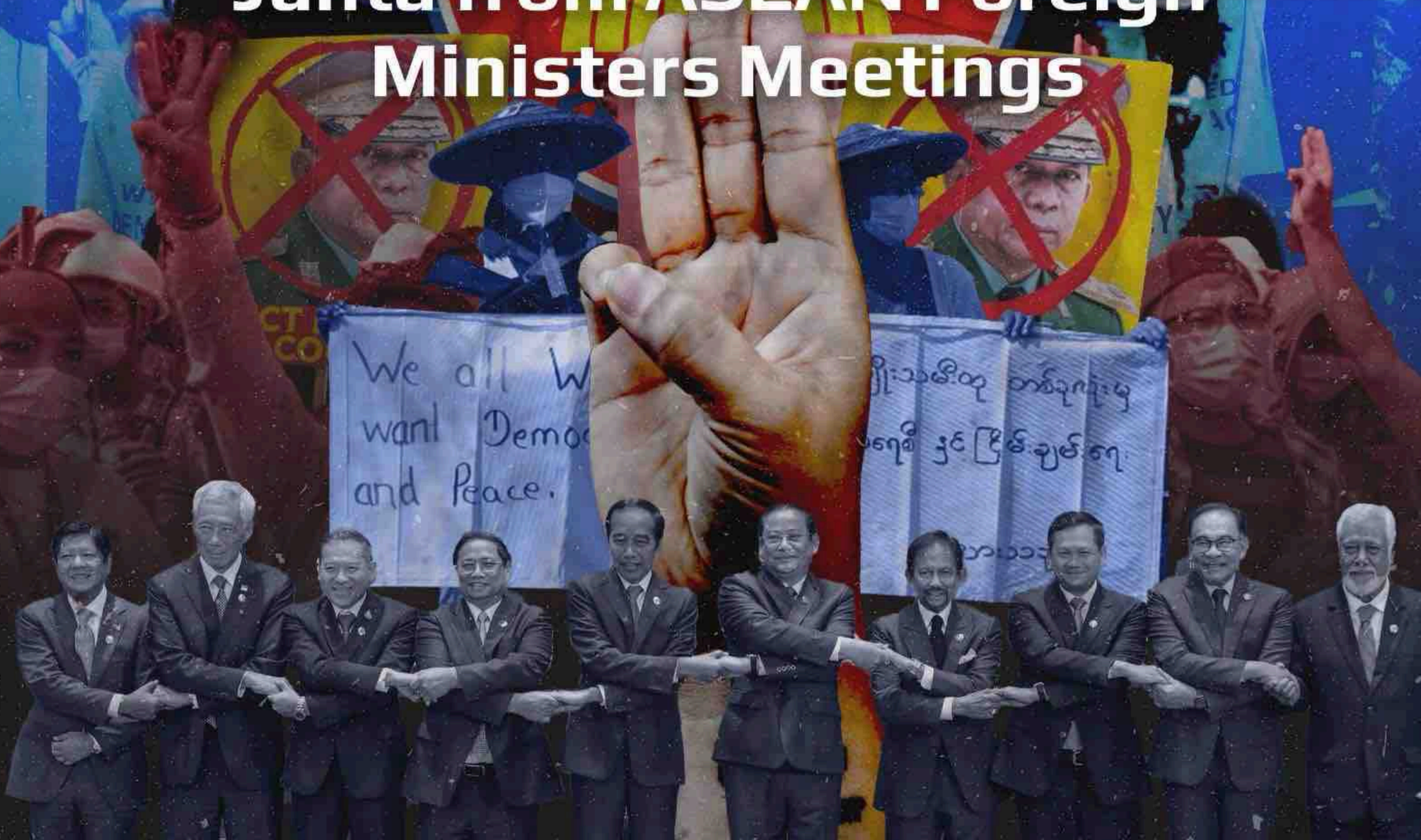




Joint statement by 333 Civil Society Organizations and Revolutionary Forces to reject Myanmar Military Junta from ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meetings



We all want Democracy and Peace.

