



# Special Advisory Council for MYANMAR

## Junta-Controlled Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Dissolved: SAC-M Welcomes NUG Decision

18 February 2025

The Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M) welcomes the decision of Myanmar's legitimate National Unity Government (NUG) to dissolve the junta-controlled Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC).

SAC-M urges the NUG to establish a new, impartial and independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) to replace the defunct MNHRC without delay.

The MNHRC was formed in 2011 under the quasi-civilian Thein Sein government and has been complicit in the horrific violence committed by the Myanmar military in the years that followed, including since its attempted coup on 1 February 2021.

The NUG's decision to dissolve the Commission follows a ruling by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) on 31 December 2024, to officially revoke the MNHRC's accreditation status and remove it from its network. GANHRI, which accredits NHRIs worldwide, found that the MNHRC had failed to meet the Paris Principles – minimum standards that NHRIs must meet to be considered credible and effective, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.

In practice, the MNHRC's main function since its formation has not been to protect the rights of the Myanmar people, but to attempt to whitewash the military's abhorrent human rights record. The Commission stayed silent during the military's genocidal attacks against the Rohingya in Rakhine state in 2016 and 2017. The MNHRC has not once raised the alarm as credible allegations of human rights violations and serious international crimes committed against civilians by the junta have become widespread since its attempted coup.

GANHRI's decision to revoke the MNHRC's accreditation marks a significant blow to the military's attempts to launder its enduring international image as one of the world's worst human rights abusers.

The people-led process already underway to remove the military and build a new Myanmar is, at its heart, a struggle for human rights. The establishment of an impartial, independent NHRI for Myanmar, that upholds the Paris Principles, is a critical step in the development of robust human rights protections for all Myanmar people.



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SAC-M calls on the NUG, having sacked the junta-controlled MNHRC leadership, to also sack the criminal leaders of the illegitimate Myanmar military, including Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and his deputy, General Soe Win and appoint new, legitimate leaders to head the military.

Furthermore, SAC-M calls on the NUG to dissolve the junta-controlled Union Election Commission and establish a new, independent Election Commission in preparation for such time that free, fair, and genuinely democratic elections are held in accordance with the Federal Democracy Charter.



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