



**Statement on the recent & planned Executions in Myanmar #SayNoToDeathSentence  
From #MilkTeaAlliance Friends of Myanmar.**

**24/09/2024**

Slightly over two years ago, we, the Milk Tea Alliance Friends of Myanmar, released a statement condemning the executions of Ko Jimmy, Phyo Zeya Thaw, Hla Myo Aung, and Aung Thura Zaw, calling on the Junta to cease executions of political prisoners and for the international community to take more substantial action against the Junta<sup>1</sup>.

It is with sorrow and anger that we read of more executions, with two already carried out and five more expected this week<sup>2</sup>. We stand against the use of the death penalty in all contexts, life is precious, justice systems are fallible or corrupt. So regardless of the country doing it, whether the USA<sup>3</sup>, China, Myanmar, Singapore or elsewhere, the use of capital punishment is something we oppose.

The death penalty is not a solution to crime, it's not a deterrent. It often is misused & abused to execute opponents of the state & is antithetical to human rights.

Yesterday morning it was reported that the Junta executed Chan Myae Thu, who is the first woman to be "formally" executed since coup attempt, as well as her husband Maung Kaung Htet for allegedly carrying out the Insein bombing in Oct 2022<sup>4</sup>. While there is a clear lack of due process and fair trial, these norms are so far from what can even be expected from the murderous Junta's corrupted processes, it would almost be legitimizing them to expect otherwise.

The same corrupt and opaque processes sentenced Kaung Pyae Sone Oo, Zeyar Phyo, Hsann Min Aung, Kyaw Win Soe & Myat Phyo Myint to death. Their executions are expected to happen on the 24th September (today).

There are another 120 or so people detained who have been sentenced to death in the Junta's

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<sup>1</sup> [Statement on the Executions of Ko Jimmy, Phyo Zeyer Thaw, Hla Myo Aung, and Aung Thura Zaw](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://aseanmp.org/publications/post/stop-execution-of-five-pro-democracy-activists-in-myanmar-now-so-utheast-asian-mps-say/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/20/south-carolina-death-row-prisoner-execution>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/19/at-least-8-killed-in-myanmar-insein-prison-blast-media-reports>

prisons. We can't imagine the fear & pain of the friends & families, who have either lost their loved ones already or await news of the fate of those who are at the whim of the murderous Junta.

The lack of action by the international community after the 2022 executions have emboldened the Junta to continue to carry out these formal executions. We say formal as we also know that there are many cases of deaths in custody due lack of care of detainees or abuse by Junta forces. Indeed there are numerous reported cases of prison guards killing prisoners<sup>5</sup> as well as torture & rape in prisons<sup>6</sup>.

We are neither shocked nor surprised at these executions by the Junta in Myanmar. They have proven over and over again that there is no level that they will not stoop to, no abuse or atrocity they won't commit in their attempt to crush resistance to their tyranny. They have arrested, tortured, killed peaceful protesters. They have used sexual violence. They have burned whole towns, and villages. They have carried out 1000s of airstrikes, some against IDP camps of those already displaced. Their crimes against the peoples of Myanmar are numerous.

Despite all of the atrocities committed the international community's response continues to be lackluster & that directly plays into the Junta's feelings of impunity to carry out these executions. They know that there will be little or no consequences.

It is well beyond time that ASEAN, Myanmar's Neighbours and the wider international community realize that the Junta is not an actor that will bring peace or stability to Myanmar, that engaging with it only prolongs the abuses and suffering of the Peoples of Myanmar. Cease engaging with the Junta. Stop enabling them, stop selling them arms, stop providing them with any kind of legitimacy. That's it. That is the call.

To our friends in Myanmar we stand with you, we feel your pain, see your anger, frustration & we will continue to do what we can to support you. We know it is not enough.

The Milk Tea Alliance - Friends of Myanmar group came into being from a shared desire among movement leaders, organizers and activists not only for democracy but also for solidarity and inclusion.

We commit to stand with peoples of Myanmar until there is a just and transformative future for all.

#MilkTeaAlliance Friends of Myanmar

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<sup>5</sup><https://myanmar-now.org/en/news/junta-authorities-execute-political-prisoner-outside-detention-facility-in-dawei/>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/08/myanmar-detainees-tortured-to-crush-opposition-to-coup/>