ကျွန်းသမီးတို့ တစ်ခုလုံးမှ
လက်ရှိ ဒုငံ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး
အတွက်



TO:

ASEAN Secretariat

H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General

Government of Laos

H.E. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister

Foreign Ministers of

**Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines,
Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**

CC:

National Unity Government of Myanmar

Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E Daw Zin Mar Aung

Special Representative to ASEAN, Kyaw Swa Swe

Foreign Ministers of

Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India,

Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea,

Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States

17 July 2024

Subject: Democratic representation of Myanmar people
at the upcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting and
related events

Dear ASEAN leaders,



We, the undersigned 203 organisations, are writing this open letter to you to request your support for the democratic will of Myanmar people in relation to the upcoming **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related events** that will be held from July 21 to 27 in Vientiane, Laos.

Specifically, we are seeking your commitment to:

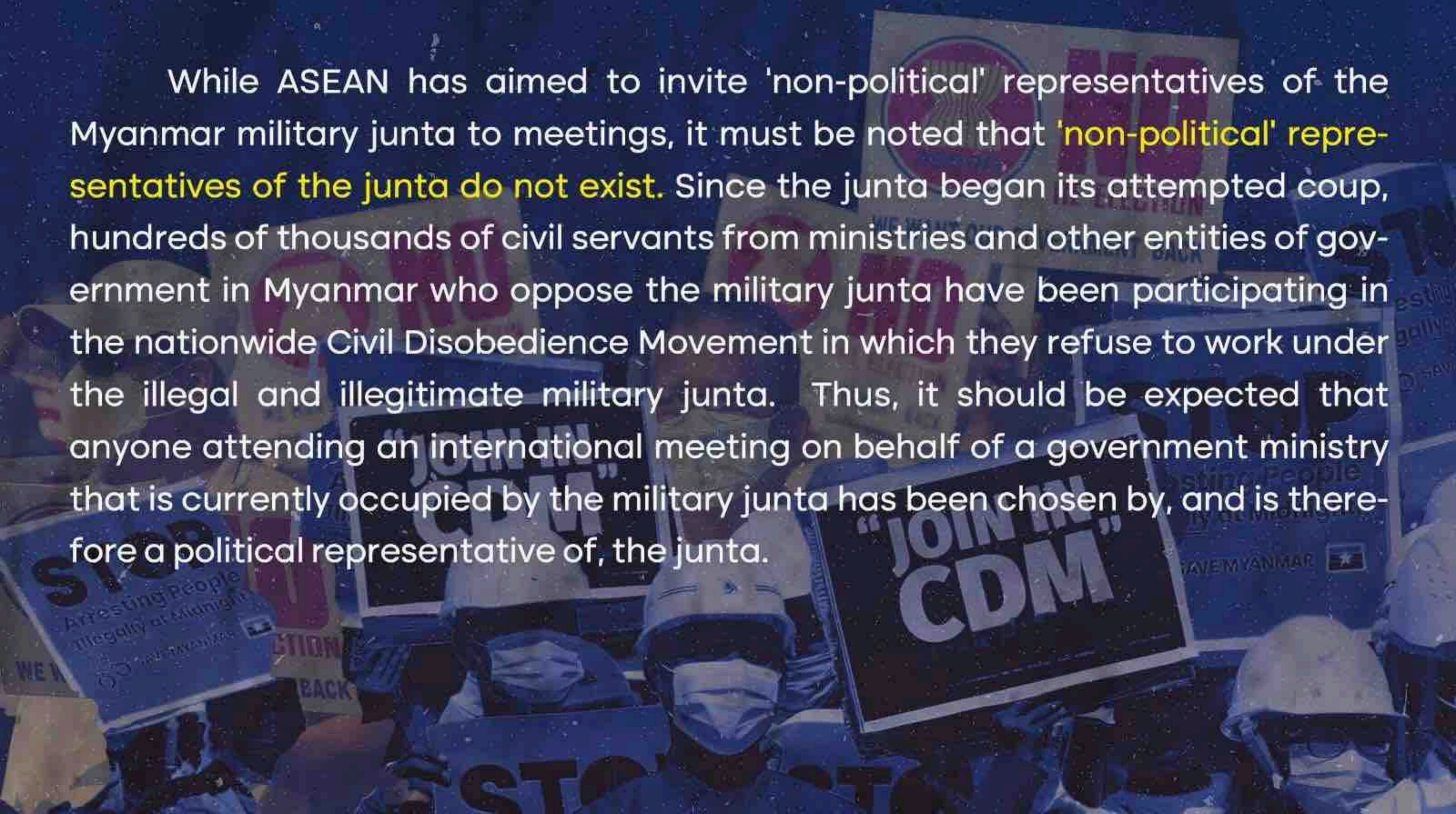
1. **exclude Myanmar military junta members from all ASEAN meetings and events;**
2. **ensure that the people of Myanmar are represented by their democratically elected leaders, the National Unity Government, in all ASEAN meetings and events.**

