

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

14 June 2022

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights** mentioned that since her last update to this Council in February 2021, the human rights situation in Myanmar has continued to **rapidly decline**. Still suffering from the devastating consequences of the **February 2021 military coup**, the people of Myanmar remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and displacement, human rights violations and abuses. She affirmed that we are witnessing the systematic and widespread use of tactics against civilians, in respect to which there are reasonable grounds to believe the commission of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The High Commissioner reported that despite commitments made by the military to ASEAN, human rights violence in Myanmar has intensified. It has been informed that local residents are often detained or used as human shields. In some cases, they may have been forcibly disappeared. A well-documented tactic of the military is the burning of entire villages, residential buildings, schools, houses of worship, and other objects specially protected under IHL. She was concerned about the continued use by the military of the so-called **"four cuts" strategy** for punishing the civilian population and alienating those who refuse to accept their attempts to regain control. Moreover, Ms. Bachelet reported the use of **arbitrary arrest and detention** to repress peaceful expressions of dissident. Former detainees have reported the frequent use of torture and ill-treatment in military bases, police stations and other places of detention. Reporting recent concerning development on the **intention of executing death sentences**, the High Commissioner called on military authorities to refrain from such a regressive step which would violate the right to life and further set back prospects for political reconciliation.

In relation to the critical situation in the **Rakhine State** and human rights violations against members of the **Rohingya Muslim community**, the High Commissioner urged ASEAN and its members to continue engaging with all relevant national stakeholders and called for sustained and concrete action by all parties to stem the violence.

Interactive dialogue

Majority of the countries, including **Australia, Canada, EU, France, Japan, Lithuania (on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries), Malawi, and Thailand** showed their concerns towards the sharp deterioration in the humanitarian, security, health and economic conditions. They condemned the ongoing use of violence against civilians and other egregious human rights violations. Many additionally condemned the use of the death penalty and arbitrary detention. Urging the military regime to cease violence and to release all those unjustly detained, member states called for justice and accountability programs for ending impunity and breaking the cycle of violence, crimes against humanity, war crimes and atrocities committed in Myanmar, including through a longstanding support for the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar and other justice mechanisms. Among the neighbouring countries, **India** reported humanitarian and health assistance, financial support and democratic process activities implemented in order to protect human rights and welfare of the Rohingya minority group temporarily sheltered in the Country. **China**, that has provided a number of humanitarian supplies to Myanmar and Bangladesh, informed its availability in continuing such support within its capacity, and in accordance with the needs of both sides. It mentioned the constant advocacy efforts in calling all the parties to promote a political solution and protect human rights through constructive dialogue and cooperation. **Bangladesh**, focusing on the help provided to the Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in the country, reported the impossibility to accommodate their desire to return home, with the guarantee and protection of their rights.

NGOs denounced the atrocity tactics across the country, burning of villages, indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes, and mass killings, in the continuous attempts to wipe out the democratic resistance to the failed coup. They regretted the lack of progress from the authorities' part towards ensuring justice and accountability of responsible of war crimes and crimes against humanity. They were also gravely concerned about arbitrary arrests and death penalties without appeal. Unanimously, they called on governments and companies to provide humanitarian assistance.

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

Lithuania (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries), European Union, Pakistan, France, Japan, Sierra Leone, Canada, Bangladesh, Venezuela, Australia, Russian Federation, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Libya, Laos RDP, Malawi, India, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, New Zealand, Gambia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Iran.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (10):

Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques - Centre CCPR, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Human Rights Now, DIGNITY - Danish Institute Against Torture, International Commission of Jurists, European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, CIVICUS, International Bar Association, Association pour la defense des droits de l'homme et de la revindication.

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