



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

National Unity Government

<https://www.nugmyanmar.org>

Statement Regarding Internet Shutdown by Terrorist Myanmar Military Council

8 June 2024

The National Unity Government is continuously striving to fulfil the Union's ultimate goal of building the peaceful federal democratic union, where freedom, justice and equality prevail, as described in the Part (1), Chapter (4), Section (1) of the Federal Democracy Charter. In addition, every citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression and the right to information are deeply recognized as stated in the Part (1), Chapter (3), Section (1), Article (24) of the Federal Democratic Charter; "Everyone living in the Union shall be entitled to relish basic human rights", The National Unity Government's position statement on freedom of press and news media released on May 3, 2024, in paragraph (6) of the statement, "Endeavours to Strengthen the public's right to information" is also being implemented.

After an attempted unlawful military coup, Myanmar has become the country with the second highest internet shutdown in the world, and 13 out of 14 states are facing internet outages, and more than 80 townships are still facing internet blockages.

Now, the terrorist military council is using the access to information as a weapon and restricting it, banning the right to express and write freely, and shutting down the internet to cover up the general economic crisis that the public is facing and people's growing concerns, and their physical violence; mental blows; and war crimes. In addition, the terrorist military council has blocked the access to Facebook and is developing a social media network with an intention of openly violating public privacy. The newly developed application intends to access the user's data even when the application is not active and has access to the user's camera, user's location, contact phone numbers and be able to read text messages.

The National Unity Government strongly condemns the actions of the terrorist military council that limit and block the basic human rights of the people and will continue to endeavour to build an independent internet network in places free from the control of the terrorist military council. The National Unity Government calls the international community to provide a stronger support to the revolution to defeat the military dictatorship, which plays a fundamental role to restore the civil rights of the people, freedom of speech and expression and the right to information.

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