

Date: 1st February 2024

Joint Statement of Thai-Myanmar Activists on Resilience and Resistance; Reflecting on Three Years Since the Myanmar Military Coup

This 1st of February marks the tragic three-year commemoration of the junta's brutal actions and crimes against innocent civilians in Myanmar. Until now, 25,799 individuals have been reportedly arrested with 19,911 awaiting trial and sentencing. The toll includes the loss of 4,341 civilian lives, according to the data released by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

A staggering 2.3 million people have been displaced since the coup, and 18.6 million are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, including six million children. Myanmar's military conducted around 600 airstrikes from February 2021 to January 2023. The Sagaing region bore the brunt of this, enduring almost 90 days of bombardment, with Kachin, Karenni, and Karen states also facing substantial airstrikes. These figures highlight the extensive reach of the conflict, impacting all seven states and four out of seven regions in Myanmar since the coup.

Whenever Myanmar experiences clashes and political instabilities, neighboring countries, especially Thailand and India, serve as a refuge for the people from Myanmar. Particularly, Thailand, with its extensive shared border and historical ties, plays a pivotal role in Myanmar's quest for democracy. As the third-largest investor in Myanmar, Thailand's stability and development are intertwined with Myanmar's success. The cultural connections further strengthen this relationship. NGOs, CSOs, and International Organizations closely monitor the situation along the border, providing crucial aid. For decades, Thailand has served as a vital buffer zone, offering strategic space and a safe haven for those seeking refuge from the tumult in Myanmar. Hosting approximately 90,000 refugees since the mid-1980s, Thailand's importance has heightened, with an additional 45,000 seeking refuge after the February 2021 coup. Urgent international attention and support are needed to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in this crucial region.

On behalf of Thai and Myanmar activists, we vehemently condemn the military coup and the atrocities committed by the military regime over the past three years. Despite international pressure, the regime persists in its actions, seemingly believing it can act with impunity. We urge the Thai authorities such as Prime Minister of Thailand, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the House Committee on National Security, Border Affairs, National Strategy, and National Reform to:

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1. Welcome, accept, and provide adequate assistance to conflict and political refugees from Myanmar, while respecting their human dignity.
2. Ensure human rights and welfare of those displaced from Myanmar are protected.
3. Play an active role through active engagement with ASEAN and the international community, fostering collaboration with all pertinent stakeholders to shape meaningful outcomes.
4. Enhance support and safeguard the rights of migrants, including those working in Thailand, by extending comprehensive assistance and protection measures.
5. Forge strategic partnerships with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), leveraging their networks to facilitate cross-border humanitarian assistance to collectively address pressing challenges.

We also urgently call upon the international community to:

1. Hold the junta chief and all those responsible accountable for the crimes they have committed.
2. Intensify efforts for targeted sanctions against the military regime, including measures to sever economic ties and impose sanctions on MOGE-Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.
3. Halt the export and sale of aviation fuel to the military.
4. Provide humanitarian assistance to those in need, especially those displaced by political and conflict-related risks.
5. Engage and recognize actors with legitimacy and sufficient territorial control.

Last but not least, we call on all people to express their solidarity with the people of Myanmar, to strongly believe in the success of the revolution, to take down the military junta and to stand with the Myanmar people in their struggle till democracy, the will of the people, and human rights are restored in our land.

Statement Endorsed by

Commoners' Party, Thailand

From Singapore to Myanmar, Singapore

General Strike Committee of Nationalities

Milk Tea Alliance, Friends of Myanmar

Thai-Myanmar Activists Network

Thailand for Burma

Thalufa, Thailand

United Front of Thammasat and Demonstration (แนวร่วมธรรมศาสตร์และการชุมนุม)