We are concerned that members of the military junta that is currently illegally and illegitimately occupying the institutions of national government in Myanmar and inflicting extreme violence on the people may have been invited to some of the events associated with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Our concerns follow the fact that earlier this year under the Lao PDR presidency of ASEAN, the **military junta's 'permanent secretary' for foreign affairs attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat** in Luang Prabang.

ASEAN
Reject SAC

Recalling ASEAN's decision to exclude the military junta leadership from high-level meetings since October 2021, an invitation for military junta representatives to attend events related to the upcoming ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting would **create a 'back-door entrance' to the high-level meetings** which are to be held in the same week, in the same location, among many of the same invitees. As you would be aware, ASEAN's position was adopted in response to the junta's failure to implement ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus which called for a cessation of violence and dialogue towards a peaceful resolution to the crisis that has resulted from the junta's attempted coup. We expect that you would also be aware that since then the military junta has made no effort or progress towards a return to peace and democracy.

While ASEAN has aimed to invite 'non-political' representatives of the Myanmar military junta to meetings, it must be noted that **'non-political' representatives of the junta do not exist**. Since the junta began its attempted coup, hundreds of thousands of civil servants from ministries and other entities of government in Myanmar who oppose the military junta have been participating in the nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement in which they refuse to work under the illegal and illegitimate military junta. Thus, it should be expected that anyone attending an international meeting on behalf of a government ministry that is currently occupied by the military junta has been chosen by, and is therefore a political representative of, the junta.



We would like to underline the fact that **the Myanmar military junta is not, by any definition, a government** and therefore has no legitimacy to represent the people of Myanmar in any ASEAN meetings or activities. As you would be aware, a democratic general election was held in Myanmar on November 8, 2020. In a landslide victory, the voters elected a government led by the incumbent National League for Democracy party. Independent national and international election observers unanimously concluded that the election was free and fair, and the result represented the will of the Myanmar people.



Yet, on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military launched **an illegal coup attempt**. Since then, an illegal and illegitimate military junta has occupied multiple institutions of government, including domestic ministries, the central bank, overseas embassies and the former national chambers of commerce and industry, and attempted to pose as the government of Myanmar. The junta refers to itself as the 'State Administrative Council' (SAC), even though it has no authority to hold government office. The military junta is rejected by the people of Myanmar because it is an illegal criminal organisation that meets the criteria for a terrorist organisation under both Myanmar national law and international law.

Under the guise of the SAC, the military junta has launched a nationwide campaign of heinous crimes against the people of Myanmar in an attempt to suppress and control them. To date, **the military has killed over 5,300 people**, arrested over 27,000 and detained over 20,700. The military has committed **massacres, indiscriminate airstrikes, artillery shelling, sexual and gender-based violence, mass torture and mass arson**. Such atrocities amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. As a result of these crimes, an estimated 3 million people have been internally displaced. The junta is led by the same generals who stand accused of genocide and crimes against humanity under universal jurisdiction in Argentina, and are under investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Meanwhile, the remaining elected members of the government and parliament (the 'Pyidaungsu Hluttaw' in Burmese) formed the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and then the **National Unity Government (NUG) based on the mandate gained from the 2020 election results**. Thus, the appropriate, legitimate and democratically elected representatives of Myanmar people in all international fora, including ASEAN meetings, are the National Unity Government (NUG). We encourage you to establish formal diplomatic relations with the NUG, if you have not done so already. The NUG can be contacted via the details provided on their official website.

