

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51<sup>st</sup> SESSION

### Oral Update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

26 September 2022

**Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights**, provided the Council with an oral update on the human rights situation in Myanmar. Ms. Al-Nashif affirmed that since her last update in June, the people of Myanmar have been caught in a **rapid downward spiral, with growing suffering, fear, and insecurity**. Myanmar's military's offensives throughout the country are designed not only to target its opponents but also to **punish any communities** it deems to be supporting them. Military tactics **increasingly involve indiscriminate attacks and weaponry**. The growing use of air power and artillery is significantly impacting the population and residential areas, including schools, monasteries, and civilian infrastructure. Ms. Al-Nashif said that since February 2021, at least 2.316 people (including 188 children) have been killed.

Widespread fear and insecurity among the civilian population has **forced over 1 million individuals to leave their homes**, living in precarious conditions without humanitarian access, access to food, medical assistance, and other basic services. Ms. Al-Nashif reported cases of **death, physical abuse, ill-treatment and torture in prisons, detention and interrogation centers, and police stations**. Myanmar's military-controlled judicial system has been weaponized to **execute opponents**. Executions of former Parliament members and democracy activists represent an important indicator of the regression of human rights in Myanmar and the **military's complete disregard for international law**. Regarding civic space, the military's announced plans to create a register and impose a new tax on mobile phones will **increase the risk of surveillance**, further imperiling human rights defenders, journalists, and members of the pro-democracy movement. Informing the Council on documented cases of killings, injuries, arbitrary detention, and mass displacement of civilians resulting from clashes between the Myanmar military and the **Arakan Army in the Rakhine and Chin State**, Ms. Al-Nashif highlighted the vulnerability of **minority communities**.

In this context, the international community should **support Bangladesh** in providing protection, education, and livelihood opportunities for refugees, while continuing to pursue international accountability efforts. **Rohingya refugees are deprived of citizenship rights** and civil documentation, limiting their freedom of movement, and access to education and health services. They face daily extortion by camp authorities, village administrators, the police, and military. Conditions for safe, dignified, and sustainable returns are not yet evident. In conclusion, Ms. Al-Nashif called for **urgent action** to reverse the catastrophic situation, to cease violence and to restore peace, democracy, and sustainable development. **ASEAN must reinvigorate its efforts** to bring humanitarian support and promote a resolution to the crisis, in consultation with the people's representatives, and with support from **regional powers**.

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