

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

### Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar

19 March 2024

**Mr. Thomas Andrews, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar**, stressed the importance of consider the crisis in Myanmar. The SR affirmed that while the junta now has lost territories, troops and the capacity to promote its legitimacy, it remains extremely dangerous. The number killed or injured by landmines more than doubled last year [2.7 million people have now been displaced; 18.6 million Myanmar people, including six million children, are in need of humanitarian aid].

He reported that horrific attacks, and other systematic human rights violations against the Rohingya continue unabated despite provisional measures handed down by the International Court of Justice in the genocide case brought by the Gambia and joined by several members of this Council.

The actions of the military junta are impacting the people of Myanmar, the region and the world. This is because, thousands of desperate people continue to flee into neighbouring countries; the Junta fighter jets have violated the airspace of Myanmar's neighbors, bombs have landed across borders; the Junta soldiers are running for safety outside of Myanmar; and finally, the international criminal networks have found Myanmar the top opium producer in the world and a global center for cyber-scams operations.

Since the beginning, **ASEAN** and its leaders have tried to engage with the junta to bring an end to the crisis, without success.

The SR, in conclusion, highlighted three critical steps to be taken in order to meet needs of the people of Myanmar: 1. **a humanitarian aid strategy**; 2. **ending impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity**, referring the situation to the ICC and requesting investigations: responsible for atrocity crimes in Myanmar must know that they will be held accountable; and 3. **investing now in preparations for Myanmar's transition**, building a political framework that enfranchises Myanmar's rich and diverse population while affirming human rights, equality and justice as the pathway to peace.

**Myanmar did not deliver a statement.**

### Interactive dialogue

35 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. **The majority of the countries** strongly reiterated the need to carry out credible, transparent, independent and impartial investigations into all violations of international law and to bring their alleged perpetrators to justice. They condemned the continued violence against ethnic minorities such as the Rohingya and civil society in general and call on all actors to respect international law. **Member States** strongly condemned the violent actions of the military, including sexual and gender-based violence, aerial attacks, mass killings and persecution of civilians. **Switzerland** encouraged all parties to the conflict to engage in an inclusive dialogue in the search for a political solution to this serious crisis.

**The Russia Federation and Belarus** expressed its concern about the continued politicization of the HRC's mandate on Myanmar, given its implementation without the consent of the affected country. The Council needs to take into account the position of Myanmar, whose government calls on the international community to take a balanced and pragmatic approach and respect the sovereignty, integrity and political independence of the country.

Among the NGOs who took the floor, **FIDH** regretted that, since 2021 all the HRC's debates fail to provide the necessary actions to prevent the catastrophic human rights developments that continue to escalate. ASEAN bears a responsibility for this situation because it has given the junta vital time to perpetuate the most serious crimes with impunity. **The ICJ** urged the Council to increase support for coordinated documentation and accountability efforts to end impunity for gross human rights violations in Myanmar, including by adopting a resolution to extend the Special Rapporteur's mandate and ensuring it has adequate resources to continue its important functions effectively. **Many NGOs** reported human rights and humanitarian law violations, as well as acts constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the junta. **Human Rights Watch** shared data and figures. The human rights crisis will only get worse unless UN member states take urgent action, added **Amnesty International**.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (35 country delegations):

*Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, European Union, France, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan (on behalf of Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries), Switzerland, Australia (on behalf of a group of countries), Canada, Türkiye, Germany, Ireland, United States of America, Indonesia, Venezuela, China, Bulgaria, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bangladesh, Gambia.*

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques - Centre CCPR, Edmund Rice International Limited, Human Rights Now, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Rochun.

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