



# Factsheet for United Nations General Assembly Accreditation for Myanmar

## United Nations General Assembly Accreditation for Myanmar

This factsheet will highlight some of the key statistics and events in Myanmar since the unlawful coup d'état attempt by the Myanmar military on 1 February, 2021. The purpose of the factsheet is to provide a snapshot of human suffering resulting from the actions of the Myanmar military, who are vying for accreditation at the UN General Assembly (UNGA). During the last seven-months, the Myanmar military has escalated and expanded its campaign of terror on the people of Myanmar resulting in mass displacement and humanitarian crisis, exacerbated the COVID-19 pandemic, caused a near economic collapse and persecuted pro-democracy activists. We therefore urge members of the UNGA to retain Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun's accreditation as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN.



## Pro-democracy Movement

The UNGA resolution on Myanmar on 14 June 2021 strongly condemned the use of lethal force and violence and called for the immediate release of all those detained.<sup>1</sup> Yet, the arrests, killings, torture and persecution of Myanmar's people are increasing every day. The horrific violence against peaceful protesters within the Spring Revolution has resulted in 1,058 killed, 7,992 arrested, 6,343 detained (including 104 children), and 1,984 arrest warrants issued, 118 sentenced in absentia, and 39 sentenced to death in absentia.<sup>2</sup> Tragically, at least 75 children are among those who have been killed since the coup began.

Startlingly, during the six month period of February – July 2021 there were 3,601 attacks on civilians or armed clashes that failed to protect them, compared to just 580 over the period of February – July in 2020. This translates to a 521% increase compared to the same period in 2020.<sup>3</sup>

**3,601**

February – July 2021



attacks on civilians or armed clashes that failed to protect them

compared to the same period in 2020.

**580**

February – July 2020



521% increase

The military continues to target the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), Strike Committee Members, journalists, human rights defenders, medical professionals, civil society actors and others activists within the Spring Revolution, through arbitrary arrests, murder, torture and, sexual and gender-based violence. Torture is commonplace in detention, with many being abducted, brutally beaten, deprived of food and water, and subjected to cruel interrogation tactics to elicit information. When unable to find their intended target, the military junta will abduct family members as hostages – some as young as 4 years old. One former COVID-19 volunteer and protester, Zeya (17 years old) was captured, interrogated, almost tortured to death and then thrown into a hole in the ground by military personnel.

He described that “After being tortured so many times for a very long time, I no longer fear death.”<sup>4</sup> Yet, those within the movement refuse to give up, protesters are marching the streets even if it means risking their lives. Khet Thi, fallen poet killed during an interrogation, describes this in one line of his poetry “They shoot us in the head, but they don’t know the revolution dwells in our hearts.”<sup>5</sup> The junta removed his organs after murdering him and before his body was returned to his family.

Other vulnerable groups, such as women, elderly, ethnic communities, religious minorities, disabled and LGBTQI+ people have been targets of discrimination and have experienced different challenges in the wake of the coup – especially in detention and during displacement. These groups are claiming their right to peacefully protest, and demanding the restoration of democracy. From the people of Myanmar, there is overwhelming support for a genuine federal democracy through the National Unity Government (NUG).



This aligns with the UN Security Council President’s Statement on 10 March 2021 calling for **‘continued support for the democratic transition in Myanmar, and stresses the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes.’**<sup>6</sup>

Women and the LGBTQI+ community are particularly at risk during conflict, displacement and in detention. Sexual and gender-based violence is the hallmark of the Myanmar military, to instill fear and traumatize ethnic women, a point highlighted by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar report to the UN Human Rights Council.<sup>7</sup>

A 14 years old nun in Kutkai, Shan State was raped by a Myanmar military soldier at a monastery in June and there have been credible reports of sexual and gender-based violence during the brutal siege on Mindat, Chin State.<sup>8</sup> Even in spite of these abuses, women continue to be the backbone of the peaceful protest movement, making up 60 percent of all protesters.<sup>9</sup> At least 73 LGBTQI+ persons have been arrested since the beginning of the coup, with reports of torture and degrading treatment.<sup>10</sup> One transgender woman, Ma Khine Khine, was abducted by military personnel, forced to strip naked, wear men’s clothes, beaten and suffered psychological abuse.<sup>11</sup> The LGBTQI+ community has harnessed the pro-democracy movement to further their human rights, and to be counted. Transgender woman and activist Diamond said “I want the future generations of Myanmar to know the LGBTQ community risked everything and stood valiant against the military.”<sup>12</sup>



