful street assemblies and banging of pots and pans. The movement has organized through both social media and word of mouth. From the start, the Civil Disobedience Movement has received massive and consistent popular support. The Tatmadaw's escalating use of violence against pro-democracy protestors makes this support admirable and impressive. The supporters of the Civil Disobedience Movement are risking torture and death, yet have chosen to fight for their freedom through labor strikes, peaceful assembly, and non-violent resistance. Our nomination is a recognition of this anti-coup resistance that is working for peace and democracy through non-violent means.

The Civil Disobedience Movement is central in forging a positive agenda for substantive democracy and peace in Myanmar. As the protests have developed, the focus has broadened from a demand for the return of NLD to power, towards more fundamental changes for real democracy and peace. Alongside the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and ethnic minority organizations (political parties, civil society organizations and armed groups), the Civil Disobedience Movement strives to create a united stand against the military's divide and rule tactics and for federal democracy. If successful, this holds the potential of ending Myanmar's long legacy of direct and indirect military rule and intrastate armed conflicts.

There is a longstanding history of civil disobedience being used to oppose authoritarian regimes. Several of the leaders of these initiatives have been recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize Institute, including the Dalai Lama and Dr. Martin Luther King. The Civil Disobedience Movement in Myanmar follows the same historical path, using peaceful protests and civil disobedience to oppose the authoritarian regime in Myanmar, in their fight for freedom, peace and democracy.

Millions of people identify themselves as a part of the Civil Disobedience Movement, and this nomination is an acknowledgement of all the people of the country of Myanmar who are fighting for their right to live peacefully in a democratic country.

Sincerely,



Kristian Stokke

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