



Special Advisory Council for MYANMAR

Cut the Impunity:

The International Community Must Act Now

30 June 2021: The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) says that, according to credible reports of archetypal Tatmadaw-style clearance operations, recent Myanmar military offensives, including in Mindat, Demoso, Kin Ma and Mandalay, would, adding further to what it had previously committed, constitute crimes against humanity and, in armed conflict areas, war crimes. The international community must hold those responsible to account.

For the past five months, following the 1 February coup d'état, the military junta in Myanmar has waged a relentless and merciless campaign of terror against the entire population in an effort to secure a tenuous grip on the situation and crush the nationwide democracy movement.

Credible reports emerge daily of wanton extrajudicial killings, unchecked and widespread torture, indiscriminate abductions, targeted enforced disappearances, multiple rapes and other barbaric criminal acts, such as mutilation and public beatings, at the hands of the junta's forces.

In the last six weeks, the junta has mobilized the full range of its weaponry, launching devastating airstrikes and heavy artillery fire during massive assaults on civilians defending their homes.

A two-week attack on Demoso, Kayah State, at the beginning of June forced more than 100,000 people to flee their homes. Junta soldiers gunned down civilians delivering aid and shelled churches providing refuge to displaced people.

In Mindat, Chin State, civilians were used as human shields amid a brutal ground and air assault by junta forces on May 12 that forced thousands of residents to flee into the surrounding jungle, where most remain.

On June 15, the village of Kin Ma, Magway, was burnt to the ground after it was set on fire by junta forces, killing elderly residents and destroying 80 percent of houses in the village.

Junta forces backed by armoured vehicles used rocket propelled grenades during a siege on the urban centre of Mandalay on June 22. At least eight people were killed in the attack. Their bodies were stripped and piled together by soldiers who took photos later circulated on junta-run media.

These are the very same repressive tactics that the Myanmar military has used for decades in military operations targeting civilian populations around the country, including as part of the genocidal atrocities committed against the Rohingya, which led to the tragic and massive exodus in August 2017.

“There is nothing new about the three of us condemning the actions of Min Aung Hlaing’s soldiers as grave violations of international law,” said SAC-M. “But as the killings and atrocities mount, so must the momentum towards ensuring accountability. Ending the junta’s impunity is more important than ever.”

SAC-M is calling for the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court. This is required as part of a global “Three Cuts” strategy against the junta: cut the weapons, cut the cash, cut the impunity.

SAC-M is also calling for individual states, groups of states, civil society, UN agencies and others to support the global Three Cuts strategy by taking their own actions to cut the junta’s impunity. SAC-M is keeping a live record of actions, including those taken through the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and domestic courts, including the Argentinian Federal Criminal Court, that contribute to cutting the junta’s impunity.

The live record can be found here: <https://specialadvisorycouncil.org/cut-the-impunity/>

Myanmar's united democracy movement has called for justice and accountability. It speaks for the people of Myanmar. The international community must act now.

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