



On International Women's Day, the Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma Calls for the Recognition of Women's Contributions to the Pro-Democracy Movement

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For Immediate Release

On International Women's Day, the Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma (ND-Burma) calls for the international community to recognize the resilience of women in the country's democratic movement and to honour their commitments. For decades, a culture steeped in patriarchy has discriminated against women. Yet, they have consistently sought to challenge misogyny and ensure their voices are heard. ND-Burma condemns all forms of violence against women and girls and urges their participation in these revolutionary times to be acknowledged and encouraged.

Since the attempted coup on 1 February 2021, women's rights have been under increased attack. The junta has sought to aggressively silence the calls of women of all generations through physical and verbal threats. Women and young girls have been unjustly arrested, detained and even killed for their activism. Their consistent and unwavering courage is evidence of their refusal to stand down in the wake of the military's brutality.

With millions forcibly displaced across Burma, women-led organizations, including several ND-Burma members, have filled critical gaps in providing life-saving humanitarian assistance and leading awareness-raising sessions. By sharing knowledge about women's rights with conflict-affected communities, they are empowered through access to information.

With all forms of violence on the rise, women's organizations have not only provided pathways to safety through safe houses and counselling but have also upheld the dignity of survivors. Moreover, communities across the country struggle with the lack of accessible health care and educational opportunities; nevertheless, women increasingly take on these

roles as teachers, nurses, and doctors to ensure that children and those with illnesses still have access to necessary services.

Women human rights defenders have consistently demonstrated the skills, leadership, and competencies needed to be on the frontlines of Burma's pursuit for a federal democracy. They've taken on various roles and transcended gender norms and expectations by joining the frontlines of the armed resistance movement as soldiers, medics, and fundraisers. Despite the immense risk to their safety, they have also used their platforms to call for accountability for the junta's war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Further, ND-Burma calls upon all actors in the pro-democracy movement, including those involved in local governance and the National Unity Government, to recognize the pursuit for federalism and gender equality simultaneously. The international community must stand with women and advocate for protecting and promoting their rights and freedoms in Burma. In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR), women must be involved in the future of Burma's political landscape.

Women must be supported and fiercely encouraged as they continue to challenge the status quo.

Media Contacts

Name: Nai Aue Mon

Signal: +66 86 1679 741

Name: San Htoi

Signal: +66 64 195 6721

ND-Burma was formed in 2004 to facilitate collaboration among Burmese human rights organizations on the human rights documentation process. The 13 ND-Burma member organizations seek to use the truth about what communities in Burma have endured to advocate for justice for victims.

Members

- Assistance Association for Political Prisoners – Burma
- Chin Human Rights Organization
- Human Rights Foundation of Monland
- Kachin Women’s Association – Thailand
- Ta’ang Women’s Organization
- Ta’ang Students and Youth Union
- Tavoyan Women’s Union
- Association Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
- All Arakan Students’ and Youths’ Congress
- Future Light Center

Partner Organizations

- East Bago – Former Political Prisoners Network
- Pa-O Youth Organization
- Progressive Voice