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WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

The Women's League of Burma Welcomes the Statement of the President of Republic of Indonesia to Call for Ending Violence against Civilians and Host an Emergency ASEAN Summit

Date: 20th March 2021

The Women's League of Burma (WLB) is an umbrella organization comprising of 13 member organizations from different ethnic and political backgrounds, working together to increase the participation of women in the struggle for peace, justice and federal democratic union.

WLB welcomes the statement made by the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, on 19 March 2021 calling to restore democracy, peace and stability in Myanmar through peaceful means: dialogue and reconciliation, and to stop using force against its civilians.

In this occasion, we would like to express our support to the call from President of Indonesia to host an emergency ASEAN Summit on the situation in our country. We hope that the regional approach to our country's crisis will put a halt to violence on the ground.

At the moment, over 2200 people were arrested, charged and sentenced while nearly 250 killed by the junta. The people of Burma/Myanmar are losing their lives daily in their defiance of a regime that has done nothing to advance and protect the rights of its citizens.

The military has incessantly terrorized its people day and night, and showed no signs of putting an end to the attacks. Cities and townships across the country are in wretched havoc; families have been torn apart as they grieve over their loved ones who died from the attacks.

WLB encourages the ASEAN Member States to work together to uphold the ASEAN Charter principles. ASEAN Member States should feel disturbed with the way Burma /Myanmar military forces kill civilians and to act in unity to address the matter.

WLB also recognizes that ASEAN Charter requires all Member States to adhere to the principles of human rights, democracy, rule of law, and constitutional government. The illegal seizure of power through a coup on 1 February 2021 was clearly a violation of the principles of the constitutional government as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

WLB acknowledges that the ASEAN Chair's Statement on 2 March 2021 has stated the readiness of the grouping to assist Burma/Myanmar to put an end to the crisis. It is now time for ASEAN to immediately assist Burma/Myanmar and realise this promise into a series of concrete and tangible actions.

In this end, we would like to urge ASEAN member states to protect human rights and protection of freedoms of the people in Burma/ Myanmar and put safety, security and welfare of the people as their top priority.

This crisis should end. Democracy must be restored in order to continue the process of establishing the Federal Democratic Union!

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