



JMUN 2023

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



Addressing the Human Rights
Crisis in Myanmar after the
Military Coup of 2021

BACKGROUND GUIDE



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Agenda

Addressing the Human Rights Crisis in Myanmar
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Politics. Propaganda. The lives of millions are at stake.

Dear delegates, welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council!

This is Veena, Anusha and Anita, your executive board for JMUN 2024, and we are absolutely honoured to be your EB! With a shared experience of around 20+ MUNs, we are excited to host a conference brimming with debate, drama and controversy, to provide you with a platform to be confident and knowledgeable on global affairs.

Model United Nations is a crucible of learning and global insight. It forges critical and creative minds, providing a stage for voicing ideas on pressing issues. These skills transcend conference walls, propelling us toward shaping a world we fervently aspire to make peacefully our own.

We have crafted a background guide, which can be a starting point for your research. We advise you to go through this guide thoroughly, but note that this is merely the beginning. We hope that everyone will come to the committee well prepared with their own research about the agenda and possible solutions, confidently affirming their country's stances and forging relations with fellow delegates to foster diplomacy.

With enthralling speeches and fiery POIs, we aim to make the committee interesting and fun for everyone. You have the chance to be the voice for your portfolio - your words can make or break your country's reputation. As munners who have been in the MUN circuit for a good few years, we have an unparalleled love for GA committees, where delegates defend their country's controversies while maintaining a smirk on their faces, and others destroy their fellow delegate's speeches by calling out their hypocrisies. Be it a UNODC, SOCHUM (the Walmart HRC), or a DISEC, Model UN is all about public speaking, research and networking.

A lot of you will be relatively new to the MUN circuit, and we promise to guide you throughout the conference, and (hopefully) help foster your love for attending MUNs.

The world bows to your influence, delegate. We hope to see you there.

Your Head Chair, Vice Chair, and Moderator,
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INTRODUCTION TO UNHRC

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them.

The Council, composed of 47 Member States, provides a multilateral forum to address human rights violations and country situations. It responds to human rights emergencies and makes recommendations on how to better implement human rights on the ground. It benefits from substantive, technical, and secretariat support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The Council serves as a forum for dialogue among States, with input from other stakeholders. As a result of its discussions, the Council may issue resolutions calling on States to take specific actions or uphold certain principles, or it may create mechanisms to investigate or monitor questions of concern.

The Council manages the Universal Periodic Review, a process through which each UN Member State's overall human rights record is reviewed.



INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Myanmar, formerly ‘Burma’, a nation entrenched in a tumultuous history marked by military rule and ethnic tensions, has once again found itself at the epicentre of a human rights crisis following the coup d’etat in 2021. To comprehend the gravity of the current situation, it is imperative to reflect on Myanmar’s historical human rights violations, including the 2017 Rohingya genocide, wherein Myanmar’s military orchestrated a brutal crackdown that amounted to heinous crimes against humanity. The Rohingya, a minority Muslim community, faced widespread and systematic violence, including mass killings, sexual violence, and the torching of entire villages. The international community condemned the atrocities, and Myanmar faced allegations of crimes against humanity at the International Court of Justice.

Subsequently, alarming violations have transpired since the initiation of the coup, violence against innocents, arbitrary detentions, restrictions on freedom of speech, assembly and expression, violence targeting certain ethnic groups and journalists, degrading treatment of political prisoners and the breach of international law by Myanmar’s authorities.

Myanmar’s fragile democracy faced a severe setback with the military coup. The civilian government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, was exiled, and a state of emergency was declared. According to various news agencies and NGOs, as of 2023, the violence in Myanmar has claimed around 6000-7000 lives, wherein approximately 2000 were murdered for activism and opposition of the military junta. The fatalities in Myanmar emphasise a dire need for international intervention.

One of the most egregious forms of human rights violations is the arbitrary detention of activists, political figures, and ordinary citizens expressing conce-

-rns regarding the military. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that, as of 14th December 2023, 25,552 people have been arbitrarily detained since the coup, 19,759 are currently in detention, 8,323 of whom are serving sentences, highlighting the systematic repression aimed at stifling opposition.

Ethnic minorities, already marginalised, received the most impact of the post-coup violence. Reports of military offensives in ethnic regions and attacks on journalists covering these incidents have raised international concerns. The UNHCR has documented that the violence against ethnic groups like the Rohingya Muslims and local Buddhists has significantly increased, emphasising the urgency of addressing this issue.

