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WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

Statement on the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women
“Justice + Accountability = End System of Impunity”

Date: Nov 25, 2022

The Women's League of Burma will organize 16 Days of Activism in various forms and activities along with white ribbons campaign under the theme of "Justice + Accountability = End System of Impunity" to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which falls today on the 25th November.

The Women's League of Burma is not only solely opposed to violence but also uses the Zero Tolerance policy to condemn any kind and act of violence. In addition, WLB has documented all forms of violence committed against women and highlighted the issues from the national to the international level for justice and accountability.

Burma/Myanmar is a country of prolonged civil war, and the main reason for the increase in violence against women in various ways is the use of the patriarchal system and military dictatorship. Additionally, due to the existing mindset dominated by patriarchy, the presence of those who practice the ideology of the patriarchy, and military dictators who seized power unjustly for generations, the survivors have not received full justice and accountability until today.

According to the WLB's members' organizations, since the military junta seized the power on 1st February 2022 until today, they have documented 111 domestic violence cases, 14 rape cases committed by civilians, at least 16 rape cases, and 3 sexual assault and violence cases committed by the military Junta's soldiers. In addition, according to news media, there are more than 40 cases of women being raped and burned to death for forced disappearance. The violence continues to occur every day with no punishment mechanism for the perpetrators, who are getting impunity for their crimes.

Additionally, because of the current situation in Burma/ Myanmar, it is a terrifying situation that no one, including women, girls, and persons with diverse sexual orientations, has no security protection but is also deeply concerned. WLB has designated the Military Junta as a criminal for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, which have been systematically and intentionally committed for generations. Therefore, WLB strongly urges to work together in respective roles to ensure accountability of the perpetrators and to achieve justice.

Women's League of Burma would like to encourage women, girls, persons with diverse sexual orientations, and anyone to join the White Ribbon Campaign to eliminate physical, mental, and sexual violence and to stand against all forms of violence with WLB.

For the reason stated above, the Women's League of Burma urges authorities and officials as follows:

- To collaborate with national and international human rights organizations and women organizations to eliminate violence against anyone, including women, girls, and persons with diverse sexual orientations, as soon as possible.
- To take effective action against perpetrators who have committed violence against women, girls, and persons with diverse sexual orientations.
- To develop effective policies and implementation activities to stop violence, to prevent and protect against violence.
- To provide the necessary security protection and services, rehabilitation programs, and financial support for the victims and survivors.
- For the international community to take effective action to end the system of impunity and access to justice for the crimes committed by the military Junta.

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