

To: Members of the UN Security Council

Copy: Members of the UN Human Rights Council
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

27 June 2024

Re: UN Security Council must take immediate intervention to coordinate protection of Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar

Your Excellencies,

We, 89 Myanmar, regional, and international civil society organizations, strongly urge the UN Security Council (UNSC) to immediately convene an emergency meeting and coordinate an intervention to halt surging violence and atrocities, and protect Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Rakhine State and across Myanmar. We call on the UNSC to urgently adopt a binding resolution with targeted economic sanctions, an arms and aviation fuel embargo against the junta, and a referral of the crisis in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or a creation of a criminal tribunal.

In recent months, the Myanmar military junta's war of terror against Myanmar people and its fighting with the Arakan Army (AA) have resulted in horrendous human rights violations and international crimes in Rakhine State. Across the country civilian populations from Rohingya, Rakhine, [Kaman](#), [Chin](#), [Mro](#), and other ethnic communities are suffering the constant reality of the junta's war crimes and crimes against humanity, including [airstrikes](#), artillery [shelling](#), and [massacres](#), with no end in sight. As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reported to the Human Rights Council on 18 June, "The military has lost control over a considerable amount of territory, so it is resorting to increasingly extreme measures."

Reports [indicate](#) that, on 17 May, Rohingya homes have been targeted, looted, and torched, and four Rohingya civilians were [beheaded](#) by AA troops in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State. Over 200,000 Rohingya civilians in Buthidaung Township—home to Rohingya survivors from 2017 genocide—have been forcibly [displaced](#) in consequence of the AA's arson attacks, abductions, enforced disappearance, and other serious human rights abuses, as well as its intense fighting with the military junta. Amidst [reports](#) of blocked roads and [extortion](#) by AA soldiers, Rohingya have been displaced in open fields with no access to medicine, clean water, and adequate food. Many have [lost](#) direct contact with their families due to telecommunication blackouts imposed by the junta, and some have had their phones taken away by AA soldiers, leaving their families in the dark about their fates.

Atrocities against the Rakhine ethnic group by the Myanmar military junta are also pervasive. On 29 May, the junta brutally [tortured](#) and [massacred](#) at least 76 men, with knives, gunfire and beatings, and burned most of their bodies to destroy the evidence, during a [raid](#) of Byine Phyu Village, Sittwe Township, Rakhine State. Junta soldiers abducted hundreds of villagers, and [held](#) women and children captive, denying them food and water and [raping](#) them. Over 80 homes and a monastery were [burned down](#). On 4 June, the junta [launched](#) a coordinated ground, air, and naval attack on Singaung Village in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, killing dozens of people. Extreme violence and atrocities are set to continue in Rakhine State as the [junta](#) and the [AA](#) ordered civilians to evacuate their villages before latest [clashes](#) between them.

Since February, the junta has further systematically [arrested](#), [abducted](#), and [enlisted by force](#) ethnic youth from Rakhine State and refugee camps in Bangladesh to serve as frontline fighters, [human shields](#), human minesweepers, and porters—including forcing them on frontlines to [die](#). Hundreds of Rakhine youth have been [arrested](#), [held](#) incommunicado, and [forced](#) to join the Myanmar military. Alongside them, [thousands](#) of Rohingya in villages and internment [camps](#) in Rakhine State have reportedly been forcibly [enlisted](#) or [persuaded](#) with offers of potential freedom of movement, money, rice, or national ID cards, to “[fight](#) for [their] faith”, or [threatened](#) with a humanitarian aid block. On the Bangladesh border, vulnerable Rohingya refugees have been [kidnapped](#) from camps and forced into the Myanmar military to fight the AA. Abductions were perpetrated by Rohingya militia groups—the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, the Rohingya Solidarity Organization, and the Arakan Rohingya Army—groups reportedly partnering with the junta and denounced by Rohingya civil society and activists as unrepresentative of their community. Rohingya youth are being relentlessly forcibly [recruited](#) by the Myanmar military, the perpetrators of genocide against them.

In particular, the junta’s [instigation](#) of anti-AA protests and coercion of Rohingya recruits to participate in [burning](#) down Rakhine homes compound the plight of the Rohingya community. The acute vulnerability of the Rohingya continues to be systematically exploited by the Myanmar military and other armed groups to exacerbate inter-ethnic and religious conflict between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities, two major ethnic minorities in Rakhine State.

In addition, during times of heightened tension, hate speech against the Rohingya—including the use of terms such as “Bengali terrorists” and “Muslim terrorists”—and the portrayal of all Rohingya as collaborators of the junta have been rampant in statements by organizations, media, and individuals. Such sweeping descriptions of an entire ethnic group and their most predominant religion exacerbate ethno-religious conflict, and escalate public hatred against a severely persecuted ethnic minority of Myanmar.