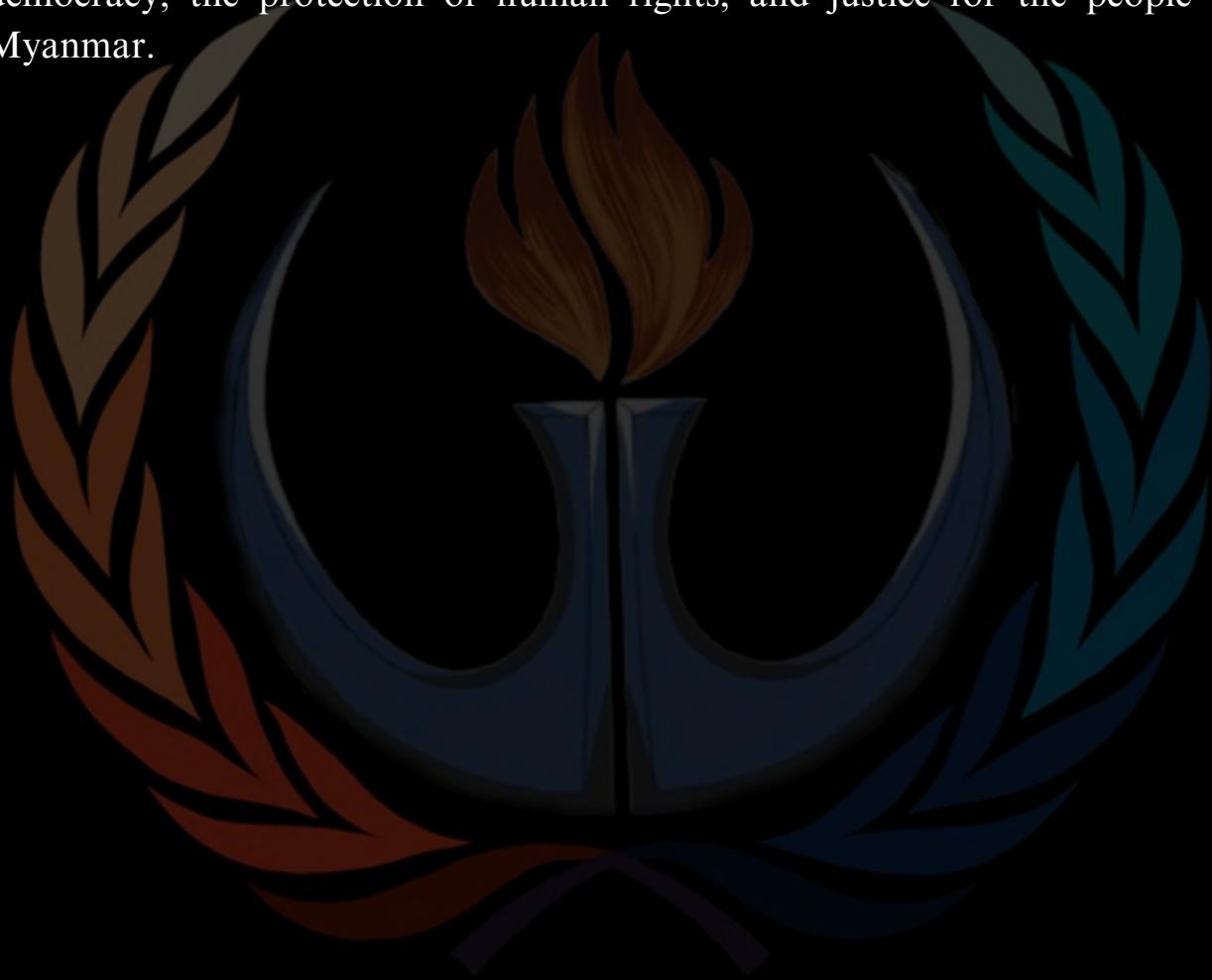
The ill-treatment of political prisoners in Myanmar is a grave concern. Reports from human rights organizations detail instances of torture, ill-treatment, and lack of access to medical care for political prisoners. The atrocious conditions of the prison cells is alarming, where reports from NGOs and news agencies have declared that prisoners were subjected to inhumane conditions where they were allegedly given rotten and mouldy food, cells with minimal ventilation, overcrowded cells, et cetera. Such practices contradict international human rights standards, including the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a convention which has, as of December 2023, not been ratified by Myanmar.

