

## Urgent actions to STOP Atrocity Crimes in Chin State, Shan State, & Kayah State, Myanmar

### Media Statement

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For Immediate Release

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In light of the increasing severity of military attacks on civilians in Chin, Shan and Kayah states, activist groups Global Myanmar Spring Revolution (GMSR) and Blood Money Campaign (BMC) call on all foreign companies with interests in Myanmar to “**Freeze Payments To Junta and Save Myanmar**” and call for targeted sanctions against military leaders, military-owned conglomerates and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

The town of **Thantalang**, Chin State, headquarters of the Chin National Army, still smoulders after a massive mortar attack by the Myanmar military on 29 October 2021 which destroyed over 200 houses. The town was mostly deserted, it’s 10,000 residents having fled to temporary camps on the Indian border or crossing into Mizoram to escape an earlier assault on 18 October 2021.<sup>1</sup>

Military forces were reportedly observed torching houses and targeting religious buildings.<sup>2</sup> Offices of **Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)**, **Save the Children** and at least two **Churches** were amongst the properties deliberately set ablaze.<sup>3</sup>



The town of **Moe Bye**, near the border of Shan and Kayah State, was bombarded with heavy artillery by Myanmar military Battalion 422 on October 29. At least 2 civilians were killed, and 2 others including a child were seriously injured<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://globalnews.ca/news/8337567/160-homes-ablaze-myanmar/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.myanmar-now.org/en/news/more-than-160-homes-burn-down-in-junta-shelling-of-chin-state-town>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whyaonline.com.au/story/7491058/myanmar-army-blamed-for-burning-160-houses/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.myanmar-now.org/mm/news/9022>



The co-ordinated and systematic attacks against civilians since the illegal military coup on 1 February are part of the Myanmar military junta’s Four Cuts Strategy that has been waged against the ethnic nationalities for the past 60 years. The brutal strategy cuts off access to funding, food, intelligence and recruits.<sup>5</sup>

Since the failed coup on 1 February 2021, the Myanmar military regime has continued to terrorise the nation and has committed human rights abuses and atrocity crimes across Myanmar. This includes **enforced disappearances**, the **persecution of journalists**, the **murder of over 1,200 civilians and the arbitrary arrest of over 9,400**.<sup>6</sup> There are numerous reports of **systematic torture, rape** and other **sexual violence**. Grotesque displays of violence, such as the recent artillery attacks and airstrikes on villages and towns, are used to instil fear in the population.

“International companies who continue to engage with the military owned conglomerates and State-Owned Enterprises in Myanmar risk being complicit in the junta’s ongoing human rights abuses.” Warns **Mulan**, BMC spokesperson. “We are appealing and calling for international unified action to take immediate, strong measures to protect the people of Myanmar.”

“These recent atrocity crimes in Chin, Shan and Kayah states during our Global Week of Action, highlights the urgency of our demands. International oil and gas companies who fund the Myanmar military must take immediate action to ensure sales proceeds do not reach the junta.” Stated **Su Wai**, spokesperson for GMSR.

GMSR x BMC are calling on all international oil and gas companies including **TotalEnergies, Chevron Corporation, PTTEP, Petronas, POSCO, KOGAS & ONGC** to:

1. **Immediately cease all payments** to accounts of Myanmar SOEs controlled by the Myanmar military junta, including **Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprises (MOGE)**, and **other persons affiliated** with the illegal and violent extremists, the Myanmar military junta.
2. **Make payments into escrow accounts** until democracy is restored in Myanmar; and
3. **Ensure transparency, including by supporting contract disclosure, for all payments to Myanmar.**

Further, GMSR x BMC call on international governments who have not already done so, to impose targeted economic sanctions on:

1. the military conglomerates – (a) **Myanma Economic Holding Limited (MEHL)**, and (b) **Myanmar Economic Cooperation (MEC)**;

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/5/what-is-the-myanmar-militarys-four-cuts-strategy>

<sup>6</sup> <https://aappb.org/>



2. the state-owned economic enterprises – (a) Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), (b) Myanmar Gems Enterprise (MGE), (c) Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE); (d) Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), (e) Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB), (f) Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB), (g) Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB), and (h) Naypyidaw Development Bank (NDB);
3. the **Central Bank of Myanmar**; and
4. All military **coup leaders**.

Finally, GMSR x BMC urges the United Nations, the European Commission and international governments to support the appeal by UN Representative of Myanmar H.E. Kyaw Moe Tun, to apply the following measures immediately:

1. **protect** the people of Myanmar from crimes against humanity committed by the military,
2. declare **no-fly zones** in relevant areas to avoid further bloodshed caused by the military airstrikes,
3. impose global **arms embargo** against the military,
4. provide **humanitarian assistance** to people in need, and provide shelter on humanitarian grounds to people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and elsewhere,
5. hold those responsible for **atrocious crimes accountable**, and
6. give **recognition to the NUG** as a legitimate government of the people of Myanmar.

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