By contrast, when **ASEAN and foreign governments engage with the military junta** as though it were a government and enable the junta's representatives to network with the international community, this **risks significant harms for the people of Myanmar**, including:

- decisions being made illegitimately on behalf of Myanmar people;
- legitimising the Myanmar military junta and assisting their illegal attempts to appear as a government;
- assisting the military junta to build relationships and gain access to funds and resources;
- ultimately, assisting the military junta in its illegal (and to date unsuccessful) quest to take full control of the country.

Engagement with the Myanmar military junta also brings **risks for ASEAN and foreign governments**, such as damaging the governments' credibility in the eyes of existing and future democratic leaders of Myanmar. When engagement with the junta is facilitated by ASEAN entities, it also inflames existing tensions within Myanmar and **dramatically undermines any remaining credibility of ASEAN for diplomacy and mediation**.





It is clear that multiple **ASEAN member states and dialogue partners are opposed to, or at least deeply concerned about, military junta representatives** being involved in ASEAN meetings and events. For example, ASEAN has excluded the junta from previous foreign ministers' meetings and summits and has decided not to allow Myanmar to assume the rotating leadership in 2026. Further, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) excluded junta representative Mya Tun Oo from participation in ministerial meetings in November 2022. The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia boycotted an ADMM air force chiefs meeting hosted by the military junta in September 2023. Singapore also boycotted ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism training sessions hosted by the Myanmar military junta and Russia in August 2023. All of these actions have been welcomed by the people of Myanmar.

Yet, **further serious action is urgently needed from ASEAN, namely excluding the military junta from ASEAN meetings and events** and ensuring that the people of Myanmar are represented by their democratically elected government. These actions would be **in line with the United Nations' decision** to avoid allowing military junta members to represent Myanmar in the General Assembly. This request **also echoes the concerns raised by the United Nations Special Rapporteur** on the situation of human rights in Myanmar who recommends that ASEAN must not allow Myanmar military junta personnel to participate in any ASEAN meetings. He also calls on ASEAN Member States to "not attend if the invitations to the junta military personnel are not rescinded." Further, the Special Rapporteur urges that "Member States who support human rights, democracy, and the aspirations of the people of Myanmar publicly reject the SAC's false claim as a legitimate government and instead recognise the NUG as the legitimate representative of the people of Myanmar."

FREE BURMA

If you require further information about the current situation in Myanmar or assistance in distinguishing legitimate government representatives of Myanmar from illegal military junta members, we remain at your disposal to assist in this process. We await your response with much anticipation. Meanwhile, we will continue to monitor whether your actions support the people of Myanmar or the brutal and illegitimate military junta.

Sincerely,

This letter is endorsed by **333 organisations** representing Myanmar, regional and international civil society, including the 292 organisations listed below and 41 organisations which have chosen not to disclose their names.

contact:

Defend Myanmar Democracy

communication@defendmyanmardemocracy.org

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

- 1 Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
- 2 Action Group for Democracy and Human Rights
- 3 Ah Nah Podcast _ conversations with Myanmar
- 4 All Arakan Youth Organizations Network (AAYON)
- 5 ALTSEAN-Burma
- 6 Arakan CSO Network
- 7 Association of Human rights watch and documentation
- 8 Association Suisse-Birmanie (ASB)
- 9 Athan
- 10 Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation - AWDO (Magway)
- 11 Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organisation - AWDO (Nagphe)
- 12 Ayeyarwaddy Youth Network
- 13 Burma Action Ireland
- 14 Burma Civil War Museum (BCM)
- 15 Center For Action Points (CAP)
- 16 CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
- 17 CRPH Funding Ireland
- 18 Dawna Tenasserim - IDPs Supply Force
- 19 Delta News Agency
- 20 Educational Initiatives Prague
- 21 Equality Myanmar
- 22 European Rohingya Council
- 23 Federal FM Mandalay
- 24 Forum Asia
- 25 Freedom and Labor Action Group (FLAG)
Future Thanlwin
- 27 Generation Wave Members of GSCB
- 28 Anti-coup Forces Coordination Committee (ACFCC -Mandalay)
- 29 General Strike Collaboration Committee (GSCC)

