



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Oral Update on Myanmar

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PRESENTATION OF THE ORAL UPDATE

Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The human rights situation in Myanmar is among the worst in the world. Today I will go through a litany of human suffering that is difficult to fathom. Conflict, displacement and economic collapse have combined to cause pain and misery across the country.

Civilians paying the heaviest toll

Civilians are paying a terrible price. The number killed in violence in 2024 was the highest since the military launched their coup in 2021. 15 million people face hunger this year and in the latest appalling development up to 2 million people are reported to be at risk of famine. Most civilians were killed in brutal and indiscriminate air strikes and artillery shelling by the military as it continues to lose its grip on power. The targeting of schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, displacement camps and public events caused mass civilian casualties and displacement. At least 1,824 people were killed in 2024, including 531 women and 248 children, but these figures are probably a fraction of the real numbers as there is no verified information from several key areas where heavy fighting took place.

Analysis by my Office suggests the military has attacked **healthcare facilities** and staff more than 1,500 times since the coup, killing 131 health professionals. Armed groups opposed to the



coup also targeted administrators, local politicians and people affiliated with the military. While this violence is not comparable in scale and scope to that carried out by the military, all parties must respect human rights, international human rights and humanitarian law standards.

Terror campaigns, summary executions, and systematic torture

The military continued its campaign of terrorising the population through acts of extreme brutality, including beheadings, burnings, mutilations, executions, torture and the use of human shields. Soldiers launched unprovoked attacks on villages where there was no active fighting. For example, last October the military conducted at least 13 air strikes, burned up to 1,000 houses and killed in one day at least 25 civilians across several villages in Budalin township located in the Sagaing Division.

Nearly 2,000 people have died in custody since the coup, including 410 in 2024, more than one person per day. Analysis by my office indicates most deaths were the result of summary executions and torture. There are continued reports of the systematic use of torture and ill treatment, including sexual violence in places of detention. Conditions were reported to be horrific with squalid facilities, overcrowding, rotten food and contaminated water.

Massive displacement and humanitarian needs

Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis continues to rage. Over 3.5 million people are displaced and 20 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. **Hunger** is reaching catastrophic levels and agricultural productivity has declined by 16% since 2021. Fertiliser shortages, skyrocketing fuel prices and trade disruptions have driven the price of rice up by 47% in some regions. Mr President, I'm gravely concerned by an upsurge of violence in Rakhine State.

While there are no comprehensive verified figures, intense fighting between the military and the Arakan army is estimated to have killed thousands of civilians and caused many more to flee. Members of the Rohingya community are frequently caught between the parties who target them with complete impunity. Local sources reported at least 40 civilians were killed and 500 houses burned in just one incident in Kyok Niwa fishing village in January of this year. Tens of thousands of Rohingya are estimated to have crossed the border into Bangladesh in 2024, despite the border being formally closed. More than 8,000 fled by sea in 2024, an 80% increase over 23. At least 650 Rohingya, almost half of them children, died at sea.

The State Administrative Council took further steps in 2024 towards militarising the entire population of Myanmar. The activation of a law on military service led to **coercive conscription** into the armed forces, arbitrary arrests, often at gunpoint, and the enforced disappearance of women and men at military checkpoints and in displacement camps. Men aged between 18 and 35 and women aged between 18 and 27 face a constant risk of arrest and recruitment into the armed forces. This has created widespread fear and further displacement.

Many young people are attempting to seek safety outside the country, putting them at further risk of **trafficking, extortion and exploitation**, while increasing the regional impact of this crisis. The creation of so-called security and anti-terrorism groups at the local level has also blurred the distinction between the military and civilians, putting civilians at further risk. Collectively, these policies have had a serious impact on the economy, which was already on its knees.



Three quarters of the population are at or below the **poverty line**. Less than 80% of Myanmar's children are in school and over 3.7 million young people have left to seek protection beyond the country's borders. In western Rakhine, **food production** is projected to meet only 20% of local needs by mid-2025. UNDP has warned of an imminent threat of famine and a regression into survival mode. Myanmar's GDP has contracted by 17% since 2020 and is not projected to grow this year. The currency has plummeted and restrictions on imports and supply chain disruptions sent prices soaring. Inflation is projected at 30% this year.

As the formal economy collapsed, **crime and corruption flourished**. The Global Organised Crime Index reports Myanmar was the biggest nexus of organised crime in the world in 2024. The country remains the world's main producer of opium and one of the biggest manufacturers of synthetic drugs. Scam centres in eastern Myanmar raise serious concerns across the region and worldwide about human trafficking and other violations and abuses. People coerced into cyber crime are often subjected to torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, including sexual violence, arbitrary detention, and forced labour. Even when freed, they risk being prosecuted in their own countries.