Excellencies, the international community bears responsibility for the continuation of mass atrocities—massacres, torture, airstrikes, artillery shelling, sexual violence and other gross international crimes—against the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities by the military junta, the main perpetrator, in Rakhine State and across Myanmar. After nearly one and a half years since the UNSC’s adoption of [Resolution 2669](#), the junta has continued to massacre civilians. In the first four months of 2024 alone, the junta [committed](#) 46 massacres, killing 369 people. Furthermore, despite the UN Human Rights Council’s resolution calling on all states to refrain from the export, sale, or transfer of aviation fuel to Myanmar, UN Member States [continue](#) to supply the junta with aviation fuel, enabling them to [carry out more airstrikes](#) and other aerial attacks across Myanmar, exacerbating immense human suffering and mass displacement during the grave humanitarian crisis.

To uphold its mandate for international peace and security, the UNSC must convene an emergency meeting and coordinate an immediate intervention to protect civilians and stop the horrific violence against the Rohingya and ethnic minorities in Rakhine State and across Myanmar. Once again, we call on the UNSC to urgently adopt a new resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter that imposes targeted economic sanctions and a comprehensive arms embargo against the junta, including a complete ban on all sales, transfers, and diversions of aviation fuel to Myanmar. This resolution must also refer the crisis in Myanmar to the ICC or create a criminal tribunal on Myanmar without delay.

Rohingya, Rakhine, and other ethnic minorities in Rakhine State and across Myanmar will continue to suffer unless and until ongoing crimes are halted by the UNSC’s immediate intervention.

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Signed by 89 civil society organizations, including eight organizations that have chosen not to disclose their names due to the junta's continued violence in Myanmar.

1. #MilkTeaAlliance Calendar Team
2. Action Committee for Democracy Development (Coalition of 14 Grassroots Networks)
3. Ah Nah Podcast – Conversations with Myanmar
4. Anti-Junta Mass Movement (AJMM)
5. ALTSEAN-Burma
6. ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)
7. Asia Alliance Against Torture
8. Asian Health Institute (AHI)
9. Athan – Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
10. Blood Money Campaign
11. Burma Action Ireland
12. Burma Human Rights Network (BHRN)
13. Burma Support
14. Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK)
15. Burmese Women's Union (BWU)
16. Campaign for a New Myanmar
17. CAN-Myanmar
18. CRPH & NUG Supporters Ireland
19. CRPH Funding Ireland
20. Defend Myanmar Democracy - DMD
21. Democratic Movement Strike Committee (DDMSC)
22. Democracy, Peace and Women's Organization
23. Doh Atu – Ensemble pour le Myanmar
24. Education Garden for Rohingya – EGR
25. Equality Myanmar (EQMM)
26. Extra-Territorial Obligation Watch Coalition
27. Free Burma Campaign (South Africa) (FBC(SA))
28. Free Rohingya Coalition (FRC)
29. Friends Against Dictatorship (FAD)
30. From Singapore to Myanmar (FS2M)
31. Future Thanlwin
32. Generation Wave
33. Honesty School
34. Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM)
35. Info Birmanie
36. Institute for Asian Democracy
37. International Campaign for the Rohingya
38. Italia-Birmania.Insieme
39. Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
40. Justice For Myanmar
41. Justice Movement for Community – Innlay
42. Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)

43. Karen Peace Support Network
44. Kayaw Women Association
45. Keng Tung Youth
46. Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC)
47. Mandalay Regional Youth Association (MRYA)
48. Muslim of Myanmar Multi-Ethnic Consultative Committee (MMMCC)
49. Mya Yar Knowledge Tree
50. Myanmar Accountability Project
51. Myanmar Muslim Revolution Force (MMRF)
52. MyaYar Knowledge Tree
53. Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma (ND-Burma)
54. No Business With Genocide
55. NOK Information & Scout Echo
56. North Dagon & East Dagon News
57. Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica
58. Olive Organization
59. Progressive Voice
60. Resilient Action for Kachin State (RAKS)
61. Rohingya Student Network (RSN)
62. Rohingya Students Unity For Right (RSUR)
63. Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network (RWEAN)
64. RW Welfare Society
65. Save and Care Organization for Ethnic Women at Border Areas (SCOEWBA)
66. Spirit in Education Movement (SEM)
67. Shan MATA
68. Sisters 2 Sisters
69. Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
70. Southern Dragon Myanmar
71. Southern Youth Development Organization (SYDO)
72. Technological Teachers' Federation – TTF
73. Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB)
74. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
75. The Ladies
76. The Mekong Butterfly
77. Voice of Rohingya Women and Students (VRWS)
78. Volunteers in Myanmar
79. Yangon Deaf Group
80. Yangon Public Relations (YPR)
81. Youths for Rohingya Development (YRD)