- 30 Myanmar Labor Alliance (MLA)
- 31 Mandalay Strike Force (MSF)
- 32 Samgha Sammaga-Mandalay
- 33 Mandalay Alliance Coalition Strike
- 34 Mya Taung Strike
- 35 Mandalay University Students' Strike
- 36 Chanmyatharzi Township People's Strike
- 37 Maharaungmyay Township People's Strike
- 38 Mandalay Youth Strike
- 39 No.12 Basic Education Branch High School (Maharaungmyay) Students' Union
- 40 Co-operative University Mandalay Students' Strike
- 41 Mandalay-based People's Strike
- 42 Multi-Religions Strike
- 43 Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Students' Strike
- 44 Daung Sitthe Strike
- 45 Seinpann Strike
- 46 Industries Strike
- 47 Mandalay-Based University Students' Unions (M-DY_SUs)
- 48 Yadanabon University Students' Union (YDNBUSU)
- 49 Ethnic Youth General Strike Committee (Mandalay)
- 50 Mandalay Medical Family (MFM)
- 51 White Coat Society Yangon (WCSY)
- 52 CDM Medical Network (CDMMN)
- 53 Alliance of Students' Union – Yangon (ASU-Yangon)
- 54 Civil Information Network (CIN)
- 55 Anti-Junta Alliance Yangon-AJAY
- 56 University Students' Unions Alumni Force
- 57 Monywa People's Strike Steering Committee
- 58 All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Monywa District)
- 59 Network of University Student Unions – Monywa



- 60 National League for Democracy (Monywa Township)
- 61 The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society (Monywa)
- 62 Thakhin Kodaw Mhine Peace Network (Monywa)
- 63 Former Political Prisoners and New Generation Group – Monywa
- 64 Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee (Monywa)
- 65 Monywa-Amyint Road Strike Leading Committee
- 66 Yinmarpin and Salingyi All Villages Strike Committee
- 67 Pale Township People's Strike Steering Committee
- 68 Depayin Township Revolution Steering Committee
- 69 Latpadaung Region Strike Committee
- 70 Wetlet Revolution Leading Committee
- 71 Kachin Student Union
- 72 Coalition Strike Committee – Dawei
- 73 Dawei Youths Revolutionary Movement Strike Committee
- 74 Kalay Township Strike Committee
- 75 Magway People's Revolution Committee
- 76 Myingyan Civillian Movement Committee
- 77 Kyain Seikgyi Spring Revolution Leading Committee
- 78 General Strike Committee of Basic and Higher Education (GSCBHE)
- 79 Basic Education Worker Unions - Steering Committee (BEWU-SC)
- 80 Representative Committee of University Teacher Associations (RC of UTAs)
- 81 Basic Education General Strike Committee (BEGSC)
- 82 Action Committee of Basic Education Students (ACBES)
- 83 Women Alliance Burma (WAB)
- 84 Mandalay Women Strike
- 85 Yangon Women Strike
- 86 Monywa Women Strike
- 87 Monywa-Amyint Road Women Strike
- 88 Chindwin (West) Villages Women Strike
- 89 Kalay Women Strike
- 90 Depayin Women Strike
- 91 Taze Women Strike
- 92 Dawei (Ashaetaw) Women Strike
- 93 Gangaw Women Strike
- 94 Thayat Chaung Women Strike
- 95 Wetlet Twonship Women Strike
- 96 LGBT Alliance
- 97 LGBT Union – Mandalay
- 98 Monywa LGBT Strike
- 99 LGBT Community Yangon
- 100 LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kalay Region)
- 101 LGBT Alliance Myanmar (Kyaukse Region)
- 102 Pyi Gyi Tagon Strike Force
- 103 All Aung Myay Thar San Schools Strike Force
- 104 Twitter Team for Revolution (TTFR)
- 105 A-Yar-Taw People Strike
- 106 Chaung Oo Township Youth Strike Committee
- 107 Myaung Youth Network
- 108 5/ of Zaya State Strike
- 109 Shwe Pan Kone People s Strike Steering Committee
- 110 MayMyo Strike Force
- 111 Taze Strike Committee



