



USCB Condemns the executions of Kyaw Min Yu, Phyo Zeya Thaw, Aung Thura Zaw, and Hla Myo Aung

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(Washington, DC, July 25, 2022) The U.S. Campaign for Burma is outraged by the news that the Burmese junta executed four democracy activists over the weekend. These four executions are the first reported judicial executions by the junta in decades. However, this action was not about carrying out judicial proceedings, but rather a desperate attempt to instill fear into the people of Burma.

Kyaw Min Yu (also known as Ko Jimmy), Aung Thura Zaw, Phyo Zeya Thaw, and Hla Myo Aung were not executed for the crimes they were accused of by the junta regime. Instead, they were murdered to send a message to the people of Burma still fighting for their basic human rights. The junta's message is clear: anyone that continues to fight for democracy and justice may meet the same fate. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, there are at least 76 additional prisoners, including two children, sentenced to death by the junta. In light of these four executions, these 76 sentences create a message of fear that can be repeated 76 times.

With the passage of the BURMA Act, the U.S. could lead the international community in bringing justice to the people of Burma and holding the Burmese junta accountable for its crimes against humanity. Even without the BURMA Act, the Biden administration has the executive power to carry out sections of the bill. However, the Biden administration and U.S. policymakers lack the political will to end impunity for the Burmese military. The people of Burma are willing to risk it all, including their lives, for basic human rights and inclusive democracy. The U.S. is built on those very tenets and should do everything in its power to support those fighting for those same freedoms. We must continue to urge the U.S. to pass the BURMA Act, support the people of Burma, and hold the Burmese junta accountable for its crimes.

“We, at the U.S. Campaign for Burma, are outraged by the recent news and denounce the heinous executions of Ko Jimmy, Phyo Zeya Thaw, Aung Thura Zaw, and Hla Myo Aung. They were not guilty of the crimes they were accused of by the Burmese junta. They were seen as a threat that needed to be removed. Their murders and the murder of more than 2,000 people in Burma show that the junta regime has no interest in seeking peace or honoring the 5-point consensus, but rather self-preservation and maintaining its power over the country.” Karen Ames

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