## Humanitarian Crisis

The Myanmar military has intensified conflict in Karen, Karenni, Shan, Chin and Kachin States since the coup, resulting in the displacement of at least 230,000 people.<sup>13</sup> The military junta has used fierce aerial bombings, shelling and mortar attacks and ground assaults, which have targeted civilians, houses and religious buildings. In July, the Myanmar junta committed a series of massacres in Kani, Sagaing Region, with a total of 43 people maimed and killed.<sup>14</sup> Many of these acts, and countless others, amount to breaches of the Geneva Conventions, other war crimes and crimes against humanity. Impunity for the crimes of the Myanmar military is rife, which the UNGA has echoed in the resolution on Myanmar on 14 June 2021.<sup>15</sup>

Many of those newly displaced or in protracted displacement are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including food, water, shelter, medicine, healthcare and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). While provisions of aid are trickling into some regions of Myanmar, the junta has been blocking, burning and confiscating aid.<sup>16</sup> The military junta has utilized humanitarian aid as a bargaining chip to pressure the democratic movement and ethnic organizations to end their resistance to military rule. They do this through blocking or destroying the relief aid being provided to the displaced victims of the war it is waging against the people.<sup>17</sup> The military junta has not heeded the calls of the UNGA in the 14 June 2021 resolution calling for the 'safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to all people in need, including people in detention.'<sup>18</sup>

# 2,099

armed clashes and attacks on civilians

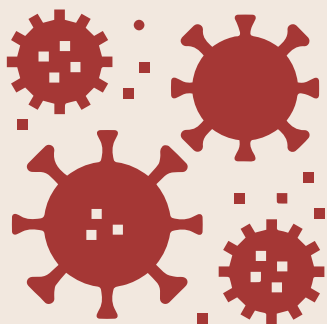


25 April to 30 July



The military junta has already signaled to ASEAN that it will only cooperate and adhere to the Five Point Consensus after "stabilizing the country."

The international community has deferred the political and humanitarian response to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management through the Five Point Consensus devised by leaders of ASEAN and the coup leader Min Aung Hlaing, during the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24 April 2021. Yet, four months on, these have not resulted in substantive results to alleviate the humanitarian crisis on the ground, which has worsened due to escalating conflict by the Myanmar military. From 25 April to 30 July, there were 2,099 armed clashes and attacks against civilians.<sup>19</sup> The military junta has already signaled to ASEAN that it will only cooperate and adhere to the Five Point Consensus after “stabilizing the country.”<sup>20</sup>



## COVID-19

The UN Secretary General and the UN Security Council (Res. 2532 (2020)) have called for an ‘urgent global ceasefire’ to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>21</sup> Yet, the military junta has escalated conflict, sending hundreds of thousand of people fleeing from villages to cramped temporary shelters, allowing for the easy transmission of COVID-19. The junta has weaponized the COVID-19 pandemic against the people of Myanmar, sequestering all oxygen and controlling its production for their use, preventing civilians from treating themselves at home.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, they have destroyed the government’s plans and mechanisms to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. On 12 July in Yangon, military personnel opened fire on crowds outside an oxygen plant to break up people desperately waiting for oxygen refills.<sup>23</sup> Hospitals have been turning people away, overwhelmed due to the out of control spread of the Delta variant. In Kalay, Myat Thuzar tragically died in her home during labor after being repeatedly refused treatment at every clinic and hospital.<sup>24</sup>

The junta has been enforcing Martial Law through many cities and regions in Myanmar, killing people on sight for breaking curfew – leaving many unable to leave their homes to seek treatment.<sup>25</sup> Test positivity rates have hovered at around 37%, with testing remaining significantly limited to 12,000 to 15,000 people in a country of 55 million.<sup>26</sup> Compounding the weakness in the response to this third wave of COVID-19 is the military junta’s persecution of medical professionals who make up a large proportion of the CDM and are unable to return to work for fear of arrest. For civilians battling COVID-19, the cost of medicine and the ability to access healthcare are very challenging.