Urgent imperatives – Respect for IHL and immediate humanitarian access

It is abundantly clear that this is a situation of concern to the international community, with serious implications for peace and security in the region and beyond. In response to this horrific situation, and reporting back to you on this is a very grim reading, it is imperative for the military immediately to end the violence, to allow unhindered humanitarian access, and release all arbitrarily detained people, as demanded by Security Council Resolution 2669. In Rakhine State, the Arakan Army must do more to honour their obligations on international humanitarian and human rights law and protect all civil individuals within the areas they control. Breaking the cycle of impunity that has characterised military rule in Myanmar over decades requires holding perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses to account.

Praising national and international accountability efforts

In November, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied for an arrest warrant against the head of the military junta, Mr. Min Aung Leng, for alleged crimes against humanity involving aspects of the deportation and persecution of the Rohingya in 2017. The Prosecutor has indicated that more applications for warrants will follow. At the International Court of Justice, so far 11 states have intervened in the case brought by the Gambia against Myanmar, alleging violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

On the basis of principles of universal jurisdiction, an Argentinian federal court has issued an arrest warrant against Mr. Min Aung Leng and military and political leaders of for the 2017 violence against the Rohingya. These steps send an important signal alongside the imposition by several countries and the regional organisation of targeted sanctions against individuals and companies in Myanmar. But given the humanitarian, political and economic impacts fuelling instability across the region, the international community must do more.



The way out of the crisis

The High Commissioner reiterates his calls for an arms embargo coupled with targeted sanctions consistent with international law, including on jet fuel and dual-use goods, to better protect the people of Myanmar. Creative strategies are needed to provide humanitarian assistance across borders and support local service providers. Member states, particularly those with influence, need to work together to bolster and support ASEAN member states to end the violence and resolve the crisis. This will require a political path that includes not only the National Unity Government, ethnic armed groups and the democracy movement, but also representatives from women's groups, youth and civil society. I'm deeply concerned by the impact funding cuts will have on Myanmar's embattled civil society and humanitarians.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

It is good that there is a discussion in the Human Rights Council about Myanmar, because the situation in the country does not have the attention that it deserves. As a result, it is important not just what we are doing in terms of reporting, but also that there is a clear message from the Human Rights Council about how serious the situation is.

Appalling figures amidst the scourge of drug trafficking

A minimum of 6,353 civilians, including 733 children killed by the military, with 2024 the deadliest year so far, 21,922 prisoners in detention on political grounds, 2,294 individuals have died in military custody, over 3.5 million internally displaced people, over 144,000 have crossed borders in addition to the 1.1 million Rohingya that are already in Bangladesh, nearly 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 15 million people facing acute food insecurity and warnings of a famine in Rakhine State, half of the country living under the poverty line, an additional 25 percent on or just above it, many, and one can continue. It is also clear that the situation in Myanmar is not confined to its borders. Bangladesh explained how much they are shouldering in terms of responsibility by hosting Rohingya refugees, and beyond the displacement across other countries in Southeast Asia.

Myanmar now leads the world in producing opium documented by reports about trafficking and organised criminal networks and scam centres, transnational crime. The cost to the region in terms of economic loss is huge, including the potential of the country unfulfilled. There are many talented people from this country, especially young people who do not know what their future will be like, and this is definitely not a climate in which a flawed election process can offer any solution. Peace is indeed the most important one before any of this can be discussed.

Accountability efforts

The ICC Prosecutor has taken the important step to seek an **arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing**, and he has announced that further applications are to follow. Apart from the situation in Rakhine State, in terms of crimes committed against the Rohingya over which the ICC has jurisdiction, it is also important to ensure that the whole of the country is covered, because we have reported for so many years about what is happening. It is important that the entire situation of **Myanmar is**



referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council, because that would help end impunity and pressure the military to cease violence. The High Commissioner welcomes the steps taken by 11 states so far to intervene formally in the case by **the Gambia against Myanmar** in the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention. He also encourages continued support, not only to the SR, but also cooperation with independent investigative mechanism for Myanmar, and for states to use universal jurisdiction for pursuing investigations and prosecutions at national levels, at national levels, because universal jurisdiction allows for the prosecution of serious violations that have been committed in Myanmar.

