

## **Global Civil Society Statement on Myanmar**

We, the undersigned organizations, call on the United Nations Security Council to urgently impose a comprehensive global arms embargo on Myanmar to help prevent further violations of human rights against peaceful protesters and others opposing military rule. In recent weeks, Myanmar security forces have killed hundreds of people, including dozens of children, merely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Since the February 1, 2021 coup, Myanmar's military junta has responded with increasing brutality to nationwide protests calling for the restoration of democratic civilian rule. As of May 4, security forces have killed at least 769 people, including 51 children as young as 6, and arbitrarily detained several thousand activists, journalists, civil servants, and politicians. Hundreds have been forcibly disappeared, the authorities unwilling to provide information on their well-being or where they are being held. Over the past few months, the military has demonstrated a callous disregard for human life that has driven its strategy for decades. In video footage from cities and towns across the country, soldiers can be seen shooting down protesters, including children, brutally beating medical aid workers, and firing shotguns into crowds of peacefully protesting doctors.

In addition to the latest violations of human rights, Myanmar's security forces have a history of grave abuses against peaceful critics of the government and military, and war crimes and other international crimes against the Rohingya and other ethnic minority groups. Of particular note is the military's widely documented use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon against ethnic communities.

No government should sell a single bullet to the junta under these circumstances. Imposing a global arms embargo on Myanmar is the minimum necessary step the Security Council should take in response to the military's escalating violence. Arms and materiel provided to Myanmar's security forces are likely to be used by the security forces to commit abuses in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law.

For this reason, the undersigned organizations urge the United Kingdom, the Security Council's "penholder" on Myanmar, and other Security Council member states to begin negotiations on a resolution authorizing an arms embargo as soon as possible. This will demonstrate to the junta that there will be no more business as usual.

Security Council members have increasingly spoken with one voice on Myanmar. The Council has called for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and others arbitrarily detained, including civilian leaders. It has condemned the military's crackdown on peaceful protesters and called for an end to the ongoing violence. But unity is not an end in itself. The Council should now build on that unity and negotiate a resolution that would include an arms embargo and other substantive measures.

A comprehensive UN arms embargo on Myanmar should bar the direct and indirect supply, sale, or transfer of all weapons, munitions, and other military-related equipment, including dual-use goods such as vehicles and communications and surveillance equipment, as well as the provision of training, intelligence, and other military assistance. Such an embargo should be accompanied by robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

We note with disappointment the failure of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) April 24, 2021 summit to take more robust action to protect Myanmar's people. Less than a day after the summit's conclusions were published, the military's violence continued, which only highlights the need for UN member countries and the Security Council to take decisive action to pressure the junta to reverse course.

The time for statements has passed. The Security Council should take its consensus on Myanmar to a new level and agree on immediate and substantive action. An arms embargo would be the centerpiece of a global effort to protect the people of Myanmar from further atrocities and help bring an end to impunity for crimes under international law.

Myanmar's people cannot afford to wait any longer for the Security Council to take action.

### **Signatories**

ACAT-France  
 Access Now  
 Act Church of Sweden  
 Action Committee for Democracy Development  
 Action on Armed Violence (AOAV)  
 Africa Centre for Security, Governance and Research  
 African Council of Religious Leaders-Religions for Peace  
 Alliance for Democracy in Laos  
 ALTSEAN Burma  
 Amnesty International  
 Arakan Institute for Peace and Development (AiPAD)  
 Arakan Rohingya National Organization  
 ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights  
 Asia Democracy Network  
 Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)  
 Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)  
 Association for Public Policy – APP (Argentina)  
 Association INFO BIRMANIE (Info Burma)  
 AVAAZ  
 Baptist Union of Denmark  
 Burma Campaign UK  
 Burma Human Rights Network  
 Burma Task Force  
 Burmese Rohingya Organization UK  
 Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
 Calgary Karen Community (CKCA)  
 California Shan Society  
 Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace  
 Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)  
 Canadian Burmese Rohingya Organization  
 Canadian Rohingya Development Initiative  
 Center for Justice and Accountability  
 Center for Peace Education – Miriam College  
 Center for Victims of Torture  
 Centre Delas for Peace Studies  
 Centro de Estudios EcuMénicos, A.C. – México  
 Chin Human Rights Organization  
 Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)  
 CIVICUS  
 Civil Rights Defenders  
 Committee of 100 in Finland  
 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)  
 Community Empowerment for Progress Organization  
 Control Arms  
 Cordaid  
 Dallas Ft. Worth Karen Community  
 Dallas Karen Baptist Church, TX  
 Danish United Nations Association  
 Danmission  
 DEEKU, the Karenni Community, USA  
 EarthRights International  
 Edmonton Karen Community Youth Organization  
 Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights  
 FOMICRES, Mozambique  
 Fortify Rights  
 Forum on Disarmament and Development (FDD)  
 FundiPau (Fundacio per la Pau)  
 Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect  
 Global Justice Center  
 Global Movement for Myanmar Democracy (GM4MD)  
 Global Network of Women Peacebuilders  
 Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict  
 Global Witness  
 Good Neighbors  
 Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights  
 HelpAge International  
 Human Rights Foundation of Monland (Thailand)  
 Human Rights Information and Training Center  
 Human Rights Watch  
 Institute for Asian Democracy  
 Institute for Justice and Reconciliation  
 Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion  
 International Campaign for the Rohingya  
 International Center for Not-for-Profit Law  
 International Commission of Jurists  
 International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
 International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School  
 International Karen Organization, Australia  
 International Service for Human Rights  
 International State Crime Initiative  
 International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs  
 Ipas (Myanmar)  
 Jewish Rohingya Justice Network  
 Kachin Community UK  
 Kachin National Organization USA  
 Kachin Women Action Thailand  
 Kachin Women's Association of Thailand (KWAT)  
 Kansas Karenni Community, KS  
 Karen Youth Education Pathways USA  
 Karen American Association of Wisconsin  
 Karen Association of Huron, SD  
 Karen Community of Akron, OH  
 Karen Community of Canada (KCC)  
 Karen Community of Czech Republic  
 Karen Community of Finland  
 Karen Community of Hamilton  
 Karen Community of Iowa, IA  
 Karen Community of Ireland  
 Karen Community of Israel  
 Karen Community of Kansas City, KS & MO  
 Karen Community of Kitchener & Waterloo  
 Karen Community of Leamington  
 Karen Community of Lethbridge  
 Karen Community of London  
 Karen Community of Minnesota, MN