## Economy

The military junta has eroded market confidence through the attempted coup, such as raiding government bank accounts and ordering the Myanmar Central Bank to cap customer cash withdrawals.<sup>27</sup> The World Bank forecasted that Burma's economy would contract by 18% in 2021 and has warned of the serious risk of inflation over the second half of 2021—possibly hitting double digits—judging by the Central Bank of Myanmar's accelerated printing of banknotes. Additionally, through large currency sell offs by the junta and the actions mentioned above, the Myanmar Kyat's value has dropped by twenty percent against the US Dollar since 1 February 2021.<sup>28</sup> This has had, and will continue to have, a devastating affect on small businesses, workers and those in rural and ethnic areas – as cash is centralized within cities. The prices of commodities at the borders has risen up to 70%, such as those sourced from China in neighboring Kachin and Shan States.<sup>29</sup> On the flipside, 70% of Myanmar's overland exports are unable to enter into China through border crossings – resulting in job losses en masse.<sup>30</sup>

**70%**

of Myanmar's  
over land  
exports



unable to  
enter into  
China through  
border  
crossings



Risen up to

**70%**

Additionally, due to a devaluing currency, the cost of transporting goods has doubled, demand for local farmers' products has fallen and the costs of commodities and medicine are out of reach for most already struggling.

The military junta is not the legitimate representative of the people, but rather are the root cause of their severe hardships. This factsheet shows a litany of abuses by the military junta, but tells of a small fraction of Myanmar's suffering. If the committee was to recommend a junta-backed representative, this would be a repudiation of the 14 June 2021 UNGA resolution, human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the UN Charter. Also, it would be in conflict with the democratic will of the people of Myanmar, as decided in the November 2020 elections. We urge members of the UNGA to retain Ambassador U Kyaw Moe Tun's accreditation as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN for the upcoming 76th session of the UNGA.

## Endnotes

- 1 'The Situation in Myanmar', UNGA Resolution A/75/L.85/Rev.1, 14 June 2021. Available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/75/L.85/Rev.1>
- 2 Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup', Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 7 September 2021. Available at <https://aappb.org/?p=17560>
- 3 ACLED Data Tool. Available at <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/>
- 4 'I no longer fear death,' says teen tortured by regime', Myanmar Now, 20 July 2021. Available at <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/i-no-longer-fear-death-says-teen-tortured-by-regime>
- 5 'Khet Thi: Monywa Poet Killed During Military Interrogation', Progressive Voice, 10 May 2021. Available at <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2021/05/10/khet-thi-monywa-poet-killed-during-military-interrogation/>
- 6 'Statement by the President of the Security Council', UN Security Council, 10 March 2021, S/PRST/2021/5. Available at <https://undocs.org/en/S/PRST/2021/5>
- 7 'Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Myanmar and the Gendered Impact of its Ethnic Conflicts', Human Rights Council, 22 August 2019, A/HRC/42/CRP.4. Available at [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFM-Myanmar/sexualviolence/A\\_HRC\\_CRP\\_4.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/FFM-Myanmar/sexualviolence/A_HRC_CRP_4.pdf)
- 8 'Mindat Becomes a Ghost Town under Military Rule', Myanmar Now, 14 June 2021. Available at <https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/mindat-becomes-a-ghost-town-under-military-rule>
- 9 'The Women of Myanmar: 'Our Place is in the Resolution'', Al Jazeera, 25 April 2021. Available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/4/25/women-of-myanmar-stand-resilient-against-the-military-coup>
- 10 'Myanmar's LGBTIQ Community Faces Death and Torture from Junta', The Irrawaddy, 1 July 2021. Available at <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmars-lgbtiq-community-faces-death-and-torture-from-junta.html>
- 11 'Women on the Front Lines', Progressive Voice, 30 April 2021. Available at <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2021/04/30/women-on-the-front-lines/>
- 12 Note 11.
- 13 'UN Says 230,000 Displaced by Myanmar Fighting', Al Jazeera, 24 June 2021. Available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/24/un-says-230000-displaced-by-myanmar-fighting>
- 14 'Massacres in Kani Township, Yinmabin District, Sanaing Region', Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 18 August 2021. Available at <https://aappb.org/?p=17120>
- 15 Note 1.
- 16 Regime Destroys Food and Medicine for Refugees in Southeastern Myanmar', The Irrawaddy, 11 June 2021. Available at <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/regime-destroys-food-and-medicine-for-refugees-in-southeastern-myanmar.html>
- 17 Great Expectations: Analysis of ASEAN Humanitarian Response to Myanmar Crisis', Progressive Voice and Forum Asia, 28 July 2021. Available at <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2021/08/04/great-expectations-analysis-of-the-asean-coordinating-center-for-humanitarian-assistance-on-disaster-management/>
- 18 'The Situation in Myanmar', UNGA Resolution A/75/L.85/Rev.1, 14 June 2021 at §6. Available at <https://undocs.org/en/A/75/L.85/Rev.1>
- 19 Note 3.
- 20 Bhavan Jaipragas 'Myanmar's Junta to Consider ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus After 'Stabilising' the Country', South China Morning Post, 27 April 2021. Available at <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3131248/myanmars-junta-consider-aseans-five-point-consensus-after>
- 21 'Now is the Time for a Collective New Push for Peace and Reconciliation', UN Secretary General, 23 March 2020. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/globalceasefire>. 'Resolution 2532 (2020)', UN Security Council, 1 July 2020, S/RES/2532 (2020). Available at [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2532(2020))
- 22 'In the shadow of an uprising, Kalay battles another scourge', Myanmar Now, 8 July 2021. Available at <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/in-the-shadow-of-an-uprising-kalay-battles-another-scourge>