Pathways to get out of the crisis

What is needed most is for the international community to engage with the full spectrum of democratic actors, ethnic groups, civil society, to find solutions, and we know the importance that women and youth can play in defining a new vision for the country. In June 2025, the HC will submit to the UNHRC a report which will explore pathways for Myanmar to a democratic future, for which there is a strong effort to consult widely with Myanmar stakeholders in the preparation of the report, particularly young people, because they have very clear ideas about what a democratic and inclusive future would look like. Engagement is also important - engagement that looks at governance systems, even at the local level, outside the military's control, because they are protecting and providing services to people. There is a need for comprehensive dialogue that involves all stakeholders. It is absolutely critical not only to support Bangladesh and to make sure that there is also support even on the humanitarian side.

There is always a day after. It is absolutely critical that we are prepared for the day after, with a vision that the people of Myanmar will define themselves, that we hope to accompany, so that we are really ready to provide the support that is required.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

According to **Latvia and the Nordic-Baltic countries**, the ruthless violence against the civilian population in Myanmar must stop, and those responsible must be held accountable. The persecution, arrests, and imprisonments of democracy activists, human rights defenders, and journalists are utterly unacceptable. They call on the Myanmar military to immediately end all forms of violence, including sexual and GBV, aerial attacks, mass killings, and persecution of civilians, and urge all parties to fully adhere to international law and to allow unhindered humanitarian access.

Sierra Leone expresses deep concern about the ongoing human rights violations in the country, particularly the increasing number of deaths of civilians, making 2024 the deadliest year since the violations started. It is further concerned at the collapse of the health system and its impact on the suffering population, especially IDPs. Sierra Leone commends the ASEAN for its efforts to provide cross-border humanitarian and call for the international community to increase its support in this regard. More urgently, Sierra Leone calls for the indiscriminate airstrikes to stop. Seeing hope in the grassroots efforts of individuals and groups in Myanmar to find justice and restore peace in their country, Sierra Leone calls on the international community to support these



grassroots efforts and request for information on support and initiative to address these urgent health concerns of civilians brought about by the conflict.

Luxembourg expresses concern over repressive attacks and crackdowns perpetrated by the junta carried out to control, intimidate and divide the population have cost the lives of at least 6,000 civilians and led to the displacement of more than 3 million persons. Extrajudicial executions, forced enlistments and the use of innocent civilians as human shields are clear and flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Luxembourg is deeply troubled by the stated intention of the army to organise elections, this in a context of intensifying conflict.

Noting with concern the continued systematic discrimination of minorities as well as serious human rights violations being perpetrated against civilians, **Malawi** calls on the military authorities to take effective steps to ensure a return to civilian rule, accountability and effective remedies for the human rights violations.

Türkiye reiterates its call on the fighting sides to respect international law, protect civilians and ensure the unhindered flow of aid. Atrocities against the Rohingya Muslims in the Rakhine state must end and the perpetrators must be held accountable. The ICJ's ruling on the admissibility of the Gambia's application is also a crucial step towards justice. Türkiye stresses the need for international cooperation to alleviate the sufferings of the Rohingyas and proposed the establishment of a task force with major donors in interested parties to enhance coordination and drive relieved momentum. Türkiye support ASEAN's five-point consensus as a framework for a peaceful resolution. Our relief efforts for the Rohingyas continue, which cover various fields, including health, housing, education and income-generating projects.

Australia condemns in the strongest terms Myanmar's military regime escalating violence against its peoples, now at unprecedented levels. Australia is deeply concerned by reports of serious international crimes and gross human rights violations, including those targeting women and LGBTQI+ leaders across Myanmar. Reports of extreme brutality, including beheadings, burnings, mutilations, executions, torture and the use of human shields are gravely concerning, as are the regime's increasing airstrikes, mass displacement and restrictions on humanitarian assistance. Australia calls on the regime to cease the violence and for all States to stop the flow of arms, military and jewellery materials to Myanmar's military. The regime must stop impeding humanitarian access and allow assistance to reach the people who need it most. Australia continues to strongly support ASEAN's efforts to resolve the crisis and the work of ASEAN and UN special envoys.

Switzerland strongly condemns these violations of IHL and human rights, as well as the persistent impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators. The alarming deterioration of the situation in Rakhine State, where civilian populations, especially the Rohingya, suffer violence and mass displacement, requires immediate action. Switzerland urges the military authorities and all parties to the conflict to put an end to the violence, to abide by their international obligations, especially under Security Council Resolution 2669, and to ensure unfettered humanitarian access. It also urges States who have influence in the region to step up their efforts to support the justice and reconciliation process.



