

56th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council**Item 4: Interactive dialogue on the oral progress report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar****Oral statement delivered by Khin Ohmar****On behalf of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)****3 July 2024**

Mr. President,

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's conference room paper on the gendered impact of the coup. The Myanmar military's *systematic and widespread* use of sexual and gender-based violence, *including rape*, as a weapon of war *against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities* has been well documented and widely reported *by Myanmar's ethnic women organisations since early 2000s, as well as by the UN Fact-Finding Mission for Myanmar in 2019.*

It is international inaction and failure to hold the military accountable *for its decades of blatant disregard for international law* that has emboldened it to deploy this weapon on a national scale as we are witnessing now *following its illegal coup attempt in 2021.*

While intensified fighting between Arakan Army and Myanmar military has severely impacted all communities in Rakhine, Arakan Army's actions against Rohingya *in Northern Rakhine State* are once again threatening the existence of Rohingya in their ancestral land. This underscores the urgent need to hold accountable all perpetrators *of violence* against Rohingya.

Myanmar military is rapidly losing while the people's revolution is advancing. The sacrifices of Myanmar's people *to defeat the junta* must not revert the country back to the pre-2021 status quo. But building a new Myanmar with this revolution also requires all revolutionary actors to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law in their resistance against the junta.

This moment presents a critical opportunity that should not and cannot be missed to end repetitive cycles of *Myanmar military's violence and impunity.* Myanmar military needs to be held accountable *for genocide against the Rohingya as well as its continuing war crimes and crimes against humanity throughout the country.* In this regard, we reiterate the *Special Rapporteur's* call to refer the situation in Myanmar to the *International Criminal Court (ICC)* under Article 14 of the Rome Statute.

The international community must also assist to enable Myanmar's resistance organisations to comply with international law, protect of civilians, and ensure justice and accountability in their efforts to dismantle the Myanmar military and to realize their vision to establish federal democracy that guarantees inclusivity, equality and peaceful co-existence.

Thank you.