Moreover, the post-coup refugee crisis in Myanmar has reached alarming proportions, with an influx of displaced individuals, including Rohingya refugees and various ethnic minorities. Statistics reveal a staggering 1.95 million refugees seeking safety in neighbouring countries, placing an immense strain on neighbouring countries' resources. This crisis not only heightens the humanitarian challenges within Myanmar but also affects on the international stage.

The military junta's oppressive actions have spurred a surge in refugees, compelling countries like Bangladesh and Thailand to grapple with this complex situation. Bangladesh, already hosting a significant Rohingya population, is confronted with additional challenges, urging for international assistance. Thailand, wary of the spillover effects, have adopted cautious stances, emphasising diplomatic solutions and expressing concerns over regio-

al stability. Unimpeded access to humanitarian aid was not granted by Myanmar, drawing widespread condemnation.

As we confront the harsh reality of Myanmar's human rights crisis, it is imperative for the international community to respond with urgency and determination. The Executive Board urges nations to come together, leveraging diplomatic channels to address the crisis comprehensively. Multilateral efforts must be explored to exert pressure on the authorities in Myanmar. A unified global stance is pertinent in ensuring the restoration of democracy, the protection of human rights, and justice for the people of Myanmar.





KEY TERMS

Coup D'état

A coup d'état is the sudden, violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group, often an armed or military group. The chief motive for a coup is control of all or part of the armed forces, the police, and other military elements.

Military Junta

A military junta denotes a government overseen by a committee of military leaders. The term "junta" originally signifies a "meeting" or "committee" and is presently employed to describe an authoritarian style of governance. A junta frequently ascends to power following a coup d'état. It can either formally assume control as the nation's governing body, possessing the authority to rule by decree or exert influence by exercising substantial control over a civilian government.

NLD (National League for Democracy)

Established in the aftermath of the 8888 Uprising in 1990, a sequence of pro-democracy demonstrations, the NLD had evolved into a preeminent force within Myanmar's pro-democracy movement. Founded on 27 September 1988, the party was under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi, the former State Counsellor of Myanmar. They form a majority of the exiled government, the 'National Unity Government' (NUG).

USDP (Union Solidarity and Development Party)

The USDP is an ultranationalist and pro-military political party in Myanmar, publicly supporting the 2021 military coup. Following the coup, it assumed key roles in the State Administration Council, acting as the electoral proxy of the Tatmadaw (see below).

SAC (State Administration Council)

The State Administration Council is the military junta presently governing Myanmar, established by the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Min Aung Hlaing. Established on 2 February 2021 in the aftermath of the Myanmar coup, the State Administration Council, under the leadership of Min Aung Hlaing, initially comprised 11 members. Subsequent appointments led to a composition of nine military officers and ten civilians by late August.

Tatmadaw

The Tatmadaw is Myanmar's military. They played a pivotal role in 2008 by revising the country's constitution. Subsequently, this led to the development of the USDP, characterised by ultranationalist ideologies, which were largely boycotted by opposition groups. The Tatmadaw has faced substantial allegations from international organisations, accused of committing egregious human rights violations and crimes against humanity. These allegations encompass ethnic cleansing, political suppression, torture, sexual assault, war crimes, extrajudicial punishments, and the massacre of civilians participating in peaceful political demonstrations.

People's Defense Force

The People's Defense Force is the armed wing of the National Unity Government in Myanmar which was established on 5 May 2021, in collaboration with youths and pro-democracy activists. This initiative was launched in response to the coup d'état on 1 February 2021, wherein the military junta, along with its armed component, the Tatmadaw, came to power.

Martial Law

Martial law is the replacement of civilian government by military rule and the suspension of civilian legal processes for military powers. Martial law can continue for a specified amount of time, or indefinitely, and standard civil liberties may be suspended for as long as martial law continues.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises a political and economic alliance of ten states situated in Southeast Asia. The member states encompass Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia.



TIMELINE OF THE ROHINGYA GENOCIDE

1 9 7 4

Burma's military-run government enacts a new constitution. It establishes a one-party rule.

Later this year, Parliament passes the Emergency Immigration Act. The law limits the rights of individuals seen as "foreigners" from Bangladesh, China, and India. Authorities begin confiscating Rohingyas' national registration cards.