Japan remains seriously concerned over the continuing deterioration of the human rights in Myanmar and the lack of progress over the past four years since the coup. Japan strongly condemns Myanmar's military for its ongoing failure to take concrete actions to resolve the situation by peaceful means. Japan urges Myanmar's military to refrain from violence and all stakeholders to work together towards a peaceful resolution through dialogue in order to avoid further casualties and division among the people of Myanmar. Japan stands ready to support the realisation of such dialogue.

Bulgaria remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in the country and joins other countries in calling for the immediate cessation of violence against civil society and human rights defenders, as well as for the release of political prisoners. It further calls for an unhindered humanitarian access to the most vulnerable groups of the population, as well as for the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons, including the Rohingya. Bulgaria urges a constructive, inclusive, and peaceful dialogue between all stakeholders aimed at restoring democracy and the rule of law in the country.

Spain voices its alarm in light of the increase in violence perpetrated by the military authorities targeting civilians in 2024. It condemns in the strongest possible terms the large-scale arson attacks, the indiscriminate bombing of cities and peoples, forced recruitment, arbitrary detentions, and the very serious violations of human rights perpetrated against the Rohingya population and other minorities, which have triggered mass displacements and have prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid. Once again, Spain voices its solidarity with the people of Myanmar. Spain further calls upon all parties to the conflict to strictly abide by international law; to cease the violence and all violations of human rights; and to allow unhindered humanitarian access to conflict-affected and natural disaster-affected zones.

Saudi Arabia is following closely the situation in Myanmar and call on all stakeholders to engage in a constructive dialogue that would lead to concrete solutions. Saudi Arabia reiterates its firm position in support of civilians in Myanmar, particularly the Rohingya Muslims. It calls for their safety and security and recognising their basic rights without any delay, including the right for full citizenship and laying the foundation for a safe and secure return of the Rohingya to their homeland. Saudi Arabia has been working from the beginning of the crisis to host more than 260,000 Rohingya and providing them with education, health services, and jobs. It also worked with a number of countries in order to provide humanitarian aid and provide accommodation to them.

Still concerned with the ongoing humanitarian and human rights situation in Myanmar, **Indonesia** expresses alarm over the persistent acts of violence worsened by the cross-border crimes impacting the security and stability in the region. It is imperative that protections and safety of all civilians are upheld by all parties. While steps have been taken to implement the point four or five-point consensus, we urge the Myanmar Authority to ensure safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance, including from the AHA Centre. Indonesia firmly believes that an inclusive national dialogue involving all stakeholders is essential for achieving lasting peace and stability in Myanmar. In line with this conviction, Indonesia hosted a meeting of special envoys on Myanmar from different regions last October, bringing together relevant Myanmar stakeholders.



A genuine inclusive national dialogue among all parties will serve as a critical foundation for ensuring a credible elections and pathway to democracy.

Harrowing incidents in Myanmar are sadly all too familiar to **South Africa**. They associate with the same brutal techniques employed by the apartheid state, including the weaponization of the criminal justice system to silence those perceived to be critics. Indeed, much like those in apartheid jails who allegedly died by slipping on a piece of soap, the families of detainees in Myanmar were informed that they had died of natural causes, despite the wounds on their broken bodies telling a completely different story. South Africa stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar, including the Rohingya, who have endured decades of persecution, while welcoming the decision of the prosecutor of the ICC to request an arrest warrant for the commander-in-chief of the Myanmar military. Much more can and must be done to end the impunity.

The Netherlands are alarmed by the continuous worsening of the conflict. Humanitarian needs have risen tremendously and the conflict fuels hunger, leaving millions at risk of starvation. It commends the people of Myanmar who display unwavering resilience and stands with them in their fight for democracy, human rights and accountability. The Netherlands calls for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2669 and underlines the importance of accountability. Perpetrators of human rights violation, including sexual and gender-based violence, must be held accountable and brought to justice. Accountability must be part of the sustainable solution for Myanmar.

Malaysia urges an immediate cessation of hostilities and calls on all parties in Myanmar to facilitate ASEAN's efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in need in the country without discrimination. As the Chair of ASEAN this year, Malaysia is committed to facilitating a path towards peaceful resolution in Myanmar. Its approach will be in line with the five-point consensus as the main reference for addressing the crisis in Myanmar. The protracted conflict in Myanmar not only prolongs sufferings but also carries significant repercussions for the region, particularly for neighbouring countries like Malaysia that bears huge burden in providing humanitarian assistance to the people fleeing from Myanmar. For the planned 2025 Myanmar general election, it is imperative that any election be held in an inclusive, free and fair manner, ensuring that the process genuinely reflects the will and aspirations of the Myanmar's people.

