



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



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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ITEM 4 - Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Statement on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

MYANMAR

21 March 2022

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,¹ as well as his Conference Room Paper on 'UN Member States' Arms Transfers to the Myanmar Military'.²

Myanmar extends its full support to the Special Rapporteur and will grant him access to the country. This same cooperation is offered to all mandate-holders. **Myanmar therefore issues a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.**

The Special Rapporteur's latest report catalogues horrors on an 'immense' scale by the illegal military junta. These atrocities include murders, executions, enslavement, torture and inhumane treatment, rape and sexual violence, the forcible transfer and displacement of communities, the use of human shields, forced recruitment, the destruction of property, pillaging, and the weaponisation of humanitarian aid.

In a finding shared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights,³ the Special Rapporteur confirms that these acts constitute probable crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In horrific accounts, the Special Rapporteur documents junta methods of torture that include stabbings, shocking with electrical devices, burning of skin and genitalia, the ripping out of fingernails, stress positions and deprivation of food and water. A displaced Karenni man recounts the killing of his two teenage daughters by junta bombardment. His daughters, he says, were 'thrown in different directions. The stomach and lower body... blown to pieces.'

The Special Rapporteur goes on to record more junta acts of terror – the burning of bodies, the ramming of peaceful protestors with vehicles, the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, the continued dehumanisation and exclusion of the Rohingya, the hostage taking and use of children as human shields, and the likely targeting of LGBTQ detainees because of their sexual orientation.

At the heart of these atrocities lies a deeper shame: that they have long been known to the Human Rights Council yet allowed to escalate. Myanmar shares the Special Rapporteur's profound

¹ A/HRC/49/76.

² A/HRC/49/CRP.1

³ See A/HRC/49/72.

disappointment with 'the failure of the international community to act decisively to help prevent atrocities and hold perpetrators accountable'.

Where Myanmar stands in firm solidarity with the people of Ukraine, it also acknowledges the Special Rapporteur's insight that our people are similarly 'under siege by a brutal and relentless military attack' – indeed, as the Special Rapporteur's Conference Room Paper documents, one armed by a common aggressor.

Myanmar accepts the Special Rapporteur's recommendations, particularly those addressed to the National Unity Government, and supports the Special Rapporteur's calls on UN Member States to:

- **increase humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar**
- **immediately halt the sale or transfer of weapons and dual-use technology to Myanmar and ensure that aviation fuel is not transferred to the Myanmar military**
- **exert strong, sustained pressure on the military junta including through coordinated, targeted economic sanctions and embargoes of weapons and dual-use technology**
- **support efforts to hold perpetrators of atrocity crimes accountable in impartial and independent courts, including the International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice and national courts in countries with universal jurisdiction laws**
- **recognise the National Unity Government as representing the sovereign will of the people of Myanmar and as a trusted source and partner to engage in the distribution of humanitarian, health, education and other support for the people of Myanmar.**

Myanmar, in closing, expresses its continued gratitude to the Special Rapporteur for his tireless commitment to its people.