112 Yasakyo Township People s Strike Steering Committee
113 Dhobama (2021 Generation)
114 Gwa Township anti - junta Alliance
115 Human Rights Defenders and Promoters -HRDP
116 Human Rights Foundation of Monland
117 Info birmanie
118 Inlihtan Peninsula Tenasserim – IPT
119 Institute of Chinland Studies
120 International Association, Myanmar-Switzerland (IAMS)
121 Iron Adventure Force
122 Justice & Equality Focus
123 Karen Peace Support Network
124 Karenni Human Rights Group
125 Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)
126 Karenni Social Welfare & Development Center (KSWDC)
127 Kayan New Generation Youth - (KNGY)
128 Kayan Rescue Committee (KRC)
129 Kyae Lak Myay
130 KyWO Kayan Women's Organization
131 MAGGA Initiative
132 Mata စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း
133 Min Hla Farmers Group
134 Minbu Farmers Group
135 Myanmar Action Group Denmark
136 Myanmar Community Austria (MCA)
137 Myanmar Cultural Research Society (MCRS)
138 MyaYar Knowledge Tree
139 NRFF - New Rehmonnya Federated Force
140 Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica
141 Oway Institute
142 Progressive Voice

143 Pwintphyu Development Organisation
144 Rohingya Action Ireland
145 Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas
146 Spring Friends
147 Tanintharyi Nationalities Congress – TNC
148 Tenasserim Student Unions' Network – TSUN
149 The Chin Center for Peace and Reconciliation
150 The Ladies Organization
151 US Campaign for Burma
152 White Coat Society Yangon
153 Women Advocacy Coalition-Myanmar
154 Yangon Deaf Group
155 Yangon Medical Network
156 ကမ်းလက်ကူ
157 ဒို့မြေကွန်ရက် (LIOH)
158 နွေဦးရွက်သစ်ဆေးခန်း
159 ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ရက်
160 မကွေးမြို့နယ်တောင်သူများ
161 မျိုးဆက်-Generations
162 မြန်မာ့မွတ်စလင်အစည်းအရုံး BMA
163 သောင်ရင်းသတင်းလွှာ
164 အညာလွင်ပြင်ရပ်ဝန်း



Additional 130 organisations endorsed the letter, including the 128 organisations listed below and 2 organisations which have chosen not to disclose their names.



- 1 Alliance for Democracy in Myanmar (ADM)
- 2 Anti Dictatorship in Burma - DC Metropolitan Area
- 3 Arakan Peace Youth Network
- 4 Be A Light in The Darkness
- 5 Blood Money Campaign
- 6 Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK
- 7 Former ABSDF (C&A)
- 8 Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC)
- 9 Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (GMSR)
- 10 Global Myanmar Support Foundation
- 11 HTY Scout Channel
- 12 Information & Scout News (Hlaing)
- 13 International Society of Myanmar Scholars and Professionals
- 14 Justice Movement for Community - Innlay
- 15 Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC)
- 16 Kyimyindaing Scout Channel
- 17 Magway Region Human Rights Network (MHRN)
- 18 Mon State Development Center - MSDC
- 19 Muslims of Myanmar Multi-ethnic Consultative Committee (MMMCC)
- 20 Mya Yar Knowledge Tree
- 21 Myanmar Global Support Foundation (MGSF - Global)
- 22 Myanmar Tourism Committee
- 23 New Myanmar Foundation (NMF)
- 24 New Power Generation
- 25 No Boundary Supporting Group "NBSG"
- 26 NOK Information & Scout Echo
- 27 North Dagon & East Dagon News
- 28 OCTOPUS (Youth Organization)
- 29 People Defense and Supporting Force
- 30 Politics for Women Myanmar
- 31 Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA)
- 32 Queers of Burma Alternative
- 33 Rainbows in the Storm - မုန်တိုင်းကြားက သက်တံများ
- 34 Sisters2Sisters
- 35 Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
- 36 Supporting Brothers- ထောက်ပံ့ညီနောင်
- 37 Tamwe Nway Oo Channel
- 38 Technological Teachers' Federation - TTF (နည်းပညာဆိုင်ရာဆရာများအဖွဲ့ချုပ်)
- 39 Thaketa & Dawbon Scout Channel
- 40 Volunteers in Myanmar
- 41 Women Lead Resource Center (WLRC)
- 42 Yangon Public Relations (YPR)
- 43 Youth Empowerment (YE)
- 44 Youth Scout For Democracy (YSD)
- 45 ပြည်သူ့ကောင်းကျိုးဆောင်ထောက်ပံ့အဖွဲ့
- 46 ပြည်သူ့ရင်ခွင်
- 47 သမိုင်းသယ်ဆောင်သူများ
- 48 အနာဂါတ်အလင်းရောင် ထောက်ပံ့အဖွဲ့
- 49 Action Against Myanmar Military Coup (Sydney)
- 50 Burmese Community Support Group (Sydney)
- 51 Myanmar Campaign Network
- 52 Support 4 Myanmar
- 53 Western Australia Myanmar Community
- 54 Western Australia Myanmar Democratic Network
- 55 Women Activists Myanmar