Iran appreciates the continued efforts of Bangladesh in hosting Rohingya refugees and encourages the authorities in Myanmar to ensure the protection of all citizens' rights, particularly those of Rohingya Muslims who have faced serious challenges. Furthermore, Iran appreciates the recourse to national and regional capacities as an initiative to alleviate the severity of the situation and effectively address the root cause of discrimination and human rights violations against ethnic and religious minorities, particularly the Rohingya Muslims. Supporting international efforts to address this issue, Iran encourages ASEAN's Member States to maintain their engagement and cooperation with the ruling authorities in Myanmar to help prevent further abuse.

Russia calls for a depoliticised approach to discussing the situation in the country . Russian does not agree with attempts to place responsibility for the current situation, which has been ongoing for decades, on the State Administrative Council. It condemns the practise by some states of



using multilateral fora, including the HRC, to exert pressure and to ratchet up confrontation in Myanmar. We note that the country's government affirms its commitment to its constitution. Russia deems it as important that the Government continues its policy of national reconciliation and socioeconomic development. Russia also welcomes efforts by ASEAN to facilitate a normalisation of the situation within and around Myanmar, including to address humanitarian problems. However, attempts by the West to seize ASEAN's leading role in this process are categorically unacceptable.

China stresses it is essential to fully respect its unique national circumstances and adhere to the principle of a Myanmar-owned, Myanmar-led approach, while supporting ASEAN's role as a primary mechanism. Only by upholding core principles of international relations, such as sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs, can we effectively address this issue while promoting and safeguarding human rights. Resorting solely to pressure and sanctions will only escalate tensions. The Council should prioritise discussions on improving people's livelihood, contributing to peace, reconciliation, and social economic development. This January, China facilitated the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Myanmar government and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, supporting the peace process in northern Myanmar. China also proposed a series of initiatives to support Myanmar's social economic development, which are currently being discussed for implementation.

Bangladesh is shouldering an unfair and onerous burden of over a million forcibly displaced Rohingyas. Hosting Rohingyas for a long period has never been an option for us. Yet, over 80,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh last year again due to escalated conflict in Rakhine. Rohingya crisis, without an end in sight, is causing frustration not only for these people, but also for their host community. Uncertainty around their repatriation has the potential to have spillover effects on regional peace and stability. While reiterating that sustainable repatriation is the only durable solution of the Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh call on international community to undertake tangible and effective initiatives to create conducive conditions for sustainable repatriation and the subsequent reintegration of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Rakhine. In the context of decreasing funding, it calls for adequate humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh and urges the High Commissioner and his office to keep the Rohingya issue high on the agenda until the accountability and justice is ensured and a durable solution is achieved.

Firmly supporting the efforts to restore peace, stability, and reconciliation in Myanmar, the **Lao PDR** reiterates its call on relevant parties in Myanmar to exercise utmost restraint, cessation of violence, ensuring the access to humanitarian assistance, and seeking an inclusive dialogue and peaceful solution to the conflict under the Myanmar-owned comprehensive principle. While taking note of Myanmar's commitment to continue facilitating humanitarian assistance and political dialogue, including the preparation for general election in 2025, the Lao PDR reaffirms its full support to Malaysia as ASEAN chair this year in continuing ASEAN collective efforts for helping Myanmar find a peaceful and durable solution, particularly the effective implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus.

Romania will continue to use its membership in this Council to amplify the voices of activists, human rights defenders, and the people of Myanmar who demand full respect for human rights,



accountability, and the return to democratic governments and the rule of law. Romania will support the pursuit of a wide range of accountability mechanisms, including universal jurisdiction, international tribunals, and the work of the Council through its mandate holders. Romania will support a strong and effective resolution of this session of the Council condemning all violations of human rights in Myanmar, calling for an immediate cessation of violence, and encouraging renewed regional and international efforts for peace and justice.

Deeply concerned by the worsening human rights and humanitarian crisis across Myanmar, **Cyprus** for the immediate cessation of violence and the release of all those arbitrarily detained. Accountability for perpetrators of gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law is essential. We also call upon all parties to ensure full, safe, and timely humanitarian access in line with humanitarian principles to all in need.