- 23 'Soldiers Open Fire, Disperse Crowds Refilling Oxygen Tanks in Yangon', Coconuts Yangon, 13 July 2020. Available at <https://coconuts.co/yangon/news/soldiers-open-fire-disperse-crowds-refilling-oxygen-tanks-in-yangon/>
- 24 'In the shadow of an uprising, Kalay battles another scourge', Myanmar Now, 8 July 2021. Available at <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/in-the-shadow-of-an-uprising-kalay-battles-another-scourge>
- 25 Note 24.
- 26 'Myanmar: Six Months Since Coup, Horror Mounts for Children and Killings and Covid-19 Deaths', Save the Children, 30 July 2021. Available at <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/myanmar-six-months-coup-horror-mounts-children-amid-killings-and-covid-19-deaths>  
'UN Country Team in Myanmar Steps Up COVID-19 Response Efforts', UNCT Myanmar, 19 July 2021. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/un-country-team-myanmar-steps-covid-19-response-efforts>
- 27 'Expert Economist: Military's Management of Myanmar's Banking System is Catastrophic and incompetent', Myanmar Now, 18 August 2021. Available at <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/expert-economists-militarys-management-of-myanmars-banking-system-is-catastrophic-and>
- 28 'The Junta Tanks Myanmar's Economy', Progressive Voice, 14 May 2021. Available at <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2021/05/14/the-junta-tanks-myanmars-economy/>
- 29 'Burma Coup Watch for the Month of July 2021: Junta destroys tools for dealing with COVID-19', ALTSEAN, 2 August 2021. Available at <https://altsean.org/>
- 30 'Prices are dropping exponentially': Border trade hit hard as China Shuts the Gates', Frontier Myanmar, 2 August 2021. Available at <https://www.frontiermyanmar.net/en/prices-are-dropping-exponentially-border-trade-hit-hard-as-china-shuts-the-gates/>



Website: <http://www.progressivevoicemyanmar.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/progressivevoice>  
Twitter: @PVamplify  
Email: [info@progressive-voice.org](mailto:info@progressive-voice.org)



Website: <https://www.altsean.org/index.html>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ALTSEAN/>  
Twitter: @Altsean  
Email: [altsean@altsean.org](mailto:altsean@altsean.org)