1 9 7 8

Burmese authorities launch Operation Naga Min, or "Dragon King," to register and verify the status of citizens and people viewed as "foreigners."

Soldiers assault and terrorise Rohingya.

1 9 8 2

Parliament passes a new law, which bases citizenship on ethnicity. The law excludes the Rohingya and other minority communities.

1 9 9 1

The Burmese military launches Operation Pyi Thaya, or "Clean and Beautiful Nation," during which soldiers commit widespread violence. Roughly 250,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh.

2 0 1 7

After a Rohingya rebel group known as ARSA attacks several military posts in Rakhine, Burma's military launches a disproportionate attack on Rohingya.

Soldiers destroy several hundred Rohingya villages and more than 700,000 Rohingya flee to Bangladesh. More than 9,000 Rohingya are estimated to have been killed during the violence.

2 0 1 9

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that more than 914,000 Rohingya are living in refugee camps around Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

Gambia brings a case against Burma before the International Court of Justice, asserting that Burma violated its obligations under the Genocide Convention.

2 0 2 1

F e b 1

Aung San Suu Kyi is detained along with other members of the National League for Democracy.

Numerous phone lines and broadcasting services were shut down at 3 a.m.

Banks in Myanmar suspended financial services.

State of Emergency declared, Min Aung Hlaing seizes control.

F e b 2

State Administration Council is established as the new executive governing body.

F e b 3

Win Myint and Aung San Suu Kyi are arrested.

Civil disobedience movements rapidly gain momentum. Train services were disrupted, hospitals closed, and government offices strained in Naypyidaw due to mass strikes. Various professionals, including nurses, doctors, teachers, and even some police officers, are participating in strikes or resignations to protest against the new military government.

Near-total nationwide 24-hour internet shutdown during protests.

F e b 8 - 9

Protesters subjected to violence by the military in Naypyidaw (capital city) *Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing* was shot in the head, marking the first death among those opposing the coup leaders.

Myanmar invoked section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to restrict gatherings to no more than five people and imposed curfews from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

F e b 1 2 / 1 3

The USA imposed sanctions on the coup leader and other senior generals for their actions in the coup, EU and Canada follow.

The Ministry of Information pressured the press into not using the words “regime” or “junta” to describe their government, a violation of freedom of the press.

M a r c h 1 0

UNSC unanimous call for reversal of the military coup, violence against innocents condemned.

J u l y 2 6

2020 election results cancelled, military claims over a million cases of fraud.

S e p t e m b e r 7

National Unity Government (exiled government of Myanmar, declared ‘illegal’ by the military junta but recognized as legitimate by the European Parliament) calls for a civilian uprising against the generals of the State Administration Council.

A u g u s t 1

Min Aung Hlaing appoints himself as Prime Minister.

O c t o b e r 1 8

A statement was issued by Min Aung Hlaing declaring the release of 5636 political prisoners. However, the AAPP estimates around 7300 political prisoners remain after the announcement.

2 0 2 2

D e c e m b e r 2 1

UNSC adopts first resolution about Myanmar, demanding the end of violence and release of all political prisoners (12 in favour, India, China, and Russia abstain)

2 0 2 3

AAPP (Assistance Association for Political Prisoners) records show 17,572 people have been arrested, with 13,763 still in detention.

The UN estimates some 1.5 million people have been forced from their homes by the fighting.

The motive of the coup is still unclear, however, the military had asserted that (alleged) voter fraud was a threat to Myanmar’s sovereignty.



CASE STUDIES

Myanmar

Myanmar has been a nation of continuous political unrest for several decades, experiencing 3 coups within the 20th and 21st centuries – the 1962 Burmese coup d'etat, the 1988 coup (8888 Uprising) and the Coup d'etat of 2021.

Since staging a coup on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military has carried out a brutal nationwide crackdown on millions of people opposed to its rule. The junta security forces have carried out mass killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, sexual violence, and other abuses against the majority of the nation, which amount to crimes against humanity. This has led to an overall death estimated by the UN to 2940 deaths, 17572 detainees, and 255 armed clashes.

The ‘junta’ itself lacks previous experience in running the country efficiently (providing basic living standards); it is also inefficient at managing the country’s economy as seen before Burma gained independence. Since the coup has heightened these, the suffering of the population is unimaginable and has entrenched a climate of fear and insecurity in every part of the country.

