Open letter to UK Foreign Secretary: sanction all companies involved in supplying aviation fuel to Myanmar

Dear Minister,

To mark International Human Rights Day and in solidarity with the Myanmar people who bravely continue to defend their rights and democracy against the Myanmar military junta, we, the 550 undersigned Myanmar, regional and international organizations, call on the Government of the United Kingdom (UK Government) to immediately take action to ensure no British companies is involved, directly or indirectly, in the supply of aviation fuel to the Myanmar military junta. We further call for your decisive, stronger actions to end the Myanmar military’s onslaught of horrendous crimes.

The illegal coup attempt launched by the Myanmar military in February 2021 has led to gross human rights violations nationwide, and caused an unprecedented human rights and humanitarian crisis. Terrorizing attacks by the junta, most notably airstrikes, have taken more than 2,500 lives and displaced over 1.2 million people, with exact numbers are expected to be much higher. Civilians have been consistently targeted and under constant threat of aerial attacks, including in schools, medical facilities, religious sites and people fleeing for their lives.

The junta’s intensified aerial attacks have been enabled by aviation fuel, supplied and brokered by foreign companies. The supply chain of aviation fuel from foreign ports have direct links to war crimes being committed daily by the junta. We note that British companies have provided insurance services to vessels delivering aviation fuel to Myanmar. As long as the supply chain is allowed to continue, the junta’s atrocities will take more lives and exacerbate the massive displacement. The junta’s countless war crimes and crimes against humanity have been permitted to rage on for the past 22 months. It is time the international community issued a complete ban of arms flow to cut its supply to this international criminal entity.

The UK Government’s commitment to values of democracy and human rights must be reflected in your responses in effective and meaningful actions to address the deepening catastrophes in Myanmar. We note the UK Government’s previous actions in support of the Myanmar people’s efforts to end this illegal attempted coup to protect the rights of the Myanmar people, including sanctions on war criminals and junta-linked businesses, and support for the opening of a National Unity Government’s office in your country who legitimately represents the Myanmar people. We further welcome the UK Government’s delayed support for The Gambia case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice. However, more decisive, practical actions are urgently needed to end ongoing aerial attacks and atrocities in Myanmar. Your government’s pledge to address the conflict-related gender violence must also prioritize women and girls in Myanmar’s plight.
We earnestly appeal to you to immediately sanction Burmese companies and state-owned enterprises involved in the supply of aviation fuel to the junta. We further call on the UK Government to impose an immediate ban on British companies involved in any aspect of aviation fuel supply to Myanmar. It is essential that the UK Government ensure sanctions on the delivery of aviation fuel to Myanmar which covers the provision of services such as insurance, accreditation and verification services to vessels and infrastructure used to supply aviation fuel to Myanmar. As the Myanmar military has previously seized commercial-grade aviation fuel from suppliers, we believe that a complete ban on supplying aviation fuel to Myanmar is essential.

We welcome the role the UK Government has played in seeking the coordination of the implementation of sanctions to date. We request you seek allies such as Australia, Canada, the United States and the European Union to join you in sanctioning aviation fuel supplies to Myanmar. As Myanmar civil society, we are aware that such sanctions on aviation fuel could impact commercial domestic flights. However, we believe that the humanitarian benefit of reducing atrocious air-strikes far outweigh any inconvenience caused by sanctioning fuel supplies.

Lastly, we entrust the UK Government to pass a UN Security Council resolution which places a comprehensive global arms embargo on Myanmar. The resolution must cover all weapons, munitions and equipment, as well as military training and assistance.

As the people of Myanmar sacrifice their livelihood and future for a federal democratic Myanmar which upholds human rights and equality for all, the UK Government must utilize all tools at your disposal to stop atrocities committed by the illegal military junta on a daily basis and protect the lives of Myanmar civilians.

For more information, please contact:
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Signed by 550* Myanmar, regional and international organizations including 314 organizations who have chosen to not disclose their name:

*The total number of signatories to the open letter was updated on 13 December 2022.