While welcoming regional initiatives, including in the framework of ASEAN, to resolve the situation and provide humanitarian assistance **Belarus** notes the role of UN agencies in the country and the government's facilitation of its work in all regions as an important contribution to improving the humanitarian situation. However, a significant solution is hard to find in such dire conditions. The HRC needs to pursue an inclusive and respectful attitude towards the Government. Belarus reiterates its principled position against politicised country approaches and mandates which undermine constructive cooperation in the sphere of human rights.

While condemning the illegal behaviour of the Rohingya minority, for **Egypt** it is essential to identify responsibilities to ensure accountability. Egypt also considers as essential to take into consideration the position of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which works tirelessly to assist the Rohingya minority and to provide humanitarian assistance in their favour.

Georgia expresses its concern over the dire situation compounded by a further surge in humanitarian needs and the denial of humanitarian aid. It is also worried about the dramatic deterioration of the situation in the Rakhine state and the heightened threats faced by all communities there, including the Rohingya population.

Venezuela urges all to continue supporting good-faith efforts to bring about lasting peace and reconciliation, by following a strictly non-politicised approach aligned with international human rights law, respect for sovereignty and the principle of non-interference. The application of unilateral coercive measures and the imposition of non-consensus mandates will in no way contribute to resolving the needs of the people of Myanmar.

The Gambia notes with deep concern the assessment of the deteriorating human rights situation in Myanmar, particularly regarding the plight of the Rohingya minority. It reiterates its call on the international community to intensify efforts to protect the Rohingya, ensure unimpeded humanitarian access, and facilitate their safe, dignified, and voluntary return to their homeland. Furthermore, the Gambia stresses the urgent need for accountability for human rights violations. In this regard, it welcomes the recent request by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for an arrest warrant against Myanmar's military leaders for crimes against humanity. The Gambia reaffirms its commitment to pursuing justice through the International Court of Justice and stands ready to collaborate with all stakeholders to restore peace and uphold human dignity in Myanmar.



Thailand is deeply concerned over the ongoing violence and escalation of conflict in Myanmar. As an immediate neighbour, Thailand is committed to helping Myanmar to find peaceful solutions through meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. Last December, Thailand hosted two meetings related to the situation in Myanmar, namely the Six-Country Informal Consultation, which was the first time that Myanmar and all its neighbouring countries met to discuss issues of common concerns, and the Extended Informal Consultation where ASEAN member states discussed how to advance the implementation of the five-point consensus. Thailand also continues to attach importance to providing humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. Throughout last year, Thailand contributed through ASEAN and various international organisations to elevate the suffering of the people in Myanmar. As the number of people from Myanmar crossing over into Thailand continues to increase, Thailand will step up efforts to promote and protect the rights of these migrants through the recent adoption of a policy framework for humanitarian assistance along the Thai-Myanmar border in the areas of public health and education.

Viet Nam urges all parties to exercise restraint, cease hostilities, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Vietnam expresses hope that the situation in Myanmar will soon stabilise so that its citizens can start rebuilding and developing the country and continue contributing to the creation of a united and strong ASEAN community. It also welcomes the international community's humanitarian assistance to help Myanmar overcome the consequences of natural disasters and epidemics. At the same time, Viet Nam closely cooperates with the ASEAN chair and member states to help Myanmar find a feasible and sustainable solution to the ongoing crisis, and to implement ASEAN's five-point consensus, and to promote peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region.

The Philippines remains deeply concerned over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation in Myanmar. It reiterates that human rights and the rules of armed conflict must be upheld at all times and by all state and non-state actors alike. The Philippines is fully behind the ASEAN five-point consensus, which remains the main reference in addressing the complex political crisis in Myanmar, and urges all parties to cease hostilities, engage in dialogue in good faith, and ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those in need. We call on our international partners to increase support to ASEAN's humanitarian efforts based on the joint needs assessment of the ASEAN Humanitarian Centre, as well as to ASEAN's committed endeavour to carry out the five-point consensus in its entirety and with the urgency the situation merits.

As an immediate neighbour and friend of the people of Myanmar, **India** has always accorded a high priority to the maintenance of peace and stability in Myanmar and its economic development. The ongoing situation in Myanmar has led to an influx of thousands of people into our northeastern states and an increase in instances of drugs and human trafficking. India reiterates its deep concern over the precarious humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar and calls for the immediate cessation of violence by all sides, the release of political detainees, humanitarian assistance, and the resolution of the crisis through constructive dialogue. India remains steadfast in its support to Myanmar's transition towards inclusive federal democracy and to the need for arriving at peaceful solutions that are Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned. India supports the ASEAN-led efforts and the ASEAN five-point consensus and we continue to closely coordinate our policy with ASEAN in this regard.



