

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

29 June 2022

In his opening remarks, **Thomas H. Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar** called on the Council to urgently reassess and recalibrate their policies towards Myanmar and to recognize that a change of course is imperative. He reported that in the face of widespread public opposition to the junta, the military has accelerated the brutal campaign of kills, arbitrarily detention of political prisoners and executions. He affirmed that repeated attacks on civilians, along with grave human rights violations, constitute **crimes against humanity and war crimes**. The Special Rapporteur focused on the impact that this crisis is having on Myanmar's **children**. He reported numbers of children displaced, tortured, beaten, burned with cigarettes, sexually and physically assaulted, to list a few.

He also condemned the failure of the international community's current approach to the crisis in Myanmar, as well as of sanctions imposed on the junta. He called on the Security Council to consider and vote a **resolution** concerning Myanmar.

The Special Rapporteur, recognising the centrality of ASEAN in this crisis, called for a policy of "non-indifference". He also urged the international community to provide greater support to those fleeing Myanmar including through resettlement programs.

Interactive dialogue

25 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. The majority of the Member States, including **the EU, Ireland, the U.S., and Australia** condemned the coup and the violations of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights perpetrated by the military. They were also deeply concerned by accounts of enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture, arbitrary detention, the brutal killing of civilians and the death penalty. **Countries** also expressed concern over the growing impact of the crisis on children's access to food and water, education, and health services. **Bangladesh, Mauritania, Maldives and Pakistan** focused on the situation of the Rohingya Muslims minority, persecuted under Myanmar's military rule. They called to support efforts to hold perpetrators of atrocity crimes accountable in courts.

By contrast, **Venezuela** stressed that imposing politicized mandates does not contribute to the cause of human rights. It rejected the illegal sanctions imposed on the country that cause serious suffering to its population, violating its most basic rights, demanding their immediate elimination. It also reiterated that the Council must not continue to support these mandates against the countries of the South, unnecessary and ineffective violations of the right to self-determination of peoples and the universal principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Likewise, **Belarus** did not support the adoption of country-specific resolutions and the establishment of country-specific mandates without the consent of the governments of the states concerned.

NGOs remained deeply concerned by increasing reports of serious, gross and systematic human rights violations against minority groups, women, children and political prisoners. While reporting facts and figures, NGOs condemned the increased use of arrests and the death penalty by the military junta as tools for silencing those expressing dissent. This included journalists, protestors and political opponents. Consequently, they called on the international community to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and prioritize the situation in Myanmar as a matter of policy. They called on the international community to implement concrete measures to hold the military leaders accountable for the crimes they commit. **Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada**, in particular, called on the international community to take measures to ensure accountability for perpetrators and remedy for victims. They urged the Security Council to refer the case to the International Criminal Court.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (25 country delegations):

Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mauritania, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic Countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden), United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Pakistan (on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Switzerland, Bangladesh, Malaysia, UK, Timor-Leste, Russia Federation, Gambia

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (10):

Access Now, Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Baptist World Alliance, Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques - Centre CCPR, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Dignity - Danish Institute against Torture, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

To watch full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).