This directly affects the whole country; Main groups of people:

- The ‘NUG’, including the ‘rightfully elected’ president, prime minister, and state minister; (The state minister along with the president were each sentenced to 3 years of hard labour, fraud charges, and additional prison sentences based on unjustifiable grounds, bringing a total of 33 years in prison)
- Ethnic minority groups including Rohingya people - increased harm, violence, and injustice with this group. A larger number of people are fleeing the country than earlier.

The Tatmadaw is not cooperating with the UN and is blocking all aid packages as it has imposed new travel restrictions on humanitarian workers, blocked access roads and aid convoys, destroyed non-military supplies, attacked aid workers, and shut down telecommunications services. Furthermore, these heavy sanctions even hinder the UN from getting accurate data and taking effective measures.

China

China, in particular, had been a significant investor in Myanmar long before the coup took place; with interests in natural resources, infrastructure projects, and the development of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor it had a strong relationship with Myanmar.

Myanmar has access to abundant natural resources and earth reserves; making it a strategically important neighbour of China. According to UN reports, China has increased its contact with Myanmar after the ‘Tatmadaw’ emerged powerful, increasing discussions between the two countries.

The internal situation in the country therefore directly affects Beijing’s geopolitical and security interests in the Asia-Pacific region, including ties with ASEAN.

In March, China backed the UNSC statement vaguely condemning the military coup – but abstained from voting on the General Assembly resolution later in June. China has been upholding the principle of non-interference since February, stressing that the international community should “respect the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and national unity when encouraging parties to narrow the differences.” Nonetheless, Chinese state media antagonised Burmese civilian resistance, suggesting that their efforts resemble those of Hong Kong demonstrators.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh shares a long (271 km) border with Myanmar and has become a major destination for refugees and other minor groups of people fleeing Myanmar. Data from the UNHRC states that Bangladesh already hosts over 1 million Rohingya refugees who fled earlier violence in Myanmar. After the coup there has been a 20% increase in new arrivals, this further strains resources within Bangladesh. Hosting refugees has cost Bangladesh an estimated \$1.6 billion annually, this economic impact on Bangladesh is straining the country's ability to support people of its own country, further worsening humanitarian impact.

Due to the large border the countries share, the inflow of refugees has increased cross-border crime and potential spillover violence from Myanmar into Bangladesh, this poses security risks to everyone in that region. The Rohingya

refugee camps have also been linked to militant groups operating in Myanmar, raising concerns about instability.

Bangladesh has now tried to tighten border security to manage the refugee influx and prevent cross-border crime, however this has also raised concerns about human rights violations for those fleeing Myanmar, including The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Bangladesh has been a vocal critic of the coup, urging international action and calling for the safe return of Rohingya refugees, taking strains to improve the current humanitarian situation. It has also taken the lead in filing a genocide case against Myanmar at the ICJ, further calling for international intervention.





RELEVANT UN TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL LAW

CAT - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Delegates are advised to study this convention thoroughly, especially Article 2 and Article 4, which are pertinent to this agenda. Article 2 holds particular significance as it emphasises that no torture or degrading treatment in any form will be accepted in states, regardless of any states of emergency, war or political instability. Article 4 is imperative to note as it discusses torture in criminal law. These fundamental principles play an important role in confronting cases involving torture and genocide, topics that frequently arise in discussions related to this agenda. They establish a robust moral and legal foundation for addressing such issues.

ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 9(3)(4)(5), Article 19 and Article 21 are important clauses of this convention, addressing topics like freedom of speech and assembly, and the right to counsel. These rights have allegedly been violated by Myanmar, and is pertinent that delegates study these clauses. Additionally, a lot of the clauses in this covenant have the exception that liberties and rights can be restricted in cases of protection of public order and/or national security, including Article 19 and 21. These are vague phrases that delegates can study, and later attempt to derive proper definitions and grounds to patch these types of loopholes in their own resolutions.

ICERD - International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Article 2 of this convention condemns racial discrimination and upholds political parties of a nation to undertake "by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms". Additionally calls for parties to promote understanding among all races.

Myanmar ratified this treaty, but its commitment to the Convention has been questioned even before the coup. The military junta's actions against ethnic minorities, particularly the Rohingya, have been cited as potential violations of ICERD, however, it is difficult to state this with complete accuracy because of the current political situation and lack of access.

