



Brussels, 12 February 2021

Excellencies,

Myanmar: Common call for a strong EU position

On 1 February, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces overthrew the country's elected government, arresting State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, dozens of other key government and ruling party officials, and activists. The military blocked roads in the capital Naypyidaw and Rangoon, disrupted television, telephone, and internet services, imposed a curfew and declared a one-year state of emergency. The military takeover casts a dark shadow once again over the country. Aung San Suu Kyi and Win Myint were subsequently hit with spurious charges.

Drawing the lessons from a decade-long enhanced dialogue and cooperation that failed to provide the expected results, the EU's approach should be strengthened.

Considering this, and having regards to EP resolution adopted yesterday as well as the speech by HR/VP at the EP debate, and ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council taking place on February 22, our organizations call on you to:

- Strongly condemn the military coup carried out in Myanmar.
- Call upon the military authorities to immediately and without any conditions restore the civilian government, to ensure respect for human rights and, release President Win Myint, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and all those who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained since 1 February , in particular human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists.
- Call upon the military to fully restore all telecommunication services in all part of the country and refrain from ordering any further telecommunications restrictions.
- Call upon the military to fully protect the right to protest and fully adhere to international law on the use of force in policing assemblies
- Announce and adopt additional designations for restrictive measures against those responsible for the coup, including against Myanmar's military leaders, and companies identified by the UN-mandated Independent International [Fact-Finding Mission](#) on Myanmar (FFM), such as the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings limited (MEHL) and the Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC), which are owned, and/or controlled, by senior military leaders.
- Urge the military to lift obstructions to humanitarian access and operations in the country.
- Call upon the EU Delegation and Member States embassies in Yangon to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and other members of civil society, including through material assistance and by ensuring implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

- Call for a comprehensive global arms embargo and for the termination of any and all ongoing technical assistance on dual-use systems and technology from companies registered in EU member states, and engage with third countries to do likewise.

Our organisations also call on the EU and its Member States to lead a coordinated reaction at the UN level, to decide on the imposition of targeted financial sanctions and an arms embargo as well as to ensure the adoption of enhanced monitoring and accountability mechanisms by the UN Human Rights Council.

Sincerely,

ARTICLE 19

Clean Clothes Campaign - South Asia and European Coalitions

Civil Rights defenders

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights)

Transparency International