



Over 220,000 People and 637 Organizations Demand Sanctions to Stop Big Oil from Bankrolling the Myanmar Military Junta

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Washington DC – on May 4th, activists from Myanmar delivered an [open letter](#) signed by 637 Myanmar & International Civil Society Organizations and [petitions](#) signed by over 220,000 people calling on the Biden Administration to sanction gas revenues from the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). **Each month that the US government fails to act, the criminal Myanmar military junta seizes millions of dollars more from the country's offshore gas projects which are supposed to go to the legitimate government of Myanmar, the National Unity Government, and not the military junta who use the funds to buy arms and ammunitions to kill more innocent civilians.**

On May 12-13, President Biden will meet with ASEAN leaders. “Biden must stop hiding behind ASEAN and immediately sanction gas revenues,” said [Ko Ye] of the Blood Money Campaign. “The military junta has ignored the ASEAN five point consensus while using US dollars from its gas projects to fund crimes against humanity across Myanmar.”

Since taking control of the previous legitimate government's bank accounts in February 2021, the military has seized an estimated USD 1.5 billion in gas revenues. The military's continued access to these revenues enables its brutality and disincentivizes it from ending the coup.

Despite the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations, as part of a week of protests, people across Myanmar this week have continued to call for sanctions on gas revenues. This follows the US government's acknowledgment that the military has [committed genocide](#) and that gas revenues [fund the military](#).

“For over a year, oil and gas companies have lobbied against sanctions, claiming that they know what is best for the Myanmar people as they continue to prop up a genocidal military junta,” said Ben Hardman, Myanmar Policy and Legal Advisor at EarthRights International. “The Biden Administration needs to start listening to voices from inside Myanmar and cut off these revenues.” Even the junta's propagandists are echoing the [lobbyists' rhetoric](#) now.

The letter called for the Biden Administration to:

1. Use sanctions to stop gas revenues from reaching the junta and work with allies in Thailand and South Korea ensure that these revenues are diverted into escrow accounts to be held for a legitimate, recognized government.
2. Enforce the Treasury Department's January 2022 business advisory on Myanmar with respect to MOGE, communicating to gas companies and banks that gas revenue payments to the military will be considered money laundering, and that those failing to comply will face consequences.
3. Sanction the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), a state-owned enterprise that for decades has laundered gas revenues and whose government accounts are once again in military hands.

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