

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo,
President of the Republic of Indonesia
Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia
Gedung Bina Graha, Jalan Veteran No. 16, Central Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia.

21 December, 2022

Dear Mr. President,

We the undersigned student unions congratulate on your G-20 Presidency and welcome your Chairmanship of ASEAN which will commence in January 2023. We very much look forward to your leadership of ASEAN in a time when global political rifts are unceasingly intense with critical implications for the region and contentious regional issues, which include the coup d'état in Myanmar last year and continued atrocities of the Myanmar military, are in need of multilateral responses that will not fail.

We are certain that Mr. President is aware that on November 30th 2022, the military court of Insein Prison sentenced 11 youths including 7 university students to death: **Thet Paing Oo, Thiha Htet Zaw, Khant Lin Maung Maung, Thura Maung Maung, Khant Zin Win, Hein Htet and Zaw Lin Naing.**

With the prior execution of four pro-democracy activists and members of Myanmar's democratic opposition, including Kyaw Min Yu and Zeyar Thaw, the junta set a grim precedent by carrying out the execution of the political prisoners who had been given the death penalty. Needless to say, handing out death sentences with a lack of proper judicial proceedings is just one of the junta's modes of suppressing democracy and freedom of expression, along with extrajudicial killings, torture, arson and looting.

In July, the military ignored calls from ASEAN and the wider international community to commute the sentences of four late members of the opposition. Instead, the military proceeded with executions, effectively sabotaging ASEAN's credibility in its international response to the Myanmar coup. Now, the court ruling on November 30th is yet another example of the military's disregard for cooperation, which undermines the intent of ASEAN's 5-point consensus and the spirit of the ASEAN Charter. Consequently, ASEAN failed in its attempts through diplomacy to save four lives and it failed the people of Myanmar too.

Twenty months after the adoption of ASEAN's 5-point consensus, with ever increasing pressure on ASEAN's leadership in the international response, the appeasement policy towards the junta has been proven unproductive. Thousands of people have lost their lives to the junta's brutality since April last year when the consensus was adopted and each were the members of ASEAN community. Today Myanmar is becoming a killing field where the military junta is intentionally targeting civilians including childrens all over the country. The death penalty of 7 students is just a tip of the iceberg of all crimes and atrocities committed by the junta in Myanmar. This has to be stopped and the military must not proceed with

executing these 7 activists. Towards this end, we appeal to you Mr. President, as the incoming Chairman of the ASEAN, regarding the following points:

1. ASEAN should pressure the junta by every possible means to commute these death sentences, to release all the political prisoners to stop arbitrary arrests of the activists and members of democratic constitution and to abolish the death penalty for members of the opposition, which are unacceptable in the first place and in conflict with the ASEAN Charter.
2. In doing so, ASEAN should pose a credible penalty on the junta which is to be carried out should the junta fail to comply. Repeated ignorance of cooperation must not be tolerated since it could undermine ASEAN's credibility in this time of contentious global politics.
3. Should the junta proceed with the executions or continue to perpetrate such heinous crimes against the people of Myanmar, the ASEAN's responses embodied by the 5-point consensus should be considered to be in need of complete reform. To facilitate this, contact with all the parties concerned including the National Unity Government, the National Unity Consultative Council and ethnic resistance organizations should be initiated as soon as possible.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of our highest consideration. We wish you all the best with your ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023.

Yours sincerely,

1. Pergerakan Mahasiswa Islam Indonesia (PB PMII)
2. Students Solidarity of Indonesia and Myanmar (SINMAR, Thailand)
3. Nepal Students Union
4. Chiang Mai University Student Organization, Thailand
 - (a) Chiang Mai University Student Council
 - (b) Chiang Mai University Student Union
5. Student Council of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
6. Mahidol University Student Council, Thailand
7. Kasetsart University Student Council Bangkok, Thailand
8. Student Council of Naresuan University, Thailand
9. Student Council of Prince of Songkla University Hatyai Campus, Thailand
10. Dagon University Students' Union
11. East Yangon University Students' Union

42. Myanmar Maritime University Students' Union
43. Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University Students' Union
44. Government Technical Institute (Insein) Students' Union
45. Government Technical Institute (Shwe Pyi Thar) Students' Union
46. Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute Students' Union
47. University of Medicine (1) Students' Union
48. Yangon Nursing and Midwifery Schools Students' Union Network
 - (a) Nursing Related Field Practice Training School Students' Union (NRFPTSSU)
 - (b) North Okkalapa Nursing Training School Students' Union (NONTSSU)
 - (c) Central Midwifery Training School Students' Union (CMTSSU)
 - (d) East Yangon Nursing Training School Students' Union (EYNTSSU)
 - (e) Thanlyin Midwifery Training School Students' Union (TMTSSU)
 - (f) Yangon Nursing Training School Students' Union (YNTSSU)
49. National Management Degree College Students' Union
50. Bago University Students' Union
51. Pyay Technological University Students' Union
52. Students' Union of Computer University Pyay
53. Pyay Education Degree College Students' Union
54. Pyay Nursing and Midwifery Training School Students' Union
55. Taungoo University Students' Union
56. Taungoo Technological University Students' Union
57. University of Computer Studies, Taungoo Students' Union
58. Taungoo Education Degree College Students' Union
59. Taungoo Nursing Training School Students' Union
60. Taungoo Nursing and Midwifery Training School Students' Union
61. Thayawady Agricultural Science Students' Union
62. Bago Midwifery Training School Students' Union
63. University of Computer Studies, Magway Students' Union
64. Yenangaung University Students' Union
65. Government Technical Institute (Chauk) Students' Union

66. Dawei Technological University Students' Union
67. Dawei Nursing Training School Students' Union
68. Agricultural Science - Dawei Students' Union
69. Mandalay University Students' Union
70. Mandalay University of Foreign Languages Students' Union
71. Mandalay Technological University Students' Union
72. Technological University (Mandalay) Students' Union
73. University of Technology (Yatanarpon Cyber City) Students' Union
74. National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) Students' Union
75. University of Dental Medicine Mandalay Students' Union
76. Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Students Union
77. University of Computer Studies, Mandalay Students' Union
78. University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) Students' Union
79. Mandalay Private Universities Students' Union
80. Nursing Training School Mandalay Students' Union
81. Technological University (Meiktila) Students' Union
82. Meiktila University of Economics Students' Union
83. Nursing Training School Meiktila Students' Union
84. Midwifery Training School Mandalay Students' Union
85. Pyin Oo Lwin Nursing Training School Students' Union
86. University of Computer Studies Meiktila Students' Union
87. Technical Institute Pyin Oo Lwin - Students' Union
88. Kyaukse University Students' Union
89. Mandalay GTI Students' Union
90. Myeik Technological University Students' Union
91. Myeik University Students' Union
92. Myitkyina University Students' Union
93. Myitkyina Technological Students' Union
94. University of Computer Studies (Myeik) Students' Union
95. University Students' Unions Alumni Force – USUAF