Karen Community of North Carolina  
 Karen Community of Ottawa  
 Karen Community of Regina  
 Karen Community of Rochester  
 Karen Community of Rock Island, IL  
 Karen Community of Saskatoon  
 Karen Community of Syracuse, NY  
 Karen Community of Thunderbay  
 Karen Community of Toronto  
 Karen Community of Windsor  
 Karen Community of Winnipeg  
 Karen Community Society of British Columbia  
 Karen Organization of America  
 Karen Thai Group  
 Karen Youth Networks  
 Karen Youth of Norway  
 Karen Youth of Toronto  
 Karen Youth Organization, Thailand  
 Karenni American Association, USA  
 Karenni Community of Bowling Green, KY  
 Karenni Community of Des Moines, IA  
 Karenni Community of Georgia, GA  
 Karenni Community of Indianapolis, IN  
 Karenni Community of Massachusetts, MA  
 Karenni Community of Minnesota, MN  
 Karenni Community of Missouri, MO  
 Karenni Community of New York, NY  
 Karenni Community of North Carolina, NC  
 Karenni Community of Portland, OR  
 Karenni Community of Texas  
 Karenni Community of Wisconsin, WI  
 Karenni National Women's Organization  
 Karenni Society of Minnesota North East  
 Karenni-American Catholic Association  
 Kenya Section of the International Commission of Jurists  
 Khmers Kampuchea-Kron Federation (KKF)  
 KontraS  
 Korea Karen Organization  
 Korea Karen Youth Organization  
 Latin American and Caribbean Human Security Network (SEHLAC)  
 L'chaim! Jews Against The Death Penalty  
 Liberia Action Network on Small Arms  
 MADRE  
 Mechanism of Search for Peace and Development Initiative  
 Mennonite Central Committee United Nations Office  
 Mensen met een Missie  
 Myanmar Trust UK  
 Nadia's Initiative  
 Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative  
 Never Again Coalition  
 No Business With Genocide  
 Nonviolence International  
 Oversea Karen Organization Japan  
 Pa-O Youth Organization (PYO)  
 Parliamentarians for Global Action  
 PAX  
 Pax Christi International  
 Pax Christi Philippines  
 PEN Myanmar  
 People's Federation for National Peace and Development  
 People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)  
 Progressive Voice  
 Reconstructing Judaism  
 Refugees International  
 Relief Action Network for IDP and Refugee (RANIR)  
 RFK Human Rights  
 Rights for Peace  
 Rohingya American Society  
 Rohingya Intellectuals Community Association, Australia  
 Rohingya Organization Norway  
 Rohingya Women Welfare Association  
 Rohingya Youth Association  
 Saferworld Europe  
 South East Asia Movement for Human Rights & Justice  
 Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes  
 Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa  
 Sustainable Peace and Development Organization  
 Swedish Burma Committee  
 Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society  
 The Arakan Project, Myanmar  
 The Kachin Relief Fund  
 The Shalom Center  
 The Zambian Network for Human Rights Defenders  
 TRANSCEND Pilipinas  
 Unitarian Universalist Association  
 United Nations Association – UK  
 United Nations Association of Sweden  
 US Campaign for Burma  
 Vision GRAM-International  
 Waging Peace  
 West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)  
 Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal  
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
 Women's International Peace Centre  
 Women's Peace Network  
 Women's Refugee Commission  
 World Council of Churches  
 World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Peace  
 Wunpawng Ninghtoi (WPN)  
 Yanshuf Coalition, Israel