CPPED - International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Considering the disappearances of activists, journalists, protesters and pro-democracy movement leaders in Myanmar following the 2021 coup, this treaty is extremely significant to the agenda. Article 1 is pertinent in establishing that neither public emergency nor political instability may be used as a justification for enforced disappearance, which is important when considering the circumstances of the agenda. Article 6 is also imperative to study, as it lays down the rules of the treaty and who it is applicable to, especially subparagraph (c) in this article.

1951 Refugee Convention -The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

The Convention defines a refugee as someone who is unwilling to return to their country of nationality “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality” and even “political opinion.”

Many of those fleeing Myanmar may meet this definition as they fear persecution based on their political opposition to the junta or their membership in certain ethnic groups. Countries neighbouring Myanmar, such as Thailand and Bangladesh, have seen a large number of refugees entering since the coup, and these countries have an obligation under the Convention to provide protection to the refugees and not return them to Myanmar if they face danger there. Upholding this is getting difficult because of the large surge in the number of refugees, therefore also calling upon the international forum to intervene and support the neighbouring countries.

UDHR - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 19 discusses the freedom of opinion and expression, which is an important clause to study due to the restrictions of that right, specifically the targeting of journalists and activists opposing the military of Myanmar. Article 21 addresses the right to participate in government, which is relevant to the agenda due to the concerns from the international community about democratic backsliding and restrictions on political participation after the

military coup, and additionally the banning of the NLD party by the State Administration Council.

Genocide Conv. - Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Article 2 of this convention is particularly significant as it establishes the terms that define a ‘genocide’. This is relevant to our agenda due to the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, which significantly increased after the military coup in 2021.

UN Resolutions and Presidential Statements

UNSC Resolution 2669 (2022)

This resolution is regarding the Council’s orders to end violence in Myanmar, outlining actions that the Council calls for to do the same.

[PDF of Resolution 2669](#)

2021 Statement by the President of the Security Council

This statement is regarding the condemnation of violence in Myanmar, expressions of concern about the welfare of the Burmese people, and support for organisations like ASEAN.

[PDF of the 2021 Statement](#)

2017 Statement by the President of the Security Council

This statement is regarding the attacks against the Rohingya community in the Rakhine state, discussing the various actions by neighbouring countries and the Council’s stance against the same. This is a useful case study for delegates wishing to delve deeper into this specific situation.

[PDF of the 2017 Statement](#)

UNGA Resolution (2020)

This is a resolution regarding the welfare of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, by the United Nations General Assembly.

[PDF of the UNGA 2020 Resolution](#)

National Law of Myanmar

1982 Citizenship Law: Chapter II, Article 3

Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Burman, Mon, Rakhine or Shan and ethnic groups have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period anterior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens.

The law created three categories of citizenship: the first category applied to

ethnic Burmans and members of the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Mon, Arakan Buddhists, Shan, and any other ethnic group present in Myanmar prior to 1823 (though they did not include Rohingya Muslims, rendering them stateless), granted them full citizenship.

The EB advises the delegates to do a comprehensive study on these legal documents and clauses as they are relevant to the agenda and can be used as helpful tools in crafting a resolution. Additionally, a review of the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar might be helpful for delegates wishing to do an extensive study into these articles for their research.





EXTRA INFORMATION

Case: Two journalists were killed during the year including Aye Kyaw, a freelance photojournalist who had documented anti-coup protests in the Sagaing region.

He was arrested at 2 a.m. from his house by the military. He died in custody the same day he was arrested. Yangon Khit Thit Media reported that authorities ordered the journalist's family not to post about his burial on Facebook.

Statement by Myanmar: *No statement as of December 2023*

Statements by Third Parties:

"At this stage of the investigation, only the senior levels of Myanmar's military are capable of providing information about the circumstances of his death, which they are refusing to do. RSF urges Tom Andrews, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, and Alice Jill Edwards, the UN special rapporteur on torture, to hold Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing to account in this specific case." - rsf.org

While the exact causes of Aye Kyaw's death remain unclear, a friend of the family quoted by the Burmese section of the US broadcaster Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported seeing "*many bruises on his ribs and back.*"

At the same time, a member of a charity funeral service who helped take the body from the hospital to a religious centre in Aung Chantha district provided this chilling description: "*We didn't see any superficial wounds on the body but I noticed his chest was extensively sown up like a post-mortem operation.*"

Relevance: Censorship and suppression of freedom of speech and freedom of the press; crimes against journalists.

