



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**  
**National Unity Government**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



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**Press Statement**

**Statement on the Actions against the Civilians committed  
by the Military Junta amounting to Crimes against Humanity**

**24 December 2021**

1. The clashes between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and the military junta's troops in Myawaddy Township in Kayin State had continued to intensify for the sixth straight day since the junta's troops raided Lay Kay Kaw new establishment of KNU controlled area at Dooplalya District of Karen State and arrested a number of civilians in Karen State on 14 December 2021. In the late evening of 23 December 2021, already bedtime for many people in rural area, the junta troops used war plane to bomb the area of Lay Kay Kaw. It is horrible act by the junta troops.
2. Due to the tension between the two groups and excessive use of force by the junta troops during the clashes including bombing by using war planes and heavy artilleries, the residents from Lay Kay Kaw and the neighbouring villages had to flee the conflicted area to safer zones. About half of the displaced villagers have reportedly crossed into the border of Thailand.
3. The National Unity Government issued a statement to appeal to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance to the IDPs and refugees affected by the military junta's operation on 17 December 2021.
4. Similarly, the junta deployed air strike attacks by using helicopters on Hnan Khar Village in Gangaw Township of Magway Region on 17 December 2021. The junta's troops reportedly used heavy artilleries and torched the houses in the village as well. According to the local news media, there were casualties and more than a dozen of deaths. The local residents from Hnan Khar and other

villages in the area were also forced to flee the villages. The junta's troops have raided Hnan Khar Village six times and set fire several houses since June 2021.

5. The junta's widespread and systematic attacks against the civilians in Lay Kay Kaw and Hnan Khar amounted to crimes against humanity. Since the first day of the military coup d'état in February, the junta troops has been violating fundamental and peremptory norms of the international laws and committing serious human rights violations. The root cause of such continued violations and lack of respect for international laws and conventions is clearly due to the decades-long impunity enjoyed by the Myanmar military.

6. To end this military dictatorship and to be able to bring accountability to those perpetrators of such heinous crimes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the National Unity Government will expand its engagements with the international community through diplomatic efforts, including the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, the ASEAN and other institutions.