1. 8888 Generation (New Zealand)
2. Action Committee for Democracy Development (Coalition of 14 grassroots networks)
3. Active Youths Kalaymyo
4. Ah Nah Podcast - Conversations with Myanmar
5. Albany Karen Community
6. All Burma Democratic Front in New Zealand
7. All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) - Australia Branch
8. All Young Burmese League (AYBL)
9. Alliance for Democracy in Myanmar (Western USA)
10. Alliance for FREE Burma Solidarity
11. ALTSEAN-Burma
12. Anti-Junta Forces Coordination Committee - Mandalay (AFCC)
13. Anyar Taw Eain
14. ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
15. Asia Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)
16. Asian Cultural Forum on Development Foundation (ACFOD)
17. Asian Democracy Network (ADN)
18. Assistance Association for Political Prisoners
19. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
20. Association Suisse-Birmanie
21. Auckland Kachin Community NZ
22. Auckland Zomi Community
23. Australia Chin Communities Council Inc.
25. Ayeyarwaddy Journalist Society (AJS)
26. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization (Magway Region)
27. Ayeyarwaddy Youth Network
28. Back Pack Health Worker Team
29. Blood Money Campaign
30. Burma Action Ireland
31. Burma Campaign UK
32. Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)
33. Burma Lawyer Council (BLC)
34. Burma Medical Association
35. Burman suomalaiset Finland
36. Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA)
37. Burmese Community Development Collaboration (BCDC)
38. Burmese Community Group (Manawatu, NZ)
39. Burmese Community Support Group (BCSG)
40. Burmese Medical Association Australia (BMAA)
41. Burmese Muslim Association (BMA)
42. Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK
43. Burmese Rohingya Welfare Organization New Zealand
44. Cambodian Americans and Friends for Democracy and Human Rights Advocates
45. Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD)
46. CDM Support Team Mandalay (CSTM)
47. Chin Community of Auckland
48. Chin Human Rights Organization
49. Civil Information Network - CIN
50. CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
51. CRPH Funding Ireland
52. Dawei Development Association
53. Delta News Agency
54. Dhanu Youth Organization
55. Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar
56. Dooplaya Karen Community Development Group (DKCDG)
57. Educational Initiatives Prague
58. Ethnic Myanmar Communities Council of Australia Inc.
59. European Karen Network (EKN)
60. European Rohingya Council
61. Federal FM Mandalay
62. Federal Myanmar Benevolence Group (NZ)
63. Food Not Bombs Kawthoolei အတွင်း အမောင် အိုင် အိုင်
64. Foundation of Khmer Samaki, USA
65. Free Rohingya Coalition
66. Freedom and Labor Action Group
67. Future Light Center
68. Future Thanlwin
69. General Strike Coordination Body
70. Generation Wave
71. Grass-root People
72. Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), Thailand
73. Human Rights Educators Network
74. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
75. India For Myanmar
76. Industrial Training Centre (ITC) Family Sydney
77. Info Birmanie
78. Initiatives for International Dialogue
79. Inlihtan Peninsula Tenasserim
80. Institute for Asian Democracy
81. Inter Pares
82. International Association, Myanmar-Switzerland (IAMS)
83. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
84. Justice 4 Rohingya UK
85. Justice For Myanmar
86. Kachin Association Australia (KAA)
87. Kachin National Youth Network - KNYN
88. Kachin State Civilian Movement- KSCM
89. Kachin Women’s Association Thailand
90. Karen Community Association UK
91. Karen Community in Norway (KCN)
92. Karen Community of North Carolina
93. Karen Community of Syracuse
94. Karen Human Rights Group
95. Karen Organization of America
96. Karen Peace Support Network
97. Karen Society of Buffalo
98. Karen Swedish Community (KSC)
99. Karen Women’s Organization
100. Karenni National Women’s Organization
101. Karenni Society Finland
102. Karenni Society New Zealand
103. Keng Tung Youth
104. Kyaukse University Students' Union - KUSU
105. Laiza Youth Committee
106. Let’s Help Each Other
107. LGBTIQ Strike of Mandalay
108. Los Angeles Myanmar Movement (LA2M)
109. Mandalay Regional Youth Association
110. Mandalay Youth Association
111. Matu Chin Community - NSW/UPU Chin Association
112. MeBoun Foundation
113. Medical Family Mandalay (MFM)
114. Metta Campaign Mandalay
115. MIIT Student Strike Column
116. Minbu Farmer Group
117. Mindat Chin Community NSW
118. Minhla Development Organization
119. Mon National Council (MNC)
120. Monywa Peoples' Strike Steering Committee
121. Mwetaung Area Development Group (MADG) Chin State
122. Myanmar Action Group Denmark
123. Myanmar anti-military coup movement in New Zealand
124. Myanmar Campaign Network (Australia)
125. Myanmar Community Coffs Harbour (MCC)
126. Myanmar Community Group Christchurch New Zealand
127. Myanmar Community Group Dunedin New Zealand
128. Myanmar Cultural Research Society (MCRS)
129. Myanmar Diaspora Group Finland
130. Myanmar Engineering Association of Australia (MEAA)
131. Myanmar Engineers - New Zealand
132. Myanmar Gonye (New Zealand)
133. Myanmar People Alliance (Shan State)
134. Myanmar Professionals Association Australia (MPAA)
135. Myanmar Students' Union in New Zealand
136. Myaung Education Network
137. Myaung Medical Team
138. Naphe Development Organization
139. Nelson Myanmar Community Group New Zealand
140. Netherlands-Myanmar Solidarity Platform
141. Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma (ND-Burma)
142. New Rehmonnya Federated Force (NRFF)
143. New Zealand Doctors for NUG
144. New Zealand Karen Association
145. New Zealand Zo Community Inc.
146. NLD Solidarity Association (NSW chapter)
147. NSW Karenni (Kayah) Communities
148. Nway Oo Guru Lay Myar
149. Overseas Mon Association, New Zealand
150. Pakokku Youth Development Council
151. Progressive Voice
152. Pwintphu Development Organization (Magway Region)
153. Pyithu Gonye (New Zealand)
154. Rohingya Action Ireland
155. Rvwang Community Association New Zealand
156. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
157. Save Myanmar Fundraising Group (New Zealand)
158. Sea Junction
159. Shan Community (New Zealand)
160. Shan MATA
161. Sisters 2 Sisters
162. Social Democracy Think Tank, Thailand
163. Southern Youth Development Organization
164. Swedish Burma Committee
165. Sydney Friends for Myanmar Unity
166. Synergy Social Harmony Organization
167. Ta’ang Students and Youth Union
168. Ta’ang Women’s Organization
169. Tamar Institute
170. Taninthari MATA
171. Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB)
172. The Free Burma Campaign (South Africa)
173. The Ladies
174. U.S. Campaign for Burma
175. Union for Civil Liberty Association
176. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
177. Universities Kachin Literature and Culture Association Yangon (Yangon JLH)
178. Utica Karen Organization
179. Victoria Myanmar Youth
180. We Pledge CDM (Australia)
181. White Coat Society Yangon
182. Women Advocacy Coalition Myanmar (WAC-M)
183. Women’s League of Burma
184. Women’s Peace Network
185. Yangon Medical Network
186. Young People for Social Democracy Movement, Thailand
187. Youths for Community-Myaung
188. Zo Community Australia Inc.
189. Zomi Association Australia Inc.
Additional 314 organizations have chosen to not disclose their name.