Date: 30th July, 2022

Place: Sagaing, Myanmar

Agency: Freelance

Case: 19-year-old Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing was shot in the head at a protest rally on Taungnyo Road.

Subsequent analysis of images from the protest conducted by Amnesty International showed police carrying Myanmar-made BA-94 or BA-93 clones of the Uzi sub-machine gun, contradicting the Myanmar military's statement that security forces had only deployed non-lethal weapons.

Relevance: Marking of the first form of violence against innocents committed by the military.

Date: 9th February, 2021

Place: Naypyidaw

Case: The Execution of Ko Jimmy (Kyaw Min Yu)

He was a student activist during the 8888 Uprising and was imprisoned from 1988-2003. In 2021, he was charged and issued arrest warrants under section 505(b) of the Myanmar Penal Code by the State Administration Council for inciting unrest against the state and threatening "public tranquillity" through social media posts. He was then executed, allegedly hanged.

Relevance: 505(b) is a vague clause that can be used as a loophole for censorship and suppression of freedom of speech in Myanmar; and arbitrary detention of protesters and activists.

Date: 23nd July 2022

Place: Insein Prison, Yangon



QARMA

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

How can the international community collaboratively address and safeguard the rights of ethnic minority groups, specifically the Rohingya people in Myanmar, considering their history of displacement, discrimination, and human rights abuses?

How will the international community address the aggravation of discrimination and violence against women and children following the coup?

How can the international community formulate an effective resolution to address the refugee crisis resulting from the coup d'état while ensuring the welfare and safety of refugees and IDPs in Myanmar?

What measures can be taken by the international community to protect the rights and safety of journalists and for the prevention of arbitrary detention?

What concrete steps can the international community take to address and overcome the obstacles and government-imposed restrictions hindering the timely and effective delivery of humanitarian aid in Myanmar, ensuring that assistance reaches those in need, particularly in conflict-affected areas? How can diplomatic efforts be enhanced to foster cooperation and engagement with the Myanmar government in facilitating unimpeded access for humanitarian organisations?

How must the international community minimise the unintended consequences of sanctions and financial restraints, targeted toward individuals and organisations in support of the military, on Myanmar civilians?

What is the role of energy-related multinational corporations operating in Myanmar or inadvertently financing the junta? How will the governments of member states induce or direct measures to be taken by the private sector?

Is direct military intervention in the conflict region in cases of further violent escalation a feasible or desirable countermeasure by the international community? Is such an intervention necessary at the moment?

Delegates can use these questions to craft topics for their speeches, and use these as points to research from their country's perspective. We hope to see active debate regarding these topics in session.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of procedure refer to the formal conduct delegates are expected to maintain during the conference. It is essential to adhere to the rules and maintain decorum for the smooth flow of the committee. For this conference, we will be adhering to the UNA-USA format of rules of procedure.

Begin formal session

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to begin the formal session.

Setting the Agenda

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to set the agenda as “Agenda of the committee”.

Roll Call

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to begin a roll call. When your allotted country is called upon during the roll call, you have two options either say “present and voting” or simply say “present”. (Note: If a delegate says “present and voting”, they cannot abstain from voting on the resolution at the end of committee.)

General Speaker’s List

Committee generally begins formal debate by starting the ‘GSL’ (General Speaker’s list). It serves the purpose of allowing a delegate to express their stance on the agenda. A GSL is non-exhaustive.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to establish the general speakers’ list

Moderated Caucus

This motion can be raised when the committee wants to debate on a specific topic.

How to raise it?: The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal session/debate and move into a Moderated Caucus on “topic” for a time period of ”x” minutes allotting “x” minute per speaker. In case a delegate does not get recognized to speak, a delegate can send in your point through substantive chit.

Format of Substantive Chits

Substantive chits are written as follows;

To: The Executive Board (may be abbreviated as EB)

From Delegate of: (your allocated country)

Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is proposed when delegates wish to discuss the committee's status among themselves and further evaluate their next actions.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated Caucus for a time period of “x” minutes.

Points

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee (For example: to know which delegate is speaking next/if the EB is accepting more speakers)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of a parliamentary inquiry.

