

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

Interactive dialogue on the report of OHCHR on the progress made and remaining challenges with regard to the recommendations of the independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar in its conference room paper on the economic interests of the military

22 September 2022

The UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. **Nada Al-Nashif** addressed the Council over the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM). She highlighted the FFM's call for **Tatmadaw's financial and economic isolation** as a crucial element in pursuing accountability and contributing towards civilian oversight over the military's actions. The human rights situation in Myanmar has become even graver. The military has been consistently repressing and terrorizing the country's population in its attempts to assert full control. **Ms. Al-Nashif** urged the international community to take all steps within its power to support the people of Myanmar. She also urged them to act in a coordinated fashion to financially isolate the military. Efforts must be made to avoid adverse socio-economic impacts on the people of Myanmar more generally. To that end, consultation on appropriate steps **with civil society and the wider democratic movement**, including the National Unity Government, representatives from ethnic and religious minorities, and trade unions, is crucial. In conclusion, she outlined targeted measures that Member States should consider. While there have been some steps taken by various actors following the FFM's recommendations, particularly since the coup, **substantially more can be done to stem the economic resources and supply of arms** that enable the military to continue its assault on the Myanmar people. These measures are fundamental to uphold business and human rights principles and to ensure that financial partnerships do not fuel human rights violations.

Interactive dialogue

24 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. Several countries, including **U.S., Canada,** and the **EU** supported the establishment of the FFM on Myanmar. They also supported the relevant recommendations it provided to states, investors and businesses, international financial institutions, and the United Nations. They expressed concern about the deteriorating human rights situation and violations committed in Myanmar by the military forces. Countries condemned the military coup of 1 February 2021, as well as the military's ongoing violence, including killings and sexual and gender-based violence against civilians, including human rights defenders, as well as the continuation of widespread arbitrary detentions, which constitute grave violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international law. **Bangladesh** noted with concern the significant gap in implementing the FFM's recommendations to control the financial flow to the Myanmar Military stemmed from international business and investment. In addition, a number of states continue to provide arms to Myanmar.

Belarus and **Venezuela** stressed respect for sovereignty and non-interference and deemed it vital that discussions within the UN forums be held in the spirit of dialogue and the search for realistic and non-confrontational approaches to resolving conflict situations. They regretted the absence of Myanmar in updating the Council on its achievements. The **Russian Federation** said the situation in Myanmar is arbitrarily distorted, with selective methods based on double standards. It believed that a constructive approach and cooperation within the HRC is impossible without access to the country. **China** regretted the absence of Myanmar as a concerned country. Unlike the accusations in the OHCHR's report, the military cooperation between China and Myanmar does not violate international obligations.

Many NGOs regretted that the recommended sanctions, which are intended to starve Myanmar's military of money, were either ineffective or inadequate. They also regretted that they had not been implemented. NGOs, sharing findings and concerns on abuses, crimes and atrocities committed against the population and the Rohingyas, hoped that Myanmar would return to democracy and the people would be able to live normal lives again. Among others, **Human Rights Now** implored all states to pressure the junta to end the killings and arbitrary detentions of civilians. In addition, all states should take measures to weaken the junta's resources and legitimacy. Few NGOs, including **CIVICUS**, called on the UN Security Council to end its inaction and refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court or establish a separate criminal tribunal to investigate and prosecute the full spectrum of atrocity crimes in Myanmar.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (24 country delegations):

Lithuania (on behalf of Nordic Baltic countries), EU, Pakistan (on behalf of OIC), France, Luxembourg, Australia, Maldives, Venezuela, Russia Federation, Namibia, China, United States, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Canada, Thailand, Malawi, Jordan, Singapore, The Gambia, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Lao People's Democratic Republic

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (9):

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques - Centre CCPR, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Edmund Rice International Limited, Human Rights Now, Human Rights Watch, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination iuventum e.V., The Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development

International organizations (0)

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