



## **H.E. DR. SASA'S MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**08 March 2022**

This year's theme for Myanmar's International Women's Day is "Break the bias, Reject Dictatorship". On this day, we would like to celebrate all women and girls fighting for democracy, human rights, justice, and peace not only in Myanmar but across the world. We also would like to honor those women and girls who have sacrificed their lives during our revolution. Since the coup in Feb 2021, more than 107 women have been murdered by the junta. And many women and girls have reportedly been tortured and some even sexually assaulted during their detention and interrogation by the fascist military.

Successive military generals in Myanmar have used bias against women for decades, discriminating against them in all aspects of life. The history of Myanmar under military generals and their brutal dictatorship is filled with evidence of this bias, and rampant violence against women in particular. The world knows these inhuman generals have used not only bullets and fighter jet as weapons but also raped and other forms of gender-based abuse, causing women to suffer for the rest of their lives. There has been not only intimidation, torture, and discrimination against women in general, but they have imprisoned and insulted our elected leaders, like the State Counselor of Myanmar, Daw Aung San Su Kyi. In fact, the first victim of the Military coup was a young woman student, just 19 years old – Mya Thwate Thwate Khine. It is very telling that the first victim of the junta's "shoot to kill" policy was a woman. The testimony of the junta's victims, whether Rohingya, Kachin, Chin, Karen, Kareni, Rakhine, Shan, Mon or Barma were shocking and there seems to be no end to the litany of crimes the junta is responsible for. Mountains of evidence are even now being collected by UN bodies such as the Independent Investigation Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM). These Military generals will be held accountable for their terrorism, and in this pursuit, no stone will be left unturned. We will bring these perpetrators to justice through national and international justice mechanisms.

Even as we were preparing this statement for international women's day, it was reported that a woman was raped and killed together with her 3-year-old daughter by the military terrorists in Pauk, Magway division. There are many similar events committed by the fascist junta, both in the past and at the present. We will never forget their crimes and we will continue to fight to dismantle the military dictatorship and fight for a country where we can end all forms of discrimination and dismantle the military dictatorship. We will fight for a country free of bias, stereotypes, gender violence, and sexual discrimination. To all the women and girls in our country, keep fighting for the revolution, and to all the women and girls whom we have lost during our revolution, we promise you all that your sacrifices are not in vain, and together we can build a country that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Together we can all **BREAK THE BIAS** and **END DICTATORSHIP**.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Sasa**

Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation  
Spokesperson of the National Unity Government of Myanmar  
Former Myanmar Special Envoy to the United Nations