



အမျိုးသမီးများအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ပြန်ဟန်ငံ)  
**WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA**

---

## **Women Challenge Military Dictatorship**

### **Statement on International Women's Day by the Women's League of Burma**

8 March 2021: Today, on International Women's Day, the Women's League of Burma (WLB) strongly condemns ongoing violence against women by Burma's security forces, particularly amid the historic nationwide peaceful protests in Burma/Myanmar. In line with this year's international theme, WLB declares our determination to challenge and resist the authoritarian rule of the Burma Army, which staged a coup d'état on 1 February.

The killing of peaceful protestors in towns across the country by Burma's security forces is a clear crime against humanity. The Burma Army has been committing such crimes against ethnic peoples, including Rohingya, for decades. We strongly condemn these crimes, and denounce the Burma military as terrorists.

We call for the Burma military to relinquish their authority. The 2008 Constitution must be abolished, and state forces held accountable for crimes against humanity.

WLB has been documenting state-sponsored violence against ethnic women for over two decades. Entrenched military impunity has been evident through ongoing lack of justice for survivors, as soldiers have evaded accountability through military courts. Amid the Civil Disobedience Movement across Burma, WLB is gravely concerned about reports of sexual assault and harassment against women who have been arrested and detained. On 3 March, a 19-year old girl was killed by a gunshot wound to her neck in Mandalay. The same day, a school teacher in Monywa was killed. Since protests began, at least six women have been brutally killed and many more women injured while exercising their fundamental right to peaceful assembly. The authorization of nationwide violence against peaceful protesters, including women, is deepening the wounds of our country, riven by decades of civil war. As soldiers open fire into people's homes and in the streets, it is clear that the engrained fabric of the Burma Army is to destroy, rather than protect. We strongly challenge this egregious brutality.

Burma has internationally binding commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which calls for substantive efforts towards equality and non-discrimination. The human rights abuses which have been taking place in ethnic conflict areas -- recently amid the raging pandemic -- show clearly that the Burma Army has zero interest in preserving and protecting the rights of women, or any civilian who challenges their authority. The

Burma Army has ruthlessly employed all strategies, including rape as a weapon of war, to crush opposition. Their impunity must end.

On this occasion of the 2021 International Women's Day, WLB declares our resistance to military dictatorship, and reiterates our calls:

- To abolish the 2008 Constitution, which enshrines the Army's power over civilian government, and whose unitary substance denies equality, non-discrimination and protection for ethnic people, including women.
- To establish a genuine federal democratic union.
- To immediately stop all brutal attacks and abuses against protestors, including sexual assault and harassment of women, and release all those arbitrarily detained.

Further, WLB strongly urges the United Nations Security Council to take immediate concerted action against the military junta to protect the lives of those out on the streets demanding an end to military dictatorship in Burma.

#### Media Contact

1. Thwel Zin Toe – Policy Board Member (+66897553071)
2. Naw Hser Hser – General Secretary ( +66980953875 )