The **United Kingdom** is alarmed by the escalating violence, human rights violations, and gender-based violence. All actors, especially the Myanmar military, must prioritise the protection of civilians. The UK calls on the military to stop the violence, especially the airstrikes, and release all those arbitrarily detained, and also calls on all actors - especially the military - to allow safe and unimpeded humanitarian access. The UK is providing more than £66 million in assistance this year. Accountability is vital. We must break the cycle of impunity. This is why the UK supports the work of the International Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, and this is why it announced our 19th round of sanctions in November last year, targeting the military's access to arms, aviation fuel, and dual-use equipment.

Views Expressed by intergovernmental Organizations

UNICEF explains that situation of children in Myanmar is growing increasingly dire. High levels of insecurity, combined with worsening poverty, severely constrained access of humanitarian organisations to affected areas, as well as by the population to basic services, have resulted to over 6.4 million children in need of urgent assistance. Grave child rights violations such as killing and maiming, which saw a dramatic increase in 2024, and high levels of recruitment and use of children are hallmarks of this ongoing conflict. Further, Myanmar is the most heavily mined country in the world. UNICEF urges all parties to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law and to end grave child rights violations. It also calls on all parties to immediately cease the laying of landmines and to prevent the scattering of unexploded ordinances and remnants of war in areas frequented by children, near schools, clinics, public spaces, and homes. The continued use of such devices significantly exacerbates other humanitarian challenges, including displacement, access to healthcare and education, and the safe return to affected communities. UNICEF stands ready to support.

By condemning the indiscriminate violence of the Myanmar military against civilians, the **European Union (EU)** insists on the need for justice and accountability for all human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual and GBV, some of which may also constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. While underlining the key role of the IIMM in this regard, the EU urges the full implementation of UNSC Resolution 2669. While deploring that the conditions are not met for a safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable return of the Rohingya, the EU calls for the end of violence and the swift establishment of a transparent, inclusive and credible democratic path in Myanmar.

The **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** is deeply concerned over the grave human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. The OIC urges Myanmar to take effective measures to end conflict in the Rakhine and immediately stop all human rights violations; implement all recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, including a clear pathway to citizenship for the Rohingya; comply with ICJ's provisional measures and cooperate with international accountability mechanisms; allow full, safe, and unhindered access to humanitarian actors to provide assistance to Rakhine; and commence repatriation of the Rohingya from Bangladesh and other host states to Myanmar with safety and dignity.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations



The **Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development** stresses that for too long, the Rohingya's identity has been erased and their existence denied. Regular and meaningful dialogue with Rohingya leaders is critical for addressing grievances, rebuilding trust, and fostering understanding. Justice and accountability must be at the core of any resolution in this crisis. Last month, Argentinian court issued international arrest warrants for Myanmar and other perpetrators of genocide and other grave crimes. These alongside cases at the ICJ and ICC are critical in ensuring those responsible face justice. The future of the Rohingya cannot be one of endless displacement, persecution, and uncertainty. Rohingya want to return home, but only with guarantees of rights, protection, and accountability.

Edmund Rice International explains that children and youth in Myanmar are experiencing immense challenges in accessing education due to the ongoing bombing of schools by the Myanmar armed forces, internet disruptions, widespread displacement, and forced recruitment. In the absence of formal education, informal educational programmes aligned with the national unity government are continuing. Teachers are conducting remote classes while students fleeing the violence take exams in jungles or bomb shelters. The military junta refuses to recognise such education, leading to the arrest of teachers and bombing of associated locations. Forced recruitment of children and conscription of youth have disrupted access to education. In January 2025, Yangon authorities began listing women eligible for military service. Refugee children and youth from Myanmar struggle to access formal education in neighbouring countries, limiting their future employment opportunities. Edmund Rice calls on members of the Council to urge the Myanmar State Administration Council to recognise informal educational programmes carried out in cooperation with the national unity government; urge neighbouring countries to guarantee access to quality education for refugee children; and call on all parties to the conflict to immediately halt all recruitment of children and youth.