Point of Personal Privilege

This point is raised by a delegate to address a personal issue. (For example: to ask another delegate to repeat a point they made in their speech/to be excused from the committee)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of personal privilege.

Point of Order

This point can be raised by a delegate to point out logical or factual inaccuracies in the speeches of other delegates.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of order, Factual inaccuracy/ Logical Fallacy (either one).

Point of Information

This is raised when a delegate wants to ask questions about another delegate's speech.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of information. If you ask a question and are still not satisfied with the answer, you can raise a follow-up question right after the delegate answers.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” wants to raise a follow-up question (*Note: This point can be denied if the Chairperson feels so*).

If a delegate wants to ask a question via chit, you can use this format -

POINT OF INFORMATION

TO: Delegate of “country you want to question”

VIA: Executive Board

FROM: Delegate of “your allotted country”

state the question

Working Paper

A working paper is the preliminary draft of solutions that the committee comes up with and is usually turned in and presented by the blocs on the second day. They serve as a basis for delegates to see which blocs have stances that align with theirs and to subsequently merge for drafting the final resolution.

Working papers have no strict format. That is, operative and preambulatory clauses are not required, and the paper can also be presented in a series of rough points.

Sponsors are delegates who have contributed the most towards writing the working paper. For presentation and Q&A, any delegate from the bloc can come up to present the paper and answer relevant questions.

Draft Resolution

A draft resolution or resolution, contains all the solutions that committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.

Sponsors are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause and amendment. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference.

Signatories are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee. A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it be debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution. Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee.

An amendment to a resolution is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session. If more than 1/3rd the number of a resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped. When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as friendly or unfriendly. A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added or deleted is done as such. An unfriendly amendment means that the committee will vote, to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

- 1) **(To introduce Resolution)** the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to introduce *RESOLUTION NAME*
- 2) **(Amendments)** The delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for *RESOLUTION NAME*
- 3) **(To vote on the resolution)** the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to table the *RESOLUTION NAME* for the voting procedure.

Resolution Format

(Name of resolution)

Sponsors:

Signatories:

Topic: XYZ

Committee name,

(Preambulatory Clauses)

1. Every preambulatory clause ends with a comma (,)

(Operative clauses)

1. Every Operative clause ends with a semicolon (;)

2. Every sub-clause to a resolution should end with a comma (,) till and unless it is the last sub-clause to the main clause, it shall end with a semicolon (;)

3. Every main clause before starting with a sub-clause should have a colon (:)

4. Full stop at the end of the resolution.

Voting

Voting is of 2 types, procedural and substantive. Procedural voting requires a simple majority, which is set at 50%+1 of committee strength. For example, if a committee has 100 people, the simple majority is set at 51 votes. Procedural Voting is used in cases such as voting upon motions. Substantive voting requires a 2/3rds majority. This is primarily used in voting upon a resolution. For example, if a committee has 100 members, the majority will be set at 67 votes.

Press Conference

The questions may range from matters of foreign policy, the agenda itself or controversial actions by the respective nations of the delegates, with the intended purpose being to test the depth of the research and knowledge of the delegates.



FURTHER READING

[2022 Report on Myanmar - Amnesty International](#)

[Reports of Torture in Myanmar - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Civil Uprisings in Myanmar, Violence Against Protesters - Al Jazeera](#)

[2023 World Report on Myanmar - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Chinese Relations with Post-Coup Myanmar - chinaobservers.eu](#)

[Enforced Disappearance in Myanmar - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Myanmar "Four-Cuts" Military Strategy, Attacks in Myanmar - OHCHR](#)

[Crimes Against Humanity in the Rakhine State - OHCHR](#)

[ASEAN's 5 Point Consensus - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Status of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Minorities Face Systematic Abuse - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Aye Kyaw Death - Committee to Protect Journalists](#)

[Aye Kyaw Death - International Federation of Journalists](#)

[Aye Kyaw Death, Interviews with Witnesses and Family - Radio Free Asia](#)

[Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing Death - BBC](#)

[Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing Press Death Release - Amnesty International](#)

[Military Uses Lethal Weapons, Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing Death - Al Jazeera](#)

[Execution of Four Activists, Death of Ko Jimmy - Human Rights Watch](#)

[Global Outcry at the Execution of Pro-Democracy Activists, Death of Ko Jimmy - Radio Free Asia](#)