



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**National Unity Government**  
**Ministry of Human Rights**



**Plea to armed groups to avoid harming civilians including children**

Dated: 26 September 2021

1. It has been nearly eight months since entire Myanmar people staged Spring Revolution opposing Myanmar military's February 1 coup. The National Unity Government has also declared a nationwide state of emergency to wage a "people's defensive war" against the military.
2. The military regime has been continuously committing human rights violations since the coup, and evidence of its systematic, deliberate and widespread human rights violations points to international crimes. The oppressed are revolting in various ways against those atrocities.
3. The National Unity Government has established military code of conduct and rules of engagement for People's Defense Force to ensure they respect human rights and avoid inflicting harm on innocent civilians in the revolt.
4. Under no circumstances, violence shall be used against innocent civilians, particularly the vulnerable groups including women, children, the elderly and the disabled. It is clearly stated in international human rights laws that women and children must be given special protection during conflicts. Our ministry is working together with international community to document the regime's human rights violations including those against women and children, and to hold perpetrators accountable under the law.
5. Thus, ordinary civilians including the vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled must be protected from harm anywhere, anytime and under any circumstances. Every armed unit and group has responsibility not to harm them.
6. We urge respective armed groups around Myanmar that are revolting in their own ways against the military regime to exercise due caution not to violate international human rights laws.

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