56 Burmese Canadian Network , Myanmar Emergency Fund
57 Myanmar Student Association Ontario
58 Myanmar action group Denmark
59 Padauk, Suomi-Myanmar Seura and Myanmar Diaspora Group Finland
60 Doh Atu - Ensemble pour le Myanmar
61 CRPH, NUG Support Team Germany - Deutschland
62 Italy - Burma Friendship Association
63 Myanmar Community in Italy
64 Federation of Worker's Union of Burmese Citizens in Japan (FWUBC)
65 League for Democracy in Burma (LDB,Japan)
66 Myanmar Nationalities' Support Organization-JP (MNSO)
67 Myanmar's Youth Association Hokkaido (MYAH)
HOKKAIDO
68 Palaw Supporting Group - Malaysia
69 Yaw Funding Malaysia
70 Netherlands Myanmar Solidarity Platform
71 8888 Generation (New Zealand)
72 All Burma Democratic Face
73 Auckland Kachin Community NZ
74 Auckland Zomi Community
75 Burmese Community Group (Manawatu, NZ)
76 Burmese Rohingya Welfare Organisation New Zealand
77 Chin Community of Auckland
78 Citizen of Burma Award - New Zealand
79 Dunedin Myanmar Community New Zealand
80 Federal Myanmar Benevolence Group (NZ)
81 Karenni Society New Zealand
82 Myanmar Community Christchurch New Zealand

83 Myanmar Engineers - New Zealand
84 Myanmar Gonye (New Zealand)
85 Myanmar Students' Union in New Zealand
86 National Advocacy Group - New Zealand
87 Nelson Myanmar Community New Zealand
88 New Zealand Doctors for NUG
89 New Zealand Karen Association
90 New Zealand Zo Community Inc.
91 Overseas Mon Association. New Zealand
92 Rvwang Community Association New Zealand
93 Save Myanmar Fundraising Group (New Zealand)
94 Shan Community (New Zealand)
95 Aung San Suu Kyi Park Norway
96 Burma Human Rights Network
97 Chin Community in Norway
98 CRPH Support Group, Norway
99 K'cho Ethnic Association
100 Kachin Association Norway
101 Matu Burma Foundation
102 Myanmar Baptist Churches in Norway
103 Myanmar Catholic Community In Norway
104 Myanmar Hindu Community - Norway
105 Myanmar Muslim Organization - Norway
106 Norway Falam Community
107 Norway Matu Community
108 Norway Rawang Community
109 Norway-Myanmar Democratic Force
110 Rohingya Community in Norway
111 Youth for democratization of Myanmar (UDM)
112 Zomi Christian Fellowship of Norway
113 Zomi Community Norway
114 Palaw Supporting Group - Singapore
115 YW Funding Singapore



- 116 Association Suisse-Birmanie International Association, Myanmar Switzerland
(IAMS) Switzerland
- 117 National Alliance Bangkok Thailand
- 118 Palaw Supporting Group - Thailand Thailand
- 119 Yaw Funding Thailand Thailand
- 120 Burma Campaign UK UK
- 121 With Myanmar UK UK
- 122 Campaign for a New Myanmar USA
- 123 Helping Hands for Burma (H2B)USACM USA
- 124 No Business With Genocide USA
- 125 Save Myanmar - USA USA
- 126 Sone Yay Foundation USA
- 127 USACM. US Advocacy Coalition for Myanmar USA
- 128 We Support NUG-NB USA