The **International Federation for Human Rights Leagues** and its members, ALTSEAN Burma and Women's Peace Network call on States to reject the illegal junta's proposed election that excludes Rohingya and the political parties that won 97 percent of seats in 2020. Preparations for the so-called election saw an unprecedented rise in violence against civilians last year. As the number of political prisoners approaches 22,000, they urge UN members, particularly ASEAN governments, to increase efforts for their release. Attacks against Rohingya men, women and children by both the junta and the African army must stop. While expressing concerned over the junta's recent release of Rohingya prisoners as ploy to forcibly conscript them, they urge ASEAN states to stop deporting people to feed the junta's forced conscription drive. They welcome the Bangladeshi interim Government's consent to the independent investigative mechanism on Myanmar to try to conduct its important work and urge other regional neighbours to do the same. They further urge all states to help Argentina execute the arrest warrants issued over the Rohingya genocide, and particularly urge the U.S. Government to reverse its disastrous suspension of aid to organisations helping Myanmar refugees, including on the Thai and Bangladeshi borders, and to groups including women and LGBTIQ peacefully working for human rights and democracy.

Advocates for Human Rights express concern over multiple reports alleging that court proceedings often take place in secret and do not respect fair trial standards. In September 2024, authorities executed a group of 166 political prisoners in Myanmar, and five additional pro-



democracy activists, including one woman, were at imminent risk of execution and had reportedly experienced brutal torture, including sexual violence. It is also concerned that as recently as December 2024, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army has been sentencing people to death and carrying out summary public executions. It urges all parties to the conflict to cease executions and to commute all death sentences to penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards. Furthermore, it also urges all parties to provide a full accounting of all death sentences and executions since 2021, disaggregated by sex or gender, crime of conviction, court of conviction, and relationship to any co-defendants or victims.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) explains that the military junta has persistently employed forms of psychological, physical, and sexual torture in its campaign of violence across the country. The use of torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment targeting religious and ethnic minorities, including those arbitrarily detained without due process, is particularly concerning. Detained Buddhist monks face severe mistreatment, including psychological torture and beatings. They are often forced to disrobe of their monastic attire and denied essential practises, and their refusal to comply results in physical assault. The ongoing infliction of torture during military interrogations has resulted in the death of religious leaders, including Christian pastor Selai Ngwe Kaya in 2021, and a Muslim man in Yogyakarta, who was forcibly recruited by the junta under conscription law and died from torture and fatal beatings in 2024. The military junta's inhumane treatment towards religious minorities and clergy evidences a broader strategy to suppress dissent and erode minority religious identities. CSW calls on the Myanmar military to cease its targeting of religious and ethnic minorities and to end the use of torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment. It further urges the international community to increase efforts to address reports of unlawful detention and use of torture in Myanmar.

IUVENTUM calls on the international community should speed up its support for the people seeking democracy and justice. The generation in productive ages is either forced to serve in the military or wants to flee to other countries. The youth should be provided with education and training for development. The UN should provide online support for the youth in education and capacity building from outside. Myanmar consists of huge diversity. A more robust democracy than before is needed. The international community is responsible for making suggestions on the unity and the recovery of Myanmar using the wisdom learned from good practises.

The **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute**, the Law Council of Australia, Lawyers for Lawyers, and Lawyers Rights Watch Canada continue to condemn the ongoing atrocity being committed at Myanmar. Over four years since the coup, reports of the lack of the rule of law and of the junta targeting pro-democracy activists and human rights defenders, including lawyers and journalists, continue. Lawyers not only face severe restrictions in their work, including limited access to their clients and bans on confidential communications, but have themselves been harassed, intimidated, and arbitrarily arrested and detained, particularly when defending political cases. Arbitrary arrests and detention and unfair trials of perceived opponents of the military regime also continue. There is evidence of systematic torture and of treatment of individuals in detention, often to force a confession. Judges have reportedly



summarily dismissed or not even considered lawyers or the accused attempts to object to the reliance on such forced confessions in judicial proceedings. They continue to urge the High Commissioner and this Council to respond robustly to the deepening crisis in Myanmar, and the international community to use and support all possible avenues to ensure accountability for all international crimes that are being committed.

Southeast Asia Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression Caucus is deeply troubled by the impact of ‘military conscription law on the LGBTIQ individual. This law increases discrimination, violence, and forced displacement. Allegedly, 70.3% of LGBTIQ individuals have been forcibly conscripted and 58.4% summoned, showing a harsh reality. LGBTIQ people are forced into a system that criminalises their identity, endangers their safety, and strips away their dignity. This law is more than just about military service. It is used to silence queer voices and push many into hiding or exile. It calls on the international community, including embassies, multilateral agencies, and human rights organisations to take immediate action by closely monitoring and documenting abuses; offering direct support to LGBTIQ defenders, and providing humanitarian assistance.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

31 State Delegations

3 Inter-Governmental Organizations

8 Non-Governmental Organizations